



SMART GROWTH REPORT - APRIL 2016

By Kristin Kelly, Smart Growth Executive Director

In the November 2015 issue, I gave a recap of last year’s work, and a summary of what might happen in 2016. Now that we are starting the second quarter of 2016, I want to share more detail of the work I will be doing this year.

Snohomish County Council Report Card

I have made it my mission to begin keeping a “Snohomish County Council Report Card” on land use and environmental policy and regulation votes, starting with votes from four years ago to the present, and I’ll continue it. While this information can be found on the county council’s website, it takes some work to whittle out the land use decisions from the hundreds of ordinances and motions that are adopted every year. Knowing how your council member votes is a useful tool as we advocate for strong protections for birds and wildlife habitat, water and air quality, and smart growth planning for our future. The Report Card will be on the Smart Growth webpage soon ([www.pilchuckaudubon.org/Smart Growth](http://www.pilchuckaudubon.org/SmartGrowth)), and I’ll share more of that information with you in the next Profile.

Everett Station District Alliance

Another of my priorities is the Everett Station District Alliance (ESDA), a collaborative stakeholder committee that was formed two years ago, organized by Ed Petersen of Housing Hope and HopeWorks. ESDA has brought together representatives from Pilchuck Audubon, Forterra, Sound Transit, Community Transit, Everett Transit, local developers, planners, and landowners in the Everett Transit Station area (Hewitt Avenue to 38th Street and Broadway to I-5) to work toward a transit-oriented redevelopment plan for the regional Everett Transit Station area.

The study will include connections to the greater Everett downtown and beyond. The work of this committee will coincide with the subarea planning process that has begun in Everett called the “Metropolitan Subarea Plan” because of the existing transit opportunities and the possibility of Sound Transit Link Light Rail moving north from Lynnwood to Everett.

We are beginning to formulate our mission, vision, and ideas for presentation in May when we will host an invitation-only forum for elected officials, potential developers, large employers, property owners, and other future stakeholders. We hope to start a wide dialogue toward ensuring our vision becomes reality in the next 20, 30, and 50 years. Creation of livable, affordable, and sustainable transit-friendly, mixed-use communities that will provide open spaces, safe bike and pedestrian walkways, and better connectivity are at the forefront of this work.

I represent PAS in this alliance and will keep our membership updated on ESDA’s progress throughout the year.

(Continued on page 4)

APRIL PROGRAM MEETING

THE SECRET LIVES OF PIGEON GUILLEMOTS

By Ann Casey

Friday, April 8, 7:00 PM



Pigeon Guillemots, chunky black and white seabirds with fire engine red feet, are the only seabirds known to breed and nest in the sandy bluffs surrounding Whidbey Island. These charismatic seabirds are a recognized indicator species for the health of Puget Sound. Since 2004, the Whidbey Audubon Society’s Pigeon Guillemot Research Group have worked with over 50 trained volunteers collecting data from 25 known nesting sites surrounding Whidbey Island. Join us to learn about this project and the darlings of our Whidbey bluffs.

Ann Casey is past President of Whidbey Audubon Society and a retired educator and administrator. Since moving to Whidbey Island, Ann has spent time learning of the natural world she shares with many other species of the air, earth, and waters surrounding Whidbey. For the past five years, Ann has volunteered as a member of the Pigeon Guillemot project and joined the Guillemot Research Group.

FRIDAY, APRIL 8, 2016

7:00 - 8:30 pm

Everett Firefighter’s Hall

2411 Hewitt Avenue, Everett

Questions? Leave a message at 425-610-8027

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PAS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

By Kristin Kelly, PAS Executive Director

Pilchuck Audubon Society's reputation throughout Snohomish County and Camano Island has been solid, but our organization must be able to continue to be forward thinking and meet new challenge. Our environment will be even further challenged as we start seeing increasing impacts from climate change and as more and more people choose to live here.

As our communities grow and change, so will the demographics, which means our communities will continue to be more diverse and youthful. It is predicted that by 2043 fifty percent of the U.S. population will be people of color.

And that brings a new challenge for PAS—increasing environmental awareness. How can our organization better reach out and include our county's growing diverse populations? Building bridges between communities of color and the environment will empower the organization as well as those who join forces with us. We also need to be more actively engaged in reaching out and including youth of all ethnicities in order for PAS to continue to be an effective environmental voice in our part of the world.

