



Smart Growth Report

By Kristin Kelly, Smart Growth Director

It's been a busy 2013.

Beside event planning, fundraising, grant writing, assistance to citizen inquiries, collaboration with other organizations, presentations, website updates, action alerts and email updates, my work focused on the following issues:

Sustainable Lands Strategy (SLS)

The SLS Executive Committee is a non-regulatory advisory committee comprised of representatives from the Tulalip and Stillaguamish Tribes, the agricultural community and me. Ninety percent of our agricultural land is located along the Snohomish and Stillaguamish River basins where salmon habitat restoration has to occur. The goal of the committee is to find net gains for both farming and salmon. Phase One, completed in 2011, resulted in a framework on how to proceed. Phase Two, completed in 2012, better defined net gain and developed a road map for implementation. Phase Three will continue into 2014 and is focused on developing river reach-scale plans for the lower Skykomish, Snohomish and Stillaguamish Rivers and the Snohomish Estuary. To read the reports, visit http://www1.co.snohomish.wa.us/County_Services/Focus_on_Farming/sustainablelands.htm.

Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) Regulations

TDR is a market-based program that allows owners of farms and forests (Sending Areas) to sell their development rights. The developers who buy these rights can then transfer them to designated urban areas (Receiving Areas). This exchange protects our resource lands and ensures that new development occurs in urban areas that have infrastructure and services in place. In 2012, the Snohomish County Council adopted the first-ever countywide TDR Program. In 2013, we collaborated with Forterra and enlisted our memberships and the Livable Snohomish County Coalition to advocate for the regulations and areas to implement the TDR program.

We will continue to advocate for more receiving areas in our urban growth areas and for urban growth area expansions.

(Continued on page 5)

January Program Meeting Friday, January 10, 7 PM

Reintroduction of the Western Bluebird *with Gary Slater from Ecostudies*

The Western Bluebird was a common inhabitant in oak-prairie and other open habitats in western Washington and southwestern British Columbia until the early 1900s when habitat loss, fragmentation and competition triggered a wave of extirpations across the region. Since 2007, Ecostudies Institute has been working to restore populations in the US and Canada. Join us as Gary Slater, Executive Director of Ecostudies, talks about the reintroduction, progress updates, and the important role that private landowners play in the recovery of this iconic species. For more information, leave a message at 425.252.0926.

**Everett Firefighters Hall
2411 Hewitt Avenue, Everett**

Granite Falls Motocross Hearing

Hearing starts at 9 AM on February 3 with PAS submitting our State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) co-appeal. Public comment begins 1 PM on Feb 4 and 6 PM on Feb 5 at the Robert J. Drewel (Administration East) Building on the Snohomish County campus, 3000 Rockefeller Avenue, in Everett.

You can help by attending this hearing, whether or not you choose to testify. See the Forest Practices page on our website for full details.

In This Issue

About.....	2	President's Message.....	2
Conservation	4	Smart Growth.....	1,5
Festivals.....	3	Trip Calendar.....	3

President's Message

Kathleen Snyder, Pilchuck Audubon Society President



I have some very good news! Through a donation earlier this year by the late Elsie Sorgenfrei, the City of Snohomish was able to purchase 20 acres of privately-owned wetlands through which Cemetery Creek flows before it joins the Snohomish River. This property is located just north of the newly-designated Riverview Wildlife Refuge which Pilchuck Audubon members helped to develop. With this purchase, the refuge acquires an amazingly productive wetland used by birds and wildlife now, and maybe salmon in the future. Refuge trails will look over the wetlands but will not enter them, so the area will be protected as wildlife habitat. This is the perfect compliment to the refuge which should evolve into an even more wonderful birding destination.

