Department of the Interior
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Willamette Valley National Wildlife Refuge Complex
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News Release

Date: April 30, 2012 **Contact:** Sallie Gentry, Refuge Ranger, (541) 757-7236
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BARNS AND BLUEGRASS EXPERIENCE AT WILLIAM L. FINLEY NWR

William L. Finley National Wildlife Refuge will host day-long activities on Saturday, May 12 celebrating a range of cultural and natural resources in an outstanding cultural landscape. The event is a collaborative highlight of both Preservation Month and Natural Areas Celebration Week.

Activities begin at 11:00 a.m. when Judy Juntunen, local historian, will guide a tour of the 1857 Fiechter House, and B.A. Beierle will guide tours of the nearby early 20th century Cabell Barn. A refuge agriculturist will interpret agricultural equipment housed in Cabell Barn. Exterior self-guided tours of Cabell Lodge and the Granary will be available, as well as Blake Hoffman's demonstration of horse-drawn sustainable forestry practices. Learn about current inhabitants of the barn and dissect owl pellets to find out what barn owls eat to survive. From noon to 1:00 p.m., an ensemble of the Corvallis Community Band will provide music at the Fiechter House while participants enjoy bring-your-own lunches and nearby activities.

At 2:00 p.m. activities move to the vicinity of the Refuge headquarters, for a short presentation on The Big Barn. At 2:30 p.m. a local native plant specialist will offer a guided hike along Woodpecker Loop to identify native plants and discuss their uses. At 3:00 p.m., the field component of a Photography Workshop will provide real time insights into successful wildlife photography. Pre-registration is required for the photography session. To reserve your spot, email monroemolly@hotmail.com

Complete the afternoon with a self-guided tour of the 1900 Irwin-Cheadle Barn, listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Earnest Brimner built this barn for Irwin, an early Benton County Commissioner. The barn is remarkably intact and one of a few surviving Brimner barns.

The 5,325 acres of the William L. Finley National Wildlife Refuge protect examples of the Willamette Valley's historic resources including Oregon white oak savannas, bottomland ash forest, native prairie, and an outstanding collection of built structures, notably barns. Over 230 species of birds have been recorded on the Refuge. Managed by the U.S.Fish & Wildlife Service, Finley Refuge offers over twelve miles of hiking trails that are now open for the season.

Travel 10 miles south of Corvallis on 99W to mile marker 93; turn right on Finley Road; then left on Finley Refuge Road. For more information, contact Ranger Sallie Gentry at (541) 757-7236 or visit the Refuge website: www.fws.gov/willamettevalley/finley.

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***

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