We have made a few strides in that direction. We have our Classroom Conservation awards, which bring environmental lessons to students and makes them conscious of the importance of conserving the environment; our Vice-President, Terry Nightingale, has started field trips with a group of Latinos who are learning English and appreciating our natural environment; and I have done some early outreach and education with the Latino, Vietnamese, and Korean small business owners along

About Pilchuck Audubon Society

The Pilchuck Audubon Profile, official newsletter of Pilchuck Audubon Society is published monthly.

Pilchuck Audubon Society (PAS) is a grass-roots environmental organization with members throughout Snohomish County and Camano Island, Washington.

Our mission is to conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds and other wildlife, for the benefit of the earth's biological diversity.

Through education, advocacy, and community activism, PAS is committed to bringing people closer to wildlife in order to build a deeper understanding of the powerful links between healthy ecosystems and human beings, and to encourage the involvement of our members in efforts to protect the habitat this wildlife depends upon for survival.

We serve as a local chapter of the National Audubon Society. PAS is a 501(c)3 tax-exempt, non-profit organization incorporated in the state of Washington.

Newsletter submissions

Submit articles to newsed@pilchuckaudubon.org or mail to 1429 Avenue D, PMB 198, Snohomish, WA 98290. Submissions must be received by the 21st of the month preceding publication. We reserve the right to edit.

To contact Pilchuck Audubon Society, call 425.610.8027.

The monthly Profile is available online at www.pilchuckaudubon.org

Highway 99 around transit and transit-oriented development.

As Executive Director, I will be actively pursuing ideas and opportunities for ways to reach out, educate, and include diversity into our organization. I am asking you to help me identify and contact such groups or individuals who want to know more and be more involved.

If you have ideas or suggestions, please contact me at execdirector@pilchuckaudubon.org.

The success of this new effort will depend on our ability to reach across cultural differences, to build relationships and trust, and to prove that PAS is the truly the Champion for the Environment.



Board of Directors

President	Kathleen Snyder	.....president@pilchuckaudubon.org
Vice President	Terry Nightingale	.....vice-president@pilchuckaudubon.org
Treasurer	Judy Hall	.....treasurer@pilchuckaudubon.org
Secretary	Kathy Piland	..... 253.736.4937
Conservation	Allen Gibbs	..... conservation@pilchuckaudubon.org
Membership	Bonnie Campbell	..... 425.493.8721
Avian Science	Jim Clark	.....avian@pilchuckaudubon.org
Development	Jim Beneteau	..... develop@pilchuckaudubon.org
Members at Large	Laurel Cheap	..... classroom.awards@pilchuckaudubon.org
	Jay Ward	..... 425.418.3226
	Kathy Johnson	.....forest@pilchuckaudubon.org
	David Gladstone	

Consultant

Committee Chairs

Bird Sightings	Mara Price	..... 360.722.5752
Citizen Science Coord.	Sherrill Miller	..... field.birds.pas@gmail.com
Communications	Lindsey May	..... 425.610.8027
Conservation Awards	Laurel Cheap	.....classroom.awards@pilchuckaudubon.org
Donations	Judy Chapman	..... donations@pilchuckaudubon.org
Education	Jim Beneteau	..... develop@pilchuckaudubon.org
Field Trips	Art Wait	.....360.563.0181
Forest Practices	Kathy Johnson	.....forest@pilchuckaudubon.org
Hospitality	Virginia Clark	.....360.435.3750
Newsletter Editor	Carolyn Lacy	..... newsed@pilchuckaudubon.org
Newsletter Publisher	Christabel Lobo	.....newspub@pilchuckaudubon.org
Program	Susie Schaefer	..... garden@pilchuckaudubon.org
Webmaster	Terry Nightingale webmaster@pilchuckaudubon.org

Staff

Smart Growth/PAS ExcDir	Kristin Kelly pased2016@gmail.com
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US FOREST SERVICE PLANS MASSIVE TIMBER SALE IN SOUTH FORK STILLAGUAMISH WATERSHED

The US Forest Service (FS) has issued a scoping letter for a 6,750-acre thinning project in a 65,000-acre planning area encompassing the entire South Fork Stillaguamish and Canyon Creek watersheds within their jurisdiction. The entire area is designated as Late Successional Reserve (LSR) under the NW Forest Plan (NFP), to “protect and enhance conditions of late-successional and old-growth forest ecosystems, which serve as habitat for late-successional and old-growth related species.”

