

Black Hills Audubon Society

Olympia, Washington

Volume 38,
Number 3

May/June 2007



Sightings

Putting together this issue of the ECHO finds me wanting to confess a not-so-secret secret. Just in case the May BHAS election of officers finds me up against some stiff competition, I want you all to know I cannot, even remotely, call myself a “birder”. There, it’s out!

However, my experience saving the life of one very sick Red Tail Hawk is what brought me to Washington and BHAS. As time passes I am beginning to marvel at just what an accomplishment that bird has to her credit. Did she and her mate communicate?? **Ab-solutely**. Did she recover and go on to live a happy healthy life?? Yes indeed.

Because of her I realized that birds need rescue and health care too. Consequently I have become ever so diligent at my back yard feeders and am now rewarded with many birds, including ducks (you know, the ones with the green head) grey and brown squirrels, who incidentally will eat together, just not at the same feeder, thank you very much. We even have a brown bunny sampling the seed and thinks it’s pretty good too. All this is in a yard with a cocker spaniel and two cats. BIO-diversity is surely Mother Earth’s grandest accomplishment. They all seem to co-exist, show tolerance beyond my imagination and want nothing more than the right to live, be happy and healthy with a little help from their friends. 🐾

—LJ

Thursday, May 17

Paradise In Peril?

The Human Relationship with the Galápagos Islands.

The human relationship with nature is rich and complex. From scientific investigation to utilitarianism to pure reverence the human view of our natural world continues to evolve. Perhaps no place on Earth has been more central in defining that relationship than the Galápagos Islands. Today, there are more people touring, studying, fishing, and living in the islands than ever before. This is placing incredible strain on the natural environment. Is it more than the ecosystem and its wildlife can handle? In this presentation we will take a look at the natural and human history of the Galápagos

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Thursday, June 21st

Membership Meeting

This month we invite Auduboners and their guests to a picnic potluck at Priest Point Park at the Rose Garden shelter. We’ll begin gathering at 5:00pm, maybe do a little birding, and then eat around 6:00 pm. It’s a covered area, so we won’t be deterred by rain. Bring utensils and plate (but we’ll provide paper plates, cups, and plastic cutlery for those who don’t—and also soft drinks) along with a dish to share. Don’t forget to bring your binoculars for the bird watching. As a special treat, John Dodge, environmental reporter for *The Olympian*, has said he’d like to join us for informal dialogue over dinner. And we may have some other interesting story tellers on hand to help us celebrate the Summer Solstice. So mark your calendar to attend this fun event.

BHAS membership meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month at the Capitol Museum Coach House, 211 W. 21st Street, in Olympia. Social hour is at 7pm, with programs beginning promptly at 7:30. Driving directions: From I-5 in Olympia, take Exit 105 following the State Capital/City Center route. After the tunnel, turn left (south) onto Capital Way. After 7 blocks, turn right on 21st Avenue. The museum is two blocks down on the left. The Coach House meeting room and adjacent parking are behind the Museum building of Olympia).

Washington Birding Trail Expands To Olympic Peninsula

Visitors with binoculars bring dollars, conservation incentive to rural areas

OLYMPIA, Feb. 14 – Under the watchful yellow eyes of a live Great Horned Owl and Red-tailed Hawk, two species of bird regularly seen on the Olympic Peninsula, Rep. Lynn Kessler and Sen. Ken Jacobson today in the state capitol unveiled Audubon Washington's fourth and newest route of the Great Washington State Birding Trail, the Olympic Loop.

"Birding trails are big business all across the country," said Rep. Kessler (D-Hoquiam), lead House sponsor of legislation last year that supported development of the loop and completion of the statewide trail.

"The trails and their birds attract visitors to primarily rural locations, which spurs economic development and gives residents increased incentive to safeguard natural areas around their communities and regions," she continued.

Audubon Washington Executive Director Nina

Carter explained that birding "trails", now offered in more than 20 states, are usually self-guided driving tours to places where birds are likely to be seen. Some states include water routes where visitors can paddle canoes or kayaks to see birds while others

add biking or walking sections.

With 40+ million Americans describing themselves as interested in bird watching, developers of the Great Washington State Birding Trail hope to entice both local residents and out-of-state visitors to the Olympic Loop which features more than 200 of Washington's 365 bird species.



"Red Tail Hawk takes off with Olympic Loop" from left: Bob Morse, Nina Carter, Wolftown volunteer, Red Tail Hawk, Linda Johnson, Michael O'Malley, Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Beelik, Bill Shelmerdine, Sue Danver, Heath Packard.

The route, on a full-color map with original artwork, explores Olympic National Park, four national wildlife refuges, state and local parks, as well as the natural and cultural history of six Native American tribes: Jamestown S'Klallam, Makah, Quileute, Quinault, Skokomish, and Squaxin.

From the quiet Nisqually River delta in south Puget Sound, the Olympic Loop leads west to wild Pacific breakers, follows rivers

through moss-draped forests, and touches the tip of the contiguous U.S. at Cape Flattery. The route traces the Strait of Juan de Fuca east over the Olympic Peninsula, and wends south along the inland waters of Hood Canal. 🐾

Birding Walk in the Skokomish Delta

On November 21st last year Christi Norman, Birding Trail Program Director for Audubon Washington, and I met with members of the Skokomish Tribe's Natural Resources staff, specifically with Keith Dublanica, Director, and Lalena Amiotte, Environmental Program Coordinator. We hoped to persuade tribal leaders to allow placing their Reservation, essentially the Skokomish Delta, on the Olympic Loop Map of the Great Washington State Birding Trail. Keith and Lalena were our allies in this endeavor, planning to put the proposal before the next meeting of the Tribal Council. Their earlier attempt had failed. We were now only a few days away from the final deadline for the Olympic Loop map project.

