

JUNE 2011 eNEWS

Friends of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge -----Web Site:
www.RidgefieldFriends.org. Email: rfriends@pacifier.com

June 12- Second Sunday: Eat at Salmon Creek Burgerville and Friends receive 10%. En route to or from Second Sunday at the Plankhouse or the River 'S' Unit, stop by for a relaxing meal at Burgerville! Please let all your friends know that this is a great chance to raise funds for cultural and nature education programs at the Refuge. **The Salmon Creek Burgerville is at the 134th Street Exit at I-5 and I-205...** just tell them you came to support the Friends (see attached)

Second Sunday at the Plankhouse: The Cathlapotle Plankhouse Second Sunday series continues on June 12 at 2:00 pm with "*An Introduction to Pacific Northwest Canoes and Paddles*" presented by Shirod Younker. Mr. Younker is a paddle carver, canoe journey participant, and the Art Program Manager at the Oregon College of Arts and Crafts. This presentation will explore the types of canoes and paddles used by Native Americans in Oregon, Washington, California, Alaska and Western Canada. Children's activities will be available from 12:00 – 4:00 pm. See attached.

Announcing the 2011 Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge Photo Contest! The Friends is pleased to announce our 2011 Photo Contest! Submit your favorite nature images taken within the area open to the public of the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge, and win gift cards from our sponsor, Pro Photo Supply. There are both Youth and Adult categories; the submission deadline is Thursday, September 1, 2011. Check for details at the Friend's web site <http://www.ridgefieldfriends.org/photo-contest-2011.php>

Habitat Restoration Activities: Spring and summer habitat restoration events are in full swing! Join us in our efforts to improve stream health and create wildlife habitat by removing invasive species and maintaining our plantation sites on the Refuge. This is a great opportunity to explore various areas of the Refuge, give back to the environment, and enjoy the season.

The Ricefield Bulrush Project is starting June 22 and will continue every Wednesday and Saturday until August 31. Ricefield bulrush (*Schoenoplectus mucronatus*) is an invasive Eurasian plant that is threatening the health of Refuge wetlands by pushing out native plants

that wildlife need for food and cover. Due in part to volunteer efforts, ricefield bulrush is currently contained to the Refuge and has not been recorded elsewhere in the Pacific Northwest. Preventing the escape of this noxious weed into local ecosystems is a top priority. We may also cut or dig other wetland invasives such as yellow flag iris if we don't find as much bulrush as expected.

Join us! Work days are: June 22, 25, and 29; July 6, 9, 13, 16, 20, 23, 27, and 30; August 3, 6, 10, 13, 17, 20, 24, 27, and 31, **9:00 am to 12:30 pm**. Meet at the River 'S' Unit kiosk. Wear rubber boots, long pants are strongly recommended as well as sun protection. Bring work gloves. For more information or to sign up contact: [Jill Peoples@fws.gov](mailto:Jill_Peoples@fws.gov) OR [Lynn Cornelius@fws.gov](mailto:Lynn_Cornelius@fws.gov) 360-887-3883 x14

Roger's Refuge Ramblings - by Roger Windemuth... This past month was a special month for those of us who are birders and contribute regularly to the weekly bird sightings list. This list, which is renewed weekly and generally updated daily, is posted on the web at www.ridgefieldfriends.org/bird-sightings.php and also on the window of the Visitor Check-in Station on the River "S" Unit. It was the first time, at least since I've been recording bird sightings each week (about five years now), that we reached 111 sightings in one week. To an average non-birder that might not mean a lot, but to a birder who has birded the refuge and felt good about being able to see 40 to 60 birds, that is quite an accomplishment.

Of course, helping with that milestone was the migration which has been going on for the last month or two. This means that several of the sightings that we have had are birds that are probably passing through, such as the American White Pelican, Dusky Flycatcher, Cassin's Vireo, Hermit Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, etc. Also, most of our summer regulars have returned over the past month, like the Yellow, Wilson's, & Orange-crowned Warblers, Western Wood-Pewee, etc. Also some of our winter residents that do not summer over were still around for awhile at the first part of the month. Whatever the reason, the week of May 13 was a really good week.

