

APRIL 2017

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 Tom Hartz, President of the Board



We are witnessing the arrival of spring birds a bit earlier this year. We saw a turkey vulture last week, unusual for mid-March. We are also seeing the little critters in the ponds doing their spring thing already. A few warm days with sunshine was all it took. I do wish that our swallow friends would recruit their buddies to come on up. There are a lot of airborne insects for them to feast on.

Each day there seems to be another dramatic display of the raptors enjoying the fruits of the high water levels. Harriers, hawks, falcons, and eagles are amazing predators. The instinctive survival practices of their waterfowl prey are also on display. It's fun and inspiring to watch Nature in action. The Plaza Overlook is a great place to witness it all.

I had the good fortune to be part of the training of the 2017 Class of Volunteer Naturalists. We have a dozen new Naturalists this year. Each brings enthusiasm and passion for helping our human visitors witness the interaction of habitat and habitants on the refuge. With the spring schools visits now underway, there are ample opportunities for our graduates to enjoy their roles and contribute to the mission of the Friends of the Refuge. As I remember when I went through the training, it's a daunting prospect to feel ready to lead groups of kids or other visitors. The secret is simply to realize that by modeling our excitement and awe of what's out there makes for a memorable experience for all. Each visit will add to their confidence.

The spring and early summer Friends events are coming up. Puddle Stompers, Spring Break activities for kids, the Plant Sale, Earth Day, the Bird Festival, weekend restoration and work party activities, some evening special events, and soon Summer Youth Camp, keep the staff and volunteers busy. Check out the website to stay on top of it all.

It's fun to stop by the refuge on the rare sunny days between the many rainy ones and see families, photographers, and nature walkers on the trails. Check out the new eagle's nest across the Tualatin River near the Riparian Forest study site. If you can't find it, ask a Rover. Smiles all around!

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REMEMBERING A FRIEND

A Celebration of Life for Jay Medley will be held on Saturday, April 8, at 1:00 p.m. at the Lake Oswego United Methodist Church, 1855 South Shore Blvd., Lake Oswego, OR 97034. You are welcome to augment family stories by sharing a brief reminiscence during the service. A reception will follow in the adjacent Fellowship Hall.

As a member of the Friends, Jay spent the past 15 years supporting the newly formed urban wildlife refuge, recognizing the value of educating the urban population to the environment around them, including participating in bird counts and helping visitors construct their own birdhouses at the annual spring bird festival at the refuge. He was instrumental in the change from using hammer and nails to using a drill gun and screws, enabling even the youngest children to help hold the drill and thus assemble their very own bird house!



Jay demonstrating how to build a birdhouse.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Jay's name to the Friends of the Tualatin National Wildlife Refuge, 19255 SW Pacific Highway, Sherwood, OR 97140

MARCH EVENTS

Waterfowl Watch

Apr. 1, 10am - noon
(No foolin')

Owl Prowl

Apr. 5, 6:30pm - 8pm

Photo Society Meeting

Apr. 6, 7:00pm

2nd Saturday Work Party

Apr. 8, 8:45am - Noon

Puddle Stompers

Apr. 12, 1:00 - 2:30 pm

Puddle Stompers

Apr. 18, 10am-11:30am

Owl Prowl

Apr. 19, 6:30pm - 8pm

Earth Day at the Refuge

Apr. 22, 9am - 3pm

Board Meeting

Apr. 25, 6:30pm

Members Only Native Plant Presale

Apr. 21, 4 pm - 7 pm

Native Plant Sale (public)

Apr. 22, 9 am - 3 pm

Bioswale Work Party

Apr. 28, 9 am - 11 am

SPECIAL EVENTS

Native Plant Sale



Friends of the Refuge Native Plant Sale

Saturday, April 22, 2017
9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Mark Your Calendar Now!

Early Bird Pre-Sale & Silent Auction

Friday, April 21st

4:00 - 5:30 pm Friends Members* Only
5:30 - 6:30 pm Silent Auction & Plant Sale
Open to Everyone
6:30 - 7:00 pm Pick-up Auction Items
7:00 pm Sale Closes - Re-opens 9:00 am

* Not a member? Join when you arrive!



Meet and talk with
Mason Bee Expert
Karel Beijer



Native Plant Provided by
**Bosky Dell
Natives**
Plant Original, Native Nurseries
www.boskydell.com



SOCIAL MEDIA



Bird Festival



SAVE THE DATE • MAY 20, 2017

TUALATIN RIVER
**BIRD
FESTIVAL**

www.friendsoftualatinrefuge.org


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The poster features a large black silhouette of a bird in flight against a teal background. Below the bird is a yellow circle containing the text 'TUALATIN RIVER BIRD FESTIVAL'. At the bottom, there is a black silhouette of a forest and a Facebook icon.

HELP THE
FRIENDS WHILE
YOU SHOP



Summer Nature Camp



S U M M E R 2 0 1 7

Nature Camp

Friends of Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge

Explore Your Local
Wildlife Refuge This
Summer!

