



FRIENDS OF
MALHEUR
NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Malheur Musings September 2019



The 2019 Carp Derby was a great success and fun was had by those big (and furry) and small. Thank you, Smokey and the Burns Interagency Fire Prevention team, for joining us!
Photo by Tara Thissell

Director's Message

Greetings!

In this line of work, you get used to people coming and going; moving through your life as they continue on their own journey. It is true of volunteers who may come for a month or field technicians who stick around for the season but also of long-time colleagues and managers. This past week we held a lunch, said some words and bid farewell to Malheur NWR's Project Leader, Chad Karges, as he leaves us for retirement. I have only had the privilege of working with Chad for just under 1 year, but I have come to value his measured tone and considerate perspective. I will leave the more detailed recalling of Chad's career and time at Malheur to an article you will find below, but I would like to share with you once more a sentiment from an article Chad contributed to the March 2019 issue of this newsletter:

“This diversity has created a social environment unique in the rural West where occupations and government shutdowns are reduced to temporary pauses having no meaningful effect on long-term efforts. Through understanding, persistence, and development of trust, diversity becomes our strength in addressing the challenges of today and tomorrow within a landscape where we all play an important role.”

It is important for us to remember and build upon the foundation of understanding, trust and diversity that has been laid out by the collaborative efforts in Harney County and with the Refuge. Thank you, Chad, for your service and your leadership which has so richly impacted the wildlife, the landscape and our communities.

In the coming months we will work together to continue supporting the ongoing work of the Refuge of which you are all a part. This month's newsletter is packed with exciting updates of what has been going on and what is still upcoming here at Malheur. Be sure to sign up early for the October work party or apply for a 2020 Resident Volunteer spot!

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.

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



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

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!

We want to hear from YOU!

The Friends of Malheur National Wildlife Refuge are looking to engage our Members in new and exciting ways. From volunteering to joining a committee or becoming a Board Member there are many ways to be involved and support our work on the Refuge and in the Community. Please fill out this survey to tell us more about yourself and your interests.

Thank you for being a Friend!



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

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 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.

**Thank you to the 260+ New Friends
that have joined us since Jan 1, 2019!**

Current Membership Total: 761



Something about this scene of a sparrow and its fledgling doesn't quite match up. That's because the fledgling is actually a brown-headed cowbird, a relative of blackbirds and orioles that relies on other species to raise its young...[Read more here.](#)



As summer reaches its peak in the Harney Basin, the enormous shallow expanses of Malheur, Harney and Mud lakes begin their annual contraction. What looks like a barren expanse of goopy muck is in fact critical habitat for migrating shorebirds...[Read more here.](#)

Conservation Corner



After 20 years of his career dedicated to Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, Chad Karges has retired.

Read Jeff Mackay's farewell to Chad below.

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

Introducing Brett Dean, Refuge Law Enforcement

Interview by Peter Pearsall

Carp Derby 2019

Written by Janelle Wicks, FOMR Executive Director

Tribal Stewards


Written by Janelle Wicks, FOMR Executive Director

Change - A Consistent Constant

Written by Jeff Mackay, MNWR Acting Project Leader

Events

NOW OPEN
HISTORIC SOD HOUSE RANCH




In 1872, Peter French with 1,200 head of cattle, six Mexican vaqueros and a cook headed to Oregon from California under direction of Dr. Hugh Glenn to begin building a vast cattle empire.

Once he entered the lush Blitzen Valley, French's search was over.

He established headquarters at the south end of the valley known as P Ranch and at Sod House Ranch on the south side of Malheur Lake.

Today, the Sod House Ranch has 16 buildings remaining that supported the needs of livestock and people living there in the 1880s during the ranching empire.



HOURS
8:00 AM – 4:00 PM

GUIDED TOURS AVAILABLE

Ode to Sod House Ranch

Half August

We come together

Clearing the trail for opening day~
August 15.

We imagine 100's visiting this vast
Historical Wonder.

Cool morning; Hot afternoon.

Thunder heads boil the horizon,

Read more...

Written by Dale Broszeit, FWS &
FOMR Volunteer

Fall Work Party!

October 25-27th: The Marshall Pond
Trail Work Party is right around the
corner! Housing on Refuge will be
available to the first 7 people who
sign up.

More details below in the Voluntee
Highlights section of the Newsletter.

Volunteer Highlights

Fall Work Party!

If you are looking for an excuse to enjoy the Refuge one more time this season, join us for a beautification project at headquarters, **Oct 25-27th**.

We'll be planting potted willows which will screen the Marshall pond from the trail and provide habitat for nesting songbirds, transplanting clumps of our native Great Basin rye grass, and planting perennial flowers around the nature center to keep our pollinators happy.

We can arrange a trip up to the Steens where the aspens will be in all their autumn glory.



We have the tools you will need and can provide housing for the first 7 folks that sign up, which you can do by contacting **Alice Elshoff at 541 389-3543 or calice58@gmail.com**

Now RECRUITING! 2020 Resident Volunteers

Do you enjoy spending time in the high-desert expanses of Malheur Refuge? Are you interested supporting the Crane's Nest Nature Store operations, 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.

Spots 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.

Welcome Sept Volunteers Debby de Carlo & Renee Tressler!

Wet Years, Dry Years and Everything in Between

Written by Debby de Carlo, FOMR Volunteer

Debby is pictured here with David Parella, retired FS Archeologist and new FOMR Member! David shared with us that he once worked in Harney County back in 1977!



Farewell and thank you Liz & Jeff Jones!

This month we are saying goodbye to Liz & Jeff who were an integral part of pulling off the Carp Derby, supporting Store operations, and helping Refuge Staff with some interpretive infrastructure!



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!

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:



