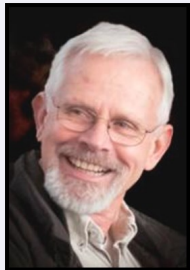


# WILD GOOSE TALES

1ST QUARTER, 2014



## *President's Column*



**Doug Spencer**

As the President of our Friends organization, it is always exciting for me to have this opportunity to reach out to our membership and supporters of our national wildlife refuges through this highly acclaimed newsletter. I am pleased to inform you of a committee of refuge staff and friend members who have been working very hard in organizing the 50th anniversary of the Willamette Valley NWRC events. These are planned at all three refuges in the next few months with the biggest being at the William L. Finley NWR on May 10. More about what is planned is mentioned throughout this newsletter. We hope that all



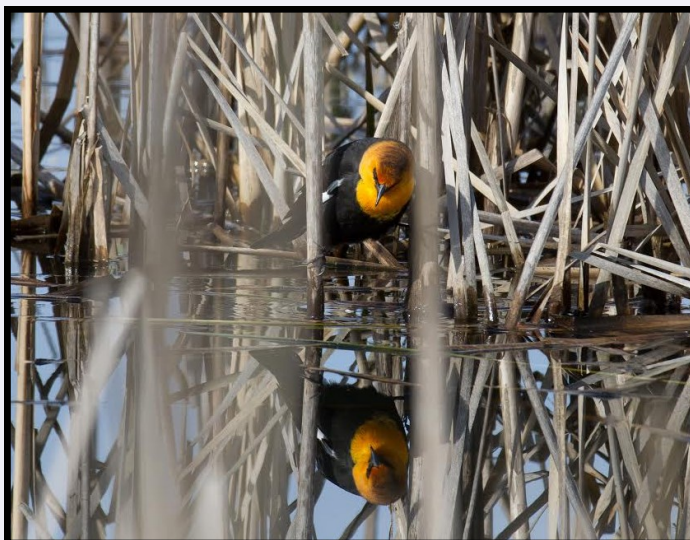
Northern pintail in flight, captured by Jim Leonard at Ankeny NWR

of you will be bringing your families to have a great time; I know you will with what is planned.

In the last few newsletters I mentioned the need of our members to help our organization by volunteering for various work projects on the refuges and by stepping up and being a board member. Thank you all that have done this. Presently, we have a need for two more board members. Recently our acting

treasurer informed the board that as of June, she will no longer be able to fill this position. As a board member, we meet every other month on the second Tuesday of the month in the evening. In the spring and summer we meet at the William L. Finley NWR office—often starting the meeting off with a barbecue and potluck supper to enjoy the weather. Anyone with an interest in supporting our

*(Continued on page 4)*



Yellow-headed blackbird admiring his reflection?  
Captured by Paul Rentz at William L. Finley NWR

### ***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.***

*Project Leader's Column***Damien Miller**

In the January newsletter, I mentioned the aggressive conservation goals we have planned for 2014. We are still on target to achieve these goals, but significant staff changes have occurred that will have some affect on our work priorities. Our Administrative Officer position has been vacant since October, which has put a strain on Laila, our Deputy Project Leader, and Joyce Long, our Computer Assistant, who have stepped up to cover the responsibilities of this role. Thankfully, our new AO, Heather Leopard, will be arriving April 10th. She comes to us from the Corp of Engineers, with many years of experience as an AO and with great references and a strong work ethic. Stop by and say Hi to her and to thank Laila and Joyce for keeping things running for the past 6 months!

Katrina Maggiulli, our Visitor Services Intern, continues to cover much of the responsibilities of the Visitor Services Program Coordinator position which has been vacant for a year. Thanks Kat! We are waiting to receive our 2014 budget in hopes that we will be authorized to fill this position and our Law Enforcement Officer position which has also

been vacant for over a year. A big thanks goes out to our Law Enforcement Officers from the Coast Refuges and Tualatin that have been assisting us with patrolling and follow up on LE issues.

The latest staffing news includes two key vacancies. Greg Hagedorn, our Fire Management Officer, has moved on and our Supervisory Refuge Biologist, Jock Beall will be retiring on May 2nd. These are two key field positions that have vital responsibilities for conservation work on the ground. Frank Connor will be stepping up to take on some of the FMO responsibilities related to prescribed fire on the Refuge and with our Partners on private lands. We are hoping for approval to fill the Biologist posi-

tion in the near future, but in the meantime, we are planning to bring in a FWS Biologist or two from other FWS Offices to help get us through the busy field season.

