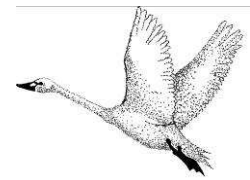


WILLAPA WHISTLER



A Publication of the Willapa Hills Audubon

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<http://www.willapahillsaudubon.org>

May/June 2008

Protecting Mt. Saint Helens

By: President Charlotte Persons

The good news today, May 1, 2008, is that the Bureau of Land Management made "no decision" on Molybdenum General's application to build a mine on the public lands touching the Mt. St. Helen's National Monument. The company can still apply for exploratory mining leases but has announced that it will not do so at this time. So we get a reprieve from this particular fight right now.

By the way, of the 33,000 public comments against the mine, many thousands were from Audubon members in Western states, alerted by National Audubon Society, and from Washington State Audubon members in particular. This was the result of a campaign Willapa Hills Audubon Society started three years ago to publicize the issue in our state and to get the backing of all the state Audubon chapters.

WHAS members John and Margaret Green, Steve Puddicombe, Steve Glucoft and I did a lot of the work in our local area. We had tremendous help from the Gifford Pinchot Task Force, who carried the legal ball for all of the conservation groups involved. Three years of coordinating with them and with other local groups, arranging for forums, testifying at meetings, writing comments on draft Environmental Impact Statements, sending letters to government officials, getting resolutions passed at local city councils, writing letters to the editor—this time all our patient work paid off.

So it is a fabulous day! Not just for the health of our particular beautiful volcano, but for all national

parks and monuments. If we could not stop a 3,000 to 6,000 acre strip mine on the very edge of a national monument, what kind of development would be off limits on the borders of our other national treasures? We have prevented a dangerous precedent. To all WHAS members who helped, thank you for your efforts!

Our fight to protect Mt. St. Helens is continuing, of course. Last week WHAS gave testimony at a public meeting of Rep. Brian Baird's advisory group which is considering new possibilities for human access to the mountain. We will also help promote new proposals to protect its rivers through the federal "Wild and Scenic River" program.

Also, there are many other conservation issues WHAS is involved in—to name just two, there is the opposition to the LNG terminal at Bradwood and the restoration of the Nelson Creek property to native habitat. Hanging over all our heads is the biggest environmental problem of our time—global climate change. While we can do a lot as individuals to cut our energy use and the emission of greenhouse gases, we must push hard for state and national policy changes in order to make a real difference for our children and grandchildren.

So this is not a time to rest on our laurels, but we can allow ourselves some moments of joy before taking up the next tasks. Our beautiful mountain will not be scarred by a pit mine! Hooray!

YOU ARE INVITED!

WENAS CAMPOUT, May 23-26, 2008

www.wenasaudubon.org

Bring friends, family, and join us at Wenas Memorial Day Weekend for as many days as you want to stay - May 23-26, 2008!

See you there, Helen Engle, hengle@iinet.com, 253-564-3112.

Please Join Us!

Support Willapa Hills Audubon Society by paying annual dues directly to this chapter. People who join National Audubon Society automatically become members of WHAS, however, National Audubon Society shares only a very small amount of the total dues money with WHAS—*currently less than \$2.00*. So, consider joining the WHAS chapter to help provide programs, field trips, bird counts and education projects here in our four-county region.

Chapter Membership

____ **\$20** for annual membership dues.

____ **\$15** for full time students. *Make check payable to Willapa Hills Audubon Society.*

National Audubon Membership

____ **\$20** for one year introductory membership in the National Audubon Society with Willapa Hills Audubon Society affiliation. *Make check payable to National Audubon Society*

Combination

____ Yes, you can do both options above, if you like. *Please write a check for each (\$20 to National Audubon Society and \$20 to WHAS.).*

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WHAS honors Ruth Deery (1923-2008)

by Darrel Whipple & others who will miss her



Willapa Hills Audubon Society gratefully acknowledges the generous volunteer service of Ruth Deery over four decades, beginning with the founding of the chapter in 1974.

On behalf of WHAS and conservation, Ruth was a tireless activist. She testified effectively at hearings on environmental issues before many public bodies time after time; she never let her guard down and hung in there till the final vote. She was respected for knowing the issues and no doubt influenced the outcome of several public policy controversies.

