



The Western Grebe

Redbud Audubon Society, Inc.,

www.redbudaudubon.org

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Annual Audubon end-of-year picnic and officers' installation

Redbud Audubon society members and guests are welcome to join us on Thursday, May 17 at 5:30 p.m. for our annual end-of-year picnic and installation of officers.

The event will be held at Lakeside County Park on Park Dr. off of Soda Bay Road. The picnic is a potluck, but Audubon supplies hotdogs, buns and condiments.

You are welcome to bring alternate meat or meat-substitute to grill if you prefer. Sodas and water will also be provided. Participants are encouraged to bring salad, beans, chips, or dessert to share.

Please arrive at 5:30 p.m. Look for us down by the lake to the left of the launch ramp. We will install officers and it is a nice way to visit with and get to know chapter members.



Please join Redbud Audubon Society members and guests for our annual end-of-year picnic on May 17 at Lakeside County Park. Pictured are Audubon members enjoying last year's event: Tina Wasson, Karen Weston, Katherine Lindsley and Jeannette Knight.

MAY MEETING

Thursday, May 17

**End of year potluck picnic and
installation of officers, 5:30 p.m.**

**Lakeside County Park on Park Drive
off of Soda Bay Road**

President's Message

by President Roberta Lyons

Everyone thanked for making another great Redbud Audubon season



We have reached the end of another successful Redbud Audubon season. We enjoyed a Fall, Winter and Spring filled with interesting programs, field trips, events, and community involvement. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all of my fellow board members

and all of our Redbud Audubon Society faithful volunteers.

I'm sure we all appreciate Pat Harmon who unfailingly provides us with homemade goodies and tea and coffee at our monthly meetings. If she can't do it herself, she always makes sure it gets done! Pat also creates our field trip calendar every year.

Then we have Brad and Kathy Barnwell who handle our technology and media portion of every meeting. Even when things aren't going quite right, as we all know often happens with technology (as in power point presentations using the laptop and projector) they remain calm and collected and always are able to figure it out! As someone who is technologically challenged, I can tell you I sure appreciate their contribution! On top of that, they provide professional quality wildlife photos for our publications, present our yearly Bird Identification program for the Christmas Bird Count, as well as organizing the bird count, and Brad writes a "Bird of the Month," column for the *Western Grebe*, our newsletter.

Brad and Kathy also work with Pat on planning

and leading our field trips. Board members take care of lots of necessities too, like membership (Susanne Scholz) emailing our newsletters (Lisa Prather) answering and reviewing our emails (Beth Shaver) and arranging programs and details for our guest speakers (Marilyn Waits).

Tina Wasson, who has long served as our vice-president can always be relied on to get the necessary permits that are required for different events and is always there to help pick up any stitch that might get dropped. Still helping us (bless her heart!) is Bonnie Thompson, who, although moving to Bend, Oregon, is still doing our website and Facebook posts (along with Marina Vedovi). We also have Joyce Anderson and Lisa working on our Education Committee and Evelyn Wachtel who works with me on our Conservation Committee.

One of the very important jobs of a board member is that of treasurer. Our treasurer, Nicola Self, is an expert and does a professional accounting job with our finances. She keeps track of everything. This is so important for a non-profit and even though we have a relatively small budget for a non-profit (about \$8,000 a year) it is crucial to make sure that expenses and income are tracked and taxes and insurance paid. Another big thank you goes out to long time contributor Jerry White who produces our "Observations," column. This addition to the newsletter on a regular basis is very informative and interesting. Another big effort that needs to be done every month is that of picking up the newsletter from the printer and mailing the hard copies to our members. We can thank Jim Scholz for continuing with this job year

(Continued on page 3)

Everyone thanked

(Continued from page 2)

after year. Thank you Jim!

Another person I need to mention is Rob Patton. Rob comes to our meetings on a steady basis and he is the fellow who builds and installs the fishing line containers for collecting the monofilament line from fishermen at all the different public piers around the lake. If not collected the line often ends up in the lake and can get wrapped around our local water fowl which leads to injury or death. This is such an important effort that he is doing in conjunction with our Redbud Audubon Society Grebe conservation project spear-headed by Marilyn Waits.

