

## Rainier Hunting Retriever Club Newsletter



## President's Message

Jean Fowler, Editor (425-483-6476) fernhaven@comcast.net

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Web: [www.rainierhrc.com](http://www.rainierhrc.com)

### 2023 RHRC Officers

#### President

Betsy Reali

BnB\_Reali@msn.com

#### Vice President

Doug Gallucci

dlgallucci@comcast.com

#### Secretary

Jean Fowler

fernhaven@comcast.net

#### Treasurer

Lee Redd

leeredd3@gmail.com

#### Past President

Jim Olson

#### Members at Large

Susan Bell

Liz Gibson

Kevin Medved

Sue Meyring

Bill Woll

Hello everybody!

Morning fog followed by brisk afternoon sunshine has been a theme for November months west of the Cascades. I hope everyone has been enjoying the fall days as we approach the end of another busy year.

With year end approaching several exciting opportunities are ahead. In January we will be hosting the RHRC Annual Meeting and Awards Banquet. Additionally, we are actively organizing committees to help with the Banquet, Nomination Committee for expiring Board positions and Judges Committee for next year, as well as a Training Day Committee.

Club Board positions provide an opportunity to lead and direct the Club to achieve successful Hunt Test experiences for all. Position openings include Club President, Secretary, and possible Member at Large. Please contact anyone from the board to express your interest in filling one of these roles. Additional details on our upcoming events, committees and Club achievement are captured in the newsletter, prepared, and published by Jean Fowler.

As always, if you have any ideas that would help to make the club more successful, we would love to hear from you. Thank you for your continued club participation and support.

Cheers, *Betsy*



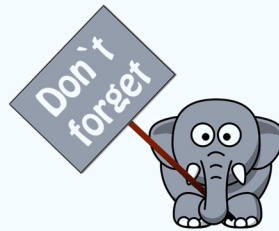
The **Rainier Hunting Retriever Club** seeks

- A—To encourage and promote quality in purebred dogs and to do all possible to bring their natural qualities to perfection
- B—To do all in its power to protect and advance the interests of the breeds by encouraging sportsmanlike competition at hunting retriever tests
- C—To conduct licensed hunting retriever tests under the rules of the AKC, NAHRA or any other associations or clubs that may sponsor these tests.

~~Rainier Constitution, Article I, Section 2

## Important Calendar Dates

**December 31—RHRC Club Dues Payable**  
**January 6—RHRC Awards Form Due**  
**January 27—RHRC Awards Banquet**



**Forms available in this newsletter**

## Mysterious Respiratory Illness in Dogs



Dog owners beware: an unusual respiratory illness in dogs that does not respond to antibiotics is being investigated in several states across the U.S.

Oregon, Colorado and New Hampshire (also Massachusetts and Rhode Island) are among the states that have seen cases of the illness, which has caused lasting respiratory disease and pneumonia. Symptoms of respiratory illness in dogs include coughing, sneezing, nasal or eye discharge and lethargy. Some cases of the pneumonia progress quickly, making dogs very sick within 24 to 36 hours.

The Oregon Department of Agriculture has documented more than 200 cases of the disease since mid-August, encouraging pet owners to contact their vet if their dog is sick and told state

veterinarians to report cases as soon as possible.

The agency is working with state researchers and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Veterinary Services Laboratory to find out what is causing the illnesses.

~~ CBS News  
 November 20, 2023

### What Can You Do?

Temporarily decrease contact with other dogs

Make sure your dog is up to date on its vaccinations, especially for respiratory illnesses.

Say away from areas where dogs congregate such as kennels, dog parks and groomers.

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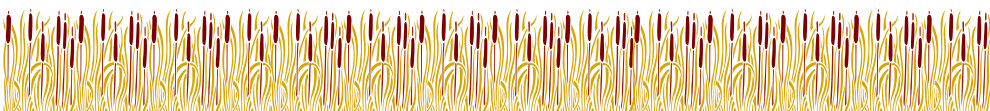
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## 2023 Master National—A Judge’s Perspective

*I asked Terry Sato, RHRC member and Master National Judge, to provide us with her perspective of the 2023 Master National —Editor*

The 2023 Master National, with a total of 1,220 dogs entered, was a major undertaking. The work that it took to coordinate grounds, sponsors, volunteers, meals, gift bags and plan all the moving parts that came together on October 27th so that dogs could be tested was an impressive part of the experience. To be asked to judge at such an event was an honor.

