

JUNE 2016

Kitsap Audubon Society – Since 1972



# THE Kingfisher



## Kitsap Audubon Family Potluck Picnic

Saturday, June 25, Noon to 4:00 p.m.

Island Lake County Park (directions on Page 4)

Bring a favorite dish, dessert or salad to share. We'll provide a main dish, coffee, beverages and tableware.

Please RSVP to Gene and Sandy Bullock (genebullock@comcast.net; 360-394-5635) so we can plan food. Let us know how many adults, children, grand kids you will bring.

## Featuring Live Birds

West Sound Wildlife Shelter will bring live birds to the picnic, including a Great Horned Owl, Peregrine Falcon, Red-tailed Hawk and a live opossum -- named Pogo, of course.

*Above: Susan Ford holds Ranger, the Red-tailed Hawk.*

*Great Horned Owl photographed by Don Willott.*

*Other photos on this page by Gene Bullock*

## New Officers Elected

The following officers were elected at the April meeting to one-year terms that begin July 1, 2016:

Sandy Bullock - President (4th term in nine years)

Diane Bachan - Vice President

Judy Willottt - Treasurer

Connie Bickerton - Secretary.

## Kitsap Audubon Society

**President: Sandy Bullock;** 360-394-5635  
roadrunner1957@comcast.net

**Vice President: Vacant**

**Treasurer: Judy Willott;** 206-842-6939  
jdwillott@mac.com

**Secretary: Diane Bachen,** 206-855-1667,  
dianebachen@comcast.net

**Immediate Past President:**

**Janine Schutt;** 360-830-4446;  
jeschutt@hotmail.com

### **At-Large Board of Directors:**

Connie Bickerton, 206-200-8425,  
connieb\_1999@yahoo.com

Gene Bullock, 360-394-5635;

genebullock@comcast.net

Ray Coleburg, 360-535-4105

Sharron Ham, 360-779-5458,

shabobham@comcast.net

Alan Westphal, 206-780-7844,

westphalac@aol.com

Lynn Willmott, 360-613-0044,

tuvmott@comcast.net

### **Standing Committee Chairs:**

**Field Trips:** Alan Westphal,  
206-780-7844, westphalac@aol.com

**Conservation Chair:** Don Willott  
206-842-6939, dwillott@mac.com

**Education Chair:** Gene Bullock,  
360-394-5635; genebullock@comcast.net

**Greeters:** Milly Bellemere & Bob  
Schumacher. 360-830-4231, rbellemere@  
wavecable.com

**Membership Administrator:** Sara Kane  
297-2716, membership@kitsapaudubon.org

**Programs:** Vic Ulsh  
360-479-6900, vic@bradleyscottinc.com

**Publicity:** Gene Bullock, 360-394-5635;  
genebullock@comcast.net

**Refreshment Chair:** Sharron Ham  
360-779-5458, shabobham@comcast.net

**Purple Martins:** Sandy Pavey,  
360-930-0807, s4sandy55@gmail.com

**Raffle Coordinator:** Dawn Hansen;  
Roberta Heath

**Wildlife Sightings:** Joan Carson  
joanpcarson@comcast.net or 360-779-2612

**Scholarship Chair:** Sandy Bullock  
360-394-5635, roadrunner1957@comcast.net

**KAS Facebook Page:** Connie Bickerton,  
connieb\_1999@yahoo.com

**Webmaster:** Mike Szerlog,  
360-881-0470, szerlog@comcast.net,  
www.kitsapaudubon.org

### **Kingfisher Editor:**

Gene Bullock, 360-394-5635  
genebullock@comcast.net

1968 NE Lind Ct., Poulsbo WA 98370

## President's Letter - Sandy Bullock

Ten years ago, the Kitsap Audubon Society began a scholarship program to further our mission of preserving the natural world through education, environmental study, and habitat protection. The program was originally offered to graduating seniors from Kitsap County public high schools who plan to pursue a two- or four-year degree in related environmental studies.

This year we added the Ann Sleight Memorial Scholarship, which is available to students who have completed at least one year, toward a four-year college degree in fields that support our mission.

