



**FRIENDS OF TUALATIN RIVER
NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
ANNUAL REPORT
2018**

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 US Fish and Wildlife Service. We deeply appreciate the support we receive. Your support directly allows us to achieve our Mission of supporting the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge. This past year, the Friends have supported the Refuge in a variety of ways. This includes helping with the Refuge's 25th Anniversary celebration for the public, providing staff development funds such as GISI certification for Sarah Williams-Brown, sponsoring tabling events such as the Wapato Showdown in Gaston and providing support funds for restoration, education and interpretation programs. Your financial support of the Friends allows us to do what we do best - Joyfully Connecting Our Community with the Wonder of the Refuge.

Friends' General Refuge Support

Anonymous
Ancestry Brewing
Amazon Smile
Charles Bosse
Lisa Brenner & Tom Stibolt
Digimarc Corp
Robert Erickson
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Friends of the Refuge Board of Directors
Friends of the Refuge Members
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Intel Volunteer Hours Grant Program
Intel Employee - Community Giving Campaign Match Funds
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Don Nelson
Jim Nidel-Edwards
Oregon Beverage Recycling Bottle Drop
Scott Owen
Barb & Jon Stroud
Washington County Strategic Investment Program
Jay & Mary Ann Watson

Donations in Honor or Memory

In Memory of Friends' Board Member and EE Committee Chair Berk Moss
Gloria Moss, June Poling, Judith Silverforb, Evan and Linda Deboer, Thomas Hartz, Wendy Cattannach, Willem Stoeller, Lynetta Allenbrand, Carleen Sim, Joan Patterson, Julie Freely, Martha DeWeese, Stan & Dawn Carovano, and Susan Colburn
In Memory of Sharon Tray - Donation from Nora Bullock
In Memory of Fran Waslton - Donation from Robin Pennock, William Wasweller, Nikki Squire
In Memory of Paul Werschull

Environmental Education Programs

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Grasmajeto Fund of the Oregon Community Foundation

Refuge Restoration Programs

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Special Events

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
City of Sherwood
Electronic Wood Systems North America
Cabela's
Bosky Dell Natives
Clean Water Services
Marsh Consulting LLC
Pride Disposal Co.

2017 #Giving Tuesday

Anonymous, Pat Allaire, Bonnie Anderson, Georgia Brown, Sharon Birrel, Dawn & Stan Carovano, Wendy Cattannach, Alan Christensen, James Cody, Judy Doyle, Keith Mays, Linda Kilgore, Thomas Hartz, Sharon Miller, Susan Keese, Michelle Miller, Cheryl Hart, Stephanie Shaw, Ginny Maffitt, Virginia Parks, Nicole Hartz, Michael Jolley, Ira Dell Kilgore, Mary Watson, Margaret Federspiel, Elaine MacDonald, David Collin, Amie Kilgore, Lynn Johnston, Nancy Mann, Margie Adams, Sharon Koeing, Linda Hartling, Colleen Cain, Jeanne Link, Becky Chinn, Robin Harrower, Marilyn Hatzell

Emerald Patron Festival Sponsors

Anonymous (2)	Bonnie & Marty Anderson
Dawn & Stan Carovano	Tom Hartz
Cheryl Hart	John & Debbie Marsh
Sharon Miller	Edwin Squiers
Willem Stoeller & Cathy Shikatani	



Please be sure to "like" the Friends' Facebook page in 2019! 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.

2018 Annual Report Friends of Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge

BOARD STATEMENT



This year the Friends of the Refuge made huge strides in reaching out to our surrounding communities. As a member of the Friends, you play a pivotal role in helping our staff, Board and Refuge volunteers deliver programs and perform mission critical restoration. Volunteer hours reflect the health and commitment of our organization. Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge Complex (TRNWRC) volunteers provided over 15,000 hours this past fiscal year, the equivalent of 7 full time employees. Out of 67 National Wildlife Refuges in our Region, TRNWRC had the second highest number of volunteer hours. The Friends provided year round staff to the Refuge to help manage and develop the programs for these volunteers.

Please read through Our 2018 Annual Report to learn in greater detail what was accomplished this year, but a few of the highlights will be mentioned here.

The Nature Ambassador Program has been instrumental in providing high quality and culturally appropriate educational activities into the community and welcoming diverse visitors here at the Refuge. They could be found engaging with the public at surrounding locations including summer free lunch programs, libraries and the Oregon Zoo.

Thousands of school children made their way down our well worn trails this school year, joyfully learning about the

natural world around them. Teachers feel the support from our knowledgeable and dedicated Naturalists who take the lead role during fieldtrips.

Special events played a key role in welcoming everyone to the Refuge. Our largest event of the year, the 22nd annual Tualatin River Bird Festival, had over 100 volunteers and 1500 visitors. The Annual Native Plant Sale with Earth Day activities had over 700 visitors. Spring break and Summer Exploration Days saw huge growth in families attending, looking for ways to get their children outside. Friends and Refuge staff, combined with hundreds of volunteers make each of these events successful and memorable.

As we watch our surrounding communities expand into what were once open spaces, we can reflect back on the role we each play in supporting The Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge Complex through the Friends of the Refuge. We provide refuge to everyone.

We have a lot to celebrate from this past year and look forward to even more opportunities to play a key role in the future of our Refuge. As you will see reading through the annual report there are big changes coming up and we as active members must play a part in making this happen. Volunteer needs with restoration, financial support to help assist the Refuge and your voice as a Friends member and supporter will all be important factors in the coming year.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Submitted by Willem Stoeller, FOR Board Treasurer
as of August 31, 2018

With one month remaining in the current fiscal year, the financial condition of the Friends organization is better than forecasted in the FY2017-2018 budget. Total cash balances as of August 31 are \$120,398 unrestricted and \$56,192 restricted. These \$120,398 of unrestricted funds consist of \$77,865 disposable funds, \$16,533 designated funds and \$26,000 operational and cash flow reserves.

