



# Island Wings

- to enjoy, learn about, & preserve the diverse natural habitats of these islands & beyond

Volume 18 Number 6

May-June 2008

PROGRAM

## The Great Windstorms of the Pacific Northwest

Dr. Cliff Mass

7pm, Thursday, May 22, 2008, Land Trust Building 10014 SW Bank Rd.

Contact: Laura Bienen 206 567-4613

Dr. Cliff Mass, UW atmospheric scientist and professor, presents the science behind "The Great Windstorms of the Pacific Northwest." How, what, why, and where of the famous storms are told dramatically and cogently. He is a grand story teller and classic lecturer.

For regular listeners of KUOW-FM, Mass's ten short minutes of weekly weather draws listeners on Fridays, 9:40am. Listeners enjoy Mass, who discusses the present weather and forecasts, all the while riffing about trends, oddities, and local and global science.

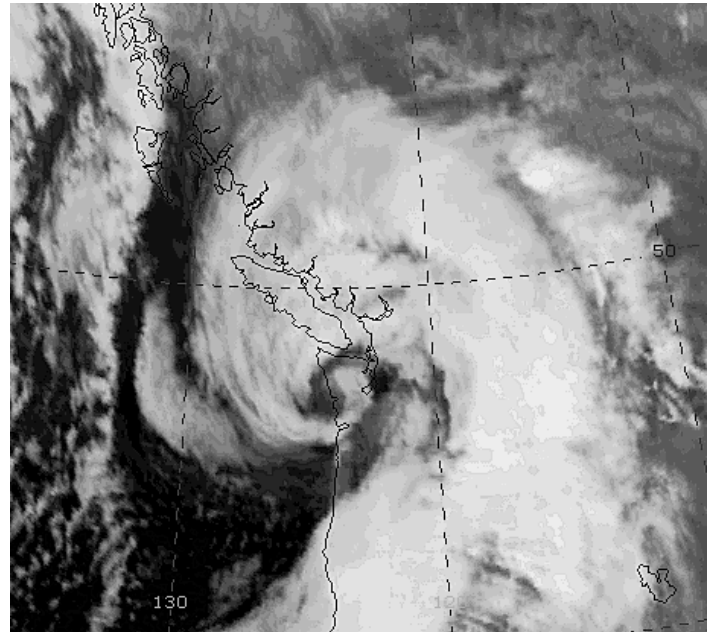
For those of us who shuddered as enormous trees creaked and protested (and in some cases gave up the fight to remain upright) all around our houses during the huge storm of December 2006, Mass's presentation on windstorms should be a welcome opportunity to put that recent storm event into historical perspective.

Soon to be published, Mass's upcoming book is titled *The Weather of the Pacific Northwest*.

Mass is an expert on the influence of topography on weather systems. His expertise includes the subjects of numerical modeling and weather prediction.

As usual, the program is free and all are welcome.

Submitted by Laura Bienen



Can you date this massive low with Vashon-Maury Island in its eye?

## Board Donates to State Audubon

**The Board of the Vashon Audubon chapter voted to donate to Audubon Washington \$1,000 each for 2007 and 2008, which will establish a baseline for annual donations.** Board discussion lauded the Washington State office for their continuing support of environmental issues that affect Vashon and Maury's ecology as well as their continued support of Vashon Audubon's programs.

Past board member Rayna Holtz notes that the State office has helped with Washington Trout's survey and reclassification of Island streams, with issues of water withdrawal from Beall Creek, with the designation of Quartermaster as an Important Area, with Preserve Our Island's fight against the Glacier gravel pit. Most recently, the State Audubon co-signed a four-page letter protesting the recent Finding of No Significant Impact by the Army Corps of Engineers in the permitting of gravel withdrawal on Maury. The letter argues that impact would affect orcas, Pacific Herring, eelgrass beds, and the Aquatic Reserve. For the Island chapter, their office is always ready with advice and has awarded grants to acknowledge our 4th-Grade education program and to finance the design of a Bird Information poster at the North-end ferry terminal. The state office fosters communication among our State's chapters through weekend conferences (ACOW) and a state-wide conservation committee.

After a failed push by National Audubon to create a series of state offices nationwide and build science centers (controlled by the National office), Washington's office was asked to garner its own annual funding. In some ways, this jettisoning of financial funding by the National headquarters returns the Olympia office back to its roots. In the 1960s, esteemed environmentalist Hazel Wolf started Washington's local chapters. The chapters soon realized the need for lobbyists in Olympia to further chapters' concerns and pooled funding to create a cadre of lobbyists. **To donate directly to Washington Audubon, see [wa.audubon.org](http://wa.audubon.org)**

## Enjoyment of Bird Song Class Successfully Adds Education Offering

"May all your birds be singing, and may you recognize that song!" offers Alan Huggins as he prepares a new course titled Enjoyment of Bird Song.

In response to graduates of his Enjoyment of Birds class, Huggins is giving his birding by ear class a trial run this spring. Steve Caldwell has taught a multi-session in-depth course in the past but he won't be offering it this year. Huggins notes that this course for beginners focuses on the most beautiful and more easily learned songs of the commonly seen and heard birds. Once a birder has learned these, distinguishing new songs will be easier.

