



THE Kingfisher

February 9, 2017, Program



Audubon Grand Prize Winner Bonnie Block

Award-winning wildlife photographer Bonnie Block will talk about her journey from beginning photography as a hobby to becoming a bird watcher and serious photographer. She will include tips for gear that can be used in the field and some suggestions as to where and how to get started photographing birds. She will also share her thoughts on birding ethics and how it relates to bird photography today.

Since retiring in 2009, she has been able to combine a lifelong passion for animals and wildlife with the creative ability of the camera. Studying habitat and behavior of her subjects helps her present to viewers the beauty and pure magic she sees through the camera's lens. Her hope is that through viewing these images we can keep in mind the real and ever present need to protect and nurture our natural environment.

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Land purchase triples size of Port Gamble Heritage Park

Kitsap County has purchased 1,355 acres of Port Gamble forest with \$2.3 million in funding from the Washington State Department of Ecology. The "SavePG" campaign hopes to raise additional funds to purchase the adjoining 1,645 acres by July 2017. You can donate online at SavePG.org (details Page 6).

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President's Letter - Sandy Bullock

It's Scholarship time again.

Information and forms have been sent to Kitsap County high schools and posted on our website, and announcements have been sent to Kitsap newspapers. You can help support this important program by adding a few extra dollars to "scholarships," on your membership renewal form. Look for more details about scholarships in this issue of the Kingfisher.

Would you like to join a nice group of people over Chinese food once a month and help with the business side of Kitsap Audubon? This month the Nominating Committee will be scouting for members willing to run for open positions on the Board for the coming year beginning July first. For more information, talk to or email any Board member. The Committee's recommended slate of officers will be announced at the March meeting. The election will take place in April.

Our **March meeting will be especially important, because you will be asked to approve a change in the Bequest Policy** (see the proposed Amended Bequest Policy, and explanation of changes in this issue). The original policy called for a standing Endowment Spending Committee to handle grant requests from individuals and other organizations, and proscribed its duties and relationship with the Board. Experience has since shown that a standing committee has not really been needed. The Amended Bequest Policy would still allow the Board to appoint such a committee (temporary or standing), if and when a need should arise.



Kitsap Audubon Society's name may not quite be a household phrase yet, but we're getting there. We've increased our scholarship program. We have a beautiful new website, thanks to Michael Szerlog, and an active Facebook page, maintained by Connie Bickerton. Kitsap Audubon, represented by Judy and Don Willott, has been a leader in efforts to save the forest and shoreline near Port Gamble from development. Our Kingfisher newsletter is a standout among state chapters, due to editor, Gene Bullock's expertise; and our popular monthly programs draw a substantial number of people from the community thanks to our Program Chair, Vic Ulsh.

We want our community to know that we're not just a "bunch of bird watchers," but an important community organization dedicated to conservation and the preservation of our beautiful peninsula for wildlife, and for the people of Kitsap County.

Kitsap Audubon Society meets the 2nd Thursday of each month, September through May, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., on the lower level of the Poulsbo Library, 700 NE Lincoln Rd. Open to the public. Free parking.

Kitsap Audubon Accepting Applications for Scholarships Totaling \$6,000

The Kitsap Audubon Society is accepting applications for four scholarships totaling \$6,000.

The \$3,000 Ann Sleight Memorial Scholarship is awarded each year to a student who has successfully completed at least one year toward an academic degree in a field related to Kitsap Audubon's mission, such as environmental science, forestry, marine or wildlife biology.

Three \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded to graduating Kitsap high school seniors planning to pursue a two-to-four-year degree in a field related to Kitsap Audubon's mission.

Selection will be based on quality of application responses, academic history, letters of recommendation, and evidence of interest in the chosen field through related projects and

activities.

For details, visit our website www.KitsapAudubon.org or contact your high school counselor. Information is also available from Sandra Bullock, Kitsap Audubon Scholarship Chair, at roadrunner1957@comcast.net, or 360-394-5635. Applications must be postmarked by March 25. Award recipients will be notified by May 1, 2017.

Great Backyard Bird Count

The four-day Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC), February 17 – 20, is a great way for people of all ages and backgrounds to connect with nature and make a difference for birds. It's free and easy. To learn how to participate,

visit www.birdcount.org.

Launched in 1998 by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society, the GBBC was the first online citizen-science project to collect data on wild birds. Now, more than

160,000 people of all ages and walks of life in more than 130 countries join the four-day count each February to create an annual snapshot of the distribution and abundance of birds.

