

Field Trip Schedule

View Swifts Dancing in the Sky

On September 14th, a Thursday evening, join this family field trip to see the Vaux's Swifts mass by the hundreds, then rest for the night in the chimney at Chapman School in NW Portland. Ann Musché will provide some (brief) introduction/nature interpretation on the site. Then our group will be free to ooooh and aaaahhh at the swarming birds along with everyone else.

Meet along Maple Street behind the Longview Public Library at 5:00 pm (traffic on the freeway to Portland is an issue), bringing lawn chairs and/or picnic blankets and picnic suppers. We will arrange carpooling and head promptly south. The swifts go into the chimney after sunset but before dark, so the whole thing will be over before 8:30 pm. (Sunset those nights is ~7:20 p.m.)

Be sure to dress in layers with warm jackets, etc., on hand. If the weather is truly awful, we will cancel or reschedule, so be sure to call if there appears to be any question. For more information, to register, and/or if weather looks questionable, contact Ann Musché 360-484-7119 or mrm@willapabay.org.

Native Planting and Nature Walk at South Nemah NRCA

Help restore an abandoned road cut by repatriating the plants we uprooted last summer and planting additional native species. Earn feel-good points AND peek in on one of the last pieces of old growth forest in the Willapa Hills. Carlo Abbruzzese of Washington DNR will guide our efforts on October 7. Our June salvage efforts on the site offered a great variety of birds, bugs and herps - including a look at an endangered salamander. We will carpool from Longview (plan to be away from 8am-3pm) and coordinate to meet with any joining us from the west. Contact Pam Wright for details or to sign up to participate at audubon@zygops.com or 360.560.3772.

Introduction to Winter Waterfowl at Lake Sacajawea

Join us November 18 for an orientation to urban winter birds and finally put names on all those ducks at the Lake. We've designed this short jaunt for those who would like to mix comfort with birding. We will

observe birds at the Lake for about an hour and a half and then retreat to the warmth of John and Margaret Green's home a block away where we can watch the well-fed backyard birds with a warm drink in hand. This is a wonderful opportunity to jump start your identification skills and get tips on how to attract a diversity of birds to your own yard. We will meet at 8:30am and finish up about 10:30am. Group size is limited, so please RSVP for meeting place details. Contact John or Margaret Green at jgreen2317@aol.com or call 360.575.9238.



Other Area Activities

The Friends of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge Birdfest will take place in Ridgefield on Saturday, October 14, 2006 and Sunday, October 15, 2006 between 8am and 8pm. See the article on page 6 for details.

Program Schedule

Forum on Initiative 933 on Wed., October 11 Lower Columbia College Student Center

The next of our quarterly forums on local conservation issues will be on Initiative 933, titled "Property Fairness." A representative of the Property Fairness Coalition, which is sponsored by the Farm Bureau, will explain why they believe citizens should vote for this initiative in November. Lisa Remlinger or Heath Packard of Audubon Washington will discuss the initiative's potential for destroying farms, neighborhoods, and especially wildlife. The same forum will be presented twice, at 3:30 and 7:00 p.m. Come to learn more about both sides of this issue.

Birds on the Wind, the Lives of Shorebirds Saturday, February 24, 3:00PM

Renowned ornithologist and author **Dennis Paulson** will return to Longview to give this fascinating program on shorebirds! For venue and more detail see your next Whistler.

More Programs are Forthcoming!

Our new program chair Janey Austin is lining up additional programs. Watch your local newspaper and future editions of the Whistler for details.