

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 Mark Newell, President of the Board

What do the Friends of the Refuge Board of Directors do?

First, let's talk about Friends Groups in general. Friends Groups help support Refuges all over the US. This support is usually in ways that the USFWS staff cannot support the refuge themselves. Friends can lobby on the behalf of the refuge; they can receive donations and grants to help with projects on the refuge, and they can hire their own staff to help with things like education, interpretation, and restoration. All of this is done with the support, oversight, and approval of the USFWS staff.

The Friends Group Board of Director's here on the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge are people just like you. Our volunteer jobs are to oversee the support the Friends Group gives to the USFWS. To date the Board has raised over \$500,000.00 for the restoration effort of Chicken Creek.

The Board members are also active volunteers on the Refuge. They run the store in the visitor's center; they play an important role in the education, interpretation, and restoration programs. They are at farmers markets, school programs, and other events promoting experiential education. They are out talking about membership, the Refuge, and outdoor education. Simply put, they are woven into the fabric of this Refuge.

In addition, this Friends Group has six employees. The Board oversees these employees. Here's a little known fact: having employees is weird within the Friends Group world. So weird in fact, other refuges talk about us and they are fascinated by what we have managed to do here. Meet our staff.

Andrew DelGreco is our talented Interpretive Coordinator, if you are a volunteer on the Refuge, you know him. Say hi to Carly Hirschmann, you can see her at the Refuge Tuesday-Saturday helping Andrew with the interpretive program. Together they have reached out to over 144 visitors, volunteers, and group members this month on the Refuge so far. They've been busy putting together the trailside tables, setting up volunteer programs, and welcoming groups like Sherwood Senior Center and the Kiwanis Club. They make sure the visitors center is staffed, and that the Nature Ambassador volunteers are trained and ready to assist the interpretive programming.

Then there's the team of Tiffany Mancillas and Catherine Hudson. Tiffany is our Environmental Education Specialist. Catherine has recently come on board to help Tiffany with the Volunteer Naturalists, school field trips, and drop in exploration days. Tiffany and Catherine have worked with over 330 students and children this month so far. Programs include both onsite and offsite school programs, our own Puddle Stompers program, and developing and staffing drop in exploration days.



Hoodoo and her person Mark

JOIN

DONATE

RENEW

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wildlife Walk

July 06, 2019 8:30 AM

Trailhead Nature Table (session 4 of 10)

July 06, 2019 12:00 PM

Drop In Exploration Day: Birds and Nests

July 07, 2019 12:00 PM

Puddle Stompers-Bats

July 10, 2019 1:00 PM

Wildlife Walk

July 13, 2019 8:30 AM

Friends Board Meeting

July 23, 2019 6:30 PM

SOCIAL MEDIA



Both of those teams: Andrew/Carly and Tiffany/Catherine are performing magic on the Refuge. Their work is overseen by Todd McKinney a USFWS Ranger who has done an amazing job of working with the Friends group and supporting these amazing people, big thanks to Todd.

Natalie Balkam recently came on to help the Refuge's biological team and although she is not Friends' staff, we do support her with a small stipend each month for all of the work she is doing. She's going to be focusing on invasive species mapping at both Tualatin River and Wapato Lake. Her work will have an impact on the land for years to come and help in the planning of restoration activities in the future.

Her work is overseen by Curt Mykut, the Refuge Biologist. Nathan Kossnar is our Habitat Restoration Specialist who is on leave until the Fall, but has been instrumental in restoration work on the Refuge. His special focus projects have included second Saturday work parties and outreach with groups looking to get their hands dirty by pulling invasive plants. We are looking forward to Nathan's return.

Then we have Bonnie Anderson, Administrator of the Friends Group, and the heart and soul of the Friends. She administers the grants, she takes care of the employees, is on the hiring committee, and she's a Board Member. She has been responsible for the Bird Festival, the Native Plant sale. She makes sure the funding is on track, the wording of our agreements protects the Friends Group and meets our mission, and she carries much of the history of our organization. Without her we would not be the organization that we are today.

All this is to say that it takes team work; the USFWS, the Friends Group, the employees, and the volunteers all coming together to support the causes that are important to us. From restoration projects to education and interpretive programs, to administering the grants, each of us plays an integral part in the actions of supporting the Refuge. We can't forget Larry Klimek, Refuge Project Leader and Eva Kristofik, Deputy Project Leader, without their willingness to work with us none of this would occur. Thank you all.

FYI: Here's the cost of memberships if you want to support the Refuge.

Student: \$15.00/Individual: \$25.00/Family: \$45.00/

To join go to: <https://fotr.wildapricot.org/Join/>

HELP THE FRIENDS WHILE
YOU SHOP



Membership Corner

Greetings members! Join us for the annual Robin Hood Festival parade on Saturday, July 20th through downtown Sherwood. We'd love to have you and your families walk or ride with us to promote the refuge in the community. This is a free, fun event and we need your support to make it happen.

Here's the signup link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0845AFA72FA7FC1-fortabling>

We also have one more opportunity to reach out at Beaverton Farmers' market on Saturday, August 3rd in the morning – no expertise is needed other than your enthusiastic support for wildlife conservation and our refuge.

Board Members Scott Owen and Michelle Scholz at the Tigard Farmers Market

Questions?

m_scholz@friendsoftualatinrefuge.org

Thank you for your continuing support and we look forward to seeing you at the refuge.

