



**FRIENDS OF TUALATIN RIVER  
NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE  
ANNUAL REPORT  
2017**



## A Special Donor Thank You from FOR

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 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. We deeply appreciate the support we receive that allows us to achieve our mission of supporting Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge. You can literally see the Friends' support at work and making a difference! Over the past year the Friends have fulfilled a Refuge wish for a fully stocked Tool Trailer that is being used by the volunteer crews at the second Saturday work parties and other restoration events during the year. This represents a \$10,000 investment by the Friends to directly assist with restoration efforts on the Refuge. The Friends have also dedicated over \$10,000 towards staff to accomplish these projects. 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.

### Friends' General Refuge Support

Anonymous  
Amazon Smile  
Lisa Brenner & Tom Stibolt  
Fred Meyer Rewards  
Friends of the Refuge Board of Directors  
Friends of the Refuge Members  
The Hyde Family Foundation  
Intel Volunteer Grant Program  
Kaiser Foundation- Community Giving Campaign Match Funds  
Wilfried & Deanna Mueller-Crispin  
New Seasons Market  
Washington County Strategic Investment Program  
Wells Fargo  
United Health Group  
Kami Hamilton

### Donations in Honor or Memory

*In Memory of Friends Member and Festival Committee Member Jay Medley*

The Medley Family, The Ahrens Family, The Noel Family, The Umaki Family, The Park Family The Smith Family, The Dyke Family The Gaines Family, The Wellbaum Family, The Bushman Family, The Litviak Family, Nancy Murray, Jeffery Evans, James Evans and Pamela Ashland

*In Memory of Friends Member Carol Apple*

The Snell Family, The Clark Family, Gregory Angeloni

### Environmental Education Programs

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Grasmajeto Fund of the Oregon Community Foundation  
The Wheeler Family  
Diane Trenhaile, Katie Harris, William Stoeller, Tom Hartz, Linda Kilgore, Edwin Squiers, Mike Jolley, and Jeffery Gottfried

### Refuge Restoration Programs

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Prescott Bluebird Recovery Project

### Special Events

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Rockwell Collins Green Communities Grant  
Cabela's  
Bosky Dell Natives  
Clean Water Services  
Marsh Consulting LLC  
Pride Disposal Co.  
Burt's BBQ  
Home Depot- Sherwood  
Intel  
Northwest Growler- Sherwood  
Hungry Hero Bakery- Sherwood  
It's All Arranged Florist- Sherwood  
Bob Fuquay, Virginia Parks and Bjorn Fredrickson

### Emerald Patron Festival Sponsors

Anonymous (2)	Don Nelson
Kim Strassburg	Bonnie & Marty Anderson
Keith Mays	Sharon Miller
Helen Martin	Linda Kilgore
Edwin Squiers	George & Mike Burnett
Cheryl Hart	Tom Hartz
Dawn & Stan Carovano	Willem Stoeller & Cathy Shikatani



Please be sure to "like" the Friends' Facebook page in 2018! 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.

# 2017 Annual Report

## Friends of Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

#### Prepared by Tom Hartz

The Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) enters its 25th year in 2017. Look for announcements about the campaign to celebrate this milestone, kicking off on October 14th. There is a lot to celebrate. Within months of the establishment of the refuge in 1992 by the US Fish and Wildlife Service, a “founding board” was organized to form some sort of Friends group. The Friends of Tualatin River NWR was formed and registered with the Oregon Secretary of State in 1993. The 25-year effort of a lot of dedicated people has transformed a former dairy farm and other properties into a place of natural beauty for recreation and education for tens of thousands of people and their families to enjoy. We are proud of what the partnership between the FWS and the Friends has created.

The 2017 Annual Report provides a compilation of the output of various committees and individuals over the past year in support of the mission of the Fish and Wildlife Service. Without our members, volunteers and donors, it would be impossible to maintain and restore the refuge or to offer the many programs and activities that our community enjoys. Check out the Friends website ([friendsoftualatinrefuge.org](http://friendsoftualatinrefuge.org)) to stay abreast of news and planned activities. Folks can also join or renew their membership or make donations to the Friends from the website.

Our Friends employees continue to contribute their skills and energies. Bonnie Anderson remains our Administrative Anchor. She again led the effort to put on a successful and well-attended Bird Festival. Bonnie remains the voice and face of the Friends to the public. She also supports the Friends President. It has been my great pleasure to work with Bonnie for the past year. Rachel Dunham serves as our Public Engagement Coordinator. This year Rachel introduced the Nature Ambassadors, a group of trained volunteers who reach into the surrounding community to promote conservation, environmental awareness, and the wonders of nature. Rachel's energies motivate the volunteers in the Nature's Overlook Sales Outlet, allowing the Outlet to be open whenever the Visitors Center is open. Proceeds from the Outlet directly support our refuge. Her team creates family-focused



*FOR Board President Tom Hartz.*

seasonal displays and activities to greet our visitors and entertain their kids. The team also includes Trail Rovers who greet and answer questions from refuge visitors. Seth Winkelhake is our Environmental Education Specialist. This year, an additional dozen Volunteer Naturalists were trained to support educational programs and lead visits by school children and other groups. With the support of the Grasmajeto Fund of the Oregon Community Foundation, Seth developed and hosted a week-long

Alternative Outdoor School program for a pair of Sherwood Middle Schools. Alternative Outdoor School is for children who cannot participate in overnight Outdoor School with their classmates. Seth has created national visibility for TRNWR via pictures and videos of our resident wildlife captured by his skillfully-placed trail cameras. Sarah Williams, our Habitat Restoration Specialist, routinely hosts work parties and other volunteer organizations to support our restoration activities. Her enthusiasm and the genuine joy that she brings to her job are key to attracting others to support restoration activities. Sarah has applied mission-specific training she's accumulated over the past couple of years to supplement her skill set and enhance the impact of her efforts. We are grateful to the USFWS Urban Program for their support and development of our staff.

Included in the Annual Report is the financial report compiled by Willem Stoeller, the Friends Treasurer. When potential donors investigate an organization, they look for how much of their donation will actually go to that organization's programs. We are proud of the fact that the programs offered by the Friends of Tualatin River NWR represent well over 80% of our total expenses (86% through July). Monies that the Friends receive from all sources clearly go toward programs that benefit our community.

I had the great honor of serving as President of the Friends Board of Directors for the past year. It's been both humbling and motivating to witness the skills and passion of everyone dedicated to making our refuge what it is today. Our continued commitment to the further development of the refuge and our programs will continue the legacy of the last 25 years. **1**



# FINANCIAL REPORT

Submitted by Willem Stoeller, FOR Board Treasurer  
as of September 30, 2017

As I write this in mid-August, with one and half months remaining in the current fiscal year, the financial condition of the Friends organization is better than forecasted in the FY2017 budget. Total cash balances as of September 30 (Estimated August 18 - September 30, 2017) are approximately \$109,591 unrestricted and \$32,632 restricted. These \$109,591 of unrestricted funds consist of \$83,591 disposable and \$26,000 operational and cash flow reserves.

The Accounts Receivable for Restricted Grants is \$2,500, a substantial decrease over last year. This decrease is due to the timing of grants being awarded, Federal/ Agency grants for next fiscal year have not yet been formally awarded at the time of writing this financial report. However, based on discussions we expect to receive cooperative grants that will cover payroll and other costs of the four FOR employees.

The Nature's Overlook Store operation generated 90% of the planned budget and has contributed \$14,293 to the Friends organization.

This fiscal year the Friends contributed \$9,231 in direct assistance to the refuge. The approved budget for next fiscal year (FY2016) includes another \$15,000 in direct assistance to the refuge.

As was the case last year, however, there will be a continuing need to identify new grant resources to sustain the growth of our programs.

My thanks go out again to Dawn Carovano and Bonnie Anderson. I would not be able to fulfill my role as treasurer without their appreciated help.

## Friends of TRNWR Statement of Activity

October 1, 2016 - September 30, 2017 (Estimated August 18 - September 30, 2017)

Programs	Gross Profit	Budgeted Gross Profit	Total Expenditures	Budgeted Total Expenditures	Net Revenue	Budgeted Net Revenues
Fundraising	0	0	2,000	(3,800)	(2,000)	(3,800)
Genl & Admin Cost	28,578	22,000	17,360	(20,825)	11,218	1,175
Membership Development	885	0	5,926	(6,490)	(5,041)	(6,490)
Bird Festival	23,506	5,100	14,175	(5,000)	9,331	100
Environmental Education	57,625	55,000	50,228	(48,689)	7,397	6,311
Interpretive Program	52,625	55,000	46,207	(48,969)	6,418	6,031
Latino Initiative	10,627	8,250	10,627	(8,250)	0	0
Photo Society	0	0	300	(1,000)	(300)	(1,000)
Refuge Assist	0	0	9,231	(15,500)	(9,231)	12,000
Restoration	53,271	38,800	45,311	47,687	7,960	(1,756)
Summer Camp	5,996	9,500	6,114	9,250	(117)	250
Transportation	15,000	11,000	9,000	16,000	6,000	5,000
Urban Refuge	15,000	16,500	10,500	10,500	4,500	0
Total Programs	233,650	184,021	201,692	213,685	31,959	(29,664)
Store Operations	17,667	19,100	3,374	3,900	14,293	15,800
TOTAL	280,780	225,121	230,352	248,100	50,429	(22,979)

Program expenses/total expenses	88%
Net Unrestricted Income	\$18,153
Net Restricted Income	\$32,276

Friday, Aug 18, 2017 01:19:04 PM GMT-7 - Accrual Basis - Estimated until year end

## Friends of TRNWR Approved Budget

October 1, 2017 - September 30, 2018

Programs	Gross Profit	Total Expense	Net Income
Fundraising	0	4,980	(4,980)
Genl & Admin Cost	23,000	21,879	1,112
Membership Development	3,323	8,051	(4,728)
Store Operations	19,400	7,400	11,992
Bird Festival	21,270	13,000	8,270
Environmental Education	60,518	51,759	8,759
Photo Society	509	1,000	(491)
Refuge Assist	0	15,000	(15,000)
Restoration	56,684	50,366	6,318
Summer Camp	10,000	10,192	1,533
Latino Initiative	0	0	0
Transportation	6,000	6,000	0
Urban Refuge	4,500	4,500	0
Interpretive	57,797	51,229	6,568
Total Programs	218,202	203,046	7,663
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>263,001</b>	<b>245,355</b>	<b>17,645</b>

Net unrestricted income

(3,999.31)

Budget Roll-Up 2017-2018.



## RESTORATION COMMITTEE

**Submitted by Edwin Squiers, Friends of the TRNWR Restoration Committee Chair and Sarah Williams, Habitat Restoration Specialist**



*Intercambio peer mentoring group at a tree tube removal work party*

2017 proved to be another great year for the Friends Restoration Committee, with ample training opportunities for Habitat Restoration Specialist (HRS) Sarah Williams, continued work on the Chicken Creek restoration, engaging work parties, and so much more. With support from USFWS and the Friends of the TRNWR, Sarah participated in heavy equipment training, chainsaw training, and a Geographic Information Systems certificate program. She will be traveling to the National Conservation Training Center this fall for training related to the impact of pesticides on wildlife. These new skills have been essential in helping to complete key projects on the refuge during the past fiscal year. Sarah also helped to develop a new invasive plant mapping protocol in partnership with the regional office and began mapping invasive plants across nearly 200 acres associated with the Chicken Creek restoration. Preparation work for Chicken Creek continued into its second year with the Restoration Committee heavily involved in both on-the-ground work and planning. Meetings with key partners and refuge biological staff yielded two alternative plans for the restoration, with hopes that excavation may begin next summer. The completion of the Wapato Lake Environmental Assessment has allowed for more planning work related to the other half of the complex. The Restoration Committee contributed to the EA, as well as the beginning stages of the Inventory and Monitoring plan for Wapato Lake.

The Biological Volunteer Program has continued to get much needed work



*Volunteers at our August 2017 work party*

on the refuge done by engaging community members and partner organizations. Nearly 200 Biological Program volunteers donated 2,000 hours of their time over the past fiscal year through activities such as wildlife surveys, work parties, and restoration plantings. Restoration efforts involved volunteers from many area organizations including George Fox University, The Intercambio Peer Mentoring Group, Boy Scouts of America, and Friends of Trees. These events resulted in over 5,000 tree tubes removed, 1,200 plants planted, and 20 acres of invasive plants removed. Second Saturday Work Parties, averaging 15 people per event, continued to be a hit with both long-time volunteers and newcomers. The Restoration Committee has been heavily involved in these volunteer opportunities, with Sarah playing a central role in planning, monitoring work hours, and attending the events.



*Sarah with some cub scouts at a work party. Credit: Patrick Stark*

Fiscal year 2018 is already shaping up to be a busy one. On the horizon, the Committee has plans to assist a local Boy Scout with two projects necessary to achieve the Hornaday Award, a prestigious conservation award given to scouts who not only start conservation projects, but also for continued monitoring of their projects. Sarah will also be heavily involved in a comprehensive invasive plant workshop this Fall. The goal of the workshop is to collaborate with USFWS Regional biological staff as well as local experts to determine what the refuge's top priorities should be for invasive treatment and prevention. As the Friends of TRNWR continue to support the Restoration Committee, our contributions to both the biological and volunteer programs will continue to grow.

Finally, we want to acknowledge and thank our partners and supporters including: the hundreds of volunteers and organizations like Friends of Trees, Prescott Bluebird Society, Metro, Clean Water Services, Institute of Applied Ecology, Boy Scouts of America, REI, and especially the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service without whom our restoration efforts would not be possible.



# WILDLIFE CENTER & NATURE'S OVERLOOK SALES OUTLET & INTERPRETIVE PROGRAM

Submitted by Sharon Miller, FOR Board Member and  
Rachel Dunham, Friends Wildlife Center and Interpretive Program Coordinator



This year we had 22,500 visitors explore our Wildlife Center. Many of our visitors are local but we had people come from 36 states and 9 countries including Costa Rica, Brazil, Chile, and several parts of Europe! Thanks to our wonderful volunteers, the Wildlife Center and Nature's Overlook store are open every week year round to greet visitors and provide information about the Refuge.

This year, the store brought in a gross income of almost \$50,000. This was in a great part due to Kristie A, who has devoted so much time and expertise to picking great books to sell and has trained Jennifer B to do receiving and inventory. Thank you to both of you for making such a great team! The store buyer, George B, has diversified merchandise with the new logo and has made the most of the solar eclipse, selling glasses and children's activity books.

Over the past year, we continued to incorporate relevant and exciting interpretive displays as part of our Entrance Exhibit. A huge thanks to volunteers John G and Toby B for bringing their creativity and passion to life. We also added a new reading nook with nature books, child-size beanbags and a rug that looks like a wood cookie!



