



The Stilt

Volume 34, Issue 5
May 2005

Newsletter of the Bridgerland Audubon Society

BAS Presents Annual Conservation Award

Lydia Trinca, better known to her friends as Penny, jumped into the world of sustainable agriculture in 1997 when she obtained a Master's degree in Agricultural Systems from Utah State University studying the composting of bovine mortalities (yes that's dead cows) from dairy operations. For the last six years she has used her experiences and skills working with the Utah Association of Conservation Districts of Northern Utah helping farmers and ranchers find balance between productive agriculture and a healthy environment.

Her interest and love for sustainable agriculture does not stop with her job. In 1997 she restarted the Cache Valley Gardeners' Market and moved it to its present location in Garff Wayside Garden just off of Historic Downtown Logan. In the early years

there were only a few vendors but Penny worked hard promoting the market in many capacities ranging from market coordinator to painting childrens faces at the annual harvest celebration. 2005 is the 7th year in this location and the market now provides opportunities for over 100 local growers and craft vendors. The market has developed into a wonderful weekly event with music, food and clean family fun. It now has a life of its own and is an important part of the downtown Logan experience.

In 2001, Penny spear-headed and continues to be involved in a successful effort to establish a commercial kitchen that would be available to all community residents to test recipes, develop products and learn the ropes of a food-based business before having to commit the funding for expensive capital and equipment. With the assistance of friends and associates,

grants were obtained to renovate the processing kitchen of Trout of Paradise into the Bear River Kitchen Incubator. This facility has been operating and serving the community for 4 years now.

Penny was also instrumental in the development of the Sustainable Agriculture Association of the Bear River Area (SAABRA). This nonprofit was formed to support and promote sustainable agriculture in the region (southern Idaho, and northern Utah). It oversees the Bear River Kitchen Incubator, the Cache Valley Gardeners' Market and the technical activities of SAABRA. They plan to develop a regional newsletter of hope and information for small family farms focusing on sustainable agriculture, and to host workshops on organic methods of improving soil fertility, pest control,

(Continued on p.4)

Inside this Issue

BAS Conservation Award	1
Regional Notes: Volunteer at BRBR	2
Audubon Calendar	3
BAS Contacts	5

Regional Notes

Volunteer Opportunities at Bear River Bird Refuge

Wildlife Education Center

Construction continues on the "James V. Hansen Wildlife Education Center," which you can see near the corner of Forest Street and I-15 at Brigham City. Building completion is slated for Fall 2005. A ribbon-cutting ceremony will take place at that time, but a much larger grand opening celebration is scheduled for April 21-22, 2006. Kenn Kaufman has agreed to be one of our special weekend guests for the event. Mark it on your calendars!

Temporary Visitor Center Hours

The refuge's temporary center (located 1/4 mile west of the new building) opened for the season on April 18, 2005. Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Volunteers are needed to help staff the center. Can you help? Duties include greeting the public, providing information, answering questions and selling Avocet Corner Bookshop items. We would appreciate

a commitment of 1/2 day, two to four times per month.

Other Volunteer Opportunities

Environmental Education Committee

The new education center will have an auditorium, research lab and teaching lab indoors, as well as an amphitheater outside the building. We have organized a volunteer "Environmental Education Committee" and hope to expand its membership. Teaching kits are being developed which can be used by these committee members to give presentations to elementary students either in their classrooms or in the new education center teaching areas. Would you like to help out?

Wildlife Interpreters

We would like to form a corps of "birders" who would commit to spending 1/2 day per month slowly making their way around the refuge's 12-mile auto tour route during their shift. These shifts could be any day of the week, morning or afternoon. Birder

volunteers would provide information and answer questions from the visiting public. A magnetic "Information" sign would be made available to adhere to your (own) vehicle, so that visitors would know they can ask questions. A support box with field guides, checklists, pair of binoculars, etc. would be provided by the refuge, along with a light-weight vest and name tag to I.D. you as a refuge volunteer. What a great way to help out the refuge! If you're going to be birding anyway, why not make yourself available for a few hours to assist visitors?

If you would like more information about any of these three opportunities to volunteer your time for the refuge, please contact Betsy Beneke, Outdoor Recreation Planner, at (435) 723-5887 ext. 16 or Betsy_Beneke@fws.gov.

We appreciate your help! If you have any other questions or suggestions on how we can enhance our outreach program, please contact Betsy anytime.

—Betsy Beneke

Audubon Calendar

May 2005

4 BAS Board Meeting. Bridgerland Audubon Society's Board of Trustees meets this Wednesday at 7 p.m. at the offices of Bio-Resources, 135 E. Center, Logan. All interested are welcome to attend.

7 Sharp-tailed Grouse, Birding and Breakfast. For the fourth year in a row, we have been graciously invited by our great rancher friends, the Selmans, to visit their property in extreme southern Cache Valley this Saturday to observe sharp-tailed grouse doing their courting ritual. Following the grouse viewing, the Selmans will again provide us with a wonderful ranchers' breakfast. Past participants on this trip have given it rave reviews and we are very grateful to the Selmans for affording us this opportunity. After breakfast, if there is interest, we can take those interested on additional birding of Cache Valley's south end. This trip is suitable for both novice and experienced birders and for anyone else interested in seeing how truly responsible stewards of the land (the Selmans) carry out their ranching operations in a way that makes the land more and more productive and beautiful for both humans and wildlife. Meet at the parking lot between Caffé Ibis and the Logan Fire Station (50 E. 150 North) at 5:30 a.m. Carpooling will be available. We plan to be back by about 1 p.m. for those who do not opt for the extra birding at the end. You must let Dick Hurren (435) 734-2653 know in advance if you plan to attend so he can let the Selmans know how many to plan on for breakfast.

12 BAS General Meeting—Tour Stokes Nature Center's New Property in Nibley. Bridgerland Audubon is teaming up with the Stokes Nature Center for an evening at the new Stokes Nature Center Property in Nibley. You are invited to come and check out the beautiful 10-acre parcel of land that was recently donated to the SNC. The land is situated along the Blacksmith Fork River and includes beautiful vistas of our valley, many mature trees, a pond, and tons and tons of potential as a nature center for education, relaxation and watching wildlife. Please come on over and take a tour of the new property, enjoy some good bird watching and give us ideas you might have to use it for the greatest benefit. Members of both the SNC and BAS board will be at the property on Thursday, May 12th from 7 to 8:30 p.m. to show people around and share ideas. This is a great place to let the kids run around, but please no pets. Refreshments will be available. To get to the property, take Highway 165 south out of Logan toward Hyrum. The highway crosses the Blacksmith Fork River just at the city limits of Nibley. About 0.1 mile after you cross the river, turn right on 2600 south in Nibley and head west for about 1 block and look to your right (north) for the festivities. In case of inclement weather, the event will be postponed. Please call Bill Masslich at 753-1759 or Jen Levy at 755-3239 for more information.

14 Northwestern Cache Valley with Reinhard Jockel. Reinhard Jockel, a great birder and a real master of bird songs, will lead the BAS 200 Club (and anyone else who is interested) on a trip this Saturday to observe and learn the songs of migrating songbirds as they pass through birding hot spots in the northwestern part of Cache Valley. This is a unique area where several habitats come together to make it possible to see lots of different species of songbirds—including the rare blue gray gnatcatcher. Meet in the parking lot between Caffé Ibis and the Logan Fire Station (50 E. 150 North) at 8 a.m. Carpooling will be available. We will return in early afternoon, between 2 and 3 p.m. Bring water and a lunch. For more information, call Dick Hurren (435) 734-2653.

18 Morning Birding in Green Canyon with Sue Drown. Join local birding expert Sue Drown this Wednesday for a delightful morning of birding in Green Canyon. This is a perfect time of year for birding this area, which is rich in bird and other animal life. Meet at the parking lot between Caffé Ibis and the Logan Fire Station (50 E. 150 North) at 8 a.m. Bring binoculars and a snack. Carpooling will be available. We will plan to finish up right after noon. For further details, call Sue or Dave Drown at 752-3797 or Dick Hurren (435) 734-2653.

21 & 22—Bear River Canoe Trip. Two one-day trips down our own Bear River to explore the wildlife and riparian habitats. We're sure to see some good warblers and the occasional beaver and muskrat. One year we even had an elk swim the river right in front of us! Ponder the great blue heron rookery that went from 100 nests in 1986 to zero in 1997 and now is back to over 60! There may even be owls on nests. We'll keep a detailed bird list as part of our citizen science project along the Bear River Bottoms. Reservations required; limited to 12 boats each day. Rental canoes are available at USU Outdoor Recreation or Muddy Road Outfitters (753-3693). For more information, contact Bryan Dixon, 752-6830.

28 Yet Another Effort to Find the Elusive Mountain Plover. BAS President Val Grant will lead another trip to find the elusive mountain plover, this time to a remote city in south-western Wyoming where we know a small group is nesting. Many other birds and fauna, particularly the rare pygmy rabbit, will be seen. Any trip with Val is great fun from beginning to end, so please plan to attend if you can. Meet at 6 a.m. at the parking lot between Caffé Ibis and the Logan Fire Station. Bring food and binoculars and be prepared for a very full day of nature watching. We will not be back in Logan until early Saturday afternoon. For more information on this trip, call Val Grant, 753-5370.

An Evening of Owling with Stokes Nature Center. This is a Stokes Nature Center event, but it is being led by BAS Outings Chair Dick Hurren and all are invited. Contact Stokes Nature Center, 755-3239, for more information and to make a reservation. This Saturday evening program that is suitable for all ages.



