

The (mini) Towhee

Happy New Year!

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Celebrate Tahoma Audubon!

Please join us for our annual membership meeting and banquet celebration on Saturday, February 5.

After a catered dinner, the evening program will feature Tim McNulty, northwest poet and author, along with young fledgling poets who will inspire and entertain you with their words, wit, and wisdom.

There will also be a silent auction featuring exciting northwest experiences, and signed artwork by northwest notables such as Dale Thompson, Robert

Bateman, and Terry Isaac. A raffle will be held to raise money for the scholarship fund, and be prepared to bid for some exquisite desserts!

And join us as we recognize distinguished volunteers and elect new board members. (See page 3.)

Fill out and send in the registration form on page 2, or go online to register at www.TahomaAudubon.org.

This promises to be a wonderful night of camaraderie, entertainment and shared renewal of support for a



great organization.

We look forward to seeing you and your friends at the event!

GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT

The GBBC is a joint project of:

The Cornell Lab of Ornithology Audubon Canadian partner: BIRD STUDIES CANADA

February 18th - February 21st

Join tens of thousands of participants throughout the U.S. and Canada by taking part in the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC). You can count birds wherever you are: in your back yard, off your balcony, at your local park, or at a nature center. Call Tahoma Audubon (253) 565-9278 to find out more about local sites and how to join a guided count. Or learn more at tahoмаaudubon.org or birdcount.org



Photo/Dawn Woodland, British Columbia

U.N. declares 2011 to be International Year of Forests

The United Nations General Assembly declared 2011 as the International Year of Forests to raise awareness on sustainable management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests.

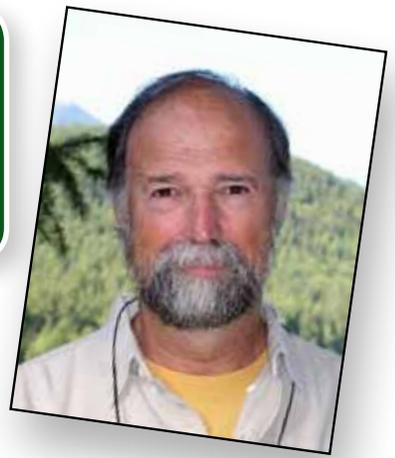
So look for this logo throughout the year on the Towhee's *Environment Matters* page for articles relating to this Year of Forests.



INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF FORESTS • 2011

Featured Speaker at Banquet:

Poet Tim McNulty



We are pleased to have Tim McNulty as the keynote speaker at the annual membership meeting and banquet.

Well-known by nature enthusiasts and appreciative audiences, Tim is a poet and nature writer who has long been active in Northwest literary and conservation communities. His poems have appeared in journals and anthologies in the U.S. and abroad. His essays and articles on forests, wildlife and conservation have been published in numerous anthologies, magazines and newspapers, and his natural history writings have been translated into German, Chinese and Japanese.

Tim's books of poetry include Some Ducks, Cloud Studies, Through High Still Air, Reflected Light, and In Blue Mountain Dusk. He is the author of ten books of natural history, including Olympic National Park: A Natural History, which won a Governor's Writers Award and Washington's Mount Rainier National Park, which won a National Outdoor Book Award.

Tim has coauthored, with photographer Pat O'Hara, an award-winning series of books on national parks, including Yellowstone: Land of Fire and falling Water, Grand Canyon: Window on the River of Time, and Grand Teton: Where Lightning Walks. He is author of Washington's Wild Rivers: The Unfinished Work and The Art of Nature. From the Air, Olympic Peninsula, with photographer David Woodcock was published this year.

Tim lives with his family in the foothills of Washington's Olympic Mountains.

*Typing a poem for a friend, I stop and listen to a woodpecker
accompanying me from a snag across the creek*
— After James Wright

The deep hollow knocks carry through the trees,
Down the quiet mumble of the creek
And weave their way into the small racket of my typing.
I stop.
The random pauses and flurries, the single drawn notes seem
So much sweeter than mine. Inspired,
I haul the old machine out onto the roof.
The morning is cold and white with frost; the sun
has not yet broken past the trees.
In a long liquid pause I close my eyes and begin
hitting keys, haphazard, hoping to maybe match
its rhythms, I've always
Longed to talk to woodpeckers this way.
A single winter wren flutters up to the edge of the roof,
And the world is suddenly filled with light.

Banquet highlights to include:

- Poetry Slam! With Tim McNulty and young, fledgling poets
- NW Experiences & special items on auction!
- Live bid Dessert auction!

42nd Annual Banquet and Membership Meeting Registration Form

Questions? Call the office at (253) 565-9278. To RSVP for the banquet celebration, please complete the information below and mail it with your payment to **Tahoma Audubon Society, 2917 Morrison Rd. West, University Place, WA 98466**. Or simply register online at www.tahomaaudubon.org.

Name: _____ Phone #: _____

Address: _____

Names of your guests: _____

Early Bird Special: If payment made **by** January 22nd - Number of tickets x **\$40** per person = _____

If payment made **after** January 22nd - Number of tickets x **\$50** per person = _____ **

E-mail: _____

Additional donation (optional, but appreciated!): _____

Total Amount Enclosed: _____

** If you are on a fixed income and can't afford the ticket price, please give an amount that feels comfortable for you.

The deadline for registration is Friday, January 28th, 2011.

