

May 2019

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

Technology can be amazing. A company called Biocarbon Engineering has developed a drone that fires biodegradable seed pods to plant trees. They have been used in Myanmar to plant mangrove trees and in Australia to replant mining sites. Up until now, planting trees has been something humans have been doing by hand. Since 2012 Myanmar has planted roughly 6 million trees by hand. That's pretty good stuff right there.

But, here's the thing, two operators working with 10 drones can plant 400,000 theoretical trees in a single day, and they can plant areas not easily done by the hands of a human. That's 2 million theoretical trees in a single week. I hope theoretical trees grow as well as trees that are not theoretical. And there is research out there that suggests that if we planted 1.2 trillion new trees around the world that they could absorb more carbon than human emissions each year. And that is great stuff right there. But we're going to need a lot more drones.



Hoodoo and her person Mark

At the Refuge we still like to plant the trees by hand, there is something about the digging, the gentle placement, and the filling in around the roots that gives this fragile stem a chance of new life that brings meaning to our own. And when you think about that stem, and the literal millions of other stems planted. Some alike and some different, all combined to form a complex habitat for numerous different species of bugs, other plants, amphibians, fish, and mammals. Well, now you've done something significant, you've made a change in the environment, and you've been a part of something much larger than yourself and your single stem. And that is simply priceless...

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/>

JOIN

DONATE

RENEW

UPCOMING EVENTS

[Puddle Stompers-](#)
May 08, 2019 1:00 PM

[Nature Ambassadors at
Sherwood Public Li-
brary](#)
May 08, 2019 3:30 PM

Sherwood Public Library
[Second Saturday Resto-
ration Work Party](#)
(session 5 of 11)
May 11, 2019 9:00 AM

Tualatin River National
Wildlife Refuge
[Tualatin River Bird
Festival -- Save the
Date!](#)
May 18, 2019

[Friends Board Meeting](#)
(session 1 of 6)
May 28, 2019 6:30 PM

SOCIAL MEDIA



May 18, 2019

Tualatin River Bird Festival

The 23rd annual Tualatin River Bird Festival is nearly upon us! Please invite your neighbors, friends, and co-workers to this free, family-friendly event celebrating wildlife, and our Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge. New this year, our popular wagon rides will take you to on a new route that will be exploring the proposed new seasonal trail! We have also increased the number of buses that will take you from the offsite parking to the Refuge.

For the early risers, there are US Fish & Wildlife Service guided walks at 5:30 am, 6:00 am and 6:30 am.

The majority of events and activities happen from 10:00 am - 4:00 pm, and include:

8:00 am guided bird walk with Elaine Murphy from Backyard Bird Shop

Wagon rides- All New route!!!

Build a Bird House

Free Pan Dulce at the Welcome table

Archery Skill building

Hunting Dog Retrieving demonstration

Drop-in crafts

Gyotaku (Fish printing)

Live bird show with Portland Audubon at noon

Paint a Duck Decoy

Decoy Carving demonstration

Fish Casting challenge

Interpretative stations – Birds and Nest, Pelts and Skulls

Nature's Overlook Store is open; Festival Day only-Friends members receive a 20% discount on store purchases.

Koi Fusion's food cart will be on-site where you can purchase delicious meals.

There is no on-site parking; event parking is at 12205 SW Tualatin Rd in Tualatin with 3 ADA compatible shuttle buses running from 5:00 am until 5:00 pm.

If you can volunteer for the event, please let Andrew DelGreco (andrew_delgreco@fws.gov) know as soon as possible. Volunteers who can participate for the full day will receive a box lunch from Biscuits Café on Barrows Road. Snacks will be provided to all, including treats from Sherwood's own Hungry Hero. Volunteer parking will be at the old Albertsons store, across Pacific Hwy from Safeway.

We want to extend a huge 'Thank You' to the sponsors and partners that make the Bird Festival possible – Bosky Dell Natives Nursery; Clean Water Services; City of Sherwood; Phil's Farm Market; Oregon Fish & Wildlife; Starbucks in Sherwood (Roy Rogers Road); Koi Fusion; Electronic Wood Systems; Home Depot (Sherwood); Pride Disposal; Les Schwab Tire Center (Sherwood); and the US Fish & Wildlife Service.

