

2017 LADD MARSH BIRD FESTIVAL FIELD TRIPS

REGISTER AT WWW.FRIENDSOFLADDMARSH.ORG UNDER THE BIRD FESTIVAL TAB

Saturday, May 20th Field Trips

#1. Birds and Botany of the Ponderosa Pine Forest #1 Saturday, May 20th, 2017, 6:30 AM – 12:30 PM; \$10 per participant

Led by naturalists Mike and Susan Daugherty, and Kent Coe, botanist with the PNW research station, this half-day trip will focus on the flora and fauna of a ponderosa pine forest 20 minutes from La Grande. This area supports a small population of rare Great Gray owls that nest on artificial platforms constructed by the Pacific Northwest Research Station as part of a research project conducted in the 90's. The owls are not seen every year, so there is no guarantee we'll see one but we will absolutely make an effort to see one of these huge, regal owls. Participants should be capable of walking up to 2 miles, most of which will be on a narrow trail and a forest road. **Difficulty Level:** Moderate; walking on uneven ground, obstacles (logs and rocks) to negotiate. **To Bring:** Bring binoculars, spotting scope, hiking boots, clothing appropriate for the weather and food to snack on. **Meet:** Parking at Spring Creek is limited, so we'll need to carpool from the Bird Festival Registration Area. Meet at the Bird Festival Peach Road Registration area (see attached map). *(limited to 10 participants).*



#2. Plants of Ladd Marsh Saturday, May 20th, 2017, 1:30-3:30 PM; \$10 per participant

Join Josh Averett, faculty research assistant with Oregon State University, to learn about the diverse plants and plant communities of Ladd Marsh. We will have a unique opportunity to walk through some of the marsh's spectacular camas meadows as we focus our attention on spring wildflowers and culturally important plants. This trip is highly recommended for plant enthusiasts and photographers. **Difficulty level:** Easy; short hikes on level ground. Some areas may be muddy. **To Bring:** Bring clothing appropriate for the weather, water, closed-toed shoes, camera, and binoculars. **Meet:** Meet at the Bird Festival Peach Road Registration area at 1:30 pm (see attached map). *(limited to 20 participants).*



MEET FOR YOUR TRIP 15 MINUTES PRIOR TO START TIME. TRIPS WILL DEPART ON TIME.

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Sunday, May 21st Field Trips

#3. Ladd Marsh Dawn Chorus Sunday May 21st, 2017, 4:30 AM – 8:30 AM; \$10 per participant

Experience the awakening of Ladd Marsh with a dawn walk. Led by Ladd Marsh Wildlife Biologist Cathy Nowak, we will listen and look for Virginia rail, sora, American bittern, black-crowned night heron, common yellow-throat, marsh wren and others. We will travel in private vehicles to a site on the wildlife area, then walk along gentle terrain at the edge of the wetland. **Difficulty level:** Easy; walking on uneven terrain. **To Bring:** Bring binoculars, waterproof shoes or boots, insect repellent and clothing appropriate for the weather. **Meet:** Meet at the Bird Festival Peach Road Registration area (see attached map). *(limited to 12 participants).*



#4. Grande Ronde Valley “Hotspots” Sunday, May 21st, 2017, 6:30 AM – 11:00 AM; \$10 per participant

Songbirds, shorebirds, and birds of prey will be the focus of this field trip. Led by Scott Findholt, Wildlife Research Biologist for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, this field trip will focus on birding “hotspots” in the Grande Ronde Valley, including a few areas at Ladd Marsh but mostly sites on private property elsewhere in the Valley. We will look for common and the more unusual species of birds in the Valley, depending on what’s here in mid-May, including nesting birds of prey. **Difficulty Level:** Easy; mostly birding from or near vehicle or during short walks on level ground. **To Bring:** Bring binoculars, spotting scope (if available), hiking boots, water, food to snack on and clothing appropriate for the weather. **Meet:** Meet at the Bird Festival Peach Road Registration area (see attached map). *(limited to 10 participants).*



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#5. Birds and Botany of the Ponderosa Pine Forest #2 Sunday, May 21st, 2017, 6:30 AM – 12:30 PM; \$10 per participant

