

MAY 2018

MAKING TRACKS

NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF THE TUALATIN RIVER NWR

JOYFULLY CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITY WITH THE WONDER OF THE REFUGE



PRESIDENT'S PERCH

By Don Nelson, President of the Board



It seems like spring would never come, but as I write this we are enjoying the first few sunny days in what seems like forever. Our wintering ducks seem to have headed north already, and the flocks of Cackling Geese are diminished by northward migration. It won't be long before the summer heat sets in and the refuge animals quiet down. Fortunately we will have water again this year below the visitor center. Last year provided wonderful opportunities to view the Osprey retrieving carp for their nestlings.

By the time you read this, the seasonal trail will be open on the refuge (May 1). I invite each of you to take the time to walk this trail – I am told that it may be the last summer that the refuge looks this way before the terraforming begins to restore Chicken Creek to its historical boundaries. The last map I saw had the lateral ditch filled, and the seasonal trail looping further south. A nice marshy area will replace the fields of imported canary grass, which will make wildlife viewing even more interesting. Give it a go, especially if you haven't already been on this trail.

The Tualatin River Bird Festival is coming up quickly on May 19. Visitor and member parking will be in the usual place off 99W up towards Tualatin, with buses bringing people to the refuge. For people working the Festival on the refuge, there will be another parking/shuttle location that will be announced soon.

Rachel, our volunteer coordinator, has suggested that our volunteers have many skills and background that are not well known to the Friends board. This is important as we revise our strategic plan; we will be identifying position needs once the strategic plan is solid enough to understand what additional resources are needed to accomplish the elements of the strategic plan. We'll be forming committees to accomplish this, and will be looking for people with skills and experience who are willing to share these with the Friends. The questionnaire that you can fill out is entirely voluntary, and you need only list those areas that you are willing to share. Examples of skills we are looking for that are known already include a person with prior experience in working with non-profits as treasurer, or general CPA skill sets. Another example is a person with experience in grant writing.

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MAY EVENTS

Puddle Stompers

May 9, 1 - 2:30pm

Bio-swale work party

May 11, noon - 2pm

2nd Saturday work party

May 12, 8:45am - noon

Puddle Stompers

May 15, 10-11:30am

Friends Board Meeting

May 22, 6:30 pm

Willem (the Friends President-elect for next year) is coordinating an effort to give our volunteers the opportunity to tell the Friend's leadership what experience you have that you are willing to share. You can download and print a copy of the Skills Inventory here: [SkillsInventory2018.pdf](#)

Thanks to Rachel for suggesting this as a way to give our volunteers an opportunity to share!

That's all for this month. See you at the Bird Festival. I will be at the Photo Society table - if you'd like to stop by to say "hi" that would be great.

FRIENDS OF THE REFUGE BOARD

The Friends are looking for a Treasurer to replace the current treasurer who will be president next October.

If you are interested to be part of the executive team of the Friends and have financial experience, please contact the current treasurer at wstoeller@comcast.net for more details and an interview.

BIRD FESTIVAL



**22nd Annual Tualatin River
National Wildlife Refuge
Bird Festival**

**May 19th 2018
10 AM – 4 PM**

Free family event
Wagon rides
Audubon birds
Build a bird house
And so much more!

For more information & offsite parking directions visit:
www.friendsoftualatinrefuge.org

HOSTED BY:
TUALATIN RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE




SOCIAL MEDIA



**HELP THE
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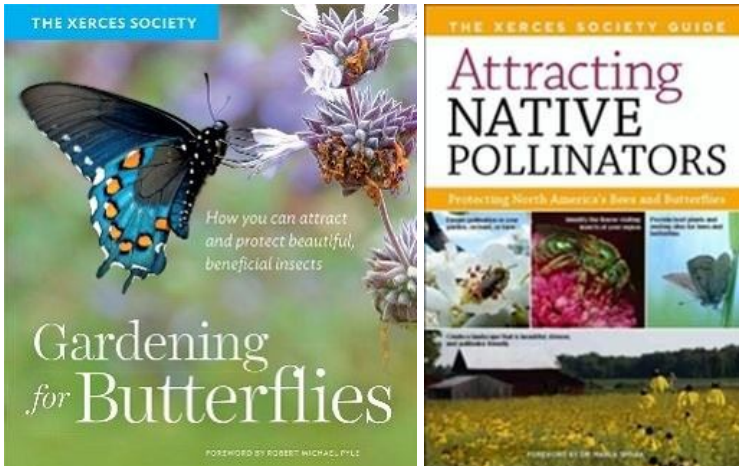


NATURE'S OVERLOOK STORE

Books

Hello, everyone – We've restocked some old favorites, and got in just one copy of these new titles (to start with) ... hope you enjoy them!

