



October 2023

Taking Wing

Klamath Wingwatchers, Inc. Newsletter, Klamath Falls, OR

We hope you'll join us for our annual meeting!

Tuesday, December 12, 2023 at 5:30 pm at Klamath County Museum

We will once again provide a catered dinner by Renae Snow. Tickets are \$25/person with a choice of chicken, beef, or vegetarian. Dinner includes entre, side dishes, dessert, coffee, tea, lemon water.

**5:30 pm: Collect Annual Dues: Form is at the end of this newsletter
Elect officers: Dues must be paid prior to voting
Celebrate our 2023 achievements !!!!!!!!**

**6:30 pm: Dinner: Purchase tickets by Dec. 5 for our final count
Email: inharmony46@charter.net Call 541-882-6509**

Current BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

We are looking for more Board members.

Leslie Lowe, President, (541) 882-6509

Bill Wood, V.P. and Co-Coordinator Trail, (541) 884-2421

Dave Potter, Co-Coordinator Trail & Trail Volunteers, (541) 205-3293

Allan Lowe, Treasurer, (541) 882-6509

Glenn Gailis, Membership Chair, 541-891-2715

Mark Casebier, (541) 220-1772

Phil Dussel, (541) 891-2901

**DUE TO HIGHWAY
CONSTRUCTION FOR
EARTHQUAKE SAFETY,
THE LINK RIVER
ENTRANCE TO THE TRAIL
IS CLOSED FOR A YEAR.**

**Help KWW painlessly by
allowing a portion of the
grocery \$\$ to go to KWW. Sign
up on-line at
[fredmeyer.com/i/community/
community-rewards.](https://fredmeyer.com/i/community/community-rewards)**

TRAIL MAINTENANCE NEEDS YOU!

Klamath Wingwatchers Board meetings are held at the Healthy Klamath Office in the Herald and News building at 2701 Foothills Blvd at 4:30 pm on the 4th Thursday of each month. They are OPEN to everyone! Come and join us. Call 541-882-6509 for more info.

PLEASE GET INVOLVED AND SUPPORT THE TRAIL YOU ENJOY

Set up your 2024 calendar

Trail Maintenance days are the last Saturday of the month for March through October. Volunteers assemble at the Discover Klamath building [205 Riverside Drive] parking lot at 9 a.m. Work winds up about 11:30 a.m. or whenever people need to take off. Bring gloves and water. Wear long pants and close-toed shoes.

If you are willing to help on other days, please let us know, as we are involved in some very big jobs to improve the trails. Help is always needed. Litter pickup [never ending], painting, weeding new shrub plantings, and spreading wood chips are some of the jobs requiring volunteer efforts.

For more info email Dave Potter at kpottermom@yahoo.com

Wingwatchers needs someone to compose our newsletter 4 times each year.

Leslie has been doing it with a cut and paste Word program. Jessie did a terrific job and then no longer had time, but she might be able to show someone how to use the set up she had.

Call Leslie 541-882-6509 to discuss.

TRAIL PROJECTS NEWS and THANK YOU'S

We had some major projects on our agenda for 2023.

1) **Dave** was in charge of erosion control on the lakeside trail. He raised \$500, **THANKS** to Sky Lakes Medical Center Community Grants program to help us buy gravel.

2) **Phil** wrote a successful grant for \$3800 for a solar pump. **SPECIAL THANKS TO:** the Schwemm Family Foundation. Then he had to build and install it in the South Pond to control the water level that threatens our dikes. **THANKS** to Phil. Our trusty work crew then installed the piping, **THANKS** to Allan on Clo Cone's tractor and A LOT of grunt work by our team.

3) **Leslie, Mark, Bill, & Allan** were in charge of planting the space between the Ken Hay trail and Highway 97 for 1500' and installing a timed drip feeder to each of 112 new plants plus 9 that were already there.

SPECIAL THANKS TO: Mennen Foundation \$4000, USF&W Klamath Refuges \$750, Ford Family Foundation \$1800, children of Ben Kerns \$500, Mountain Valley Gardens 10% discount and guidance, City of Klamath Falls and John Bellon for guidance, water source, and pressure reducer. Our Board and volunteers spent hundreds of hours to install pipe and the 4 dripfeed controllers and get them operative. **THANKS to IYS for help planting and covering pipe. Leslie put in all 121 drip feeders.**

4) **AND,** we reprinted our Guide to the Link River, **THANKS** to Klamath County Transient Room Tax grant. We just got approved for a 2nd Transient Room Tax grant for \$2025 to reprint our trail brochures.

5) **And, THANKS to Mark and team,** our new shed is mostly completed and serving us well.

We have much to celebrate. Pictures of each project will be at the Annual meeting, or you can walk the trails and see them for yourself.

Wingwatchers could NOT have embarked on these projects, let alone completed them, without the help of our very hard-working volunteers and partnering organizations that provided funding and volunteer help.

**At the Intersection of the Natural World and Techno-World
by Phil Dussel, Board Member 9/2023**

On any given day, walking the Klamath Wingwatcher's Trail is truly a unique recreational and educational experience. Some say even spiritual if time allows for introspection along the way. In such a dynamic place, where the complex interaction of layers of life is so lush, life flourishes. On your walk consider: the Trail that rings the still waters of the wetlands stretches for over two miles; birds, even eagles on the spire-like snag, could be watching you; peaceful benches invite quiet contemplation. One could say technology in any form would be in stark contrast, would be an intruder to the wetlands world, so what difference could technology possibly make in a world like that?

