



May 2012

Heron Habitat Helpers' HERALD

P.O. Box 99815, Seattle, WA 98139-0815

Kathleen Atkins



The graceful flight of a Great Blue Heron.

With a 6-foot wingspan the gentle flap of this determined bird is wonder to behold. It is the male who gathers nesting materials such as small twigs, bark strips and conifer needles to be fashioned by the female into the nest. This beautiful image was captured on a heron tour by Kathleen Atkins. More about the heron tours on page 2.

Heron Tours

By Marla Master

Tours were held in the first three weeks of April by Heidi Carpine, Carole Burton, Pam Cahn and Mike Marsh, who also brought scopes to enhance viewing. Thank you Christine and Perry Atkins for again sharing their lovely yard to see the herons.

“It was an absolute delight said Heidi Carpine of the tours. Visitors enjoyed seeing the nest and herons close up, as well as hearing the cacophony of the busy colony.”

Among the visitors were the League of Women’s Voters, the Carlton Park Garden Club and a Nature Preschool. Teacher Sara Egbert and her students examined our heron kit, read a story and sang about the herons.



Now that the trees have leafed out it is difficult but not impossible to see the herons. There is public viewing by the Commodore Locks where four nests are active. Herons from both colonies can be seen here flying overhead or standing along the shoreline silently waiting for prey.

Don’t forget, all members are welcome and encouraged to sign up for a tour.

We hope to see you next tour season!

Becoming a member is easy – just mail your check along with the form on page 5 or donate online at www.heronhelpers.org/HHHMembership.html.

HHH is an all volunteer organization and 100% of your donation enables us to directly support conservation initiatives, educational programs and outreach efforts. Every membership and donation – regardless of size – truly makes a difference!

Thanks so much for your support!

Volunteer News

By Barbara Selemon

Everything seems to come alive with activity in spring. The herons are nesting, the plants and weeds are growing and the farmers' markets are once again resurfacing. What this translates to is that HHH needs more volunteer help to carry out our mission.

WAYS YOU CAN GET INVOLVED

Would you like to join in weeding and watering activities at one of the restored sites located at the Kiwanis Ravine?

Throughout the growing season there are monthly Saturday work parties scheduled and coordinated by one of the Restoration leaders. What's better than working alongside of others while having a great conversation about herons?

Do you enjoy meeting and talking with people?

HHH can use your assistance in manning an outreach table at the Ballard and/or Interurban farmer's markets this season. Last year a few dedicated volunteers manned a table at the Magnolia farmer's market. This year, we'd like to spread our wings to other venues.

Do your skills lie in displays and events?

The Outreach committee is seeking people to improve our table display features. We need both artistic and construction help to make this happen.

We just need HHH members and volunteers to reach out and recruit more volunteers.

Often someone you know is searching for ways to get involved in their community, but just doesn't realize that Heron Habitat Helpers exists or what we do. Get involved by asking someone you know or don't know (a complete stranger) to become an HHH volunteer.

For further information or to direct new volunteers to HHH, contact Barbara Selemon at 206-300-4179 or baselemon@gmail.com

Volunteer Spotlight

By Barbara Selemon

SUE GILLESPIE

became interested in Heron Habitat Helpers last year when her mother was coming to Seattle from Anchorage for a visit. Her mom saw the Seattle Times' article about the heron colony in Kiwanis Ravine and sent it to Sue, who then did more research about this organization. What a busy year for Sue! She is now co-chair of the Outreach Committee and a new HHH Board member.



Sue, being a bird enthusiast, became interested in volunteering with HHH because of the beauty and appeal of the Great Blue Heron. After seeing one of these great birds in flight, she was mesmerized. Sue decided that helping to preserve and protect Magnolia's heron colony offered up the opportunity to learn more about this fascinating species. She also loves that these wild, proud birds have found a way to co-exist with mankind in a very urban environment. The birds have learned to adapt. Volunteering with HHH allows Sue to support and safeguard this adaption process.

Asked if there are any specific programs, ideas, etc. that she would like to accomplish during your 2-year term as Board Member, Sue responded that she'd like to see greater awareness of HHH within the Magnolia community, as evidenced by increased membership and involvement in restoration and outreach activities.

FUN FACT:

Sue is an avid dog person. She has three dogs of her own and is on first name basis with 34 dogs in her neighborhood (although she only claims to know about half the names of these dogs' human owners).

