

# Tualatin River Bird Festival, May 18-20

SUBMITTED BY: **PAM FARRIS AND CAROLYN UYEMURA**

The Friends of the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge invite you to our 17th annual Bird Festival May 18-20. This event will be held at the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge (19255 SW Pacific Highway, Sherwood, OR: 503-625-5944, x227). The festival will offer numerous opportunities for children and adults to get outside and enjoy nature.

Jeff Douglas, who recently retired as producer and host of OPB's Oregon Field Guide, will kick off the festival on Friday evening. Douglas "...spent the decade of the 90's traveling to all corners of Oregon's unmatched scenery and delving into the issues around the environment and the economy." Douglas will talk about "Things I Learned Reporting for Oregon Field Guide" in the Visitors Center Riparian room. Social hour will be at 5:30 and Douglas will speak at 6 p.m. There will be time afterwards to meet him and ask questions. The public is invited to attend. Seating is limited and registration is strongly encouraged.

The weekend will be filled with activities including a Bird and Breakfast

walk at 5:45 a.m. on Saturday. This walk costs \$25. Registration is required. All other festival activities are free.

Fish and Wildlife Service will have a bird walk at 6:30 a.m. on Saturday. Songbird hikes will start at 7 a.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Later Saturday morning, visitors can take a guided nature walk on the Refuge or join a canoe trip on the Tualatin River

and see the river from a different perspective. Children can make bee boards, bat houses, and birdhouses, listen to a storyteller and participate in other interesting drop-in activities. Other activities on Saturday include a demonstration of bird banding by a Refuge biologist, archery demonstrations, woodcarving, Audubon Wild Bird show and a look behind the scenes of Refuge Management.

Also on Saturday at 4 p.m., special guest Mark Raddatz, a professional actor, will present an interpretation of conservationist John Muir, legendary mountaineer, naturalist and founder of the Sierra Club. The audience will be "treated to the poetry, wit, insight and passion that made

John Muir the most effective voice for preservation in his own time and a remarkably pertinent voice in ours." Seating is limited; registration is recommended. Sunday's happenings will include children's activities, bird and nature walks, Audubon Live Bird show and

two free talks by bird expert Dan Gleason, author of *Birds! From the Inside Out*. Gleason is a retired faculty member of the Biology Department at the University of Oregon, where he taught Field Ornithology for many years. Free shuttle service and free parking on Saturday is available at the Pacific Financial Center, 12205 SW Tualatin Rd. (just off Hwy 99W, corner of SW 124th Ave & SW Tualatin



Refuge Manager Erin Holmes addressing the crowd before the live bird show

Rd.) Shuttle service will run from 5:30 a.m.–6:30 p.m. on Saturday. Free parking will be available at the Refuge on Friday evening and Sunday; however, parking is limited at the Refuge and carpooling or public transportation is recommended on Sunday.

Two additional events will be held prior to the bird festival. The Refuge will host a native plant sale on Saturday, May 5, 9 a.m. -3 p.m.

On May 11-13, 2012, the Refuge will host Focus on Nature weekend. This weekend will feature a selection of photography workshops, seminars, and a free talk by Arthur Morris, professional bird photographer at 6:30 p.m. Saturday evening.

A complete listing of workshops and presenters and any associated fees is available at [www.tualatinriverbirdfestival.org](http://www.tualatinriverbirdfestival.org).

The Tualatin River Bird Festival is sponsored by the Friends of the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge. The Friends is an all volunteer, non-profit organization. All money donated is tax-deductible and donations help with refuge programs and operations.



See birds from the Portland Audubon Live Bird Show