

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



Hoodoo and her person Mark

Did you know: There's more carbon held in the soils of the Earth than there is in the atmosphere, and wetlands hold a hugely disproportionate amount of that carbon. Despite only occupying between 5 and 8 percent of the earth's land surface, wetlands hold between 20 and 30 percent of its estimated global soil carbon. Stopping the degradation and helping to restore these wetlands can help capture carbon dioxide, a major greenhouse gas.

Currently, there are 17 countries, home to 25% of the world's population that are facing water crises. [https://](https://abcnews.go.com/International/17-countries-home-25-worlds-population-facing-water/story?id=64827506)

abcnews.go.com/International/17-countries-home-25-worlds-population-facing-water/story?id=64827506

The bottom line is that some of these countries are inching their way to "Day Zero" when the taps run dry and water is no longer available. In the 17 countries facing this risk, agriculture, industry and municipalities are using 80% of the available surface and ground water every year.

Most of the countries facing extreme water shortages are in the Middle East and North Africa but this crisis, if left unchecked, could result in mass migrations that could stress the world's resources, causing food shortages and conflict.

Part of the problem, land use. Desertification is a type of land degradation in which a relatively dry area of land becomes a desert, typically losing its bodies of water as well as vegetation and wildlife. Overgrazing is the major cause of desertification worldwide. Other factors that cause desertification include urbanization, climate change, over drafting of groundwater, deforestation, natural disasters and tillage practices in agriculture that makes soils more vulnerable to wind.

Cattle create 44 times more green house gasses than a crop of beans. Worldwide cattle actually produce 14% of the global green house gasses, that is actually more than all the cars, trucks, busses and planes. Holy cow.

Closer to home, the SW United states has been seeing drought for 19 years. Both Lake Powell and Lake Mead reservoirs are less than 40% full, and scientists predict that they will probably never fill again. The water supply of more than 22 million people in the three Lower Basin states is in jeopardy.

In Oregon, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor, 17% of the state is in some stage of drought, compared to 90% at this time a year ago. Drought has affected Oregon for over 8 years now.

JOIN

DONATE

RENEW

UPCOMING EVENTS

[Photo Society Presentation & Meeting](#)
Sept. 05, 2019 7:00 PM

[Wildlife Walk](#)
Sept. 07, 2019 8:30 AM

[Trailhead Nature Table \(session 9 of 10\)](#)
Sept. 07, 2019 12:00 PM

[Puddle Stompers-Turtles](#)
Sept. 11, 2019 1:00 PM

[Bats of the Night](#)
Sept. 12, 2019 6:30 PM

[Wildlife Walk](#)
Sept. 14, 2019 8:30 AM

[Trailhead Nature Table \(session 10 of 10\)](#)
Sept. 14, 2019 12:00 PM

[Puddle Stompers-Turtles](#)
Sept. 17, 2019 10:00 AM

[Bats of the Night](#)
Sept. 26, 2019 6:00 PM

[Annual Membership Meeting](#)
Sept. 28, 2019 8:30 AM

[Puddle Stompers-Owls](#)
Oct. 09, 2019 1:00 PM


That's the bad news. What can we do to help with this problem? It starts with being cognizant of it, changing your own behavior, 33% of all food is thrown out. That means all the tree cutting, tilling, fertilizer, fuel, and transportation that went into produce that food was completely unnecessary. That's significant and something that is easily worked on just by being aware.

The Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge Complex consists of a lot of freshwater wetlands. The kind that holds between 20 and 30 percent of its estimated global soil carbon. In fact, we're in the process of a couple of big restoration projects and could really use your help. We're determined to capture that wild carbon. Want to join us, it's easy, and will make you feel good: <https://fotr.wildapricot.org/Join/>

Save the Date for the 2019 Friends of the Refuge Annual Meeting.

September 28, 2018

Invitations will be emailed out the last week of August and will include details about the meeting and the planting party.




