



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

**2021**

**A N O T H E R  
YEAR LIKE NO OTHER**

## A Special Donor Thank You from the Friends of the Refuge

It has been an incredibly busy year at the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge Complex. The final stage of the Chicken Creek restoration project will be completed by year end. The multiple grants that the Friends secured over the past two years to support this large-scale project will have been completed and the public will finally be able to enjoy the results. We are proud to have been able to secure over a million dollars in funding these past two years, and feel it is an example of why our Friends group is so important.

As a 501(c)(3) Not-for-Profit Organization we can only accomplish the things that you will read about in this report through the continued generous support of our Friends members, volunteers, community partners, foundations, donors and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. We deeply appreciate the help we receive. Your financial donations directly enable us to achieve our Mission of supporting the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge Complex. We support efforts both at the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge in Sherwood, Oregon and the Wapato Lake National Wildlife Refuge in Gaston, Oregon.

It has been a difficult year for the Friends financially, but because we applied for and received two installments of the Payroll Protection Plan funding from the Federal Government and a Washington County Business Recovery grant, we have been able to weather the shutdown of our Nature's Overlook store and the reduction in donations and memberships. Alternative forms of direct donations have also played a key role in providing much needed funding for the Friends. Our Blue Bag Bottle-drop donation program, Amazon Smile, and Fred Meyer Rewards programs have also helped support our work. Supporters have used social media to individually raise funds on behalf of the Friends for their birthdays or other special occasions in lieu of gifts. Donations made in memory of or in honor of have also proven to be a wonderful way to celebrate loved ones.

When making your end-of-year donations, please consider the Friends.

Every Friends member and donor made this work possible.

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.



Please turn to page 19 for the list of Special Donors

# 2021 Annual Report

## Friends of Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge

### President's Message - Michelle Miller

As I reflect on my yearlong service as your President, I can't help but be filled with gratitude to our Friends' membership, who despite all of the challenges swirling around us adapted to our situation, just like in nature.

Our Friends members learned to meet virtually with ease and keep important connections, advocacy efforts and activities moving forward. We found new ways to volunteer and engage with our community, despite the unpredictability that this year has presented.

For most of us, the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge has indeed been a refuge from all of the tumult of this past year. It is one place where we can get away to reflect and find peace in the wonder, beauty and joy of nature found at the Refuge. The

Friends have consistently supported efforts to preserve and enhance the Refuge, ensuring that it is a welcoming place for all to connect with nature, which has become even more critical this year.



The 2021 Annual Report contains important facts and figures and memorializes our accomplishments that I urge you all to read. However, our resilience and dedication cannot be fully contained or measured in these terms. It is in the hearts of all who believe in our mission and commitment to the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge.

Thank you for the honor of allowing me to serve as your President. I look forward to seeing you again out on the Refuge.



### SPECIAL REPORT: Board Members

2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Dawn Carovano (3)	Bonnie Anderson (2)	Alan Christensen (2)
Willem Stoeller (3)	Cheryl Hart (2)	Tom Hartz (2)
Irene Vlach (2)	Keith Mays (2)	Sharon Miller (2)
		Phyllis Millan (1)
		Keith Palevsky (1)
	* ( ) number of 3 year terms elected to served since bylaw change 2016	Tom Stibolt (1)



# FINANCIAL REPORT

Submitted by Willem Stoeller, FOR Board Treasurer  
as of August 31, 2021

With one month remaining in the current fiscal year, the financial condition of the Friends organization is better than forecasted in the FY2020-2021 budget. The Net Assets Without Donor Restrictions as of August 31 are \$139,889. The Net Assets With Donor Restrictions as of August 31 are \$383,943.

The Net Assets Without Donor Restrictions consist of:

1. \$35,074 fixed and current assets,
2. \$39,376 reserves,
3. \$66,443 disposable cash.

The Accounts Receivable for Grants With Donor Restrictions is \$35,000 and the Accounts Receivable for Grants Without Donor Restrictions is \$0. Current Liability is \$1,004 Long Term Liability is \$0.

The Nature's Overlook Store operation operated at a loss due to the closure of the store during the pandemic. Individual donations are 300% of the planned budget. Memberships are 127% of the planned budget. This fiscal year the Friends contributed \$571 in direct assistance to the refuge due to pandemic-related project delays.

It is not expected that the activities of September will substantially change our financial outlook.

The approved budget for next fiscal year (FY2021-2022) includes \$394,000 in direct assistance to the refuge based on grants from Intel and others. This new budget includes a reduction of unrestricted, disposable cash of \$20,034. Due to the pandemic there is a strong need to identify new funding resources to sustain the Friends organization's operations and the growth of our programs.

This year we had a very welcome addition to our financial team: Keith Palevsky. Keith became quickly a great contributor to the FOR both in Finance and Governance. My thanks go out to Bonnie Anderson, Dawn Carovano and Keith Palevsky. I would not be able to fulfill my role as treasurer during the last six years without their much appreciated help.

Friends of TRNWR Budget vs. Actuals: Budget 20/21 - FY21		
Accounts	Net Revenue Actual	Budget
<b>Fundraising</b>	(1,296.00)	(7,139.00)
<b>Genl &amp; Admin Cost</b>	40,424.25	(14,828.00)
<b>Membership Development</b>	(3,477.80)	(6,336.00)
<b>Advocacy</b>	0.00	(1,150.00)
<b>Bird Festival</b>	13,295.57	0.00
<b>Environmental Education</b>	(3,681.18)	0.00
<b>FOR Refuge Assist</b>	294,310.29	0.00
<b>Photo Society</b>	3,235.39	0.00
<b>Restoration</b>	27,228.03	0.00
<b>Total Programs</b>	334,388.10	(1,150.00)
<b>Store Operations</b>	(4,603.40)	2,982.50
<b>TOTAL</b>	365,435.15	(26,470.50)

Friday, Sep 10, 2021 11:05:53 AM GMT-7 - Accrual Basis

FOR Budget Summary Fiscal Year 2021-2022											
October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022											
	1	2	3	4	Restricted 5	Restricted 6	Restricted 7	8	Restricted 9	10	
	Fundraising	Genl & Admin Cost	Membership Development	Advocacy	Bird Festival	Photo Society	FOR Refuge Assist	Store Operations	Restoration	Environment Education	TOTAL
Gross Income	\$0	\$30,764	\$0	\$0	\$4,750	\$0	\$100,000	\$16,650	\$0	\$0	\$152,164
Expenditures	\$8,619	\$37,657	\$9,800	\$1,000	\$12,190	\$0	\$394,000	\$7,372	\$52,307	\$0	\$522,946
Restricted/Designated Rollover	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$12,745	\$3,135	\$291,000	\$0	\$73,820	\$0	\$380,700
<b>Net Revenue including Rollover</b>	<b>(\$8,619)</b>	<b>(\$6,893)</b>	<b>(\$9,800)</b>	<b>(\$1,000)</b>	<b>\$5,305</b>	<b>\$3,135</b>	<b>(\$3,000)</b>	<b>\$9,278</b>	<b>\$21,513</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$9,919</b>
<i>Available for Rollover:</i>					\$5,305	\$3,135	\$0		\$21,513		\$ 29,952
<b>Unrestricted</b>											
	1	2	3	4		7	8		10		
	Fundraising	Genl & Admin Cost	Membership Development	Advocacy		FOR Refuge Assist	Store Operations		Environment Education	TOTAL	
Gross Income	\$0	\$30,764	\$0	\$0			\$16,650		\$0	\$47,414	
Expenditures	\$8,619	\$37,657	\$9,800	\$1,000		\$3,000	\$7,372		\$0	\$67,448	
Restricted/Designated Rollover	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0			\$0		\$0	\$0	
<b>Net Revenue including Rollover</b>	<b>(\$8,619)</b>	<b>(\$6,893)</b>	<b>(\$9,800)</b>	<b>(\$1,000)</b>		<b>(\$3,000)</b>	<b>\$9,278</b>		<b>\$0</b>	<b>(\$20,034)</b>	
										\$ -	
										<b>(\$20,034)</b>	

# Friends of TRNWR

## Statement of Financial Position

As of August 31, 2021

	TOTAL
<b>ASSETS</b>	
Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	\$454,761.78
Accounts Receivable	\$35,000.00
Other Current Assets	\$33,978.18
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>\$523,739.96</b>
Fixed Assets	\$1,096.28
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$524,836.24</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	\$1,004.20
Long-Term Liabilities	\$0.00
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$1,004.20</b>
Equity	
30000 Opening Bal Equity	0.00
31500 Net Assets With donor restrictions	383,943.22
32000 Net Assets Without donor restrictions	139,888.82
32500 Net Revenue Contra Account	-5,192.44
Net Revenue	5,192.44
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>\$523,832.04</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>	<b>\$524,836.24</b>



# Friends of TRNWR

## Statement of Activity

October 2020 - August 2021

	TOTAL
Revenue	\$126,147.18
Cost of Goods Sold	\$3,779.37
<b>GROSS PROFIT</b>	<b>\$122,367.81</b>
Expenditures	
60900 Business Expenses	502.00
62100 Contract Services	6,350.61
65000 Operations	10,720.93
65004 Software Maint Agreements	236.95
65005 Software	56.00
65015 Hardware	4,345.10
65070 QBKs Internal Funds Trans Expen	0.00
65080 NOTE-Remaining funds still in AcctReciev	0.00
65100 Other Types of Expenses	4,639.03
66002 Payroll Program Salaries/Wages	32,928.00
66003 Payroll Employer Tax	7,526.27
66004 Payroll Friends Salary/Wages	49,304.06
66090 Payroll Workers Comp Insurance	566.42
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$117,175.37</b>
<b>NET OPERATING REVENUE</b>	<b>\$5,192.44</b>
<b>NET REVENUE</b>	<b>\$5,192.44</b>



# MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Submitted by Membership Committee

Membership Matters - “Joyfully Connecting our Community with the Wonder of the Refuge”

Members are the foundation of the Friends of Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge Complex. We couldn't exist without our active, interested members who support, advocate, volunteer, donate and share their passion for and commitment to the Refuge. We rely on and appreciate all that you do!

Revenue from memberships has decreased significantly this year since people have not been able to come to the Visitor Center or attend events in person. While income has decreased, expenses have not. If you are not a member of the Friends, please join. If you are already a member, please consider stepping up to a higher membership level the next time you renew. Approximately a third of our members renew at the \$15 senior/ student level, and we would appreciate anyone who can consider moving up to the \$25 individual or \$45 Family level. Think of the positive impact this membership “bump” can have on the work we are able to do for the Refuge.

We know that the Friends organization may not have been your top priority over this past year. We have all learned to adjust to the pandemic, and you may wonder about what the Friends have been involved with during this time. You can be assured that the Friends have been busy! Although the Refuge Visitor Center has been closed since March 2020, the trails have been open for most of that time and projects are still happening. The Friends have been a part of two large projects that U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has managed this year. You will read about those projects in this report –securing over one million dollars for the Chicken Creek restoration and the preparations for opening the Wapato Lake National Wildlife Refuge in Gaston to the public. The Friends have also been active in community engagement with Sherwood Middle School,

West Linn Middle Schools and Greenway Elementary School in Beaverton. There have been many other opportunities to partner with USFWS as well, including our virtual annual Bird Festival in May.

Because of COVID restrictions, there have not been many ways for members to volunteer on the Refuge this year, yet there are still ways to become involved. Members are welcome to attend meetings of the Board of Directors to see what they do and find out whether you might want to become a board member in the future. Offer to join a Friends committee to help with fundraising or membership events. Encourage your friends or neighbors to join the Friends. Tell people you meet about the Refuge and suggest that they visit.

One of our Membership Committee goals this year is to grow our membership. We know there are many different reasons why people join the Friends. We would love to hear from you about why you are a member, and about how you think we could encourage more people to join. What would you like to receive as a benefit of membership? Are there members-only activities that you would like to access? What can we do to show you how much we value you as a member? Contact the Membership Committee at [Info@FriendsofTualatinRefuge.org](mailto:Info@FriendsofTualatinRefuge.org). We would love to hear from you.



