



Island Wings

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

Volume 18 Number 2

September October 2007

PROGRAM

ISLANDERS WORK TO SAVE INDONESIAN MALEO BIRD

7pm, Thursday, September 20, 2007
Land Trust Building 10014 SW Bank Rd
Contact: Laura Bienen 206 567-4613

Did you know that a handful of conservation-minded Vashon Islanders is working hard to conserve habitat and protect the future of an endangered bird halfway around the world in Sulawesi, Indonesia?



Sulawesi girl holds Maleo bird art

Our September Vashon Audubon program will feature Marcy Summers, Director of Alliance for Tompotika Conservation (AITo), who will present slides and her narrative about a people-to-people conservation initiative launched right here on Vashon two years ago. We'll learn how far the project has come, what transpired on the eco-service journeys south to Tompotika, what is in store next for the Maleo program, and perhaps hear comments about the other animals and habitats of Sulawesi.

Spearheaded by Islander Marcy Summers and arising out of her biodiversity survey work for the Nature Conservancy in Indonesia, a group of Vashon Islanders created AITo. This energetic organization encourages Sulawesi villagers to value the Maleo for more than its enormous edible eggs. The Maleo is a strikingly colored, roughly chicken-sized bird.

The organization, hatched on Vashon over two years ago, works collaboratively with Indonesian university students and persuades individuals who had been egg collectors to become egg protectors. AITo was successful in declaring an egg harvesting moratorium last year at one Maleo nesting site. Come find out how many chicks scabbled out of the sand as a result.

Submitted by Laura Bienen

Ebb Tide Dives Tramp

Resembling aliens in their cumbersome suits, masks, and tanks, scuba divers heavily descended the bulkhead steps and stepped into the water of Tramp Harbor. Children scampered and parents ambled down the Tramp Harbor fishing dock toward a cozy canopy tucked into one corner of the broad decking at dock's end. Under its protective shade sat several wading pools holding seawater cooled with frozen liter bottles of ice. Sturdy cords hung over the railing, awaiting cargo from below.

Organizer Michelle Ramsden caught a signal from the divers and began, hand over hand, to haul up buckets dripping and loaded with strange denizens of the deep. Into the buckets, she reached and pulled out green and brown crabs, an enormous pink sea star and a small rose and lavender one, then smooth orange anemones, brilliant red-orange California sea cucumbers as long as her forearm, a woody chiton, a sea lemon, and even two red octopuses. Warned that an octopus can bite hard, the group stood back and watched one as it maneuvered out of the pool, slithered to the edge, and dove back into the water.

The other octopus was carefully put into a big jar and was passed around gently for a closer look. The crowd was also fascinated by the grunt sculpin, a stubby little mottled fish with orange fins that perfectly mimic the feeding appendages of barnacles among whom it hides.



SCUBA Divers exhibit Island sea life

Photo by Jay Holtz

The July 21 Ebb Tide beach event sponsored by Vashon Audubon's Conservation Committee owes thanks to the skills and talents of Karlista Rickerson and four other divers from Washington Scuba Alliance. Michelle plans two more programs for November and December.

Submitted by Rayna Holtz

SWAN RETIRES AS PRESIDENT

After four years, Ed Swan has retired as Vashon-Maury Island Audubon's president. During his term, local Audubon membership increased substantially, the field trip programs expanded, and the 4th-grade education series continued to thrive. Members appreciated his thorough attention to detail, his handling of the hot topics, running the board cooperatively, and his uncommon common sense.



Ed Swan holds up a Pete Murray photo, a thank-you gift from the Island Audubon received at the 2007 Annual Meeting

Ed's time is now consumed by being the new editor of *Vashon Loop*. Through his book *The Birds of Vashon Island*, he is instrumental in informing Islanders about their birds, hot birding spots, and the natural and human history of birds on the Island. He also offers, for a fee, to guide birding groups on the Island and around Puget Sound. He is writing a new book on the birds of Pierce County.

**Visit our website
for updates, past issues, and essays
www.vashonaudubon.org**

<i>Vashon-Maury Island Audubon Board</i>		
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Vice President	Sue Trevathan	463-1484
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Welcome	Fran O'Reilly	463-4255

ANDREWS ELECTED PRESIDENT

Jill Andrews was elected chapter president at the Annual Meeting in July. Jill was a founding member of the Vashon-Maury Island Land Trust, an early member and volunteer for Vashon Audubon, and a chair for the speaker forum, *Walk on the Wild Side*. At present, she teaches memoir writing at the Vashon Senior Center. She was co-editor and writer of the local anthology, *The Nature of an Island* (sales proceeds going to the Land Trust).

The Board and chapter welcome her efficiency, sense of responsibility, and experience leading groups.

NEW BOARD MEMBERS SOUGHT

Three positions open with the local chapter. See the Volunteer Box below for descriptions of duties for the open board and volunteer positions.

>VOLUNTEER TODAY>

Please consider one of these 3 important positions!!

Chapter Merchandise Coordinator

A great opportunity to be creative and practical -all in the service of our local chapter!

We thank Pam Dawdy for 4 years of a job well done; but she's ready to pass the torch.

The job includes handling selection and sales of books and other merchandise, as well as coordinating the set-up for Strawberry Festival and Holly Daze sales.

Jill Andrews: 463-9909

Chapter Secretary

This is a board position that involves attending and taking minutes at board meetings, plus helping set policy for the chapter. An excellent way to be an active Audubon member.

Jill Andrews: 463-9909

Chapter Membership Chairperson

In addition to board membership, responsibilities include processing applications for and recording new memberships, maintaining a chapter membership record, and preparing label templates for chapter mailings.

A system is already in place, and will be passed on to the new chairperson.

Jill Andrews: 463-9909

AUDUBON EDUCATES

Four Opportunities to Spread Your Wings

FIELD TRIP TO THE COLUMBIA

A **kayak and birding trip** to Ridgefield National Wildlife Area on the Columbia River floodplain is planned for October 6, 2007. The refuge has 5,150 acres of marshes, grass lands and woods. Birds to watch for are Sandhill Cranes, Dusky Canada Goose, and shorebirds and songbirds of the fall migration. Year-round residents and refuge nesters include Mallards, Great Blue Herons, and Red-tailed Hawks. The trip requires at least 6 people to sign up. Lodging is available in rental cabins or a local State Park campground. Kayak rental is about \$40. To sign up, e-mail Sherry by Mid September at sleebottoms@yahoo.com.

For more info: www.ridgefieldwash.com/recreation.htm. and www.ridgefieldkayak.com.

KIDS LOVE LORAX CLUB 2007 Interaction with Island Ecosystems

The **Lorax Club** offers **Island children** (grades 1-8) an opportunity to learn about four Island ecosystems (pond, intertidal, stream, and forest). In its second year, the Club will interact with each of these ecosystems in scientific discovery and/or restoration work. The six sessions run from September through November on Friday mornings. For information, phone the Family Link office 463-9171, Ext 503.

The Lorax Club's 2006 session brought rave reviews from kids, parents, and guest experts. Each ecosystem's exploration was lead by Island scientists, ecologists, and naturalists. Their expertise and love of their field combined with the children's curiosity, enthusiasm, and creativity to ensure successful learning.

I.D. CLASS: ENJOYMENT OF BIRDS

Vashon Audubon is offering a **unique class** for adult beginning and intermediate birders, starting September 13. The course is taught by a team of experienced birders with an interactive style focusing on how to enjoy the beauty and natural history of birds commonly seen on Vashon

Each class session will build on the previous session as participants learn the birds by their appearance, habitat and song, and seasonal occurrence.

Classes begin September 13 and continue through March with monthly sessions, 7-9pm at The Land Trust, and monthly field trips. Sara and Sam Van Fleet will host the first field trip, on Sept. 15, as an example of backyard bird habitat and green gardening.

Course fees are \$70 for members and \$85 for non members. Non-members may receive the member discount by becoming a member for \$15, and enjoy the chapter newsletters and notices of special courses and events.

Class Schedule: 7-9pm, Land Trust Building Sept. 13, Oct. 11, Nov.8, Jan. 9, Feb. 6, March 5.

Field Trips: Saturday, September 15 and 2nd Saturdays October through April.

Questions: Contact Alan Huggins: alanhugs@comcast.net or 206-567-5166 or visit www.vashonaudubon.org.

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

Submitted by Alan Huggins



For more Pete Murray photos, see www.pmwm.smugmug.com

MURRAY OFFERS PHOTO CLASS

Nationally known Island photographer, Peter Murray, will offer a two-day nature photography class on Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 13-14, at The Land Trust. On Saturday, participants will spend from 3 to 6pm learning the basics of camera operation, F stops, depth of field, and the dominant elements of an image. Participants will also learn how to photograph birds, how to look at the landscape, what makes an image. On Sunday, after a 1 to 2pm session at the Land Trust, Pete will take students into the field until 5pm, to practice what was taught in the classroom.

