

New Constitution and Bylaws for WHAS

By Charlotte Persons

The highlight of the March 17 board meeting was final discussion and approval of several changes to the WHAS Constitution and Bylaws. Numerous volunteers have worked on these improvements over the last three years, including Wayne Nelson, Ann Musche, Margaret Green, Steve Puddicombe, Darrel Whipple, and Betty Mayfield. WHAS members can vote on the new Constitution and Bylaws either by mailing in the ballot included in this issue of the Whistler or at the June 2 Annual Meeting.

The most significant change for the new Bylaws is moving the Annual Meeting to March since many members complained that May and June are far too busy, and there are school spring breaks in April. Because the Annual Meeting is when board election results are announced and board members are installed, the new March date means a new timetable for nominations and elections. If the membership approves the new Constitution and Bylaws, the 2008 Annual Meeting will be held in March and the nomination process for new board members will start in October 2007. For a complete copy of the new Constitution and Bylaws, please contact Steve Puddicombe at 360-465-2205 or email him at pudfella@willapabay.org. Copies will also be available at the June 2 Annual Meeting.

All changes are summarized here:

There are two changes to the Constitution, both in Article II, Section 2—the addition of the mission statement (the same one that has been on the back of every Whistler for several years), and classes of members now are Chapter, Chapter-full-time student, Chapter lifetime, and Joint membership of Chapter and National Audubon Society.

There are eight changes to the Bylaws:

--Article II, Section 1—Required regular meetings of members are changed from monthly to at least four times per year.

Section 2—Annual Meeting is changed from June to March.

--Article III, Section 2—Required Board of Directors' meetings are changed from monthly to at least four times per year.

Section 5—New section. “A member of the board can be removed as specified by Board Policies; a

replacement, nominated by the President, must be approved by a majority of the board.”

--Article IV, Section 1—Elected officers stay the same, except that current “a President and Vice-President” is changed to “a President and a Vice-President or Co-Presidents.”

Section 7—Checks and drafts may be signed by another board member approved by the board in addition to the current Treasurer, President or Vice President. Two signatures are still required.

--Articles V and VI. Nominations and Elections. The process is the same but the timetable has been changed to accommodate the new Annual Meeting date in March. The new timetable is:

President selects a Nominating Chair by
October 1

Nominating form sent to members in
Nov./Dec. issue of the newsletter

Nominating form returned by members by Jan.
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Ballot form sent to members in newsletter
issue before and closest to the Annual Meeting. (Note:
this will usually be the Jan./Feb. issue.)

Ballot form returned by members by March 1.

--Article VII. Standing Committees remain the same except that the name of the Social Committee is now Hospitality Committee, and a Web Site Committee is added.

Gifford Pinchot Forest 2007 Summer Hike Series

Join the Gifford Pinchot Task Force the third Saturday of the month June through October for a hike in the Gifford Pinchot National Forest. We will meet at 9am at the Gateway/NE 99th Ave Transfer Center located at 1321 NE 99th Ave., Portland 97220. Please contact Julia at 503.221.2102 ext. 103 or email Julia@gptaskforce.org for more information or to sign up. If you plan to attend please RSVP to Julia.

June 16th-Silver Star Mountain to learn about Birds from local experts Gerry LaPointe of the Gifford Pinchot Task Force (Task Force) and John Green of the Willapa Hills Audubon.

July 21st-Hike to Sleeping Beauty with Field Biologist and Task Force board member Bill Weiler and Task Force outreach coordinator Julia DeGraw
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