*Nature ambassadors engage young visitors at the Oregon Zoo's new Education Center.*

## Nature Ambassador Program

The Nature Ambassador Program is a brand new program that developed out of a need and desire to get out into the community and connect diverse audiences with the Refuge and nature. Fifteen volunteers participated in a two-day training that included interpretive skills, Sheltered English, and explored four thematic stations including the Kalapuya



*Nature ambassadors digging their claws into outreach!*

People, Endangered Species, Pelts and Skulls, and Bird's Nests and Eggs. Since June, the Nature Ambassadors have taken these stations to the Oregon Zoo on Discount Tuesdays and Saturdays, Story Telling in Stella Park, and the Summer Feeding Program in Tigard/Tualatin school district. In four months, we've reached over 2,000 people. A huge thanks to the Allaires, our resident volunteers, who have poured their hearts into the program and whose creativity made it happen and thanks to our new Nature Ambassadors!



*Nature ambassadors take outreach into the community.*



# ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

**Submitted by Tom Hartz, FOR Board Member  
and Seth Winkelhake, Environmental Education Specialist**

This year over 2,000 people were able to connect with the Refuge during education programs. The seasonal flow of wintery Puddle Stompers followed springtime busses bring school field trips continued as always. A new twist this year, Puddle Stompers preschool program were expanded to year-round including the summer when puddles are few and far between. Three standout parts of the education program this year were Alternative Outdoor School, expansion of our Social Media presence, and an accessibility assessment with Access Recreation.

This year saw the return of our Alternative Outdoor School partnership with the Sherwood School District. 38 stay-behind students from Laurel Ridge Middle School and Sherwood Middle school got the chance to have an equivalent nature experience as their peers who went to Outdoor School. The reasons for students staying behind vary from parents or students not being comfortable spending the night away from home in the woods to cultural and medical reasons. A huge thanks to the generous support from Grasmajeto that allowed for staff time and volunteers for this education programming.



*Out on the trails.*

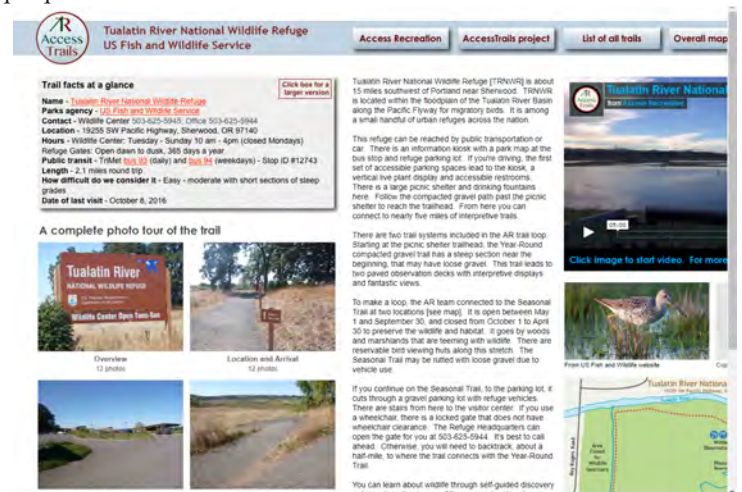
Since February 2017 we have more than doubled the number of followers of our Instagram account. Wildlife Camera photos and regular updates of photos from programs on and off-Refuge have contributed to this increase in our social media presence. Friends of the Refuge

Facebook page also continues to grow and connect people with the Refuge and what the Friends do (<https://www.facebook.com/trnwr.friend/> and <https://www.instagram.com/friendsoftualatinrefuge/>).



*Visitors enjoy a volunteer-naturalist led walk and talk.*

Access Recreation, a Portland-based ad hoc committee that has developed guidelines for improving information about outdoor experiences for hikers with disabilities, worked with us to complete an Accessibility Assessment of the trails and facilities here at the refuge. The Refuge was chosen to be featured in a short video that they created with funding from a Metro Nature in Neighborhoods grant. Their trails assessment includes pictures of the trail, grade for hills, and where benches are located so that anyone with special accessibility needs can know ahead of time and prepare for their visit.



You can see the video and their trails report in the link here (<https://vimeo.com/208601995> and [http://accesstrails.org/Phase\\_1/Tualatin\\_River\\_NWR/Tualatin\\_River\\_NWR.html](http://accesstrails.org/Phase_1/Tualatin_River_NWR/Tualatin_River_NWR.html)).



## SPECIAL REPORT: 2017 Summer Camp

The 2017 edition of the Summer Nature camp wrapped up on July 15. This was our first experience with an all-day format, intended to accommodate families that need all-day activities for their children in the summer. There were 27 campers, including 21 first-time participants.



*Adaptation Game.*

Thanks to the generosity of the Friends, we were able to support 9 scholarship campers, kids who are on the reduced or free lunch programs at their school. The Wheeler Family again made a much-appreciated donation in support of the camp.