The Accounts Receivable for Restricted Grants is \$110,140, a substantial increase over last year. This increase is due to the timing of grants being awarded, Federal/Agency grants for next fiscal year have been formally awarded at the time of writing of this financial report.

The Nature's Overlook Store operation generated 127%

of the planned budget and has contributed \$14,006 to the Friends organization.

This fiscal year the Friends contributed \$1,752 in direct assistance to the refuge. The approved budget for next fiscal year (FY2019) includes \$20,500 in direct assistance to the refuge.

As was the case last year, however, there will be a continuing need to identify new funding 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 much appreciated help.

Friends of TRNWR Budget vs. Actuals: Budget 17/18 - FY18 P&L Classes October 2017 - August 2018

	Total	
	Actual	Budget
Fundraising	(3,404.00)	(4,565.11)
Genl & Admin Cost	18,578.96	(668.14)
Membership Development	(6,149.00)	(4,332.90)
Programs		
Bird Festival	9,214.46	8,120.64
Environmental Education	5,249.49	0.00
Interpretive Program	7,710.88	(0.11)
Photo Society	3,385.39	(450.34)
Refuge Assist	(1,751.74)	(11,000.11)
Restoration	18,202.10	3,867.16
Summer Camp	(360.00)	(176.00)
Transportation	(2,437.50)	0.00
Urban Refuge	(2,900.00)	0.00
Total Programs	36,313.08	361.24
Store Operations	14,006.22	10,999.89
TOTAL	59,351.93	1,794.98

Saturday, Sep 08, 2018 10:47:22 AM GMT-7 - Accrual Basis

Friends of TRNWR
Statement of Financial Position
As of August 31, 2018

	Total	
	As of Aug 31, 2018	As of Aug 31, 2017 (PY)
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Bank Accounts		
Total 10000 FOR Checking		
Homestreet Acct	63,874.27	43,999.04
Total 10100 FOR MoneyMkt Bus.		
Partnership	87,849.99	87,456.50
10200 Store Nature's Overlook		
Account	21,759.59	13,325.37
Total 10400 Digital Funds Transfer	3,106.82	15,220.70
10600 Paypal Processing	0.00	101.79
Total Bank Accounts	176,590.67	160,103.40
Accounts Receivable		
11200 Grants Receivable Without donor restrictions	0.00	0.00
11400 Grants Receivable With donor restrictions	110,140.00	2,500.00
Total Accounts Receivable	110,140.00	2,500.00
Total Other Current Assets	35,168.78	36,317.51
Total Current Assets	321,899.45	198,920.91
Total Fixed Assets	1,096.28	1,096.28
TOTAL ASSETS	322,995.73	200,017.19
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY		
Liabilities		
Total Liabilities	(295.69)	156.91
Total Equity	323,291.42	199,860.28
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	322,995.73	200,017.19

Saturday, Sep 08, 2018 10:45:24 AM GMT-7 - Accrual Basis

Program	Gross Income	Expenditures	Net non-designated and unrestricted	Net designated	Net Restricted
Fund Raising	0.00	5,232.00	(5,232.00)		
General & Admin	35,000.00	29,231.00	5,769.00		
Membership	0.00	8,700.00	(8,700.00)		
Advocacy	0.00	4,780.00	(4,780.00)		
Bird Festival	24,324.46	17,423.00	0.00	6,901.46	
Photo society	0.00	300.00	(300.00)	3,000.00	2,876.70
Refuge Assist	0.00	20,500.00	(20,500.00)		
Store	19,830.00	6,368.00	13,462.00		
TOTAL	79,154.46	92,534.00	(20,281.00)		
EE	58,870.00	52,992.00			5,878.00
Interpretation	63,390.00	45,894.00			17,496.00
Restoration	44,750.00	44,731.00			19.00

Reduction in general non-designated funds [as of 8/21/18 there is \$78,382 in unassigned, unrestricted funds available]

RESTORATION COMMITTEE

Submitted by the Committee



Planting trees and shrubs with Friends of Trees

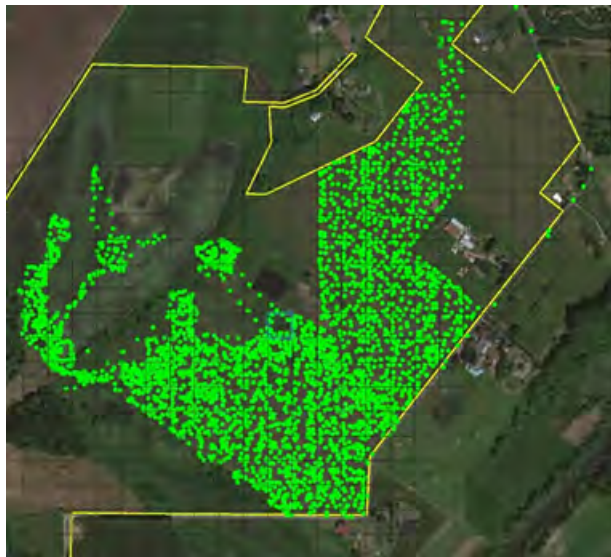
Work for 2018 was full of exciting restoration projects, involvement with partners and volunteers, and personnel changes as Sarah Williams Brown, the previous Habitat Restoration Specialist (HRS), transitioned into the Bio-tech position for US Fish and Wildlife Service at Tualatin River NWR in April. We got our hands dirty with Friends of Trees, planting over 1200 trees and shrubs along the pond we refer to as the 1P wetland. We continued to engage our community with second Saturday work party projects like invasive species removal and trail maintenance. One of the most exciting new efforts for 2018 was a collaborative partnership dealing with amphibian egg mass monitoring. This was the first year since the development of the inventory and monitoring plan three years ago that the Refuge and Friends were involved in conducting volunteer egg mass surveys. These surveys will help us determine wetland usage by native species such as Red-legged frogs, Long-toed salamanders, and Pacific Chorus frogs. Egg masses



Amphibian surveys.

from every species were found on the Refuge. This survey allowed us to connect with new volunteers and serves as an excellent example of citizen science. The goal of this new partnership is to connect those conducting surveys across the Tualatin River basin to share ideas and data. We are looking forward to working with Tualatin Hills Parks and Recreation District, Clean Water Services, Metro, and the Wetlands Conservancy in the 2019 survey.

