

WILD GOOSE TALES

2ND QUARTER, 2014



The view from Pigeon Butte on the day of the 50th Anniversary Celebration event. Visitors took van rides to the top of the Butte where specialists waited to take them on nature tours of the upland prairie restoration site. Photo by Paul Rentz.

President's Column



Doug Spencer

Our summer months are with us and the rains are gone for a while. What a beautiful time to spend some quality time out on our refuges. Remember that each of the refuges have well established trail systems for your enjoyment. At this time of year, you may catch a glimpse of the young of the year learning how to gather food and shelter in the grasses and wooded areas of the refuges. Often, if you walk slowly and quietly, you can almost walk right up to these shy critters. Also spend time looking up, many times we forget to do that. You might catch the sighting of an American bald eagle or an

osprey and if you are lucky an owl being disturbed by other birds, such as crows. A popular place to view wildlife, especially if you are limited in mobility, is the refuge office area of William L. Finley NWR. The refuge staff and volunteers have provided a habitat area by the parking lot with feeders that attract many of our avian critters, especially the acorn woodpecker and band-tailed pigeons. Just a short walk from the office is an observation shelter with benches and a scope, where you can view waterfowl, shorebirds and sometimes Roosevelt elk. My wife, daughter and two-year-old grandson spent some time at this observation shelter lately and they told me that this was one of the nicest experiences that they have had in a long time.

We recently finished up celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Willamette Valley

FRIENDS' MISSION

The Friends of the Willamette Valley National Wildlife 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.***

refuges at William L. Finley NWR in May. Preliminary plans are starting to hold a celebration of the 50th anniversary of Ankeny NWR, possibly in the fall. Stay tuned for an announcement on this. I want to thank our membership for helping make this event a great success. Without your help, it would have been very difficult for the refuge staff to conduct it. I also want to thank Nancy Zanotti for all

her help for managing the Wild Goose Nature Store and being our treasurer. In June, Nancy resigned from these positions with the Friends. I am pleased to announce that Carroll DeKock is our new treasurer and Carla Berrey is the new store manager. Also Katrina Maggiulli, our intern who has been performing all of our secretarial tasks will be leaving for graduate school

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*Project Leader's Column***BOARD MEMBERS****PRESIDENT**

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DAVE BUTCHER

MELANIE GARRETT

ANTHONY STUMBO

BRIAN WACHELKA

INTERN

KATRINA MAGGIULLI

**Damien Miller**

It's hard to believe how much has transpired just in the few months since our last newsletter. We have a new Admin Officer on board, Heather Leopard, and she has already jumped right in and is quickly coming up to speed on all aspects of the WVNWRC's budget, personnel, and administrative workload. We are so lucky to have her, and just in time to help us through the end of the fiscal year spending and accounting! We also have a new Law Enforcement Officer, Ken Robbins, joining us in August. He's recently completed the Federal Law Enforcement Training and the USFWS Refuge Officer Basic Training along with a few months of Field Officer Training in Washington and Arizona. If you are out at Finley,

stop by the office and say hi to our two newest employees!

We also have another vacancy with Jock Beall retiring a couple months ago. Jock had served as our Supervisory Refuge Biologist for about 12 years and leaves big shoes to fill. We are seeking approval to fill this key position and are hoping to advertise the vacancy within a few weeks. In the meantime, Molly Monroe has stepped up to help us continue making progress on our key Refuge projects.

With the busy field season upon us, we are scrambling to complete as much as we can fit into our busy schedules. We received

a grant last year to work towards the conservation of Oregon Chub, Fender's Blue Butterfly, and Bradshaw's Lomatium. These efforts have been progressing nicely with our most recent accomplishment being the reintroduction of Fender's Blue Butterfly on Pigeon Butte at Finley Refuge. We received additional grant funding this year for conservation work on the threatened Golden Paintbrush and are in the early stages of designing and implementing habitat restoration programs at sites on all three Refuges in hopes to achieve delisting in the future.

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Willamette Valley refuge birders have noticed yellow-headed blackbirds seem to be more common this year. This photo was captured off Finley NWR's Bruce Road by Mike Larsen.

