



Newsletter of the Malheur Wildlife Associates, Friends of Malheur National Wildlife Refuge
... Keeping the Needs of Wildlife First ...

Volume 5, Number 1

February 2009

Malheur Wildlife Associates

an affiliate of the National Wildlife Refuge Association

36391 Sod House Lane
 Princeton, OR 97721

www.malheurfriends.org

Board of Directors

Chair

Jan Cupernall
twocupsnburns@yahoo.com

Vice Chair

Gary Ivey
ivey@oregonvos.net

Treasurer

Bill Renwick
William_Renwick@hotmail.com

Secretary

Alice Elshoff
calice58@gmail.com

Refuge Liaison

Carey Goss
Carey_Goss@fws.gov

What's Been Happening

Carey Goss, Refuge Liaison

Malheur Wildlife Associates (MWA) has experienced several changes in the past year. Some board members have stepped down, and new board members have volunteered. The last newsletter was published in September 2007. MWA is currently in transition. Everyone who has graciously supported MWA and Malheur National Wildlife Refuge deserves an explanation of events.

In the fall of 2006, Alice Elshoff, who created the MWA, stepped down as MWA Chair. Patty Bowers, an active board member, resigned from the board in early 2007. Refuge staff and remaining board members met immediately to discuss the future of MWA.

The course of action was long, but very rewarding. Board members worked together and started a process to identify new board members and active MWA members. As a result of this process, we clarified the mission of MWA, agreed upon projects to meet the goals of MWA and the Refuge and developed a recruitment strategy by hosting a MWA Brunch & Tour on the Refuge. Most importantly, we built stronger relationships and developed an understanding of the importance of a Friends group to a refuge.

What is the future of MWA?

A temporary MWA board is in place to maintain the group's non-

profit status. Jan Cupernall is the MWA Chair, and Bill Renwick is the Treasurer. Gary Ivey remains as the Vice Chair, and Alice Elshoff, former MWA Chair, is the Secretary. Because MWA has a limited number of board members and active members, we have made some changes to stay within our capabilities.

With the help of MWA member Terri Grimm, we will try to provide a spring and fall issue of the newsletter to introduce you to a Refuge staff member; keep you informed about upcoming events, specific projects and special highlights; and provide news from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. The MWA Web site will also remain active.

New members are always welcome. We are seeking additional board members and active MWA members to meet the mission of the MWA and accomplish on-the-ground projects. Members provide many vital services to the Refuge through wildlife and habitat conservation projects, community outreach and environmental education and by enhancing opportunities in wildlife viewing, photography, interpretation, hunting and fishing.

If you have any questions or comments or are interested in becoming a board member or active MWA member, please contact me (541-493-2612 or carey_goss@fws.gov).

The Malheur Wildlife Associates is an independent, non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation committed to:

- Conserving, enhancing, and restoring fish and wildlife habitat and cultural history in the Harney Basin through the support of Malheur National Wildlife Refuge staff and programs.
- Assisting the Refuge in providing wildlife-dependent educational and recreational opportunities while enhancing public knowledge and appreciation of the Refuge mission.
- Advocating for support of the Refuge and the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Terri Grimm, Graphic Design

New Refuge Manager

Carey Goss, *Refuge Liaison*

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has appointed Tim Bodeen as the new Refuge Manager of Malheur National Wildlife Refuge (NWR).

Bodeen has worked for the USFWS for more than 20 years. He started as a biological technician at Bozeman Fish Technology Center in Montana. Bodeen then moved to an assistant refuge manager position at Fergus Falls Wetland Management District, where he served as the director of the Prairie Wetland Learning Center in Minnesota. Since then he has served as a supervisory park ranger at Neal Smith NWR in Iowa, refuge manager for the proposed Grand Kankakee Marsh NWR in Indiana/Illinois, refuge manager at Midway Atoll NWR in Hawaii, refuge manager at Ridgefield NWR Complex in Washington and

as assistant refuge supervisor for the Pacific Region in Portland. For the past two years, Bodeen served as the administrative officer for Peace Corps in Gambia, West Africa.

Bodeen said, "I am thrilled to have the opportunity to manage Malheur NWR with its diverse fish and wildlife resources and pleased to have such an experienced and welcoming Refuge team to help meet the Refuge's land management opportunities and challenges."

Bodeen promotes an open-door policy and encourages people to stop by to share their thoughts. "I look



Refuge Manager, Tim Bodeen

forward to meeting and working with our Refuge constituents," said Bodeen.

His appointment to the refuge manager position at Malheur NWR began in October and filled the position vacated by Donna Stovall in June.

Assistant Director of NWR System Appointed

Greg Siekaniec, a 24-year veteran of the National Wildlife Refuge System, has been named the new Assistant Director for the Refuge System by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Director H. Dale Hall. Before taking the helm of the Refuge System, Siekaniec spent eight years as the refuge manager of Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge, one of the Refuge System's most remote and far-flung units. Alaska Maritime Refuge encompasses more than 2,500 islands and nearly five million acres.

Among his many achievements at Alaska Maritime Refuge, Siekaniec is credited with developing a host of restoration partnerships with national conservation organizations to restore island biodiversity and ridding islands of destructive invasive species — foxes and rats — that had nearly eradicated native seabirds and other wildlife. Alaska Maritime Refuge provides nesting habitat for approximately 40 million seabirds, about 80 percent of Alaska's nesting seabird population.

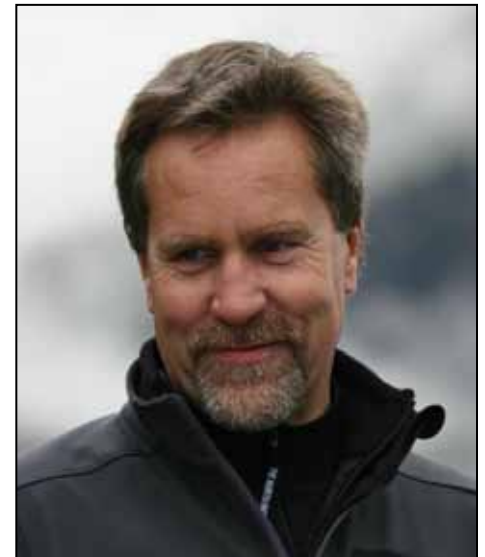
Siekaniec started his career at J. Clark Salyer National Wildlife Refuge as a refuge clerk and moved up into management positions in Montana, North Dakota and Wyoming,

in addition to Alaska. He served as deputy chief of the Refuge System before taking over leadership at Alaska Maritime Refuge in 2001.

Through a varied career with the Fish and Wildlife Service — always working in the Refuge System — Siekaniec has gained experience with small to large construction projects, large-scale habitat restoration, law enforcement, wetland management, environmental cleanup, land acquisitions, establishing new refuges and sensitive wilderness stewardship issues.

Siekaniec earned a bachelor's degree in wildlife biology from the University of Montana. He completed the Senior Executive Service Candidate Development Program in 2008, the same year that he completed the Senior Executive Fellows Program at the John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University.

Siekaniec, his wife, Janelle, and their two children credit his work with the Fish and Wildlife Service for the opportunities to live a rural subsistence lifestyle and, at other times, be immersed in an urban area with a rapidly growing population. "The varied cultural and geographic experiences have led us to firmly embrace the importance of conservation part-



Refuge System Assistant Director, Greg Siekaniec

nerships," said Siekaniec. "Whether acquiring lands for the Refuge System or working to remove Norway rats from a seabird island, it's all about working together and maintaining relationships."

During their years in Alaska, the Siekaniec family could often be seen fishing the Kenai River, hiking and camping across the state and hunting from the end of the Alaska Peninsula to the northern Brooks Range.

P Ranch Long Barn Restored

Carla Burnside, Refuge Archaeologist

After weeks of extensive stabilization and restoration repairs, P Ranch Long Barn at the southern half of the Refuge is standing straighter than it has for decades. The stabilization work straightened the east and west walls of the structure, removed dips in the roof line and lifted the northeast portion of the barn.

Visitors to the barn will notice four new support posts along the center aisle, concrete piers under several posts and new and repaired doors. Refuge staff and volunteers worked on repairing and replacing wind-damaged siding over the summer. In November, braces that were placed along the east side of the barn to provide stability were replaced by a cable system.

Pilgrims Progress Preservation Services worked with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service staff on the stabilization and restoration work. The project was also partially funded with grants received by the Harney County Historical Society.



P Ranch Long Barn

The Harney County Historical Society also received a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for the creation of interpretive panels at P Ranch and publication of a brochure about the Frenchglen Livestock Company on the Refuge. Refuge volunteer, Roger Baker, designed the

panels and the brochure. With the addition of the interpretive panels and brochure, visitors can now learn more about the area.

For more information about the project or the history of the Refuge, contact Carla Burnside (541-493-2612).

New Board Member to Attend National Friends Conference in February

Tim Bodeen, Refuge Manager, has invited MWA Treasurer Bill Renwick to the 2009 National Friends Conference in Washington, D.C. on February 21 to 23. The conference is sponsored by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Wildlife Refuge Association. The theme for this year's conference, *Friends Unite!*, reflects the need for committed wildlife and refuge supporters to come together and work toward our shared goal of

securing America's wildlife heritage for future generations.

Representatives of nonprofit Refuge Friends organizations and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are expected to attend. The conference will feature nearly two dozen training sessions and special forums designed to energize the 200-plus nonprofit Friends organizations spread across the country.