We shared with Keith and Lalena the reactions of the other six Olympic Peninsula tribes to our project: Five had agreed to participate, allowing sites on their reservations to be entered on the map; only one held back. We thought this information might encourage the Skokomish Council to allow their Reservation to be placed on the map. A few days later we learned, to our delight, that the council had unanimously agreed to participate. Inspired by the positive outcome, Lalena and Jennifer Green, also from Skokomish Natural Resources, organized a bird walk in the delta for January 13, to be open to members of the tribe and to the broader public. 1 of-

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Olympic Loop of Great Washington State Birding Trail

Around the Olympic Loop, spring migration brings clouds of shorebirds to sandy beaches—Dunlin, Sanderlings, and Western Sandpipers—and visitors to rocky coasts—Black Turnstones, Surfbirds, and Wandering Tattlers. In summer, Marbled Murrelets and Bald Eagles nest in old-growth firs, American Dippers bob on glacial streams, and Yellow Warblers sing in wetland willows. Fall's berries feed Cedar Waxwings. Winter features waterfowl extravaganzas on fresh and saltwater.

The Olympic Loop of the Great Washington State Birding Trail was developed and funded by Audubon Washington and National Forest Foundation; US Forest Service; Washington State Tourism; Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission; Washington State departments of Fish and Wildlife; Transportation; and Community, Trade and Economic Development; Grays Harbor and Mason Counties; the Cities of Aberdeen, Forks, Ocean Shores, Olympia, and Tumwater; Clallam Bay and Port Angeles Chamber of Commerce; Sequim Marketing Action Committee; North Olympic Peninsula Convention and Visitors Bureau; and individual contributors.

The live birds that attended the Olympic Loop unveiling ceremony came from Vashon Island's Wolfstown, a nonprofit facility that rescues and rehabilitates injured native birds and other wildlife,

and offers them for educational presentations.

Together with its local chapters, Audubon Washington produced its first map of the birding trail in 2002, the Cascade Loop. The Coulee Corridor followed in 2003, and the Southwest Loop in 2005. Three additional routes covering eastern Washington and the Puget Sound area will complete the birding trail by 2010. All maps contain information about habitat, bird species, access, and when to go. Signs marking birding trail sites will be installed along highways. 🦋

Copies of the Great Washington State Birding Trail maps can be ordered online at www.wa.audubon.org.

May program

From page 1

Islands and ask the all-important question, "can humans co-exist with nature without destroying it?"

John Pumilio has a degree in ecology from Syracuse University. He has worked with the endangered Florida panther and red-cockaded woodpecker in Big Cypress National Preserve in South Florida and taught ornithology at the Audubon Sanctuary on Hog Island, Maine for five summers. Currently, John is the Sustainability Task Force Coordinator at the Evergreen State College and is finishing the graduate program in environmental studies.

Jack Davis Conservationist of the Year 2007

At its annual dinner in March, BHAS was honored to present the 2007 Jack Davis Conservationist of the Year Award to the team of Jerry Parker and Jan Witt for their monumental effort to protect the quality of life in downtown Olympia.

In late 2005, BHAS began to monitor and comment on the Port of Olympia's projects. As BHAS delivered short comments on various environmental documents, other community activists invested significant time and finances to assure a responsible and thorough environmental review of various Port plans. The persistence and effectiveness of one team stands out amongst the many dedicated Port activists.

Over the last eighteen months, Jan and Jerry have opposed seven Port or City decisions related to the

marine terminal expansion/Weyerhaeuser. They have primarily been engaged in legal challenges to the environmental reviews conducted by the Port related to a lease agreement which the Port entered into with Weyerhaeuser. Jerry's and Jan's dogged effort finally succeeded in December 2006, when the Olympia City Hearings Examiner vacated the Determination of Non-Significance, issued by the City of Olympia for Weyerhaeuser offices and shop, because it did not properly consider the environmental impacts of both the buildings and the export operations under the lease.

Jack Davis, the leader in establishing purple martin houses in the bays surrounding Port of Olympia property, would be pleased with Jan's and Jerry's contributions. 🦋

Conservation Briefs

Quality Rock Products Legal Case

Thurston County and Quality Rock Products both have filed motions to publish the Court of Appeals (COA) decision regarding the denial of QRP's Special Use Permit for its expansion of the gravel mine and the construction of an asphalt plant immediately adjacent to the Black River National Wildlife Refuge. BHAS filed a motion requesting that the decision not be published. The likelihood of the Supreme Court deciding to hear an appeal increases if the case is published. The 30 day clock for QRP to appeal the COA decision does not start until a decision to publish has been decided. We encounter another delay.

Department of Ecology Investigation of Water Use at the QRP Gravel Mine

Since 2004, BHAS has been requesting DOE to investigate QRP's water usage at its 88th Ave SW mine. Supported by a 2002 Pacific Groundwater Group study on water use at western Washington gravel mines, BHAS does not believe that QRP can meet all of its water needs with its exempt well limit of 5,000 gallons per day. We note that PGG report incorporated water recycling in its analysis. Despite this fact, QRP seems to answer any challenge with the fact that they utilize water recycling.

In the spring of 2006, DOE finally requested QRP to report on its water usage. QRP replied they needed a summer to study their usage and would send in a report around August. That report has not been filed as of April 2007.

Hearing Examiner Driscoll approves expansion of subdivision next to Munn Lake

The area of wetlands, forests, bluffs and threatened gopher habitat between Munn Lake and the Deschutes River will not have a wildlife corridor. In 2004-2005, a neighborhood association fought hard for the river otter, eagles, and assorted other wildlife that would migrate between the Deschutes River and the relatively pristine 34 acre Munn Lake. Migratory waterfowl use this lake. The area is so special that WDFW had provided an official buffer for wood duck. BHAS asked to protect the corridor and wood duck buffer in the neighbors' 2005 environmental appeal to the County Commissioners.

