

ANNUAL REPORT 2012

tahoma
audubon
society



Connecting people with nature since 1969.

Tahoma Audubon continues to make a positive impact in our community and environment. Here are some highlights from 2012:

2012 CONNECTING WITH NATURE EVENTS

Adriana Hess Audubon Center: The center celebrated 13 years in December since it opened on December 5, 1999. Volunteers have done so much work since then that the place hardly looks the same, especially with all the quickly maturing native plants and trails established as a demonstration backyard habitat area. Monthly guided bird walks and plant walks are offered here for free to the public, as well as ample opportunities to volunteer. Stop by and visit us!

Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC):

President's Day weekend saw people from all across the United States and Canada watching and counting birds for the GBBC. People joined the fun and counted by themselves, in groups and at one of our several organized events and then reported the data online. What a great way to learn about birds in our community!



Birdathon 2012: Our signature FUNdraiser always connects people with nature! This



year Birders went on field trips across the state while raising nearly \$30,000 to help us connect other people with nature, while having fun, learning bird identification skills, and making new friends.

Morse Wildlife Preserve: The amazing volunteers call themselves the Morse Force for good reason. In 2011 they saw a long time dream come true when permits were cleared and funding raised to build a brand new (not to mention innovative) boardwalk across the wetlands that make up the headwaters of Muck Creek located on the Morse Wildlife Preserve in Graham, WA. The boardwalk was completed in the fall of 2012, and trails beyond, too. A grand opening celebration is planned for June 1st, 2013 and we hope to see you out there!

Community Outreach and Education: We celebrated Earth Day (month) with educational events, and volunteer work parties. We attended several college fairs, and other outreach events including the South Sound Sustainability Expo. Staff and volunteers use the opportunity to recruit new mem-



bers, volunteers and interns, as well as marketing our youth and adult classes, camps, and activities.

Puyallup Fair: Our dedicated members & volunteers ran our booth and helped children make fir cone and pine

cone bird feeders to take home with them, attracting birds to their own backyards, as well as educating the public on Tahoma Audubon, its mission and our goals. Thanks volunteers!

Christmas Bird Count: This year, it was the 113th Annual Christmas Bird Count! We partnered with Citizens for a Healthy Bay to provide water access, and we received a Chapter Collaborative Grant from National Audubon to

cover the costs for the marine survey. The CBC was "citizen science" before the term existed! Thanks to all the volunteers who help make this event possible.



2012 CONSERVATION SUCCESSES

- ✓ **Advocated for Conservation Futures program** to be favorably amended to ensure limited public resources go toward conservation projects they were intended for.
- ✓ **Defended the Growth Management Act** by protecting farmland near Sumner with successful legal appeal of proposed Orton Junction development.
- ✓ **Great Washington Birding Trail's Puget Loop Map dedication** and installation of sign at Adriana Hess Wetland Park.

- ✓ **Continued to work with Pierce County** on updates to existing shoreline regulations and promote appropriate siting of shellfish aquaculture operations.
- ✓ **Hosted a voluntary stakeholder committee**, known as the Agriculture Roundtable, to proactively advocate for and work on improving protections for irreplaceable farmlands in Pierce County and create a sustainable local food market.



IN OTHER NEWS:

- At long last we got an upgrade to a new membership database at the end of the year, which also facilitated the board's adoption of a new chapter membership policy.
- In the spring we held our first annual spring merchandise sale.
- The board also completed a donation of a one acre parcel of forest land to University of Washington's Pack Forest.
- Due to the economy and availability of grants, the board had to

make a hard decision to lay off some of our staff in 2012. We are operating leaner than in recent years, and continue to rely on and engage our members and volunteers as much as possible.

- We held a donor reception in November at the Tacoma Nature Center. The annual fall appeal was a big success thanks to the generosity of individuals who gave gifts totaling over \$28,000 – nearly doubling our 2011 annual appeal gifts!



We are grateful to all who donated to the Tahoma Audubon Society in 2012



\$5000 and above:

Save Our Shoreline
Sally & Wayne Larson
Pierce Conservation District
Thelma Gilmur
Nisqually Charitable Trust
Heidner Charitable Lead Trust
Raikes Foundation

\$2,500-\$4,999:

Marjorie Shea & Bill Richards
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*In Memory of Allan Ramm

\$1,000-\$2,499:

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Sylvia Howard
Twila Slind
Helen Howat
Marguerite Buselmeier

This list reflects total contributions made during 2012. Every attempt has been made to recognize donors and provide accurate information. If there is an omission or correction please call Krystal Kyer at (253) 565-9278.

2012 ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

☞ Launched our first ever residential camps with diverse schools across the South Sound region, connecting nearly 500 students in grades 5-6 (and their high school mentors) with nature during two weeklong camps. All of the schools had such a good time that they've signed up again for our OSPREY camps in May!