The Restoration Committee and the HRS also continued their support of the Chicken Creek restoration project which will initiate phase one in summer 2019 (see back cover). Lots of prep work has been supported by the Friends these past few years and it's exciting to begin to see the finish line. Nathan Kossnar replaced Sarah as HRS in May and transitioned smoothly in treating approximately 200 acres for invasive species and helping to expand efforts in invasive species monitoring.



Invasive species mapping.

Nadia Noori, the USFWS Director's Resource Fellow, and Nathan Kossnar expanded on the grid-based invasive species mapping project on the Refuge that was begun in 2017. Work consisted of field testing a range of invasive species sampling methods

to help finalize a protocol which will aid in restoration management decisions. Based on a conceptual model and data structure developed by regional Fish and Wildlife employees, efforts focused on comparing the theoretical technique with actual on-the-ground data from site-specific habitats. Nadia and Nathan surveyed 100 acres during the first season of monitoring and laid the groundwork for staff and volunteers to continue this important aspect of the restoration program. The Friends are excited to see where the next year takes the Restoration Committee and we look forward to working with our community and partners. Thanks to Friends of Trees, Clean Water Services, Metro, THPRD, The Wetlands Conservancy and Ducks Unlimited.

VISITOR CENTER & NATURE'S OVERLOOK SALES OUTLET

Submitted by Sharon Miller, FOR Board Member



"Wonderful serendipity, finding your beautiful refuge" (California)

"Awesome!" (Singapore)

"What a beautiful refuge. GO OREGON!!!" (Florida)

"We spotted the Green Heron! We don't have them in our country." (Netherlands)

"Very interesting. Carry on the good work!" (England)

"Fantastic!" (Georgia)

"The eagle is having a good holiday meal!" (Kazakhstan, visited on New Years Eve)

"WooHoo! Wonderful!!" (New Mexico)

"Wonderful volunteers and fabulous center!" (Alaska)

"Incredible visit and views! Wonderful way to spend the day!" (Wisconsin)

"Amazing, very informative and visually engaging. Great job." (Australia)

"WOW!" (Ohio)

"Really nice park, really nice walk. Merci" (France)

These are just a few of the comments written in the guest book in the Visitor Center. Over 25,000 visitors came through the front doors of the Visitor Center this year, and many others attended meetings, classes, or events in the EE Classroom or the Riparian Room. Visitors who signed the guest book came from 43 states and the territory of Puerto Rico, and from 18 foreign countries on five continents. People are definitely finding us!

Of course, most of our visitors are from the surrounding area, and their comments are no less enthusiastic. Many people are frequent visitors to walk the trails in different seasons, and they express appreciation for the Refuge being a wonderful local resource. And, we continue to get first-time local visitors who "discover" the Refuge after passing it on the highway, sometimes for multiple years. They often become regular visitors.

The Visitor Center is staffed by a group of experienced, passionate volunteers who love talking to visitors and sharing information about the Refuge and the surrounding area. The Visitor Center couldn't operate without them, and we are so grateful for their hard work and dedication. In addition to greeting, talking with visitors, and answering questions, they serve as the sales clerks in Nature's Overlook, the Friends' retail store.

This has been a successful year for Nature's Overlook. Gross sales for the year will exceed \$50,000. The store has been stocked with quality merchandise chosen by our volunteer buyers, George Burnett and Jennifer Bennett. They work very hard to find exactly the right books and

other items that both carry appropriate messages about conservation issues and appeal to our customers.

Although it's hard to believe, Nature's Overlook and the Visitor Center have been open for ten years! We passed that milestone in January, and invited all the volunteers from those ten years to an anniversary celebration on February 3.

A big change that occurred this year was the departure of Rachel Dunham, who was the Friends' Community Engagement Coordinator and who oversaw the Visitor Center and the volunteers who staff it. Rachel accepted a position with the Xerces Society, and we were sad to see her go but so excited for the opportunities her new position will offer her. The Friends are currently in the process of hiring a replacement for Rachel.



A deer looking in the window of the Visitor Center after the volunteers have gone home for the night.

INTERPRETATION & ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

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



Naturalists at Spring Break Exploration Days.

Hosting special events and continuing to offer popular programs here at the Refuge has been paying off, and the word has gotten out. We all benefit from the growth of the Nature Ambassador program. Additionally, there were a dozen graduates in the Class of 2018 Volunteer Naturalist training program. The work of our many dedicated and creative volunteers has enabled the Refuge to offer and evolve events and programs to support the visibility of our refuge in the community. These volunteers are the engine that drives the impact of the Environmental Education and Interpretation programs.

Last year there were 300 visitors at our Earth Day event. This year there were 650 people that took part in activities during Earth Day and the Native Plant Sale. Creatures of the Night in October also saw an uptick in attendance. Eighty-five people got the chance to explore owl pellets



Rachel Dunham with Nature Ambassadors at the Newberg Public Library

and go on guided night hikes last year. This year we had 110 attendees.

The free Drop-In Spring Break Exploration Days took off with lots of targeted outreach to the local community and family/nature-themed special interest groups around

the area. More than 500 children and their families took part in activities in the classroom and out along the trails over Spring Break.

Looking for activities for families to participate in on the Refuge during the summer months resulted in the creation of Summer Exploration Days. Every Wednesday we offered a different theme with activities and crafts in the classroom. Many families became regulars and participated in the new themes each week.



Tom Hartz representing the Friends at Ancestry Brewing's 2nd anniversary, where they donated a portion of the proceeds from the event totalling \$1,020 to the Friends.

Our continuing Alternative Outdoor School (AOS) program drew 41 students from Sherwood and Laurel Ridge Middle Schools. The goal is to provide students who stay behind and do not attend Outdoor School at an overnight facility with an equivalent environmental education experience. This year we also partnered with the staff of Meadow Park Middle School in Beaverton, who were aware of our AOS program and had 50 students stay back from Outdoor School. We visited the class at their school during the



Volunteer Naturalist Tom Hartz observing birds with students from the Good Neighbor Center.

week and supplied them with guidebooks and materials when they visited the Refuge. Volunteer Naturalist and Friends Board Member Tom H. has been instrumental in supporting the growth of our AOS program. This program benefits both the students and the newly-trained Volunteer Naturalists, who see the AOS program as a way to test their skills.

Nature Ambassadors have continued in the second year of the program joyfully bringing the wonders of the Refuge to the public at offsite events. Over 2,000 people were reached during off site events this year. Nature Ambassador Volunteers continue to provide nature activities during the Tigard-Tualatin School District's summer feeding program, where children from 1-18 can receive a free lunch during the summer as well as regular visits to the Oregon Zoo, Newberg Public Library, Sherwood Public Library, YMCA Children's Day and multicultural events.

During this past school year over 2,000 students and their chaperones have taken part in school and group educational visits to the Refuge. The scheduling and logistics of offering this type of support to the community is an undertaking that would be impossible without dedicated volunteers. The Friends Staff and Volunteers offer a wide range of educational programs, all of them memorable educational experiences in nature designed for a wide range of age groups from preschool to 2nd grade, high school ornithology classes to senior community outings.

This was the second summer that the Good Neighbor Center, a transitional housing program located in Tigard, has brought youth who are in their program, 2nd through 5th grade, to the Refuge once a week all summer. The goal

of our partnership has been helping these students who have lots of transitions taking place in their lives gain a sense of place and connection with nature and specifically the Refuge. It has been amazing seeing student who seemed disinterested on Day One become engaged over the summer. Volunteer Naturalist Wendy D. took on exploring the Refuge with the Good Neighbor Center on a regular basis this summer.

Over 3,000 people took part in onsite interpretation programs here on the Refuge this year. These programs ranged from evening Owl Prowls to "pop up" interpretation stations on the weekend.

Sadly, we lost a valued resource and leader of our EE Programs in 2018. Berk Moss, whom many consider to be a father to the program, passed away on June 1. All of our volunteers have benefited either directly or indirectly from Berk's passion and council. All who knew Berk consider him a friend, mentor, and role model. He will be sorely missed (find a tribute to Berk on page 16).



Exhibit designed by the Allaires, resident volunteers, was on display at the library.



Angie and Mike Dale, Resident volunteers, host an interpretation station at the Refuge on a summer weekend.

TUALATIN RIVER BIRD FESTIVAL

Submitted by Bonnie Anderson and George Burnett, Festival Co-Chairs

"You guys do a great job! Best event in Oregon for families!!!"

The 22nd Annual Tualatin River Bird Festival was held on May 19, 2018. Early morning bird watchers began arriving by bus at the Refuge at 5 AM. The combination of a wide variety of activities, a gorgeous spring day, plenty of helpful volunteers, and our beautiful Refuge made for an enjoyable time for all attending. 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 Refuges are important to each of us. Well over 1300 visitors enjoyed the day's festivities-our largest attendance to date! Our increased outreach with Univision and Bustos Media had a tremendous impact on attracting more families to the Refuge. Surrounding communities continue to bring in the largest amounts of visitors, but an increase in Portland and Newberg show an increase in awareness of our event.



The Bi-lingual Welcome Table buzzed with activity, as festival goers interacted with each other while enjoying the free pan dulce, a Mexican sweetbread pastry. Parents shared experiences with each other about what activities they enjoyed.



"Have you had your photo taken with Teddy Roosevelt Bear yet?" or "Where did you get that bird bag?"



"A Beautiful Day on the Refuge Filled With Smiles and Laughter"

The festival was filled with activities for every age. The Conestoga wagon rides, bird house building, painting a decoy duck, fish migration Putt-Putt golf, archery, waterfowling demonstrations, arts & crafts, a nature based scavenger hunt and the always popular Audubon live bird show are just a few of festival activities this year.



"Great day, as always"

The whole event was great for our family"

Volunteers

Thank you so much to all of the volunteers! I look forward to visiting the refuge again sometime!"



Planning for the festival is a year long process. A dedicated group of committee members meet monthly to plan out every detail to make the festival run smoothly. Nearly 100 volunteers arrive in the early morning hours the day of the event to ensure that every visitor has a memorable and enjoyable experience. **I'm Hooked, Oregon Waterfowl Festival, Ducks Unlimited, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Sherwood Middle School Archery Club, Hike it Baby and Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation** are some of fantastic the partners we work to help provide outreach and great activities like casting, archery, waterfowling and potting native plants. The Friends of the Refuge provide the lumber for the always popular bird house building and the Oregon Guild of Woodworks provide their expert advice and help in build homes for our feathered friends. We simply could not do it without our exceptional volunteers.

Exhibitors

"All exhibitors were fantastic!!"

