



SAVE THE DUNES OREGON

The Newsletter of the Oregon Dunes Restoration Collaborative

April 2019

Join Us For Earth Day!

The ODRC will be celebrating Earth Day multiple times this year! We will be hosting two volunteer work parties to remove Scotch broom. On Saturday the 20th we'll be working with the University of Oregon's [RARE program](#) at John Dellenback Dunes. Then on the 27th we'll be pulling broom at Honeyman State Park.

If you don't feel like getting your hands dirty, stop by Florence's Old Town, chat with our volunteers, and learn more about the dunes. We will be among several other local environmental groups set up along the boardwalk from 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM.

You can find more about all of [these events](#) on our website. Don't forget to also sign up for our [volunteer email list](#).



A Brief History of the ODNRA

The Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area recently celebrated another anniversary. On March 23rd, 1972, the ODNRA was established by Congress. But there's more to the story than you might first think. As early as 1959, Senator Richard Neuberger attempted to make the dunes, along with the nearby Sea Lion Caves part of the National Park System, but this effort failed. Neuberger tried again to protect the Oregon dunes, this time through a bill that would protect coastlines



across the country, including places as varied as Cape Cod, parts of the Great Lakes, and of course the dunes. This bill also failed to pass Congress. Senator Neuberger passed away in 1960, and it wasn't until more than a decade later, in 1972 that the Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area was established, thanks to legislation introduced by Representative John Dellenback.

L-R: Representative John Dellenback, U.S. Forest Service Chief John McGuire, and Oregon Governor Tom McCall at the dedication of the ODNRA in 1972

[Photo courtesy of the Siuslaw National Forest Collection](#)

Working Group Updates

Communications & Outreach - Our working group met in early April to plan our spring outreach strategies. We will soon be getting a second printing of *Restoring Oregon's Dunes* and our brochures. If you would be interested in helping deliver our brochures to businesses, visitor's centers, and other public buildings, please email info@saveoregondunes.org

Volunteering - We had great weather on March 30th for our work party at the Waxmyrtle campground, and were able to remove the Scotch broom around the camp sites. This was our first time using our newly purchased weed wrenches and other tools, thanks to a donation from the Childs-Whitney Trust.

The ODRC is also hosting or participating in multiple Earth Day events this year. On [Saturday, April 20th](#), we're holding a volunteer work party at John Dellenback Dunes, 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM. We'll be joined by the University of Oregon's RARE program. Join us so we can get a huge amount of Scotch broom removed!

The following week, on [Saturday the 27th](#), we're co-hosting a work party with Oregon State Parks. Join us at the Dunes Day Use Area at Honeyman State Park to pull Scotch broom, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM.

Education - Don't feel like getting your hands dirty on Earth Day? We will also have our educational booth set up on the boardwalk in Florence on Saturday the 20th, from 10:00 AM until 2:00 PM. Displays from many area environmental organizations will be set up near the Farmer's Market.

We also hosted a Science Pub Talk at 7 Devils Brewing Co. this past Sunday. We had a great turnout, and they purchased 10 of our coffee table books for the brewery! Stop in and check them out next time you are in Coos Bay.

Monitoring - The monitoring group has been in contact with our other working groups to further refine what types of monitoring efforts are needed, and what kind of information we will be collecting. We will now work on drafting questions or producing a survey to find out what the public already knows about the dunes and how they are getting their information.

Funding - We have submitted the application to have another year of the RARE program help staff the ODRC. To fund that position, and several other projects, we have submitted grants to the Collins Foundation and the Ford Family Foundation. Both foundations fund capacity building efforts for new organizations such as the ODRC.

Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA) - USFS Botanist Armand Rebischke, who leads the CWMA group and acts as a technical advisor on many restoration projects, will be giving a presentation on invasive weeds of the dunes. Join him on [Thursday, May 2nd, at 4:00 PM](#) at the Florence Public Library to learn more about the invasive plants threatening the Oregon Dunes.

Volunteer of the Month



April's Volunteer of the Month has quite the background story! Dafydd Balston was born in Wales, and had spent many years volunteering to protect the Welsh sand dunes. Broom and gorse are native there, but are being threatened by invasive Rhododendron. Exactly the opposite of the invasive plant dynamic in Oregon's dunes. Dafydd now happily removes plenty of broom at our volunteer work parties, and he organized everything for our outreach at Florence's Earth Day event.

Thank you Dafydd!

Did you Know? - Siuslaw National Forest Photo Collection

Do you enjoy historic photos of the dunes? Most of the older photos of the dunes that we feature here and on our social media pages come from the Siuslaw National Forest Collection, a digital archive of almost 5,000 images. The image archives are managed by Oregon State University Libraries, and are available to [view online here](#).

Upcoming Events:

4/20 [Earth Day work party](#) at John Dellenback Dunes. 10:00 AM
4/20 Earth Day in Old Town Florence. 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
4/27 [Work Party](#) at Honeyman State Park. 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
5/2 ["Invasive Weeds on our Dunes!"](#) presentation. 4:00 PM
Siuslaw Public Library in Florence

**Sign up to
Volunteer!**

Check out our [events](#) page for a full list and to stay informed.

Connect with us on Social Media

Remember to [Like us on Facebook](#) and [follow us on Instagram](#).



www.saveoregondunes.org

