



FRIENDS OF MALHEUR NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Malheur Musings - May 2019



Peek-A-Boo! The Great horned owls at Refuge Headquarters have owlettes. Here, one of at least two young is peeking out from its vantage point within the snag where the adults chose to nest this year.

Photo by Dan Streiffert

Director's Message

Friends,

Our spring migration has already transitioned from white geese to waders and just this week a diversity of passerines are beginning to arrive. Warblers, thurshes and sparrows will soon dominate conversations here at Headquarters and throughout the Refuge. Shorebird surveys on Malheur Lake and sandhill crane surveys at Double 0 have already begun, kicking off the

biological survey season. Pretty soon seasonal field technicians will arrive and join a wonderful community of volunteers who have already begun rotating through.

Our first group of resident volunteers arrived at the beginning of April, just in time to train up on managing the Nature Store and prepare for the rush that comes with the Annual Harney County Bird Festival. I could not possibly overstate how wonderfully helpful, outgoing, and supportive this group of people has been. In four short weeks I have grown rather fond of them and find myself surprised and actually quite sad to know that they will soon be leaving. It's comforting to hear Jo mention that they have been all sharing meals and enjoying one another's company. When Lynn or Eric ask me if there is anything I need, they really mean it. Dan has been so generous with his time that he gave a photo presentation as part of the Bird Festival and is always willing to share his amazing photographs with us. Just like the birds, they will move on. And just like the birds, I am comforted to know there will be a new batch of interesting, earnest and wonderful volunteers showing up right behind them.

Besides the opportunity to welcome the next batch of volunteers to the Refuge, there is much upcoming to be excited about!

May 4th, 11th, & 18th Sodhouse Rookery Monitoring Program (RoMP)

May 5th, 12th, & 19th Sunday Bird Walks with Friends (Refuge HQ)

May 5th World Premier of the Malheur Symphony (Burns, OR)

May 10th - 12th Phase 2: Worthy Pollinator Garden Work Party (Refuge HQ)

May 25th - 26th Annual Member's Weekend Events (Refuge HQ & Burns, OR)

For each of these events and more there is additional information throughout the body of this newsletter. As always, you should feel free to contact me directly if you have any questions about attending or getting involved! Whether it is to volunteer in the Garden or join a tour during the Member's weekend I truly hope to meet you any or all of our upcoming events!

Thank you for being a Friend,

Janelle L Wicks
FOMR Executive Director



We are so proud of the new FOMR logo items including these 100% Organic cotton t-shirts which are made in the USA and printed right here in Burns, OR!

Scratch & Dent Bin

Look for discounts on items in our Scratch & Dent bin. Items might be slightly less than perfect, but everything deserves a home!

Check out discounts up to 50% OFF

Membership Minute

If you are not yet or no longer a FOMR Member, please consider 2019 the year to become a Friend as we celebrate our 20th Birthday all year!

If you are unsure of your Membership status please contact us at Friends@Malheurfriends.org today!

2019 Annual Members Weekend Event

May 24th - 26th

Mark your calendars and plan for a fun filled Memorial Day Weekend!



MIGRATE WITH MALHEUR
A VERY BIRDY BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

FRIENDS OF MALHEUR
NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Meet expert birders stationed at key birding hot spots along the Auto Tour Route. Adventure on your own or sign up for a seat on a van that will make the trip from Burns!

SATURDAY
MAY 25TH 2019

REFUGE HEADQUARTERS

All Programs FREE
DONATIONS WELCOME

The Friends of Malheur NWR are celebrating 20yrs of promoting conservation and appreciation of natural and cultural resources.

7:30 - 11:30 Migrate Malheur: Explore the Auto Tour on your own or join a van!
• 8:00 - Vans leaving from Burns HS, Pre-register 541.493.2612
Optional Presentations by Gary Ivey, Friends of Malheur NWR President
• 9:00 - Sandhill Cranes of the Pacific Flyway
• 11:00 - Conservation Challenges of Trumpeter Swans at Malheur

12:00 Worthy Pollinator Garden Dedication Ceremony @ Refuge Headquarters

6:00 - 9:00 Presentations and Book signing at the Burns, OR Elks Lodge
• Kenn Kaufman; Migration Matters of the West
• Alan Contreras; The Fine Arts at Malheur
• Auction supporting NW Youth Corps Tribal Stewards Program

Email: Friends@MalheurFriends.org Facebook: [@MalheurFriends](https://www.facebook.com/MalheurFriends)

Experience the Refuge in a whole new way by Birding with the Experts along the Auto Tour Route.

Attend the dedication of the newly established Worthy Pollinator Garden at Refuge Headquarters.

Attend an event w/ Authors & Avian Aficionados Kenn Kaufman & Alan Contreras followed by an auction to support the Tribal Stewards Program.

Sign up for exclusive tours of either Boca Lake or Double O.

Hope to see you there!

