

## **Audubon Council of Washington Conference**

April 11,12,13, 2008

### **FIELD TRIP INFORMATION**

“One Audubon - Hatching Solutions for Global Warming”

Sleeping Lady Resort

7375 Icicle Rd. - Leavenworth, WA

#### Field Trips:

*There are so many places to explore around Leavenworth we couldn't keep everyone inside all three days. Instead we decided to dedicate all of Sunday to field trips. For those who feel one day isn't enough we will have one Saturday morning field trip offered for the 'early birds' of the group. Please register for your field trip of choice on the registration form. Sack lunches will be provided by Sleeping Lady for Sunday. All field trips are free, will have at least one 'bird' leader guiding the group, and will depart from Sleeping Lady. Maps and logistic details will be provided at check-in at Sleeping Lady.*

*We will do our best to accomodate your choice of field trip, but be thinking about alternatives just in case. We may have to move folks around if too many or too few register for certain trips. If this happens we will contact you.*

#### Saturday Morning (6:00 am – 8:00 am):

##### **Nature Trail (along Icicle River) of the Leavenworth Nat'l Fish Hatchery**

The Sleeping Lady campus and the adjoining Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery are home to an abundance of wildflowers, birds and other animals. Join NCW Audubon guides on a stroll through the meadows, forests and streamsides to search for Western Bluebird, White-headed Woodpecker and American Dipper. Keep an eye out for blooming shooting star, camas, brodiaea and hillsides of yellow balsamroot. This early-morning walk will help you work up an appetite for breakfast!

#### Sunday Morning (various times):

##### **Chelan-Douglas Land Trust hike Horse Lake Preserve (8:30 am – 12:30 pm)**

The Wenatchee Foothills are one of the priority conservation areas for the Chelan-Douglas Land Trust. The name is appropriate—it rises from the Columbia and Wenatchee rivers and rises quickly to the foothills of the Cascades. The land gently transitions from shrub-steppe to a bunchgrass/Ponderosa Pine forest, typical of the east slopes of the Cascades. This area is remarkably pristine, with a great show of wildflowers that begin in mid March and extend through July, depending on aspect, elevation, and plant phenology. It also is an area of intense development pressure, so we are working with many partners to protect these remnant stands.

One area that we will likely tour is a 1,200 acre block of retired farm and ranch land called the Horse Lake Reserve, recently acquired by the Land Trust. At an elevation of about 1,500 ft, the reserve overlooks the Columbia and Wenatchee rivers, and we will have views of Glacier Peak and the Enchantment Basin to the north and west. We will spend most of the tour walking along a fairly gentle gravel road to the abandoned farmhouse and seeps, which will attract many of the early spring migrants (warblers and vireos) as well as some of the resident woodpeckers.

People on the tour should wear sturdy boots and be prepared for variable spring time weather conditions. The snowpack is pretty good there this year, so there may be some spots of residual snow in mid-April. The total walking time on the tour should be two and a half hours or less.

### **Barn Beach Reserve and Blackbird Island (9:00 am – 11:00 am)**

Barn Beach Reserve is the home of an environmental learning center, an arts facility, and the Upper Valley Museum at Leavenworth, on the east slope of the Cascade Mountains in Washington State. The Reserve and an adjacent city park combine to create a protected greenbelt of more than 50 acres of mature, streamside forest that includes Blackbird Island, a popular stop on Audubon's Great Washington Birding Trail. The field trip will involve a tour of the facilities, including a 105 year-old renovated mansion and a new state of the art green multi-purpose classroom building; historical interpretation and a bird walk at the Reserve and adjacent Waterfront Park and Blackbird Island.

### **Horan Natural Area (9:00 am – 10:30 am)**

In the heart of Wenatchee, we will take an easy walk along the Columbia River and then loop through the Horan Natural Area, returning to the park grounds and picnic area. The Horan Natural Area is a complex of wetlands, with one of the largest areas of riparian vegetation along the mid-Columbia. We can expect to see a diversity of waterfowl (including wood ducks), herons, bald eagles and osprey, as well as numerous songbirds (including warblers). The trip starts and ends on a paved trail, with a level, dirt path in the natural area; expect a trip of about 1 ½ hours.

### **Bird and Bike Excursion (9:00 am – noon)**

Birding by bicycle is a great way to get out into nature. You're traveling fast enough to cover a lot of habitat, yet you can stop almost anywhere to get a closer look. A bonus - it's good for the planet and good for your health! We'll travel a 7-mile loop, starting and ending at Sleeping Lady, with an option for an extra 5 or 10 miles. Bring water, a snack, layered clothing, binoculars, a helmet and a bicycle. The route would go on Icicle Road, through Waterfront Park/Blackbird Island, then back to Sleeping Lady via East Leavenworth Road. Maps will be provided. People need to be responsible for their own bicycle arrangements. They can contact Sleeping Lady directly or make arrangements elsewhere. Both Das Rad Haus, 509-548-5615 and Der Sportsmann, 509-548-5623 rent bicycles. If you have any questions about this field trip please contact Karen Haire at [karenhaire@nwi.net](mailto:karenhaire@nwi.net).

### **Rocky Reach Visitor Center (8:30 am – 10:30 am)**

The Rocky Reach Visitor Center is located at the west end of the forebay wall, on the Chelan County side of the Rocky Reach Hydro Project. About 20 miles/45 minutes outside of Leavenworth the guided tour will start at 9:30 am. Those touring the facility will discover the Columbia River, the reservoir of Lake Entiat, the juvenile fish bypass system, balconies that offer panoramic views of the project, and an air-conditioned seasonal gift area. The Visitor Center's small theater, with a seating capacity of 90, shows movies throughout the day. Close to 60,000 visitors annually enjoy the hydro project's visitor facilities. A shelter has been reserved for those interested in lingering a bit longer and enjoying lunch.