American coot chicks are precocial, meaning they are able to leave the nest and venture out into the world shortly after they hatch. With the guidance of parents they learn to feed and find suitable habitat to stay safe, though it's tough to hide with a face like that!

Photo by Dan Streiffert

Director’s Message

Greetings!

It has now officially been a year since I moved to Burns and began learning this unique place I would call home. Summer in the Harney Basin is much as one might expect. Are there mosquitoes? Yes; in droves, but I find that they have left me alone after the first week or so. Is it warm? Yes; often in the 80s & 90s, but still cool at night. Are there less people than Spring? Yes; average daily visitation at the Nature Store in May was 61 compared to 18 in July, but the visitors are just as curious and excited about finding themselves here in such a special place. This region I am lucky enough to live in and this Refuge I am fortunate enough to work with.

I find that the best way to learn a place is to be attentive to changes from season
to season but sometimes from day to day. Over the last few weeks the ground squirrels have made their way back to their dens in an effort to beat the heat. Every day now the water at the Narrows expands ever so slightly and the diversity of birds using that habitat also grows. Yesterday I spotted a young sandhill crane with two adults in a field where a month ago I sat and watched two adults acting fairly odd as they foraged. Just today, when I arrived at work and as I walked up to the Nature Store there were swarms of dragonflies!

Our work is changing with the seasons as well. The temperature and the bugs may tamper visitation, but they do not put a stop to the ongoing field work by the Refuge’s tireless biologists and committed Partners. Today, Refuge Biologist Alexa Martinez is operating the airboat on Malheur Lake so that FOMR Board Member and Refuge Volunteer Rick Vetter, Volunteer Joan Suther, and Portland Audubon E. OR Field Coordinator Teresa Wicks can conduct a routine Shorebird Survey. We are all busy preparing for the arrival of the Tribal Stewards group who will be coming to do a series of restoration-based field projects on the Refuge from August 5th – 9th. They will work on trail maintenance, invasive removal, fish screen clearing, a waterfowl survey and more.

Speaking of the Tribal Stewards Program, we are so proud to report that 26 people have made contributions through our JustGiving Campaign for $1,341 in addition to $1,005 from the Members Weekend Auction and direct donations of $990. This means we raised $3,336 of the $4,500 that we contributed to ONDA for this program. What a generous Membership base we are blessed with. We owe a great deal of appreciation to everyone who backed this program as we are hopeful that this initial interest will be a bellwether for our ability to support Tribal Stewards in future years.

Read on Friends, as this newsletter is packed full with other information about the current and upcoming happenings here at Malheur.

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
In the spirit of summer we have ID books a plenty, from insects of North America to butterflies of the Pacific Northwest. Also in stock are ID books for freshwater fish, wildflowers and more! While adventuring you need to stay hydrated, and we’ve got you covered with our new pint glasses, double-walled stainless steel water bottles and the classic Malheur National Wildlife Refuge mugs.

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 to 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 50% 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.

Click on the image ABOVE to fill out a short Member Survey.

Thank you to the 230+ New Friends that have joined us since Jan 1, 2019!

Current Membership Total: 750

Conservation Corner

After 20 years of his career dedicated to Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, Chad Karges has announced his pending retirement. Look for a farewell article in the September issue of our newsletter.

Left: Chad is pictured after receiving the National Wildlife Refuge Association’s Theodore Roosevelt Lifetime Achievement Award in 2016.

Submerged Aquatic Vegetation Training
By Edwin Sparks, Malheur National Wildlife Refuge Habitat Ecologist

Waterbirds at Malheur Lake
Written by Alexa Martinez, Malheur National Wildlife Refuge Wildlife Biologist

A Summer at Malheur
Written by Ryan Robles, Malheur National Wildlife Refuge Vegetation Inventory & Monitoring Intern
Friends of Malheur Refuge is Sponsoring
Northwest Youth Corps Tribal Stewards
& You Can Help!

The Tribal Stewards are arriving at Malheur NWR August 5th for a week of projects including invasives removal, waterfowl surveys, cleaning fish screens and more! In accordance with the Friends of Malheur's Stewardship of the Marshall Pond Trail and Observation Blind, the crew will spend some time enhancing that area.

If you are on the Refuge and see this crew hard at work, please stop and thank them for their contribution to conservation!

Upcoming Events
Family-friendly activities from 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM will include a bow-fishing demonstration and practice area, archery range, Malheur Lake interactive water table, macroinvertebrate scope studies, water quality testing, and a DRONE DEMO at 9:30 and 10:30 with Wildlife Biologist Alexa Martinez!

Lastly, don't miss getting a photo with the family on the air boat.

No Rod? No problem! ODFW's Angler Trailer will be here to lend fishing gear!
Prizes have been donated by:
Boomer's Place; Hines, OR
Confluence Fly Shop; Bend, OR
REI Co-op; Bend, OR
Subway; Burns, OR
McDonalds; Hines, OR

Volunteer Highlights

JOIN US Oct 25 - 27th!
Friends of Malheur will be working to improve the grounds around the Marshall Pond Trail and Viewing blind. As Stewards of these areas we are proud to involve our Members in managing their upkeep!

Tasks will include weeding, planting willow, improving the willow fence, installing bird houses and more habitat enhancements.

Volunteers are encouraged to bring their favorite garden gloves and shovel!

For more information contact Alice Elshoff 541.213.2522

As a member-supported non-profit organization, Friends of Malheur Refuge depends on donations of both time and money to fulfill our mission. Volunteers are an integral component of this Friends group, providing Malheur Refuge with much-needed support at Headquarters and beyond.

Do you enjoy spending time in the high-desert expanses of Malheur Refuge? Are you interested in improving Refuge habitat, monitoring wildlife populations, or providing interpretive services to visitors? Volunteers with FOMR do all that and much more.

Residential volunteers with Friends of Malheur Refuge are able to park their camper at the newly renovated RV hook-ups with access to a volunteer lounge, kitchen, bathroom and laundry facilities. We require a month-long commitment of 24 hours per week. Our volunteers come away from their service with indelible memories, a renewed passion for Malheur Refuge and public lands in general, and (more often than not) some incredible photographs.

Slots will fill up fast! If you are interested, please fill out THIS SURVEY. Volunteer applicants will be reviewed beginning September 1st in the order in which they were received.
The Friends have been honored that so many all-star volunteers have shared their time and talents with us in 2019! Here are just a few highlights from left to right:

**Jody Newman, Barbara Hoffman** and **John Roth** putting the finishing touches on the Worthy Pollinator Garden.

**Dale** and **Art Broszeit** manning the Sodhouse RoMP station.

**Linda Hoffman, Greg Burke, Dale Broszeit** and **Lisa Sanco** after wrapping up the second Worthy Pollinator Garden work party.

**Eileen Loerch** sharing the wonders of wildlife on the Refuge with 3rd graders with **Steve Loerch** behind the camera.

**Eric Fauchner** and **Lynn Fox** helping out in the Crane’s Nest Nature Center and Store!