The FS maintains that this logging will benefit the forest by promoting development of old-growth characteristics. This is an unproven and dubious claim that, even if true, would not outweigh the damage caused by road (and possibly bridge) construction and removal of trees. The FS also plans to log within Riparian Reserves, the stream buffers that were included in the NFP to protect riparian areas and water quality.

Our concerns include:

- The unprecedented size of this proposal alone necessitates the preparation of a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). At 65,000 acres, with logging occurring on 6,750 acres, the cumulative impacts will be undeniably significant. Any effects will be magnified by the vast scope of the project.
- The entire area is designated as Late Successional Reserve (LSR) under the NFP. All vegetation manipulation treatments proposed for the forested areas of LSRs must “protect and enhance conditions of late-successional and old-growth forest ecosystems, which serve as habitat for late-successional and old-growth related species” (ROD, C-9).
- Designated Critical Habitat exists within the planning area for Northern Spotted Owls and Marbled Murrelets. This area provides some of the first large blocks of old growth forest encountered as Marbled Murrelets fly inland from salt water. Removal of trees, roadbuilding, and noise from heavy equipment and helicopter use will adversely affect these species. Openings created by logging will attract corvids, which prey on murrelet eggs.
- The South Fork Stillaguamish and Canyon Creek are home to numerous ESA-listed salmonids and resident fish species. Logging and roadbuilding, particularly over such a large area, will have adverse impacts on water quality and fish habitat by increasing sediment and elevating stream temperatures. Conducting these activities in Riparian Reserves will intensify these effects and prevent the attainment of Aquatic Conservation Strategy Objectives. The Everett Daily Herald recently published an article detailing the dramatic decline of Coho salmon in the Stillaguamish River; 2015 returns were less than 10 percent of the projected returns!
- Road construction will magnify the risk for landslides, sedimentation of streams, wildfire, noxious weed introduction, and human disturbance including toxic waste dumping, poaching, and other wildlife harassment.

- These watersheds are notorious for unstable slopes with their attendant landslide risk. The Gold Basin slide has prompted enough concern for the Forest Service to close indefinitely the very popular campground by the same name, located across the river from the ongoing slide. Creating additional “vegetative disturbance” and road construction in this area would be irresponsible, to say the least.

- This is a highly popular recreation destination. There are many well-used hiking trails both overlapping and having views of proposed thinning areas. Thousands of people per year drive the Mountain Loop Highway to enjoy the views of the surrounding forested slopes and to fish, hunt, bird-watch, hike, camp, backpack, and climb there. The economic importance of recreation and tourism to the communities of Granite Falls and Darrington is significant.

- Effects of removal of so many trees over such a wide area on carbon storage and climate change.

The scoping letter with maps is available at the Forest Service website S.F. Stillaguamish Vegetation Management Project: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=48837>.

While PAS will be submitting comments for the organization, you can help by sending comments outlining the above issues and your personal concerns to: comments-pacificnorthwest-mtbaker-snoqualmie-darrington@fs.fed.us. At the very least, emphasize the need for the FS to issue an EIS for this project!

Comments are requested by April 4, but may be considered after this date (the sooner the better, but better late than never). We have requested an extension of this deadline, but at press time have not had a response.

For more information, contact Kathy Johnson, forest@pilchuck-audubon.org.

JUNE 10 PROGRAM

Calling all PAS photographers!!!

The June 10 PAS program meeting is for you.

Our program will be The Birdy Dozen.

PAS photographers will have an opportunity to show off 12 of their favorite Washington spring bird photos.

The rest of us will enjoy the photos at this fun special night.

Photographers should contact program chair Susie Schaefer, garden@pilchuckaudubon.org, to sign up to share their photos.

Everyone else, mark June 10 on your calendar to come out and see wonderful bird photos.

SMART GROWTH...

(Continued from page 1)

Sustainable Lands Strategy

The Sustainable Lands Strategy (SLS) is another of my priorities. As part of the Executive Committee since its inception five years ago, I have been part of the collaborative process of local farmers and the Tulalip and Stillaguamish Tribes to find opportunities in projects, policies, and funding so we can secure gains for salmon and wildlife habitat restoration and farming along our two major river basins.

