

Stream Team

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER • SUMMER 2007



Local Archaeological Site Sheds Light on Aquatic History of Puget Sound

**Tending the Tidelands:
Yesterday and Today – Part II
Saturday, July 7 • 9am-2pm
Registration Required**

What if you were assigned the task of determining the shellfish population for Mud Bay over the past 1,000 years? How would you reconstruct the way Native Peoples managed these resources over this span of time?

Discover the answers to these questions as we visit an archaeological site on the shores of Mud Bay. Qwu?gwes is a Squaxin Island tribal heritage wet site in the process of being carefully excavated by instructors and technicians from South Puget Sound Community College and the Squaxin Tribe.

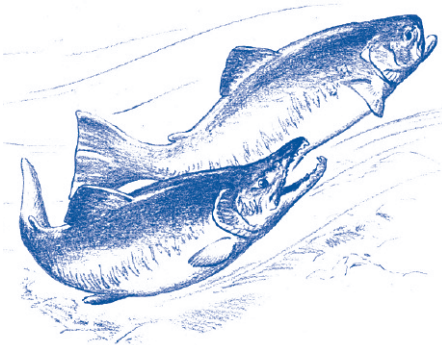


▲ Squaxin Island Tribe member Rick Peters speaks to attendees of Part I of Tending the Tidelands about the importance of shellfish to the Tribe.

Join site co-manager Dale Croes and Stream Team as we visit this fascinating archaeological treasure to learn more about the history of our local tidelands.

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Train to Become a Salmon Steward



Salmon are a defining icon of the Pacific Northwest. Their return in the fall provides food, culture, and economic gains for people; nutrient enrichment for forest habitats; and of course, more baby salmon.

Right now, salmon are on their way back from the ocean to Puget Sound streams and rivers. Many small creeks in the South Sound are the

spawning grounds of coho salmon and larger creeks and rivers support spawning chum salmon. Hatchery raised Chinook salmon return to the Deschutes River.

Every year since 1998, volunteer Salmon Stewards have been visiting local salmon viewing sites to greet the public and talk about local salmon runs.

In late August - September, Salmon Stewards discuss the hatchery run Deschutes River Chinook at the 5th Avenue Bridge in downtown Olympia and Tumwater Falls Park.

In November, Salmon Stewards greet hikers at the McLane Creek Nature Trail to discuss the naturally spawning chum salmon.

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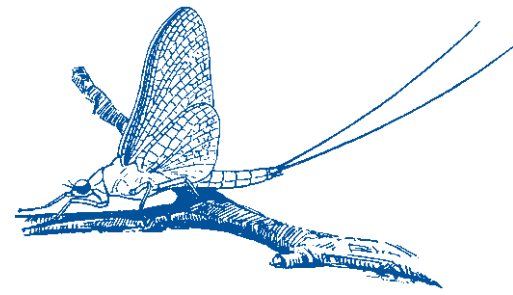
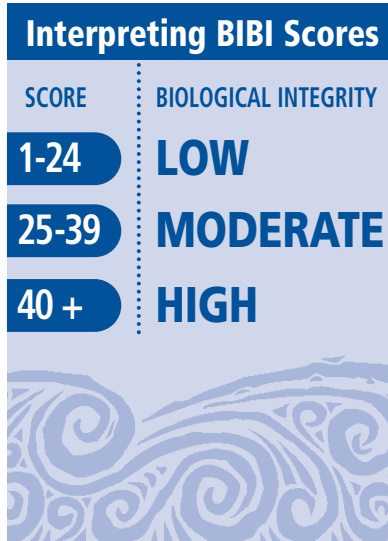
Summer Volunteers Needed!

6 Welcome New Staff



2006 Macro Results Are In!

Thank you to the many volunteers who helped collect benthic macroinvertebrate "stream bug" samples last summer! The samples were sent to a laboratory where the benthic macroinvertebrates were identified. Each sample was scored according to the Benthic Index of Biological Integrity (BIBI), which indicates the health of the sample stream, as compared to other Pacific Northwest lowland streams. Many variables can affect the score outcome. Scientific assessments of stream health are based on multiple years of data and other testing and sampling. The chart below shows BIBI sampling results for local streams that Stream Team volunteers have monitored the past six years.



