



# The Corvid Crier

EAST LAKE WASHINGTON AUDUBON SOCIETY

VOL 26, NO 10 – DECEMBER '07/JANUARY '08

*The Mission of the East Lake Washington Audubon Society is to protect, preserve and enhance natural ecosystems and our communities for the benefit of birds, other wildlife and people.*

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## Directions to ELWAS HQ

Northlake Unitarian Universalist Church, 308 4<sup>th</sup> Ave. S. (corner of 4<sup>th</sup> Ave. S. and State). Take I-405 exit 18 (NE 85<sup>th</sup>, Kirkland). Drive west on Central Way to 3<sup>rd</sup> St. (stoplight). Turn left (south) on 3<sup>rd</sup> St. and follow it as it bears left and changes name to State St. Turn left on 4<sup>th</sup> Ave S.

TAKE THE BUS! Routes 540, 230 and 255 serve State Street in Kirkland.



EAST LAKE WASHINGTON  
AUDUBON SOCIETY

25TH ANNIVERSARY

## Annual Christmas Bird Count and Dinner December 15 (Sat) 8:00 am to 4 pm (Dinner at 6pm)



Come and join one of the 8 teams of bird counters in the ELWAS annual CBC. We welcome anyone who wants to help - from beginner to expert. Be sure to wear comfortable shoes/boots, warm clothes and bring lunch. The 8 count areas and leaders are:

Fall City – Preston Area -- (Kathy Andrich, 206-390-3159 or chukarbird@yahoo.com)

Lake Sammamish State Park-Cougar Mt.-Issaquah – (Martyn Stewart, 425-836-3849 or mstew@naturesound.org)

Marymoor – Ames Lake – (Brian Bell, 425-485-8058 or bellasoc@isomedia.com)

Pine Lake Plateau – (Jim Rettig, 425-402-1833 or jrettigtanager@verizon.net)

W. Lake Sammamish Parks – (MaryFrances Mathis, 425-803-3026 or mfmathis@verizon.net)

East Snoqualmie Valley – (Joyce Meyer, 425-868-7986 or meyer2j@aol.com)

West Snoqualmie Valley – (Hugh Jennings, 425-746-6351 or hughbirder@earthlink.net)

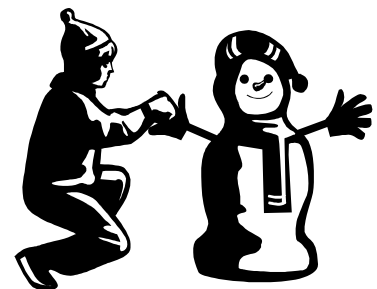
E. Lake Sammamish Trail – (Tim McGruder, 425-822-8580 or tmcgruder@gmail.com — involves a 4.5 mile walk)

All those interested in going on one of the counts should call or email the leader for more info and/or to sign up for that count. Participants are encouraged to support the CBC by donating the \$5.00 fee. The count fees collected during each CBC help cover the cost of

generating materials for compilers, producing the annual CBC summary issue, and maintaining the CBC Web site and database. Only those paying the \$5.00 are reported as participants in the National Audubon CBC. The count leaders are responsible for collecting this money.

Tallies from our annual CBC will be combined with counts taken throughout the nation to help determine bird distribution and population trends. Birds will also be counted in Central America to keep track of migrants. You can also stay at home and count birds in your backyard, be sure to count for at least two hours. — then email Hugh Jennings at hughbirder@earthlink.net or phone 425-746-6351 and leave a message with your results before 5 pm on December 15. All results will be tallied at the dinner following the count.

After the bird count, counters are invited to join ELWAS for a warm, wholesome meal. Dinner is served at 6:00 pm and will be held in a private home. **Space is limited only to count participants.** Cost is \$5.00, which includes dinner (vegetarian and meat), dessert and drinks. Please **call the office (425-576-8805) for dinner reservations.**



**ELWAS Annual Dinner**  
**Thursday, January 24, 2008 at 6:30 pm**

See Page 3 for details, including pot luck instructions. Everyone is welcome!

# Evergreen State/Evergreen Cities

By Christy Anderson, ELWAS President

When my husband and I retired, the first question people asked was "Are you moving?" I guess that's what's expected of "old" retired folks. Get out of town! And we thought about it, especially while traveling. I think everyone indulges in the game of "What would it be like to live in ... (fill in the blank)?"

But at the end of our discussions, we always come back to the Pacific Northwest. And most of our reasons center on green. The firs and cedars, maples and hazelnuts, the huckleberries and the kinnikinnick. Sometimes it takes traveling to a new place to appreciate home. As much as we disparage the rain, it makes possible this lush and beautiful landscape that is so hard to think of leaving.

But our green landscape is in trouble, and has been for many years. Have you seen those aerial photos of the Puget Sound area taken in the '70's compared to the same places in the 90's? ([www.americanforests.org/downloads/rea/AF\\_PugetSound.pdf](http://www.americanforests.org/downloads/rea/AF_PugetSound.pdf)) It's truly shocking. And it's continuing. We are losing our tree cover in our cities.

Since 1971, we have lost over 800,000 acres (49%) of urban forest land surrounding Puget Sound. The environmental consequences are alarming, for wildlife, birds and people. Trees are one of the most cost effective investments we can make to improve air and water quality. Many cities have weak or no tree retention policies. Some developers consider violations of tree ordinances as the "cost of doing business."

Even forest areas still standing are in trouble. Invasive plants have overrun many areas and mature trees are reaching the end of their lifespans. Research shows that 70% of the urban forests in Puget Sound cities will be ecological dead zones within 20 years. But it's not inevitable. Proper planning, management, and stewardship can reverse this trend.

Audubon Washington, our state office, is proposing legislation in 2008 to help this situation. (For more information, see page 8.) If enacted, this legislation will develop state-wide performance standards and grant programs to enable cities and counties to restore their urban forests. Transfer of development rights could retain trees in more rural areas outside the urban growth area. Retention of forests would be required through local ordinances and urban forest management plans, enabling cities to tailor them to their own unique situations.

