

KEEP YOUR CELL PHONE FROM BECOMING AN ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARD



Don't Throw Away a Good Opportunity

Having that cell phone is handy for ordering a pizza, checking in with your best friends, or catching a ride home. But there's more to owning a phone than this. Cell phones and their batteries contain toxic chemicals that have been linked to cancer and diseases in people and wildlife.

Toxic Chemicals Currently Found in Cell Phones

- Arsenic
- Antimony
- Beryllium
- Cadmium
- Copper
- Lead
- Nickel
- Zinc



These chemicals are also known as PBTs, which stands for *persistent, bioaccumulative, and toxic pollutants*. They can leach out of the landfills and into the soil and groundwater. Or if incinerated, they become highly toxic dioxins and furans. PBTs are especially dangerous because they are highly toxic, long-lasting substances that can build up in the food chain to levels that are harmful to human and ecosystem health.

And by 2005, up to 130 million cell phones could be thrown away each year in the United States. These phones end up in landfills or incinerators, where the toxic chemicals can escape into the air, soil, and water.

Make the Call

You don't have to give up your cell phone or pledge never to have one. As one of the 128 million subscribers in the United States, you can help make a difference by:

- Keeping your phone for as long as you can. The average phone gets thrown out after just 18 months as people upgrade or just switch colors.
- Helping a good cause rather than pitching your phone. A number of charities collect old phones, fix them if they're broken, and put them to good use in other ways.

(More ways to help....page 4)

OCTOBER FLATHEAD AUDUBON CALENDAR

Monday, October 13, 2003 FAS General Meeting

will feature a presentation by Tom Meier, Kalispell-based wolf biologist who will discuss the current status of the approximately ten area wolf packs. Flathead Audubon is now meeting at the **Calvary Lutheran Church** at 2200 Highway 2 East in Evergreen. The general meeting begins at 7:30 p.m., with the program starting around 8 p.m. Flathead Audubon Board of Directors meeting will be held at 5:30 p.m. prior to the general meeting.

Friday, October 10, 2003 Deadline for ordering sunflower seed from FAS. See order form on p. 5

Saturday, October 18, 2003 Pick-up date for sunflower seed orders. See page 5 for times and loca-



CHICKADEE CHATTER

I am sitting here at the computer as I have done so many times in the past five years thinking about what I want to share with you. A glorious spring day is just a few hours from ending and the windows of my study are open. I can hear the magpies calling in the distance, the lovely songs of House Finches are drifting in, a Mourning Dove sings in the tree beside the house, the high pitched chatter of several woodpeckers can be heard and off in the distance I can hear the distinctive call of the Osprey. It is a lovely evening.

Just over five years ago I sat here in this very chair to write my first column as the new editor of the Pileated Post. I had never done anything quite like this before and I was very nervous that I would not do a good job. Today, as I sit here and write my final column as the editor of the Pileated Post I can barely believe that it has been five years since I volunteered for this job. It has been a very rewarding and sometimes overwhelming job but I have loved every moment (well most moments any way). I have been privileged to work with some very wonderful and capable people. Flathead Audubon Society is blessed with a most remarkable group of people who care very deeply about the world around them.

I would like to say thank you to all these remarkable individuals for helping me through the process of publishing the newsletter; they put up with my whining, wrote wonderful stories and columns that made us think more than once and put labels on hundreds of newsletters. Publishing a newsletter such as this is not accomplished by one person alone and I would like to say many thanks to all who contributed, I owe one and all a debt of gratitude.

The new newsletter committee that has been formed will take over the task of publishing the Pileated Post. A talented group of people have volunteered and will form the backbone of the new committee: Karen Nichols, Kay Mitchell, Jill and Mike Fanning and Gail Cleveland and Bruce Tannehill. You will find their phone numbers and addresses on the back of the newsletter if you need to contact them. I wish them all the best in their new endeavor. I think they will do a wonderful job. As for me, I am only stepping down as the Pileated Post editor. I will continue to be a member of the FAS Board of Directors and I will still work as the Refuge Projects Chair and from time to time Chickadee Chatter will make an appearance in the newsletter.