We are also going through a major staff transition in the Regional Office Refuge Leadership roles. Robin West, Chief of Refuges for Region 1 has retired and Kevin Foerster has accepting this key position. Kevin comes to us with many years of Refuge experience, most recently as the Project Leader for the Upper Mississippi Refuge Complex in Minnesota and Iowa. The Deputy Chief, Ben Harrison, is also retiring and no announcement about a replacement has been made. There are two

*(Continued on page 5)*

*Board Update*

Please join us as we welcome our newest addition to the FWVNWRC board—Sandy Kuhns! We are very excited to have Sandy serving on the board, and are still looking for new board members to fill some key officer positions. The positions of Treasurer and Secretary are still vacant and are being temporarily filled by Nancy Zanotti and Katrina Maggiulli. The Newsletter Editor and Web Manager position is also being temporarily filled by Katrina. If you would like to learn more about being a Board Director, contact President Doug Spencer at [doug\\_spencer@q.com](mailto:doug_spencer@q.com).

Additionally, the Board is sorry to announce that Store Manager and Interim Treasurer, Nancy Zanotti has decided it is time to retire (again) and spend more time with her family. She is handing over the reins of managing the Wild Goose Nature Store to Board Director Carla Berrey, good luck Carla! Nancy's resignation will be effective June 1st. Thank you for all your tireless dedication to the Friends, and we wish you well in your future endeavors! ←

**BOARD MEMBERS****PRESIDENT**

DOUG SPENCER

**VICE-PRESIDENT**

TOM NELSON

**STORE MANAGER/  
INTERIM TREASURER**

NANCY ZANOTTI

**DIRECTORS**

LIZ AKINS

CARLA BERREY

DAVE BUTCHER

CARROLL DEKOCK

MELANIE GARRETT

SANDY KUHNS

ANTHONY STUMBO

BRIAN WACHELKA

**INTERN/  
INTERIM SECRETARY**

KATRINA MAGGIULLI



Friends of the Willamette Valley  
National Wildlife Refuge Complex





## The Hiker's Trail

### Brian Wachelka/Board Director

*The Willamette Valley National Wildlife Refuge Complex is well known as a sanctuary for attracting a diversity of waterfowl and other migratory birds. A little less known is the number and variety of hiking trails available throughout the Complex. From boardwalks to buttes and wetlands to woodpeckers, there is a trail for everyone. This column spotlights a particular trail each newsletter to inspire our friends to set aside their binoculars for a moment and get hiking! Each trail is rated for difficulty level (easy/ moderate/ difficult) based on ease of access, steepness, elevation change, and other trail conditions.*

### Woodpecker Loop Trail (W.L. Finley NWR)

Distance: 1.2 miles

Accessibility: Open Year-round

Difficulty: Easy/ Moderate

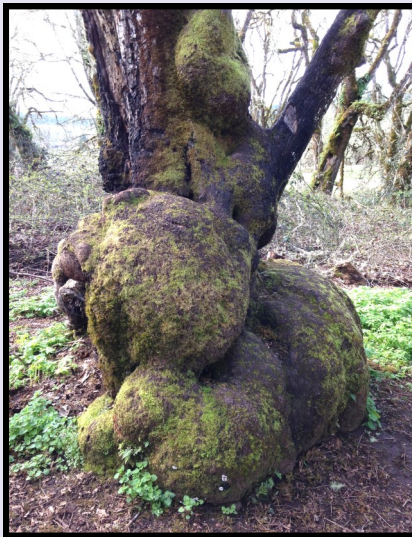
After moving to Corvallis years ago, I often sought advice from friends on nearby hiking trails. I had already hiked Mary's Peak, Bald Hill, and many of the other popular spots. Then I was asked if I had ever visited Woodpecker Loop at Finley. Finley? Woodpecker Loop? I was not familiar with either of these locations, so off I went to investigate. From that initial suggestion, I have now become a regular on the trails in this beautiful National Wildlife Refuge so close to my new hometown.

As measured by my small (and likely biased) sample, Woodpecker Loop is probably the most popular trail in Finley. Perhaps it's the name itself, hinting at the sounds and sights of woodpeckers? Or maybe loop trails are simply more appreciated, as one is never forced to turn around (like Don Quixote ignoring Sancho Panza's cries to turn back).

The Woodpecker Loop trailhead is located off the main Finley Refuge road. There is a small parking area, a kiosk with maps and interpretive brochures, and even a convenient

porta-potty. The trail starts off in an oak woodland habitat and before long reaches a junction where the loop begins and ends. Turning right, the trail continues through the woodland before breaking into an oak savannah. The path leads to a wooden, wrap-around overlook with interpretive panels. Although the climb isn't great, the views most certainly are! From this overlook, one can see across the valley to the snow-covered peaks of the Cascades in the distance.

