

Island Wings

— to enjoy, learn about & preserve the diverse natural habitat of these islands & beyond

Peter Murray presents The Kenya Tour: Savannah, Valley Lakes, High Desert

Submitted by Laura Bienen

On Wednesday, May 20, 2009 at 7:00 p.m., Vashon Audubon is very pleased to welcome Peter Murray, Vashon's very own story teller and photographer extraordinaire. For at least ten years, Peter has thrilled and delighted Vashon audiences as he directed arm chair travel adventures to allow us to savor the landscapes and wildlife of Florida, Yellowstone, the Southern Ocean and Botswana. His discussions are always well-researched and lively and his photography will take your breath away.



The program will cover Pete's Kenya tour during which he will pose the following flurry of questions: *Why are the African Savannahs huge grass lands? How does the Rift Valley lake system benefit huge flocks of Flamingo, Pelican and numerous other bird species? How do different types of grass affect different animals? How did geological events thousands of miles away help shape the Savannah? Learn why lions don't follow the migrating herds on the great migration.*

Join us and see the Savannah come alive! Listen to and watch a Masai Village chanting and dancing as they have for eons. Oh, and don't forget the birds — we've got birds!

Pete Murray writes, "Come join us for an evening of Birds, Geology, Grass, Rift Valley Lakes, Desert, Lions, Cheetah, Birds, Giraffe, Elephants, Very long Snakes, and Masai Villagers dancing and chanting. Also Cape Buffalo, White Rhino, Black Rhino (learn the difference), Leopards, Migrations, Crocs taking Zebra in the Mara, Sunsets and Sunrises on the Savannah, Baboons, Flamingos by the hundred thousands, and how this amazing show works."

Learn about wildlife and enjoy the spectacular East African scenery as presented by the one and only Pete Murray (with technical support from Maria Chocolate) at the Vashon Maury Island Land Trust Building located at 10014 SW Bank Road. The program is free and all are welcome.

Low Tide Celebration 09

Submitted by Rayna Holtz



Memorial Day, Monday, May 25, 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

(Low Tide: -3.6' at 12:07pm)

Pt. Robinson (festival center located south of Keeper's Quarters)

Memorial Day coincides with a terrific low tide this year, -3.6 feet at approx. 12:07 pm. It's a fine opportunity to participate in the 4th annual Low Tide Celebration at Pt. Robinson from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm.

The primary focus will be activities with beach naturalists, including Kathy Sider from Seattle Aquarium, senior ecologist Bob Fuerstenberg from King County, Sandra Noel, Barbara Gustafson, Beth Lolley and Pam Wise. They will explain both beach ecology and some of the

specific characteristics of the many creatures who make their homes in these very difficult habitats, where they are exposed to air, saltwater, and the pounding waves.

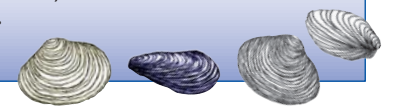
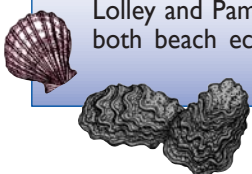
Children will be able to hang out with Erin Durrett, Pam Wise, and Beth Lolley looking for critters in a beach treasure hunt and picking up pointers about Best Beach Behavior. There will also be a Best Beach Behavior raffle for adults who sign the BBB pledge agreeing to help conserve beach life. Three baskets filled with prizes will be awarded to winners of the drawing. These baskets will contain beach related items, including mugs from Keepers of Pt. Robinson, Low Tide t-shirts, cards, one-year memberships in sponsoring nonprofits, and field guides.

Other offerings include: Plant Walk with Helen Meeker and Vickie Browne;

Bird Walks with Audubon Master Birders; lighthouse tours by Keepers of Pt. Robinson; talk about Native shellfish activities and harvest by Dave Winfrey from the Puyallup Tribe; and presentation about Native ecology and traditions with Odin Lonning and Orca Annie Stateler. Many nonprofits associated with marine resources will have booths, and food will be available for both vegetarians and omnivores.

There will be a shuttle bus to transport families who park along the roads some distance from the beach. Sponsors include Vashon Audubon, People For Puget Sound, Keepers of Pt. Robinson, Vashon Park District, Washington DNR, 20Washington Scuba Alliance, and Vashon Maury Island Land Trust.

For more information contact Rayna Holtz (463-3153) or Michelle Ramsden (406-3723).



Calendar of Events

May/June 2009

Island Audubon Field Trip

Saturday, May 9, 8:00 - 10:00 am

(Monthly 2nd Saturday)

Meet at Ober Park & Ride.

Bring binoculars/scope if you have them.

Contact Alan Huggins at

alanhugs@comcast.net

Vashon Audubon Program

Wednesday, May 20, 7:00 – 9:00 pm

Land Trust Building, 10014 SW Bank Rd

Photographer Peter Murray presents

The Kenya Tour: Savannah, Valley Lakes,

High Desert. FREE. Contact Laura

Bienen 567-4613.

4th Annual Low Tide Celebration

Memorial Day, Monday, May 25,

10:00 am – 3:00 pm at Pt. Robinson

See Article on page 1 for details.

Contact Rayna Holtz 463-3153 or

Michelle Ramsden 406-3723.

VMIAS Board Meeting

Thursday, June 4, 7:00 pm

(1st Thursday every even-numbered

month). Contact Sue Trevathan to

confirm date and location, 463-1484.

Island Audubon Field Trip

Saturday, June 13, 8:00 - 10:00 am

(Monthly 2nd Saturday)

Meet at Ober Park & Ride.

Bring binoculars/scope if you have them.

Contact Alan Huggins at

alanhugs@comcast.net



Photos of lunching loon, taken by Jim Diers from the Tramp Harbor fishing pier during the Vashon Audubon Saturday bird walk on February 14.



Volunteer Coordinator Needed for Vashon Audubon Chapter

The chapter needs someone to oversee our volunteer process. Someone to contact, record, solicit, train volunteers, and then link them to appropriate projects. Are you the one? Contact Sue Trevathan at 463-1484.



Submit your birding stories, tips
and photos to the VMIAS website:

www.vashonaudubon.org

Contact Mary Ann McCarty at

mannmcc@hotmail.com

“Ed Swan’s Notable Sightings”
has moved to the website at

www.vashonaudubon.org

VOLUNTEER TODAY!

Help at the Low Tide Festival



Memorial Day, Monday, May 25

- ★ Staff Audubon Booth - 2 hr. shift
between 10:00 am to 3:00 pm
- ★ Lead Bird Walks
- ★ Oversee beach activities
- ★ Clean up beach and park after event

Contact Michelle Ramsden at 406-3723

or mramsdn_11@yahoo.com