

Admiralty Audubon Pipings

AAS Field Trip - August 2014

Saturday, 16 August 2014 - Kah Tai Lagoon Nature Park: Start time is 8 am. Meet at the wooden bridge where the little pond joins the lagoon. Trip leader is Ron Sikes. For information phone 385 0307 or email sikes@olympus.net.



© Artemis Celt

Observe species from many perspectives at Kah Tai.

Guillemot Sculpture Installation

Eleanor's Guillemots have finally arrived. The bronze sculpture of courting Pigeon Guillemots by Tony Angell is in place on the Water Street side of the NorthWest Maritime Center. Dedication is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, 14 August 2014 at 2 pm; check the website for updates as the date approaches. Until then, stop by and admire the graceful public art first envisioned by Eleanor's friends and family. Thanks to them for this fitting tribute to our founder.



Kah Tai: Recording to Title

Thanks to all of the more than three decades of efforts made to protect Kah Tai - we have been informed that the required protections are now recorded to title, in part as the following language:

"This Notice to Title contains information and provides copies of documents that affect property known as Kah Tai Lagoon Nature Park. The Notice is recorded by the City to give record notice that the property, owned by the City, described in the legal description and depicted on the attached June 19, 2013 "6 F Boundary Map," is subject to protections in perpetuity under the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund Act (LWCF Act) and the terms and conditions of the LWCF Project Contract and contract amendments. The LWCF Act is administered by the National Park Service (NPS) and the State of Washington Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO)."

The referenced map shows the full boundary and notation: *"All land within the boundary of the park is dedicated in perpetuity to public outdoor recreation"*.

The referenced original federal contract, dated 30 January 1981, states *"This acquisition project of approximately 78.5 acres through donation, land transfer, and purchase, is designed to consolidate under the ownership of the City the contiguous land along the perimeters of Kah Tai Lagoon, thereby enabling the City to plan and develop a municipal passive park around the lagoon."*

...and now, on to the Comprehensive Plan Amendment!

AAS Mission Statement

The mission of Admiralty Audubon is to initiate, promote, assist, and encourage the understanding and appreciation of nature and the conservation of wildlife and wilderness, natural resources, and natural beauty.

Find us at <http://admiraltyaudubon.org> and <https://facebook.com/admiraltyaudubon>.

Conservation/Puget Sound Corps Work Parties for Invasives at Kah Tai and Sather Parks

Port Townsend has been a TreeCity for 14 years, a designation conferred by the Arbor Day Foundation in recognition of the quality of our urban forest. Washington State's TreeCity USA is managed by the Department of Natural Resources. This year, the City Parks, Recreation and Trees Advisory Board submitted an application for Conservation Corps/Puget Sound Corps crews to address the problems of invasive plant species impacting our urban forests. The application required a volunteer commitment to collaborate with the Corps crews and to monitor and maintain the areas cleared of invasives for three years.

Two volunteer groups with well-organized leadership that stepped forward for the application are Admiralty Audubon for Kah Tai Lagoon Nature Park and the Sather Woods No Ivy League for Sather Park/Woods. We were recently notified that our application was approved! We don't know yet when we will get a Corps work party crew as the schedule is being finalized, but it will be sometime between October 2014 and summer 2015. A crew consists of six trained people who will work here for forty-hour weeks for a month.

Sather's primary focus is their invasion of English ivy. The No Ivy League has cleared about 1/3 of the park on their own, working nearly every Tuesday for the past year and a half, and the additional effort should get the rest of the park cleared of ivy and the occasional English holly. Kah Tai's focus will be invasive spurge laurel along with some holly, ivy and Scot's broom. Our chapter and other park supporters have done a fine job on the mature Scot's broom, but there's lots of little ones out there to be pulled. Other City parks and publicly owned urban forests with invasive species problems are being added to a list compiled by the City Parks Board in case the DNR crew runs out of invasives in the two parks submitted in the application.



Removal of invasive understory species in our urban forests allows the growth of natives with substantial wildlife value such as Tall Oregon Grape (Mahonia aquifolia, above) and Serviceberry (Amelanchier alnifolia, below); both photographed at Kah Tai. Photos courtesy Artemis Celt.



The very popular Leopold bench near the Landis end of the lagoon trail, used by families, retirees and others who love to feed Mallards and the occasional crow and gull.

Aldo Leopold Benches for Kah Tai

Three 'Aldo Leopold' style benches were commissioned by our chapter and built by the carpentry shop class at Port Townsend High School. They will be installed at Kah Tai Lagoon Nature Park when the City Parks staff are able to work it into their schedule. One bench will replace the old log bench that was near the bridge, a second one will be placed at a location along the lagoon trail which provides a clear water view without disturbing waterfowl and the third bench will be placed along the loop trail in the southeastern uplands.

AAS Field Trip Reports: March & April 2014

Fort Flagler: 17 May 2014

AAS field trip of seven birders had a nice morning stroll around the sewage ponds, cliff shoreline, and forested roadway areas. An adult Bald Eagle perched along the cliff by the parking lot at eye level was impressive and stayed there the whole time even when we approached birding near it. The birds around the sewage ponds were Orange-crowned Warbler, Cliff, Barn and Violet-green Swallows; Brown-headed Cowbird, Red-winged Blackbird, Crow, Starling, Rufous Hummingbird, White-crowned and Song Sparrows, American Goldfinch, Great Blue Heron, Raven, Pacific Wren, Pacific-slope Flycatcher, Robin, Mallard, Wilson's Warbler, Wild Turkey, and one special viewing of a Swainson's Thrush. We drove out to the end of the retreat center road to walk out to the north shore bunkers to view and hear Canada Geese, Purple Finch, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Mourning Dove, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Band-tailed Pigeon, Surf Scoter, Pigeon Guillemot, Rhinoceros Auklet, and Glaucous-winged Gull. On the drive through

Nordland were Belted Kingfisher, Red-tailed Hawk and a lone Common Goldeneye at Mystery Bay. *Paula Vanderheul, Trip Leader.*



Even in grayscale, the differences between Barn (above) and Violet-green (below) Swallows are dramatic, especially when they aren't zipping around. From the Fort Flagler field trip. Courtesy Artemis Celt

Anderson Lake: 14 June 2014

Ten of us enjoyed an Admiralty Audubon field trip for a walk through the meadows and forests of Anderson Lake. One of the main challenges of birding this time of year is actually seeing the birds. We were able to identify 38 species in two hours though several were by song alone. The highlight was a four-flycatcher day; Willow, Pacific-slope, Olive-sided and a real rarity, the Least. Part of the walk included a trail on DNR land across the road from the state park. *Dan Waggoner, Trip Leader, standing in for Paula Vanderheul.*

Point Hudson: 17 June 2014

Five relaxed birders and photographers lounged in the bright sunlight at Point Hudson, casually viewing and photographing three or four Rhinoceros Auklets fishing near the end of the pier inside and outside the harbor for an hour or so. Two Rhinos had fish (or maybe one had two fish) but most did not. The Glaucous-winged Gulls have once again set up a nest, with one sitting in it, on the western bollard as witnessed the last 5 years. The low number of Rhinos with fish may indicate we were too early or poor nesting success. It's a bit too early to tell. I would suggest returning from time to time to check it out. The Heerman's Gulls have returned to the spit in numbers. (update: Rhinoceros Auklets reported in greater numbers with more fish on July 4). *David Gluckman, Trip Leader.*

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**
or pay online at the Membership link via PayPal or credit card

*Membership includes 6 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!*

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Sharp-shinned Hawk © David Gluckman

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Moral Support for Port Townsend's Trails

Admiralty Audubon Society Chapter President Rick Jahnke provided a letter of support for a recent grant proposal submission to the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) by the City of Port Townsend. Birders know as well as anyone that we have 31 miles of trails in Port Townsend and many provide nonmotorized access to wonderful spots where we can appreciate our natural environment and observe birds and other wildlife. The proposal asks for a motorized, tracked mini-hauler that will tote 1000-lb loads of gravel to harden muddy trails and support the work of those dedicated volunteers on the City Non-Motorized Transportation Advisory Board.