In another PAS project, we have contracted with Gary Slater of Ecostudies Institute to design a bird survey for Leque Island. As you may know, Leque Island is owned by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW). They will be removing the dikes and restoring the area to tidal marshland. This will benefit salmon but will change the existing habitat that migrating shorebirds, raptors and passerines find so enticing. Dike removal and restoration projects are becoming more common in an attempt to save wild salmon populations in the Salish Sea. There is very little data on how these

projects affect bird populations. Gary's survey design tracks pre-and post-restoration birds for two years each. The design has been submitted to Ducks Unlimited (the grantee on this project) and WDFW. They are pursuing funds to run this survey as well as others on vegetation, soils, other wildlife, etc. If funded, this survey could inform how future dike removal restoration projects will proceed. If you are interested in reading the survey proposal, please contact me. Also, **Allen Gibbs** and I will be on the Leque Island Stakeholders Committee which will give input into design alternatives.

We ended a banner year with the completion of our Christmas Bird Count (CBC). Warm thanks to our many, many volunteers who came out and counted birds in December. A full report will be in the February Profile. Our two compilers, **Duane Karna** and **Scott Atkinson**, deserve an extra huge thank you for all their work – finding and organizing volunteers, updating maps and team areas, participating in the count, and then sifting through and submitting mountains of data.

Finally, please take a moment to visit our website. We have a new photographer in our Photo Gallery – **Rick Brauer**. He has photos from various areas of the world. We are also featuring a poet on the Close Encounters page. I find Kay Robertson's poetry charming and I love her bird imagery. Enjoy!

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 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, nonprofit organization incorporated in the state of Washington.

Newsletter Submissions

Submit articles to newsletter@pilchuckaudubon.org

or mail to 1429 Avenue D, PMB 198, Snohomish, WA 98290-1742.

Submissions must be received by the 15th of the month preceding publication. We reserve the right to edit.

To contact Pilchuck Audubon Society, call 425.252.0926.

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

Board of Directors

President	Kathleen Snyder.....	president@pilchuckaudubon.org
Vice President	Terry Nightingale	vice-president@pilchuckaudubon.org
Secretary	Open.....	425.252.0926
Treasurer	Carolyn Lacy.....	360.668.2494
Conservation	Allen Gibbs.....	conservation@pilchuckaudubon.org
Membership Chair	Margaret Bridge.....	360.862.1694
Avian Science	Joan Poor.....	avianprojects@pilchuckaudubon.org
Development	Open	
Members at Large	Laurel Cheap....	classroom.awards@pilchuckaudubon.org
	Kathy Johnson.....	425.252.0926
	Jay Ward.....	425.418.3226
Consultant	David Gladstone	

Committee Chairs

Bird Sightings	Mara Price.....	backyard@pilchuckaudubon.org
Conservation Awards	Laurel Cheap....	classroom.awards@pilchuckaudubon.org
Education	Open.....	education@pilchuckaudubon.org
Field Trips	Art Wait.....	360.563.0181
Forest Practices	Kathy Johnson.....	forest@pilchuckaudubon.org
Hospitality	Virginia Clark.....	360.435.3750
Legal Advisor	Pete Dewell.....	206.281.8082
Newsletter Editor	Lindsey Cramer.....	newsletter@pilchuckaudubon.org
Program	Susie Schaefer.....	garden@pilchuckaudubon.org
Publicity	Judy Alles.....	360.793.1343
Volunteer Coordinator	Judy Chapman.....	volunteer@pilchuckaudubon.org
Webmaster	Carol Curtin.....	webmaster@pilchuckaudubon.org

Staff

Smart Growth	Kristin Kelly.....	425.923.8625
--------------	--------------------	--------------

© 2012 Pilchuck Audubon Society. All rights reserved. Printed in the USA. Opinions expressed are those of the credited writers and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Pilchuck Audubon Society.

Trip Calendar

Tuesday, January 7 **Camano Island**

Meet at 8 AM at the Quilceda Village Wal-Mart lot west of Marysville (I-5 exit 200). Park away from the store, to the east, near Quilceda Blvd (next to I-5). We will bird Triangle Cove, Eide Road, English Boom, Iverson Spit and wherever else Virginia prefers. Pack a lunch.
Trip Leader: Virginia Clark 360.435.3750

Tuesday, January 14 **Clear Lake and Debay Slough**

Meet at 8 AM at Quilceda Village Wal-Mart west of Marysville (I-5 Exit 200). Park away from store, to the east, near Quilceda Blvd and next to I-5. Swans, eagles, hawks and falcons. Pack a Lunch.
Trip Leader: Virginia Clark 360.435.3750

