



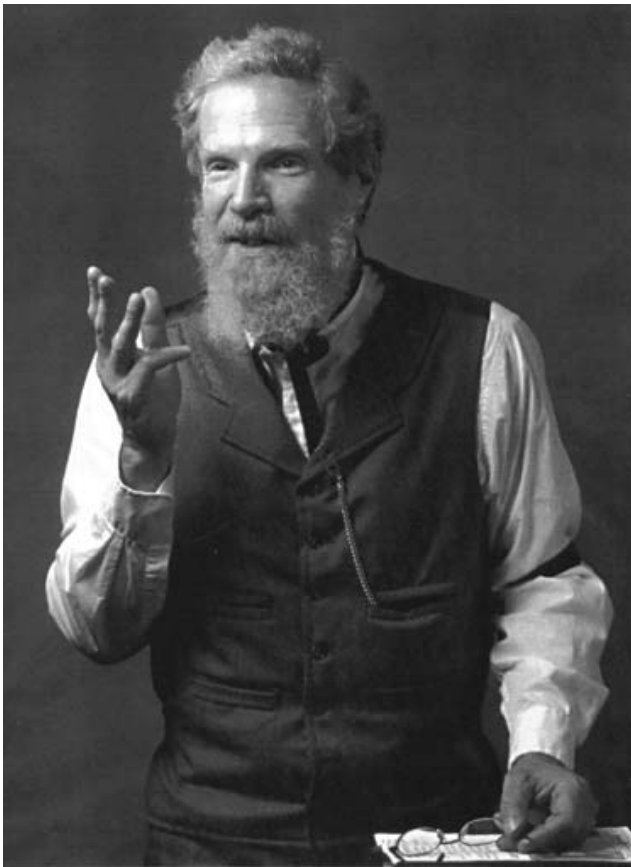
The Rainier Review

Volume 9, Issue 2

Serving the Pierce County Community and Beyond

April—May 2005

Special Presentation: John Muir—Watch, Pray, and Fight



Mark Raddatz as John Muir

Please join Sierra Club Tatoosh Group, Washington State Historical Society and Tacoma Mountaineers in celebrating environmentalist John Muir at this performance April 14th at 7 pm in the Washington State History Museum Auditorium, 1911 Pacific Ave, Tacoma. Admission is free, though donations will be accepted, and the public is invited.

Acclaimed actor Mark Raddatz performs a one-man show, impersonating Muir in Muir's own words. He spent over a year preparing for "Watch, Pray and Fight" by carefully researching Muir's own papers and contemporary news sources. He uses Muir's style of dress and his Scottish

brogue during the performance. He describes the show as "a sometimes thorny ramble through politics, preservation and damming ... with conservation's first and most effective champion."

Muir co-founded Sierra Club in 1892 and served as its president until his death in 1914. He was instrumental in preserving Yosemite, Mt. Rainier, Sequoia, Petrified Forest and Grand Canyon National Parks and greatly influenced President Theodore Roosevelt's conservation programs. He visited Mt. Rainier in 1888 on his way to Alaska to study glaciers.

Though shy and private in his younger years, Muir became a very public man in his fifties. At that time he was "required to make speeches and lead in society affairs." Raddatz presents a speech that Muir might have made when fighting to preserve Yosemite and the national park concept. For seventy minutes Raddatz treats the audience to the poetry, wit, insight and passion that made John Muir the most effective voice for preservation in his own time – and a remarkably pertinent voice in our time.

Raddatz has received positive reviews of his Muir performances at museums, colleges, and theaters, as well as the Le Conte Memorial Lodge in Yosemite Valley and North Rim Lodge at Grand Canyon. He is a veteran actor and has performed in television, movies and numerous Shakespeare festivals, as well.

Raddatz says the performance is appropriate for children 8 or 9 years old and up. Reservations are not required.

General admission to the Washington State History Museum is free on Thursdays from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Parking is free on the street or \$2/ 3hrs in the museum lots on Pacific and behind the museum.

To reach the museum from I-5 North or South, take the City Center Exit #133. Follow I-705/City Center signs to 21st St. Turn left on 21st, then right onto Pacific Ave.

For more information, Contact Bliss Moore at 253-752-6472 or blissmoore2004@yahoo.com.

Tatoosh Group Executive Committee Elections

Current members of our Executive Committee are: LeeAnn Perry, Michael Crites, Torun Parker, Andrea Pellissier, and Bliss Moore. Two of the Board positions, currently held by Bliss Moore and Andrea Pellissier, are up for election. The term is for two years.

Please review the candidate statements and vote for up to two of the candidates on the ballot below. Thank you for voting!

Bliss Moore

I am a native of the Puget Sound area and have lived here all but a few years of my life; I have lived in Tacoma for the last 17+ years. I retired from the State Department of Health in January 2003 after more than 29 years in state government, primarily as a mid-level manager in the health care facility regulatory area. I am interested in devoting much of my volunteer time to environmental causes primarily with the Sierra Club, which I have been a member of for the last 4 years. I have been an active member of the Tatoosh Group for more than 3 years and have been its chair since 2003, one year as Acting Chair and last as elected Chair. In the latter part of 2003 I became a member, and now serve as Chair, of the Cascade Chapter's Operations Management Committee (formerly Staff Supervisory Committee) to help redesign and implement an improved model for managing Chapter staff. I have been a long time environmentalist, though unaffiliated, over the last few decades. My interests have been primarily in sprawl prevention, land-use planning, and farmland preservation. I served as member of the City of Monroe Planning Commission from 1977 through 1978 in the early days of mandatory land-use planning and SEPA. For the last 2 years I have represented the Sierra Club – Tatoosh Group on the Pierce County Smart Growth Roundtable, made up of over 20 different environmental and community groups focused on preventing sprawl. During the last 3 years, I worked with Pierce County on the development of its Critical Areas Ordinance (CAO), and I am now working with the City of Tacoma on its CAO development. Other environmental interests of mine are forest conservation, energy conservation and use of alternative energy sources, preventing water and air pollution, and promoting recycling. I have a Masters in Public Health, environmental health specialty, from the University of Minnesota in 1972 and Bachelor of Science in Bacteriology and Public Health from WSU in 1966.

Andrea Pellessier

I am running for a position on the Executive Committee of the Tatoosh group. I am a massage therapist by trade which gives me time to pursue my other passion in life, the environment. I have been serving in an unofficial capacity with the group for over a year. I have been involved in many ways, including fundraising, political endorsements, tabling at different events, and decision-making within the group. My main goal in the group is generating more volunteers. I believe that there are many other people in Pierce County who share the same passion as I do when it comes to the environment. Until now, there hasn't been the manpower to focus on this aspect of the group. I would also like to see the Tatoosh group become the most active by generating ideas with fellow members and finding creative ways for people to get involved. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Heather McKim

Although I am a relative newcomer to the region, I have been a Sierra Club member for eight years. Last November's presidential election results and my concern for the environment under the current administration have prompted me to seek a more active role in environmental causes. Beginning in 2005, I am the chair of the Tatoosh Group's Communications committee and the editor of the Rainier Review. I enjoy outdoor activities, especially hiking, cycling and backpacking, and I am a novice birdwatcher. I have a BS in Biology from Wichita State University and attended graduate school in ecology at Idaho State University.

Vote for up to two candidates. Then cut along the dotted lines and mail to:

Tatoosh Nominating Committee
6116 N. Park Ave.
Tacoma, WA 98407

1st member

- _____ Bliss Moore
- _____ Andrea Pellessier
- _____ Heather McKim

2nd member (dual membership households)

- _____ Bliss Moore
- _____ Andrea Pellessier
- _____ Heather McKim

Mail before May 5, 2005

Please include your mailing label or write your member number here _____

Sierra Club Service Project – St. John, Virgin Islands

By Bliss and Shirley Moore

Have any of you readers embarked on a service project with the Sierra Club? Well, Shirley and I never had until early this February. You will find various trips listed in the back section of the Sierra Magazine. Last fall we noticed a service trip listed at St. John Island to help out the National Park Service and the Virgin Islands Environmental Resource Station (VIERS, see www.islands.org/virgin/viers) with various maintenance and restoration projects. St. John Island is one of the truly beautiful, undeveloped treasures of the Caribbean, and 70% of the island's 21 square miles is in the National Park.

The work required was four half-days of work over five days; the rest of the time was free time to snorkel, hike, visit interesting island sites, or whatever. This project sounded intriguing, and the warmer climate was attractive. Also, neither of us had been to any of the islands of the Caribbean, so we signed up. Participants needed only to pay for their transportation to St. John plus a fee to cover room & board at VIERS and some trip overhead expenses. What a good deal!



Little Lameshur Bay

VIERS, located within the National Park on St. John near Lameshur Bay, is an old camp (consisting of some 15 or so primitive cabins, dining hall, and support buildings) built by the Navy in the late 1960's as a support station for the underwater biosphere in Lameshur Bay for NASA astronaut training. VIERS is now operated by the University of the Virgin Islands as a research and educational center for ecological and biological researchers, as well as for student groups and the general public. The camp receives half of its electricity directly from solar cells and gets most of its hot water from passive solar heat. Water is virtually 100% rooftop rainwater collected into a cistern and is safe for drinking. Water conservation and recycling are standard operating procedures there. The rest of the

U.S. Virgin Islands (namely St. Thomas, St. Croix, and some non-park areas of St. John) have huge environmental challenges around adequate fresh water, refuse and waste disposal, and management of cars, roads, and population growth.

We had three well-trained Sierra Club leaders to help plan and supervise the activities of this trip. Peggy Hepburn, the head leader, did a great job of planning and implementing this project. The participants were a diverse bunch from mostly the East Coast, some from the upper Midwest and four of us from the Cascade Chapter. We split into three groups of seven to work on a host of projects such as road and trail maintenance and clearing vegetation away from a mid-1700's sugar plantation under the direction of Regional National Park Service archeologist. The ruins were less than a mile away from the VIERS Camp where we stayed. It was challenging work removing the sharp and thorny vegetation. Our free time was spent snorkeling in Lameshur Bay, visiting the Eco-tent accommodations (95% self-sustainable) at Estates Concordia (check it out at www.maho.org), visiting the Annaberg Sugar Plantation ruins and hiking many of the trails inside and outside the National Park.

In summary, we found this whole experience to be hugely fulfilling. It was educational, both ecologically and historically, and FUN! The participants, leaders, and staff of VIERS and the National Park were an interesting and enjoyable bunch with which to work and socialize. Furthermore, this project gave us the satisfaction of doing something really worth while. We would highly recommend members consider working on a Sierra Club Service project, many of which are available all across the country. Just regularly check out the back section of your Sierra Magazine. There even may another St. John trip in the next year!

Service trip to Point Reyes, CA by LeeAnn Perry

Local Sierra Club members Judith Wirth, Cathy Billings and I went down to remove Ice Plant and European Sea Grass. There were 18 of us working. One leader and a great cook. In the foreground of this photo is the remains of an area that was covered in Ice Plant before we removed it. I met the nicest people, worked really hard, but also had so many great talks and walks. This trip is being repeated this year. It is a cozy trip in that you are allowed to sleep in the old historic boat house. The food is wonderful, the whole experience worth doing.

Please look into doing a service trip with the Sierra Club, it is inexpensive way to make a difference and to learn and grow.



Point
Reyes
Work
Crew



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Tatoosh Group Activities Calendar

Special Events

April 14th: Celebration of John Muir's Birthday, a presentation at the Washington State History Museum by a John Muir impersonator. 7:00 PM at the museum auditorium (s. 19th and Pacific Ave., Tacoma). It's a free event but donations will be welcomed at the door. Contact Bliss Moore at 253-752-6472 or blissmoore2004@yahoo.com.

June 5th: Sierra Club -Tatoosh Group Volunteer/New Member Appreciation Picnic. The Tatoosh Group will provide beverages, burgers (meat and veggie), hot dogs, condiments, plates and utensils, etc., free! It is suggested that those coming bring a side dish to share, such as, a salad, beans, chips, dessert, or the like. Members, family and interested parties are all welcome!

Place: Fort Nisqually picnic area at Pt. Defiance Park

Time: 12 Noon to 3:00 PM

Directions: Just follow the Ft. Nisqually & 5-mile Dr. signs from the Pearl St. Entrance to Pt. Defiance Park.

Ivy League News:

Everyone is doing it! Getting out on Saturday April 23 to help our environment! Please join the local Ivy League re-move non-native invasive plants at The Tacoma Nature Center at 1919 S. Tyler, kitty corner from the Fred Meyers. We will meet toward the back of the parking lot. We work from 9 to noon. Your local Sierra Club will provide water and a snack. Please bring a hand clipper if you own one and some gloves. This is a very busy day for the park, everyone will be out helping! But please come and join our group, we have the most fun!

Upcoming work parties

May 21st: A week earlier, because the next weekend is a holiday. We will work at The Tacoma Nature Center.

June 25th: Our last one before summer break! We will continue our project at The Tacoma Nature Center.

July and August: Summer break. No work parties.

For more information, contact LeeAnn Perry at 253-761-2983 or leeannperry@harbornet.com.