Admiralty Audubon Pipings

AAS Field Trips, May & June 2017

Tuesday, 9 May 2017 - Fort Flagler

We meet at 8:30 at the NW corner of Fort Flagler State park. The concrete boat ramp is just north of the Beachcomber cafe.

We’ll begin by walking out the spit that stretches toward Rat Island. Other stops will be the beach south of the boat ramp, then - for those continuing on - Marrowstone Point at the light house and the sewage pond. Dress warmly in layers. I have a scope, but more scopes are useful and welcome. Heavy rain or gale force winds cancel. Trip Leader John Comstock 360-316-1305 or jhn.comstock@gmail.com.

Saturday, 20 May 2017 - Cape George section of Larry Scott Trail

Everyone is to meet at the Larry Scott Trail Cape George road parking lot at 9 am for a 2.5 to 3 mile round trip walk along a moderate easy trail through Douglas Fir, some open horse pastures, across some private access roads and over a small hill looking for forest birds. Wear warm layers of clothing, gloves, hats and weather proof shoes or boots. Bring your binoculars, bird books and cameras. Anyone interested in carpooling from PT should meet at the Park & Ride across the street from Safeway by 8:45 am.

Directions from intersection of Hwy 20 and Mill Rd: Turn west onto Mill and then immediately left onto Discovery. Go 0.6 mile and then turn right onto Cape George Road. Go 0.6 mile; after passing Nelson’s Landing Road the trailhead parking will appear on your left. www.olympicdiscoverytrail.com for trail maps provided courtesy of the Jefferson Trails Coalition.

Trip Leader Paula Vanderheul 360-379-8564 or pvanderheul@gmail.com.

Friday, 16 June 2017 - Anderson Lake State Park

Everyone is to meet at 9:00 am at the parking area near the restrooms at Anderson Lake State Park. We’ll look for spring migrants such as warblers and flycatchers, swallows, osprey and more. Anyone wanting to carpool from Port Townsend should meet at the Park & Ride near Safeway by 8:45 am. I’ll meet everyone at the State Park parking area. Trip Leader Paula Vanderheul 360-379-8564 or pvanderheul@gmail.com.

Garry Oak Update

Four AAS members attended the Washington Native Plant Society’s field trip to the Sequim Garry Oak Restoration Project on Saturday, 22 April 2017 (photo p. 5). Since our chapter is undertaking a very modest Garry Oak project on the northeast side of Kah Tai, it was helpful to hear what worked and what didn’t.

AAS Board Elections

We will hold our annual election of officers at the May community meeting. The current officers are willing to serve another term, but if you want to run for a position, let us know (admiraudub@gmail.com). We also need a Conservation Chair and an Education Chair. Email for more information.

Celebration of Life for Gabe Ornelas on 13 May 2017

We would like to remind the chapter that there will be a celebration of life for Gabe Ornelas on Saturday, 13 May 2017 at the Northwest Maritime Center from 4:00 to 6:00 pm. All are welcome. And on your way into NWMC, don’t forget to pat the heads of the beautiful bronze Courting Guillemots in front of the Center, dedicated to our chapter founder, Eleanor Stoppes, and the Protection Island story. The sculpture was made possible in large part due to the efforts of Robin Ornelas, and we all know that Gabe was involved in everything important to Robin. And vice versa. Semper fi.
Clockwise from upper left: Chestnut-backed Chickadee having a bath in home landscape; Buffleheads in flight; Belted Kingfisher pair at the Port Townsend Marine Science Center, April 2017, Dunlin in flight with Double-crested Cormorants, Harlequin Ducks, and Black-bellied Plovers in the background at Fort Flagler, November 2016; male Hooded Merganser at Kah Tai, November 2016; Northern Shoveler at Kah Tai, 2017.
**AAS Community Program**

**Thursday, 18 May 2017, 7:00 pm**

*the public is invited;*

**PT Community Center, Lawrence & Tyler**

**Birds of Kala Point**

Come out and meet local professional photographer Ron Wheeler, who will share his view into the Birds of Kala Point, “Sights, sounds and a brief glimpse into their world.”

Ron has carried a camera on a regular basis since grade school and is Alumni of The Art Institutes, for both photography and design. He’s been an avid birder since the late 90s when more than fifty mountain bluebirds visited him in his yard. He hadn’t a clue what they were, and simply had to find out.

Ron promises to share a photographer’s trade secret, which may help you on your own photographic quest, and if not a photographer, he’s is still intent on bringing a smile or two your way. You won’t want to miss the “Hungry Grebe”, “Stunning Great Blue Heron” and many others.

**AAS Kah Tai Workparties**

**21 May & 18 June 2017**

& **Potluck 18 June 2017**

**Sunday, 21 May from 9am to noon:** We will be installing drip irrigation to the natives planted in February on the north end of the little pond or if you prefer, removing Spurge Laurel, Holly and Scots Broom or picking up trash are also options. Look for the white pickup next to the little pond past the picnic shelter.

Park near the bathrooms. Scots Broom pullers, garbage bags, 5 trash grabbers, tea and snacks will be provided. *For more information call 385-0307 or email ptrose53@gmail.com.*

**Sunday, 18 June from 9am to 11:30am:** We’ll be removing Spurge Laurel, Holly, Scots Broom and Himalayan Blackberries or picking up trash your choice. Look for the white pickup next to the little pond near the picnic shelter. Park near the bathrooms. Scots Broom pullers, garbage bags, 5 trash grabbers, tea and snacks provided.

