

Hello Friend of Maddax Woods,

The sounds of summer are beginning on the Willamette River. Some more natural than others. The twittering of newly hatched chicks of all kinds can be heard in the trees. The rustle in the thicket of bunnies and squirrels. The squawk of waterfowl calling to their young as they learn to navigate the channel. The gravelly chatter of heron fledglings getting up their nerve to take their first flight. The competitive high pitched calls of the osprey, eagle and hawk maneuvering the air currents in search of prey. And, the deafening roar of the motors of power boats and skidoes as humans take their chances with racing the waterways.

The last of the Heron Watch programs was held June 7. Through this nesting season an average of 40 people have attended each 'watch'. This unique season that lasts from mid February through mid August is an annual wonder. That in this short time the great blue herons arrive, select nests and choose a mate, rebuild nests and lay eggs which hatch and grow into young herons that fly off to live independently until next season is nothing less than miraculous!

The Friends of Maddax Woods (FOMW) take great pleasure in sharing this experience with the visitors of all ages. If you somehow missed it this year, put it on your 2026 calendar and plan to come early and often to watch the stages of the Great Blue Heron season on Goat Island for yourself.

This year's Summer Solstice will arrive at 7:41 on June 20. The summer solstice celebrations welcome the longest day of the year in the Northern Hemisphere. Take extra time outdoors, soak in the summer sun, use the extra daylight hours to share with friends and family or to volunteer somewhere in your community. Enjoy the sights and sounds that are unique to summer. One tradition is to create a vessel or talisman and place it in a sunny spot to soak up the sun's warmth. Myth was that it would brighten and warm up the long, dark days of winter.

The FOMW Board is working on a variety of projects to improve the paths and viewing platforms and the interpretive panels at the Woods. If you enjoy yard work and controlling invasive plants or if you have ideas for programming or skills in media methods to share don't hesitate to contact the Friends to find out about ways to get involved.

[friendsofmaddaxwoods@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofmaddaxwoods@gmail.com)

We look forward to seeing you 'in The Woods',  
Board, Friends of Maddax Woods



Next work party	Saturday, June 21 - 9:00am-noon
Next board meeting	Thursday, June 26 - 3:30-5:30 pm