For more information visit our [website](#) or Facebook events page.

Our Birthday Gift to You

Throughout 2019, we will be giving away commemorative 20th

Birthday enamel pins! All new Friends will receive a pin and current Friends can get theirs one of 3 ways!

Birthday Bump

Renew your Membership in 2019 by bumping up to the next level. If you are currently an INDIVIDUAL Member, consider renewing with a FAMILY or DONOR Membership.

Forever Friends

Opt for renewing your Membership in 2019 through monthly recurring payments. For as little as \$5 or as much as comfortably fits your budget.

To do this, visit malheurfriends.org/support, click DONATE and choose to make this a monthly donation!

Volunteer

Join us for a work party, special project, staff the Crane's Nest Nature Store or lend us a hand by sharing your unique talents in any way you see fit! Keep an eye on this Newsletter and our Facebook page (@MalheurFriends) for upcoming volunteer opportunities.



To date, 56 Friends have earned their pins by making a Birthday Bump in their Membership contribution!



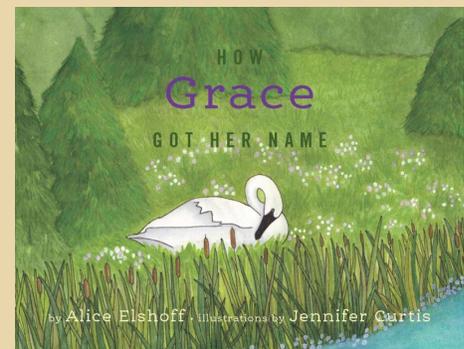
If you have earned a pin and not yet received it please know that they are finally on their way. It took quite a few back and forths to the post office first in Burns, then to Princeton before getting back to Burns twice over and settling the matter once and for all. After all that, it was determined that the width of the envelope due to the pin back required quite a substantive addition of postage. As such, my final trip to the Burns Post Office took 45+ minutes of re-posting each outgoing envelope and now they are FINALLY on their way to their rightful new homes! I hope you love them as much as I am proud to be sharing them with you!

Thank you to the 80+ New Friends that have joined us since Jan 1, 2019!

Trumpeter Swan Restoration Efforts in Oregon

Alice Elshoff, FOMR Vice Chair, has authored a new children's book focused on trumpeter swan conservation in Oregon! *How Grace Got Her Name* is a story book stunningly illustrated by Jennifer Curtis and published locally through Moonglade Press in Bend, OR.

Alice shares with readers the trouble that Grace finds herself along the Deschutes River in downtown Bend and the trials she endures alongside a community of people that set themselves to task in helping her survive and thrive...[Read more here](#).



Cover art for *How Grace Got Her Name*

White Geese in the Harney Basin

Snow and Ross' geese use the Silvies Floodplain, Malheur Lake and the Double-O Ranch areas

extensively during spring migration. More recently, numbers of wintering white geese have dramatically increased in the Pacific Flyway and recent estimates of Ross' Geese total about 450,000 and estimates of Snow Geese total about 750,000; a total of about 1.2 million white geese...[Read more here.](#)



Blue-phase Ross's goose with other white geese
Photo by Gary Ivey

Painted Lady Butterflies

Perhaps you've seen a few of these butterflies recently, flitting about in your garden. Or perhaps you've seen hundreds, coursing along coastlines or crossing highways in steady streams, with many sadly meeting their ends splattered on car windshields and grills.

Measuring two inches from wingtip to wingtip, with black and white markings against an orange backdrop, these scale-winged insects are a familiar sight to people around the world. The painted lady (*Vanessa cardui*) is one of the most widespread butterfly species on the planet, found on every continent except South America and Antarctica...[Read more here.](#)



Painted ladies on golden currant
Photo by Alan Contreras



Conservation Corner

From Wildlife Biologist to Maintenance Supervisor, there is much important and exciting work being done at Malheur Refuge and they want to share it with you!

Malheur Refuge Loves Its Volunteers!

By Carey Goss, Malheur National Wildlife Refuge Specialist

Last year, Refuge volunteers provided more than 4,000 hours of service and I am grateful for what they have achieved. This year already, five Refuge volunteers have helped me with the Harney County Migratory Bird Festival, staffed the Visitor Center, provided excellent birding advice to visitors, and completed various maintenance tasks...[Read more here.](#)

FOMR Sponsored County-Wide Arts Education Program

By Carey Goss, Malheur National Wildlife Refuge Specialist

This February, students all around Harney County had the opportunity to learn about shorebirds, gulls and terns and created unique pieces of art during this year's Art Residency Program developed by Malheur National Wildlife Refuge and Bend Art Center for the annual Harney County Migratory Bird Festival...[Read more here.](#)

In Other News:

- **Eaglettes have hatched and for the first time in over 100 years we have successfully reproducing Bald Eagles on Malheur NWR! There are 2 confirmed eaglettes in the nest at P-Ranch and 1 confirmed in the nest at Sodhouse Ranch. The image below is of the Sodhouse Ranch nest with one adult and its chick just barely peeking above the edge. We believe this chick is 4 weeks old.**



Sodhouse RoMP (Rookery Monitoring Program) will get underway this weekend, Saturday May 4th from 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM. Volunteers will be stationed at Sodhouse Ranch, 150 meters from the rookery to collect nest occupancy and productivity data. The visiting public is encouraged to stop by and learn about this exciting project, scope out the rookery and get a rare glimpse at one of the newest bald eagle chicks on the Refuge. Check out the FLYER!