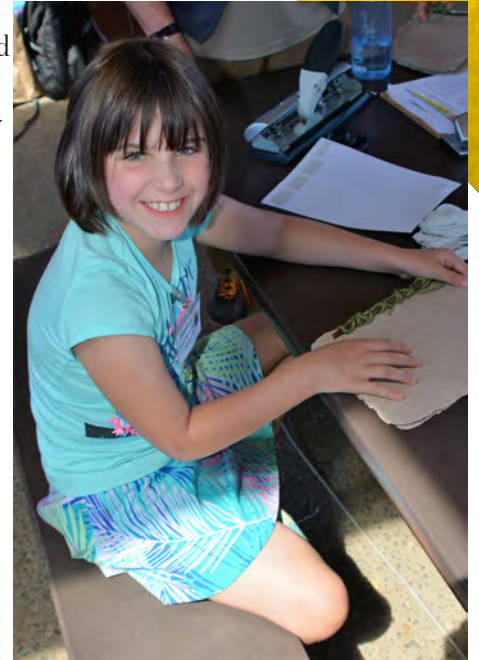
Berk Moss headed up the Youth Camp Staff program. A total of 10 middle school and high school aged students were trained prior to the camp and were assigned to camper teams for the week. They also provided support for specific activities, and setup and cleanup duties. All of the youth staff were previous campers, staff at previous camps, or both. They contributed immeasurably to the success of the camp.



*Sharing with the group.*

The adult staff of Camp Director Charlie Graham, Volunteer Naturalists, Photography experts, and Friends Staff collaborated effectively to deliver a quality program for the campers. Seth Winkelhake, the Friends Environmental Ed Specialist, was a great hit with his deep list of fun games to play in an outdoor setting. The water in front of the Visitors Center allowed for dramatic displays of raptors, herons, shorebirds and waterfowl.

Turnout of families at the closing celebration was impressive. The parents were grateful to the staff for their efforts. The campers were rightfully proud of their journals, pictures, and activity products. They all hope to return for camp in 2018.



*Working on nature journals.*

The Camp Committee held a debrief meeting on July 21st. We expected that the week would be a challenge, both mentally and physically. Fortunately, the weather was

outstanding, particularly during the mornings when we spent hours on the trails. It's fair to say that the Adult Staff was exhausted at the end of each day and drained by the end of the week. We will pursue suggestions coming from the debrief meeting with the objective of continuing to provide a quality experience for the campers.



*More sharing with the group.*



# TUALATIN RIVER BIRD FESTIVAL

Submitted by Bonnie Anderson, FOR Board Member/ Festival Chair



The 21st Annual Tualatin River Bird Festival was held on May 20, 2017. The festival is a family friendly, free event put on by the Friends of the Refuge and USFWS. It is our open house to the community, a way to celebrate public lands and explore why National Wildlife Refuge are important to each of us. Well over 1200 visitors enjoyed the day's festivities. This year we advertised on TV, radio and in the newspaper.

Festival planning begins almost as the event ends and includes many other events besides the one day in May. The Festival is free to the public, and we spend the year finding

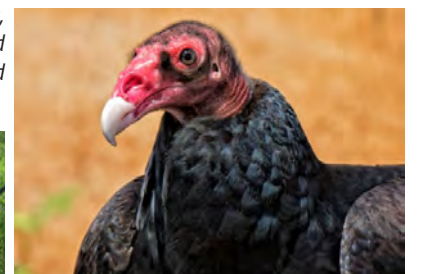
ways to cover the expenses. A \$2,000 grant was awarded this year by Rockwell Collins Green Communities Grant to support the festival. A dedicated group of volunteers put together a successful native plant sale and silent auction in April during the Refuge Earth Day activities that helped raise funds for the festival. We also solicit sponsorship donations from our wonderful community partners and we have dedicated volunteers that donate their time and money. It is so rewarding to see the event come together and know that all of their hard work has paid off with another successful Tualatin River Bird Festival.



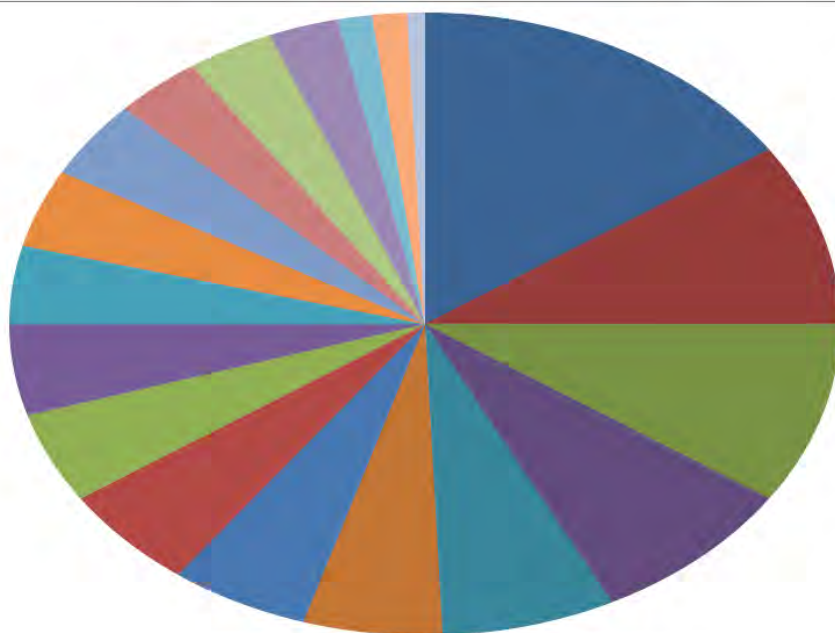
The day was sunny and filled with excitement! The event began with early morning walks led by USFWS staff and volunteers. Wagon rides were a big hit again, as was migration putt-putt golf and archery. The most popular event is always the Audubon Live Bird of Prey show and the opportunity to get up close to these magnificent birds. Speaking of birds- everyone loves building a bird house and this year we had a welcome donation from Sherwood's Home Depot that provided 500 birdhouses.