Tuesday, January 21 **Deception Pass, Campbell Lake, Rosario Beach, and Cranberry Lake**

Meet at 8 AM at Quilceda Village Wal-Mart 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, and LBJs. Pack a lunch.
Trip Leader: Virginia Clark 360.435.3750

Saturday, January 25 **Samish Flats**

Meet at 8 AM at Quilceda Village Wal-Mart, on the east side of the parking lot near I-5. We'll carpool to the Samish Flats in Skagit County to look for raptors like Peregrine Falcon, Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier, and more. No elevation gain. Dress warmly and bring rain gear, bird scopes, and your Discover Pass if you have it. Somewhere along the way, when the group gets hungry, we'll stop for lunch.
Trip Leader: Terry Nightingale 206.619.2383, tnight@pobox.com

Tuesday, January 28 **Guemes Island**

Meet at 8 AM at the Quilceda Village Wal-Mart lot west of Marysville (I-5 exit 200). Park away from the store, to the east, near Quilceda Blvd (next to I-5). Ride a tiny ferry, then relax and enjoy unique Guemes Island; its people, birds and dogs. Pack a lunch.
Trip Leader: Virginia Clark 360.435.3750



Save the Dates!
2014 Field Trips to Eastern Washington
Klickitat County May 16–18
Winthrop area June 12–15

These birding adventure trips are open to all and offer an opportunity to see birds we don't usually see in Snohomish County. On past trips, we've had fun looking at wildflowers and mammals too. Trips are limited to 12 people and only three cars and reservations are on a first sign up basis. More details to come. Contact Susie Schaefer at garden@pilchuckaudubon.org or 425.771.8165 to reserve a spot.

Community Events and Festivals

Check our calendar at www.pilchuckaudubon.org for the latest information

Skagit River Bald Eagle Interpretive Center **January Weekends** **Rockport**

The Skagit River Bald Eagle Awareness Team will be at the Skagit River Bald Eagle Interpretive Center (IC) each weekend during the traditional Bald Eagle visiting season, which extends through January 26, 2014. The IC offers watershed stewardship education and general information for Eastern Skagit County bald eagle watchers and all winter visitors. For more information, visit <http://www.skagiteagle.org>.

Native Plant Demo Garden Work Party **Saturday, January 4** **Edmonds**

Work party at the garden from 10 AM–1 PM. Garden is located at 95 Pine Street in Edmonds. You are very welcome to join us. Tools, gloves, and training are provided, so no experience is necessary. For more information about the event, contact Susie Schaefer at garden@pilchuckaudubon.org or 425.771.8165.

Raptor Class **January 7–February 4** **Padilla Bay**

This class will teach about different kinds of raptors, emphasizing field identification and the particularly fascinating element of winter behavior. Instructor Bud Anderson has studied raptors for over 35 years and has an incredible knowledge of local populations and peregrine falcons.

This five week class meets Tuesdays from 7–9 PM at the Breazeale Interpretive Center, with the exception of a Saturday field trip. The class fee is \$175 per person. To register, send check or money order to the Falcon Research Group, PO Box 248, Bow, WA 98232. For details on the curriculum, call 360.428.1558.

Winter Wings Festival **February 13–16** **Klamath Falls, Oregon**

One of the oldest birding festivals in the country, highlighting the beauty of the high desert winter in the Klamath Basin. Hundreds of eagles and other raptors as well as thousands of ducks, geese, and swans on the six National Wildlife Refuges. Birding, photography, and other activities for all ages and skill levels. Events details can be found at <http://winterwingsfest.org>.

Snow Goose Festival **February 23–23** **Stanwood**

Save these dates on your calendar! This event is co-sponsored by Pilchuck Audubon and features great field trips, lectures, art and marketplace. It's also a great way to entertain out-of-town guests. More information will be available in the February Profile. Further details about the festival are available at <http://www.snowgoosefest.org>.