Friends of Tualatin River NWR

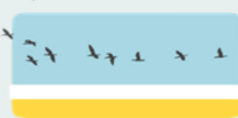
Annual Membership Meeting

September 28, 2019




Who	All current and new Friends Members
What	Annual Meeting of Friends of TRNWR
Where	Visitor Center (VC) (19255 SW Pacific Highway)
When	<p>8:30-9:30 Special Event: Chicken Creek Restoration Walk (Friends Members Only) led by Refuge Staff</p> <p>9:30-10:00 Breakfast (Enter through EE classroom doors for check-in)</p> <p>10:00-11:00 Business Meeting</p> <p>11:30-12:30 Special Event: Friends-Sponsored Planting Event (open to the public)</p> <p>12:30-1:30 Special Event: Chicken Creek Restoration Walk (open to the public) led by Refuge Staff</p>
RSVP	Please RSVP at www.friendsoftualatinrefuge.org by September 16 so we can know how many to expect for food and seating. We encourage our members to carpool to the meeting, if possible.
Details	<p>All Friends Members are invited to attend. New members may join at the door. New and current members receive a 20% discount in the store during the Annual Meeting!</p> <p>Walk: With Larry Klimek, Refuge Manager, and Curt Mykut, Refuge Biologist. Meet outside the Visitor Center. This is your chance to hear updates and ask questions about the restoration efforts going on at the main unit of the Refuge. Dress for the weather and wear appropriate footwear.</p> <p>Breakfast: Continental Breakfast</p> <p>Business Meeting: Election / re-election of Board members, bylaws revisions, and Volunteers of the Year</p> <p>Planting: Dress for the weather, bring gloves, and wear appropriate footwear.</p>




Restoration will return Chicken Creek to its meandering channel. Two opportunities to check it out either before or after the Annual Meeting!





SOCIAL MEDIA

HELP THE FRIENDS WHILE YOU SHOP







WELCOME BACK!



Nathan is thrilled to have returned to Tualatin River NWR at the end of August after taking a medical leave. He is going to the National Conservation Training Center for his first time to enjoy a forestry class in mid September. While he is attending the course at NCTC, Sarah Williams-Brown will be leading a restoration work party on September 14th, and Nathan will be returning to his leadership role for the Second Saturday Work Parties in October. Nathan wishes he could have participated more during this year's field season, but is eager to jump right back in and take part in revegetating the newly constructed Chicken Creek!

PRESIDENT'S VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD

The Friends of the Refuge are a certified organization to verify and deliver this national award to our members on an annual base. These awards are normally presented during the February Board meeting, but the pins have been out of stock until now (Gold Pins are still on back order). The President's Volunteer Service Award for 2018 volunteer hours will be presented at the Refuge Volunteer Dinner on August 28, 2019.

Wondering about this award? Here are a few details about the program. It is important to make sure that all of your volunteer hours are captured by USFWS.



Bronze Level

Kids: 50 to 74 hours
Young Adults: 100 to 174 hours
Adults: 100 to 249 hours

Family & Groups: 200 to 499 hours



Silver Level.

Kids: 75 to 99 hours
Young Adults: 175 to 249 hours
Adults: 250 to 499 hours

Family & Groups: 500 to 999 hours



Gold Level

Kids: 100 hours or more
Young Adults: 250 hours or more
Adults: 500 hours or more

Family & Groups: 1000 hours or more

Pins and certificates were handed out at the Refuge Volunteer Appreciation dinner in August. If you were unable to attend, please stop by the Friends office Monday- Thursday and pick yours up, or contact the Friends office to make other arrangements.

2018 Friends of Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge President's Volunteer Service Award recipients are;

Bronze Pin (100-249 hours)

Sara Abel, James Alexander, Barbara Allen, Barbara Birney, Mike Burnett, Wendy Cattanach, Alan Christensen, Marty Clancy, Christine Crocker, Darlene Dumke, David Dunn, Pam Farris, Larry Harrington, Carly Hishmann, Don Holland, Linda Kilgore, Ginny Maffitt, Paula McCall, Sharon Miller, Scott Owen, Ruthann Panck, Rodney Robertson, Michelle Scholz, John Schweitzer, Judy Silverforb, Ed Squiers, and Mary Taylor

Silver Pin (250-499 hours)

Alan Fitzpatrick, Bob Fuquay, Frank Nusser, Mike Skinner and Willem Stoeller

Gold Pin (500+ hours)

George Burnett, Dawn Carovano, Cheryl Hart and Tom Hartz

Thank you to all of our volunteers. Your ongoing support of the Friends and the Refuge is a huge part of what makes Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge so special.

CHICKEN CREEK RESTORATION

Please visit:

<https://www.refuge2020.info/chicken-creek-restoration>

Beginning July 2019, a small tributary stream to the Tualatin River, known as Chicken Creek, will be restored to its natural, curving flow at Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge's Afalati Unit. The project aims to restore natural stream and wetland floodplain functions, where the realigned Creek will feed a portion of the Afalati Units once heavily managed wetland impoundments. Anticipated beaver activity in the restored Creek channel will cause water to pond, and in concert with the native vegetation planted by the Refuge, will result in 280 acres of wetlands and 2 miles of stream habitat supporting a healthy, diverse array of plants, fish and wildlife.



KEY DATES

Mid-July, 2019 through September 2019: The project will begin with a delivery of large woody debris that will be used for habitat improvement in the Creek channel and its associated floodplain. This will require the Refuge to close a portion of the Wetlands Seasonal Trail (pictured below). That section of the trail will eventually be removed to connect the new 280-acre wetland site. A new section of trail will open in mid-July, providing access to a previously closed area of the Refuge while overall adding 1/2 mile of trail. This will be a permanent change to the Refuge trail system. Additional activities will include excavating the new creek alignment, filling ditches and the placement of the woody debris.

Fall 2019 through Winter 2020: Large scale plantings are slated to occur. Stay tuned for likely volunteer opportunities during this time.

May 2020 through September 2020: Beginning in spring 2020, work will start with the removal of water control structures and the installation of two new bridge crossings near the wayside and photo blind. Finally, late in the summer, flow from the current Chicken Creek ditch will be diverted into the new excavated Creek channel that was created during phase 1 and the ditch filled in.

LATEST UPDATE

["Setting the Stage for Creek Restoration"](#) July 23, 2019

[Download the project fact sheet \(PDF\)](#)

LAST OF THE 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.

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, September 7th: Wild Waterfowl

Sat, September 14th: Creatures of the Dark

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, September 12th 6:30-8:00

Thursday, September 26th 6:00-7:30

TUALATIN RIVER PHOTO SOCIETY

Photo Society Meeting
September 5th, 7 PM at the Visitor Center

Do you enjoy taking nature photos?

Would you like to improve your photographic skills?

Come to our September 5th gathering when guest speaker Adam Bacher, a Portland-based professional photographer, will present his **Conspiracy of Ravens** project. (Intriguing title isn't it?)

Come see glimpses into the lives of Ravens as you've not seen before...

"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."

- Adam Bacher



Conspiracy of Ravens



Who we are: The Friends Photo Society organizes monthly meetings focused on nature photography in the North West. These meetings typically consist of a presentation by a professional photographer, followed by a sharing of nature photos made by the attendees. In addition to guest speakers, we are planning to organize photo walks on the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge led by experienced photographers. The Friends Photo Society is a great opportunity to improve your photography skills, to network with other photographers and meet like-minded folks!

All Photo Society meetings are free and open to both members of the Friends and non-members. Monthly meetings are held at the Visitor Center at the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge on the first Thursday of every month at 7 PM September through June.

The Friends Photo Society also offers some wonderful volunteering opportunities with the Refuge. Examples of volunteer opportunities include, leading of photo walks at the Refuge, creating photo journals of major restoration projects at the Refuge, and others.

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.

NATURE'S OVERLOOK STORE



Duck Stamps Are Here!

The 2019-2020 Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp, otherwise known as the Duck Stamp is now for sale! While the Duck Stamp serves as a license for waterfowl hunting, its greater purpose is to generate revenue for conservation. Anyone can (and should!) purchase these conservation revenue stamps; 98 percent of the purchase price goes directly to help acquire and protect wetland habitat and purchase conservation easements for the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Duck Stamps have always been an integral tool for our Refuge System. For every dollar spent on Duck Stamps, ninety-eight cents goes directly to purchase of critical habitat or the acquisition of conservation easements for protection in the NWRS. More than 6 million acres at over 300 wildlife refuges were created or have been expanded using Duck Stamp dollars.

At least one refuge in nearly every state has benefited from Duck Stamp dollars.

Hello, book lovers. **What is your favorite bird book?** You may have noticed that Nature's Overlook shop at the Refuge has many different bird guide/reference books to choose from. It's interesting that when browsing through the various titles to compare, you will invariably find "the one" that appeals to you most – perhaps the way it is organized, or maybe you prefer photos over drawings, or the size, or the feel of the cover, or the price... We are making an effort to have several guide authors/formats to choose from on topics ranging from birds to trees to butterflies, etc.

Thanks for shopping at Nature's Overlook and for supporting the Refuge through your purchases! We appreciate you!

Some examples to compare ...



WEAR IN THE WORLD

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

Send photos to Info@Friendssoftualatinrefuge.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@FriendssoftualatinRefuge.org



CONTACT US

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