Kids (young and old) enjoy building a house that can provide shelter to our feathered friends. Opportunities to do a fish casting clinic, duck decoy painting Gyotaku (fish printing), Migratory bird tote bag coloring, face painting, passport scavenger hunt and participating in a dog retrieving exhibit and so much more were all part of this year's fun.



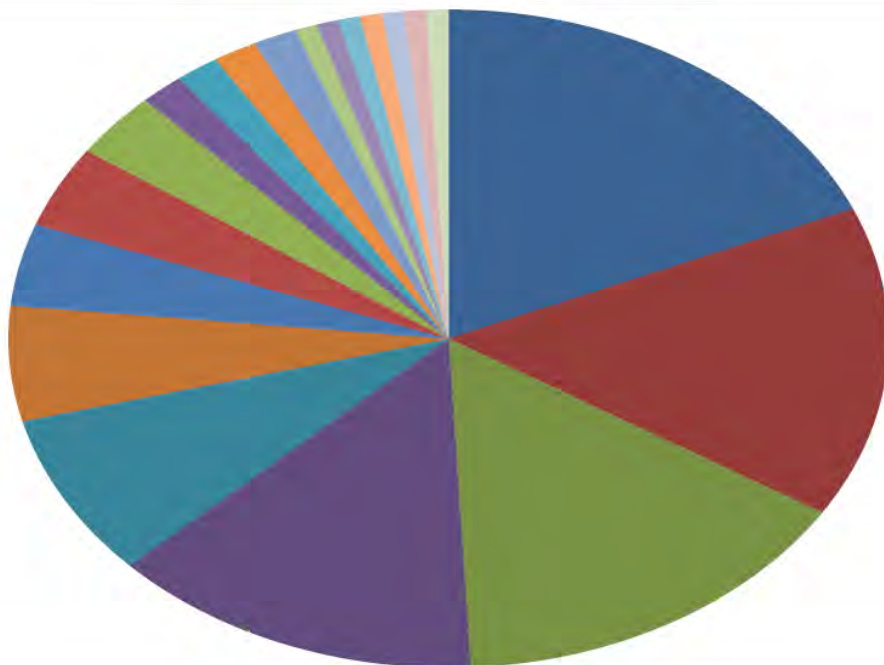




Archery - 23  
 Walks/Hikes - 14  
 Audubon/Birdshow - 14  
 Bird/Butterflyhouse - 12  
 Tractor/Wagon - 10  
 Birds - 8  
 Casting - 8  
 Decoy Painting - 8  
 Kids Activities/Classroom - 7  
 Exhibitors/Booths - 7  
 No Answer - 6  
 All/Everything - 6  
 Face Painting - 6  
 Golf - 5  
 Misc.\* - 5  
 Painting Bags - 4  
 Fish Print - 2  
 Dog Demo - 2  
 Pond Study - 1

## Favorite Activity

\*Misc. includes: The scenery, Kids loved the Origami, being in the video about the refuge & Bird Festival, Free food & The sand pit.



Tigard - 23  
 Sherwood - 19  
 Beaverton - 19  
 Portland - 17  
 Tualatin - 10  
 Newberg - 7  
 Lake Oswego - 5  
 West Linn - 5  
 Hillsboro - 4  
 Wilsonville - 2  
 Dundee - 2  
 Sandy - 2  
 None Given - 2  
 Homer, AK - 1  
 Gladstone - 1  
 Clackamas - 1  
 Mollala - 1  
 Seaside/Gearhart - 1  
 Salem - 1  
 Medford - 1  
 Aurora - 1

