



the Pileated Post

Newsletter of the Flathead Audubon Society

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Moothart & crew receive forestry award

The first annual Flathead Audubon award for Excellence in Forest Management was presented to Professional Woodland Services, owned and operated by Boyd Moothart, at the annual meeting of the Montana Logging Ass'n.

Also recognized were Ted and Beverly Giesey, Marion, owners of the harvested land, and Marc Hughes, Montana Dept. of State Lands, who helped plan the harvest.

The award is given to those responsible for planning and executing a timber harvest on non-industrial privately owned forest land that exemplifies environmentally sensitive forestry as promoted by the Montana Forest Stewardship Program. Moothart was honored both for excellence in carrying out the plan developed by Giesey and Hughes and for innovative improvements to their plan. Sharing the award were his logging crew: Elton Kauffman, timber cutter; Steve Coffey, crawler operator and cutter and Kendra Pearson, excavator operator.

The timber harvest on the Giesey property was aimed at thinning a 20-acre stand in order to improve growth and species composition. The harvest plan rated high because particular attention was paid to four objectives of the award: riparian and wetland protection, commodity production, minimization of soil disturbance and stand health improvement. Moothart's execution dealt particularly well with three emphasized issues: harvest design (including skidding precautions), slash management and revegetation and site reclamation.

Flathead Audubon instituted the Excellence in Forest Management Award as a way to encourage local landowners and loggers to develop forestry practices according to the guidelines laid out

by the Montana Forest Stewardship Program. The Program is directed by a steering committee representing non-industrial private forest landowners: Nature Conservancy, Audubon Society, Montana Tree Farm Program, Native American Tribes, Natural Resource Consultants, Montana Logging Ass'n. and Montana Wood Products Ass'n., as well as a variety of state and national government agencies.

The idea for the award came out of a forestry class at FVCC. Former FAS president Brent Mitchell and another Audubon member were discussing environmentally healthy forestry practices when a woman at the back of the room complained, "You people never miss the chance to point out when we do something wrong, but you never say anything when we do something right."

"We looked at each other and our jaws dropped open," Mitchell recalled.

"We realized she was absolutely right, so we decided to do something about it."



In This Issue

Meeting Notice

page 2

What's Ahead?

page 3

Washington Report

page 5



The editor's spotting scope

My miniature schnauzer Tana chases things. Such as a tennis ball, which she catches; a squirrel, which climbs a tree and chatters at her frustration; robins on the lawn, who don't wait for her to catch up; grasshoppers, which just hop away; stray cats, who run even though they don't know her track record; the neighbor's cats, who don't run because they do; and deer in the woods near the house.

The first time Tana saw a deer walk casually from the woods and on down the driveway, she got very excited. Here was an opponent worthy of her bark and running expertise. She barked fiercely from the living room, just to let the deer know she was on the job. The deer ignored her and continued down the road to the neighbor's.

There are as many deer viewpoints in Montana as there are Montanans and they range from "Oh, how cute!" to "Oh, my God!" As we drive the western highways, it's instinctive to be alert for deer along the side of the road. If we see one, we hope it doesn't take a notion to cross over at that precise moment. Those of us with gardens and orchards have a continual bout with the deer, their offspring and their appetites. Sometimes we win and sometimes they do.

Tana gets the credit for keeping the deer out of the yard (during the day). She barks so furiously as they gaze at her across the fence that they cancel their "get a snack" project here and move on to more accessible fare.

One afternoon I was in the yard and noticed Tana sitting quietly near the back fence. Across the pond was a yearling deer. They just looked at each other — the deer, unafraid, flicking its ears, and Tana watching intently, with a quizzical look on her face. It

wasn't a standoff. It was more like the sharing of time between friends.

Deer can do that to you, especially when you live in their habitat. You cuss them when they eat the flowers off the petunia plants, and your heart stands still when they are poised to jump in front of your car. But when you're out for a walk and see a white tail and rump disappear over the brush and into the woods, at that moment you experience a feeling that all's right with your world. Aren't you glad you live where you do?

