

WILLAPA WHISTLER

A Publication of the Willapa Hills Audubon Society

Volume 36 // Issue 5

September / October 2010



The WHAS display at the fair

Image courtesy of Russ Kastberg



Impressions from the WHAS Picnic held at Mary Steller's home in Rosburg, Wahkiakum County.

All picnic images courtesy of Gloria and John Nichols.

Wahkiakum County Fair Display

By Russ Kastberg

A new fair display featuring Willapa Hills Chapter and the Nelson Creek Restoration project was presented at the Wahkiakum County Fair in Skamokawa from August 19-21st.

One of this year's goals for the Nelson Creek committee was local public outreach. The display featured both WHAS and Nelson Creek. We want to develop positive relationships with our neighbors at Nelson Creek, provide good information about the baseline survey work we have been doing, recruit volunteers for future restoration work, and cultivate educational opportunities at the site.

The WHAS display board featured the programs we offer including our new citizen-science programs, amphibian surveys, and backyard birding. The Nelson Creek Restoration display showed our volunteers at work doing various field surveys: plant identification, bird counts, and amphibian egg-mass surveys; as well as, building clean-up and deconstruction, bird house installations, and this last spring's planting project.

Special thanks go to Ann Kastberg and Darrell Whipple for the help putting the display together. Also, thanks to Ann, Darrell, Mary Ann Gillespy, Charlotte Persons, John and Margaret Green, Louis LaPierre, and Larry Brandt for all their help in working at the booth.



Support our mission, join WHAS today!

Check type of Membership:

- ☐ New Chapter Membership **WHAS** (\$20 check for annual membership)
- ☐ Renewal Chapter Membership **WHAS** (\$20 check for annual membership)
- ☐ I would like to support the work of Willapa Hills Audubon Society.
Enclosed is my additional donation of \$_____.

Membership includes 6 issues of our newsletter *WILLAPA WHISTLER* annually.

- ☐ I prefer to receive the *WHISTLER* by email (Add your email address below)

If you are also interested in membership in the National Audubon Society, please visit <http://www.audubon.org/>.

Please make your check payable to: WILLAPA HILLS AUDUBON SOCIETY or WHAS and mail to:

WHAS, PO Box 399, Longview, WA 98632

We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation. All dues and donations are tax deductible.

Name _____ Telephone _____

Address _____ Email _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Y14:7XCH rev. 2007

Thank you for supporting your local Audubon chapter -- Willapa Hills Audubon Society!

We will not share your contact information with anyone.

* To announce **occasional** reminders and to communicate last minute schedule changes due to weather or other issues for WHAS programs and field trips.

**To allow members to announce and discuss items of general interest.



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Planning Retreat – Your Input is Welcome

By Charlotte Persons

Should WHAS begin annual fund-raising? Does WHAS need paid staff? What is WHAS' position on sustainable energy? Which conservation goals are most important for WHAS to pursue? What birding and other activities should have highest priority?

To answer questions like these, WHAS will hold a board planning retreat on **Sunday, October 3, 2010**, our first since January 2003. All present or past WHAS board members are invited to attend, as well as any members of WHAS who are considering a board position. In addition, we welcome ideas and suggestions from all members who are interested in nurturing and strengthening our organization. Call or email Larry Brandt, the retreat committee chair, to make sure your ideas are included.

Gloria Nichols has graciously volunteered to host the day-long meeting, which will begin at 9:00 a.m. and end before 5:00 p.m. The planning portion of the meeting will begin in the morning; it will include reflecting on our vision and goals, consolidating policy positions, and creating a five-year plan for WHAS. The normal quarterly board meeting will be scheduled for the last two hours of the afternoon. About noon we will break for lunch – please bring a salad, fruit, or dessert, and WHAS will provide sandwich makings and beverages.