# VISITOR CENTER & NATURE'S OVERLOOK SALES OUTLET

Submitted by Sharon Miller and Cheryl Hart, Natures Overlook Store Committee

When the Visitor Center closed due to COVID in March of 2020, most of us assumed it would be for a few months. Surely, when the warm weather hit, whatever this pesky virus was would no longer hold us captive. As we all know, that just wasn't the case. The Visitor Center continues to be closed, which means that Nature's Overlook is also closed. But just because we couldn't be there, greeting visitors and offering items for sale that strengthened our customers' understanding of wildlife and nature related to our refuge, didn't mean that the Store Committee took a vacation.

The Store Committee is one of the oldest continuous committees of the Friends. It was started in 2006, before we had a visitor center or a store. The membership has changed somewhat through the years, but it has always been an active committee of the Friends. The Current members are Sharon Miller, Volunteer Store Manager; Frank Nusser, Assistant Store Manager; Dawn Carovano, Friends Bookkeeper; Bonnie Anderson, Friends Administrator; George Burnett, Buyer; Jennifer Bennett, Book Buyer; Virginia Parks, Secretary; Todd McKinney, FWS Visitor Services Ranger; Sterling Ash, FWS Administrative Assistant; and Cheryl Hart, Committee Chair. The group meets monthly to oversee the operation of the store.

Obviously, during the shutdown we couldn't do the things we typically do, but that didn't stop the committee from moving ahead. We had needed to change our Point-of-Sale software for some time. The original software was no longer meeting our needs and there were other options available that we thought would serve us better. One of the things that had kept us from making this change sooner was knowing that we would need to shut down the store for several days or even weeks to get the software installed and transfer the inventory into the new



Cackling geese fly over the Visitor Center and Headquarters.

version. We would also need to develop new procedures and retrain all the store volunteers to use the new version. So, the COVID shutdown provided an ideal opportunity for us to make this change. We now have the new software installed, the inventory is entered, and Sharon is completing a new section of procedures for the manual. We are all ready to retrain our volunteers once we get the go-ahead to reopen the store.

Another COVID accomplishment was starting to sell items online. This is something the store manager had been wanting to try for quite a while. With no in-person sales possible, we had the opportunity to try out online sales and curbside pickup. While we know that most of our sales will always take place in our store, being able to provide these new services allowed us to at least make some sales and to set up an online store for future use. If you haven't looked at our online sales option, please visit our web page. The store is an important fundraising function for Friends and not being able to produce the usual profit from the store has reduced the income the Friends has available to provide financial assistance to the refuge.

For the past several years we were a collection site for holiday gifts for low income children through Sherwood 4KidsSake, so we were disappointed last year when COVID caused that project to have to go in a different direction. Instead, we partnered with the Good Neighbor Center, a family shelter in Tigard, and encouraged people to purchase books and toys from our online store for children in that setting. Twenty-two individuals or families did that very thing, and we were so pleased to be able to deliver over \$1480 worth of gifts for the children of families staying temporarily at the shelter.

As we all look forward to more "new-normal" times, we are hoping that the visitor center will be open before too long, at least on a limited basis, so that we can reconnect with all our loyal customers and a whole lot of new ones.



A themed assortment of items on display in the window.



# VISITOR SERVICES PROGRAM

Submitted by Natalie Balkam, Park Ranger, USFWS

While 2021 was another year of communicating in a (mostly) virtual world, we continued to find new ways to engage not only with our community and the public, but with our volunteers as well. With the addition of two fulltime U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Park Rangers, we were able to reach new audiences, reconnect with our current community, and maintain relationships with our volunteers.

## Connecting Virtually with Volunteers

In an effort to connect with more volunteers that haven't been able to meet virtually and to keep them engaged with the Refuge, we hosted monthly virtual volunteer events where volunteers could connect and learn about a new subject or topic each month. These subjects ranged from Refuge restoration projects, pollinators, cheetah conservation, and cultural resources. These events have been a great way for volunteers to engage with the Refuge and with each other.



Sherwood Middle School bags.

## Virtual Fieldtrips

This past fiscal year, Tualatin River NWRC presented virtual field trips to a total of 24 classes, consisting of about 577 students. These 'field trips' were presented to three different schools – two middle schools, and one elementary school. Our programming covered specific topics such as bald eagle conservation, but also had a dedicated focus on tying it back to the Refuge and the mission of the USFWS, and encouraging students to come out and visit with their families. We were also able to engage some of our volunteers virtually for these presentations, so it was great to be able to work with them while we didn't have in-person programming. For one of the schools, Sherwood Middle School, the Friends (with

the help of a grant from the City of Sherwood) donated canvas bags to each of the 411 7th grade students (filled with some educational materials from Environment for the Americas), and each of their science classes will receive a bundle of guidebooks, a spotting scope, and several hand lenses. We have continued working with another one of the schools, Greenway Elementary School, including outreach and education for our bird festival, and they will be our pilot school for our environmental education partnership program.



## Virtual Programming

### Interpretation

In addition to our virtual field trips, we were able to deliver a few virtual one-off programs, including a wildflower walk (virtual) for the Tigard Library, an overview of oak savanna habitat for an interpretive course at Portland State University, and a few virtual appearances at various local schools to talk about careers in conservation and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

### Puddle Stompers

This past fiscal year also brought back a popular Refuge program, Puddle Stompers. While we still weren't able to conduct in-person activities, we switched over to a virtual format. This definitely required some adaptations and alterations, and we even had to switch over from recorded videos to a Zoom format. In total, between recorded videos and virtual live sessions, we were able to offer 15 sessions, including many new themes.

Date/Time	Topic
June 9th 10 - 10:30 am	Snakes
June 16th 10 - 10:30 am	Flowers

Send an email to [tualatinriver@fws.gov](mailto:tualatinriver@fws.gov) with the subject line "Puddle Stompers" and indicate which day(s) you would like to attend. We will follow up with a Zoom link.



## SPECIAL REPORT:

# Friends Being a Community Asset- Greenway Elementary School Partnership Submitted by Bonnie Anderson, Friends of the Refuge

The 2019-2020 school year marked the beginning of the Friends' growing relationship with Greenway Elementary School (ES) in Beaverton, Oregon. Greenway is a Pre-Kindergarten through 5th grade school located along the Greenway Trailhead-Fanno Creek greenspace. The demographics of Greenway's 323 students include 60% non-white and 73% from low-income households. Greenway ES is also the only "walking" elementary school in the Beaverton school district, meaning that all students live within a short distance of the school.

