

WILD GOOSE TALES

2ND QUARTER, 2013



President's Column



Doug Spencer

What a glorious time of year, the sun is shining and the temperatures are rising, so make plans to take a walk on the many miles of trails that our National Wildlife Refuges provide. Even though the geese and many ducks have flown north to breed, there are still many interesting animals to view and don't forget the wildflowers.

The Friends board and members have been very busy sponsoring events in support of our refuges. In April, the Friends sponsored a booth at the Oregon Gardens for Earth Day. The theme was to inform the public of the beneficial effects that pollinators provide all of us. Many children and adults stopped by the display and crafted flowers to take home. In May, both the Friends and Refuge staff provided an "open house" of William L. Finley NWR for the public. This event combined the annual "Barns Tour", sponsored by Benton County's Historical Society and International Migratory Bird Day. All

the barns were open to the public, as well as the Fiechter House, along with a demonstration of horse logging. The Friends also provided rented vans that were used to transport registered guests on guided tours of the interior of the refuge. During the event the Friends provided beverages and snacks and held a drawing for some very nice items that the Friends provided. In June, the Friends sponsored a Nature Photo workshop at the Albany Public Library and on the refuge.

Now the Friends and Refuge staff look forward to the planning of a large event next year that will encompass the entire Willamette Valley NWRC. Next year these refuges will be 50 years

old. To honor this achievement, we are putting plans together with our partners' help to make this event very special. The Friends were successful in being awarded a grant for \$3,200 from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to help the Friends improve our outreach goals for the Friends and this upcoming event. We will need your help in making this special event a big success. We need additional board members and volunteer help on the planning committee. If you can spare a little of your time, please contact and inform me or other board members of your interest. Also to help our organization save on the cost of printing and

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FRIENDS' MISSION

The Friends of the Willamette Valley Refuge Complex is an independent nonprofit organization whose mission is to:

- *Promote the conservation of the natural resources of the Refuge Complex*
- *Foster awareness and appreciation of the Complex through educational and recreational opportunities*
- *Participate in activities that help the Complex achieve its goals.*



Northern Harrier at Baskett Slough NWR captured by Jim Leonard



Project Leader's Column

BOARD MEMBERS

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BRIAN WACHELKA

USFWS LIAISON:

KATRINA MAGGIULLI



Damien Miller

The busy field season is upon us and Refuge staff have been working hard on a variety of conservation projects at Baskett Slough, Ankeny, and William L. Finley Refuges as well as working throughout the valley on a long list of conservation projects on private land in cooperation with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, The Natural Resource Conservation Service, and several non-profit conservation organizations. These projects range from oak forest management, wetland conservation and refuge farming for goose forage to prescribed fire for

prairie restoration and maintenance of Refuge roads, trails, dikes and buildings.

The Refuge Complex was recently honored with the Benton County Preservation Award for the work we did to replace the failing 18,000 square foot roof on the historic Big Barn. The Big Barn is located just south of the Refuge Headquarters and stores equipment and supplies. Big Barn is listed in the Oregon Inventory of Historic Properties and the Benton County Register of Historic Resources. While not open to the public, it may be appreciated from Refuge Headquarters.

I'm sure many of you have heard about declining Federal budgets. This has affected us to some degree. We have not been able to fill our Visitor Services Program Manager position, which is a significant setback but we are very fortunate

to have Katrina Maggiulli on board as an intern to help cover some of the key responsibilities. If you are interested in assisting the Refuge or our Friends group as a volunteer, please contact Katrina.

We have also received grant funds for key conservation projects and continue to find creative solutions to funding and staffing needs. I am very proud of our staff and Friends group for their efforts to work together to continue to achieve our most important projects to meet our conservation mission. We are grateful for the opportunity to do this important work and look forward to seeing you out on the Refuges enjoying the beauty and inspiration of nature!

Board Updates

- ◆ The Friends Board is very proud to announce their acceptance of a \$3,200 grant awarded by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF). The funds will be matched by the Friends in \$1,000 as well as 200 hours of volunteer time. The Board plans to use these funds to support the upcoming 50th Anniversary celebrations, a re-design of the Friends website, and a Friends banner display.
- ◆ The Board voted to fund Visitor Services Intern, Katrina Maggiulli, for the next year. Her expanded duties will include volunteer coordination, serving as USFWS liaison, and website development for the Refuge.
- ◆ The Board must also announce the resignation of Board Secretary David Schas, effective August 31st. With his busy schedule as a science instructor at the Brookings-Harbor High School, he feels the conference-call meeting participation did not allow him to be an active Officer. He says, "my resignation will not keep me away from the WVNWRC, or away from Friends activities. You all have been great to me! Thank you for everything, and remember, I will always be a Friend!"
- ◆ The Board is still looking for new members to serve as Treasurer and Secretary. Please contact the Friends Board at secretary.friends@gmail.com for more information.





