

## Lower Columbia bird count scheduled

The National Audubon Society has been sponsoring the Christmas Bird Count for more than one hundred years. This tradition was begun in 1900 by a small group of individuals to provide an alternative to the 'side hunt,' then accepted as a typical Christmas-season activity. Hunters at that time formed teams, or 'sides,' to see which could shoot the most birds in a day. Now, we can compete in a way that does not make birds the ultimate losers.

This year, with support from the Willapa Hills Audubon Society chapter (WHAS), there will be opportunity to participate in three different Christmas Bird Counts (CBCs) along the lower Columbia River area: Leadbetter Point CBC on December 14, Wahkiakum CBC on December 27, and Cowlitz-Columbia CBC on January 1.

The WHAS chapter solicits

## Many seek new CCCHD grants for social programs

Columbia County Citizens for Human Dignity (CCCHD) has received 25 applications for the first round of their Community Grant program. The group had pledged to return half of the money raised at their Winter Gala last January directly back to the community. The bad news is that most of the requests by Columbia County non-profit organizations and social service agencies were for the maximum grant amount of \$500, which means that CCCHD can only fund a fraction of the grants. "This shows us that there are a great many needs in the community that are not being met. All of the grant requests were for worthy programs," according to Abby Dawson, chair of the CCCHD grant committee.

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bird watchers of all ability levels. The CBCs will be divided into sectors with at least one more-experienced person in each group. It is important to have as many people as possible in each group, to spot as many birds as possible. No prior experience is necessary.

In order to introduce people, not only to the activity of birding, but also to others who share this interest, WHAS chapter will pay the \$5 fee for each volunteer. This is a good way for people to get to know one another, as well as to learn about birds. It is an all-day activity, so dress for the weather, bring a lunch and snacks, plus binoculars, scopes and bird books if you own them.

The Bird Count Coordinator for WHAS is Alan Richards. He is also the contact for participation in the Leadbetter Point CBC, by e-mail at mrm@willa

pabay.org or by phone at 360-484-7119.

The compiler for the Leadbetter Point CBC is Robert Sudar (fallcreek@toledotel.com or 360-423-1780.) There will be a count-in get together at Hunter's Inn in Naselle, December 14, beginning at 5:00 p.m.

Contact Andrew Emlen, compiler for the Wahkiakum CBC (aceasp@pacifier.com or 360-795-8009.). The Wahkiakum CBC groups will meet at Skamokawa Center Café for Washington counters and at Knappa's The Logger Restaurant for Oregon counters at 7:00 a.m., and at Skamokawa Center Café at about 5:00 p.m. to tally results.

For information concerning the Cowlitz-Columbia CBC, contact Bob Reistroffer (BReistrof@aol.com or 360-636-5125.)

## Apply for energy tax credits early

Oregonians who buy premium efficiency appliances can apply to the Oregon Office of Energy for a tax credit certificate for their 2002 income tax filings. The tax credit certificate is needed before filing your taxes, so it is important to apply as soon as possible.

Specific premium efficiency clothes washers, dishwashers, refrigerators, water heaters, furnaces, air conditioning systems, duct systems and even hybrid vehicles qualify for the credit. Eligible appliances, instructions and forms are avail-

able on the Office of Energy Web site at [www.energy.state.or.us/res/tax/taxcdt.htm](http://www.energy.state.or.us/res/tax/taxcdt.htm).

The tax credit is based on the amount of energy saved above standard models. The amount of the tax credit is noted on the lists of qualifying appliances or systems, or 25 percent of the net purchase price, whichever is less.

The equipment must be used in the home you live in or your second (vacation) home in Oregon. Appliances in recreational vehicles and motor homes are not eligible.

## Town Hall Meeting

### Legislative Preview

with  
**Sen. Joan Dukes**  
and  
**Rep. Betsy Johnson**

The 2003 Legislative Session convenes next month. Come meet your State Senator and Representative to discuss ideas, concerns and what the future holds for the State of Oregon!

**Scappoose Public Library**  
52469 S.E. Second Street  
Sunday, December 15th  
2:00 — 3:30 PM

No public funds were used for this advertisement which was paid for by Rep. Betsy Johnson.

## Oregon No Call List can eliminate most unwanted telemarketing

Oregonians who want to stop most telemarketing calls to their homes and cell phones have until December 15 to register for the latest update of the Oregon No Call List.

The No Call Law, enacted by the Oregon Legislature in 1999, gives residential and cellular phone customers the opportunity to get on the "No Call List" and get off telemarketers' lists. Companies that call homes on the No Call list are subject to fines of up to \$25,000. To date, Oregon Attorney General Hardy Myers has fined 120 companies more than \$450,000 for violating the No Call Law.

Cellular phone customers may also register their numbers with No Call.

"More and more people are using cell phones as their primary telephone number. As a result, telemarketers are increasingly making unwanted

calls to these numbers," said Richard Meyer of Oregon No Call. "Cell phone customers who want to put an end to most of these calls can now sign up for the No Call List," Meyer said.

The Oregon No Call list is updated quarterly and is distributed to more than 1,000 telemarketers in 49 states and two foreign countries. People who miss the December deadline for the January list will be still be able to register for the April 2003 list. More than 90,000 Oregonians have signed up for annual No Call List subscriptions, which cost \$6.50 for the first year and \$3.00 each year thereafter.

For additional information or to subscribe, Oregon residential phone customers may call toll-free 1-877-700-NO CALL (1-877-700-6622), or go to the Internet at [www.ornocall.com](http://www.ornocall.com).

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