I began the school year working directly with Principal Jennifer Witten on a list of supplies to support the students' connection to nature. Utilizing funding resources from the Community Asset Committee, I was able to secure \$5,000 to purchase supplies for the year. The Community Asset Committee works in conjunction with the Portland-Vancouver Urban Refuge Program (PVURP) to help identify ongoing community relationship building opportunities at the four area wildlife refuges. The goal is to reduce barriers and build trust between the staff, students, parents and us, and to help facilitate connections for students to engage with nature.

When COVID-19 struck, we had to adjust our plan over the year. Fieldtrips to the Refuge were replaced with Stem kits from TWIG Education- different modules by grade level provided a year's worth of distance learning and engagement for the students. Other supplies included large scale white boards for group hypothesis diagrams and eye loupes and class curriculum from Private Eye.

## 1st Annual Mini-Bird Fest

In April we partnered with Greenway ES to co-host the first Mini-Bird Festival. This event was the first in-person activity that many of us had attended. The staff at the school went all out to engage with the families about bird identification. They created multiple stations for the families to explore information about birds. Myself, Refuge Project Leader Larry Klimek and fellow Friends Board members Tom Hartz and Phyllis Millan provided information about the Refuge and the Friends. The turnout for the Mini-Bird Fest was an overwhelming success. Watching all the families showing up, most on foot or riding bicycles, really gave one the sense of an engaged community. Over half of the families from the school attended. Every student was an expert on the 5 birds we had selected to focus on and were excited to learn more

about the Refuge.

## Virtual Fieldtrip to TRNWR

Earlier in the month of April we hosted our first VIRTUAL Fieldtrip with Greenway. Park Rangers Natalie Balkam and Todd McKinney, Tom Hartz, and myself, joined Principal Jennifer and the Greenway Mascot "Corby" at the Refuge to broadcast a LIVE Zoom fieldtrip with each classroom. None of us knew what to expect- but we all agreed it was a huge success. This was the kick-off to an in-depth partnership between the Refuge and Greenway. Together, the Friends, the Refuge and the school, believe we will be able to see measurable connections with nature and science from the students and their families.

## Friday with the Friends-Summer Camp

In May, students engaged in our Virtual Bird Festival by providing "Ask the Expert" questions and participating in our bird count. In July, Tom Hartz and Phyllis Millan directed weekly "Friday with the Friends" sessions during the summer camp program for 75 Greenway students. Over the coming school year, the Friends will continue to provide birding

opportunities to students on the first Friday of each month. We have provided spotting scopes, binoculars and monoculars

for the students to use during their 20-minute recess periods. Friends and Refuge volunteers will provide guidance to all of our young birders.



Friday with the Friends Summer Camp.

## "We are Water Protectors" 2021-22 School Year

During the 2021-2022 school year, students will be learning about water quality and Pacific lamprey and gearing up for the second mini- Bird Fest in April. The Friends look forward to continuing to connect and grow this relationship with Greenway and are appreciative of the support from the Community Asset Committee, PVURP and the Refuge.

## ADVOCACY CHAMPIONS

Submitted by Cheryl Hart, Friends Board Member, NWRA and CORFA Board Member

One of the reasons that Friends organizations exist is to be advocates for our local refuges and for the national wildlife refuge system. With our national partner organizations, National Wildlife Refuge Association and Coalition of Refuge Friends and Advocates, we help to amplify important messages with thousands of voices nationwide.



\$4.87 to local economies. Wildlife refuges generate approximately 35,000 jobs and \$2.4 billion in economic output each year.

If you would like to see some of the other issues that Friends and NWRA have been advocating for this year, please visit the [NWRA Website](#).

Securing adequate funding for wildlife conservation programs and the refuge system is a top priority for the Friends and the national organizations with which we partner. National wildlife refuges are historically underfunded. Without adequate funding, the dedicated Fish and Wildlife Service staff cannot restore habitats, control invasive species, prevent poaching and other illegal activities, and protect our nation's wildlife. Our advocacy helps to ensure our nation's wildlife conservation programs have the resources they need so future generations can enjoy our wildlife legacy.

This year we have been seeking funding of \$586 million for the Refuge System. This would be the highest funding ever for the system, although with inflation, it only puts us back to 2010 funding levels. This funding will help our Refuge System and the communities near refuges. Every dollar appropriated to the Refuge System returns an average of

Friends also had an opportunity to advocate for ourselves this year. FWS revised their Friends Partnership Policies. In the past, this has been a somewhat contentious process since the Friends were not given an opportunity to be involved in the finalization of the policies. This year, however, FWS invited Friends to comment on the revised policies in their next-to-final form. They received over 500 comments from Friends organizations—the most comments ever on any FWS Policy, we were told. Linda Schnee, FWS National Friends Coordinator, and Maggie O'Connell, her supervisor, reviewed and considered every one of those comments and, to the extent possible, made sure that the newest version of these policies does reflect a partnership with respect for both parties. If the webinars they have presented for Friends are any indication, they succeeded!





# TUALATIN RIVER (VIRTUAL) BIRD FESTIVAL

Submitted by Bonnie Anderson, Festival Chair

Committee Members include: Bonnie Anderson and Todd Mckinney (Co-Chairs), Sharon Miller, Tom Hartz, Phyllis Millan, Natalie Balkam, Carly Hirschmann, Tom Stibolt, Pam Farris, George Burnett and Mauricio Valadarian (Consultant)

Virtual Bird festival was held on May 14th & 15th via Zoom webinar



## Friday May 14th

We kicked off the festival with a welcome video and Ask the Expert segment followed by a live broadcast from Chicken Creek. Deputy Refuge Manager Eva Kristofik started off in the creek, giving a recap of the progress of the restoration work. She was followed by Joe Skalicky, USFWS, discussing fish salvage and electrofishing techniques. The final segment featured USFWS biologist Dr. Theresa Thom discussing invasive plants and aquatics verses natives. Sean Connolly, USFWS, from Columbia Pacific Northwest Fish and Aquatics Conservation Program, was our guide through the entire segment and fielded the questions from our viewers. This 90-minute program gave outstanding information about the Chicken Creek project, what USFWS does to restore public lands, and the importance of native plants and animals for our ecosystem. A huge thank you to this team for the work and commitment to pulling all of this together.