Nearly two years after the Commissioners heard the appeal and approved a development which would have included an approximate 125' buffer/wildlife corridor between the Munn Lake and the Deschutes

River, the developer requested to expand the development envelope and eliminate the wildlife corridor. The developer insisted that the number of houses had not changed. However, in the redesigned plat a blank space where 10 more houses could fit notes "For Future Development". BHAS anticipates a fourth amendment from the developer to request more houses in the future now that the envelope expansion has been approved.

BHAS chose not to endure an expensive appeal because: 1) plat amendments are not unusual, 2) plat amendment challenges are rarely successful and 3) regulations that distinguish significant wildlife corridors, are difficult to design and do not currently exist.

BHAS just wishes the Hearing Examiner would incorporate the vision of the Comprehensive Plan rather than be so reliant on code, which favors development, in his decisions.

Protect Significant Wildlife Corridors

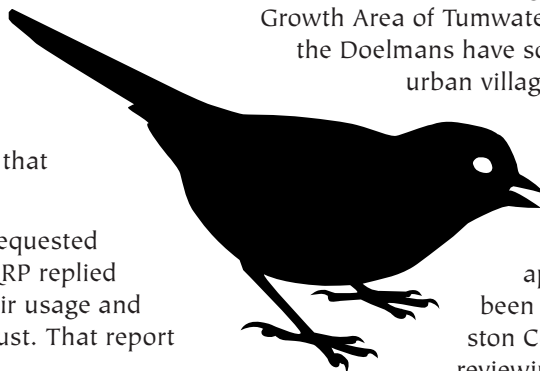
Doelman Farm is a large farm just west of Littlerock Road and Black Hills High School in the Urban Growth Area of Tumwater. For a number of years, the Doelmans have sought annexation for an urban village type development. Recent plans show a mixed use development of 1200 units. The City of Tumwater recently decided to annex the property. An appeal of the annexation has been filed. So, whether Thurston County or Tumwater will be reviewing the urban village has yet to be determined.

The farm has productive soil, and recently a friend said you could not beat the flavor of a potato grown on that fabulous sandy loam. The parcel is also very wet and will require mitigation to deal with a high water table.

The west side of this parcel has a significant wildlife corridor connecting two large wetlands to the north of the property to wetlands south and west of the property. The property itself contains mapped wetlands. Neighbors report seeing fox and bear on the west side of the property. The wetlands west and south of the property link to the Black River National Wildlife Refuge.

On April 3, BHAS provided code to the Tumwater City Council which would help protect this sig-

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Briefs

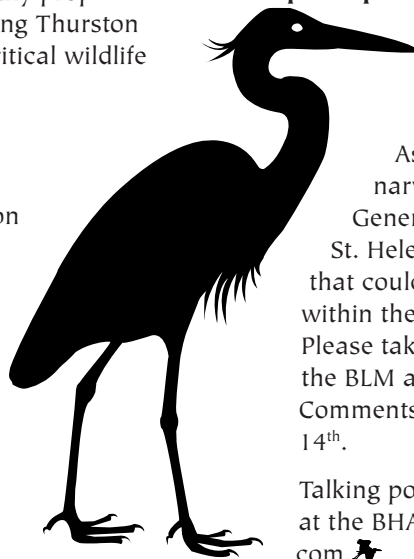
From previous page

nificant wildlife corridor. The code is generic but dealt with maintaining connectivity between large wetlands that link to a wildlife area of significance. The Tumwater City Council referred the code to its Government Committee for review.

BHAS hopes to avoid the loss of another significant wildlife corridor in the Tumwater Urban Growth Area. Code must be installed before any property vests. BHAS will also be contacting Thurston County regarding the protection of critical wildlife corridors.

Victories for the State Environmental Lobby Groups

1) The Washington Wildlife Recreation Program (WWRP) requested that the State Capitol Budget dedicate \$100 million to purchase and maintain wildlife lands. The House quickly approved the \$100 million. The Senate approval took a little more work. BHAS would like to thank Senator's Sheldon, Swecker and Fraser for their support of the WWRP request. (These Senators are within the BHAS chapter territory.) By the time you receive this ECHO, Governor Gregoire's allocation for WWRP will have been decided. Initially, she recommended \$70 million.



Due to the escalation of property values in western Washington, this dedication of \$100 million at this time for primarily land purchase is incredibly important.

2) Legislation to remove dangerous flame retardants passed the Senate and House and the signature of Governor Gregoire is anticipated. Human and wildlife health will benefit immensely from this progressive step by the legislature.

Stop Proposed Mount St. Helens Mine (Your letters are needed again)

The BLM and U.S. Forest Service recently released an Environmental Assessment outlining their preliminary decision to grant a lease to Idaho General Mines for land north of Mount St. Helens. This is the first step in a process that could result in a 3,000 acre copper mine within the blast zone of Mount St. Helens. Please take a moment now to write or e-mail the BLM asking them not to grant this lease. Comments must be received by Monday, May 14th.

Talking points and alert postcard may be found at the BHAS website: www.blackhillsaudubon.com.

Submit Comments To: U.S. Department of Interior, Attn: Fred O'Ferrall, BLM, Oregon State Office, P.O. Box 2965, Portland, Oregon 97208

State fines Quality Rock Products

The state Department of Ecology has fined Quality Rock Products of Olympia \$12,230 for failing to take corrective actions identified by the Department that would prevent muddy runoff from its mining operations flowing into a salmon-bearing tributary of McClane Creek.

The Department staff noted several violations of the company's stormwater discharge permit during an April 2005 compliance inspection: an oily sheen on the ground, an improperly discarded lead acid battery, and failure to fully monitor the surface water discharge points. As a result, the Department issued an administrative order requiring the company to correct the violations and submit an updated stormwater discharge monitoring plan.

Quality Rock Products did not reportedly complete the corrective actions during the time frame required by the order. And as of January 2007, the

company still had not completed necessary work on the stormwater retention pond, filed all required monitoring reports or properly controlled stormwater. The company has 30 days to file an application with Ecology for relief from the fine or appeal the findings to the Pollution Control Hearings Board.

Save this Date!

Tuesday, July 24th Mid-day

A special Audubon Washington Fundraiser & Fundraiser Luncheon at Triple Creek Farm, home of Ralph and Karen Munroe. There will be a very special guided tour of the archaeological dig on the edge of Mud Bay. Watch for an invitation in the next issue of The Echo.

Will Tumwater become like SEATAC with warehousing and air freight?

Simultaneously, two warehouse issues are before the City of Tumwater. The decisions made on these two matters most likely will determine the future ambiance and quality of life in Tumwater.

In March 2007, ProLogis finalized its application for the construction of a 375,000 square foot warehouse, accompanied by a ten acre storm water retention pond, on Kimme Street. (The pond would be larger than the warehouse.) This Phase I project would occur on 32 acres. Phase II-IV—details unknown—are proposed for the remaining 67 acre parcel on Kimme Street. Tumwater Development Services has begun its review of the application and the public comment letters generated by the application.

Meanwhile, the Tumwater Planning Commission (PC) began its review on a warehouse ordinance in March. The City Council had requested that the PC look at limiting warehouses to 200,000 square feet or smaller for the Tumwater Light Industrial zone.

Citizens and developers spoke at the March 13th PC public hearing. Four developer types and Sue Danver observed the very interesting follow up discussions on March 27.

It was encouraging to see the Tumwater Planning Commission's sincere desire to resolve some of the complex environmental and traffic questions raised by the warehouse matter. The Planning Commission decided to continue their deliberations April 10th, after this ECHO issue deadline.

A SEPA/NEPA for the regional Intermodal Transportation Plan is needed.

In its April 3, 2007 comment letter on the ProLogis application, BHAS asked that the ProLogis application be denied so that a regional SEPA/NEPA could be done on a regional Intermodal Transportation Development Plan in Thurston County created by the Port of Olympia's expansion efforts at Budd Inlet, Maytown, and the Olympia Airport.

It is time that all Thurston County jurisdictions recognize and deal with the fact that the Port's desire for ambitious growth will greatly increase Thurston County's traffic, air pollution, noise pollution, light pollution, and decrease water quality. The general

quality of life for the majority of Thurston County will be seriously negatively impacted if the Port's plans come to fruition.

For Tumwater, the surge in demand for warehouses is partially related to development at the airport. Despite the current emphasis for warehouses in Tumwater, the reason for the Airport's growth has not been clearly defined by the Port. BHAS believes that the citizens of Tumwater, the citizens of Thurston County, and the City officials of Tumwater deserve a forthright explanation and justification of the Port of Olympia's true intentions in its airport expansion.

Chris Fowler, a port expert on containerization, states that often the local area bears the environmental and financial costs for a larger regional benefit. Will Tumwater and Thurston County bear the environmental and financial burdens for Washington, the Pacific Northwest or even the northwest quadrant of the

United States? What type of air traffic is expected? Will Tumwater be the warehouse version of SEATAC? What mitigations will Tumwater/Thurston County receive for its lost quality of life? Thurston County citizens deserve to be adequately informed so they can exercise their right of refusal. The Port is a public entity. DuPont banned warehouses.

The need for warehousing is connected to the Airport. ProLogis made the connection between its answer to a question posed by a citizen in a February 21 presentation about its Kimme Street warehouse. ProLogis said:

"The current proposal is for a 375,771 SF warehouse/distribution center on 32 acres. ProLogis is considering future buildings which would be designed to comply with 'the Port's Comprehensive Plan'...."(emphasis added)

Details of the warehouse ordinance

Tumwater staff has indicated that it has recorded interest for 4,200,000 square feet of warehousing which would require approximately 3,500,000 square feet of storm water retention ponds. This would generate a minimum of 2,700 trucks/day. Asked whether the warehouse square foot fig-

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BHAS calendar

May 2007

May 5 and 6, Saturday and Sunday: Central Washington localities, 6:00 am Saturday to late Sunday. Leaders Gary Wiles and Kristin Stewart. Call BHAS to register.

May 12, Saturday: Eastern Columbia Gorge and Klickitat region. 7:30 am to early evening. Leaders Lonnie Sommer and Kristin Stewart. Meet at Martin Way Park and Ride. Bring lunch, water and snacks. Call Lonnie at (360) 866-8119, or email at wheelermombi@comcast.net.

May 17th Membership Meeting. Paradise in Peril. Begin arriving at 7:00 pm program begins 7:30 pm. State Capital Museum Carriage House 211 W. 21st. (behind).

May 19, Saturday: Ridgefield NWR, 8:00 am to early evening. \$3.00 entrance fee per vehicle. Meet at the Labor & Industries parking lot. Call BHAS to reserve your spot. Leader Dave Hayden.

May 20, Sunday: Scatter Creek Wildlife Area, 8:00 am to afternoon. Meet at the entrance parking lot near the caretaker's house and barn. Dress weather appropriate. Bring food and water. Leader Whittier Johnson, call BHAS office 352-7299 for reservations.

May 28th Monday Memorial Day. Beginning Birding by Ear, McLane Creek Nature Trail. 7:30 am to 10:00 am. Leader Jean MacGregor. Meet at the lower McLane Trail parking lot. Call BHAS office 360-352-7299 to register.