She presented programs for community groups on drainage, local wetlands, local birds and recycling. She was indispensable during the 2002 Ocean Park Audubon Council of Washington meeting. She explored food chain and anatomy concepts with groups of children using owl pellet dissection. She participated in

monitoring the Toutle River mitigation site. Ruth served as recorder for several years on the Bunker Hill Breeding Bird Survey. She helped develop the starling control plan for Weyerhaeuser's Longview plant. She identified and labeled many of the trees around Lake Sacajawea for the Longview Parks Department.

Ruth promoted the establishment of Mt. St. Helens National Volcanic Monument, federal protection for the Long Island Ancient Cedar grove, local consumption of shade-grown coffee, and spartina removal at Willapa Bay. She introduced WHAS members to local natural areas.

By dint of her persistence over many years, Ruth influenced agencies and developers and the general public through her comments on development permits in Longview and Cowlitz County, to encourage public bicycle use, planting of native vegetation and minimizing run-off from paved areas.

As one who truly thought globally and acted locally, Ruth nevertheless fed her own spirit by taking time to enjoy both nature and culture. One of her favorite quotations from author E. B. White says what Ruth surely felt: "I arise in the morning torn between a desire to improve (or save) the world and a desire to enjoy (or savor) the world. This makes it hard to plan the day."

A memorial celebration is planned for July 16th in Longview. Donations from those wishing to honor Ruth and Harold Derry are being accepted by WHAS. WHAS plans to use these donations in a way that Ruth & Harold would approve of.

A Woman of Insatiable Curiosity: A Tribute to Ruth Deery from the Lunch Bunch

Compiled by Kali Robson

We offer this tribute to our good friend, Ruth Deery, who hosted the Longview "Lunch Bunch" for the last few years. The Lunch Bunch began as the casual meeting of Ruth and a few others, starting around 2002, and evolved into a group of women (men were welcome too, but were usually frightened away rather quickly) who meet weekly to talk about environmental issues, politics, gardening, travel and anything else we find interesting. Ruth made it clear that in order to maintain her participation in the Lunch Bunch there must be one rule: that there be no rules and no set agenda other than the array of general themes of interest to us all.

We would bring articles from various sources and books we thought were interesting. Plant specimens were shared and identified. Conservation issues were always of interest. We discussed political events, various religions, interesting science bits and whether there is any such thing as a "free market." We looked at photos from Ruth's travels, sometimes all crowding around her computer to see the latest landscapes, museums or baby pictures. The collaboration that evolved into *Encyclopedia of Northwest Native Plants for Gardens and Landscapes* germinated with the Lunch Bunch, and the native plants in Ruth's yard were featured in some of the photographs. *Continued on Page 4*

Ruth Deery- Continued

When the weather was cold we would crowd around Ruth's dining room table for a couple of hours each week, everyone talking and laughing at once. During the summer we moved outside to Ruth's old picnic table, between the native woods and the fruit trees. She shared blueberries, figs and apples, and gave us cuttings of 'Lucille,' a favorite grape cultivar of Harold's that for some reason never became commercially available. Ruth referred to the ground near her small orchard as her "Darwinian meadow," a place where only the most aggressive plants survived. The Darwinian meadow became an ongoing experiment and we would bring various rather weedy species from the meadow, to see if they were tough enough to hold their own.

On her 80th birthday she had all the guests bring a printed copy of their favorite quotation, and there were some good ones.

Adults would sometimes approach Ruth and ask, "Are you Mrs. Deery? You were my fourth grade teacher." She was truly an innovative, exciting educator and her achievements included writing books about volcanoes and earthquakes. She also created Scholar Dollars, a program that introduced elementary school students to the basics of economics, markets and budgeting, where kids operated their own "businesses." In retrospect, the state and probably the entire nation would have done well to incorporate Scholar Dollars into the elementary school curriculum!

If Ruth made a fine role model (and she did) it was partly because she was an extraordinarily contented person - she had her share of tragedies, but considered herself really quite fortunate. She adored small children and was able to entertain them with nothing more high tech than paper, sticks and bits of string. She knew all the words to Monty Python's *Every Sperm is Sacred* and would sing it upon request. We didn't spend time with her because she was an elderly woman who lived alone and needed the company. We hung out with her because she was our quick-witted, kind-hearted, sharply intelligent, savvy, hilarious pal. We're sad because we no longer have Ruth's company, but Ruth would be annoyed if the Lunch Bunch dispersed just because she wasn't there any more. The Lunch Bunch lives on. Ruth's smile and merry laugh live on in everyone who knew her.

Ruth's Lunch Bunch By Tedine Roos

The members of Ruth's Lunch bunch are a diverse group as far as interests, experience and attitudes are concerned but they have a rather rare common grounding. They are mostly science types beginning with Ruth herself who had an undergraduate degree in physics. Others are home economists, med techs, and horticulturists. This does not mean that the latest developments in nanotechnology were on the discussion agenda. It is surprising how often there is a science dimension to current affairs, though. And so, in this rather free-wheeling group it is comfortable to be among those who have a nodding acquaintance with the scientific method and know a molecule from a milligram.

The Ruth ingredient of this group is best described in Rachel Carson's book *THE SENSE OF WONDER*. As Miss Carson says "A child's world is fresh and new and beautiful, full of wonder and excitement. It is our misfortune that for most of us that clear-eyed vision, that true instinct for what is beautiful and awe inspiring, is dimmed and even lost before we reach adulthood. If I had influence with the good fairy who is supposed to preside over their christening of all children I should ask that her gift to each child in the world be a sense of wonder so indestructible that it would last throughout life, as an unfailing antidote against the boredom and disenchantment of later years, the sterile preoccupation with things that are artificial, the alienation from the sources of strength."

Ruth, in her ninth decade, still had that joy, excitement and awe of the mystery of the world -not only the natural world, but the literary world and the world as experienced by others. That is the greatest gift she gave to us, an antidote to our sometimes cynical outlooks.

Fully aware of the world's misery and injustice there was still that interest and pleasure in the day-to-day. Year-before-last the blueberry bush in the Darwinian Meadows was afflicted with mummy berry. "How interesting", she would say as we examined the shriveled berries. And the next year the same bush was loaded with luscious berries. "Just amazing". And, Ruth expected us to harvest the berries so they would not go to waste while she was away traveling. Ruth is away now but may her sense of awe, mystery and joy remain with us all.

BIRDING BITS

By Russ Koppendrayer

The sun was setting as the long day of travel was coming to an end. The reward was fantastic views of the skyline of Panama City, as well as the shipping traffic waiting turn to enter the Pacific Ocean, and of the Panama Canal. The next morning, February 4, I awoke in a hotel room overlooking the canal and the start of a thirteen-day Panamanian birding tour. A pre-breakfast walk of the grounds turned up yellow-headed caracara, clay-colored robin, and a soaring magnificent frigate bird, in shorts and t-shirt weather, for an appetizer to the amazing tropical spectacle to come.

By that afternoon, we had transferred to the Canopy Lodge at El Valle de Anton. This eco-lodge was to be our base for four days of birding in this area to the west of Panama City. Kicking back on the patio and watching the banana feeders was very rewarding, bringing an array of brightly colored tanagers as well as numerous other species. A couple of my favorites were the brilliant blue and yellow thick-billed euphonia, and the large dominating rufous motmot with its long racquet-tipped tail feathers. Day trips into various habitats at a number of elevations produced a plethora of species. Highlights for me, included a double-toothed kite perched so close we could study its double-tooth; actually a jagged area on the upper mandible. Also impressive was an experience with a dull-mantled antbird. This individual was so excited at us invading his space that he was displaying a bright white polka-dotted upper back instead of the more typically seen, drab olive brown. Our dull-mantled antbird definitely wasn't dull-mantled!

After a day of rest in Panama City along the canal, we were flown into the former gold mining town of Cana in the Darien. This roadless national park is

along the Colombian border in the far east of Panama. The gold mine was depleted three hundred years ago and the area has reverted to jungle except for a small compound and airstrip. This clearing had flowering and fruiting trees sprinkled around it as well as in the adjacent jungle. Each morning these trees would be invaded by a parade of gaudily colored birds. During our stay, we recorded four species of free flying macaws, thirteen hummingbirds, and twenty-five tanagers; not to mention the toucans, warblers, orioles and others.



In spite of the flashy non-stop birding action around the compound, I looked forward to the hikes along maintained trails through the jungle. The action was much sparser and the birds tended to skulk more and be difficult to see. I was especially intrigued by the birds which associated with the ant swarms.

