



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

10th Annual Wings Over Water Northwest Birding Festival

Annual festival celebrates the incredible variety of migratory birds that visit Blaine, Semiahmoo and Drayton Harbor area with field trips, nature cruises, wildlife demonstrations, craft vendors, kid's activities, wildlife speakers and more!

Festival date: Saturday, March 17th 10 am- 5 pm with a free featured presentation by Dick Canning, biologist, author, teacher and producer for nature and history radio programs on CBC will speak on "The Enchantment of Birds" based on his book of the same name, he will talk about his favorite birds and what makes each one unique and interesting as well as his personal connections with them.

Location: 925 H Street, Blaine Middle School and Blaine School Performing Arts Center.

Media Contact Information: Debbie Harger, festival chair – (360) 543-9982

For Additional Information: www.blainechamber.com/wow 360-332-4544

10th Annual Wings Over Water-NW Birding Festival “The Enchantment of Birds”

BLAINE, WA – WOW celebrates the incredible variety of migratory birds that flock to this pristine coastal area. The 10th annual festival will be held Saturday, March 17 in the seaside town of Blaine, just off I-5 at Blaine Middle School, 975 H Street. Birding is one of America's fastest growing outdoor activities and Drayton Harbor/Semiahmoo Bay an Important Birding Area (IBA) located on the Pacific Flyway, is one of the country's premier bird viewing areas where you can observe a large variety of birds close at hand.

WOW offers a daylong birding expo with lots of free activities for the whole family. There will be indoor and outdoor activities to mix and match according to interests and the weather including live raptor presentations by Sardis Raptor Center, wildlife exhibits, displays, on site craft vendors, kids' activities, including build your own bird house; bird viewing stations and more. For \$5 you can experience a guided field trip by bus with Jim Jorgensen, retired geology and ornithology teacher to explore Semiahmoo Spit to learn about the birds as well as the geology of this unique area or take a wildlife cruise around Drayton Harbor on the historic Plover Ferry. This year's Featured Festival Artist is Vikki

Jackson whose long hours spent in the field as a professional ecologist for 20 years in Western Washington have provided her with an appreciation of the incredible rich biodiversity in our region which she uses acrylics to express the beauty, form and color of nature we care about in the west. Expert wildlife speakers throughout the day include eagle biologist David Hancock, Hancock Wildlife Foundation; expert birder, writer and wildlife photographer Joe Meche and David Drummond from the Merlin Foundation. At 5:00 pm there will be a free presentation at the Performing Arts Center (925 H Street), by Dick Canning, biologist, author, teacher and producer for nature and history radio programs on CBC will speak on "The Enchantment of Birds" based on his book of the same name, he will talk about his favorite birds; what makes each one unique and interesting as well as his personal connections with them.

For additional information about the festival as well as lodging and area activities, please contact the Blaine Visitor Center at (360) 332-4544 or www.blainechamber.com/wow.

Wings Over Water Northwest is a non-profit corporation committed to the importance of educating awareness, and protecting the birding habitat within this important migration corridor. The festival is made possible by sponsors BP Cherry Point Refinery, City of Blaine, Blaine Chamber, Port of Bellingham, NW Parks and Recreation District #2 as well as many local individual and business supporters.