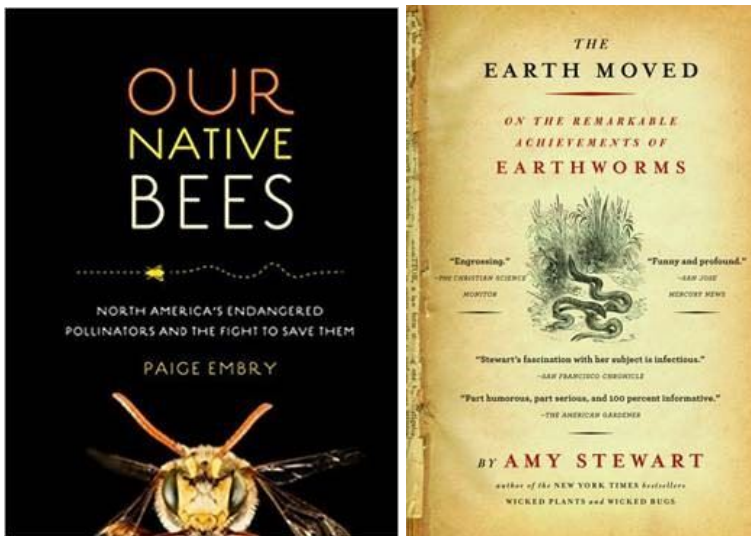
From Portland's own Xerces Society:



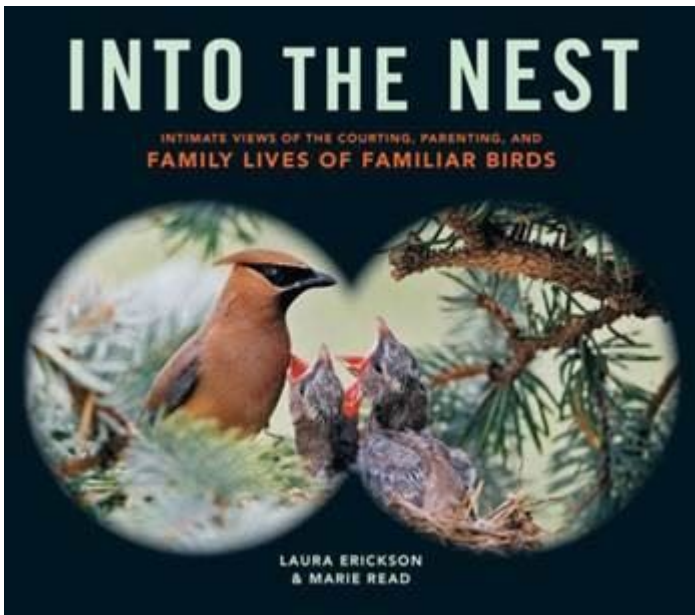
NWRA Alerts

[Sign up to receive alerts](#) from the National Wildlife Refuge Association on legislation that impacts the National Wildlife Refuge System.

And more books about our small neighbors... especially a chance to learn about the "remarkable achievements of earthworms"!



And, from birder extraordinaire, Laura Erickson...



And “Howl Like A Wolf!”, a cool book for kids to “Learn to Think, Move, and Act Like 15 Amazing Animals”...



Thank you for your purchases, which directly help our Refuge!
Thank you to Eva for reviewing and approving so many new books.

Wear in the World

In April, Marylou Schweitzer and refuge staff member John Schweitzer, traveled to multiple refuges in Louisiana, Texas, and Oklahoma.



New Items in Stock



PHOTO SOCIETY

May meeting will be the last until September – the Photo Society does not meet June through August.

May's meeting will be May 3. The presentation will be on how to photograph the night sky. Come prepared to learn. There will be some opportunities for you to try it on your own during the summer – dates should be given to you. Our first meetup for night sky photography will be in September.

We are still gathering names for a possible Bird Photography workshop in September. If you are interested, please send an email to: photosociety@friendsoftualatinrefuge.org.

CONTACT US

Friends of Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge
19255 SW Pacific Highway
Sherwood, OR 97140
503-625-5944 x227

info@friendsoftualatinrefuge.org