The judging experience began early in the summer with zoom meetings and many issues

to discuss and agree upon. I only knew a handful of my fellow judges. A number of them had judged the Master National before so I did a lot of listening to their thoughts and advice. As October drew closer the discussions concerned what skills needed to be tested. It was drilled into us that the tests needed to be of quality.

The west coast judges flew into Tallahassee a day early as flights from the west coast were limited. Three of us were on the same flight out of Dallas and got to know each other on the drive from Tallahassee to Thomasville. Picture three women in the pitch dark picking up a car and finding our way on totally unfamiliar roads, each trying to find the best route on their

phones... none of which agreed. It was a hoot! Arriving early allowed us some time to get together the next day and do some sight seeing. Thomasville is a charming southern town with good restaurants and a welcoming attitude towards the dog people about to invade them.

The first evening there was a judges dinner set in a lovely barn in the country. We introduced ourselves and this was the beginning of the many times I was warmly thanked for giving my time. This was also the beginning of getting to know some of the best people in the country, friendly...funny....serious....engaging. I can

honestly say I would be happy to judge with any of my fellow judges present at that dinner.



The work began the following morning as we were split into two groups and sent off to assigned grounds for test set up. Each series for

each flight would have identical elements. Land tests must include an interrupted triple, an out of order flyer at 115 to 130 yds, a double blind and an honor. The land water series was to be a walk up triple with a diversion bird, a blind and a flyer. The water series was to include a triple, a blind and a remote sit. Though the grounds were different for each group all dogs would be fairly tested on the same skills. We had the luxury of 9 minute tests which allowed for

some creativity. Set up dogs were run and timed. Each group judged the set up dogs, compared scores and made suggestions to tweak the test. Once the test was signed off on, it was recorded on paper and every detail was noted for the set up crew. It was then locked in and could not be changed. We set up a total of nine tests.

Being such an agreeable group of judges, we managed to more or less agree (some more, some less) and finished set up a day early which gave us another chance to visit the sights of the town.



Each evening we all met for dinner in different restaurants in the area which led to a good sense of team building. On Thursday the 26th the handlers gathered and the judges gave their instructions: Have fun, handle all the way to the bird, proper attire, drop the birds in the bucket, stand upright at the honor position, make an effort to stay on line to the blind, shoulder the gun, handlers choice as to how they release dogs on the remote sit, all inquiries go through the stake chair. It was only at this time that the judges were assigned a co-judge and a flight. Lin Gelbmann was my co-judge at flight H. That evening we attended a party at a local plantation. It was beautifully decorated, the food was plentiful and southern hospitality was on full display.

Friday the 27th the judging started. I always enjoy the dog judging experience. No dog looks more beautiful than when it is in the field doing its job. We had the best workers (all Spanish speaking while none of us spoke Spanish. Thank

goodness we mostly had an interpreter while the workers picked up a bit of the unique language required to work wingers and those of us with no Spanish learned words for duck and blind and could at least count to three). We had the best set up crew, chief marshal and assistant marshal. We had the best group of young pros and polite

amateurs. Let me just say that I will miss the phrases, "Yes Miss Terrie", "Yes Ma'am" and "No Ma'am".

Having said that, I need to also state that judging the Master National was a test of endurance to the point

of being grueling as for eight long days we judged dogs from 8am til 6:15pm when darkness set in. The first five days saw temperatures hovering around 86 degrees with nats and flies so thick it became difficult to swat and write at the same time. Watching for fire ants was a constant concern. A sudden temperature drop to 43 degrees brought relief from the insects but also a freezing north wind that had us shivering in spite of layers of clothing. Exhaustion made for a quick stop for take out dinner, shower and bed at the end of each day.