The concept is called Evergreen Cities, and is one of the key issues Audubon will be discussing with legislators on Lobby Day, coming up on January 23<sup>rd</sup>. ELWAS will be traveling to Olympia to participate in this annual event. More information about Lobby Day is available on page 9 and on our website.

I will be going to talk to lawmakers about making sure that my idea of home, a truly ever green city, still seems like home for many decades to come. You are welcome to join me!

## East Lake Washington Audubon Society (425) 576-8805 — [www.ELWAS.org](http://www.ELWAS.org)

308 4th Avenue S. (Corner 4th Ave. S. and State)  
P.O. Box 3115, Kirkland, WA 98083-3115

### Executive Officers

<b>President</b>	Christy Anderson	(425) 747-4196 <a href="mailto:president@elwas.org">president@elwas.org</a>
<b>Vice President</b>	Cindy Balbuena	(425) 643-4074 <a href="mailto:cbalbuena@comcast.net">cbalbuena@comcast.net</a>
<b>Secretary</b>	Carmen Almodovar	(425) 643-5922 <a href="mailto:Carmena2001@earthlink.net">Carmena2001@earthlink.net</a>
<b>Treasurer</b>	Ellen Homan	(425) 836-5838 <a href="mailto:gammy@isomedia.com">gammy@isomedia.com</a>
<b>Executive Director</b>	Jan McGruder	(425) 822-8580 <a href="mailto:jan@elwas.org">jan@elwas.org</a>

### Committee Chairs/Board (board positions underlined)

<u>At large board member</u>	Amy McQuade	(206) 523-6030 <a href="mailto:mcbdrwchr@aol.com">mcbdrwchr@aol.com</a>
<u>At large board member</u>	Margaret Lie	(425) 823-2686 <a href="mailto:margaretlie12@gmail.com">margaretlie12@gmail.com</a>
<u>At large board member</u>	Tricia Kishel	(206) 948-3922 <a href="mailto:natureisoutside@gmail.com">natureisoutside@gmail.com</a>
<u>Birding</u>	Brian Bell	(425) 485-8058 <a href="mailto:bellasoc@isomedia.com">bellasoc@isomedia.com</a>
<b>Adult Education</b>	<b>Open</b>	
<b>Bird Photography</b>	Tim Boyer	(425) 277-9326 <a href="mailto:tboyer@seanet.com">tboyer@seanet.com</a>
<b>Field Trips</b>	Hugh Jennings	(425) 746-6351 <a href="mailto:fieldtrip@elwas.org">fieldtrip@elwas.org</a>
<b>Native Plant Walks</b>	Sunny Walter	(425) 271-1346 <a href="mailto:sunny@sunnywalter.com">sunny@sunnywalter.com</a>
<b>Nature Walks</b>	<b>Open</b>	
<b>Special Events</b>	<b>Open</b>	
<b>Bird Questions?</b>	MaryFrances Mathis	(425) 803-3026
<u>Conservation</u>	Tim McGruder	(425) 822-8580 <a href="mailto:tim@elwas.org">tim@elwas.org</a>
<b>Advocacy</b>	<b>Open</b>	
<b>Citizen Science</b>	Tim McGruder	(425) 822-8580
<b>Conservation</b>	Tim McGruder	(425) 822-8580 <a href="mailto:tim@elwas.org">tim@elwas.org</a>
<b>Marymoor Park</b>	Jim Rettig	(425) 402-1833 <a href="mailto:jrettigtanager@verizon.net">jrettigtanager@verizon.net</a>
<u>Education</u>	Mary Britton-Simmons	(360) 794-7163 <a href="mailto:education@elwas.org">education@elwas.org</a>
<b>Programs</b>	Sunny Walter	(425) 271-1346 <a href="mailto:sunny@sunnywalter.com">sunny@sunnywalter.com</a>
<b>Youth Education</b>	Mary Britton-Simmons	(360) 794-7163 <a href="mailto:education@elwas.org">education@elwas.org</a>
<b>Library</b>	Carolyn Kishel	(425) 746-1817
<u>Communication</u>	<b>Open</b>	
<b>Historian</b>	<b>Open</b>	
<b>Newsletter</b>	Tom Grismer	(206) 720-9892 <a href="mailto:newsletter@elwas.org">newsletter@elwas.org</a>
<b>Publicity</b>	Tracey Cummings	(425) 788-4663 <a href="mailto:publicity@elwas.org">publicity@elwas.org</a>
<b>Webmaster</b>	Nancy Nicklas	(425) 869-7827 <a href="mailto:webmaster@elwas.org">webmaster@elwas.org</a>
<u>Financial Development</u>	<b>Open</b>	
<b>Birdathon</b>	Christy Anderson	(425) 747-4196
<b>Gift Wrap</b>	<b>Open</b>	
<b>Merchandising</b>	Cindy Balbuena	(425) 643-4074 <a href="mailto:cbalbuena@comcast.net">cbalbuena@comcast.net</a>
<u>Membership</u>	Sunny Walter	(425) 271-1346 <a href="mailto:sunny@sunnywalter.com">sunny@sunnywalter.com</a>
<b>Hospitality</b>	Claudia Welch	(425) 827/2548
<b>Volunteer Coordinator</b>	Tricia Kishel	(206) 948-3922 <a href="mailto:natureisoutside@gmail.com">natureisoutside@gmail.com</a>

## ELWAS Dec/Jan Meetings

Dec 5/Jan 2 (Weds) 6:00 pm

### Web Committee

Meets first Wednesday each month in ELWAS Office. All interested parties are invited. Questions? Email Nancy Nicklas at [webmaster@elwas.org](mailto:webmaster@elwas.org)

Dec 11/Jan 8 (Tues) 7:00 pm

### Youth Education Committee

Meets in the ELWAS Office. All interested parties are invited. Questions? Email [education@elwas.org](mailto:education@elwas.org)

Dec 13/Jan 10 (Thurs) 7:00 pm

### Photo Group

Meets in large room upstairs from ELWAS Office. Questions? Email Tim Boyer at [tboyer@seanet.com](mailto:tboyer@seanet.com)

Dec 15 (Sat) 8:00 am — 4:00 pm

### Christmas Bird Count and Dinner

See article on page 1.