The course will consist of 3 parts: one evening class session and two field trips.

Although the class is under way now, Huggins suggests for those birders wanting to learn bird songs to obtain CDs presenting bird song in a tutorial style. He recommends *Peterson Field Guides Western Birding by Ear with narration by Richard K. Walton*, or for a more complete collection of western birds, the 4-CD set of *Stokes Field Guide to Bird Songs: Western Region (Stokes Field Guide to Bird Songs)* by Kevin Colver, Donald Stokes, and Lillian Stokes (Audio CD - April 1, 1999) Both are available at bookstores for \$27 - \$30. The Stokes CD's fully loaded on an iPod by visiting [birdJam.com](http://birdJam.com).

If you are interested in future class offerings, please email Huggins to add your email to his notification list. [alanhugs@comcast.net](mailto:alanhugs@comcast.net).

## Visit our website

[www.vashonaudubon.org](http://www.vashonaudubon.org)

### Vashon-Maury Island Audubon Board

#### Officers:

|                |                |          |
|----------------|----------------|----------|
| President      | Jill Andrews   | 463-9909 |
| Vice President | Sue Trevathan  | 463-1484 |
| Secretary      | Mary O'Brien   | 463-6209 |
| Treasurer      | Lindsay Hofman | 463-5356 |

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| Conservation | Michelle Ramsden | 206 406-3723 |
| Education    | Sue Trevathan    | 463-1484     |
|              | Kathryn True     | 567-5389     |
| Field Trips  | Sherry Bottoms   | 463-1312     |
| Island Wings | Barbara Chasan   | 463-2571     |
|              | Ann Spiers       | 463-9858     |
| Membership   | Ron Simons       | 463-3627     |
|              | Randy Smith      | 567-5333     |
| Programs     | Laura Bienen     | 567-4613     |
| Publicity    | Jean Aspinall    | 463-3178     |
| Welcome      | Fran O'Reilly    | 463-4255     |

## <VOLUNTEER TODAY>

**Low Tide Celebration**  
**Saturday, June 7 Point Robinson, 8am-3:30**

We need a lot of help to make this event successful. And the tasks are FUN. Sign up for one or more of the following.

#### Man the Booth

2-hour shifts from 10am - 4pm

#### Lead Birding Field Trips

8am and 11am

#### Take Photographs

Take pictures of speakers, Blue Heron and its crew, welcoming ceremony, beach naturalists, beach walkers, beach animals, touch tank, etc. -- and donate them to our Low Tide photo bank.

#### Develop a Children's Activity

Prepare an activity children can enjoy that will help them learn more about marine life or beach ecology, or provide them a new perspective on the beach (through art or a microscope or a way we haven't thought of).

#### Cleanup

2 volunteers from 3:30-4:30pm

Call Michelle Ramsden: 406-3723 or Rayna Holtz: 463-3153

#### **Bird Rehab at Wolftown**

Volunteers receive training in triage for injured birds: fluid therapy, stomach tubing, feeding techniques, care of babies, housing and flight training for raptors. You can also learn to give raptor tours and learn to handle non-releasable birds of prey.

Call 463-9113 or e-mail [Wolftown@centurytel.net](mailto:Wolftown@centurytel.net).

#### **Chapter Merchandise Coordinator**

Please consider this position. It isn't a big time commitment and you meet many interesting people. The job includes selection and sales of books and other merchandise, as well as coordinating the set-up for Strawberry Festival and Holly Daze sales. These events generate a significant part of our income.

Jill Andrews: 463-9909

#### **Volunteer Coordinator**

The chapter needs someone to oversee our volunteer process. Someone to contact, record, solicit, train volunteers, and then link them to appropriate projects. Are you the one?

Jill Andrews: 463-9909

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## Welcoming the Blue Heron Canoe: Reaching into the Past for a Present Ritual

### *Low Tide Festival Invites Islanders to Take Part*

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This year's Low Tide Festival features a welcoming ceremony for the arrival of the Snohomish Tribe's canoe, the Blue Heron. To involve the Island community in this Northwest Native American ritual, Skipper Mike Evans is traveling to the Island in the next month to meet Islanders and to develop a ceremony for the canoe landing. So far, Evans has created the welcoming song in Puget Sound Salish Lushootseed and English, taught the song to Islanders, and recorded it on CD. Point Robinson's Lighthouse Keeper Captain Joe Wubbold has agreed to be the shore-side lead in the rhetorical exchange between the Islanders and the arriving canoe. Lunch is planned for Skipper Mike and his crew of pullers.

Among the Northwest tribal nations traveling by canoe for trade, transport and seasonal gatherings, an arrival ritual is observed. The canoe approaches the shore, and a member of the group who "owns" the beach comes out to give permission for the canoe to land. The canoe zigzags as it approaches, allowing those on the beach to count and identify the crew as friend or foe. As the canoe nears, it turns counterclockwise to complete a circle. Then it again approaches the shore with the lead person now standing, ready to ask permission to land. Before permission is given, a spirited exchange ensues.

