

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 Alan Christensen, President of the Board

While it seems like the Christmas season started when kids finished their Halloween candy, I wish you all a Merry Christmas while the 25th is still a few weeks away.

Last month I wrote a little about myself and what I feel about the importance of public lands and how those lands shaped my life as well as lives of others. As I mentioned then, there are about 640 million acres of Federal public land in the United States. These lands are held in trust for all citizens in our country. This begs the question about how these lands are managed, or held in trust for all of us. Sadly, everyone is aware that these lands can't just be left alone without any attention or they will be subject to awful vandalism, theft and damage. Trees, rocks, gravel, water, and artifacts are among many things that are regularly taken from public lands without authorization or care about the results. Soil damage, sedimentation, pollution and garbage dumping also regularly occur on public lands by irresponsible and insensitive people. So, the question is who does protect and manage these lands and all the wonderful life that they support.



Considering the four Federal agencies; Forest Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management and National Park Service who collectively manage the majority of Federal public land, there are about 81,000 employees. Federal employees are generally college graduates and are paid on a national scale defined as the General Schedule (GS). Anyone can get online and see what Federal employees earn. Across all the Federal agencies this GS scale determines who gets paid how much, regardless of the agency they work for.

Generally Federal employment in these agencies requires completion of a 4 year college education at an accredited university, just to be eligible to apply for a job, and frequently the entry level for beginning employees is a GS-5 or GS-7 level job. These entry level jobs pay just over \$29,000 for a GS-5 and \$36,000 for a GS-7, for a college trained individual! The GS scale tops out at about \$106,000 for the lowest level GS-15. Frequently, to qualify for technical jobs like a biologist, hydrologist, forester, botanist, or soil scientist (positions common to the four agencies) a graduate degree (Masters and sometimes a PhD) is required.

Consider that leadership jobs (generally GS-12-14) where there is responsibility for thousands of acres of public lands, dozens or hundreds of employees, activities worth millions of dollars, and a complex mix of laws and regulations to adhere to pay between \$75,000 to \$95,000. What compels people to dedicate their college plans and their career plans for jobs that pay well below many private sector jobs or other fields of endeavor? Why do they show up any day of the week at all hours of the day to manage our public lands? How can they live in small isolated communities or on remote refuges where many amenities are non-existent? And the questions can go on and on.

People who work for these agencies do it because they love the land and the animals, plants, fish and other natural resources that depend on those lands. Early in life they touched the magic that exists on public lands when they experienced an event or time that spoke to them at the deepest level. I never encountered anyone in my career on public lands that became a biologist because they wanted to make a lot of money. Without exception most knew at an early age that being able to work on public forests, or seashores, or refuges or grasslands was a calling, not just a profession. Serving the public that uses these lands is an additional task for Federal public land workers. Volunteers, like Friends, assist and expand the efforts of the professional staff at the Tualatin River NWR and bring them encouragement that many people respect and love the land as much as they do. Many Friends volunteers work in offices, sharing their cubicle with a computer and thinking about when they could get outdoors again and get their feet dirty along Chicken Creek. Refuge staff lives the life of working with the land and resources that so many other people dreamed about but never made a reality. Working together, Friends volunteers and refuge staff can bring energy and enthusiasm to the many programs in environmental education, visitor services, and land management activities on the refuge.

JOIN

DONATE

RENEW

December EVENTS

[Photo Society Presentation - Andrew Studer](#)

December 05, 2019 7:00 PM
19255 SW Pacific Hwy, Sherwood, OR 97140

[Plant Your Roots, December Planting](#)

December 07, 2019 9:00 AM
Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge

[Waterfowl Watch 101](#)

December 07, 2019 10:00 AM
Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge

[Nature's Overlook Open House](#)

December 07, 2019 10:00 AM
Nature's Overlook Store

[Holiday Social](#)

December 07, 2019 2:00 PM
Nature's Overlook Store

[Nature Ambassadors - Creations of the Night Nature Table](#)

December 11, 2019 3:30 PM
Sherwood Public Library

[Owl Prowl](#)

December 13, 2019 5:30 PM

[Puddle Stompers-Beavers](#)

January 08, 2020 1:00 PM

[Puddle Stompers-Beavers](#)

January 14, 2020 10:00 AM

SOCIAL MEDIA



PRESIDENT'S PERCH CON'T

Friends' volunteers enable refuge staff to expand their efforts with the public and also allow refuge staff to focus more on the task of managing the important resource programs on the refuge. In 2018 Friends volunteers provided the equivalent of 5 full time employees to programs on the refuge. It's mutual respect, love of the land and its resources, and working together that make Friends volunteers and refuge staff such an important element on the Tualatin River NWR Complex.