WHO: Youth entering 3rd - 6th grade
the fall of 2017

WHEN: 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM July 10 - 14

HOW MUCH: \$175 - includes: nature
camp hat, snacks, & photos taken by
camper.

*A limited numbers of scholarships
are available to students who qualify
for free or reduced lunch for \$50.
Please contact the Friends for more
information.*

PAYMENT: Payment is due with
registration. Checks should be
addressed to: Friends of Tualatin
River National Wildlife Refuge

REFUNDS: \$50 back before 6/1/17;
No refunds after 6/1/17

MORE DETAILS: Camper must
provide their own lunch.
Transportation is not available.
Limited after-camp care may be
arranged for an additional fee.

Eagles and Frogs and Deer
Oh My!

Youth entering 3rd - 6th Grade are invited to spend a week at
Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge, connecting with
nature and exploring the outdoors with all five senses! This
week long program will feature high quality environmental
education and arts activities, including an emphasis on
photography and nature journaling. Families will be able to
follow along with a camp blog, featuring daily highlights. Only
30 spots available.

Register Today at: <http://www.friendsoftualatinrefuge.org>
Refuge Address: 19255 SW Pacific Hwy Sherwood, OR 97140

The poster includes illustrations of a blue heron, a monarch butterfly, and a green frog. It also features a photo of a child in a field and the Friends of Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge logo.

NATURE'S OVERLOOK STORE

New Merchandise

New for Spring... 12" Little Brown Bat or 8" & 12" Bobcat. Lots of other birds and animals to pick from.



Check out our New Audubon Bird display... holds 32 birds in its branches! Squeeze them to hear what that bird sounds like.



It's time for Spring planting so it's time for GROW, the all purpose plant food. Its slow-release formula gives plants a steady supply of nutrients.

NWRA Alerts

[Sign up to receive alerts](#) from the National Wildlife Refuge Association on legislation that impacts the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Wear in the World

Friends member, Paul Jaussi, hiking to the summit of [Angel's Landing in Zion National Park](#) wearing his "favorite outdoor hat" from the Friends' collection.



PROGRAMS

Interpretation

Check out the new Entrance Exhibit in our Visitor Center! Ingredients for Life talks about how light, air, water, and rock come together to form our nature world. A huge thanks to Tobyn and John for creating such a beautiful and engaging exhibit.

Want to get your hands dirty and learn about plants? Join our Bioswale Work Party! Once a month, volunteers tidy up our bioswale to keep it looking good and to continue filtering the runoff from our parking lot. The next work party is April 28th at 9 AM. Check the [Friends website calendar](#) for details.

Environmental Education

The spring field trip season is starting and there are more and more teachers wanting to bring their students to experience the Refuge. Our new Volunteer Naturalist, who finished training this March have jumped right in shadowing and learning from the seasoned naturalist and helping connect visitors with nature.

I was helping with a field trip recently, a group of 6th grade student were learning about skulls and pelts. A girl asked “are you still going to be here in 30 years? If so I am totally going to bring my kids here to see this stuff.”

In addition if you have not seen the video Access Recreation created featuring Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge check it out in the link below. Access Recreation also has an informational assessment for the accessibility of Refuge trails on their website. <https://vimeo.com/208601995>

Restoration

Things are starting to pick up for the restoration program as plants start blooming and Winter (finally) wanes. In March we hosted two work parties, our regular second Saturday work party and a work party for students from Portland State University. Over the course of these two parties we were able to remove approximately 2,000 tree tubes from our unit along Roy Rodgers road, a task that certainly seems to go much quicker with so many helpers!



April is shaping up to be busy as well. We are hosting a second Saturday work party, a special Earth day work party along with

SOLVE, and a work party for 20 students from a Spanish mentoring group at Tualatin High School.

As for the wildlife, as waterfowl migrate up North and neotropical songbirds begin to arrive, our survey schedule changes as well. Waterfowl surveys for 2017 have wrapped up (final numbers will be posted in the wildlife center soon) and will start to give way to Bluebird nest box monitoring, point count surveys, marsh bird, and shorebird surveys. Spring is certainly a busy and exciting time for the restoration and biological programs and more updates will be coming in as things get rolling. Please feel free to drop Habitat Restoration Specialist Sarah Williams an email at swilliams@friendsoftualatinrefuge.org if you have any questions.

PHOTO SOCIETY

Meet-ups

So what's a meet up? Simply, you get yourself to a location and meet the group there. Neither the Friends nor the Photo Society of the Friends bears any responsibility for you or your actions – you are responsible. The Photo Society staff will help you with questions about your gear and help you make the best possible pictures at the location.

May meet-up: Hummingbirds

You must attend the April Photo Society meeting to preregister for this meetup. Specific times for your session will be assigned at the May meeting.

