

Echo

April 2024
Olympia, Washington



April Speaker Program

Bird Song

By David Lukas

Thursday, April 11th at 7 pm

This will be a Zoom presentation – see link below

We will also be gathering at

Temple Beth Hatfiloh

201 8th Ave SE Olympia

To socialize and view the program together

In this fascinating presentation, naturalist David Lukas will introduce us to the joyful world of bird song. In this talk we will explore how and why birds sing, and how we study bird songs as a way of understanding what birds are saying to each other. Bird songs and vocalizations are a huge part of how birds interact with each other, so this talk will open a new world for you.

There will be a half-hour social time at Temple Beth Hatfiloh starting at 6:30 pm. To view this program via zoom, click the registration link below:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAoc-mhrDMvHNakWWdIDqZbCkqRgVJS3OPb>

BHAS ELECTIONS ARE COMING IN MAY

Our current officers have generously volunteered as candidates for the May election. Here is our current slate of candidates.

President: Kathleen Snyder

Vice-President: Kim Adelson

Treasurer: Nancy Hubly

Secretary: Bruce Jacobs

At-large Directors:

Rachel Hudson

Bob Wadsworth

Charlotte Persons

Carla Miller

Sheila Rodriguez

Sam Merrill

There is still time, however, if anyone would like to serve on the Board; nominations are still being accepted. Duties of board members include: attending board meetings from 5:30 – 7:30 PM on the first Thursday of each month, September through June; attending the Annual Dinner on the first Saturday in March; attending the Board Retreat, one day in August; and serving on at least on committee (see list [here](#)). If you would like to serve on the Board or wish to nominate someone, please contact Bruce Jacobs. The final slate of candidates will appear in the May Echo for the election held at the May 9th, 7 PM program meeting.

A GOOD TIME WAS HAD BY ALL

Carla Miller, Hospitality Chair

BHAS successfully bounced back for the annual dinner on Saturday, March 2, after a five year hiatus due to Covid. Over 120 members came out for an evening of reverie with friends, an amazing talk on penguins of the world, an opportunity to sign up for “Events and Adventures”, and a delicious meal!

The highlight of the event was a presentation by Charles Bergman, award-winning author and photographer, about the adventures he and his wife, Susan Mann, experienced that led him to write the highly acclaimed book, “Every Penguin in the World: A Quest to See Them All.” Charles shared with us the travels, adventures, and beautiful photos from their quest to see all 18 species of penguins. They traveled to various locations in the southern hemisphere, including the Galapagos, South Africa, and Antarctica to complete their goal. Bergman’s photography, story, and passion for penguins were a delight.

The dinner provided by Hunter Family Catering was not only delicious but had several options for every kind of diet and many courses available. Head chef Jim Hunter and his crew truly met our needs! Volunteers provided a variety of dessert bars.

The evening began with guests arriving to enjoy drinks and snacks among tables decorated with nature/penguin inspired centerpieces, and we had the opportunity to support our local chapter by “buying” an event or adventure. Our volunteers did a remarkable job organizing, donating, decorating, and managing all the details for this event. Plus, people jumped in to help throughout the evening. Many thanks to everyone who made this night so special!

BLACK HILLS AUDUBON THANKS THESE BUSINESSES FOR THEIR SUPPORT FOR OUR ANNUAL DINNER.

Boston Harbor Marina

Costco Wholesale

Featherfolio

Total Wine % More

INTERESTED IN A KAYAK OUTING?

We have one kayak package left over from our Events and Adventures offerings at the Annual Dinner. The package includes two single kayak rentals for two hours from the Boston Harbor Marina plus a bag of goodies to give you strength for all that paddling.

Contact Kathleen Snyder ksnyder75@gmail.com if you are interested. **\$50.00**

TOTAL VOLUNTEER HOURS 2023

Every three years, our chapter records the hours that our volunteers donate to Black Hills Audubon. In 2023, that total came to 5,532!! Volunteers are the life-blood of our organization; we do incredible things because these folks are willing to give their time, energy and talents.

Thank you to all our wonderful volunteers!

WON'T YOU JOIN US?

volunteer@blackhills-audubon.org

Armchair Birding: *A Siege of Bitterns*, by Steve Burrows

~ Anne Kilgannon

The bright red and black cover of the book with a startling white outline of two birds toe-to-toe caught my eye, but what was this? It's a story in which bitterns play an important role despite their secretive nature. (This is a bird I have seen only once, out at Nisqually, but it was certainly notable, standing in a ditch doing its best to resemble an old dead tree stump.) The book's subtitle was alluring: "A Birder Murder Mystery." They had me at "Mystery." And the best part, according to the store proprietor, was that it was the first in a series. If I liked it, a long line of books followed like ripe fruit dropping into my hand.

Having only seen one lone Bittern, I was not familiar with the collective noun for a multitude, but whoever comes up with these words has wry sense of humor. The mystery series advances from its titular Bitterns to "A Pitying of Doves" (Can't you just hear their soft cries!) and then "A Cast of Falcons" and "A Shimmer of Hummingbirds" (Bringing to mind that iridescent flash at the feeder!). I pondered "A Tiding of Magpies," imagining the stylish black-and-white birds drifting in and out and yet still watchful and secretive, while "A Dance of Cranes" seemed raucous and not to be missed. "A Foreboding of Petrels" seemed the perfect name for a murder mystery, while "A Nye of Pheasants" was simply mystifying. The titles alone already had me thinking about birds in a whole new way. But what did they have to do with murders?

Rest assured, no Bitterns were murdered or committed any harm in "A Siege." Yet, without giving away any plot lines, they played an important role in the story. I will go so far as to say that other birds were also essential characters and your knowledge of birds, if you are an astute reader, will definitely get you watching for more clues. This may be a police procedural but all the usual breadcrumbs are supplemented—more than that, enriched—by bird lore and the peculiar culture of avid birders. If you count yourself one of these, you will be rewarded, and if you are not yet—and yet aspiring to be an expert watcher of bird behavior, you will still be rewarded with salient observations to add to your store of knowledge.

In certain places as I read, I had felt a stirring, a prickling of attention, realizing that here was part of the answer to the mystery, but being a mere novice birder, had to read to the end to understand the author's gift. I found myself going back over the places in the story where birds had appeared, even glancingly, and marveling at how the author had handed me a clue. His deep knowledge of bird life and those who study it illuminated his plot. I don't want to say any more than that and hope I haven't said too much here. Have fun reading this one!

EARTH DAY EVENTS 2024

All events below are FREE!

April 22. FREE entrance! Washington State Parks, Natural Resource Conservation Areas, and Wildlife Areas. Earth Day is one of the 12 days a year when a Discover Pass is not required to park on any land managed by Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission (Parks), the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), or the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW).

LEWIS COUNTY

Chehalis – 6th Annual Earth Day Celebration. Downtown on Boistfort Street—**April 20.** 11 to 3. Family friendly activities, including a mini-pony. Gardening demonstrations. Farmers with plant starts and advice. Music and community booths. https://experiencechehalis.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/433234803_801868735313257_4167328147517614739_n-scaled.jpg

Chehalis – Earth Day Community Clean-up. Lewis County Historical Museum—**April 20.** 10 to 2. Early online registrants get a free tee-shirt. Volunteers meet at museum for instructions and free clean-up materials. <https://experiencechehalis.com/earth-day/>

Centralia -- Repair & Sustainability Fair for Earth Day. Centralia College—**April 27.** 10 to 2. If you have small household items around your home that need to be fixed, bring them to this event. Volunteers will make the repairs and teach you how. On-site demonstrations for do-it-yourselfers. Shred documents 10 to 1. <https://lewiscountywa.gov/departments/solid-waste/recycling-in-lewis-county/community-recycle-events-programs/>

MASON COUNTY

Celebrate Earth Day with Capitol Land Trust! Bayshore Preserve—**April 28.** 10 to 1. Two forest projects and one prairie project to improve habitat. Optional preserve tour. Tools, gloves, light snacks, and warm beverages will be provided. Family friendly. Bring own water and lunch if needed. <https://capitollandtrust.org/earth-day-on-oakland-bay-2024/>

THURSTON COUNTY

Olympia – Water Superheroes! WET Science Center—**April 20.** 10 to 4. How can you help the Earth for Earth Day? Become a water superhero! Create your own identity, make crafts, and play games to learn ways to save water and protect the planet. Family friendly. <https://www.wetsciencecenter.org/event/water-heroes/>

Olympia – Interfaith Earth Day Service. Decatur Woods Park—**April 21.** 1:00 to 2:15. Celebrate our precious and endangered species through songs, poems, and sharing. Sixth-graders will talk about endangered species whose masks they have created. All faiths and the non-faithful are invited. Family Friendly. Mild rain is okay for Northwesterners who are dressed for it, but If it pours, the backup is Temple Beth Hatfiloh's Social Hall.

Olympia – Luminary Procession. Downtown — April 26. 8:30 pm. For details on participation and procession route, <https://oly-wa.us/procession/>

Olympia — Procession of the Species. Downtown – April 27. 4:30 pm. For details, <https://oly-wa.us/procession/>

FOUR WORK PARTY EVENTS ON SAT., APRIL 20:

Olympia – Earth Day 2024 Stewardship Event. Squaxin Park (formerly Priest Point Park) – April 20. 10 to 1. Restoration event. Meet at Shelter #2. Arrive early to park. School with most student volunteers will win cash for their school.

https://volunteer.olympiawa.gov/need/detail/?need_id=905709

Lacey -- Earth Day Work Party. Wonderwood Park—April 20. 10 to 1. Mulching and light weeding. Tools, gloves and refreshments provided. First and second prizes for schools with most volunteers. Check-in by 32nd Ave SE parking lot. https://cityoflacey.org/events_list/earth-day-work-party-2/

Tenino — Earth Day Celebration. Tenino City Park – April 20. 9:30 to 1. Students and other volunteers clean up Tenino parks. School prize of \$1,500 for school with most volunteers. Free tee-shirts, lunch. Information booths. Registration at event—under 18 only with parent.

<https://www.cityoftenino.us/community/page/earth-day-2024>

Tumwater -- Volunteer Work Party. Tumwater Historical Park – April 20. 10 to 1. Mulch plant beds and light weeding. Light refreshments, tools, water, and gloves provided. Rain or shine!

<https://www.ci.tumwater.wa.us/departments/parks-recreation-department/classes-programs-sports/special-events/earth-day-events/earth-day-registration-form>

Good-bye to the Wildland Urban Interface Code – For a While

Charlotte Persons

Readers of *The Echo* know that environmentalists have been working to improve the Wildland Urban Interface Code since last summer. We were overjoyed when on March 15, 2024, Governor Inslee signed into law ESB 6120.

The law passed without a single dissenting vote in any committee or in the House or Senate. There were almost two hundred comments, including from 47 organizations, and the comments were 98% positive. Washington state departments and groups representing environmentalists, builders, cities, and counties all supported the bill.

ESB 6120 requires property owners to use ignition-resistant materials and methods for new and existing residences in the two highest hazard areas for wildfire. **However, there are no requirements for defensible spaces. In other words, home owners will not be required to cut down trees around their property.**

The Washington Department of Natural Resources must create two new maps, a wildfire risk map and a wildfire hazard map (unfortunately there is no deadline). The State Building Code Council (SBCC) can write new WUI codes only after the new WA DNR maps have been published.

As a result, on March 15, the date that the 2021 WUI Code Amendments were to go into effect, **the SBCC voted to delete the WUI Code.**

Effects of ESB 6120

No WUI code will exist for at least a year or two at the state level. Local jurisdictions' websites on the code must be taken down, and references to the code must be removed from local tree ordinances.

However, local jurisdictions are always free to adopt, at any time, stricter WUI requirements than ESB 6120 as long as they use the International Building Code as a model. In fact, in the last few years four counties in Eastern Washington have already adopted the WUI chapters of the IBC in their entirety, including defensible space requirements.

ESB 6120 provides other flexibility:

- Because of references to Chapter 1 of the International Building Code, local jurisdictions can opt not to enforce the WUI requirements for EXISTING homes.
- Local jurisdictions can create their own maps if they use the same methods as the new WA DNR hazard map.

Next Steps for the BHAS Conservation Committee

Environmentalists will have to be vigilant in the next two years as WA DNR creates the new maps and the SBCC writes new codes for ESB 6120. After the new WUIC codes are in effect, we will want to give input to local jurisdictions when they decide whether to exempt existing housing and whether to create local WUI hazard maps.

Unfortunately, there may be more immediate work to do starting THIS FALL during the next state legislature's pre-session. In spite of widespread consensus across the state in support of ESB 6120, some members of the SBCC believe that the legislature was mistaken in over-riding the 2021 WUI Code Amendments. The SBCC decided at their March 15 meeting that they will propose their own WUI law during the 2025 state legislative session.

Background on WUI

The defensible space requirements in the 2021 WUI Code Amendments were the reason that so many groups and Washington state departments opposed that code. To create defensible space homeowners would have had to remove most trees within 30, 50 or 100 feet of the house, depending on the slope of the land and proximity to dense vegetation of any kind, from grass to forests.

Many counties and cities across the state in their Community Wildfire Plans RECOMMEND removing trees around homes near forests. The difference was that the WUI code would have REQUIRED cutting trees around homes and regardless of proximity to forests.

WA DNR's map for the WUI code magnified the amount of the tree removal. The map applied the code to 70% of Washington because it was based on population density and proximity to cities and not actual wildfire risk. This tree removal would have conflicted with seven state environmental laws, including shoreline and critical area protections. It would also conflict with many cities' and counties' codes for tree protection, often tied to climate change mitigation.

Most important, recent wildfire science studies conclude that defensible space has made little or no difference in protecting homes in actual wildfires in Colorado, California, Oregon, and Washington. All agree that the best protection for homes is using ignition-resistant materials and methods—just as ESB 6120 requires.

What's Your "Spark" Bird? Answers by "Sparked" BHAS Birders

So why are you interested in birding? Did a specific bird "spark" this interest? Asked this question recently, **Sally Nole**, a very involved BHAS member and former Board member, told us about her awakening to birding:

"In 2007, I'd been living in Lacey, near the Chehalis Trail for two years, where I loved walking my dog. This part of the trail was wooded and had several retention ponds that retained water year around. I was getting accustomed to taking my little binoculars with me because there were always birds to see.

One day while waiting to cross Herman Street, I saw the most beautiful birds I'd ever seen. There were 4 or 5 of these robin-sized birds sitting in a nearby tree. My binoculars weren't powerful, but I could see the amazing blending of colors and the dark face mask. I went home and searched through my little bird guide and learned these were Cedar Waxwings. That weekend I bought myself a better pair of binoculars—I was hooked!"

Fun Fact: These birds like to be part of a flock and are one of the few North American birds that specialize in eating fruit. They can survive on fruit alone for several months. The "waxwing" is due to red secretions found on the tips of the secondaries. Yes, they love the cones of eastern red cedars, which are waxy and berry-like.

Audio: High-pitched call notes like a high, thin whistle. Listen here:
<https://macaulaylibrary.org/asset/166156861>

Check out: YouTube videos, such as this one of Cedar Waxwings eating berries: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sr_U9hul03E&ab_channel=andysi531 , and Cornell University for more info.

Share your own “Spark “bird with us. You may well inspire others!

Email stephaniemrrs2@gmail.com

By Stevie Morris

Next Book for the BHAS Book Club

The next book has been chosen for our April meeting: *Birdgirl: Looking to the Skies in Search of a Better Future*, by Mya-Rose Craig.

We will meet via Zoom to discuss this memoir on Wednesday, April 24th at 6:00 PM. If you are interested in attending, please email Rachel Hudson at lightningdash09@yahoo.com to receive the questions we will talk about regarding the book, as well as to receive a link to the Zoom meeting.

From the publisher of *Birdgirl*:

“*Birdgirl* follows Mya-Rose and her family as they travel the world in search of rare birds and astonishing landscapes. But a shadow moves with them, too—her mother's deepening mental health crisis. In the face of this struggle, the Craigs turn to nature again and again for comfort and meaning.

Each bird they see brings a moment of joy and reflection, instilling in Mya-Rose a deep love of the natural world. But Mya-Rose has also seen first-hand the reckless destruction we are inflicting on our fragile planet, as well as the pervasive racism infecting every corner of the world, leading her to campaign for Black, Indigenous, people of color.

Joining the fight of today's young environmental activists, Mya-Rose shares her experiences to advocate for the simple, profound gift of nature, and for making it accessible to all, calling her readers to rediscover the power of our natural world.

Birder, activist, daughter: this is her story.”

Nominations Requested for the 2024 Dave McNett Environmental Educator of the Year Award

BHAS is proud to continue recognizing environmental education efforts by area residents who are making a positive difference for birds through their teaching, and so we are soliciting nominations for the 2024 Dave McNett Environmental Educator of the Year Award. The award will be presented at the BHAS Annual Picnic in June 2024. The deadline for nominations is May 1st, 2024.

The nomination criteria for this award are:

- * Nominees collaborated with others toward the educational goals of informing the public about an aspect of our natural world pertaining to bird habitat or conservation
- * Their work has been inspirational to those they have worked or taught with
- * Work need not have been done on a volunteer basis, but did involve volunteers or one's own volunteer time
- * Nominees can be professional environmental educators, but need not be
- * Nominees have worked in the field for at least two years
- * Work has generally been within the BHAS geographical base (Thurston, Mason, and Lewis counties)
- * Nominees may be members of BHAS, but don't have to be

The award is intended for persons who have not previously received it.

Your nomination should include a brief narrative that addresses the above criteria. You can either email your completed nomination to education@blackhills-audubon.org or send it

through regular mail to: The Black Hills Audubon Society, PO Box 2524, Olympia WA 98507. Please remember that members of the Education Committee will begin our review process on May 1st, 2024.

We look forward to hearing from you!

NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR BHAS VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Black Hills Audubon honors one of our volunteers every year with the Volunteer of the Year Award. This person needs to be an Audubon member, not on our Board of Directors, who contributes to the organization along these guidelines:

ELIGIBILITY FOR AWARD:

1. The volunteer contributes outstanding long-term service through work that addresses BHAS's strategic priorities.

AND ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING:

2. Performs intensive work on one project/activity or extensive involvement on several projects/activities.
3. Work demonstrates special creativity or efficiency and has a lasting impact on the functioning of the organization
4. Work increases volunteer participation that continues beyond the involvement of the individual volunteer (even when s/he moves on to other projects).

Nominations are requested from chapter members. Submittals should not exceed 500 words; bullet points detailing the nominee's efforts are appropriate. The Board of Directors will approve the award recipient.

Please send submittals to Kathleen Snyder ksnyder75@gmail.com by April 30th, 2024.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

All chapter work is done by volunteers for whom we are very grateful. If you are interested in volunteering in something other than the opportunities listed below, please contact Kathleen Snyder ksnyder75@gmail.com.

COMMUNICATION CHAIR: We have a super-good Communication Committee with seven wonderful volunteers and one paid website designer. What we need is someone to oversee this effort and maybe add another social media platform to the mix. If you are interested in becoming familiar with our chapter and its workings and have about an hour a week to give, let's talk details. Kathleen Snyder ksnyder75@gmail.com

BACK-UP PUBLIC LIAISON: Our Public Liaison keeps track of our phone and email messages. When she goes on vacation, she needs a back up person to check for phone messages (she can do email remotely). If you would like a minor but very helpful role to do at home, this might be perfect. Kathleen Snyder ksnyder75@gmail.com

YOUTH OUTREACH: We would like to get OYAS (Olympia Youth Audubon Society) active again. Do you have an enthusiasm to connect youth to the natural world? We need someone to reach out to youth groups and school districts to arrange field trips. Kim Dolgin kgdolgin@owu.edu

PHOTOGRAPHERS: BHAS has a photo gallery on our website and an Instagram account (Blackhills352). We would love to add new bird photographs to these platforms. Please contact Quentin Phillips at gmp932@hotmail.com. He will give you the parameters for what we can use.

Chapter by Chapter Revising of the Thurston County Comprehensive Plan Has Started

By Loretta Seppanen

Local governments express their vision, goals, and policies for the coming 20 years in their Comprehensive Plans. The responsibility for this work does not rest only on elected officials and the residents who volunteer on planning committees. Adding our voice as these documents are updated is a civic responsibility just as important as voting. Now is the time to share your experience and wisdom as Comprehensive Plans are updated.

Thurston County has started releasing draft chapters of the county's plan and invites us to give chapter by chapter input starting now with additional chapters released monthly throughout this year. The county is starting with two "easy" chapters first. By "easy," I mean these chapters contain fewer goal statements than the other plan chapters. This is an opportunity to become familiar with the review and input process. You can tap on the links to the two red-line versions of the [Introduction](#) and the [Archaeological and Historic Resources](#) chapters. County staff invite us to download the Word documents, pull up track changes, add our comments, save, and return your edited file using the [Comp Plan survey form](#). The form requires your name and email, the topic, and on the second page of the form question 9 permits uploading your edited file.

This track change and submit process is a new process that facilitates staff and Planning Commission review of all community comments. Alternatively, if you don't use Word or typically download and upload files, you can send an email or call the person listed on the [Thurston 2045 webpage](#).

Many LWVTC members are committed to the conservation of fish, wildlife, and plant habitats as well as water resource protection. Relevant policies are in the Environment, Parks, and Open Space chapter.

Here is my heads-up announcement - the red-line version of that chapter will be listed on the [Thurston 2045 webpage](#) by Earth Day, April 22. On that day, scroll down the page to the **Chapters Ready for Review** section. Look for the Environment, Parks, and Open Space chapter and start reviewing. Fulfill this civic responsibility by contributing your insights to make this chapter best reflect the future vision for our community.

Three RRI Rezone Requests to Allow Warehouses by I-5 REMOVED from the 2024-2025 Thurston County Work Docket

Betsy Norton

Thank you!

Thank you to all of you who wrote and called in to the County Commissioners on behalf of wildlife and conservation, helping prevent (slow down?) the loss of rural lands and wildlife habitat. Your active support is critical to ensuring land use decisions are fact-based and value biodiversity and the habitat which supports it.

Key results of Thurston County's selection and prioritization process for land use requests for 2024/25 by the Board of County Commissioners are:

- Three Rezone requests were *removed* from the docket for 2024/25:
 - Beaver Creek
 - UP Castle
 - Port of Tacoma (West Rocky Prairie)
- Two Rezones were added to the docket.
 - **Black Lake Quarry: Site Specific Land Use Amendment and Associated Rezone** was added to the docket and was 8th in priority out of 10. The proposal is to rezone 270 acres near Black Lake Quarry (previously known as Quality Rock) from Rural Residential to Rural Resource Industrial (RRI), and to revise the zoning definition of RRI to allow “more intensive industrial uses”. Parcels are adjacent to the Black River/Black River Wildlife Refuge, which is important habitat for birds, endangered species and Coho.
 - **BAR Holdings UGA Swap, Land Use Amendment and Rezone, Priority #4:** The proposal is to ‘swap’ out of the Urban Growth Area (UGA) 18 parcels NW of Black Lake (largely critical area/green belt) in exchange for a ‘swap’ into the UGA of 3 parcels at 93rd SE and old Highway 99. This will allow rezoning of the 3 Rural Residential 1/5 zoned parcels into a mix of commercial, mixed use, and industrial zoned areas. The 3 parcels to be developed are south of the Olympia airport, and adjacent to a forest conservation easement property.

From the BHAS Conservation committee, on behalf of the diversity of wildlife and native flora who call Thurston County home, Thank You again for your support!

Notes and links:

- **Docket Priority:** The staff expects to make their way through reviews of all docketed items by the end of 2025. Exact timing when they will come up for review/public comment may vary. The county has been creating web pages for active projects, so check back at the Thurston county planning page as more info is available. You can sign up for email alerts as well. <https://www.thurstoncountywa.gov/departments/community-planning-and-economic-development/community-planning/plans-programs-code-projects>
- **Actual Use of a zoned area:** a rezone only enables development in the broad categories allowed (retail, industrial) in the zone definition. It is at the subsequent permitting level that the actual use (grocery store, distribution warehouse) is committed. Thurston County Zoning codes and definitions: https://library.municode.com/wa/thurston_county/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=TIT20Z0
- **Growth Management Act (GMA) and Urban Growth Area (UGA):** <https://mrsc.org/explore-topics/planning/gma/growth-management-act>
- **UGA “Swap”:** <https://wacities.org/advocacy/news/advocacy-news/2022/02/19/urban-growth-area-land-swap-bill-passes-senate>

FIELD TRIPS AND OUTINGS

BIRDS AND BREW

MONDAY APRIL 15TH 4:30 – 6:30 PM

EQUAL LATIN RESTAURANT & BAR
2752 PACIFIC AVE SE
OLYMPIA

Birds and Brew is a social time for folks to gather and talk all things avian. This is open to Black Hills members and non-members alike. Although it starts at 4:30 pm, it is a drop-in anytime event. The topic for this meeting is to share a good place to go birding on a summer (or any time) trip.

Our hosts are Craig and Vicki Merkel. Questions can go to Craig at quetsal48@comcast.net.

Birding with Breakfast

Date: Saturday, April 6
Time: 7:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
Leader: Jacob Barringer

Description: Birding at Mission Creek Nature Park. Walk on paths through a 37-acre city park nestled in northeast Olympia. It encompasses a wide variety of habitats, including wetlands, open grasslands and mixed forests of hardwoods and evergreens. Expect diverse species of birds, including possible early migrants. For more about the park, see [here](#) for the description of a previous field trip to that location. Birding with Breakfast walks are especially appropriate for beginning and intermediate birders.

Meeting location: Meet at the entrance to the park, 1700 San Francisco St. NE, where it makes a T with Marion St. NE and 3 blocks east of the San Francisco Street Bakery. Park along the street.

Breakfast at San Francisco St. Bakery (corner of San Francisco and Bethel St.).

No registration needed.

Field Trip to Darlin Creek Preserve

Saturday, April 13, 2024

Time: 8 am – 11 am

Leaders: Kyle Leader

Location: [8910 Lake Lucinda Drive SW, Olympia, WA 98512](#)

Discover Pass needed.

Description:

[Darlin Creek Preserve](#) is a 312-acre preserve conserved by Capitol Land Trust in the Black River watershed near Capitol State Forest. This will be a beginner-friendly outing. We will be looking and listening for early spring migrants.

We will meet at the trailhead kiosk and walk about 2 miles.

Trail information:

The trails are a mixture between dirt, gravel, and old roadbed.

The Wetland Forest Loop Trail is about 2 miles long. Heading clockwise from the parking area, the trail is flat until a slight decline in elevation to a large bridge crossing Darlin Creek. Cross the bridge near the Beaver Pond. Check out the flat spur trail just after the bridge for a look at a beaver dam and the pond behind it! After the bridge, the trail increases in elevation and follows an old logging road, with uphill and downhill sections and some uneven footing. At the end of the old logging road, the trail bends north to cross a footbridge (look for the nearby beaver dam!) and connect with an old railroad grade. The railroad grade is very level but may be

muddy in spots. After a short distance, the trail reconnects with the Lake Loop Trail and passes by Lake Lucinda. There are three benches along the Wetland Forest Loop Trail, one at the Beaver Pond, one at the South Beaver Pond, and one along the western portion of the Lake Loop Trail.

Other information:

There is a portable toilet near the parking area with hand sanitizer.

This outing is not wheelchair accessible.

Bring: Binoculars and a field guide if you want one. Merlin Bird ID is a great phone app for identifying birds. I also suggest a hands-free pack for water, snacks, and personal items.

Dress for the conditions and for a slow walking pace; dull natural fabrics are more bird-friendly than bright synthetics.

For questions:

Contact Kyle Leader at kchuckles11@yahoo.com

SHOREBIRD FIELD TRIP

All day trip to Tokeland, Westport and Bottle Beach. This will be a great day for seeing the shorebird migration. Hundreds, if not thousands, of shorebirds will be in breeding plumage. Spotting scopes will be available to help see the birds. This is a great opportunity to work on shorebird identification. Beginning birders welcome!

WHEN: Sunday, 21 April 2024

Meet at 7:45 AM at Mud Bay Park and Ride. Leave for Tokeland at 8 AM. Westport Marina late morning, Bottle Beach at 1 PM for the incoming tide. Return to Olympia late afternoon.

BRING:

Binoculars and spotting scope (if you have one)

Lunch, snacks, drinks

Layered clothing – it can be cool and windy by the water

Shoes/boots that can get muddy at Bottle Beach

Discover Pass

LEADER: Lin Stern

Trip limited to 12 participants. Contact Lin Stern at lindseysarahstern@gmail.com to sign up.

Birding at Pioneer Park

Date: Saturday, April 27. Meet at 9 AM and plan around two hours for the walk.

Trip Leader: Jason Zolle

Description and Targets: This will be a beginner-friendly outing. We will be looking for songbirds, woodpeckers, and anything else with feathers!

Meeting Place: Pioneer Park, [5801 Henderson Blvd SE, Tumwater](#). When you pull in, continue straight all the way to the end of the parking lot. We will meet at the western most area of the parking lot at the trailhead [here](#).

Trail Information: The trails at Pioneer Park are relatively flat. Most of the trail is covered in gravel or grass. Our outing will take us through open and forested habitat along the Deschutes River. We will encounter one bench about halfway through (about 1 mile in). We travel up to two miles, with the option to stop sooner or continue on your own after 11am.

Bathroom: There is a bathroom on the opposite side of the sports fields.

Bring: Binoculars, a scope if you have one, and a field guide if you want one. Merlin Bird ID is a great phone app for identifying birds. I also suggest a hands-free pack for water, snacks, and personal items.

Dress for the conditions and for a slow walking pace; dull natural fabrics are more bird-friendly than bright synthetics. Layers are your friend!

Please contact Jason Zolle at zollejd@gmail.com for more information.

Birding with Breakfast

Date: Saturday, May 4

Time: 7:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Leader: Suzanne Wilson

Description: Birding at McLane Nature Trail. Walk near the height of migration on trails through woodlands and around a beaver pond. Birding with Breakfast walks are especially appropriate for beginning and intermediate birders.

Meeting location: Meet at 7:30 a.m. at McLane Nature Trail, 5043 Delphi Road S.W., Olympia.
Discover Pass is required.

Breakfast after walk at **Blue Heron Bakery**, 4419 Harrison Ave NW #108 (just east of Kaiser Rd.),
Olympia, WA 98502.

No registration needed.