

MAKING TRACKS

NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF THE TUALATIN RIVER NWR

JOYFULLY CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITY WITH THE WONDER OF THE REFUGE



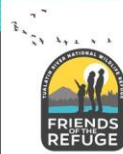
JOIN

DONATE

RENEW

The Friends are working towards becoming a truly inclusive organization that rejects racism in all its forms and embraces cultural and economic diversity. The Board of Directors for the Friends of Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge is keenly aware that despite undergoing Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) training, we have much progress to make for our organization to reflect the diversity of our urban area. We further seek to give equal value to all voices in helping to articulate our mission, vision, policies and best practices. Although we are directing our outreach to better reflect diversity, equity and inclusion, we understand we need to continue to improve and commit to examining all activities through a DEI perspective. We invite your ideas. We want all to feel welcome and safe to visit the Refuge. We need the quiet, the beauty and the peace that nature and wildlife bring to our souls. It is imperative people of all colors and ethnicities are aware of this sanctuary and comfortable in searching solace.

Friends of Tualatin River NWR Statement on Racism



UPCOMING EVENTS

Friends Board Meeting

Virtual Meeting Planned

January 25, 2021 6:30 PM

Contact by 1/21/2021

Info@FriendsTualatinRefuge.org

if you would like to receive an invitation to attend our ZOOM meeting.

PRESIDENT'S PERCH

By Michelle Miller, President of the Board



President's Perch Holiday Greetings!

I'm Michelle and for the next year, your President of the Friends Board. I am so honored to be included in an organization with so many talented, knowledgeable and caring Friends members, joining together to support the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge Complex. I want to thank Alan Christensen, who served this past very unusual year as President, now serving as Past-President. He is one of those special Friends members who readily shares his experiences, time and expertise, a real asset to a small organization like ours. I look forward to his ongoing mentorship. I also want to announce Louie Olivares, as President-Elect. Many of you already know Louie from the many volunteer hours he provides to the Refuge, especially during Bird Festival time, with his family and I am excited to work with him in 2021. Please check out his bio on the website to see how lucky we are to have Louie onboard! We also welcomed two new Board members, Keith Palevsky and Tom Stibolt at the Annual meeting in September. They each have brought new energy to our recent Zoom meetings and get much of the work done behind the scenes with



SOCIAL MEDIA



Now, a bit about me. I work for Washington County as a land use planner. Before that, I worked for the city of Sherwood for over seven years, where I “discovered” the Refuge. Cheryl Hart, President at the time, actively sought to build the Friends’ partnership with the city of Sherwood and asked that I serve as a liaison on the Board to help grow the partnership with the City. I look forward to connecting more people and groups, virtually and in person to the Refuge over the next year when we are able. Oregon has been my home for over twenty-five years. I live in the Rock Creek neighborhood of Washington County with my husband, Vincent and son Logan. I’m a Midwesterner, originally from Iowa who likes to hike and explore the Portland region, visit National Parks during the summers and knit in my free time.

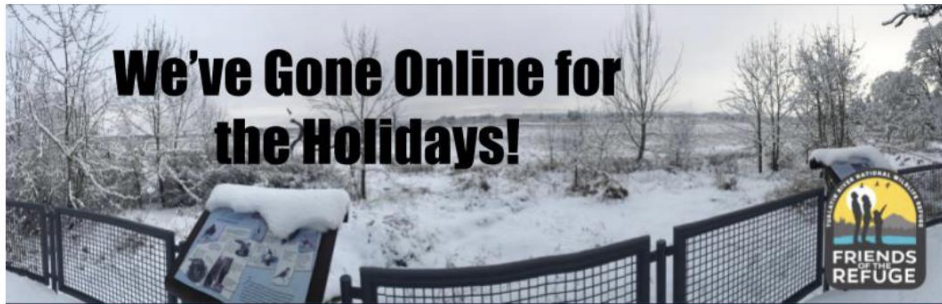
Donations to help us continue our work to support the TRNWRC are more important than ever as our Natures Overlook Store is closed.

Consider an end of year donation to the Friends

www.FriendsofTualatinRefuge.org

This year the Friends partnered with the Good Neighbor Center and asked our members and supporters to help provide gifts for families in need. On December 15, 2020, we delivered \$1,500 in gifts that included stuffed animals, books, socks, puzzles, games and toys. We thank you for supporting these families and also supporting the Natures Overlooks store.





Give the Gift of the Refuge this Holiday Season!

- ★ Shop our Online Store for your friends and family!
- ★ Each purchase supports the Friends mission!
- ★ Our Online Store Includes: Toys, Nature & Children's Books, Puzzles, Socks and more!
- ★ Contact-free merchandise pickup will be available curbside, outside the Visitor Center at the Refuge, during limited hours or by appointment. See our website for more information!

It's Holiday Shopping Made Easy!



Friends Contribute \$30,000 to Wapato Lake NWR Trail

Looking forward to the grand opening to the public of the Wapato Lake National Wildlife Refuge. The date is to be determined and pushed back from the original Fall 2020 date due to Covid. This year the Friends of the Refuge received a \$30,000 grant from Washington County Visitors Association. The grant provided funding to create an almost 2 miles stretch of accessible trail. The Friends were able to



purchase the geo-textile fabric and the gravel for the trail with the grant. Stay tuned for the Grand Opening date and information.