Last year, the Lower Snohomish River Basin and Estuary were identified by President Obama as one of four "priority landscapes" nationwide under the Resilient Lands and Waters Initiative, thus enabling SLS to obtain financial opportunities to implement projects that produce results. I have been the Secretary-Treasurer of the SLS (now a non-profit) and feel honored to be part of this innovative, collaborative, and solution-based process.

Other County Issues

Two additional county issues of import are:

- Further refining county urban centers (particularly at I-5/128th and I-5/164th) to make them transit-friendly and to ensure transit-oriented communities that will encompass affordable housing and connectivity with other transportation modes.
- Subarea planning for the Maltby Industrial UGA, the Clearview Rural Commercial area along Highway 9 that is limited in terms of growth under the Growth Management Act, and the rural areas in between and adjacent to the Southwest UGA.

Currently, PAS and Futurewise are appealing the adoption of the Critical Area Regulations update by the County Council Growth Management Hearings Board (*The Tulalip Tribes are also appealing this update in a separate appeal.*) As this process continues, I will report on the process and outcome in future reports and on the Smart Growth webpage.

Decisions made by our County Council affect our environment, wildlife, and quality of life. The more voices they hear, the more impact we will make.

BACKYARD BIRDING HIGHLIGHTS

January 26, 2015 - February 25, 2016

By Mara Price, Sightings Coordinator

The Varied Thrush seems to be staying around longer this season even though it is a little warmer. I thought they liked the cooler weather because they appear when we get our first frost. There seems to be a higher count this season also.

Carole and Larry Beason reported 2 Varied Thrush seen under the feeders at their home at Lake Bosworth. Their total species count of 38 included 9 American Robins, a Kingfisher, 14 Canada Goose on the lake, 2 Common Ravens flying over the road, 5 Double-Crested Cormorants on the lake, 9 Evening Grosbeaks, 2 Great-Horned Owls calling to each other, 19 Mourning Doves, 5 Purple Finches, a Red-Breasted Nuthatch, a Red-Tailed Hawk, 2 Red-Breasted Sapsuckers, 30+ Red-Winged Blackbirds, 2 Ring-Necked Ducks, 10 Spotted Towhees, 11 Steller Jays, and 2 Winter Wrens.

Hilkka Egtvedt still has her California Quail with 5 reported this month. Reporting from her home in Mukilteo, she listed a Sharp-Shinned Hawk, 2 Anna's Hummingbirds, 2 Hairy Woodpeckers, male and female Pileated Woodpeckers, 80 American Crows in the trees, 2 Bewick's Wrens, a Varied Thrush, a Yellow-Rumped Warbler, 3 Song Sparrows, 6 Golden-Crowned Sparrows, 33 Dark-Eyed Juncos, and a Pine Siskin, for a total species count of 23.



Sharp-shinned Hawk
Photo by Mike Morel, USFWS

Kriss Erickson reported 5 Varied Thrush from her home in Everett. She also listed 7 American Robins, 3 Spotted Towhees, 2 Wood Ducks, a Red-Breasted Nuthatch, 12 Western Gulls, 3 Song Sparrows, 2 Downy Woodpeckers, 15 Northwestern Crows, 16 Black-Capped Chickadees, 7 Chestnut-Backed Chickadees, 2 Bewick's Wrens, 25 Bushtit, and 5 Mallards, for a total species count of 19.

I am happy to report that Mary Sinker is reporting again. Her report from her home in Stanwood lists 10 American Robins, 5 Anna's Hummingbirds, 2 Bald Eagles in her yard, 12 Black-Capped Chickadees, a Black-Chinned Hummingbird, 35 Dark-Eyed Juncos, 7 Downy Woodpeckers, 10 Evening Grosbeaks, a Great Blue Heron at the creek, 4 Killdeer in the pasture, 3 Red-Tailed Hawks, 5 Varied Thrush, and 2 Yellow-Rumped Warblers, for a total species count of 33.



Anna's Hummingbird
Photo by Lee Karney, USFWS

My report from my Marysville home includes 5 Black-Capped Chickadees, 24 Dark-Eyed Juncos, 6 Mourning Doves, 4 Northern Flickers, a Pileated Woodpecker, 2 Song Sparrows, an Anna's Hummingbird, 30 to 40 Glaucous-Winged Gulls, 16 Mallards, 3 Varied Thrush, 4 Canada Goose, a Cooper's Hawk, 2 Great-Horned Owls in the woods, 3 Spotted Towhee, and 2 Evening Grosbeaks, for a total species count of 28.

