

# Annual Banquet

Melissa Leasia February 4, 2020 :

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The Evergreen Audubon Banquet was a wonderful success, with more than 70 people attending this year. The social hall at Evergreen Christian Church was transformed into an elegant dining room with lovely tables, a generous beer and wine bar, and great food! Judging from the noise level, members and guests enjoyed seeing catching up with each other and everyone had a good time.

Kathy Madison, the outgoing President, was disappointed that she couldn't attend at the last minute but passed the gavel virtually to Brad Andres, who served as Master of Ceremonies. The first order of business was to present your new board for 2020, including two new Board members (\*) who received a special welcome!

## 2020 Officers

- President: Brad Andres
- Secretary: Lisa Wald
- Treasurer: Rachel Hutchison

## 2020 Directors

- Bird Monitoring: Chuck Aid
- Communications: Melissa Leasia
- Conservation: JoAnn Hackos
- Development: Kathy Madison
- Education: Ed Furlong
- Social Events: Stephanie Gomolka\*
- At Large: Ann Dodson, Dwight Souder, Susan Toussaint,\* and Larry White

Brad then presented the President's awards for 2019, on Kathy's behalf. The highly coveted Dipper awards went to Megan Fuse, Ann Dodson, and Dick Prickett.



Megan, who just stepped-down as social director after three years, has been one of those behind the scenes go-getters, organizing the annual picnics, Tally-Rally, Dawn Chorus, chapter meeting greeters and snackers and of course, the annual banquets. A special thank for all she did this year, especially making a special trip to Kathy's house to pick-up linens and wine glasses and coordinating all the setup & cleanup! We have been thrilled to have Megan as part of the board. Having three children involved in the Nature Center Programs, Megan has provided us with some great insights. Megan promises to stay involved with Evergreen Audubon, which we couldn't be more pleased about!



Ann Dodson & Brad Andres

Ann Dodson has been Development Chair for six years and is finally ready for a break. Under Ann's leadership, we have increased not only our annual fund-raising dollars but our visibility in the community. She formalized the corporate sponsorship program, helped spearhead the establishment of our endowment fund, and found several fun new ways to raise money, like the Dam Duck Derby & the Shadow Mountain Gallery Open House. She's been an amazing trooper in soliciting silent auction donations and of course, organizing the most profitable Bashes to date!



Dick Prickett & Brad Andres

Dick Prickett, a long-time Audubon member, has been organizing Evergreen Audubon's participation in Triple-By-Pass bike event for several years now. He painstakingly and meticulously scopes our assigned marshal duties weeks before the event to make sure that our volunteers are safe and efficient. Because of his efforts, we have been recently been assigned the premier location of the Georgetown Railroad parking, where there is plenty of shade and clean bathrooms! It's not just a fun day: Evergreen Audubon receives a nice check from TeamEvergreen, every year for helping out.

Dina Baker, Evergreen Nature Center, presented the Nature Center Volunteer awards for 2019. With several new volunteers and dozens of returnees, these awards were highly competitive this year! Kathy Madison received The Superwoman Award for logging the most volunteer hours at the Nature Center and for always saving the day! We had several crunch times when the Nature Center was open and we also had camps or other programs running, and also when Dina broke her foot, but Kathy always came to the rescue!

Susan Toussaint, a new volunteer this past season, received the Renaissance Woman Award. It seems that Susan can do anything and is willing to do everything. She not only jumped right in, volunteering to help with outreach programs, field trips, after school programs, and camps, she volunteered the Nature Center and showed up to for her first Packing Day! And, if that's not enough, we are delighted to welcome Susan as a new board member!



## Andrew Stevens & Dina Baker

Finally, Dina presented Andrew Stevens with the Nature Center's Eager Beaver Award. Even though he didn't find out about Evergreen Nature Center until mid-season, he jumped right in, volunteering whenever he could and charming guests and fellow volunteers alike with his outgoing personality and delightful accent. He immediately began helping out at various events, attended field trips, and showed up ready to work hard on Packing Day. Appropriately enough, Eager Andrew and his wife are providing a winter home for the Nature Center's resident Beaver mount.

Brad then took back the microphone to announce Best Bird, spotted initially by Kristine Toth, who was thrilled to hear then spy a pair of Trumpeter Swans while counting at the Elk Management during the Christmas Bird Count. Other team members who enjoyed this wonderful sight were Mark Meremonte, Bud Weare, Cindy Barge, and Haszie Taylor.

It took many volunteers to make the evening successful. Our most heartfelt THANKS go to Megan Fuse, who did much of the planning and organizing, and her entire family, including husband Chris, and children Oliver and Francesca Fuse. The rest of the crew included Dwight Souder, Tim Leake, Ann Dodson, Ed Dodson, Katie Thompson, Ed Furlong, Heather Johnson, Brad Andres, Larry White, Chris Pfaff, Melissa Leasia, Chuck Aid, Judy Blake, Dan Metzler, Nancy Metzler, John Burghardt, Lisa Wald, Dave Wald, Clarissa Boggs-Blake, Brianna Huffman, and Rachel Hutchison. Did we miss anyone? Let us know so we can give you the thanks you deserve!

There were also donations! Marcia and Tracy Boyd supplied the ice; Kathy Madison and Steve Garmin provided the wine glasses, napkins, tablecloths, water pitchers and more; and Chris and Megan Fuse donated the spectacular selection of wine.

Finally, we learned from Chris Pfaff, who managed the recycling for the event, that 38 pounds of compostables and recyclable materials were collected. Thank you, Chris.