

November 2018

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

Growing up in Montana I had an unpromising beginning; I once rode a horse into the Many Glacier Hotel on a bet. The bet wasn't that I wouldn't try to do it; the bet was that the horse would refuse. The horse was named Mutt; it was of mustang lineage and had an enthusiasm for life. The same horse brought me 8 feet from the nose of a grizzly once while climbing Swiftcurrent Pass on my way to Granite Park Chalet in Glacier National Park. His enthusiasm for life did not always carry over to anyone sitting atop him. Mutt walked right into that hotel, my guess is that it had nothing to do with my riding ability and a whole lot to do with his natural curiosity and probably a good bit about his downright orneriness. I had just entered the lobby and was turning around to leave when Mutt decided to leave a parting gift. He pooped.

My name is Mark Newell and I have just been elected President of the Friends Board. Maybe that first paragraph says more about me than is good for people to know. I was 24 years old at the time and am relatively certain I am past those kinds of antics, mostly because I'll never have another horse like Mutt.

I have been a member of the Board for about a year. Prior to being a board member I was the Acting Visitors Services Manager here on the refuge on loan from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. It was in that role that I fell in love with the people and the place that make the refuge what it is.

I love nature, always have, it's where my batteries get recharged and I am healed. And there are few places like this refuge, when you are on the trails; the city, concrete and asphalt, slips away and you are transported into your own personal wilderness. The closeness of the nature is spectacular but that isn't all this refuge is because the people here are just as important as the environment.

Without you; the protectors, the educators, those that care about the environment, and all those that support these activities, this place would not exist. And while I love the wildlife and the trails, it's the people here that make this refuge what it is today. Without the people who care about the refuge, and then put that caring into action, what you see here would be a very different landscape. Without you this place simply wouldn't exist.

And that is what I love about this place, the people. From the helpful happy volunteers at the Visitors Center, to those behind the scenes making sure that the Nature Overlook Store is stocked with the quality merchandise (socks!), books, and games whose proceeds supports the mission of the Friends Group and the Refuge. The volunteer naturalists, nature ambassadors, restoration team, work parties, the trail rovers, the photo society, the education and interpretation teams, all the board members, those involved with the bird festival, the nature camps, the plant sale, each one a volunteer or a team of them taking the time to not just talk about how much they care, but showing it by their actions (this past fiscal year to the tune of over 15,000 hours). Fifteen thousand hours, just take a second and think about that, it's the equivalent of 7 full time employees working 40 hour weeks for a full year, all done by volunteers, with no vacation time, amazing. For more info on what we did last year: http://friendsoftualatinrefuge.org/resources/Documents/FOR%20Annual%20Report_2018.pdf

JOIN

DONATE

RENEW

November EVENTS

Membership Interest Group
November 1, 12:30 PM

Nature Journaling 101
November 4, 2 PM

2nd Saturday work party
November 10, 8:45 AM

Owl Prowl
November 13, 6 PM

Puddle Stompers
November 14, 1 PM

Puddle Stompers
November 20, 10 AM

Owl Prowl
November 27, 6 PM

Friends Board Meeting
November 27, 6:30 pm

SOCIAL MEDIA



The list goes on but I would be completely remiss if I didn't mention the staff here. I have had the pleasure of both working with the staff at this refuge (as a bird festival volunteer and as a board member), and working for them, as an acting Visitors Services Manager. In that time, there has never been a moment where I would question where their hearts were. The Fish and Wildlife staff has a difficult job: to balance the use, while protecting the resource. This balancing act is difficult in any environment, but made more so in an urban one. The teamwork between the Friends Group and the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge Complex is an amazing symbiosis much like lichen (a complex organism consisting of fungi and algae growing together in symbiosis that often appears as gray, green, or yellow patches on rocks, trees, and other surfaces). It's a true partnership, benefitting both. I love science, I just couldn't help myself. I promise I won't do it again, soon.

So what does this mean to you? It means I'm thankful for you, for all you've done and all the amazing things we are about to do. It means I need your help to continue the good work we do. It means I appreciate your actions of making the world a better place to live. It means now more than ever the work we do is extremely important.