Board Update

- ◆ Current Board Member and NEW Nature Store Manager Carla Berrey has been selected to attend the 5-day Friends Academy at the National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown, West Virginia. Congratulations Carla! We look forward to picking your brain upon your return!
- ◆ Officer updates include, new Treasurer Carroll DeKock, Secretary Sandy Kuhns, and Store Manager Carla Berrey. Remaining available positions include Newsletter Editor and Website Manager. Contact Katrina if you have questions about either position.
- ◆ Thanks to the 2013 grant funds awarded by the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation, the Friends now have a NEW website! Designed by web-design company Graticle, the new site is a gorgeous tribute to the Willamette Valley refuges. Take a look at www.friendswvnwrc.org.
- ◆ A new U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Friends Policy went into effect as of April 2014. To view the policy and accompanying Frequently Asked Questions sheet, check out the USFWS Friends site at www.fws.gov/refuges/friends/friendsPolicy.html



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 will be rated for difficulty level (easy/moderate/difficult) based on ease of access, steepness, elevation change, and other trail conditions.

Pigeon Butte Trail (W.L. Finley NWR)

Distance: 1.5 mi. one way	Accessibility: Apr 1 – Oct 31	Difficulty: Moderate
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One of the highlights of the 50th anniversary celebration at the refuge this past May was the tour up Pigeon Butte, the new home to the endangered Fender's blue butterfly. Pigeon Butte is the highest point on William L. Finley National Wildlife Refuge and offers many spectacular views of the Willamette Valley, from the Coast Range to the Cascades. This butte is named for the band-tailed pigeon, the largest pigeon in North America, which is common to the valley. There is a lot to explore on and around Pigeon Butte, so let's get started!

The main trailhead is accessed from the parking/overlook area on the south side of Bruce Road. Just cross Bruce road on the north, pass a small gate, and follow the interior refuge road toward the butte. As the standard gravel road unimpressively winds through agricultural fields, it eventually splits at Cheadle Barn pond. Head left at the pond, and then turn left again at the trail marker toward the top



of the butte.

The moderate hike up the trail skirts the edge of an oak forest, until reaching an old quarry at the top of the butte. If it's a sunny day, then keep your eyes open for western fence lizards sunning on the rocks. Otherwise, enjoy the views. And in the summer, enjoy the blackberries too!

Follow the trail a bit farther around the quarry. As it turns to the right, look for a very lightly treaded trail passing through the high grasses up to the oak stand crowning the butte. (You may need to hunt a bit, as I did my last time through.) There are several open areas on the top with the best views to the east. Or, venture into the oak stand for a great shaded picnic spot.



BONUS TRAIL! After exploring Pigeon Butte and heading back to the parking area, why not add a half-mile to the hike and take the other turn by the pond toward Cheadle Barn? This impressive barn was constructed in 1900 and is listed on both the Benton County Register of Historic Places and the National Register of Historic Places. Although Cheadle Barn is closed to the public, it's still worth a quick detour and a few photos! ↩



Clockwise from top: Pigeon Butte quarry, Irwin-Cheadle Barn; A lizard basking at the quarry; the path through the grasses on Pigeon Butte. Photos by Brian Wachelka.





Friends Focus: W.L. Finley's 50th Anniversary Celebration

Katrina Maggiulli/Intern

The morning of May 10th dawned a little foggy, but by the time folks began arriving at 10:00 am, the clouds were burning off and we were treated to a splendid Oregon spring day. Refuge Manager for W.L. Finley NWR, Laila Lienesch, welcomed visitors and spoke briefly on the conservation successes of the past 50 years. From there visitors could delve into the refuge's past or ex-

Kathy Cole from the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde while their folks discovered more about the refuge's name-sake, William L. Finley, and how his dedication (and artistic talents) brought the National Wildlife Refuge System to the west coast. The exhibits abounded with opportunities to compare the past and present and even offered a glimpse of the future with the "sneak-peek" interpretive display destined for one of the

refuge's most popular trails: The Homer Campbell Boardwalk.