By the end of June, 2016, Kitsap Audubon will have given 35 scholarships, ranging from \$500 to \$3,000, and totaling \$27,000 in all. Our \$1,000 scholarship awardees this year are from Central Kitsap, Olympic, and Bremerton high schools. The Ann Sleight Memorial Scholarship, for \$3,000 went to a student at University of Washington who is finishing his second year toward a degree in Environmental Science and Resource Management. Pictures of the awardees and more information follow in this issue.

Thanks to everyone who donated to Kitsap Audubon during the Great Give. Even though the website experienced serious enough problems that the donation period was extended for another 24 hours, KAS received \$1,225 in donations. It will take a while before we know what our match and final total will be.



Sharron Ham presented Janine Schutt with this year's Kingfisher Award, and we all enjoyed Janine's story about using her "authority" as President of KAS at the time, to chide the administration and maintenance crew of the women's prison, where she served as a chaplain, for destroying a swallow nest in the eaves.

Even though our May meeting is the last before we recess for the summer, don't forget our family picnic on June 25<sup>th</sup>, from Noon to 4:00 p.m. at Island Lake County Park (directions on Page 4). We'll be joined by West Sound Wildlife Shelter and some of their wonderful wild bird and animal ambassadors. You're asked to bring a side dish, salad or dessert to share. KAS will provide a main dish, beverages, and all tableware. Please RSVP if you are coming, with the number of adults and children you'll bring.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer, everyone!

*Photo by Don Willott*

*The Kingfisher is printed on recycled paper by Blue Sky Printing and mailed by Olympic Presort, both family owned local businesses.*

**Kitsap Audubon Society meets the 2nd Thursday of each month, September through May, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., on the lower level of the Poulsbo Library, 700 NE Lincoln Rd. Open to the public. Free parking.**

# Four Scholarships and Kingfisher Award Presented

Kitsap Audubon's first Ann Sleight Memorial Scholarship of \$3,000 was presented to Ben Jensen (far right) by Scholarship Chair Sandy Bullock (right). This scholarship will be given annually to a Kitsap County student who has successfully completed at least one academic year toward a four-year degree in a field related to Kitsap Audubon's mission. Ben graduated from Central Kitsap High School in 2013, and currently attends the University of Washington. He is studying Environmental Science and Resource Management.



Scholarships of \$1,000 each were presented to three Kitsap County high school graduating seniors who plan to pursue academic degrees in fields related to Kitsap Audubon's mission.

Pictured, left to right:

Colleen Marie Sawyer, Bremerton High School, plans to attend Western Washington University.

Logan Peck, Olympic High School, plans to attend University of Wyoming.

Jessica Cherry, Central Kitsap High School, plans to attend University of Portland.



The 2016 Kingfisher Award was presented to Janine Schutt by last year's recipient Sharron Ham. Janine was selected by a committee made up of the previous three recipients, including Millie Bellemere, Bob Schumacher and Judy and Don Willott. The Kingfisher Award is Kitsap Audubon's highest honor, and is presented each year to an individual or couple for outstanding dedication and service to Kitsap Audubon for five or more years.



# Special Thanks

Kitsap Audubon has nearly 1,000 members in Kitsap County, plus others who regularly make special contributions because they value the community services, advocacy and environmental education at the heart of our mission and activities.

We could accomplish nothing, of course, without the dedicated volunteers who make it all happen.

The following groups and individuals have made special donations to Kitsap Audubon during the past year:

- **Bainbridge Islanders who designate Kitsap Audubon for a portion of their One Call for All donations.**
- **Kitsap Great Give donations**
- **Booth Family Fund**
- **Jim Ulrich/Wild Birds Unlimited**
- **George Gerdts/Pandion Tours**
- **Hostmark Neighbors**
- **Anonymous via Just Give**

## Life Members

**Barbara L. Brooking**  
**Frank Buxton**  
**Therese Clements**

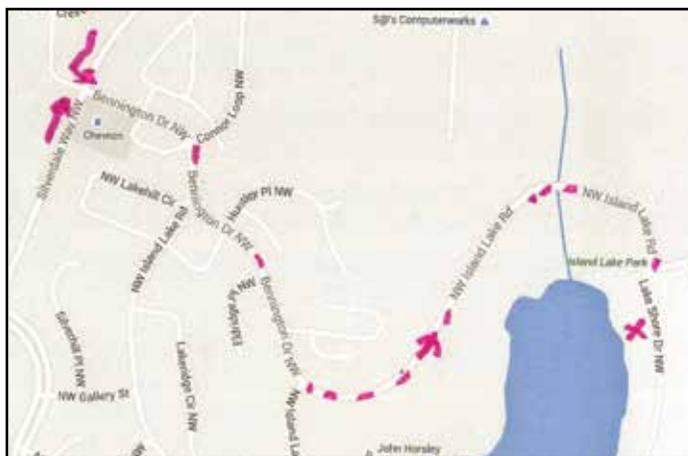
**Ray Coleburg**  
**Debbie Lyn Craig**  
**Lois Curtis**  
**Virginia & David Davison**  
**Tom Frey**  
**Dawn Hansen**  
**Byron & Sara Kane**  
**Bill & Judy Matchett**  
**Krista L. Mixon**  
**Joan S Morris**  
**Lisa Pedersen**  
**Donna Poole**  
**Lisa Saban**  
**Phyllis Summers**  
**Jim Ullrich**  
**Vic & Bonnie Ulsh**  
**Don & Judy Willott**  
**Bob Wiltermood**

# Directions to Island Lake County Park

**Kitsap Audubon Family Potluck Picnic**  
**Saturday, June 25, 2016 – Noon to 4:00 p.m.**  
**Island Lake County Park**  
**1087 NW Island Lake Road, Poulsbo WA 98370**

From Poulsbo, drive south on Viking Way, which becomes Silverdale Way. Turn left at the light (Chevron Gas Station) on Bennington Drive NW, which becomes NW Island Lake Road.

The park is on the right and **has three entrances**. The first park entrance is for the Community Center. Don't turn there. The second and third entrances are for the picnic/swimming area. We will be in the picnic shelter at the far end of the parking area, closest to the third entrance.



# Field Trips & Festivals - Al & Andrew Westphal

## Nisqually National Wildlife

**Refuge: Thursday, June 9.** Al Westphal, Leader, westphalac@aol.com, 206-780-7844 (e-mail preferred). A long half-day trip, but there are few places in the region better for observing a great variety of nesting bird species, and they should all be here by mid-June. We will walk the forest and barn trails and as far out on the boardwalk as we care to go. There is a good option for lunch after birding at Norma's just outside the refuge. Meet at the parking lot by the visitor center at 8:30. a.m.

## Field Trip Reports

### Seattle's Montlake Fill, April 23.

Fourteen birders spent a leisurely four hours walking the trails and observing the spring activity in the Union Bay Nature Area at U of Washington. Although it was a mostly gray morning, the temperature and breeze were very comfortable. The group tallied a list of 47 species. A few of the highlights included first-of-year (for most of us) American Goldfinches, lots of Savannah (and other) Sparrows, a family of Bald Eagles that seemed to accompany us the entire walk, and a newly returned pair of Ospreys building their nest in the light tower at the UW ball field.

### Theler Wetlands (Belfair),

**May 7.** Eleven exceptionally observant birders walked the Theler boardwalk and trails on a beautiful clear spring morning. The group tallied 51 bird species, a very good morning's work almost anywhere. There were a lot of highlights too. The curious trio of Cinnamon and Blue-winged Teals may have been tops. The group also encountered very cooperative Virginia Rails, an active Common Yellowthroat, and a pair of Black-throated Gray Warblers. A flock of thirty or more American Pipits was a treat too. The event came to a fine conclusion with discovery of a Warbling Vireo along the path leading back to the parking lot.