Jan 24 (Thurs) 6:30 pm

### ELWAS Annual Dinner

See article on this page.

## ELWAS Office/ Audubon Center

The office is downstairs at Northlake Unitarian Universalist Church in Kirkland, **308 4th Avenue S. (Corner 4th Ave. S. and State)**. Directions: I-405 exit 18 (N. E. 85th-Kirkland). Go west on Central Way to the light on 3rd St. Go left on 3rd St. Follow this street (it bears left and changes name to State St.) Then turn left on 4th Ave. S.

(425) 576-8805 — [office@elwas.org](mailto:office@elwas.org)

Hours: Mon, Tues, Fri — 9:00am - 1:00pm

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The Corvid Crier is published monthly by the East Lake Washington Audubon Society except that there are no issues in January or August.

**Deadline** for material submission is the first Wednesday of the month preceding publication. Send material by email to:

[newsletter@elwas.org](mailto:newsletter@elwas.org)

Subject: ELWAS Newsletter

or by mail to:

East Lake Washington Audubon Society

Attn: Tom Grismer

P. O. Box 3115, Kirkland, WA 98083-3115

The "Raven in Flight" used as our graphic logo was created by Tony Angell, and is ©1978 University of Washington Press. Used with permission.

## ELWAS Annual Dinner

Thursday, January 24, 2008 at 6:30 pm

After enjoying a delicious dinner, we will celebrate the Chapter's 2007 accomplishments. The new Board of Directors will be installed, and the outgoing Board Members and our many volunteers from 2007 will be honored.

Back by popular demand - members of the Photo Club will give mini slide shows of their work. You can bet there will be some wonderful bird pictures!

Please bring a dish that serves six, corresponding to the first letter of your last name:

A-G ..... bring a salad

H-P ..... bring a dessert

Q-Z ..... bring a hot dish

Beverages and bread will be provided, and we will use the church's "china" and flatware.

Dinner starts at 6:30 pm on Thursday, January 24th at Northlake Unitarian Church, 308 Fourth Avenue S. in Kirkland (directions on page 1). **Everyone is welcome.**



## Help With Holiday Gift Wrap & Sewing Bee

ELWAS will be conducting our annual fund raising gift wrap at Redmond REI on December 21, 22, 23, 24.

Please call Ellen Homan at 425 836-5838 if you would like to volunteer to work for a few hours.

To prepare gift bags for sale at this fundraiser, we will be having a gift bag sewing bee at the ELWAS office on Saturday, December 8 from 10 am to 2 pm. If you want to help, please RSVP to [jan@elwas.org](mailto:jan@elwas.org) as space is limited.

## Volunteers!

Whether you want to be in front of a crowd, or work behind the scene, we need you! With your help and expertise, and a little of your time, we can grow the Chapter and do even more in our community - we can do more classroom presentations, more habitat improvement, more advocacy, more education, and more birding. Some of our volunteer opportunities are:

**Historian** – Take pictures at ELWAS events (meetings and field trips), and keep the history books up to date, including materials from others.

**Document Scanner** – Scan field trip maps and other documents for posting on the website

**Adult Education Chair** – recruit instructors, arrange for classroom and hosts, draft publicity and evaluations (6 hours a month)

**Events Coordinator** – Schedule ELWAS volunteer to staff tables at various events on the Eastside, and organize display and materials for each event (4

hours a month)

**Membership Meeting Greeter** - Greet guests and members at the monthly meetings (1 hour a month)

**ELWAS E-Mail List Moderator** – Moderate the ELWAS e-mail lists from the comfort of your own home (5 hours a month)

**Website Volunteer** - Work with the Web Committee to update or add new content to the ELWAS website.

**Bird List Organizer** – Using field trip records, create bird lists for the website Birding Hot Spots

We will work with each volunteer, and give them as much training and support as they need to be successful. You may read a thorough description for each opportunity on our website, or contact Jan McGruder at (425) 822-8580 or [jan@elwas.org](mailto:jan@elwas.org) for further details.

**If you believe ELWAS is a cause worthy of your time, give a little of yourself. The birds will thank you!**

## Great Volunteers make a Great Organization!

Thanks to those who worked on the Mary-moor Birdloop this last month. What a great turn out and such progress is being made! **Mary Allain, Perslav Angelov, Glenn Eades, Therese Eby, Ella Elman, Marlee Elston, Bev Jennings, Stefan, Kuehler, Krish Kaycee, Jennifer Leach, Megan Lyden, Andy McCormick, Jan McGruder, Tim McGruder, Jim Rettig, Jim Roberts** and **Nancy Roberts**.

Thank you to those who came and worked to get the Corvid Crier out to all our fabulous members: **Lea Knapp, Marge Dolecal, Jim Roberts, Caren Park, Nancy Roberts** and **Peggy Jorgensen**.

Thank you again to **Lea Knapp** for her Beach Clean-up.

Thank you to those who helped make sure the Program Meeting ran smoothly in both September and October: **Mary Britton-Simmons, Margaret Lie, Christy Anderson, Cindy Balbuena, Sunny Walter, Tim McGruder, Nancy Roberts, Jim Roberts, Tricia Kishel** and **Claudia Welch**.

Thank you to **Jim Wheeler** for help with a science fair.

Thanks to those who work in our office: **Hugh and Bev Jennings, Paul Jensen, Len Steiner, Jan Loux, Helen LaBouy, Pat Vernie**, and **Jill Keeney**.

### Holiday Market Volunteers

A great **BIG THANK YOU** to those who worked on the Holiday Market. The list is long and the tasks diverse:

### Welcome New ELWAS Members

Welcome to the following new members of the East Lake Washington Audubon Society. We hope to see you soon at a Membership Meeting or Field Trip. Call or visit our office if you have any questions. Our friendly volunteers are happy to help you.

Brian Beaulaurier  
Tim Bohlin  
Paul Clement  
Chris and Louise Conrad

Those who worked on the SIGNS: **Todd Baxter, Christy Anderson, Sunny Walter, Len Steiner** and **Jim Rettig**.

Thank you to those who came in for our special Mailing for the Nature's Holiday Market: **Lea Knapp, Caren Park, Jim Rettig, Melanie Bishop** and **Paula Flores**.

Thanks to those who donated to our Raffle Baskets: **Christy Anderson, Carmen Almodovar, Jill Keeney,**

**Shirlee and Jim Hall, Sharon Pagel, Mary Britton Simmons, Margaret Lie** and **Tricia Kishel**.

Thank you to those who sewed their fingers to the bone for our wonderful fabric re-usable gift bags: **Mary Holt, Nancy Roberts, Melanie Bishop, Suz Garcia, Lea Knapp** and **Jan McGruder**.

Thank you to those who prepared the merchandise for sale: **Patricia Clarke, Jane Paige, Lea Knapp, Nanci Tangeman, Karen Guy** and **Sunny Walter**.

Thank you to those who helped to do the set up for the Holiday Market, breaking their backs carrying all of the merchandise up the stairs: **Nancy Roberts, Jim Roberts, Helen LaBouy, Tricia Kishel, Marlene Meyer, Cindy Balbuena, Jim Rettig, Margaret Lie, Carmen Almodovar** and **Mary Britton-Simmons**.

Thank you for putting up the Lights: **Marty Kishel** and **Tricia Kishel**.

Thank you to all the wonderful volunteers who helped to manage the Holiday Market on it's very successful day: **Jim** and

**Shirlee Hall, Jill Keeney, Margaret Lie, Mariah Binag, Arielle Atkinson, Sharon Pagel, Mary Britton-Simmons, Kay Barrett, Claudia Welch, Bev Jennings, Hugh Jennings, Tim McGruder, Sunny Walter, Len Steiner, Brian Bell, Cindy Balbuena, Margaret Lie, Tricia Kishel, Jean Wallace, Marlene Meyer, Nancy Roberts, Jim Roberts, Arielle Atkinson, Sharon Pagel, Ivan Balbuena, Jim Hall, Shirlee Hall, Ellen Homan, Jill Keeney, Shiley O'Brien, Karen Guy, Judy Peterson, Kris Swanson, Christy Anderson, Melinda Bronsdon, Pat Jovag, Lea Knapp** and **Theresa Eby**.

Thank you to all the Bake Sale Donors: **Nancy Roberts, Edie Lie, Penny Lie, Andy McCormick, Jill Keeney, Brian Bell, Jean Wallace, Mary Britton-Simmons, Jim Hall, Claudia Welch, Margaret Lie, Shirley O'Brien, Penny Lie, Unknown Cormier, Merry Schmidt, Emily Winstrom, Jim and Shirlee Hall, Judy Peterson, Jane Paige, Bev Jennings, Judy Peterson, Roo Stewart, Marilyn Steiner, Melanie Bishop, Barbara Dietrich, Paul Jensen, Lea Knapp, Tina Klein-Lebbink, Derek Mahaffey, Muriel Mahaffey, Cindy Balbuena, Pat Vernie**, and **Janet Merriam**.

Thank you so much for the wonderful piano playing to both **Barbara Deidrich** and **Jan Rettig**.

(Apologies to those who might have been missed, your hard work was not.)

— Tricia Kishel

Jackie Prentice  
Laura and Rich Rankin  
Susan B. Sander  
Amin Mohadjer  
Kerry Oldenburg  
Ceridwen Sanders  
Louise K. Schall  
Lorne Schille  
Margaret Schwender  
Tushar Sharma  
Jean Wallace  
Herbert C. Westfall



# EAST LAKE WASHINGTON AUDUBON SOCIETY Nature's Holiday Market

## Holiday Market a Chirping Success!

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Nature's Holiday Market started the holiday season in fine style. Many of those attending found the perfect holiday gift for friends or family or themselves! Well over 100 people attended, both ELWAS members and the general public. Several people couldn't resist coming in to check out the market after seeing one of our intrepid volunteers out on the sidewalk with a large bird puppet!

The Market's success as a fundraiser was also spectacular, as over \$5,500 was raised, \$2,000 more than last year! Even after expenses are subtracted, we expect

the net to be substantial. The funds raised will help us continue our programs in classrooms all over the Eastside and with our upcoming Global Warming Activist Workshop in February.

One of the highlights was kids making pine cone birdfeeders or decorating canvas shopping bags to take home. Two of our camp scholarship recipients from last summer assisted with the children's activities, and it was hard to tell who was having more fun.

Three gorgeous gift baskets, each valued

around \$100, were won by those holding winning raffle tickets. The *Kid's Birdy Basket* was won by Kristin Gulledege, *Chocolate Lover's Delight* was won by Nancy Roberts, and *Peace on Earth-Goodwill to All Birds* (a great selection of books and tools for birders) was won by Barbara Dietrich. They were all delighted.

Thank you to everyone who helped with the planning and implementation of this great event! It took a group effort to have things run so smoothly, and you should all be very proud.

## Rising Costs Force Membership Rate Increase

As part of the Board's annual planning, a committee of volunteers conducted an analysis of ELWAS' past fundraising efforts and presented some ideas for the Board's consideration.