Register Now to Help Collect "Stream Bug" Samples This Summer

Looking for something fun, interesting and worthwhile to do this summer? Here's a chance to get your feet wet while collecting valuable information about our local streams.

Now is the time to register to help collect "stream bug" (benthic macroinvertebrate) samples from local streams this summer. Information from the samples are used to help assess the health of the streams.

Volunteers will learn a specific monitoring protocol, which ensures the samples are collected in the same manner at each site. The protocol will be taught during a 2 1/2 hour training workshop (see dates and times below). After the workshop, volunteers will sign-up to monitor a particular stream. The actual monitoring for each site will be scheduled for weekdays or weekends in July or August. Monitoring takes approximately 3 to 5 hours, depending on the site.

Dates for "Stream Bug" Macro Monitoring Training Workshops (You need only attend one workshop.)

Thursday, June 28 • 6:30pm-9pm
Heritage Court Building
2nd Floor: Conference Room A/B

Wednesday, July 11 • 6:30pm-9pm
Heritage Court Building
2nd Floor: Conference Room A/B

To register and to get directions, contact Ann Marie @ 360-357-2491 or e-mail finanam@co.thurston.wa.us

Benthic Index of Biological Integrity (BIBI) Scores

Stream	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Ellis Creek @ Priest Point Park	40	46	48	48	44	48
Green Cove Creek @ 36th Ave NW	34	38	42	48	38	30
McLane Creek @ DNR Nature Trail	46	46	46	48	48	44
Percival Creek @ SPSCC Artist Bridge	22	30	40	36	26	34
Woodland Creek @ Draham Rd NE	38	42	38	34	36	30
Woodland Creek @ Pleasant Glade NE	36	30	38	34	26	32
Schneider Creek @ West Bay Dr			28	26	24	26
Moxlie Creek @ Watershed Park			28	14	28	26
Mission Creek @ Bethell St NE			42	44	32	44
Indian Creek @ Wheeler Ave SE			36	30	34	34
Fox Creek @ Pleasant Glade NE			34	20	18	22
Palm Creek @ Pleasant Glade NE			44	44	48	42
Black Lake Ditch @ RW Johnson SW				22	26	20
Little McAllister @ The Meadows					30	30
Deschutes River						42

Salmon Stewards (continued from page 1)

If you enjoy talking to people, the outdoors, and watching salmon, consider becoming a Salmon Steward! It's a great way to learn more about our local salmon runs and share your knowledge with others.

Required training includes two classroom sessions plus two field trainings for the Deschutes River

and/or one field class for McLane Creek. (For dates/times see calendar on page 3.)

Salmon Stewards are asked to volunteer 8 hours in 2-4 hour blocks on weekends or evenings (Sep-early Oct for Deschutes River; late Oct-early Dec for McLane Creek.) For information or to volunteer, call Patricia @ 360-570-5841.



June

June 28 • 6:30pm-9pm

Macroinvertebrate

"Stream Bug" Monitoring Training

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Heritage Court Building.

For information or to register, contact

Ann Marie @ 360-357-2491

July

July 7 • 9am-2pm

Tending the Tidelands:

Yesterday and Today - Part II

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

For information or to register, contact

Chris @ 360-754-3355 x6377

July 11 • 6:30pm-9pm

Macroinvertebrate

"Stream Bug" Monitoring Training

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Heritage Court Building.

For information or to register, contact

Ann Marie @ 360-357-2491

July 22

Lakefair Environmental Day

Volunteers needed to staff

Stream Team booth. Contact

Ann Marie @ 360-357-2491

August

August 14 • 6-9pm

Salmon Stewards Training:

Classroom - Session I

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Smith Building. Refreshments provided.

For information or to register, contact

Patricia @ 360-570-5841

August 22 • 6-9pm

Salmon Stewards Training:

Classroom - Session II

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Smith Building. Refreshments provided.

For information or to register, contact

Patricia @ 360-570-5841

August 25 • 9-11am

Salmon Stewards Training:

5th Ave Bridge Field Visit

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Meet at 5th Avenue Bridge.