The trail proceeds through more oak savannah and then passes a small pond



with a bench just shy of the halfway point. After a quick rest on the bench, it's into the cool shade of the surrounding Douglas Fir forest, which grew after prescribed burning ceased in the 1930s. Before arriving back at the junction point, the Doug Fir gives way to big-leaf maple and Oregon white oak. No hike on this trail is complete without stopping to admire these old, gnarly trees. Not to be outdone by the woodpeckers, these majestic kings provide many memorable photo opportunities! ←



Clockwise from top: Oak savannah approach to the wrap-around observation deck; These majestic trees provide great photo opportunities!; A particularly gnarly tree along the way.





### *A Note from A Friend...*

Let the rains fall! Last year the Virginia Rails, Sora and American Bittern, three birds often heard but seldom seen enjoyed the wetlands just north of Bruce Road. Virginia Rails raised families and foraged for meals for their young as Sora and American Bitterns also enjoyed the marsh. American Coots also raised families there, their young being some of the wildest colored babies I've seen, which is surprising considering the monotone colors of the parents. There is sure something to look forward to this spring in the marshes at William Finley Refuge now that water levels begin to return to more normal amounts!

~Paul Rentz

Above: Virginia rail foraging with young. Bottom right: Sora. Bottom left: Colorful American coot chicks. All photos captured by Paul Rentz at William L. Finley NWR off of Bruce Road.



### *President's Column*

(Continued from page 1)

refuges and leading our organization would be welcome on the board. Recently Friends member Sandy Kuhns has stepped up and is now a new board member, thank you very much Sandy. As I mentioned, we need support in the position of treasurer as well as secretary, and will provide programs and training to help new officers.

So come out and enjoy the spring and visit our refuges. I remember a visitor once told me, "I come out to the refuges for peace of mind and for a natural high." She told me that coming to a refuge relieved her of all the stress of everyday issues. I never forgot what she said, because I always feel the same way when I'm out on the refuges. Hope to see you out there! ↩

### *Refuge Program Highlights: We Donate!*



#### **Jock Beall/USFWS Biologist**

The Refuge periodically donates surplus logs to Philomath High School forestry program for firewood or to cut into limber with their portable sawmill. The program is run by teacher Simon Babcock, who once worked on the Refuge as a youth crew leader a decade ago. His students cut and sell firewood to raise funds to support school projects. The trees donated were part of the on-going William L. Finley NWR forest restoration work, where small oak trees and Douglas fir are cut to improve the quality of oak habitat. ↩





## Project Leader's Column

(Continued from page 2)

other key Regional Office Refuge retirements pending in the next two months, which will likely result in more responsibilities being absorbed by myself and my staff.

We will continue to do our best to provide quality habitat for fish and wildlife along with recreational opportunities for the public through all of these staff changes but please be patient and understanding with the staff as we adjust priorities to bridge the gap these vacancies have left between our list of priority work and our capacity to complete these projects. ➔

## International Migratory Bird Day 2014: Why Birds Matter

International Migratory Bird Day is held the second Saturday in May annually. Every year a different theme is used to educate the public about the lives and needs of migratory birds. This year the focus is "Why Birds Matter," and what better place to find out than your local national wildlife refuge? The refuges of the Willamette Valley NWRC provide sanctuary, rest stops, and nesting grounds for a wide variety of bird species. This time of year you are likely to see rufous hummingbirds zooming from flower to flower to collect nectar and pollinate the native plants; turkey vultures soaring overhead, serving as our wild "sanitation service;" or barn swallows swooping over the marshes to collect food for their young and help manage refuge insect populations at the same time. Keep an eye out for these species while you're at your local refuge and decide for yourself why birds matter! ➔



Art made from a recycled steel drum by  
Haitian artist Elias St. Louis

## Dawn's Early Light Work Parties

### Anthony Stumbo/Board Director

The painting of the Fiechter House, restoration of surrounding fence and clean-up of the grounds got off to a rip-roaring grand start in March. Extensive clean-up both inside and outside of the fence was accomplished by staff and volunteers. Trees and shrubs were trimmed, blackberries were removed and a good time was generally had by all.

A heartfelt thank you for all those who attended with extra kudos to the ladies of the Monroe High School Honor Society, and for Katrina—our army of one intern.

