



Island Wings

- to enjoy, learn about, & preserve the diverse natural habitats of these islands & beyond

Volume 16 Number 6

May/June 2006

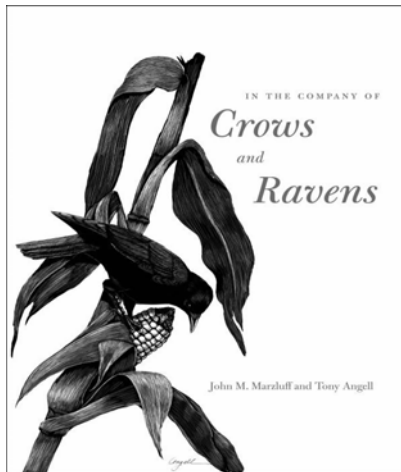
Program

Corvid Expert John Marzluff

Wednesday, May 24, 7pm, at the Fire Fighters Assoc. Bldg. across the street from Vashon fire station on Bank Rd. Info: 463-3510. UW Professor Marzluff and artist Tony Angell's book, *In the Company of Crows and Ravens*, will be available for purchase and signing, courtesy of Books by the Way.

Marzluff on his lecture *Crows, Ravens & People*:

What do Van Gogh, Shakespeare, the Hopi and Kayukon People, Mark Twain, and the rock band *The Counting Crows* have in common? They all draw inspiration from some of our most common, but least understood birds: the crow and raven. In *Crows,*



Ravens and People, I investigate fully the inspiration of crows and ravens on people and our effects on these adaptable birds. I investigate the taxonomy, the morphology, natural history, population ecology, behavioral ecology of crows and ravens.

I investigate human interactions with these birds as irritating and competitive pests, targets, creators, symbols, diviners, and inspirations; amazing examples of tool use by crows; complex communication among ravens; adjustments of crows to life with people; potential influences of West Nile virus on crows; role of crows and ravens as nest predators; and conservation needs of endangered crows of Hawaii and Mariana Islands. Big, bold, boisterous, crows and ravens are hard to miss. My talk tries to answer questions they conjure up in all who have watched them (and that is almost everyone).

LOW TIDE FESTIVAL

**SATURDAY, MAY 27
POINT ROBINSON**

SEE SCHEDULE INSIDE

PICK UP LITTER!

COME AS YOU ARE

On Sunday, May 21, 9:30 am, join Audubon for the first of our twice-a-year Adopt-A-Road clean-ups. Our commitment is helping to keep clean the 2-mile stretch of Vashon Hwy. between town and the Health Center. We gather on the south edge of Vashon town (Methodist Church/Island Funeral Home area) to work.

King County provides orange vests, cotton gloves, plastic bags, and a few picker-uppers, which save our backs. Dress for the weather. Boots that can go in wet grass or ditches are appropriate. **The more folks that turn out to help, the quicker we get done, but in any case we should be wrapped up by noon.** We work in teams, and you get to meet new folks and visit with friends. It really can be an enjoyable work party.

We pick up both trash and recyclables, and deposit both sets of bags by the local Road Division building. Sometimes there's wheat amongst the chaff: golf balls, CD's, items of clothing, car parts, even money. You never know! Contact Ellen Kritzman, 567-4837, ekritzman@centurytel.net.

--Ellen Kritzman

November Ballot Initiatives

Watch What You Sign!

Board Member Michelle Ramsden reports: As Vashon-Maury Audubon conservation chair, I attended Washington State Audubon Conservation Committee Meeting (WSACC), part of the spring Audubon Council of Washington (ACOW) conference, March 24, 2006, at beautifully restored Fort Worden located in Port Townsend, WA. The WSACC chapter roundtable featured two speakers, briefings from each chapter spokesperson, developed legislative priorities, and covered 13 issues.

Two initiatives are slated for the November ballot that WSACC wants the state's local chapters to know and act on. Signatures are due by June 30.

The first is **Initiative 933**, *Property Fairness Act* (AKA "the developers' loophole"), filed by Washington State Farm Bureau. At first glance, the initiative sounds harmless and possibly helpful but could be very damaging to our communities and promote irresponsible development. The full text: www.secstate.wa.gov/elections/initiatives/text/i933.pdf.