Army ant colonies, some small, some large, would swarm over an area of jungle looking for meat and were very efficient hunters; yes, be careful where you stand, it may be painful. The small vertebrates and invertebrates avoiding these swarms come out of their normal hiding spots and become fair game for bird species adapted to following these swarms, or that take advantage when the swarm comes through their territory. One special memory is of the seven of us sitting in the dirt of the trail, looking down the hillside onto the jungle floor swarming with ants and attended by numerous species, including the rarely seen, black-crowned antpitta. This fairly large bird has almost no tail and is quite erect on long legs. But the bird was surprisingly agile, running around snapping up prey and was obviously the king of the ant swarm. It took great effort to tear us away and continue on our way.

Good birding.

Midwinter Bald Eagle Survey Yields Four on January 18 by Darrel Whipple

This year WHAS's Midwinter Bald Eagle Survey along the Cowlitz and Columbia Rivers in Cowlitz County yielded 4 adult Bald Eagles. As the lead observer conducting the survey on a prescribed car route each year since 1979, I also recorded – for fun as usual – 32 other avian species and 43 elk.

The date was Friday, January 18, 2008, a pretty good day for bird watching except for the presence of a layer of fog in some places 200 feet above the valley floor. The survey was coordinated for about ten years in the 1980s by the National Wildlife Federation to build a base of data on the status of eagles in the lower 48.

WHAS Conservation Action

LNG OPPONENTS ARE HOPEFUL!

By Gloria G. MacKenzie

Many positive events have given a glimmer of hope in the effort to keep LNG from being forced upon us by FERC. Although the process proceeds slowly, it is heartening to see so much newspaper coverage on the subject. The final environmental impact statement for Bradwood will have to be reviewed before any decisions can be made and, it is not due until this summer. A statement from Gov. Gregoire would also be helpful.

As expected, Clatsop County Board of Commissioners approved 4-1 the highly contested land-use application for the proposed project at Bradwood, Oregon. One issue, which is a precedent for huge potential problems, is that the Commissioners changed the county's comprehensive plan to allow the pipeline from Bradwood to be built, as a conditional use, across land zoned for open space, parks and recreation.

Opponents with Columbia Riverkeepers in the lead are in the process of a ballot referendum and an appeal to the Oregon Land Use Board of Appeals, to reverse the decision made in Clatsop County.

Locally, Clatsop County Commissioner Richard Lee was recalled. Cowlitz County Commissioners demand that NorthernStar has to apply for local permits to build a pipeline. The company believed that under FERC's authority, permits were not required.

Since Governor Kulongoski's February letter to FERC and his request to Oregon legislators to restore states power in siting LNG terminals, Senator Wyden introduced Senate Bill 2822. This would repeal the authority of the 2005 Energy Act, which gave siting of LNG terminals to FERC. Senators Clinton, Dodd, Lieberman and Obama also endorsed it.

Nationally, there is news, which may affect LNG projects. New York Gov. David Paterson said the state would find the Broadwater LNG project is inconsistent with the Long Island Sound Coastal Management Policy. The US Supreme Court ruled that the state of Delaware could block the proposed Crown Landing LNG project.

Besides newspapers, another good source is www.inglawblog.com

Washington State Legislation from 2008 Legislative Session

From email by Kerri Cechovic, Priorities for a Healthy Washington, 14 March 2008 <info@environmentalpriorities.org>

Despite a short session and a tight budget, progress was made on all four of the environmental community's Priorities for a Healthy Washington:

Climate Action & Green Jobs (HB2815) – this big win sets responsible limits on climate pollution, sets a path for creating a “green jobs” economy, and reduces miles traveled – a key step given ½ of our global warming pollution comes from cars and trucks.

Local Solutions to Global Warming (SB6580) – this modest win develops tools that will help local governments make land use and zoning decisions that reduce driving and meet the growing demand for green, walkable communities.

Evergreen Cities (HB2844) – this modest win helps retain and replant trees in urban areas to reduce stormwater flooding and pollution as well as increase quality of life.

Local Farms - Healthy Kids (SB6483) – this big win will make Washington a national leader in the local food movement by getting more Washington grown produce into our schools and food banks, thus improving children's health and creating new and thriving markets for our farmers.

We will keep you up to date on activities taking place in the coming months to connect with your legislators about work this year and hopes for future work.

Thanks to all WHAS members who emailed or called legislators to help get these measures passed, and especially Jim and Bea Harrison, Margaret and John Green, and Ann Cordero, who attended Environmental Lobby Day on our behalf.

Highlights of March 22, 2008 WHAS Board Meeting

As a result of the WHAS election, we have new board officers:

Charlotte Persons – President

Steve Glucoft – Vice President

Ann Musche – Secretary

Pam Wright – Treasurer

Russ Kastberg and Gloria MacKenzie are elected to continue as Directors at Large.