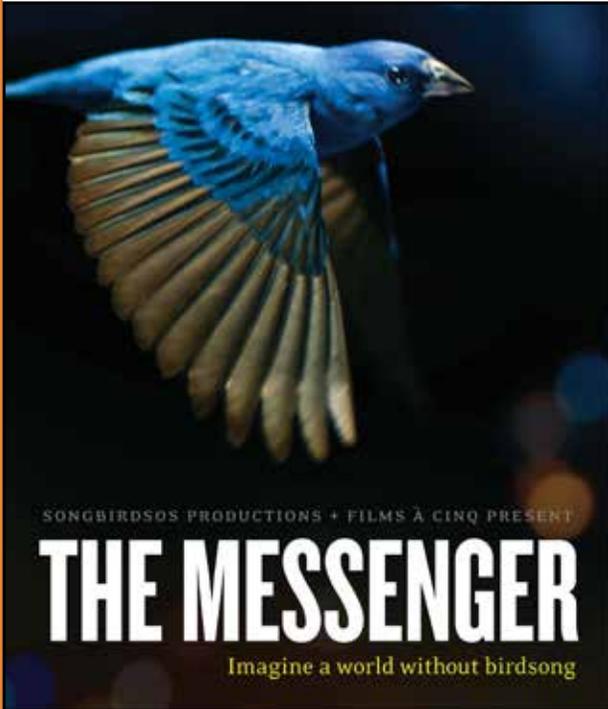


*Photos of the Pied-bill Grebe and Kitsap Audubon birding group were taken by Don Willott at the Montlake Fill during a field trip led by Al and Andrew Westphal.*

*The photo of a Bewick's Wren was taken by Don Willott during a tour of the Port Gamble Block led by George Gerdt and Mary Anne Rossing for the Forterra staff and others involved in developing the campaign to purchase this 3,300 acres. Kitsap Audubon has had a leading role in the Kitsap Forest and Bay coalition, which is working to preserve nearly 7,000 acres of shoreline and forest surrounding Port Gamble Bay. The coalition has already saved nearly a thousand acres, much of it included in the new Port Gamble Heritage Park.*



# Kitsap Audubon Hosts Kitsap Premier of THE MESSENGER



THE MESSENGER, a film by award-winning filmmaker Su Rynard, was shown to a “packed house” at the historic Lynwood Theater in Lynwood Center, Bainbridge Island, on May 19.

Organized and hosted by Kitsap Audubon, the film uses stunningly beautiful cinematography and interviews around the globe to talk about the mass depletion of songbirds caused by humans.

Three of Kitsap Audubon’s most admired birding experts, George Gerdts, Jamie Acker and Brad Waggoner (see photo) led a talk-back following the film.

Jeff Brein of Far Away Entertainment generously provided the Lynwood Theater and projectionist for the event. Jeff Ozimeck and the Bainbridge Island Metro Park & Recreation District handled ticket sales. Jeff’s “over-the-top” support was a big factor in filling the theater.

The film event was organized by Gene Bullock and Judy Willott of Kitsap Audubon. Cosponsors Sustainable Bainbridge and the Bainbridge Island Land Trust provided invaluable support in promoting the event.

Net proceeds from the event will be shared by Kitsap Audubon, Sustainable Bainbridge and the Bainbridge Island Land Trust.

***Photo left: Brad Waggoner, George Gerdts and Jamie Acker, three of Kitsap Audubon’s most respected birding experts, led a talk-back following the film. - Photo by Don Willott***



## Regional Audubon Meeting

Kitsap Audubon, Olympic Peninsula Audubon and Admiralty Audubon hold joint meetings each year with the Audubon Washington staff to share information and review State and regional goals. The three chapters take turns hosting these meetings.

The May 2016 meeting was held at the Dungeness River Center in Sequim and was hosted by Olympic Peninsula Audubon.

Seven members of Kitsap Audubon took part : Sandy & Gene Bullock, Judy & Don Willott, Sharron Ham, Diane Bachen and Connie Bickerton.



# Why one in five are bird watchers - Gene Bullock

What is it about bird watching that has made it one of America's fastest growing hobbies? Surveys by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service show that one in five of us are bird watchers. National Audubon estimates that 47 million U.S. bird watchers spend about \$40 billion each year on birding books, accessories and related travel.

