

*NOTE: New Winter Hours

Calendar of Events

January/February 2010

See www.vashonaudubon.org for details on events listed below



Island Wings

— to enjoy, learn about & preserve the diverse natural habitat of these islands & beyond

Island Audubon Field Trip
Sat., Jan. 9th, 9:00 - 11:00 am
(Winter hours). Drop in, no charge and no experience necessary. Meet at Ober Park & Ride. Bring binoculars or scope if you have them. Contact Alan Huggins at alanhugs@comcast.net

Enjoyment of Birds Classes
Wed., Jan. 13th, Feb. 10 and Mar. 10th
ongoing classes continue from 7:00 – 9:00 pm at Land Trust Bldg., 10014 SW Bank Rd. Corresponding field trips will be held for each class. Drop-ins are welcome at \$10 per class. For more information contact Alan Huggins: alanhugs@comcast.net

Vashon Audubon Program
Wed., Jan 20th, 7:00-9:00 pm
Lyanda Lynn Haupt, Author of *Crow Planet: Essential Wisdom from the Urban Wilderness*. Free, at Land Trust Bldg., 10014 SW Bank Rd.

Full Moon Beach Walk
Fri., January 29th, 2007, 8:00-10:00 pm.
Meet at North End Ferry Dock. See details on Page 3.

Island Audubon Field Trips
Sat., Feb. 13th, 9:00 - 11:00 am (Winter hours). Drop in, no charge and no experience necessary. Meet at Ober Park & Ride. Bring binoculars or scope

if you have them. Contact Alan Huggins at alanhugs@comcast.net

Tokeland Weekend Excursion
Feb. 26-28, This weekend trip to the coast is planned around high tides to provide an up close and personal encounter with hundreds of shorebirds including Marbled godwits, Willets, Curlews, Loons, Grebes, Herons and many others. Please contact Mary Ann at mannmcc@hotmail.com by January 20 if you are interested in attending and/or for more information.

Lyanda Lynn Haupt, Author of *Crow Planet*

Wednesday, January 20, 2010

Submitted by Laura Bienen

Denis Hayes, national coordinator for the first Earth Day and President/CEO of the Bullitt Foundation writes this about our January 20, 2010 Audubon program speaker and her most recent book: "Lyanda Haupt observes crows with a naturalist's eye and discovers that they are smart, social, and disturbingly like us. Your strolls around your neighborhood will be much more interesting after you read this book". Another author and reviewer, Paul Hawken, compares Haupt to Thoreau as follows: "If you picture Henry David Thoreau as a young mother and scientist in suburban Seattle, you can begin to imagine the literate elegance of *Crow Planet*. Lyanda Haupt has spun the natural life of neighborhoods, and most poignantly the surpassing intelligence of crows, into the kind of gold only the most gifted writer and naturalist could fashion. *Crow Planet* is a small treasure, a conversion experience of truth, wit, and re-enchancement that remakes the world and our place within it."

Lyanda Lynn Haupt has garnered a sheaf of glowing reviews of her latest book *Crow Planet:*

Essential Wisdom from the Urban Wilderness. Library Journal writes: "Haupt delivers a delightful meditation on our role in the natural world. By focusing on the proliferation of the American crow, she provides a rich

context for exploring the relationship between humans and nature." And Kirkus Review says: "Haupt... writes gracefully about the interactions between crows and humans in the urban landscape and what those interactions portend for the future of the zoopolis—a fresh take on conscious living in the everyday world".



She is also the author of two previous highly acclaimed books, *Rare Encounters with Ordinary Birds* which won the 2002 Washington State Book Award, and *Pilgrim on the Great Bird Continent, The Importance of Everything and Other Lessons from Darwin's Last Notebooks*. Haupt's work has also appeared in many other publications including *Utne, Image, Open Spaces, Wild Earth Journal, Conservation Biology Journal, Birdwatchers Digest, and The Prairie Naturalist*.

Lyanda Haupt has created and directed educational programs for Seattle Audubon, worked in raptor rehabilitation in Vermont, and as a seabird researcher for the Fish and Wildlife Service in the remote tropical Pacific. She lives in Seattle with her husband and daughter, and their mixed backyard chicken flock.

