

**FRIENDS OF TUALATIN RIVER
NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
ANNUAL REPORT
2022
YET ANOTHER
YEAR LIKE NO OTHER**

A Special Donor Thank You from the Friends of the Refuge

As a 501(c)(3) Not-for-Profit Organization we could not accomplish the things that you will read about in this report without the continued generous support of our Friends members, Volunteers, Community partners, Foundations, Donors and US Fish and Wildlife Service. We deeply appreciate the support we receive. Your support directly allows us to achieve our Mission of supporting the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge Complex. These past six months we have been optimistic as we emerge from the past two and half years of being closed for public programming and outreach. We are once again welcoming our members and the community back to the Refuge, and your financial support of the Friends allows us to do what we do best -Joyfully Connecting Our Community with the Wonder of the Refuge. Thank you.

Please turn to page 19 for the list of Special Donors



SPECIAL REPORT: Board Members

2022-23	2023-24	2024-2025
Cheryl Hart (3)	Alan Christensen (2)	Dawn Carovano (3)
Keith Mays (3)	Tom Hartz (2)	Willem Stoeller (3)
Michael Boreing (1)	Sharon Miller (2)	Irene Vlach (2)
	Phyllis Millan (1)	
	Tom Stibolt (1)	
* () number of 3 year terms elected to served since bylaw change 2016		

2022 Annual Report

Friends of Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge

President's Message - Cheryl Hart

First, I want to say Thank You! Thank you to you, our loyal members. Thank you to you, our dedicated volunteers. Thank you to you, our donors and funders. Thank you to you, the partners who help to make the work we do possible. And thank you to our hardworking Fish and Wildlife Service Staff for the work you do to make Tualatin River and Wapato Lake refuges an amazing resource for all our communities and for including Friends in every aspect of the refuges. We could not be a successful Friends group without each of you!

In other parts of this report, you will learn about the activities that Friends have been involved in during the past year despite Covid, Staff working from home, the Visitor Center being closed for well over two years, and whatever other hurdles appeared, Friends have continued to help with programming and other activities at our refuges. I hope you will all take the time to learn about all these accomplishments.

I am excited to tell you about the planning that the Friends Board is engaged in to reboot and reenergize our organization as we move into this "new normal." Our plan is built on four pillars:

- **Sustainability:** We will sustain the long-term health and viability of the Friends of TWNR by ensuring a sound funding base of members, donors, businesses, and foundations, while inspiring, activating, and growing their support of the Friends' mission and vision in our partnership with the Fish and Wildlife Service's team.
- **Environmental Education:** We will support and cultivate the public's awareness and understanding of conservation issues and, in particular, the dynamic ecosystem of the Refuge. We seek to recruit, engage, and nurture everyday naturalists and the next generation of environmental stewards through diverse educational opportunities.
- **Advocacy:** We will be leaders in the community in advocating for the protection and enhancement of



the TRNWRC, as well as cultivating an awareness and understanding of the value of all public lands.

- **Volunteerism:** We will mobilize and sustain a strong volunteer corps of conservation advocates in support of the mission and vision of both the FWS and Friends on behalf of the Refuge and related lands.

These pillars stand on a foundation of **INCLUSION:**

We will evaluate and design all programs and activities to reflect a fundamental commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and social justice.

Our board recognizes that these are lofty aspirations and that we can't accomplish them alone, so I am asking you to help. If we are to accomplish our goals, we need you to volunteer to help with the background work that goes into everything we do as an organization. We are seeking to diversify our board, is helping to lead our organization something you might be interested in? We need non-board members on our committees to help with planning and guiding various activities and projects such as membership, Nature's Overlook Store, fundraising, outreach, environmental education... the list goes on. If you would like to consider being more actively involved in Friends, contact us. We will connect you to the group(s) you are most interested in.

We also need your financial help. Having the Visitor Center closed for over two years and still open only part time and not being able to seek grant funding for projects has put a substantial strain on our organization's finances. We get an incredible amount of value out of every dollar we receive but running a volunteer organization isn't free. As a 501 (c) (3), donations to Friends may provide a tax benefit for you. Please give whatever amount you are able to donate. We don't want you to give until it hurts. We'd like you to give until it feels good!

So, as you look over the wonderful activities the Friends are involved with, please consider how you can support the work we are all so passionate about. **THANK YOU!**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Submitted by Bonnie Anderson, FOR Executive Director

Visitation to the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge has exploded over the last year. With more people moving into the area coupled with an increased awareness of the healing power of nature, the Refuge is getting a lot of use. Thinking back on all of the special visitors we have had at the Refuge this past year, there are a few that really stand out.

In March, USFWS Director Martha Williams visited the Refuge and learned about our Friends group and the work that we do here. She toured the Chicken Creek Restoration Project and heard about the TREE program at Greenway Elementary School. Director Williams shared that she could see that the partnerships we have with the community and USFWS allow us to get so much accomplished.

In May we started to see a "return to normal" on the Refuge. On May 1st, we had our first public programming event occur with our Oregon Chinese Coalition Celebration. The plaza was filled with activities that included robotics, music and dance, and so much more. Our Visitor Center and Nature's Overlook Store finally opened to the public. The seasonal trails that had been closed for two years during the Chicken Creek Restoration Project finally opened for the public to explore and enjoy. The response to all of these events was very positive and the visitors really appreciated the changes they were able to see out on the trails.

In June, the Friends secured funding for fieldtrips to the Refuge for Greenway Elementary School students. After a year of the TREE program, Friday with the Friends



and the mini Bird Fest, an all school fieldtrip was a meaningful way to end the school year. The Refuge hosted two different grade levels over a three-day period. On the first day, the students were also joined by United States Congresswoman Suzanne Bonamici. Students were able to have a great exchange of questions with the Congresswoman and she in turn was able to see the power of our partnership with the school and the enjoyment the students were having on the Refuge.

The past year also saw the return of our "Behind the Sign" tours. Members of the Friends were able to access areas of the Refuge closed to the public. The tours are hosted by myself and Refuge Biologist Curt Mykut. These tours have allowed our members to learn about future plans for the Refuge Complex and see the completion of projects that have occurred. The Chicken Creek Tour and the Wapato Lake Tour were great examples to showcase the collaboration between the Refuge and the Friends. Be sure to watch the newsletter for upcoming Behind the Sign Tours for Friends members.

