

2020 Board

Tom Lawler, President tjlawler@crestviewcable.com



Tom was elected to the Board in 2015 and is serving his 3rd year as President. He has lived in Central Oregon for over 11 years. In that time he has slowly become involved in birding activities in the area. Not only has his love for birds grown in these years but also his desire to get bird activities going in southern Deschutes county. In the last few years he started leading Saturday bird walks at the Sunriver Nature Center most weeks March thru October. These bird walks are a popular activity in this resort area. He has taught bird watching classes at La Pine Parks and Rec and has been requested to work with home-schooled children teaching them the skills of bird watching. He has also led ECAS field trips and at the Dean Hale Woodpecker Festival. He has also participated in Christmas Bird Counts, Spring and Fall Migration Counts and Winter raptor surveys in Lake County. He regularly visits Cabin Lake to clean the water bowls and pick up trash. He has become project leader for that site and its improvements. In addition he also handles birds at Sunriver Nature Center and gives bird talks about birds-of-prey. Tom is the liaison to the ECAS Conservation Committee and is leading many

Gordon Wetzel Vice-President gordonwetzel@gmail.com



Gordon recently moved to Bend from Anchorage, Alaska, his home for the past 40 years. Seasonal migrations were getting too long so he and his wife Linda got up and moved. Gordon worked as an engineer in the oil industry for BP until 2000 when he retired. He then pursued other interests including endurance sports and coaching cross country skiing. He served on the Board of the Nordic Skiing Association of Anchorage (NSAA) for 6 years, 4 years as president. NSAA is a non-profit that maintains trails and manages programs to promote Nordic skiing.

Birding has been an evolving interest. He always was interested in the natural world and outdoor activities. After attending the Kachemak Bay Shorebird Festival in Homer, Alaska he started developing a birding itch. Birding gets one in touch with the

environment and helps to develop an understanding of ecology and the need for conservation. Also, as his running game turned to walking, it made sense to carry binoculars and a camera and take time to smell the roses.

As a Board member of ECAS, Gordon hopes to get involved in conservation efforts in Central Oregon and to share his love of the outdoors.

Diane Burgess, Secretary dgburgess54@gmail.com



My interest in birding began in 2007 while visiting a friend in Jekyll Island, Georgia. She suggested we take a guided birding tour. I saw so many beautiful birds in the woods, wetlands, and on the beach. My favorites were the Roseate Spoonbill, Black Skimmer, Wood Stork, and Anhinga. I joined ECAS after moving to Bend in 2012. I took outdoor recreation COCC classes led by Damian Fagan. During the snowshoeing outings, he always pointed out the birds. In February, I joined his birding trip to Klamath Falls. We saw so many waterfowl and raptors. I knew then that I wanted to go birding on a regular basis. Through regular outings with Wednesday Birders, I have learned a lot about birds and enjoyed the camaraderie of birders.

Terri Hyde, Treasurer terri.hyde@yahoo.com



Terri was elected to the Board in 2014 and is serving her 3rd year as Treasurer after volunteering on the Finance Committee for several years. She became interested in nature and conservation as a child growing up on a South Dakota ranch located in the

Missouri flyway.

In Terri's words: "I would go with my father in the early-summer dawn to watch the prairie chickens dance, and with my mother to meetings to oppose (unsuccessfully) the Big Bend Dam on the Missouri River."

Terri was a tax lawyer with a Washington DC law firm (now WilmerHale) for more than 30 years where her practice included representation of tax-exempt organizations and numerous pro bono projects for conservation organizations. She received an introductory course in bird watching on a World Wildlife Fund trip to Belize and Costa Rica in 1987, and bird watching has been a source of enjoyment since that time. Terri moved to Bend in 2010 and is now retired from her law firm.

Carolyn Rochelle csrochelle62@gmail.com



For many years I have enjoyed observing and caring for the native birds that call Oregon and Washington home. Since childhood, birds have been a part of my life. I enjoyed many outings with the Tahoma Audubon Society in Tacoma, Washington.

Five years ago I was introduced to ECAS as a result of monitoring a local Bluebird trail. I am looking forward to my membership on the board and the opportunity to contribute to ECAS. An added plus is that "birders" are some of the nicest people I know.

Bob Sizoo thebobsizoo@gmail.com



Prior to moving to Central Oregon in 2013, I lived for 45 years in Humboldt County, 60 miles south of the Oregon border in the evil state. Following 15-years doing jobs that required lots of manual effort but left plenty of time for birding, I spent 26 of years in education: 10 years teaching sixth grade in Eureka, and the rest working on the Humboldt State University campus, at various times as a program coordinator, co-director of the Redwood Writing Project, lecturer, and student-teacher supervisor. I was a member of the Redwood Region Audubon Society since the early 70's, and volunteered in the 1980's as a docent at the Arcata Marsh Project, one of the earliest wetlands in the country constructed to provide tertiary sewage treatment. It's the grandpa to the Crooked River Wetlands. I live in Tumalo with my wife, three horses, two (indoor) cats, and wide open skies that took some getting used to after being hemmed-in by redwoods for four decades.

Garrett Durheim gdurheim@gmail.com



I was born and raised here in central Oregon and love everything about our little piece of paradise. I started birdwatching in high school and was immediately hooked. Now I never leave the house without binoculars! The wonderful folks in our birdwatching community have taught me so much about the beauty in our backyard, and I am excited to help spread that knowledge and give back to nature. My favorite bird in central Oregon is the Belted Kingfisher, but I do have a special place in my heart for woodpeckers as well.

Jan Rising janrising58@gmail.com



I served as a Board member for 2 consecutive 3 year terms from 2011 through 2016. Much of that previous Board time was spent as Treasurer.

After retiring from a 23 year Chiropractic career near Boston, MA, I moved to Bend in 2006. The weekend after moving to Bend, I attended my first birding field trip with East Cascades Bird Conservancy (ECBC) at Calliope Crossing and immediately discovered the rich resource of excellent birders and birding habitat in central Oregon.

Growing up in Tucson AZ, I enjoyed the common yard birds such as Gila Woodpecker, Mourning Dove, Northern Cardinal, Pyrrhuloxia, Verdin and hummingbirds. But my birding interest really solidified while living in New England when I discovered warblers at Mt Auburn Cemetery. Once introduced to warblers, I was never able to sleep past 5am during the Spring.

Introducing new birders to the avian life around them is very rewarding and I have volunteered with Deschutes Land Trust as a bird tour leader at some of their properties for the past 6 years, as well as leading a few birding tours for ECAS.

I am a member of the ECAS Membership Committee and have been the Chair of that committee since 2009.

It is an honor for me to be associated with ECAS and to actively participate in helping ECAS continue to provide educational and fun activities which help support the birds that live in or pass through our region every year.

Amanda Accamando amanda@sunrivenaturecenter.org



Recently appointed to the ECAS Board, Amanda joined Sunriver Nature Center as its manager in August, 2017. She previously lived in Littleton,

Colorado, where she worked as the education and volunteer manager for the Hudson Gardens & Event Center. The 30-acre facility in the Denver suburb is known for its gardens, picnic areas, walking trails and wildlife. For more than 15 years, Amanda developed and managed science education and outreach programs for a variety of cultural institutions. She has a bachelor of science degree from State University of New York, and a masters degree in biology from Louisiana State University.