



**HAPPY HOLIDAYS!**

## **BIG CHANGES AHEAD FOR SMART GROWTH & PILCHUCK AUDUBON**

*By: Kristin Kelly, Smart Growth Executive Director and  
Kathleen Snyder, Pilchuck Audubon President*

From Kristin:

At the end of this year, Futurewise will close their Snohomish County field office. I have been a part-time Futurewise employee for Snohomish and Skagit Counties for over 13 years but that ends January 1. I hope to continue as your Smart Growth Executive Director. However, your financial support for the Smart Growth Program is needed or this program will cease, leaving a void in balancing out the development communities' lobbying efforts and in speaking on behalf of the environment and smart growth policies.

I was hired as a full time field program director with Futurewise (which was called 1000 Friends of Washington at that time) in 2002. Three years later the position was reduced to part-time. Pilchuck Audubon Society and Futurewise combined forces to create a full-time position and I have been representing both organizations for the last 10 years.

I have worked on a vast array of land use and environmental protection issues, helping to ensure sustainable urban communities and safeguarding the goals of the state's Growth Management Act. Many challenges have arisen over the last 13 years but we had many successes - stopping unnecessary urban growth area expansions, halting inappropriate development on our farmland, and ending a Fully Contained Community of 15,000 people from being built on the west bank of Lake Roesiger. In addition, rural population growth targets were substantially reduced, rural cluster subdivision density bonuses were decreased, and urban-style development in the rural commercial area at Clearview was averted. Thousands of miles of shorelines and more of our critical areas are better protected. Currently, I serve on two important committees: the Sustainable Lands Strategy (working to ensure gains for salmon, wildlife habitat, and farming) and the Everett Station District Alliance (working toward creating more transit oriented development and connectivity around the Everett Transit Station).

As Smart Growth Executive Director, I can be your voice on the many new challenges and opportunities in 2016 and beyond. I can't do this without more financial support from individuals. The challenges with grant funding are increasing and there is no guarantee that the Smart Growth Program will be funded through grants. It is up to the membership and others in Snohomish County who value my work to step up and fund this position. I will be sending out an email the first week of 2016 to explain further and ask for financial support.

*(Continued on page 4)*

### **JANUARY PROGRAM MEETING**

#### **Climate, Birds And Change**

*by Trina Bayard*

**Friday, January 8, 7:00 PM**



The Audubon Birds and Climate Change Report is a first-of-its-kind study that predicts how climate change could affect the ranges of 588 North American birds.

Come join Audubon Washington's Director of Bird Conservation, Trina Bayard, to learn more about what climate change projections mean for the bird life of our region and how you can take action at the local and state level to safeguard birds and their habitats.

Dr. Bayard is a Washington native whose love of the outdoors inspired her to pursue a career in conservation biology. Her responsibilities include leading Audubon Washington's science and conservation programs on coastal and sage-steppe birds and habitats and working to advance bird conservation at the flyway scale.

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 8, 2016**

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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# NEW FACES ON THE PILCHUCK AUDUBON BOARD

After a lengthy search for a new treasurer, we have found a perfect candidate. Judy Hall begins her term on January 1, 2016, replacing Carolyn Lacy who has been Pilchuck's treasurer for over 11 years. Judy currently works for NTT Data, Inc. as a trainer of health care professionals in using accounting software. She was previously on the board of Sinnissippi Audubon in Rockford, Ill. while she lived in Caledonia. There she had her own book-keeping and accounting business for 35 years. Judy is a birder, a kayaker, enjoys making jewelry and faceting stones. She lives in Snohomish and is a great addition to the Pilchuck team.

Carolyn will stay on as assistant treasurer for the coming year while Judy learns the ins and outs of our financial process. We can't thank Carolyn enough for all her years of devoted volunteer efforts; suffice it to say that we now have a bookkeeper as well as a new treasurer to handle everything that Carolyn did by herself for over a decade. On top of guiding Judy through the year, Carolyn will continue to organize the bird seed sales with Jim Beneteau, our Development Director, and will also become more involved in the production of our Profile newsletter. Carolyn is top-notch and we are very, very fortunate to have her in our midst.

Not only do we have a new treasurer but a new Avian Science Director as well. Jim Clark is perfect for this position. He has an M.S. and Ph.D. in Zoology and Aquatic Ecology from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. He worked for the US Environmental Protection Agency for a number of years in aquatic toxicology and ecological risk assessment. Then he moved over to the private sector, working for Exxon Mobil's Oil Spill Research Program for Refining and Supply, and playing

leadership roles in the development of environmentally relevant techniques and strategies for oil and chemical spill response and clean-ups. Jim has also authored over 90 peer-reviewed publications, and given nearly 100 technical presentations at national and international meetings. As Avian Science Director, Jim will be directing habitat projects and advocating for avian conservation priorities with government entities.

Welcome to Judy and Jim and a huge thank you to Carolyn.

## CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT - 2015/16

The south circle CBC was completed on December 19 with no rain involved! The north circle will be done on January 2; we hope for the weather to be just as cooperative. Here are two that were "counted" from the 19th.



Barrow's Goldeneye by David Richman

## 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](http://www.pilchuckaudubon.org)



### Board of Directors

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# CONSERVATION COMMITTEE NEWS

By Allen Gibbs, Committee Chair

In the Herald story of December 19th is the following headline – “Timber harvest agreement for Lake Chaplain approved.” The opening sentence says: “The city of Everett now has a 50-year agreement in place to harvest timber on land it owns around Lake Chaplain.”

Lake Chaplain along with Spada Lake is in the Sultan River headwaters from where the domestic water supply comes for Everett and many South Snohomish County communities. The other owners of the watershed are Washington State, Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest and private individuals.

Citing from the Herald story: 1) the agreement allows the city to harvest timber from some of the city-owned 3,729 acres in the watershed. In return, the city will manage 1,066 of those acres to enhance Northern Spotted Owl and Marbled Murrelet habitat. 2) As the Washington Dept. of Natural Resources (DNR) manages some of the watershed for state trust holders such as Snohomish County and other state institutions, and oversees harvest on private lands, the Safe Harbor Agreement (SHA) with the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is a joint management plan for the city and the state.

Last May Pilchuck Audubon became aware of the city’s intent to more actively harvest in the watershed, much of which has been logged and roaded over many years. Not much remains untouched but there is some which is evolving into habitat for those listed birds.

A comment letter was submitted on July 7th by the Western Forestry Law Center (WFLC) on behalf of Seattle Audubon, Pilchuck Audubon, Olympic Forest Coalition (OFCO), and the North Cascades Conservation Council (NCCC) to the USFWS. It followed a meeting by some of those groups in Lacey with USFWS, City of Everett, WA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, and WA DNR.

SHAs are managed by the USFWS and are intended to encourage small forest landowners to develop habitat for threatened and endangered species over a period of time. About 20 years ago, around the time of adoption of President Clinton’s Forest Plan by the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management, some small landowners in WA, OR and northern CA feared that if they managed their forest lands for maximum income, but also achieved mature conditions favoring the owl and the murrelet, they might not be allowed to harvest those stands, or at least not harvest without penalties and loss of income. Some landowners decided to harvest their trees before those conditions were attained to avoid loss of income.

This was not a desired outcome of the Endangered Species Act and the Clinton Plan for either small landowners or for the birds. The SHA assumes that even a temporary period of time of protection for owl and murrelet habitats is better than no habitat at all.

The new city SHA prohibits logging for 50 years on some of its maturing forest stands. This can benefit Northern Spotted Owl and Marbled Murrelets which may eventually occupy the stands. In return, the city has opportunities to harvest its other forest stands without penalty or income loss.

In an email to the conservation groups last July, WFLC attorneys wrote that the city’s proposal is “... a significant conservation

gain, because absent the SHA, Everett would likely be able to (log any of it’s) forests after jumping through (Washington State Forest Practices Act) procedural hurdles.”

So, it seems to be a much better future under existing laws for future Northern Spotted Owl and Marbled Murrelet occupancy in the Sultan River headwaters!

## SINGLETARY TIMBER SALE UPDATE

By Katherine Johnson, Forest Practices Chair

In March 2014, PAS cosigned a letter with Alpine Lakes Protection Society (ALPS), Friends of Wild Sky (FOWS), North Cascades Conservation Council (NCCC), Sierra Club, and Washington Wild commenting on the Forest Practices Application for the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Singletary Timber Sale. We raised numerous concerns about this sale, which is located immediately east of Wallace Falls State Park, just across the Wallace River.

The DNR plans to clearcut directly over a new trail that leads to a beautiful and expensive new footbridge across the Wallace River. In addition, Snohomish County had purchased land for a trailhead parking area for this trail, which would connect to and take some of the pressure off the overcrowded adjacent Wallace Falls trail. The partially constructed new trail currently passes through scenic, mature second growth forest, which is well on its way to providing habitat for old-growth dependent species such as Marbled murrelets and Northern spotted owls. Few hikers will choose to walk through a clearcut instead. The effects on recreation and scenic resources would adversely impact tourism, a major economic force in the communities of the Skykomish Valley.

