

# Press Release for Immediate Release

## BirdFest & Bluegrass 2009

October 10-11, 2009 all day

Ridgefield, WA

Locations: in town and on two refuge units

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[www.ridgefieldfriends.org](http://www.ridgefieldfriends.org)

## BIRDWATCHING, BLUEGRASS MUSIC MAKING, CELEBRATING, NATIVE AMERICAN HISTORY REPLICATING, all in one place!

### BirdFest and Bluegrass 2009

A celebration of the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge. Guided bird, plant, and history walks, kayak tours, bluegrass music, a salmon bake and storytelling. Fun for birders, musicians, historians and families. Saturday and Sunday, October 10th and 11th all day.

In Ridgefield, WA, just 25 minutes north of downtown Portland. I-5 to exit 14 follow the signs. Park your car once and ride an eco-shuttle to experience it all. Come see the beauty and explore the rich cultural history of the refuge. Adults and children can participate in so many free activities while enjoying the sights and sounds of fall migration. Archeologist led demonstrations and walks will follow in the footsteps of Native Americans and Lewis and Clark to a replica of a Cathlapotle (Cath-lah-poh-tl) plank house, hand built using ancient techniques and tools. Sunday afternoon a traditional Salmon bake will be held at the plankhouse. The Bald Eagle is the featured bird and will be the focus of many of the expert guided walks and presentations. The refuge is home to many nesting pairs of these soaring beauties. Free children activities include Audubon guided bird walks, Oregon Zoo "Wildlife Live" show, raptor displays, craft stations, storytelling and much, much more. When you get tired of looking up head to the Birders Marketplace with great buys on, garden items, pottery, art, photography birdhouses, clothes and books.

Fly the coop and try something new, see the refuge from the water on a guided kayak/paddle tour. (Reservations required ,children twelve and under are free, with an adult in a double kayak)

Spectacular sunrise and sunset tours to view Sandhill Cranes flying in to a traditional roost, a rare opportunity to visit a closed area of the refuge, are offered on a limited basis, reservations and fees are required.

14 Bluegrass bands will play from 11:00am to 9:00 pm in downtown Ridgefield on Saturday only. All venues are within walking distance of each other, \$10.00 gets you in all shows (children 12 and under are free) Bring your string instrument along, jamming is encouraged and workshops will be offered.

All these activities might make a stomach grumble, food booths will be serving tasty treats to keep you playing all day. Proceeds from Birdfest and Bluegrass go to the Friend of the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge to support programs on the refuge. For more information go to [www.ridgefieldfriends.org](http://www.ridgefieldfriends.org)

**Friends of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge P.O. Box 1022 Ridgefield, WA 98642 360-887-9495**

Photographs are available to accompany this event for your publication. See next few pages for examples. Please contact Julie Almquist for those photos with photo credits. 503-774-0065 Julie@AlmquistProductions.com

The short version:

## Birders, Musicians, Historians Families, *Birdfest and Bluegrass* has something for everyone Saturday and Sunday, October 10-11, all day.

### **BirdFest and Bluegrass 2009**

Come to the Ridgefield National Wildlife refuge, just 25 minutes north of Portland. Park once and ride an eco-shuttle to see it all. Walk on Audubon led bird and plant tours. Learn about Bald Eagles from experts. Reserve a spot on a tour to view Sandhill Cranes flying. Kayak on a guided paddle tour. Shop at a birders marketplace. Visit an authentic replica of a plankhouse and see demonstrations on how Native Americans lived. Sample salmon at a traditional salmon bake. Listen to Bluegrass music all day Saturday, or come to jam in a workshop. Shop at the birders marketplace. Watch your children have fun for free while learning about nature at the craft stations, storytelling tent, raptor shows and Audubon children's bird walks.

For more information go to [www.ridgefieldfriends.org](http://www.ridgefieldfriends.org)



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Friends of Ridgefield  
National Wildlife Refuge  
presents  
**BirdFest**  
and Bluegrass  
October 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> 2009

