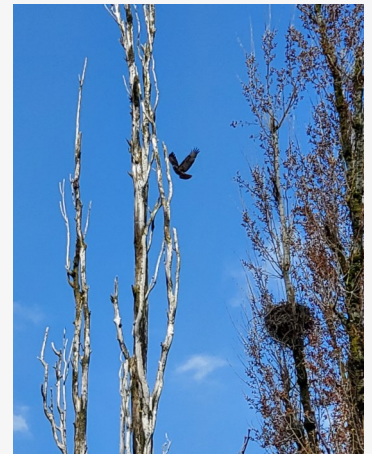


Oregon State University Master Naturalist Program Visits Santiam Valley Ranch April 1, 2023

The **Master Naturalist** Program offered by Oregon State University is science-based, focusing on the natural history of plants, animals, habitats and geology. The program offers online courses, followed by your choice among six ecoregion field courses, completion of 40 hours of volunteer services and maintaining the Master Naturalist Certification. To learn more: [Oregon Master Naturalist | OSU Extension Service \(oregonstate.edu\)](https://oregonstate.edu/extension/master-naturalist)

Lynette Witkowski coordinated the Master Naturalist Program's visit to the farm. Other guests: Art Witkowski, Sandi and Tim Witkowski, Vicky Markar, Larry Teeter and Mary Lynn Roush. Because of inclement weather, the group met inside and discussed goals ... including a review of the wind turbine and solar panels and efforts by neighbors that worked together to protect 825 acres for habitat protection and restoration. With rays of sunshine emerging, the group put up 12 swallow nesting boxes in the pond area.



The group enjoyed spotting a Great-horned owl resting comfortably in the top of a cottonwood snag — which inspired beautiful artwork by Mary Lynn Roush. The Red-tailed hawk scolded the group, as we ventured close to it's nest. Thank you for your help! We look forward to working with OSU Master Naturalist Program again.

Photos provided by Lynette Witkowski