Sharon Bergman



Take note —

✓September General Meeting

Monday, September 9, 1996

Fish, Wildlife & Parks Bldg.

490 N. Meridian Rd, Kalispell

Mtg: 7:30 pm - Program: 8:15 pm

Program: John Ashley, a Biological Technician at Glacier National Park, will give a presentation on "A Year in the Life of Glacier's Harlequins". With degrees in Liberal Arts and Biology, Ashley spent 10 years as a newspaper photographer and then became a seasonal biologist at Glacier. His park projects have included working with bald eagles, elk, owls and mountain goats. He commented, "I've spent the last five years happily crawling through brush-choked, bear-infested, ice-cold streams to study Glacier's harlequins. I've followed harlequins from Glacier to the Pacific coasts of Oregon, Washington and British Columbia and back again, and I'm happy to share what I've seen."



Coming up —

Swan Valley logging tour. A tour examining various logging practices in action is scheduled for **Sunday, September 7**. The approximate four-hour excursion will be guided by Rod Ash, current president of Montana Audubon. Participants will visit sites in the Swan Valley that illustrate the affects of different logging techniques on wildlife and some of the light-impact logging methods currently available to landowners.

Included will be a visit with Bud Moore, who will show the group his private logging operation and demonstrate his small sawmill. Moore was a professional forester with the U.S. Forest Service, serving just before his retirement as director of fire fighting for Region 1. He has been involved for many years in developing methods for sustainable forestry and will discuss some results of that work. Moore is also the author of *The Lochsa Story*, a history of the Lochsa region, scheduled for distribution in local bookstores this month.

The public is invited to participate in the tour. Those interested are to meet at the Condon Forest Service Work Station at 10 a.m. Wear sturdy walking shoes and bring a lunch. Advance registration is required. Call Rod Ash at 754-2289.

Bird seed sale scheduled. Orders for Flathead Audubon's annual sunflower seed sale will be taken during the month of October this year. Delivery of the seed is set for the weekend of **November 16 & 17**. The sale is the major fund raiser for the chapter. Revenue from the effort finances a full range of chapter activities and causes from books for school libraries, wetlands restoration and protection to wild bird research and education.

Details on the sale will be mailed the first

part of October to members and previous customers. June Ash, sales coordinator, urged everyone to save their seed buying for the drive and "help support Flathead Audubon's conservation efforts."

For those in immediate need of sunflower seeds, the chapter has a quantity of premium sunflower seeds available. Customers should contact Rod Ash, 754-2289; Lynn Kelly, 883-5797; Brent Mitchell, 756-8130 or Ferne Cohen 862-2028.

Flathead Audubon Society

Mission Statement

The Flathead Audubon Society is a local chapter of the National Audubon Society.

- Our mission is to conserve birds, wildlife habitat and ecosystem diversity.
- Awareness and appreciation of the natural world is promoted through educational activities and advocacy programs.
- We work with diverse groups and agencies to achieve sound decisions on natural resource issues.
- Our community outreach includes school programs, work projects and field trips.
- While focusing our efforts in northwest Montana, we believe in the protection of the earth and all its inhabitants.

 **For Sale** 

Flathead Audubon mugs
Colorful — Ceramic
Just \$10

Available at the meeting.



The president's page >>

W elcome back!

We at Flathead Audubon will soon reconvene for another Audubon season of bird watching, bird talking and saving a place for birds [and other wildlife] in our busy world. Not that we ever quit, but it is nice to take the summer off from meetings and deadlines and have those few precious days away from the city, from work and worry, just to remember why we so love this good green earth.

I am pleased to report that this summer I found "my" Montana again. Out beyond the disheartening billboards, the frantic highways, the spillage of development around every town, the Montana I've always known and loved is still there. I've had some fear lately that Montana has been lost in the rush, subdued into becoming like everywhere else. Clearly I've been stuck in the city way too much.