If you are interested in becoming one of our reporters, please email me at pricemara1@gmail.com or leave a message on my cell (425)750-8125.

TRIP CALENDAR

Check our web site at www.pilchuckaudubon.org for the latest information.

Tuesday, April 5 **Snohomish City and Outskirts**

Meet at 8:00 AM at Snohomish Park & Ride, located at the junction of Highway 9 and Bickford Ave. Enjoyable and relaxed trip. We usually have high species counts and surprises. Pack a lunch.

Trip Leader: Art Wait, 360-563-0181

Saturday, April 9 **Kingston--North Kitsap Heritage Park**

Meet at 8:30 AM at Everett Mall— Park in the back, near the transit facility by LA Fitness. We'll carpool to the Edmonds ferry terminal and then to the park. We will plan an approximately 3.8 mile-loop trail with about a 300-foot elevation gain. Afterward, we may get together for a little socializing over a late lunch. Bring snacks, water, good hiking boots, binoculars, and foul-weather gear just in case. Round trip ferry toll \$43.90 per car. Carpooling strongly encouraged.

Leader: Jonathan Blubaugh, 425-244-7633, aracfi@msn.com

Tuesday, April 12 **Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge**

Meet at 7:30 AM at the Lynnwood/Mill Creek WalMart lot, 1400 164th St SW (I-5 Exit 183). Park at the edge of the lot away from the store, to the west. This will be a long road trip of some 70 miles each way. Once at the refuge we will need to walk several miles to fully experience the delights and surprises of its marshes, tideflats, grasslands, and riparian woodlands. Two hundred species have been seen here. Pack a lunch and expect a long adventurous day.

Trip Leader: Art Wait, 360-563-0181

Sunday, April 17 **Forest Park**

Meet at Forest Park, 802 E Mukilteo Blvd, Everett, WA 98203, near the children's play area at 1:30 PM for a family picnic. At about 2:00 PM, after the picnic, we'll wander the park's trails to take in the natural setting and look for wildlife, including birds. No experience is necessary—you need bring only your curiosity and binoculars, if you have them. We have several pairs of binoculars to lend for the event if you do not have your own. For the bird walk, bring snacks, water, binoculars, and foul-weather gear just in case. This is a family event and children are welcome. Please, no pets.

Leader: Terry Nightingale, 206-619-2383, tnight@pobox.com

Tuesday, April 19 **Deception Pass Area**

Meet at 7:30 AM at Quilceda Village WalMart, west of Marysville (I-5-Exit 200). Park away from store, to the east, near Quilceda Blvd. and next to I-5. Oystercatchers, Loons, Mergansers, LBJs. Pack a lunch.

Trip Leader: Virginia Clark, 360-435-3750

Saturday, April 23 **Willow Creek Habitat Demonstration Garden**

Meet at 8:30 AM at the Willow Creek Habitat Demonstration Garden, 95 Pine Street in Edmonds, just off Highway 104. We'll walk through the garden to see the flowers in bloom and observe the bird life. Then we'll walk through the adjacent Edmonds Marsh looking for herons, marsh wrens, and other feathered residents. If there is time, we'll carpool to the Edmonds marina to scope out the waterfowl. This is an easy walk with limited to no elevation gain. Bring snacks, water, binoculars, sunscreen, and foul-weather gear just in case. After the bird viewing activities, there will be an optional lunch at a nearby Edmonds eatery.

Leader: Terry Nightingale, 206-619-2383, tnight@pobox.com

Tuesday, April 26

Marysville Area

Meet at 8:00 AM at Quilceda Village WalMart, west of Marysville (I-5-Exit 200). Park away from store, to the east, near Quilceda Blvd. and next to I-5. We will bird the Marysville Wastewater Treatment Facility, Jennings' Park, Mother Nature's Window, and whatever else we can discover. Pack a lunch.

