

WILLAPA WHISTLER

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Image courtesy of Steve Puddicombe

With the young ones now out of the nest hummingbird feeders can be swarmed with hummers seeking the nectar that powers them, particularly on cloudy days. If you enjoy feeding hummingbirds it is important to provide clean, pure nectar (use only refined white sugar with clean tap water) and to clean the feeders regularly, sterilizing occasionally with a bleach mixture to kill mold and bacteria. Only fill the feeder with what the hummers can consume in 3 days. For more information check out the websites <http://www.hummingbirds.net/feeders.html>, <http://www.hummingbirdsociety.org/feeding-hummingbirds/>

Fallen Leaf Nature Niche Now Open to Public

By Ann Cordero

Thanks to the auspices of Willapa Hills Audubon Society and some excellent cooperation between community members, the Fallen Leaf Nature Niche is open to the public and ready for more visitors! We appreciate all the support we got to get this project started.

What do we do? Experienced naturalists guide visitors to observe natural objects by sight and touch: rocks, water, shells, bones, insects, skins, feathers, nests, lichens, cones, leaves, flowers, seeds and more. We share our knowledge (both ways) of what we observe. These are hands-on experiences at the individual's own pace. We do experiments like growing crystals or plants. Parent participation makes them all the better. We look at books to learn more: books that circulate to give people time to appreciate their pictures and messages. These are simple, basic activities but in them are the seeds of environmental education, naturalist intelligence, and literacy.

If I could have had all my wishes granted for a nature center and library, I would not possibly have been able to imagine such a splendid and workable space as the McLaughlin Community Resource Center in the magnificent Health and Science Building on the Lower Columbia College campus! The room, next to the cylindrical lecture hall, is spacious, surrounded by windows and wooden cabinets. There is ample storage room for books, exhibits, puzzles and posters, with large lab tables for experiments and displays.

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WHAS has a new Board

Our bi-annual elections were held in March 2016. Results were as followed:

President: Larry Brandt;
Vice-President: George Exum;
Secretary: Steve Puddicombe;
Treasurer: Linda Jennings;
Board-at-Large: John Gross, Ann Cordero, and Darrel Whipple.

Charlotte Persons, Carol Carver, and Gloria Nichols are also on the Board, chairing committees.

A **Special Election** was held with our regular election and Willapa Hills Audubon Society adopted an amended version of Article 1, Section 4 of the Constitution bylaws to restrict Chapter voting to chapter member only worded as:

“All classes of membership shall enjoy all the rights and privileges pertaining to membership in WHAS except voting; joint members shall enjoy all rights and privileges of both WHAS and NAS except voting in WHAS Chapter elections. Each member paying dues to WHAS shall be entitled to one vote in WHAS chapter elections.”

In this issue of the Whistler:

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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 4 issues of our newsletter *WILLAPA WHISTLER* annually.

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

For membership in National Audubon Society visit <http://www.audubon.org/>.

Please make your check payable to:

WILLAPA HILLS AUDUBON SOCIETY or WHAS and mail to:

WHAS-Membership, PO Box 399, Longview, WA 98632.

Name _____ Telephone _____
 Address _____ Email _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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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 changes due to weather or other issues for WHAS programs and field trips.

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OFFICERS

President: **Larry Brandt**
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Conservation: **Steve Puddicombe**
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Field Trip: **vacant**
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Education: **vacant**

OTHER

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Publicity: **Stephen Glucoft**
 360-577-7720 sglucoft@comcast.net
Indian Jack Slough Stdshp: **vacant**
Wildlife Sightings: **vacant**
Website: **Ludger Wöhrmann**
 360-423-7004 webmaster@willapahillsaudubon.org

Please indicate any **new** information:

I prefer you contact me by:

- Phone
- Email
- Mail

Other options:

- I prefer to receive the *WHISTLER* by email
 (Add your email address below)
- Contact me about volunteer opportunities
- Add me to your announcement email list*

12th Annual Puget Sound Bird Fest

September 9-11, 2016 in Edmonds Washington

This annual 3-day festival celebrates birds and nature on the beautiful shores of Puget Sound with speakers, guided walks and field trips, Puget Sound boat tours, exhibits, and educational activities for children and adults.

For more information visit: www.pugetsoundbirdfest.org

Update on the Gourds WHAS installed at Indian Jack Slough

Purple Martins and Tree Swallows (pictured below) are now busy with gourds at Indian Jack Slough – Image Louis LaPierre



Continued from page one: Nature Niche

When Dean of Instruction Kyle Hammon was approached by Willapa Hills Audubon Society for space for our project, he immediately recognized our nature collections as an appropriate community resource for the room. The Center was named for former Lower Columbia College President James McLaughlin, who was instrumental in procuring the three-story building, a \$42 million project for the college. It is one of Longview's gems.

