

Admiralty Audubon Pippings

November & December Field Trips

Saturday, 19 November 2011 - 9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. - A Fort Worden Birding Sampler

A beach view, a trail through field and forest, plus a glimpse at a hidden pond. Steady rain will force cancellation; otherwise wear appropriate apparel, expect a slight elevation gain, with muddy spots on trail. Meet at gazebo at North Beach parking lot. David Beatty, Field Trip Leader. Email djb38@olympen.com.

Saturday 10 December 2011 - 9 a.m. - noon (and beyond, weather and lunch permitting?)

Outdoor Photography – Mostly for the Birds. A photo intensive for wildlife photographers concentrating on the birds at Lower Oak Bay County Park. Join five of the area's best wildlife and outdoor photographers to photograph Northern Pintails, Brant, Eagles, Black Oystercatchers and Glaucous-winged and Mew Gulls, among others. Bring a camera with your longest lens, your point and shoot to digi-scope, or just a general interest to see how skilled professionals use their equipment to get the best shots possible. Lots of time and knowledgeable individuals to answer your questions about all aspects of outdoor photography. If the birds don't show up when we do, we'll move to Ft. Flagler. Photographers Bob Whitney, Paul Happel, Stephen Cunliffe and Jeff Larsen have agreed to participate. Wet weather cancels. Wear appropriate clothing (waterproof footwear advisable) and bring a lunch if you want to stay longer. David Gluckman, Field Trip Leader. Email cgluckman@aol.com. Cell 360 531-3325. [<http://admiraltyaudubon.org>]



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November 2011

112th Christmas Bird Count 17 December 2011

Please join Admiralty Audubon for the **112th** edition of the Christmas Bird Count. Our local edition of the 2011 Christmas Bird Count will occur on 17 December 2011. [editor error last newsletter said 111th count]

For information about the Christmas Bird Count and to sign up to participate, contact: Dan Waggoner at danwags57@gmail.com or Dick Johnson at 385-5418.

Audubon Program for November: Kah Tai Status Update

The public is invited
Thursday, 17 November at 7 p.m.
Port Townsend Community Center
Lawrence and Tyler

Following the recommendation of the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office on 7 September, the National Park Service concurred on 27 September that all 78.5 acres included in the original Kah Tai Lagoon Nature Park boundary are protected in perpetuity.

Historic records were used to demonstrate to officials at City, State and Federal levels that the original intent of the Park was clear. Many of those documents came from public records requests to government offices at all levels and from long hours of internet searching of government records available online. Where government records needed supplementation, seven boxes of citizen archives provided critical details. The archives of the Friends of Kah Tai were stored in attics, under beds, in basements and closets of numerous Friends in their 30+ years of existence, just waiting to finally tell their story.

Rick Jahnke will discuss how the NPS ruling affects Kah Tai and the citizens of Port Townsend.

Clara Mason
Program Chair, Admiralty Audubon

Northern Pintail takes flight at Lower Oak Bay Park (left).

Kah Tai Lagoon Nature Park: Protections, Lawsuits, Amendments

The much-anticipated ruling from the National Park Service (NPS) arrived September 27. This is indeed reason to celebrate. Both the state Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) and NPS concur that the 1981 Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant protects all 78.5 acres of Kah Tai Lagoon Nature Park in perpetuity for outdoor recreation, including the 20+ acres the Port owns from the south shore of the lagoon to Sims Way. The City and the Port were co-sponsors of the grant and both signed the contract in 1981.

Unfortunately, on the 13th of October, 2011, the Port filed a lawsuit to overturn the ruling by the NPS confirming LWCF protections for the Park. Named in the suit are NPS, RCO, and the City of Port Townsend. Please send emails or letters to ask our Port Commissioners to withdraw this lawsuit (contact info page 3).

A much more responsible course would be to hire a mediator and for the Port to sit down with the City to negotiate the transfer of Port land in the Kah Tai Park to the City in exchange for the City-owned property and rights of ways in the Boat Haven. The lease between the Port and City is up July 31, 2012. Come Aug 1, 2012, the Port will be trespassing on City property every time it does a heavy haul-out and will be storing boats and conducting port business on City rights-of-way which it no longer controls.

Also of great importance to the Kah Tai Park is the citizen's amendment, the City's alternative language amendment and Park Functional Plan that are working their way through the City planning process. The two amendments are on the Council's docket to be considered as an addition to the City's Comprehensive Plan, the primary planning document of the City. The citizen's amendment reads "*Extend maximum environmental protection in perpetuity for the exclusive open space, wildlife habitat, and passive outdoor recreation functions within Kah Tai Lagoon Nature Park.*" The City's alternative language amendment reads "*Kah Tai Lagoon Nature Park shall be designated and managed in accordance with the legal obligations assumed under the 1981 Federal Land and Water Conservation*

Fund Acquisition Grant." I prefer the language of the citizen's amendment because it spells out what kind of activities are allowed in the park. However the City's alternative language amendment would be better than nothing. In reality the final language of the amendment will probably change as it works its way through the Planning Commission and City Council. If possible, please attend the Planning Commission's public hearing Thursday December 1 at 6:30pm, City Council Chambers, City Hall, and ask that the citizen's amendment be included in the City's Comprehensive Plan. Otherwise send emails or letters to the Planning Commission (contact info page 3).

The City's Parks and Recreation Functional Plan is also on the City Council docket. The draft was updated Oct 25 reflecting input from citizens. A big thank you is in order for the City Parks Manager Jeremy Bubnick for incorporating citizens' input reflecting the importance of Kah Tai Lagoon Nature Park for wildlife habitat and passive recreation. Please let the Planning Commission know you are in favor of the Oct 25 draft either at the Planning Commission hearing Dec 1 at 6:30pm, City Council Chambers, City Hall, or by email or mail (contact info page 3).

This is a pivotal point for Kah Tai Park. Public support makes a huge difference. In 1980, because of public support for the park, Barney McClure was elected as Mayor and Stacey Thompson became President of the Port Commission. In a little over a year from the day they took office the 1981 Land and Water Conservation Fund grant was signed and Kah Tai Lagoon Nature Park was born. It is time to rally again to assure Kah Tai Lagoon Nature Park remains a park forever.

Rosemary Sikes

President, Admiralty Audubon

Thank you, Sarah!

Sarah Young was the Pipings' editor January 2010 through June 2011. She reports that a highlight of newsletter production was working with David Gluckman, who was always quick to provide content as well as relevant and beautiful bird photos to illustrate the newsletter pages.

November Work Party At Kah Tai Lagoon Nature Park

Sunday, November 6th from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. (standard time!) we will be enjoying the park by pulling Scotch broom and picking up trash. We have the worst of the invasive plants in retreat and need to keep it that way. Come see the positive response of the wildlife-friendly natives such as Tall Oregon Grape, Osoberry, Serviceberry, and Snowberry. Cookies, water, and tools will be provided. Wear appropriate clothing for the weather. Bring work gloves. Look for the white pickup with canopy parked north of the small lagoon. For more information contact Ron Sikes, 385 0307 or sikes@olympus.net.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Comments to the Port Commissioners about the lawsuit:

John Collins jcollins@portofpt.com
 Dave Thompson info@portofpt.com
 Leif Erickson lerickson@portofpt.com
 mail to Port of Port Townsend,
 P.O. Box 1180, Port Townsend, WA 98368.
<http://www.portofpt.com>

Comments to the Planning Commission supporting Kah Tai amendment & park plan:

email subject: Planning Commission to
 Pam Kolacy pkolacy@cityofpt.us
 mail to City of Port Townsend,
 Planning Commission, 250 Madison Street,
 Port Townsend, WA 98368.
<http://www.cityofpt.us>

AAS To Participate In Study At Blue Heron School

Students of the 4th and 7th grade science classes are beginning a study of the ecology of the wetlands adjacent to the Blue Heron School. The project includes bird and other wildlife surveys. Flora and fauna relationships and their change over time will be recorded. Students will make habitat enhancement through exotic invasive removal and planting of native shrubs and trees. The wetland will be monitored day and night with cameras. Snag poles, bird feeding stations, and nest boxes will aid in bird studies.

Admiralty Audubon will be helping with survey methods, bird list, binoculars, guides, bird natural history, and how to identify birds. AAS members can donate binoculars and field guides. The guide "Birds of Puget Sound" by Bob Morse would be helpful since it focuses on birds of our area. If you would like to help with the surveys, plantings, or providing equipment, please contact Ron Sikes, sikes@olympus.net.

AAS Field Trips on County Website

Thanks to County Parks and Recreation Manager Matt Tyler, our birding field trips are now listed at <http://countyrec.com> (under 'Activities'). Many of our members live in the county, and all AAS programs are open to the public.

Thanks are due, as always, to Brenda McMillan, who mails or hand-delivers every printed newsletter members receive.

AAS Membership Form [<http://admiraltyaudubon.org>]

name _____ date _____

mailing address _____

city, state, zipcode _____

email address _____ phone number _____

Would you prefer your newsletter by email? paper copy? amount enclosed \$ _____

Send \$20 annual membership to: **Admiralty Audubon, PO Box 666, Port Townsend WA 98368**
 Membership includes 5 issues of our newsletter per year and the right to vote in chapter elections.
 Chapter programs and field trips are free to the public. We always welcome donations!



Admiralty Audubon Officers and Board

President: Rosemary Sikes	360-385-0307	rosemarysikes@olympus.net
Vice President: David Beatty	575-534-1450	djb38@olypen.com
Secretary: Ron Sikes	360-385-0307	sikes@olympus.net
Treasurer: Bob Tyer	360-379-1610	bwtyer@gmail.com
Field Trips: David Gluckman	360-379-0360	cgluckman@aol.com
Programs: Clara Mason	360-385-3594	cmason@olypen.com
Conservation: George Yount	360-385-0456	gyount@olypen.com
Publicity: Lynne Dunham	360-385-3031	koala@olypen.com
Membership, newsletter: Debbie Jahnke	360-531-3415	admiraudub@gmail.com
Science Advisor: Ken Wilson	360-821-1101	ken@kenwilson.info
Christmas Bird Count: Dick Johnson	360-385-5418	--
Dan Waggoner	--	danwags57@gmail.com
Webmaster: Andrew Reding	--	aareding@gmail.com
Education: Position Open		

Beautiful Music Ahead!

Beyond birdsong, music isn't a subject that crosses these pages much. But for those who might be interested, Barney McClure (Mayor in 1980) will be performing at the Upstage on Friday, 4 November at 8 p.m. [advertisement]

Next Board Meeting

The next Admiralty Audubon Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 15 November at 7 p.m. For more information, contact Rosemary Sikes at 385 0307 or rosemarysikes@olympus.net. [<http://admiraltyaudubon.org>]