Trip Leaders: Art Wait, 360-563-0181, & Virginia Clark, 360-435-3750

UPCOMING EVENTS, FESTIVALS, & CLASSES

Olympic Birdfest

April 15 - 17

Sequim, WA

The Olympic Peninsula has it all this season: a 3-day pre-fest San Juan Islands birding cruise; day cruises to Protection Island and Neah Bay; field trips to Sequim Bay, Port Angeles Harbor, Ediz Hook, Dungeness Spit, Salt Creek, Neah Bay, and the Elwha River; plus forest songbird and owl walks. There is a banquet featuring a lecture by Tony Angell. A fun feather fest indeed! <http://www.olympicbirdfest.org>

Pacific City Birding & Blues Festival

April 29 - May 1

Pacific City, OR

Rid yourself of the winter blues on the Oregon coast. Enjoy guided field trips, birding hikes, all-day tours, nightly blues concerts, and many other lectures and presentations. The keynote speaker is UW's own Dr. John Marzluff. Alas, bluebird sightings are unlikely. <http://www.birdingandblues.org/festival/>

Neah Bay Eagle Festival

April 30

Neah Bay, WA

This festival heralds the arrival of Bald Eagles pairing off and building their nests around Neah Bay. It is a one-day event offering traditional eagle-inspired art, artist demonstrations, lectures, guided bird walks, food, and live music. And, of course, some nice close-up views of the eagles and other birds migrating into the area. <http://www.neahbaywa.com/festivals.htm>

North Cascades Institute Classes

Dates below

Diablo, WA

The Environmental Learning Center in North Cascades National Park is home to a vast catalog of classes celebrating our regional ecosystem. Most include meals and lodging at the ELC. Register now for "Spring Birding East and West of the Cascades" with Libby Mills on June 3-5, or "In the Company of Corvids" with John Marzluff on June 24-26. Details—and much more—can be found at <http://ncascades.org/signup/program-tabs/adults>.

CONSERVATION REPORT

By Allen Gibbs, Conservation Chair

State Legislative Update – The focus is on passing a supplemental budget, to produce “full funding” for the 2015-2017 biennium. There is not much to say at this writing (March 20), what with most action going on behind closed doors between negotiating teams representing the State Senate and the State House majorities and their respective caucuses. There are also discussions with the governor’s office. Governor Inslee called a 30-day special session to open immediately at the close of the regular session, which ended at midnight, March 10. Read the Herald’s stories (Jerry Cornfield) to track actions.

There was much attention on the governor’s statements about bills on his desk to be signed or vetoed in the waning hours of the regular session. However, there are also bills on his desk that, if not signed or vetoed, will become law. I’ve not been able to learn if any of those bills include ones that conservation and outdoor recreation interests successfully helped to be passed by the legislature. If there were any such bills vetoed, whether those bills can be passed again to override the governor’s vetoes (requires a two-thirds vote), time will tell. I will better know the outcome of “green legislation” by the May Profile.

Washington Wolf Population Continues to Grow – According to a WA Fish and Wildlife Department news release (3/14/16), by end of 2015, “...the state was home to at least 90 wolves, 18 packs, and eight breeding pairs.” That is at least a 32 percent increase last year despite some deaths.

We may be able to add to our list of “calls of the wild” when we visit the Okanogan this year. New packs have been documented in the Beaver Creek and Loup Loup areas between the Methow and Okanogan valleys. A complete survey of wolf populations in 2015 will be issued very soon. No documented packs yet on our side of the North Cascades.

Puget Sound Energy – Legislation was signed this session constituting a major step toward reducing pollution by PSE from its Colstrip, Montana, power plants. PSE agreed to a timeline that shuts down two of its Montana Colstrip coal-fired plants. If you are a PSE customer for electricity, look for an announcement from the company about this important legislation, which has a large budget component. The legislation points to need during the transition away from coal-fired energy production to more green alternatives, to include “...an equitable transition and environmental remediation for the workers and community (of Colstrip, MT).”

Annual Meeting Elections

Join us for the April 8 program meeting and exercise your right to vote! Our annual business meeting will include elections for board President and Secretary (each a two-year term), a summary of this year’s budget, and the Volunteer of 2015 Award presentation.

The nominating committee has announced that Cindy Easterson has agreed to serve as Chapter President and Kathy Piland would like to serve another term as Secretary. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor.

As always, excellent refreshments will be provided by Virginia Clark.

KID’S BIRD FESTIVAL AT IMAGINE CHILDREN’S MUSEUM

The Kid’s Bird Festival is funded in part through the Royce bequest to Pilchuck Audubon. Imagine Children’s Museum is a great venue to reach a large number in children in the Everett area. Museum staff provide wonderful activities for children that combine fun with a learn-by-doing environment.