We felt that the DNR’s State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) evaluation did not adequately address the environmental effects of the proposed logging on recreation and wildlife, as well as water quality and habitat. The requisite roads would have their own set of problems, including wetland habitat destruction, increased stream siltation, and introduction of invasive weeds.

In addition, several bridges over May Creek, a tributary of the Skykomish River, have been proposed to provide access to the Singletary sale as well as other DNR timber sales planned in the area. These bridges may embody violations of the federal Clean Water Act (CWA), as their construction would result in fill and sedimentation entering essential fish habitat and spawning areas, decreasing water quality, and adversely impacting local tourism. We feel that the WA DNR should apply for permits under the CWA Section 404 prior to bridge construction. The CWA permits would likely provide more stringent and enforceable conditions that would take into account impacts to threatened and endangered species and migratory waterfowl.

A letter of intent to sue the WA DNR on this basis has been sent by the Washington Forest Law Center on behalf of PAS, FOWS and a local activist group, the Skykomish Valley Environmental and Economic Alliance. We hope that the DNR will be willing to negotiate to find a mutually agreeable resolution that will protect the environment.

# BIG CHANGES AHEAD...

(Continued from page 1)

Thirteen years of knowledge, networking, and collaboration aid me in influencing outcomes and I sincerely hope to continue using these skills for the county I love.

From Kathleen:

When the board of Pilchuck Audubon learned that Kristin's funding from Futurewise was at an end, we held some special meetings and came up with a creative solution. None of us wanted to lose Kristin's expertise which has been honed for over a decade. That was problem one. Problem two was our inability, so far, to find a new PAS president whose term would begin in April 2016.

Taking a comprehensive look at our budget helped us realize that addressing both of these problems was within reach. The board has approved hiring a part time executive director for Pilchuck and offering that position to Kristin. This, combined with the half time Smart Growth position, will give Kristin a full time job and allow her to remain as a strong advocate for conservation in our county.

There are some caveats to this arrangement. Kristin and the newly formed Personnel Committee are still working out the numerous details involved in the job description, salary, benefits, etc. Also, due to budgetary constraints, this is not a permanent (i.e. years long) solution. However, it is possible that Pilchuck has reached the point that staff support is necessary and that fundraising could make this a permanent position. As anyone who has been following Kristin's work on the update of the Snohomish's Comprehensive Plan Update knows, Snohomish County is expecting 200,000 more people in the next 20 years. If we can recruit some of those newcomers into our organization, we will have a good foundation on which to grow.

As for the new president, one is still needed. I am completing my fourth year and my energy is waning. With an Executive Director in place, the duties of the president will diminish considerably. The board hopes that this will encourage someone to step up and assume leadership of the board and the organization. Our board is strong and the essential leadership roles are filled with wonderful people. I plan to remain active both on the board and within the organization; the new president will have support from all sides. Please consider seriously whether you might be the one we are looking for.

This is a time of great change for Pilchuck. A new page is turning and 2016 promises to be a year of amazing opportunities and growth.

## BOREAL BIRDS NEED HALF

The Boreal Birds Need Half campaign seeks to educate governments, industry, and the public on the need to set aside at least half of North America's boreal forest from development for the billions of birds and other wildlife that rely on it. In addition to protecting at least half, the campaign urges sustainable development in the remaining areas, and emphasizes that protected areas and industrial activities should proceed only with the free, prior, and informed consent of affected Aboriginal communities.

Boreal Birds Need Half is a joint effort between the Boreal Songbird Initiative and Ducks Unlimited Inc. and is based on the rec-

ommendations contained in the report, "Boreal Birds Need Half: Maintaining North America's Bird Nursery and Why it Matters."

You can sign the petition to give billions of birds a fighting chance at <http://borealbirlsneedhalf.org/en/#petition>.

## SUSIE'S SPRING FIELD TRIPS FOR 2016

- Klickitat County May 28th – 31st: 4 day trip over Memorial Day Weekend
- Malheur National Wildlife Refuge SE Oregon June 8 – 16: 9 day trip

As in past years a group of 12 or less PAS birders will again get into 3 cars (no more) and head out for an adventure. For the past 8 years we have always gone to explore Klickitat County and for many years we had high adventures in Ferry County. We have also gone to Walla Walla County, Winthrop and last year we went to the far Northeast Corner of our state.