Friends Forward Available Online

The quarterly newsletter, *Friends Forward*, will keep the 250 Refuge Friends organizations and others up to date on developments and underscore the Refuge System's appreciation for the good work of the approximately 40,000 members of Friends organizations. The latest edition is available from: www.fws.gov/refuges/friends





MWA member, Patty Bowers (fourth from right), and volunteers display the quilt they made for the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge Centennial Celebration.

Centennial celebration



MWA purchased a statue that was dedicated during the Centennial Celebration.

Malheur National Wildlife Refuge's Centennial Celebration on September 20, 2008 was a great success. A number of former employees and their families, as well as many community members, enjoyed a reunion dinner, dedications at Refuge headquarters, birds of prey programs and staffed interpretive stops along the Blitzen Valley. Two special projects made the centennial memorable with the help of MWA and volunteers.

During the dedication ceremonies on September 20, Alice Elshoff, former MWA Chief, unveiled a statue of a girl holding a camera. Engraved on the base of the statue is a quote from John F. Kennedy, "Children are the world's most valuable resource and its best hope for the future." MWA purchased the statue with donations that were

made in memory of Merle Everett McGraw. The statue is located in front of the Refuge's Visitor Center; it faces the display pond and Malheur Lake.

MWA member, Patty Bowers, and several volunteers made a celebration quilt for the Refuge. Volunteers worked more than 120 hours to create the quilt. These hours do not include the time spent by the students who created the artwork for the quilt. The quilt is on display in the George Benson Memorial Museum located at the Refuge headquarters.

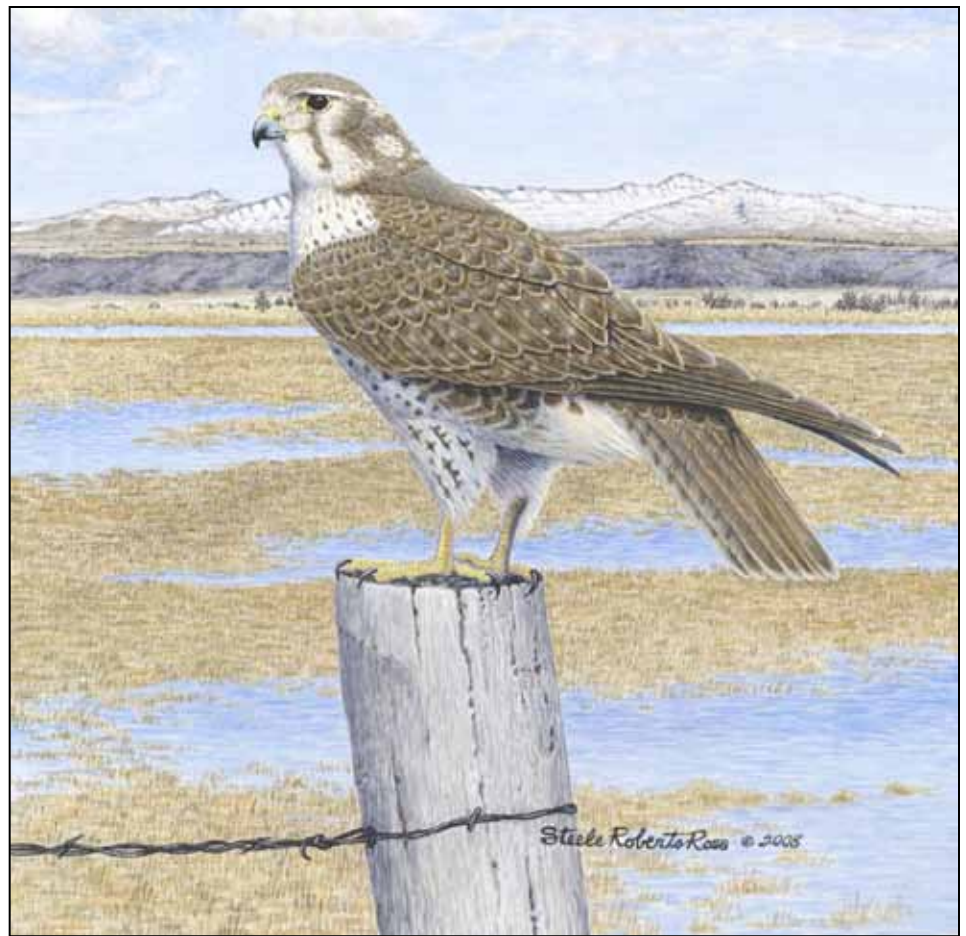
Malheur National Wildlife Refuge would like to recognize all the support from MWA and the volunteers who made the Centennial Celebration memorable.