One idea the Board adopted was to raise the basic Chapter membership (Corvid Club) rate from \$25 to \$35. Membership fees have not increased for over 11 years, though the cost of paper and postage has gone up nearly every year. ELWAS membership includes all household members, which differentiates it from most other membership organizations. All household members are offered the same benefits of membership for one fee.

The Board also voted that the Web Mem-

bership rate would remain at \$25. Web Membership is for members who choose to read the Corvid Crier online. Saving paper, and therefore trees, is a vital part of ELWAS' mission. All members are encouraged to read the Corvid Crier online rather than receive a paper copy.

Many members come to the chapter by joining National Audubon and being assigned based on zip code. ELWAS receives \$3/year per National Audubon member for the first year only to help defray the costs of supporting those members. Printing and mailing the newsletter alone costs over \$10 a year! Members of National Audubon enjoy the full benefits of ELWAS membership, including receiving the Corvid Crier. The Board has dis-

cussed the issue of whether or not to mail newsletters to National-Only members many times over the past years, and always decides to continue mailing everyone the newsletter. This is still one of our main means of communication and often National members become active volunteers.

We encourage Chapter-Only members to also join National Audubon. They are doing great work in the areas of clean air and clean water, have started a Global Warming campaign, and have long been champions of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

If you have questions about your membership, please call the office.

## Board Elections Held

At the November 15<sup>th</sup> membership meeting, elections were held for the ELWAS Board of Directors. Since each Board position has a 2-year term, each year half of the positions come up for a vote.

The following volunteers were elected to new 2-year terms:

Secretary	Carmen Almodovar
Treasurer	Ellen Homan
At-Large	Margaret Lie

At Large	Tricia Kishel
Conservation	Tim McGruder
Membership	Sunny Walter

The position of Financial Development is still open, and we are actively seeking a volunteer willing to help ELWAS plan a secure financial future.

One position not up for election at this time is Vice President, but Jim Rettig has completed his one-year, temporary stint,

so Cindy Balbuena has agreed to complete the term in this position.

These people have volunteered their time to guide ELWAS in its mission. The Board has been very dedicated, and has succeeded in reaching some very worthwhile goals. They have big plans for the future! If you are interested in getting more involved with a hard-working, but very fun group of people, please contact Jan McGruder to express your interest.

## FIELD TRIPS

**Parents and children over 8 are welcome on all trips. \*\*FRS Radio owners, please consider bringing them on trips.\*\*  
Check our website at <http://www.elwas.org/events/> for the latest information and for reports of last month's field trips.**

### Meeting Places for Field Trips:

- **Tibbetts Park & Ride in Issaquah:** I-90, exit 15, turn right (south) and go to Newport Way NW, turn left (east) and then right (south) into P&R and park on west side.
- **Kingsgate Park & Ride (Detour route):** The detour route has you either take the Totem Lake off-ramp from I-405 northbound and turn left at the light at the bottom of the Totem Lake off-ramp onto Totem Lake Blvd, or take the NE 124th St off-ramp from I-405 southbound and turn left to the light at 124th Ave NE. This will put you on Totem Lake Blvd, the detour route. Take Totem Lake Blvd north to the light at NE 132nd Street, turn left under I-405 and then immediately turn left onto 116th Ave NE and into the P&R..
- **Newport Hills Park & Ride:** I-405, exit 9
- **South Kirkland Park & Ride:** 108th Ave. NE just north of hwy 520 and Northup Way.
- **Wilburton Park & Ride:** I-405, exit 12.

### Dec 1 (Sat) 9:00 to noon

#### Marymoor Park Bird Loop Work Party

Join us in restoring native habitat at the Marymoor Park interpretive area on the 1st Saturday of every month. Dress for the weather and bring clippers, gloves, snacks and water. Park in Lot G and follow the signs to work parties. Free parking passes are provided. **Glenn Eades 425-885-3842**

### Dec 7 (Fri) 9:00 to noon — Marymoor Park

Join us for a morning walk along the nature trail, seeing what birds are in the area. Meets the **1<sup>st</sup> Friday of each month at 9:00**. Bring binoculars and meet at the SW corner of the Dog Area parking lot (Parking Lot D). No registration is required. To reach Marymoor Park, take SR 520 east from Seattle to the West Lake Sammamish Parkway exit and follow the signs. The entrance to the park is one block south of the exit. Turn right at third stop sign, to Dog Area parking lot. Parking is \$1.

### December 8 (Sat) 8:00 to noon — Green Lake

Walk **Green Lake** with expert birder Martin Muller who has acquired intimate knowledge of this lake and the 150 bird species found there. **Meet by 7:25 am** at South Kirkland P&R near the bus stop (on 108th Ave. NE just north of hwy 520 and Northup Way) to carpool, or meet at Green Lake. We will park at the west end of Green Lake near the Bathhouse Theater and meet Martin on the lake side of the theatre, between the brick building and the water. No sign-up, just show up. Group size is a maximum of 15. Passenger cost/person \$2.00. **Hugh Jennings 425-746-6351**

### December 15 (Sat) 8:00 am to 4 pm

#### Annual Christmas Bird Count and Dinner

See article on front page.

### Dec 18 (Tues) 9:00 to noon

#### Juanita Bay Park Bird Walk

A relaxed walk in the Park, seeing what birds are in the area. Meets the **3rd Tuesday of each month at 8:00**. Bring binoculars and meet in parking lot. No registration required.

**MaryFrances Mathis 425-803-3026**

### December 24 (Mon) 9:00 to noon

#### Birding the Hot Spots of King County

Monthly field trip on **fourth Monday** of each month to wherever the birds are. Meet before 9:00 am at north end of the Newport Hills Park-N-Ride (I-405, exit 9) and plan to be back by noon. Passenger cost/person \$2.00.

**Hugh Jennings 425-746-6351**

### Jan 4 (Fri) 9:00 to noon — Marymoor Park

See Dec 7 entry.