Conservation Committee News

By Allen Gibbs, Conservation Chair

Island Crossing

The Herald story on December 16 by Chris Winters stated that the Washington Department of Transportation (WSDOT) and the Stillaguamish Flood Control District have filed a lawsuit after an Arlington city hearing examiner decided to give Dwayne Lanes' Arlington Chevrolet a conditional use permit to build a new 4.5 acre lot on land adjacent to I-5. The flood control district seeks to extinguish the original permit granting decision. It cites the potential flooding of I-5 and failure to consider adverse effects upon fish habitat, public health and safety.

PAS, along with Futurewise, the Flood Control District, and farmers in the area, tried for years to stop the conversion of this agricultural land into commercial use. In 1995, the county adopted its first ever Comprehensive Land Use Plan under the Growth Management Act. Rezoning of upland farmland to residential and commercial use occurred in exchange for keeping the river valley farmland intact. Island Crossing was part of the mix to be rezoned to commercial but that was stopped for 15 years through appeals by PAS and others.

Changes to the County Council some years ago resulted in the original decisions retaining the farmland to be reversed by the council and courts and Arlington annexed the area. Dwayne Lane sought a rezone which was appealed. The hearing examiner ruled in Dwayne Lane's favor and it is that decision which is being appealed to the Superior Court. PAS is not party to the lawsuit.

Thanks to **Kristin Kelly** for providing the background information.

Washington State Audubon Conservation Committee (WSACC) News

As a member of Environmental Priorities Coalition (EPC), the Washington Audubon's priorities for the 2014 legislative session include closing the oil tax loophole and oil spill prevention. Closing the loophole would eliminate a discount received by oil companies. With the addition of new proposals for expanded oil transport by trains and barges, the EPC will be advocating for improved oil spill prevention planning and the addition of tug boats in Grays Harbor.

Legislative News

Nick Harper's resignation as state senator from the 38th legislative district produced a domino effect. Representative John McCoy was appointed to fill out Harper's term and June Robinson was appointed to fill out McCoy's term.

Around the Sound

Sad news from the Dungeness River Audubon Center in Sequim. Due to a broken sprinkler pipe, the center was flooded. The large taxidermy collection of birds and wildlife has been rescued with minimal damage but some of the nature mural had to be removed. The mural is by artist Tim Quinn, completed several years before his death in 2009.

Head to www.pilchuckaudubon.org, under Advocacy to read news about annual Washington State Audubon Conservation Committee's resolutions and priorities. Do you want to receive 2014 Legislative Alerts? Contact me at agibbspr@gmail.com.

Western Shorebird Survey Thank You From David Hope

Simon Fraser University

I'm writing to express my thanks for your assistance in the shorebird surveys this year. With your help we were able to conduct surveys at 42 sites in British Columbia and Washington. Many of these sites had enough volunteer support to be surveyed during both July and August. The achievements of our volunteers far exceeded our initial goals. The generosity and enthusiasm displayed by the volunteers was overwhelming. July was not an easy month to survey as the numbers of sandpipers passing through the Salish Sea region was relatively low and most sites had few or no sandpipers. I must thank you for sticking with the surveys despite the lack of sandpipers! Sometimes it can be tough to see the point when you are looking at an empty mudflat but the sites with zeroes are very important to our study. Fortunately, August brought more juvenile sandpipers and even a few falcons.

In brief, Western Sandpipers (WESA) were observed in 63 separate surveys and at 25 sites. Only 20 surveys in July recorded WESA, with peak count of 750 at Roberts Bank. In August, WESA were recorded on 43 surveys with peak number of 2000 counted at Boundary Bay. One volunteer surveyor observed a banded juvenile Western Sandpiper at Sidney Island on August 17 and re-sighted it on August 18. After follow up, researchers from Kansas State University confirmed they had banded it as a chick on June 28 in Nome, Alaska. You can read a bit more about that at <http://www.bsc-eoc.org/organization/newsarchive/9-13-13.html>.

Looking ahead to 2014, our plan is to survey at the same sites in July and August. While we don't have specific dates, they will be around the same time as this year. We will be sending around a request for volunteers in the new year, so keep us in mind when you are planning your 2014 summer. We will also be holding a volunteer refresher/training session in June.

Smart Growth...