And so my days as editor come to an end but the spring is just beginning and summer will not be far behind and I am looking forward to the long days

ahead. I will leave you with some thoughts of the days ahead: I can barely wait to hear the 'sweet' song of a yellow warbler in the willows beside the River and see a flash of colors as a Western Tanager flies by. I wait with great anticipation the fledging of the first baby swallows and the flutter of brilliant orange or blue or yellow butterfly wings. And the quiet sound of the bees buzzing as they gather nectar from freshly opened daffodils and the first glimpse of Shooting Stars and Yellow Bells bobbing in a warm spring breeze will soon occur.

Already the birds sing in the half light just before the dawn, their exuberance wakes me and I listen each day for new voices added to the chorus. The only thing I regret this time of the year is that there aren't more hours in the day. Just days ago the familiar song of the Ruby-crowned Kinglet drifted down from high in the fir trees, it was very joyful. Tiny needles are poking their noses out on the larch giving the trees an aura of green that plays at the corners of my mind...I have to look twice. Yes, the brilliant green larch needles are a mere half of inch long but they really are there. And so the days go by and spring meanders into summer and we who are so fortunate to live in this extraordinary place walk in beauty.

John Muir wrote in 1938: "*This grand show is eternal. It is always sunrise somewhere: the dew is never all dried at once; a shower is forever falling; vapor is ever rising. Eternal sunrise, eternal sunset, eternal dawn and gloaming, on sea and continents and islands, each in its turn, as the round earth rolls.*" As true a statement as was ever written in any age.

I have truly enjoyed sharing both the everyday and the special events in my life with you, thank you for your kindness in reading Chickadee Chatter and all of your kind comments. I will wish for you a splendid spring and a timeless summer. Remember to take a few moments every day to glance at the world about you, I know I will.

Leslie Kehoe



(Editor's Note: Please enjoy the belated printing of this column, written by Leslie Kehoe this past spring. We look forward to including Chickadee Chatter occasionally in your newsletter through the



OCTOBER PROGRAM

The Wolves of Northwest Montana: Where are they?

Flathead Audubon is happy to present local wolf biologist Tom Meier at its October 13 meeting. Flathead Audubon is now meeting at the Calvary Lutheran Church at 2200 Highway 2 East in Evergreen. The general meeting begins at 7:30 p.m., with the program starting around 8 p.m.

Tom is a biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service whose focus is studying, monitoring and managing the approximately ten packs of wolves in northwestern Montana. He also keeps data on the hundreds of wolves that make their homes in Montana Idaho and Wyoming.

Meier, who has bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Minnesota, studied wolves in Minnesota, Alaska and Israel before moving to Montana in 1999.

Using slides to illustrate, Meier will discuss why the numbers of wolves in northwest Montana are leveling off, or in some cases, declining. He will also discuss the process of delisting wolves under the Endangered Species Act and handing off management of the wolves to the state.

Also at the October meeting, Flathead Audubon will recognize the conservation achievements of Farm Hands, a group of local farmers and consumers who are working to strengthen the natural bond between the people who produce the food and the people who eat it.

by Karen Nichols



Until he extends the circle of his compassion to all living things, man will not himself find peace.

Albert Schweitzer



WINTER GETAWAYS

Join The Owl Research Institute and Denver Holt on a Natural History Tour

With personal concerns and travel restriction common in today's world, perhaps it is best to travel in North and Central America. The Owl Research Institute is offering two splendid tours that will provide great birding and scenery in two unique, safe locations. Denver Holt will guide participants to La Paz, Baja California, Mexico November 30 through December 7, 2003, and Platte River, Nebraska from March 7 through 14, 2004.

In La Paz, we will explore where the Sonoran Desert meets the Sea of Cortez. The Sea of Cortez is one of the richest biological bodies of water in the world. We will view seabirds such as Blue-footed and Brown boobies and Magnificent Frigatebird. Thousands of shorebirds winter in the Bay of La Paz, and up to 14 species of herons, egrets and ibis can be seen along the shoreline. Sonoran Desert species include woodpeckers such as Gila, and hummingbirds such as Xantus. Many North American passerines also winter in the area including gnatcatchers, warblers, wrens, sparrows and others. Marine mammals include dolphins, porpoises and seals.