As for the judging...the majority of dogs showed that they could mark and had good memories. We did lose some dogs to double handles in a single series. For the most part, handles that were quick and well executed were not a concern. We had one amateur/dog team make it through all five series without a handle. We only saw one dog break on the honor in our flight and I believe Flight H had the dogs with the best line manners on the grounds. Lin and I were very

impressed. The greatest cause for failure was in the blind work. We saw handlers send their dogs completely off line and outside the corridor never trying to get back on line. After the first series, Lin and I defined the corridor for the handlers, wondering if they just didn't realize the parameters of a blind did not include a giant over at the end. If I were to give any advice to those aspiring to attend the next Master National it would be to work on initial lines to a blind as well as tighter handling. Though to be fair, I imagine if I found eight days of constant competition to be a test of endurance, the dogs probably felt the same way by the end of the week.

On our final day of judging we had 57 dogs left out of the 127 dogs who started in our flight. Closing ceremonies ended with the happy

handlers getting ribbons and plates, handshakes and hugs. Anxious to get home, I hopped the first flight out along with three of my judging friends.



I've been asked if I had fun and if I would do it again. I can honestly say judging the Master National was a good experience. Discussing judging with judges from around the country is rewarding and educational. Seeing another part of this beautiful country and meeting many wonderful people was especially endearing. I am not sure the experience fits my definition of fun...and when asked if I would do it again...not next year.... but I would most certainly be honored once again to be invited to judge in the future. I thank those who put in the many hours of work that went into making the 2023 Master National an amazing event.

— Terry Sato

Dog Trucks Lined Up



Betty Bell, Bucko and Bales



Banquet Decorations

“Under the Oaks”

## 2023 Master National—A Handler's Perspective

*I asked Bill Woll, RHRC member, to provide us with his perspective of the 2023 Master National —Editor*

The 2023 Master National was recently held in Thomasville, Georgia (Oct. 26 thru Nov. 5). This was the largest AKC performance event ever held, with over 1,200 dogs competing. This was my 11<sup>th</sup> Master National event, and I must say that the training and test grounds in the Thomasville/Boston area are the premier dog training grounds in the country! Most of these properties were generously donated by the local Field Trial community, and all have numerous technical water ponds and great land features. The local community of Thomasville/Boston was very welcoming and that southern hospitality was always on display no matter where you traveled to or dined at the awesome local restaurants.

This years Master National was comprised of 5 test series (2 Land, 2 Land/Water, 1 Water). The 1,200 dogs were divided into 9 flights, with each flight having approximately 130 to 150 dogs. The test scenarios would be the same for all the flights, with all flights starting with land as their first test. The scenario for **each Land test would be the same**; an interrupted Triple with a flyer, 2 blinds and an honor. After you picked up the 1<sup>st</sup> mark, next run the designated 1<sup>st</sup> blind, then pick up remaining marks, then run the last blind, and then honor. The scenario for **Land/Water tests were the same**; each test was a walk-up triple with a flyer, single blind, with a diversion bird being thrown. The **Water test** involved a remote send position for the handler located behind 3 bales of straw with the dog in front of the bales. The rationale for 5 test series this year verses the typical 6 series at prior Master Nationals was that the time constraints were removed from the tests this year, which allowed for the marks and blinds to be longer and more difficult!

Every series typically had at least one mark (usually the live flyer) which was at the maximum distance allowed for AKC hunt tests.

The trip to Georgia from Washington was the longest distance Master



National I have attended, and required 5 days of travel (close to 3,000 miles each way) to get there. It was a grueling drive and we were thankful that the

weather enroute and returning, plus while in Georgia, was absolutely beautiful.

I would encourage anyone who has the chance to visit Thomasville/Boston, Georgia for dog training or just vacation to stop and take in the beautiful surrounding landscapes and dog training properties, they are the BEST in the country! 2023 was a GREAT Master National "Under the Oaks" in Thomasville. My dog Faith qualified for her third time and received her MNH title as a new member for the Hall of Fame! My other dog Maddie was not so fortunate and went out in the 1<sup>st</sup> series. Just another reason to keep training, there is always next year!

~~ Bill Woll

## RHRC Board Meeting Minutes

### November 14, 2023



Attendance: President Betsy Reali, Doug Gallucci, Jean Fowler, Lee Redd, Susan Bell, Liz Gibson, Bill Woll, Jim Olson. Absent: Kevin Medved, Sue Meyring

President Betsy called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM and welcomed everyone. The minutes from the October 3 Board meeting were approved as written.