I would also like to give a shout out to past volunteers as well. You know who you are! Darlene Hecomovich coordinated our Christmas Bird Count for many years, and before her it was Jerry White. Jeanette Knight who still pitches in on our field trips was our treasurer for years and field trip coordinator. Everyone in our little Redbud Audubon community is very much appreciated and needed; if I left anyone out I will certainly acknowledge them in our next newsletter!

We are going into next year with no secretary. Our excellent secretary, Beth Shaver, has agreed to be vice-president so the secretary position is now open. Please consider taking on this position as it will be difficult for Redbud Audubon to continue if we cannot fill all of our officer positions.

A huge part of our volunteer effort takes place around Heron Days. We are publishing a separate article thanking all of those volunteers. Looking forward to seeing everyone at our annual picnic on May 17 at Lakeside County Park and to seeing everyone in September!

Welcome new and returning members

Gloria La Cruz, Clearlake; Lori Mahar, Kelseyville; Linda Drake, Kelseyville; Lori Henderson, Lakeport; Marci Ward, Nice; Marilyn Corley, Hidden Valley Lake; Ligia Sequeira, Hidden Valley Lake; Dr. Christine Bolla, Stonyford.

REDBUD AUDUBON BOARD OF DIRECTORS



OFFICERS

President: Roberta Lyons

Vice President: Tina Wasson

Treasurer: Nicola Selph

Secretary: Beth Shaver

CHAPTER LEADERSHIP

Bird Observations - Jerry White

Christmas Bird Count – Brad and Kathy Barnwell

Conservation - Roberta Lyons & Evelyn Wachtel

Education - Joyce Anderson and Lisa Prather

Field Trips - Pat Harmon

Hospitality - Pat Harmon

Membership Manager - Susanne Scholz

Newsletter Editor - Roberta Lyons

Newsletter Production - Jim Scholz

Publicity - Roberta Lyons

Grebe Conservation—Marilyn Waits

Program Committee—Marilyn Waits

To contact a board member:

Phone 707/ 263-8030

Email: redbud.audubon@gmail.com



Evelyn Wachtel is one of the fabulous Heron Days volunteers.



Out in the Marsh. Photos by Darlene Hecomovich



Lisa Prather and Marilyn Waits staffed the Grebe project table for Heron Days which were held the last weekend in April and the first weekend in May.

Volunteers are the foundation of Heron Days' success

The 210 guests who enjoyed seeing multiple species of birds on Clear Lake during the two weekends of the 2018 Heron Days could not see the extensive behind-the-scenes planning and contributions of the many volunteers that make this much-anticipated education event possible.

This year **Beth Shaver**, Board of Directors Secretary, was the lead coordinator who began several months ago organizing the many functions of Heron Days.

The locations for the 2018 event were, as last year, Lakeside County Park in Kelseyville for April 28-29 and Clear Lake Campground (formerly known as Shady Acres Resort) in the City of Clearlake for May 5-6.

Tina Wasson obtained the required permits from the County of Lake for the Lakeside Park, and **Lisa Wilson**, owner of the private business Clear Lake Campground graciously donated the use of her campground's dock area and her staff members' time.

The volunteer boat-owners/captains and the bird guides are the ambassadors for Redbud who enable the first-hand memorable experience of nature that guests carry home with them. These are the people who share with our guests their love of birds and beautiful Clear Lake.

Boat Owners/Captains: Disney's Water Sports, Henry Bornstein, Jim Hermann, Ben Lawson, Mike Mayer, Bob and Carol Prather, Bob Rumpfelt, Jim Scholz, Joan Wadhams, Rick White. The boat owners were recruited and scheduled by Beth Shaver.

Audubon Bird Guides: Brad Barnwell, Barbara Bridges, Floyd Hayes, Darlene Hecomovich, Gae Henry, Jeanette Knight, Katherine Lindsley, Sandy Moura, Tom Nixon, Doug Prather, Nicola Selph, Janet Swedberg, Kris Tyner and back-up guides Rick McCann and Susanne Scholz. The bird guides were recruited and scheduled by Darlene Hecomovich.