Short answer: a unique application of renewable energy—a solar-powered water pump used to enhance the wetlands. Here's a quick look at what technology hath wrought:

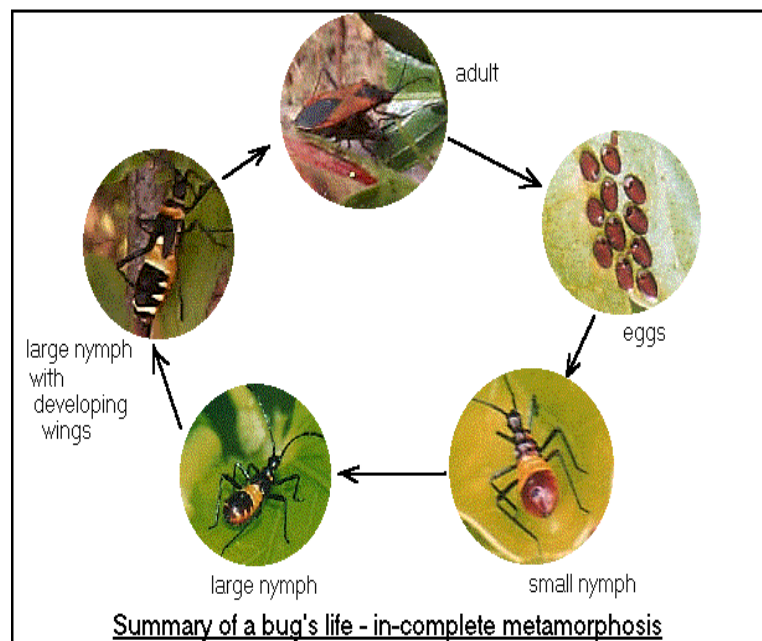


Solar-powered pump project funded by
the Schwemm Family Foundation THANK YOU!

(CONT. NEXT PAGE)

Dave Potter (board member, former National Wildlife Refuges manager) favors active human influence on water levels because "...mimicking Mother Nature's management was superior wetland ecosystem management. The more the diverse the life forms, the more stable the ecosystem, a basic ecological principle." Which is why..." varying water depths up and down (is) so beneficial. ... The food chain is greatly improved."

In addition, water level fluctuations impact the life cycle of insects, worms and snails that proliferate in warm shallow water mud flats, affecting the food chain all the way up to apex species. Birds of all types (84 species were identified by Elijah Hayes and Kevin Spencer between 7:00am and noon one day in May, 2022) feast on bugs like this one:



For Bill Wood (WingWatcher's board member, BOR civil engineering technician ((ret)), that's where all the action is. Pond water level is a key component of the ecosystem and readily-observed indicator of overall habitat health. For a long time, a water pump, any kind of pump had been on Bill's wish list. So at long last, when the solar water pump was deployed in the South Pond in September, Bill was very encouraged, now having a tool to better manage the South Pond. Maintaining optimum water level is critical for the South Pond in many ways. After a wet winter there may even be too much water in South Pond, threatening the integrity of the dike system along the shore.

The solar-powered pump has proven to be quiet and effective, unlike the usual incessant drone of a standard commercial pump. Ho hum, just another gizmo using the power of the sun!

Howard West of Klamath Falls says about bald eagles on Lake Ewauna:

I did learn a little about how these birds hunt this lake when it's partially ice covered.

Two adult bald eagles would sit in the "eagle snag" and watch the lake. About every 20 minutes both would leave the snag and buzz all the birds on the lake.

What caught my attention was, of the waterfowl that dove instead of flying, the eagles targeted the ones close to ice, and also the smaller ducks. The pair worked as a team, and one would try to time its approach when the duck was due to pop up. It makes sense. The Eagles don't want to make a hit, and not be able to get it on the ice.

Larry Heath surely has spent more time watching and photographing at Veterans Park than anyone else. A year or more ago he told me that he had NEVER seen an eagle fly to that snag with a WHOLE duck. Fish, yes. Maybe their ability to fly off with huge captures was super exaggerated? I'm pretty sure I read grade school books about them flying off with newborn lambs!



Howard West photo of Bald Eagle

Dave Potter's response to Howard:

Audubon's "Encyclopedia of North American Birds" [by John K. Terres] says bald eagle males are 8-9 pounds and females 10-14 pounds. They eat "largely fish also chases and catches injured or shot and crippled waterfowl...."

Also they eat dead critters like road kill deer, spawned out fish and fish killed in hydroelectric turbines [Missouri River observations.] Indeed, early 1970s we [US Fish & Wildlife Service] had bald eagles hit along the highway south of Newell, CA as they labored to lift off after eating dead deer.

I believe they can catch uninjured waterfowl sometimes. One summer, along the wilderness coast, Olympic National Park, I saw white stuff falling and looked up high in a beach-side tree to see a bald eagle plucking a sea bird, species unknown.

Me, I wouldn't be surprised if a hungry adult female bald eagle could take an animal weighing something like 6-7 pounds, or less. I have seen a female great horned owl [around 2-3 pounds in weight according to the book] struggle but fly a short distance with a rooster pheasant [around 2 1/2 pounds per the book] one cold, winter day, North Dakota. I left so as not to disturb it from its well needed, earned meal.

**DO YOU HAVE A PICTURE YOU
WANT TO SHARE?**
Send it to
inharmony46@charter.net



Howard West
photo of a Green
Heron, taken on
Wingwatcher
Trail pond.

SUPPORT THE TRAIL YOU CARE ABOUT

**SEND YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES TO:
8880 Tingley Lane, Klamath Falls, OR 97603**

**Membership dues and donations are usually tax deductible.
My membership pledge:**

___ Student/Senior \$10 ___ Individual \$15 ___ Family \$25 ___ Business \$35

Extra Donation _____

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Email _____

Our TAKING WING newsletter will be sent to your email address, unless you don't have one. If you want our newsletter snail mailed to your home address, please include an extra \$8 to cover postage and handling for 3-4 issues each year.