For more information or to register,

contact Patricia @ 360-570-5841

September

September 8 • 9-11am

Salmon Stewards Training:

5th Ave Bridge Field Visit

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Meet at 5th Avenue Bridge.

For more information or to register,

contact Patricia @ 360-570-5841

September 15 • 9-11am

Salmon Stewards Training:

Tumwater Falls Field Visit

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Meet at Tumwater Falls. For more

information or to register, contact

Debbie @ 360-754-4148



Other Local Events



Bike Your Watershed

Saturday, July 29

Start Time: 8-10am

Tumwater Falls Park

The Washington Dept. of Ecology and local businesses invite cyclists of all ages and skill levels to take part in *Bike Your Watershed*.

The event is designed to promote physical fitness and increase awareness of the Deschutes Watershed. Riders choose from 3 routes: a 5-mile ride around Capitol Lake; a 20-mile ride along the Chehalis-Western

Trail south to an optional stop at a local cider mill; and a 30-mile loop. Food, beverages and a "sag wagon" will be provided. Educational activities and booths will be located at the starting point for the ride at upper Tumwater Falls Park.

Ride is limited to 100 cyclists. Pre-register by July 8 or register the day of the event. To volunteer, contact Brian Walsh @ bwalsh902@yahoo.com or 360-407-6647. For more information or to register, please visit http://web.mac.com/bike_yourwatershed/iWeb/Site/Welcome.html.

Noxious Weeds Threaten Native Habitat

Late spring and early summer are excellent times to observe the abundant flora that Thurston County has to offer. But be aware: many of the most beautiful plants might actually be noxious weeds – plants that threaten the health of the ecosystem in which they strive to colonize.

Noxious weeds are non-native plants that are aggressive, competitive and difficult to control. A plant can be declared a noxious weed if it seriously threatens the environment, agricultural productivity, public health or recreational use of natural areas.

Riparian areas, along with their tendency to periodically flood, provide a major conduit for the movement and spread of noxious weeds. Some of the riparian noxious weeds that we should continually be on the lookout for include giant hogweed, tansy ragwort, garden and purple loosestrife, and butterfly bush.

One of the most prolific weeds of concern in Thurston County and western Washington over the last few years is the knotweed complex. These cultivars, which include Japanese, Bohemian, Giant and Himalayan knotweed, threaten native riparian ecosystems by quickly colonizing and forming monocultures, which in turn choke out and suppress native trees and vegetation that is crucial for shade and habitat.

The Thurston County Noxious Weed Control Board maintains distribution information on all of these noxious weeds and can provide information on the preferred method of control, which may vary depending on the location and extent of the infestation.

If you discover plants which you believe could be noxious weeds, contact the Thurston County Noxious Weed Control Board @ 360-786-5576.

12th Annual Garden Rhapsodies Tour

Saturday, July 28 • 10am-4pm
Tickets \$15

You won't want to miss this year's Garden Rhapsodies Tour. Eight gardeners will open their gates for one day only and invite the public inside their private sanctuaries to help educate and inspire others.

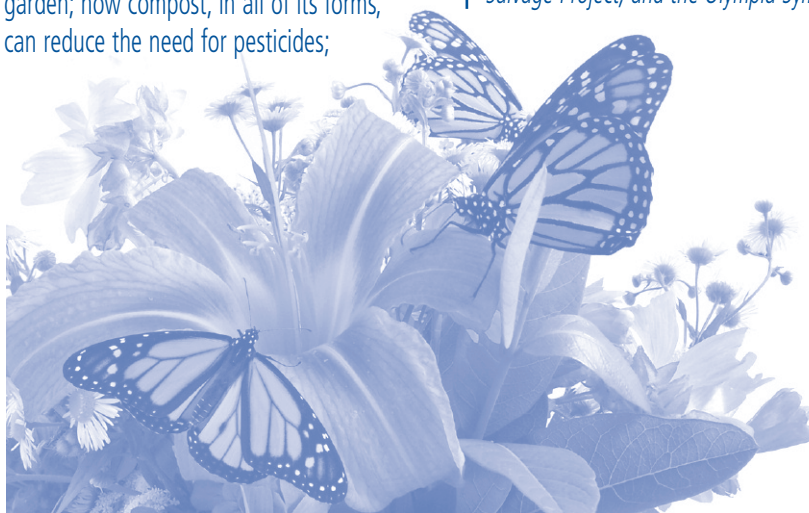
This unique garden tour features styles for every taste – from extremely low-maintenance to the meticulously detailed. Demonstrations, displays, Master Gardeners, and plenty of take-home information will help visitors learn how to plan for and maintain a beautiful landscape using Common Sense Gardening techniques.