Friends Members and Refuge Volunteers Holiday Social






Saturday, December 7th
2:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Riparian Room



- ★ Holiday sing-along and cookie exchange
- ★ Light Refreshments will be served
- ★ Live Holiday Music
- ★ Bring a friend
- ★ If you would like to participate in the cookie exchange, bring one dozen cookies

HELP THE FRIENDS WHILE YOU SHOP



NATURE’S OVERLOOK STORE

Featured Vendor from Nature’s Overlook
Jabebo Earrings

Jabebo began back in the 1990's when the owners Kevin and Mary Abbott began playing around with the idea of mismatched earrings. Their studio is in Bellefonte PA. The use of cereal box paperboard was one of their first innovations and seemed an obvious choice since they were creating the earrings with paper.

Cereal box paperboard is the base material for their earrings. They transform cereal boxes by laminating the front and back panels together and then fixing the images to the front surface, which are then punched out with custom die cuts. They source cereal boxes locally; people often visit the store just to drop them off.

Cereal box paperboard is a wood fiber that may have gone through paper recycling several times before. Used paperboard is not usually selected for continued recycling because most of its wood fibers are worn and saturated with ink from previous use. Many communities do not bother with recycling paperboard and send it to the landfill. Years ago, not long after they started reproducing their images on paper, they chose post-consumer paperboard to add volume to the individual pieces because it made use of an undervalued resource and it is the ideal thickness for their earrings.

Because Jabebo Earrings is a paper product, to increase their durability they give them a final clear coat. They chose shellac because it is a non-toxic natural product and helps to filter UV light. They also use it laminate the layers of paper together. In 2018 they began adding a second top coat of epoxy which adds significant durability, water resistance and a more pleasing finish to the product.





Nature's Overlook Open House

Saturday, December 7th

10:00 am - 4:00 pm



Free Gift Wrap...

Enjoy Cookies While You Wait



Lots of New Books to Choose From...

Infant thru Adult



**SAVE
20%**

All Friends Members Save 20%

Join that day and save!

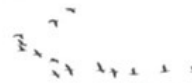


Board Games, Card Games, Puzzles
and so much more...



Friends Logowear, Jewelry, Scarves...

Gifts for Everyone on Your List



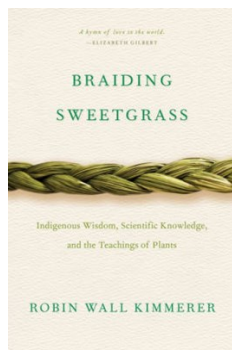
HELLO BOOK LOVERS

We have some wonderful things to choose from for gifts this holiday season – and don't forget to get something for you! Here are some of my favorite things, and there are many, many more that might be just right for you and those on your list.

Thanks for supporting the Refuge! Enjoy!

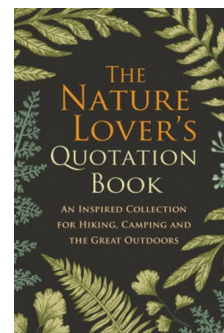
Your bookbuyer

Note: I've already mentioned some of these before... because I think they are excellent.

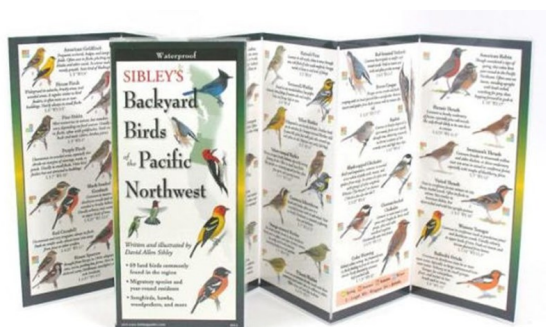
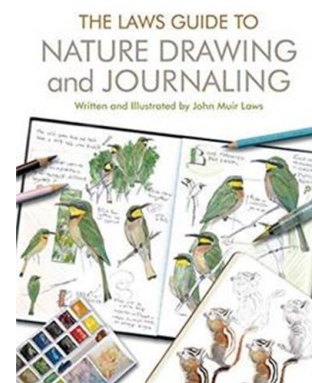
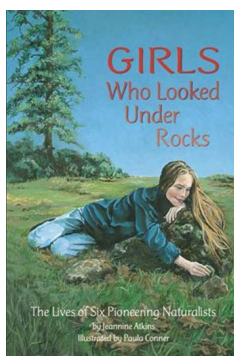


"Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants" – **highest recommendation!**

A great treat for yourself or someone you care for...



