



# FRIENDS OF MALHEUR NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

## Malheur Musings - July 2019

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### Director's Message

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 26<sup>th</sup>, 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 12<sup>th</sup>, making their lay dates to have been about March 12<sup>th</sup>. 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 28<sup>th</sup>, 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 Mazzone 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



A clear summer view from the deck of the Malheur NWR Visitor Center.  
Photo by Isabelle Fleuraud, FOMR Friend & Volunteer

## Malheur HQ Visitor Center

Every Day 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

## Crane's Nest Nature Center & Store

Every Day 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

March 1st - October 31st



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!

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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

## 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](mailto: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

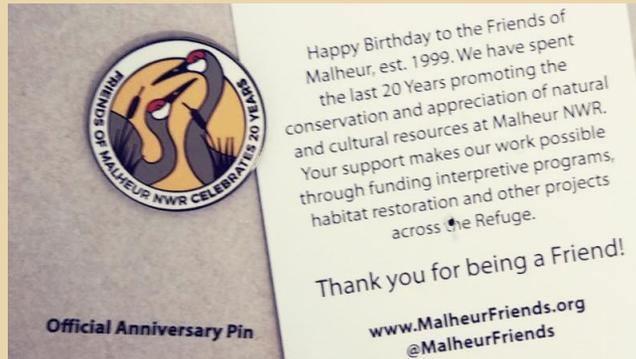
Opt for renewing your Membership in 2019 through monthly recurring payments. For as little as \$5 or as much as comfortably fits your budget.

To do this, visit [malheurfriends.org/support](http://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 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

"blue hour" of twilight.



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## 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! Click the links below to read the full articles.

### [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

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**Friends of Malheur Refuge is Sponsoring  
Northwest Youth Corps Tribal Stewards  
& You Can Help!**



## FRIENDS OF MALHEUR NWR



Sponsoring 1 week of hands on Restoration and Stewardship projects interacting with and learning from Natural Resource Professionals.

# 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)

The Friends of Malheur are proud to be working with our Partners to bring this program to Malheur NWR this summer!

DONATE NOW WITH  
**JustGiving™**



OREGON  
NATURAL  
DESERT  
ASSOCIATION



PORTLAND  
AUDUBON



## Upcoming Events



# 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](mailto: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 WORK PARTY

Aug  
2019

Every year Historic Sodhouse Ranch is open to the public from August 15th - October 15th. There is much to do in preparation for the opening and we could use your help! Join us for a weekend of clearing brush, maintaining trail, and upkeeping fences to prepare for the public!

These efforts are part of a long-term plan for Sodhouse Ranch with the hopes of expanding and improving the visitor's experience.

**WHEN: AUGUST 10 & 11, 2019**  
**LODGING: TENT CAMPING ON SITE**



For more information or to sign up, contact:  
Teresa Wicks; Eastern OR Field Coordinator

Email: [twicks@portlandaudubon.org](mailto:twicks@portlandaudubon.org)



Janelle Wicks; Friends of Malheur NWR

Email: [director@malheurfriends.org](mailto:director@malheurfriends.org)

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](http://malheurfriends.org)

[friends@malheurfriends.org](mailto:friends@malheurfriends.org)

36391 Sodhouse Lane

Princeton, OR 97721

STAY CONNECTED:

