

WILD GOOSE TALES

SUMMER QUARTER 2016



BOARD MEMBERS

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DOUG SPENCER

VICE-PRESIDENT

TOM NELSON

SECRETARY

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TREASURER

CARROLL DEKOCK

STORE MANAGER

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BRIAN WACHELKA

AZIZAH MOHD

DAVE LANDKAMER

DIANE YOUNG

ELIZABETH FRENCH

LOGAN BENNETT

DEBBIE MAYNARD

President's Column

Doug Spencer



Dear Friends, welcome to our newsletter. At our last board meeting, I had the privilege to announce to the board that Debbie Maynard was interested in being a board member with our organization, so after her introduction, the board voted in favor of Debbie being our newest board member. She will continue to be our editor to our newsletters as well. Sadly, Anthony Stumbo, our past President, informed our board that he no longer could remain on the board, but still wants to be active with our organization. Also David Schas resigned from the board this spring. He is a full time high school teacher with many responsibilities, which affected his time participating on the board. We are thankful for all of Anthony and David's support to our organization and to our refuges.

We now have an opening for a new board member, which is available to any member that wants to lead our organization into the future. If you are interested in leading our organization, please contact me at doug_spencer@q.com and I can fill you in on the details of being a board member.

Hopefully many of you were able to attend two events that our organization participated in last spring. The Oregon Gardens "Earth Day" event in April brought in hundreds of children with their families, many of which visited our children's wildlife craft table that day.

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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.*



Alligator Lizard (M. Monroe)



“In May, the Friends partnered with the Refuge and held a “Prairies in Bloom” open house event at William L. Finley NWR”



2016 Finley Refuge Open House: “Prairies in Bloom”

More than just historic buildings,
we had a historic rain event, too!
But thanks to you, we had an
AMAZING and memorable event!



Willamette Valley National Wildlife Refuge Complex: Visitor Services Updates

Samantha Bartling, Visitor Services Manager

Debrief and Thanks:

- Our big annual Open House, "Prairies in Bloom" on May 14th was rather rainy, but it was a great event and a chance for everyone to come together and showcase and celebrate the Refuge. Next year we are thinking about moving the event up to either Ankeny or Baskett Slough Refuges!
- Right before the Open House, on May 7th, we hosted a Refuge clean-up day and had the generous and helping hands of many Friends and community volunteers and a big group from Crescent Valley students from CVS Connect. **Huge thanks to all of the volunteers for making these big annual events a success!**
- Taylor Nieman has been volunteering this spring and into the summer, helping out with all things Visitor Services. From feedback card database to Open House planning, rounds and environmental education programs, she is amazingly talented and has been an ENORMOUS help. Thank you, Taylor!

Annual Refuge Elk Hunt and Deer Hunts will start August 27th and end October 31st:

If you want to hunt elk this Fall, be sure to get your applications in! Applications must be postmarked by July 15th. For an application and more information, please visit the Refuge website: www.fws.gov/refuge/William_L_Finley/

Upcoming Volunteer Appreciation Celebration:

We are so grateful to the many volunteers that make our Refuges hum, shine, sing and soar! There will be a volunteer meal and event in your honor in late summer/early Fall so stay tuned for details. And early thanks beaming your way!!!

Goodwill of Dallas, OR Sponsors a Popular Overlook at Baskett Slough Refuge:

Thanks to Goodwill, their volunteers will be picking up trash and caretaking the Highway 22 Overlook at Baskett Slough Refuge every Wednesday. We appreciate their efforts and so do the visitors and wildlife that frequent the popular pull-out.

BOBCATS!

The bobcat population at the William L. Finley NWR is healthy! Recently young bobcats have been a fairly frequent visitor to the area around the Refuge headquarters. He or she is hunting mainly mice and voles, a welcome service! Visitors, volunteers and FWS staff have been lucky enough to see and photograph the cat.

If you would like to see a bobcat, the best times to look are in the cooler parts of the day, early mornings and later in the afternoon. Good places to look are around the historic buildings: the Fiechter House and Cabell Lodge and areas between these and the Refuge headquarters building. Also check the field below Cabell barn.

One of the many Finley bobcats (A. Taylor)





President's Column (continued from page 1)

In May, the Friends partnered with the Refuge and held a "Prairies in Bloom" open house event at William L. Finley NWR. Unfortunately, the weather didn't cooperate and over an inch of rain fell and kept many indoors. Both events were well planned and had many eager and dedicated volunteers from our organization. Thank you all for helping out, you are certainly appreciated. Our next planned event will be held on September 10, at the William L. Finley NWR, which is our annual membership picnic and meeting. It is important for our members to attend to officially elect new board members and have the opportunity to talk with our board and committee leaders. If that doesn't entice you, the barbecue usually does. The food is free to our members and guests. Please put this on your calendar. A notice will be sent out in August, as a reminder.

Many of you have probably heard of the proposed Ankeny Hill Nature Center that is planned for the Ankeny NWR, which is being funded by Salem Audubon Society and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Friends also have a role. We plan to help Salem Audubon Society by providing volunteers to help manage the programs and help them with raising additional funds for the building, if necessary. Presently, the Friends have been helping with the planning of the facility and have provided some funds for the "Schematic Design Plan". In the near future the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will be presenting to the public an Environmental Assessment for review and comments. This plan is very detailed and should provide you with more details on this project.