Another outstanding presentation featured Travis Stewart and Greg Archuleta of the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde (CTGR), who presented on the cultural significance of Wapato Lake and the wapato plant to the indigenous people of this area. Two videos providing context and an informative question and answer segment were part of this 40-minute presentation. We are incredibly

thankful for the CTGR to be a part of our festival and look forward to continuing our relationship.

We closed out our first day of the festival on Friday evening with a 2 + hour presentation on the restoration efforts being made for the California condor. Chris West and Tiana Williams- Claussen of the Yurok Tribe discussed the restoration efforts the tribe is making on behalf of the condor. Kelli Walker from the Oregon Zoo's Jonsson Center spoke about the Zoo's effort to rehabilitate and populate the condors. Joseph Brandt, USFWS, was the moderator for the discussion and led the panel discussion and the question and answer segment.

Joseph was the featured condor recovery expert in the film *The Condor's Shadow*, that was made available for screening during our festival.



9 Thank you to everyone who helped make this year's virtual event such a success!



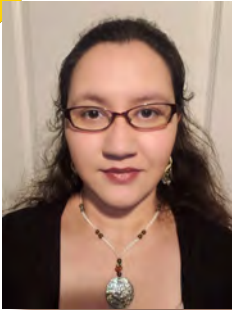
Joseph Brandt



Chris West



Tiana Williams- Clausen



Mariah Berlanga Shevchuck



Stephanie Littlebird Fogel



Gerardo Calderon



Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge

# VIRTUAL BIRDFEST 2021

**LIVE** BRINGING THE CALIFORNIA CONDOR BACK TO THE PNW WITH MEMBERS OF THE YUOK TRIBE, USFWS, AND THE OREGON ZOO  
MAY 14TH 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

**LIVE** CHICKEN CREEK RESTORATION PROJECT AND FISH SALVAGE WITH REFUGE STAFF AND FISHERIES  
MAY 14TH 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM

**LIVE** THIS IS KALAPUYAN LAND  
FIVE OAKS MUSEUM GUEST CURATOR STEPH LITTLEBIRD FOGEL (GRAND RONDE, KALAPUYA) AND MARIAH BERLANGA-SHEVCHUK THE FIVE OAKS MUSEUM CULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGER  
MAY 15TH 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

THE ANDEAN CONDOR MUSIC & STORYTELLING  
INSPIRATIONAL SOUNDS FROM LATIN AMERICA WITH GERARDO CALDERON  
MAY 15TH 2:00 PM - 2:30 PM

**AND SO MUCH MORE**  
PLEASE CHECK THE FRIENDS WEBSITE  
FOR ALL OF THE DETAILS

[WWW.FRIENDSOFTUALATINREFUGE.ORG](http://WWW.FRIENDSOFTUALATINREFUGE.ORG)



## Saturday May 15th

The morning began with a live presentation followed by a question & answer panel with artist and CTGR member Stephanie Littlebird Fogel and Five Oaks Museum's Cultural Resource Manager Mariah Berlanga Shevchuck. Steph gave an amazing presentation about the exhibition she did for the museum, *This IS Kalapuyan Land*, and gave an update on her current projects and work she is doing in the conservation field. Mariah discussed the origins of the exhibition that has garnered national attention for its innovative approach to correcting history. She also updated us on what is next for the museum.

Elaine Murphy from Backyard Bird Shop, always a staple of our in-person festival, provided a pre-recorded 40-minute presentation on attracting birds to your backyard. Elaine shared her expert knowledge about attracting, protecting and enjoying feeding birds.

At 1 o'clock we headed out to Wapato Lake NWR for a live update on what is happening at this soon-to-be-opened Refuge. Refuge Manager Larry Klimek provided a detailed overview of the Refuge and was joined by the Mayor of Gaston, Tony Hall, to talk about the impact the Refuge will have on the community. FOR board member Alan Christensen also joined Larry to discuss the role the Friends have played in the work being done at the Refuge, how the public can get involved in this volunteer work, and how to become a member of the Friends. Refuge biologist Curt Mykut also provided an in-depth overview of Wapato Lake NWR and information about the plants and animals that can be found on the Refuge. The question and answer segment ran long- but was filled with great information and engagement by the viewers. Another huge thank you to everyone involved in putting this presentation together.

Our final segment started a few minutes late but featured



the beautiful sounds and storytelling of Latin America by Gerardo Calderon. Gerardo shared his guitar and pan flute playing while telling us about the Andean condor.

All of the segments were recorded, and after they are edited they will be made available for the public. We envision their use in schools, volunteer programs, and for presenting a command

performance of the festival for the public, if they missed it. Attendance was difficult to judge- but we believe that most live segments had between 30- 40 viewers. Pre-recorded segments were closer to 25 viewers.

Our promotion of the event was mostly focused on social media, with several ads being purchased to promote it. We also "co- hosted "with the Oregon Zoo, CTGR, The Yurok Tribe, and multiple USFWS social media accounts to reach a broader audience. Although numbers (as far as we can tell) were low- the subject matter and content of the presentations was first rate. I welcome anyone who did not get a chance to watch to let me know and I can send you a pre -edited version to view- or you can wait for them to be available on our YouTube channel. For those who were able to attend - thank you - your support for our festival is greatly appreciated and we hope that you felt it was worth dedicating two glorious weather days to watch.

We learned a lot about hosting live webinars- and we will be exploring ways that we can continue to use this platform in the future. Both Larry and Curt have been thinking about ways to bring more information about what is going on at the two refuges to our members, volunteers and the

public by utilizing Zoom webinar. We are also exploring the idea of a speakers series- maybe in the winter when people might be more apt to spend an evening on their computer.

It's hard to believe another virtual bird festival is history. We hope that next year we'll be able to see you all again out on the Refuge!

# RESTORATION PROGRAM

Submitted by Carly Hirschmann, Habitat Restoration Specialist

We have had a wonderful and productive year of restoration projects at the Tualatin River NWRC. The majority of these projects have centered around our Chicken Creek Restoration area, for which the Friends secured substantial funding. These included removal of invasive species in planted wildflower plots, monitoring of threatened plant species, seed collection, wildlife surveys, installation of nesting habitat, and fish and mussel salvages.