My hope is that we will continue down this path of the amazing together and when we are done we will look back and feel proud of what we have accomplished. We strengthen that path so that those that follow after us have a clear direction, and that we will bring on new Friends Members and volunteers to help with the work ahead of us. Oh, and butterflies taste and smell with their feet. There I go again, science. This time I won't apologize because that is just cool, butterflies tasting and smelling with their feet? How amazing is that? Hopefully they wash their socks.

Get to know your Friends Board

Alan Christensen, President-Elect



I recall that my fascination with wildlife began when I was about 11, when my mother arranged for me to accompany the local forester from the Washington State Forestry Department. I spent most of the day with him and learned about different conifers, tree plantations and similar things. When we noticed some deer tracks around a pond I felt a shift in my conscientiousness, from inert, immovable trees to living breathing animals that moved across the landscape and brought life to the surroundings. During my 8th grade year our advisors began to ask what we might be interested in as a future. I remember my advisor just looking at me when I told him I wanted to be a wildlife biologist and go to Oregon State University. In June 1971 I received my Masters from OSU and was commissioned in the Navy. Aside from my time in the service, I have been a career wildlife biologist for over 40 years, with experience with State, Federal and non-profit conservation groups.

During my career I have been fortunate to work in many and varied habitats. Perhaps my time in Idaho/Montana was my favorite as we laid the groundwork for recovery of grizzly bears, employed a region wide (Forest Service Region 1) neotropical migratory bird survey, and outlined old growth management guidelines. I was fortunate to work on a district that was about 60% Wilderness (Selway-Bitterroot) and a Forest (Kootenai) that still had recent mountain caribou presence, contained resident grizzly bear, and was one of the first areas to document wolves south of the Canadian border. My wildlife interests opened doors to travel in far Eastern Russia to consult on forest management and its effects on Amur tigers, brown bears and forest owls. On a trip to Lebanon I helped with a seminar to establish a program to stop the shooting/netting of migratory birds which were sold for human consumption. Lebanon is a natural funnel point that causes birds of many species to cross there as they migrate from N. Africa to Europe annually. There are people across the globe that are working for wildlife and wild places.

I feel that outdoor involvement/education offers the potential to open up the natural world to both children and adults. In recent years I have attended "career days" fairs at a couple local schools. I have found that young teenagers, for the most part, are not even aware of careers that take them outdoors and keep them connected with nature. Children spend so little time outdoors, especially in undeveloped landscapes, that the sense of wonder has not been sparked. The programs at the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge are an opportunity for children and adults to experience wildlife, natural settings and to learn about what they are witnessing. I have often wondered when I worked with a group of young folks if there might not be a budding Aldo Leopold in the group, only needing some experience, some insight to light their imagination.

When I retired full time in 2014 I knew I needed some connection with nature and people and I find many kindred folks among the volunteers, staff and visitors to the refuge. My fondest wish is for the Friends group to continue to provide services that enable people to visit learn and grow from their time on the refuge and to take those values forward in their everyday lives.

Welcome to our New Friends Staff



Andrew DelGreco, Interpretive Program Coordinator



Tiffany Mancillas, Environmental Education Specialist

HELP THE FRIENDS WHILE YOU SHOP



Welcome to our New Executive Board Officers

Congratulations to our newly appointed Friends of the Refuge Executive Board Officers

Mark Newell, President 2018-2019

Alan Christensen, President- Elect 2019-2020

Tom Hartz, Past President

Willem Stoeller Treasurer

Irene Vlach, Secretary

Welcome to our New Board Members



Irene Vlach, Board Secretary



Scott Owen, Tualatin River Bird Festival Co-Chair



Michelle Scholz, Membership Chair

Friends Membership Interest Group

Our goal is to:

- Increase the volunteer base at the refuge to help support the huge changes that will be taking place this year
- Engage new sectors of our community through social media
- Raise more funds to support our programs

Please support the mission of the Friends by joining in with this vital initiative.

We will meet on November 1st at 12:30pm at the refuge or you can email me at:

M_Scholz@friendsfutalatinrefuge.org

Thank you for your continued support!

NATURE'S OVERLOOK STORE

Nature's Overlook Holiday Open House

The annual Nature's Overlook Holiday Open House is Saturday, December 1. The store will be fully stocked with merchandise that's perfect for gift-giving. As an added bonus, Friends members will receive a 20% discount for that day only. (If you're not already a member, join that day to get the discount!) There will be an opportunity to purchase and donate a gift for a needy Sherwood area youngster as part of the Sherwood 4 Kids Sake toy drive. Plus, we'll offer free gift wrap and cookies!



Duck Stamps The 2018-2019 Federal Duck Stamps, featuring a pair of mallards, have arrived and are now available for purchase at Nature's Overlook. Duck Stamps are a great way to help support refuges, because 98% of the purchase price goes directly to help acquire and protect wetland habitat for the National Wildlife Refuge System. For every \$25 Stamp purchased, \$24.50 goes directly to that cause! In addition to being a wonderful way to contribute to conservation of wetland habitat, a current Duck Stamp is good for free admission to any refuge that charges an entry fee. To learn more about Duck Stamps, visit fws.gov/birds/get-involved/duck-stamp.php. The sale of these stamps has been used to protect over 5.7 million acres of wetlands on national wildlife refuges since 1934.

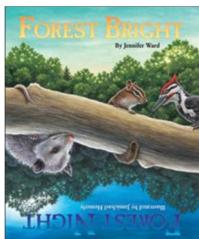
Nature's Overlook Store Volunteer Buyer Wanted

Nature's Overlook is recruiting for a Volunteer Buyer for general merchandise. George Burnett, who has been the Buyer for several years, is "retiring" from that role, but thankfully not from the other volunteer work she does on the Refuge! She will be happy to provide all the details about the job duties, the "perks" and the time commitment. George will also be available to provide training and support to whoever becomes the new Buyer. To learn more about this great opportunity, please contact her at 503-547-4721.

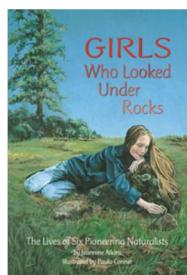
Books

Dear Book Lovers/Refuge Lovers –

We've ordered scores of books to be ready for the holiday season – you'll see many of your favorites and some new titles, too, and for all ages! Please consider Nature's Overlook when you are thinking about your gift selections. Thank you! We'll have many great field guides, board books and picture books for children, nature journals and how to draw birds and all the beauty you see in the field, poetry, plus lots of stocking stuffers. Whatever your topic of choice, we think you'll find something wonderful in the shop! Here are a few examples...

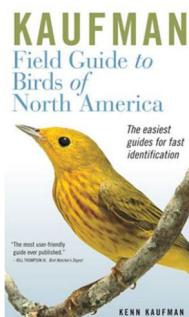


One of my favorites for young people – “**Forest Bright, Forest Night**” – about which creatures inhabit the same places at different times of the day – charming pictures, too...



And here's a nice comment from the publisher about this book – “**Girls Who Looked Under Rocks**” – two copies should be coming in...

If there is a pre-teen or adolescent in your life, especially a girl, take a look at this empowering, inspiring chapter book. It portrays the youths and careers of six remarkable women whose curiosity about nature fueled a passion to steadfastly overcome obstacles to careers in traditionally men-only occupations.



And, we're expecting more copies of the “**Kaufman Field Guide to Birds**” – very popular! **We have this title in Spanish, too.**

Restoration on the Refuge

Nathan Kossnar, Habitat Restoration Specialist, Friends of the Refuge



After weeks of surveying Wapato Lake National Wildlife Refuge, the purple loosestrife mapping project has concluded for the year. Several hundred loosestrife individuals were located and mapped with GPS points in order to visualize seed production distribution. Using this data, we will be able to prioritize specific areas and control the spread of loosestrife across Wapato Lake.

The collected data has been shared with both Tualatin and Yamhill Soil and Water Conservation Districts. There seems to be interest between organizations to provide assistance in the management and control of loosestrife (an Early Detection Rapid Response (EDRR) species in both counties). Communication will continue to see if sharing resources will be a realistic option.