Friends Feature: It has been a busy Spring for the Friends!

April 20 saw President Doug Spencer, board member Melanie Garrett, and Friends members Gil and Jeannine Lawrence teaming up with Friends Intern Katrina Maggiulli to represent the FWVNWRC at the 2013 Earth Day Celebration at the Oregon Gardens. Doug and Gil talked to the public about the Willamette Valley Refuges and the supportive role of the Friends organization while Jeannine, Melanie and Katrina taught children (and their parents) about the important role of pollinators. The event was a great success and everyone loved participating in the take-home flower craft.

On May 11 the Friends supported William L. Finley NWR by putting on the annual Open House event. *See page 6 to read more.*



Photo by Doug Spencer

FRIENDS BOARD MEMBER
MELANIE GARRETT AND
VISITOR SERVICES INTERN
KATRINA MAGGIULLI
EDUCATED THE PUBLIC
ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF
POLLINATORS AT THE 2013
EARTH DAY CELEBRATION
AT THE OREGON GARDENS.

On June 4, the Friends of the Willamette Valley NWRC sponsored a free nature photography workshop to teach amateur photographers how to properly use and learn the functions of a “point and shoot” camera. The workshop was taught by Lew and Marti Ligocki of Salem

(www.impeccableimages.com) at the main Albany Public Library. Twenty two individuals attended and all agreed that this workshop was very informative. After the workshop, Lew and Marti invited the participants to meet out at William L. Finley NWR office area on Saturday or Sunday for an outdoor session

of taking photos of natural objects and scenery. Most of the participants took advantage of this and spent a few hours getting personal advice from Lew and Marti on the use of their cameras. Another workshop may be planned for this coming fall, watch for an announcement.



These two male blackbirds (yellow-headed on the left and red-winged on the right) don't seem to be impressed with being photographed—or perhaps it is just a “tough guy” pose. Images captured by Jim Leonard at Finley NWR



Refuge Program Highlights of Quarter 2, 2013

WVNWRC ACTIVITY RELATED TO THE COOPERATIVE RECOVERY INITIATIVE (CRI)

The Cooperative Recovery Initiative (CRI) is a three year effort focused on recovery of three listed species: Bradshaw's desert parsley (a wet prairie flower), Fender's blue butterfly, and Oregon chub. Projects are planned and underway both on and off-refuge, with a goal to remove chub from the Endangered Species Act list (De-list) and Down-list (change from Endangered to Threatened) the butterfly and flower. Chub work involves flood-proofing Willow Marsh at Ankeny NWR (raising a portion of the dike) to prevent contamination with non-native warm wa-

ter fish that would prey on Oregon chub. In addition, the project will address the invasive yellow iris, which has been spreading in Willow Marsh. Fender's blue butterfly work has been occurring on Baskett Slough and W. L. Finley NWRs, working to enhance prairie habitat and corridors for butterfly travel between populations. Prescribed burns have been conducted on both refuges this spring as a first step to cleaning up weedy retired farm fields and restoring them to

upland prairie suitable for the butterfly. Corridor work includes removing fir trees, thinning oak, and mowing poison oak and blackberries. Pigeon Butte on W.L. Finley NWR does not currently have Fender's blue butterfly, but it contains suitable habitat. As part of the CRI project, the butterfly will be re-introduced on Finley refuge in 2015.

—Jock Beall, Head Biologist

LEAVES OF THREE, LEAVE THEM BE!

Since this March, the amount of green on the refuges has skyrocketed! Unfortunately not all of this green is friendly. Don't forget to keep your eyes out for those glossy green poison oak leaves! This time of year they blend in easily with the rest of the emerald foliage. They are also masters of disguise and can appear in shrub form, as a vine, or young poison oak plants can go undetected underfoot. They will also change to a pinkish-red color as Autumn begins to set in (once again allowing their poisonous leaves to go unseen). So stay aware and if you come in contact with the plant, wash the affected area thoroughly with water or Tecnu (which can be found in the Refuge Office at Finley NWR).



Photograph by Wendell Hendershott, taken at the Woodpecker Loop trailhead on Finley NWR.



Frank Connor briefs the crew on safety before a burn. Prescribed burns are a vital component of the Complex's habitat restoration projects, and serve as stepping stones to reintroducing endangered species such as the Fender's blue butterfly onto Refuge lands. Photo by Greg Hagedorn

Planning on hunting black-tailed deer at the Finley NWR this fall?