In Nebraska, we will spend five days exploring along the Missouri and Platte Rivers of the central Great Plains. One half-million Sandhill Cranes and up to 10 million ducks and geese, including Snows (many "blues"), White-fronted, and Canada stage each spring to their migration north. This annual gathering is an ornithological event of global significance. Other possibilities include Whooping Crane, Greater Prairie Chicken, Eastern Meadowlark, American Woodcock, Harris's Sparrows, and Rusty Blackbird. The numbers of migrants although incredible is only surpassed by the overwhelming noise as these species vocalize during their flights from feeding to roosting grounds. These aggregations of cranes and waterfowl put new meaning to the arrival of spring!

Denver Holt has lead professional tours for many years, including those for Victor Emanuel Nature Tour Company. He is best known for his work on owls, and his Snowy Owl research was recently the cover story in the December 2002 issue of National Geographic. However, Denver's enthusiasm and passion for natural history, along with his broad-based scientific knowledge, contribute to his exceptional reputation as a tour guide. We encourage everyone to come along with us on a memorable adventure! For a detailed itinerary, please call Keira at 406-644-3412.



BIRD OF THE MONTH

There is a chill in the air, the flowers are fading and the Mountain Ash berries, snowberries, rose hips and ornamental crab apples will soon be the “color” in my backyard. These berries will be the winter food for one of my favorite birds, the Waxwings.

During the winter months, flocks of Waxwings circling the skies, landing on Mountain Ash trees and eating their fill are a familiar sight in western Montana. Other common foods for these birds are dogwood, hawthorn and juniper berries. In the early spring, when all the ash berries and small crab apples are gone, they resort to the snowberries in my yard. During the summer, they also feast on insects; however, 70% of their diet is fruit. The young are first fed insects, but are ready for berries after only a few days. I am sorry to say that one source says that Waxwings have a reputation for gluttony.

Most of the Waxwings within these winter flocks are Bohemian Waxwings that breed in the far north and invade the northern United States, presumably when there is a fruit shortage in the north. In the last several years, Cedar Waxwings have also been seen in the flocks or in flocks of their own during the winter. The Cedar is our summer Waxwing, breeding here and normally flying south for the winter. Their high, thin short trill is a sure sign that these birds are around during the breeding season.

How can you distinguish the Cedar easiest way for me is to look at the undertail and white in the Cedar. The Bohemian is also a wings and a grayer belly.



from the Bohemian in these winter flocks? The coverts which are rusty red on the Bohemian bulkier bird with yellow and white on the

The Waxwing gets its name from the flight feathers of the adults. Supposedly, this the droplets depends of the fruit that the bird increase with each basic molt. Second year birds have visible red spots.

red waxy droplets on the end of the secondary reminded people of sealing wax. The color of eats. The number and the size of the droplets

The name of the Cedar Waxwing derives from the Eastern Red Cedar, the most common juniper in the eastern United States, which is a favorite food source. The Bohemian gets its name from its lack of a permanent home and traveling in large flocks.

The only relative of the Waxwings that resides in the United States is the silky-flycatcher of southwest, the Phainopepla, a shiny black berry-eating bird with a crest like the waxwings.

Other worldwide relatives include the Japanese Waxwing that looks very much like the Bohemian and inhabits eastern Siberia. The Bohemian can be found in various parts of Asia. This is perhaps the reason that I always seem to associate these birds with a Japanese or Chinese painting.

Although I am still getting used to the change in weather, I am looking forward to seeing these Oriental beauties in my backyard and trying to discover if there are some Cedars among the Bohemians.

by Gail Cleveland

(Cell phones, continued from page 1)

- Recycling the battery properly if you're replacing it. Check with the Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation by visiting www.rbr.org or calling 1-800-8-BATTERY to find out where to drop off worn-out batteries.
- Encouraging cell phone companies to make more environmentally friendly phones. Write a letter, send an email, make a phone call—whatever it takes to make sure you're heard.
- Letting other people know about cell phone problems so they can help too.

From World Wildlife Fund and Center for a New American Dream website @ http://www.ibuydifferent.org/takeaction/action_alert.asp



Locally, hazardous waste collection is held at the County Landfill on the third Saturday of every month. There is no charge for this service and items such as household cleaners, oil-based paints, fertilizers, and batteries are accepted. These items are then lab-packed in barrels and transported by Onyx Environmental to Arlington, OR. If you have questions about this collection, the Landfill may be reached at 758-5910.