Prospective students should own a camera, have an interest in outdoor photography, and have a digital camera and tripod (not absolutely required). Class size is 10 students, but if there is interest, Pete may offer a second class at a later date.

Contact Murray if you have questions about the class (463-9479 or pmwm@centurytel.net). Fees are \$100 for members and \$115 for nonmembers (includes an Audubon chapter membership). Make checks payable to Vashon Audubon and mail to Vashon Audubon, PO Box 383, Vashon WA 98070.

About Pete... Peter has been taking snaps since 1967 when he purchased a Nikkormat and a 50-mm lens. He has practiced as a professional photographer for over 25 years. He has shot for corporate clients and as a freelancer. Pete produced a line of post cards of the Island in the 1980s: *Vashon Maury Islands, Jewels of the Sound*. His credits include many publications, commissions, and shows.

Pete's love of the wild and natural world brought him to Vashon Audubon years ago. He helped create a permanent file of bird images for the chapter's use. This started his keen interest in photographing birds in the wild.

Submitted by Sue Trevathan

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

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Island Birding Guide
Species Identification
How to Attract Birds

Ed Swan
206 463 7976

edswan@centurytel.net

September/October 2007

Saturday, September 8, 8-10am -- Ober Park 'n' Ride

ISLAND AUDUBON FIELD TRIP -- *Monthly Second Saturday*. Bring binocs/scope if you can! *Sherry Bottoms 463-1312.*

Thursday, September 13, 7-9pm -- Land Trust Building, 10014 SW Bank Road

VMIAS BIRDING CLASS -- *The Enjoyment of Birds*. First class of the series, which continues thru March with monthly sessions and monthly field trips. *Alan Huggins, 567-5166 or alanhugs@comcast.net. (see p3 for details)*

Thursday, September 20, 7pm -- Land Trust Building, 10014 SW Bank Road

VASHON AUDUBON PROGRAM -- *Bird and Habitat Conservation in Indonesia: Alliance for Tompotika Conservation* director **Marcy Summers**. *Laura Bienen 567-4613. (see p1 for details)*

Sunday, September 23, 2pm -- Methodist/Island Funeral Home Area

ADOPT-A-ROAD CLEANUP -- Bring water, boots, gloves if you have them. *Ellen Kritzman, 567-4837.*

Saturday and Sunday, September 29 & 30

LAND TRUST FALL PROPERTY TOURS -- ***Whispering Firs Bog, Fisher's Pond Trail, and Shinglemill Log Project*** are the featured walks. *463-2644 or www.vashonlandtrust.org for times and details.*

Thursday, October 4, 7 pm -- FirstThursday every even-numbered month

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

Saturday, October 6 -- Columbia River Flood Plain

OFF-ISLAND FIELD TRIP -- Kayak/birding trip to Ridgefield National Wildlife Area. *sleebottoms@yahoo.com. (see p3 for details)*

Saturday, October 13, 8-10am -- Ober Park'n'Ride

ISLAND AUDUBON FIELD TRIP -- *Monthly Second Saturday*. Bring binocs/scope if you can! *Sherry Bottoms 463-1312.*

Saturday, October 13, 3-6pm; Sunday, October 14, 1-5pm -- Land Trust Building, 10014 SW Bank Road

NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY CLASS WITH PETER MURRAY -- *463 9479. (see p3 for details).*

2 Saturdays, October 13 & 20, 3:30-5:30pm -- Blue Heron Pottery at the Beall greenhouses

CLAY DAY: WONDERFUL DUCKS! -- ***Instructor: Liz Lewis***. Two sessions. Class suitable for adults as well as kids (under 7yrs need to be with someone older). Celebrate the return of waterfowl to our island. Design and made a life-size duck. Tuition: \$26+\$5 lab (ind), \$46+\$10 lab (duos), \$66+\$15 lab (trios). *The Blue Heron 463-5131.*

PLAN AHEAD!

Save Saturday, November 24, for a **Full Moon Beach Walk** with Island beach naturalists. An Audubon Ebb Tide Program co-sponsored by People for Puget Sound. For info: Michelle Ramsden 463-1312 or Rayna Holtz 463-3153.