

Taking Wing

Klamath Wingwatchers, Inc.

Fall 2010 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.

Our Spiffed Up Trail

by Leslie Lowe

In case you haven't noticed, there is a lot that has been happening on Wingwatchers trail since last March when we started our monthly maintenance the last Saturday of each month from 10 am - noon. We are hoping some of you will choose a Saturday to come and help in either September or October. We will start this program again next March.

On September 25, Ralph Opp will lead the troops in clearing the roof of the shed donated by Klamath Falls City Parks, thanks to John Bellon and Ken Hay. City Parks even moved the shed to its new location at the far end of the trail. This is a great bonus for KWW, as we have never had our own storage units, and still wouldn't if it weren't for the great partnership we have forged with the Klamath Falls City Parks Dept. This will allow us to store all of our tools at the trail site along with other KWW materials. In the next two months, the roof will be replaced, new siding will go up, a new door will be installed along with a tamper proof window, and of course, a lock on each of the sheds.



The Storage sheds look a little rough now but just wait to see what Ralph Opp and Bill Wood have in store (Photos will be posted in a future issue of *Taking Wing*)



Unfortunately, graffiti is a recurring problem here

Ken Hay arranged for youth working in City Parks on a grant to help out other community folks also. They helped cut a new trail behind the South Portal, which someday will join the Wingwatcher trail in a loop under the freeway. They painted trail side benches and removed the graffiti on pillars under the freeway. They also helped remove noxious weeds, a constant problem on the trail, especially with thistle, stinging nettles, and poison hemlock. We always need help getting rid of these weeds.

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Notes and 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.

Trail Work Days are the final Saturday of each month from 10 am until noon. Everyone is invited to join in meeting at the small parking area across from the Favell Museum. Mark your calendars for the final two work days this year on September 25 and October 30th.

Wingwatchers Board Meeting—The next Board meeting will be Tuesday September 28th at 7:00 p.m..

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

A special thanks to Bill Wood, our trail coordinator, who is out there almost weekly from March through October, keeping the trail mowed, the weeds sprayed, and helping our many volunteers and partners contribute to the well-being of the trail. That includes Damion Ciotti, of US Fish and Wildlife, who continues to partner us with grants and labor to restore or manage our lakeside habitat. Without his on-going help, we would have lost some of our shoreline to erosion.

Damion also paid for and helped to create our new interpretive trail guide, with a new improved map, a list of likely to be seen birds, and information for trail walkers to help them appreciate the trail.

Ralph Opp made new trail signs and a new sign for the kiosk. We are still thanking Ralph for our restored trail head sign. And he made a sign to help direct folks from Main Street onto the trail itself.



Let's not forget the two Alturas families who made birdhouses and brought them to Klamath last March. We know the birds used them, because one of our trees fell in a fierce summer storm and the birdhouse had a nest in it.



Finally, a well deserved Thank You sign is now on the kiosk, to commemorate all the folks who have made the trail what it is today. The lettering is small, but that just shows how many folks have helped us over the years. Stand on the kiosk bench and find YOUR name.

Call Ralph Opp at 541-882-8488 to help with roof repair and weed control on September 25 from 10 am - noon. Our last work day is October 30. Please show your support for KWW and plan to come and help us.



Youth groups have been a big help with painting projects, weed removal, and many other chores required to keep the Wingwatchers train in top form.

Outdoor Classroom Opportunities on the Trail

Wingwatchers is seeking school teachers who want to use the Wingwatchers trail for classroom learning projects. Have a project in mind? Need help finding a project? With enough advanced notice Wingwatchers may be able to provide a knowledgeable guide for groups who would like to use the trail for an educational outing. Contact Leslie at 882-6509 or email at inharmony46 @charter.net.

New Outdoor Educator Directory Available

On another note, Susan Honea and Misty Buckley have recently completed a directory of outdoor classroom resources available to Klamath Basin educators and resource professionals. This valuable resource is available on the OSU Extension website: <http://oregonstate.edu/dept/kbrec/natural-resources>.

The directory will help with an upcoming effort to coordinate "Connecting People with Nature" and other environmental education programs and activities within the Upper Klamath Basin.

Planning begins on OC&E trail and City trail connectivity projects.

There is lots of interest in a recent effort to connect non motorized trails within the city of Klamath Falls (including the Wingwatchers trail) to the extensive OC &E trail system. A group which includes Wingwatcher representation is working on the following projects and proposals which will eventually make this very exciting concept a true asset to the community:

- 1) Develop a pedestrian and bicycle bridge over the rail-road tracks near Spring Street. This will connect the OC &E trail to downtown Klamath Falls and provide a connecting trail to the west.
- 2) Construction of the Lake Ewauna Trail is a joint effort between the City of Klamath Falls, Klamath County and the property owners. This new paved path will border the north shore of Lake Ewauna, with the lake on one side and downtown Klamath Falls on the other.
- 3) This new trail will connect the Link River Trail to the extensive Moore Park trail system. The short 1/4 mile trail will allow pedestrians and bicyclists to keep off a dangerous section of Lakeshore Drive, benefitting public safety.
- 4) A key component to completing a loop trail system is developing a connection between the Link River Nature Trail near Moore Park to the A Canal Trail near OIT. The City of Klamath Falls will likely accomplish this using existing street rights-of-way to develop a connecting link between the ends of these two trails.
- 5) A grass roots effort is currently being organized to construct a trail along the south side of Lakeshore Drive which will connect the trail system in Moore Park to the Running Y. This would provide a continuous nonmotorized trail from the City of Klamath Falls to neighborhoods to the west.

Eventually, one can envision a system of non-motorized trails which would connect areas as far away as Bly, Oregon to the east with the Pacific Crest Trail near Lake of the Woods to the west.

If you are interested in being involved with this worthwhile effort contact Leslie Lowe for more information.

New Birding Trail Leaflet “Takes Wing”

This Wingwatchers publication is a **MUST** for both local and visiting birders to the Klamath Basin. It is packed with an amazing variety of helpful information including detailed maps and colorful pictures. Those interested in quantity purchases of the new booklet should contact Cindy Deas at (541) 892-0596.



PHOTO GALLERY

All of the birds depicted below are seen along the Wingwatchers Nature Trail or Lake Ewauna each fall.



WINGWATCHERS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- 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, Membership (541) 882-6028
- Dave Menke, Newsletter (541) 882-5473
- Harry Vincett (541) 885-2881
- Anita Ward (541) 884-2015
- Belinda Kerzel (541) 331-4788

Visit Wingwatchers at:

<http://klamathbirdingtrails.com/wingwatchers/index.shtml/>

**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 Wings" newsletter and I may vote at the Annual Meeting for Board Members. Memberships are tax deductible.

MY MEMBERSHIP PLEDGE:

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

Shown above from top to bottom:
Bonaparte's Gull (seen over Lake Ewauna)
Male Bufflehead (Lake Ewauna and WW ponds)
Yellow-rumped Warbler (in trees along water's edge)