Migration is always a fun time at the refuge, for you never know what you are going to see when you look up in the trees or on the lakes. There are two bird migrations which pass through Ridgefield NWR, one in the spring and the other one in the fall. The spring migration seems to be the more exciting one, bringing more remarkable species to our Refuge.

This month we had a number of interesting and unusual birds that were seen: Ross's & Greater White Fronted Goose, Canvasback, Redhead, American White Pelican, Solitary & Spotted Sandpiper, Red-necked Phalarope, Black-bellied Plover, Caspian Tern, Band-tailed Pigeon, Eurasian Collared-dove, Olive-sided, Gray & Hammond's Flycatcher, Black Phoebe, Warbling Vireo, Nashville, Black-throated Gray, Townsend's & Hermit Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, Chipping Sparrow, Lazuli Bunting, Evening Grosbeak, Bullock's Oriole.

If you hurry, you still might be able to catch the last part of this exciting bird migration at the Refuge.

BirdFest and Bluegrass Festival: Come join our Birdfest and Bluegrass Planning Committee! The next meeting will be on Wednesday, June 15th, 6:00 in the Old Liberty Theater. All volunteers are welcome. Come and join the committee that puts this celebration of the Refuge together. The Festival is October 8 and 9 this year!!

NEEDED - BIOLOGY and ANTHROPOLOGY STUDENTS! They say the best way to learn and retain information is to teach it. So come out to the Refuge and teach elementary students what you are learning! Field trips happen all year round and this summer will bring in a lot of small groups, from scouts to daycares to families. No experience necessary. Just come out and help children enjoy nature and culture through exploration! For more information please contact Josie Finley, Volunteer Coordinator for the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge at Josie_Finley@fws.gov or 360-887-4106

Help us with our volunteer program - We need your ideas! Please take a moment to let us know where you go to volunteer, search for volunteer opportunities, and why. We are also interested in what keeps you volunteering and what you would like see offered at the Refuge. Make our volunteer program what you are looking for! Please respond to Josie Finley, Volunteer Coordinator for the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge at Josie_Finley@fws.gov or 360-887-4106.

Full Moon Night Hikes: Oaks to Wetland Trail at the Carty Unit.... Wednesday, June 15 - 8:30 pm.... Friday, July 15 - 8:30 pm... Friday, Aug 12 - 8:00 pm. Please register with Jill Peoples at jill_peoples@fws.gov or (360) 887-3883.

Summer Construction at the Refuge... New Gravel for the Auto Tour Route: The Refuge applied for and received additional funding to add gravel to the Auto Tour Route and to make other improvements to the route.

Construction dates have not been set, but the project will occur this summer. For visitor safety and to expedite the project, the River 'S' will be closed during construction. When project details are set, the closure dates will be announced in eNews, local newspapers, and on the Refuge website. When the dust settles, we expect an improved gravel surface and additional turn-outs for our visitors during the rainy winter months.

Oaks to Wetland Trail Repair: The Oaks to Wetland Trail will also be closed this summer for repairs to the trail surface between the Plankhouse and the 'old oak tree'. The surface improvement late last summer will be reset and resealed. The contractors and materials suppliers are targeting July as the best weather for the project. Closure dates will be announced in eNews, local newspapers, and on the Refuge website, when the project details are established. The construction will not impact the Second Sunday event at the Cathlapotle Plankhouse on July 10th.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS! Besides receiving monthly eNews with Refuge updates, upcoming events, and wildlife news, members enjoy member- and volunteer- only events. With your \$50+ membership you will receive an annual Refuge Pass, which covers entrance fees.

Don't forget to glance at the Refuge calendar, your one-stop shop for fun activities and volunteer opportunities, at <http://www.ridgefieldfriends.org>

"The Friend's mission is to support, protect, and enhance the Ridgefield Wildlife Refuge and its wildlife habitat, and to broaden public awareness and participation in its environmental, cultural, and educational opportunities."