Board member bios – 2011

David Vance

David and his wife, Vijaya, live in North Tacoma. David has lived most of his life in Tacoma. As the Division Director of the Strengthening Families Division for the Pierce County Department of Health, David has worked for 35 plus years in health care management, most of it with governmental organizations and private non-profit health care agencies.



David is currently enrolled in the Master Gardner program and is a previous graduate of the Master Recycler-Composter program. David has a passion for wilderness preservation, natural yard care and native plants. He is also an advocate for the education of girls and empowerment of women.

David is involved in a wide variety of community activities. These range from Chair of the Greater Pierce County Community Network, volunteer for the Puget Creek Restoration Society and a past member of Tacoma Rotary #8. David is also a volunteer at the St. Leo's Hospitality Kitchen and a member of the National Wildlife Federation and the Sierra Club.

Lloyd Fetterly

Lloyd recently retired and expressed an interest in getting more involved in conservation work and his local community. Lloyd worked for nearly 20 years as a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for Pierce County.



He and his wife, Patricia, live in North Tacoma. Lloyd has been a Pierce County Trustee for the Cascade Land Conservancy, and his wife is the current chair. They are both passionate advocates for land and habitat conservation. Lloyd has been involved in the Pierce County Stream Team.

His interests include hiking and camping, essentially anything to do with the habitat of the Pacific Coast.

Lisa Hesse

Lisa has strong ties to the community, including a degree from the University of Puget Sound and work with the Pierce County Juvenile Court, Key Center Counseling and Mediation, and Tacoma Urban League. She is currently a project analyst with Russell Investments, Russell 20-20 Association, and has extensive experience in communication and project management on a global basis.



Lisa volunteers on the board of Oasis/PCAF (Pierce County AIDS Foundation) working with youth programs, and as a Volunteer Naturalist with Tahoma Audubon and Tacoma Nature Center education programs.

Lisa lives in Tacoma with her family, and has a passion for the woods, nature and her dogs. She is excited about pairing her passion for the environment with the tangible work of Tahoma Audubon. She made a vow during a sabbatical last summer to enjoy nature fully, and build an appreciation of it in others, and sees this position as a perfect opportunity to do that. Her wedding reception was held at Tacoma Nature Center.

Art Wang

Art Wang is no stranger to Tahoma Audubon. He has had many roles with Tahoma Audubon, but has not yet been on the board.



Art is also no stranger to conservation issues, government and politics. Art has held leadership positions in all three branches of state government as state agency director, appellate judge, and legislator. This includes representing the 27th Legislative District in the State House of Representatives from 1981 to 1994, serving on the Washington State Court of Appeals, and Director of the state Office of Administrative Hearings managing 170+ persons and a \$30 million biennial budget. Art has also been in private practice as an attorney and served on many regional and

statewide boards, including being the current president of the Legal Foundation of Washington. A self-described political junkie, Art is a wonderful community advocate and has distinguished legacy of service to Pierce County and the State.

What brings Art to Audubon is his love of birding, something he has done since he was 12 years old. He has been involved in birding and Audubon for 50 years. Art has been a long time leader of birding trips and events, including the Christmas Bird Count and Birdathon. For the Great Backyard bird Count he cooks up a mean brunch that has become legendary. Art wants to get more involved in local issues here at home, and though he has never served on the board, he thought now was a good time to give it a go.

Dave Senner

Dave Senner loves his wood ducks. The wood ducks love him, and why not, his back yard in Gig Harbor has a wonderful pond and many wood duck boxes. One of them was given to him by former Tahoma Audubon president Terry Conner.



His two acres is a menagerie of wildlife and Dave is eager to share what he sees outside his living room window with everyone.

Dave was the long-time owner of Abolins Inc., a video and film equipment provider located in Tacoma. An active member of local business community Dave has been president of the Tacoma Pierce County Chamber of Commerce and active member of Tacoma Rotary #8.

Recently retired, Dave enjoys traveling internationally, spending time with family and is active on many local boards. He has been on the board of the Goodwill Foundation, the Tacoma Actors Guild and the Tacoma – Pierce County Chamber of Commerce.

Dave is truly passionate about protecting the environment. He feels strongly that we all have a responsibility, especially businesses, in preserving our planet's precious resources for generations to come. He is a firm believer that we can have a strong economy and a healthy environment. He values deeply the role Tahoma Audubon plays in keeping society on the right track.



Unless otherwise stated -

To register for field trips, call (253) 565-9278 To register for education classes, call (253) 591-6439. See further descriptions inside. Check out our calendar online at <http://www.TahomaAudubon.org> for more information and updates

JANUARY 2011

Weekly Bird Walks at Nisqually

Join Phil Kelley at Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge

Wed Jan 12 8am - 12pm

Wed Jan 19 8am - 12pm

Wed Jan 26 8am - 12pm

The walk totals about 2.5 miles. Bring: Good walking shoes or boots, raingear, water, snacks, and \$3 for entry fee unless you have a pass. Scopes are welcome. Meet: At the Visitor's Center Pond Overlook. Directions: Take I-5 south from Tacoma and exit to Nisqually NWR at exit 114. Take a right at the light. Sign-up: Call or email Phil Kelley to confirm details. Phil Kelley, Lacey, (360) 459-1499, scrubjay323@aol.com.

