

<SEWARD LOGO>

April 25, 2012

<Full Name>

<Address 1>

<Address 2>

<City>, <State> <Zip>

Dear <Salutation>,



One of our staff naturalists recently came back from presenting the Talking Tree to a nearby preschool, excited to tell us all about it. “These kids were great, they loved it, but they didn’t know a skunk from a raccoon! Their school is just blocks from Seward Park, and they *have never been to the park in their life!*” Now the class is planning a fieldtrip to come to the Center and walk in the forest to meet the Talking Tree’s real life friends in Seward Park.

Many children take their first step into the old growth forest when they come to the Seward Park Audubon Center for a Talking Tree program, science class, or guided nature walk. That is exactly why we are here – to inspire kids and adults from all backgrounds to get excited about and care for their natural world.

We are eager to share some of the ways we have inspired **58,500 people** to explore and care for the natural world in our first four years including:

- Introduced over **6,000 pre-K students to the Talking Tree**, emphasizing the importance of trees as critical urban habitat and promoting ways children can protect trees.
- Recruited and managed more than **2,000 volunteers who contributed 8,646 hours of restoration, removing 333,543 square feet of invasive plants** from Seward Park.
- Provided nearly **15,000 school kids with excellent free and low-cost science programs** plus another 15,000 individuals of all ages with our community programs, including Toddler Tales & Trails, Super Saturdays, Family Bird Walks, nocturnal searches for bats and owls, and views into nature that inspire our local artists and authors.



We will continue to build on our success in connecting people of all backgrounds with the nature in their neighborhood. Now we are looking ahead to how we connect people to conservation at a bigger scale, both locally and along the Pacific Flyway migratory corridor that is used by billions of birds each year. Like the Rufous hummingbirds that make a twice yearly

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journey between Alaska and Central America, we want to extend the reach of our community so they feel empowered to take action to protect nature from Seward Park north to breeding and nesting grounds in Alaska and south to wintering habitat near the equator.



With your help, we can leverage the power of the Audubon network. We have already taken steps to integrate the Seward Center's board with Audubon Washington's board. Now we are assessing the projects and activities that the state's 26 Audubon chapters are doing to protect birds and habitats and identifying how we can build on those efforts for greater conservation impact. We are exploring ways to partner with our local chapters, including Seattle and Tahoma Audubon, to engage as many people as possible in caring for nature.

We've proven our success at attracting and engaging all kinds of people in discovery of the urban natural world. With your support, we can build on that success to help even more people learn about and protect nature for greater impact, locally and for our whole flyway.

Thank you for considering a gift of <\$GIFT AMT> or more to help us teach people about their connection to birds and nature and the actions they can take to conserve them.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gail Gatton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gail Gatton
Center Director



P.S. This spring, we are offering two ways you can stretch your gift even farther.

Marina Skumanich, our regional representative on the National Audubon board, is offering a chance to match your gift with the Board Challenge fund: **every dollar you give by June 30th that is an increase over your previous year's gift will be matched dollar for dollar** to help support Audubon's conservation and education programs.

Your gift will make an even bigger impact if you donate online May 2nd. Click on the GiveBIG button on sewardpark.audubon.org to make your gift and increase our GiveBIG match from the Seattle Foundation!

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