HELP THE FRIENDS WHILE
YOU SHOP



SAVE THE DATE • MAY 18, 2019



Welcome to our new Seasonal Visitor Services Assistant:

Catherine Hudson has joined the Environmental education team in a seasonal four month position. She will be helping facilitate field trips and drop in exploration days during this busy field trip season and into the summer. She has a master's degree in Geology (she rocks) and has previously worked with the National Park Service at the Oregon Caves as an interpretive guide. Catherine will be working closely with Tiffany Mancillas, and her schedule



This past weekend saw our annual Native Plant Sale, the Friends' main fundraising event for the Tualatin River Bird Festival. About 1,600 plants were packed into the Visitor Center Riparian Room, which were sorted between shade and sun loving plants, and carefully labeled for the public sale. Ginny Maffitt, the refuge's volunteer plant expert, helped train other volunteers about native plants. Everyone helped sort out all of the plants and discussed the qualities and needs for those plants to grow with our customers. Friday evening was the member's-only pre-sale, and public opening following the pre-sale. The sale itself saw a steady stream of customers browsing the rows of native plants and asking our expert volunteers plant questions. The sale was a success, with 797 plants sold, resulting in \$6,788 in sale. The profit from the event, roughly half of the sales, will go directly to benefiting the festival and will help continue the tradition of a free community event. A huge thank you to everyone that supported the Native Plant Sale, and huge thank you to Bosky Dell Natives for providing all of the plants at cost.

In addition to the plant sale, Refuge staff and volunteers hosted events to celebrate Earth Day, which fell earlier in the week. This year's Earth Day theme was "Save Our Species," to which the Refuge hosted interpretive tables on endangered species and pollinators, a worm compost exploration education activity, and a seed ball craft for youth to take home seeds of native wildflowers. Many visitors dropped off bottles and cans for our redeemable fundraiser through Bottle Drop of Oregon. Our Bottle Drop program is year round and special blue bags can be picked up in the Visitor Center. Blue bags can then be filled with Oregon redeemable bottles and cans. Once the blue bag is filled up it may be taken to a Bottle Drop location or dropped back off at the Visitor Center. We have collected close to \$500 since this program started. What a great and easy way to support the Friends and the Refuge.

A big **THANKS** to the following volunteers that came out to help with the plant sale this week:

Ginny Maffitt
Nancy Phelps
Alan Christensen
Judy Christensen
Wendy Cattanaach
Darlene Dumke
JoAnn Adair
Sharon Miller
Molly Bauermiller
George Burnett
Irene Vlach
Michelle Scholz
Robin Harrower
Terry Martin
Trudi Stone
Dave Roberts
Kathy Roberts
April Olbrich
Louise Merkens
Jeanne-Marie Pierrelouis
Scott Owen
Blair Anderson (Southridge High School)
Tristin Madron (Southridge High School)
Zane Whitney (Southridge High School)



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

Northwest Family DAYCATION



Family fun where nature meets the city

What it is

Daycation is a completely free mobile app for families with younger children that takes all the planning and guesswork out of exploring nature in the Portland Metro Area. A team of parents and nature enthusiasts has curated fun adventures all over town, that connect natural areas to other community amenities, all while considering the unique needs of young explorers and their caregivers.

Who created it

Daycation is a cooperative project of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and The Intertwine Alliance.

How to get it

The app is available for Apple and Android phones. Search "Daycation" in the Apple App Store and Google Play Store.

Connect with Nature
WHERE YOU ARE
& ON YOUR SCHEDULE

Parent Approved.
ITINERARIES
POINTS OF INTEREST
& EVENTS

*NO GUESSING.
NO RESEARCH.
Just tap
and go!*

Family adventures
WHERE NATURE MEETS THE CITY.

NWFAMILYDAYCATION.COM



Features

- Parent-curated adventures
- GPS enabled map
- Points of Interest
- New Daycations every Thursday
- Family-friendly event listing
- Optional personal profile to track your adventures

What this means for National Wildlife Refuges

As one of the co-developers of Daycation, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service is featured throughout the app. Our three publicly accessible Urban National Wildlife Refuges — Tualatin River, Ridgefield, and Steigerwald Lake — all have (or will have) Daycations created for them by USFWS staff with support from the refuges' Friends and Stewards.

In addition, an extensive list of Points of Interest for each refuge is built into the app. This means that even if you're not on a Daycation, the app functions equally well as a GPS-enabled map of the refuge. You can view trails, bathrooms, interpretive stops, benches and more, all while following your little blue dot in real time.

