



FRIENDS OF MALHEUR NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Malheur Musings - June 2018



Juniper hairstreak on biscuitroot (*Lomatium* sp.)
Photo by Peter Pearsall

Director's Message

Dear Friends,

June is National Pollinator Month, when the conservation spotlight falls on the native bees, birds, butterflies, moths, flies, bats and other animals that pollinate our flowering plants--everything from the wildflowers we enjoy while hiking to the fruits, vegetables and seeds we'd be hard-pressed to live without. In the U.S., more than 100 food and fiber crops depend on these pollinators, including almonds, apples, pears, citrus fruits, cherries, pumpkins, cucumbers, blackberries, cranberries, raspberries, strawberries, blueberries, melons, tomatoes, soybeans and sunflowers.

You may recall announcements from the end of last year stating that FOMR is planting

a Pollinator Garden at Refuge Headquarters in Spring 2018. We're sorry to say that work on the Pollinator Garden at the Crane's Nest Nature Center has been delayed due to scheduled construction near the planting site. A concrete walkway is planned for the area adjacent to the garden and we've decided it's best to hold off until this Refuge-contracted work is complete.

Nevertheless, we're looking forward to beginning work on this project in the near future. A raised-bed plot will be built and planted near Marshall Pond, just outside the Crane's Nest Nature Center & Store. Seeds and plants of a variety of native annual and perennial species will be purchased from a local native plant nursery to plant in the beds. The selected species will represent a variety of flower colors, shapes and phenologies, to attract a diverse array of native pollinators from spring to fall. A focus on early-spring and late-fall blooming species will provide resources for emerging queen bumblebees in spring and migrating monarchs in fall.

Alongside the Marshall Trail, we'll continue to maintain the previously planted trees and shrubs and will add more perennial native shrubs and grasses, including wild currant, wild rose, bitterbrush, rabbitbrush, Great basin wild rye and others. These plants, in addition to providing nectar and pollen resources for pollinators, will eventually grow to provide forage and habitat for resident and migratory birds.

To all who donated for our Pollinator Garden late last year, please know that your contribution is earmarked for this project and we plan to proceed as soon as it's appropriate. We at FOMR care deeply about supporting our native pollinators and we're glad that you do, too.

We hope everyone is enjoying the start of summer!

Peter Pearsall
Executive Director, Friends of Malheur Refuge



Summer Hours at Malheur HQ

The Visitor Center and Crane's Nest Nature Center & Store
share the same hours:

Open 7 days a week, 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

Track Bumble Bees in Your Area!

Interested in participating in a citizen science project that contributes to invertebrate conservation? Bumble Bee Watch is a collaborative effort created by The Xerces Society to track and conserve North America's bumble bees. This project allows individuals to:

- Upload photos of bumble bees to start a virtual bumble bee collection;
- Identify the bumble bees in your photos and have your identifications verified by experts;
- Help researchers determine the status and conservation needs of bumble bees;
- Help locate rare or endangered populations of bumble bees;
- Learn about bumble bees, their ecology, and ongoing conservation efforts; and
- Connect with other citizen scientists.



Nevada bumble bee on showy milkweed
Photo by Peter Pearsall

Visit the [Bumble Bee Watch website](#) for details about how to participate.

Burns Paiute Field Day at MNWR

On May 25, Malheur Refuge hosted the annual Field Day for the Burns Paiute Tribe Tu-Wa-Kii Nobi Youth Program. (Tu-Wa-Kii Nobi means "Kids' House" in the Paiute language.)

Staff from the Burns Paiute Tribe, High Desert Partnership, Audubon Society of Portland, Malheur Refuge and FOMR coordinated the event, which involved birding, boating, and invasive carp removal!



MNWR Fishery Technician Robert Esquivel operates a fish trap during the Field Day
Photo by Peter Pearsall

Meet Teresa Wicks, East Oregon Field Coordinator for Portland Audubon

Teresa earned her M.S. in Environmental Education from Southern Oregon University and recently moved to Harney County to serve as the Eastern Oregon Field Coordinator for Portland Audubon. She is looking forward to time spent in the field, doing outreach within Harney County, and to connecting the greater Oregon community to the conservation work being done at Malheur NWR and the surrounding area...[Read more here.](#)



Teresa Wicks with Burns Paiute youth at the Field Day
Photo by Peter Pearsall

Shorebird Surveys at Malheur Lake

Malheur Refuge is host to tens of thousands of shorebirds during migration. At least twenty-seven shorebird species use the Refuge at various points throughout the year, and ten of

those species regularly breed here.

During spring and fall migration, Malheur Refuge staff work with partners such as the Audubon Society of Portland and Friends of Malheur Refuge to conduct shorebird surveys at Malheur Lake...[Read more here.](#)



Black-necked stilts and American avocet at Malheur Lake
Photo by Peter Pearsall

FOMR Meeting & Mentoring



FOMR Board President Gary Ivey (second from right) speaks to Annual Meeting attendees at Windmill Pond in the Double-O Unit of Malheur Refuge
Photo by Peter Pearsall

On May 18-19, FOMR hosted its Annual Meeting at Refuge Headquarters. There were about 20 in attendance, including Refuge staff and partners, members of FOMR's Board of Directors, volunteers and FOMR members. At the general meeting on May 18, FOMR volunteer Kay Steele presented a slideshow of her amazing photography-- just a sampling of the portfolio she created during her volunteer stint in April-May 2018 that will be donated to FOMR and the Refuge. Later that evening we enjoyed pizza and beer from Steens Mountain Brewery at our social event in Burns.

During the Refuge tours on Saturday, May 19, participants were treated with perfect weather and an itinerary that included several restricted-access areas such as Double O Ranch, Boca Lake, East Canal Road and others. The Annual Meeting is a great opportunity for FOMR members to meet face-to-face with the FOMR Board and Refuge staff to learn firsthand about what's going on at Malheur Refuge, both at the management level and "on the ground".

We'd like to remind everyone that FOMR is participating in the Friends Partnership Mentoring Program next month. This nation-wide program offers peer-to-peer coaching for Refuge Friends organizations and their Service partners to help the partnerships flourish and sustain success.

The program is geared towards well-established partnerships seeking guidance on

things such as capacity building, taking on a significant new project, or Board development.

The Mentoring Program at Malheur Refuge will take place July 20-22. The tentative agenda includes workshops, a Refuge tour and a social event to which partners, members and friends are invited. FOMR encourages any and all interested members to attend the social event Friday evening, July 20. We'll keep you updated with details about the Mentoring Program in the weeks ahead.

As always, stay tuned to our [website](#) and [Facebook page](#) for updates!

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