June 2007

June 16, Saturday: Flying Critter Housing and Habitat Tour, 10:00 am to afternoon. *See article for details.*

June 16, Saturday: Cape Elizabeth / Point Grenville. Meet at 4:00 am at the Mud Bay Park & Ride. All day event. Limit of 20 people. Call Scott 360-412-1260 to reserve your spot. Let him know if you can drive.

June 21st Membership Meeting, Summer Solstice and Story Telling. Priest Point Park at the Rose Garden shelter. Begin arriving at 5:00 pm. Dinner at 6:00 pm.

June 23, Saturday: Skokomish Delta. 8:30 am to early afternoon. Meet at the Lucky Dog Casino parking lot along U.S. Hwy 101, just north of the intersection of State Hwy 106. Call leader Andrew Beelik for reservation at 360-426-6262. Limit of 6 people.

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Black Hills Audubon Society is a non-profit organization. A member chapter of the National Audubon Society, it represents Audubon members in Lewis, Mason and Thurston Counties.

Our goals are to maintain, restore and protect our ecosystems for future generations, and to promote environmental education and nature-based recreation.

General membership meetings are held at 7 p.m. on the third Thursday evening of each month, September through June, at the Capitol Museum Coach House, 211 West 21st Street, in Olympia.

Board meetings are at 5:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month. The site varies from month to month, so please call us at the office if you would like to sit in.

Phone and e-mail messages are welcome, but please remember that we are a volunteer-based organization, and it may take us a few days to get back to you.

The Echo is published bi-monthly. Editors: Bill and Linda Johnson. Layout and design by Lee Miller. Graphics by Nature Icons/Ultimate Symbol unless initialed.

Material for *The Echo* should be sent to PO Box 2524, Olympia, WA 98507, or e-mailed to Linda Johnson at lindashair@comcast.net

Deadline for the July/August 2007 issue is **June 10, 2007.**

Warehousing

From page 6

ures included all the Light Industrial zoned area in Tumwater, the staff said “no, just LI where a warehouse interest has been indicated.” So, even more Tumwater LI land could be developed into warehouses. In addition, on a build out map for the Port of Olympia (2003), it appears that approximately 170 acres have been dedicated to LI. This could mean still another 7,500,000 square feet devoted to warehousing and storm ponds in the Tumwater area.

In its March 27 deliberations, every Tumwater Planning commissioner had some concern about the warehouse matter. Issues discussed included:

- ▶ Air pollution from 2700+ diesel trucks per day;
- ▶ the appropriateness of having extensive warehousing in Tumwater;
- ▶ the potential truck congestion and safety on Kimme St;
- ▶ the traffic bottleneck that already exists and would grow at Kimme and 93rd;
- ▶ responsibility for road damage caused by heavy truck traffic (citizens);
- ▶ mitigation for environmental problems caused by warehouse impacts (not much);
- ▶ questions of whether storm water retention ponds will function properly in an area of known high water.

There was one motion to require 30% of green space with warehouses over 200,000 square feet. The thought was that larger warehouses with extensive green space might be better than many 199,999 square foot warehouses lined up side by side, a scenario the developers cited if large warehouses were banned. This motion failed with an expressed desire for further discussions.

It was apparent that many commissioners thought it could take some time to resolve many of these issues. But if the PC takes time to weigh these issues, warehouse developers could surge ahead and vest with the few constraints on them currently.

The PC understands their dilemma. The PC also recognized that there was much complaint about

an earlier warehouse moratorium. So, a moratorium alternative was not raised as a solution to this problem.

Two items of note were not brought up during the March 27th PC deliberations. They are:

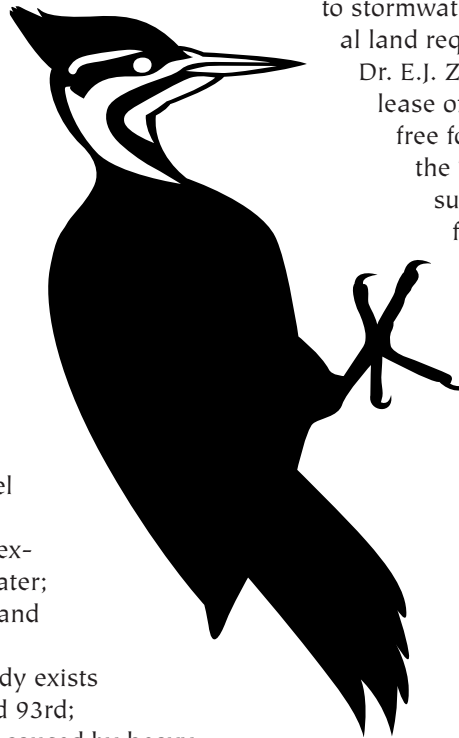
- 1) The Port recently agreed that “In the event that more than 12.5% of the buildable land is devoted to stormwater, the Port will provide the additional land required with no additional rent.”

Dr. E.J. Zita estimated that nearly 20% of the lease of Port land, at Kimme St., would be free for ProLogis. Dr. Zita calculated that the Thurston County taxpayers would be subsidizing ProLogis \$5,000,000/year for storm ponds.

- 2) There is State tax exemption (1997 and 2002) for the construction of and equipment acquisition for warehouses over 200,000 square feet.

Doesn't it seem appropriate that a SEPA/NEPA be prepared for the big regional Intermodal Transportation Plan that seems to underlie all of the Port's ambitious plans? 🐿

—Sue Danver



Elections Information

Slate of Officers for this year's election are as follows:

Linda Johnson—president, Sam Merrill—co-vice president, Kris Schoyen—co-vice president, Susan Markey—Secretary, Michael O'Malley—treasurer.

Board members at large: Margery Beeler, Kristin Stewart, Connie Christie, Carol Evans, Deb Jaqua, Debbie Nickerson, Whittier Johnson.

Stepping down for the time being: Jean MacGregor.

Please attend the May Membership Meeting and cast your vote.

BHAS Annual Dinner & Auction

BHAS's 20th Annual Dinner took place on March 3 and was attended by almost 200 members and guests. The auction raised more than \$4000. Jerry Parker and Jan Witt were presented with the Jack L. Davis Conservationist of the Year Award. A special award was presented to Roger Kellam for his role in the Quality Rock effort. And Jean MacGregor was recognized for her "life-time" contributions to the organization. Jim Lynch, author of *The Highest Tide*, was the featured speaker and regaled the audience by recounting how he became involved with BHAS and his experience participating in this past year's Christmas Bird Count. He also read from the novel he is currently working on, which features a birder as one of the main characters.

Despite the huge crowd, the evening went well, thanks to the many people who worked hard to make the event a success. We are deeply grateful to all who helped including those who donated to the auction, who came early to help set up and/or stayed late to clean up, who served as cashiers, registrars, food table monitors, bartenders and auction helpers. Special thanks to Patt Brady for organizing the Plant Sale, to Kathe Taylor

and Friends for their musical performance, to Gull Harbor Mercantile for donating all the soft drinks, to Rick Nelson (our auctioneer), to Jean MacGregor (our master of ceremonies) and to Jim Lynch.

We are deeply indebted to many local businesses for their generous donations to this year's event and urge you to reward them with your patronage. When you do so, please let them know of your

gratitude for their support of Black Hills Audubon:

5th Avenue Sandwich, Alpine Experience, Archibald Sisters, Basilico Ristorante, Batdorf & Bronson, Melanie Bennett, Boston Harbor Marina, Childhood's End, Common Ground USA, Compass Rose, Traditions Fair Trade, Fabric & Clothing Gallery, Olympia Farmers Market, Fireside Bookstore, Fish Tale Brewery, Gull Harbor Mercantile, Homestreet Bank, Hot Toddy Clothing, Jennifer Witcraft @ Bliss, Jessica Jensen Attorney at Law, Linda's Hair Design, Nonna Rosa, New Moon Café, Olympia Coffee Roasting, Olympia Food Coop, Olympia Framemakers, Orca Books, Phoenix Inn, San Francisco Street Bakery, Selden's Furniture, Swantown B&B, Wild Birds Unlimited. 🦋

Skokomish Delta

From page 2

ferred to come along, bringing two telescopes.

On a frosty morning nine of us gathered at the Lucky Dog Casino, some from the tribe, some from Mason County. In the Reservation we drove the paved former county road nearly to its end at the river. There a recently created primitive road, crushed rock spread on plastic sheeting on a strip cleared of trees, leads half a mile north to the edge of a large lagoon. We parked our four-wheel-drive vehicles there and continued on foot. First we walked on a dike to the all but abandoned old road and on it reached the shore of the Canal. That road is now risky even with four-wheel drive. Finally we walked along the shore on the long spit which separates the lagoon from the Canal.

Duck hunting season was still on and at times we heard distant shots. Not surprisingly, the ducks were skittish and kept safe distances, beyond the range of binoculars. With our telescopes everyone

had good looks at eight species of ducks, among them all three scoters. Three raptors showed up, Bald Eagles, Northern Harriers, and one Red-tailed Hawk. To my chagrin Peregrine Falcons, which I had seen just a few days earlier on scouting trips, did not show. The most stirring sight was a long chain of Western Grebes, perhaps two hundred or more, about halfway between our shore and that of Potlatch State Park. We saw passerines in the shrubbery along dike and road, among them Golden-crowned Sparrows and Ruby-crowned Kinglets. Species count was 28, respectable for a three-hour outing.

Access of birders to the delta's varied habitat was improved by the new road. Long-range plans of the tribe call for more trails and a boardwalk. These will help the delta regain preeminence among birding sites in Mason County. Permission from the tribe is needed for entry; details are spelled out on the new Audubon map for the Olympic Loop. 🦋

—Andrew Beélik

Upcoming Field Trips and Events

Central Washington Localities. Saturday May 5th, and Sunday May 6th, 6am Saturday to LATE afternoon/evening Sunday.

Leaders: Gary Wiles and Kristin Stewart

This is advance notice for an extended Eastern WA trip in May. We have not tried a 2 day trip (at least not since I have been the Field Trip Chair), but we are now! This trip will be in the Central WA area, probably including Gingko State Park, the Moses Lake area, the Potholes Reservoir, Columbia NWR, and possibly Dodson Rd. We will be targeting displaying Western and Clark's Grebes, Burrowing Owls, early returning sparrows of E WA such as Sage Sparrow, Brewer's Sparrow and Vesper Sparrow, along with Sage Thrasher and Say's Phoebe, migrating warblers and shorebirds. We hope to find shrikes, and waterfowl, as well as Am Avocets and Black-necked Stilts, and hopefully Tri-colored Blackbirds.

Motel 6 so as to keep costs relatively affordable. We will, of course, carpool and will limit the trip to 4 vehicles (15-16 folks). We will need to eat dinner and breakfast out probably, but hope everyone can bring lunch for each day. Participants will also be expected to pay their share for gas, and their share or their motel costs, depending on whether they share a room.

This will be a more expensive trip than we usually do, to target birds we don't usually see here on the Westside. We will be firming up details for the next Echo, but wanted people to have a chance to think about the trip and plan for it. Call the BHAS number at 360-352-7299 to register.