Lastly, thank you all for being part of our organization and for your help. Without you, this organization could not endure. Your membership and donations have provided our organization with the funds to assist our refuges in many activities, such as protecting threatened and endangered species, removal of invasive species and encouraging our children to enjoy the outdoors. Thank you again.



Bulb planting at Baskett Slough Refuge (S. Bartling)



Streaked horned lark nest (M. Monroe)



WILD GOOSE NATURE STORE

LENA PROEBSTING AND JEANNE TAYLOR, MANAGERS

Welcome to the Wild Goose Nature Store! It is a gift shop located at the William L. Finley National Wildlife Refuge. It is open Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 10 AM to 4PM, all year.

It has a great assortment of books, T-shirts, caps, pins, stuffed animals, mugs, earrings, photo cards, table runners, canvas bags, bookmarks and other items with a local nature theme.

It is run entirely by volunteers! They sell merchandise, answer questions and welcome visitors. Thank you volunteers!

All profits from the store go to the Friends of the Willamette Valley National Wildlife Refuge Complex organization and help support Refuge projects.

As always, Friends members get a 10% discount at the store.

To celebrate our bobcats, store managers Lena & Jeanne decided to have a custom t-shirt printed with a bobcat image. These are now out and for sale in the Wild Goose Nature Store, in 2 colors and assorted sizes. Come into the store and take a look.



Volunteer Opportunities

If you would like to be a part of the **Wild Goose Nature Store** team and support the Refuge, we welcome volunteers!

The Willamette Valley Refuge Complex always has a ton going on. Let us know if you want to get involved and volunteer! If you don't get emails from me on where/how you can volunteer with us, let me know and I'll add you to our list.

(Samantha_bartling@fws.gov; 541-760-3036).

Pacific tree frog (M. Monroe)





Visitor Services Updates (continued from page 3)

We Hear You!

You probably noticed the new Feedback Boxes located throughout the Willamette Valley Refuges. We've been getting some very thoughtful and helpful comments, thank you. You are eyes and ears out there for us and you provide us with some really valuable insight into how we can improve habitat and how we can increase visitorship and enjoyability. We get a few frequent comments that are worth mentioning:

- For Ankeny and Baskett Slough, a lot of folks are asking why there aren't more trash cans and bathrooms at some of the pull-outs. The Highway 22 Overlook at Baskett Slough Refuge, for example, is a popular spot for visitors, especially those traveling to the coast and wanting a place to rest and stretch from travels. We did have restrooms and trash cans located here at one time but the facilities were abused so often that we simply couldn't justify the time and cost involved with maintenance. We are glad people stop at the Refuge, even if for a short visit, but please follow the common outdoor ethic: "Pack it In and Pack it Out."
- Why can't my dog enjoy the Refuges with me? We get a lot of comments on this one, but the Refuges have the important mission of being "Wildlife First" and domestic animals of all kinds really disturb wildlife. Thank you for understanding and leaving your pets at home.
- Why isn't jogging allowed? Running produces an automatic and profound stress response in wildlife: "AHHHHH!! I should flee, too!! AHHHHH!!" Remember, you're a visitor to wildlife's home so let's respect their needs. You might be surprised by how much you see by slowing down....





The Friends are active around the community:

Sandy, Janine, Jeannine, Gil, Diane, Azizah and Doug spent the day volunteering at the Earth Day event at the Oregon Gardens introducing the participants to our organization and the refuges and helping the children make frog puppets, lady bugs and fishing for species in our creative water tank. At least 150 children participated in making wildlife crafts and almost all of the information leaflets were distributed. Thank you all for your time and dedication in making this event a success.

Doug Spencer, president of the Friends, gave a presentation with photos about the three Willamette Valley Refuges to children and adults on June 17, at the Albany Public Library. Spencer discussed the Partners Program (habitat restorations on private lands), water and upland management, invasive species, endangered species and public-use activities available at the refuges. Nearly everyone in the audience asked questions and took leaflets. About 3/4 of the people had never been out to the refuges, so it was very enjoyable to talk with them.

Upcoming Friends Events:

The next Friends Board Meeting will be Tuesday, August 9th from 6:00 pm to 8:00 PM in the William L. Finley Refuge conference room.

Annual Membership Picnic, Barbecue, and Meeting: September 10, 2016 at William L. Finley NWR, Friends members will officially elect new board members and have the opportunity to talk with our board and committee leaders. Food is free to our members and guests.



The Cabell Barn gets spiffed up! (S. Bartling)



Some of the volunteers at the William L. Finley clean-up event on May 7th (S. Bartling)



Cleaning up an overgrown native garden (S. Bartling)

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
Primary Business Address

Address Line 2

Address Line 3

Address Line 4

Phone: 555-555-5555

Fax: 555-555-5555

E-mail: someone@example.com

VISIT US ONLINE AT
WWW.FRIENDSWVNWRC.ORG