All you need is a camera and 270 to 400 mm lens plus camera with a hot shoe on top to trigger a transmitter. All other parts of the setup will be provided. To prevent stress on the birds and interference with photography, you will not be permitted on the site until your assigned times. Consider bringing 5 pounds of white granulated sugar to the homeowner as a gift for the birds (That's what we always did at the Patton's place in Patagonia back in the early 1980's before they installed a donation box as crowds increased).

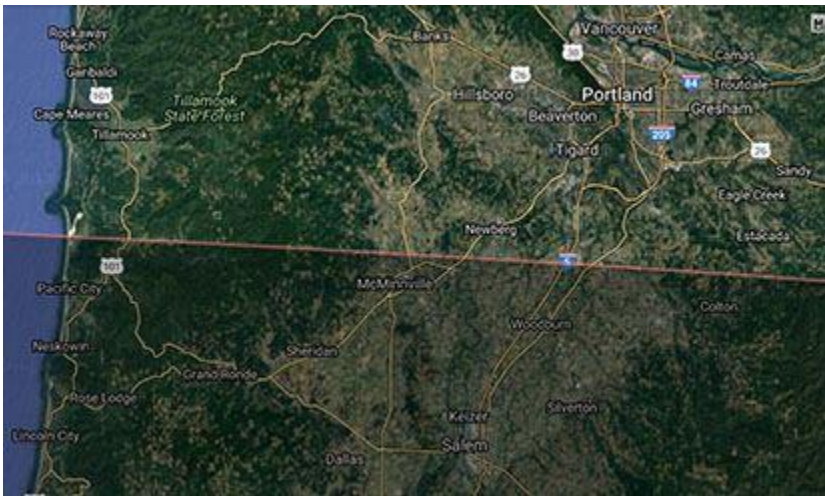


May/June meet-up: Night Sky Photography

We'll travel in late May or early June to a dark sky location just east of the Cascades. We cannot do this on the refuge or even in the Willamette Valley due to light pollution. More details next month. You may have seen the Milky Way pictures over Mt St Helens from the last meet up.

August 21st meet-up: Solar Eclipse

The Photo Society will travel to a location that promises open skies. This may mean a long trip over to the east side of the Cascades if we are having low stratus from the coast on a hot day here in the Willamette Valley. You will be responsible for bringing the gear and more importantly, some special solar viewing glasses to protect your eyes. (Google solar eclipse glasses – they are inexpensive. But don't wait for the last minute to find out they are sold out). The total eclipse lasts just a bit over 2 minutes but it's the last one most of us will see in our lifetimes in this location (you can travel the world to other sites for future total eclipses). More details in the newsletter as we approach August. Be prepared for a nightmare in traffic, but there's plenty to photograph while waiting for the traffic jam to clear. (Hint – you won't see the total eclipse from the refuge or even Newberg. Salem is a good bet).



You won't see total eclipse (only partial) anywhere north of the red line.

Monthly Meetings

April: Presentation on hummingbird photography ([go to event details](#))

May: Photographing night skies ([go to event details](#))

What's Your Interest?

The Photo Society is considering putting together a fall bird photography class. Send an email to the photo society to let us know if you are interested. If there is enough interest we will work to put this together. Email to photosociety@friendsoftualatinrefuge.org.

URBAN PROGRAM

Voices of the Portland Vancouver Urban Refuge Support Team

Wild in the City: Bringing Refuges to the People

On March 4th, the Cascade Park Library in Vancouver went **Wild** as staff, Friends members, and volunteers from the Ridgefield NWR Complex brought the National Wildlife Refuge System to the city.

We wanted Clark County community members to know more about our Portland-Vancouver Refuges and to discover ways they could get involved through volunteering, and we discovered the library was a perfect location. We offered hands-on activities like re-usable “bird bags” to color that engaged whole families; lots of neat natural and replica items to touch and learn about; and bird costumes where kids could get their pictures taken in front of a large refuge scene, and more. Providing high-quality activities afforded us the opportunity to chat with library visitors about ongoing restoration projects, archaeology, culture, recreational opportunities, native wildlife, volunteer opportunities, and our great support groups.

Families small and large, singles, couples, all ages, and people truly representing the diversity that is now the Vancouver community made "Wild in the City" part of their day. We learned that some folks came because they heard about the event; others wandered in from the very busy community center; and many stopped by on their way to check out books or attend story time. Some stayed an hour or more as they interacted with us, did the activities, ate, and chatted some more. We were so pleased about how many people were interested in volunteering—whether they came in asking for that information or were led that way through conversation.



When we meet people “where they are,” our Refuges have an opportunity to provide something of value to our community while sharing stories and ideas that bring us together.

Want to learn more or get involved in a future “Wild in the City?”
Email Mesha at: mesha_wood@fws.gov.

FEEDBACK WELCOME

Please help us make this newsletter something you look forward to receiving by sharing ideas and suggestions to improve the content. This is a work in progress, and we look forward to hearing from you! [Click here](#) to email us.

CONTACT US

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