Audubon Adventures

By adding a designated contribution for Audubon Adventures when you renew your membership, you can help Kitsap Audubon introduce more third- and fourth-grade classrooms to the world of nature and wildlife. Kitsap Audubon purchases these environmental curriculum kits from National Audubon for about \$47 each and donates them to classroom teachers throughout Kitsap County. Dozens of area teachers have already taken advantage of this program, and request it again every year.

With colorful magazines for up to 32 students, plus online teacher's guides and other resources, Audubon Adventures opens children's hearts and minds to the wonders of birds, other wildlife, and the fascinating and complex natural world that is Planet Earth.

Developed by professional educators and scientists, Audubon Adventures is designed to be integrated easily into any curriculum area: science, mathematics, language arts, social studies, and the creative arts. It has been used in classrooms, home-school settings, after-school programs, camp programs, ESL classes, and more. Since its inception in 1984, more than 7 million students have participated in the program.

The image shows the cover of the 'City Life for WILDLIFE' magazine. The title 'City Life for WILDLIFE' is in red and yellow. The cover features a photograph of a Mallard duck in flight over water and a photograph of an Eastern gray squirrel at the bottom. A red banner at the bottom contains text about online adventures.

City Life for WILDLIFE

There's lots more Audubon Adventures online, with fun, interactive features! AudubonAdventures.org

For thousands of years, wild animals have lived in forests, wetlands, grasslands, and deserts all over North America. For the last hundred years or so, we humans have changed much of the land to meet our own needs. Where we built streets and buildings, many animals could no longer find what they needed to survive. You won't find those animals in an urban (city) environment. But some animals are more adaptable. That means they can change their behavior to fit new conditions. We share our cities and towns with them today. Wild critters are all around in cities, especially in parks, schoolyards, and other "wild" spaces. They're flying overhead, perched on power lines, nesting on streetlights, hunting for prey in the bushes, (continued on page 2)

Field Trips & Festivals - Al & Andrew Westphal

Following page shows final results for 2016 Kitsap Audubon Christmas Bird Count. Compiler: Janine Schutt.

Lion's Field/Port Washington Narrows: Saturday, February 18 (half-day). Contact Gene or Sandy Bullock to reserve a spot (360-394-5635; genebullock@comcast.net). This morning field trip to Port Washington Narrows customarily ends with lunch at the Boatshed Restaurant. We'll meet at 9 a.m. at Lion's Field Park on Lebo Lane. We'll also visit Evergreen Park and Lower Rota Vista Park. Kitsap Audubon has installed steps, a handrail and an interpretive sign at this charming little park at the end of Elizabeth Avenue, which offers exceptional views of a unique colony of Pelagic Cormorants and pair of Peregrine Falcons that nest on the underside of the Warren Avenue Bridge.

Marrowstone Island, Oak Bay, Fort Flagler, Wednesday, February 22. George Gerdts & Mary Anne Rossing, leaders. Two accomplished naturalists will lead a tour to a number of spots featuring wintering waterfowl, possibly venturing as far as Port Townsend. The group will assemble at 7:30 a.m. at the boat launch area of Salsbury County Park and form car pools for the day. Expect to finish at Fort Flagler or Fort Worden State Park and return by late afternoon. Pack a lunch and snacks. Due to constricted access at several locations, this group size must be limited, so contact George ASAP to sign up at geopandion@gmail.com or 206-817-6979 or 206-842-8138 (leave a message) for a reserved spot. Also please notify George of any cancellations in

order to make sure all spaces can be filled.

Ridgefield NWR: Saturday – Sunday, March 11 – 12 (overnight). Al & Andrew Westphal will lead a car trip to this remarkable refuge for wintering waterfowl near the lower Columbia River. Highlights are likely to include Tundra Swans and other fowl as well as the possibility of Sandhill Cranes and others. We will stop at other locations nearby or enroute as well. Ridgefield is about three hours from Kitsap County in moderate traffic. Trip will entail a good deal of driving miles and several longish walks on easy to moderate trails. If interested in this event, contact Al Westphal via email at westphalac@aol.com. For more info on the refuge, look at: <https://www.fws.gov/ridgefieldrefuges/complex/>