The Fallen Leaf Nature Niche has been open every week day since March 1 except when campus has been closed on breaks. It has already become a community effort. The Friends of

binocular microscope; David Cordero lent rock and mineral collections and donated many natural objects; and Armando and Marshall Herbelin have offered their woodworking skills for



the Longview Library, whose book sales have supplied many of our materials, have been setting aside books on nature subjects for our collection. David Kelnhofer has overseen this project, and one day he brought us not only books but a beautiful ceramic Spotted Owl he had made.

Books and videos have recently been donated by Demetria Balbuena, the Hunter family, Linda Curry, and Audubon members Carol Carver, George Exum, and Linda Jennings. Shells, sand dollars and books arrived from Margaret and John Green (who we hope are enjoying their new home!) Daniel Hines found and donated a crow nest from a tree downed in December's windstorm and a wasps' nest. Ken Noble gave us deer hide and bones. Kathy Tomlinson donated posters.

The Science Department has been quite generous and their knowledge has been invaluable: Louis LaPierre lent a

book stands. Our home school family, the Hunters, donated a bird nest, puzzles, books, crystal growing supplies, and educational materials.

Come to the Nature Niche to see artwork created and contributed by ten-year-old Orion Hunter! Vanessa, Aiden, and Orion Hunter have been the most regular patrons and volunteers at the Fallen Leaf Nature Niche and have pioneered its successful ventures. Our special thanks to them!

From March to May we have had 286 visitors by our daily count. We are just beginning to be noticed. Beacon Hill Elementary School brought two classes here from Kelso on a field trip. While getting acquainted with minerals and observing nests and feathers, one student asked how ink for quill pens was made. We referred the question to Fort Clatsop National Park and learned that Lewis and Clark used a powdered form of iron gall ink (the recipe is on the Internet).

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Head Start from the LCC campus visited with 14 preschoolers and 5 adults who examined our cabinets of books, toys, puppets, rocks, bark, and lichens; learned about nests, bones, and feathers; heard a story (What a Wonderful World), and saw a slideshow. Orion spontaneously led the group in animal noises and helped distribute preschool books while the adults set up the slides! And a mother came back the next day to find out what her daughter had been telling her about.

WHAS has provided fliers to the elementary students in Longview and Kelso, but response has been slow. We need ways to appeal to parents to get them to bring their children here to spend time with us or time at home with a book.

The Nature Niche is not just for kids. Both adults and children can enjoy our pictorial books and we have narrative books for a wide range of ages. With 1000 books we don't have everything, and we encourage visitors to use other libraries as well. But we do have the books and specimens to spark curiosity and explore questions which can enhance an appreciation of nature outdoors and in daily life for someone of any age. We can display copies of Audubon prints donated by Glenn Hartwell from the estate of Valentine Holden and bird mounts obtained by permit by Willapa Hills Audubon Society.

We do need more volunteers and are looking for responsible individuals, high school to adult, who enjoy sharing nature with others. Volunteers supervise the exploration of the natural objects available to view and touch, allowing people as

much freedom as we can to learn on their own. We have conversations, and don't always have an answer to questions that arise, but having the books nearby helps us all to investigate further. Books need to be cataloged and marked, with former libraries' identification removed, so there is also clerical work for our volunteers.

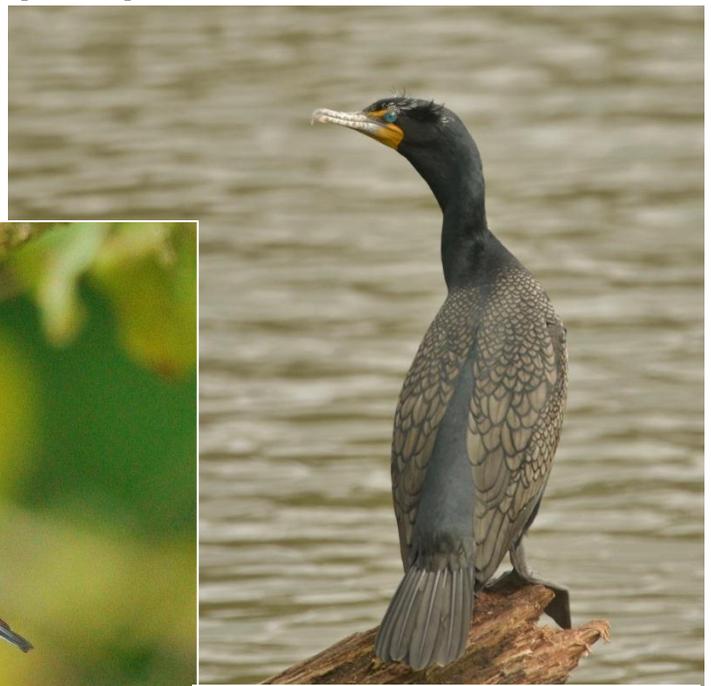


Developing interpretive ideas, planning and conducting Niche activities provides plenty of room for creative expression—the more minds the better! We are grateful to those who have volunteered so far: the Hunters, the Corderos (including Bea, who at 92 helped supervise Head Start), James Likowski Sr. (age 90) and Linda Curry for their work with our books, James Likowski Jr. who set up our computers, Demetria Balbuena for spreading the word, and all the parents and professors who have been recruited on the spot! This has been fun and we are learning a lot.