President's Corner

Seattle Works! Work Parties

HHH is planning to host two work parties by Seattle Works volunteers this Spring.

We will be hosting at KRS (Kiwanis Ravine Stevens at the north dead end of Brygger Drive) on May 12th and at KWC (Kiwanis Ravine Corridor off Commodore Way south of the Railroad bridge) on May 19th.

These will be wonderful opportunities for us to get a jump on those weeds. We're expecting anywhere between 15 and 25 volunteers each of those days. With numbers like that we should be able to make wonderful headway. Our thanks to the folks at Seattle Works for giving us this opportunity.

The new Osprey pole and platform are up!

The Osprey have returned, and it seems that they do like their proposed new nesting site. Sue Joerger has some wonderful pictures on her blog, and I have linked to those pictures on our homepage. Go have a look see!

Our thanks to Seattle Parks, Seattle Department of Transportation and Burlington Northern Santa Fe railroad for making this happen.



Sue Joerger

Restoration and Outreach Committee News

Both the Restoration Committee and the Outreach Committee are beginning to bring together their work plans for the 2012 year. This should be an exciting year, and I am looking forward to seeing what the future will bring. Think about what you might be able to do to help the HHH cause!

New Treasurer

I have been chatting with our new Treasurer, Craig Purkey, about some changes that we might be able to make with our Treasurer's Reports that would give us more information about our finances to help us in our decision making processes. Craig is new to our Board, and he is bringing new energy and some new ideas to consider. I am all in favor of bringing new people onto our Board every few years to ensure the influx of new energy and new ideas. Would you like to help govern HHH?

JOHN "HOOPER" HAVEKOTTE,
President

Donna Kostka Receives Heronry Award



Heronry Award given to Donna Kostka for 11 years of outstanding service to HHH.

heronnews

By Pam Cahn, Heron Monitor

HERON REPORT SPRING 2012

The herons returned to Kiwanis Ravine in early March. As of late April, there are 81 active nests in the main colony in the ravine and 4 nests in Commodore Park.

The herons are incubating eggs and/or brooding chicks; the first young were heard on the heroncam audio at the end of April.

There has been little observed disturbance by eagles so far this year.

The best viewing again this year is via the online heroncam at www.heronhelpers.org/HeronWatching.html.

Membership Report

By Marla Master

Getting the word out about Heron Habitat Helpers is paramount for our organization.

Educating the community about the importance of maintaining the environment around the ravine – a benefit to the herons – and us as well.

Getting people involved, for work parties, doing restoration, outreach, grant writing, board positions or financial support – all takes passion, dedication. Our community is small, and we're always looking for more input. The quote about many hands make light work rings true.

We are reaching out in new avenues:

We now have a Facebook page and though only a few "friends" so far, we hoping each one of you will "friend us" and spread the news.

www.facebook.com/HeronHabitatHelpers

One of our newest volunteers Prabhu Kannan, has been instrumental in getting Heron habitat Helpers on wikipedia.

From Prabhu: HHH wiki article has been submitted for final review. This has been a great work of collaboration and I am hoping to get this published soon.

The article can be viewed from source link: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Articles_for_creation/Heron_Habitat_Helpers

As well, Heron Habitat Helpers brochures can be found at Discovery Park and AudubonNicky?.

We can't do it without you. Please tell your friends, family and neighbors about HHH. And know that you made a difference in protecting our local treasure, the Great Blue Heron.



Annual Membership Drive

WE RESTORE HABITAT.

WE EDUCATE.

WE COLLABORATE.

WE ADVOCATE.

Join, renew or donate today!

HHH is an all-volunteer group. By joining and supporting Heron Habitat Helpers, you enable us to directly support conservation initiatives, educational programs and outreach efforts. Every membership and donation – regardless of size – truly makes a difference!

Donate online (under membership) at www.heronhelpers.org or by mail:
Heron Habitat Helpers, PO Box 99815, Seattle, WA 98139-0815

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP • \$15

Mail your check to: Heron Habitat Helpers • PO Box 99815, Seattle, WA 98139-0815

NAME _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

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\$15 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP PER FAMILY _____

Donation \$10 \$25 \$50 \$75 _____

TOTAL _____

E-MAIL _____

WOULD YOU LIKE TO VOLUNTEER? YES check field of interest(s) NO

conservation programs fundraising strategic planning public relations habitat restoration

HHH is an IRS 501(c)(3) organization under the umbrella of the Associated Recreational Council (ARC). Membership and donations are 100% tax deductible.