These are just a few highlights of a very busy year. The Friends of the Refuge are an essential part of what makes Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge Complex a wonderful place to visit. Your Friends membership is a meaningful way to provide support to this Refuge. As we look to the future opening of Wapato Lake National Wildlife Refuge in Gaston, Oregon, I can't help but think of all of the new visitors enjoying the trails!

Hope to see you out on the Refuge!



TUALATIN RIVER BIRD FESTIVAL

The festival took a hiatus this year, but will be back, stay tuned!

ADVOCACY CHAMPIONS

Submitted by Alan Christensen, Friends Board Member

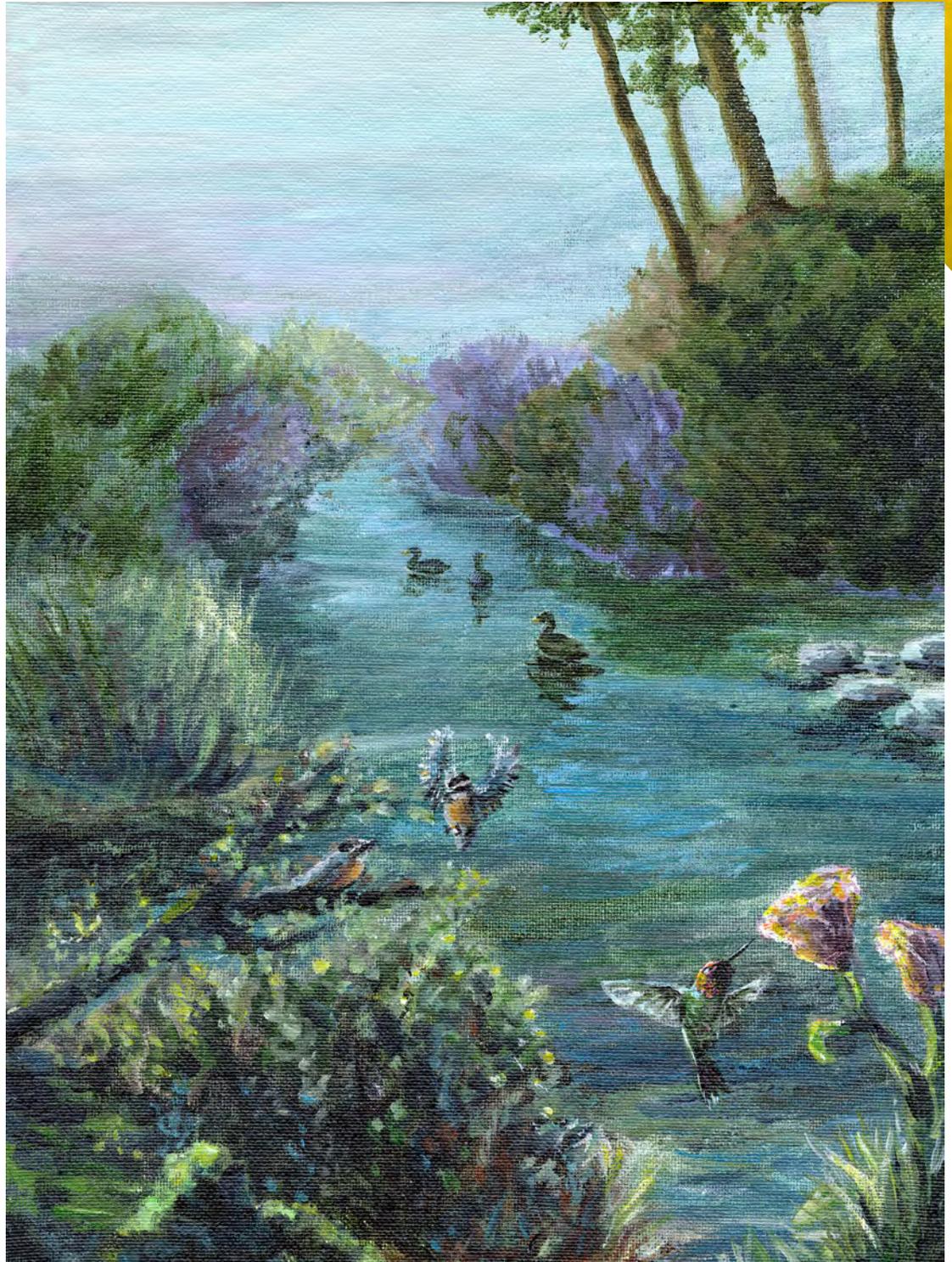
Friends keeps a close eye on issues that relate to conservation and issues that affect the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). Timely advocating to elected officials and Congress provides important opportunities to express support for budgets, new laws, or regulations on the many wildlife refuges. While Friends has provided written comments on such issues as USFWS budgets and a proposal for expanding the use of steel shot on refuges, the big issue this year has been the proposed Tonquin Quarry.

This action, involving about 35 acres immediately adjacent to existing Refuge lands, proposes to remove over 6 million yards of material while developing a hole nearly 250 feet deep and potentially altering water regimes that are tied directly to the Refuge. The proposal has been in existence for about 10 years but seemed to have gone quiet until January when notification was made that the Oregon Department of State Lands had approved the proposal. Friends contacted our elected Federal and State officials and have raised objections to the proposal. More importantly, USFWS has appealed the decision and requested a formal hearing regarding the proposed action. Their appeal outlines the damage that would result to important wetlands and challenges the validity of the proposed mitigation.

As a result of the appeal, there is a formal hearing scheduled in November where the USFWS will have an opportunity to clearly state

their challenges. Friends are hopeful the proposal will be shown to clearly threaten Refuge wetlands and the permit will be revoked.

If you would like a more detailed report and maps, you can contact Bonnie Anderson the Friends Executive Director at Info@FriendsofTualatinRefuge.org.