Treasurer's Report: Lee Redd reported a cash balance of \$14,254.37. No major expenses since the October statement.

#### Old/New Business –

**Master National Report:** There were no significant changes reported at the Master National Delegate meeting. All proposed restructuring proposals failed to meet the required support, Bylaw changes proposal failed, Frank Barton was elected VP for Region 2, Jeff Henderson elected Director of Region 1, Charles Pugh elected Director for Region 3 and Dede Paterson elected Secretary. A more complete report will be published in the November RHRC Newsletter. Several club members attended the event. Bill Woll and Randy Clark were successful at qualifying. Bill qualified Faith and Randy qualified both Alice and Tripp.

**Master Amateur:** The event planning process is underway. There will be an auction and Susan Bell is donating a hand painted watercolor.

#### **Committees:**

2024 Judges Committee: RHRC test dates (as published by AKC) are: May 11/12 and August 10/11. Susan Bell, Liz Gibson and Bill Woll will be on the Judge Selection Committee. They asked for monetary guidelines regarding how much money was available to bring judges to our event who live out of state. PSLRA may only hold one HRT in 2024.

Nominating Committee: Three Board positions will need to be filled in 2024:

President, Vice President, and Secretary. According to the RHRC Bylaws, only one member of the RHRC BOD can be on the Nominating Committee and Betsy Reali volunteered. She will reach out to other RHRC members to secure the remaining members of the committee to achieve a total of 3 – 5 members on the committee.

Liz Gibson volunteered to fill the position of Vice President.

Banquet Committee: Jean volunteered to work on this committee along with Lee and Tracy Redd. She will ask Katie Mearns to join them. Several new locations were suggested for the event. Lee and Tracy will scout them out.

Training Day Committee: Our first training day will be in February. Due to concerns regarding the weather and availability of volunteers, we will attempt to hold training on February 24. The plan is to hold training days on the 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend of every month through September.

**AKC Advanced Judge Seminar:** Doug Gallucci will submit the application to AKC and ask for a weekend in April. We will select the first 3 weekends in April and AKC will identify which weekend. We will also apply to the Master National for a grant to help support the cost of the event.

**Gun Buy Back:** Betsy is still working on this project. No recent by-back offers have been advertised.

The Board welcomed new member Anna Guerra who lives in Edmonds and has a lab puppy. The meeting was adjourned at :38 PM.

Respectfully submitted, *Jean Fowler*,  
RHRC Secretary

# Woohoo!!



Randy Clark handled Alice and Tripp to Qualifications at the 2023 Master National. This was Alice's 4th plate and Tripp's first. Both Alice and Tripp also qualified for the 2024 Master Amateur. Way to Go Randy! Submitted by Dianne Clark

Karla Quarles (Autumn's Don't Look Down MH) earned her second Master National Plate in Georgia! Owned, loved and handled by Katie Quarles. Submitted by Katie Quarles



In September, at the Golden Retriever National Specialty in Albany, Oregon, both Tipsy and Shotsy passed the Master Hunt Test. Shotsy passed WCX and Tipsy won her Gun Dog Sweepstakes Class beating a bench champion from Canada who made second cut in Best of Breed! ~Submitted by Chris Braswell





# WooHoo!



Rebel and Christina Fry after a pheasant hunt at the OLF Whidbey Island release site.

Submitted by Christina Fry



# Welcome

We extend a warm RHRC welcome  
to our Newest Member:  
Ana Sophia Guerra

Ana has a new puppy and  
Lives in Edmonds



# Rainier Hunting Retriever Club 2023 Membership Application



Name \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Membership type  Individual (\$25)  Family (\$30)

This is a  Renewal  New Member

Kennel Name \_\_\_\_\_ Breed of Dogs \_\_\_\_\_

**Please indicate how you will help at our club activities with an X next to the following opportunities.**

**May Hunt Test**    Event Chair \_\_\_\_\_    Stake Chair \_\_\_\_\_    Marshall \_\_\_\_\_  
                         Live Gunner \_\_\_\_\_    Pop & Throw \_\_\_\_\_    Blind Planter \_\_\_\_\_

**August Hunt Test**    Event Chair \_\_\_\_\_    Stake Chair \_\_\_\_\_    Marshall \_\_\_\_\_  
                         Live Gunner \_\_\_\_\_    Pop & Throw \_\_\_\_\_    Blind Planter \_\_\_\_\_

**June 10 Series**    Event Chair \_\_\_\_\_    Stake Chair \_\_\_\_\_    Marshall \_\_\_\_\_  
                         Live Gunner \_\_\_\_\_    Pop & Throw \_\_\_\_\_    Blind Planter \_\_\_\_\_

**Judge at Hunt Tests**    Master \_\_\_\_\_    Senior \_\_\_\_\_    Junior \_\_\_\_\_  
                         Apprentice \_\_\_\_\_    Apprentice \_\_\_\_\_    Apprentice \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return your dues and this form to:  
Lee Redd, RHRC Treasurer, 19742 170<sup>th</sup> Ave NE, Woodinville, WA 98072**

**If you submit this form by e-mail, you can pay your dues using the PayPal link on the RHRC website. Go to Join RHRC and follow the prompts. [www.rainierhrc.com](http://www.rainierhrc.com)**

# Rainier Hunting Retriever Club 2023 Awards



Owner: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Registered Name of Dog (Titles may be included)

\_\_\_\_\_

**Hunting/Field titles earned in 2023**

(including qualifying for/at the Master National and/or Master Amateur)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Has this dog received an award plaque in previous years? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Please submit by mail **One clearly printed form per dog.**

Award submissions may be submitted by email (with this form) or snail mail.

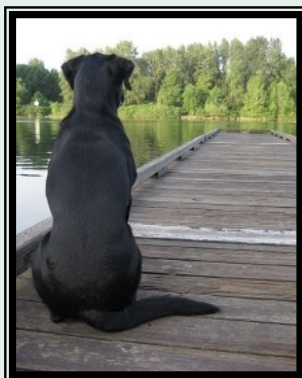
**Deadline is Saturday, January 6, 2023**

Please return this form to:

Jean Fowler, 16300 164<sup>th</sup> Ave NE, Woodinville, WA 98072 or [fernhaven@comcast.net](mailto:fernhaven@comcast.net)

Questions/Concerns??? Contact Jean at 206-713-1233 or [fernhaven@comcast.net](mailto:fernhaven@comcast.net)

### Chase Away K9 Cancer



Many of us have lost our four legged companions to canine cancer and many are currently fighting this disease. One in Three Dogs will get Cancer!

ChaseAway K9 Cancer has partnered with The National Canine Cancer Foundation (NCCF). ChaseAway is a designated fund within the NCCF, a nationwide, contribution funded, 501 (c)(3) non-profit corporation dedicated to eliminating Cancer as a major health issue in dogs by funding grants directly to Cancer researchers who are working to save lives, find cures, better treatments and accurate, cost effective diagnostic methods in dealing with canine Cancer.

**We have raised a total of \$1,6 million dollars so far!!**

Make your donation today: Donate On-line at [www.chaseawayk9cancer.org](http://www.chaseawayk9cancer.org)  
OR

**Write A Check Payable To:** Chase Away K9 Cancer

Mail to : Chase Away K9 Cancer C/O Cera Reusser,  
PO Box 65456, Port Ludlow, WA 98365

You will receive a tax deductible donation card as your receipt.



### A Ray of Sunshine In Times of Need

The Rainier Hunting Retriever Club is a community of support and love for anyone who is ill, who may have lost a beloved relative, pet, or is in need in any other way.