On September 12th, Tualatin River NWR employees ventured up to Steigerwald Lake National Wildlife Refuge for a tour given by fellow Portland/Vancouver FWS employees. It was a very successful day for both learning about another Portland/Vancouver refuge, as well as building connections and relationships with folks who share similar passions and goals.

Tis the season for blackberry control. Now that most desirable species are starting to change color and harden off, chemical control of blackberry can be accomplished with minimal collateral harm to the surrounding vegetation. While Clean Water Services (CWS) has picked up much of the spray work, I've been filling in the gaps and have treated areas full of blackberry that will not be hit by CWS. Moving forward, as rain permits, I will be spraying reed canary grass regrowth inside the wetland cell behind the Bunkhouse on the Dennis Unit as well as an area referred to as Harvey's Hayfield on the main unit. These reed canary grass fields were mowed this summer and through waiting for regrowth to occur, chemical treatment is more effective.

Waterfowl surveys has begun at the end of October. I will be making observations at several areas on the main unit, Onion Flats, Dennis and Oleson. The migratory birds are starting to arrive here at Tualatin!

To the right is a photograph of a coyote taken from a trail camera on the main unit.



First Ever Urban National Wildlife Refuge Day Celebration on September 29, 2018



Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge has long been described as the place where the honking of geese replaces the honking of cars. It's a turn of phrase that speaks to where the Refuge is found — among the hustle and bustle of a major metropolitan area. It could also be interpreted as a dichotomy, contrasting the four-wheeled machines that zoom by with the winged creatures who find rest and food.

But there's a third element necessary to complete this image. It's you. You our visitors, volunteers, and partners. You who turn off that busy highway and climb the short driveway to find yourself immersed in nature only steps from your vehicle. And you who wish to share with your community all that the Refuge represents.

Recognizing the value of wildlife refuges in urban areas, the United States Congress declared September 29th at the first "Urban National Wildlife Refuge Day." This designation was recognized at Tualatin River NWR with a "Celebration of U" — a nod to you and Urban National Wildlife Refuges. It was a lively day of fun activities that showcased the best of what National Wildlife Refuges have to offer to our neighbors. It was also an event that would not

have happened without the contributions of the volunteers and partners, especially the Friends, who are essential to the success of Tualatin River NWR.

Around 300 visitors from across the Portland-Vancouver Metro Area made their way to the Refuge on this crisp Fall day. They were greeted by smiling faces and the colorful backdrop of the GetKidsIntoNature.com trailer. The trailer is a portable outdoor activity and skill-building center — and collaboration with our partner, I'm Hooked, Inc. — that will make its way to events throughout the Portland-Vancouver Metro Area.

Along a short loop trail, visitors discovered a variety of activities showcasing some great ways to get hands-on with nature. With a focus on hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing and photography, education, or interpretation, it was a demonstration of activities you'll find at Urban National Wildlife Refuges, like Tualatin River NWR, throughout the year.

Partners were a huge part of the day, from the Friends of the Refuge and their wildlife exploration table, to the Oregon Waterfowl Festival and their amazing waterfowl retrieval dogs. I'm Hooked, Inc. helped visitors (and "Teddy" Roosevelt) with their fish casting, while local archery club, Sylvan Archers, worked with kids and adults find their true aim.

There are over 100 Urban National Wildlife Refuges across the United States. The Portland-Vancouver Metro Area is fortunate to have three within a short drive from just about any part of town. With a variety of family-friendly programs at all of them throughout the year, you can celebrate Urban Refuges every day.

"Urban refuges are places for families to gather and enjoy the outdoors, and places to reach out to the next generation of anglers and hunters, while providing safe access."

- Aurelia Skipwith, Interior Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks

Wear in the World!?!

Attached is my photo in a Friends t-shirt while tracking in the wilds of baden württemberg Germany recently. A rabbit latrine and small burrow are visible in the photo.

Also, attached is a picture with a Friends logo hat in the parking lot of Zion National Park recently

Seth Winkelhake



Seth in baden württemberg Germany



Seth in Zion National Park

CONTACT US

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

info@friendsoftualatinrefuge.org