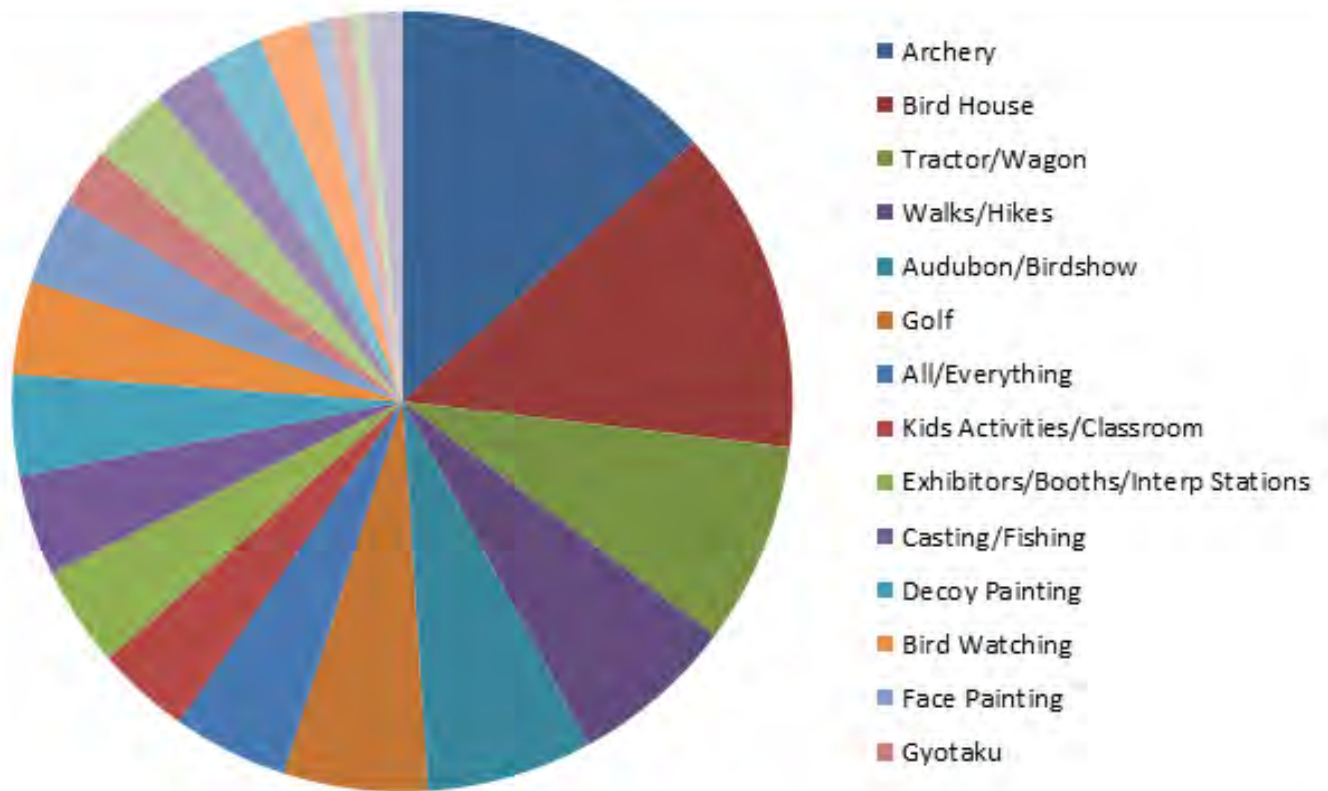


The Festival provides an opportunity for other organizations to do outreach in the community. We have grown our list of exhibitor in both diversity and number, and this year we had over 20 organizations participate. This years' exhibitors included Backyard Bird Shop, Clean Water Services, Columbia Gorge Refuge Stewards, Friends of Ridgefield NWR, Friends of Trees, Jackson Bottom, Prescott Bluebird Recovery, Tualatin Riverkeepers, Tualatin Valley Trout Unlimited, Washington County Visitors Association, Latino Network, Urban Nature Partners PDX, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and US Fish and Wildlife Office of Law Enforcement.

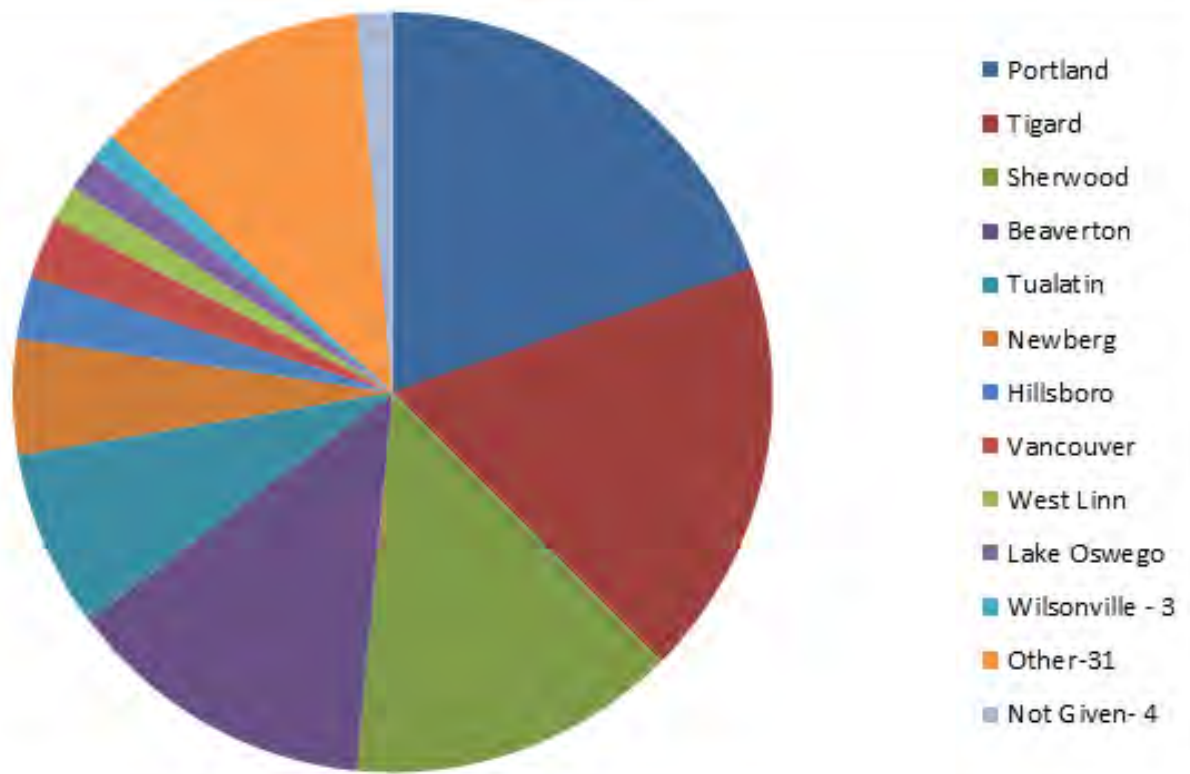
Sponsors

Please support businesses that made this event possible. All of this would not be possible without the tremendous support of our sponsors. US Fish and Wildlife Service and Friends of Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge want to offer a huge thank you to our 2018 sponsors (page 11).