At the 1855 Fiechter House, visitors explored 19th century building techniques and children's games with docents from the Benton County Historical Society and at Cabell Barn they met Tskili the great horned owl and dissected real

owl pellets collected from the barn. Despite the plethora of activities available, many people didn't stick around the historic buildings long, for vans were waiting at the Homer Campbell Boardwalk Trailhead to take them to the top of Pigeon Butte, and the site of one of the refuge's



greatest habitat restoration accomplishments. For it is there that Service biologists, in conjunction with other local specialists, selected an ideal reintroduction location for the endangered Fender's blue butterfly and began releasing larvae in April (for more information see the "Refuge Highlight" column on page 6). On the Butte, representatives from the refuge staff and the Institute for Applied Ecology took groups around the upland prairie restoration site and discussed the plant species present and the work that had been done to restore the habitat.

After their van-ride, many visitors returned to the Cabell Lodge for a meal catered by Forks & Corks Catering and settled down to picnic while enjoying the festive-vibe—courtesy of local bluegrass ensemble, The Hunks and The Hotie. Some event-goers

were retired U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service employees, and they heralded current staff, volunteers, and visitors with stories from their days working on refuges here in the Valley and across the country.

After lunch, no one was likely to forget the fun to be had at the Refuge office and nature store! Children flocked to the mask-making booth where they constructed and decorated their own Fender's blue butterfly and streaked horned lark masks. Adults explored the Silent Auction which featured items donated by individuals across the com-



plore the present wonders that have been enhanced by the years of hard work. At the historic Cabell Lodge, children explored the nooks and crannies of the old building—perhaps reminding it of the kids who once played there over 50 years ago. They learned how to make rope with



Photos, clockwise from top: Avery House Nature Center Intern, Janelle Walters helps a visitor identify the bones in her owl pellet; USFWS Biological Technician, Russ Macal, helps kids learn their way around heavy refuge equipment; Institute for Applied Ecology Executive Director, Tom Kaye, points out some spurred lupine to visitors on Pigeon Butte—this variety of lupine is a preferred host plant for Fender's blue butterfly. All Photos by Paul Rentz.



munity, as well as businesses such as Wild Birds Unlimited, Cabela's, Tye Wine Cellars, and No Dinx. The auction alone brought in over \$1,400 to support current and future refuge education and conservation projects. If you missed out on the auction, never fear, there are still 17 pairs of top-quality binoculars (valued at \$299) donated by Wild

Left: Jess from Chintimini Wildlife Center with Tskili the great horned owl.
By Paul Rentz

Birds Unlimited that the Friends are selling for the high-bid price of \$150 (see page 7 for details).

By the end of the day, volunteers and visitors alike were tired but inspired by the enthusiasm and dedication that refuge employees and the local community have for the Willamette Valley national wildlife refuges. Our parking volunteers reported parking 400 cars throughout the day, and the Wild Goose Nature Store alone saw over 150 visitors.

On behalf of the Friends, I would like to say a huge **Thank You** to everyone who participated in this celebration, everyone who has supported the refuge during its first 50 years, and everyone who plans to visit and support it in the future. Remember—the Willamette Valley Refuges belong to YOU, so let's work together to keep them as beautiful and thriving as they are now for the next 50 years and beyond. ↩

Friends Board Profile: Meet Carla Berrey, our new Nature Store Manager!



Carla Berrey

I lived most of my life in La Crescenta, CA, a wonderful mountainside community north of Los Angeles. My father loved to take drives in the mountains

and desert and he would take me with him. I remember my mother reading Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring* and how she made changes in the way we lived. I left home with the best of both of my parents' interests. After high school and dabbling in college, I took my restless self to the hills and joined the Young Adult Conservation Corps (A federally funded program run by L.A. County Fire Department).

In the YACC, I learned many outdoor skills that trained me to become a wild land fire fighter. I applied for a job with the U.S. Forest Service as a Seasonal Fire Fighter and got a coveted position on a seven person Engine Crew. For five years I worked as a fire fighter in the hot weather season and at ski areas during the cold weather months. After gaining my EMT Certification I worked for several years in hospital emergency rooms, a surgical intensive care unit, and a few oncology and medical/surgical floors.

