

President's Message

By Steve Puddicombe

This month I have the chance to regale you with some recent accomplishments.

Bylaws & Constitution Revision

The board finally completed the process of updating and adapting the bylaws and constitution of WHAS after several years work. The board voted approval of the new revision and now it is up for a vote of the general membership (see an explanatory article elsewhere this issue). Please review the changes and cast a vote. If you would like to see the entire set of documents you can request them by sending a message to me at: pudfella@willapabay.org.

One of the key changes will be in the terms of officers, currently set at one year. If adopted, the new terms will be for two years, thereby (we feel) reducing the stress involved in having elections yearly and also, hopefully, contributing to a satisfying sense of continuity and competence.

This issue also contains the latest ballot for officers. You will note that we have a vacancy for one of the board members at-large. If you would like to serve you can contact me after the election or pencil yourself in on your ballot. All the positions have space for write-in candidates.

Shorebird Grant

A joint application for a grant to study the snowy plover was made by Grays Harbor AS and WHAS. News that we had been approved as recipients came in February and Jan McMillan of Grays Harbor AS is heading the project in our behalf. The project is being done in conjunction with work the Washington Dept. of Fish & Wildlife is doing to enhance the survival of this bird.

Volunteers are needed for nest surveys at Leadbetter Point, preferably with birding experience and good binoculars and scopes. These surveys will occur several days of the months of April, May, June and July. Also volunteers are needed to help make the nest sites less vulnerable to predators. This work does not require birding skill. The grant covers two years of work with progress reports after each year. This is a good chance for birders to become familiar with our endangered shorebird friend and to help with their survival. If interested or for more information contact Jan McMillan: mcmomjan@comcast.net.

Voting For Audubon Officers, Constitution and Bylaws Update

By Pat Reistroffer

PLEASE take the time to vote and send in your ballot for the upcoming officers and the constitution and bylaw updates. The people on the ballot are willing to give their time to serve and represent the organization. I hope that you will take the time to support them by voting and mailing in your ballot. If you plan on attending the annual meeting you can vote or turn in your ballot at that time.

We are not a large organization and it helps if everyone can take a turn serving in an office so that all the responsibility doesn't fall on the shoulders of the same people. All the people on the ballot have served in their offices this year. We need to be thinking about the future and bringing new people on board. PLEASE consider how you can help support this great organization in serving in an office or being a committee chairperson in the future. I know when I served as president, many years ago, I learned so much and felt that I gained more than I gave. REMEMBER: "Many hands make light work."

Willapa Hills has passed a resolution to oppose the Liquid Natural Gas terminus proposed Northern Star LLC to be constructed at Bradwood Landing, OR. We just presented a resolution to the Washington State Audubon Conservation Committee that passed, aligning all the state's chapters against the proposal. LNG terminals on the Columbia threaten the integrity of the estuary in many ways, but especially salmon recovery and would be a dominant sight near two wildlife refuges, altering the natural and communal heritage of the area for generations. The permitting process is moving forward with a draft EIS expected soon.

If you would like to join with the effort to halt this development, your support in writing letters to legislators, newspapers, and in attending public discussions will be appreciated. To learn more about the threat of LNG on the river and to help stop it you can contact George Exum at 360-849-4324.