If you are feeling left out, no reason to worry because We've Got A Lot More To Do. What we need at this point are motivated people to dig out and replace 10-12 of the rotten posts on the fence. We will also require more motivated people to do carpentry and put the fence back together after posts are replaced. Not to forget then everything gets painted. I'm

planning to wait for sunny days but they are coming soon so don't hesitate to call or email if you are considering volunteering for this project. We at the Board have been asked by members for more volunteer opportunities. Here it is.

Anthonymstumbo@rocketmail.com  
541-740-0741



Above: Monroe HS Students trim shrubs around Fiechter House.

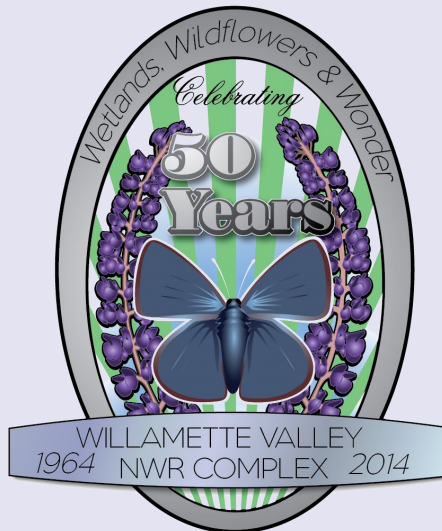
Left: Board Director Anthony Stumbo takes a pair of loppers to the blackberries that had nearly swallowed the House's fence.







## WETLANDS, WILDFLOWERS, &amp; WONDER : CELEBRATING 50 YEARS



SATURDAY

MAY 10TH, 2014

10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Join us at William L. Finley National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) on May 10th for a day full of food, fun and festivities in recognition of the 50th Anniversary of the refuge. Since 1964 the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service has worked to restore the native habitats of the refuge, and now it is time to celebrate our successes! In honor of these 50 years of service and as part of the Natural Areas Celebration Week and International Migratory Bird

Day, we have prepared a variety of activities that explore the diverse history of the refuge lands, including history prior to 1964, and the restoration work that has been done since.

Start your journey at the Prairie Overlook off Finley Refuge Road at our east entrance near Hwy 99W. Check-out a camera and get your kids involved with a photography scavenger hunt (cameras are limited, so arrive early). Take a walk with botanists through the largest stretch of native wet prairie in the valley and pick up your own pack of prairie wildflower seed. Make sure to arrive at the Cabell Lodge by 11:00 a.m. to join Project Leader Damien Miller as he welcomes you to the celebration. Stick around for live music with local band "The Hunks & The Hottie" and a buffet lunch catered by Forks & Corks catering (\$5, children under 5 eat free). After lunch, take a stroll through historic Cabell Lodge, now open for the first time since the new refuge headquarters building was completed in 2009. Inside you will find "Now & Then" images of the refuge, natural history exhibits, and William L.



*The Friends of the Willamette Valley NWR Complex will be hosting an additional event in honor of this NACW at the Corvallis-Benton County Public Library on **Sunday, May 4th from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.** The event will showcase the photography and history of the refuge's namesake, William L. Finley, with a presentation by Worth Mathewson, author of William L. Finley: Pioneer Wildlife Photographer.*

Photo Above: Young Burrowing Owls, by William L. Finley

Finley's turn of the century wildlife photography.

Throughout the day, vans will leave from the Fiechter House to give you a ride up to Pigeon Butte, the new home to endangered Fender's blue butterfly. Experts will be waiting to give you a tour of the restoration area and native wildflowers that will host the young butterflies. While you wait for your van-ride, look back in time with a tour of the historic Fiechter House and discover 19th century building techniques. Or, walk across Finley Refuge Road to dissect an owl pellet and explore historic farming equipment at Cabell Barn.

And don't forget to take a drive up to the Refuge Headquarters building and Wild Goose Nature Store! Peruse the 50th Anniversary merchandise and place a bid on your favorite silent auction gift basket. On your way there, catch a glimpse of Roosevelt elk moving through the open fields or song-birds flitting from tree to tree. ←

*Sponsors for this event include the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Friends of the Willamette Valley NWR Complex, PreservationWORKS, Corvallis Sustainability Coalition, and Tye Wine Cellars.*

**Schedule of Events**

**11 am—Welcome! with Project Leader Damien Miller**

**11 am-2 pm—Buffet lunch catered by Forks and Corks**

**11:30 am-1:30 pm—Live music by The Hunks & the Hottie**

**2:30 pm—Silent Auction closes at Wild Goose Nature Store**

**10:00 am-3:00 pm—**

- ♦ **Guided van rides and nature tours of Pigeon Butte (leave from Fiechter House)**
- ♦ **Photography Exhibits in historic Cabell Lodge, including Refuge "Now & Then" and William L. Finley's historic nature photography**
- ♦ **Children's Photography Scavenger Hunt**
- ♦ **Tours of Historic Fiechter House & Cabell Barn**