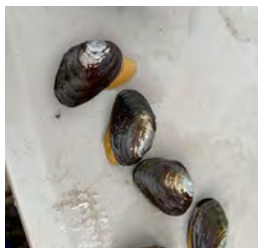
In June, we had a group of 17 volunteers from both the Refuge and Trout Unlimited come out to help us with this year's Christmas tree placing. The trees were staked to existing woody debris structures within the creek channel to provide extra shelter and detritus for fish and insects. Overall, we staked about 300 trees into the channel.



Nelson's Checkermallow.

This year we conducted a census of Nelson's checkermallow (*Sidalcea nelsoniana*), a federally listed threatened species in Oregon. With assistance from volunteers, we counted over 4000 thriving plants from previous plantings in partnership with the Institute for Applied Ecology. This was a higher number than expected, and the combination of plug planting and seeding seemed to really take hold in the Chicken

Creek Restoration area. Plenty of bees, dragonflies, and ladybugs could be seen amongst the checkermallow plots, which were simply buzzing with activity.



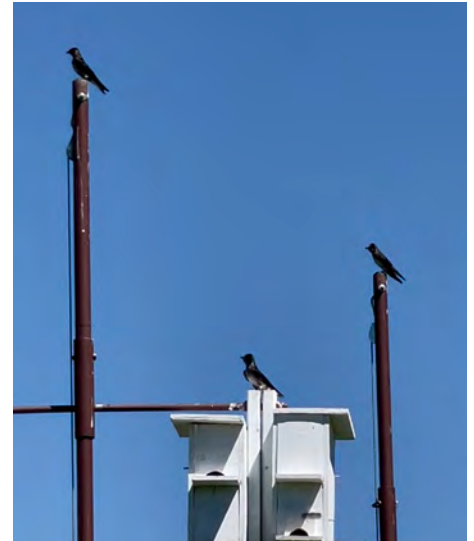
Our first mussel salvage was also conducted in June of this year with help from the Xerces Society, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and



Mussel salvage survey.

the Service's Columbia River Fisheries Program. Overall, we salvaged, tagged, and relocated over 100 western pearlshell mussels, as well as a few floater mussels. Staff from Metro assisted in their relocation to an upstream portion of Chicken Creek which they manage. This project was a successful step forward in local freshwater mussel conservation. A few months later, our fish salvage took place along the same stretch of Chicken Creek. We found Pacific Lamprey, over 100 Coho salmon, and over 100 more freshwater mussels during this project.

Another project completed this year was the installation of Purple Martin nest boxes at the Refuge. Purple Martins are the largest species of swallow in North America. The Western sub-species of the Purple Martin is listed as critically sensitive in Oregon. The Friends facilitated this project by providing supplies for the nest boxes and connecting the Refuge with the Sherwood High School Key Club. Students came out to the Refuge and painted these nest boxes white, which reflects the sunlight and keeps them at a cooler temperature for the chicks. To our pleasant surprise, the Purple Martins found our nest boxes within the first year! Although it was too late for them to begin nesting, this is a strong indicator that they will return to use the nest boxes next breeding season.

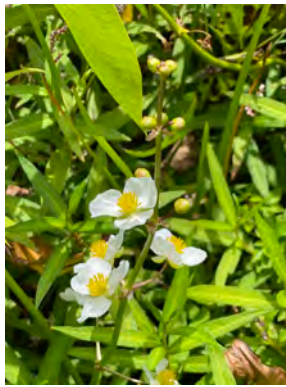


Purple Martin nesting boxes.

The Friends once again played an integral role in expanding Metro's amphibian egg mass survey program at Refuge properties this year. We partnered with Tualatin Hills Parks and Recreation District (THPRD), Metro, the Wetlands Conservancy, as well as dedicated returning volunteers to survey each of our sites twice for four different amphibian species. The results were very hopeful and encouraging. We found double the number of Northwestern salamander egg masses from last year, mostly at Wapato Lake NWR, and triple the number of Red-legged frog egg masses, mainly in our Chicken Creek restoration area.



Our Wapato Lake NWR work party involved a partnership with the feminist birding group Birders and Buds, who brought volunteers of all ages out to assist us in a successful trash clean-up. We are looking forward to fostering a community service relationship with this group in the future. The Wapato Lake trash clean-up was conducive to the upcoming Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde's survey for wapato (*Sagittaria latifolia*), an ecologically and culturally significant wetland plant.



Wapato in bloom.



Trash clean up at Wapato Lake NWR.

Carly conducted waterfowl surveys as the Friends Habitat Restoration Specialist, which included counting and identifying waterfowl at all Refuge units. Species seen this year included canvasback ducks, tundra swans, hooded merganser, dusky Canada geese, cinnamon teal, and many more. Another aspect of these waterfowl surveys includes identifying food and habitat availability for the birds at each site. The vegetation surveys determine plant species composition, habitat type, and percentage of emergent vegetation.



Carly has also begun collecting seeds from ecologically significant native plant species throughout the Refuge in order to propagate more plots at restoration sites. This includes the Oak Savannah habitat, where trees were thinned earlier this summer to prevent competition for space and resources. Seeds collected include wapato, golden paintbrush, penstemon, and nelson's checkermallow. These will be hand seeded in selected areas come winter. You may notice that the island directly in front of the Visitor Center is looking much greener due to the hand seeding of rose spirea and planting of willow stakes. Carly has also installed several new vegetation exclosures around previous planting areas within the wetlands to protect them from herbivory.



Volunteers assist with checkermallow survey.



Staff conducting biological survey at Wapato Lake NWR.

**Partners this year included:**

- Refuge Volunteers • U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service • Metro • The Xerces Society • Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife • Clean Water Services • Institute for Applied Ecology • Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde • Trout Unlimited • Birders and Buds • Sherwood High School Key Club • THPRD • Wetlands Conservancy



## SPECIAL REPORT:

### A Message from the (Retired) Refuge Manager

To describe this past year as different or unusual or frustrating would be an understatement. Few people, including myself, expected COVID-19 to continue to dominate Complex activities throughout the year. Safety is always a critical component and was especially evident this year as teleworking by staff was widely practiced, the Visitor Center remained closed and interactions with the public were mostly nonexistent. In spite of the health issues, significant accomplishments were made because everyone including the staff, the Friends Group, volunteers and partners were creative, diligent, flexible and resourceful.

