Greetings!

What May provided in hustle and bustle June responded in kind with easy breezy days taking us into summer. With Spring 2019 squarely behind us, the Friends have much to be proud of. Not only did we have a month of event after event in May, but Mother Nature was quite busy herself. In June Malheur National Wildlife Refuge joined ranks of Refuges across the Nation who fledged bald eagle chicks for the first time in a century.

The bald eagle nest at Sodhouse Ranch hatched around March 26th, making its lay date to be approximately the last week of February. Given the timing, this pair was present and courting in and around the cottonwood trees that provide winter roosting habitat for upwards of a few dozen bald eagles. Meanwhile, on the south end of the Refuge at Historic P Ranch, another pair was courting. This pair was seen in the area last year ‘playing house’ as the male was still immature. This spring they returned and hatched two young around April 12th, making their lay dates to have been about March 12th. These young were named Glenn and Stephen after the volunteer, and my Father-in-Law, who stepped in to help post the area closed signs around the nest location adjacent to the Central Patrol Road. It was harder to come up with a suitable name for the solo fledgling at Sodhouse, given the important distinction of being The First Bald Eagle...
successfully fledged on the Refuge in over a hundred years. This chick and its parents were able to be seen weekly during the Sodhouse RoMP (Rookery Monitoring Program) that Friends Volunteers managed this spring.

Every week 2 or 3 volunteers would load up their signs, scope, chairs and survey binder to head over and set up their observation station in the field just North and East of the cottonwood trees at Sodhouse Ranch. Their primary objective was to conduct a weekly survey of the nesting great blue herons. This provided the rare opportunity for the public to see these birds from a safe distance during the nesting season. The added bonus was getting to watch the bald eagles nesting just next to the rookery and eventually to watch their chick as it grew, still nameless. It wasn’t until the unfortunate news of the passing of CD Littlefield that it was decided we would call it Littlefield. Just a week later, it fledged and can now be seen stretching its wings all around the Sodhouse Ranch area with its adults still nearby.

Carroll Dwayne ‘CD’ Littlefield, who passed away unexpectedly on May 28th, is known and beloved by many in our Malheur Refuge community and will be greatly missed. CD worked on and off Malheur National Wildlife Refuge throughout his life as an advocate for wildlife, specifically sandhill crane conservation in the Pacific flyway. Over his tenure he worked as a valued advisor to Refuge Managers John Scharff, Joseph Mazzoni and George Constantino. If you did not have the pleasure of meeting CD over the many years he spent from the 1960’s-late 80’s on the Refuge and at the Malheur Field Station you may know his name from The Birds of Malheur Refuge which he published in 1990. Please read FOMR President Gary Ivey’s memorial to CD which was published in the Burns-Times Herald: ARTICLE.

It felt only fitting to bestow upon our beloved Sodhouse eagle fledgling the Littlefield name. What better way can we honor the legacy of a man who loved this space and its creatures so much that he shared such a huge portion of his life and his heart with it.

As always, Thank you for being a Friend,
Janelle L Wicks
FOMR Executive Director
From Charley Harper for the Birders to summer star gazing there is something for everyone at the Crane's Nest Nature Store.

FOMR Logo tees back in stock! These stunning 100% organic cotton are locally screen printed and come in both women's and unisex cut in either moss or slate! If you missed your chance to grab one of these this spring it's not too late! Call us at 541.493.4233 order yours!

**

Don't forget that Members are entitled to a 10% discount. **

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 40% OFF

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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!

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
Volunteer
Join us for a work party, special project, staff the Crane’s Nest Nature Store or lend 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.

If you are a new Member or have participated in our #BirthdayBump Membership renewal program and not yet received your pin, please be assured it is on its way.

Thank you to the 200+ New Friends that have joined us since Jan 1, 2019!

Current Membership Total: 747

American White Pelicans
Soaring on wide, black-tipped wings over North America’s inland lakes, rivers and reservoirs in summer, the American white pelican is an impressive bird even from afar. With nearly all-white plumage and a foot-long bill, these ponderous waterbirds are difficult to confuse with any other species in our area...Read more here.

Slater Elementary Field Days at Malheur
Approximately 135 first- and third-grade children from Slater Elementary in Burns participated in a field trip to Malheur Refuge over two days recently. Refuge staff Carey Goss, Alexa Martinez, and Brett Dean joined FOMR staff to lead groups of students at four separate stations...Read more here.

Blue Hour at Malheur
Read this lovely essay by visitor Robert Steelquist, written in April, about his experience visiting Malheur Refuge and taking photographs during the
Carp Biomass Study at MNWR
By James Pearson, Malheur National Wildlife Refuge Fish Biologist

Monitoring Bats at MNWR
Written by Alexa Martinez, Malheur National Wildlife Refuge Wildlife Biologist

Eastern Kingbirds at MNWR
Written by Teresa Wicks, Portland Audubon Society Eastern Oregon Field Coordinator

Friends of Malheur Refuge is Sponsoring Northwest Youth Corps Tribal Stewards & You Can Help!
The Friends of Malheur are proud to be working with our Partners to bring this program to Malheur NWR this summer!

**Tribal Stewards**

Over 8 weeks, a team of young adults from the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs and the Burns Paiute Tribe will undertake restoration projects across Oregon’s high desert and gain experience in public lands advocacy and the fundamentals of landscape conservation.

A Program of Northwest Youth Corps (NYC) & Oregon Natural Desert Association (ONDA)

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**Upcoming Events**

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DONATE NOW WITH

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National Wildlife Refuge System

PORTLAND AUDUBON
ANNUAL CARP DERBY
A FISHING FRENZY FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

FRIENDS OF MALHEUR NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Help to reduce the common carp population in Malheur Lake!

REFUGE HEADQUARTERS

SATURDAY
August 17TH 2019
7:00 AM - 2:00 PM

FREE

An ALL ages, family friendly fishing competition to catch the most Carp (by pound) while learning about issues common carp create in Malheur Lake and beyond. Current OR License required for 14yrs+

7:00 AM - REGISTRATION @ REFUGE HEADQUARTERS
9:00 AM - 2:00 PM - ACTIVITIES
11:00 - CARP WEIGH IN
12:00 PM - WINNERS ANNOUNCED & FREE BBQ
2:00 PM - EVENT ENDS

More Information & Regs:
Friends@MalheurFriends.org
Facebook @MalheurFriends
Call 541.493.4230

Volunteer Highlights

Fall 2019 Friends of Malheur NWR will join forces with the Audubon Society of Portland for an 'Autumn Cleaning' at the Historic
Sodhouse Ranch.

This is a rare opportunity to tent or dry RV camp on the Refuge as a volunteer crew. Tasks at hand will include trail repair, brush clearing, light construction and maintenance, weeding, sapling removal and more.

Volunteers will arrive before 4pm on Friday August 10th and depart by 10am on Sunday August 12th.

Friday 4pm - 6pm:
Orientation
Saturday 8am - 4pm:
Work w/ breaks
Sunday 10am - 12pm:
Birding @ Headquarters

Sign up Today!

Volunteers making a difference:

**Farewell to John & Delona - Eileen & Steve**
**Welcome Patty & Rocky**

New Member Sign-up  Renewing Member Sign-up  Make a Donation Today

Visit Our Website

Friends of Malheur National Wildlife Refuge | malheurfriends.org
friends@malheurfriends.org
36391 Sodhouse Lane
Princeton, OR 97721

STAY CONNECTED: