



Winter at Heron's Head

Blue Heron Newsletter • December 2008

Executive Director's Corner

Nancy DeStefanis

I would like to welcome two new Board Members:

Andy Kleinhesselink of the Presidio Trust

Joseph Kinyon of the Pacific Science and Learning Center, National Park Service

More about our board can be found here:

www.sfnature.org/about_us/bod.html

Please join us at Heron's Head Park for our Public Tours in 2009.

Our school program has been joined by third graders from ER Taylor Elementary School.

Please make a donation now to support our school and public programs:

www.sfnature.org/get_involved/index.html

Best regards,

Nancy DeStefanis

Executive Director
San Francisco Nature Education

Our Public Programs Continue to Expand

Lowell High School interns Raymond, Ruby, Ariana, Rosanna, Aileen and Tina have completed their training and are ready to lead public tours of the birds at Heron's Head Park. During October, November, and December students studied the anatomy of birds in the classroom and toured Heron's Head Park under the tutelage of premier birders Alan Hopkins and Allan Ridley.

Heron's Head Park is one of the last remaining wetlands in San Francisco.

Restored by the Port of San Francisco, it hosts more than 100 species. Numerous ducks winter here, including Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Harlequin, Scaup, and Ruddy Ducks. Many shorebirds can be found along the marsh, including Long-billed Curlew, Whimbrel, Black-necked Stilt, and Greater Yellowlegs.

Hawks and Falcons abound, as do Clark's and Western Grebes.

Co-sponsored by Literacy for Environmental Justice (LEJ), Port of San Francisco, and Golden Gate Audubon Society (GGAS).



Photo: Len Blumin

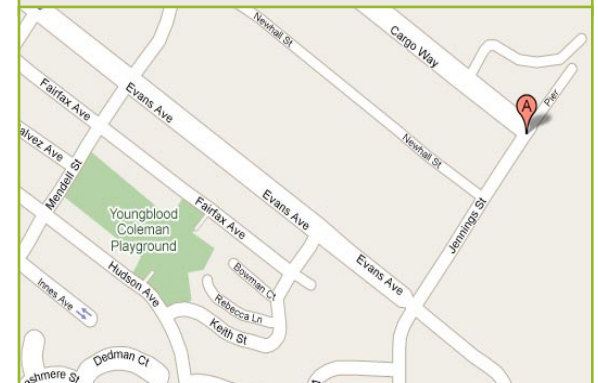
Common Goldeneyes.

Please Join Us

Heron's Head Park: Public tours, 10 a.m. — noon at Jennings Street and Cargo, 2 blocks south of Pier 96. For access by public transportation go to: <http://www.sfmta.com>. Free parking available in lot outside park.

Dates: Saturdays January 3, February 7, and March 7.

Interns will be joined by Nancy DeStefanis and SF Nature Education naturalists Sachi Jain and Alan Hopkins.



Google Maps



Photo: glimpsekeeper

American Kestrel.



Photo: Rick Leche

Greater Yellowlegs.



Photo: Doug Greenberg

Surf Scoter.



Photo: putmeymark

Brown Pelican.

Dear Friends,

I'm sure you remember the magic of the first time you visited a park, went for a hike, or identified a bird, and how it affected your world view.

I am writing to you today to urge you to contribute to our school and public programs so our naturalists can continue to provide exciting Saturday programs and field trips for 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders who might never have this chance otherwise.

For us to continue our current level of programming we need your support. The global financial crisis is challenging for us all, and I ask you to remember that this is the generation of children who are growing up with the reality of global warming and unprecedented environmental challenges. What will it mean if our urban poor children have fewer and fewer opportunities to experience nature?

Whatever you can give will go directly to programming for 1200 children during the 2008–2009 school year and support for our 21 public programs:

\$1,500 sponsors field trips for three classes.

\$500 sponsors a field trip for one class.

\$100 provides books and materials for two classes.

Please give generously; your support is vital to educating and inspiring the next generation of environmental leaders. You can donate online here: www.sfnature.org/get_involved/index.html
Thank you.

Best regards,

Nancy DeStefanis

Executive Director
San Francisco Nature Education

We Rely on Your Support

Since the year 2000, San Francisco Nature Education has provided over 6,000 students in underserved public schools in San Francisco with classroom and field-based nature experiences. For the 2008-2009 school year, we need your financial support to teach 1,200 children in our school program and the 2,500 participants in our public programs.

Your gift provides the resources we urgently need to connect our community with the natural world.

Be sure to visit our newly updated website www.sfnature.org for our events calendar and highlights of our 2008 School Programs, Bird Calling Contest, and Heron Watch.



Alan Hopkins, naturalist, with Bayview birders Rosanna, Aileen, Ruby, and Ariana.



Alan Hopkins (right) and interns observe Brown Pelicans, Buffleheads, and Ruddy Ducks.

Birding for Everyone

First Saturdays in January, February, and March. Meet at 10 am near the bookstore inside the main gate of the SF Botanical Garden in Golden Gate Park (MLK Drive near 9th Ave. & Lincoln Way).

Wish List

Used or new binoculars, backpacks, and microscopes for our programs.

Thank you for your support.



School program 2008.

All photos on this page: Nancy DeStefanis



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