



Pilchuck Audubon Profile

Published by Pilchuck Audubon Society Volume 39, Number 9 September, 2012
www.pilchuckaudubon.org

New education chair offers birding classes

By Candy Brown, Education Chair, Pilchuck Audubon Society

My name is Candy Brown and I have a deep passion for birds. I'm delighted you are interested in these fascinating creatures and want to learn more about them.

A little about me: education has always been an important part of my life. It was my major in college. I spent 26 years in banking, most of it in the training department teaching adults. I began volunteering at PAWS in 1998, caring for baby birds and training volunteers. I was also on staff at PAWS, as wild bird care supervisor, for several years.

I developed and have taught birding classes for Edmonds Parks Department since 2003. To further enhance my bird studies, I began volunteering for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife in 2012. My backyard, in Edmonds, is a certified Wildlife Sanctuary and I've counted 60+ bird species there. I look forward to hearing your bird stories, as well as sharing mine.

Class descriptions and schedule

Backyard Birds: Enhance your understanding of common birds and improve your ability to identify them. Includes basics of anatomy, migration, reproduction, foods and foraging. Designed for adult beginning birders, but children age 12+ are welcome.

September 12 in Edmonds, 7-8:30 p.m.
September 18 in Marysville, 7-8:30 p.m.

Pacific Northwest Birds: Hone your bird identification skills as you learn more about the different birds and habitats of the Puget Sound region including raptors, owls, and birds of forests, fields, water, cities, parks and yards. Prior completion of Candy Brown's Backyard Birds class is recommended.

November 13 in Marysville, 7-8:30 p.m.
November 15 in Edmonds, 7-8:30 p.m.

Birds are Awesome! Class for kids. Find out what makes the birds of the Pacific Northwest so awesome! Class begins with a slide presentation of several common, interesting birds that live in local backyards and parks. You will also learn basic bird facts including anatomy, migration and nests. The hour will conclude with a fun, interactive bird activity. Parents attend for free. Class is only offered in Marysville.

September 15 in Marysville, 10-11:30 a.m.

Birdwatching is Awesome! Class for kids. Let's go birdwatching! You will learn how to use binoculars (that we provide) and we will begin at the Edmonds beach, looking for and identifying water birds. We will then walk across the street to the Edmonds Marsh, looking for raptors, blackbirds and more. Included will be many awesome, interesting facts about the birds we see! Parents attend for free. Class is only offered in Edmonds.

September 22 in Edmonds, 8 a.m.-9:30 a.m.

For more information or to register, contact the Marysville Parks Department: www.marysvillewa.gov or 360.363.8400. Contact the Edmonds Parks Department at www.reczone.org or 425.771.0230.

Join us at the opening ceremony of
Puget Sound Bird Fest!

Friday, September 7, 7 p.m.

Owls of Washington with Paul Bannick

Paul Bannick is an award-winning wildlife photographer specializing in the natural history of North America with a focus on birds and habitat. Coupling his love of the outdoors with his skill as a photographer, he creates images that foster the intimacy between viewer and subject, inspiring education and conservation.

Special location – September only!

The Edmonds Plaza Room, 650 Main Street, above the Edmonds Library

For more information, call 425.252.0926

Watch www.pilchuckaudubon.org
for the most up-to-date information.

Smart Growth Report available online

Snohomish County and its cities are starting to plan for the next major Land Use Comprehensive Plan Update. This update is mandated by the Growth Management Act and must be adopted in early 2015.

Kristin Kelly, PAS Smart Growth Director, is following the process. She will offer testimony at committee meetings and keep members informed and involved in advocating for policies that make environmental sense. One program of particular importance to us is the countywide Transfer-of-Development-Rights Program, which allows developers to buy development "credits" from farmers in an effort to keep farmland in agricultural production.

Kristin describes this program more fully in her Smart Growth Report, which you can read at www.pilchuckaudubon.org, under the Smart Growth tab.

If you're interested in the program, but don't have Internet access, please call Kristin at 425.923.8625.

What's up with recycling, anyway?

By Mike Blackbird, President Emeritus, Pilchuck Audubon Society

On a Monday afternoon in late July, I pushed my bin of recyclables to the curb for Tuesday's pickup. However, with the Waste Management drivers on strike, I realized returning an empty recycle bin to my garage Tuesday afternoon probably wasn't realistic. Having the recycling bin emptied every other week has become routine in Snohomish County. It was frustrating to have my routine interrupted and to think of the recycling piling up in my garage.

