**2024 Grays Harbor Shorebird and Nature Festival**

**Schedule with Descriptions**

**Friday, May 3, 2024**

**Tokeland/Grayland/Westport** **Field Trip** ($ 50)

7:30 am – 3:30 pm

(Departs from Refuge HQ, 1000 Airport Way, Hoquiam, WA)

Leader: Bruce LaBar

This ﬁeld trip will take you to the best shorebird viewing areas along the coast! Target birds are 22 species of shorebirds including Snowy Plover, Willet, and Long-billed Curlew. Good numbers of waterfowl and other water species will be encountered along the way. “Streaked” Horned Larks and Lapland Longspurs will also be sought after at Midway Beach Road. There will be some walking but most of the day will involve short visits to key areas in search of shorebirds. Bring a lunch and dress appropriately!

**Ocean Shores Field Trip** ($ 40)

8:00 am – 3:00 pm

(Departs from Refuge HQ, 1000 Airport Way, Hoquiam, WA)

Leaders: Whittier Johnson and Rob Chrisler

This beautiful coastal resort town hosts some of the best birding spots on the West Coast with more species per location than anywhere else in the state of Washington. The tour will visit a variety of habitats and upwards of 60 species may be found. Highlights on this trip include: Semipalmated Plover, Whimbrel, Marbled Godwit, Sanderling, Wandering Tattler, Surfbird, and Rock Sandpiper. Easy Walking.

Bring a lunch and dress appropriately!

**Beginner Bird Walk at Bottle Beach State Park**  (Free)

8:30 am – 10:30 pm

(Meet at Bottle Beach State Park, 33 Ocosta Third St., Aberdeen, WA)

Leader: Lisa Whalen, Washington State Parks

Come explore Bottle Beach State Park with a park ranger. During this walk you will learn the basics of bird watching, as well as the fascinating natural and human history of the park. Length of walk: 1.5 miles. Ages 5 and up. Not ADA. No pets, please.

**Saturday, May 4, 2024**

**Ocean Shores Field Trip** ($ 40)

8:30 am – 3:30 pm

(Departs from Hoquiam Middle School, 200 N. Spencer St., Hoquiam, WA)

Leaders: Whittier Johnson and Rob Chrisler

This beautiful coastal resort town hosts some of the best birding spots on the West Coast with more species per location than anywhere else in the state of Washington. The tour will visit a variety of habitats and upwards of 60 species may be found. Highlights on this trip include: Semipalmated Plover, Whimbrel, Marbled Godwit, Sanderling, Wandering Tattler, Surfbird, and Rock Sandpiper. Easy Walking.

Bring a lunch and dress appropriately!

**Shorebird Identification Basics** (Free)

8:30 am – 9:30 am

(Hoquiam Middle School)

Presenter: Scott Morrison

Shorebird identiﬁcation can be tricky. With the help of experienced birders, you will become familiar with the more common shorebirds so you can identify them in the ﬁeld. You are encouraged to follow up this program and join Scott Morrison on the “Shorebirds for Beginners” guided walk on the Sandpiper Trail at Grays Harbor NWR, scheduled after this presentation.

**Habitats and Birds of the Refuge: A Guided Walk with Spanish Interpretation** (Free)

9:00 am – 11:30 am

(Meet at Hoquiam Middle School)

Leader:

Spanish Language Interpreter: Carlos Osorio, Twin Harbors Waterkeeper

New to the festival is a Spanish language guided walk to the prime shorebird viewing area along the Sandpiper Trail at Grays Harbor National Wildlife Refuge. Knowledgeable guides and Spanish language interpreters will share information about the refuge, wildlife, and plants of interest along the trail, and share distinguishing characteristics and interesting traits to identify shorebirds. This is an easy, level, 3/4 mile walk. Binoculars will be provided for registered participants.

**Shorebirds for Beginners – Guided Walk with Scott Morrison**  ($15)

10:00 am – 1:00 pm (High Tide @ 10:43am)

(Meet at the beginning of the Sandpiper Trail at Grays Harbor NWR)

Leader: Scott Morrison

The shuttle bus from Hoquiam Middle School will take you to the Sandpiper Trail at Grays Harbor NWR where you will walk 3/4 mile on a boardwalk to the prime shorebird viewing area at the tip of Bowerman Peninsula. As the shorebirds gather on the mudﬂats, you can learn to distinguish a Western Sandpiper from a Dunlin. Other possible birds include: Least Sandpiper, Black-bellied Plover, Red Knot and Peregrine Falcon. We see other wildlife too, like weasels!