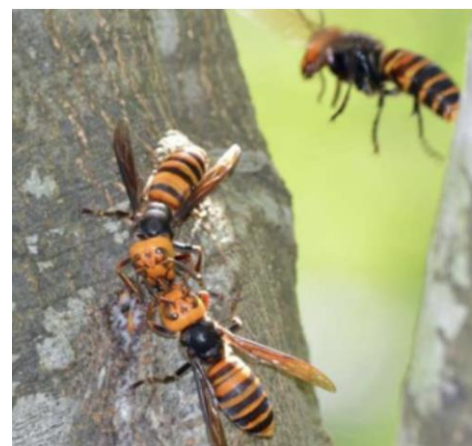
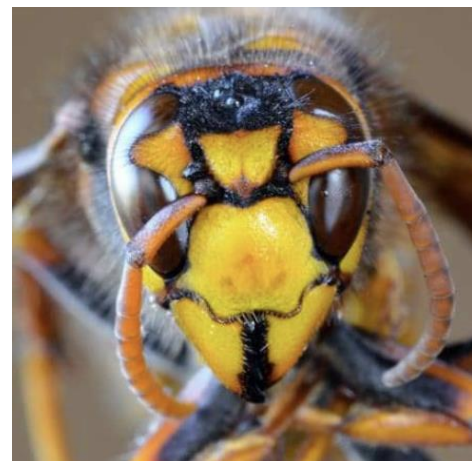
A Huge Thank You to John Schweitzer and his volunteer crew on the completion of the Wapato Lake NWR trail.

The Asian Giant Hornet (aka “Murder Hornets”)

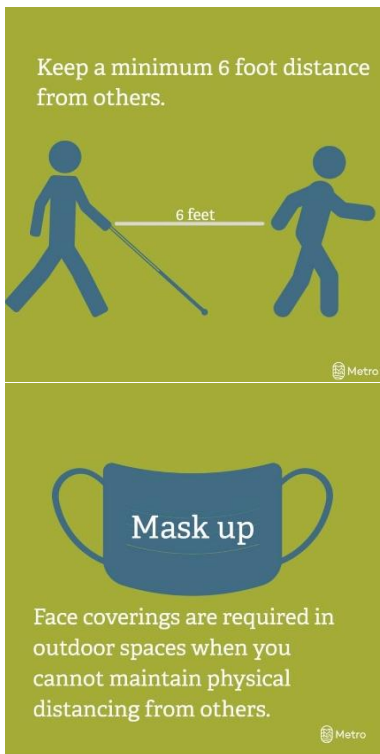
By Keith Palevsky, Board of Director

There is been lots of mention from our neighbors in Washington state about sightings of Asian Giant Hornets, sometimes referred to as “Murder Hornets”. They are not really a direct threat to humans, but they are threat to our beloved pollinating honeybee population. Asian Giant Hornets are native primarily to eastern and southern Asia, including Japan. They are not native to North America, and were first sighted on the continent in 2019 on Vancouver Island in British Columbia. Over the summer, sightings were reported in Washington State, and authorities had a plan for action. Specimens were captured and fitted with transmitters, and tracked to an area in Whatcom County near the Canadian border and the nest identified. On October 23rd, workers from the Washington State Department of Agriculture removed the nest of 98 specimens including 2 queens. The threat to native bee populations is significant; the Asian Hornets will seek out and can destroy a honeybee nest population in just a few hours. The most identifiable aspect of the Asian Hornet is their size, as foraging adults are typically about 2 inches long. This hornet has a brightly colored yellow face with orange-brown eyes, and the body has distinct alternating yellow and black bands. They are not really interesting in stinging humans, unless you disturb their nest (never a good idea!). If you think have seen a specimen, the best advice is always to contact local wildlife officials or your local exterminator. If they see a specimen, they can readily identify an Asian Hornet as it will be distinctively larger than the typical hornet they regularly encounter.

Source Articles:
Microsoft News Article, “Is that a murder hornet in your yard? Here’s what to do.”
October 28, 2020, article by Leigh Harrington
Associated Press News Article, “Scientists remove 98 murder hornets in Washington State.”
October 26, 2020, article by Nicholas K. Geranos
Photo Credit: Getty Images / kororokerokero Credit: Getty Images / Kagenmi



For Refuge updates, please visit the [FWS.gov](https://www.fws.gov) website.



When you visit the Refuge, please know that all facility buildings are closed. Port-a-johns are available and the parking lot is partially open. Pets are not permitted on the Refuge, and please use social distancing when walking the trail. See these helpful graphic from our partners at Metro.

We would like to continue bringing you the Ask the Expert segments. If you or your child would like to ask an expert a question about the Refuge, wildlife or the Friends, please contact Carly at

Carly_Hirschmann@FriendsofTualatinRefuge.org

CONTACT US

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

info@friendsoftualatinrefuge.org