
Friends of Ridgefield NWR
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NEWS RELEASE



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Contact Marguerite Hills, (360) 887-9495

The Friends of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge is pleased to announce the selection of Marguerite Hills as its new Executive Director. Friends President Jim Maul Says: "Up until now, the Friends has been an all-volunteer organization. As is the case with many volunteer organizations, there is far more work that needs to be done than gets done. The Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge is a tremendous community, regional, and national asset. As the Executive Director of the Friends, Marguerite will help to capture the opportunity this refuge presents for all its stakeholders and we can expect great benefits to the resource as a result."

Refuge Manager Tim Bodeen says: "Bringing Marguerite on as the executive director is a win-win for the both the Friends and the Refuge. The infusion of her passion, enthusiasm, and collaborative spirit will greatly benefit the Refuge, Ridgefield and the Friends. She will do great things."

Hills' association with Ridgefield and the Refuge goes back to 1985 when she first came to Ridgefield to serve as the Refuge biologist. She left the area in 1994 to take a position with the California Condor Recovery Program, and later served as the Refuge manager at Cypress Creek NWR in Illinois. She returned to the Portland area in 2002 to serve as the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Regional specialist on Refuge friends groups, volunteers and visitor services.

"Ridgefield Refuge is a very special place for me" says Hills. "I hope that more and more people become members of the Friends because we have so many great projects to do. We hope that every Ridgefield family, either on their own or with a school class, can come to the Refuge and experience the natural wonders there. When I heard from a Ridgefield mother that her child had only been to the Refuge once in the twelve school years, I knew that we have lots to do."

The Friends of the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge is a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting education and projects on the Refuge. The Friends host BirdFest, an annual celebration of birds in mid-October, when hundreds of sandhill cranes return to the Refuge. The festival has lots of family activities and bluegrass concerts to enjoy. The Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge has an auto tour and hiking trails for visitors year-round. Many people come regularly to enjoy the solitude, experience the beauty, learn about Chinookan history, take photographs, and see the spectacular variety of bird life. The Friends members work to provide a quality experience for them, providing funds for facilities and tree planting, field trips and special events.

Contact the Friends office in Ridgefield (360) 887-9495 if you would like to become part of these activities.