**Orchard Mason Bees** (Free)

1:30 pm – 2:30 pm

(Hoquiam Middle School)

Presenter: Carrie Morlang, Knox Cellars Orchard Mason Bees

Learn about the life cycle of the native Orchard Mason Bee including their unique development and behavior that makes them the super spring pollinator. Carrie will share the three reasons to host Orchard Mason Bees in your backyard, what blossoms they are attracted to, and their care and maintenance.

**Quinault Indian Nation**

1:30 pm – 2:30 pm Unknown. Do not list in the schedule until we receive confirmation.

**Adaptive Strategies of Shorebirds** (Free)

2:45 pm – 3:45 pm

(Hoquiam Middle School)

Presenter: David Slater

Shorebirds are a fun and fascinating group of birds that have adapted physically, behaviorally, and physiologically to their environment. Dave will discuss some of these adaptations and how they increase shorebird’s chances of survival. Dave and his wife Yvonne love birds and they participated in 3 Christmas Bird Counts in 2023, including Gray's Harbor.

**Photographing Birds in Motion** (Free)

2:45 pm – 3:45 pm

(Hoquiam Middle School)

Presenter: Diana McPherson

Join wildlife and conservation photographer, Diana McPherson, as she shares images of birds in motion, from fights to flight to foraging. She’ll share camera settings and techniques to help you capture birds in motion, too.

**Keeping a Field Notebook** (Free)

4:00 pm – 5:00 pm

(Hoquiam Middle School)

Presenter: Madison Mayfield

Description and photo

**Seabirds** (Free)

4:00 pm – 5:00 pm

(Hoquiam Middle School)

Presenter: Peter Hodum

Description and photo

**Sunday, May 5, 2024**

**Tokeland/Grayland/Westport** **Field Trip** ($ 50)

8:00 am – 3:00 pm

(Departs from Hoquiam Middle School, 200 N. Spencer St., Hoquiam, WA)

Leader: Bruce LaBar

This ﬁeld trip will take you to the best shorebird viewing areas along the coast! Target birds are 22 species of shorebirds including Snowy Plover, Willet, and Long-billed Curlew. Good numbers of waterfowl and other water species will be encountered along the way. “Streaked” Horned Larks and Lapland Longspurs will also be sought after at Midway Beach Road. There will be some walking but most of the day will involve short visits to key areas in search of shorebirds. Bring a lunch and dress appropriately!

**Walk with Dennis Paulson** ($15)

10:30 am – 12:30 pm

(Meet at ?)

Description and photo

**Shorebird Poster Contest Awards Ceremony**

1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

(Hoquiam Middle School)

Come and help honor the 2024 Shorebird Poster Contest winners during the awards ceremony. The shorebird poster contest is open to Grays Harbor County students, grades 1-6. Winning posters are displayed during the festival at Hoquiam Middle School. You will be amazed with the talents of these young artists.

**The Art of Photographing Birds** (Free)

1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

(Hoquiam Middle School)

Presenter: Karen Ulvestad

Want to take great pictures of birds? This mini workshop covers tips and techniques for capturing amazing bird photographs. It starts with learning to observe bird behavior, anticipate the bird’s actions, and ultimately taking the photograph. The presentation covers equipment, exposure, and good birding locations. Discussion includes journaling, documenting locations / bird identification, and birding / bird photography ethics. Questions are welcome throughout the workshop.

**Family Drawing Workshop** (Free)

2:15 pm – 3:15 pm

(Hoquiam Middle School)

Presenter: Hannah Kirsekorn, Guild of Natural Science Illustrators Northwest

Description?

**Washington’s Contaminated Site Cleanup Law and Contaminated Sites in Grays Harbor** (Free)

2:15 pm – 3:15 pm

(Hoquiam Middle School)

Presenter: Lee First, Twin Harbors Waterkeeper

Within the city limits of Aberdeen and Hoquiam, there are over 150 Model Toxic Control Act (MTCA) contaminated sites, most of which have not been cleaned up, nor have cleanup processes started.  Many of the sites are at abandoned industrial sites, and in some cases, are at industrial areas that are operating with new owners.  Some sites were listed because of leaking underground storage tanks or leaking heating oil tanks. The WA State Department of Ecology oversees the cleanup of contaminated sites, and in some cases, Ecology allows the least complicated sites to be cleaned up under a voluntary cleanup process (VCP).  But any sites with complex contamination are cleaned up under MTCA.  The most contaminated sites are rated for environmental and human health risk, with a rating from 1 to 5, with 1 having the most human and environmental risk. There are about 10 sites in the Grays Harbor area with a rating of 1, but few of these sites have entered the cleanup process.  As part of this talk, Lee will describe some of the MTCA sites in the Harbor, and explain what practices lead to contamination, and what the cleanup remedies might entail.