Led by Mark Penninger, forest biologist for the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, and Josh Averett, faculty research assistant with OSU, this half-day trip will focus on the flora and fauna native to a ponderosa pine forest 20 minutes from La Grande. This area supports a small population of rare Great Gray owls that nest on artificial platforms constructed by the Pacific Northwest Research Station as part of a research project conducted in the 90's. The owls are not seen every year, so there is no guarantee we'll see one but we will absolutely make an effort to see one of these huge, regal owls. Participants should be capable of walking up to 2 miles, most of which will be on a narrow trail and a forest road. **Difficulty Level:** Moderate; walking on uneven ground, obstacles (logs and rocks) to negotiate. **To Bring:** Bring binoculars, spotting scope, hiking boots, clothing appropriate for the weather and food to snack on. **Meet:** Parking at Spring Creek is limited, so we'll need to carpool from the Bird Festival Registration Area. Meet at the Bird Festival Peach Road Registration area (see attached map). (*limited to 10 participants*).



#6. Rhinehart Canyon Sunday May 21st, 2017, 5:00 AM – ???; \$10 per participant

Led by professional birder, Trent Bray, we will spend the day listening for birds along the Grande Ronde River at the famous birding spot, Rhinehart Canyon (about 18 miles north of La Grande). Over 140 species have been seen at this location. We may need to do some carpooling depending upon participant turnout. We will return to Ladd Marsh when the bird activity slows. **Difficulty level:** Moderate, several miles of walking over uneven and rocky terrain. **To Bring:** Bring binoculars, clothing appropriate for the weather, water, lunch, insect repellent and appropriate footwear. **Meet:** Meet at the Bird Festival Peach Road Registration area (see attached map) (*limited to 10 participants*).



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#7. GROWISER Sunday May 21st, 2017, 8:00 AM – 2:00 PM; \$10 per participant

Led by naturalists Laurie Allen and Dave Trochlell, this trip will be a relaxed-pace 2 to 3 mile walk focusing on birds and flowering plants at the acclaimed 220-acre GROWISER property, located between Summerville and Elgin, at the northern edge of the Grande Ronde Valley. The property contains excellent representations of characteristic Blue Mountain habitats where we'll hope to hear or see migrants and local nesting birds such as hummingbirds, woodpeckers, flycatchers, vireos, warblers, sparrows, tanagers, finches, and if we're lucky, Great Gray Owls, as well. Within these same habitats an astounding 206 species of native plants have been documented, so we can expect to see a spectacular, colorful array of late spring-season flowering forbs and shrubs such as orchids, violets, larkspurs, lupines, balsamroots, cherries, biscuitroots, serviceberry, and paintbrush. Nature permitting, we may even see the rare and glorious mountain lady's slipper orchid in bloom. **Difficulty level:** Moderate; walking up or down gentle grades on gravel trails and paths. **Meet:** Meet at the Bird Festival Peach Road registration (see attached map)--*limited to 10 participants.*



#8. Painting workshop Sunday May 21st, 2017, 1:00PM- 4:00PM; \$15 per participant to cover supplies

Join artist Denise Elizabeth Stone in creating a colorful acrylic painting of a crane. This fun and easy class will utilize an unusual multi-color background technique that can be personalized with your favorite colors. Students of all experience levels are welcome! Some supplies will be provided on the day of the workshop, but a complete list will be available in advance. Limited to 10 participants. Difficulty level: Easy. **To Bring:** Some supplies are provided. A full supply list will be provided in advance of the workshop (be sure to provide a phone number and email address). **Meet:** Ladd Marsh Headquarters, 59116 Pierce Rd (see attached map). (*limited to 12 participants*).



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#9. Barn Owl Banding on Ladd Marsh Sunday May 21st, 2017, 9:00 AM – NOON; \$10 per participant

Kyle Martin, Ladd Marsh Wildlife Area Manager will lead participants to visit one or more barn owl nests on Ladd Marsh with chicks old enough to place leg bands on. Birders will observe the process of opening the nest box, removing the young owls and banding them. The owls will be returned to the nest as the process is completed. This trip is dependent upon the presence of owl nestlings of appropriate age for banding. Please be sure to provide a contact phone number in case the trip is cancelled or postponed. **Difficulty level:** Easy; nest boxes can be reached by vehicle. **To Bring:** Bring a camera and clothing appropriate for the weather and the potential of muddy ground. **Meet:** Meet at the Bird Festival Peach Road Registration area (*limited to 15 participants*).



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