



## “Watershed Stories of Eld Inlet” Tour

SUMMER 2005

*A Quarterly  
Newsletter of the  
Regional  
Stream Team  
Program*

*City of Lacey  
City of Olympia  
City of Tumwater  
Thurston County*

### WHAT'S INSIDE...

2 Calendar;  
Drain Markers

3 Macro Monitoring;  
Teens Needed

4 Team News

5 Garden Tour

6 Volunteer Focus;  
Care of Storm Ponds;  
Staff News

7 Tansy Ragwort;  
Salmon Projects

8 Salmon Stewards

Join us on Saturday, September 10, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. for a watershed tour of Eld Inlet. We'll board a comfortable bus and visit four sites that illustrate different challenges and solutions for maintaining healthy aquatic ecosystems. At the Cooper Crest subdivision, we'll learn how people are trying out new ideas for managing stormwater runoff, while a site on McLane Creek will highlight agricultural practices and a recent fish-passage project. We'll then stop at Capitol Land Trust's Mud Bay project to learn about nearshore restoration/preservation, and we'll complete our tour with a visit to the home of an Eld Inlet shoreline property owner to discuss shellfish concerns and enjoy light refreshments. The tour is a great chance to meet interesting people while learning about Eld Inlet protection efforts. We are limited to 60 participants, so sign up early! Please call Susie at 360-754-3355, ext. 6377 to register for the tour.



*Participants learn about a fish passage project on the 2003 Watershed Tour.*

## Now Two Ways to Help Mark Storm Drains



With the warm, dry weather arriving, Stream Team is ready to mark storm drains with a pollution prevention message to increase public awareness about the importance of protecting our streams, lakes, inlets and groundwater. Many people don't realize that water entering storm drains does not flow to a wastewater treatment plant where pollutants would be treated. Instead, the water in storm drains usually flows to stormwater ponds where it receives only limited treatment before infiltrating into the ground or flowing into streams, lakes, wetlands or Puget Sound. In some instances, stormwater flows untreated directly into creeks or other surface water. Contaminants that are dumped into storm drains are likely to eventually end up in our local water bodies. By marking the storm drains, we hope to prevent dumping and increase awareness that our actions, like disposing of motor oil improperly, have implications for the health of our local waterways.

*continued on next page...*



# Calendar



## July

- 11-15 Forest, Stream and Sound Day Camps for 8-9 year olds.** Priest Point Park. Call The Olympia Center @ 360-753-8380 to register. Call Patricia @ 360-570-5841 for more info or to volunteer.
- 12 "Reinvent Your Yard" Workshop,** 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Lacey Community Center. Call Lisa @ 360-438-2687 for more info and to register.
- 16 Deschutes River Tansy Pull,** 10 a.m. to noon, meet at Tumwater Valley Golf Course Clubhouse. Call Debbie @ 360-754-4148 for more info.
- 18-22 Forest, Stream and Sound Day Camps for 8-9 year olds.** Priest Point Park. See camp info above.
- 25-29 Forest, Stream and Sound Day Camps for 10-11 & 12-13 year olds.** Priest Point Park. See camp info above.

## August

- 1-5 Forest, Stream and Sound Day Camps for 10-11 year olds.** Priest Point Park. See camp info above.
- 25 Salmon Stewards Classroom Training (part 1),** 6 to 9 p.m., The Olympia Center, Room 101. To register, call Patricia @ 360-570-5841.
- 27 Salmon Stewards Field Training,** 9 to 11 a.m., 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue Bridge downtown. To register, call Patricia @ 360-570-5841.

## September

- 8 Salmon Stewards Classroom Training (part 2),** 6 to 9 p.m., The Olympia Center, Rm. 204. Call Patricia @ 360-570-5841 to register.
- 10 Watershed Tour: "Watershed Stories of Eld Inlet",** 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Call Susie @ 360-754-3355, ext. 6377 to register.
- 17 Salmon Stewards Field Training,** 9 to 11 a.m., Tumwater Falls Park. Call Patricia @ 360-570-5841 to register.

## Help Mark Storm Drains

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You can help get the word out by marking storm drains in one of two ways. In Olympia and the County, volunteers mark drains by stenciling a message such as "Dump No Waste: Drains to Stream" using spray paint. In Lacey and Tumwater, volunteers have a new method to mark drains, affixing plastic markers to the street or curb using a special adhesive. These markers feature bright, attention-getting colors and last up to 15 years.