Michelle Scholz
(Membership committee)



Summer Programs on the Refuge



Summer is in full swing with programs on the refuge! Here is a glimpse at what is going on this summer. All program information is on the Friends website at friendsoftualatinrefuge.org.

Drop In Exploration Days

Join us from 12:00-2:00 for free activities and crafts in our environmental education classroom. All ages welcome, hosted indoors in our Visitor Center. No registration required for this drop in program, stay as long or short as you like within the two-hour period. The program will happen throughout the summer on every Sunday starting on June 16th.

Puddle Stompers

Our preschool environmental education program invites children and their families to spend the morning learning about the natural



wonders of the Refuge. The Puddle Stompers program is offered the second Wednesday and following Tuesday every month, and each month has a new theme. This event is free & open to the public, but registration is required on the Friends website at friendsoftualatinrefuge.org.

Wed, July 10th: Bats (1:00-2:30)
Tues, July 16th: Bats (10:00-11:30)
Wed, August 14th: Dragonflies (1:00-2:30)
Tues, August 20th: Dragonflies (10:00-11:30)

Trailhead Tables

Drop in at our trailhead table to see what you can discover on the refuge during your hike. Each trailhead table talk has a different theme, so stop by and see what you can explore! All programs will be held Saturday from 12:00-2:00 PM at the trailhead to the year-round trail.

Sat, July 6th: Plentiful Plants
Sat, July 13th: Birds of Prey
Sat, August 17th: Salmon of the Tualatin Basin
Sat, August 24th: Backyard Birds
Sat, August 31st: Frogs, Snakes, Salamanders, OH MY!
Sat, September 7th: Wild Waterfowl
Sat, September 14th: Creatures of the Dark

Wildlife Walks

Join a naturalist from 8:30-10:00AM on a morning walk and discover the wildlife on the refuge. Bring a pair of binoculars, bird book, or field guide on this family-friendly experience, and explore the habitats of the Refuge. Registration is required for this free event. Register at friendsoftualatinrefuge.org.

Saturdays, July 6th, July 13th, August 17th, August 24th, August 31st

Bats of the Night

Join a bat biologist and learn about these nocturnal flying mammals. The program starts indoors, and then moves outside at dusk to look for these amazing creatures. Please register for this free event at friendsoftualatinrefuge.org.

Thursday, August 29th 7:00-8:30
Thursday, September 12th 6:30-8:00
Thursday, September 26th 6:00-7:30

Wear in the world

Going anywhere fun this summer? - take your Friends Logo Wear along and snap a photo to share.

Friends of TRNWR Hats, T-shirts, Jackets have been photographed all over the world- even Antarctica!

Send photos to Info@Friendsoftualatinrefuge.org

Be sure to share your location

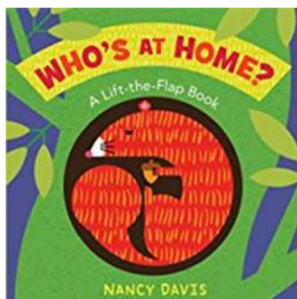
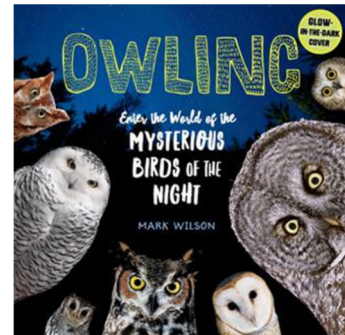
We are looking for people who are interested in writing for the Friends Newsletter; have a desire to right about something you are interested in, a creative writing itch, or skills as an editor? Contact Bonnie at: Info@FriendsoftualatinRefuge.org

NATURE'S OVERLOOK STORE

Hello, book lovers – we just put fifteen new titles out on the shelves today, and just one copy of each. Thank you for purchasing books at the Nature's Overlook shop – your support directly helps the Refuge!

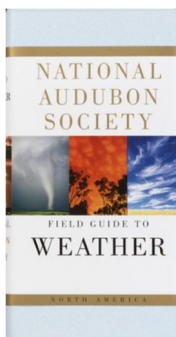
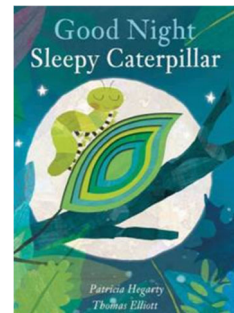
Here are a few of the books we got in for children:

This book is magnificent for young people. It has a glow-in-the dark cover, too! Really excellent. Superb content and great pictures.



And here's a good pick to read to your little one... it's adorable, and all about animals that live around here. And you get the thrill of opening the flaps to see a picture inside...

And "Good Night Sleepy Caterpillar". I think this is beautiful – lovely artwork and colors, it rhymes, and it has a cut out that gets smaller each page, like sleepy little eyes starting to drift off.



For those of you who watch the weather (my better half sure does!), we just got in a great field guide from the National Audubon Society...

Tualatin River Photo Society

July and August there will be no meetings but on September 5th Adam Bacher will present his work on ravens. ("Commercial photographer by day, artist by night, I've been a professional photographer for 25 years. My latest project took flight three winters ago when I came across a conspiracy of ravens after a day of cross country skiing in February, 2014.")

Tualatin River Photographic Society (TRPS) provides photographers who have an interest in nature photography a variety of opportunities to improve their skills and share knowledge with others. Photographers of all levels participate in TRPS meetings, field trips, and educational programs. We welcome visitors and new members.

We are a program of the Friends of the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge, a non-profit organization.

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.



CONTACT US

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