We invite everyone to visit us, tell others about Fallen Leaf Nature Niche, and share your expertise!

Our current hours are weekday mornings (except Thursdays) 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, and weekday afternoons, 2:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., opening an hour earlier (1:30 p.m.) on Wednesdays. Our summer hours will

tentatively be on Wednesdays and Thursdays, times to be announced later. Hours are still subject to change. You can request information at FLNatureNiche@gmail.com. Everyone is invited to visit, tell others about Fallen Leaf Nature Niche, and share your expertise. Thank you for your support and sponsorship!



Left: Red-breasted Nuthatch, Above: Cormorant
Images courtesy of Royce and Beth Craig; the Nuthatch image was taken in their backyard, the Cormorant at Willow Grove Park.

WDFW reminds would-be rescuers to leave young wildlife alone

From the WDFW website

With temperatures rising and summer drawing near, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) is reminding campers, hikers and others who enjoy spending time outdoors to leave any wildlife they encounter alone.

With deer fawns, raccoons, seal pups, baby birds and other young animals now on view around the state, the department is receiving an increasing number of calls from people asking what to do with animals they have "rescued" from the wild, said Mick Cope, WDFW game manager.

"People find young animals and birds alone and assume they've been abandoned by their parents," Cope said. "In fact, their parents are usually nearby and may even be watching as their fawns, kits, and chicks are removed by would-be rescuers."

Cope said deer often leave their young for hours at a time to forage and avoid attracting predators with their own body scent. The best thing people can do if they find a fawn without its mother is to leave it alone so its mother can return to it, he said.

"Even with the best intentions, removing animals from the wild greatly reduces their chance of survival," Cope said.

Tina Hamilton, statewide dispatcher for WDFW's law enforcement program, has seen a marked increase in reports of "rescued" wildlife in recent weeks.

"We recently had a situation where someone picked up a newborn fawn and left it at a fire station in rural Pierce County," Hamilton said. "That fawn still had its umbilical cord, so how far away could its mother have been?"

While WDFW may attempt to place displaced animals with wildlife rehabilitators, many do not survive, Cope said.

He also noted that holding wildlife in captivity is a misdemeanor in Washington state. Under state law, only licensed wildlife rehabilitators can hold wildlife in captivity.

"If people want to help, we ask that they give young wildlife a wide berth and restrain pets that might harass them," Cope said. "Cats, in particular, can take a toll on songbirds if they're left to roam outdoors."

For more information about appropriate behavior around wildlife, see WDFW's Living with Wildlife website at http://wdfw.wa.gov/conservation/health/rehabilitation/when_not_to_rescue.html

KIDS' DAY

Free Activities for Kids...Loads of FUN!!

Saturday, June 11th
10 am - 3 pm

LIVE TROUT POND

Kids Ages 4-12
1 trip through per child.



CASTING SKILLS CONTEST

Presented by the
Mt. St. Helens Bass Masters



Kids Ages 4-12
Prizes Will Be Awarded!

FREE FACE PAINTING!



The Willapa Hills Audubon Society Will Be Here!



Check Out Mounts of
Several Local Birds!

Talk Birds!

Make Bookmarks with
Bird Rubber Stamps & Feathers!

Dissect Barn Owl Pellets!

Check Your
Wingspan With
Wood Carved Bird
Wing Models!

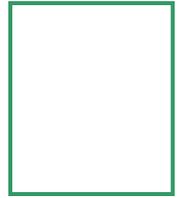


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The *Willapa Whistler* is the quarterly publication of the Willapa Hills Audubon Society (WHAS), a chapter of the National Audubon Society. Complimentary copies are available for free on our website.

TEMP -- RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Most WHAS activities and programs are open to the public.

Send in your stories & photos

Articles, information, wildlife sightings and artwork are most welcomed. The deadline for submissions is the 15th of February, May, August and November. Send your contributions to:

WHAS Whistler, PO Box 399, Longview WA 98632

or email them to

newsletter@willapahillsaudubon.org.

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Like us on Facebook at:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Willapa-Hills-Audubon/1386609461578276>

WHAS Programs and Field Trips

WHAS events are free and open to the public (Unless otherwise noted). Check the website calendar for the latest information and updates.

Keeping with tradition, our field trips and program are taking the summer off; we hope all our members and friends find ways to enjoy the outdoors this summer and join us in the fall when our activities resume.

Other fall plans will appear in the fall issue of the Whistler, on the web site and will be announced through our gmail alert system.

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.

Check out our website at www.willapahillsaudubon.org