As our most visible wildlife neighbors, families can even enjoy birds from their kitchen window. It's like having an exotic fish tank, except that you're on the inside, looking out at these colorful bursts of life at your feeders. Open your windows on a spring morning and you may be buoyed by the songs of a Purple Finch or the slurred trills of a Black-headed Grosbeak.

Birds have inspired poets, writers and story-tellers for thousands of years -- and who hasn't envied their freedom of the skies. It's challenging and fun to find and identify birds. You never know what you're going to see. It's a wonderful way to launch the young on a lifetime of learning and enjoyment of the natural world.

John James Audubon collected birds the old-fashioned way. With a shotgun. But his monumental collection of paintings accurately depicted 600 of the birds of North America, and inspired generations. But it was Roger Tory Peterson who turned bird watching into a popular pastime with his introduction of illustrated field guides in 1934.

But even Roger couldn't have foreseen the digital revolution and the amazing advances in optics and photography. Birders can now head out into



the field with smartphone apps that put entire field guides and collections of bird songs in the palm of their hand. And they can instantly share their sightings and photographs on e-Bird, and find out real time what others are seeing in the area. Millions of birders now use e-Bird to record and share their sightings and track sightings anywhere in the world. The massive amount of data available has made it an invaluable resource for ornithologists and others monitoring the health and

distribution of birds around the globe.

So what's next? Binoculars that can identify a bird for you? Well, Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology has already introduced a birding program called Merlin that lets the computer identify a bird from its photograph. Can smart binoculars be far behind?

The wealth of information can be overwhelming for someone just starting out. With so much information, it's easy to get lost; and that's what often happens to beginners who try to identify a bird by thumbing the pages of a field guide.

The best way to get started is by talking to bird watching friends or link up with other local birders. They can help you narrow your search to the birds most likely to visit your yard or to show up in a given habitat and time of the year. Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology also has a wonderful website: [www.allaboutbirds.org](http://www.allaboutbirds.org) that is easy to use and can answer almost any question about birds. You can even type in the name of a bird and hear its songs. The site has lots of engaging articles and information for beginners and advanced birders alike.

Backyard birding is a wonderful place to begin a life-long love affair with birds and nature; and it can be a perfect place to connect children with nature, and introduce them to the joys of bird watching.

**House Finch - Jay Wiggs**

**Black-headed Grosbeak - Don Willott**



## Kitsap Audubon Society

P.O. Box 961, Poulsbo, WA 98370

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The Kingfisher is the newsletter of the Kitsap Audubon Society, P.O. Box 961, Poulsbo, WA 98370. It is published every month except July and August. Submissions from readers are welcome. We reserve the right to edit for space, grammar or legal reasons. Email text or photographs to [genebullock@comcast.net](mailto:genebullock@comcast.net) or mail to Gene Bullock, 1968 NE Lind Ct., Poulsbo WA 98370. Our deadline is the 15th of the preceding month.

To receive your Kingfisher via email and save us the expense of printing and mailing, send your request to [genebullock@comcast.net](mailto:genebullock@comcast.net).

## Kitsap Audubon Society — Membership Renewal

Make check payable to KAS and mail to KAS, PO Box 961, Poulsbo, WA 98370

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Check here to receive your Kingfisher newsletter via Email and save us the expense of printing and mailing.

**Select Category Of Membership:**

Individual Annual Membership \$15

Family Annual Membership \$25

Contributing Annual Membership \$50

Sustaining Annual Membership \$75

Individual LIFE Membership \$300

Family LIFE Membership \$500

Supporting Annual Membership \$100

(Contact KAS Treasurer for LIFE Membership payment options)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Additional donation for scholarships or other specified purpose.

*The Kitsap Audubon Society is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. Donations are tax deductible.*

**The mission of the Kitsap Audubon Society is to preserve the natural world through education, environmental study and habitat protection, and to promote awareness and enjoyment of local and regional natural areas.**

**Visit our website at [www.kitsapaudubon.org](http://www.kitsapaudubon.org)**