The annual *Audubon potluck* will follow at Pope Marine Park from noon to 2pm. All Kah Tai volunteers as well as AAS members are invited to the potluck. *For more information call 385-0307 or email ptrose53@gmail.com.*

**Rosemary Sikes**

AAS Programs Chair

---

*Photos - Top: River otter.*

*Lower right: Great Blue Herons.*

*Lower left: Greater Yellowlegs.*
Field Trip Reports

Fort Flagler, Saturday, 25 March 2017:
Eleven birders attended the field trip on a cloudy windless and pleasant morning of birding the sewage pond area and the spit area of the park. We spent about 3 hours enjoying good birding with good company. 36 species (+1 other taxa): Brant, Canada Goose, Gadwall, American Wigeon, Mallard, Northern Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Ring-necked Duck, Harlequin Duck, Surf Scoter, Bufflehead, Common Goldeneye, Red-breasted Merganser, Common Loon, Pied-billed, Horned & Red-necked Grebes, Pelagic & Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Cooper’s Hawk, Bald Eagle, Black-bellied Plover, Killdeer, Sanderling, Dunlin, Western x Glaucous-winged Gull (hybrid), Rock (feral) Pigeon, Northern Flicker, American Crow, American Robin, Dark-eyed Junco. Golden-crowned & Song Sparrows, Red-winged Blackbird, House Finch, Pine Siskin. Paula Vanderheul, Trip Leader.

Fort Flagler Area, Friday, 7 April 2017:
Our field trip included only two people, apparently due to weather concerns. We walked along the spit and then drove over to the first Fort entrance and walked the trails there. It turned out to be a very pleasant day with the following birds seen or heard: Greater Yellowlegs, Brants, Northern Pintails, Harlequin Ducks, Black-bellied Plovers, Cormorants, Common Goldeneye, Dunlins, Surf Scoters, Bufflehead, Red-breasted Mergansers, Grebe, unidentified species, White-crowned Sparrows, Gold-crowned Kinglets, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Steller’s Jays, American Robins, Spotted Towhees, Bewick’s Wren. Beverly McNeil, Trip Leader.

Kay Goodhue donates spotting scope
Trip Leader Bev McNeil provides the following story from her 7 April field trip: “I met with Paula Anderson and Kay Goodhue for the first time at the campground near the spit. Since it was quite windy and rainy that morning they met with me specifically to donate Kay Goodhue’s scope to our Audubon chapter. Kay, who stated she is now 91.5 years of age and a very avid birder, wanted to debulk some of her belongings and chose to donate her spotting scope to Admiralty Audubon to utilize it in whatever way would be beneficial to our chapter. Kay has traveled all over the world and has documented over 7,500 sightings of bird species (according to her friend Paula Anderson). They did not join me for birding that morning due to weather.”

The Admiralty Audubon Board intends to keep the donated Bushnell spotting scope with tripod and provide it to trip leaders that may need an additional scope for their field trips. It will also be useful for the Christmas bird count for counting groups who do not have a spotting scope available.

Thank you, Kay, for your generosity to our Audubon chapter!

AAS Membership Form 2017
http://admiraltyaudubon.org

name__________________________ date_____________
mailing address_____________________________________________________________
city, state, zipcode_____________________________________________________________
email address__________________________ phone number__________________________

Would you prefer your newsletter by email?  □   paper copy?  □   amount enclosed $________

Send $20 annual membership to: Admiralty Audubon, PO Box 666, Port Townsend WA 98368 or pay online at the Membership link via PayPal or credit card

Membership includes 6 issues of our newsletter per year and the right to vote in chapter elections. Chapter programs and field trips are free to the public. We always welcome donations!
Clockwise from upper left: Common Mergansers, Townsend’s Solitaire at Fort Worden; Red-flowering Currant at Fort Worden; female Red Crossbill in home landscape, 2015 (anyone seen Crossbills lately?); elderly Garry Oak in Sequim, April 2017; Serviceberry in bloom at Kah Tai, 2015.
Northern Pintail male at Mystery Bay, April 2017.

© Bev McNeil

**Admiralty Audubon Officers and Board**

President: Rick Jahnke  360-531-3417  rjahnke@att.net  
Vice President & Publicity: Bill Vogt  360-531-2821  bill@archivalry.com  
Secretary: Ron Sikes  360-385-0307  b1rdbrush@gmail.com  
Treasurer: Bob Tyer  360-379-1610  bwtier@gmail.com  
Field Trips: David Gluckman  360-379-0360  cgluckman@aol.com  
Programs: Rosemary Sikes  360-385-0307  pprose53@gmail.com  
Conservation, Education  OPEN  
Membership & Newsletter: Debbie Jahnke  360-531-3415  admiraudub@gmail.com  
Member At Large - PI Rep: Craig Wester  360-385-5390  craigwester@olympus.net  
Christmas Bird Count: Dan Waggoner  360-301-1788  danwags57@gmail.com  
Webmaster: Andrew Reding  --  aareding@gmail.com  
Website: http://admiraltyaudubon.org  Facebook: https://facebook.com/admiraltyaudubon

**Thank you!**

Some of our talented chapter members donate part of the proceeds from sales of their artwork; thanks to Beverly McNeil, Aloura Remy and David Gluckman. Thanks also to all our members who add a little (or a lot!) to their membership dues. It all helps our small chapter accomplish its mission.

**Admiralty Audubon Mission Statement**

The mission of Admiralty Audubon is to initiate, promote, assist, and encourage the understanding and appreciation of nature and the conservation of wildlife and wilderness, natural resources, and natural beauty.

**May 2017**