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JANUARY 2017

MAKING TRACKS

NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF THE TUALATIN RIVER NWR

JOYFULLY CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITY WITH THE WONDER OF THE REFUGE



PRESIDENT'S PERCH

By Tom Hartz, President of the Board



You probably have heard that Erin Holmes, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) Project Leader for the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge Complex (TRNWRC), will be moving to a new assignment. Erin will become the Deputy Refuge Supervisor for Region 1 of the FWS located in downtown Portland. Over five years at the TRNWRC, Erin has overseen a lot of development, restoration, interpretation and education programs. She was the Project Leader when our Friends Group was named the "Friends Group of the Year." This week, it was announced that Larry Klimek, a Deputy Project Leader from the Mid-Columbia River NWRC based in Burbank, Washington, will be our new Project Leader. From what I've heard, Larry has a good background with Friends Groups and with running a Visitor Services program. He will be starting at TRNWRC on January 9, 2017. Erin has been a strong leader at our Refuge. We have all benefitted from her passion and commitment. I congratulate Erin on her new role and am proud to call her a friend. I will miss her presence, but it's nice to know she will remain in the area. Expect to see her on the trails.

As 2016 winds down and with the announcement about Erin, I reflected on those from the Friends' and Service's staff who have moved on over the past year. Mark Newell, Visitors Services Manager on loan from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, returned to ODFW after successfully overseeing Visitor Services Program. Trevor Sheffels, TRNWRC FWS Biological Technician, is now Refuge Operation Specialist at Conboy Lake NWR, part of the Mid-Columbia River NWRC, in the Columbia Gorge area of Washington. Jenna Mendenhall, Friends Environmental Education Coordinator, joined the Oregon Environmental Literacy Program (OSU Extension) as a Project Coordinator. Sarah Gray, TRNWRC FWS Administrative Support Assistant, is now the Executive Assistant to the Regional Refuge Chief in Portland. Note that all five of those leaving TRNWRC for new assignments will remain in the field of environmental restoration, conservation and education. Each of the Friends and FWS professionals achieved a "next step" in their careers. Congratulations to all of them!

As you know, Seth Winkelhake has backfilled Jenna's role in Environmental Education and has already had a positive impact on our EE Programs. Erin and Eva Kristofik, our Deputy Project Leader, were very busy filling other vacancies

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at TRNWRC. Heather Webster will be our new Administrative Support Assistant. She comes to us from the Army, both as a reservist and a civilian employee with a wealth of experience in administration. Russell Foster will be our new Biological Technician. He served in the United States Marine Corps and is a recent graduate from California State University in Monterey Bay. While pursuing his college degree he made sure to include opportunities in field research, invasive species eradication, and habitat restoration. Both Heather and Russell will start on January 9th.

Many of us have worked in other companies or organizations prior to volunteering to support the mission of the FWS. We shared a commitment to the mission of those organizations with our coworkers. There's a special talent and personality exhibited by the Friends and FWS professionals that we work with as volunteers. They make our volunteer efforts rewarding and fun. They have important tasks to accomplish and acknowledge and respect the time and energies we put into helping achieve our shared goals. We should feel satisfaction that the professionals that we worked beside at the Refuge have chosen to stay in the field of protecting the environment, and that their efforts at the TRNWRC have allowed them to advance their careers. I look forward to welcoming and supporting our new coworkers.

Happy New Year to all!

JANUARY EVENTS

Photo Society Monthly Meeting

Jan. 5, 7pm

Waterfowl Watch

Jan. 7, 10am - 12pm

Puddle Stompers

Jan. 11, 1pm - 2:30pm

Puddle Stompers

Jan. 17, 10am -11:30am

Owl Prowl

Jan. 18, 6:30pm - 8pm

Friends Board Meeting

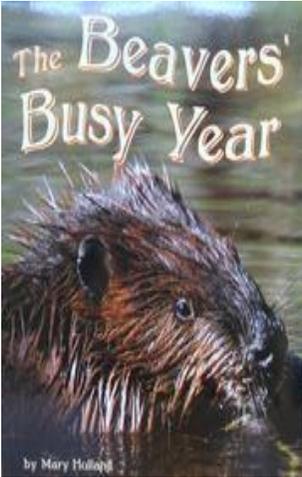
Jan. 24, 6:30pm

NATURE'S OVERLOOK STORE

New Logo Merchandise



Book Review



Reviewed by Desi, Grade 2
Sherwood Charter School



SOCIAL MEDIA



Desi

I liked it A lot! its a very
good fact book. Its very
intresting how the entrance
to thier lodge is Underwater.

the BEAVER'S
BUSY year

I give it 4 out of 5 stars!



Wear in the World

Marylu Schweitzer shows off her Friends logo T-shirt on her vacation.



HELP THE FRIENDS WHILE YOU SHOP



amazon smile

PROGRAMS

Environmental Education and Interpretation

The Scoop on Scat

Last week I was in my office and got a call from the Wildlife Center, there was a visitor with a question about some scat they saw in the middle of the trail. Over

the last month this mysterious scat has been one of the most common questions on the Refuge.

Everyone has been noticing scat in the middle of the trails, and for good reason. The animal that it came from left it there precisely so anyone that who passed by would notice it. Coyotes commonly leave their scat in the middle of a trail or at an intersection, the most conspicuous place possible. Coyotes, like other canids (wolves, foxes, and domestic dogs) use their scat and urine to mark territory. In the summer you can find scat filled with black berries on the trail, in the fall and winter when apples are ripe and falling from the tree coyotes take advantage of this easy meal.