☞ OSPREY Clubs held at 4 schools weekly during the school year in Tacoma, Milton, and at Joint Base Lewis McChord, connecting over 50 students with nature each week.

☞ Adult Education – birding classes offered throughout the year for teens and adults held at the Tacoma Nature Center thanks to birding instructors Marcus Roening, Rolan Nelson, Ken Brown, Steph



Swaim and Scott Kiersztyn who shared their time, energy, skills and passion with others.

☞ Staff participated in the Youth Programs Quality Initiative to deliver excellent programming for youth thanks to a

grant from the Raikes Foundation.

☞ Volunteers led 10 bird and 8 native plant guided walks at the Adriana Hess Wetland Park.

☞ Free birding field trips led by volunteers nearly every week of the year throughout Pierce County and Washington!

☞ 13th annual Youth Bird Drawing Contest drew over 100 entries from students in 2nd-7th grades across Pierce County, with an awards reception in June.



☞ 4 weeks of Little Explorers Day Camp held at Adriana Hess Audubon Center in July.

☞ 10 Membership Programs conducted on bird and wildlife topics both locally and around the globe with over 300 participants, as well as our popular annual meeting with nearly 200 guests alone.

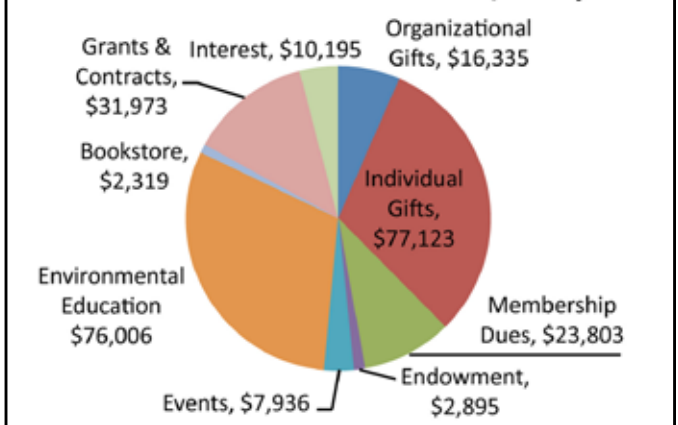


2012 FINANCIAL REPORT

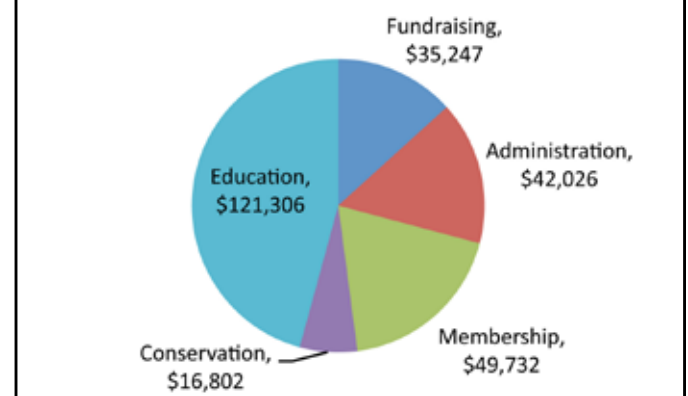
DEC. 31, 2012

ASSETS	
Cash on Hand	\$14,606
Short Term Investments & Reserves	\$19,296
Greater Tacoma Community Foundation (Endowment)	\$293,099
Inventory	\$2,934
FIXED ASSETS	
Real Property	\$0
Tangible Assets	\$17,785
TOTAL ASSETS	\$329,935
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Accounts Payable	\$1
Sales Tax Payable	\$222
Employee Vacation Time Owed	\$2,750
Total Liabilities	\$2,973
Equity	
Permanently Restricted Funds (endowment)	\$238,730
Temporarily Restricted Funds	\$27,257
Unrestricted Funds	\$21,240
Board-directed Restricted Funds	\$47,255
Retained Earnings	\$11,122
Net Income	\$11,712
Total Equity	\$357,318
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	\$363,316

2012 Gross Income Total \$248,585



2012 Total Expenses \$265,112



FEATHERED NEST CIRCLE

We are pleased to honor our visionaries who have named Tahoma Audubon in their estate plans making them members of the Feathered Nest Circle. This list updated as of March 15, 2013.

Anonymous (3)
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Terry & Bev Conner
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Bryan Flint
Thomas Galdabini
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Gary and Sharon Nestegard
Melissa and Jamie Paulson
Donna Cooper Pecos*
Barbara Petersen
Marcus Roening & Heather Ballash
Sarah C. Sloat*
Beatrice E. Thompson*
Darby Veeck & Kristin Lynett
**Deceased*



The Tahoma Audubon Society is the Pierce County Chapter of The National Audubon Society. We are in Adriana Hess Wetland Park at 2917 Morrison Rd W University Place, WA 98466
Hours: 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Call 253-565-9278