If you'd like to come along on a field trip but do not have binoculars, call Dick Hurren (435) 734-2653. He'll try to find a pair for you to use.

Conservation Award

Continued from p.1

and production. Penny functions as the president of SAABRA.

Penny is also actively involved in conservation education, particularly as it relates to watersheds. She spends a lot of time traveling to valley schools and various events each year to teach kids about the importance of sustaining healthy watersheds. She served as watershed coordinator for UACD for a year, expanding her role to include working with the agricultural community.

Most recently Penny has directed her focus to a 5 acre certified organic, mini-farm in Nibley Utah. It is here that her imagination really takes off, constantly conjuring up new ideas to sustainably produce agricultural products. She markets her produce through local restaurants and the Cache Valley Gardeners' Market. Penny's most recent brainstorm is to raise and milk sheep to help the farm to control pasture weeds and to sell milk to a startup farmstead cheese factory in Richmond, Utah.

On top of all this Penny is a mother to 2 very active boys, Zane and Jake and is married to Bill Masslich. The list could go on and on, but we'll leave it with our congratulations to Penny for being the 2005 recipient of the Allen Stokes Conservation Award. Thanks to you and all others who promote the spirit of conservation and sustainability in our community.

Welcome to BAS

New Members

James R Allen
Jacquelin Frantzen
Martha R Hansen

Molly Hysell
Joyce P Larsen
Miriam Rich Family
William M Willson

Renewing Members

Leanna Ballard
Mike & Cathy Bullock
A P Ebert

Deborah Eshelman
R N Hirst, Jr
Bradley Kropp

Bridgerland Audubon contacts

Trustees

2002-2005 Jim Cane, 713-4668; Richard Mueller, 752-5637;
Dick Hurren 435/734-2653
2003-2006 Ron Goede, 752-9650; Kate Stephens, 755-0608;
Andreé Walker, 755-2103
2004-2007 Dave Drown, 752-3797; Jack Greene, 563-6816;
Melanie Spriggs, 245-4376; Reinhard Jockel;
Stephen Peterson.

Bridgerland Audubon Contacts

President Val Grant, 752-7572, biores@mtwest.net
Vice Pres. Bill Masslich, 753-1759, bmasslich@pcu.net
Outings Dick Hurren, 435/734-2653, hurrens@aol.com
Secretary Jamey Anderson, 881-1244, jameya@cc.usu.edu
Treasurer Susan Drown, 752-3797, drown6@attbi.com
Wetlands Alice Lindahl, 753-7744, alindahl@bridgernet.com
Education Jack Greene, 563-6816, jgreene@lhs.logan.k12.ut.us
Newsletter Miriam Hugentobler, 752-8237, stiltnews@hotmail.com
Circulation Susan Durham, 752-5637, sdurham@cc.usu.edu
Hospitality Allen & Gail Christensen, 258-5018, gaichr@pdp.usu.edu
Hotline Nancy Williams, 757-0185, nanwill@cc.usu.edu
Webmaster Stephen Peterson 755-5041, cllslp@msn.com
Sanctuary Jim Cane, 713-4668, jimcane@cc.usu.edu, or Bryan
Dixon, 752-6830, bdixon@xmission.com

Membership in the Bridgerland Audubon Society includes a subscription to *The Stilt*, as well as *Audubon* magazine. The editor of *The Stilt* invites submissions, due on the 15th of each month. Send to stiltnews@hotmail.com.

National Audubon Society Chapter Membership Application

Yes, I'd like to contribute to Audubon and receive the Bridgerland Audubon newsletter, *The Stilt*, and the *National AUDUBON* magazine, as a:

- New member of the National Audubon Society and Bridgerland Audubon.
 Renewing member of the National Audubon Society and Bridgerland Audubon.

My check for \$_____ is enclosed (\$20 membership dues)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____



Please make all checks payable to National Audubon Society and send with this card to:
National Audubon Society
Membership Data Center
PO Box 51001
Boulder, CO 80322-1001
W-52 Local Chapter Code: 7XCHA

Note to new National Audubon members: To get on *The Stilt* newsletter mailing list without the usual 8 week delay, contact Susan Durham, 753-5637, sdurham@cc.usu.edu.

Prefer the local newsletter only? Send \$20 and this form to: Bridgerland Audubon Society, PO Box 3501, Logan, UT 84323-3501 for a subscription to *The Stilt*.

National Audubon occasionally makes its membership list available to selected organizations. To have your name omitted from this, please check this box.



The Stilt

Newsletter of the Bridgerland Audubon Society

P.O. Box 3501

Logan, Utah 84323-3501

Email: stiltnews@hotmail.com

Visit our website: <http://www.bridgerlandaudubon.org>

Nonprofit Organization
BULK RATE
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 104
Logan, Utah