



PLEASE NOTE: DECEMBER PROFILE WILL BE PUBLISHED LATE DUE TO SCHEDULING CONFLICTS

SMART GROWTH REVIEW

By: *Kristin Kelly, Smart Growth Executive Director*

Another year almost over—so it's time to recap what the Smart Growth Program accomplished this year and to preview what will happen in 2016.

2015 RECAP

1. Snohomish County 2015 Comprehensive Plan Update

After a 2-year planning process, Snohomish County adopted the 2015 Update to the Comprehensive Plan to manage the land uses for the 200,000 people expected to move here over the next 20 years. We succeeded in ensuring that the majority of the growth will be directed into our cities, reducing development in our rural areas.

2. Snohomish County Critical Area Regulations Update

Unfortunately, we did not succeed in getting the council to adopt our recommendations to better protect water quality, wetlands, and people and property from landslides. We weren't alone in disappointment. The Tulalips Tribe also asked for changes, as well as the Department of Ecology. Part of the problem was the council. Councilmember Stephanie Wright did not attend or vote at the hearing. Councilmember Brian Sullivan abstained from voting. The other three council members—Dave Somers, Terry Ryan and Ken Klein—voted to adopt the ordinance as written. Council Member Somers vowed to revisit these issues next year.

3. Everett Comprehensive Plan Update

Snohomish County Council's adopted plan would require Everett to accept more of the county's growth. Everett has not yet adopted their comprehensive plan update but their preferred alternative is for 20,000 people less than the county's plan. I will be at the hearings recommending Everett adopt a plan consistent with the county's. Stay tuned next month on this.

4. Livable Snohomish County Summit and Candidate Forum

The LSC Summit was held in April with speakers from the Snohomish County Planning, Parks, and Public Works departments as well as Futurewise staff talking about the changes to the 2015 comprehensive plan update and critical areas regulations. In October, I held a candidate forum for the County Executive, County Council, and Everett City Council races focusing on transportation, land use and environmental protections.

5. **Other issues** addressed included Transfer of Development Rights, multi-family residential zoning, vesting of development applications, SEPA requirement changes, commercial/industrial and parking use changes, agricultural accessory uses, and assisting general concerns regarding development issues from anyone who contacts me (and now that development has picked up, that's quite a few!).

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NOVEMBER PROGRAM MEETING

Tales From The Fill

by *Connie Sidles*

Friday, November 13, 7:00 PM



Constance Sidles is a master birder, a board member of Seattle Audubon Society, and an author who has written four books about nature. Her most recent books are entitled *Fill of Joy* and *Forty-Six Views of Montlake Fill*. *Fill of Joy* is a book of essays, and *Forty-Six Views of Montlake Fill* is a book of poems and Sumi paintings. Both books are about how to find joy in the connections we make with nature and with each other.

Sidles graduated from the University of Chicago with a degree in Egyptology, which proved to be enlightening but not lucrative. Instead of working on ancient cultures, Connie has spent her career working on current issues, especially environmental preservation. Connie began birding in her local "backyard" - the Montlake Fill, an old landfill now restored as a nature reserve - in 1986. She goes there nearly every day to see what there is to see.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2015

7:00 - 8:30 pm

Everett Firefighter's Hall

2411 Hewitt Avenue, Everett

Questions? Leave a message at 425-610-8027

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

By Kathleen Snyder, Pilchuck Audubon President

I have some good news. Last month, we reported that Pilchuck Audubon had partnered with Sno-King Watershed Council to oppose a project of the Snohomish County Airport (Paine Field) to use a category 2 wetland as a detention pond for an unknown development project. At this time, due to problems with the project plan pointed out by Snohomish County Planning Department, the application has been withdrawn. It is possible that the project will be rewritten and resubmitted. However, the good folks at Sno-King Watershed Council will go over any new proposal carefully and Pilchuck will contribute financially should expert biological or legal advice be needed.

I would also like to mention our wonderful Profile editor, Christabel Lobo. As you may remember, Christabel was living in Washington D.C. when she first offered to be our editor. I learned last month that her work visa ran out and she had to return to Dubai. Now she is working in India through the end of the year although she is still willing to be our editor! That is truly amazing – both because I am sure her life is busy, even without being a Pilchuck volunteer, and because it shows again how small our world has become. Thank you so much Christabel.

Terry Nightingale, PAS Vice-president, recently led a nature walk for a group of Hispanic families at Scriber Lake Park, Lynnwood. The adults there were students of an English As a Second Language class. Everyone had a wonderful time and Terry hopes to offer another walk this winter featuring water birds. Any time we can reach a new audience with our conservation message, the environment wins.

For those of you who remember Mike Blackbird, my predecessor, please take a moment to read one of his wonderful articles which is posted on our "Close Encounters" page on our website ([click here](#)). As always, Mike's blend of history, humor, and commentary are a treat to read.

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 newsletter@pilchuckaudubon.org or mail to 1429 Avenue D, PMB 198, Snohomish, WA 98290. Submissions must be received by the 21st of the month preceding publication. We reserve the right to edit.

To contact Pilchuck Audubon Society, call 425.610.8027.

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

A NOTE FROM THE PILCHUCK NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Ask not what Pilchuck Audubon can do for you, ask what can you do for Pilchuck Audubon!

Well, now that you asked, we are seeking interested volunteers to fill open positions!

We'd love to have you join our Avian Projects team - a good fit for someone who enjoys physical tasks such as installing nesting gourds, platforms or boxes for birds.

Our Volunteer Coordinator position is perfect for someone who likes to work with people and pair these much appreciated members with our many events and projects.

Last, but not least, if you are looking to be both challenged and rewarded in many ways, serving as our chapter president will not disappoint! Our current president Kathleen Snyder's term expires in April and you could be her successor!

If you are that special someone or perhaps know someone who'd like to lead our dynamic organization, please call 425.610.8027 or email president@pilchuckaudubon.org to learn more.

Thank you!



Board of Directors

President	Kathleen Snyder president@pilchuckaudubon.org
Vice President	Terry Nightingale vice-president@pilchuckaudubon.org
Treasurer	Carolyn Lacy treasurer@pilchuckaudubon.org
Secretary	Kathy Piland 253.736.4937
Conservation	Allen Gibbs conservation@pilchuckaudubon.org
Membership	Bonnie Campbell 425.493.8721
Avian Science	* Open *
Development	Jim Beneteau develop@pilchuckaudubon.org
Members at Large	Laurel Cheap classroom.awards@pilchuckaudubon.org
	Jay Ward 425.418.3226
	Kathy Johnson 425.610.8027
	David Gladstone

Consultant

Committee Chairs

Bird Sightings	Mara Price 360.722.5752
Citizen Science Coord.	Sherrill Miller field.birds.pas@gmail.com
Communications	Lindsey May 425.610.8027
Conservation Awards	Laurel Cheap classroom.awards@pilchuckaudubon.org
Donations	Judy Chapman donations@pilchuckaudubon.org
Education	Jim Beneteau develop@pilchuckaudubon.org
Field Trips	Art Wait 360.563.0181
Forest Practices	Kathy Johnson forest@pilchuckaudubon.org
Hospitality	Virginia Clark 360.435.3750
Newsletter Editor	Christabel Lobo newsletter@pilchuckaudubon.org
Program	Susie Schaefer garden@pilchuckaudubon.org
Publicity	Judy Alles 360.793.1343
Webmaster	Carol Curtin webmaster@pilchuckaudubon.org

Staff

Smart Growth	Kristin Kelly 425.923.8625
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CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT 2015

By Rick Taylor, Edmonds Circle Compiler

The National Audubon Society's Christmas Bird Count, which began in 1900 as an alternative to Christmas Day bird hunts, is the longest running large scale citizen science project in the world. The CBC provides important data about bird population and distribution trends. Not only does it document how land-use changes affect birds and the environment, but it is also useful in documenting the effects of climate change on bird populations. The data collected by observers over the past century also allow researchers, conservation biologists, and other interested individuals to study the long-term health and status of bird populations across North America.

In addition to collecting valuable scientific data, the CBC is also an enjoyable social event with teams working together over the years. Teams try to beat their records for the number of species that they can find in their area.

The Pilchuck Audubon Society sponsors the 15-mile diameter Everett-Marysville and Edmonds Christmas Bird Counts that will occur on Jan. 2 and Dec. 19, respectively. The former count area is located between downtown Everett and Island Crossing, extending as far west as the SE tip of Camano Island, while the Edmonds count occurs in south Snohomish County, north King County, and the SE tip of Whidbey Island. Some great opportunities exist to join an existing team or start a new team. Boat surveys in the Snohomish River Delta and on marine waters (weather permitting) offer a unique opportunity to see waterfowl and sea birds not easily seen from shore. Counts are made on Camano, Ebey, Spencer, Jetty, Whidbey and, new this year, Gedney (Hat) Islands.

You can participate either by joining a field team of birders covering one of the 28 areas or by independently counting birds at your feeders and in your yard. Also, there are presently open positions for area leaders. New participants, whether experienced, intermediate or beginning birders, are welcome to join the counts. The CBC Compilers can direct you to one of these areas after knowing your interests and experience.

As Snohomish County grows and more land is converted into suburban housing, feeder counts grow in importance. We would like to increase the number of people watching their feeders to ensure that we have good coverage of the urban and suburban habitat. If you want to count at your feeder and in your yard, you will need to follow specific directions for conducting the count. These directions can be found [here](#).

The CBC Compilers are:

Scott Atkinson (scottatkinson@hotmail.com, tel. 425-210-2716) for Everett/Maryville

Bob Schmidt (bobs@world-wide.com, tel. 425-273-1579) and **Rick Taylor** (taylorryl@outlook.com, tel. 425-418-8211) for Edmonds/South County

Each CBC will have a post-count potluck to share results and enjoy the evening. The Compilers will provide the location and time of this event.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE NEWS

By Allen Gibbs, Committee Chair

Okanogan Country Visit – Last month, I visited some of the wildfire areas in the Okanogan Valley. I lived there for 10 years and my father's family lived in the Okanogan country off/on from 1904-1930s. I wanted to see what had changed in familiar places.

My focus was in the Pateros area, Salmon Creek, the Lime Belts and Sinlahekin Wildlife Area. Woodpeckers abound in the burned forests and there is ample public access for birders to visit in future years. The vegetation will change which will attract wildlife not typical of the area.

Audubon chapters in western and eastern Washington have annual spring/early summer birding trips to the Okanogan including the Methow Valley. Based on my visit this year and the observations of Okanogan Valley friends (including some public land agency employees) there is now, and certainly will be next year, great opportunities to see an abundance of woodpeckers feasting on the insect-infested dead/dying trees.

WDFW Futures – I attended the WA Department of Fish and Wildlife open house at Mill Creek, along with Gail Gatton, executive director of Audubon Washington, and Jennifer Syrowitz, Chapter Conservation Manager. Chuck Lennox, State Audubon Board and longtime representative on WDFW advisory committees joined us. Martha Jordan made the rounds; she is also serving on some WDFW advisory committees. We did meet the new WDFW director, Jim Unsworth, who assumed the director's job in January, coming over from Idaho State Fish and Wildlife Department.

A short list of topics we suggested to WDFW folks included the following: phasing out toxic ammunition used in hunting and lead sports fishing sinkers; restoring Watchable Wildlife programs; supporting collaboration between environmental groups and WDFW staff on survey and other conservation projects; appreciation of the Leque Island management planning approach; working with partners to get county prosecutors to pursue game violators in court; and more funding for non-game bird habitat restoration. I also talked about the value of birding tourism to our economy, mentioning the Audubon birding trail maps.

PUGET SOUND SHOREBIRD COUNT

Ecostudies Institute has announced the date of the Puget Sound Shorebird Count: **the morning of Saturday November 21st**. This will be the 4th Annual Count. The goal of this annual shorebird survey, which is conducted by citizen scientists, is to better understand shorebird trends and habitat use in Puget Sound. It is also part of a larger flyway-wide survey event.

There are currently 23 survey sites in Samish, Padilla, Fidalgo, Skagit, and Port Susan Bays. If you are interested in participating on this project, please let me know. You can check out the web page for more information <http://www.ecoinst.org/conservation-programs/waterbird-conservation/puget-sound-shorebird-count/> Gary Slater of Ecostudies Institute and organizer of the local survey can be reached at gslater@ecoinst.org.

SMART GROWTH REVIEW...

(Continued from page 1)

6. I serve on four important committees which will continue into 2016 and beyond: the Sustainable Lands Strategy, the Everett Station District Alliance, the Local Integrating Organization Implementation Committee, and the Everett Brownfield Committee.

LOOKING FORWARD TO 2016

It's a bit too early to know everything that will be happening in 2016. These are the known issues I will be working on:

1. Continue to ensure that amendments to the county's comprehensive plan and development regulations meet the goals of the Growth Management Act to protect our rural and resource lands from unnecessary urban growth expansions, better protect our critical areas and wildlife habitat, support Transit Oriented Development around our transit stations and major transit corridors, and utilize the county-wide Transfer of Development Rights program to permanently protect farms and forests.