But, it did get me thinking about something: what's up with recycling, anyway?

I suspect most Pilchuck Audubon members understand the reasons for recycling: making used materials into new products prevents waste, less incineration reduces energy use and air pollution, less garbage in landfills means reduced water pollution and more.

Perhaps not everyone realizes recycling isn't a new concept. In fact, recycling has been a common practice for most of human history – as far back as Plato in 400 BC. Archaeological studies of ancient waste dumps show little household waste, which implies it was being recycled in the absence of new material.

Beginning in the 14th century (and lasting for several generations), marble, stones and bricks were taken from the Coliseum in Rome. In fact, many churches and palaces of the time were built with materials from the Coliseum – including stone for the Vatican and the walls of Rome. In Europe in pre-industrial times, scrap bronze and other metals were collected and melted down for perpetual reuse. In Britain, "dustmen" collected dust from wood and coal fires to make bricks.

My parents spoke of a government campaign during WWII to donate and recycle metals and fiber as a patriotic endeavor. Once the war was won, Americans began to strive for a middle class life of consumption and the recycling momentum waned.

In the 1970s, rising energy costs caused a resurrection in recycling. Recycling aluminum uses only 5 percent of the energy required to produce it new. Big city governments began to realize that landfill sites were filling too fast and new sites were limited. Circumstances indicated that recycling programs, while not totally alleviating the problem, would extend the life of landfills.

So, local governments began to embrace recycling. Some states passed laws requiring a 5-cent deposit on bottles and cans. And, there were people who would pick up discarded items to return for the 5-cent deposit. It's estimated that a simple 5-cent deposit resulted in an 80 percent recycling rate.

Edward Abbey's environmental credentials are without reproach. But, in one of his books, his protagonist threw empty beer cans out his car window as he drove across the Arizona desert. He rationalized the desert highway was a greater contributor to pollution than an empty beer can. He further rationalized that he was just helping retired folks supplement their Social Security.

Regardless of the positive aspects of effective recycling programs, they aren't without vehement critics. Case in point: another way to increase the supply of recyclates is to ban the disposal of certain materials – such as used oil, old batteries and tires.

Some years ago, there was a battery-recycling bill before the Idaho legislature. It would ban car batteries from state landfills – not just because of the environmental hazards, but also because it would extend the life of landfills.

State Senator Stan Hawkins (R-Neanderthal) declared Idaho didn't need to worry about extending the life of landfills because Idaho had lots of wide open spaces. Jim Fisher, political editor for the Lewiston *Tribune*, summed it up best when he wrote that the biggest wide-open space in Idaho was between Senator Hawkins' ears.

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 pas.profile@pilchuckaudubon.org or mail to 1429 Avenue D, PMB 198, Snohomish, WA 98290. Submissions must be received by the fifth of the month preceding publication. We reserve the right to edit.

To contact Pilchuck Audubon Society, call 425.252.0926.

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



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Trip calendar

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

Tuesday, September 4 Point Roberts, USA, and Boundary Bay, BC

Meet at 7 a.m. at Quilceda Village Walmart west of Marysville (I-5, exit 200). Park away from the store, to the east, near Quilceda Blvd. and next to I-5. Bring your passport or enhanced driver's license, as we will be crossing the US/Canada border. Shorebirds, waterfowl, seabirds, raptors and maybe a puffin or phalarope. Pack a lunch.

Leader: Virginia Clark, 360.435.3750

Tuesday, September 11 Camano Island

Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Quilceda Village Walmart lot west of Marysville (I-5, exit 200). Park away from the store, to the east, near Quilceda Blvd. and next to I-5. We'll bird Eide Road, English Boom, Iverson Spit, Triangle Cove and points in-between and elsewhere. Pack a lunch.