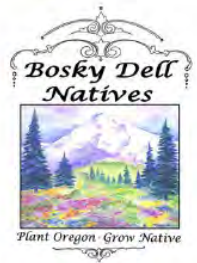
## Zip Codes





**Rockwell  
Collins**

**Cabela's**  
WORLD'S FOREMOST OUTFITTER



Donations made in memory of  
**H. Jay Medley**

A 15 year Tualatin River Bird Festival Volunteer



**Festival Sponsorships Matter**

**Help us thank our Festival Sponsors by supporting them!**



## SPECIAL REPORT:

### 4th Annual President's Volunteer Service Awards

The fourth Annual President's Volunteer Service Award presentation was held before the March Friends Board Meeting to honor Friends volunteers that have contributed a substantial amount of volunteer time. It was publicized that the Friends would be documenting all hours that our members contribute to the Refuge and to the Friends each year, and that we would begin to honor their service annually with this award. Friends of the Refuge are certified to record and submit volunteer service hours to qualify for the President's Volunteer Service Awards. If you would like to participate, please contact Bonnie Anderson at [Info@FriendsofTualatinRefuge.org](mailto:Info@FriendsofTualatinRefuge.org) or (503) 625-5944 x227 to find out about tracking your volunteer hours. The President's Volunteer Service Award recognizes United States Citizens and lawfully admitted permanent residents of the United States who have achieved the required number of hours of service over a 12-month period- or cumulative hours over the course of a lifetime. Award recipients are recognized with the official President's Volunteer Service Award pin, a personalized certificate of achievement and a congratulatory letter from the President of the United States.

These are the Friend's 2016 award recipients by level (Volunteer Hours):

**Bronze Teen** 50-74 volunteer hours in 2016: Blair Anderson, Cooper Anderson, Michi Stoeller.

**Bronze Adults** 100-249 volunteer hours in 2016: Kristie Al-Rashidi, Bobbie Allaire, Pat Allaire, Barbara Allen, Pattie Beaven, Richard Bennett, Barbara Bimey, Drew Bolger, Mike Burnett, Stan Carovano, Wendy Cattanach, David Collin, Darlene Dumke, Marilyn Ellis, Bob Emmerich, Pam Farris, Gary Fawver, Mary French, Robin Harrower, Keith Mays, Paula McCall, Don Nelson, Ruthann Panck, Larry Ruddell, Steve Runnels, Judy Silverforb, Andrew Tappy, Joan Try, Bob Try and Karen Wagner.

**Silver Adults** 200-499 volunteer hours in 2016: Bonnie Anderson, Toybyn Bower, Dawn Carovano, Christine Crocker, Bob Fuquay, John Gendron, Larry Harrington, Linda Kilgore, Virginia Maffitt, Berk Moss, Doug Niwa, Mike Skinner and Willem Stoeller.

**Gold Adults** 500+ volunteer hours in 2016: Georgianna Burnett, Cheryl Hart, Tom Hartz and Sharon Miller



#### Bronze Level

Kids: 50 to 74 hours  
Young Adults: 100 to 174 hours  
Adults: 100 to 249 hours

Family & Groups: 200 to 499 hours



#### Silver Level.

Kids: 75 to 99 hours  
Young Adults: 175 to 249 hours  
Adults: 250 to 499 hours

Family & Groups: 500 to 999 hours



#### Gold Level

Kids: 100 hours or more  
Young Adults: 250 hours or more  
Adults: 500 hours or more

Family & Groups: 1000 hours or more



## **SPECIAL REPORT:**

### **A Message from the Refuge Manager**



I have now been here almost nine months and the time has flown by, with much of it highlighted by moving, the weather, and the opportunity to meet many of you. From the great snowstorms and icestorms of my first couple of weeks to the record high temperatures this summer, the weather has certainly been variable. This is in contrast to how the Friends Group functions at this refuge which is constant, predictable and vital.

Wildlife and habitats represent the essence of a refuge. The Friends Group represents the heart and face of this refuge. The heart as seen by your willingness to provide your passion, dedication, hard work and financial resources for the betterment of the refuge. The face because you are who the public sees and interacts with on a daily basis. These are important functions which are critical to our mission, thank you for doing them so well.

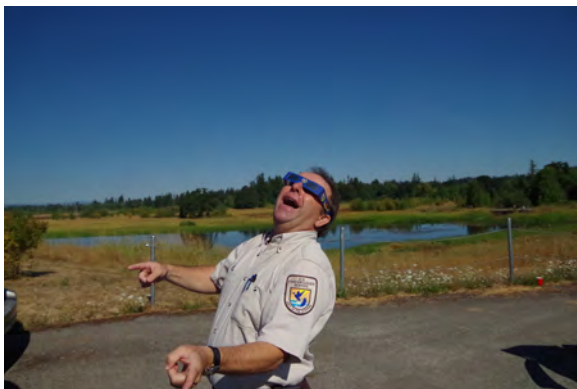
The Friends Group provides a huge amount of support for the refuge. It represents a win-win situation as shown by a Visitor Center that is open 6 days a week, environmental education and interpretive programs that are effective and used, additional habitat restoration and management activities, administrative support and a cadre of talented volunteers. Without your support we would have a very limited program of public engagement and the resources that we used in that capacity would be at the expense of other programs resulting in a lose-lose situation.

The Tualatin River NWR was established in 1992 making this year 2017 the 25th Anniversary. On October 14th we are going to take the opportunity to look at where we have been, how we got here and who helped us along the way. It is an opportunity to celebrate the many accomplishments that have occurred to make the refuge what it is today. The day will include the opportunity to hike some new areas, learn about restoration on Chicken Creek and Rock Creek, learn about the history of onion farming on the refuge, view historical photographs, participate in kid-related activities and enjoy some cake and refreshments. I hope to see you there and please come and introduce yourself as so many have done previously.