Montana is still a quiet pool in the bend of a cold river, with silvery cottonwoods talking softly among themselves. It's the languid end of a long summer day. It's camp set up and the kids fishing. The sky is as blue as ever and just as wide out here in the real Montana. It's the mountains rising like an armada of golden ships on the setting sun, the eagle slipping and turning round and round in a great bubble of air. And it's old friends beside you, talking softly as the cottonwoods, who also understand the importance of this beautiful place.

Perhaps, then, it is I who has been subdued. The imperatives of our busy world — desk work, telephone talk, windshield time, punctuality! — have become my imperatives. There is simply so much that needs to be done and always something else to be doing.

Given this perspective, the work we do for

Audubon is quite pointedly on the horns of a dilemma. On the one horn, conservation and environmentalism involve loads of real work and they do consume time. It's getting to the meetings, writing that testimony, reading all you can and being informed of the issues. In short, there's one word that says it all: politics! We can't save the earth without it.

On the other horn, nature beckons. Gently, subtly, in the back of our mind she reminds us of the sunrise and the sunset. We long to be free with the river again, drifting with all of nature, watchers of her beauty, at one with the rhythms of her wildness. We long to be there when the mayflies are spinning and trout dimple the pool. To hear the nighthawks peent! To witness the evening star and the first phase of the moon. These are the days, even the moments, that give life its richness. Without them we become like working robots.

Staying in balance, that must be the key. Therefore, I am pleased to report, not only did I find "my" Montana again this summer, I found myself there too. Now that's worth fighting for.

Leo Keane





Update: operation loosestrife



More than six years ago lifelong Audubon activist Bob Ballou and Bison Range manager Bill West launched the assault on purple loosestrife

(*Lythrum salicaria*) in some small ponds at the Ninepipe National Wildlife Refuge. Bob's dedication led to the adoption of two ponds by Flathead Audubon, and the manual pulling began. The following year Montana Native Plant Society joined forces.

Both potholes were severely invaded by purple loosestrife which grows vigorously and restricts the habitat for native fauna and flora. Migratory waterfowl, other birds and the aquatic animals can neither feed on or nest in the loosestrife. The effort to protect and restore native habitat of the two potholes began with 16 people pulling for four or five hours. In contrast, this year three people pulled for three hours and were rewarded and excited to find the population of loosestrife greatly reduced in number as well as size and vitality. No loosestrife could be found in one of the ponds.

Through the efforts of Rachel Sykes and the Montana State University biological control program, beetles that feed exclusively on loosestrife are being used on specific release sites on the refuge. There was evidence of beetle activity on one of the adopted ponds. The closest release site to the adopted pond is a mile away, so it was exciting to note that the beetles had moved to adjacent loosestrife infested ponds.

This is not the end of the story. Success in eradicating purple loosestrife from the adopted ponds depends upon Flathead Audubon's continued commitment to pull plants once a year in August. Initially the

work was difficult and frustrating; now it is easy and rewarding.

Thanks to all who have helped in the past. This year the medal winners for the loosestrife pull were Bill West with the Gold, Neal Brown - Silver and Pattie Brown, narrowly defeated, - Bronze. The Casey family receives honorable mention as they were there in spirit. Susannah called to say they were disappointed not to help, but would be out of town.

We hope to see you next year. It is an opportunity to make a difference.

Pattie & Neal Brown

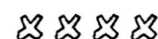
Book award goes to Libby



The Libby Elementary Schools were selected to receive the Flathead Audubon 1996 Book Purchase Award. The award provides \$400 for the purchase of books on nature and natural history and it was divided equally among the three Libby grade schools: Asa Wood, Plumber and McGrade.

The presentation of the award was made in June by Rod and June Ash, at the invitation of the school district librarian, Patty Sargent. Sargent said she was "overjoyed" at receiving the award notice in the mail. "It was so gratifying to receive the freely-given support for our schools."

According to Flathead Audubon's Gail Leonard, who currently administers the award, the chapter attempts to distribute the book money throughout its large district, each year presenting it to a school in a different and usually distant part. "We felt that the Libby schools might be in particular need of help this year," Leonard said, "because of all the flooding problems they had."





Report from Washington (D.C. that is)

by Ferne Cohen

Marty and I celebrated our 51st wedding anniversary by attending the National Audubon Convention in Washington, D.C. The city was like a park with its canopy of trees and flowers everywhere. People were everywhere as well. At the Vietnam Memorial we located Mark Mildner's name and remembered the teenager with the wonderful smile. One feels a great sense of loss projected by all those names on the black marble surface. At the Holocaust Museum we were almost overwhelmed by the history of man's inhumanity to man. We were easily moved to tears and various portrayals will forever remain in our memories. Visitors included the young and old, of all nationalities and races, and one heard many languages.

The highlight of our Washington experience was attending the White House reception for Environmentalists. We were cleared by security along with about 200 others. The White House interior is elegant, with beautiful floral displays of all sizes everywhere. The portraits of recent first ladies was impressive. The reception included a vast appetizer table and bars with unlimited selection of beverages. There was also a sweet table, constantly replenished. Attendants included military personnel and staff. Musicians entertained us while we awaited the President.

We were delighted when both President Clinton and Vice president Gore greeted us. It was significant that Environmentalists not only received an administration briefing at the Old Executive Office Building in the morning, but merited a personal appearance at the reception. They both affirmed their understanding and support of environmental issues. Then we were individually announced to the President, shook hands, exchanged a few words and had our pictures taken. It was an exciting, memorable evening.

We enjoyed a field trip to Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens, a national park where early lily ponds are being restored. We saw red, white, pink and blue lilies and many species of birds, insects and butterflies.

The next day we enjoyed more sightseeing at the Smithsonian, and especially appreciated the National Gallery of Art - East Wing. I was eager to see the Pei building and was not disappointed with the architecture or the art.

The NAS convention started Saturday evening and continued Sunday with campaign workshops on National Wildlife Refuges, Wetlands and the Endangered Species Act, in preparation for

Tuesday and making the rounds on Capitol Hill. By this time FAS President Leo Keane joined us, as well as Montana Audubon's Director Janet Ellis. Al Larson, Boise, who was the NAS Conservationist of the Year, also joined us.

We visited the offices of Senators Craig and Kempthorn and Rep. Crapo of Idaho, and Senator Baucus and Rep. Williams of Montana. Janet called on Senator Burns.

Congressman Williams feels that the environment is the crucial issue in the Montana election because of our concerns about wilderness, clean water and mining. I asked him to focus on Human Rights when he returns to Montana and is not up for reelection.

The day began with a rally on the Capitol steps and ended with a reception in the Rayburn Building. We exchanged experiences and felt we had accomplished a great deal, if only to learn our way around the Capitol.

The next three days were spent on a field trip to Chesapeake Bay, visiting a number of wildlife refuges, parks and nature centers. We were surprised at the amount of agriculture in the area. Much of it represented corn, soybeans and wheat for wildlife. An afternoon on a skipjack, learning about oysters, their parasites and problems was an important part of an enjoyable sail on a pleasant afternoon.

We passed the NAS Washington office en route to the airport. We appreciated the Washington visit very much. After three airplane flights, we arrived in Kalispell, along with cool weather and rain, which made it the coldest place in the nation that day. No matter. It was home.

R R R R R



At a spring White House reception for environmentalists, President Bill Clinton greets Montana Audubon's delegate Ferne Cohen of Whitefish.



Flathead Audubon's Ferne Cohen was among some 200 Audubon guests who were greeted by Vice president Al Gore at the reception. Her husband, Marty Cohen, looks on.



During the National Audubon convention, an Audubon delegation lobbied Senator Max Baucus on the Wetlands issue and the Endangered Species Act. Pictured from left to right are: Max Baucus, Leo Keane, president of Flathead Audubon; Gordon Weber of Yellowstone Valley Audubon; Janet Ellis, Montana Audubon Director; Al Larson, Boise, of Idaho Audubon; and Ferne Cohen and Marty Cohen, Whitefish, of Flathead Audubon.