OCC Art Contest - 2nd Place, Group 2.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Submitted by Dawn Carovano, FOR Board Treasurer
as of August 31, 2022

The reports included show the financial status of the Friends as of August 31, 2022. We are expecting a grant from FWS soon to cover the costs of our restoration employee for next year which will change the standing of the restricted funds, but not our unrestricted funds. Budgeting for next year is conservative as the pandemic still rises and falls and with it the store opens and closes. We are trying to recover not only lost funding but volunteers to staff the store. Net Assets without Donor restrictions are \$112,695. Net Assets with Donor restrictions are \$54,846.

Since the pandemic has eased, the Refuge has been able to complete restoration projects that have been waiting for several years. With that, restricted grant funds that we have been holding have been used to pay several contractors

for the work: \$291,000 for the Chicken Creek restoration, \$100,000 for a new pedestrian bridge over Chicken Creek, \$40,000 for native plants and planting all of which greatly changes the Friends financial landscape.

As the interim Friends Treasurer, I wish to thank former treasurer Willem Stoeller and our Financial Committee for their continued support and guidance. We will continue to search for a volunteer to fill the position of Treasurer.

Budget vs. Actuals: Budget 21/22 - FY21

	Net Revenue	
	Actual	Budget
Fundraising	(2,830.80)	(8,619.00)
Genl & Admin Cost	(20,881.11)	(7,393.00)
Membership Development	(4,165.78)	(9,800.00)
Advocacy	-	(1,000.00)
Bird Festival	-	5,415.00
Environmental Education	1,861.89	-
FOR Refuge Assist	(26,767.15)	(3,000.00)
Photo Society	-	3,135.00
Restoration	(304,802.10)	21,429.00
Store Operations	4,784.90	9,280.00
TOTAL	(352,800.15)	9,447.00

Friends of TRNWR Statement of Activity October 2021 - August 2022

	Total
Revenue	213,793.38
Cost of Goods Sold	9,753.93
Gross Profit	204,039.45
Expenditures	
Business Expenses	290.97
Contract Services	438,418.86
Donated Goods for Friends use	320.00
Operations	9,010.59
Software Maint Agreements	234.69
Other Types of Expenses	4,069.67
Payroll Program Salaries/Wages	41,342.00
Payroll Employer Tax	7,607.26
Payroll Friends Salary/Wages	51,333.37
Payroll Workers Comp Insurance	565.92
Food Supplies, Meals	450.92
Underpayment Account	4,000.00
Total Expenditures	\$ 557,644.25
Net Operating Revenue	\$ (353,604.80)
Net Revenue	\$ (353,604.80)

Budget Summary Fiscal Year 2022-2023

October 1, 2022 through September 30 2023

	Fundraising	Gen/Admin	Membership Develop.	Advocacy	Refuge Assist	Store	Restricted Grant Funded Restoration	TOTAL
Gross Income	\$ 10,000	\$ 28,800	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 17,900	\$ 17,380	\$ 74,080
Expenditures	\$ 200	\$ 70,068	\$ 400	\$ 500	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,530	\$ 44,880	\$ 119,078
Restricted/Designated Rollover	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 27,500	\$ 27,500
Net Revenue including Rollover	\$ 9,800	\$ (41,268)	\$ (400)	\$ (500)	\$ (1,500)	\$ 16,370	\$ -	\$ (17,498)

Note: As of this time there are no plans for a Bird Festival this budget year. Reserved funds: \$12,854.85

Note: As of this time there are no plans for a Photo Society this budget year. Reserved funds: \$3,135.39

Note: As of this time the Refuge personnel will manage Environmental Education programs. Reserved funds \$1,325.09

Friends of TRNWR
Statement of Financial Position
 As of August 31, 2022

	Total
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	115,959.82
Accounts Receivable	20,000.00
Other Current Assets	30,484.56
Total Current Assets	166,444.38
Fixed Assets	1,096.28
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 167,540.66
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	
Liabilities	0.00
Equity	
30000 Opening Bal Equity	0.00
31500 Net Assets With donor restrictions	54,846.04
32000 Net Assets Without donor restrictions	112,694.62
32500 Net Revenue Contra Account	353,604.80
Net Revenue	-353,604.80
Total Equity	\$ 167,540.66
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$ 167,540.66



OCC Art Contest - 3rd Place, Group 1.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Submitted by Membership Committee

Membership Matters - "Joyfully Connecting our Community with the Wonder of the Refuge"

Being a Friend means more than just signing your name on a form. Membership is an opportunity to positively impact the Refuge and the community while working towards a more equitable and climate-resistant future. The past couple of years, despite the Pandemic and the Nature Store not fully open, membership is still holding steady but down significantly from 2 years ago. As of the end of August we have 289 members; 34% in the Student/Senior category, 18% family and 8% in the Eagle Society. We took a careful look at the membership levels and based on comparisons to other Refuges and non-profits and the needs of the Refuge, the Board approved a change in the Membership levels. We now have an "individual" membership at \$35.00 and a family at \$50.00. The top 3 levels have not changed. There is still an option for those who have budget constraints. We are exploring a simpler system for renewal and hope to launch that sometime in 2023. And with your continued support we are enhancing benefits to our members.

We hope that you read the newsletter monthly because it gives great insight into all the things that your dues accomplish. By now you all have had an opportunity to experience the amazing transformation taking place on the Refuge due to the completion of the Chicken Creek project, which was primarily funded with grants obtained by the Friends. Many were happy to see a pair of nesting Kestrels take advantage of the snags next to the new bridge on the seasonal trail. And the beavers have been hard at work to enhance the improved wetlands. New native plantings around the pond in front of the Nature Overlook are the result of grants through the Friends. Wapato Lake has also benefitted from the work of the Friends. Grants were obtained to create and improve the accessible paths while awaiting the opening.

The Service, with Friends volunteers, continues its incredible work with the community. Working with Oregon Chinese Coalition we co-sponsored an art contest for the children. Amazing artwork was created and celebrated with a showing at the Refuge gallery wall. Other groups are being contacted about inclusive space for art and other "stories" to be displayed at the Refuge.

The Friends continue their collaboration with Greenway Elementary School, bringing programs to this diverse school including Friday with Friends and the Mini-bird festival.