Russ Koppendrayner is elected as a new Director at Large.

We also conveyed our thanks to outgoing co-presidents Steve Puddicombe and Betty Mayfield and to John Green, outgoing Treasurer, for their years of hard work for WHAS.

In other board business, we created a new temporary task force headed by Jim Harrison to consider options for optimizing use of our four ways of contacting members: the Whistler, the web site, the yahoo discussion group, and the Gmail announcements.

Margaret Green reported on WHAS's first-time participation in Longview's ninth Celebration of Literacy, sponsored by Altrusa International of Longview-Kelso. This year's week of events was titled "The Big, Wild Read" with a theme of reading about wildlife. We gave a donation for the entertainment act at the opening event at Lower Columbia College, Curt Nelson and Go Wild. We also had a booth where children made bookmarks, personned by Ann Cordero, Gloria Nichols and the Greens. About 250 children and their parents attended the event. Other educational events: Feb. 16 presentation on bird watching by Darrel Whipple and Gloria Nichols to Kelso Garden Club; April 19 Earth Day booth at Cowlitz County Expo

Center was once again organized and staffed by Pat Reistroffer with help from Bob Reistroffer, Pat Schauer, Gloria Nichols, Sandy Bishop, Louis LaPierre and Pamela Wright as well as several area high school students. The kids made and took home about 540 bird feeders and when staff could be spared from the feeder construction they chatted with adults and helped kids (and an occasional adult) compare their own wing span to those of the mallard, gull, hawk and bald eagle cutouts. It's a fun and energizing event that we hope more members will check out and help out with next year.

WHAS members Tom Finn, Pam Wright & Louis LaPierre joined Darrel Whipple on Earth Day for ivy removal in Rainier.

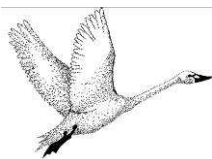
On the conservation front, Gloria MacKenzie updated us on the many events concerning the proposed LNG terminal at Bradwood Landing (see article in this issue). Regarding the proposed coal-gasification plant in Kalama, Darrel Whipple said that the EFSEC has extended for another 18 months the period for the consortium to write another draft environmental impact statement. Despite some news to the contrary, as of this date there have been no applications for building permits for the ethanol plant in Longview. John Green has been working with the City of Longview to use fewer pesticides to protect native bees and other beneficial insects, and Margaret Green has been accepted as a member of the new Longview Stormwater Committee, which will create ways to clean up run-off into streams.

The Nelson Creek project is moving forward on many fronts, including surveys of animals and plants, installing bird boxes, discussions of ways to remove invasive species such as reed canary grass, and new input on hydrology of the area. Good news is Columbia Land Trust's receipt of a LIP grant for \$49,000 for restoring the property.

Volunteer Opportunity Still Available for Snowy Plover Habitat Restoration

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and Department of Parks and Recreation are restoring habitat in the dunes of Leadbetter Point State Park for snowy plovers and horned larks. If you are interested in assisting with surveying and monitoring of vegetation and/or rare birds, please contact Ann Musché, Naselle, Washington 360-484-7119 mrm@willapabay.org

This is a perfect opportunity for you to get involved in conservation.



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The *Willapa Whistler* is the bi-monthly publication of the Willapa Hills Audubon Society, a chapter of the National Audubon Society. Articles, information, wildlife sightings and black-and-white artwork are welcomed. The deadline for inclusion of material in the *Whistler* is the 15th of each even-numbered month. Complimentary copies are sent to organizations and prospective members. All WHAS activities and programs are open to the public. The *Willapa Whistler* is printed on recycled paper using soy based ink.

The Mission of the Willapa Hills Audubon Society is to support ecologically responsible ways of life, to help maintain biologically diverse habitats, and to promote environmental understanding and enjoyment of nature.

Book Signing
Encyclopedia of Northwest Native Plants
For Garden and Landscaping

Coauthored by WHAS past Conservation chair Kali Robson; WHAS member, Alice Richter & Marianne Filbert
Saturday, May 24, 2008
11 am to 3 pm
Trillium Bookstore
102 Main, Cathlamet

Programs & Outings

Tradition dictates that summer is reserved for WHAS members to get out and explore nature on their own. Have fun!

**October Program: Speaker - Rod Crawford of Seattle's Burke Museum
Spider Expert**