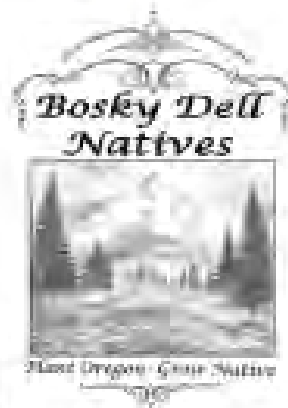


Favorite Activity



Attendance by Zip Codes

2018 Bird Festival Made Possible By:



CleanWater Services

Donations made in memory of

H. Jay Medley

A 15 year Tualatin River Bird Festival Volunteer

Emerald Patrons (\$100 donation)...

The Anderson Family

Anonymous (2)

Stan & Dawn Carovano

Tom Hartz

Sharon Miller

Edwin Squiers

Willem Stoeller & Cathy Shikatani

Cheryl Hart

John & Debbie Marsh

Festival Sponsorships Matter

Help us thank our Festival Sponsors by supporting them!

SPECIAL REPORT: A Message from the Refuge Manager

This past year has been a busy year at the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) Complex that includes both Tualatin River and Wapato Lake NWRs. Two milestones were reached as Tualatin River NWR turned 25 and Wapato Lake 10 years. It was also my first full year at the refuge and I had the opportunity to see the four seasons and the rhythms of the refuges. Other highlights included one of the largest Bird Festivals, expanded off-site interpretive programming, projects in association with the Urban Program, and all the hours put in by our many volunteers. This past year also included a lot of time and energy devoted to the planning of significant habitat and infrastructure projects on both refuges. These will undoubtedly be highlights in next year's report.

At Tualatin River NWR, the Chicken Creek Restoration Project, which will restore approximately two miles of the creek's historic channel and 250 acres of habitat, is in its final design phase. This project will significantly change the character of the area and the way it is accessed as we will also be moving a portion of the seasonal trail to the southern edge of the wetland. The project is being completed in three phases with habitat restoration ongoing, building the new creek channel in 2019, and reconnection and infrastructure modifications in 2020.

At Wapato Lake NWR, the north end of Wapato Lake will be a construction zone for most of next summer. Three projects including a pedestrian bridge, a vehicle bridge and new pumping infrastructure will all be completed next year. This is in addition to the habitat restoration work that is ongoing in anticipation of the new lake management objectives.

We will be working on Public Use Plans for both refuges, so don't be surprised if you are asked for your opinion. For Tualatin River NWR, the plan will help pull all of our public use programs together into a cohesive strategy. At Wapato Lake NWR, the plan will be one component of the documentation we need to open the refuge for public use for the first time.

Even though we have a big job ahead it is my goal to meet even more of you this coming year and please don't hesitate to stop by the office and say hi. Thanks for a great year and I look forward to what we can accomplish together in the coming year.

Larry Klimek, Project Leader

Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge Complex



SPECIAL REPORT: Board Members

2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Dawn Carovano (1)	Bonnie Anderson (1)	Gary Fawver (1)
Michelle Miller (1)	Cheryl Hart (1)	Tom Hartz (1)
Willem Stoeller (1)	Keith Mays (1)	Sharon Miller (1)
Mark Newell		Don Nelson (1)
		Peter Paquet (1)
		Edwin Squiers (1)
		Alan Christensen (1)

* () number of 3 year terms elected to served since bylaw change 2016

SPECIAL REPORT:

5th Annual President's Volunteer Service Awards

The fifth Annual President's Volunteer Service Award presentation was held before the February 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 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 2017 award recipients by level (volunteer hours):

Bronze Adult 100-249 volunteer hours in 2017: Kristie Al-Rashidi, Barbara Allen, Richard Bennett, Barbara Birney, Tobyn Bower, Stan Carovano, Megan Cash, Wendy Cattanaach, David Collin, Christine Crocker, Darlene Dumke, Bob Emmerich, Gary Fawver, Larry Harrington, Paula McCall, Berk Moss, Ruthann Panack, Larry Ruddell, John Schweitzer, Judy Silverforb, Mike Smith and Edwin Squiers.

Silver Adults 200-499 volunteer hours in 2017: Tim Blount, Dawn Carovano, Marty Clancy, Pam Farris, Bob Fuquay, Larry Harrington, Bridget Hatch, John Hatch, Virginia Maffitt, Doug Niwa, Frank Nusser, Mike Skinner, Andrew Tappy and Willem Stoeller.

Gold Adults 500+ volunteer hours in 2017: Bobbie Allaire, Pat Allaire, James Burrows, Georgianna Burnett, Cheryl Hart, Tom Hartz, Linda Kilgore, Sharon Miller and Don Nelson.



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:

Tualatin River Photographic Society

Don Nelson, FOR Board Member

Tualatin River Photographic Society (TRPS) provides nature photographers of all skill levels a variety of opportunities to improve their skills and share knowledge with others. TRPS meets on the first Thursday of each month from September-June and offers guest speakers, photo contests, field trips, and educational programs. We welcome visitors and new members.

September 2017 to May 2018 - the Year-in-review:

In September, we hosted award winning full-time professional photographer, international workshop leader, and creative artist Denise Ippilito. Most recently, one of Denise's images was selected as the "Birds" Category Winner in the prestigious Nature's Best 2016 Windland Smith Rice International Awards Competition. In 2015 she also won the Category for "Art in Nature" in the Nature's Best 2015 International Awards Competition. Denise presented on Macro/Flower Photography, Bird Photography, and some landscape. We held a meetup at the Swan Island Dahlia Farm to help attendees make better macro images of the flowers grown by the owners.

