

# News Release

## *National Wildlife Refuge System*



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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February 28, 2008

***“Nurture Your Sense of Wonder”  
Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge Dedicates New Wildlife Center***

*Nurture Your Sense of Wonder* is the theme for the Saturday, March 29<sup>th</sup> dedication of the new Wildlife Center at Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge near Sherwood. Festivities begin at 11:30 a.m. with a ceremony and ribbon cutting celebrating the 105<sup>th</sup> birthday of the National Wildlife Refuge System and the dedication of the center as a gift to the community and the future of the Refuge System.

Sherwood Mayor Keith Mays will lead off the speakers, followed by brief remarks from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service officials, representatives from the offices of Senator Smith, Senator Wyden, and Governor Kulongoski, as well as Congressman David Wu. The ceremony’s closing speaker will be Richard Louv, nationally-renowned author of *“Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children From Nature Deficit Disorder.”* Louv is a futurist and journalist focused on family, nature, and community.

The dedication is a free, community event for all ages. The public is invited to celebrate the day by exploring the new Wildlife Center exhibits, taking nature walks, watching wildlife, and participating in hands-on activities in the Discovery Classroom. Guided nature walks, led by expert naturalists, will be offered every half hour following the ceremony until 3:30 p.m. Visitors are also welcome to explore the new trails, wildlife overlooks, and interpretive areas on their own.

Free parking will be available at Home Depot off Highway 99W in Sherwood and Hopkins Elementary near downtown Sherwood. Free shuttle buses will run continuously to and from the event from 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Those needing additional accommodations or disabled parking can come directly to the Refuge. Visitors can also take Tri-Met #12 bus directly to the Refuge. A food vendor will be available on-site.

To wrap up the day’s celebration, Richard Louv will be speaking and signing books at Tualatin High School’s auditorium on Boone’s Ferry Road in Tualatin. Doors will open at 6:00 p.m. for the book signing and Louv will begin speaking at 7:00 p.m. about the importance of bringing children into nature and the disconnection with the outdoors that is plaguing our children today. Copies of the new edition of Louv’s book will be on sale at the event and he will continue to sign books after his presentation. Tickets can be purchased at [www.brownpapertickets.com](http://www.brownpapertickets.com) --\$10 for adults and \$5 for students. Quantities are limited, so buy your tickets early.

Learn more about the day’s activities at [www.fws.gov/tualatinriver](http://www.fws.gov/tualatinriver) or [www.friendsoftualatinrefuge.org](http://www.friendsoftualatinrefuge.org).

*“If a child is to keep alive his inborn sense of wonder, he needs the companionship of at least one adult who can share it, rediscovering with him the joy, excitement and mystery of the world we live in”—Rachel Carson, 1956.*

“Connecting People with Nature” is one of the six highest priorities of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, not only for the conservation of native wildlife and habitats, but for the health of our children as well.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit [www.fws.gov](http://www.fws.gov).