Accomplishments were focused broadly on activities related to the Visitor Services (VS) and Biology/Restoration (B/R) programs. Several projects had increased complexity because they overlapped in multiple program areas.

For VS: waterfowl hunting was started at Wapato Lake NWR as the first public use, significant changes in the EE program are being implemented with Greenway Elementary as the first school, an overall review of the volunteer program is being conducted, the public use plan for Wapato Lake NWR will be available to the public soon and the hard surface portion of the trail at Wapato Lake was completed during the year.

For B/R: Chicken Creek is flowing in part of its new channel as the old bypass ditch is being filled in and preparations are being made to install two new bridges that will allow water to flow unimpeded through the Refuge, the new pumphouse was completed at Wapato Lake, and thousands of additional plants were planted around Ponds 1 & 2 at Tualatin River.



As some of you know, I retired August 31 after almost 37 years with the USFWS. Working with the Friends Group over the past 4 ½ years has been rewarding on a professional and personal level. I would like to thank you in advance for being as generous to the new Project Leader with your amazing work and support as you provided to me. Thank you for all you do.



The end of a beautiful day on the Refuge.



## SPECIAL REPORT:

# Friends President's Volunteer Service Awards in Recognition of Exceptional Service

Since 2008, the President of the Friends of the Refuge has selected four names to be engraved on the plaques that hang in the Visitor Center at the Refuge. This year we will be adding a third plaque to that space with four new names. The selection of these names is made by the current President, with some input and suggestions from the Board. Every volunteer is Exceptional. This is just an opportunity to highlight a few stand outs over the year.

2008: Robert Swanson	Carolyn Uyemura	Virginia Parks	Paul Jaussi
2009: Berk Moss	Carolyn Penner	Arlin Inman	Bob Fuquay
2010: Norman Penner	Cheryl Turoczy Hart	Bonnie Anderson	Larry Harrington
2011: Dawn Carovano	George Burnett	Ginny Maffitt	Mike Smith & Judy Doyle
2012: Bernie Smith	Gary Fawver	Jay Medley	Blair Anderson
2013: Sharon Miller	Crafty Friends	Bjorn Fredrickson	Charlie Graham
2014: Marty Clancy	Donald Nelson	Marilyn Ellis	Mary French & Doug Niwa
2015: Bob & Joan Try	Mike Skinner	Linda Kilgore	Tom Hartz
2016: Willem Stoeller	Pam Farris	Kristine Al-Rashidi	John Gendron & Tobyn Bower
2017: Pat & Bobbie Allaire	Jim Burrows	Ruthann Panck	Rick & Jennifer Bennett
2018: Scott Owen	Judy Silverforb	Wendy Cattanach	Jim Nicolson
2019: Michelle Miller	Barbara Allen	The Olivares Family	Frank Nusser
2020: Irene Vlach	Mike Jolley	Alan Fitzpatrick	Joseph Edgerton

## 2021 Honorees

### Darlene Dumke

Darlene is an enthusiastic and reliable volunteer in the Visitor Center and Natures Overlook store for many years, working a shift every week. She is great at engaging visitors in conversation and sharing her extensive knowledge of the Refuge. As a Naturalist Support Team member, she lends her skills as a former educator in leading environmental education programs. She is a vital component of our popular Puddle Stompers programs, where she, along with Ruthann Panck, not only deliver and facilitate these programs for young kids and their families, but creates many of the lesson plans well. In all of her volunteer roles, Darlene brings energy and dedication, along with her wealth of experience and passion for teaching the next generation about the natural world. Darlene has also dedicated volunteer hours to the restoration of the Refuge.

### Cameron Backus

Cameron started volunteering at the Refuge in 2020. Since then, she has made common appearances at work parties and participated in our Christmas tree placing and checkermallow census this year. She is polite to a fault and always eager to lend a helping hand. Cameron has a passion for sharing science with others, and we wish her the best of luck in beginning her career in the environmental field!

### David Collin

David has been a volunteer at the Refuge for almost ten years now. David is a constant source of support on our social media pages and always has something positive to say about the work of the Friends and the Refuge. Over the years, David has lent his talents to helping us improve our Bird Festival outreach and elevate our profile in the community. He also assisted with our Christmas tree placing and checkermallow census this year. We greatly appreciate the decade of time and contributions that we have received from David!



### Keith Palevsky

Keith joined the Board of Directors in 2020 and in that short time he has not only been a big contributor to the financial team, he also contributed much to discussions on membership, fund raising and governance. Keith is a great communicator and he does this in a very balanced, diplomatic way. Keith brings a wealth of experience and willingness to jump in and roll his sleeves up.

# SPECIAL REPORT:

## Wapato Lake Restoration

Submitted by Curt Mykut, Refuge Biologist

During the spring of 2021, Refuge staff operated the new pump station at Wapato Lake for the first time. The new pump station was completed during the winter of 2020, and represents a critical component of the restoration and future management of Wapato Lake. Due to the subsidence that has occurred at Wapato Lake resulting from a century of draining the lakebed for agriculture,



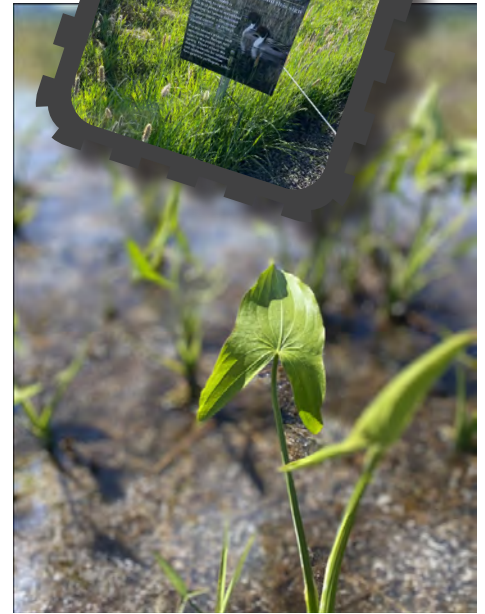
Interior of new pump station showing large and small capacity pump.

it now rests several feet below the Tualatin River and its tributaries. As a result, the only means of managing for a shallow water system that will support a diversity of wetland plant communities and associated wildlife is with a pump system that can lift water in the lakebed from a lower elevation up and over the levee and into Wapato Creek and the Tualatin River, which sit at a higher elevation.