Please join us at the Vashon Maury Island Land Trust Building, 10014 SW Bank Rd at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, January 20, 2010 for this free program.

Celebrate 20 Years of Vashon Audubon

Our Audubon chapter was founded 20 years ago by a band of Vashon nature activists. At our January 20th Program meeting, we'll celebrate what they accomplished. Come honor our 20 years. Bring your own memories to share (photos, clippings or other Audubon history if you have them).

Vashon Maury Island Audubon Society Board Members

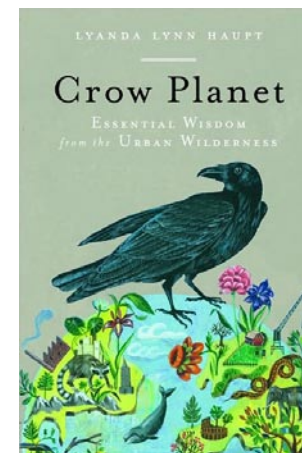
- Randy Smith, President
- John Friars, Vice-President
- Mary O'Brien, Secretary
- Lindsay Hofman, Treasurer
- Michelle Ramsden, Conservation
- Kathryn True, Education
- Amy Kitchener, Membership
- Laura Bienen, Programs
- Ann Spiers, Volunteer Coordinator
- John Arum, Member at large
- Barbara Chasan, Member at large

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Please visit the Vashon-Maury Island Audubon Society (VMIAS) website at www.vashonaudubon.org to learn more about programs, field trips and volunteer opportunities or submit your own birding stories, tips and photos. Contact Mary Ann McCarty at mannmcc@hotmail.com.

Support Vashon's Audubon Society by renewing your membership at http://www.vashonaudubon.org/media/VMIAS_membership.pdf.

Vashon-Maury Island Audubon Society
P.O. Box 838
Vashon Island, WA
98070



Twentieth Anniversary Praises for Vashon-Maury Island Audubon Society

Submitted by Ann Spiers



Hazel Wolf

In 1989, Islander Emma Amiad knew to phone Seattle Audubon Secretary Hazel Wolf to kick start the Vashon-Maury Island Audubon Chapter. Wolf, by then a national icon in environmental justice and conservation, has initiated twenty-two local Audubon chapters. But with Amiad in the lead, Vashon needed little help. Using Wolf's list of Islanders belonging to Seattle Audubon, Amiad phoned the list, set up a meeting, and invited Wolf.

Wolf arrived, presented her pitch, and then watched as Vashon launched its Audubon chapter. As was Wolf's habit, she studied the meeting's attendees then picked a few sparky souls to be officers—temporarily, until the chapter formed officially, she cajoled, knowing that once netted, many folks commit long term. And that commitment built our chapter over the last 20 years to now include approximately 200 members.

Our chapter's activities fulfill its mission—to enjoy, learn about and preserve natural habitat of these islands and beyond. Below is a partial summary of the most enduring activities. Unfortunately due to space, we cannot list the names of all the dreamers, helpers, donors, and planners. The year in parentheses indicates the activity's first year.

You love what you know, so education tops the chapter's list. Adult bird identification classes include years of Basic Birding (1999), Birding by Ear (1998), and Enjoyment of Birds (2006). Hands-on and field-tripping, more than 1,800 Island fourth graders engage in the Marine Bird Program which earned the 2007 Washington Audubon's Outstanding Education Award (1990). Booths at Strawberry Festival and other events offer chapter information, birding tips, and fund-raising book and gift sales. An annual scholarship is awarded to an Island high school graduate (2004). At the State ferry docks, seabird interpretive posters are posted (2008).

Adding enjoyment to education, the chapter sponsors evening programs presenting authors, photographers, and scientists on birdy issues. Family-focused Low Tide Festival, Full Moon Tide Walks, and dock dives draw attention to the salty shore (2006). Field Trips on and off Island bring groups into the birds' territory (1989). Not chapter activities but notable are past chapter president

Ed Swan's column "For the Birds" column in *The Loop* and on vashonaudubon.org. His *Birds of Vashon* (2005) covers Island ecology and birding spots.

Championing the birds' home and health through conservation, the chapter is proud to help with the following: Rich Siegrist's Purple Martin Nesting boxes reintroduced the species to the Island resulting in a high of 86 pairs in 2005; Adopt-a-Road cleanups (1992); acquisition of Christensen Pond (2002, now under Land Trust auspices); All To Alliance for Tompotika Conservation in Indonesia (2005).