In October, Seth Winklehake gave an outstanding presentation on his work with trail cameras on the refuge. Also in October, Bjorn Frederickson, Tom Hartz, Jim Nicholson and Don Nelson put up a show in the Riparian Room honoring the 25th Anniversary of the Refuge with photographs made entirely on our refuge. November's meeting was a presentation on how to better use images taken in RAW to

make better photographs. Raw files are key to making the best possible capture and resulting image – far superior to JPGs as captures. And in December, our featured speaker was Tim Blount, who shared how to do better bird photography on the Malheur NWR.

Noted Geologist and PSU geology professor Scott Burns presented at the January meeting on the Missoula floods that created the scablands of Washington, formed the features of the Columbia River Gorge, and filled the



Willamette Valley with the rich dirt for farming. A meetup was held in Portland to photograph the night landscape of Portland.

During January, the Photo Society had a meetup to photograph Bighorn Sheep in Washington. We saw over 240 (Washington Wildlife count that day) and photographed a bunch at nearly point-blank range while they were feeding them alfalfa pellets. The fence we were photographing through before the feed truck arrived was at least 10 feet tall, and the biologist left the gate open after getting our agreement not to go beyond. The sheep were well behaved although a little pushy to get to the feed troughs, an excellent opportunity to make head portraits of the rams, ewes, youngsters and lambs. We then proceeded to the dam at the Dalles and photographed bald eagles fishing below the dam.

The March meeting featured Ken Hawkins, a photojournalist who has covered politics, disasters, and conflict zones—including in Vietnam, Nicaragua, and El Salvador—since 1970, working globally for publications and agencies such as TIME, Sports Illustrated, Fortune, Forbes, Paris Match, Stern, the New York Times, Newsweek, Wired, and the British Broadcasting Corporation. For over two decades, his work was represented by the premier photo agency.

At the April meeting, Don Nelson talked about the importance of microadjusting telephoto lenses for optimal image sharpness. Over 30 attendees brought a long lens and camera body, and members of the photo society micro-aligned their lenses.

May's meeting was about a popular subject – photographing the night sky. Jim Nicholson presented in preparation for a meetup later in the summer. Smoky skies this summer have precluded optimal conditions, but we hope for an opportunity for such a meetup in late September.

The Photo Society also purchased the necessary materials to put up the donated hanging track in the Riparian Room. One of Rachel's last duties was to select the rail color, and the refuge staff under Eva's direction mounted the rails on the bulletin boards. Thanks to all of you for contributing to the effort to put this up – it will aid greatly in hanging shows. For those of you that aren't familiar, this rail allows hangers on the track to be used to put up artwork, etc. Prior to this track, we had to put a nail into the wall for each frame. But these nails went through the thin skin of the bulletin boards into the concrete of the wall behind. The rails for this track were donated by a local gallery owner (thank you!).

Since no meetings are held June, July, and August, that's the full year in review. We hope you will join the Photo Society in future months if you have an interest in photography, whether a new beginner or a very experienced photographer.



SPECIAL REPORT:

Remembering Berk Moss

by Kim Strassburg, USFWS

Berk Moss passed away on June 1, 2018. The following is the text from Kim Strassburg's recognition of Berk's many contributions to our community. Kim shared her thoughts at the celebration of Berk at the refuge on June 26th. Berk's efforts and leadership created much of what we love about the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge. The Friends of TRNWR strives to sustain and enhance the vision that Berk saw in those early days.

Tualatin River NWR is a special place that, from its beginning, has attracted, welcomed, and included special people. From the USFWS staff, to the Friends of TRNWR, to volunteers, to advocates, and to the community-at-large....many have made significant contributions to what this place has been, is, and will always be. It's a place that represents visions and dedication to create and sustain a place for people, wildlife, learning for children and adults alike...but especially a place to foster sustainability of our collective future. Perhaps no other individual understood this better than Berk Moss. He often quoted Thoreau saying that "In wildness is the preservation of life."

It started back in 2003 when Berk was driving past the old refuge headquarters off of Roy Rogers Rd and noticed the new sign..."Tualatin River NWR." Always looking for opportunities for students and youth, Berk wondered if somehow the refuge could be a resource for science and nature education. So, he popped in and sought out the first Refuge Manager who recalled:

"Berk was a very passionate, caring man who I admired and respected for his ethic and caring for the natural world, one who wanted to share these qualities with our youth. A story that still resonates in my mind is my first acquaintance with Berk before any facilities had been built on the refuge for the public. He was chomping at the bit to bring classes out onto the refuge with few staff, no facilities and/or refuge materials, or any plans for how to manage logistics for such a task. After a long discussion, he took a deep breath and Berk said, 'well I guess we have a monumental job ahead of us.'"

That day, Berk left his business card and eagerly awaited the refuge's first Outdoor Recreation Planner. Later that same year, I called that number and it only took a couple



of meetings with Berk to get the ball rolling. As a Science Director for Beaverton School District, Berk understood the needs of schools, teachers and the nuances that made them tick. He knew we needed more educators to make a team, to be the vital link that with the community that would lead to success. So Berk helped plan and host a "free pizza night for teachers" which, in turn, attracted the inaugural education committee. Led by Berk, the teacher team created the refuge's environmental education program. One of those educators recalls:

"Berk was a man of many talents. At one moment he could be discussing the inner workings of epigenetics, and at the next moment writing a song about the beaver in his back yard. Berk's "we can do anything" attitude influenced everyone around him. He had a gentle way of encouraging me and others to think outside the box to find solutions to what seemed like insurmountable problems. I remember how palpable his excitement was about new discoveries."

Berk certainly was not afraid to get dirty. One rainy, mucky winter he helped plant trees at the site that became the

wetland observation deck...laughing at himself for getting stuck up the knees in mud and having to be pulled out by fellow volunteers. Then there was the day I was out in the field, figuring out the path that the new trail would take. I was so excited to show him where the education study sites were going to be located...so I called him. He was on his way to a business meeting in Portland, but stopped by



anyhow, dressed in business attire. He was a good sport as I drug him through the poison oak and the blackberries in his dress shoes and slacks to the spot that became the Rock Creek study site. He was dirty and wrinkled after that...but I am pretty sure he forgave me.