The Refuge anticipates utilizing the new pumps to completely dewater Wapato Lake one more time, which will occur during the spring of 2022. By doing so, portions of the restoration work that are more easily conducted in drier conditions such as noxious weed abatement, removal of old power line infrastructure, and some of the native revegetation work can be completed. Beyond 2022, Wapato Lake will be managed to retain water year-round, and the pumps will be used to help maintain shallow water levels during the spring and summer.

The Refuge and partners will begin the process of reestablishing native wetland plants in the lakebed during the

fall-winter 2021 in areas where monocultures of reed canarygrass once dominated. This work will be accomplished by seeding, plug and tuber installation, and planting of bare root trees and shrubs. As part of the restoration work, The Refuge also began a pilot research project in partnership with the Confederated Tribes of Grande Ronde to determine pesticide and heavy



Wapato plants reemerging from the soils of Wapato Lake. Natural recruitment of native vegetation has occurred in the lakebed since the cessation of farming where stands of reed canarygrass no longer dominate.

metal presence in lakebed soils and native plants such as Wapato that serve as an important first food to the Tribe. The overarching goal of the project is to help inform the suitability of future harvest and consumption of native plants from Wapato Lake by Tribal members. Soil samples and Wapato tubers will be taken from the lakebed during September 2021 and sent to a lab for analysis.

The restoration of Wapato Lake is being made possible with the support from numerous financial and technical partners, including: the Friends of the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge, U.S. Geological Survey, Clean Water Services, Ducks Unlimited, Intel, Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District, Columbia Land Trust, Confederated Tribes of Grande Ronde, and ODFW.



Top: Exterior of old pump station at the NE and Bottom: Exterior of new pump station at corner of Wapato Lake.





# SPECIAL REPORT:

## Chicken Creek Restoration

Submitted by Curt Mykut, Refuge Biologist

The long-awaited final phase of the Chicken Creek restoration project commenced during mid-August and is expected to be completed sometime during November 2021. This year's work represents the busiest phase of the project, with multiple pieces of water control infrastructure being removed, ½ mile of channelized Chicken Creek being filled in, about ½ mile of levee/ access road being de-leveled, two new bridges being installed, and finally the reintroduction of Chicken Creek flow into a 2-mile meandering stream channel.

Before the heavy lifting associated with construction began, two salvage efforts were conducted in channelized Chicken Creek to gather and relocate aquatic organisms prior to dewatering and filling in the ½ mile linear channel. The results of those efforts give us a glimpse of the less visible native species that stand to benefit from the project. For example, numerous western pearlshell mussels, cutthroat trout, Coho, and Pacific and Western brook lamprey were observed during the salvage operation. When the seasonal trail re-opens during spring 2022, visitors will have an

opportunity to view the restored creek channel from the 2 new bridges as well as the existing pedestrian bridge located on the year-round trail.

Restoring 2 miles of stream and 280 acres of associated floodplain would not

have been possible without the support from the numerous financial and technical partners involved, including: the Friends of the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge, Clean Water Services, Ducks Unlimited, Intel, Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District, Willamette Water Supply Program, and ODFW.



Lower end of restored Chicken Creek prior to installation of the new pedestrian bridge. This is the location of the former water control structure, located just east of the photo blind.



Pacific lamprey collected during fish/lamprey salvage in channelized Chicken Creek.



Electrofishing in Chicken Creek.



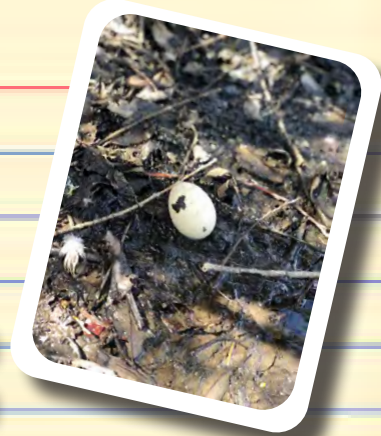
Cutthroat trout collected during fish/lamprey salvage in channelized Chicken Creek.



Chicken Creek, 9 September 2020.



More Snapshots from "Another" Year Like No Other



Special thanks to all the staff and volunteers whose photographs throughout this report capture the beauty of the Refuge(s) and the importance of the work we do together!



# Thank You, Donors!

## Friends' General Refuge Support

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Friends of the Refuge Members  
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Ameriprise (Anonymous)  
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Stan & Dawn Carovano \*  
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Washington County Strategic Investment Program,  
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## Donations in Honor or Memory

*In Memory of Laura Houk (For plantings on the Refuge)*  
Ken Burlington  
Thomas Dunn  
Amanda Messer  
Tracy Schindler  
Ruth Maxwell  
*In Honor of Bob Swanson*  
Andrew & Michelle Swanson  
*In Honor of Steve Smith & Kelsey Wirtzfeld*  
Libby Medley  
*In Honor of Bob & Cathy Smith*  
Libby Medley  
*In Honor of Vernon Johnson*  
Erik Johnson  
*In Honor of David Smith*  
Brad Smith

## Facebook Fundraisers

Tualatin River Bird Festival  
Giving Tuesday  
Karol Crampsey's Earth Day Celebration  
Bonnie Anderson's Birthday  
Carly Hirschmann's Birthday

## Environmental Education Programs

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
City of Sherwood

## Refuge Restoration Programs

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Intel Corporation  
Willamette Water Supply  
Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District  
Washington County Visitors Association  
City of Sherwood

## Tualatin River Bird Festival

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
City of Sherwood  
Bosky Dell Natives  
Facebook Fundraiser  
Bonnie Anderson\*  
Thomas Hartz\*  
Sharon Miller\*  
Michelle Miller\*  
Karen Wood  
David Collin



\*Member, Board of Directors





A rainbow leads straight to the Visitor Center!

A collage of five nature-related images arranged on a yellow background. From left to right: a field of yellow and purple flowers; a duck with a green and orange head swimming in water; a bird's nest with several speckled eggs; a group of people in a field near a pond; and a dragonfly perched on a green stem.



Please be sure to "like" the Friends' Facebook page in 2021. 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.