Tualatin River NWR Daycations

Tualatin River Refuge: An Animal Tracks Mystery Adventure

This Daycation invites young nature sleuths and their caregivers to explore the animal tracks embedded in concrete throughout the Refuge. Along the way, there are questions posed, with answers that can be found on interpretive panels:

1. What animal poops on the trail to mark its territory? A: Coyote
The answer can be found on the Education Shelter panel at the tracking station sandbox.
2. How many different insects live in Oregon white oak trees? A: Over 200 species
The answer can be found on the interpretive panel in the oak woodlands along the River Trail.
3. What does the yellow warbler sound like? A: Sweet-sweet-sweet, I'm so sweet
The answer can be found on the Layers of Life interpretive panel at the River Overlook.

Wild Wonders of Sherwood

This Daycation demonstrates how exploring nature doesn't have to be a grand adventure where you leave all of the city amenities behind. It invites families, particularly those with little ones with little legs, to explore the Refuge as far as the River Overlook along the River Trail.

From there, we connect families with some family-friendly attractions in Sherwood. Stops include:

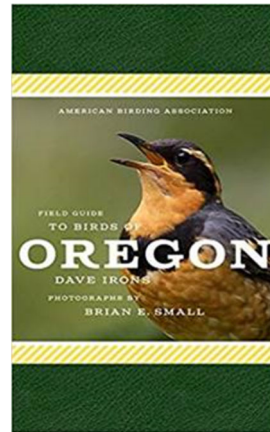
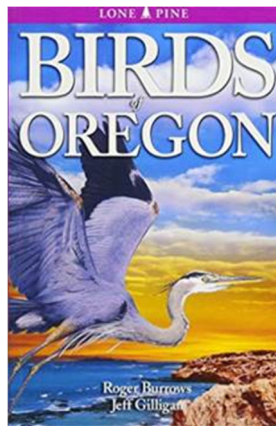
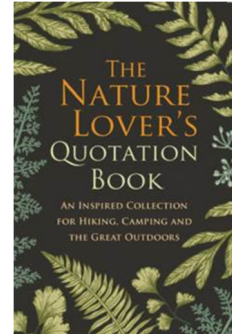
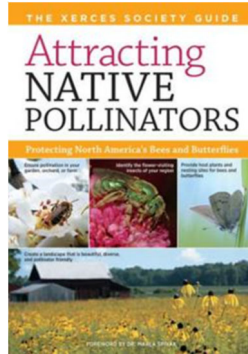
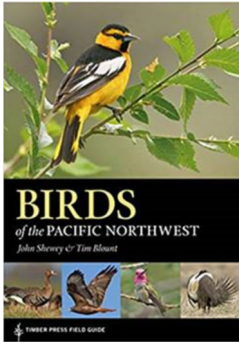
- Stella Olsen Memorial Park for some good ol' fashioned playground play time.
- A walk along the Cedar Creek boardwalk to Old Town.
- A treat stop at Hungry Hero Desert Co.



NWFAMILYDAYCATION.COM

NATURE'S OVERLOOK STORE

Hello, book lovers! We are well stocked with books for all occasions – especially for the big upcoming events – the Native Plant Sale, The Wild Bird Fest, and Mother's Day! Come and see all the wonderful things we have that would be great resources/gifts for you or the nature lover on your gift list! Here are a few things to recommend... and **thank you** for shopping at Nature's Overlook – your purchases support the Refuge!



Wear In The World

Habitat Restoration Specialist, Nathan Kossnar is out enjoying Smith Rocks in central Oregon. Nathan is sporting his own Logo creation. Nathan sewed a Friends logo patch onto a trucker hat for a great rock climbing look!



CONTACT US

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Wapato Lake NWR Furakawa Bridge Repair is Complete

A recent bridge inspection closed the Furakawa Bridge at Wapato Lake NWR until some of the bridge decking could be replaced. While doing this repair, further bridge damage was uncovered. A second inspection revealed two bridge girders that also needed to be replaced, as well as a reduction in the allowed weight limit. Because of the temporary condemnation of the bridge, no machinery could be used on the bridge for the repairs. Maintenance staff, along with the help of volunteers Bob Fuquay, Mike Skinner, and Alan Fitzpatrick, were able to replace the two failing girders by hand and get the decking and bumper rails back in place. This historic bridge will provide a third access point to the Wapato Lakebed after the two new bridges are built.



Friends members and Refuge volunteers Bob Fuquay, Mike Skinner and Alan Fitzpatrick

A Job Well Done!