28th Annual John Scharff Migratory Bird Festival & Art Show

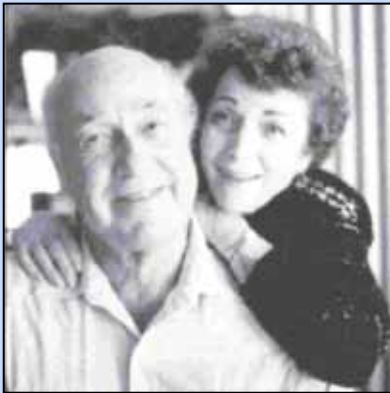
April 3 to 5, 2009

Spend an amazing weekend witnessing the spectacular spring migration in the Harney Basin of Southeast Oregon. View thousands of migratory birds as they rest and feed in the wide open spaces of Oregon's high desert. From waterfowl to shorebirds, cranes to raptors, wading birds to songbirds, you'll see it all! The festival offers non-stop birding activities as well as historical and cultural information sure to entertain you and your family. Whether you're a beginner or a life-long wildlife enthusiast, the festival has something for everyone. Don't miss this extraordinary weekend.

For more information about the festival, visit www.migratorybirdfestival.com. Registration begins February 9, 2009. Register online or call the Harney County Chamber of Commerce (541-573-2636).



In Memoriam: Merle Everett McGraw



In lieu of flowers, donations were made in Merle Everett McGraw's name to Malheur Wildlife Associates.

Merle Everett McGraw died at his home in Eagle Point, Oregon in November 2007 at the age of 85. He was born in Medford on March 17, 1922, the second child of Thomas E. and Blanch McCay McGraw.

In 1940, he married Jessie Elise and had three children, Lana McGraw Bodlt (Darrell), Wendy Lee McGraw (Michael Cowan) and Michael Alan McGraw. Merle and Jessie have four grandchildren, Ka-

trina Meister, Kirsten Boldt, Brandon McGraw and Ryan McGraw, and two great-grandchildren, Christopher and Anabella Meister.

Merle worked in all aspects of the Oregon lumber industry his entire life. Most notably he was a general manger for the Steve Wilson Lumber Company for over 25 years.

During World War II, he served in the Air Force as a B-17 and B-25 pilot and flight instructor. He retired as a captain in the Air Force Reserves. He continued his love of flying through the rest of his life, serving as a pilot for the Steve Wilson Lumber Company and later flying his own Cherokee.

Merle's myriad interests centered around his family. He loved presiding over huge family holiday gatherings at his ranch in Eagle Point. His many avocations included hunting, fishing, bird watching, studying Native American culture, Oregon and Alaska history and wandering his beloved Oregon forests, high deserts and wildlands. His encyclopedic knowledge of Oregon and all wildlife made

him a valued resource for many, including personnel from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and Oregon State University.

He was an active volunteer with the Civil Air Patrol and participated on many committees for the Eagle Point School District and the Eagle Point High School Boosters Club. He was also a major fund raiser for the original Rogue Valley Memorial Hospital Building Fund.

Merle is predeceased by his parents and brother, Elmo, and is survived by Jessie, his beloved wife of 67 years, his three children, four grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, his sister, Leilla McGraw-Sparks, one niece, four nephews and many loving cousins and friends.

At Merle's request, there will be no service. The family prefers that in lieu of flowers, donations be made in his name to Malheur Wildlife Associates.

Annual dues:

- \$10 Individual
- \$20 Family
- \$50 Donor
- \$200 Patron
- \$500 Life Member

I prefer to receive my newsletter by:

- Snail Mail
- Email

Type of Membership:

- New
- Renewal

Name: _____
Last First Middle I.

Mailing Address: _____ Phone: _____

City State Zip Email: _____

Mail this form with check to: Malheur Wildlife Associates
36391 Sod House Lane
Princeton, OR 97721

I am interested in hearing about work parties via email. Please add my email address to the project notification list.

Malheur Wildlife Associates is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

National Wildlife Refuges: Wildlife's Best Friend

National wildlife refuges are places in the United States where wild creatures can get what they need to live—food, water, shelter, and space. On national wildlife refuges, the needs of wildlife come first.

The mission of the National Wildlife Refuge Association is "To protect, enhance and expand the National Wildlife Refuge System, lands set aside by the American people to protect our country's diverse wildlife heritage." To learn more about NWRA, visit www.refugenet.org.



Malheur Wildlife Associates
36391 Sod House Lane
Princeton, OR 97721

This newsletter is published biannually by the Malheur Wildlife Associates for the benefit of its members. Copies are also made available to refuge visitors and through various other outlets.

Here's What's Inside ...

- What's Been Happening 1
- New Refuge Manager 2
- Assistant Director Appointed 2
- P Ranch Long Barn Restored 3
- New Board Member to Attend National Friends Conference in February 3
- Friends Forward Available Online 3
- Centennial Celebration 4
- John Scharff Migratory Bird Festival 5
- In Memoriam: Merle Everett McGraw.. . . . 5
- Membership Form 2009.. . . . 6