Flathead Audubon Society Directory

OFFICERS

President	Leo Keane, 514 Pine Place, Whitefish, MT 59937	862-5807
Vice President		
Secretary	Gail Sullivan, 932 Columbia Avenue, Whitefish, MT 59937	862-5775
Treasurer	Susan Hitchcox, 510 S. 5th W., Missoula, MT 59801	549-5692
Past President	Brent Mitchell, 960 Kienas Rd, Kalispell, MT 59901	756-8130

DIRECTORS

1994-97	Sharon Bergman, 354 LaBella Ln, Big Arm, MT 59910	849-5286
1994-97	Neal Brown, 560 Wolf Creek, Dr, Bigfork, MT 59911	837-5018
1994-97	Dan Casey, P.O. Box 7922, Kalispell, MT 59904	857-3143
1994-97	Ferne Cohen, P.O. Box 1782, Whitefish, MT 59937	862-2028
1996-99	Sonja Hartman, P.O. Box 1388, Columbia Falls, MT 59912	758-8516
1996-99	Jim Rogers, Polson, MT 59860	883-3611

CHAIRS

Audubon Adventures	Kim Davis, 1230 Rhodes Draw, Kalispell, MT 59901	755-1311
Field Trips	Betty Winzenburg, 1436 Rogers Lane, Kila, MT 59920	755-1697
Librarian	Gail Leonard, 514 Pine Place, Whitefish, MT 59937	862-5807
Membership	June Ash, P.O. Box 1129, Condon, MT 59826	754-2289
Newsletter	Sharon Bergman, 354 LaBella Lane, Big Arm, MT 59910	849-5286
Program	Ed Prach, 110 Goat Trail, Whitefish, MT 59937	862-1350
Publicity	Linda Winnie, P.O. Box 220, Kila, MT 59920	755-1406
Refuge Projects	Lynn Kelly, 6525 Rocky Point Road, Polson, MT 59860	883-5797
Wetlands/Waterfowl	Neal Brown, 560 Wolf Creek Drive, Bigfork, MT 59911	837-5018

Montana Audubon

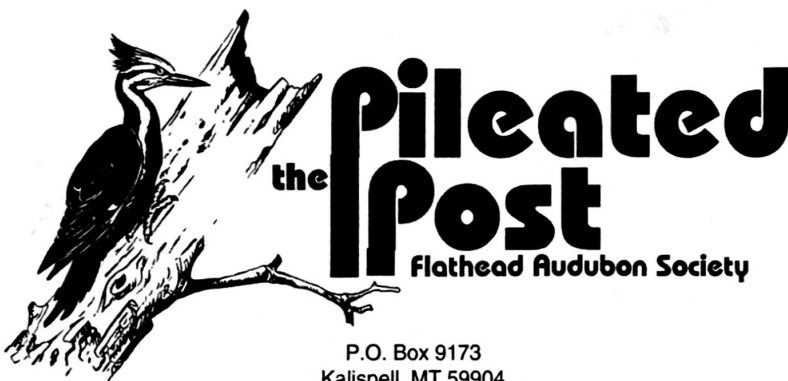
OFFICE	Janet Ellis, P.O. Box 595, Helena, MT 59624	443-3949
PRESIDENT	Rod Ash, P.O. Box 1129, Condon, MT 59826	754-2289

BIRDING HOTLINE: 756-5595

The Flathead Audubon Society is affiliated with the National Audubon Society and meets on the second Monday of each month from September through May. A business meeting is held at 7:30 p.m. followed by a special program at 8:15 p.m. 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.

Deadline for newsletter copy: the 20th of each month. Newsletter Fax: 849-5486.



P.O. Box 9173
Kalispell, MT 59904

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Enjoy full National Audubon Society benefits and AUDUBON magazine, as well as PILEATED POST newsletter.

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N54 7XCHA

Send this application and your check to:

National Audubon Society
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P.O. Box 51001
Boulder, CO 80322-1001

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