Leader: Virginia Clark, 360.435.3750

Sunday, September 16 Mercer Slough canoe trip, Bellevue

Meet at 8 a.m. at Everett Mall – in the back, near the transit facility by LA Fitness. Canoe trip starts at 8:45. Limit is 10 participants. Four people have signed up so far, so we're looking for six more. Cost is \$16 per person. Call to register early with me. I will pay the group registration fee in advance. Please mail your check to PAS at 1429 Ave D, PMB 198, Snohomish, WA 98290. Please let me know, as well, so that I can have a roster when the trip is filled. First come, first served. This will be led by the Bellevue Park rangers who are lifeguards, naturalists and canoe instructors. They will lecture about the natural history and cultural history of the area. We'll stop on the way home for a socializing over lunch.

Leader: Jonathan Blubaugh, 425.244.7633, aracfi@msn.com

Tuesday, September 18 Deception Pass, Lake Campbell, Rosario Beach, Cranberry Lake

Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Quilceda Village Walmart west of Marysville (I-5, exit 200). Park away from the store, to the east, near Quilceda Blvd. and next to I-5. Oystercatchers, loons, mergansers, LBJs, etc. Pack a lunch.

Leader: Virginia Clark, 360.435.3750

Tuesday, September 25 Sequim area

Meet at 7:20 a.m. at the Willow Creek Hatchery, 95 Pine Street, Edmonds. Pine Street crosses Edmonds Way (SR 104) in downtown Edmonds. Turn west off 104 to Pine St. We'll take the ferry to Kingston and bird the voyage, the docks, go through Port Gamble and across the Hood Canal Floating Bridge. We'll bird Sequim Bay, Dungeness Recreational Area and whatever else we fancy. Lots of waterfowl, shorebirds and surprises. Sandhill Cranes one year. Bring a lunch.

Leaders: Virginia Clark, 360.435.3750, Art Wait, 360.563.0181

Friday, Oct. 5 Mushroom hike with Greg Hovander

By popular demand, the mushroom hike is back! Meet at 9 a.m. at the Sultan Park and Ride for an all-day hike with mycologist and pharmacist Greg Hovander. Greg is a walking encyclopedia of mycological knowledge. Not only can he identify hundreds of fungal species, but he can tell you their medicinal qualities, their nutritional value and cooking methods. And, on top of that, he is a *fun guy!*

This year, we'll hike the Deception Creek trail west of Stevens Pass, starting from the long Tonga Ridge Road, #6830. The

first few hours we'll proceed at a leisurely pace, collecting and identifying fungi. Greg will hike on to a backcountry camp for a research project. There'll be an option for a longer hike. Or, you may return at your own pace.

Space is limited to 12, so contact Kathy as soon as possible to reserve your spot.

Leader: Kathy Johnson, 360.659.7252 or katherine@earthlink.net

Saturday, October 6 Parks and wetlands near the King-Snohomish county line

Meet at 8 a.m. at Everett Mall – in the back, near the transit facility by LA Fitness. We'll visit Terrace Creek Park (a mile of surprisingly secluded forest in the heart of Mountlake Terrace), Kenmore's Log Boom Park on the north shore of Lake Washington, Wallace Swamp Creek Park in Bothell, and, if there's time, Bothell's North Creek Trail. Somewhere along the way, when the group gets hungry, we'll stop for lunch.

Leader: Terry Nightingale, 206.619.2383, tnight@pobox.com

Sunday, October 21 Fidalgo Island, Deception Pass

Details to come.

Leader: Jonathan Blubaugh, 425.244.7633, aracfi@msn.com

Saturday, November 3 Green Lake

Meet at 8 a.m. at Everett Mall – in the back, near the transit facility by LA Fitness. We'll carpool to Green Lake in Seattle and walk the wide, paved trail, which is about 3 miles. No elevation gain. This time of year, the waterfowl activity will be plentiful. Bring bird scopes if you have them. Somewhere along the way, we'll stop for lunch.

Leader: Terry Nightingale, 206.619.2383, tnight@pobox.com

Notice to field trip participants: Field trips are open to members and non-members alike. No advance notice required unless otherwise stated in the trip description. Trips go, rain or shine. However, in case of snow or ice, contact trip leader! Bring a sack lunch, beverage, binoculars, scope and field guide if you have them. If not, we'll share. Please, no perfume or cologne. Be prepared to share gas money with carpool drivers. Pets, even leashed, are prohibited on field trips. Please leave them at home.

Help wanted: newsletter editor

Pilchuck Audubon Society is looking for a new newsletter editor. The PAS Board assembled a committee to evaluate the current newsletter, as well as the newsletters of other chapters of like size. The committee determined there are ways to incorporate some newsletter content on the web site, which means the newsletter can be scaled down a bit.

