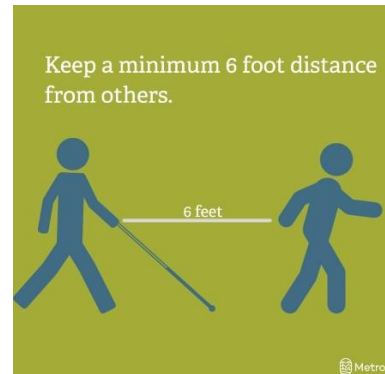


July 2020



For Refuge updates, please visit the FWS.gov website.



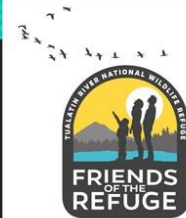
If you do visit the Refuge please know that all facility buildings are closed. Port-a-johns are available and the parking lot is partially open. Pets are not permitted on the Refuge, and please use social distancing when walking the trail. See these helpful graphic from our partners at Metro.

Donations to help us continue our work to support the TRNWRC are more important than ever as our Natures Overlook Store is closed.

www.FriendsofTualatinRefuge.org

The Friends are working towards becoming a truly inclusive organization that rejects racism in all its forms and embraces cultural and economic diversity. The Board of Directors for the Friends of Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge is keenly aware that despite undergoing Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) training, we have much progress to make for our organization to reflect the diversity of our urban area. We further seek to give equal value to all voices in helping to articulate our mission, vision, policies and best practices. Although we are directing our outreach to better reflect diversity, equity and inclusion, we understand we need to continue to improve and commit to examining all activities through a DEI perspective. We invite your ideas. We want all to feel welcome and safe to visit the Refuge. We need the quiet, the beauty and the peace that nature and wildlife bring to our souls. It is imperative people of all colors and ethnicities are aware of this sanctuary and comfortable in searching solace.

Friends of Tualatin River NWR Statement on Racism



JOIN

DONATE

RENEW

PRESIDENT'S PERCH

By Alan Christensen, President of the Board



Like all of you this past month my attention has been focused on the protest/demonstrations that began with the murder of George Floyd. I have been amazed at the span, intensity and longevity of the worldwide demonstrations. All of this brings back memories of my time in college when demonstrations against the Vietnam war cropped up all over the country. My wife and I recall participating in demonstrations in Corvallis. Feelings about the war were intensified by the shooting of 13 students at Kent State University by National Guards during an anti Vietnam demonstration. I recall watching the news showing the Kent State protest, the shooting and the wounded students lying on the pavement. I think the video of George Floyd's last moments has resonated in a similar way and has made the event so tangible and real that there is no denying the embedded racism in our society. Much like the protests against Vietnam, the enormous support for change in our society is impossible for any to ignore.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Friends Board Meeting

Virtual Meeting Planned

July 28, 2020 6:30 PM

Contact by 7/23/2020

Info@FriendsOfTualatinRefuge.org if you would like to receive an invitation to attend our ZOOM meeting.



SOCIAL MEDIA



These thoughts ran through my mind as my wife and I stood on the curbside of Multnomah Boulevard holding a “Black Lives Matter” sign recently. My neighbor is a very persuasive lady and had encouraged our participation in the demonstration. The similarity with my memories of Vietnam demonstrations and this one is remarkable. People are passionate about the injustice, the entrenched behaviors, ongoing bureaucratic excuses, and unflinching government positions and they are gathering and speaking out in numbers; just like against the Vietnam War. Being late afternoon, there was a steady flow of traffic along the boulevard, cars passing by perhaps 200 people strung along the roadside holding up signs. The vast majority honked, waved, showed thumbs up or made other signs of support as they passed by. I am hopeful of change but it depends on each one of us and our thoughts and actions. I am hopeful that honking and showing a thumbs up to demonstrators is not the only commitment that many will make. I am hopeful that a tide has turned and our society will act in unison to make the many changes that are needed. I am hopeful that people will vote for leadership and action that is responsive to our great need.

We at Friends have started by stating our beliefs on our web site and continuing with the diversity, equity, and inclusion training we began in 2018. We know that nature and wild creatures have no particular lens where humans are involved and if we can help everyone to gain access to the calming and healing that nature offers, then we will have made a contribution to society.



The Friends are proud to have facilitated a donation this week to Camp ELSO. Donated items will be used in Camp ELSO’s summer camp program and will help provide a richer experience for students and their families as they explore the natural world around them.

ELSO stands for Experience, Life, Science and Outdoors. Camp ELSO is a multi-cultural approach to STEAM education rooted in environmental justice and cultural history. The Friends have partnered with Camp ELSO in the past by providing the use of our cameras for their camps, but this



donation will allow more participation and opportunities for their campers on an ongoing bases.

Our mission is to teach and frame STEAM and nature based education through a lens that centers and elevates the stories, ways of knowing, individual needs, and lived experiences of Black and Brown communities. – Camp ELSO



If you are interested in learning more about the camps please visit their website www.campelso.org We look forward to growing our relationship and have invited the campers and their families back to explore the Refuge. We also hope to display camper's photos in the Visitor Center at some point in the future. We are grateful to the USFWS Portland Urban Program for their support in this donation.

The donation included 40 of the following items. Auro Sport Binoculars, Scan Disc cards, ELPH 180 Canon cameras, Tualatin River NWRC tri-fold guide, Animal Tracks ID ring, PH water test kits and The Birds of the Willamette Valley birding book.

We would like to continue bringing you the Ask the Expert segments. If you or your child would like to ask an expert a question about the Refuge, wildlife or the Friends, please contact Carly at

Carly_Hirschmann@FriendsofTualatinRefuge.org

CONTACT US

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