You'll learn what chickens can add to your garden; how compost, in all of its forms, can reduce the need for pesticides;

and much more. The tour will also feature the work of local artists and music performed by the Olympia Symphony.

Tickets go on sale July 2 at local nurseries, Olympia Federal Savings bank branches, and the Olympia Farmer's Market. The \$15 tickets include a shuttle bus to all of the gardens. Proceeds from the tour benefit the supporting non-profits. Don't miss this annual event for the gardener in all of us!

The Garden Rhapsodies Tour is a unique partnership between the Thurston County Environmental Health Department, the City of Olympia, Washington State University Master Gardeners, Thurston County Stream Team, Native Plant Guild Salvage Project, and the Olympia Symphony.



Tending the Tidelands *(continued from page 1)*

Find out how tens of thousands of shells deposited in middens over the last 1000 years by Ancient Squaxin have been analyzed to reveal much about the former aquatic ecology of South Puget Sound.

Learn how age-of-harvest data, indicative of how the Ancient Squaxin managed the shellfish resource, can help us make future management decisions.

After visiting the site, we'll re-board the shuttle vans for a trip to the Squaxin Island Tribe Museum and Cultural Center where many fabulous artifacts from Qwu?gwes are on display, including a rare cedar bark gill net.



Participants are asked to dress for the weather and pack a bag lunch to enjoy on the museum grounds. You need not have attended Part I of the Tending the Tidelands to attend Part II.

For more information, or to register, please call Chris @ 360-754-3355 x6377. Registration is limited so call soon!

New Storm Drain Markers Carry an Important Message



With summer almost upon us, it's time to get outdoors and spread the word about protecting local water quality.

Stormwater pollution affects fish, wildlife, shellfish and our drinking water. That's why Stream Team is once again gearing up to mark storm drains with the "No Dumping - Flows to Waterways" message – a reminder that old paint, oil, soap and cleaning products should never be dumped down storm drains.

Many people assume that all storm drains connect to a wastewater treatment plant, when in fact most either flow directly into local streams, lakes, wetlands and other bodies of water, or to stormwater ponds to naturally infiltrate back into the groundwater aquifer.

This summer, Thurston County Stream Team will join Lacey and Tumwater in using new Duracast Curb Markers. The manufactured plastic signs are glued to curbs or street surfaces with a strong adhesive. They are very durable – lasting much longer than spray-painted stencil messages. Easily installed and highly visible, the markers will not only spread the "No Dumping" message for many years, they will also make locating clogged drains easier during periods of localized flooding.

If you want to get involved in protecting local streams and groundwater, installing storm drain markers is a fun community project for individual Stream Team members, families or community groups. Remember, only stormwater should go down storm drains!

In Tumwater, call Debbie Smith at 360-754-4148. In Lacey, call Tim Wilson at 360- 438-2687. In Thurston County, call Chris Maun at 360-754-3355 x6377.

Summer Volunteers Needed!

The key to a successful revegetation project lies in maintenance follow-up. Even native trees and shrubs which can withstand the Northwest's wet winters and dry summers need a little TLC to become established in their first couple of years of life. Several summer maintenance projects are in the works.

At the Woodard Creek planting site, a "water buffalo" vehicle will be used to water the cedars and firs that were planted by Stream Team volunteers. Wood chips will be onsite for mulch to keep moisture in, and weeds out, from around all the new plantings.