At this event, PAS is sponsoring four activities relating to birds: a ring toss migration game, a bird-watching search, a beaks-and-food activity, and a migratory bird challenge. The games look to be enormous fun.

A special event like this needs lots of volunteer help so please sign up for a shift on May 7 for the Kid’s Bird Fest. You can help with one of the activities or at the PAS table during the event (with the baby bird match game).

If you’d like to help, contact Jim Beneteau, chair of the Education Committee (develop@pilchuckaudubon.org) or the Imagine Children’s Museum directly at their web site, <https://www.imaginecm.org/get-involved/volunteer/>.

Imagine children's museum

Kids' Bird Festival

Saturday, May 7 • 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

- See real raptors with Sarvey Wildlife Center
- Take the Great Migration Challenge
- Learn how to identify common birds
- Make a bird feeder
- Games, art activities and more!

Funded by PILCHUCK AUDUBON SOCIETY

www.ImagineCM.org 1502 Wall Street, Everett, WA 98201

SR 20 NORTH CASCADES HIGHWAY CLEARING BEGINS

By Jeff Adamson, WSDOT Communications

TWISP – There's good news for drivers of Washington's north-ern-most Cascade mountain pass—crews are beginning efforts to reopen the [North Cascades Highway](#).

Work from the west started Thursday, March 17; east side work began Monday, March 21. Based on the start date and condi-tions, crews are optimistic that State Route 20 could be open in six weeks. Progress on the annual reopening effort remains weather dependent.

On Thursday, the total snow at the Washington Pass summit was 120 inches, or 10 feet, deep.

The North Cascades have had a more “normal” snowpack than last year. However, in some spots debris on the road is deeper than seen in years. In addition, the usual spring avalanche cycle has not yet taken place. When that snow does slide, it can af-fect the clearing effort, especially below [Liberty Bell Mountain](#) where the avalanche chute starting zones are at 7,000 feet (2,000 feet above the roadway).

Follow the reopening work:

- [North Cascades Highway webpage](#)
- [WSDOT Facebook](#)
- [WSDOT East Twitter account](#)
- [Sign up to get the North Cascades Highway email updates](#)

WSDOT closed the highway for the winter on Nov. 16, 2015. Last year the highway opened very early—on April 3.

PLEASE NOTE

Field Trips to Klickitat and Malheur

Both of Susie's spring field trips to Klickitat County and Malheur are full, but interested birders should get on the waiting list if they are interested in going on either trip. These trips won't happen until Memorial Day week-end (Klickitat, 4 days) and early June (Malheur, 8 days) so there is still time. Changes do occur!

A person with a fairly hardy car that will seat four people is still needed for the Malheur trip, so the driver could be first in line for that trip.

Please contact Susie (425-771-8165 or garden@pilchuckaudubon.org) if you are interested in possibilities for either trip.

BARN DANCE FUNDRAISER

For the Smart Growth Program

**Great live blues and rock music
from the CD Woodbury Trio**

Chili Dinner with all the fixings, and libations.

**SUNDAY, MAY 15
3:00 PM - 7:00 PM**

Craven Farm
13817 Short School Road,
Snohomish



\$20 at the door •
Kids under 12 are free!

RSVP TO KRISTIN KELLY AT
execdirector@pilchuckaudubon.org
or call 425-610-8027 and leave a
message

Pilchuck Audubon Society
1429 Avenue D, PMB 198
Snohomish, WA 98290



Pilchuck Audubon Society Membership Information

Support your local Audubon chapter by becoming a member. PAS dues are tax deductible (consult your tax professional for details). The PAS tax ID number is 91-6183664.

- New Member \$28
- Renewal \$28
- Lifetime Member \$1,000
 - 10 monthly payments of \$100
 - 4 quarterly payments of \$250
 - 1 payment of \$1,000
- Donation \$ _____
 - My employer will match my contribution!
My employer's gift matching form is enclosed with my contribution.

Make checks payable to: Pilchuck Audubon Society

Mail to: Pilchuck Audubon Society
1429 Avenue D, PMB 198
Snohomish, WA 98290-1742

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____
E-mail _____

Send me these via email (check all that apply & include your email address above):

- Profile Newsletter
- Program Announcements
- Action Alerts

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