

Taking Wing



Klamath Wingwatchers, Inc. Summer/Fall 2009 Newsletter

A nonprofit organization dedicated to public education regarding Klamath Basin wildlife and wetland habitat and their value as a natural resource, through scientific, arts and cultural means.

THE FOLLOWING DRAFT IS THE PROPOSED WRITTEN CONTENT FOR THE REVISED WINGWATCHERS TRAIL LEAFLET. WE WELCOME YOUR SUGGESTIONS:

Klamath Wingwatcher Trail: Connecting Water, Wildlife, and People

Water is the substance that defines the Pacific Northwest. The Klamath Basin is part of the Pacific Flyway providing wetland habitats for hundreds of species of wildlife; more than any other area in the western United States, and hosts the largest concentration of migrating waterfowl found on the continent. In addition, over 800 Bald eagles use the region's wetlands for foraging between November and April. The Klamath Basin also has the highest density of nesting Bald eagles in Oregon.

Klamath Wingwatchers has developed a 1.3 mile long, disabled accessible trail along the western shore of Lake Ewauna in Downtown Klamath Falls. Along this trail, we have planted over 1100 trees, shrubs, and other plants that provide shelter and food for the many species that use the area. Together with our community volunteers, we have added many trail features, including: waterfowl nesting islands in the pond, a wildlife viewing blind, an information kiosk, a bridge, nesting boxes, numerous benches, trash cans, a dog waste disposal bag dispenser, and a special trail head sign. The logo on the cover of this brochure represents the erected eagle perch used year-round by wintering eagles and summer cormorants. It is easily visible near the downtown exit to Klamath Falls and is a trail highlight.

The Wingwatcher Trail serves the community as an urban nature educational area, helps the public see the importance of wetlands as a natural resource, and focuses attention on wildlife viewing and appreciation, both for residents and traveling visitors.

The Trail is part of a large almost continuous trail system that extends over 70 miles in Klamath County, creating a vast complex of open space, wildlife corridors, and recreational opportunities for hiking, biking, wildlife viewing, leashed dog walking, and nature enjoyment for all ages on public lands. It is a remarkable partnership between individuals, businesses, and government agencies who see the Lake Ewauna wetlands as an irreplaceable community amenity.

If you appreciated the trail, please consider contributing to its maintenance with "your backs or your bucks". Become a member of Wingwatchers, help remove invasive weeds as you walk the trail, contribute to a project for trail enhancement, etc. Guided tours are available. Call Bill at 884-2421 or Leslie at 882-6509.

Learn more at <http://www.klamathbirdingtrails.com/wingwatchers/index.shtml>

Please care for the trail and respect wildlife and other trail users. Trail is open from dawn to dusk. NO unauthorized motor vehicles, camping, littering, unleashed pets, fires, or hunting.

Dates to Remember:

Board Meetings are the 4th Tuesday of every month at 409 Pine from 7-8:30 pm. **Everyone is welcome to attend.** To add items to the agenda, email Leslie at inharmony46@charter.net or call 882-6509. The next Board Meeting is scheduled on September 22nd.

Membership: Dues can be paid at any time and are used to support our mission. See application information on page 4.

Annual Meeting Recognizes Important People and our Past Accomplishments

On May 12, 2009, twenty five people attended our Annual Meeting at the Klamath County Museum, catered by Nightfire Natural Foods. Folks enjoyed social time while eating a wonderful dinner, and then got down to the business of voting for Board Members for 2009-2010. The current 8 Board Members were all re-elected (Ken Hay, Allan Lowe, Leslie Lowe, Dave Menke, Ralph Opp, Harry Vincett, Anita Ward, Bill Wood).

Most importantly, we gave awards to people who have been really important over the years, and especially in this last year. Leslie presented award certificates as follows:

Individual Volunteer: Bill Wood, Lake Ewauna Trail Project.

Project Significance by Agency or Organization: Damion Ciotti of USFWS, Lake Ewauna Trail Project.

Historical Commitment to KWW: Ralph Opp, BJ Matzen, Harry Vincett, & Terry Boyer. Mr. Boyer was singled out as an early promoter of bird watching and wildlife value of Klamath Basin as a tourism destination.

Honorable Mention: Gene Mortenson at Trees Inc., and Toby Freeman at Pacific Power (award accepted by Lorelei Phillips of Pacific Power)

Student Project: Noel Hannum for OIT Acad Class and Mike Milem of Intergral Youth Services.

We are still looking for someone to promote volunteerism and membership in KWW. Could that be you? Please contact Leslie Lowe (inharmony46@charter.net) or Ken Hay (<khay@ci.klamath-falls.or.us>).

Ralph Opp turns TRASH into TREASURE!

Thanks to thinking outside the box and plenty of hard work by Wingwatcher's Board member Ralph Opp, an eyesore has been removed from the Wingwatchers Trail and we have an additional "nestegg" to boot. Ralph convinced former and current farmers to "donate" the old derelict farm equipment to Wingwatchers so that it could be removed from the trail edge and sold for scrap.

The scrap metal consisted of a badly rusted truck body and bulldozer which no one on the board can ever remember being anything other than an eyesore. Ralph arranged to have the scrap metal removed by a local company and received the value of the scrap metal less removal costs to be placed in the Wingwatchers account.

Proceeds from the sale resulted in a net \$1190.00 for future Wingwatchers Projects.



Clark's Grebe



Western Grebe

Klamath Falls Migratory Bird Day

Klamath Falls will hosted its 10th annual International Migratory Bird Day Celebration Saturday, May 9, 2009, 9am -3pm, in Veteran's Park. Once again this proved to be a fun, free, family event with lots of youth activities, bird walks, historical tours, birdhouse building, live birds, food, and entertainment.

The following pictures taken at the Wingwatchers table show that this is truly a great chance for children of all ages to gain awareness of environmental issues and begin a lifelong appreciation for our great outdoors.



Bill Wood (above) and Leslie Lowe (below) share their passion for “all things great, small and natural” with tomorrow’s leaders at the 10th annual International Migratory Bird Day Celebration.



.POP Update by Kathy Larson

The POP! “Pelicans on Parade” are enjoying the town and visiting new sites, and ready for buyers to bid! The “Leaves and Feathers” pelican recently flew from the “Winter Wings Festival (WWF) Bird Exhibit” at the Klamath Art Association Gallery to the lobby of the Quality Inn (near the downtown library). The “Aspen Breeze” pelican flew from WWF to Countertops by TOPSecret on Washburn Way, for additional adornment. The “Midnight at the Oasis” pelican flew from WWF back to Sky Lakes Medical Center, Outpatient Surgery lobby. And the “Klamath Gold” pelican just journeyed from a Celtic concert at Avian Design Studio to the Two Rivers Village Arts Gallery in Chiloquin. Other pelicans will be moving soon to increase their visibility.



Informal bids to purchase any POP! pelican are in progress and can be made by contacting K. Larson: (541) 851-0981, or email: [larson @ ccountry.net](mailto:larson@ccountry.net). These pelicans look terrific in your living room or public lobby. Purchases may be tax deductible to the 501c3 nonprofit “Klamath Wingwatchers” birding group, and a matching contribution to the Oregon Cultural Trust may allow for a direct tax credit on your Oregon state income tax. A \$4000 bid is pending on the “Visions of the Klamath Basin” pelican. If you’d like a “living” pelican, 9610 Landscaping will personally set up a pelican in your garden, with drip system and live plants. View the POP! pelicans online at www.pelicansonparade.com.

Lake Ewauna Trail Needs Weeders and

Workers

While our trail is doing really well in attracting walkers, birders, people who sit on the kiosk and benches and enjoy the view, and visitors to our area, it always is a work in progress. Bill Wood is out there regularly trying to control the weeds, but it is a HUGE job and is more than one person can possibly manage, even as hard a worker as Bill is. Over the summer, we don't have the IYS students helping out. Please contact Bill Wood (<wood97603@q.com>) or call 884-2421 to find out how to help on the trail. On your own, you can always pull noxious weeds or bring a shovel and dig them up and throw them up under a tree when you are on the Trail, and that will be most appreciated.



American Goldfinch— One of the over 150 bird species seen from the Wingwatchers Trail and on nearby Lake Ewauna.

- Leslie Lowe, President (541) 882-6509
- Ralph Opp, Secretary (541) 882-8488
- Allan Lowe, Treasurer (541) 882-6509
- Bill Wood, Trail Coordinator (541) 884-2421
- Ken Hay (541) 882-6028
- Dave Menke (541) 882-5473
- Harry Vincett (541) 885-2881
- Anita Ward (541) 884-2015

**Ken Hay, Membership questions
(541) 882-6028**

Send membership dues to:

**KLAMATH WINGWATCHERS, INC
P.O. BOX 251
KLAMATH FALLS, OR 97601**

I wish to support the activities of the Klamath Wingwatchers, Inc. As a member, I will receive the "Taking Wing" newsletter and I may vote at the Annual Meeting for Board Members. All memberships are tax deductible.

MY MEMBERSHIP PLEDGE:

- Student/Senior.....\$ 10 _____
- Individual.....\$ 15 _____
- Family.....\$ 25 _____
- Business.....\$ 35 _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ **Zip:** _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____