

FRIENDS of *Great Salt Lake*

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Volume 6 Number 2

Spring 2000



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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SPECIAL THANKS

Friends has received donations in memory of **Donald K. Irvine** who died at the start of the New Year. We are grateful for these gifts in Mr. Irvine's name and will be directing them to our education programs so that we can continue to work to develop the appreciation and awareness of Great Salt Lake that Donald Irvine lived by.

We would like to thank the following people.

John F. Dillon, Sara Sexton-Lewis, Charles Warner McAfee,
Verna Melville, Linda J. Oswald, Cynthia D. Shogan

Spring 2000 Calendar of Events

April 25	Tuesday	General Meeting 7pm Richard Denton, Water Quality Monitoring of GSL (p. 7)
May 4	Thursday	Board Meeting 7pm
May 23	Tuesday	General Meeting 7pm Tom Wharton, slideshow presentation (p. 6)
June 1	Thursday	Board Meeting 7pm
June 3	Saturday	Layton Wetlands Preserve Field Trip (p. 5)

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 1300 East in Salt Lake City. Board Meetings are held at the Salt Lake County Complex on State Street and 2100 South in Salt Lake City. Room 53009

Cover: *Willet* by Elizabeth Dewitte (MFA University of Utah)
Image is from a copperplate etching, part of a series based on Great Salt Lake imagery and residents.

President's Message: Beyond the Meander Line

- "Free Great Salt Lake and let it be a teacher."
- "Improve the image, understanding and relationship to the Lake."
- "Define the players and build coalitions."

The Third Great Salt Lake Issues Forum provided a notable beginning to the discussion of comprehensive watershed based thinking for Great Salt Lake. The Forum drew more than 110 participants and generated affirmative goals for the watershed. With the generosity of our funders, the experienced talent of our speakers and the interest of the participants, we will continue to work with these tools as we move forward in our watershed progress.

We chose the topic of comprehensive watershed-based restoration and protection for Great Salt Lake because we knew it was both controversial and complex. We also knew that it was time.

- "Make the public aware of the benefits of a healthy lake ecosystem."
- "Decide on specific objectives necessary to have a high quality, sustainable ecosystem."
- "Maintain a naturally regulated ecosystem based on historic fluctuation."

When Friends was organized in 1994, our commitment was to work toward the preservation and protection of the Great Salt Lake ecosystem because we recognized the inevitable impacts that continued growth and development within its watershed would have.

- "No new dams."
- "Understand the impact of air quality on Great Salt Lake and its watershed."
- "Educate the public on smart growth alternatives to preserve floodplain, uplands, wetlands, and riparian areas."

* (quotes are from breakout groups at GSL Issues Forum, February 2000)



We focused our talents and energy toward programs and opportunities to increase appreciation and awareness of the Lake, so that we could build a relationship between the Lake and its people. A relationship that would strengthen over time, for all of us, as we developed an understanding of the value and significance and responsibility of living together in this place.

- "Identify all the players."
- "Expand the coordination, communication, and planning among private and public groups."
- "As you go farther out in the watershed, which issues can you solve at that level?"

We considered the complexity of issues that surround the Lake.

- "Define and determine the impact of 1 million, 3 million, 5 million, 10 million, 15 million people on the watershed."
- "Develop a comprehensive plan for responsible enjoyment so the public can experience GSL"
- "Increase research budgets."

We heard examples from collaborative watershed groups from around the country. We considered what those experiences and efforts told us about the possibilities that exist in comprehensive watershed thinking and how we could learn from examples that are working.

- "Establish quantifiable goals."
- "Think long term but act short term."
- "Help people understand what the Lake is."

And now we must begin to combine our place, with our people, and our perspectives on how best to move forward toward comprehensive watershed-based restoration and protection for Great Salt Lake. And that's where the challenge begins.

On behalf of our Great Salt Lake and its myriad occupants, thanks for your support.

Lynn de Freitas

Q & A : The 3rd GSL Issues Forum
photo by A. Weller

Field Notes: Through Kays Creek

By Joel Peterson, Layton Wetlands Preserve Manager, The Nature Conservancy

The Hill Property, next to the Layton Wetlands Preserve and recently acquired by The Nature Conservancy, is a natural treasure by any standard. Quality wet meadow habitat that has been lost in so many areas near the Great Salt Lake still exists here. The special treat of seeing secretive flocks of lanky Sandhill cranes can be experienced in these meadows in the spring and summer. Snipe, long-billed curlews and voles are also commonly seen. Kays Creek provides a rare riparian habitat through the meadow, then braids into shallow rivulets, feeding its rich delta.

Joe and Dick Hill have spent decades consolidating properties and improving them for their cattle operation. It is their life's work which they have sold to the Conservancy and their concern that it "doesn't all go to trash" is understandable. It will be difficult for them to see their grazing management focus change to a habitat restoration focus. Just as the Hill brothers pieced together the farm, remembering what the land was like early last century, we are using the past to direct our future management. However, we must look further back for our vision of what this area must have been long ago.

Appreciating the full beauty of this landscape is easy to do with just a small amount of imagination. As I walk along the creek, I'm reminded of wild areas I once knew. But something here is different. Kays Creek has been altered by a flood control project in the 1970's when it was dredged and channelized. Willow seedlings have been trampled or grazed and the meadow shows signs of wear with each stand of weeds. The height of the meadow plants has been determined by bovine preference and does not necessarily cater to wildlife preference. You may have expected to hear the common yellowthroat in a willow along the bank of the creek but its scratchy song has not been heard in this area of the preserve. There is much to do with this property to restore its natural capacity.

I pull a few weeds out of the ground and begin to hypothesize. "As the fabric of our natural environment continually wears under human pressures, we slowly lose our collective memory of what our natural resources were once really like. There seems to be a successive memory loss between each generation. Humans are very adaptable to anthropogenic changes—so adaptable that we


appear to be successfully maintaining our natural areas while, almost imperceptibly, subtle degradation continues to occur. We continually re-define our concepts of "natural" and "wild", becoming more lenient with each iteration. Wild areas devolve into visitor parks. Biological diversity dwindles as nature is squeezed into increasingly smaller areas, becoming virtual zoos for common species."

I grab the teasel at the base and...yank! "You belong in Europe, little weed" I cynically mutter under my breath as I try to remember my train of thought. "Perhaps we lose our collective memories of natural history because we move around so much. Many of us came here from someplace else. We just haven't experienced what many places were once like in order to gauge what has been lost. I guess we're a lot like invasive weeds. Looking back, I hardly recognize my hometown when I visit--so many more houses and malls than when I grew up there playing in the empty fields at the edge of town. Folks who move there now think nothing of it. The current condition is normal. But they will never know that open landscape as I once did. Likewise, I can only dream of seeing the Salt Lake Valley as it was first described by our pioneering predecessors."

"Why have we forgotten? Where's our collective memory of natural places? How have we become so disconnected from our natural environment? Is it our consumptive society and quest for more and more? Why don't we adequately account for our future "natural capital" that we are spending on our unsustainable lifestyles today? We not only lose the ecosystem services our natural world provides such as water purification, air purification and climate stabilization, but we also lose the intrinsic value of that natural connection, which I argue is very important."

These rambling thoughts float through my mind and challenge every easy answer that I come up with as I gaze across this small piece of natural landscape toward the houses. "Our restoration work on the Hill property and our conservation work throughout the Great Salt Lake environment urges us to take a longer perspective of time, to remember and to teach. Also, it requires us to take a wider perspective of the spatial scales within which these ecosystems operate. Restoring Kays Creek, for example, requires us to look further back in time as well as further

Best Lake Tours!

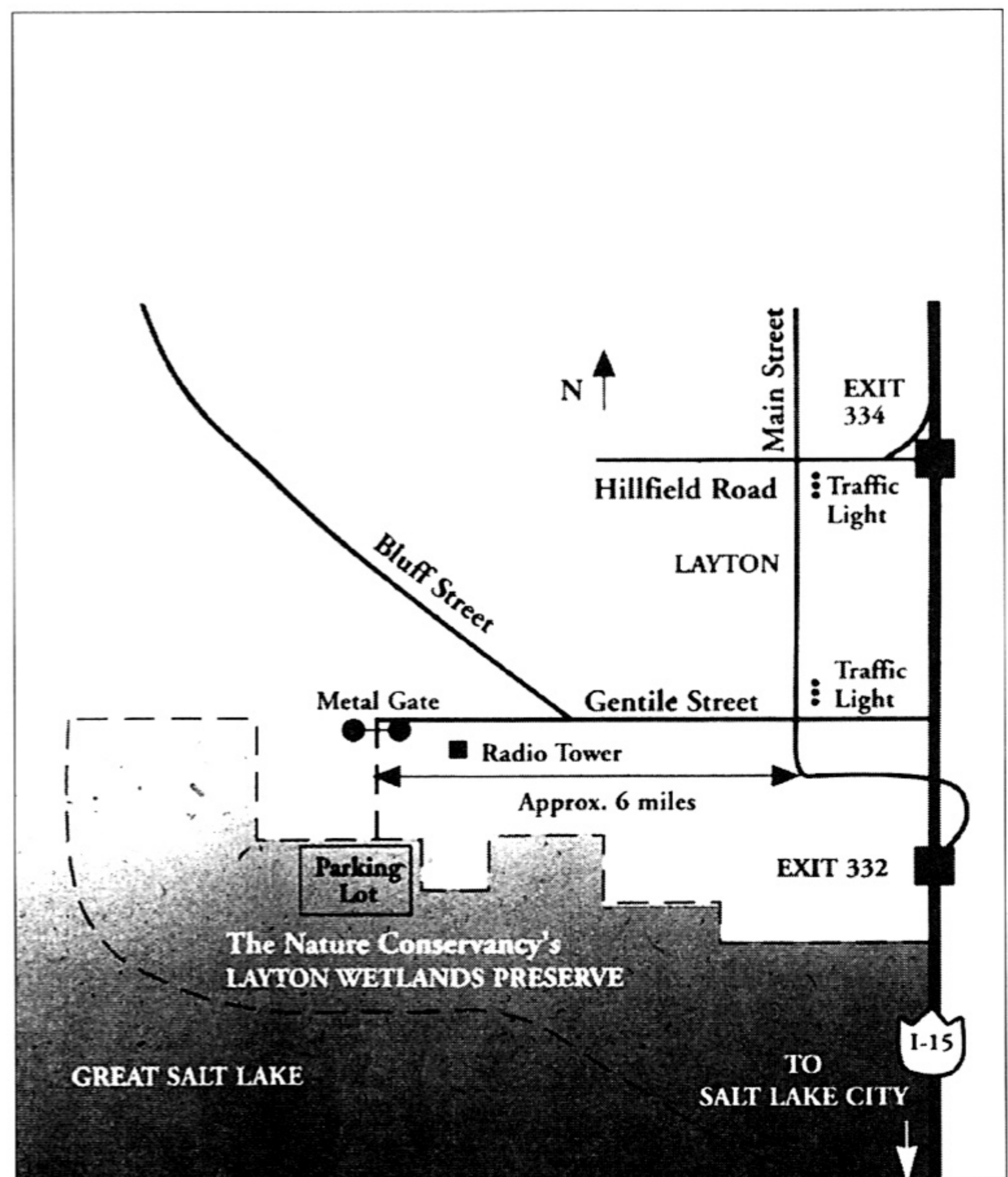
Salt Lake City Weekly has listed Friends of Great Salt Lake as **The Best Lake Tours**. “Friends of Great Salt Lake conduct yearly tours of that amazing natural phenomenon in our own back yard. While most people kind of cringe at the prospect of brine flies and heat, Friends actually offers educational and enjoyable boat and bike tours of the lake, with bird-watching and such to while away an afternoon.” (March 23, 2000 “Best of Utah” issue) 

Field Notes, *continued*

upstream to understand its function and to develop our restoration goals.”

I lean over to pick up a lost grocery bag, tug at another weed, and find more trash still. “As we witness human pressures slowly compromising the ecological integrity of places like the Great Salt Lake, we are issued a challenge: to develop an ethic that realizes that we will need our sustaining Earth forever. It’s not something to be discarded like the plastic wrap-getting in the way of what we want. If we take a ‘forever’ perspective, we can grow our food, build our houses, provide transportation and develop our economies in an enriching, sustainable way.”

Sitting down with the last weed of the day wilting in my glove, I sigh and hush my rambling pontifications and listen to the meadow, to the cattail and to a raven’s timeless “kwonk!” as it spies on me and meanders-by overhead. “Oh, what challenges we face!”, I screamed back to the raven, my voice swallowed by the sky. Sometimes it feels silly to worry about so much when I stop to watch and listen to the marsh. It seems to mock our contrived human complexities with its simple purpose and peace. What amazing changes our Earth has seen. Perhaps soon we’ll learn to heal...and hear the “witchety-witchety” song of the common yellowthroat again at Kays Creek. 🐦



••• **June 3** Layton Wetlands Preserve Field Trip. Come along to The Nature Conservancy’s Layton Wetlands Preserve for early morning birding and some light work. Accompanied by Preserve Manager, Joel Peterson, we will meet at the entrance to the Preserve at **8:00 AM** and finish up by **Noon**. A flyer will be mailed out in May with directions and more details.

“Linking Communities, Migratory Birds and Wetlands” (A Vinculacion de Comunidades, Aves Migratorias y Humedales)

The Great Salt Lake is not only important for nesting birds but also for birds staging for migration. The world's largest concentration of Wilson's Phalaropes half of the world's total population depends upon the Great Salt Lake and its wetlands. Similarly, about 250,000 American avocets depend on this habitat to raise young or re-fuel during migration from nesting areas to the north.

But exactly where do these birds go in the winter? Where have northern populations of birds come from that stop over at the Great Salt Lake? Are these birds successful in other wetlands of their international life? Shorebirds concentrate in large numbers at specific sites throughout their migratory route. They specialize in utilizing particular areas for their dietary and habitat needs. Some say it's like a chain, conservation of these birds is only as effective as its weakest link.

The Linking Communities, Migratory Birds and Wetlands Project was developed through the Western Hemispheric Shorebird Reserve Network (WHSRN) in an effort to develop local conservation strategies at these critical sites and to share experience and expertise between sites. Wetlands International also provides assistance for this program. The program identified three important wetland sites: Chaplain and Quill lakes area in Saskatchewan, Canada; the Great Salt Lake, Utah, USA; and the Marismas Nacionales area, Nayarit, Mexico.

In 1998 participants traveled to the Prairie Pothole region of Canada and in 1999 participants traveled to the Marismas Nacionales area of Mexico. Participants from Utah were represented by the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Friends of Great Salt Lake, National Audubon, and The Nature Conservancy of Utah. Both trips provided a setting for meeting international partners and developing conservation strategies between each important wetland site. The meetings helped partners to understand the community,

economy and environmental difficulties within that area on a first-hand basis. Now, we in Utah are making the final linkage by bringing people from Mexico and Canada to the Great Salt Lake during the Great Salt Lake Bird Festival in May of this year.

Our meeting goals include showcasing the Great Salt Lake as part of international shorebird migration routes, to update all three countries about various efforts that have occurred at the three sites, individually as well as working together, to examine the possibility of tying this linking effort into compatible ecotourism between WHSRN sites, and to ensure the long-term viability of the linking project by identifying specific on-going goals, objectives, tasks and timeframes that will help all three sites individually and collectively in the future.

We are actively fund-raising to cover airline, hotel and food costs of our international guests. We wish to host at least two folks from Canada, two to three folks from Mexico and one to three attendees from WHSRN or other out-of-state attendees. Please contact one of the representatives below if you could contribute any amount toward this important meeting.

The Linking Communities, Migratory Birds and Wetlands Project has strengthened the link between important bird sites and yielded concrete, near-term plans for implementing educational programs and information-sharing between the sites. Ideas and programs developed from this project will also be shared between each shorebird conservation site in the Western Hemispheric Shorebird Reserve Network. 🦋

Joel Peterson, The Nature Conservancy of Utah,
801-531-0999

Don Paul, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources,
801-721-9780

Lynn de Freitas, FOGSL, 801-582-1496

••• Join us on May 23 at the Sugarhouse Garden Center for a slideshow presentation by Tom Wharton from The Salt Lake Tribune. The title of Tom's presentation is: "Linking Communities On the Migration Route". Tom, along with Utah birders and biologists, visited important wetland areas along the Pacific coast of Mexico that are a part of the network of shorebird communities within the western hemisphere. These communities play an important role in providing the winter habitat of our migratory friends that migrate to Great Salt Lake and as far north as Canada.

April 25th General Meeting Guest Speaker: Richard Denton

'Monitoring Great Salt Lake Water Quality'

Richard will come and speak to us about monitoring GSL water quality.

The Division of Water Quality monitoring section monitors on a monthly basis about 250 stream and river sites, 210 industrial and municipal UPDES discharges, and 100 other special project sites. In addition, 175 lakes and reservoirs including the Great Salt Lake and 250 groundwater permit wells are sampled at various times. Various other emergency situations such as spills are investigated as they occur.

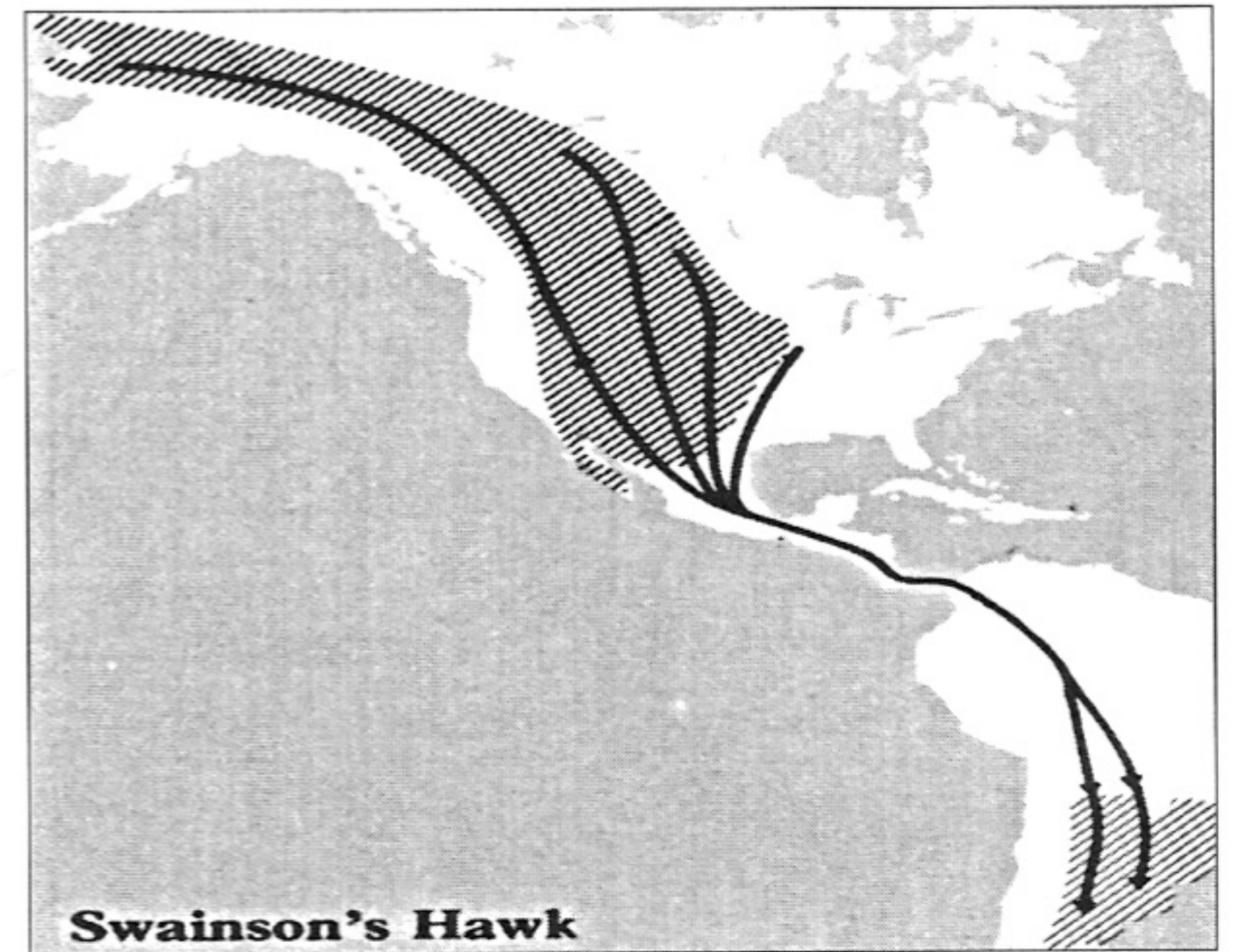
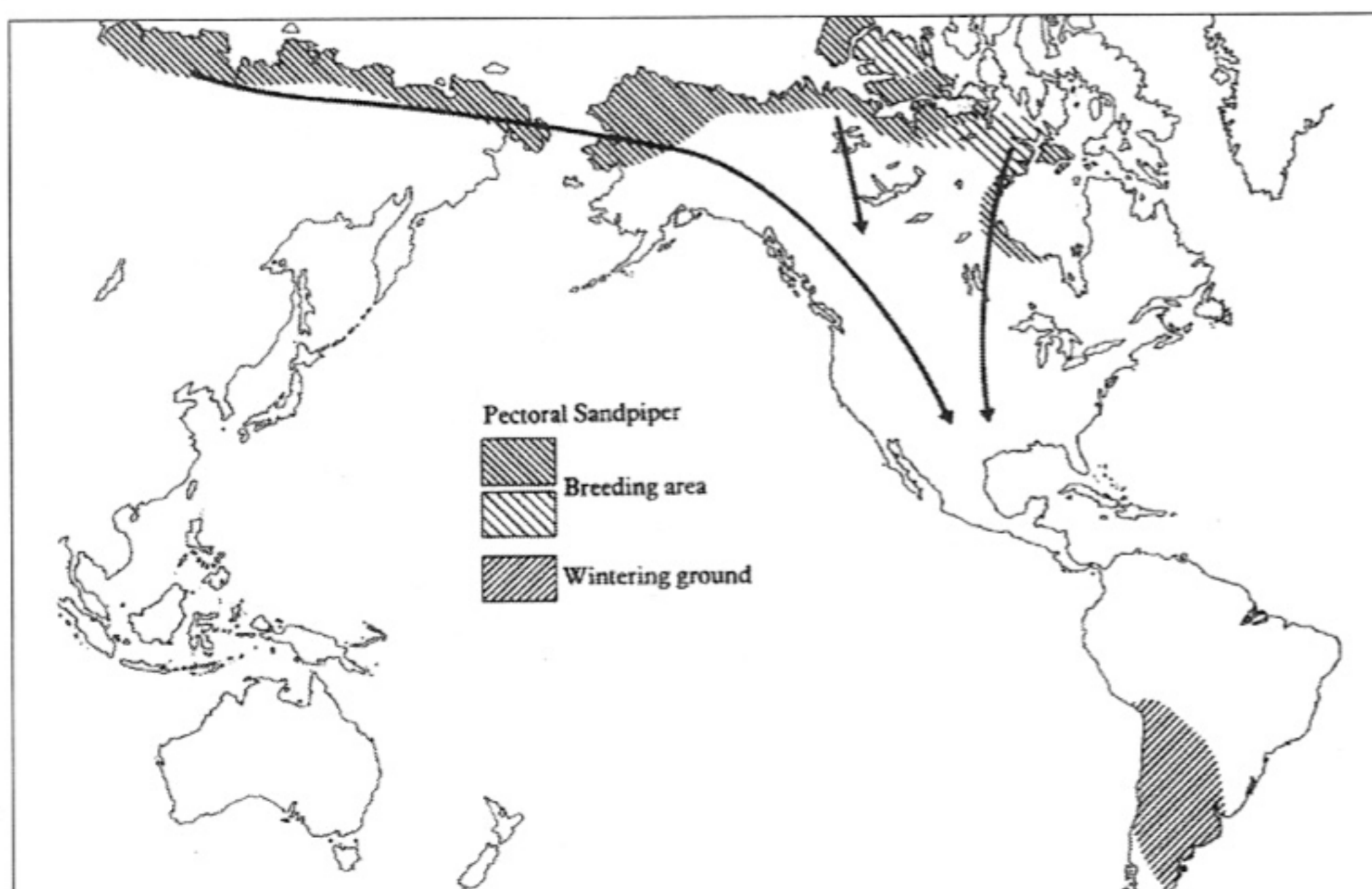
DWQ has been involved in monitoring the Great Salt Lake and the associated watersheds since 1975. It has a strong water chemistry data base on many sites and a strong macroinvertebrate data base at selected sites. During the mid 1980's the monitoring program was placed on hold. In 1993 in cooperation with Wally Gwynn with the Utah Geological Survey, and Davis County, DWQ began sampling the lake. Four sites in the north arm, six sites in the south arm, and one site in Farmington Bay have been sampled at various depth for major cations and anions, heavy metals, nitrites, and chlorophyll A. The north and south arms have been sampled in July and October while Farmington Bay is sampled monthly. Field observations such as the status of the railroad culverts, occurrence of bi-directional flow, and brine shrimp presence are recorded.

With the current interest in the lake and the management plan, DWQ and UGS (Utah Geological Survey) will begin quarterly sampling this spring at Great Salt Lake sites.

DWQ will also begin monitoring water chemistry and flows of water flowing through culverts and the breach in the north arm railroad causeway, railroad breach from Bear River Bay, Weber River inflows to the lake, and the culvert and breach in the Davis Causeway. This additional data will allow a nutrient budget to be calculated for the lake which can be directly correlated with lake biological productivity of algae and invertebrates. 🐦

Richard Denton graduated from the University of Utah in 1971 in Biology with emphasis in Limnology, Water Pollution and Fisheries. He has spent five years with an environmental consulting firm gathering data and writing environmental impact statements for fossil and nuclear power plants in the east and midwest on a variety of sites including the Great Lakes, the Finger Lakes of New York, the Mississippi and Ohio River drainages, and Chesapeake Bay. He has also spent twenty-five years with the State on the monitoring crews, planning coordinator for the State/EPA 208 programs for the Bear and Jordan Rivers, State/EPA Clean Lakes Coordinator, and monitoring section chief.

Migration
illustrations
from Bird
Migration
by Chris
Mead



“Canaries on the Rim: Living Downwind in the West”

Chip Ward’s Story

By Jeff Schmerker

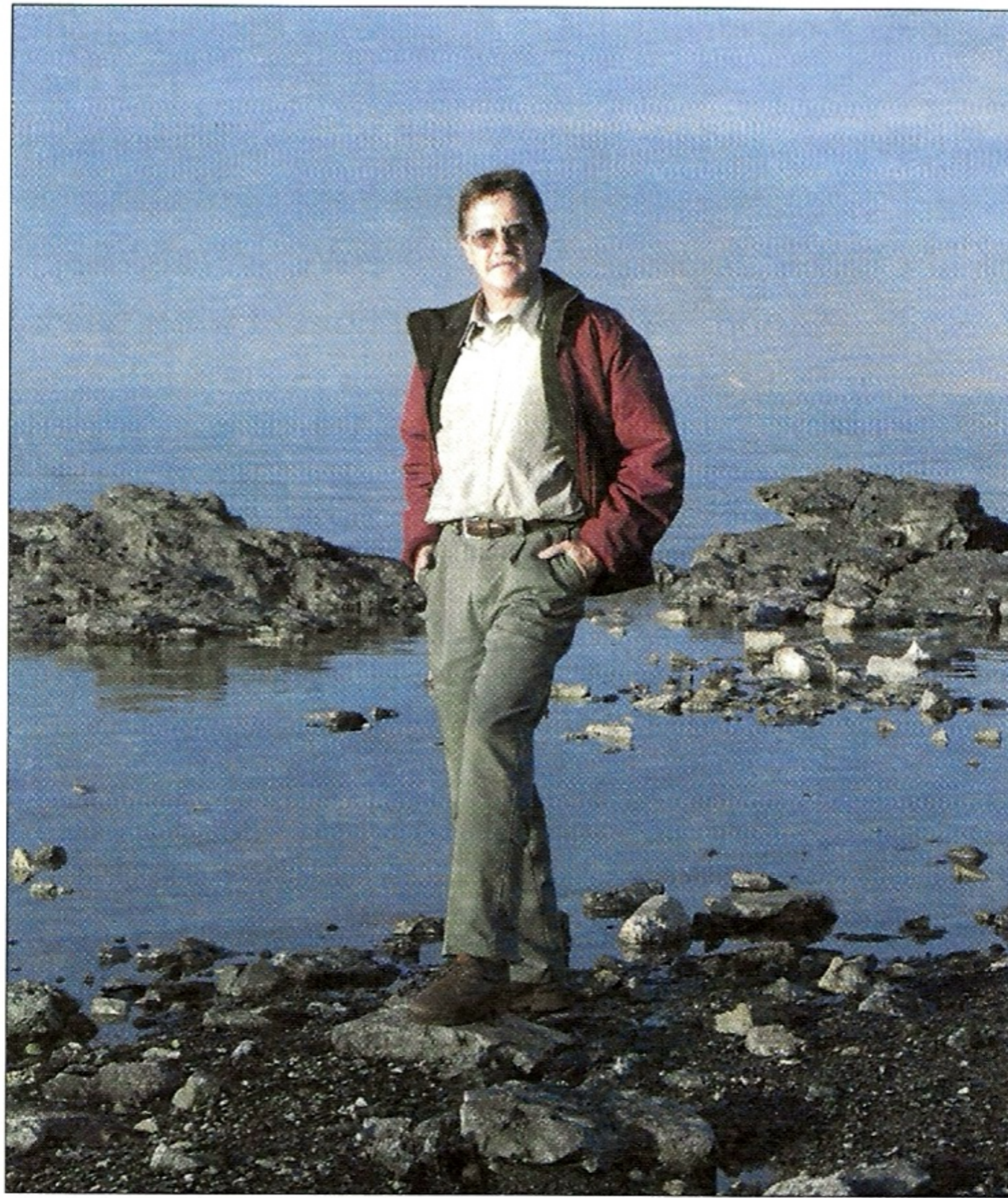
In a nation wrapped in the common plea of “Not in my backyard,” Tooele County seems to beg, “Why not in our backyard.” Industries that would never have a chance in other parts of the country often find a warm welcome in Tooele County, where the elected officials and residents seem to embrace the jobs these industries create and the fat paychecks they write for mitigation payoffs; money meant to offset the hazards of storing such materials.

While these industries, be they chemical weapons destruction or radioactive waste storage, do bring jobs and income to a county that is 75 percent federally owned and has an annual precipitation rate of less than 10 inches,

there are some definite drawbacks: a bad reputation, a cancer-riddled populace, a polluted landscape and, as Grantsville activist and librarian Chip Ward points out in his new book, ‘Canaries on the Rim,’ a community so mindlessly patriotic, vulnerable and defeated the very few seem worried about what is really going on.

But if the whole is greater than the sum of its parts, as Ward maintains throughout his easy-to-read, 238-page book, then what Tooele County gets from being home to waste and pollution-spewing industries is more than just paychecks and cancer. Rather, Ward suggests the whole Great Basin has become a massive experiment in the health and psychological effects of industrial pollution, “the most extensive environmental sacrifice zone in the nation on the rim of apocalyptic ecocide.”

“Canaries on the Rim: Living Downwind in the West” is the story of Chip Ward, an easterner who moved to Grantsville in the 1970s when the town, much as it does today, exuded a sense of small-town perfection. But Ward,



now a middle-aged family man, slowly discovered Grantsville was not exactly so bucolic. Bomb detonations regularly shook the wallboard. A huge magnesium plant north of town laid down a carpet of chlorine pollution so thick that eyes burned and watered. Mysterious biological experiments were conducted just over the mountains at Dugway. The Army unveiled a bizarre plan to fill the Great Basin with trains carrying MX missiles, ready to launch. And Tooele County, at first gradually and later with alarming ferocity, backed scheme after scheme to bring in hazardous,

radioactive, nuclear and chemical agent waste.

For Ward, always an activist, finding means to oppose the projects were easy. Getting his neighbors to speak along with him, however, proved difficult. Instead of outraged, he found, most of his neighbors had been reduced to “boiling frogs”; subjects who simmer in ever-warmer water which one day becomes so hot they die. But eventually Ward was able to build a solid if homespun network of opposition. The open detonations stopped; the Army dumped the MX missile plan. Along the way Ward developed a reputation as a straight shooter, someone who worked with facts, not emotions. He won respect even among those who disagreed with him.

Part of the reason Tooele County and the Great Basin has become home to such a staggering array of toxic industries is that locals know very well that land generates wealth, “but what we don’t understand is how land generates health,” Ward said in an interview. “That is important because we have been trading wealth for

Friends Welcomes New Board Member, Kristen Gilbert



My name is Kristen Gilbert and am a new Board Member of Friends of Great Salt Lake.

I am a graduate from the University of Utah in Environmental Studies, and currently pursuing a

Master Degree at Utah State University in Environmental Education. Currently, I am working for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge.

My title at the refuge is Outdoor Recreation Planner, which encompasses a number of different areas. I work closely with the Friends of Bear River Refuge, the non-profit group associated with the refuge. I also work with the Young Friends of

Bear River Refuge, an after school club at the local Intermediate School. With these students I go on field trips and do various environmental education activities. I am also planning the Great Bear River Festival which will be held on May 13, the week after the Great Salt Lake Bird Festival. I have also been working with other staff at the refuge on the planning of the new Bear River Refuge Education Center which will be a place where people can learn about the wildlife, wetlands and ecosystem of the Great Salt Lake.

My expertise is in environmental education, and I am currently working on the FOGSL education committee. I am very excited to be serving on the Board of Directors and hope to be of some help in protecting an important natural resource, The Great Salt Lake.

Chip Ward, *continued*

health. We probably are not as smart about how we live in deserts as we think we are.”

“In the deserts of the American West,” Ward wrote in the afterword, “you can find clear signs that key aspects of our culture are not viable and may even be suicidal. We seem to be learning that we cannot wage a war against ourselves and the next generations. Likewise, our economy as currently designed also generates toxic and nuclear waste that is persistent and cannot be abided by human communities, wildlife, or watersheds. If we burned and dumped it in the desert to buy time for industrial solutions and alternatives to form and take hold, our collective behavior would at least have a rationale. But if we burn and bury to avoid the implications of our behavior altogether, then the consequences will eventually be on your doorstep as well as mine. Killer Waste, coming to a backyard near you. If you don’t want to buy a ticket to that show, heed the canaries on the rim.”

In the interview, Ward acknowledged that this waste has to go somewhere, but cautioned against creating a place whose purpose was merely to encourage the creation of more waste. “I want people to start to understand that if you have waste that can not be tolerated in your backyard, our backyard is finite, and at some point it will be used up and if you still produce this waste you will have to deal with it. I don’t think the Great Basin should be an enabler for this toxic economy. You can not forever sweep this waste under the rug in someone else’s backyard.”

Ward maintains that life in Tooele County is good, and gently reminds skeptics that he fights for the West because he loves it. But, as he wrote early on in the book: “Once your eyes are open, it’s amazing what you see.”

Jeff Schmerker is a staff writer at the Tooele Transcript-Bulletin. This story was published there first in a slightly different form.

Opinion: Kennecott Utah Copper Corporation's Permitted Discharge to the Great Salt Lake

By Bruce Waddell, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Please see the discussion in Volume 6, Number 2, pages 11-13 of Friends by Jon Cherry concerning the review and renewal of a discharge permit for Kennecott Utah Copper (KUC) for a number of sites including the Great Salt Lake. The UPDES permit (Permit No. UT0000051) is out for review with comments due by April 26, 2000. New in the UPDES permit will be a discharge limit for selenium for the west C-7 (WC-7) Ditch. Since 1996, selenium has been regulated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at the WC-7 Ditch as part of a Cleanwater Act 404 permit. KUC's current UPDES permit for the WC-7 Ditch does not contain a limit for selenium discharges to the Great Salt Lake.

KUC's brief discussion was accurate about the process to acquire a permit. There appear to be some inconsistencies in the article, the data table for Outfall 012 on page 12 and the current permit application. Briefly, the current permit application calls for either the continued discharge through the WC-7 Ditch (Outfall 008) or diverting it to Outfall 012, with use of as much of this water as process water as the season allows, or treatment. The data table on page 12 does not represent conditions found under the continued discharge of Outfall 008 or its combination with Outfall 012. Greater elaboration is found in the permit application.

Currently there are seasonal differences in discharges to the Great Salt Lake. During winter substantially more water and metals including selenium are discharged. It is estimated that about 5000-10,000 gallons per minute of water is released into the Great Salt Lake from the WC-7 Ditch. The concentration of selenium is about 185 parts per billion. Included in this discharge are approximately 5,700 lb/yr as arsenic, 4,000 lb/yr copper and 2,600 lb/yr

selenium. The goal of KUC at this time is to reduce the load discharged about 30 percent, largely through recycling through the process and to some extent then, to the tailings pile.

There are no numeric criteria for the protection of aquatic life in the Great Salt Lake and at this time the TMDL process (Total Maximum Daily Load process, which determines the number of pounds that water can hold without harming aquatic life) does not address the Great Salt Lake. KUC has completed several toxicity studies on the effect levels of selenium on brine shrimp and algae. Because of the unique nature of the Great Salt Lake, standard test organisms sanctioned by EPA could not be used. As a result, there are questions as to whether the effects data generated by KUC are appropriate. Most of the concerns revolve around the effects of discharge of these metals on the aquatic life in the Lake and the birds which rely on the Lake. Is .054 mg/L a reasonable concentration for protection of aquatic life in the Great Salt Lake? What concerns should we have for the loads of metals being discharged to the Great Salt Lake? Where do selenium and the other elements sequester in the Great Salt Lake? How well do the bioassays address any of these questions?

Our goal is simply to assure that whatever is allowed in this discharge permit be protective long term of the ecology of the Great Salt Lake. The Lake has significant resources that depend on some level of quality in the water. We need to be sure that we take the opportunity offered during this discharge permit renewal to assure the case for the environment is heard and protected, and that we are satisfied as much as possible, that the issues have been adequately addressed and discussed. 🐦



Seafoam on the shore of Great Salt Lake.

photo by A. Weller

A Short History of Friends in Two Parts

Part One – In the Beginning: A Call to Binoculars

By Anna Weller

This Spring the last of the founding Board members leaves the FOGSL roster. Kathlyn Collins spoke about the beginnings of the organization, her reasons for getting involved and her leaving. As part of my research, I talked with Wayne Martinson, Joel and Elise Peterson, and Howard Gross. The interviews wove together to form not only the history of Friends' beginnings, but a portrait of an organization of people who care about the lake. Part Two will appear in the summer issue of the newsletter.

It all started with the question: "Why don't you start in Salt Lake what we've done here, in California?"

Set at a conference in California, summer of 1993, the Mono Lake Committee and Mono Lake Foundation had just emerged victorious from a hard fought battle to save a lake threatened with being drained dry. There, Mono Lake Committee members told Wayne, Joel, and Elise to look at the threats facing Great Salt Lake.

Mono Lake and Great Salt Lake are both saline/terminal sharing the same shorebird populations and similar concerns, but the fight to save the Great Salt Lake would not be as simple as that of Mono Lake. Faced with every kind of threat imaginable to an ecosystem and suffering daily, Great Salt Lake would die "a death by a thousand cuts", if action weren't taken. The preservation and protection of the Great Salt Lake would not be a one issue project, as it had for Mono Lake.

The opportunity to present this message came at the Utah Museum of Natural History's lecture series, "The Sagebrush Ocean: A Naturalist's Vision of the Great Basin" (Spring, 1994). Taking advantage of authors Terry Tempest Williams' and Ella Sorensen's and photographer John Telford's presentations, Wayne saw a perfect opportunity to present this idea to a large and interested audience and to put forth the 'call to binoculars'.

I spoke with Wayne about that meeting and experienced the enthusiasm. He told me the terrible story of an on-going battle, being fought as we spoke. He told me of the strangle-holds development puts on the lake. He described Great Salt Lake as a living being trying to breathe and suffocating. When he pulled out the maps to demonstrate, I understood the problem. As I listened to Wayne speak about the lake I began to understand what the maps actually show.

Kathlyn listened, and was infected. "I don't know what it was", she said, "but something just clicked. It was right."

Her interest in natural systems and the environment had taken her out doors and into the wilderness. There she realized that the people she bumped into already had

their idea of the wilderness before they even got out to experience it. She decided to go back to where those ideas were formulated, to take a career where she could combine her understanding of natural systems with her art, and provide something for these people.

"That's why I came out of the woods."

"Listening to Wayne's plea, I recognized the perfect opportunity to begin on the ground level and create something," Kathlyn said. "And the energy in the room, too, was a big part of it. It was the right time, ripe, and I recognized that."

The first organized meeting of Friends of Great Salt Lake was April 21, 1994, at the Sugarhouse Garden Center. John Hollenhorst, from KSL television station, had heard the beginnings of this new organization. He was eager to interview Wayne and Elise and let them pitch the occasion.

The meeting was a success. Lots of people were ready to organize for Great Salt Lake. The simple question, "What does the Great Salt Lake mean to you?" opened the flood-gates of answers coming from people who wanted to be part of the effort. Groundwork issues were discussed, board positions were filled and the organization's mission came forth.

I spoke with Kathlyn about the early days of the organization. "The development of the board structure was definitely a learning process, trial and error. We simply tried to find the organizational structure that worked best." The first and only office of Friends was a donated space that instantly was filled with give-a-ways. Elise, Joel and Kathlyn got the furniture from Fish and Wildlife Service, a whole room of old government furniture donations. They backed up the truck and loaded it up. Somebody donated a computer, and an old Xerox (a very slow, single page copier). "We had no budget. It was great!"

Although the office space was only temporary and after a year everything had to go into storage, the founding aunts and uncles continued to move forward; grounded by a mission that promised to preserve and protect the Great Salt Lake ecosystem through education, research and advocacy. 🐾

Bird Fest

2nd Annual Celebration of the Birds of Great Salt Lake



Dunlins by Elizabeth Dewitte

Some 2,000 bird-lovers attended the first-ever Great Salt Lake Bird Festival at the Davis County Fairgrounds on May 5 through the 13th, 1999. Field trips, workshops, bird demonstrations, children's activities, displays, vendors, local artists, and live entertainment drew attendees to a grand celebration of the Great Salt Lake and the wildlife that live there.

The festival is coming up once again on May 5th through the 13th of 2000 for our 2nd annual celebration of the birds of the Great Salt Lake. Contact Davis County Tourism for more information.

Saturday, May 6th, 2000 Schedule of Events

**Events marked with an asterisk require a fee and preregistration.*

8:00 - 9:30 AM Bulrush, Bugs, and Birds*; Let's Get Muddy (youth fieldtrip)

8:00 - 11:00 AM Expert Birding*; Birding for Beginners*; Farmington Bay Field Trip *

9:00 - 10:00 AM Wildlife "E.R."

9:00 - 11:00 AM Boy Scout Merit Badge Program w/ Conservation Officer

10:00 - 11:00 AM The Birds of Great Salt Lake; Birds for Kids and Parents, Too

1:00 - 4:00 PM Expert Birding*; Beginner Birding *; Wetlands, Who Needs Em'?!*; Wildlife Photography*;

Pete Dunne, Book Signing; Bus and Birds: Farmington Bay Field Trip*

1:00 - 5:00 PM Bus and Birds: Antelope Island Field Trip *

2:00 - 3:00 PM Great Salt Lake Ecology

2:00 - 3:30 PM Bulrush, Bugs, and Birds*; Let's Get Muddy (youth fieldtrip)

3:00 - 4:00 PM Backyard Bird Feeding and Housing

6:30 PM International Dinner* (includes welcome for international guests and Pete Dunne from Cape May Bird Observatory, Keynote Speaker)

Sunday, May 7th, 2000 "Behind the Gates" Fieldtrips

** All events below require a fee and preregistration. 1-801-451-3286*

All trips below load at 6:30 AM and leave at 7:00 AM from the Davis County Fair Grounds. (see map)

6:30 AM - 1:00 PM Antelope Island

6:30 AM - 2:00 PM South Shore (The Audubon Society Gilmor Sanctuary, Kennecott Copper Inland Sea Shorebird Reserve and the Ambassador Duck Club)

6:30 AM - 2:00 PM Ogden Bay Waterfowl Management Area

6:30 AM - 3:00 PM Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge

Midweek Events

Monday, May 8th

7:00 AM Birding with Keith Evans at Pineview Reservoir. See Yellow-Breasted Chats, Gray Catbirds, and others.
Meet at the Ogden Nature Center, 966 West 12th Street, Ogden, UT.

Tuesday, May 9th

6:00 AM Birding with Jack Rensel. See Blue Grouse and other forest birds.
Meet at the Ogden Nature Center, 966 West 12th Street, Ogden, UT.

Wednesday, May 10th

7:00 AM Birding with Dennis Shirley in Utah County. See Pinyon Jays, Juniper Titmouse, Long-eared Owl, Grey Flycatcher, Black-throated Grey Warbler, Bewick's Wren, Bush Tit, and others.
Meet at the Springville DWR office at 1115 North Main, St., Springville, UT.

8:00 AM Birding with Don Paul at Antelope Island. See Chukars, Burrowing Owls, Long-billed Curlew, Loggerhead Shrike, and others.
Meet at the causeway entrance to Antelope Island, 7 miles west of I-15 from exit #335, Syracuse, UT.

Thursday, May 11th

7:00 AM Birding with John Bellmon in Box Elder County. See Sharp-tailed Grouse, Grey Partridge, Sage Grouse, Grasshopper Sparrow, Ferruginous Hawk, Short-eared Owl, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Say's Phoebe, and more.
Meet at Ogden Nature Center, 966 West 12th Street, Ogden, UT.

Friday, May 12th

7:00 AM Birding with Arnold Smith at Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge. See American Avocet, Black-necked Stilt, Wilson's Phalarope, Cinnamon Teal, and much more.
Meet at Ogden Nature Center, 966 West 12th Street, Ogden, UT.

← For more information, please visit www.greatsaltlakebirdfest.com ← ←

Bear River Bird Festival

Wildlife Photography • Behind the gates Train Tours of the refuge • Specialized Tours
• Auto Tour Route with spotting scope stations • Wildlife Sketching

The Bear River Bird Festival will be held **Saturday May 13**, at the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge. The Refuge is located 50 miles north of Salt Lake City and 15 miles west of Brigham City at the Forest Street Exit (366). The access road is 15 miles long, and rather bumpy so if possible bring a high clearance vehicle. There may be water on the road, but if you go slow you shouldn't have any problems.

The days events start at **7:00 AM** in Brigham City with the Bird Feeder Breakfast sponsored by the Brigham City Chamber of Commerce. The Breakfast

will be held at Pioneer Park in Brigham City. The park is located east off the Forest Street exit, at 800 West Forest Street.

After the breakfast head out to the refuge to enjoy a number of walking and biking tours starting at **8:30 AM**. Sign up for Beginning Birding, or a Biking Tour of Refuge (Bring Your Own Bike).

10:00 AM -3:00 PM Interactive displays for Kids and adults about archeology, paleontology, outdoor photography, hunting and birds.

Concessions are sponsored by Knights of Columbus

HOW TO REACH US

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RECYCLE ALUMINUM CANS FOR FRIENDS (please note new drop-off location)

Please consider donating aluminum cans to Friends.

Can donations will be accepted at 1170 East Warnock Ave (2490 South). All proceeds will go to the FOGSL general fund. Cans must be contained in plastic garbage bags. If you have cans to donate, but can't transport them, please call Lindsey and arrangements will be made for pick-up.

If you don't recycle aluminum, please consider starting!! This will greatly benefit Friends. Volunteers are needed for accepting aluminum cans in your neighborhood and/or taking cans to the recycling center.

Questions, please call Lindsey at 801/485-7307.

SUBMITTING MATERIAL FOR PUBLICATION

1. **What to submit:** original articles (historical, geological, geographical, biographical, political, fiction, poetry, etc.) or art work (sketches, photographs, etc.) which pertain to Great Salt Lake.
2. **Submitting material:** Mail or deliver to 1117 E. 600 S. Salt Lake City, UT 84102. Or e-mail to: ldefreitas@earthlink.net
3. **Please call 801/583-5593** to confirm receipt of e-mail or with any other questions, suggestions, comments, or ideas.
4. **Deadlines:** The deadlines for submittals are Sept. 16 (Fall), Dec. 16 (Winter), Mar. 16 (Spring), and June 16 (Summer).

Friends of Great Salt Lake wants to thank the following businesses for their generous support: **Xmission.com** for donation of services to support us on the World Wide Web and **Kinko's University Branch, Graphic Images, and Tooele Transcript Bulletin** for supporting our printing needs.

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Ann and Gale Dick
The Walbridge Fund
Rick Ford and Sarah George
Juniata K. Hopkins
Wayne Martinson
The Scott W. and Betsy D. Thornton Family Foundation

Thank You to Our New and Renewed Members for Your Support

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Membership Notice

We are transitioning our membership database into new hands. As a result, we haven't been able to send out renewal notices to you, our loyal supporters, since December 1999.

Would you take a moment to check the mailing label on your last newsletter and note the date of renewal for your membership listed at the bottom? Using that as your guide, please take the initiative to renew your membership with Friends if you are now expired? Instructions are listed on the back cover of the newsletter. If you have a question about your membership, please call Lynn at 801-583-5593. **Big Thanks!**



*Photo of champagne toast at GSL
Marina at Board Retreat
photo by Ann Floor*



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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"

In addition to my dues,
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