Defining our Island ecology, the chapter helped with Dan Willis's work on Western Grebes resulting in Quartermaster Harbor's designation as a National Audubon Important Bird Area (2001); Wildlife Inventory Checklists (1995); Landmark Trees Survey (1989); Vashon Stream Survey, reclassifying many streams as fish bearing (1999). Together master and apprentice birders conduct annual bird censuses: Breeding Bird Survey (1995) and Christmas Bird Count (1989). The Fourth of July Butterfly Count chases both West Coast Ladies and dragonflies (1996).

Communicating chapter opportunities relies on the chapter's webpage at www.vashonaudubon.org and *IslandWings*. For a complete chapter timeline and Rayna Holtz's detailed anniversary articles, read recent issues of *The Loop* or visit our website www.vashonaudubon.org.



Full Moon Beach Walk

Friday, January 29, 2007, 8:00 -10:00 pm



Take advantage of the low tide (-2.8 at 10:12 pm) to join circles of flashlight beams to peek at the shore's abundant and amazing life. Rocks and sand that are covered most of the year will lie exposed to view while the sea denizens remain happily cold and wet. Small groups will be led by Bob Fuerstenberg, Kathy Sider, Sandra Noel, Barbara Gustafson, Karlista Rickerson, Beth Lolley, Pam Wise, Daoud Miller, and the Vashon Beach Naturalists.

Bring flashlights, extra batteries, wading boots, warm hat, jacket, and dry gloves. We will gather at the top of the dock (across from La Playa Restaurant).

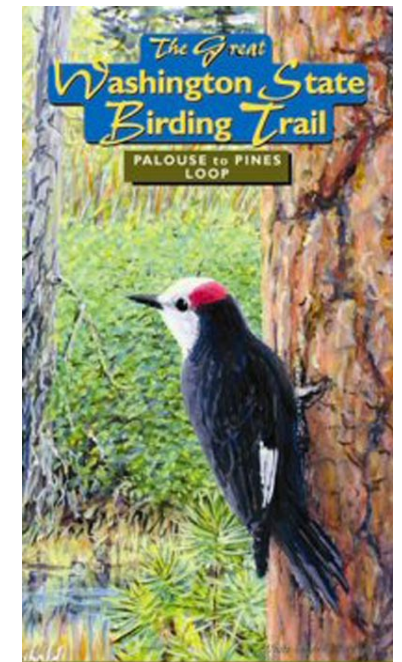
Please park in the ferry commuter lot on the hill (do not park in the La Playa lot!). For more information call Michelle 406-3723 or Rayna 463-3153.

Final Loop of Great Washington State Birding Trail Embraces Puget Sound

The Great Washington State Birding Trail strings together everyone's favorite birding places.

In early 2010, work will begin on the seventh and final route – this map that will complete the birding trail across Washington and will include the Puget Sound loop which covers Tahoma, Rainier, Vashon-Maury, Kitsap, Seattle, Eastside, Whidbey Island, and San Juan.

"Each loop of the birding trail is a strand of nature's gems," said Audubon's birding trail Program Director Christi Norman. "Every site on each of our five – soon to be six – maps embodies important habitat for our resident or migrating birds." For more information, contact Christi Norman, at cnorman@audubon.org.



You're Invited!

State Sen. Lisa Brown and Audubon Washington cordially invite you to the unveiling of the newest map of the *Great Washington State Birding Trail*, the *Palouse to Pines Loop*, and featuring LIVE BIRDS like those seen on this route: a Great Horned Owl and Red-tailed Hawk. January 26, 2010 from 12:45-1:00 p.m., Rooms ABC, Cherberg Building, State Capitol Campus, Olympia, WA. More information: cnorman@audubon.org.

VOLUNTEER TODAY!

4th Grade Birding Program at Chautauqua Elementary

Come help local fourth-graders get excited about birding. Fun way to learn more about local birds and support the school! There will be 5 one-half hour sessions on selected dates (TBD), February through March, at Chautauqua Elementary and KVI Beach. Volunteer for two or more hours. No need to commit to whole program. Contact Kathryn True 567-5389.