Hello Joan Patterson & Family, here is what's happening on The Refuge.

Your renewal date: March 31, 2016. Not a member? Click here to join now!

From the President's Perch

By Keith Mays, President of the Board

I want to again thank Cheryl Hart for her leadership as President for the past five years. As I step into that role, I am comforted with the fact that she will continue to be a very active member and remains on the board as Past President. We are on year two of our new By-Laws that have term limits and a clear succession plan for board leadership. A Board member is now elected to serve as President Elect for a year, they then serve as President for one year followed by Past President. The three serve on the executive committee along with the Treasurer and Secretary. This is a common structure with non-profit boards, one that shares the work load of leadership, gives certainty to the time commitment (years) a board member is making, reduces the odds of fatigue (we want past leaders to remain involved and share their skills), and the risk of losing organizational knowledge and momentum is minimized.

Cheryl's leadership these past five years made it possible for this transition to happen. The Friends' board grew in size and strength. We now have more employees, volunteers and Friends members than ever before. At one point last year we had more employees than TRNWR (thanks in part to Federal budget issues). In 2014 we were named the Friends'
At the October board meeting, the board elected Tom Hartz to be President Elect, of course Cheryl Hart as Past President and re-elected Willem Stoeller as Treasurer and Sharon Miller as Secretary. Many thanks to each of them.

Come visit the Refuge this month. The water is rising and birds are arriving. It is a great time to be here and see what you have helped make possible.

Nature's Overlook

*Mark your calendars for an antidote to crowded mall shopping!*

Nature's Overlook, the retail store at the Refuge, will host its annual Holiday Open House on Saturday, November 28. For that day only, Friends members will receive a 20% discount on all their purchases, rather than the usual 10%. Lots of new nature-related merchandise has been ordered especially for holiday shopping. The store will be open regular hours – 10 am to 4 pm. We hope to see everyone there!

Not a Member yet? Join us that day and receive the 20% discount immediately!

This past weekend a new order of coloring books and small sticker and activity books arrived. Lots of great stocking suffers or easy to mail gift ideas!

"Wear" in the World

We are looking for photos of people wearing their Friend of TRNWR logo wear at other natural areas. Please send your photo to info@friendsoftualatinrefuge.org and you might just be in the next Making Tracks e-newsletter.

2015 FWS Refuge Photo Contest--Ends Nov 15

*There is still time!* The National Wildlife Refuge Association invites you to show them your photographs of the habitats, wildlife and people that make our national wildlife refuges such incredible places.
SAVE THE DATE!

The 20th Annual Tualatin River Bird Festival is May 21, 2016.

Join the Planning Committee. We meet the first Tuesday of each month @ noon. Contact: info@friendsoftualatinrefuge.org

Enter our contest and share the sights you’ve photographed while visiting a wildlife refuge. Photo submissions will be accepted until November 15. Enter for your chance to win a $1,000 cash prize or items generously donated by our contest sponsors. All entrants will receive a complimentary one-year membership to the National Wildlife Refuge Association. For complete contest rules and to enter, visit our website. Questions? Email Tracey Adams, tadams@refugeassociation.org.

Update on the Youth Hunt from Mark Newell

The Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge Youth Hunt Program has begun. Our first orientation was held Saturday October 24th and we had 22 people attend. Erin Holmes (law enforcement) talked about mistakes he’s seen people make and how to avoid infractions, Tom Hartz talked about the Friends role at the refuge and conservation in general, and Mark gave a safety presentation. After the presentations were over we all went out to the blinds so the participants could get a real feel for the area and where their blinds are. Most of the participants were made up of families. Water at the Riverboat Unit (where the youth hunt will occur) is still low but it is rising with every rainfall. On Thursday, October 29th we saw about 60 ducks in the area, this is up from just a couple of ducks found during the survey last week. Conditions are looking better.

We have four blinds, one of those will allow disabled access. We had a total of 86 applications and 24 of those were drawn for the hunt. Our first hunt was held on Saturday October 31st. I would like to invite any Friends Members to the orientation, the next orientation is on November 7th from 9:00AM-1:00PM.

Mark Newell, Visitor Services Manager, Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge
503-625-5944 Ext. 228

Check It Out! New Youth Hunt Info: http://www.fws.gov/refuge/tualatin_river/riverboat_youth_hunt.html
Waterfowl Watch--Volunteers Only

Come learn about how to identify waterfowl. Michelle McDowell, USFWS Wildlife Biologist for the Migratory Birds and Habitat Programs will be presenting a special program for Volunteers only on Saturday, November 14 from 10:00am to 12:00pm. Future programs may be open to all members, so keep an eye on this topic in next month’s enewsletter for additional information.

The Fall Flood-Up

It’s that time of year again. The days are noticeably shorter, leaves of our deciduous trees are changing color, the waterfowl migration is apparent, and the fall flood-up has begun. All but the latter are familiar hallmarks of autumn, so you might be wondering what is meant by “fall flood-up”. Well, it’s exactly what you may have guessed. It’s the process of recharging or filling the refuge’s wetlands; and commences every fall to coincide with the arrival of waterfowl from the north that use our wetlands to feed, rest, and roost. The common denominator to achieving flood-up in most of our wetland cells is closing a water control structure, which functions as small dam to back up water and create a flooding effect.

So, where does the water come from? Some of our wetlands rely primarily on precipitation to fill, while the wetland cells associated with the Atfalat’l Unit, for example, can be filled with water diverted from the perennially flowing Chicken Creek and augmented by rainfall. The water control structures and diversions we use give us the ability to mimic lost or impaired natural processes that would have contributed to fall flood-ups historically, like rain swollen creeks and beaver dams.

A flood-up schedule showing when each wetland cell on the refuge is expected to fill, as well as maps showing where the refuge’s 1,100 acres of wetlands are located, can be found in the wildlife center lobby.

Curt Mykut, Wildlife Biologist, Tualatin River NWRC
Kids' Corner!

Hey Kids! Bring your parents to the refuge - then tell us what you have seen. Take a photo, draw a picture, write a short story, pen a poem. With your parents permission and help, send us your imaginings. Our newsletter will include a Kid's Corner imagining every month. See you on the refuge!

For more information, contact: members@friendsoftualatinrefuge.org

We will miss Dr. Jim Sampson

The Friends of Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge are sad to report the passing of Dr. Jim Sampson. We offer our deepest condolences to his husband Dr. Geoffrey Beasley and his family and all of his friends. Jim and Geoffrey hold a special place in our hearts as they were two of the Founding Board members of our Friends of TRNWR organization and they held benefits at their Sherwood home to support us. Dr. Jim Sampson died on Oct. 4 after battling Lewy Body Dementia. There will be a memorial service at Catlin Gabel School in the Cabell Center on Saturday Nov. 7 at 2 PM. Donations can be made to the Lewy Body Dementia Association in his name. Jim will be missed but not forgotten.
Wildlife Center,Trail Rover & Interpretive Program

The Interpretive Guides will be meeting in November to talk about more interpretive opportunities on the refuge. Great Job, Cathy Crandall, on your guided walk in August. Cathy took visitors back in time to learn about Geology of the area! Feel free to sign up for the Guided Walk this month and the Owl Prowl on the events calendar on the Friends website. The Wildlife Center Volunteers and Trail Rovers are welcoming a lot of new faces! Trail Rovers are loving this exciting time of year as migratory birds arrive. Wildlife Center Volunteers are looking forward to Nature’s Overlook Holiday Open House on November 28th!

Thank you everyone for your time and passion.

News from Environmental Education Programs

Enrichment Opportunities Open to Public:

- **Owl Prowl Wednesday November 4th 6:30 - 8:00pm**
  Come learn about owls and their unique adaptations to awaking in the night. Then go on a walk on the refuge with owl enthusiast Jenna Mendenhall.  For more information e-mail rachel_dunham@friendsoftualatinrefuge.org

- **Bio-Swale Work Party Friday, November 6 9:00am – 11:00am**
  Come weed the bio-swale! Please wear appropriate clothing for the dirt, rain and sun. No registration needed. Just show up at the Refuge! Questions? E-mail Rachel at rachel_dunham@friendsoftualatinrefuge.org

- **Second Saturday Restoration Work Parties Saturday, November 14 8:45am-12:00**
  Looking for a way to get involved in restoration? Come out to our Second Saturday restoration work party! For our November party we will be removing tree tubes from a planting along Roy Rodgers Rd. These tree tubes help to protect young plants from rodents and deer, but they have done their job and are ready to come off!

  We will meet at refuge HQ at 8:45 am to get checked in and head to our work site around 9 am. Snacks and work gloves will be provided. Please wear sturdy shoes and plan for rain.

  Email any questions to Habitat Restoration Specialist Sarah Williams at: SWilliams@friendsoftualatinrefuge.org

- **Guided Nature Walk, Saturday November 21 10:00am – 11:30am**
  Venture out with a refuge naturalist for a free nature walk to explore the oak savanna, riparian forest and wetland ecosystems and natural history of Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge. Topics will vary from walk to walk but will be appropriate for all ages. Limited space available; please register online at www.friendsoftualatinrefuge.org. For more information e-mail Rachel Dunham, rachel_dunham@friendsoftualatinrefuge.org.
Other Volunteer opportunities

There are many fun and rewarding programs and events that take place throughout the year. We would love to have you be a part of the refuge fun! Please visit www.friendsoftutaltinrefuge.org

Creative Nature Camp 2016 by Tom Hartz

The inaugural meeting of the 2016 Camp Committee was held on October 23.

Two sessions of the camp are proposed for 2016 with target dates the weeks of July 11 and July 25. Each session will host 24 campers, four groups of six campers each. Ideally, each group will be staffed with a Naturalist, a “Lead Junior Assistant” and an additional JA, and an adult Naturalist. We will work with the Visitors Services team to solicit help from Interpretive Guides, hoping to provide them with an opportunity to experience the camp. Additional staff will be invited to support specific activities during each session. We will get a current list of all Naturalists and actively recruit those who haven’t participated in the past.

Photos by Friends

To see hundreds of photos of scenes on the refuge as well as refuge events, visit our FLICKR web site at Friends FLICKR

If you have a photo taken on the refuge and would like to share it with the Friends, email the image along with a brief note to members@friendsoftutaltinrefuge.org and we will include it in an upcoming newsletter.

YOU CAN HELP Friends of TRNWR EARN DONATIONS JUST BY SHOPPING WITH YOUR FRED MEYER REWARDS CARD! We have seven members signed up already and have received $17 in donations!

Fred Meyer is donating $2.5 million per year to non-profits in Alaska, Idaho, Oregon and Washington, based on where their customers tell them to give. Here’s how the program works:

- Sign up for the Community Rewards program by linking your Fred Meyer Rewards Card to Friends of TRNWR at www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards. You can search for us by our name or by our non-profit number 93278.
Then, every time you shop and use your Rewards Card, you are helping Friends of TRNWR earn a donation!

You still earn your Rewards Points, Fuel Points, and Rebates, just as you do today.

If you do not have a Rewards Card, they are available at the Customer Service desk of any Fred Meyer store.

For more information, please visit [www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards](http://www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards).

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Support FOR While You Shop Online!

![Amazon Smile Logo](image)

If you are a frequent Amazon shopper, here’s a great way to support the Friends while you make your purchases! And the great thing is, there’s no extra cost to you!

Simply go to smile.amazon.com and log in using your Amazon account, then type “Friends of Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge” into the search box. Once it appears on your screen, check the “Select” box and you’re ready to buy, buy, buy, while the Friends will receive a donation of .5% of every purchase from the Amazon Smile Foundation.

Bookmark smile.amazon.com so you use it every time you shop and those cents will add up into dollars that will help the Friends support programs and projects on the Refuge. How easy is that!?

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Connect with Us! Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Flickr

We made it to 500 likes before the end of the year, thanks to you! Next goal is 1000, so check it out and repost, invite your Friends to like us too.

Not a Facebook user? Did you know that you can follow the posts to our Facebook page on our website Home Page? Point your browser to: [http://friendsoftualatinrefuge.org](http://friendsoftualatinrefuge.org).

You can now follow us on Twitter @FriendsTRNWR and Instagram at FriendsofTualatinRefuge.

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Remember, Let Us Know What You Think!

Thank you for taking the time to read through this newsletter. Please help us make it something you look forward to receiving by telling us what you want to know about, and how we can improve the look or content. This is a work in progress, and we look forward to hearing from you! [Click here](#) to email your thoughts.