2. Continue to serve on the Executive Committee of the Sustainable Lands Strategy which works with farmers, the Tribes, government agencies and other local partners for gains in farming, salmon habitat, and wildlife restoration projects along the Stillaguamish and Skykomish/Snohomish River basins. Also continue serving on the Everett Station District Alliance, progressing toward transit oriented re-development around the Everett Transit Station; continue serving on the Local Integrating Organization Implementation Committee which is working on a strategic plan and actions for cleaning up Puget Sound, and on the Everett Brownfield Committee to help transform identified contaminated areas in the city for re-development.

3. Push to revisit the Tree Replacement/Retention Ordinance for our urban growth areas; also, work toward fixing the county's critical areas regulations on stronger protections for wetlands, water quality, wildlife habitat and landslide protections for people and property.

4. Increase Pilchuck Audubon membership involvement in supporting the Smart Growth Program and increase funding opportunities for longevity of the program.

If you have any questions about any of our issues in 2015 or what will be at stake in 2016, please contact me at any time at kristin@futurewise.org.

UNPRECEDENTED CONSERVATION EFFORTS KEEP GREATER SAGE- GROUSE OFF ENDANGERED SPECIES LIST

On September 22, Interior Secretary Sally Jewell announced that listing the Greater Sage Grouse under the Endangered Species Act was not warranted at this time. The decision was made possible through collaboration between the conservation community, private landowners, industry, and state, local and federal

governments that put in place a broad set of conservation plans to conserve habitat across the sage-grouse states.

National Audubon was instrumental in the ten-year effort to create a science-based approach to conserving, protecting, and restoring millions of acres of core habitat in 11 western states for the iconic species, and in the process improving habitat for over 300 additional species of birds and wildlife that rely on the sage steppe western landscape.

The decision by the Department on the Greater Sage Grouse is a win-win for both the beleaguered sage-grouse as well as one of our premier wildlife conservation laws, the Endangered Species Act. Both would have come suffered unrelenting attacks from powerful opponents in Congress and industry had the bird been listed.

It is also a great example of what can be achieved when literally hundreds of partners convene and work together to protect and conserve important species and habitat. We look forward to expanding our efforts to help secure the future for the sage-grouse and other wildlife that call the great American West home.

**Look at this National
Audubon newsletter
article that featured our
own Larry Schwitters who
flew to Detroit to set up
this webcam.**



For more Swift action, check out the live streaming camera inside the chimney of the Historic Winery building on Grand River, Michigan. The project aims to bring attention to what is believed to be the largest Chimney Swift colony in North America.

Larry Schwitters, a Pilchuck Audubon Society (WA) chapter leader, was instrumental in setting up the camera along with Detroit Audubon Society. Larry leads a project for Vaux's Swift, in Seattle.

TRIP CALENDAR

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

Tuesday, November 3 **Everett to South Marysville**

Meet at 8:00AM at the parking area in the Southwest corner of the Everett 10th Street Boat Launch (off East Marine Drive) Explore the Everett Waterfront and the Snohomish River Estuary, including the Marysville Sewage Facility. View eagles, hawks, waterfowl, shorebirds and gulls. Pack a lunch. Trip Leader: Virginia Clark 360-435-3750

Tuesday, November 10 **George C. Reifel Migratory Bird Sanctuary, British Columbia**

Meet at 7:30AM 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. The refuge is in Canada, on Westham Island at the mouth of the Frazier River. Expect Waterfowl underfoot and chickadees and nuthatches fed in the hand, plus surprise species. Bring your US Passport or Enhanced Driver's License. Pack a lunch. Trip Leader: Virginia Clark 360-435-3750

Tuesday, November 17 **Birch Bay/ Semiahmoo/ Drayton Harbor**

Meet at 7:30 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. Should see migrating waterfowl and shorebirds (dowitchers, yellowlegs, Dunlin, Long-tailed and Harlequin Ducks). Pack a lunch. Trip Leaders: Wilma Bayes 360-629-2028, Virginia Clark 360-435-3750

Saturday, November 21 **Marysville Qwuloolt**

A morning field trip (from 8:00AM-12:00PM) in the Marysville Water Treatment ponds, east onto the dike and, hopefully, onto the new Qwuloolt restoration area (permission is still needed). Meet at the Marysville Public Works parking lot at 80 Columbia Ave, Marysville. Bring a snack. Dress for the weather and for walking. Trip Leader: Al Elliott 360-659-3180.