We always love to find birds, wildflowers, butterflies, mammals and natural areas which are different than our own beautiful Snohomish County. We share gas costs, motels, bring bread and eat sandwiches every day for lunch, and find interesting local eateries for other meals. People who are flexible and able to go with the flow seem to enjoy these trips. These are not guided tours but adventures with everyone participating and sharing.

Once again we will head for Klickitat County for another wonderful weekend of birds, flowers, friends and fun. We will go over Memorial Day heading south on Saturday morning and returning home on Tuesday. This will give us enough time to get see a lot of great birding areas we have grown know and love.

Last year it was suggested that we bite the bullet and make the long trip to Malheur National Wildlife Refuge. So we will head to SE Oregon in June. Yes, by June the weather will be hot and so will the birding!

Those interested in going on either or both of trips need to email Susie at [garden@pilchuckaudubon.org](mailto:garden@pilchuckaudubon.org) to get on the list. Those willing to drive their cars will be given priority (cars must be hardy and big enough for 4 people). Also the email should include your areas of interest (photography, geology, snakes and lizards, history etc.) and expertise (we already know that Cindy and Barb make incredible salads) and why you would be a great group member. Call Susie 425-771-8165 if you have additional questions.

# TRIP CALENDAR

Check our web site at [www.pilchuckaudubon.org](http://www.pilchuckaudubon.org) for the latest information.

## Tuesday, January 5 **Smith and Spencer Islands**

Meet at 8:00 AM at Langus Riverfront Park, Everett. Go North on SR529 (Broadway) over the Snohomish River; turn right onto 28th Pl. NE. Follow signs to Langus Waterfront Park; continue past the park to a parking lot past the left curve in the road on the South side of 4th St. SE. Trying for raptors and returning waterfowl. Walk the Trails, view the Everett Sewage Ponds. Lots of walking. Pack a Lunch.  
Trip Leaders: Virginia Clark 360-435-3750, Art Wait 360-563-0181

## Tuesday, January 12 **Deception Pass Area**

Meet at 8:00 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. Oyster catchers, Loons, Mergansers, LBJs. Pack a lunch.  
Trip Leader: Virginia Clark 360-435-3750

## Tuesday, January 19 **Clear Lake and Johnson-Debay Slough**

Meet at 8:00 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. Swans, eagles, hawks and falcons. Pack a Lunch.  
Trip Leader: Virginia Clark 360-435-3750

## Tuesday, January 26 **Guemes Island**

Meet at 8:00 AM at the Quilceda Village Wal-Mart lot west of Marysville (I-5 exit 200). Park away from the store, to the east, near Quilceda Blvd (next to I-5). Ride a tiny ferry, then relax and enjoy unique Guemes Island, its people, birds and dogs. Pack a lunch.  
Trip Leader: Virginia Clark 360-435-3750

# UPCOMING EVENTS, FESTIVALS, & CLASSES

## Skagit Eagle Festival **Concrete, WA** January weekends

The festival features a variety of free tours, walks, and educational programs where you'll learn not only about these majestic birds but also about the beautiful areas along the Skagit River where they return each winter.  
<http://www.skagiteaglefestival.com/>

## Whidbey Island Audubon Field Trip **Greenbank, WA** January 13

There's always lots to see at the Greenbank farm. We'll look for raptors, ravens, herons, ducks and woodpeckers as we loop across the fields and forest edges. Plan to walk for a couple of hours. If the cafe is open, we can end with soup and pie! Meet at the parking lot by the pond at 9 am.  
Kim Shepard 360-720-1711

## Snow Goose Festival of Pacific Flyway **Chico, CA** January 27 – 31

Over 70 exciting field trips, including many NEW excursions! Wide variety of informative indoor workshops & presentations. Snow Goose Festival Wildlife Art Exhibit and Friday night reception. <http://www.snowgoosefestival.org>

## Olympic Peninsula BirdFest **Sequim, WA** April 15 – 17

This festival provides participants the opportunity to view a wide variety of birds normally seen on the Olympic Peninsula. Field trips are planned for Sequim Bay, Port Angeles Harbor, Ediz Hook, Dungeness Spit, the Elwha River, Salt Creek and at Neah Bay, as well as trips through wooded areas to view songbirds and locate owls in the evening. Boat trips to Protection Island are also planned. <http://www.olympicbirdfest.org/>



Interested in joining the Great Backyard Bird Count?  
Mark your calendars for February 12 – 15.

*More details coming in the February newsletter.*

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
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