**Beginning Birding By Ear at McLane Nature Trail, Monday May 28th, 7:30 am to 10am
Leader: Jean MacGregor**

Celebrate Memorial Day and learn some bird songs with Jean at McLane Creek Nature Trail.

We think we will try to stay at the Moses Lake

Continued on page 12

South Sound Farm Forestry Association Affiliated Chapter of Washington Farm Forestry Association Presents: **Flying Critter Housing & Habitat Tour** *(A joint event with the Audubon Society)*

Saturday June 16th, 2007

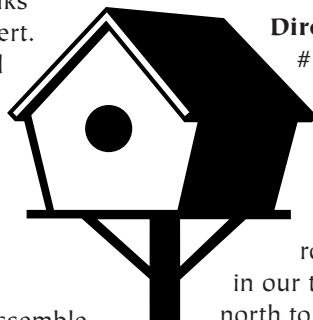
Workshop open from 10AM to 3 + PM;
Thinning Plots/Discussion at 11AM & 2PM.

Potluck Lunch at noon; hotdogs & drinks provided, please bring a salad or dessert. Come for all or part of the day. Hosted by **Ken and Bonnie Miller** on their 40-acre tree farm adjacent to Millersylvania State Park.

The 11 AM and 2 PM Thinning Demonstration will be conducted by Tony Sachet, DNR Stewardship Forester.

Anytime between 10 and 3 you may assemble your own Bird/Bat/Bee/Duck nest boxes. Supervised children and grandchildren are welcome to participate—everyone gets at least one free nest box or feeder. Donations will be requested to help cover the costs of the larger nest boxes. In addition to learning about and helping our

winged friends, we wish to share our common love for the forests and all that they provide with local Audubon folks. There will be educational displays and tours can be arranged.



Directions from North: I-5 south to exit # 99; then left back over freeway on 93rd (also called State Highway #121 South) to 2nd 4 way stop sign (at Tilley Road); then right (south) on Tilley 2.5 miles to driveway (& mailbox) on right at 11801 Tilley Road; follow single lane gravel road through park 1.3 miles to dead end in our tree farm. **Directions from South:** I-5 north to exit # 95; then right on Maytown Road (also called State Highway #121 North) about 2 miles to stop sign where road ends at Tilley Road; then left (north) on Tilley 1.1 miles to driveway (& mailbox) on left at 11801 Tilley Road; follow single lane gravel road through park 1.3 miles to dead end in our tree farm. **If lost call 360-705-1888**



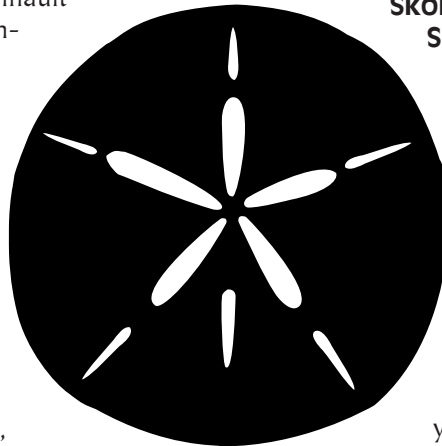
Field Trips continued...

Children are welcome! This walk will particularly focus on getting started with watching and listening to birds! The Nature Trail is a lovely place any time of the year, but expect young Wood Ducks along with their parents, Red-winged Blackbirds, Black-headed Grosbeaks, Kingfishers, Marsh Wrens, Steller's Jays, and various woodpecker species. Meet at the lower McLane Trail parking lot at 7:30. Call the BHAS office at 360-352-7299 to register.

Cape Elizabeth/ Point Grenville June 16th

Stunning rock formations of the Quinault Formation and the Hoh Rock Assemblage form the backdrop for the marvelous bird and marine life of Cape Elizabeth. This area is accessible only during low tides and June 16th is a fabulous low tide sequence! Interesting rock outcrops, tide pools, and seabird nesting colonies are all highlights of this field trip.

Join trip leader Scott Morrison whose knowledge includes geology, marine biology, and, of course, **birds**. Common Murres, Pelagic Cormorants, and Pigeon Guillemottes are likely nesters. The vast array of outer coast birds includes Black Oystercatchers and Tufted Puffins. Western x Glaucous-winged Gulls (test your gull knowledge!) nest in the grassy areas of Point Grenville. Peregrine Falcon has nested regularly. This is the southernmost nesting area of the Sooty Fox Sparrow. This trip is conducted in association with the Quinault Tribe on tribal lands and has an associated fee of \$20 per person. Fees are used to promote tribal youth recreation activities.



The hiking for this trip is somewhat rigorous over terrain that can be **very slippery**. Participants should have the ability to negotiate the terrain comfortably. This trip is a unique opportunity to visit some of the best access areas to Washington's outer coast. The tides are **early** so the trip will leave from the Mud Bay Park and Ride at 4:00 a.m. You have the option of staying in a motel closer to the meeting spot, Pacific Beach or other lodging nearby. The trip will commence at the Taholah Store at 6:00 a.m. Limited to 20 people. Call Scott at (360) 412-1260 to reserve a spot on this amazing trip. Please let him know if you're willing to drive.

Skokomish Delta

Saturday June 23, 8:30 to early afternoon

Leader: Andrew Beélik

The Skokomish Delta lies within the Skokomish Reservation. The Tribal Council's decision to place the delta onto the Olympic Loop Map of the Great Washington State Birding Trail, released a few weeks ago, revived interest in birding there. Access to the delta became cumbersome in recent years because of removal of a bridge and deterioration of the only road. A

new road has been blazed and access is improved, although walking has increased. Variety of habitat, mirroring the Nisqually on a reduced scale, makes for an interesting mix of birds, including Peregrine Falcons, seen on three occasions earlier this year.

