

MAKING TRACKS

NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF THE TUALATIN RIVER NWR

JOYFULLY CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITY WITH THE WONDER OF THE REFUGE



PRESIDENT'S PERCH

By Mark Newell, President of the Board

Hoodoo and her person Mark

Tis the season, Happy Holidays,

I want to thank all the Friends Employees, Friends Members, Volunteers, Fish and Wildlife Service Employees, and all those that have spent time and energy making the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge Complex what it is today. Without this wild place, in this location, at

this point in our countries history, many people would not know the importance of a place of absence. Absent are the buildings, concrete, asphalt, cars, roads, noise, and lights. This absence creates a space for nature to exist. And nature fills the absence with ducks, geese, coyote, bobcat, deer, pheasant, muskrat, beaver, river otter, mink, eagles, and a whole host of other animals filling in where buildings aren't. Nature doing what nature does when we just step out of the way.

I cannot imagine a world without such places. Places where silence is heard with the wind in the trees, the gentle push of the river, and the rustle of grass amongst the oaks. A place to be still in an ever moving society, a place to watch the sunlight dapple the fall leaves, wet with fresh rain. These places, they don't exist by accident they exist because a group of individuals collectively care enough to create them, fight for them, who know there importance, and do something about it. You are those individuals, thank you.

Did you know that Dragonflies (adult form not nymph form) have six legs but cannot walk? As adults they use their legs to grasp things like mosquitoes, and to perch when resting, they don't walk. Nature sometimes needs a pair of legs to help her forward, thanks for being those legs.

Please note the Refuge buildings will be closed and all programs have been cancelled for Wednesday, December 5,2018. We will be observing the National Day of Mourning.

JOIN

DONATE

RENEW

UPCOMING EVENTS

[Waterfowl Watch 101](#)

January 05, 2019 10:00 AM

[Puddle Stompers](#)

January 09, 2019 1:00 PM

[Nature Journaling 101](#)

January 13, 2019 2:00 PM

[Puddle Stompers](#)

January 15, 2019 10:00 AM

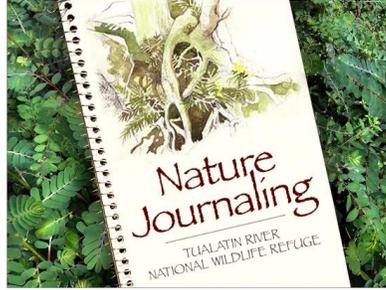
[Waterfowl Watch 101](#)

February 02, 2019 10:00 AM



SOCIAL MEDIA





Nature journaling is one way to experience the natural world around you in greater depth. Join us to learn techniques for keeping a journal and enhancing your enjoyment of the outdoors. This program is designed for adults. Please bring your favorite sketch pad or notebook and dress for the weather as some portion may be outdoors.

Dec 2 Sunday 2:00- 4:00 pm
Jan 13 Sunday 2:00-4:00 pm

Please Register for this free event:
<https://fotr.wildapricot.org/event-3079368>

HELP THE FRIENDS WHILE YOU SHOP

NATURE'S OVERLOOK STORE

Sherwood 4 Kids Sake
MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR
A LOCAL CHILD
THIS CHRISTMAS

1. Choose a Gift Tag
2. Buy a Gift
3. Leave it with our friendly volunteers

Nov. 26 - Dec. 12

Sherwood 4 Kids Sake
Annual
Holiday Gift Drive

ALL DONATIONS stay LOCAL



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.

Wear In The World

Touring the National Wildlife Refuges in the Midwest, Mary Lu Schweitzer show her Friends wear at Valentine, Lacreek and Fort Niobrara National Wildlife Refuges.





Restoration on the Refuge
Nathan Kossnar, Habitat Restoration Specialist, Friends of the Refuge

Following Seth's departure, I have taken responsibility of the trail camera program. While out conducting fieldwork, I have been setting out cameras in hopes of catching wildlife difficult to spot in person. Thus far, I have captured lots of deer, beaver and nutria activity. Mostly notably, I captured a family of four river otters on video. I have attached some images, and the video of the otters can be seen on the Friends' Facebook page.

This month's Restoration Work Party was a smashing success. We harvested over one-hundred willow stakes from the bioswale and planted them along the wetland's edge directly below the lookout next to the Visitor's Center. With any luck, these willows will take root this winter and help establish a native plant community along the wetland fringe.

An egret at sunrise.



Four river otters checking out the trail camera. A video clip can be located on the Friends of the Refuge Facebook page.

CBC
(Christmas Bird Count)
When: Sunday, December 16th
Email Curt Mykut for details and to sign-up
richard_mykut@fws.gov



Ways to get involved: We will not be holding a Second Saturday Restoration Work Party in December; however, the Christmas Bird Count is scheduled for December 16th. Please contact the refuge if you would like more information or if you would like to reserve a spot.

CONTACT US

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