The second is **Initiative 937**, *Energy Independence Act*, filed by Washingtonians for Energy Security. The initiative asks that by 2020, 15% of the electricity from Washington's utilities comes from renewable resources (such as wind and solar) and helps homes and businesses save on energy bills through cost-saving energy efficiency. This measure supports cleaner air and energy independence, creates thousands of family-supporting jobs, and stabilizes household electric bills. Full text: www.yeson937.org

www.vashonaudubon.org

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Christensen Pond Tour



Photo by Pete Murray

On April's Island Land Trust tour, Naturalist Rayna Holtz introduces Christensen Pond, the Island Audubon's stewardship property.

VOLUNTEER BOX

Bird Survey

April 2006--March 2007, Surveyers for FABS (Forest Avifauna Biodiversity Study). See "Shoreline Birds," Mar/Apr issue. 3-day training & minimum 1 morning per month for 3 months. Sherry Hudson: pugetsoundbird@gmail.com.

Amphibian Surveyors

Through July 15. Volunteers to join existing teams. See Mar/Apr issue. Abel Eckhardt: abel@vashonlandtrust.org, 463-2644.

Restoration Landscaping

Saturday, May 6, 9 am, Mukai Pond. Pull broom/Plant trees. RSVP: Abel Eckhardt: abel@vashonlandtrust.org, 463-2644.

Adopt-a-Road Cleanup

Sunday, May 21, 9:30 am, Adopt-a-Road. See P.1, this issue. Ellen Kritzman: ekritzman@centurytel.net, 567-4837.

Booth Staff

Saturday, May 27, 10 am-2 pm, Point Robinson. Low Tide Festival, Vashon Audubon's booth, 2-hr shifts. Rayna Holtz: 463-3153.

On the Wings of Service

The Holtz Editors: Jay and Rayna

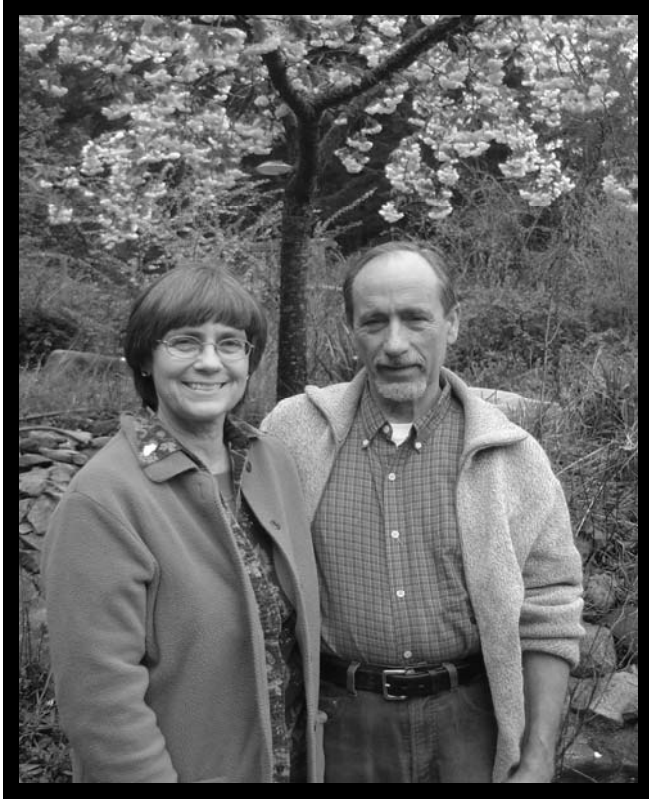


Photo by Morgan Holtz

Jay's Farewell: After taking on *Island Wings*, the first thing I figured out was that I wasn't much of a writer. Lucky for me it didn't matter much because so many others contributed freely. It has been a pleasure cooking up an issue every other month with their ingredients. Now Rayna and I need time to catch up on some projects we have let slide. For those of you who don't know, the new editors are a dream team. I am grateful that *Island Wings* will be in such capable hands.

Rayna's Farewell: It has been grand to collaborate with Jay in producing *Island Wings*. Many are the newly hatched cutthroat fry that have wiggled out of the islands' stream gravels in the rounds of springtimes since we started. If cutthroat still live in 20 local streams, how many did they occupy 150 years ago? Many are the runs of herring that have come by the millions into Quartermaster Harbor to spawn until their numbers crashed in the last couple years, along with populations of our chapter bird the Western Grebe. Every one of us is endowed with power to help turn these declines around, and I am glad that future *IWs* will enlighten us under Ann's and Barbara's capable, imaginative guidance.