Circumnavigate Bainbridge Island: Saturday, March 25 (BI Parks & Rec. event). Aboard the ADMIRAL PETE with George Gerdts as leader/naturalist. Expect great looks at three species of cormorants; sea ducks; rocky-shore sandpipers; a Bald Eagle or two; great scenery; and a unique, close-up view of the Bainbridge Island shoreline. To reserve a space call the Bainbridge Island Parks and Recreation Department at 206-842-2306 ext. 118. The trip starts at 10:00 AM, with boarding at 09:45 and returns to the Bainbridge City Dock by 2:00 PM. Cost is \$85.00. (\$5.00 fee for non-Bainbridge Island participants). E-mail George at geopandion@gmail.com or call or 206-817-6979 or 206-842-8138 for further details. KAS members will have 20% of the cost of the trip donated to KAS. Be sure to tell the BI Parks when you sign

up that you are a KAS member so the donation can be made. Leave your e-mail address when signing up, and directions and a map of Bainbridge Island will be sent to you via e-mail.

Olympic Birdfest, April 7-9, 2017. Join festival pre-trip: a three-day, two-night birding/sightseeing cruise of the San Juan Islands, April 4-6, 2017. Register separately at www.pugetsoundexpress.com/audubon. Extend your festival with our Neah Bay post-trip on April 9-11, 2017: two days exploring northwest coastal Washington. BirdFest registration at www.olympicbirdfest.org.

Trip Reports

Bainbridge Owl Prowl, December 17. After two postponements caused by poor weather, Jamie finally got nine hardy owlers together following his night of owling in support of the KAS CBC. Notwithstanding the temperature of 27 degrees, it was a beautiful night to be out owling. Full moonlight made the morning even more spectacular. By 0500 though, the saw-whets had apparently shutdown, leaving only the Barred Owls to respond.

Hansville/Point No Point, January 7. A group of eleven enjoyed a chilly morning at Point No Point on the first KAS field trip event of 2017. The group got good scope looks at many loons and grebes as well as a very large flock of Bonaparte's Gulls. The highlight came at the very end as five "bitter enders" discovered an immature Rough-legged Hawk kiting across the street from Norwegian Point. New members Karla and John Bouck get credit for the initial observation.

Goose, Canada	696
Cackling	4
Duck, Wood	2
Gadwall	6
Widgeon, American	3709
Eurasian	26
Mallard	960
Shoveler, Northern	135
Pintail, Northern	65
Teal, Green-winged	253
Duck, Ring-necked	149
Scaup, Greater	320
Lesser	47
Duck, Harlequin	19
Scoter, Surf	1294
White-winged	234
Black	5
Duck, Long-tailed	25
Bufflehead	539
Golden-eye, Common	424
Barrow's	214
Merganser, Hooded	162
Common	182
Red-breasted	119
Duck, Ruddy	10
Pheasant, Ring-necked	5
Grouse, Ruffed	2
Quail, California	18
Mountain	1
Grebe, Pied-billed	19
Horned	402
Red-necked	55
Eared	1
Western	72
Pigeon, Rock	271
Pigeon, Band-tailed	3
Dove, Mourning	66
Eurasian-collared	8
Hummingbird, Anna's	79
Rail, Virginia	3
Coot, American	19
Plover, Black-bellied	32
Killdeer	66
Yellowlegs, Greater	44
Sandpiper, Spotted	5

Turnstone, Black	30
Sanderling	6
Dunlin	450
Snipe, Wilson's	3
Murre, Common	2
Guillemot, Pigeon	44
Murrelet, Marbled	7
Auklet, Rhinoceros	3
Gull, Bonaparte's	31
Mew	61
California	13
Herring	1
Thayer's	6
Western	3
Glaucous-wing	592
GW X Western	322
Sp.	38
Loon, Common	50
Pacific	261
Red-throated	31
Cormorant, Brandt's	29
Double-crest	516
Pelagic	222
Sp.	6
Heron, Great Blue	49
Eagle, Bald	55
Hawk, Sharp-shinned	4
Cooper's	2
Red-tailed	10
Owl, Great Horned	3
Barn	2
N. Pygmy	1
Barred	6
N. Saw-whet	11
Kingfisher, Belted	38
Sapsucker, Red-breasted	18
Woodpecker, Downy	21
Hairy	14
N. Flicker - Red Shaft	87
Woodpecker, Pileated	18
Falcon, Peregrine	1
Merlin	2
Vireo, Hutton's	4
Jay, Steller's	86
Scrub-Jay, California	18

Crow, American/NW	732
Raven, Common	21
Chickadee, Black-cap	248
Chestnut-back	115
Bushtit	125
Nuthatch, Red-breasted	61
Creepers, Brown	14
Wren, Bewick's	32
Pacific	62
Marsh	1
Kinglet, Golden-crowned	252
Ruby-crowned	125
Thrush, Hermit	3
Robin, American	759
Thrush, Varied	30
Dipper, American	4
Starling, European	466
Waxwing, Cedar	15
Sparrow, House	330
Grosbeak, Evening	2
Finch, House	217
Purple	40
Crossbill, Red	8
Siskin, Pine	153
Goldfinch, American	12
Warbler, Orange-crowned	3
Yellow-rumped	5
Townsend's	3
Towhee, Spotted	152
Sparrow, Fox	69
Song	121
White-throated	5
White-crowned	56
Golden-crowned	166
Junco, Dark-eyed Oregon	1172
Slate-colored	2
Blackbird, Red-winged	66
Goose, Greylag	1
Goose, Greylag x Canada	5
Mallard - Domestic type	1
Sparrow, Swamp	1
Total Birds Seen	19602
Total Species Seen	125

Kitsap County Adds 1,355 Acres of Parkland

Forterra has assisted Kitsap County's purchase of 1,355 acres of the Port Gamble Forest Block from Pope Resources—moving one step closer to permanently protecting one of the largest lowland forests in the Hood Canal watershed.

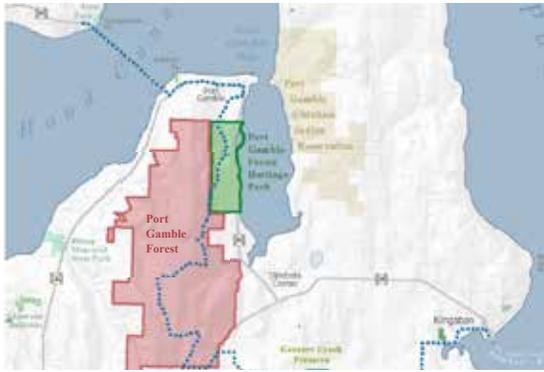
This acquisition was completed on Dec. 31 with \$2.3 million in funding from the Washington State Department of Ecology.

"Ecology is extremely pleased to reach a final agreement and fully fund the purchase of over 1,300 acres of land in the Port Gamble Bay watershed," said Celina Abercrombie from Department of Ecology's Toxics Cleanup Program. "We know this land will be enjoyed by the Port Gamble and surrounding communities for generations to come."

The acquisition will now triple the size of the widely used Port Gamble Forest Heritage park. And it sets the stage for the Kitsap Forest and Bay Community Campaign's ongoing efforts to raise the final \$3.5 million needed to preserve the remaining 1,645 acres of the Port Gamble Forest for permanent protection.

The 3,000-acre Forest is six times the size of Seattle's Discovery Park. It serves as a cultural resource for the Port Gamble S'Klallam and Suquamish Tribes. It provides habitat for bear, coyote and the red-breasted sapsucker. It protects the Port Gamble Bay marine ecosystem. And it offers the community a large, multi-use recreation site.

The Forest Block has served as timber production for over 160 years. Now its owner, Pope Resources, is providing the public



with an opportunity to buy back a piece of land that lies at risk for extensive development. Saving the land would preserve public access to the entirety of the Forest Block's 65 miles of trails, where more than 20,000 hikers, birders, mountain bikers, equestrians, cyclists and runners recreate each year.

"Pope Resources has been working with the community since 2007 to come up with creative ways to reposition our timber portfolio out of North Kitsap where development pressures continue to rise," said Tom Ringo, President and CEO of Pope Resources. "This transaction allows us to realize development values while providing for continued recreational opportunities and ecological values for the public."

"This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to conserve a large piece of open space in a rapidly growing region," said Michelle Connor, Forterra's Executive Vice President, Strategic Enterprises. "It's a place of respite and recreation that so many of us can access—less than an hour from downtown Seattle."

Sen. Christine Rolfes praised the phenomenal cooperation between the state, county, tribal governments, local and regional advocacy groups and the private sector in completing the transaction. Rep. Sherry Appleton

called the acquisition "a testament to the strength of our commitment to the environment. Port Gamble Bay will be cleaned up, and our citizens will recreate there long into the future."

Conserving natural lands is important, particularly in Kitsap County, an area which has lost land to development at a much higher rate than in other places in Washington State. According to recent research by The Conservation Science Partners, Kitsap County lost 9,383 acres of land to development between 2001 and 2011. That annual rate of loss is 737.2% higher than the rate of loss across the West.

Forterra has been working with regional leaders to rally the community to help secure the purchase of the land. Ecology has made a significant investment in the Port Gamble Bay watershed that has bolstered a strong community effort to permanently protect this land for recreation and conservation. The Kitsap Forest and Bay Community Campaign, which began in April 2016, has raised more than \$700,000 from more than 350 individuals. The campaign's goal is to raise \$2.8 million by July 2017.

The acquisition, said Kitsap County Commissioner Robert Gelder, marks a pivotal point in the Kitsap Forest & Bay Campaign. "The community has been working on this for a good many years, but there is more to do to make this dream a reality. We have just a few short months to raise the remaining funds before the option agreement ends. Our success will be built upon the generosity of donors throughout the region."

KAS History, 1984 Part Two - By Joan Carson

April 12, 1984, Kitsap Audubon learned about Bowerman Basin, a spot in the Pacific Northwest that now enjoys a reputation for shorebird watching throughout the World. Dr. Steven Herman from Evergreen State College presented the program, "Bowerman Basin and Its Birds." The newsletter carried this introduction: "The importance of Bowerman Basin as a major stopover for migrating shorebirds is receiving attention nationwide. A recent attempt to fill part of this important wildlife area has been turned back, but that doesn't mean it won't surface again. The more citizens know about the area the better the chances that it can be permanently protected. Steve Herman has been in the forefront of the fight to save Bowerman Basin. His slides of the masses of birds that use the area will be eye-opening if you haven't witnessed the live spectacle. This will be a great preview of our field trip to Bowerman on April 28 & 29." The proceeds from the evening's raffle were donated to the effort to save Bowerman and members were encouraged to buy those buttons: "(let) Dr. Herman know our group is very supportive of these efforts, don't forget to buy your Bowerman Basin Button." I still have one of those buttons. It says, "Save Bowerman Basin. It's for the Birds." A dunlin in breeding plumage is centered on it. We all know how this conservation story ended. The birds have it. April's wildlife sightings noted returning rufous hummingbirds and violet-green swallows in early March. Gerard Bentryn reported a blue grouse at his winery on Bainbridge Island. Several members had pine siskins

and evening grosbeaks at their feeders in early March and brant geese were beginning to show up in several areas.

At the April membership meeting, the Nominating Committee's slate of officers was presented by Regina Spoor. The nominees were President, Bob Bourner, 1st Vice-President, Ron Hirschi, 2nd V.P., Tom Ogle, Secretary, Susan Ellis, Treasurer, Bob Ellis. The newly elected officers were voted into office at the May meeting. May's membership program was given by Cindy and Frank Bischak. The Bischak's program and slides covered the several years that Frank was a ranger at Yellowstone Park. Two May field trips were announced at that meeting. Bob and Linda Bourner would lead one trip which would be a private tour of Northwest Trek. It was scheduled for May 20 when there would be a large population of young animals to enjoy. May 25-28 was to be a field trip to the Annual Wenas Campout of Washington's Audubon Chapters. There was an agenda filled with birding walks, wild flower walks, outdoor workshops, evening campfires and several interesting speakers.

May's bird sightings included a report from Joan Carson who spent a morning birding with Craig Tufts, Director of the Backyard Habitat Program for the National Wildlife Federation. Ring-necked ducks were seen on Liberty Bay in Lemolo and a pair of mute swans near Keyport. Their stop at Ken Short's home on Bainbridge yielded a number of birds including a Lincoln's sparrow. Bob Wiltermood at Ruby Creek Marsh in South Kitsap had his first migratory warbler, a common yellowthroat. April 16, Ken

had black-backed chickadees starting to nest. The same was true for the Carsons in Poulsbo on that date. Marian Melim, KAS member, followed up on a previous newsletter article about hummingbirds and red glass insulators on electric fences. Hundreds of hummingbirds had been killed across the country and concerned citizens were being asked to contact property owners and ask that these insulators be painted black. Melim announced that they had been in use in Kitsap County for at least five years. A second announcement in the May newsletter said the KAS Board had voted to send \$500 to Friends of the Earth, the organization taking the lead in efforts to save Bowerman Basin. The Basin was listed as a top priority by the KAS Board at a planning session. The newsletter confirmed that Governor John Spellman had designated May 24th as "Bird Day" in Washington State. The Governor was one of the speakers at the Spring Conference of Audubon Chapters in Ellensburg. Bird Day came about due to the East Lake Washington Audubon Chapter in Bellevue. Bea McDonald, their Education chair, brought up the idea when plans were being made to celebrate Arbor Day (April 12). Originally, Washington joined in a National Bird Day celebration in 1917! Over the years, the idea was lost. The original idea for such a celebration was first proposed in 1894, by C.A. Babcock, Superintendent of schools for Oil City, Pennsylvania. May's newsletter included information on Kitsap Audubon's Annual Picnic. at Manchester state Park on June 9. Next Month - 1984 Conclusion.

Help A Bird Snag a Home - Gene Bullock

Most gardeners and homeowners have an aversion to dead trees, which they consider unsightly, hazardous and an invitation to bugs. But our tidy intolerance of snags is one of the reasons we're losing such iconic species as the bluebird; and it's making it harder for other species to survive, such as swallows and owls. Purple martins and wood ducks might have disappeared from North America altogether if people had not started providing them with man-made substitutes for natural nest cavities.

Standing dead trees, also referred to as "snags," create homes for countless birds and small animals. The U.S. Forest Service lists 85 North American species of birds as cavity nesters. These are birds that raise their young in natural cavities excavated in dead or decaying wood. Most of these cavities are carved by nature's tireless carpenters, the woodpecker.

It's no surprise that chickadees, owls, hawks and many other species nest in trees; but people are often surprised to learn that natural tree cavities in boreal forests are the preferred nest sites for such ducks as goldeneyes, mergansers and buffleheads.

The decline in bluebirds is blamed by some on introduced species, such as the European starling and house sparrow. And it's true that these aggressive birds can monopolize a limited supply of natural nest sites. In 1890, an eccentric philanthropist named Eugene Scheffelin released 60 European starlings in New York's Central Park. His dream was to introduce every bird mentioned by Shakespeare. His skylarks and song thrushes



didn't do too well; but his success with starlings still haunts us today.

But the biggest reason for the shortage of natural nest cavities is the shortage of suitable snags. Good forest management now includes leaving selected dead trees during thinning and harvesting. Although snags are considered highly undesirable by homeowners and gardeners, many could be saved by trimming or removing limbs that might become hazardous.

Of course, properly constructed bird houses can help fill the need for some birds, and plans for building them are available online from sources like Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology (nestwach.org). Wood ducks, tree swallows and purple martins are notable success stories. Wood ducks prefer nest cavities near high branches that overhang the water. Once seriously threatened

by overhunting, these shy, stunningly beautiful ducks were saved by a nationwide campaign to place nest boxes in wildlife refuges and other wetlands. Mounted on poles surrounded by water, these nest boxes protect the wood duck family and ducklings from land-based predators until they are ready to hop overboard and plop into the water.

Most U.S. populations of purple martin now depend on man-made colonies. Kitsap Audubon is among the many groups and organizations that maintain purple martin colonies using artificial gourds or nest boxes. Kitsap Audubon volunteers help maintain purple martin colonies in Poulsbo's Oyster Plant Park, Eagle Harbor, Brownsville and Seabeck. The birds have adapted so well that early arrivals will watch patiently while volunteers put up the nest boxes and then promptly move in. Volunteers take boxes down for cleaning in the fall and put them back up in the spring. They wait as long as they can in the spring to discourage starlings.

Woodpecker populations boom after forest fires because of the abundance of dead trees. These busy woodworkers then set the stage for a flourishing of new life for other birds and small animals.

Bird lovers can often help birds by topping or trimming their snag trees to serve future generations of birds and wild animals. Snags can be beautiful, especially when they are adorned with active families of birds.

Photo: Pileated Woodpeckers by Carrie Griffis

Proposed Change to KAS Bequest Management Policy

Since founding member Anne Sleight bequeathed an extraordinary gift upon Kitsap Audubon in 2014, the Board has worked hard to ensure the funds left to us would be invested well and thoughtfully expended over a period of many years. We devised a policy that contained a number of checks and balances to control those processes, protecting the fund and the organization from misuse or even just excess good intentions. That policy was first enacted by the membership in 2014, and now after more than two years of experience, the Board has determined that an adjustment is needed. The change we propose is to make the implementation of a standing "Endowment Spending Committee" an optional rather than mandatory element of the policy. The reasons are twofold. First, we have found that Kitsap Audubon's modest numbers do not result in a base of potential personnel for us to be able to continuously seat this committee as we envisioned it. Second, we have learned from experience that the tasks we intended to impose on this permanent committee are within the capacity of our established Board organization. The proposed changes to the policy have been endorsed unanimously by the Board. They amount to altering the Endowment Spending Committee requirement from a permanent status, to an activated as needed status. The entire document is appended to this Kingfisher issue. We encourage you to vote in support of this change at our March 2017 general meeting.

KAS Bequest & Endowment Policy

This policy was approved by the KAS Board on April 29, 2014 and endorsed by the membership in September; also incorporates a change approved by the membership (fiscal year management) in 2015. This version includes changes currently being proposed.

Upon proper approval by the Board and membership of KAS, this Policy shall be considered to be an amendment to the KAS Bylaws. If there is a conflict between this Policy and the KAS Bylaws, this Policy shall control. Future amendments to this Policy must be made in the manner prescribed in this Policy, not in the manner prescribed in the Bylaws.

Investment of Bequest Funds and Other Large Gifts

When a bequest or other large gift is bestowed upon KAS, unless the bequest or other funds are directed by the donor for a specific purpose that will result in the funds being spent within a one-year timeframe, the bequest funds must be invested in a KAS endowment fund at a community foundation or an outside investment organization or firm with a representative in Kitsap County ("Investment Managers"). No more than two Investment Managers are to be active at one time. Newly-received bequest funds or other large gifts of assets can be invested in an existing KAS endowment fund or in a newly-created KAS endowment fund with the same Investment Manager, and the KAS treasurer will track fund allocation as necessary. Absent any restrictive or prescriptive terms and conditions, the Board will generally cause any bequest or donation to be managed under this policy to be consolidated in a single investment fund. Bequests or donations that have complex terms of use associated with them may be invested in separate funds in order to ensure management consistent with unique directions.

If it is deemed necessary to change an Investment Manager, this must be done with a 2/3 approval vote of the entire KAS Board of Directors.

Although the term "endowment" is used in this Policy, an "endowment fund" need not be managed as a permanent endowment unless the donor providing the bequest or other large gift required that the gift be managed as a permanent endowment. A "permanent endowment" is a fund that will be managed under the WA State Uniform Prudential Management of Institutional Funds Act as an endowment, meaning as a fund that will be managed to exist for perpetuity and that will generally only distribute a certain percent of the fund's income each year. In other words, if a bequest or other large gift is placed in a KAS endowment fund, all of those funds may be completely spent over time unless the donor required that the funds be managed as a true endowment.

Endowment Spending Committee

If the need arises, an Endowment Spending Committee may be formed by the Board of Directors. The committee may be formed to serve on a temporary or ongoing basis depending on the Board's perceived need. If formed, the committee shall be formed consisting of three KAS members elected by 2/3 of the entire KAS Board of Directors. Endowment Spending Committee members may or may not be Board members. If the need for a committee is temporary, its members will serve until the Board of Directors deems the need has been satisfied, and shall be dissolved by a vote of at least 2/3 of the entire Board membership. If established to serve in a prolonged capacity, committee members shall have a term of three years with one member changing each year. Initially, one member will only have a one-year term and one member will have a two-year term, and one member will have a three-year term. Thereafter, all terms will be for three years, with one member's term expiring each year. Members cannot serve consecutive terms. A committee member may be removed subject to a vote of at least 2/3 of the entire KAS Board of Directors. If a member is removed or steps down from the Endowment Spending Committee, the KAS Board of Directors will approve a temporary replacement to fill out the vacated position. After the temporary term has expired, the KAS Board of Directors shall appoint a full-term replacement.

The responsibilities of the Endowment Spending Committee are as follows:

- Adhere to any guiding precepts provided by the Board of Directors pertaining to spending limits, apportionment among categories of expenditures, and other related matters.
- Receive, consider, and possibly forward to the Board requests for expenditures from the KAS endowment fund(s).
- Assist the Board with proper implementation and enforcement of this Policy.
- Report to the Board on any significant matter pertaining to the committee's work.

Board of Directors

The duties and responsibilities of the KAS Board of Directors related to this policy are as follows:

- Exercise oversight over all matters and activities under the purview of the Endowment Spending Committee (if appointed).
- Approve selections and changes to Investment Managers as detailed elsewhere in this policy.
- Manage Endowment Spending Committee membership as detailed elsewhere in this policy.
- Periodically provide a set of precepts to guide Endowment Spending Committee (if appointed) deliberations. Precepts will address appropriate spending levels, priorities and apportionment of spending among categories of projects/programs, and other matters as necessary.
- Approve, deny, or amend, as necessary, all project/program spending proposals presented by the Endowment Spending Committee as detailed elsewhere in this policy.
- Present to the general membership any matters requiring approval from that body as detailed in this policy.
- Report at least annually to the general membership on projects and proposals funded under the terms of this policy and outcomes of those efforts as applicable.
- ***In addition, a Board member assigned by the President, normally the Treasurer, is responsible for the following:***
 - ***Acting as the liaison between KAS and the Investment Manager(s).***
 - ***Providing direction to the Investment Manager(s) regarding investment allocations if desired by the Board.***

Endowment Fund Spending Procedures

All requests for expenditures from the KAS endowment fund(s) must first be considered by the Board (or Committee if appointed). If appointed, the Committee shall review all requests for alignment with the KAS mission statement and strategic goals as well as any precepts provided by the Board. They shall also consider whether sufficient funding exists for the request. The Committee shall present each request in detail with their recommendation for full, partial, or zero funding to the KAS Board of Directors. The Committee will function with majority voting, meaning a majority vote of the Committee is necessary to determine the Committee's recommendation on each expenditure.

Approval of any proposed bequest expenditure will require the affirmative vote of 2/3 of the entire KAS Board of Directors. Voting will be conducted by ballot at a live meeting.

The Board or Endowment Spending Committee may entertain spending requests from any KAS member or local charitable organizations in line with the KAS mission statement. Bequest spending shall be in accordance with the stated wishes of the giver of the bequest. If none are stated, spending shall be in accordance with the KAS mission statement.

Under ordinary circumstances, funds managed under this policy will be invested and expended so as to ensure that invested funds provide meaningful impact in support of the KAS mission over a span of many years. A vital responsibility of the Board and Endowment Spending Committee will be to determine appropriate target level for spending in each fiscal year (July 1 – June 30). In making this determination, consideration will be given not only to the merits of prospective projects, but also to the current level of funds in an investment fund and the fund's investment performance over the previous year(s).

In the absence of any terms and conditions that might accompany a bequest or donation, spending from unrestricted funds being managed under this policy will ordinarily be limited in any fiscal year to 6.6 percent of the original value of each gift to the investment fund. This limit is premised upon the intent to ensure longevity of endowment funds for a term of approximately thirty years and is based on the following assumptions:

- That funds will be invested under generally conservative management producing an expected annual return of approximately five to seven percent
- That annual returns will be reduced by approximately two percent for management fees
- That 6.6 percent represents a thirty-year "reverse amortization" value approximately corresponding to the upper limit of expected returns (7%) less management fees (2%) for a net return of five percent

Given that extraordinary circumstances may warrant a greater level of spending in any year, the limits described in the preceding paragraph may be exceeded, but only subject to the Board approval policy described above and approval by a two-thirds majority of members present at a properly called and noticed meeting of the general KAS membership.

Two signatures shall be required on all checks drawing on funds invested under this policy.

Amendment of this Policy

This Policy may only be amended upon the affirmative vote of 2/3 of the entire KAS Board of Directors and the affirmative vote of more than one-half of the members present or voting by proxy at a properly called and noticed membership meeting.

**** Major changes Italicized.***



Kitsap Audubon Society

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The Kingfisher is the newsletter of the Kitsap Audubon Society, P.O. Box 961, Poulsbo, WA 98370. It is published ten times a year, September to June. Submissions from readers are welcome. We reserve the right to edit for space, grammar or legal reasons. Email text or photographs to genebullock@comcast.net or mail to Gene Bullock, 1968 NE Lind Ct., Poulsbo WA 98370. Our deadline is the 15th of the preceding month.

To receive your Kingfisher via email and save us the expense of printing and mailing, send your request to genebullock@comcast.net.

Kitsap Audubon Society - Membership Renewal

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The mission of the Kitsap Audubon Society is to preserve the natural world through education, environmental study and habitat protection, and to promote awareness and enjoyment of local and regional natural areas.

Visit our website at www.kitsapaudubon.org