Next time you are on the trail poke around a bit (with a stick) in some of the scat. Right now the majority of it is apples. As the winter progresses you will find more fur from mice, voles, and rabbits, along with the occasional feather from a goose.



Coyotes can survive in many habitats and eat what is easiest to find, often fruit and berries. If you see a coyote, you can contribute to citizen science reporting in with the Portland Urban Coyote Project and check out 10 fascinating facts about urban coyotes from the Urban Coyote Initiative.

www.portlandcoyote.com
urbancoyoteinitiative.com/10-fascinating-facts-about-urban-coyotes

Seth Winkelhake

Restoration

The restoration team is planning some great activities for 2017 and will resume in February.

KID'S CORNER



PHOTO SOCIETY

New Photo Society Show in Riparian Room

The Friends Photo Society has hung the Winter Photo Show in the Riparian Room.

The show was selected by a jury of Refuge personnel, Friends Board members, and Photo Society Members (that did not submit entries). There are some outstanding photos now showing – come in and see the exhibit during Visitor Center open hours.



Categories for the show are:
(all images must be made in Oregon/Washington)

- On the Refuge, showcasing images made on refuges
- Birds
- Macro/Close-up
- Waterfalls
- Fall
- Night Sky
- Landscape



The show will remain on display into March when the Junior Duck Stamp exhibit will replace it.

Upcoming Photo Society Events

Monthly meetings (click each to view details on website) :

- [January 5, 7:00pm, Riparian Room](#)
Guest speaker Erin Holmes presenting about Arctic National Wildlife Refuge
- [February 2, 7:00pm, Riparian Room](#)
Frame Central, how to matte and frame photos
- [March 2, 7:00pm, Riparian Room](#)
Don Nelson, techniques for photographing hummingbirds

Other Activities:

- January meet-up to photograph waterfalls
This is a followup to the successful waterfall meet-up last month. We will be focusing on ice at the falls (without being on the roads...), if it is possible.
- February meet-up
Winter wave storm photography on the coast.
- March meet-up
High speed hummingbird photography. We are looking for a site with sufficient number of hummers to photograph. Attendance will be tightly controlled by sign-up. Come to the February and March monthly meetings for details and to sign-up. We are looking for a backyard that has a lot of hummingbirds coming to active feeders.

For information, contact the Photo Society
at: photosociety@friendsoftualatinrefuge.org

URBAN PROGRAM

Hello from the Urban Support Team (Kim, Jenny, Pat, and Mesha),

Our team works alongside both Refuge complexes to help meet the Standards of Excellence and to connect with non-traditional audiences of the USFWS. With a lot of ground to cover (literally) our work often takes us off-site. To better stay connected to you and each other (as you will note later, all four of us no longer report to the same Refuge) we would like to take this opportunity to update and to provide opportunities for you to get involved or inquire more about a specific program or project we are focusing on.

Jenny: I have been working with a group called the Youth Mentoring Collaborative to put on an environmental job fair for youth in the Portland Metro area. In addition to Jenny's work helping coordinate the event, the USFWS is providing funding and staff support for the event. Check out this video produced by youth involved in the group to learn more about the fair.

https://youtu.be/Eh_LHY9EXAA

The Urban Team continues its backing of the Intertwine Alliance's diversity and equity initiative by providing some funding for additional staff support to the Intertwine Alliance to fulfill this mission. The initiative is in the process of creating cohorts of organizations based on their interests and current work. Together these cohorts will choose a provider to help guide them in this work.

Pat: The Daycation Mobile App is now available in the Apple AppStore for those interested in a sneak peek. The USFWS and its Intertwine Alliance partners are

busily engaging more partners to create Daycations and become Beta Testers. We are also collaborating on a youth engagement program that will give teams of teens the opportunity to learn about technology, public engagement, and connecting with nature while engaging in a friendly competition to create and get people to take Daycations.

Contact Pat at: patrick_stark@fws.gov for more information.

The Oregon Zoo Education Center is opening in March 2017, and the USFWS will have a big presence there - one example being a large touch-screen display being developed in cooperation with Metro. The screen will display an interactive map of the greater Portland-Vancouver region and highlight its many parks, greenspaces, and of course, National Wildlife Refuges. The Urban Refuge Support Team has been assisting by creating display content for the refuges, including photo galleries and short, eye-catching videos.

Mesha: To better support both Refuge complexes, I am now stationed at Ridgefield NWR. To ensure we have better representation at meetings, events, and opportunities to listen and support our Refuge staff and Friends up north, I will report to Ridgefield daily. I am best reachable at my work cell at 971-336-1042 or at mesha_wood@fws.gov. Feel free to call the main office as well, at 360-887-4106 or to stop by the office and say hi should you visit.

The Urban Refuge Support Team is helping with the effort to develop a Community and Nature Center at Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge. We are in a perspective-gathering phase of the project, ensuring that a diverse collection of voices are part of developing a concept for the Center. With the help of Ridgefield NWR and Friends staff, we are planning focus groups for January that will seek input specifically from organizations serving youth in the Clark County area.



A family

enjoying the Gibbons Creek Wildlife Art Trail at Steigerwald Lake NWR.

FEEDBACK WELCOME

Please help us make this newsletter something you look forward to receiving by sharing ideas and

suggestions to improve the content. This is a work in progress, and we look forward to hearing from you! [Click here](#) to email us.

CONTACT US

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