This year the hunt will be bigger and better than ever with an extension to our "Zone 2" hunt season. What started out as a two-day hunt extension in areas not previously hunted, we have extended to a week-long hunt. The extended hunt period will begin on Oct 24 and end on Oct 31 in Zone 2. Hunters must possess a current State hunting license and valid 615 Willamette Unit tag or general season deer tag. Hunt methods are restricted to archery, shotguns using buckshot or slugs, and muzzleloaders. Zone 2, including Bald Top, Woodpecker Loop, Intertie Trail, and Mill Hill Trail, will be closed to all other public access during the week-long hunt.

For information on the Zone 1 or 2 hunt dates and regulations, or any questions regarding the 2013 hunt season, please contact the Refuge Office at 541-757-7236



Refuge Focus: The Cabell Lodge is Clean!

Your dedicated Refuge staff worked very hard this spring at the (arguably) most daunting task on the refuge: cleaning the historic Cabell Lodge. From late May through mid-June groups of staff went armed with dust-masks and recycling bins to restore the Lodge into a building worth being proud of. Historical documents were preserved, mouse and rat families were ushered out and furniture was donated to the Vina Moses Center in Corvallis. All in all this made the Lodge, if not habitable, a building well on its way to historic restoration.

commemorate the rich cultural history that existed here long before we drew our Refuge boundaries—a resource that has often gone unnoticed among the Refuge's many wild-life conservation projects.

In honor of this history, and in preparation for our 50th celebrations next year, Deputy Project Leader Laila Lienesch is preparing a series of columns based off of these rediscovered historical documents to remind all of us what else there is to discover at William L. Finley NWR!

These columns will appear in the upcoming Quarterly Newsletters this year.

TOURS OF THE HISTORIC CABELL LODGE ARE JUST ONE OF MANY NEW ACTIVITIES THAT WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR YOU TO JOIN IN DURING OUR 50TH CELEBRATIONS NEXT YEAR.

Among the historic documents recovered from Cabell Lodge, refuge staff uncovered papers documenting the history of William L. Finley National Wildlife Refuge, covering not only the opening of the refuge in 1964, but also histories of the families who settled this land long before Oregon was a state.

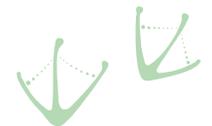
And when could have been a better time?

In 2014, the refuge will be celebrating the 50th Anniversary of its opening in 1964. This will not only be a time to celebrate all that we have accomplished in the past 50 years, but also to look further back and

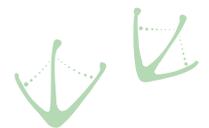


Interested in Archery? Want to become a certified Archery Instructor?

The Friends group is looking for a dedicated Friends member to become archery instructor certified for the Refuge Archery program! No previous experience is required, just enthusiasm and a willingness to lead Archery programs for youth and adults as well as an ability to commit time for archery events and the full day certification training. Certification cost will be covered by the Friends group, in exchange for your hard work! Contact the Volunteer Coordinator for more information at katrina_maggiulli@fws.gov



The Cabell Barn on Finley NWR
Photo by Marvin Swinson from Keizer, OR.
Check out his other work on Instagram at [pilgrimheart333](https://www.instagram.com/pilgrimheart333)



President's Column—continued from page 1

mailing of these newsletters, please contact us with your present email address, if you haven't already done so. Thank you for being a supporter of the Friends of the Willamette Valley NWRC and our refuge and don't forget the refuges are there for your enjoyment. See you out there!



Past Events: Open House 2013

The morning of May 11th could not have dawned more bright, more beautiful, and more ready for the Finley NWR 2013 Open House! With help from volunteers and organizations from the community, the Friends organization set up stations throughout the Refuge where visitors could take tours of the historic Fiechter House, visit a touch-table with the Corvallis Audubon Society, learn about historic farming at the Cabell barn, see a FWS fire truck up close, and much much more!

Particularly popular stations were the horse logging demonstrations with Refuge horse logger Blake Hoffman and the Heavy Machinery and Barn station with Walt Hammond, where visitors were able to see the inside of our rarely open to the public historic Big Barn.



Special thanks go to:

All our Friends and Refuge volunteers, Refuge staff, Josie Finley (Ridgefield NWR), musician Mark Seymour, the WGNS, and representatives from the Audubon Society of Corvallis and the Benton County Historical Society



AUDUBON SOCIETY OF CORVALLIS
Supporting the conservation of the natural environment for wildlife and people.



Two vans also ran 1.5 hour interior tours of the Refuge at 10am and 1pm with Friends President Doug Spencer and Project Leader Damien Miller. The tours were a big hit (often running over their set time length) and the only public request was to give them even *more* time with their tour guides! At 2:30 pm we reconvened at the refuge Headquarters for the raffling of door prizes generously donated by Sallie and George Gentry, Richard Gomez, Dave Horn and the Wild Goose Nature Store.