Tuesday, November 24 **Mountlake Fill (Union Bay Natural Area)**

Meet at 8:00 AM at the Lynnwood Wal-Mart lot at 1400 164th St SW (I-5 Exit 183). Park at the edge of the lot away from the store, to the west. This is one of the most productive birding areas in this vicinity. Many rarities have been observed here. If time allows we may visit Foster Island, Magnuson Park and other areas of North Lake Washington. Pack a lunch. Trip Leaders: Art Wait 360-563-0181, Virginia Clark 360-435-3750

Tuesday, December 1 **Snoqualmie River Valley, Monroe to Carnation**

Meet at 8:00 AM at Monroe Park and Ride on Highway 2, one half mile west of the Fairgrounds. Expect a fun time and exciting birds. Pack a lunch. Trip Leader: Virginia Clark 360-435-3750

Tuesday, December 8 **Lummi Flats**

Meet at 7:00 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. Short-eared Owl, Northern Harrier, Rough-legged Hawk, Northern Shrike and Snow Bunting are very likely. Pack a Lunch. Trip Leader: Virginia Clark 360-435-3750

UPCOMING EVENTS, FESTIVALS, & CLASSES

Exploring New Guinea's Birds of Paradise **November 5** **Tacoma**

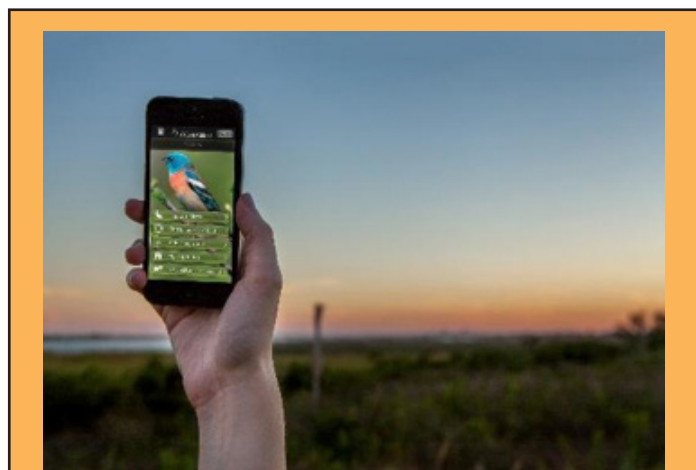
Come hear Bruce Beehler, ornithologist and naturalist, speak on birds of New Guinea. This is sponsored by Tahoma Audubon and goes from 6:45 to 8:45 pm. University of Puget Sound Thompson Hall, room 175. \$10.00. More information at <https://tahoma.z2systems.com/np/clients/tahoma/event.jsp?event=6177>

Great Blue Herons of Padilla Bay **November 14** **Padilla Bay**

The heron colony on March's Point is believed to be the largest nesting area for Great Blue Herons in Western North America. With a live video camera mounted in the colony, volunteers at Padilla Bay have been documenting all the drama and excitement of Great Blue Heron nesting. Jim and LaVerne Scheltens will share the results of their observations during the 2015 season. 1:00-2:00PM. Registration is required: <http://www.padillabay.gov/classdetails.asp?programID=686&classID=1410>

Festival of the Cranes **November 17 – 22** **San Antonio, NM**

The Festival of the Cranes celebrates the arrival of Sandhill Cranes at Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge for the winter season. Come experience wildlife through tours, workshops, hikes, lectures, demonstrations and hands-on activities. 6 days with more than 140 events. Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge is a jewel within the National Wildlife Refuge System, and the Festival of the Cranes is a wonder for the senses. <http://www.festivalofthecranes.com/>



National Audubon has released an updated version of the Audubon Bird Guide app and it's now FREE to bird lovers nationwide. With 821 species profiles and 3200-plus world-renowned bird photos, Audubon's award-winning app instantly turns any mobile device into the most trusted field guide in North America. To download the Audubon Bird Guide, go to: www.audubon.org/apps

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 \$ _____
 - My employer will match my contribution!
 My employer's gift matching form is enclosed with my contribution.

Make checks payable to: **Pilchuck Audubon Society**

Mail to: Pilchuck Audubon Society
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Send me these via email (check all that apply & include your email address above):
 Profile Newsletter Program Announcements Action Alerts

Pilchuck Audubon Society is a 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable corporation registered with the Secretary of State's office. Your contributions are tax deductible.



Photo by G Plowman

Trumpeter and Tundra Swans are arriving from the north.

This year they will be monitored by the newly formed *Northwest Swan Conservation Association*.

Pilchuck Audubon sends our warmest welcome to both groups!