- From Stick Figures to Singbirds, a FREE bird sketching workshop through the Harney County Library was a great success. We were pleased to be able to host their group on Saturday, April 27th following a Refuge HQ Bird

Walk with Portland Audubon's Eastern Oregon Field Coordinator, Teresa Wicks.

- On April 25th Portland Audubon hosted Crane and Burns High School science classes came to the Refuge to participated in the inaugural Benson Pond BioBlitz. Friends Director, Janelle Wicks was honored to help out by leading the "*Bug Team*"! In total, 22 students got to split up and worked on cataloguing every thing they could and much that they couldn't by using iNaturalist and eBird!
- In light of a particularly wet spring, the Refuge staff are preparing for the the Central Patrol Road (Auto Tour Route) to experience periodic flooding through parts of May and June. As this happens updates will be posted to @MalheurFriends on Facebook as soon as information becomes available to us.

Volunteer Spotlight



The April Crew: (Left to Right) FOMR Director Janelle Wicks with All Star Volunteers Dan Streiffert, Eric Faucher, Lynn Fox, and Jo Jefferies

Pollinator-palooza in 2019 - STILL NEEDED!

We are in the final stages of our long-awaited Pollinator Garden that will be going in the ground this spring! Volunteers can join us for one or both work party weekends:

May 10th, 11th & 12th

Finally, the plants will be planted! A weekend of gardening on behalf of the pollinators will include some light lifting, bending, squatting, etc. These plants will attract and support native pollinators and bring joy and exploration to Refuge visitors. Volunteers will enjoy an overnight stay in the Fire Bunkhouse at Refuge HQ.

Contact Janelle via



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY
MAY 10TH, 11TH & 12TH
MALHEUR NWR HEADQUARTERS
8:30 AM - 4:00 PM

Worthy Pollinator Garden Pt.2

Free housing on Refuge!
Contact Janelle Wicks
Director@MalheurFriends.org
541.892.6063

friends@malheurfriends.org

Shout-Outs!

Lynn Fox & Eric Faucher hail from Portland, OR where they enjoy the serenity of their surroundings of the Hoyt Arboretum and nearby Forest Park. They found themselves far from the big city as they spent the month of April volunteering in the Crane's Nest Nature Store and exploring Malheur NWR and the Great Basin. They captured the grandeur and the granular of their experiences in recent BLOG posts.

We are grateful for the combined nearly 200 hours of time they shared with us and for the opportunity to read all about it in such beautiful detail.

Find their BLOG here: [You Couldn't Pay Us To Do This Job!](#)

Thank you Lynn & Eric!

Dan Streiffert is akin 'household' name around Refuge Headquarters, but not because anyone has had the privilege of meeting him until he recently showed up to volunteer for the month of April. A great many of the photographs that you all enjoy each month in this newsletter, on Facebook (@MalheurFriends) and through instagram have been shot by Dan. He has been generous with these striking images by allowing the Friends of Malheur NWR to use them on these platforms to share with all of you. During the 2019 Harney County Bird Festival last month he also gave a presentation to participants for our Photos with Friends Open House. Dan is also the current President of the Ranier Audubon Society and as such he has included an article about his time at Malheur in their recent Heron Herald Newsletter. Check it out here: [Heron Herald](#)

Thank you Dan!

Pollinator Garden Work Party Pt 1 took place last weekend and was a huge success! Over the course of three days FOMR Project Committee Chair, Linda Hoffman, and a crew of extremely dedicated volunteers were able to accomplish the erection of the retaining wall and the setting of 6 4x4 fence posts. This work is made all the more possible through the sponsorship of the Worthy Garden Club.





The final post is set in place with the careful team work of Dan Streiffert, Eric Faucher and Dan Sands.

**A special thank you to additional volunteers that helped out:
Lisa Sanco, Garrett Buckley, Lynn Fox, Jo Jefferies, Tom Gleasman, Cay
Ogden, Lynn McClintock, Isabelle Fleuraud, & Erik Hamerlynck.**

If you are interested in volunteering this spring, or have general questions about volunteering at Malheur Refuge, please contact us at friends@malheurfriends.org.

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

[Become a Member!](#)

[Renew Membership](#)

[Donate](#)

Friends of Malheur National Wildlife Refuge | www.malheurfriends.org
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STAY CONNECTED:

