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**FRIENDS of
 Great Salt Lake**
 P.O. Box 2655
 Salt Lake City,
 UT 84110-2655
 www.fogsl.org

Yes! I want to join **FRIENDS of Great Salt Lake**

Enclosed is a check or money order for my annual membership fee in the amount of: **(check one)**

- \$10 Student "Brine Fly"
- \$10 Senior "American White Pelican"
(62 years of age or older)
- \$20 Regular "Pickleweed"
- \$30 Family "Wilson's Phalarope"

Contributing Memberships:

- \$31-50 "Brine Shrimp"
- \$51-100 "Eared Grebe"
- \$101-250 "Antelope"
- \$251-499 "American Bald Eagle"
- \$500 Sustaining "Ecosystem Protector"

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

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Yes! I would like to volunteer for FRIENDS : _____

Remember, all membership donations are tax deductible.

Please consider making a donation to the following education efforts:

The Lake Affect: Living Together Along the Shores of Something Great
 2001-2002 season of the acclaimed slide-based program about Great Salt Lake.

Project SLICE - our 4th grade curriculum on Great Salt Lake, includes Speakers Network, Teacher Training Institute, Lakeside Learning Field Trip, and 10 units of study.

Be a Field Trip Sponsor

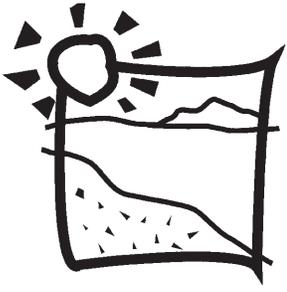
We are still looking for class sponsors for the Lakeside Learning Field Trips. Each trip cost is \$400.

For more information on these programs, contact Bruce Thompson at 801-467-3240

**Please make checks payable to:
 FRIENDS of Great Salt Lake**

**Mail to:
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P.O. Box 2655
 Salt Lake City, Utah 84110-2655



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P.O. Box 2655, Salt Lake City, Utah 84110-2655
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801-583-5593

Volume 8 Number 4

Summer 2002



Gunnison Island - Photo by Bruce Andersen, Bruce Andersen and Associates

The mission of FRIENDS of Great Salt Lake is to preserve and protect the Great Salt Lake ecosystem and to increase public awareness and appreciation of the lake through education, research, and advocacy.

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Fall 2002 Calendar of Events

September 5	Thursday	Board Meeting 7PM - Alta Club
September 24	Tuesday	General Meeting 7PM - The U.S. Geological Survey's Role In Great Salt Lake Research
September 28	Saturday	Great Salt Lake Cruise
October 22	Tuesday	Board Elections and General Meeting 7PM - Getting to know the Weber River

Watch the local papers for announcements of speakers and topics at our General Meetings, or call our hot-line at 801-583-5593, and press 1 for monthly activities. NOTE: General Meetings are held at the Sugarhouse Garden Center, located in the northeast corner of Sugarhouse Park, 2100 South 1650 East in Salt Lake City.

Autumnal Evening Cruise on Great Salt Lake

We're going to try something totally different this year for our annual Great Salt Lake cruise on the Island Serenade. This time we are planning a lovely evening cruise on Saturday, September 28, 2002 from 5:30PM to 8:30PM.

Imagine! A sunset voyage around Gilbert Bay on a cool, crisp fall evening. Be there as we watch the sun slip below the western mountains; closing another day on the remnant of ancient Lake Bonneville. While munching on a picnic supper, you can listen to some lake commentary by a guest speaker who will share insights about Great Salt Lake and the importance of this place.

If this is your first cruise, we promise that you're in for a real treat. If you're a regular, you'll definitely want to experience this unique evening perspective of Great Salt Lake.

As always, we cruise with Salt Island Adventures on the 65 foot Island Serenade excursion liner. The boat offers comfortable seating, as needed heated or air conditioned main deck, and large vista windows. Open-air areas on the bow, aft, and upper decks allow a unique lake experience. The cruise round trip departs from the Great Salt Lake State Park Marina.

COST: \$35 / Person

RESERVATIONS:
Send your check by August 31, 2002 to:

FOGSL Lake Cruise
P.O. Box 2655
Salt Lake City, UT 84110-2655

Bring a picnic dinner, water, or thermos.
There will be a cash bar. Small coolers are allowed.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Contact Bill Hanewinkel at 581-9785
or visit www.fogsl.org

President's Message: A Great Salt Lake Institution

“Environmentalism or conservation or preservation, or whatever it should be called, is not a fact, and never has been. It is a job.”

Wallace Stegner

This issue celebrates one terrific human being: Don S. Paul. After 34 years of extraordinary service to the great state of Utah and our Great Salt Lake, he is “flying up” to become the Great Basin Bird Conservation Coordinator. As Don said in one of his emails “It’s time to say good bye and hello.” As he continues to fulfill his life’s work in conservation and education in this next phase of service, I think of the story in Dale L. Morgan’s book The Great Salt Lake about Captain Howard Stansbury. Stansbury was called back to service from retirement. He was referred to as “a working man to the end, and the record of his exploration and survey of the Great Salt Lake shows it.” I’m comforted in knowing that Don will still be within reach.

It’s hard to know where to begin with so many accolades that describe this dear friend of the lake, birds and beasts, and of everyone who has been graced by his wisdom and compassion. But I’ll try.

When I think of Don, I think of a first rate storyteller who rivals even Dale L. Morgan. Have him tell you about the reintroduction of the peregrine falcon to Utah. Don shared this saga at our last board retreat. There wasn’t a dry eye in the house; including the guest pooch in attendance. Imagine!

Why, he even rivals Martha Stewart with his cooking. As a dutch oven maven who can whip up a supper for 8 and even “bake a cherry pie quicks a cat can wink an eye” going back for seconds and thirds is standard procedure for those of us who have had the pleasure of camping with him. (Scouts honor!) We can only hope that someday when Don writes his book, he’ll share those delectable recipes with us.

And what about those eyes? Why they’re as keen as Superman’s and an eagle’s put together! And as for those bird counts -- well, you know those contests where you have to guess how many marbles there are in the gallon jar? Well, he’d be the one I’d put my money on. You bet!

And according to National Audubon’s Wayne Martinson, Don never holds back from immersing himself in an experience. In 1999, people from Saskatchewan Canada, and the Great Salt Lake visited Marismas Nacionales in Nayarit, Mexico. “We were linking international Western Hemispheric Shorebird Network sites and communities. While at Marismas Nacionales about 15 of us had the opportunity to walk/trudge/slog through a jungle like narrow waterway. After walking over half an hour we reached an open wetland area. Most of us traveled slowly in one direction. Don wandered off a slightly different way. When I looked back Don was on his belly intently watching waterbirds and wetlands with camera in hand – ready and waiting.”

And I’ve got to hand it to Don when it comes to being a teacher. I think of him as a Great Salt Lake schoolmaster teaching by example and inspiring even the novice lake visitor to feel the magic of our big, salty neighbor. His tenacity is admirable and his message of compassion about the natural world around us has touched the hearts of many. His philosophy of learning by doing has been instrumental in not only getting heaps of lake work done but in helping to add to the richness of the modern day history of Great Salt Lake. Way to go, Don.

In saline,

Lynn de Freitas

Lake Fact:

Approximately how many brine shrimp eggs(cysts) can fit on the head of a pin?

See page 15 for answer.

FRIENDS OF GREAT SALT LAKE

FRIENDS of Great Salt Lake was founded in 1994 with a guiding mission to preserve and protect the Great Salt Lake Ecosystem and to increase public awareness and appreciation of the lake through education, research, and advocacy.

Led by a highly active Board of Directors and an Advisory Board consisting of professionals in the scientific, political, literary, and broadcast communities, FRIENDS holds monthly meetings that feature guest speakers and presentations focusing on subjects and issues related to the Great Salt Lake. The organization received special recognition for its efforts in 1998, when it was awarded the Conservation Achievement Award by the Utah Chapter of the Wildlife Society.

FRIENDS has organized and sponsored an array of materials, events, and activities in pursuit of its mission. The quarterly newsletter includes information on important meetings and activities, articles pertaining to lake ecology, issues updates, maps, data tables, photographs, and future events notices.

We also sponsor a biennial Great Salt Lake Issues Forum, which provides a gathering for local citizens who care about Great Salt Lake. The goal of the Forum is to encourage

constructive dialogue about the future of the lake's ecosystem and its resources, and to illuminate the complexities involved in research, management and planning for the lake.

In 1997, FRIENDS hired its first education director and initiated a major regional education project designed to enhance both the knowledge about and care for the future of Great Salt Lake. With that goal, a live-narrative slideshow program, entitled *The Lake Affect: Living Together Along the Shores of Something Great*, was born. Audiences have included Envision Utah, the Utah Department of Natural Resources, and the Salt Lake Olympic Committee's Environmental Advisory Committee, along with numerous school and civic groups.

In an effort to reach even more citizens with its message about Great Salt Lake, FRIENDS has produced a video version of *The Lake Affect*. With this video and the Project SLICE fourth grade Great Salt Lake curriculum, we hope to achieve a positive, long-lasting impact on the future of Great Salt Lake and those who dwell upon its shores. 🇺🇸

The US Geological Survey's Role In Great Salt Lake Research

Join us on Tuesday, September 24 at the Sugarhouse Garden Center for a presentation by the US Geological Survey about its role in Great Salt Lake research.

The USGS is responsible for a tremendous array of research activities on and around the lake, including: inflow gaging, monitoring lake elevation, causeway flow measurements, water and salt balance modeling, brine shrimp counting, and sediment and chemistry research.

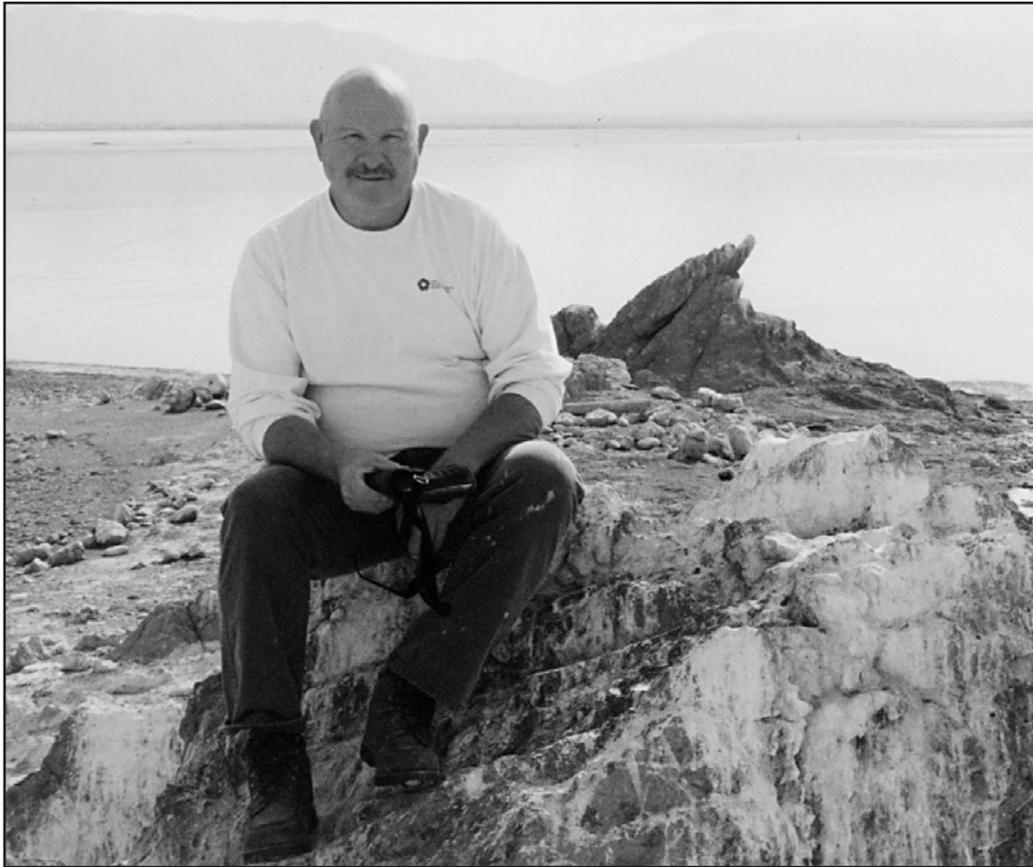
Kimball Goddard, State Director for USGS Water Programs in Utah will discuss the future of USGS research on Great Salt Lake.

The presentation will also include Dr. David Naftz's recent research on sediment cores taken on and around Great Salt Lake and their use in determining trends in long term watershed health.

His works demonstrates the interconnectedness of the Great Salt Lake Ecosystem and the people that inhabit the Wasatch Front.

The meeting begins at 7PM.

DON S. PAUL - A TRIBUTE



Don Paul In His Element

photo courtesy Utah Division of Wildlife Resources

“DUCK BLINDS & DEER CAMPS”

by Bruce Andersen, Photographer, Bruce Andersen and Associates, Inc.

What an honor—and nice coincidence—for me to have a photo on your cover of the very same issue that honors my dear friend Don Paul. I met Don nearly 20 years ago and over those years have shared offices, employers, duck blinds and deer camps, water bottles, bad food and bad jokes, bathrooms, truck cabs, family stories and countless personal and professional trials and tribulations.

We’ve shared magic moments in and around the Great Salt Lake: watching peregrine falcons copulate (don’t blink!) and observing young at hack sites; enjoying the marshes and mudflats from inside duck blinds, behind binoculars or while on some official assignment often involving mud; experiencing the dynamic rises and falls as mother nature does her thing; and marvelled not once, but twice, at the magic of Gunnison Island.

It’s a simple fact that without Don’s wing to tuck under, I would not have had these opportunities and certainly would not have enjoyed them to the degree we have together. He’s a magical guy fascinated by a magical place; a big man with a big heart and big sensitivities to people, resources and the links between.

I may rival Don in physical size but cannot come close (few humans can) to matching his stature, dedication, impact and love for this wondrous place we call simply Great Salt Lake.

I join the others, Don, in sincerely thanking you and wishing you all the best. 🍷

“OUR COMBINED IGNORANCE WAS PROFOUND”

by Joseph R. Jehl, Jr. *Hubbs SeaWorld Research Institute*

In 1980 an ecological issue was building in California. For 40 years the City of Los Angeles had been diverting streams feeding Mono Lake to provide drinking water for the city. The lake had dropped by 40 feet and the environmental public was alarmed and began legislating (and suing) to preserve it. The city was also concerned but skeptical, and to determine if the environmental issues were valid contracted with Hubbs SeaWorld Research Institute to check things out. It was my great fortune to be able to direct the research.

When we started very little was known about the birdlife of hypersaline lakes. The early and excellent efforts by Bill Behle at Great Salt Lake and several ornithologists at Mono Lake were concentrated on colonial birds, but provided little information on other species. The lake had to be studied as an aquatic system, and it would take boat work to show that the importance of hypersaline lakes went far beyond birds nesting on islands.

We confirmed, as had been known for decades, that salt lakes didn't hold a great diversity of species. For that reason they had been generally ignored by ornithologists and wildlife managers. But we quickly discovered that diversity was a faulty yardstick. Actually, these lakes were preferred or critical habitats for the few species that could tolerate the high salinity and exploit the superabundant invertebrate populations.

Hypersaline lakes are a scarce commodity. In North America only Great Salt Lake and Mono Lake qualify as permanent features that can be relied on by migratory birds. But what we didn't know was how these lakes interacted. Did birds from one salty oasis move to the other in hard times, for example? If so, information gathered at one lake, alone, could be misleading. And how large were the numbers involved, anyway. When you are dealing with tens of thousands of birds, casual estimates are of little value.

Since studying Mono Lake was not enough, I headed to Utah, where I bumped into a man who immediately became one of my most valued friends. Don was working for the State and knew more about the birds on the lake than anyone else. More is a relative term. Our combined ignorance was profound, but we were royalty (“In the land of the blind the one-eyed man is king.”). We collaborated in counting nesting gulls and migrating salt lake specialist species, and Don began to develop aerial census techniques that could provide reliable population estimates and different times of the year. We found that Great Salt Lake and Mono Lake, despite many differences, had much in

common. Together they held more than 80% of the entire North American population of California Gulls, Wilson's Phalaropes and Eared Grebes (over 99% in the latter case). As our knowledge increased, so did local interest, and Don was able to organize groups of volunteers to do further censusing around the entire lake (the lack of roads is a blessing and a curse) for species other than waterfowl. This achievement demonstrated the real importance of Great Salt Lake and set the stage for the kind of long term studies that we badly need for ecological understanding.

We have all benefitted from Don's work, and I more than most. Being in the field with him is a joy and a high point of my field season. A transplanted Easterner I didn't have much appreciation of the West when all this started. Don's enormous knowledge of local history and natural history provided me with an on-going tutorial that has lasted more than 20 years. (I tried, ineptly, to reciprocate when he volunteered to help me in a research program at Hudson Bay, but found out that he knew it all, anyway).

What has impressed me most about Don over many years of conversation is dedication to the issues. While many of our colleagues were mesmerized by emphasizing what a program might do to enhance one agency or another, Don kept coming back to basics: “What will it do for the resource.” The data base on Great Salt Lake and Mono Lake is now long and impressive, and because these lakes hold such a large percentage of some species, the data are of almost unparalleled value in measuring population trends. But he knows this, and so moving to a new agency will lead to more collaborative studies, over a wider area, that can only benefit the resource and inspire others to get on board. We need more like him. 🐦



“DEDICATED BIOLOGIST & ADVOCATE”

by Paul Birdsey, Aquatics Biologist Great Salt Lake Ecosystem Project Utah Division of Wildlife Resources

I first became acquainted with Don Paul when I worked as a seasonal for the Division of Wildlife Resources in the Northern Region Office in 1979. Don made an instant impression on me because he was one of the few full-time employees that came up to me during the first few days that I worked in the office and introduced himself and made me feel a part of the DWR “family”. During the course of that summer I had the opportunity to see Don in a variety of settings ranging from professional interactions to sage grouse hunting in western Box Elder County. Don’s openness and friendliness to everyone were immediately apparent in each of those settings.

During the next fifteen years or so, my path crossed with Don’s on a number of occasions. One of the more memorable was some computer training that we took together when the Division was entering the brave new world of personal computers in the mid-1980s. I guess the best I could say for Don’s computer skills at that time is that, Don is a nice guy, but computers were not his forte.

Those occasional meetings with Don however, did not reveal what a dedicated biologist and advocate for the resource he is. That I learned very quickly after joining Don as a biologist on the Great Salt Lake Ecosystem Project. During that first summer when I was still trying to learn my way around the lake, Don developed and implemented, virtually single-handedly, a lakewide waterbird survey. That survey was refined and enhanced during the next several years to become a model for waterbird surveys throughout the intermountain west. If that task wasn’t great enough, Don took on the daunting challenge of assessing the numbers of eared grebes that use the lake using a technique of aerial photographs. He also conducted

surveys of Gunnison Island for nesting pelicans, repaired and surveyed raptor hawk towers, participated in national and international committees, and other tasks too numerous to mention. Needless to say, he is a tireless worker for avian resources of Utah and beyond.

One glance at Don’s day planner and it’s easy to see that Don’s efforts have earned him the respect of his peers throughout the world. In addition to his recognition by others, Don was the recipient of the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources Employee of the Year Award twice during his career; a feat that I don’t believe has ever been repeated.

I am happy to have had the opportunity to work with Don for the last five years. He has set the standard for professionalism that the rest of us can only try with varying degrees of success to achieve. Moreover, he has done that without once being anything less than a true gentleman in every circumstance.

Thanks Don. I am proud to have had the opportunity to have worked with you and honored to count you among my friends. 🐾

“UNBRIDLED ENTHUSIASM”

by Joan Degiorgio, Utah Reclamation Mitigation Conservation Commission,

Over the last few years I have had the good fortune to work with Don Paul - in the field and out. What I have experienced is unbridled enthusiasm and care for both people and wildlife.

Don Paul is what we need more of: a person who thoroughly knows the Great Salt Lake, his professional work is about what he loves, and he acts locally but thinks globally - he is developing a program that links similar environments in Canada and Mexico to the Great Salt Lake.

The ribbon around this gift of Don Paul is his humility and authenticity. The Great Salt Lake may miss Don’s full attention, but my guess is that much of his heart will remain with the Lake and ours with him. 🐾

“WEENIES & BEANS”

by Joel Peterson, West Desert Regional Director The Nature Conservancy of Utah

My association with the Great Salt Lake made it inevitable that I would meet Don Paul. Don's demeanor made it inevitable that we would become friends.

Don has always been eager to share his lake experiences with other people through bird festivals, avian censuses, coordinating armies of volunteers, and international wetland work. Although we have attended many of the same meetings, there are specific experiences at the Great Salt Lake that I would like to relate to celebrate Don's work.

Don has shared with me the opportunity to band peregrine falcons at a nest platform on the Great Salt Lake Shorelands Preserve. Don was agreeable to my request not to take an OHV to the site, but rather walk, meaning that we were both going to get some exercise that morning! With his sharp eye, Don was the first to point out a horned lark's nest in the path on which we would have been driving. That was a special trip which gave us the chance to slow down and enjoy our surroundings together.

I'm further impressed with Don's attentiveness to the beauty of the Lake environment. One example was when Don invited me along to participate on an airplane census. I was silent on the headset intercom system so I wouldn't interrupt the rapid counting. Don would be counting and tallying species information into a tape recorder and there were frequent short pauses in counting as Don's comments came over the airplane headset, such as "Oh, my! Did you see that flock to the left? This is truly amazing!"

He continues to be inspired, even amidst the hectic counting. Don's work with the Linking Communities, Migratory Birds and Wetlands project, sponsored by the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network, brought us to many places, people and situations. Don is always "breaking the ice" with friendly jokes, mostly about himself (particularly, being 'folically challenged'), and quickly warms the room. Although Don is often serious in his work, his humor is never far behind.

One outing that is most memorable to me is one which Don invited me to help with counting American White Pelicans on Gunnison Island to verify aerial census methods. Our group camped on the beach after the day's counting work and was treated to Don's famous "weenies and beans" recipe. Just after sunset, Don read from Alfred Lambourne's book about homesteading on the island, mesmerizing the group as we contemplated his beans and Lambourne's life in this special place.

Perhaps a short passage read from Alfred Lambourne's *Our Inland Sea* would help me describe Don's work at the Great Salt Lake and his special approach toward people: "From out of the wildness of this desert solitude, I desire to extract the beautiful and the good, and to be taught, too, by the voices that dwell therein..."

Thanks, Don, for all of your support and your tireless work on the Great Salt Lake. 🐦

“CONTINUES TO SERVE”

by Yae Bryner, shorebird census volunteer

If my heart could write, this tribute to Don Paul would be an easy task. I have spent many hours of reflection, contemplating how to briefly express the affection and gratitude I feel for this man.

Don has been an acquaintance for a number of years and I have always been impressed with his selfless commitment to the health and preservation of the natural environment. The second year of his waterbird survey, I signed on as a volunteer and had the tremendous good fortune to work with Don. In the five years that have followed, we have shared many experiences. We have birded the mangrove wetlands of Nayarit, Mexico, planned and facilitated meetings and workshops for national and international participants, camped on remote Gunnison Island to census

pelicans and gulls, gone on an aerial survey over the GSL, and enjoyed the lake on a number of airboat rides.

His sincerity and his gracious willingness to share his knowledge and expertise with regard to the Great Salt Lake has brought much needed national and international attention to the uniqueness of this ecosystem. If this treasure survives, it will be in part because of Don Paul and his work.

I congratulate him on his 34 year career of exemplary service and wish him well as he continues to serve the public as the Great Basin Bird Conservation Coordinator. 🐦



“SIBERIAN OUTHOUSES ARE TOO SMALL”



Photo by Ann Neville

“DON WATCHERS”

by Neka Roundy, Davis County Tourism Coordinator

Don Paul has been a strong supporter of Great Salt Lake Bird Festival before it actually began. He promoted the idea of creating a festival and continued to work with a fledging committee to create a mission statement and goals. He has taken the role of planner, facilitator, and instructor to make the Festival as professional as it is today. Don has been in the classroom demonstrating to students the wetland values and he has also instructed the teacher workshops associated with the Festival. He has led birding tours and been the lunchtime entertainment speaker, much to the delight of all 'Don' watchers.

One of his greatest interests includes the Shorebirds Sister Schools program with Canada and Mexico. A goal of Great Salt Lake Bird Festival is to initiate a project to give back to the community. The annual Fun Run/Walk and Bike Ride, associated with the Festival and held at Antelope Island State Park is designed to be that project. Money to provide ways for Canada, Mexico, and Utah school children to track bird migration is a goal of the Fun Run/Walk and Bike Ride.

He has initiated promotional tours of the Great Salt Lake wetlands via airboat. These tours have included media,

by Ann Neville, Manager KUCC Inland Sea Shorebird Reserve

I'm very glad that Don Paul is not leaving us. I know that retirement is a good thing, but can anyone imagine Great Salt Lake without Don?

I met Don when I moved back to Utah in 1997 by getting involved with the Waterbird Surveys. Don had the vision of collecting waterbird data to help understand the lake and how we can better manage all the Lake's environs. The fact I made new friends, learned how to better I.D. shorebirds, and have been able to watch, with fascination, the lake change over time are all indirect results of Don's overall vision. For that, I'll always be grateful.

But, if you really want to get to know somebody - go halfway around the world with them. I dragged Don and Ann Manning to Siberia with me to study birds on Lake Baikal. I have to confess, even if he couldn't have come, I would have been using his methodologies. I also have to confess - he knows his birds - even European birds, much, much better than I do. He was very professional and we saw some wonderful things. But there are a few things I have to say about traveling with Don. He'll eat anything that is fixed for him - including merganser (uck!). He can sleep anywhere (even on a boat in freezing weather). Siberian outhouses are too small for him (they have around a 5'5" ceiling). He was a good sport when I did a sneaky 'dome' study of him and all the Russian Orthodox cathedrals (all those round shiny things), and he's a fierce competitor playing Duruk (a Russian card game). Finally, he is gracious and genuinely wants to get to know the people around him - even when he can't speak the language.

These details only make me like Don more (except maybe me losing in Duruk). All in all Don is chock- full of integrity - he is the wonderful man you know, wherever he is. But I sure am glad he's not leaving us! 🐾

mayors, legislators, and planners for the cities and counties surrounding lake. An experience in an airboat shows critical habitat and how encroachment affects the wildlife.

He is a contributing member of the Northern Utah Wetlands Partnership, to disseminate curriculum to school districts and teachers locally and via their web site.

Don's career in wildlife and his personal interests all show what an influence he is for helping to promote a better understanding of wetland values and their protection.

He is a great man and a terrific person. 🐾

“ALWAYS GENEROUS”

by Jack Rensel, retired Division of Wildlife Resources, Northern Region

My earliest memories of Don Paul begin with a Department of Wildlife Resources employees meeting at Camp Williams. As a newly appointed Conservation Officer in the Salt Lake County area his enthusiasm for the job was evident and he was full of questions for the director and the section chiefs. This week long meeting was held in August of 1969.

In the months and years that followed, Don's interest in wildlife helped shape his career with the Department. His beginning as a Conservation Officer was fulfilling to Don and noteworthy to both the area sportsmen and to his supervisors. After some time in this position, Don transferred to the Information and Education Section where he was able to hone his writing and photography skills.

As the Department grew in response to the needs of Utahns, the Northern Region was authorized a new position of Regional I & E Supervisor. I was delighted when Don was selected for this position and he proved to be well suited for it. He created an outstanding regional program that included a wealth of resources that were created to assist field employees in telling the wildlife management story to area sportsmen, civic and school groups.

Through his efforts, the first teachers workshop was created, giving school teachers a new and practical look at the Department's mission. During this workshop, teachers were dressed in official shirts and given the opportunity to conduct creel census, stream surveys, big game range surveys and other activities that gave them a real feel for the biologists' and officers' work in our area. This program eventually led to the creation of a statewide program for teachers called "Project Wild".

With a growing need for more field studies among the non-game wildlife species, a section was created to fulfill this need. With Don's broad wildlife interests, he was the obvious choice to create a regional program for northern Utah.

Here he conducted golden eagle and raptor surveys, helped reintroduce peregrine falcons, established the first bluebird nesting box routes, small owl nest box studies, monitored nesting gull colonies, established white pelican nesting surveys, and began an extensive study of the importance of the Great Salt Lake Ecosystem to migrating and breeding birds. When conducting these studies, Don became a valuable consultant and worked closely with Dr. Joe Jehl doing similar work in California. This work eventually led to the creation and addition of the Great Salt Lake Ecosystem to the Western Hemispheric Shorebird Reserve Program reflecting its importance internationally.

Don's experience and knowledge of this ecosystem and his love for this research evolved into a full time biologist position for the Great Salt Lake area. Don spent the last portion of his long and productive career in this position working from an office at the Visitors Centers on Antelope Island. His close association with Utah State Parks and Recreation during this period was valued by parks staff and employees and he was often called upon for his knowledge of wildlife needs in this park during planning and programming sessions.

Don Paul was also a founding member of the Wasatch Audubon Society and has continued to contribute to this group by leading field trips, conducting raptor identification classes and presenting many programs over the past twenty or so years of this organization's existence. As a valued member of Audubon, Don was always generous with his knowledge and experiences with members and the public.

The Utah Chapter of the Wildlife Society has also benefited from Don's enthusiasm and experience. He has supported this professional group from its founding and has served faithfully in every position including that of its president.

In addition to having known and worked with Don during most of his professional career, I have also had the privilege of being his friend. We have birded together, hunted together, camped together and have shared many moments with family and friends.

Don will be missed by the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources and its employees. Some of Utah's wildlife will continue to benefit from Don's research long into the future and its good to know he will be continuing to work for wildlife welfare in new and continuing projects. In reality, Don's recent retirement from state service may be only a beginning. 🐾

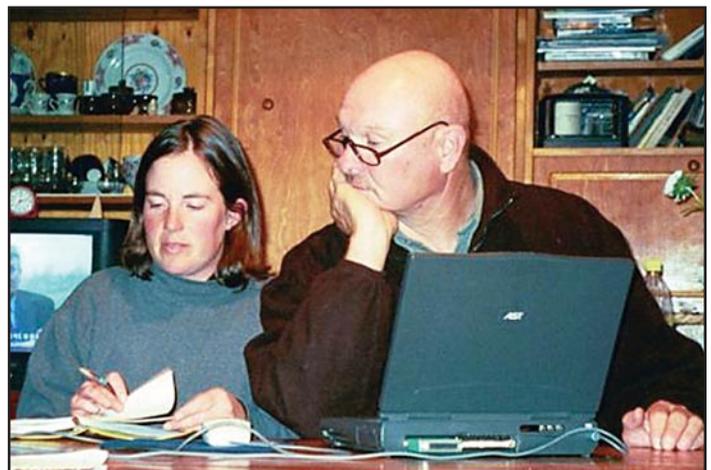


Photo by Ann Neville

“BIG & BALD”

by Edie Trimmer, Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands, Lone Peak Nursery

The first time I distinctly remember meeting Don Paul was sitting with a table between us. Don sat with two other DWR employees, all of them poker faced and careful, as Karl Kappe and I explained that we were preparing to write a mineral leasing plan for Great Salt Lake. Karl and I are with Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands, which in the rainbow coalition of the Department of Natural Resources, is one of the resource-consuming agencies. We were just recently divorced from our school trust lands partners, which aligned us with the state's most resource-devouring agency. Don and his cohorts were at the other end of the spectrum, the critics and skeptics of the most carefully drafted mineral development plan. They were not particularly impressed with our past work.

Don looked pretty ordinary to me. He was big, bald, about my age. After he listened to us explain that this was a planning effort not a development proposal, he began to talk in the most ordinary tone of voice about the need for space and beauty in our lives and how the empty sweep of salt water could have those qualities. A couple of weeks later I found my self stuffed in the backseat of a very small plane with Joseph Jehl, Don Paul and a DWR pilot in front. I was to help count phalarope. When we flew low over the water I could see a ruddy duck splay and shake his tail and when we rose higher we were engulfed in a whirl of phalarope. 3,000, I counted to myself. 50,000 said Don and Joe. After the count, we had lunch and talked about birds and science and conservation and populations (people and birds) and saline lakes. What a great day.

The flatness of the lake with its floating islands, its midday brilliance and always the restless movement of birds are the vistas I associate with Don. He took me (and many, many others) out on airboat trips, or bird surveys, or workshops at Antelope Island. In his tactful, kind way he treated us as peers but he knew that seeing and experiencing was the best advocacy for all the varied habitats of Great Salt Lake.

After the Mineral Leasing Plan was completed, I had less and less to do with the lake in my job. Great Salt Lake casts a spell over those eccentric people who make it their profession or their hobby and I felt a big loss.

So Don recruited me for four years of a five year shorebird survey. As most of you know by experience, this count was every ten days, up at dawn, from April to late September along an assigned shoreline of mud and insects and lots of shorebirds. Only Don could have inspired so many of us to carry through, week after week, year after year. Every year of the four years I had a new crew, many experienced birders,

many novices. We saw avocets and stilts line the shoreline by the thousands; redheaded and ruddy ducks and terns nest in the adjacent marshes; clutches of snowy plover skitter like billiard balls across the salt flats. We also saw families of fox come and go (and prey on stilt and avocet nests while we watched helplessly).

One of Don's many other projects was the Shorebird Sister Schools and the Linking Communities project. This project follows American avocets over their migration paths and links up the communities and schools in areas which share in the habitat requirements. All these linked communities—Sinaloa, Utah, Saskatchewan--have been enriched in several ways by the connections he forges. Like a migrating shorebird himself, Don jets off to Marismas Nacionales in the states of Nayarit and Sinaloa in Mexico and Chaplin Lake in Saskatchewan, Canada. Like an accidental migrant, he's even landed in Siberia at Lake Baikal. These trips, although to serve the shorebirds he loves, were on his own stored up migration resources. When Don returns, he always brings the names of people he's met and we know he's forged yet another bond that is partly a link in the work he dedicates himself to but also genuine friendship. Don may worry about population pressures and encroachment on habitat but he gives the gift of his wonderful and warm and compassionate friendship to whoever he meets in his travels: Yuri, Yae, Ann, Lynn, Wayne, Neka, Ella, Joel, ...

The good thing about Don's retirement from the Division of Wildlife Resources is that he will continue to do his life's work. Maybe even some of his trips to here and beyond will be paid for by someone else's migration fund.

I just hope I see him once in a while as he flies in and out. 🐦



Photo by Ann Manning

“ACHIEVEMENTS IN WILDLIFE CONSERVATION”

by Clay Perschon, Great Salt Lake Ecosystem Project, Division of Wildlife Resources

Don Paul, Wildlife Biologist for the Great Salt Lake Ecosystem Project, recently retired after serving 34 years with the Division of Wildlife Resources. Don was raised in northern Davis County. He recalled being able to look from his bedroom window, west to Antelope Island. While attending Weber State College, he made a trip along a road across the then dry lake bed towards Antelope Island. He recalled feeling remorse that access had potential to destroy this geographical island of wilderness which gave character to his world. His life and career were to run towards the lake like waters from the winter's snow.

His first duty posting was as a Conservation Officer in the North Salt Lake. He spent time near the Jordan River delta and Farmington Bay learning of the lake's rich marsh habitats and birds. Don then moved on to work in the Information and Education section. He was involved with radio programs, newsletters and other media contacts to bring wildlife appreciation to Utah's citizens. From there he transferred to the Northern Regional Office to fill the new position of Regional Information and Education Manager.

The following positions Don held allowed use of his acquired knowledge of Great Salt Lake wildlife and communicating with the public and others. The Non Game section was created in 1980 and he became the regional manager for that position in the Northern Region, a posting he held for 12 years. During those years Don worked extensively on the lake and marshes studying the multitudes of water birds that rely upon this desert oasis. He conducted counts and studies on White Pelicans, Wilson's Phalaropes, American Avocets and many other species. He recognized the enormous resource that the lake provided for this luxurious array and abundance of bird life. He worked with others to nominate and finally see the lake recognized as part of the international Western Shorebird Hemispheric Reserve Network.

Don next became the Chief of Information and Education and managed this program on a state wide effort. During this time he worked with others to accomplish many projects to help promote appreciation of Utah's wildlife heritage. The wildlife stickers on Utah automobile license plates still help to provide funding. Some may remember a Great Salt Lake special supplement to the Salt Lake Tribune, a section comprised of many stories about the lake.

A division wide reorganization plan briefly had Don working as a biologist around the northern part of the lake. He soon after became the avian biologist for the Great Salt Lake Ecosystem Project. During this portion of his career, he used all of his considerable knowledge of the lake's resources and skills promoting wildlife and working with others to focus on conserving Utah's great treasure.

Don planned a five year effort to count water birds around Great Salt Lake. This ambitious study involved over 100

volunteers during those years. The resulting database is one of the most extensive available to document what species utilize different areas around the lake over time. Wise planning and prudent management decisions must be based on good data and science.

Another project involved Don working as chairman of the Great Salt Lake focus area of the Intermountain Joint Ventures Program, which seeks to conserve bird populations. Two grants were planned and written which resulted in approximately two million dollars coming to the lake for habitat acquisition and management along with other matching money.

Don worked with a conservation initiative called Linking Communities. This plan brought focus to American Avocets, Marbled Godwits, Cinnamon Teal, Sanderlings and other species that share common habitats in North America. The communities linked included three lakes in Saskatchewan, Great Salt Lake and Marismas Nacionales in Mexico. The above-mentioned migrating birds use all of these areas. The program seeks to promote awareness and tourism associated with these bird resources. Humans tend to protect things, which have economic and aesthetic value. A Sister Schools program was also developed to foster understanding among young students of migrating birds and the people that exist near their habitats.

There were many other programs Don was involved with including those already mentioned. . Don has always been quick to recognize than many others have been involved and played key roles in these efforts. A common thread to all of his work is promoting Great Salt Lake and its wildlife by facilitating and involving others and being involved himself to accomplish these tasks; just as FRIENDS of Great Salt Lake does. Conserving Great Salt Lake requires introducing people to the lake and its values, supporting decisions with science and advocacy to protect it.

Don has made a tremendous contribution to the Division of Wildlife Resources in his career. He twice was awarded the K.E. "Bob" Bullock Award (DWR's Oscar) for tremendous achievements in wildlife conservation. No other employee has earned this award more than once. He has left a legacy and blazed a path that we will follow.

Don is currently employed as the Great Basin Coordinator of the North American Bird Conservation Initiative, a government and privately funded organization that promotes planning and management for all birds. His energy, knowledge and motivation of others continue to promote conservation of our wildlife heritage.

His contributions to GSL and its wildlife are really astonishing. What is noted here are mere crumbs of a lovely cake.

Well done, Don Paul! 🐦

WATERBIRD SURVEY WITH DON S. PAUL JUNE 26, 2001

by Ann Ellison Manning, *Biologist, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources*

Waters have receded and the Pintail Flats ramp no longer permits entry into Great Salt Lake.
Instead we launch from Antelope Island.

Steel-blue skies with rain scent and droning airboat propeller take my mind from reality
as we fly alongside causeway on shallows to Ogden Bay.

This route is longer.

We navigate away from shore over deeper water.
Flat-bottom vessel not meant for open seas belly flops on the crests.
Through the jolts Don's eyes remain steady, scanning the horizon;
I try to hold my teeth in.

Below thin clouds a swarm builds, growing, gaining strength.
We approach and hundreds of flighted birds equal one body.
Wilson's phalaropes undulate a ribbon of motion:
banner twirling from a baton dancer,
now a funnel twisting, then ocean swells, firework explosion.
The body inhales, exhales;
my lungs join the rhythm, expanding, contracting.

How does each know the precise choreography?

Thousands,
tens of thousands,
hundreds of thousands alight on the surface.
Bobbing on water, wings stretch, beaks preen,
sunset orange and vermilion neck feathers gleam.

Moments later, our roaring acceleration presumably re-activates aerobatics of the unified flock,
but then I see the catalyst.

Young peregrine attacks wildly, overwhelmed by potential prey.
It dives into the flock — phalarope strategy twists and turns
flashing white—gray—white waves.
Safety in numbers.

Young peregrine sustains its pursuit, our binoculars follow every pitch.
My jaw gapes open gull-like, and I am surprised into self-awareness
with a mouthful of brine flies.

They say we love only what we understand—

No time to dwell on philosophy, the survey continues.
Up ahead lining exposed mud bars loaf row upon row of
Franklin's gulls
California gulls
willets
white-faced ibises
black-necked stilts.

At first I thought we should keep this place of enchantment a secret—exclusive for those who care,
but Don taught me differently.

He said we must share Great Salt Lake wonder with many,
show them this unique and essential harbor for waterbirds in Western North America.

We must determine how to live symbiotically,
people and natural systems,
in our narrow corridor bounded by mountains and inland sea.
Then when many understand instead of few we can protect what we love.

A baldpate flushes from the bulrush,
Don muses, rubbing his own bare crown.
His eyes are steady as he shapes the horizon.

REFLECTIONS ON THE 2002 GREAT SALT LAKE ISSUES FORUM

by Brian Nicholson

At the 2002 Issues Forum attendees participated in an expedition through time and place within the Great Salt Lake Ecosystem. What made this journey unique was the interconnectedness of landscapes across such vast temporal periods. For example, how do the climatological conditions of the past manifest themselves today, creating the surfaces upon which we live, work, and recreate.

To answer such questions, the Forum began with presentations by Don Currey, Walt Dean, and John Horel on the geology and climatology of the Lake. Participants could almost imagine being present at the creation of geoantiquities, such as the Stockton Bar, formed by deposition of sediment along the shores of Lake Bonneville. The presentation of climatological data demystified the true nature of the "Lake Effect" (it happens only a few times a year under specific conditions) and illustrated how air pollution, a human induced effect, is blown in and out of Salt Lake City by diurnal variation in wind direction.

Session Two addressed the ecological complexity of the Great Salt Lake Ecosystem and the natural and anthropogenic changes occurring here. Don Paul shared the findings from a 5 year shorebird study and presented us with a "bird's eye" view of the influence of growth and development on habitat over the last one hundred and fifty years. Clay Perschon provided an overview of the ecology and economics of brine shrimp, topics that have benefitted from eight years of study. It is interesting to note that fluctuations in brine shrimp populations resulted in an unprecedented harvest of almost 20 million pounds of biomass in 2000 and the early closure of the 2001 harvest in the South Arm of the Lake. If anyone has ever wondered why smells riding the wind off Great Salt Lake can be offensive, Wayne Wurtsbaugh's talk on the limnology of pollution provided some answers. Farmington Bay, for all intents and purposes, is a separate water body which because of the input of nutrients from sewage treatment facilities has experienced a decline in water quality and increased production of hydrogen sulfide.

Four speakers, Steve Simms, Will Bagley, Steve Burr, and Justin Black presented a historical perspective of the Great Salt Lake beginning with ancient peoples in the basin and concluding with the socio-economics of the Great Salt Lake Bird Festival. Recent high lake levels and their subsequent drop revealed the remains of healthy people and a prosperous culture living on the bountiful shores of the Great Salt Lake. Drawn to these resources fur trappers and pioneers explored the area, established settlements, and placed a new footprint on the landscape. Current residents of the Basin continue to interact with the ecosystem, fortunately

in an increasingly non-consumptive manner, e.g., birding.

The final leg of the journey presented the audience with a view of the future. FRIENDS of Great Salt Lake is not alone in preserving and conserving the lake and its myriad of resources. Jeff Salt spoke about the power of local citizenry and ownership of Great Salt Lake through the Lakekeeper Program. In addition, Greg Bell described real issues of growth and urban sprawl along the Wasatch Front.

Taking the geographic and temporal components explored in the Forum to the field, approximately 40 people attended Saturday's trips to the Lake Bonneville Shoreline, Antelope Island, and the Inland Sea Shorebird Reserve (ISSR). Lessons in geology revealed the interaction between Lake Bonneville and Wasatch Mountain glaciers and clues to the formation of Antelope Island. Others learned about the political and ecological issues surrounding wetland restoration at the ISSR, one of the largest mitigation banks in the Western U.S.

From its onset, the primary goal of the Issues Forums has been bringing together stakeholders and the general public to establish dialogue and pursue the preservation of Great Salt Lake. This is not an easy task but is more readily attainable because of the endeavors of others in similar circumstances, both nationally and internationally. FRIENDS of Great Salt Lake would like to thank our Keynote Speaker, Martha Davis, former Executive Director of the Mono Lake Committee. Her account of the efforts of citizens in California who fought to protect Mono Lake, and won in a unanimous landmark public trust decision, illustrate what a concerned group of people can achieve.

Finally, the Forum marked the inauguration of the FRIEND OF THE LAKE AWARD. Don Currey, the first of many recipients, received the award for his outstanding work in education, research, and advocacy. Don has touched multitudes of people as a Geography Department faculty member at U of U and continues to be a champion of the Great Salt Lake. 🐦

GREAT SALT LAKE FIELD SEMINAR SERIES: DR. TY HARRISON

by Eric McCulley

TEACHING THE SCIENTIFIC METHOD

The field seminar began with our first memories of the lake. For each of us, the lake brings out feelings and memories. Many people in the Salt Lake Valley remember swimming and relaxing on the beaches of the lake. Others only remember the smell as they pass on the highway.

Anyone who has seen this valley is connected to the lake in one way or another.

Dr. Harrison presented an intriguing journey through the life cycle of the lake. The Great Salt Lake has a unique ecosystem due to its nutrients, bacteria, algae, brine flies, brine shrimp and wildlife. These organisms represent the essential processes of the lake ecosystem. Through studying these processes, we can come to understand how the scientific method works. To understand the scientific method, we were asked to participate in an experiment. Each member of the group collected samples of lake water and were asked to make observations of the organisms that live within the water and look for evidence of their life cycles. From the sample, we will be able to see how the process of algal growth, brine shrimp and brine fly hatches, and decomposition demonstrate important the life cycles of the lake.



Photo by Heidi Hoven

seen in the pools close to or on the beach. The algae are eaten by brine shrimp and brine fly larvae. These small organisms are eaten in turn by birds, which live near the lake or migrate through. The nutrients are returned to the water, through bird excrement and from dying microorganisms.

This cycle has occurred at different rates through the passing of time and at different lake levels. We can only observe the remnants of the higher levels of the lake through the benches and terraces that all of us live on in the Salt Lake Valley. These benches represent past climates and lake levels. There have been dozens of different lake levels throughout recent geological history. In the

last 30,000 years there have been four distinct levels that left us with large benches as remnants. These levels, from highest to lowest are the Bonneville, Provo, Stansbury, and Gilbert. We can conclude from evidence found on these benches that the lake in some of those times was a fresh water lake. Water chemistry of the lake was different, but many of the same life cycles remained the same.

In addition, we looked at the vegetation along the lakeshore. The plants are basically of three types, those that only live in fresh water, those that can tolerate slightly saline water and those that live in salt water.

One example of a plant that cannot tolerate salt is the common reed. Although viewed as invasive if unchecked by nature or other means, these plants do a great deal to stabilize the lakeshore. They are constantly adjusting to the lake level depending on the influence of the salt water. In times of lower lake levels, these plants shoot runners towards the lake. As lake levels rise, the plants become submersed in salt water and die off. They are common throughout the world and have been used by many cultures including Shakespeare's thatch roof and rafts on Lake Titicaca in Bolivia.

The transition to salt water is much more diverse. The area we investigated supports the growth of numerous plants that many of the visiting and resident birds forage for food. (*continues pg. 16*)

Photographs of the Great Salt Lake

Currently at the Utah Museum of Fine Arts and running through October 13, this exhibit includes lake images from a variety of perspectives.

The range of interpretations shows the importance and fascination of the Great Salt Lake to Utahns and to the world.

For more information, call 581-7332.

“Great Salt Lake Field Seminar”

(continued from pg. 15)

Plants in this zone are, both annuals and perennials and at the time of our field trip, had just begun to sprout into green. These include but are not limited to: inkweed, pickleweed, foxtail barley, saltbush and bullrush. Some invasive species are also present including tamarisk, which was brought in from Eurasia, and thrives in this area and throughout the West and Southwest.