The 1989 *Paddle to Seattle* has generated annual summer Inter-tribal Canoe Journeys with more than 40 canoes paddling from tribal towns on the outer coast, Vancouver Island, Alaska, and Puget Sound. They journey to gatherings in British Columbia, Alaska and other traditional Native American gathering places.

Festival organizer Rayna Holtz hopes that the Blue Heron welcoming will be part of a revival of Island

**Island Drummers**  
Needed to Welcome Ashore  
the Snohomish Tribe's  
Blue Heron Canoe  
11:30am Low Tide Festival  
Saturday, June 7, Point Robinson



[www.manakata.org](http://www.manakata.org)

interaction with the First Peoples, whose rich and abiding history on the Island is scantily documented and rarely remembered. She predicts this festival landing will be the first of many.

**If you are interested in drumming, joining the welcome preparation, helping with lunch, donating goods, food, or money, please contact Rayna Holtz at 463 3153.**

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## Wins and Losses in Olympia at the 2008 State Legislature

### **Passed:**

\*Climate Action & Green Jobs (HB2815) – this big win sets responsible limits on climate pollution, sets a path for creating a “green jobs” economy and reduces miles traveled – a key step given ½ of our global warming pollution comes from cars and trucks.

\*Local Solutions to Global Warming (SB6580) – this modest win develops tools that will help local governments make land use and zoning decisions that reduce driving and meet the growing demand for green, walkable communities.

\*Local Farms - Healthy Kids (SB6483) – this big win will make Washington a national leader in the local food movement by getting more Washington grown produce into our schools and food banks, thus improving children’s health and creating new and thriving markets for our farmers.

\*Tugs: The legislature budgeted \$3.65 million to fund a rescue tug at Neah Bay for the first time on a year-round contract.

\*Orcas: HB 2514 establishes a 300-foot zone around orca whales to protect them from vessel harassment.

\*Energy efficiency bills: SHB 2847 passed providing sales and use tax exemptions for low income weatherization materials and services. SHB 3362 would help small businesses purchase highly energy-efficient equipment.

### **Did not pass:**

\*Maury Island protections: SB6777 would have protected Maury Island from the largest strip mine Energy Efficiency: SHB 2758 would have set efficiency standards for several products sold or installed in Washington. HB 2426, HB 2703, HB 2901 and HB 2888, would have promoted energy-efficient lighting and retrofitting in public buildings.

Excerpted from *The Kingfisher*, Kitsap Audubon Society, April 2008.

Vashon-Maury Island Audubon Society  
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Vashon Island, WA 98070

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*PROGRAM*  
**Dr. Cliff Mass**  
on the  
**The Great Windstorms  
of the Pacific Northwest**  
*7pm, Thursday, May 22, 2008*  
*See Page 1 for Details*

**May/June 2008**

*One day, first week of May -- Bowerman Basin*

**SPRING MIGRATION OF SHOREBIRDS** -- Joy Nelsen is checking tide tables to determine what day and time will be best for viewing. To learn more or to join her on the trip, call *Joy at 463-2593*.

*Saturday, May 10, 8-10am -- Ober Park 'n' Ride -- Monthly Second Saturday*

**ISLAND AUDUBON FIELD TRIP** --. Bring binoculars/scope if you have them! *Alan Huggins 567-5166*.

*Saturday & Sunday, May 10 & 11*

**LAND TRUST SPRING PROPERTY TOURS** -- Take Mom on a lovely Mother's Day walk! For all ages. Contact: *Beth at beth@vashonlandtrust.org or 463-2644*.

**Marjorie Stanley Forest Trail** *Sat May 10, 9:30-11am*

**Ellis Creek Estuary at Tramp Harbor** *Sat May 10, 2:30-4pm*

**Piner Point Beach Walk** *Sun May 11, 3:30-5pm*

*Thursday, May 22, 7pm -- Land Trust Building, 10014 SW Bank Road*

**VASHON AUDUBON PROGRAM -- *The Great Windstorms of the Northwest*. by Cliff Mass. Laura Bienen 567-4613.**

*Thursday, June 5, 7pm -- First Thursday every even-numbered month*

**VMIAS BOARD MEETING** -- Phone Jill Andrews for confirmation, 463-9909.

*Saturday, June 7, 8am-3:30pm -- Point Robinson*

**LOW TIDE CELEBRATION** -- Beach walk with naturalists and birders; many activities for all. *Rayna Holtz, 463-3153*.

*Saturday, June 14, 8-10am -- Ober Park'n'Ride-- Monthly Second Saturday.*

**ISLAND AUDUBON FIELD TRIP** Bring binoculars/scope if you have them! *Alan Huggins 567-5166*.

*Saturday, June 21, 10am-noon -- Burton Acres*

**WALK ON THE WILD SIDE EDIBLES** -- Join island environmental educator, Erin Kenny, on a native plant foraging walk. *Register*

*through the Park District at [www.vashonparkdistrict.org](http://www.vashonparkdistrict.org) or 463-9602.*