**January 5 (Sat) -- Note: Marymoor work party will not happen in January. Will resume Saturday, February 2.**

### January 9 (Weds) 7:30 am to late afternoon

#### Samish and Skagit Flats

We will be looking for raptors including Bald Eagles, Red-tailed and Rough-legged Hawks, Northern Harriers, all the falcons and Short-eared Owls. We will also be scanning the fields for shorebirds and waterfowl. We'll visit water overlooks and keep our eyes out for passerines. Scopes are extremely helpful. Dress for weather and bring lunch. Meet before 7:30 at the Kingsgate P&R to carpool. Passenger cost/person \$11.00. Return approximately 5:30 pm. **Brian Bell 425-485-8958**

### January 15 (Tues) 9:00 to noon

#### Juanita Bay Park Bird Walk

See Dec 18 entry.

### January 19 (Sat) 8:00 to noon

#### West Seattle Shoreline

Explore the shores and waters of West Seattle along Elliot Bay and Puget Sound to Lincoln Park. Numerous viewpoints overlook the water and freighters, ferries and sea birds. Expectations include goldeneyes, scoters, gulls, Harlequin Ducks and shorebirds. Should be done by noon. Meet before 8:00 a.m. at north end of the Wilburton P&R (I-405, exit 12). Passenger cost/person \$2.00. **Hugh Jennings 425-746-6351**

### January 26 & 27 (Sat-Sun) Limit 5 each for SAS & ELWAS Reifel Migratory Bird Refuge/Delta B.C.--in conjunction with Seattle Audubon

Look for resident and wintering passerines, raptors, owls, and waterfowl along the trails. Sunday we'll stop at Boundary Bay for Snowy Owls, Point Roberts, and Drayton Harbor. Scopes helpful. Bring passport, lunch, and money for food, carpool costs and overnight accommodations. Return by 6 pm on Sunday. Meet before 7:00 am at South Kirkland P&R to

*(Continued on page 7)*

## BIRD OF THE MONTH

### Common Merganser *Mergus merganser*

The Common Merganser (COME) is about 25" long with 34" wingspan and weighs 3.4 lb (1530 g). The genus name *Mergus* is Latin for diver. The species name *merganser* is from Latin *mergere* meaning to dip, plunge, and *anser* meaning goose. It is called Common because it may be seen more often than other members of its genus. This bird has a long, slender, hook-tipped red bill. The male has a dark green head with a white breast and flank, and a dark back. The female is gray with a red-crested head that is sharply separated from a white neck and breast. For immature COMEs, the female is like the adult while the male looks like the female at first, but then gradually begins to develop the adult male plumage by first spring. The British call this bird the "Goosander".

It is a fish-eating duck that is common on freshwater lakes across the United States and is found year-round on the coasts of Canada. It is only inland in Canada during the nesting season. It prefers freshwater, but can also be found on clear salt-water bodies. In Washington state this duck is a year-round resident. It is common at low elevations in winter and during breeding at low to medium elevations on shallow, clear rivers and lakes in forested country. It avoids dense marshes and muddy waters. The COME diet is a large variety of fish, but it will also eat mussels, shrimp and salamanders. Adult males can swallow fish more than a foot long. Young feed mostly on aquatic insects. This duck forages singly or in a flock by diving and swimming underwater, stroking with



both feet in unison. Most food is found by sight by swimming along the surface, dipping its head underwater until prey is seen, then it diving in pursuit.

Courtship displays of the male involve swimming very rapidly in circles near the female, then suddenly stretching its neck upward, pointing its bill straight up, and giving a soft call. Otherwise it is usually silent. Nesting is in a natural tree cavity or a large woodpecker hole, usually near water. They also nest in rock crevices, holes under tree roots and in undercut banks, or in nest boxes. Nest material is wood chips or weeds with a lining of down. There are usually 8-11 buff-colored eggs, sometimes 6-13. Females will often lay eggs in each other's

nests. Only the female incubates the eggs, usually for 30-35 days before the eggs hatch. The young may stay in the nest for a day or more, then climb to the cavity entrance and jump to the ground. The female cares for the young for several weeks, but the young usually feed themselves and they may survive even if abandoned. The young are able to fly about 60-75 days after hatching. The COME migrates mainly in small groups from Canada to the United States. The adult males seem to winter farther north than the females and young. Migration is usually late in fall and early in spring.

The photo was provided by Gary Luhm.

### Field Trips

(Continued from page 6)

carpool. Call the trip leaders to sign up and for details on accommodations. **Leaders: MaryFrances Mathis 425-803-3026 and Megan Lyden 425-603-1548**

**January 28 (Mon) 9:00 to noon**  
**Birding the Hot Spots of King County**  
See Dec 24 entry.  
**Hugh Jennings 425-746-6351**

**Feb 1 (Fri) 9:00 to noon — Marymoor Park**  
See Dec 7 entry.

**February 2 (Sat) 9:00 to noon**  
**Marymoor Park Bird Loop Work Party**  
See Dec 1 entry.

**February 9 (Sat) 7:30 to late afternoon**  
**Skagit/Samish Flats – Limited to 10 people**  
This is a great time to visit the Skagit and Samish Flats. The tidal flats and fields provide habitat for 20,000+ snow geese in winter (they nest in Siberia). Many buteos, owls, and falcons hunt in the area. Tundra and Trumpeter Swans should also be numerous. Meet before 7:30 am at the south end of the Kingsgate P&R. Bring a lunch. Passenger cost/person is **\$11.00**. **Call Mike West at 206-795-4865** to reserve a space.



## Evergreen Cities Legislative Campaign

It is time to stop losing the trees and forests in our cities. Keeping existing trees and planting new ones enhances quality of life, increases property values and gives us cleaner water and habitat for birds and wildlife. In January, Auduboners across the state will spearhead the Evergreen Cities legislative campaign, one of the four top environmental priorities in our state for 2008!