Meeting time and place: 8:30 in the parking lot at the Lucky Dog Casino, along US Hwy 101, just north of the intersection with State Hwy 106. Join me and members of the Skokomish Tribe for this early summer exploration. Please inform me (360-426-6262), limit 6 persons.

Birding along Hood Canal

On January 27th, eleven birders met at Twanoh State Park. Fog, thick in places, was hanging over waters and land, hiding distant features. Since hunting is not allowed at state parks, birds were trusting and easily observed near the shore: goldeneyes, scoters, mergansers, grebes, and loons. We then traveled from there in three cars along the Canal to the Hamma Hamma. Regrettably, Mason Transit was no longer able to provide us the luxury of their bus and driver.

We stopped on Highway 106 at the mouth of the Skokomish. The tide was in, fog still lingering, so we couldn't scan the waters for distant birds. In mid-distance we beheld a striking sight: a tight raft of ducks, their silhouettes unsharp yet recognizable, a few hundred Northern Pintails, staying away from shore and hunters.

Scuba divers were active near the south end of the Potlatch State Park picnic area. Not surprisingly, the 200+ Western Grebes seen there when scouting had fled the disturbance; only a few of them still lingered. Next door, at Tacoma Power's Salt Water Park, we delighted in large numbers of Barrow's Goldeneyes, now in bright sunlight. Disappointingly,

no Harlequins. The Lilliwaup Estuary, upstream from the highway bridge, had the Common Mergansers we counted on, males and females, but no Hooded Mergansers.

At the Hamma Hamma we once again had the privilege of walking down the private road of the Robbins family to the canal shore. In the trees and shrubs lining the near stretch we watched passerines, Brown Creeper and Golden-crowned Kinglet among them. In the marshy inner estuary we saw American Widgeons, Green-winged Teals and a flock of Dunlins, but no Brants. Lots of Scoters bobbed on the choppy waters of the Canal, White-winged and Surf, but no Black, usually a highlight at this site. The snowy peak of Brothers sparkled above the forested slope as we walked to our cars.

On our way back to Twanoh we had the thrill of the day, two families of Trumpeter Swans at close range in the grassy field between the river and Highway 106, near the Hunter Farm Store: Two adult pairs with three and four immature offspring, respectively. Despite the absence of several hoped for star attractions, the species count was a satisfying 47. Of the group, probably only Jim Pruske saw all 47. His participation in the trip was a great asset; we all thank him for it. 🦆

Andrew Beélik

Join Audubon! We Welcome New Members!

There are a couple ways for you to join Black Hills Audubon:

► **Chapter members** receive chapter benefits for a year, including our newsletter, *The Echo*. **Please make check payable to Black Hills Audubon.** All of these dues contribute to our efforts at the local chapter level.

\$20 Member

\$15 Senior or full-time Student

► **National members** receive national and chapter benefits for a year, including *Audubon* magazine and our chapter newsletter, *The Echo*. **Please make check payable to National Audubon Society.** Most of these dues contribute to national efforts.

\$20 first-time member

\$15 Senior or full-time Student

► **Newsletter subscription**—receive our chapter newsletter, *The Echo*, for a year without becoming a member. **Please make check payable to Black Hills Audubon.**

\$10

► **Additional contribution:** support our programs of conservation and education. **Please make check payable to Black Hills Audubon.**

\$ _____

BHAS is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. All contributions are tax deductible!

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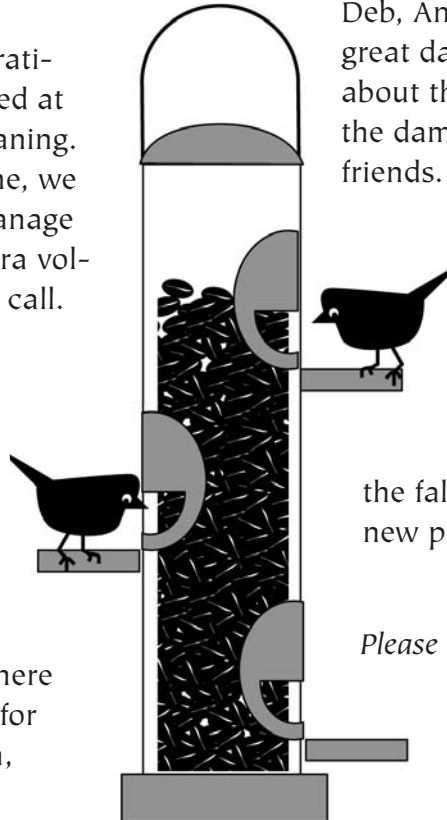
Membership, Black Hills Audubon Society, PO Box 2524, Olympia, WA 98507

**Y12
7XCH**

Happy Birds

I want to express my deepest gratitude to all those who volunteered at the March 10th Bird Feeder Cleaning. Without each giving of your time, we would not have been able to manage the day. We were in need of extra volunteers, and several rose to the call. We made about \$900.00.

Thanks so much to Jean and Rob, who were not supposed to be there beyond the morning set-up but stayed until reinforcements arrived. Carol managed the front end beautifully while Eldon scrubbed tirelessly out back. Both were there all day. So many others helped for several hours. Thanks to Kristin,



Harriet, Carolyn, Sam, Jane, Mike, Nina, Deb, Anne and Tina. You made it a great day. We are spreading the word about the possibility of bacteria and the damage it can do to our feathered friends. You have my deepest gratitude

for all you do to make these feeder cleanings successful! Look for the next one in October. As always, we will need lots of volunteers to make the day manageable.

Please call me to sign up for the fall cleaning. We are looking for new people all the time. 754-5397

—Debbie Nickerson

Please take note of this new e-mail address for Debbie: debranick@gmail.com

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