



New Construction

Come and see what is happening at your Refuge. An administration building is rising at McNary NWR. Also, even as you read this a new parking lot is under construction. It will loop through the trees from Lake Road to Maple Street. This will accommodate parking for school buses and visitors. The drive through allows safer release of the kids who come to enjoy our Environmental Education Programs. It's safer for all folks departing from tour buses as well.



Native Plants Blooming

Among the native plants in bloom at the Center are Antelope Bitterbrush, scarlet globe mallow, yarrow, Spiny Hopsage, and sulfur buckwheat. Douglas Rabbitbrush is a low mound and blooms in the spring.



Globe Mallow

Plant references indicate the Green is the same as Douglas, both identified as *Chrysothamnus nauseosus* but come and view the difference between the five-foot tall green variety that blooms in October and the low mound now with a showy yellow bloom.



Douglas Rabbitbrush

Purple Sage is a member of the mint family widely seen in the southwest and known for its medicinal uses by tribal shamen. Unlike Big Sage (*Artemisia tridentata*) which blooms in October, Purple Sage (*Salvia carnososa*) is now in bloom in the native plant garden. Take time to smell the natives.

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Purple Sage

Education Center Activities

Many of the classes being held this month were registered a year ago. That shows the popularity of the depth and value of McNary's outdoor education. Training is held monthly for new volunteers to accommodate even more groups in the future. Contact the Center at 543-8322 and ask for Shannon Hays-Truex for the training schedule. Or leave your name and phone number on the Center answering machine. If your message and phone number are clear you will receive a response. Sometimes the volunteer who answers the phone has a difficult time deciphering messages. Old ears do not always hear clearly.

Teepee Awaits New Cover

The skeleton of the tule mat teepee awaits a canvas cover. When tule – bulrush – matures in October it will be harvested and woven into the mats needed to recover the teepee in the manner of the Wanapum River Peoples who roamed along the Columbia and Snake rivers for thousands of years. A canvas cover has arrived and is ready to be put up. Leave a message for Greg Greger if you want to help - 543-8322.



No Child Left Indoors

That is the focus of the National Wildlife Refuge System recreation program. Get children on their feet, away from the snack bar, and let them converge at McNary NWR to explore the wonders of plant and animal life.

A scientist must look, listen, and think about nature. Kids, with their innate curiosity, can hone the skills needed to discover answers yet unknown. In this age of microchips, there are undeveloped technologies to be



designed that will uncover the mysterious. Think of the world before the printing press, the camera, and other technologies that were developed and improved to be ever more efficient tools.

What a great time to live, even as short as our life is compared to the millions of years of evolution. The kids will invent or discover new stuff. And it won't be sticking in their ears.

Not All Refuges Are Free

The area of McNary NWR that lies between Lake Road and Hood Park is open to visitors all year around. Walk the chip trail from Lake Road, view birds from the scope on the deck, visit the bird blind, and enjoy the sounds of birds and textures of plants especially at sunrise or near sundown when the dampness in the air enhances the smell of flowers and stirs wildlife. There are terrific photo opportunities.

The display room where you can view the Audubon birds in the Center is open from 9 a.m. to noon on the second Saturday of every month. New birds were added these past few weeks. Programs are being developed to extend the open hours of the Center on weekends. Remember the outdoor part of the McNary National Wildlife Refuge is always open and it is FREE.

Taxidermy Used To Make Life-like Exhibits

Carcasses in Refuge and the Education Center freezers would like to be skinned and treated for use as hands-on items for school kids (and everyone else). Feathers, bones, pelts, and feet or beaks could be examined on the hands-on table whereas our stuffed birds cannot be touched.

The freezers will be cleaned out and stuff



discarded unless we can afford to have them prepared for hands on use. Email: naomi@sherer.org if you are interested in helping in any regard.

Life-like Anna's Hummingbird is one of the newest Audubon birds in the taxidermy collection

Visit www.nwrmcnary.org
for directions and other information

Come to McNary NWR on the Second Saturday of any month and get the latest information on the new Administration building, the new Environmental Education Center, and expected action on the exposed shoreline along the trail.

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