Some of our cities have innovative programs to retain, plant and maintain trees, but there is much room for improvement because only:

- 47% of our communities have tree ordinances
- 20% of our communities do routine tree care
- 12% of our communities have man-

agement plans, and

- 10% of our communities have up-to-date tree inventories
- In 20 years 70% of some cities public forest lands will be dead or dying due to poor maintenance and thousands of community forest acres will be removed for new development.

Washington's population is expected to increase by 2.3 million by 2030. We need action today to support tree planning and management for cities to ensure the Evergreen State is full of Evergreen Cities.

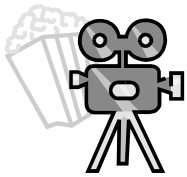
Scientific studies show that trees in cities provide many benefits including reduced energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions, improved storm water management, 20% increase in property values, 12% increase in consumer spending,

lower crime rates, and of course enhanced bird and wildlife habitat areas.

This legislation will provide funding and encourage partnerships to help local governments' update ordinances and management plans to grow healthy trees and urban forests. The bill will establish statewide performance standards for tree retention and forest canopy goals, guaranteeing benefit from healthy trees in our communities.

To get involved contact Lisa Paribello at 360-786-8020 ext. 201 or [lparibello@audubon.org](mailto:lparibello@audubon.org), visit <http://wa.audubon.org>, or sign-up for Audubon's biweekly updates and action alerts at: [www.audubonaction.org/washington](http://www.audubonaction.org/washington). You can also participate in Lobby Day. See page 9 for more info.

## Conservation Movie Night and Brown Bag Discussion Group! – Monday, December 10



Join ELWAS and Sierra Club members at our monthly movie and discussion group on December 10. Enjoy a 6:15 dinner-in-the-round with

people from both organizations (bring your own brown bag dinner; hot beverages will be provided). In December, our dinner topic/discussion will feature reports on how Kirkland, Redmond, Bellevue, and Issaquah are progressing on their "Cool Cities" programs. For more information on this unique grass roots campaign to provide innovative energy solutions that curb global warming, save tax-

payer dollars, and create healthier cities, go to <http://coolcities.us/>.

Our December movie, "**Winged Migration**," is pure entertainment in celebration of the holiday season. Amazing cinematography and gorgeous music fill this documentary-adventure. Presented with almost no narration and filmed primarily from a bird's perspective, this study of the lives and habits of migrating birds recreates as nearly as possible the experiences of the birds themselves. It was a big hit in the theaters. It's a must to see it again.

"Winged Migration" is 90 minutes long,

so we will start at 7:15 and run until 8:45 (no discussion afterward).

Mark these Movie Night dates on your calendar now!

December 10  
January 14  
February 11  
March 10

Come at 6:15 to be part of everything or at 7:15 for just the movie. This event will be held at the ELWAS office in Kirkland (directions on page 1).

## Global Warming Activist Workshop February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2008

(This is a date change from January 23<sup>rd</sup>)

ELWAS, National Audubon and the Cascade Chapter of the Sierra Club will co-host an Activist Workshop from 9:00 to 3:00 at Bastyr University in Kenmore. Participants should be prepared to join a campaign to take action. Activists of all levels of experience are invited to attend.

Cliff Mass, University of Washington Professor of Atmospheric Sciences, will talk about global warming and its effect in

the Northwest. Elected officials will talk about how to effectively lobby for change. Environmental leaders will discuss campaign opportunities in which you can participate.

Workshop open to 50 participants and registration closes on January 28th. Cost is \$15.00 which includes lunch and handouts. Financial assistance for students and those with low income is available. Con-

tact Tim McGruder ([tim@elwas.org](mailto:tim@elwas.org)) with questions. To register, call the office at 425-576-8805 or email Jan McGruder at [jan@elwas.org](mailto:jan@elwas.org).





## Conservation Calendar — Mark Your Calendar for These Events

### Saturday, January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2008 Legislative Workshop

Join the state's leading conservation groups as they prepare for the upcoming legislative session in Olympia. We'll hear from legislators, environmental policy experts, members of the media and others regarding the community's *Priorities for a Healthy Washington*.

Sponsored by Washington Environmental Council ([www.wecprotects.org](http://www.wecprotects.org))

Contact Tim McGruder 425-822-8580

### Wednesday, January 23, 2008, Citizen's Environmental Lobby Day

Hundreds of citizen lobbyists from around the state will meet face-to-face with legislators on important environmental issues. This all-day event includes lobbying training, issue briefings on legislative priorities, keynote speakers and a reception in the evening.

Sponsored by People for Puget Sound ([www.pugetsound.org](http://www.pugetsound.org))

Contact Tim McGruder 425-822-8580

### Saturday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2008, Global Warming Activist Workshop

Join ELWAS, National Audubon and the Cascade Chapter of the Sierra Club in this co-sponsored event from 9-3 at Bastyr University. Learn more about Global Warming and how you can get involved. Contact Tim McGruder 425-822-8580.

## Lobby Day - January 23<sup>rd</sup> -Your Chance to Make a Difference!

Each year, over 20 leading conservation groups, including Audubon Washington, choose, and work together to advance, four Priorities for a Healthy Washington. By focusing our collaborative energy on just four legislative proposals, we have achieved ever-increasing success for the health of our land, air and water. Last year, all four Priorities were passed by the legislature!

Lobby Day is the culmination of this ef-

fort. And you are needed!! **Join us** for two very important days.

Legislative Workshop on Saturday, January 12th at Seattle Pacific University.

We'll hear from legislators, environmental policy experts, members of the media and others regarding the Priorities and how to lobby effectively.

Lobby Day will be Wednesday, January 23rd, in Olympia. It is a great way to get

involved, learn, and connect with hundreds of others. Contact Tim McGruder ([tim@elwas.org](mailto:tim@elwas.org)) with questions. Or call the office at 425-576-8805.