Editors' Note: Rayna has agreed to provide science features for Wings, and Jay is on-call for technical advice.

Westport Seabirds Pelagic Trip

Sign-up Deadline: July 1st

Cruise with master birders over the Grays Harbor Bar, then forty miles out to the continental shelf. Past sightings include whales and sunfish. Details: Sept. 30, Leave at 7:00am from Westport, Limited to 12 people, Cost \$110.00 per person. Call Sherry Bottoms at 206-463-1312 to reserve your spot by July 1. For more details and view birds you will see on the open ocean, check www.westportseabirds.com.

4th Grade Birding Program Success Thanks to Volunteers!



Photo by Kathryn True

The day of the 4th Grade KVI Field Trip—the culmination of a beginning birding program at Chautauqua—dawned bright and sunny, only to turn windy and rainy by the time the first busload of students tumbled onto the beach. Despite a lack of raincoats, most of the kids were thrilled to see birds including a belted kingfisher, green-winged teals, common loons, killdeers and many others. By the arrival of the second class, the sun came out to counter the wind, and generally kept the rain away for the rest of the day. **Just as we were packing up to leave, two flocks totaling 68 brant converged and swam towards shore crouching softly as if saying, "Thanks!"**

Sue Trevathan and Kathryn True would like to extend their thanks to the following people who so generously donated their time to help make this program run smoothly: Laura Bienen, Pam Dawdy, Bob Fuerstenberg, Joy Nelson, Gary Shugart, and Shaylon Stolk. We are especially appreciative of Shaylon's work on improving our slideshows for the program.

--Kathryn True

May-June 2006

Saturday, May 6, 9am until sold out:

ISLAND LAND TRUST 15TH ANNUAL PLANT SALE -- *Vashon Theater Parking Lot. Beth Bordner, 463-2644.*

VASHON-MAURY ISLAND GARDEN CLUB PLANT SALE -- *Fire Fighters Association Bldg. on SW Bank Rd.*

Saturday, May 6, 9am-noon -- Ober Park. Explore the Island looking and listening for birds. Bring binoculars.

FAMILIES: AUDUBON BIRDING FIELD TRIP. Limited to 15. RSVP: *Sue Trevathan, 463-1484.*

Tuesday, May 9 & 23, 7-9pm -- Land Trust Building -- .Steve Caldwell, 463-5778.

BIRDING BY EAR II -- Field trips: May 20, Vashon; May 27-28, Cle Elum, east. WA. \$60.

Saturday, May 13, 8-10am -- Ober Park 'n' Ride -- Monthly Second Saturday.

ISLAND AUDUBON FIELD TRIP -- Bring binoculars/scope if you have them! *Sherry Bottoms, 463-1312.*

May 17, 7pm -- Contact Yvonne Kuperberg for meeting place, 567-4005.

LAND-USE COMMITTEE MEETING -- Vashon-Maury Island Community Council.

Sunday, May 21, 9:30am -- Vashon Highway near Methodist Church/Vashon Funeral Home (See P1 for details).

SPRING ROAD CLEAN-UP -- Island Audubon Volunteer Project. Tools and gloves are provided.

Wednesday, May 24, 7pm -- Fire Fighters Association Bldg. on SW Bank Rd. (See P1 for details).

VASHON AUDUBON PROGRAM -- *Crows, Ravens and People, Researcher and Author John Marzluff.*

Saturday, May 27, 10am -- 2pm -- Point Robinson (See Insert for details).

LOW TIDE FESTIVAL -- Beach walk with naturalists and birders; many activities for all.

Thursday, June 1, 7pm -- First Thursday every even-numbered month.

VMIA BOARD MEETING. -- Phone Ed Swan for confirmation, 463 7976.

Saturday, June 10, 8-10am -- Ober Park 'n' Ride -- Monthly Second Saturday.

ISLAND AUDUBON FIELD TRIP -- Bring binoculars/scope if you have them! *Sherry Bottom, 463-1312.*

Saturday, July 1 -- Reservations due! Field Trip, September 30, \$110/person, limited to 12.

WESTPORT SEABIRDS PELAGIC TRIP -- *Sherry Bottoms, 463-1312.*

Vashon-Maury Island Audubon Society
P.O. Box 838
Vashon Island, WA, 98070

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LaPush Crow



ASpiers Photo

If we shoot the crows,
Who will row in night over day,
Who will eat the road kill?