For directions to the Nichols' residence, to get planning documents and agendas, or to give us your suggestions and opinions, contact Larry Brandt at 360-200-4580 or secretary@willapahillsaudubon.org

Receive the *Whistler* by email

The "*eWhistler*" offers enhanced viewing with color photos and graphics as well as live links to referenced websites and emails. You will receive an email announcing the availability of the *Whistler* on the WHAS website with a link to the webpage that will open in your default web browser. You can read the *Whistler* online or save it to your computer for later browsing.

Please consider signing up for electronic delivery to reduce paper waste, mail box clutter and expenses associated with printing and mailing of the *Whistler*. Send your full name and e-mail address to our Membership Chair, Gloria Nichols at membership@willapahillsaudubon.org.

Book Review

By Carolyn Norred

Crow Planet: Essential Wisdom from the Urban Wilderness.

Lyanda Lynn Haupt

Little, Brown and Company, 2009.

During a recent visit to Boise, Idaho, we enjoyed the live bird demonstration featuring a three-year-old crow at The World Center for Birds of Prey. This bird's impressive ability to problem solve, sent me in search of a good book on the subject, crows. It was not difficult to generate a sizeable list of titles, and, on the recommendation of a friend, I chose a book by Seattle author, Lyanda Lynn Haupt, *Crow Planet*.

In a pleasant, first person narrative style, Haupt shares her experiences with crows in her Seattle neighborhood. Haupt's premise is that we all are connected in a web of life, and even though we humans group together to organize, and pave, our environment, we are living in that web. She would have us become ever more aware of the presence of "wildlife" such as the bugs, birds, worms, raccoons and others who share our space. In its visible, audible familiarity, the crow serves as her starting point for developing her awareness of and respect for these wild lives that she is surrounded by in her urban home.

"Certainly, I believe that wilderness experiences are both restorative and essential on many levels....But in making such experiences the core of our 'connection to nature' we set up a chasm between our daily lives ("non-nature") and wilder places

("true nature")... it is here, in the activity of our daily lives, that we most surely affect this earth, for good or ill.

Personal experience blends with science, history, and mythology to develop Haupt's view. She encourages readers to develop a "naturalist's" eye, rather than any sort of specialization when it comes to expanding an awareness of the urban wild. She

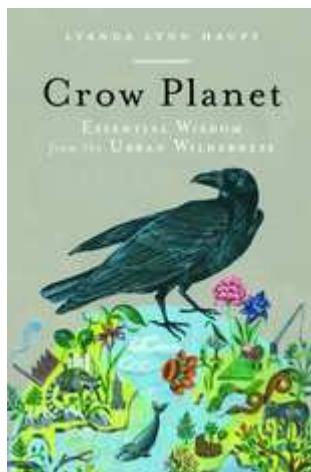
begins her own education by making it a habit to carry her field glasses with her as she travels the neighborhood, considering sidewalks her "paths".

In addition to her prose, Haupt opens her study with a poem, *Crows*, by Mary Oliver, introduces each chapter with a series of arresting black and white sketches, and closes with a particularly varied bibliography at the back of the book.

If you should ever be in Boise with a bit of extra time, I encourage you to go up the hill and spend it at The World Center for Birds of Prey, and, if you should be so fortunate as to schedule a visit to this place, consider reading *Crow Planet* before, or after, you go.

And I end with this from Haupt's book:

"We are incapable of isolation....It is about attentive recognition of our constant, inevitable continuity with life on earth, and the gorgeous knowledge this entails.... We walk around like poems – our lives infused with meaning beyond themselves" (p122,123).



Kestrel joins the Wildlife Collection

By Darrel Whipple

Thanks to our enthusiastic members, the Kestrel specimen is now professionally mounted and ready for display! The Kestrel fund topped out at \$402, exceeding the goal of \$385 set by Darrel Whipple, WHAS's Education Chair. The fund pays for the taxidermy on the American Kestrel specimen that was killed hitting Frans and Mieke Eykel's window at their Puget Island home last December.

