

Saturday Presentations in the Edmonds Plaza Room

650 Main St in Edmonds

PRESENTATIONS ARE FREE AND NO REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED



KEYNOTE PRESENTATION BY MARTHA JORDAN

Washington's Swans and Snow Geese: Connections to land use, agriculture, and dairy farms

10:30-11:30am

MARTHA JORDAN, well-known swan biologist, will present a special program on Washington's wintering white birds - Trumpeter and Tundra Swans, and Snow Geese. Why do they come to Washington each winter? Their presence is intertwined with land use, agriculture crops, and especially dairy farms. As agricultural practices and land use shifts, big changes are expected for the birds, farmers, and visitors who travel to see them each winter. Martha will discuss how farming affects the distribution and population dynamics of these wintering waterfowl in Washington State and beyond, provide an update on issues regarding lead poisoning and other habitat issues, and share photos that help clarify the challenges of identification of Trumpeter and Tundra swans and Snow Geese. Come learn about these magnificent white birds and what is needed to insure their future.

Martha Jordan is a wildlife biologist. She has a degree in Wildlife Science from Oregon State University. Professionally she has worked both in marine and terrestrial environs throughout Washington and parts of Alaska. In the late 1970s while volunteering to observe snow geese and reading their collars in the Skagit Valley, WA, she began to look at the small group of Trumpeter Swans in the same area. By 1984 she had expanded her survey efforts to all of Western Washington and had contributed much information to both state and federal agencies on the status of Trumpeter Swans in Washington State. She wrote the state's first Trumpeter Swan management plan in 1985. She is still active in both field work, habitat conservation including agricultural land and farms, and education throughout the region. She is currently the Executive Director of Northwest Swan Conservation Association, a regional non-profit. The focus is on our native swans, Trumpeter and Tundra Swans, and their habitats throughout the region. NWSA is also active in issues related to lead poisoning in swans and waterfowl. We promote Getting the Lead Out of shooting sports ammunition and fishing sinkers of smaller sizes.

Mindful Birding

Roniq Bartanen

11:45am -12:45pm

New to birding? Looking for a richer more health centered birding experience? Mindful Birding highlights the overall health benefits of connecting to birds and nature. Awareness of bird habitat, song and behavior are highlighted. Bird novices to bird nerds will benefit from learning practices for a mindful, bird friendly life. Don't miss her guided walk on Sunday.

My passions include mindful, urban and accessible birding, promoting female bird guides through my 'Female Bird Guide Resource List' as well as writing about the culture and joy of birds and birding at www.shebirds.com. My focus is to create a safe and welcoming space for all to enjoy the outdoors. I believe strongly in the healing power of time spent in nature.

Building a Backyard Refuge

Daphne Legg

1 – 2pm

Come learn all about backyard bird feeding in this talk tailored for beginners. Daphne will cover what a new birder needs, the basic feeding station, available water, and how to create a good habitat in your backyard. Daphne also will discuss the most common backyard birds in Puget Sound region and include some photos to help you identify them.

Daphne Legg brings 30 years of backyard bird feeding experience once again to the Puget Sound Bird Fest. In those 30 years, 27 of them have been as a vital team member of the Wild Birds Unlimited store of Lake Forest Park. In fact, she was voted WBU Manager of the year in 2018!

Daphne has presented numerous speaking engagements at garden clubs, local schools, and nurseries. She has been a speaker at the Puget Sound Bird Fest for 7 years and she has also been invited to speak at the NW Flower & Garden Festival in Seattle. Bird-feeding enthusiasts can also catch one of Daphne's talks in the shop or on Facebook Live. As a champion of the Wild Birds Unlimited Save the Songbirds campaign, Daphne works to bring awareness to the greatest threats to songbirds. She finds great enjoyment in sharing her joy of bird-feeding.

Montlake Fill: An Oasis of Nature in the Heart of a Concrete Desert

Connie Sidles

2:15-3:15pm

For more than 50 years, Montlake Fill has been an island of wildlife habitat in north Seattle on the University of Washington campus. It became so after serving as the city dump for the previous 50 years. The story of its transformation - and the choices we humans must make to sustain and manage nature - is a tale of wisdom as well as folly, heartbreak and hope. Master birder Constance Sidles has been monitoring the birds of Montlake Fill since the 1980s, but bird records for this site go all the way back to 1898, when most of the landfill was still underwater. It is the oldest continuously birded site in the state, and it has many lessons to teach us.

*Constance Sidles is a master birder, a former board member of Seattle Audubon Society, a current member of Seattle Audubon's Conservation Committee, chair of Seattle Audubon's Publications Committee, an environmental educator, and an author who has written four books about nature. Her most recent book is entitled *Forty-Six Views of Montlake Fill*. It's a book of poems and Sumi-e paintings about how to find joy in the connections we make with nature and with each other. You can find it at Seattle Audubon's Nature Shop, or you can order it online from Constancy Press. Connie graduated from the University of Chicago with a degree in Egyptology, which proved to be enlightening but not lucrative. Instead of working on ancient cultures, Connie has spent her time working on current issues, especially environmental preservation.*