



Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge Winter Calendar of Events

January, February, and March 2013



Winter is a spectacular time to visit. Large numbers of waterfowl such as cackling Canada geese, northern pintails, and mallards blanket the refuge as they eat the rich source of seeds and plants that grow in summer. The refuge boasts an average of 20,000 waterfowl during mid-winter, and in some years, over 50,000 have been observed in a single day. Bald eagles can be observed hunting for a winter waterfowl meal. Stop by to use the Wildlife Center spotting scope to see if you can find the eagles in the oak tree.



January

Sat 12th

Waterbird Watching 101

Riparian Room & trail
8:00am-10:00am

Sat 12th

Work Party

Refuge Headquarters
9:00am-12:00pm

Wed 16th

Puddle Stompers

Classroom & trail
10:00am-11:30am

Fri 25th

Owl Prowl

Riparian Room & trail
6:30pm-8:30pm

Tues 29th

Puddle Stompers

Classroom & trail
10:00am-11:30am



February

Fri 8th

Owl Prowl

Riparian Room & trail
6:30pm-8:30pm

Sat 9th

Waterbird Watching 101

Riparian Room & trail
8:00am-10:00am

Sat 9th

Work Party

Refuge Headquarters
9:00am-12:00pm

Wed 12th

Puddle Stompers

Classroom & trail
10:00am-11:30am

Wed 27th

Puddle Stompers

Classroom & trail
10:00am-11:30am

Sun 24th

What's Growing on the Refuge?

Refuge Trail
1:00pm-3:00pm

Thurs 28th

Volunteer Naturalist Training Begins

Classroom & trail
9:00am-3:00pm

Thurs 28th

Owl Prowl

Riparian Room & trail
6:30pm-8:30pm



March



Wed 6th

Puddle Stompers

Classroom & trail
10:00am-11:30am

Thurs 7th

Volunteer Naturalist Training

Classroom & trail
9:00am-3:00pm

Sat 9th

Work Party

Refuge Headquarters
9:00am-12:00pm

Thurs 14th

Volunteer Naturalist Training

Classroom & trail
9:00am-3:00pm

Tues 19th

Puddle Stompers

Classroom & trail
10-11:30am

Thurs 21st

Volunteer Naturalist Training

Classroom & trail
9am-3pm



Sat 23rd

Dawn Chorus Walk

Refuge trail
7:00am-10:00am

Tues 26th – Fri 29th

Spring Break Exploration Days

Classroom & trails
1:00pm – 3:00pm

Wed 27th

Night Walk

Riparian Room & trail
7:00pm-9:00pm

Sat 30th

What's Growing on the Refuge?

Refuge Trail
10:00pm-12:00pm



Coming in Spring

- Teacher Workshops
- Earth Day Native Plant Sale
- Tualatin River Bird Festival

Check out our website for
more information.

www.fws.gov/tualatinriver/

Program

Descriptions

Dawn Chorus Walk

Spring mornings are the time to enjoy the bright colors and the melodies of migratory songbirds. Many species of songbirds, such as common yellowthroats, arrive in the spring and use the refuge as a place to breed and nest. Join U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service experts to discover these “winged singers.” Learn how to identify them by their plumage, songs, habits, and habitats. Space is limited so register early by emailing or calling jenna_mendenhall@fws.gov 503-625-5944 x222. We explore the refuge in rain or shine so dress for the weather. Bring your binoculars and field guides if you have them or borrow ours during the walk. We will take a leisurely stroll. This program will be offered as wheelchair accessible by request. Please call ahead and we will prepare for your needs.

Night Walk

One of the best times to experience nature is when the sun goes down. Come learn about the adaptations animals have which allow them to be most active



at night and discover the sights and sounds for yourself on a guided walk through one of the few urban refuges in the country. This event is family friendly. Limited spaces available and advanced registration is required. To register or for more information please contact Jenna Mendenhall: jenna_mendenhall@fws.gov; 503-625-5944 x222.

Puddle Stompers

Do you have a little one who enjoys being outdoors? Are you wondering what you can do during the rainy season? Bring your littlest naturalist to the refuge to stomp in puddles and learn to appreciate the wet weather that makes Oregon so green! Be prepared to get wet & wild! We will supply raingear for the kids, but adults should bring their own. This event is free and open to the public, but registration is required. Send your name, email address, phone number, and the date(s) you would like to attend, along with your little naturalist's name and age, to Gardiner at gardiner_platt@fws.gov or (503)625-5944.

Owl Prowl

Whooooo goes there? Join us at the refuge to find out about the owls “who” make the refuge their home. During a night hike we will learn about the mysterious lives of our nocturnal neighbors, discover their habitat, and learn about their amazing adaptations for life at night. Please register by submitting your name, number of participants in your group, and your phone # to jenna_mendenhall@fws.gov; 503-625-5944 x222. Maximum reservation size is 6. Wear sturdy shoes, and dress for the weather.

What's Growing on the Refuge?

Join Refuge Volunteer Botanist, Ginny Maffitt, for a free plant walk at the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge. Discover what's blooming and how native plants are vital to healthy wildlife habitats. Be prepared to be outside. We encourage you to bring cameras, plant identification guides if you have them, and nature journals if you like. Binoculars are always handy for those watchable wildlife moments. To register contact: jenna_mendenhall@fws.gov ; 503-625-5944 x222. Give us your name, phone number, and the number of

people in your group. Maximum group size is 6.

Spring Break

Exploration Days

Come discover the natural wonders of wildlife at the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge! This family-oriented event will feature hands-on nature activities for kids. This event is free and does not require registration. Guests are welcome to join the fun rain or shine. Meet at the Wildlife Center. Please refer any questions to Gardiner at 503.625.5944 x239

Volunteer Naturalist Training

Are you or someone you know looking for a new way to share their love of nature? Do you enjoy being outside, meeting new people, and working with kids? If so, everyone is encouraged to become a Volunteer Naturalist for the refuge. Participants will gain skills in interpretation, environmental education, working with children, and learn about the history of the National Wildlife Refuge System and Tualatin River Refuge. Registration: For more info <http://www.fws.gov/tualatinriver/getinvolved.html> or contact Gardiner at gardiner_platt@fws.gov; (503) 625-5944 x239.

Waterbird Watching 101

Do you enjoy watching birds in wetlands, lakes, and streams, but are not sure what they are doing, where they came from, or even know their name? Do you want to learn more about bird behavior, migration, identification, or how to use binoculars? Join U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Biologist, Michelle McDowell, to learn the basics of bird watching and nature observation and open your eyes to the wonders that can be discovered at Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge. Fall and winter are the best time to experience migrating waterfowl that travel through the refuge by the thousands. All experience levels are welcome. Space is limited so register early by emailing or calling jenna_mendenhall@fws.gov 503-625-5944 x222. We explore the refuge in rain or shine so dress for the weather. We will take a leisurely easy stroll on our wheelchair accessible nature trail. Bring your binoculars and field guides if you have them or borrow ours during the walk.

Work Party

All work parties will meet at refuge headquarters at 9:00 am. Please dress for the weather, bring your own water or favorite non-alcoholic beverage and snacks. The refuge will supply the necessary tools. For more information, please contact Pete at peter_schmidt@fws.gov; 503-625-5944 x231.

January 12th – We will be working at the Tualatin River Unit in a riparian forest restoration site removing tree tubes. This is a 44-acre restoration site that was planted in 2009-2010. Many of the trees have put on tremendous growth and no longer need protection of the tree tubes. Come visit this area with the Tualatin River surrounding on three sides.

February 9th – We will be going to the Wapato Lake Unit to work around one of the properties with a house and outbuildings. We'll be doing some yard work, vegetation removal, and possibly tear down and old chicken coop and other structures. Because of the longer drive we might stay past our usual 12:00pm finish time. We'll have a pot of soup or chili



after we're finished and possibly take a short tour of Wapato Lake to see what birds are present.

March 9th - We will be working at the Rock Creek Unit trimming trees in preparation for thinning.

This parcel was densely planted and there is no light reaching the understory for shrubs or young trees to grow. We'll be cutting off the lower branches so that maintenance crews can come in and remove some trees.



Connect with the Refuge...

Fish and Wildlife Website

<http://www.fws.gov/tualatinriver>

Friends of the Refuge website

<http://www.friendsoftualatinriver.org>

Find us on Facebook!

<https://www.facebook.com/trnwr.friend>