

SEPTEMBER 2017

Kitsap Audubon Society – Since 1972



# THE Kingfisher

**September 14, 2017, Program**



**Paintings of Passenger Pigeon, Great Auk and Ivory-billed Woodpecker courtesy of the John James Audubon Center at Mill Grove, Audubon, PA, and the Montgomery County, PA, Audubon.**

## **Holly Hughes gives voice to birds that have vanished from the earth**

Award-winning poet Holly J. Hughes gives eloquent voice to bird species that have vanished from the earth.

Holly is the author of *Passings* (Expedition Press, 2016), a moving collection of elegiac meditations on 15 bird species that no longer fill our skies. For her multimedia presentation to Kitsap Audubon, she'll read poems from her award-winning book, illustrating the poems with paintings by John J. Audubon and at least one bird call.

*Passings* was recently nominated for an American

Book Award by the Before Columbus Foundation. She is also the author of *Sailing by Ravens* (University of Alaska Press, 2014), co-author of *The Pen and The Bell: Mindful Writing in a Busy World* (Skinner House Press, 2012), and editor of the award-winning anthology, *Beyond Forgetting: Poetry and Prose about Alzheimer's Disease* (Kent State University Press, 2009).

She taught writing for more than 25 years at Edmonds Community College, where she co-founded the Sustainability Council and directed the

Convergence Writer's Series. She also spent over thirty summers working on the water in Alaska in a variety of roles, including commercial fishing for salmon, skippering a 65-foot schooner and working as a naturalist on ships. She currently teaches writing workshops throughout the Pacific Northwest and consults as a writing coach.

Copies of her book will be available for sale, and Holly will be available to sign them. <http://hollyjhughes.com/>

**Kitsap Audubon meets the 2nd Thursday of each month, September through June, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., in the lower-level auditorium of the Poulsbo Library, 700 NE Lincoln Rd. in Poulsbo. Programs are free and open to the public.**

## Kitsap Audubon Society

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## President's Letter - Diane Bachen

Welcome to a new year with Kitsap Audubon. I am very honored to be the KAS president and excited about the year ahead. I hope that everyone had a good summer with many opportunities to see birds. As the summer winds down and school starts back up, we have a number of things to look forward to in the coming months: Fall migration, interesting and informative programs organized by Vic Ulsh, and great field trips led by Al Westphal and his son, Andrew.

The KAS board has done some work over the summer, approving a donation of \$10,000 to the Kitsap Forest and Bay Campaign. This is in addition to the \$10,000 donation that was made in 2016 and a \$20,000 donation made in 2015. The goal of the community fundraising campaign that ended on July 31 was to raise \$3.5 million to purchase a total of 3,500 acres at the Port Gamble Heritage Park. As of July 31, \$3.2 million had been raised and gifts are still being tallied. There are also still a few outstanding grant proposals under consideration. It will likely take several months to finalize all the transactions and community celebrations and details will be announced once that final tally is complete. In addition to the donation from KAS, several individual KAS members also generously contributed. You should all be proud of your contribution to this wonderful addition to our local environment. I hope that you have a chance to



wander its roads and paths, walk along the water's edge there, or for the adventuresome, try out the mountain bike trails.

With Sharron Ham's retirement as Refreshment Chair (thank you so much Sharron), we now have two new co-chairs, Lynn Willmott and Suzanne Holland. Donations of treats and goodies by KAS members for our general membership meetings are always welcome! Thank you, Lynn and Suzanne for stepping up to this job that adds a welcoming touch to our meetings. Sharron continues in her capacity as an At-Large-Board member and co-coordinating the Mitten Tree and yarn donations.

Speaking of volunteers, we will be highlighting the many folks who offer their time and talents to KAS as Board Members, Committee Chairs, and Media Maestros throughout the year. These are the folks that make KAS "tick" and please give them your thanks when you see them.

I look forward to seeing you at our meeting on September 14.

**Photo: Diane coaches budding bird watchers at the annual Kitsap Water Festival.**

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# Port Gamble Forest Campaign Status

The Kitsap Forest & Bay Community Campaign to save the Port Gamble Forest has raised more than \$3.2 million so far toward its \$3.5 million goal. Although the campaign ended July 31st, the hundreds of gifts and donations received during the final few days of the campaign are still being tallied. In addition, we still have a few outstanding grant proposals under consideration. We expect to hear final decisions over the next month as their funding cycle/decisions are made. When we hear back on any additional awarded grant funding, campaign leadership will then activate all funding sources (state grants, community dollars, and private grants) many with their own individual funding structures and requirements to ensure all funds raised secure as many acres as possible. Community celebrations and acquisition details will be announced once the final transaction is complete. This will likely take months, so please stay tuned! Any major updates will be announced!

The goal of the campaign

is to preserve the adjoining 1,650 acres west of the 1,890 acres that have already been preserved by the Kitsap Forest & Bay coalition of community organizations, the two tribes and Kitsap County. Once purchased, the forest will be protected from development and remain open to the public as part of Kitsap County's Port Gamble Forest Heritage Park. The money raised during the campaign will be used to buy as many acres as possible before the end of the year.

Pope Resources has agreed to sell the property at a steeply-discounted price of about \$2,500 an acre with the condition that the company can harvest trees one last time. The forest will be logged and replanted in sections over the next 25 years.

The Forest and Bay project bought 535 acres in 2014 to create the Port Gamble Forest Heritage Park on the west shore of Port Gamble Bay, and added 1,356 acres to the park in



**Lila Trowbridge and Susannah Hale of Forterra show thier appreciaiton for Kitsap Audubon's donation of \$30,000 to the SavePG Campaign. That brings to \$60,000 the total of Kitsap Audubon's donations for land acquisitions in the Port Gamble Forest.**

December. The Pope Resources land was already open to the public and popular with walkers, mountain bikers and horseback riders.

## Sign up for NK-Port Gamble CBC

Saturday, December 30, is the tentative launch date for the new Kitsap Audubon Christmas Bird Count (CBC) circle in North Kitsap-Port Gamble. The date selected will not conflict with the tradiiional Kitsap County (KC) CBC on Saturday, December 16, so volunteers can participate in both CBCs.

Details still need to be worked out, such as the number and boundaries of count areas within the 15-mile diameter circle. The new circle will include all of North Kitsap that is not already included in our traditional circle.

The NK-Port Gamble CBC circle has been dormant for more than a decade. It includes some of Kitsap County's major birding hotspots, such as Point No Point County Park in Hansville, the Port Gamble area, Salsbury Point County Park, Poulsbo's Fish Park, Kitsap Memorial State Park, and tribal lands belonging to the Port Gamble S'Klallam and Suquamish Tribes.

Kitsap Audubon's traditional Kitsap County (KC) CBC has continued without interruption for 43 years, and currently involves up to 80 volunteers. Janine Schutt is the official

compiler for the KC CBC Circle. Gene Bullock has been the lead organizer of the KC CBC for the past 11 years. The KC CBC Circle stretches from Manchester to Poulsbo and from Seabeck to Bainbridge Island.

Gene Bullock is currently leading efforts to get the new NK-Port Gamble CBC Circle up and running. Contact him at [genebullock@comcast.net](mailto:genebullock@comcast.net); or 360-394-5635, if you are interested participating in the new NK-Port Gamble CBC or helping with the organization and planning.

# Field Trips & Festivals - Al & Andrew Westphal

**Puget Sound Bird Fest,** (Edmonds, WA): September 15 - 17. Check the website for details and registration: <http://www.pugetsoundbirdfest.com/>

**Chelan Ridge Hawk Migration Festival** (Pateros, WA): Saturday, September 15 - 16. More information and on-line registration available at <https://hawkwatch.org/participate/special-events/item/648-chelan-ridge-hawk-migration-festival>

**Point No Point (Hansville):** Saturday, September 16. Al Westphal, leader: 206-780-7844 or [westphalac@aol.com](mailto:westphalac@aol.com) (e-mail preferred) to register. One the very richest birding locations in Kitsap County, we should see some interesting fall migrants plus the usual exciting birds of this designated "important bird area." Time permitting, we will also bird Norwegian Point Park in "downtown" Hansville. Bring a scope if you have one. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the lighthouse parking lot. Note the "non-standard" start time! The mid/late-morning period that day coincides with a rapidly rising tide that could enhance our sea-birding conditions.

**Birdfest and Bluegrass** (Ridgefield, WA): October 6 - 8. Check the website for details and schedule of events: <https://ridgefieldfriends.org/events/birdfest-bluegrass/>

Other Birding Festivals: A more complete summary of events statewide may be found at the Washington State Audubon site: <http://wa.audubon.org/bird-festivals-0>

**Billy Frank - Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge:** Saturday, October 21. Al & Andrew Westphal, leaders: [westphalac@aol.com](mailto:westphalac@aol.com)



[aol.com](mailto:westphalac@aol.com), 206-780-7844 (e-mail preferred). One of the best locations in our area to observe an array of migrating and overwintering waterfowl along with many other birds. We will walk the forest and barn trails and as far out on the boardwalk as we care to go. There is a good option for lunch after birding at Norma's just outside the refuge. Watch weather forecasts and dress accordingly! Meet at the parking lot by the visitor center at 8:30 a.m.

## Field Trip Reports

**Ruby Creek Marsh, June 10.** Bob Wiltermood hosted a KAS group on this remarkable nature preserve that he has been restoring for the past forty years on the old family farmstead near Port Orchard. The group observed 33 species on the large pond, wetland, meadow, and surrounding forest. Highlights included Wood Ducks with ducklings, four warbler species, and a terrific look at a usually-shy Pacific-slope Flycatcher. But

the real treat was being led along the trails by Bob and hearing the stories of the family history there and his work to preserve the environment. Bob enthusiastically encourages visitors, and a trip to Ruby Creek Marsh can be arranged by any KAS member with just a call to Bob at 360-731-8975 or email: [bob@wiltermood.com](mailto:bob@wiltermood.com)

**Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge, June 13.** Fifteen birders closed out the 2016-17 field trip season with the annual spring visit to the Billy Frank, Jr. Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge. The group walked the entire Twin Barns Loop plus riparian and overlook spur trails and on the dike as far as the start of the estuary boardwalk. Everyone got good looks at many thrushes, flycatchers, and a couple of warblers and also practiced a lot of birding by ear. This was a very good group of birders with a wide range of skill levels and many enthusiastic participants including some younger folks with great eyes! The day's tally was an impressive 52 species observed.

*Photo of Mt. Quail family by Janine Schutt*



# New Audubon Adventures Classroom Kit: Birds, Bees, Flowers & Trees

**Provided free by Kitsap Audubon to 3rd, 4th and 5th-grade classroom teachers**

Kitsap Audubon purchases Audubon Adventures classroom kits for about \$50, including shipping, and donates them free to eligible classroom teachers in Kitsap County schools. Dozens of teachers take advantage of this remarkable resource every year.

Each kit contains complete learning modules on three different topics, and includes printed educational magazines for 32 students, plus ready-to-print letter to parents and user guides for teachers.

Audubon Adventures introduces young people to the world of nature and wildlife through colorful magazines,

online features and interactive games and puzzles, plus activities, guidance, and resources for educators.

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: 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.

Kitsap Audubon would be happy to provide a free subscription to Audubon Adventures to any Kitsap County 3rd, 4th or 5th-grade classroom teacher. Send requests to Gene Bullock, Education Chair, Kitsap Audubon, at [genebullock@comcast.net](mailto:genebullock@comcast.net); or call him at 360-394-5635. Audubon Adventures subscriptions include a complimentary one-year membership in Kitsap Audubon.

## West Sound Wildlife Shelter Moving to Port Gamble

The Bainbridge Island-based West Sound Wildlife Shelter, which provides rehab and support for injured critters, will soon have a new home in Port Gamble. The shelter has begun planning a major move to a new 12-acre wildlife campus in North Kitsap when its lease runs out at its current location on Bainbridge Island at the end of 2021. The new campus will be built on wooded property the nonprofit plans to purchase from Olympic Property Group, off Highway 104 at the end of Gamble Way.

The site will have the secluded space necessary for animal rehab, as well as support areas and a new public education center that will allow the shelter to welcome visitors to its location for the first time, said shelter Executive Director Lisa Horn.

"It'll allow us to design a

building that is specific to what we're doing rather than us having to fit into something that wasn't designed for what we're doing," Horn said. The shelter's facilities at the Bainbridge location, which it leases from Bloedel Reserve, are aging and lack the space the nonprofit needs, she said.

The shelter does public outreach in schools, at area parks and in front of local civic groups but hasn't been able to give tours or host visitors at its own home. With the bigger space, the shelter will be able to sequester animals targeted for release back into the wild, while hosting educational programs and tours in a separate area with animals the shelter supports long term.

"People really want to come on-site, and people really care about what we're doing," Horn said. "That's where the idea

of the education center came. People will be able to come and attend classes, they'll be able to come and take a nature walk."

The shelter is launching a \$3 million capital campaign for the project, as well as an effort to raise an additional \$1 million for a sustainability fund, Horn said.

Horn said the shelter plans to maintain a presence on Bainbridge Island in the form of an intake shelter where animals can be dropped off before they're taken to the main Port Gamble campus.

"The island is where we were born and the island is important to us," Horn said. "We don't want to lose that connection."

Those interested in donating to the shelter's fundraising campaign should contact [info@westsoundwildlife.org](mailto:info@westsoundwildlife.org).

# Puget Sound Seabird Survey

Go birding and make a difference!

Are seabirds in Puget Sound and the Strait of Juan de Fuca increasing or declining in numbers? Which species are changing their range? Help us find out. You can contribute to vital seabird science by joining the eleventh season of Seattle Audubon's Puget Sound Seabird Survey. We are now recruiting enthusiastic and dedicated volunteers to help us monitor the status of our local wintering seabirds. Training on survey methodology will be provided at a location near you in September;

the first seabird survey will be conducted on October 7, 2017. Volunteers should be able to identify Puget Sound's seabird species and be available on the first Saturday of each month, October through April, to conduct a 30-minute seabird survey. If determining between Lesser and Greater Scaup is a challenge, we'll team you up with more knowledgeable surveyors. Learn more, including training dates, at [www.seabirdsurvey.org](http://www.seabirdsurvey.org) and email Toby Ross, Science Manager ([A photograph showing two ducks swimming on a body of water. The duck in the foreground is a Lesser Scaup, characterized by its dark body and white wing patches. The duck behind it is a Greater Scaup, which is larger and has a more mottled pattern. The water is calm with some ripples.](mailto:to-</a></p></div><div data-bbox=)

[byr@seattleaudubon.org](mailto:byr@seattleaudubon.org)) if you would like more information or to take part.

## Stillwaters Annual Used Book Sale

Stillwaters Environmental Center will be hosting its Annual Used Book Sale on three weekends: September 22-24, Sept 29 - October 1, & October 6-8, 2017. Hours for each three-day book sale are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m, Friday through Sunday.

Stillwaters Environmental Center is located at 26059 Barber

Cut Off Road in Kingston. Regular low prices \$2 or less for most books. Thousands of books, new and used, covering all subjects, fiction and non-fiction. The sale also includes audio books, CD's and DVD's.

Check out "Bargain Weekend" during the last weekend of the sale. Dollar Day

– Friday, Oct 6 – Books \$1 or less; Bag Sale – Saturday, Oct 7 & Sunday, Oct 8 - \$5/bag. CONTACT: Naomi Maasberg, 360-297-1226; [naomi@stillwatersenvironmentalcenter.org](mailto:naomi@stillwatersenvironmentalcenter.org); or [stillwatersenvironmentalcenter.org](http://stillwatersenvironmentalcenter.org)

***This flight of red-winged and yellow-headed blackbirds by Janine Schutt was in the top 100, among the thousands of images submitted for the 2017 National Audubon Photography Awards.***



## Birds of a Feather - Gene Bullock

If you're sitting in the stands at a Seattle Mariners game, you can easily guess by their uniforms what the players do for a living. Up in the stands it's a different story. Except for the peddlers hawking hot dogs and other ball park staples, you'll find few clues about what people do for a living. Doctors and lawyers look pretty much the same as bus drivers and bartenders.

But birds have been preparing for their special calling for 165 million years. The shape of their bills and feet, the delicate patterns and arrangement of their feathers, and innumerable variations in anatomy and behavior are adaptations that superbly suit them for their livelihood.

The hooked bill of the Red-tailed Hawk is perfect for tearing meat, and its powerful talons are lethal weapons for gripping and killing small prey. Shorebirds like the Greater Yellowlegs have bills designed to probe for mud-dwelling worms and marine invertebrates; and its feet and long legs are well adapted for wading sandy shorelines as the tides advance and recede. The stubby conical bills of the finches are designed to crack seeds, and their toes curl securely around swaying branches and flower stalks. The tapered wings of the swallows and swifts allow them to perform graceful acrobatics in pursuit of flying insects; and their bills open cavernously wide so they can scoop them up in flight. The arrangement of toes of the Vaux's Swift allow it to hang suspended from the walls of a tree cavity. Dabbling ducks like



the Mallard and Northern Pintail propel themselves on water with webbed feet, pausing to "duck" with upturned rumps to pluck succulent plants from the bottom.

Learning why they look and behave the way they do is one of the best ways to take your bird watching skills to the next level. Families of birds resemble each other and share many of the same traits because they occupy closely related niches in food and habitat. That makes it just as easy to learn whole families of birds as it is individual species.

Beginning bird watchers are usually overwhelmed at first with similarities in color. Trying to identify that "little brown job" from a comprehensive field guide with more than 800 species can be impossibly frustrating. There are infinite shades of brown and

gray; so color is seldom enough. But those who take the time to learn the families of birds likely to be seen in local habitats will be well rewarded.

Famed birding icon Pete Dunne says "don't go into the field with an open mind." Instead, prepare yourself to ask the right questions, and take detailed notes on bill shape, size, habitat, behavior and variations in color patterns. And don't be too quick to open your field guide. Keep adding detailed notes as long as the bird remains in view. There will be plenty of time to search your field guide after the bird is gone, and you'll have more of the information you'll need to nail its identity. A pad and pencil come in handy; because memory alone can be unreliable.

Bird Watching is one of America's fastest growing hobbies for many reasons. Besides being captivating and exquisitely beautiful, they can open fascinating windows into the world of wildlife and our understanding of nature.

***Photos by Jay Wiggs show some of the ways that birds are uniquely adapted for their livelihoods.***

***The Rufous Hummingbird can hyperextend its tongue to extract nectar from the deepest flower.***

***Barn Swallows open their bills cavernously wide to scoop up insects in flight. The parent forms thousands of insects into round boluses which it feeds to its hungry chicks.***



## 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](mailto: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](mailto:genebullock@comcast.net).

## Kitsap Audubon Society - Membership Renewal

Make check payable to KAS and mail to KAS, PO Box 961, Poulsbo, WA 98370

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Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

- Check here to receive your Kingfisher via Email and save us the expense of printing and mailing. Members receive ten issues of the Kingfisher newsletter each year.

### Select Category Of Membership:

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Contributing Annual Membership \$50 | <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting Annual Membership \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining Annual Membership \$75   | (Contact KAS Treasurer for LIFE Membership payment options) |

**Additional donation:** Scholarships \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Audubon Adventures \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**The Kitsap Audubon Society is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. Donations are tax deductible.**

Your contact information is not sold, disclosed or shared with any entity outside KAS.

*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](http://www.kitsapaudubon.org)**