© Joe Staff



## Calendar of Events

**Sunday, April 13, 7:30 am-1 pm**—Salem Audubon Society bird walk at Ankeny NWR, starting at the Ankeny Hill Rd Overlook parking lot. With the sanctuary season ended, the walk will go into the refuge interior from Eagle Marsh or Pintail Marsh, typically 3-5 miles. For more information see the SAS website at <http://www.salemaudubon.org/>.

**Saturday, April 19th, 10 am-4 pm**—Earth Day Celebration at the Oregon Gardens. “Protecting and Preserving Our Earth, one species at a time!” Free admission. The Friends are continuing their annual tradition of representing the Willamette Valley NWR Complex at this spectacular family-friendly event. Join us to learn about endangered species recovery on the refuges and make your own endangered species mask! To learn more, check out: <http://www.oregongarden.org/events/earth-day/>. FREE event.

**Tuesday, April 22nd**—Earth Day

**Saturday, April 26th, Time TBA**—Bird Walk with Salem Audubon Society at Ankeny NWR to celebrate 50 years of refuges in the Willamette Valley!

**Saturday, May 3rd-Sunday, May 11th**—Natural Areas Celebration Week (NACW), coordinated by the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition. A time for us to stop and enjoy the wonders of our local natural heritage and to “get some nature in your kids!”

**Saturday, May 3rd, Time TBA**—Tour Baskett Butte in honor of the WVNWR 50th Anniversary!

**Saturday, May 3rd, 10 am-1 pm**—“Fluff N’ Buff” Historical Building Clean-up Work Party. Volunteers will meet at the Fiechter House. Contact Katrina at [katrina\\_maggiulli@fws.gov](mailto:katrina_maggiulli@fws.gov) if you are interested in participating.

**Sunday, May 4th, 4 pm-6 pm**—Presentation by Worth Mathewson, author of *William L. Finley: Pioneer Wildlife Photographer* at the Corvallis-Benton County Public Library. Sponsored by the Friends. FREE event.

**Saturday, May 10th, 10 am-3 pm**—“Wetlands, Wildflowers, and Wonder: Celebrating 50 Years.” Willamette Valley NWRC 50th Anniversary Celebration at William L. Finley NWR. Help us celebrate 50 years of habitat conservation and restoration in the Willamette Valley! A lot has changed since 1964, but not our dedication to conserving natural areas for wildlife and the people who love them. ! This will be a FREE event. Check it out: [www.fws.gov/refuge/william\\_l\\_finley/events/50th\\_anniversary.html](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/william_l_finley/events/50th_anniversary.html).

**Saturday, May 10th**—International Migratory Bird Day

**Tuesday, May 13th, 6 pm**—Board of Directors Meeting, William L. Finley NWR Conference Room



## Volunteer Opportunities



### HISTORIC BUILDING FLUFF N’ BUFF

*Saturday, May 3rd  
10am-1pm*

Join us as we give Fiechter House, Cabell Barn and Cabell Lodge their annual “Fluff N’ Buff” before our 50th Celebration on May 10th. Contact Katrina at [katrina\\_maggiulli@fws.gov](mailto:katrina_maggiulli@fws.gov) if you are interested in participating.

### 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

*Saturday, May 10th, 10am-3pm*

Want to wear the Blue Goose Costume? Dissect owl pellets? Chat with visitors? Or help with set-up and take-down?

#### We need your help!

All Volunteers will be fed (Catered by Forks & Corks!) and will have a number of different volunteer opportunities to choose from. If you are interested or would like to learn more, contact Katrina at [katrina\\_maggiulli@fws.gov](mailto:katrina_maggiulli@fws.gov)

### WILD GOOSE NATURE STORE

The Wild Goose is busy getting ready for the upcoming Anniversary celebration in May. We will be stocking special shirts and other items to commemorate the 50th Anniversary. We will also be offering special sales during the celebration and event give-aways. In addition we have a few new items for sale, including new earrings and puzzles. Please make sure you include a stop at the store on your agenda for the 50th Celebration and don’t forget to visit us on the weekends too!



# 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.**



Friends of the Willamette Valley  
National Wildlife Refuge Complex

Wild Goose Tales  
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Fax: 541-757-4450  
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