Plantings along the Deschutes River and Percival Creek in Tumwater are in dire need of weeding to keep the Himalayan blackberries and other invasive plants from harming the seedlings planted by Stream Team volunteers.

For information on summer Stream Team volunteer opportunities in unincorporated Thurston County, call Ann Marie @ 360-754-3355 x6857. For information on projects in Tumwater, call Debbie @ 360-754-4148. Additional project dates will be announced via Stream Team email. If you are not already on the Stream Team email list and want to be included, please call Sara @ 360-754-4140.



Volunteers Enhance Local Streams



▲ *Seventeen Stream Team volunteers planted Douglas firs at Woodard Creek.*

Woodard Creek Tree Plantings

On March 17, seventeen hard-working volunteers helped replant trees at our Woodard Creek planting site near 28th Lane. The western red cedars planted last spring did not fare well due to last year's hot, dry summer. Volunteers replaced seventy trees with Douglas firs, but they first had to open the wire cages surrounding each tree that were protecting them from deer and beaver. Afterwards, they reinstalled the wire cages and planted an additional thirty trees throughout the site.

On April 14, five enthusiastic volunteers helped plant forty additional trees and shrubs along the Woodard Creek site in celebration of Arbor Day. Each volunteer went home with free native trees or shrubs to plant in their yard. Special thanks to the Washington State Dept. of Transportation for donating the trees!

Lakefair Volunteer Opportunity

Stream Team will have a booth during Capitol Lakefair on "Environmental Day," July 22, from 11am-4pm. If you are interested in helping to staff the booth, please contact Ann Marie @ 360-357-2491.

NEW STAFF

Welcome Sara del Moral!

Sara del Moral was recently hired as Water Resources Intern at the City of Tumwater. Sara oversees the Tumwater Stream Team storm drain marking program, works with volunteers on stream monitoring and habitat enhancement projects and provides water resources educational outreach programs.

Sara has a long history of teaching and promoting sustainability. She currently coordinates a tutor program for at-risk students and volunteers with Native Plant Salvage Project. Sara holds a B.S. in ecology from Tulane University. She recently completed one year of post-graduate studies at The Evergreen State College in science teaching methods with a focus on social justice and will continue her studies next fall to obtain her MES degree. Sara speaks fluent Spanish and spent two years living and working in environmental community centers in Barcelona, Spain.

Sara's interests include cooking vegan food, permaculture gardening, sustainable transportation, piano composition and teaching Spanish. She is excited to be learning more about Pacific Northwest native plants and birds from her new home on Mud Bay in Olympia.



929 Lakeridge Dr. SW • Olympia, WA 98502

STREAM TEAM MISSION: To protect and enhance the water resources, associated habitats and wildlife of Thurston County through citizen education and action.

Stream Team is funded by Storm and Surface Water Utility revenues.

STREAM TEAM INQUIRIES:

In Lacey: City of Lacey Water Resources Program

P.O. Box 3400, Lacey, WA 98509-3400

Attn: Tim Wilson – Tel: 360-438-2687 / TDD: 1-800-833-6388

In Olympia: City of Olympia Water Resources Program

P.O. Box 1967, Olympia, WA 98507

Attn: Patricia Pyle – Tel: (360) 570-5841 / TTY: 360-753-8270

In Tumwater: City of Tumwater Public Works

555 Israel Road SW, Tumwater, WA 98501

Attn: Debbie Smith – Tel: 360-754-4148 / TDD: 1-800-833-6388

In Thurston County: Thurston County Water & Waste Management

929 Lakeridge Dr. SW, Olympia, WA 98502

Attn: Chris Maun – Tel: 360-754-3355 ext6377 / TDD: 360-754-2933

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTORS:

Tim Wilson, *Lacey Stream Team*; Patricia Pyle, *Olympia Stream Team*; Debbie Smith, *Tumwater Stream Team*; Chris Maun & Ann Marie Finan, *Thurston County Stream Team*

DESIGN & LAYOUT: Barbara McConkey, *Inform Design*

PLEASE NOTE: Citizens requiring special accommodations should call one of the coordinators listed above at least one week prior to an event.

PRSR STD
US POSTAGE

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