(Continued from page 1)

Livable Snohomish County Coalition (LSCC) Summit

In October, we held the 4th Summit and County Council Candidate Forum in Everett. It was sponsored by Pilchuck Audubon Society and Growing Transit Communities. Co-sponsors were Futurewise, League of Women Voters of Snohomish County, Transition Port Gardner, Snohomish Group of Sierra Club and KSER 90.7 FM Community Radio. Approximately 200 people attended. One keynote speaker was Dr. Andrew L. Dannenberg, Affiliate Professor at the University of Washington. His presentation introduced Walkscore and the Health Impact Assessment Tool. This uses a variety of data from stakeholders to determine how a proposed policy or project will affect the health of the population and provides recommendations on monitoring those effects.

The other keynote speaker was Sarah Maxana, Principle Planner at Puget Sound Regional Council. She spoke on Growing Transit Communities in Snohomish County and the Equity Challenge. Both of those presentations can be found on the LSCC website at www.livablesnohomish.org. The breakout sessions covered many topics including climate change impacts, neighborhood organizing, backyard wildlife habitats, Snohomish County's 2015 update of the comprehensive land use plan, urban farming, affordable housing, and the Growth Management Act.

Highway 99 Small Business Survey

In 2023, the Sound Transit Link Light Rail commuter line will head north along I-5 from Northgate to Lynnwood. It is anticipated that in the next three to five years, Snohomish County voters will decide whether to fund the commuter rail from Lynnwood to Everett. If approved, the commuter rail could be built on the Highway 99 corridor, which will encourage redevelopment of those residential areas and businesses. As part of a Growing Transit Communities grant, I surveyed small business owners at four Community Transit SWIFT stops on future transit oriented development (TOD) opportunities. I focused on minority businesses, primarily Vietnamese, Korean, and Latino.

2015 Comprehensive Plan Update

I was involved in five parts of the plan process:

1. Supported the county's Buildable Lands Report, a document required under the Growth Management Act every 5 years. This is a snapshot of available land for future growth in the county's urban growth rural areas.
2. Commented to the Snohomish County Council on key policy issues as part of the comprehensive plan update.
3. Commented to Snohomish County Tomorrow on

our positions regarding several important land use policies.

4. Commented to Snohomish County Council on the Regional Growth Strategy and population targets for the comprehensive plan update.

5. Commented to the Snohomish County Planning Department regarding our position on SEPA scoping for the comprehensive plan update. I recommended the alternative that aligns with Vision 2040 and that other environmental impacts be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Looking Ahead to 2014

I will be focusing on three main issues in the coming year:

1. 2015 Comprehensive Plan Update
2. Critical Areas Ordinance Update
3. Sustainable Lands Strategy

There will be many opportunities for public involvement in these processes and I will be working everyday to keep you informed through Smart Growth Reports, emails and action alerts. We will work together to ensure the strongest protections for sustainable communities and protection of our resource lands, wildlife habitat and water quality.

Puget Sound Shorebird Study

Thank You from Gary Slater

Ecostudies Institute

Thanks to you, we successfully completed the 2nd annual winter Puget Sound Shorebird Survey. We were able to add new sites on Whidbey Island and in the South Puget Sound and we figured out the best tides for surveys at Padilla and Samish Bay. Even the weather cooperated! Once I receive all the data, I will summarize and post the results for everyone. At first glance, it looks like we will come close to the 15,000 shorebirds counted last year. We also had quite a few species not recorded last year, including Western and Least Sandpipers and Semipalmated Plovers.

Also, Bird Note joined observers at a site and recorded a story about our survey. Bird Note creates short two minute stories on birds which can be heard on KPLU and other radio stations across the country. It is scheduled to air in January.

Thanks again for your time and commitment to shorebird conservation. The project would not be possible without you. Happy birding!



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..... \$ _____

Make checks payable to
Pilchuck Audubon Society

Mail to PAS
1429 Avenue D, PMB 198
Snohomish, WA 98290-1742

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

HELP NEEDED

Pilchuck Audubon is in need to one person to work with our database. If you have any experience with data entry and some time to volunteer, please contact Kathleen Snyder at president@pilchuckaudubon.org.