

In the Flow

Thanks to all who returned their 2001 evaluations. For those who haven't, we'd still like them!



NOVEMBER 2001

SET THE ALARM FOR TOMORROW! HELP CLEAN UP VALLEY CREEK ON NOV. 10!

The Valley Creek Restoration project, organized by Citizen-At-Large Jeff Bohman, is really gaining momentum and community interest. This group keeps getting closer to the vision of a restored creek and recreation area, starting right in downtown Port Angeles and going all the way up into Olympic National Park! It's a big, exciting project that will have lots of individual projects along the way. You can start getting your hands dirty at the Port Angeles Rotary Club's Valley Creek cleanup project from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. this Saturday, November 10. Come lend a hand if you can—just look for one of the cleanup coordinators along Valley Street between 5th Street and the gate at 11th Street.

COME TO OUR DINNER & CLAMBAKE ON DEC. 3!!

Remember last year's end-of-year "extravaganza," when we managed to squeeze \$35 out of the County budget to buy pizza, which lasted all of seven minutes? Well, here's good news: part of our Bullitt grant is funding this year's end-of-year celebration, so we're able to cater it in style. In addition, Pete Becker (part-time Streamkeeper and full-time shellfish grower) has agreed to do a "macroinvertebrate" bake that won't require Arthur to identify! Along with feasting and festing, we'll also discuss the highs and lows of last year and plan for 2002. For more info, see attached flyer, suitable for posting...

**** STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING ** MONDAY, DEC. 3 ** 6:00-9:00 P.M.****

COUNTY COURTHOUSE, COMMISSIONER'S MEETING ROOMDINNER PROVIDED**

Family and friends welcome! Ed and Jess will submit a proposal for Streamkeepers' 2002 workscope for discussion and vote. Plus some basic celebration and loads of good food.

RSVP BY NOV. 21 TO JESS OR ED AT 360-417-2281.

P.S. If you have any suggestions for the catered meal, call Jess a.s.a.p.

WHAT ABOUT THOSE WEEDS?

Many of you have expressed frustration about seeing reaches become choked with noxious weeds over last few years of monitoring. You asked some good questions, and we took them to Cathy Lucero, the County's Noxious Weed Coordinator. She has offered to give an evening seminar (in 2002) on noxious weed invasions, to explore the issue further, and she's suggested further partnering between Streamkeepers, the Weed Board, and Clallam Conservation District to develop specific actions for improving your monitoring reaches. She's also written the following article to help you better understand the situation and possible approaches. As she points out, discouraging data can be a GOOD thing, because it can generate the momentum to get something done!

The Canary That Has Us Singing the Blues - by Cathy Lucero

Feeling frustrated about reed canary grass in the stream? Like a new word in your vocabulary, reed canary grass is probably popping up everywhere you turn. Whether intentionally introduced (to stabilize banks) or accidentally, this plant can dominate riparian areas so thoroughly that it displaces native vegetation, reduces wildlife habitat, impedes water flow, and unchecked, can drastically alter the structure and function of the stream channel. Although there is confusion over whether reed canary grass has native roots, most believe the variety that is wreaking such havoc with small streams around the Northwest is one that hails from Norway or Sweden and therefore spreads without any of the normal environmental checks and balances that tend to keep native plant species from running amok.

How can reed canary grass be controlled? Ultimately, the most effective long-term solution is to develop a healthy, natural riparian corridor that can shade canary grass into submission. While it may continue to persist, it will no longer pose a threat. Not only will this method help repel noxious invaders, it complements efforts to improve other water quality indicators, such as temperature, turbidity, and invertebrate populations. However, there are a variety of intermediate methods available, depending on the size and topography of the affected area. They include digging small clumps or smothering them with fabric or plastic barriers and mulch, frequent mowing or intense grazing for suppression of larger patches, and finally, as a last resort for really large reaches, applying chemicals under permit as part of an integrated restoration plan to establish desirable vegetation. Unfortunately, this last, but often very effective tool, may not be available to us for several years due to a recent court decision.

So what to do about this monster? In the short term, assembling baseline data is essential to creating an effective long-term strategy. This is where the activities of the Streamkeepers are **invaluable**. As our "weed spies on the water," you help us pinpoint the location and strength of the "enemy" and document its impact on our streams over time. Your activities and input may also provide the necessary momentum to inspire restoration projects and create partnerships. Also, removing new or small infestations when you see them is an important preventative measure far more effective than waiting for a crisis.

So don't lose heart—we continue to make slow but steady progress. The important work you do today will "open the field" for healthier streams tomorrow!

THE MARVELOUS WORLD OF MONITORING

Database nearing fruition

If all goes well, you'll have your first electronically-generated quarterly data report after the January session. Our outgoing database contractor, Erran Sharpe, has gotten our database structure pretty much in place; our incoming database contractor, Streamkeeper Walt Johnson, will be cleaning up some rough spots and setting up data-reporting routines. We expect a fairly simple quarterly report to be included along with the newsletter. A more comprehensive report summarizing all of the accumulated data will be coming sometime later in the year. Kudos to our determined data-entry crew: Dorothy Gendron, Laurene McLane, Donna Spence, Sue Nattinger, and others too many to mention!

Third field kit on the way

Thanks to our Bullitt and WDFW grants, some DCD funding, and some basic horsetrading, we'll have a third field kit by the end of the year. This should ease some logistical problems, especially with the new Salt Creek team coming online. We started trying to buy this kit a year and a half ago—thanks for your patience!

EMMT flow monitoring scheduled to begin in December

Planning meetings were held early this month under the direction of Technical Advisor Valerie Wilson to initiate the monitoring of staff gages and stream flow on five creeks beginning in December: Little River, Peabody, White, Ennis, and Lees. Water level staff gages set up by the Washington Department of Ecology will be read bi-monthly. Stream flow at these sites will be monitored monthly using Streamkeepers field procedures. The monitoring team presently consists of John Spence (leader), Laura Costello (Tech Advisor Intern), Bob Boardman, Susan Chadd, Di Moore, Sue Nattinger, and Jim Podlesny (primary members). Additional volunteers are welcome. Anyone interested please call John Spence.

Irrigation ditch team needs members

We need new members to resupply the Irrigation Ditch special project team. Jacque Paye will retire in December and has offered to train new team members in November and December. She'll show you all the reaches and demonstrate the sampling methods for flow and water samples. Then she'll rotate out and the new team will take over in January. This project requires one to two half-days of work a month, with little physical exertion but a bit of driving. You collect samples from irrigation ditches around the Sequim-Dungeness area, and the results help the Clallam Conservation District prioritize ditch-piping. If interested, call Jess or Ed at 417-2281. Non-Streamkeepers are encouraged to apply.

Bullitt grant carry-over to fund a summer intern

DCD and the Bullitt Foundation have agreed to extend our grant period through 2002. This happy fact enables us to fulfill your deepest desire expressed at the Volunteer Advisory Committee meeting: to hire an intern to assist with training and the summer and fall monitoring sessions. Start looking around for talented college students or others who would like a paid internship as Streamkeepers' Field Assistant next summer!

Macroinvertebrate classes of 2000 & 2001

Arthur finished ID'ing all of your 2000 macroinvertebrate samples back in July. Preliminary data results will be available at the Dec. 3 meeting. We've sent QC samples off to an independent lab, and we're waiting for their results before finalizing the data. Some interesting preliminary findings: a BIBI score of 48/50 at upper Valley Creek, believe it or not, tying it with lower Bear and upper Lake Creek; whereas lower Lake Creek only scored an 18! Lots of interesting questions to pursue...

Thanks to all who helped collect our 71 macroinvertebrate replicates in 2001. The taxonomist who will be filling in for Arthur this year, Mindy Allen of Shelton, says the samples should be completed by March.

PA fecal team helping to "clean up this town"

Gary Gleason and his merry men and women continue to investigate bacterial sources under a special project with the City of Port Angeles. In our last episode, their dragnet had pulled in the County Courthouse as a primary culprit on Peabody Creek. Since then, the County's maintenance crew has been hard at work cleaning up the Courthouse's storm-drain system and preventing future pollution hazards. We'll have more information as soon as there's enough rain to pull a sample from the drainpipes.

The latest "smoking gun" seems to be a storm-drain pipe that empties into Tumwater Creek near 11th St. and the Tumwater Truck Route. The City is now tracing this pipe back up into the West Side neighborhood, trying to isolate the source. It's dirty work, but somebody's got to do it! Thanks to Pete Becker for leading the team in October.

STREAMKEEPERS IN THE SPOTLIGHT**Community watershed group starts up**

By now the first organizational meeting has happened to explore the formation of a new community-based non-profit watershed umbrella organization to help support all of the many stream-related activities and groups across the county. Prime movers in this effort are two of our highly active Streamkeepers, Carol Dunlap and Beth Oakes. If you missed that first meeting but would like to join, get on their mailing list, or learn more about their plans for promoting unity and increased effectiveness among watershed groups across the County, contact Carol.

One Streamkeepers youth outreach team gone, another starting up

Since Bob Boekelheide stepped down from his position at Port Angeles H.S., we have mothballed the monitoring site at Peabody Creek. We may revive that site after the new teacher gets settled in.

However, as director of the new Dungeness River Audubon Center, Bob plans to conduct monitoring of the Dungeness on behalf of Streamkeepers. He's working on a design for a monitoring plan and team, including both adult and youth volunteers.

Along with the outreach projects recently begun at Olympic Park Institute and Sequim Alternative H.S., this project puts into full swing a key component of watershed education: to be reaching out to young people, showing them how watersheds work, and giving them a way to take a decisive role in restoring and protecting streams.

MORE FUN STUFF RELATED TO STEWARDSHIP**Streamside Studies Annual Review at UW**

The Center for Streamside Studies 2002 Annual Review will be February 6, 2002, on the Seattle campus in the HUB West Ballroom. For details, go to:
<http://depts.washington.edu/cssuw/Events/events.html>

It's a fast-paced, enlightening, stimulating event when graduate students give exciting papers and posters about streams, habitat, watersheds, and salmon. Some Streamkeepers went last year and enjoyed it. It's free, except for the parking. From 8:00 - 4:00. For more information, contact Leslie Wall at (206) 543-6920 or cssuw@u.washington.edu.

Grant Writing for Conservation Class, November 27-29, 8 am - 4 pm

The Friends of Dungeness National Wildlife Refuge are sponsoring a free three-day, intensive workshop for people working on conservation-oriented grants. Its goal is for you to actually write a grant during this workshop. Ron Schotter and Coleman Byrnes will already be attending on behalf of Streamkeepers; if you'd like to join their team, call us at 417-2281. Otherwise you're welcome to attend on your own! Trainers provided by Bureau of Land Management.

This course interweaves the grant proposal writing process and strategic thinking for successful grant awards. Learn how to cultivate relationships with potential funding partners to support projects which promote and maintain conservation and natural resource management. Session topics include:

- ☞ Recognize different funding levels: grassroots, informal and formal.
- ☞ Examine principles of strategic thinking.
- ☞ Review ethics and infrastructure.
- ☞ Distinguish 501c(3), friends groups, cooperating associations.
- ☞ Research potential funding sources.
- ☞ Understand the components of a proposal.
- ☞ Write an actual proposal with instructor assistance and critique.
- ☞ Learn about grant management.
- ☞ Gain insight to what proposal readers are looking for in the granting process from a question and answer session with a foundation representative.

Please call or email Rick Covert for more information:

Washington's Watershed Educators (WWE) network list serve

WWE, an informal network of Watershed Educators (WE) in Washington State, is designed to facilitate the sharing of ideas, curriculum, best practices, and to assess WE's needs in Washington. Facilitated by the Citizens for Environmental Education (CEE) --a statewide EE advocacy project of Audubon Washington and Groundworks Institute--CEE hopes to identify additional ways to advance WE in Washington. Currently we are using this online community to develop next steps in the collaborative planning of the Watershed Educator's Summit scheduled for December 7, 2001.

Here's how you can participate in this group and help plan your Summit:

1. Go to <http://www.edgateway.com/>
2. Login if you are a registered user, if not please join EdGateway. (This free service has great benefits and does NOT send junk mail.)
3. Once you login/join, click "join a group" on the left hand tool bar.
4. Search for "Washington's Watershed Educators"
5. Click on result of this search--"Washington's Watershed Educators"
6. Click on Subscribe at the top of the page to join the list serve.

CEE is dedicated to promoting and advancing EE in Washington and is in a unique position to advocate for EE in the Legislature and in agencies. Therefore it is important to us to identify ways in which CEE can advance Watershed Education in the state. CEE is also planning a Watershed Educators/Watershed Planners Conference for the Fall 2002 and would like to initiate a planning dialogue for this at the Summit in North Bend.

Children's Art & Poetry 2002 Calendars

The Mangrove Action Project, an international NGO headquartered right here in Clallam County, unveils its 10th Anniversary Children's Art and Poetry 2002 Calendars, which attempt to raise awareness of mangrove forest protection issues. The calendars make great gifts and are timely for the season! They can be viewed on MAP's website, which also has ordering information - <http://www.earthisland.org/map/>

Salmon Friendly Lawn Signs from Snohomish County Sierra Club and Project SeaWolf

You qualify for these free signs to post on the lawn if you've used no pesticides, fertilizers, or herbicides, watered little, and contributed no toxic runoff to pollute our streams. To order your water-resistant paper sign, send a 6"x9" (or larger) self-addressed, stamped (55 cents) envelope to SeaWolf, PO Box 929, Marysville, WA 98270. Preview the sign on p.7 of Oceanic Navigator:

<http://home.earthlink.net/~projseawolf/spring2001.pdf>. Donations welcome to cover printing costs.

Macroinvertebrate website

An elementary school teacher participating in the Chehalis Basin Education Consortium located an excellent stream macroinvertebrate study website, run by the University of Virginia. The site includes good drawings and descriptions of macro invertebrates that are tolerant, somewhat sensitive or sensitive to water pollution.

<http://wsrv.clas.virginia.edu/~sos-iwla/Stream-Study/StreamStudyHomePage/StreamStudy.HTML>

Local student water-quality monitoring website

For a very enlightening web site dealing with student water quality monitoring, developed right here in Forks, see www.wavcc.org/wvc/cadre/WaterQuality/. There are various links to choose from and most teachers will find great stuff through the curriculum link. The site includes stream ecology curricula, monitoring techniques, and a database. This site is a work in progress.

OSU offers waterwise web site

In the kitchen, the garden, and the field--every drop of water is precious this year. To help deal with this year's growing water shortage, Oregon State University's best advice on water conservation has been collected at one Web site. The site includes a list of Extension's drought and water conservation publications, many available on-line. Dozens of publications are available that include tips for:

- * Conserving water in the kitchen and with washing clothes
- * Maintaining a water-efficient lawn and garden
- * Managing livestock during a drought
- * Measuring well water levels and estimating flow rates
- * Strategies to reduce irrigation use in crops and orchards

New publications are added regularly. Find them at OSU's Extension and Experiment Station Communications Web site: <http://eesc.orst.edu/waterwise>