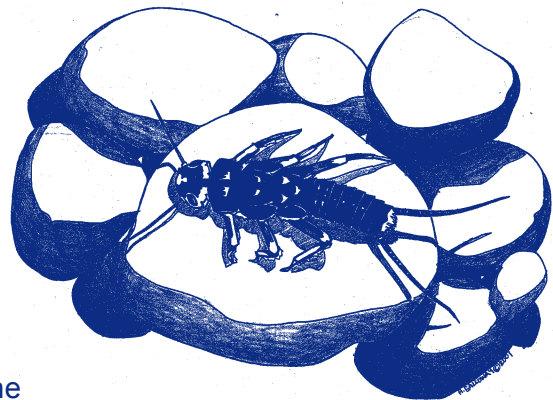
Marking storm drains is a great service project for a family, scout troop, church group or other community group. Volunteers of all ages can help with this project, although



affixing the plastic drain markers is primarily an adult task. We would love to have your help with this important activity! In Lacey, call Lisa Dennis-Perez at 360-438-2687. In Olympia, call Patricia Pyle at 360-570-5841. In Tumwater, call Debbie Smith at 360-754-4148. In Thurston County, call Susie Vanderburg at 360-754-3355, ext. 6377.

# Monitoring Results

## 2004 Macroinvertebrate Monitoring Data Arrives



It's always exciting to finally receive our macro monitoring data for the sampling that we did the previous summer. (It takes those lab folks in Oregon a long time to identify all the species from hundreds of samples sent to them annually.) Here is a summary table of data we have collected since 1998. In 2005, we'll be adding several new sites.

### Benthic Index of Biological Integrity (BIBI) Scores\*

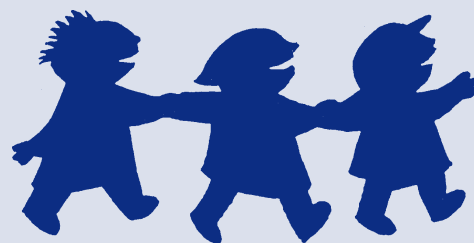
Stream	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Ellis Creek @ Priest Point Park	36	30	40	40	46	48	48
Green Cove Creek @ 36 <sup>th</sup> Avenue NW	40	34	40	34	38	42	48
McLane Creek @ DNR Nature Trail	38	38	40	46	46	46	48
Percival Creek @ SPSCC Artist Bridge	26	26	32	22	30	40	36
Woodland Creek @ Draham Road NE	26	30	34	38	42	38	34
Woodland Creek @ Pleasant Glade NE	24	22	38	36	30	38	34
Schneider Creek @ West Bay Drive						28	26
Moxlie Creek @ Watershed Park						28	14
Mission Creek @ Bethell Street NE						42	44
Indian Creek @ Wheeler Avenue SE						36	30
Black Lake Ditch @ RW Johnson SW							22
Fox Creek @ Pleasant Glade NE						34	20
Palm Creek @ Pleasant Glade NE						44	44

\* BIBI scores between 1-24 = low biological integrity  
BIBI scores between 25-39 = moderate biological integrity  
BIBI scores over 40 = high biological integrity

These results will be used by Thurston County Environmental Health and the Stormwater Utilities from each jurisdiction to help assess the health of our local streams. Data will appear in the annual Water Resources Monitoring Report.

## Teen Volunteer Counselors Needed for Day Camps

Stream Team is looking for volunteers 14 years and older to help out at our week-long Summer Day Camps. This is a wonderful opportunity for teens to gain experience working with children in a fun and educational setting! All five camps are held at Priest Point Park from July 11 through August 5. Call Claire Graser, Stream Team Intern, at 360-753-8454 for more information.



# Team News



## Lacey

This spring, Justin Hilts, a student at North Thurston High School, continued his work at Woodland Creek Community Park, making sure that plant protectors were placed around all the young seedlings to keep rodents from chewing on the tree trunks. In all, Justin has volunteered over 371 hours maintaining the revegetation site along Woodland Creek.

Lacey W.I.N. (Work Involvement Now) groups have been busy this spring, placing wood chips on trails along the creek at the Woodland Creek Community Park. A group of 22 second graders from Lacey Elementary School and 7 adult helpers began the chipping project May 19. Two groups of Boy Scouts with Troop 226, the Scorpions and Frontiersmen, each brought 22 volunteers to help complete the project on May 21. By chipping trails at the site, volunteers help encourage park visitors to stick to the trails, minimizing impacts to the creek and protecting recently planted seedlings.

On May 21 and 22, volunteers pitched in to make the Lacey Water Resources booth a success at the Lacey Spring Fun Fair. Fairgoers playing the Watershed Game learned how their actions change a water drop from clean to dirty to clean again! Kids went fishing for prizes and made necklaces with salmon beads while their parents picked up information about water



*Volunteer John Mortenson leads young visitors through the Watershed Game.*

conservation and Stream Team activities. Special thanks to volunteers Bernd Pielmeier, Kathleen Burns, John Mortenson and Susie Coomes for their enthusiasm, patience and stamina while helping with the booth.

## Olympia

It was a cloudy Saturday morning on May 7 with a few brief drizzles, but a perfect day for fishing and fisher folk! At 10 a.m., people crowded around the stream bugs and fly tying and casting stations. Stream Team and South Sound Fly Fishers hosted this joint event to showcase fly fishing as a way to learn more about healthy streams. Don Eveleth and Susie Vanderburg collected stream insects in the morning. Lynn Risenhoover helped out at the insect table with Don and

Susie. Dennis Connolly set up an area for people to practice their casting accuracy with one-on-one coaching. Another area was cordoned off for fly casting instructions. South Sound Fly Fisher members Jim Voss, Randy Frisvold, Randy Allan, Darrell Riley, and Mel Hurd gave the fly casting coaching and instruction, and Michelle Tuengel tied fishing flies. Many thanks to Olympia High School students Nikki Journey, Garrett Leonard and Calista Bouvier for handing out Fly Fishing event flyers during Arts Walk.

Stream Team Summer Camps will be getting a lot of extra expert help this summer! Rachel Ward, Erin Montgomery, Lynn Risenhoover and Diane Skov are preparing to lead some new activities during the summer camp sessions.



*High school volunteers dressed the part to hand out Stream Team flyers at Arts Walk.*

## Tumwater

Spring brought flocks of Stream Team volunteers out to Percival Creek to nurture some of the 6,000 native plants planted by volunteers along the creek. Native trees and shrubs have been planted over the past four years at the site, and are now in need of weeding, mulching and watering.

Under the reliable leadership of Barbara Tomford, Diana Willie and Dennis Matsuda, the first Saturday

**THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU**

in April, May and June was dedicated to working along the creek. Volunteers weeded and mulched around the plantings and removed invasive non-native vegetation.

On April 21, in honor of Earth Day, two busloads of students from Tumwater Middle School, organized by TMS science teacher Suzanne Jones, arrived at the site to help out. Several hardy students tackled removing Scotch broom. They got all that was visible on the twelve-acre site, including a few specimens as big as trees! While working, the students were treated to the sight of male redwing blackbirds guarding their nesting mates. One blackbird successfully drove off a red tail hawk!



*Student volunteers tackle Scotch broom at the Percival Creek planting site.*

After school, students from Tumwater's Old Town Center pitched in to continue the Earth Day project. The OTC students returned on May 5 and plan to make helping our streams a regular part of their activities. Thanks to OTC leaders Charlie Groth, Brian Haskins and Jacob Larson for leading the groups.

Volunteers from Stream Team and The Volunteer Center joined together for Join Hands Day at Percival Creek on May 7. The volunteers focused on weeding around individual native plants and

removing Himalayan blackberry. Special thanks go to The Volunteer Center's Lisa Bourque for her help organizing the project.

Percival Creek also benefited from some new technology donated by South Sound GREEN through a grant from Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife. Temperature loggers have been installed in the creek near both Sapp and Chapparel Roads. The temperature of the creek will now be automatically monitored at both ends of the revegetation project. Thanks to The Evergreen State College interns Rachel Hollister and Earnest Lockett II for installing and retrieving data from the loggers.

## T.C.

A big Thank You goes to nine volunteers from Leadership

Thurston County who spruced up the Native Plant Demonstration Garden on Cooper Point Road. In April, under the leadership of Daryl Fournier, volunteers weeded the garden and scrubbed signs and benches. The demo garden, installed in 1999, educates Cooper Point residents about the importance of trees in a watershed and the benefits of landscaping with native plants.



*Informational kiosk at the Cooper Point Demo Garden site.*

Thurston County Stream Team volunteers got a head start on the

## Other Events

### **Garden Rhapsodies Tour, July 30, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

Don't miss the annual Garden Rhapsodies Tour, a community event that brings together beautiful, Earth-friendly gardens, Master Gardener demonstrations, musicians and artists. Featured gardens are the sanctuaries of private gardeners who agree to open their garden gates for one day. Both beginning gardeners and experienced green thumbs find they take away new ideas to incorporate into their own landscapes.

Tickets are \$12.00 each. To purchase tickets by mail, call the Thurston County Common Sense Gardening Program at (360) 754-4111, x7623. After July 4, tickets are available at the Master Gardener booth at the Olympia Farmers Market, The Perennial Gardener, Vintage Garden, Plantasia Nursery and Botanical Garden, Heirloom Gardens, Gordon's Garden Center, Fairie Gardens, Boulevard Nursery, The Plant Centre, Bark and Garden Center and at all Olympia Federal Savings. More details are available from Jennifer Johnson, Garden Tour Coordinator, at 360-754-4111.

stenciling season this spring. There were enough sunny days for volunteers to stencil "Dump No Waste" messages in 9 neighborhoods: Beachcrest, Meadows, Meridian Acres, Eagle Cliff, Green Cove Road, Wesley Loop, Woodsmuir, Shana Park and Ridgeview. Thank you, stenciling volunteers, for spreading the message to residents of your neighborhoods. In all, you stenciled over 200 storm drains!

## Focus on Volunteer: Terence Lee

Terence Lee came on board with Stream Team in spring of 2003, when he helped replant the Japanese knotweed eradication site on Green Cove Creek, just a short walk away from his home. Since then, he has been an active member in Stream Team. He is a familiar face at revegetation projects, macroinvertebrate monitoring, culvert monitoring and as a Salmon Steward.

Terence graduated from The Evergreen State College in June 2004, focusing his studies on a variety of subjects in the environmental sciences ranging from salmon ecology to environmental policy. He also completed two internships that have helped guide him in deciding on a career in the aquatic sciences. The first was with the South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group performing culvert and habitat surveys to collect baseline data needed to prioritize culvert replacement projects. The second was with the Washington Department of Transportation Wetland Monitoring Program to assess the success of



*Terence checks out the Perkins Creek culvert.*

wetland mitigation sites throughout Western Washington.

Now we wish to congratulate Terence on being hired by the Washington Department of Natural Resources Spartina Program. He will be helping to eradicate the aquatic nuisance species *Spartina alterniflora* from Willapa Bay. Best of luck to Terence on his new job, and heartfelt thanks for all his help on Stream Team projects these past few years!

## Care and Feeding of Stormwater Ponds

Summer is a great time to check out your neighborhood's stormwater ponds to see what kind of maintenance they need. Dry ponds should be mowed regularly to control weeds. Sediment should be cleaned out of inlet and outlet pipes. For more information, go to <http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/wwm/maintainpond.htm>, or call for assistance. In Lacey, call Doug Christenson at 360-438-2686. In Olympia, call Steve Wise at 360-753-8346. In Tumwater, call Dan Smith at 360-754-4140. In Thurston County, call Susie Vanderburg at 360-754-3355, ext. 6377. Well-maintained stormwater ponds filter pollution from stormwater run-off and allow water to seep into the ground. That means cleaner, less eroded streams and healthier salmon habitat!

## Staff News



Stream Team recently welcomed two interns from The Evergreen State College, Claire Graser and Abigail Groskopf. Claire and Abigail have helped on tree plantings and school field trips, planned and led a Garfield school assembly on nature and led after-school activities with YWCA Girls without Limits. They

will continue their enthusiastic involvement in summer camps and macro monitoring.

Welcome also to Danielle Harrington as the new Education Program Specialist for City of Olympia Water Resources. Danielle came to Washington to attend the University of Puget

Sound. She received environmental education certification from IslandWood Environmental Education Learning Center. She was a Stream Team Day Camp Instructor in 2003. She will coordinate summer camps and the City's OLYWATER School Education Program.

# Weed To Watch Out For – Tansy Ragwort

The month of July is the best time to spot and remove the poisonous weed, tansy ragwort (*Senecio jacobaea L.*) With its tall clusters of yellow, daisy-like flowers blooming from July to September, the middle of summer is the easiest time to locate tansy ragwort and pull it out before it goes to seed.

Tansy ragwort is a Eurasian weed that often invades disturbed sites in the Pacific Northwest. It is most likely to be found on harvested forestland, pastures and along roadsides. Like many other invasive, non-native species, tansy ragwort replaces beneficial native species of plants. Native plant species provide habitat, including shelter and food, to native wildlife.

All parts, but particularly the flowers, of tansy ragwort are poisonous. It contains alkaloids which cause liver damage; cumulative effects can be fatal. The most immediate danger is to livestock, such as horses and cattle. It can become a danger to humans when cows eat tansy ragwort and pass the toxin through their milk. This has the potential to impact human health. With their

small body size, the risk is greatest to small children who consume contaminated dairy products. Because of these concerns, tansy ragwort control is required by Thurston County in any area where livestock are present or within 1,000 feet of property used for the production of animal feed.