Berk gave so much of himself. Early on, we did not have a consistent and suitable place for working together. So in true Berk fashion, he opened his home and that is where most of the real work took place. So much was created in the hundreds of hours together at his kitchen table. As we were planning the Wildlife Center, I recall showing up at his house in Newberg at 5:30am....to pick him up on the way to all day architectural design meetings up in Tacoma. He was always cheerful....even in those 16 hour days....and provided the insight that guided what the classroom looks like today.

But it was more than planning...we knew we had to implement. Berk worked side-by-side with the refuge to write grants, plan budgets and evaluation plans and ultimately, in a Friends group and refuge partnership, helped bring in several hundred thousand dollars to deliver the program. It was never easy. But we always stuck

together with a shared vision in mind and Berk always brought wisdom and kindness.

Berk played a significant role in so much: the 1st teacher workshop, the education curriculum, naturalist training, summer camp, Puddle Stompers, Friends group board member, advocacy when the refuge needed it, being a resource for other refuges and friends groups...and the list goes on. But it only takes a trip to the Discovery Classroom to see and feel Berk's presence and impact. Take a look at the pictures on the wall and you can sense his joy of helping thousands of youth connect with nature in very real and meaningful ways.

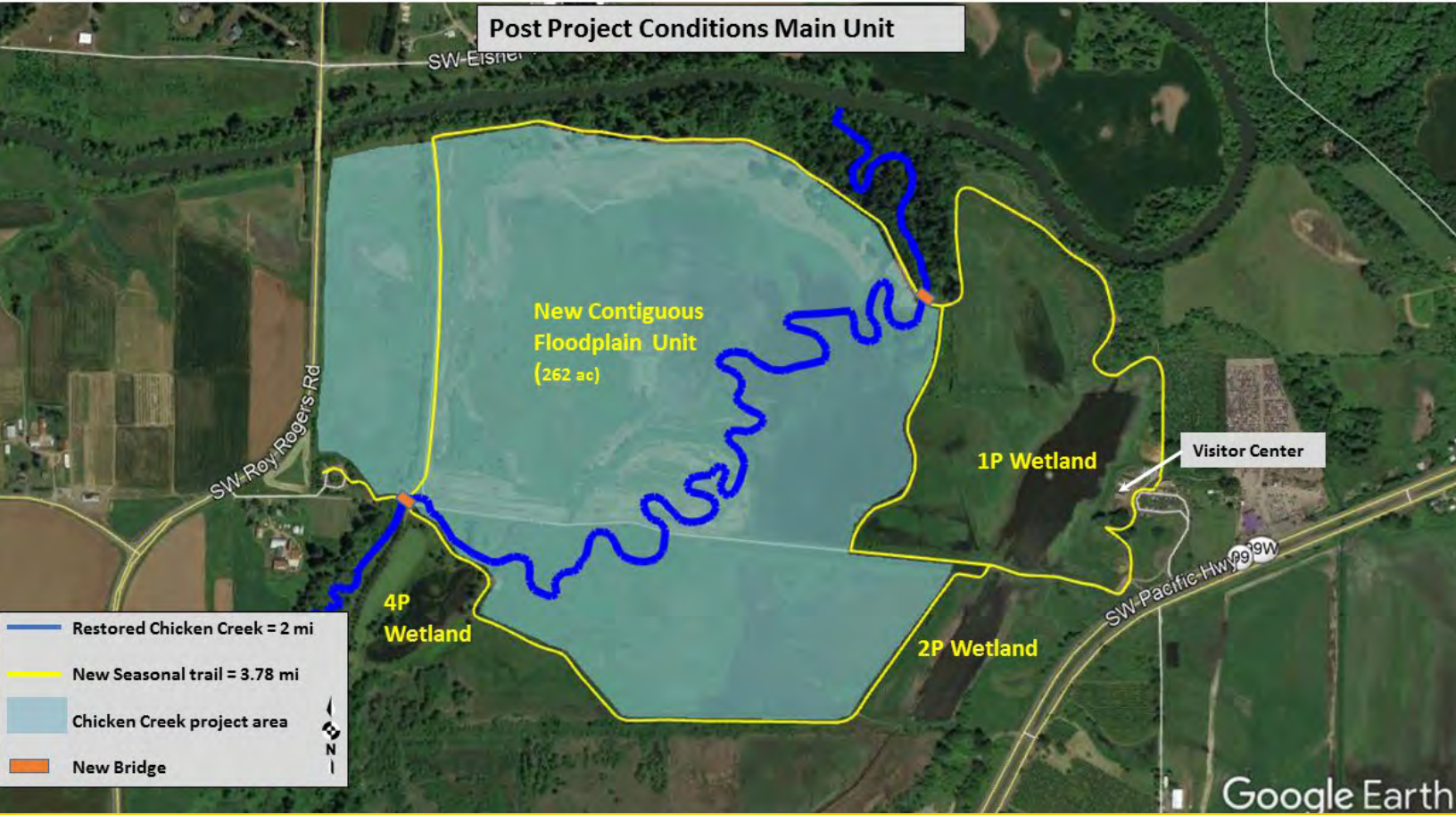
I visited with Berk several times in those final weeks. The last time he reached out to hold my hand and to say "we did it." And it wasn't just the two of us that Berk was talking about. It was "we the community"—the staff, friends, teachers, students, volunteers...all of us together.

Perhaps most telling is that Berk's final outfit was his refuge volunteer vest...and he took with him his field notebook, a pencil, and the wooden coffee stir sticks that he always carried to poke around in and explore nature.

I am honored to have worked with Berk Moss and know that we stand on strong shoulders as we continue his legacy into the future. He will be missed.



Post Project Conditions Main Unit



Chicken Creek Restoration

YCC Crew



The Fantastic FOR (Staff!)



Friends on the Refuge and in the Community: Spring Break Exploration Days, Alternative Outdoor School, Nature Ambassadors at the Zoo