If you're interested in learning more about this volunteer opportunity, please contact Kathleen Snyder at 425.438.1505. Asking for more information won't be taken as a commitment to take the job.

Events and festivals

Puget Sound Bird Fest

September 7-9

Edmonds

Plan on being in Edmonds September 7-9, for the eighth annual Puget Sound Bird Fest. This three-day event includes speakers, guided walks, land and water-based field trips, exhibits and educational activities for children and adults.

Friday evening features an opening reception and keynote address by Paul Bannick, bird and nature photographer.

Saturday field trips include a morning birding cruise on Puget Sound with the Edmonds Yacht Club. There will be workshops and presentations all day Saturday at the Frances Anderson Center featuring bird photography, basic to advanced birding techniques, choosing and using bird feeders and nest boxes and current research on Puget Sound bird species. On Sunday, there will be more guided walks and activities at the Willow Creek Hatchery Wildlife Habitat and Native Plant Demonstration Garden.

Visit www.pugetsoundbirdfest.org for more information.

Swift Night Out

September 15

Monroe

Mark your calendars for Saturday, September 15, so you don't miss the return of the Vaux's Swifts to the Frank Wagner chimney in Monroe as they migrate south for the winter. Celebrate the arrival of one of the largest congregations of Vaux's Swifts in North America and see thousands of the small birds squeeze into a 31-foot tall, 4-foot square chimney ... in just minutes. As many as 26,000 Vaux's Swifts have been observed entering this chimney in one evening! We hope to have a large turnout of swifts on September 15.

The event runs from 5 p.m. until dusk. There will be booths with informative displays and nature-related items. One booth allows children and adults to touch actual bird "skins" and to compare the sizes of different species of birds. There will be activities for children, plus food and refreshments for all.

Docents will answer questions from 6-8 p.m. If you are an experienced birder and would like to docent on this evening, please contact Judy Alles at 360.793.1343.

Bring a blanket, a folding chair or just sit on the lawn to watch the swifts' aerial performances. You'll be glad you did!

Bird-a-thon 2012 in the books

Bird-a-thon 2012 raised a little more than \$2,650 to support PAS' important educational and conservation work. The total number of participants was way down this year. It would be great to have more next year.

We again owe a big thank you to merchants who donated prizes, including the Everett Fred Meyer store, QFC in Mukilteo, Wild Birds Unlimited of Everett and the Wild Bird Nest store in Lynnwood. Please patronize these generous businesses and, if you have an opportunity, thank them for their continuing support of PAS.

Audubon membership information

Joint membership in National Audubon Society (NAS) and Pilchuck Audubon Society (PAS) includes NAS's quarterly magazine *Audubon* and PAS's *Profile* e-newsletter for one year. Cost is \$20 for an Introductory Membership or \$35 for renewals. When you join National Audubon Society, you automatically become a member of PAS. **All PAS membership dues are tax-deductible.* The PAS tax ID number is 96-6183664.**

PAS receives only a small portion of your national dues to support the work of the chapter. If you do not want to be a national member or you want your dues to stay local, you can join PAS separately. Local membership in PAS includes a one-year subscription (12 issues) to PAS's *Profile* newsletter. Cost is \$28. A special limited income category is available for \$16.

Local PAS membership

- New member \$28
- Renewal \$28
- Lifetime PAS member \$1000
 - 10 monthly payments of \$100
 - 4 quarterly payments of \$250
 - 1 payment of \$1000
- Donation \$ _____

Make check payable to:
Pilchuck Audubon Society

Mail your check and this form to:
PAS Membership Chair
1429 Avenue D, PMB 198
Snohomish, WA 98290

NAS membership

(includes PAS membership)

- Introductory membership \$20

Make check payable to:
National Audubon Society

Mail your check and this form to:
PAS Membership Chair
1429 Avenue D, PMB 198
Snohomish, WA 98290

NAS renewal

(includes PAS renewal)

- Renewal \$35

Make check payable to:
National Audubon Society

Mail your check and this form to:
NAS, Membership Data Center
POB 420235
Palm Coast, Florida 32142

- Contact me about volunteer opportunities.
- I am interested in the Conservation Committee.

* Consult your tax professional for full details.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____