When my husband Tom got the first job he applied

for with the Corvallis School District seven and a half years ago, we moved to Corvallis with our daughter Tobermore. Our first little expedition out of town was to Finley Wildlife Refuge ten miles south of Corvallis. I fell in love with Finley and immediately filled out a volunteer application and joined the Friends. This was my first encounter with the Friends Organization, and I volunteered for planting projects and children's educational events such as; Outdoor Week with Corvallis School District, Kids Day for Conservation and Earth Day Celebration. This worked out to my advantage; I was out of work with a lot of free time when suddenly

the front office clerk position became vacant. To show my interest in the position, I volunteered to cover the clerk position for two weeks. The administrative office staff encouraged me to apply for the now vacant position. I did. I worked as the Office Clerk for 18 months before budget cuts removed funding for the position.

After a brief break from Finley Wildlife Refuge, I started volunteering again, primarily in the Wild Goose Nature Store and I became more involved with the Friends of The Willamette Valley Refuge Complex. I joined the Friends

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DON'T FORGET TO HEAD ON OUT AND PICK UP YOUR WILLAMETTE VALLEY NWRC 50TH ANNIVERSARY MERCHANDISE AT THE WILD GOOSE NATURE STORE!



Hats, shirts, patches, wine glasses, and MORE!

Come get your 50th Anniversary merchandise before it is all gone! With a fabulous logo featuring the endangered Fender's blue butterfly and threatened Kincaid's lupine, these are some items you won't want to miss out on.



Refuge Highlight: Fender's Blue Butterflies have returned to Finley NWR's Pigeon Butte

Molly Monroe/USFWS

Thanks to a grant called the Cooperative Recovery Initiative, William L. Finley NWR is now home to the Fender's Blue Butterfly. Relying on pristine upland prairies containing their host plants, Kinkaid's and spurred lupine, the small blue butterfly was believed to be extinct until it was rediscovered in 1989. The species' decline was caused by habitat loss as agriculture and urban devel-

allowed Finley to be chosen as a release site between the two already established.

Paul Severns, a post-doctoral researcher at Oregon State University, and Greg Fitzpatrick, a FWS contractor, are using the release as a way to study which species of lupine the butterfly prefers as a host plant for its eggs and larvae. USFWS employees Molly Monroe and Laila Lienesch assisted with releases and resighting data



opment overtook the Willamette Valley's native prairies and it was listed as an endangered species in 2000. As numbers increase, it can now be found at a handful of locations throughout the Willamette Valley including Baskett Slough NWR and Fern Ridge (south of Finley NWR) which both host good numbers of the rare butterfly. Large numbers of lupine and nectar plants on Pigeon Butte Prairie

collection during the flight period in May.

Both larvae and live butterflies were collected from three sites in Eugene and a fourth west of Corvallis. Researchers released around 40 Fender's blue larvae to the site in April, some of which were observed at the site as adult butterflies. Later in May, biologists released a total of 180 adult butterflies at the site, mostly females who were marked with colored letters or



numbers that enabled researchers to track them. Following their flight period, an egg search was conducted showing good results, giving hope to the idea of a newly formed population of Fender's. With a short adult life span of only 7-10 days, most of their lives are spent as caterpillars, feeding on lupine and lying dormant in the duff for much of the year. The second round of releases is planned for May 2015. ←

For any questions please contact Molly Monroe at (541) 757-7236 ext. 206.



PURCHASE A PAIR OF BINOCULARS AND SUPPORT THE FRIENDS!



ONLY \$150!

WILD BIRDS UNLIMITED HAS DONATED 20 PAIRS OF EAGLE OPTICS RANGER BINOCULARS TO SUPPORT THE FRIENDS. WE SOLD THREE AT THE HIGH-BID OF ONLY **\$150** AT OUR 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION SILENT AUCTION, BUT WE STILL HAVE 17 MORE PAIRS! THESE EAGLE OPTICS RANGER 8 X 42 BINOCULARS HAVE A RETAIL VALUE OF \$299 DOLLARS SO YOU'D BETTER HURRY TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS AMAZING DEAL!