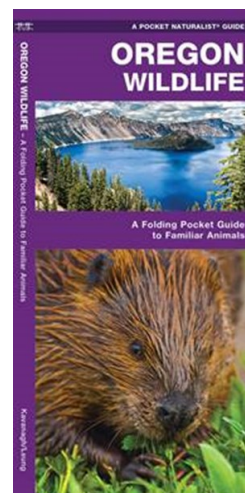
Words from the publisher... "If there is a pre-teen or adolescent in your life, especially a girl, take a look at this empowering, inspiring chapter book. It portrays the youths and careers of six remarkable women whose curiosity about nature fueled a passion to steadfastly overcome obstacles to careers in traditionally men-only occupations. The six-**Maria Merian** (b.1647), **Anna Comstock** (b.1854), **Frances Hamerstrom** (b.1907), **Rachel Carson** (b.1907), **Miriam Rothschild** (b.1908), and **Jane Goodall** (b.1934)-all became renowned scientists, artists and writers. A wonderful resource for young researchers and biographers, these stories can be a starting point for issues of gender, science, and the environment."



A great **stocking stuffer** (and you'll want one in your backpack or by your bird viewing window at home...)

And here's another of the many **folding pocket guides** we carry.

And don't forget the **Rite in the Rain notebooks and pens** (and you can use pencil with these) for yourself or the naturalist in your family. And check out all of the marvelous books for **children** (from babies on up). How about a **journal**, or a **field guide** to creatures you want to learn more about, or a **hiking** guide, or a book about **the stars in the sky**, or a book about **gardening for wildlife and birds**, or a copy of "**Silent Spring**", or learn about **Oregon geology**, or learn to **draw birds** and other animals... or delve into the Japanese practice of **Forest Bathing**, or bird **poems**...



Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge

4th Annual
Christmas
Bird Count
2019

**Volunteers
Needed**
No experience necessary

December 15
8 AM - 4 PM

To register, or find out more,
contact Curt Mykut at
richard_mykut@fws.gov
503-625-5944

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service



Photo by: Christopher Markes



CHICKEN CREEK RESTORATION UPDATES

To see and read about continued updates regarding the restoration project, and the positive impacts it will have on the fish and wildlife at the Refuge, we have created a comprehensive information resource, and blog, to keep you up to date with all the changes happening and pertinent news in the coming years. Please visit: www.Refuge202.info

DECEMBER PLANTING

Join us for Plant Your Roots - December Planting! We will be planting this beautiful native wildflower, Nelson's checker-mallow, a threatened species in Oregon. The planting will be on December 7th from 9am - 1pm. Only 50 spots are available so please register at this link: <http://friendsoftualatinrefuge.org/event-3629602>
Hope to see you there!



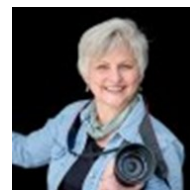
TUALATIN RIVER PHOTO SOCIETY

December 5th our guest speaker and presenter will be Andrew Studer. Andrew is a professional commercial photographer and time lapse cinematographer based in Portland. With a huge passion for the outdoors, Andrew is constantly seeking out adventure and unique and engaging ways to capture what he sees. His work has been featured in National Geographic, CBS news, BBC and many others. Andrew will present a selection of his nature photos and as a bonus also regale us with his incredible "Faces of Bhutan".

January 2nd there will be no Photo Society meeting.

February 6th our guest speaker and presenter is Rebecca Benoit.

Rebecca is an award-winning photographer and Adobe Certified Expert in Lightroom. She has been teaching photography since 2002 for private groups and clients as well as for Newspace Center for Photography in Portland, Sherwood Foundation for the Arts and several other camera clubs and Meet up groups. She is an Assistant Organizer for the Portland Vancouver Photography and Women Learning Photography Together Meet up groups in Portland. Her photography has been shown in galleries throughout the Pacific Northwest. Rebecca has agreed to do a presentation on photo editing using Lightroom.



TRPS meets the first Thursday of each month from September through June. Meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. in the Riparian Room at the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge, **19255 SW Pacific Hwy, Sherwood, OR 97140.**



WOULD YOU LIKE TO MAKE A DONATION TO THIS EFFORT?



**We are taking donations of \$2.00 per plant on the website or in the Nature Store.
You can buy 1 plant or 100 plants- any donation would be appreciated.**

WEAR IN THE WORLD!?!

Are you going anywhere fun this winter? - take your Friends Logo Wear along and snap a Photo.
Send photos to Info@Friendsoftualatinrefuge.org
Be sure to include the location

We are looking for people who are interested in writing for the Friends Newsletter; have a desire to right about something you are interested in, a creative writing itch, or skills as an editor? Contact Bonnie at: Info@FriendsofTualatinRefuge.org

CONTACT US

Friends of the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge
19255 SW Pacific Highway
Sherwood, OR 97140
503-625-5944 x227

info@friendssoftualatinrefuge.org