



Island Wings

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

Vashon-Maury Island Audubon Program

Feathers: Evolution of a Natural Miracle, with author and biologist Thor Hanson

Wednesday, November 16 at 7:00 pm

Submitted by Ann Spiers, Program Chair

Bird song is melodious and bird migration is a marvel, but bird feathers are a miracle. Come to enjoy biologist and author Thor Hanson present his book *Feathers*, essays resulting from his personal passion, research, insights, and work as a field ornithologist. The book is a natural history, inclusive of almost anything doing with feathers. Hanson's topics cover bird/feather evolution and the shifting assumptions based on recent fossils found in northeastern China as well as the reptile-boned and feathered Archaeopteryx. He explores the attraction of feathers to humans, including species decimation caused by the whims of fashion. He explains the physics of bird flight and the art of feather coloration. Bring your questions.



About *Feathers*, Peter Matthiessen writes: “A fascinating book about the most remarkable - and beautiful - of all avian evolutionary adaptations, with wonderful accounts of ornithological investigations and the solving of biological quandaries and questions, all of it unusually well-written.” Mr. Hanson's first book, *The Impenetrable Forest: My Gorilla Years in Uganda*, won the 2008 USA Book News Award for nature writing. Presently, he is assessing the ecological impacts of warfare in what he defines as an interface between natural and human systems. Hanson lives in the San Juan Islands where he plays upright bass with the San Juan Jazz Quartet.

The evening is funded in partnership with the Friends of the Vashon Library and KCLS Adult Services Programming. The Vashon Bookshop has *Feathers* in stock. The program will be held at 7:00 pm at the Land Trust Building, 10014 SW Bank Rd. The Program is FREE and all are welcome.

Starlight Low Tide Beach Walk

Explore the critters exposed by the low tide during a night beach walk on **Friday, November 25 from 9:00pm – 11:00pm**. (The tide will ebb to -3.4 feet at 10:45pm.) Meet at the North End Ferry Dock, enjoy a cup of steaming hot chocolate and head out with one of several knowledgeable guides from Vashon Beach Naturalists. Guided by the stars and your flashlight, you will find barnacles, blue mussels, purple and mottled sea stars, hermit crabs, barnacle-eating dorids, frilled and striped dogwinkles, limpets, opalescent nudibranchs, plumose anemones, orange sea pens and more! An eelgrass bed northwest of the dock is home to kelp crabs, a variety of shellfish, and their predator the moon snail. Further down the beach you will discover sea cucumbers, clingfish, gunnels, porcelain and black-clawed crabs, and tubeworms.

A flashlight (and back-up batteries), warm clothing, sturdy waterproof boots and your curiosity are a must! The event is co-sponsored by the Vashon Beach Naturalists, Vashon-Maury Island Audubon Society, Vashon Park District, and Vashon College. For more information contact Rayna Holtz, 206-463-3153, raynaholtz@aol.com.

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Calender of Events

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2011

Island Audubon Field Trips [Please note change to winter hours schedule]

Sat., Nov. 12, 9:00 am - 11:00 am. Drop in, no charge and no experience necessary. Meet at Ober Park & Ride. Bring binoculars or scope if you have them. Contact: Alan Huggins at alanhugs@comcast.net.

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Fri., Nov. 25, 9:00 pm – 11:00 pm. Meet at the North End Ferry Dock. Warm clothing, waterproof boots, flashlight (and back up batteries). Contact Rayna Holtz, 206-463-3153, raynaholtz@aol.com.

Island Audubon Field Trips

Sat., Dec. 10, 9:00 am - 11:00 am. Drop in, no charge and no experience necessary. Meet at Ober Park & Ride. Bring binoculars or scope if you have them. Contact: Alan Huggins at alanhugs@comcast.net.

Great Gift Idea for Washington Birders

The Great Washington State Birding Trail's 7th and final map of the Puget Loop is rolling off the press Thanksgiving weekend and includes several Vashon-Maury sites. For more information, see the VMIAS website at www.vashonaudubon.org OR contact Hilary Hilscher, Washington Audubon, at hhilscher@audubon.org.

Thanks to Our Volunteers

Two miles of Vashon Highway south of town is a lot cleaner, due to Vashon Audubon's fall road cleanup on October 1st. Thanks to Yvonne Kuperberg, Jessica Kuperberg, Carolina and Jerry Henley, Richard Rogers, Sue Trevathan, Sharon Metcalf, and Randy Smith. If you missed the chance to help this time, we'll do it again in the spring. Contact Randy Smith (cousythecat@centurytel.net), if you'd like to volunteer.