Below the transition from fresh to salt water, in the shallow pools close to the shore, abundant life and decomposition are occurring constantly. This area represents the place where the strong scent that resonates and triggers vivid memories in many of us. The yellow streaks seen here are decomposing diatoms. There are also yellow splotches, which are bleached out blue-green algae. There are areas where many bubbles are rising from the nutrient rich green algae that many small organisms rely on for food.

We have all been given the responsibility to report on our findings to Dr. Harrison. Since we collected our samples of the lake microcosm many changes have occurred. I have seen the growth of algae and the shrimp can be observed grazing on it. We can all learn a great deal about the scientific method by watching the life cycles occur in our mesocosms - right in front of our eyes. 🐛

Getting to Know the Weber River

On Tuesday Oct 22nd, at the Sugarhouse Garden Center, there will be a discussion about the Weber River, its value for wildlife, its current operation and partnership efforts along the river.

This meeting will provide information about the habitat, the fisheries and other wildlife that use the Weber. Also, presented will be how the river is managed from the perspective of the Weber Basin Water Conservancy District. Finally, partnership efforts to address the Weber River watershed will be presented.

The discussion will be moderated by Wayne Martinson, National Audubon.

The program will begin at 7PM.

MORE REFLECTIONS ON THE 2002 GREAT SALT LAKE ISSUES FORUM

by: Robert N. Harris, Assistant Professor (Instructor) Dept. of Geology and Geophysics, University of Utah

I found the 2002 FOGSL Issues Forum to be very interesting and informative. The forum reminded me that Great Salt Lake is an important, albeit underappreciated, resource that influences our day-to-day lives in many ways - from its influence on the weather, to the natural beauty that surrounds our valley, the bird habitat that it provides, and the economy.

The Forum was also valuable in raising my awareness of many of the issues concerning the state of the Great Salt Lake, including threats by development along its shores and promontories, pollutants piped to the lake, and habitat loss. I particularly enjoyed learning about the research into the lake ecosystem

by the University of Utah, Utah State University, the U.S. Geological Survey, and the Department of Natural Resources.

I found the keynote talk at lunch by Martha Davis to be particularly stimulating. Her discussion put the Great Salt Lake in the bigger context of lakes in the intermountain basins of the western U.S. As I listened to Martha, I thought about the uniqueness of the Great Salt Lake and its ultimate fate. With growing population and pressures on the lake, it seems that the time is over due to construct a vision of the legacy we want to leave behind.

LAKE QUOTES

"We suggest that Great Salt Lake is a phenomenal asset to the state of Utah. Its mineral resources have been appreciated for almost 150 years. Brine shrimp are now appreciated because they are economically valuable. To only a very limited extent is the lake appreciated for tourism, for culture, for earth systems history and for education. We feel that the present constituencies drive the Department of Natural Resources' approach to management and that these policies may eventually diminish the net social value of the lake to the citizens of the state of Utah."

Scientific Review Committee
comments to the Great Salt Lake Management Planning Team, 1999

"Save the dashing of the waves against the shore absolutely nothing is heard. Not the jumping of a fish, the chirp of an insect nor any of the least thing betokening life, unless it be that very rarely a solitary gull is disturbed in his midnight rumination and flies screaming away. All is stillness and solitude profound."

Captain Howard Stansbury
The Stansbury Expedition

"Much has been made of the tragic loss of rain forests in our hemisphere... But, in fact, because of their productivity of plant and animal matter rich in fats and proteins, freshwater marshes are the most productive ecosystems on Earth."

Charles Potter,
former Executive Director, North American Wildlife Foundation

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Doyle W. Stephens Scholarship Fund

\$10,000 Endowment Within Reach

The Doyle W. Stephens Scholarship Fund is up and almost running. The FRIENDS board set \$10,000 as an initial goal for an endowment. The earnings from this endowment will provide us with a potential \$500 every year to fund selected proposals from graduate and undergraduate students doing research on Great Salt Lake.

We are pleased to announce that we have so far raised \$6,000. This is tremendous! We're only \$4,000 short of our \$10,000 goal.

When we have the full \$10,000 in the bank, the Research Committee will post the proposal guidelines and application for the scholarship on our website. So we need your help NOW!

If you've been considering donating, please do so now. Help us begin rewarding research efforts that will continue to increase our understanding of Great Salt Lake and its system through this scholarship.

We would like to thank the following supporters for their generous contributions

R. Spencer Martin

Katrina Moser

Don Mabey

L. de Freitas

Genevieve Atwood

Ivan Weber

Ursula and Richard Pimental

Send your check to FRIENDS of Great Salt Lake,
PO Box 2655, Salt Lake City, Utah 84110-2655.

WE want to thank **The Tides Foundation, Xmission.com, Tooele Transcript Bulletin** and all who have donated to the **Transit First/Legacy Highway Lawsuit Campaign.**

SUBMITTING MATERIAL FOR PUBLICATION

WANTED: Original articles (historical, geological, geographical, biographical, political, fiction, poetry, etc.) or art work (sketches, photographs, etc.) which pertain to Great Salt Lake.

Mail or Deliver to: 1117 E. 600 S. Salt Lake City, UT 84102,

E-mail to: ldfreitas@earthlink.net. Please call 801-583-5593 to confirm receipt of e-mail or with any questions, suggestions, comments, or ideas.

Deadlines: Sept. 16 (Fall), Dec. 16 (Winter), Mar. 16 (Spring), and June 16 (Summer).

The Importance of Your Membership

The strength of FRIENDS comes from its members. All of you, with your individual contributions to Great Salt Lake awareness, help provide this organization with the momentum it needs to carry on its work for the lake. We all know about the tremendous challenges and opportunities for Great Salt Lake. Knowing those challenges and opportunities, FRIENDS' board of directors works hard to identify the best ways to respond to them. Some of our critical activities:

- The Legacy highway campaign
- Commenting on the Great Salt Lake Comprehensive Management Plan
- Educating the public at large about the importance of our big, salty neighbor
- Participating in public hearings and on committees that address development around the lake,

But without the support and participation of the membership, the work of the board is limited. General meetings, field trips, and volunteering are all ways that you can help build public recognition of FRIENDS and its mission. Through these means, you also become more knowledgeable about the lake, its science, its history, and our relationship to it.

One of the goals that the board continues to identify at its annual retreat is building membership. How can we develop a robust and active membership? We need to develop a critical mass of lake advocates, true friends of Great Salt Lake.

So, FRIENDS is asking you, our members, to keep active through participation and by keeping your membership current. Check your mailing label for your membership renewal due date. Renew promptly if you have expired. If you have questions about your membership, please call Lynn at 801-583-5593.

And do what you can to help recruit new members to strengthen our voice for Great Salt Lake protection and preservation. Consider a new year's gift to FRIENDS - recruit a new member. Pass on your newsletter to a friend or neighbor. Spread the news about who we are and how we are working for Great Salt Lake.

Big Thanks!

PS. Does this sound like your mother?

Lake Fact Answer:

25 - 30

Thank You to Our New and Renewed Members for Your Support

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Will Bagley
Peter H. DeLafosse
Deon Hilger
Sander Lazar
Rachel Quist
Rachel Robinson
John and Lynn Sperry
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