Special thanks goes to Boat-owner/Captain **Henry Bornstein** (with his wife **Gae Henry** as Bird Guide)

(Continued on page 5)



Volunteers are the foundation

(Continued from page 4)

for their generosity in adding a third trip on each of their two days' participation in the boat tours. This willing extra effort resolved some unexpected changes in other boats' availability.

Behind the scenes were many other volunteers whose hard work supported the four days of Heron Days. **Evelyn Wachtel** managed the online registration and ticketing process.

The crew handling check-in and boat loading included **Evelyn Wachtel**, **Erica Lundquist**, **Beth Shaver**, **Susan Cameron**, **Kerry Shaver**, **Joe Tichenor**, **Randy Lundquist** and **Tje Koske**. To provide lunch for the volunteers, **Beth Shaver** made sandwiches, and **Pat Harmon** brought homemade cookies, chips and fruit.

Erica and Randy Lundquist and **Beth and Kerry Shaver** were the heavy-equipment movers who picked up and returned the canopies, tables, chairs, and signs from the Redbud storage unit.

Marilyn Waits and **Lisa Prather** managed the grebe conservation exhibit tables and the sales of field guides and Redbud t-shirts.

This year's Heron Days was the 23rd annual celebration of this springtime nesting event. As in past years, the event drew not just local residents, but visitors from Sonoma, Marin, Contra Costa, Santa Clara, and Sacramento counties.

Heron Days is Redbud's major fundraiser that enables our chapter to carry out its many educational activities throughout the year.

Heading down Cache Creek.



Boarding the boat at Clear Lake Campground. Many thanks to Lisa Wilson for allowing the use of her facility to load the pontoon boats for the ride into Anderson Marsh.



Evelyn Wachtel welcomes a returning boat tour to the Campground dock. Photos by Darlene Hecomovich

Heron Days in photos



Two Western Grebes engaging in a mating ritual.



A Western Grebe in Anderson Marsh during the May 5 Heron Days event.



A Great Blue Heron is seen carrying a twig to its nest in Anderson Marsh State Park during May's annual Heron Days event presented by the Redbud Audubon Society. Photos this page, by Vicki Miller



Redbud's display included birding field guides, grebe project photos and brochures, and grebe t-shirts.



Ben Lawson is one of the boat drivers and owners who volunteers every year for our Heron Days event.



A happy group on a boat in Anderson Marsh State Park marsh.

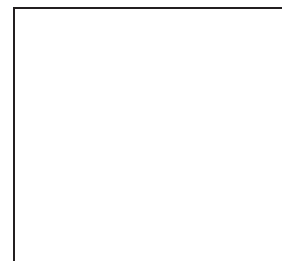


Heading out from Clear Lake Campground into Anderson Marsh for the May 5 Heron Days event.



Viewing the heron and egret rookery on Slater Island in Anderson Marsh State Park. Photos this page, by Darlene Hecomovich

Redbud Audubon
PO Box 5780
Clearlake, CA 95422



National Audubon/Redbud Audubon
Joint Membership Application
New Member Introductory Rate — \$20 for the first year

- ☐ **YES** Enroll me in both the National Audubon Society and local chapter Redbud Audubon. Start my subscription to **Audubon Magazine**, and **The Western Grebe** chapter newsletter.
- ☐ Check this box only if you wish to receive **The Western Grebe** newsletter by regular mail. Otherwise, it will be emailed to you.
- ☐ From time to time, National Audubon may share its mailing list with other environmental organizations. If you do not wish to be contacted, please check this box.

You have the option of just joining the Redbud Chapter by enrolling online at www.redbudaudubon.org.
Newsletter by email \$25/year; by regular mail \$35/year.

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

- ☐ I would also like to make a contribution to the local work of Redbud Audubon. My check is enclosed for
_____ \$25 _____ \$50 _____ \$75 _____ \$100 Other: _____
Please make check payable to Redbud Audubon Society. Mail your application and check to POB 5780, Clearlake, CA 95422

Thank you for supporting Redbud Audubon Society
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