Thank-you again for all you do and I look forward to continuing to work with you in the future.

Larry Klimek, Project Leader

Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge Complex



*Extreme eciipse watching with Larry Klimek!*



## SPECIAL REPORT: Board Members

2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Gary Fawver	Dawn Carovano (1)	Cheryl Hart (1)
Tom Hartz	Linda Kilgore (1)	Bonnie Anderson (1)
Sharon Miller	Michelle Miller (1)	Keith Mays (1)
Don Nelson	Willem Stoeller (1)	
Peter Paquet		* ( ) number of 3 year terms elected to served since bylaw change 2016
Edwin Squiers		

## SPECIAL REPORT: Tualatin River Photographic Society Don Nelson, FOR Board Member

The Photo Society has had a great year! At our monthly (September to June) meetings, we had speakers on:

- Where to photograph in Eastern Oregon/Eastern Washington. Author Greg Vaughn showcased his photography and shared locations.
- How to - Bird photography (Videos) – by the talented Alan Murphy were shown. Alan's Bird photography is often on the cover (or inside) of Birding magazine, Bird Watching, Bird Conservation, Vermilion Flycatcher (Tucson Audubon), Duncraft, etc. You can see some of his work at <http://www.alanmurphyphotography.com/press.htm>. I am sure you will realize that you have seen the work of this outstanding Texas bird photographer after looking at this page.
- How to Prepare a Photo Book – talented George Burnett, FOR member, shared her methods of creating excellent photo books, and showed some of those she created for previous summer camps here on the refuge.
- Former TRNWR Project leader Erin Holmes shared photographs and stories about her time at Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, with great stories and pictures about training to escape from an water aircraft crash (training), and finding out that she should have brought camping gear to the campout (as well as some fascinating pictures of wildlife and the trip itself).
- Frame Central's Foster Coates gave a presentation on how to get your photographs framed and ready to hang.
- Hummingbird Photography was presented by Don. This program gave tips and prepared the group for the hummingbird photography meetup later in the month.
- Night Photography is a continuing topic for the group. Jim showed some videos he had purchased which demonstrated how to do night photography and added the use of a low intensity light to

illuminate the foreground (Note: The National Parks have made it illegal to use lights, flash, strobes, or light painting in any National Park as of this May, so don't try this technique at those locations). This presentation prepared us for a Milky Way Photography Meetup.

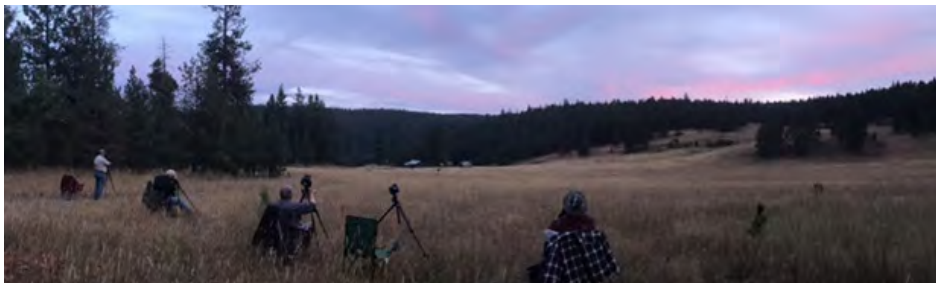
- Our September meeting features a guest speaker – award winning speaker Denise Ippilito. Denise has won many awards, including BBC Nature, Windland Rice, and others. She is sharing her photography and how-tos for subjects including bird, nature, landscape and flower photography. You can see some of her work at [deniseippilito.com](http://deniseippilito.com).

We also held meetups off the refuge to share photography skills with others in the group.

- The meetup to photograph seldom-seen waterfalls on the north side of the Columbia River Gorge was a success in November. We visited 7 waterfalls.
- The meetup to photograph south-side waterfalls in the Columbia Gorge this spring was literally a wash-out. While the rain held off, the waterfalls were flowing with spectacular quantities of water which prevented even seeing anything but spray at popular waterfalls such as Horsetail. Next year perhaps?
- Hummingbird High-speed Flash Meet-Up was a success. We set up at David's home. Eight members showed up to make photographs on two high-speed flash setups. We saw many male rufous and Anna's hummingbirds, and a few female rufous hummingbirds as well. The rain held off until evening so we were able to make lots of images.
- Milky Way photography meetup was held at Stevens, Washington. Lots of great images of the Milky Way over the Stonehenge monument to WW1.
- A meeting was held to photograph the Total Eclipse in August. We travelled to a ranch owned by one of the FOR Board members over in Eastern Oregon.

- A Dahlia meetup in Canby was scheduled for September.

We held a juried show in the fall of 2016 to showcase the work of members of the Friends. The show was up for three months.







Photos taken at Tualatin River NWR by Bjorn Fredrickson and Kim Strassburg