Friday with Friends is an opportunity for the children to spend time with volunteers learning about nature and through a generous donation from the Friends, the students can enjoy using binoculars and spotting scopes.



With the Fish and Wildlife Service we are looking to expand this partnership with other local schools. The Service has been working on some new self-guided options and the Friends will be there to augment as needed, whether with volunteers or material support.

In the upcoming year we plan on more special events for our members. This past year we were able to do a guided tour of Wapato Lake NWR and a sneak preview before the Chicken Creek bridge opened to the public and a behind the scenes tour of Onion Flat. In the planning stage is a guided walk at the recently renovated Steigerwald NWR. We are looking at other events and activities and are eager to hear from you what would like to see.

All of this is only possible with your continued support. We know that you value wild spaces, clean water, habitat restoration and education of the public on conservation, that's why you are a Friend of the Refuge. Please consider increasing your membership level and please invite a friend to join also. Additional donations are always welcome. There is so much more we could do and with your help we will continue to support one of the best urban wildlife refuges in the country.

Questions, ideas? Contact the Membership Committee at Info@FriendsofTualatinRefuge.org. We would love to hear from you.



VISITOR CENTER & NATURE'S OVERLOOK SALES OUTLET

Submitted by Sharon Miller and Cheryl Hart, Natures Overlook Store Committee

After being closed since March of 2020 due to Covid restrictions, we were thrilled that the Visitor Center and Nature's Overlook, the Friends retail store, could be opened on May 1 this year. We were open for May and June, closed for awhile when Washington County Covid case numbers rose, then opened again in mid-August when infection numbers declined. We are hopeful that will be permanent!



Oregon Chinese Coalition members gather outside the Visitor Center before a planting party.

Visitors were so pleased to discover that we were open – not just for shopping, but for using the spotting scopes, checking out the art on the gallery wall, getting questions answered, and sharing information and pictures of their exciting “finds” on the refuge. Many of them mentioned how disappointed they had been to visit the refuge and not be able to come into the Visitor Center. It was gratifying to find out how much we had been missed in the two plus years we were closed.

Even though the Visitor Center was closed, we were able to offer an outdoor Holiday Market under a large tent on the plaza for a weekend in early December 2021. We had great sales, and visitors were excited to have the opportunity to shop at our store. Even better, we gained 14 new Friends' members during that event.

The Holiday Market was an ideal way for us to continue our tradition of supporting community giving by encouraging people to purchase gifts for non-profit organizations serving low-income families. Recipients in 2021 included Greenway Elementary School in Beaverton and the SHARE Family Resource Center for Sherwood Public Schools. Several bins of books, stuffed animals, games and puzzles were delivered to each and were then

distributed to families who would otherwise struggle to provide gifts for their children.

Even while Nature's Overlook was closed, we were still busy. We installed a new, more modern point-of-sale system and learned how to use it, and we continued to offer online sales. Our online sales were quite popular

during the holiday season last year when shopping on-site anywhere was still being discouraged. We know that online sales will never be a huge percentage of our total sales, but we think it is a helpful service to offer. Check it out on the Friends' website.

Many of our Visitor Center and store volunteers were able to return when we reopened, but not all. We are urgently in need of additional volunteers, especially those able to work on Saturdays or Sundays. If you enjoy sharing your love of the refuge with others, volunteering in the Visitor Center and Nature's Overlook may be the perfect opportunity for you. Training is provided, so no specific experience is necessary. We ask for a time commitment of about 8 hours per month. We'll see you in Nature's Overlook!



OCC Art Contest Group 1 Honorable Mention

VISITOR SERVICES PROGRAM

Submitted by Natalie Balkam, Park Ranger, USFWS

TREE Partnership Program

Our TREE (Tualatin River Environmental Education) partnership program is one branch of our environmental education that focuses on intentional and sustained partnership with schools. For the 2021-22 school year, and for the pilot year of this program, we partnered with Greenway Elementary School to provide year-long programming for all K-5 students, including in-person visits, supplemental videos, virtual visits during assemblies, a mini Bird Festival, and an end-of-year fieldtrip to the refuge. Refuge volunteers were crucial not only in the program delivery, but in being a positive part of the relationship with Greenway. Additionally, the Friends provided “Friday with the Friends”, an effort that brought volunteers to the school monthly, where students could conduct bird watching during recess. Significant planning



Refuge volunteer assists Greenway students with birdwatching.

and preparation went into this endeavor, and was truly a collaborative effort between refuge staff and the Friends, all towards the shared goal of maintaining a partnership with Greenway E.S. As part of the planning, it was established early on that this program would seek to build trust with the students and teachers, and to provide an opportunity for students to connect with, and feel empowered about nature. Greenway Principal Jennifer Whitten was the driving force between so much of this work, including determining the learning focus of the year, which was the question, “why have lamprey populations been in decline?” Jennifer’s approach was to utilize an inquiry model, which centered the scientific inquiry process. All classes concluded the school year with their Changemaker projects, in which

they developed projects to address lamprey conservation in some way. We are excited to continue our partnership with Greenway for the 2022-23 school year, where students will build on their knowledge of lamprey by studying nature’s engineers, and looking at how engineers can help with lamprey conservation.

Work with Partners

In 2021, the refuge began a partnership with the Oregon Chinese Coalition, a local community organization. Together with the Oregon Chinese Coalition, we have held several restoration events (plantings, invasive plant removal) at both Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge and Wapato Lake National Wildlife Refuge. The Oregon Chinese Coalition and the Friends launched a youth art contest, the results of which can be seen in our Visitor Center gallery wall. In May, to coincide with the opening of the seasonal trail, as well as the reopening of the Visitor Center, refuge staff and the Oregon Chinese Coalition held a celebration event, which was largely attended by and led by the Oregon Chinese Coalition.



Refuge staff and FOR Board staffing a booth at the Chinese Festival.

To round out the year, Refuge staff and Friends board members also attended the Chinese Festival. It was a fantastic celebration, and great for us to be a part of this important community event. We enjoyed interacting not only with the Oregon Chinese Coalition, but also with the general public who was out there to enjoy the festivities as well. This past year has garnered the beginnings of a fantastic relationship alongside this community group, with only more growth and possibilities to come.

Refuge staff continued our partnership with ELSO (Experience Life Science Outdoors, formerly Camp ELSO), **8**

an organization that seeks to engage STEAM (science, technology, art, math) with black and brown communities. This year two camp groups came to the refuge, where staff were able to provide programming and guided walks.

Volunteers

We continued efforts to connect with volunteers, and to provide a time and space where they could not only further their learning and understand of the refuge, but also connect with fellow volunteers, refuge staff, and community members. This year we were able to host some in-person events, such as a tour of Chicken Creek, and a tour of Wapato Lake National Wildlife Refuge (NWR). We continued to hold some virtual events as well, including a talk from Portland Audubon about bird collisions, a question and answer session on the ecology of Wapato Lake NWR, and an event on our annual amphibian egg mass surveys. Throughout remote work, we continued to engage volunteers virtually, particularly volunteer groups that meet regularly such as our Naturalist Support Team who supports staff in development or feedback in environmental education, and our Habitat and Species Guide volunteers, who have been working for several years on an ongoing project that will bring forth a comprehensive wildlife guide for public use. With the reopening of the Visitor Center in May, we were able to reengage with visitor center volunteers, as well as bring back our trail rovers.



Greenway Elementary School students visit the Refuge.

Strategic Planning

This year, refuge staff, along with two Friends board members, participated in a Visitor Services strategic

planning process, led by an outside facilitator. This strategic planning encompassed high level objectives, including our vision, mission, and guiding principles. It also further specified future priorities.

Our vision – “Be a valuable member of the interconnected community as an advocate for collaborative conservation, providing a place for shared learning, and a healthy and thriving place for both people and wildlife.”

Our mission – “...to intentionally include the voices of our changing community to collaboratively build bridges to nature’s benefits.”



Puddles the Blue Goose at Sherwood’s Robin Hood Festival

Community Work

With much of the past year still conducted in a mostly virtual world, we were still able to get out and bring the refuge to our local community. We led two summer programs at the Tigard Library (one on beavers and the other on wetlands) and got to interact with many families, all of whom were so excited to learn about the topics, and many of whom hadn’t visited the refuge yet. Refuge staff and the Friends also participated in a float for the annual Sherwood Robin Hood Festival, with a special appearance from Puddles the blue goose.

SPECIAL REPORT:

Friends and Oregon Chinese Coalition - A Growing Partnership

Submitted by Bonnie Anderson, Friends of the Refuge

On a very warm Saturday in early September of 2021 the Friends of the Refuge began a partnership with the Oregon Chinese Coalition (OCC) that has blossomed into something extraordinary. On that September morning a group of 50 volunteers, all members from the OCC, arrived at the Refuge for a day of service. Leadership from the OCC, USFWS, Friends' staff and Friends Board members had been meeting to plan this service day for several months. The volunteers were divided into three groups that would rotate to different activities throughout the day. The Friends provided refreshments and conducted nature walks for one of the rotations. Carly, the Friends' Habitat Restoration Specialist and Park Rangers Todd & Natalie led the two restoration projects. This day was the beginning of a year filled with so many accomplishments.

In early winter a group of OCC youth organized another restoration event out at Wapato Lake NWR. This group of determined students rented a bus to transport them out to Gaston. Once again the Friends provide refreshments, while Carly, Todd, and Natalie directed the restoration efforts. So much was accomplished this day, notwithstanding the torrential downpour of rain and high winds during the event.



OCC youth organized a planting event at Wapato Lake NWR.

During the Christmas holiday, OCC students in kindergarten through twelfth grade were invited to enter our first annual Youth Art Contest. We received close to 50 submissions. The theme was "The Wonder of Nature" and each student was asked to submit a narrative that described their inspiration. We had hoped to have the judging open to the public, but we needed to adhere to Covid restrictions. The grades were divided into 4 brackets by age with 1st, 2nd, 3rd place and honorable mention in each. The judges also selected one overall "Best of Show." Prizes, ribbons,

and gifts were presented at the OCC's Chinese New Year celebration at their headquarters in downtown Portland's Chinatown District. The "Best in Show" winner also received a \$500 scholarship from the OCC. All of the winning art was displayed during the month of February in the window front gallery of the OCC headquarters.

May is Asian Pacific Heritage Month and the opening of our seasonal trails. This May was also the reopening of our Visitor Center after nearly two and half years of being closed. So in celebration, on May 1st the Friends and the Refuge hosted a Chinese cultural event at the Refuge. The OCC arranged for music, dance, martial arts and robotic presentations. The gallery wall in the Visitor Center also displayed copies of the art work from the contest earlier in the year. The day was filled with families enjoying walks, learning about the Refuge and the Friends and also learning about the rich history of the Chinese in Oregon and the present day issues they face with an increase in hate crimes directed at them. We strive to bring awareness to these issues and feel privileged to be able to provide an opportunity for the public to learn more.



In the Spring and Summer, the OCC was a consistent supporter of our planting and restoration events. OCC families attended our 2nd Saturday work parties and have made a significant contribution to the betterment of the Refuge Complex. The Friends were honored to be invited to be a part of the Oregon Chinese Festival in early August. We were one of four nonprofits invited. The Friends and the Refuge hosted an informational table about Tualatin River NWR. It was wonderful to be able to connect in person with so many people.

As we look to the future, I am assured that our relationship with the OCC will continue to flourish. We look forward to hosting the 2nd Annual OCC Youth Art Contest. This year's theme is "Picture Yourself in Nature." Watch the Friends newsletter to learn when the judging will take place and feel free to drop in and view all of the art submissions. I know that the OCC will be out for more plantings and restoration work on the Refuge and the Friends look forward to planning more activities and events with them.



to see yourself
at Tualatin River National
May 1, 2022

We are incredibly grateful for all that the Oregon C
support and vibrant nature at Tualatin River Nat
your community. Please join us for a day of sharing t
among the beauty of the Region.

Performances
Folk Dance... 10:00
Youth Orchestra... 11:00
Traditional Instruments... 12:00
Wishes... 1:00

Demonstration
Botanics • Oregon

FREE SHUTTLE
Pick up & drop off locations at
11:00 AM. Shuttle service is
available at that time and the last




SPECIAL REPORT:

Friends Being a Community Asset- Greenway Elementary School Partnership

Submitted by Bonnie Anderson, Friends of the Refuge

The Friends of the Refuge enjoyed another exceptional year working with Greenway Elementary School in the Beaverton School District. This year marked the pilot year for the Refuge's Tualatin River Environmental Education (TREE) Program and the continued volunteer involvement with the Friends. The Friends launched a new "Friday with the Friends" program this past school year. The Friends were able to provide spotting scopes, monoculars, binoculars and other items to Greenway. Every first Friday of the month a group of Friends volunteers arrive at Greenway to give lessons on how to use the equipment and bird identification. These sessions are held during the student's recess time. It is heartwarming to see so many young children so enthusiastic to bird that they give us their time on the playground. A special thank you to the volunteers who patiently and knowledgeably handle 20 plus students at a time running towards them shouting "the Friends are here!!"



Friday with Friends at Greenway Elementary School.

This year the Friends were also able to provide science supplies needed to support the TREE program. The students learned about being water protectors and studied the Pacific Lamprey. We were also able to provide equipment to create a "studio" for the students to record public service announcements for their Change Maker Projects. During the School year each grade level took on the challenge to develop solutions to environmental issues facing all of us. They learned how they can each make a difference in the world. Kindergarten students learned about the importance of worms and found ways to promote awareness to protect them. The First grade addressed the need to "Save Water & Save the Lamprey." The First graders also identified the issue of not having enough garbage cans for the public to use at their school. They wrote letters to the Beaverton School District advocating for an additional can. They learned about all of the steps

needed to get something done. In the end, they prevailed! They decorated the can with woodland creatures and it is now available for the public to use. Second grade developed a campaign called "Saving the Planet, Saving the Lamprey." Third grade took on trash clean up around their school. They also created art out of recycled items. Fourth grade developed a community awareness campaign for the Lamprey. Fifth grade wrote Advocacy and Argumentation papers about climate change. The Friends also connected them with artist Steph "Littlebird" Fogle for an inspirational art lesson based on the Pacific Lamprey.

In April we hosted the 2nd Mini Bird Fest. This was the first time families were able to attend an event inside the school since 2019. The classrooms each exhibited the students' Change Maker projects. The Friends and the Refuge connected with our partners at I'm Hooked to provide a fishing demo, with the Woodworkers Guild of Oregon to help with birdhouse building, with USFWS Fisheries to talk about the Pacific Lamprey, and so much more. It was an amazing event filled with a lot of smiles.

The school year ended with the Friends providing bus transportation for an all-school fieldtrip to the Tualatin River NWR. Over three days we hosted two grade levels per day. Every Greenway student and teacher was able to visit the Refuge. The first fieldtrip day also happened to have another special visitor to the Refuge, US Representative Susanne Bonamici. The Congresswoman was able to see the TREE program in action and had an opportunity to ask and be asked questions by the Greenway students. The Refuge fieldtrip was the perfect way to end the pilot year of the TREE program. We look forward to working with Greenway during the 2022-23 school year.

A special thank you to the Friday with the Friends volunteers, David Collin, Darlene Dumke, Brian Smucker and Willem Stoeller. Thank you to Park Rangers Natalie Balkam and Todd McKinney for developing the TREE program and all of the Refuge volunteers that assist, including Friends' Board Members Tom Hartz and Phyllis Millan. Thanks to the students, teachers and families at Greenway that make it such a special place to be. And thanks to Jennifer Whitten, Principal of Greenway, a truly amazing administrator. Finally, thanks to the FWS Portland/Vancouver Urban Refuge Program for providing funding opportunities through the Community Asset Committee that I serve on to help fund many of these needs.



Changemaker Projects are a collaboration between Greenway students and staff and the volunteers and staff of the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge. All year students have been learning about the lamprey, the challenges they face and their significance to our area. Each class chose a way to take action to help the lamprey and the world in general.

CHANGEMAKER Projects

Kindergarten
-Save the Worms!
-Int. goals
-Save Water, Save Lamprey!

1st grade
-Using our Strong Voices to Get More Garbage Cans for Greenway

2nd grade
-Saving the Planet, Saving the Lamprey

3rd grade
-Recycling Items into Art
-Community Trash Clean-up and Can Collection

RESTORATION PROGRAM

Submitted by Carly Hirschmann, Friends Habitat Restoration Specialist

We have had a wonderful and productive year of restoration projects at the Tualatin River NWRC. Our Chicken Creek restoration project has concluded, and between our volunteers and partners, we installed over 100,000 plants on the Refuge this year! Many of these plantings took place in our main wetland project area, located in front of the Visitor Center and Administration Building. The Friends held Second Saturday work parties, conducted plant and wildlife surveys, improved habitat and trails, received multiple grants for restoration projects, and created meaningful and lasting partnerships with historically marginalized communities through active engagement in restoration and stewardship work.

Plantings, Plantings, Plantings!

On Friday, December 3rd, we held a planting at Wapato Lake National Wildlife Refuge that included members from the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde. This was in congruence with the testing of Wapato arrowleaf plants that is being conducted at this site to hopefully allow harvesting of this first food in the future. The weather held out amazingly for us, and snacks and refreshments were all provided by the Friends group. The following day, we had a youth group from the Oregon Chinese Coalition out to continue the planting of Wapato bulbs. It was an extremely cold and stormy day, but the staff was extremely impressed by the drive of the volunteers, and it was still a very successful planting event!



Red-winged blackbird nest found during a planting

On Saturday, June 11th, 50 volunteers came out to the Refuge for our planting event sponsored by One Tree Planted. Participating organizations included the Oregon Chinese Coalition, Sherwood



Volunteers from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints making a sea of yellow in their vests in front of our Visitor Center and Administration buildings

Rotary, and Sherwood Girl Scouts. Despite a projected atmospheric river, the weather held out amazingly, and we were able to install over 8,000 wetland rushes, sedges and woody shrubs. Overall, we hosted ten plantings this year and got 35,000 roots in the ground through volunteer events alone! These included woody shrubs and trees purchased through a One Tree Planted grant awarded to the Friends, and wetland plants donated to the Refuge by Clean Water Services

Surveys

This year I conducted waterfowl surveys as the Friends Habitat Restoration Specialist, which included counting and identifying waterfowl at all Refuge units. Species seen included canvasback ducks, tundra swans, hooded merganser, dusky Canada geese, cinnamon teal, and many more. Another aspect of these waterfowl surveys includes identifying food and habitat availability for the birds at each site.

The vegetation surveys determine plant species composition, habitat type, and percentage of emergent vegetation.

I also conducted our yearly census of Nelson's Checker mallow, with the help of volunteers and seasonal employees. Every plot saw an increase in plants from last year with one small exception. One plot had more than doubled in checkermallow



Sherwood Girl Scouts installing wetland sedge plugs at our June planting event

numbers, and the Oleson plot was fairing significantly better than last year. We also discovered a new patch of around 50 plants on our Dennis unit. The Oleson and Dennis units are managed by the Refuge but are not publicly accessible. It was a special surprise to find some previously seeded penstemon hesperius blooming in one of the Chicken Creek plots as well!

Partners from the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Office assisted us with penstemon hesperius, Nelson's checkermallow, and Emerald Ash Borer surveys, which is a pest that threatens

native Oregon Ash trees. Fortunately, no evidence of EAB's were found on Refuge property, however we do know that they are present in the area.

The Friends once again played an integral role in expanding Metro's amphibian egg mass survey program at Refuge properties this year. We partnered with Tualatin Hills Parks and Recreation District (THPRD), Metro, the Wetlands Conservancy, as well as new and dedicated returning volunteers to survey each of our sites twice for four different amphibian species.

A significant amount of my summer was spent mapping invasive plant species out at Wapato Lake. There were many



Trout Unlimited volunteers help to install Christmas Trees donated by Cornell Farms in Chicken Creek

acres to cover, and thankfully I had the help of a few dedicated volunteers. We surveyed for species such as purple loosestrife, reed canary grass, and cocklebur. We also discovered some native Wapato stands while surveying the lakebed!

Although we are not currently conducting Purple Martin surveys, they did utilize our nest boxes this year and the Purple Martin Loop Trail was completed! This means that you can do some up-close surveying of your own! Next year we will finish the project by creating a wildflower plot in the center of the walking loop.

Partnership Projects

On Sunday, June 5th, 10 volunteers from Trout Unlimited and Cornell Farms came out to help install Christmas Trees in Chicken Creek. Cornell Farms supplies us with the donated



Carly and volunteer Brenden conducting amphibian egg mass survey out at Oleson Wetland survey.

Christmas Trees, which provide detritus for fish and insects as they disintegrate in the creek bed. They also provide shelter and create pools of cooler water within the creek. The trees are meant to enhance the habitat created by the large woody debris structures previously placed into the creek during its restoration. Thank you to Trout Unlimited and Cornell Farms for their hard work on this beautiful morning and continued partnerships!

Staff from Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife came out to the Refuge to assist in assessing the fish species distribution of a small pond on our Oleson Unit. This information will be used to evaluate the pond's potential use for fishing and educational opportunities for specific partners and groups associated with the Refuge. We deployed a seine net overnight and returned the next day to measure, count, and ID the fish. Over one hundred fish were captured overnight and released the next day, consisting of mostly bluegill, brown bullhead catfish, and even a couple of juvenile largemouth bass. This was a great skill building experience for both staff and seasonal interns from the Refuge.

One of our significant new partnerships formed this year was with the Sherwood Rotary Club, who have become lifelong Friends' members and a consistent volunteer base for our restoration work parties! We have also applied for and been awarded a grant from them in order to install pollinator beds in our bioswale and rock gardens at the front of the Refuge. These will be utilized to educate the public on how they can accomplish a native pollinator garden in their own yard, even with limited space. Friends staff are working with friend and planting partner Lory at Bosky Dell Natives to discuss which native plant species we will be installing into these beds.

Partners this year included:

- Refuge Volunteers • U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service • The Oregon Chinese Coalition • Metro • Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife • Institute for Applied Ecology • Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde • Trout Unlimited • Sherwood Rotary • Sherwood High School Key Club • THPRD • Wetlands Conservancy • The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints •

SPECIAL REPORT: A Message from the Refuge Manager

Amazement. Joy. Gratitude. Grace. Arriving here in October 2021 after 30 years of working on refuges in rural communities, what I discovered here at Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge pretty much blew the lid off what I thought I knew about what urban communities' relationship to nature could be. And as I learned right away, the Friends of Tualatin River NWR Complex are a vital component of this essential connection. I met longtime Friends who give freely of their time and energy to preserving this refuge. I discovered Friends building and sustaining community relationships and inviting communities new to us to see themselves in nature at the Refuge. It warmed my heart to see Friends opening children's eyes to the wonders of nature. I was overjoyed to find that Friends, regardless of the state of the pandemic or whether or not the Visitor Center doors were open, were steady as bedrock under the foundation of the refuge. And you welcomed me with grace and kindness, and I am grateful.

These last few years have been, as the Friends newsletter has so accurately called it, "a year like no other," repeated at least twice. Amidst a second year of this historic pandemic and all the unpredictability, Chicken Creek continued its evolution from a newly completed restoration project to a beaver-driven floodplain wetland, and you all participated in and celebrated its journey. The children of Greenway Elementary were treated to Fridays with Friends (in masks), and a delightful and well-attended mini Bird Fest. The newly rerouted seasonal trail opened to our visitors and you were out here enjoying it and sharing your enjoyment with them. You advocated for protecting Refuge habitats and you kept informed about the needs of the

Refuge. Whether it's being part of a school program, working a shift in the visitor center, a donation, or a presentation to a community group, our Friends are every day helping to ensure the Refuges, and the conservation of our precious natural resources, remain relevant to our communities.



When our new FWS Director Martha Williams visited Tualatin River NWR in March, she too was struck by the passion, knowledge, and dedication of our gathered Friends board, who enlightened her as to what all of you do to make this a real Refuge for our community and to connect people to nature. And each of you brings something different. Whether you volunteer, or you donate, or you go around telling people about the refuge, you matter. Your amazement and joy in the changing seasons and the ever-changing spectacle of wildlife, your gratitude that this Refuge is here for us, the grace that you have shown and continue to show each other through this difficult couple of years – you make a difference to every one of us here at the Refuge every single day. Thank you!



FWS Director Martha Williams (center, black jacket) visited with Refuge Staff and Friends members at Tualatin River NWR in March 2022.

SPECIAL REPORT:

Friends President's Volunteer Service Awards in Recognition of Exceptional Service

Since 2008, the President of the Friends of the Refuge has selected four names to be engraved on the plaques that hang in the Visitor Center at the Refuge. This year we will be adding a third plaque to that space with four new names. The selection of these names is made by the current President, with some input and suggestions from the Board. Every volunteer is Exceptional. This is just an opportunity to highlight a few stand outs over the year.

2008: Robert Swanson	Carolyn Uyemura	Virginia Parks	Paul Jaussi
2009: Berk Moss	Carolyn Penner	Arlin Inman	Bob Fuquay
2010: Norman Penner	Cheryl Turoczy Hart	Bonnie Anderson	Larry Harrington
2011: Dawn Carovano	George Burnett	Ginny Maffitt	Mike Smith & Judy Doyle
2012: Bernie Smith	Gary Fawver	Jay Medley	Blair Anderson
2013: Sharon Miller	Crafty Friends	Bjorn Fredrickson	Charlie Graham
2014: Marty Clancy	Donald Nelson	Marilyn Ellis	Mary French & Doug Niwa
2015: Bob & Joan Try	Mike Skinner	Linda Kilgore	Tom Hartz
2016: Willem Stoeller	Pam Farris	Kristine Al-Rashidi	John Gendron & Tobyn Bower
2017: Pat & Bobbie Allaire	Jim Burrows	Ruthann Panck	Rick & Jennifer Bennett
2018: Scott Owen	Judy Silverforb	Wendy Cattanach	Jim Nicolson
2019: Michelle Miller	Barbara Allen	The Olivares Family	Frank Nusser
2020: Irene Vlach	Mike Jolley	Alan Fitzpatrick	Joseph Edgerton
2021: Darlene Dumke	Cameron Backus	David Collin	Keith Palevsky

2022 Honorees

Rotary Club of Sherwood

The growing partnership between the Friends of the Refuge and the Rotary Club of Sherwood is an example of what can happen when two likeminded organizations come together for a common cause. Rotary International is renowned for their volunteer work and commitment to take action on pressing issues. When Protecting the Environment was added as one of their fundamental causes- the Friends and our mission of supporting the Refuge became a natural fit. Members of the Rotary Club of Sherwood have been active in our planting and restoration events and have provided funding to help further the mission of the Friends. The Rotary truly lives up to their belief in SERVICE –they have a passion for their community and we know that this partnership will continue to grow. The Rotary Club of Sherwood is also an Eagle (lifelong) members of the Friends.

Sara Z Abel

Sara has volunteered in the Friends' retail store, Nature's Overlook, for several years, and works a shift every weekend. You will find her cheerfully greeting visitors every Saturday or Sunday morning. She is also quick to volunteer for other special store events such as the Holiday Market and helping with the annual inventory. Sara is friendly, knowledgeable, helpful, and clearly enjoys talking with and assisting visitors. She is a great volunteer and a wonderful ambassador for the Friends and the Refuge.

Oregon Chinese Coalition

The Oregon Chinese Coalition partnership has grown beyond our dreams, as detailed in the Special Report on page 10 of this Annual Report. Over the year we have expanded our partnership interaction to include more restoration events, the first annual Youth Art Contest, the May 1st cultural event at the Refuge and our attendance at the OCC Festival in downtown Portland. It has also included a growing friendship and collaboration between the Friends, the Refuge and members of the OCC. We look forward with anticipation to see what the future hold as we continue to work and partner together.

Richard Sheiderman

Richard is a frequent volunteer in the Visitor Center and in Nature's Overlook, the Friends' retail store, where he enjoys interacting with visitors. He has also been a Trail Rover and often takes photographs of interesting or unusual things on the refuge, like flooded trails during the rainy season or rare bird sightings, and brings his pictures in to share with visitors and other volunteers. Richard was one of the first people to volunteer to staff the welcome booth at the entrance to the refuge, and he spent many days during the spring and summer greeting visitors and helping ensure that they enjoyed their time on the refuge. He is an asset to both the Friends and the Refuge.

More Snapshots from "Yet Another" Year Like No Other



Special thanks to all the staff and volunteers and OCC Art Contest Participants whose artwork and photographs throughout this report capture the beauty of Nature and the importance of the work we do together!

Thank You, Donors!

Friends' General Refuge Support

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Washington County Strategic Investment Program-
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Leslie Worthen

*Board of Director, Friends of TRNWRC

Donations in Honor or Memory

In Honor of Jay Medley
Elizabeth Medley
In Honor of Steve Smith & Kelsey Wirtzfeld
Elizabeth Medley
In Honor of Bob & Cathy Smith
Elizabeth Medley
In Honor of Judith Lathrop
Elizabeth Medley

Facebook Fundraisers

Willem Stoeller's Birthday
•Cathy Shikatani, Keith Shikatani, Sharon Miller, Julie Kohaya-Leonard, Mark Andrews
Darlene Dumke's Birthday
•Heidi Dumke, Cecilia Laidemitt, Heather Hutton, Laura Tubbs
Amanda Hornschuch's Birthday
•Kelly Roberts, Lila Trinh

Environmental Education and Restoration Programs

Clean Water Services
David Collin
Debra Dale
John & Debbie Marsh
Cheryl Hart
Tom Hartz
Willem Stoeller
One Tree Planted
Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation TREE Grant
US Fish and Wildlife Service





OCC Art Contest - 1st Place, Group 3.



Please be sure to "like" the Friends' Facebook page in 2021. The page provides news about events and tidbits of interest about the Refuge. Share FOR posts with your friends to let them know about all the great things happening at the Refuge and in the National Wildlife Refuge System as a whole.