This year's priorities are:

- Washington Climate Action
- Local Solutions to Global Warming
- Evergreen Cities
- Local Farms - Healthy Kids



### Native Planters Planting Native Plants!

On November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 17 people showed up at the Audubon Bird Loop at Marymoor Park to plant native species in the East Meadow. While we have finished planting four areas, there are a half dozen or more to go. So we will gather again on December 1, first Saturday of the month, from 9 to noon. Join the fun and help us transform the Bird Loop! Details on Field Trip Calendar.

## Burke Museum: Yellowstone and Beyond

On Sat., Dec. 8, the Burke Museum presents Terry McEaney, staff ornithologist of Yellowstone National Park, who will share the complexities and controversies behind managing the ecology and conservation of birds in Yellowstone National Park. McEaney has been Yellowstone National Park ornithologist for the past 22 years and will share his unique knowledge and insight about the Yellowstone birds and their future with a fascinating lecture and slide show presentation.

Prior to his current position at Yellowstone, McEaney was biologist at Red Rock Lakes National Wildlife Refuge. He has 39 years of experience in the Greater Yellowstone area and is a member

of both the Montana Bird Records Committee (MBRC) and the Wyoming Bird Records Committee. An accomplished author, his books include *The Uncommon Loon* and *Birding Montana*. He has also written numerous scientific and popular articles appearing in magazines such as *National Geographic* and *Smithsonian* and been a field consultant and cinematographer guide for *Nature*, the *BBC*, the *National Geographic Society*, and *Audubon*.

*Yellowstone and Beyond* is free with paid admission to the Burke. This presentation is a compliment to the Burke Museum's wildlife photography exhibit *Yellowstone to Yukon: Freedom to Roam*, on view through Dec. 31, 2007. ELWAS is a

cosponsor of this exhibit.

The Burke Museum is located on the University of Washington campus, at the corner of NE 45th St and 17th Ave NE. Hours are 10 am to 5 pm daily, and until 8 pm on first Thursdays. Admission: \$8 general, \$6.50 senior, \$5 student/ youth. Admission is free to children 4 and under, Burke members, UW students, faculty, and staff. Admission is free to the public on the first Thursday of each month. Prorated parking fees are \$11 and partially refundable upon exit if paid in cash. Call 206-543-5590 or visit [www.burkemuseum.org](http://www.burkemuseum.org).



### Now Showing at Museum Of History And Industry in Seattle:

*John James Audubon, American Artist and Naturalist*

A major exhibit of 60 of the original hand-colored Double Elephant Folio engravings from "The Birds of America", along with Audubon letters, rare books, photographs and personal items.

Ends January 6, 2008 <http://www.seattlehistory.org/>



Happy Plant Crew at Marymoor Park (see field trip calendar for opportunities to join them)

## How to Cut Emissions — by Jim Rettig



Scientists warn that in order for us to avert a global warming disaster, current carbon dioxide emissions need to be cut at least in half over the next 50 years.

Princeton University researchers Robert Socolow and Stephen Pacala have described 15 “stabilization wedges” which appear in a graph (not included) on pages 36 and 37 of the October issue of the National Geographic Magazine. Each carbon-cutting wedge would use existing technology and would reduce emissions by a billion metric tons each year by 2057. Adopting any combination of 12 of these 15 strategies would lower emissions by 50 percent. If we implemented 12 of these, we could stay at or below the CO2 threshold of 450 parts per million that I mentioned in last month’s newsletter article, which is, according to the scientific community, a threshold we should treat with great respect. The 15 wedges, separated into four categories, are listed here:

### Efficiency and Conservation

- Improve fuel economy of the two

billion cars expected on the road by 2057 to 60 mpg from 30 mpg.

- Reduce miles traveled annually per car from 10,000 to 5,000.
- Increase efficiency in heating, cooling, lighting, and appliances by 25%.
- Improve coal-fired power plant efficiency to 60 percent from 40 percent.

### Carbon Capture and Storage

- Introduce systems to capture CO2 and store it underground at 800 large coal-fired plants or 1,600 natural-gas-fired plants.
  - Use capture systems at coal-derived hydrogen plants producing fuel for a billion cars.
- Use capture systems in coal-derived synthetic fuel plants producing 30 million barrels a day.

### Low-carbon Fuels

- Replace 1,400 large coal-fired power plants with natural-gas-fired plants.
- Displace coal by increasing production of nuclear power to three times today’s capacity.

### Renewables and Biostorage

- Increase wind-generated power to 25 times current capacity.
- Increase solar power to 700 times current capacity.
- Increase wind power to 50 times current capacity to make hydrogen for fuel-cell cars.
- Increase ethanol biofuel production to 50 times current capacity. About one-sixth of the world’s cropland would be needed.
- Stop all deforestation. Expand conservation tillage to all cropland (normal plowing releases carbon by speeding decomposition or organic matter).

Write to your Senators, Congressperson, President, and others and tell them we must start now to cut carbon emissions. We cannot wait. “What can I do now?” you ask. Make sure the next vehicle you buy is highly fuel-efficient, or don’t buy another one, take the bus. Cut your driving miles per year to 5000. Attend the Global Warming Activist Workshop on February 2<sup>nd</sup>.

## Support ELWAS With Rechargeable PCC Scrip Cards

*Available at Membership Meetings and at the ELWAS Office During Office Hours.*

This is an EASY way to shop at PCC and support ELWAS at the same time!

PCC rechargeable scrip cards come loaded with \$25 and can be used at any PCC store like gift cards. Cards may be recharged with a minimum of \$50 and a maximum of \$500 at any PCC check

stand at any time. Scrip cards may be redeemed for cash when the value falls below \$5.

Each time you recharge your card, ELWAS automatically earns 5% of the amount you applied to it. Each card is numbered so funds can be tracked and

distributed. Funds will be paid to ELWAS twice a year.

If you have questions, please contact Megan Lyden (425-603-1548); [meganlyden@msn.com](mailto:meganlyden@msn.com)



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