CONTACT NATURE STORE MANAGER CARLA BERREY AT WGNS@LIVE.COM TO PURCHASE YOUR OWN.

Top Right: USFWS Biologist Molly Monroe releases a butterfly larvae on its host plant: spurred lupine. Above Right: The butterfly larvae are just the right color to blend in with the young lupine leaves sprouting in early April. Above: A numbered female adult after release on May 14th. Photos courtesy of Molly Monroe.



Earth Day Celebration at the Oregon Gardens, 2014

On April 19th, the Friends continued their traditional participation in the annual Earth Day Celebration at the Oregon Gardens in Silverton, Oregon. This year, in recognition of the proposed delisting of the Oregon chub, the streaked horned lark's new threatened status, and the release of Fender's blue butterfly to W.L. Finley NWR, the volunteers put together a endangered species education activity: Protecting and preserving our Planet...one species at a time." Children (and adults) had the opportunity to make their own Fender's blue butterfly or streaked horned lark masks and were given a hand-out teaching them all about the needs of that particular species. The masks were such a big hit, we brought the craft back for our 50th Anniversary Celebration on May 10th. ←



Above: Intern Katrina Maggiulli and volunteer Janine Spencer make masks with youth at the 2014 Earth Day Celebration. Photo courtesy of the Oregon Gardens.

Friends Board Profile: Carla Berrey

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Board of Directors and shortly after joined the Planning Committee for the 50th Anniversary of the Finley Wildlife Refuge Complex. This involved a lot of work and a lot of fun! I now consider myself a Professional Volunteer.

I am excited about attending the Friends Academy in August 2014; I hope to gain a better understanding of the way the Friends Organization is run and about that changes that are taking place. ←

We are very excited you are going as well! The Friends Academy is a great opportunity for Board Members to familiarize themselves with the refuge System, and all that knowledge is sure to come in handy while running the Wild Goose Nature Store. Good Luck Carla!

President's Column

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in September, so Sandy Kuhns will be our new secretary. Lastly David Schas, our past board member is moving back to Corvallis and is planning to return

to the board. Please thank all of them for volunteering their time in making our organization a success. Enjoy your summer! ←

JOIN US FOR A SUMMER PICNIC AND BIRD WALK!

SATURDAY, AUGUST 16TH

12:00 PM-3:00 PM AT THE
WILLIAM L. FINLEY NWR OFFICE

ARRIVE EARLY FOR A BIRD WALK AT 10:00 AM.

FOR MORE DETAILS, SEE OUR WEBSITE AT
WWW.FRIENDSWVNWRC.ORG

Project Leader's Column

(Continued from page 2)

We are also continuing to make progress on oak restoration at Baskett Slough and Finley Refuges. We removed about 1000 fir trees from Baskett Slough NWR over the winter and spring and are currently working to remove fir from our oak woodlands at two different locations on Finley. These forestry projects generally look a bit rough the first year but after we burn the piles of slash, remove the invasive blackberries, and replant a native grass mix, they'll start looking pretty nice and provide much needed oak habitat for native species. Many of the fir trees are being donated to several different conservation organizations to be placed in streams as habitat for native fish which is an important secondary benefit of our oak restoration effort and a great example of collaborative conservation.

Our Partners for Fish and Wildlife program staff have been very busy conducting habitat conservation projects up and down the Willamette Valley on private land. They work with conservation-minded private land owners to design a variety of conservation projects that also meet the individual goals of the private land owners. They have a variety of ongoing restoration projects that include wetland, riparian, prairie, and oak savanna habitats. If you'd like to know more about this program, feel free to contact Jarod Jebousek in our Finley Office or Chris Seal in our Baskett Slough Office.

Thanks for your interest and support of the Willamette Valley National Wildlife Refuge Complex. We hope to see you out on one of the Refuges soon! ←

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
☐ Volunteer*

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

\$ _____ Tax deductible donation

Please make checks payable to FWVNWRC.

*Please contact the Friends Volunteer Coordinator to see if you qualify.



Friends of the Willamette Valley
National Wildlife Refuge Complex

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