



FRIENDS OF
MALHEUR
NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Malheur Musings November 2019



A long gaze across Benson Pond offers a serene view of a transitioning landscape and the newly powdered silhouette of Steens mountain in the distance.

Photo by Isabelle Fleuraud

Director's Message

Greetings!

Towhees, thrushes and flickers - Oh My! It's no secret that I love autumn, but at Malheur? It's pure magic. To the untrained eye it may look as if the landscape has lost its color while the vegetation goes dormant, preparing for what everyone promises to be a cold, unforgiving winter. Color, however, is not lost. These browns, rusts and golden hues lay out like streaks of seasoned sunlight that have simply been absorbed. Whether clear or speckled with fluffy clouds, these wide

open blue grey skies offer the perfect contrast.

I am not the only one who loves it here in the fall. Just this morning I sat in the sunroom of the Nature Store and watched as magpies, chickadees, quail, sparrows and least chipmunks all stayed busy cleaning up our feeders. Until a hawk dove into the mix and scared them all off!

As volunteers began arriving this afternoon we were visited by one of our familiar great horned owls. The owl watched diligently as our work party gathered and began setting themselves to their tasks. Our fall work party is always a fun-filled and productive two days in late October that are inexplicably blessed with clear skies and mild temperatures. Perfect for planting willows, great basin rye grass and installing new plant ID signs. Nature has given us so much all year, it's the perfect time to give back.

It makes sense that as the year slowly comes to an end I like to think of it as FriendsGiving season! This year our end of year giving campaign will focus on opportunities to give to one or both of **TWO** of our priority Friends' programs:

A flyer for the Outreach & Education program. It features a green background with a collage of images on the left showing children using a microscope, a child looking at a book, and a group of people at an outdoor event. The text is white and yellow. It includes the Friends of Malheur NWR logo and a mission statement about curiosity and conservation. The title 'Outreach & Education' is in large white letters. Below it, it describes the 2020 program goals, including funding an artist in residence and providing scholarships. It ends with a call to contribute to the efforts via the website.

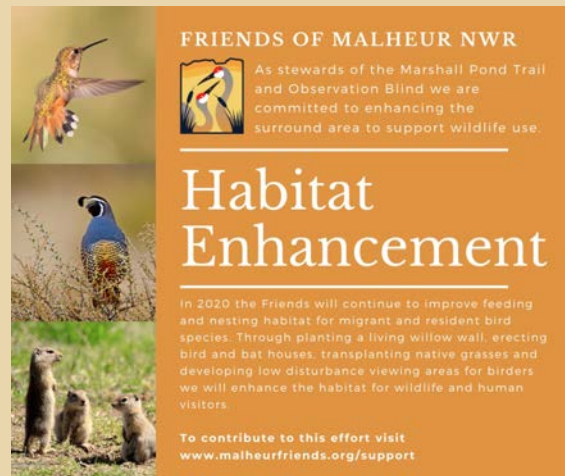
FRIENDS OF MALHEUR NWR

We believe that curiosity today will become conservation in the future and engaging youth with their natural work is paramount to this.

Outreach & Education

In 2020 we will continue to fund the Refuge's Artist in Residence program which reaches 600+ local youth and provide a \$1,000 scholarship to a local graduating senior who pursues a future in natural resources. We also assist with Refuge field trips and support community outreach events such as the Harney County Migratory Bird Festival and Archeology Roadshow.

To contribute to these efforts visit www.malheurfriends.org/support

A flyer for the Habitat Enhancement program. It features an orange background with a collage of images on the left showing a hummingbird, a blue jay, and three chipmunks. The text is white and yellow. It includes the Friends of Malheur NWR logo and a mission statement about stewardship and habitat enhancement. The title 'Habitat Enhancement' is in large white letters. Below it, it describes the 2020 program goals, including improving feeding and nesting habitat for birds and bats. It ends with a call to contribute to the effort via the website.

FRIENDS OF MALHEUR NWR

As stewards of the Marshall Pond Trail and Observation Blind we are committed to enhancing the surround area to support wildlife use.

Habitat Enhancement

In 2020 the Friends will continue to improve feeding and nesting habitat for migrant and resident bird species. Through planting a living willow wall, erecting bird and bat houses, transplanting native grasses and developing low disturbance viewing areas for birders we will enhance the habitat for wildlife and human visitors.

To contribute to this effort visit www.malheurfriends.org/support

There is more information below about each program and how you can make a meaningful difference in how our organization contributes to Malheur National Wildlife Refuge and our community.

As always, Thank you for being a Friend,

Janelle L Wicks
FOMR Executive Director

Conservation Corner

Profile of Janelle Wicks

Written by Debby De Carlo, FOMR Volunteer

Grazing the Refuge

Written by Ed Sparks, MNWR Habitat Ecologist

Marshall Pond Work Party

Written by Alice Elshoff, FOMR Vice



For the past several years, the Refuge has been working diligently on improving an integrated set of orientation features for visitors to easily find accurate, timely and appropriate information and feel welcomed. We want our visitors to not only be aware of their options for safely pursuing self-guided activities but to feel welcomed...[Read more here.](#)



In Harney County we are lucky enough to be almost in the center of a large patch of truly dark sky, an increasingly scarce resource. Efforts to protect these dark skies are underway. One such effort is a partnership between Portland Audubon and the Burns District BLM to obtain Dark Sky Wilderness designation for the Steens Mountain Wilderness, under the International Dark Sky Association...[Read more here.](#)

Events



Friends Meet & Greet

On October 11th a group of 31 Friends and Members gathered at the Bend area home of Board Member, Linda Hoffman. We shared so much more that space as the stories were swapped, new friends were made and Janelle presented on the success of our organization through 2019.

Thank you to everyone who came out to celebrate with us!

If you are interested in hosting a

similar
social event please contact Janelle.
Director@malheurfriends.org



BURNS -HINES
COUNT
MON 12/16
7:00 AM
MEET AT
MCDONALDS

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

MALHEUR NWR
COUNT
TUES 12/17
7:30 AM
MEET AT P-RANCH
FIELD HOUSE

There are options for hiking and/or driving on both counts. It is generally cold and often snowy. Both counts average about 55 species, but have reached 65-70 species! The Burns count holds the world record for California quail, with over 10,000 within Burns city limits!

Join us for the annual post-count tally meeting, over dinner and award ceremony for numerous categories following the Burns-Hines count on Monday Dec 16th!

You can also do a feeder count from the warmth of your home and still join us for the award ceremony and dinner!

To join us or for more information contact Coordinators:

Rick Vetter cell 541-589-2230

Joan Suther cell 541-589-1087

Email cotingas@gmail.com

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!

HELP US HELP MALHEUR



Malheur National Wildlife Refuge adds so much to the quality of our lives through our experiences in the outback environment, its dramatic landscape, its beautiful night skies, sunrises and sunsets, and its wonderful wildlife. It is a part of who we are!

Are you interested in learning how to help our beloved Refuge?

The Friends are looking for board members with experience in: Serving on a non-profit board, business management, fund raising and grant writing, program development, & project management.

We are also welcoming Members to serve on committees, including Projects, Membership, Fundraising and Community Outreach committees. If you are interested in sharing your time and talents with the Friends of Malheur National Wildlife Refuge email **FRIENDS@MALHEURFRIENDS.ORG** today!

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

On-going 2019 Membership Incentive Program

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 349 New Friends
that have joined us since Jan 1, 2019!**

Current Membership Total: 801!

Meet Paula (left) who helped Gina of Haines, OR (right)
push our membership to 800 on Saturday Oct 26th
as she joined in on supporting the Friends!



FriendsGiving Season

The Friends of Malheur NWR are focusing end of year fundraising efforts towards financially supporting two of our highest priority programs; Habitat Enhancement and Outreach & Education. Each of these programs have many projects, events and financial commitments that we undertake each year in order to progress our mission of being effective stewards and advocates for the Refuge.



In 2019, our efforts in both of these areas increased exponentially and with that so did their need for financial support. We have budgeted a minimum of \$16,000 towards these efforts and it is all dependent on the generosity of our Friends. Between now and the end of the year we hope to raise half of this amount. Just imagine what we could do with more!

Please help make it possible for us to continue and grow the positive impact we are having on the Refuge and in our rural communities. Whether you choose to indicate the program you prefer to support or leave that to us, please know that the collective contribution of our Friends is making a difference.

Donate Today!

Volunteer Highlights



A Volunteer's Appreciation

Five and a half years ago, my family unexpectedly moved to Harney County from Tucson, AZ. A year before that, my husband took his new post here, and so I accompanied him on the long drive from Southern Arizona to South East Oregon. And because, as a naturalist and aspiring geologist, he always seeks the most winding and least traveled path, I first discovered Harney County via the full 133 miles of OR Hwy 205 – known in part as the High Desert Discovery Scenic Byway - from Denio, NV to Burns, OR...[Read more here.](#)

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 are filling up fast but there is still availability in March, May, June - October! If you are interested, please fill out [THIS SURVEY](#).



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!

Farewell Martin and Paula!

This week we are saying goodbye to a pair of volunteers who spent the month of October with us. It was their first experience as residential volunteers and they would say, "There's nothing quite like it!" Thank you both for the time you shared with us in the Nature Store, building sign boards, fixing shelves and all the other odds and ends you helped with over the last month!

Current Volunteer Hours Logged: 3,137+

Crane's Nest Nature Center & Store

Every Day 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

The Nature Store will be closed for the season on Monday November 4th

Orders made by phone, email or online will still be available

Malheur Symphony CDs are NOW AVSAILABLE!

This is the long anticipated recording of Chris Thomas's piece which was commissioned by the



Central Oregon Symphony Association and premiered in Burns this past spring. (\$15 + S&H)

Sagebrush Collaborative and the recently published *Edge of Awe* bring you close to Malheur from wherever you may be and are two of our best sellers!

Email friends@malheurfriends.org to place an order for any of these items and more.
Don't forget Members get 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

Malheur HQ Visitor Center

Every Day 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM until October 15th
Beginning October 16th the Visitor Center will be closed Friday-Sunday

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:

