Tahoma Audubon Activities and the Coronavirus (COVID-19).

**UPDATE Friday March 13, 2020:** Tahoma Audubon offices at Adriana Hess Wetland Park will be closed to the public until March 30, 2020. In addition, all Tahoma Audubon sponsored events will be cancelled through March 30, 2020.

This includes:

- **March 14th** Swan Creek Bird Walk
- **March 19th** Speaker’s Series: Surviving by Degrees
- **March 21st** Deadman’s Pond Restoration event
- **March 25th** Conservation Committee at UPS
- **March 26th** Volunteer Leadership Gathering

*Future cancellations and office hours will be evaluated on a 2-week rolling basis. Please check our website or call the office (253-565-9278) to find out the latest on event cancellations.*

Public Health — The World Health Organization has determined COVID-19 to be a Pandemic. The Centers for Disease Control, the State of Washington and Pierce County have recently confirmed community spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in Pierce County. As our community prepares for the inevitable spread of this disease Tahoma Audubon needs to ensure our community and members are safe.

**What we know**

Most often, COVID-19 is spread from person-to-person via respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes, similar to how flu and other respiratory pathogens spread.

It’s currently unclear if a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or possibly their eyes. Often, with most respiratory viruses, people are thought to be most contagious when they are most symptomatic (the sickest) but there is some indication of spread by individuals who are not exhibiting typical symptoms.

Pierce County Public Health and the Centers for Disease Control have considerable data on the virus and recommended precautions. This is a dynamic and changing environment, for the latest information on COVID-19 and to answer questions you may have please visit [https://www.tpchd.org/healthy-people/human-coronavirus](https://www.tpchd.org/healthy-people/human-coronavirus)

**Tahoma Audubon Specific Actions**

Several factors of this virus directly impact Tahoma Audubon, most importantly is that the average age of our membership is considered high risk. In addition, public health agencies are recommending limiting public assembly of large groups and to avoid situations of possible contamination. They highly
recommend a policy of ‘social distancing’ and of course person hygiene. While Tahoma Audubon is a small organization and the risk is extremely low, we are taking a series of precautions to protect our membership, staff, volunteers and the community at large.

Out of an abundance of caution, we are announcing some modifications to our upcoming activities and some general guidelines to follow when participating in a Tahoma Audubon event. Please call the office (253-565-9278) or email Matt (mmega@tahomaaudubon.org) or Britt (bmcgrath@tahomaaudubon.org) if you have questions.

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### RECOMMENDED ACTIONS FOR ALL ACTIVITIES

- Please stay home if you are not feeling well.
- Cough or sneeze into your elbow or tissue and wash your hands immediately afterward.
- Wash your hands frequently and thoroughly for a minimum of 20 seconds with soap and water. If no soap is available, use a hand sanitizer of at least 60% alcohol content.
- Avoid touching your face with unwashed hands.
- Practice social distancing, where individuals should stay at least 6’ apart

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### SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES (see update for recent changes)

#### Field Trips

- Out of caution and following health recommendations Tahoma Audubon does not recommend carpooling to field trip locations. All of our current field trip offerings are single destination sites and should not require carpooling. Outdoor events will be addressed on a case by case basis. During field trips participants should consider social distancing to be safe and not share scopes and other equipment.

#### Speakers Series

- Our next speaker’s series “Survival by Degrees” on March 19th will be rescheduled for later in 2020. There will not be a Speaker’s Series in March.
- Check our web calendar for updates, the next scheduled Speaker’s Series is April 16 and currently will go on as scheduled.

#### Adriana Hess wetland Park

- Adriana Hess will be open as scheduled 10am – 1pm Monday through Friday. However based on volunteer and staff availability we may need to close periodically. If you are planning a visit please call ahead.

#### Other Scheduled Activities

- If not specifically listed above all other Tahoma Audubon activities will go on as scheduled, but please remember this may change as COVID-19 is very unpredictable at this time.
We encourage everyone to keep informed of developments, as this situation is rapidly evolving. Tahoma Audubon will attempt to provide information as timely as possible on our web site.