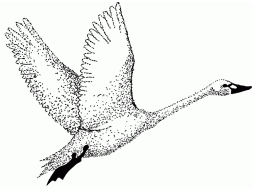
Thirteen donations followed WHAS's appeals for funds at the WHAS summer picnic and on the pages of the July-August Whistler. Generous members raised the entire amount charged for taxidermy by Avian Design of Klamath Falls, Oregon. Avian Design's Stefan Savides, international award-winning bird sculptor and taxidermist, remarked what a perfect specimen this bird was, and such a delight to pose.

The Kestrel mount will join the other birds and mammals in the Lower Columbia River Wildlife Collection sponsored by WHAS and housed at Lower Columbia College's Biology Lab. Dr. Louis LaPierre of LCC is the permittee for the collection under federal and state regulations and I am the sub-permittee. WHAS volunteers borrow mounts to display during educational presentations and community programs.

The donors who enabled WHAS to add this striking male Kestrel to its collection are: Tom Finn, Darrel Whipple, Mary Ann Gillespey, Russ Kastberg, Charlotte Persons, Joanne Turner, Gloria Nichols, Mary Steller, Tom and Vivian Kirkoff, Therese Falkner, Bob and Jennifer Arnsdorf, Stephen Glucoft, and Cynthia Johnson.

Image: WHAS member Cynthia Johnson shows off the American Kestrel mount paid for this summer by contributions from her and twelve other donors.





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The *Willapa Whistler* is the bi-monthly publication of the Willapa Hills Audubon Society, a chapter of the National Audubon Society.

Complimentary copies are sent to organizations and prospective members. All WHAS activities and programs are open to the public.

Articles, information, wildlife sightings and artwork are welcomed. The deadline for inclusion of material in the *Whistler* is the 15th of each even-numbered month. Send your contributions to:

WHAS Whistler,
PO Box 399, Longview WA 98632

or email them to

newsletter@willapahillsaudubon.org

The *Willapa Whistler* is printed on recycled paper using soy based ink.

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WHAS Programs and Field Trips

For more information, further details and last minute updates check the WHAS web site: www.willapahillsaudubon.org

Sunday, October 17 – Local Area Field Trip

Mark your calendar for the first WHAS field trip of Fall 2010. Russ Koppendrayer will lead us on a local area field trip (possibly Woodland Bottoms or Ridgefield NWR). To sign up, call or email John Green at 360-575-9238 or jgreen2317@aol.com. We will depart from the Longview library at 8:00 AM on the 17th.

Saturday, December 4 – Annual Lake Sacajawea Walk/Social

Join us for this annual event. We will meet at the Green's house at 8:30 AM, the morning of the walk. We will spend a couple hours walking the lake observing winter waterfowl and other local birds. The group will then retreat to the warmth of the Greens' home for hot beverages and treats and some backyard birding. To sign up, call or email John Green at 360-575-9238 or jgreen2317@aol.com.

Watch for the next **Community Conversations lecture series** at Lower Columbia College. This fall's theme is "*The Green Earth: Our Playground & Responsibility*." Presentations will be at noon on Thursdays in the Wollenberg Auditorium, Rose Center for the Arts, from Sept. 23 - Dec. 2, excluding Veterans Day and Thanksgiving. Check the WHAS website or the LCC site, www.lowercolumbia.edu/conversations, for more information.

Free **taxidermy workshop** planned for fall at Lower Columbia College. Date to be determined.

Bob Stone, retired taxidermist, has graciously offered to lead a taxidermy workshop. Planning is still in the rough stages, but we anticipate that participants will learn how to prepare study skins and parts of birds and mammals. Bob will also share the finer points of taxidermy as it applies to more technical mounts. Contact Louis LaPierre (llapierre@lowercolumbia.edu; 360.442.2884) for more info and to be added to the contact list.

The Mission of the Willapa Hills Audubon Society is to support ecologically responsible ways of life, to help maintain biologically diverse habitats, and to promote environmental understanding and enjoyment of nature.

<http://www.willapahillsaudubon.org>