Tansy ragwort is not to be confused with common tansy. Common tansy has button flowers without petals. Common tansy does contain a poisonous oil, but is so bitter livestock will rarely eat it.

A mature tansy ragwort plant is a slender, one to six feet tall plant with dark green, deeply lobed leaves. Each of the numerous ray flowers on a tansy ragwort plant contains more than 150,000 seeds. Seeds are viable for up to 15 years in the soil.

There are several ways to control tansy ragwort. The cinnabar moth has been released as a biological control. This distinctive larva grows to one inch long and has black and yellow bands. The mature moth is black and red. For the typical homeowner, the best removal method for tansy ragwort



*Tansy can be trouble.*

is to pull it before it goes to seed. (Don't forget to wear your gloves!) Pulling when the ground is moist helps to ensure that the taproot is removed. Pulled plants should be bagged to prevent the spread of seed and placed in the trash for disposal at the landfill.

For more information about tansy ragwort and other noxious weeds, call the Thurston County Weed Control Board at 360-786-5576 or visit [www.co.thurston.wa.us/tcweeds](http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/tcweeds).

## Put Your Stream Team Knowledge to Work!

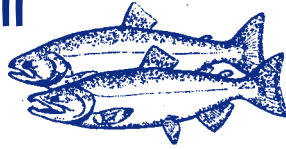
The citizen advisory group for the Deschutes, Henderson and East Eld Inlet Watersheds (WRIA 13) is seeking new members to help rank projects for salmon recovery funding. If you have a basic knowledge of salmon ecology and an interest in providing citizen input, please contact Amy Hatch-Winecka at 360-754-3588, ext. 103 for an application.

## Help Pull Tansy

Join us July 16 for the Deschutes River Tansy Pull, 10 a.m. to noon. Volunteers will meet at the Tumwater Valley Golf Course Clubhouse. Call Debbie at 360-754-4148 for more information.



# Sign Up Now For Fall Salmon Stewards!



Want to learn more about our local salmon runs? Interested in the past, present and future of salmon in our region? Want to share your knowledge with curious people who view the salmon at Budd Inlet, Tumwater Falls Park and McLane Creek?

Salmon Stewards is a program to teach volunteers about our local salmon and how to talk to the public at popular salmon viewing sites. To participate, volunteers attend 12 hours of training – 6 hours in the classroom and 3 two-hour field trips, one to Capitol Lake with a tour of the dam, one to Tumwater Falls Park egg-harvesting facility run by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and lastly, to McLane Creek Nature Trail in Capitol Forest.

Salmon Stewards work in September at Capitol Lake and the 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue Bridge, in October at Tumwater Falls Park and November at McLane Creek. See the calendar on page 2 for training dates, and call Patricia at 360-570-5841 to sign up or for more info.

## CONTRIBUTORS:

Lisa Dennis-Perez, *Newsletter Editor*, Lacey Stream Team  
 Patricia Pyle, Olympia Stream Team  
 Debbie Smith, Tumwater Stream Team  
 Susie Vanderburg, Thurston County Stream Team

## STREAM TEAM INQUIRIES:

**In Lacey:** City of Lacey Water Resources Program, P.O. Box 3400, Lacey, WA 98509-3400 Attn: *Lisa Dennis-Perez* (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* (360) 570-5841, TTY (360) 753-8270

**In Tumwater:** City of Tumwater Public Works, 555 Israel Road SW, Tumwater, WA 98501 Attn: *Debbie Smith* (360) 754-4148, TDD 1-800-833-6388

**In Thurston County:** Thurston County Water and Waste Management, 921 Lakeridge Dr. S.W., Olympia, WA 98502 Attn: *Susie Vanderburg* (360) 754-3355, ext. 6377, TDD (360) 754-2933

## STREAM TEAM MISSION:

To protect and enhance the water resources, associated habitats, and wildlife of North Thurston County through citizen education and action.

Stream Team is funded by Storm and Surface Water Utility revenues. Call one of the above numbers if you are interested in learning more about how to protect our water resources. Citizens requiring special accommodations should call one of the coordinators at least one week prior to an event.



**Olympia Stream Team**  
 PO Box 1967  
 Olympia, WA 98507

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If you are not yet on our mailing list and would like to receive the newsletter, or if you no longer wish to receive Stream Team News by mail, please call 360-753-8454 and leave your name, address, and whether you wish to be added or removed from the mailing list.



**Join the Team - The Future Belongs to All of Us!**

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