Flathead Audubon's Annual Sunflower Seed Sale



50 lb. Sack of Black Oil Sunflower Seeds—\$17

(Half of purchase price is tax deductible as charitable donation)

Highest Quality — Montana Grown



Feed your feathered friends and support Audubon projects, too!

This is Flathead Audubon's primary fund raising project.

Proceeds support local conservation and education programs, such as:

- * Educational materials about birds, for use by local teachers and Audubon naturalists
- * Workshops for local teachers on bird units for the classroom
- * "Beauty of Birds" class for adults each spring, partnered with Kalispell District #5
- * Scholarships for environmental education
- * Funds for support and management of the Owen Sowerwine Natural Area
- * Financial assistance for the care and monitoring of local wildlife refuges, including the new Lost Trail National Wildlife Refuge
- * Research grants for field studies of birds and bird habitat

Please mark your calendar to pick up your order at the distribution site for your community.

Pick Up Date is: Saturday, October 18

Pick up Locations are as follows:

Bigfork: IGA Parking Lot, 10am-12 noon
Coordinator: Neal/Patti Brown (837-5018)

Condon: Call to arrange to pick up
Coordinator: June Ash (754-2289)

Columbia Falls: Glacier Bank 10am-12 noon
Coordinator: Sonja Hartmann (387-4150)

Kalispell: Fairgrounds North Lot,
12:30pm—2:30pm
Coordinator: Linda Winnie (755-1406)



Whitefish: Train Depot Parking Lot,
12:30pm—2:30pm
Coordinator: Mike Fanning (862-8070)

ORDER FORM - SUBMIT BY OCTOBER 10

Number of Sacks: _____ @ \$17 = Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

I will pick up my order Saturday, October 18 at (check one)

Bigfork ___ Columbia Falls ___ Condon ___ Kalispell ___ Whitefish ___

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Send order and check to: Flathead Audubon, c/o June Ash

PO Box 1129

Condon, MT 59826



Are you a member of Flathead Audubon? Yes ___ No ___

If you are not a member, you can join for only \$15. Use the form on the back of this page.

AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP FORM

FLATHEAD AUDUBON SOCIETY

Support local programs and receive the Pileated Post

Flathead Audubon Member \$15
(Individual or Family)

NATIONAL AUDUBON

Support nationwide programs, receive the Audubon magazine and the Pileated Post

First Time Member \$20
Senior/Student \$15
Individual Renewal \$35
Family Renewal \$38

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Check here if you do NOT want your name shared with other organizations.

Mail this form with your check to:
Flathead Audubon Society Membership
380 Tally Lake Road
Whitefish, MT 59937



Non-Profit Org.
Postage Paid
Permit No. 115
Kalispell, MT
59901-9173

FLATHEAD AUDUBON SOCIETY DIRECTORY

OFFICERS

President	Search in progress	
Vice-President	Sonja Hartmann, P.O. Box 316, West Glacier, MT 59936	387-4150
Secretary	Gail Sullivan, 932 Columbia Ave., Whitefish, MT 59937	862-5775
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Past-President	Linda Winnie, P.O. Box 220, Kila, MT 59920	755-1406

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2001-2004	Jane Adams, 229 Edgewood Dr., Kalispell, MT 59901	257-4527
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2003-2006	Andrea Goff, 1050 Labrant Rd., Bigfork, MT 59911	837-1530

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MONTANA AUDUBON

State Office	Ray Johnson, P.O. Box 595, Helena, MT 59624	443-3949
Western Montana Office	Bob Petty, P.O. Box 831, Stevensville, MT 59870	777-0780
Board President	Jim Brown, 1504 Woods Gulch Rd., Missoula, MT 59802	549-8052



OCTOBER, 2003

The Flathead Audubon Society is affiliated with the National Audubon Society and meets on the second Monday of each month from September through May. The regular meeting starts at 7:30 p.m. and includes a featured guest who presents a conservation or nature program. The regular monthly meeting is preceded by the Executive Board meeting. Both meetings are open to all those interested.

THE PILEATED POST is published September through May and is sent to members of the Flathead Audubon Society as a membership benefit. Subscriptions for non-members are \$10.00 per year. For address change, please call 862-8070.

Deadline for newsletter copy is the 20th of each month. Contact newsletter editor at 756-5763; email submissions to pileatedpost@hotmail.com