



**Friends of the Klamath County Library
Quarterly Membership Meeting Minutes
15 March 2026
At the Library and *via* Zoom**

**Ron Larson, Marine Biologist
A Natural History of Oregon's Lake Abert**

Fran McDermott, Friends of the Klamath County Library vice president, welcomed about a dozen and half attendees to the FOL Membership meeting. She introduced the speaker for the presentation, Ron Larson, a retired U.S. Fish and Wildlife marine biologist, to acquaint the audience with Lake Abert, Oregon's only salt lake, in eastern Oregon. Ron has written a comprehensive book on the lake entitled *A Natural History of Oregon's Lake Abert*.

Ron's presentation included slides, accompanying mounted photographs, and discussion of Lake Abert itself, of Abert Rim which towers above the lake north of Lakeview, OR, of the wildlife that uses the lake, of reminders of the early inhabitants of the lake area, and of the wildflowers in the surrounding areas. He focused on the huge numbers of shorebirds, primarily phalaropes and stilts, that depend on the brine shrimp and lake flies for hyperphagia before long migrations to South America. In the summer, one can see thousands of birds on the shallow lake consuming the shrimp and flies that live in and on the lake. Ron expressed concern about the continuance of the lake given the warming of the climate and the lack of water flowing into the lake from the Chewaucan marsh/river. Efforts are being made to purchase water rights to some of that water in order to prolong the lake's existence and maintain the important feeding ground for the shorebirds.

Questions from the audience followed Ron's formal presentation and several people stopped by to personally talk to Ron and have him autograph their copies of his book.

Elaine Deutschman, Secretary, presented the slate of candidates for the Friends' Board of Directors as required by FOL Bylaws. Voting on the slate and any additional nominees will take place at the June Membership meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Elaine Deutschman, Secretary
Friends of the Klamath County Library