



August 2022

Taking Wing

Klamath Wingwatchers, Inc. Newsletter, Klamath Falls, OR

By: Leslie Lowe

Dave Menke is a person with vision while the rest of us wear bi-focals

Dave Menke worked for USF&W Refuges and was on the Board of Wingwatchers for many years until his death April 28, 2011. Dave created our professionally looking newsletters, worked on the trail, and helped develop the Klamath Basin Birding Trail (KBBT) guidebook, but what was most important about Dave was his vision of the Wingwatchers trail.

I remember walking the trail with Dave one day, thinking our trail was

kind of puny, given that it was short, next to Highway 97 and noisy, not to mention the constant trash pickups needed from highway litter and careless trail walkers. But Dave's eyes were beaming as he talked about the virtues of the trail. "How many small cities can boast such a wonderful trail next to a lake and right downtown!? Look at the birds we see! And we look across the lake to the mountains, which are really beautiful when snowcapped in winter and greening up in Spring."

Dave was a superb photographer and took many wildlife pictures that spoke 1000 words. But those few words he said to me as we walked that day created my desire to help make this a truly great trail. And now it is great because of our many, many dedicated volunteers, who created many amenities from picnic tables and benches, informational kiosks, and now wetland education signage and a new entrance to the Ken Hay trail (a tribute to another man with vision).



New Website!

We launched a new website at
klamathwingwatchers.org

Check it out and let us know what you think.

SHOOT HIGH TO SCORE HIGH

Roughly four months ago ideas were set for a massive project. I and at least one other old timer thought it was too large to be attempted. Glad to admit we were wrong. Others pushed us all forward.

A great group of volunteers, up to 13 at one work session, turned out for around five work efforts. Klamath Wingwatchers has no paid employees so all of us lending our time and abilities has and is making it great: over two miles of scenic, high quality, well maintained recreational trails in the heart of Klamath Falls. Lake Ewauna, several ponds, clumps of tall trees and many flowering shrubs make for great musing, bird watching, running.... whatever. Free, every day of the week.

Details: With a culvert, other help and advice from our City Parks Department [who owns this land,] we cut back grass, weeds and shrubs to lay out a new entrance for the Ken Hay Trail west, of Highway 97. Starting in the middle of the Visitor's Center parking lot, the new trail is much easier for newcomers to find. It runs south past large cottonwood trees by a nicely shaded picnic table. Then on along the edge of more trees - great bird watching in the spring - back toward Highway 97 joining the older, established trail. A big time benefit I enjoy is being farther from the steady noise of 18 wheelers zooming by.

Wood chips were donated by a local contractor for free. A couple of sessions of volunteers shoveling into and then out of pickup trucks equaled great exercise.....smile. A local building contractor used his time, his dump truck, his front end loader and four yards of his dirt to form the base layer on which chips went. All without any reimbursement. Yet another volunteer allowed free use of her bucket loader tractor so placing chips - over black ground fabric - was much easier.

The really big last job was relocating the wooden welcome information sign [from its heavy concrete bases] to its new, much more visible home at the new entrance. Volunteers spent considerable time hand digging the holes for its 4 x 4 inch legs. Then "enjoyed" hand mixing concrete to pour in around them. Another volunteer repainted the sign's face so it is again bright.

All trail volunteers can take great satisfaction with this big, hard job well done. To step up and help us with future work, email Dave Potter, kpottermom@yahoo.com.

By: Dave Potter

VOLUNTEERING

It takes a team to improve the trail and maintain it.

YOU can help by: volunteering your time, paying your dues, making donations, writing a newsletter article, sharing your trail pictures, picking up trash as you walk, etc.

WANT TO JOIN THE TEAM?

Contact Dave Potter 541-205-3293
kpottermom@yahoo.com

There are new projects and regular maintenance chores. Every effort helps take care of the trail.

Klamath Wingwatchers Board meetings are held at the Healthy Klamath Office in the Herald & News building at 2701 Foothills Blvd.

Our meetings are open to everyone. They are scheduled at 5:30pm on the fourth Thursday of each month. If you wish to be included in any of our Board meetings, please send your email to inharmony46@charter.net with "Include me in KWW meetings" in the subject line. You will receive a copy of our minutes from the previous meeting and the Agenda. **Please get involved and support the trail you enjoy.**

BONNIE HAY SINGING ON THE WINGWATCHER TRAIL

July 9, 2020, at 7 pm brought Bonnie Hay and her guitar to sing about nature along the Wingwatcher trail. 14 adults and 4 young children were entertained by Bonnie's selections and popular voice. Titled "A Socially Distant Song along the Way", Bonnie singlehandedly transformed the oppression of Covid into a delightful evening walk.

Bonnie is well known in Klamath for her work in our schools, in choral concerts, as a song writer, and a performer in so many community events. It was Bonnie's creative idea to use the trail, named after her late husband, Ken Hay, starting at the Discover Klamath parking lot, to celebrate nature on a summer evening. Her song choices delightfully fit each of the 7 stops she had chosen as people strolled along the 1.3 miles back to the Discover Klamath parking lot.

BE THE WIND BENEATH OUR WINGS

Consider donating to the trail or becoming a Klamath Wingwatchers Member to help support us and all we do. All Donations are tax deductible, including Membership Dues.

An easy way to help us is through Amazon Smile. Sign up at smile.amazon.com/ch/943143814. Every time you buy, Amazon sends 0.05% to Wingwatchers. Or you can also sign up for **Fred Meyer Community Rewards** program and select Wingwatchers as your charity.



Bonnie, the pied piper, toting her guitar and music stand

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Klamath Falls, OR 97603

I wish to join the Klamath Wingwatchers. All memberships are tax deductible. I would like to begin receiving the Taking Wing Newsletter. My email is _____
I don't have email, so please send to:

MY MEMBERSHIP PLEDGE:

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

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

IMAGES OF NEW SIGNAGE ON KEN HAY TRAIL



Photos from Bill Wood

KLAMATH WINGWATCHERS
TRAIL CELEBRATES 30 YEARS

BBQ

Party



RSVP



**FREE
FOOD**

**KLAMATHWING
WATCHERS.ORG**

**TRAIL
WALKS
AND FOOD**

FRIDAY AUGUST 26TH

BBQ AT 4:30PM TRAIL WALKS AT 6:30PM

205 RIVERSIDE DRIVE KLAMATH FALLS, OR

KLAMATHWINGWATCHERS.ORG