Overall, we couldn't have asked for a more gorgeous day and can't wait to see all of you out on the Refuges next year for even more festivities and fun during our 50th Celebration!



Above Left: Friends volunteers Gil and Jeannine Lawrence greeted visitors at one of our "Welcome Stations" (Photo by Josie Finley) Top: A happy family poses for a photo after their behind-the-scenes tour with Friends President, Doug Spencer (Photo by Doug Spencer); Above Right: Biologist Molly Monroe and Deputy Project Leader Laila Lienesch give visitors tips on wildlife observation. (Photo by Josie Finley)



Calendar of Events

July 9th, 6pm—Friends Board Meeting

August 21st—Wild Goose Nature Store 4th Anniversary

Come down to the Wild Goose Nature Store at the William L. Finley Refuge Office to celebrate the 4th anniversary of its opening with refreshments, discounts and deals galore! The store is open from 10 am to 4 pm every Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

August 24th-September 22nd—Black-tailed deer hunt, general season ARCHERY ONLY in Finley NWR Zone 1.*

August 31st-September 2nd—Bounty of Benton County

The Wild Goose Nature Store will join the fun again this year, opening its doors with 10% off deals, giveaways and more! For more information about this annual event, check out the website at bountyofbentoncounty.com.

September 1st-September 22nd—Black-tailed deer hunt, 615 Willamette Unit Tag ARCHERY ONLY in Finley NWR Zone 1.*

September 23rd-October 31st—Black-tailed deer hunt, 615 Willamette Unit Tag in Finley NWR Zone 1.*

September 28th-October 31st—Black-tailed deer hunt, general gun season in Finley NWR Zone 1.*

October 24th-October 31st—Black-tailed deer hunt with 615 Willamette Unit Tag or general gun season tag continues in Finley NWR Zone 2.*

*All 2013 hunt and harvest regulations can be found at http://www.dfw.state.or.us/resources/hunting/big_game/regulations/docs/2013_big_game_regs.pdf Zone designations will be posted throughout Finley NWR and on the website at <http://www.fws.gov/WillametteValley/finley/index.html>

DON'T FORGET YOUR 2013 –14

DUCK STAMPS!



SUPPORT WETLAND CONSERVATION

AND BUY A DUCK STAMP!

DUCK
STAMPS CAN
BE
PURCHASED
AT YOUR



LOCAL US POST OFFICE, BY PHONE
AT 1-800 STAMP-24 OR ONLINE AT
[HTTPS://STORE.USPS.COM/STORE/](https://store.usps.com/store/)
(SEARCH "DUCK STAMP")

Volunteer Opportunities

HELP RESTORE NATIVE HABITAT!

Join Refuge volunteers and staff to restore native prairie habitat by removing invasive plants. Dates and details to be announced. If you are interested in participating and are NOT currently getting emails from the Refuge volunteer coordinator, please contact us at katrina_maggiulli@fws.gov to get on the volunteer email list!

HELP WANTED

The Board of Directors needs someone to serve on the Board in the capacity of Treasurer. The Board currently meets bi-monthly and a time commitment of approximately 4 hours weekly would be required. Contact the Friends at secretary.friends@gmail.com for a complete job description.

Wild Goose Nature Store ~Product Spotlight~

This Quarter's featured items can be worn year round, come in two different sizes and are available in a wide variety of designs! These playful socks are made in America and will be 10% off through September. Just mention the "Newsletter Special" to claim your discount. Stop in to pick out some for friends or family—and don't forget a pair for yourself!



ARE YOU A NATURE PHOTOGRAPHER?

WANT TO SEE YOUR PICTURES FROM THE WILLAMETTE VALLEY REFUGES IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF WILD GOOSE TALES?

JUST SEND YOUR PHOTOS WITH A NOTE ON WHICH REFUGE YOU SNAPPED THEM AT AND A LITTLE ABOUT THE CRITTER—OR SCENERY—YOU PHOTOGRAPHED TO THE WILD GOOSE TALES EDITOR AT

KATRINA_MAGGIULLI@FWS.GOV

Membership Form

New Membership Renewal

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State: _____ Zip: _____

Daytime Phone: _____

Email: _____

Please check this box if you DO NOT wish to share your information directly with the Refuge Volunteer Coordinator for additional volunteer opportunities.

I am interested in these volunteer opportunities:

- Work Parties Special Events Wild Goose Nature Store
 Education Programs Board Member
 Habitat Restoration Grounds Maintenance
 Other _____

Annual Membership Categories

- \$10 Senior / Student
 \$15 Individual
 \$25 Family

All contributions in excess of membership fees are tax deductible under corporation guidelines.

\$ _____ Tax deductible donation

Please make checks payable to FWVNWRC.



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National Wildlife Refuge Complex

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!
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