A BRAND NEW boardwalk extension will provide good views of McAllister Creek. The first section (roughly 1600 feet) to the McAllister Creek viewing platform should be open by the end of 2010. The last section out to the mouth of the creek will be open approx. Feb 1 after hunting season ends.

TAS Board Meeting

Thu Jan 13 6:30pm - 8:30pm

Where: Adriana Hess Audubon Center. Monthly Meeting of the Tahoma Audubon Board. Guests welcome, please call ahead at (253) 565-9278.

TGIF Restoration Activity

Fri Jan 14 10am - 12pm

Fri Jan 21 10am - 12pm

Fri Jan 28 10am - 12pm

Come enjoy the outdoors and help beautify the grounds at Adriana Hess Wetland Park!

Membership Meeting

Fri Jan 14 7:30pm - 9pm

Location: Tacoma Nature Center, 1919 S. Tyler Street. Monthly membership meeting of Tahoma Audubon. All welcome.

Program: "The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge" Power Point Presentation and DVD.

Winter Birding at Fort Steilacoom

Sat Jan 15 9:30am - 12pm

Lake Waughop in the middle of Fort Steilacoom is a good place to see ducks up close in winter. Walk the surrounding trails through a variety of habitats, from Douglas fir forest to oak prairie looking for winter residents. Directions: From I-5, take Bridgeport Way exit 125 into Lakewood. Turn left at Steilacoom Blvd and continue to 87th Ave (the park will be visible on the left). Turn left at light, then next right into park. Head left around to the parking lot by the red barns. Trip Leaders: Nell and Ken Batker (253) 537-4838. To register: (253) 565-9278.

Plant Walk at Adriana Hess Park

Mon Jan 17 12pm - 1pm

Enjoy a guided plant walk through the park.

Family Walk at Adriana Hess Park

Sun Jan 23 4pm - 5pm

A family program with a guided walking tour. Call Dixie Harris for details 564-6373.

GTP Winter Meeting & Taking Action Day

Wed Jan 26 6pm - 8pm at Portland Ave. Community Center 3513 East Portland Avenue. 6:00-6:30 Potluck/Social 6:30-7:00 Community Member Presentations 7:00-8:00 Break Out Sessions. Green Tacoma Partnership winter meeting will combine with the 2nd Taking Action Day. Includes a potluck/social along with community member presentations from citizens making positive waves in Tacoma. The second hour will split into two groups: GTP will conduct 2011 planning work, and Taking Action Day will dig into the presentations more.

FEBRUARY 2011

Weekly Bird Walks at Nisqually

Join Phil Kelley at Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge

Wed Feb 2 8am - 12pm

Wed Feb 9 8am - 12pm

Wed Feb 16 8am - 12pm

See description in January.

TGIF Restoration Activity

Fri Feb 4 10am - 12pm

Fri Feb 11 10am - 12pm

Come enjoy the outdoors and help beautify the grounds at Adriana Hess Wetland Park!

JANUARY PROGRAM

Monthly membership meeting of Tahoma Audubon. All welcome. Fri Jan 14 7:30pm - 9pm at Tacoma Nature Center, 1919 S. Tyler Street Program: "The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge" Power Point Presentation and DVD.

Conservation Committee

Fri Feb 4 12pm - 1:30pm

Help Audubon achieve our 5 year goals for conserving, protecting, and restoring habitats in Pierce County.

Annual Membership Banquet

Sat Feb 5 5:30pm - 9pm

Where: McGavick Student Center, 4500 Steilacoom Boulevard SW, Lakewood, WA

Adriana Hess Park Photography class

Mon Feb 7 12pm - 3pm

An adult program encouraging people to appreciate nature and showing ways to incorporate it into their photography. Call Dixie Harris for details 564-6373.

Weekly Bird Walks at Adriana Hess

Mon Feb 14 11:30am - 1pm

Bring your Valentine to enjoy a guided bird walk through Adriana Hess Park led by Joe McGuire!

Environmental Priorities Coalition Lobby Day

Tue Feb 15 8:30am - 6pm

Where: United Churches, Olympia, 110th East 11th Ave. Join fellow citizens in advocating for our environmental priorities by learning about them and meeting with your elected representatives at the state capitol. Don't forget the post Lobby Day reception. This year will be special, as we will celebrate People For Puget Sound's 20th Anniversary! Rein Attemann Field Director <mailto:rattemann@pugetsound.org>

THE GREAT

BACKYARD BIRD COUNT

February 18, - February 21, 2011

Join tens of thousands of participants throughout the U.S. and Canada to take part in the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC). You can count birds wherever you are, in your back yard, off your balcony, at your local park, or at a nature center. Call Tahoma Audubon to find out more about local sites and how to join a guided count.