Please contact Dianne Clark if you, or someone you know, could use a helping hand, phone call or other support. You can reach Dianne at: 360-568-3368 (home), 425-299-4252 (cell) or [dianneclark@comcast.net](mailto:dianneclark@comcast.net)



Dogs of Shakespeare

*November 23 is Thanksgiving! We give thanks for our four-footed companions. Protect them and remember to give them their monthly "Pup Check" to Chase Away Cancer. Early detection may affect prognosis and treatment!*

# Canine Cancer Awareness

## Hemangiosarcoma

HSA can be in the spleen,  
heart or dermal

HSA is an aggressive, hard to  
find cancer

### Signs of HSA:

- short of breath
- funny/strange breathing
- tired/not wanting to play
- pale gums
- bloated stomach



[chaseawayk9cancer.org](http://chaseawayk9cancer.org)

**CHASEAWAYK9CANCER.ORG**



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Phone: 206-713-1233  
Email: fernhaven@comcast.net

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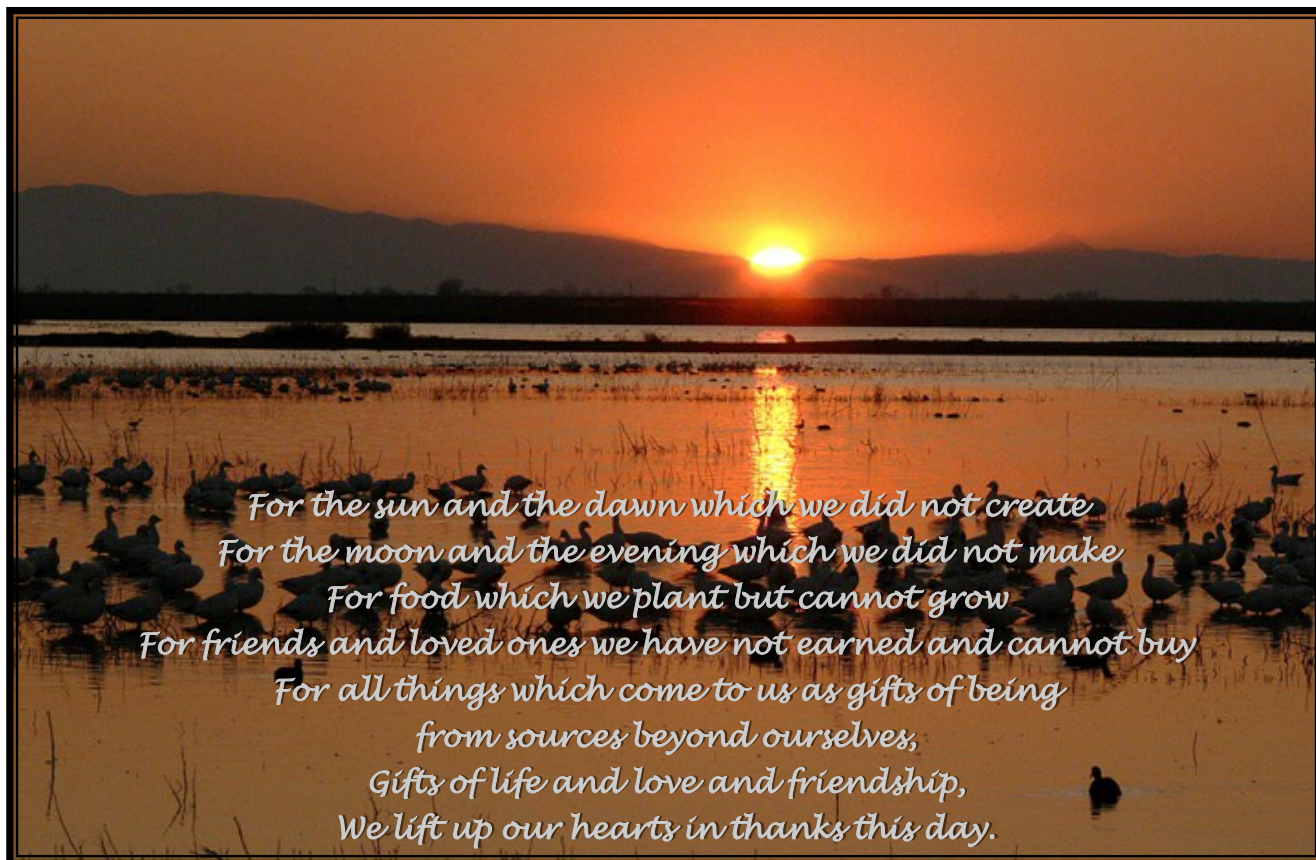
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Rainier Constitution, Article I, Section 2



**Happy Thanksgiving**