

Stream Team

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER • SPRING 2006



Sunny Days are Coming!

Get Involved with Stream Team's Spring Activities!

Tree plantings, hikes, lectures, how-to workshops, and a downtown clean-up are all planned for your involvement this spring! Stream Team activities are fun and educational, and most are great for families with children.

Check out our calendar on page 3 and choose an activity that interests you. We'd love to have you become a part of Stream Team!



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Sign Up to Be a Macroinvertebrate Monitor!



Volunteers Needed for Stream Bug Collection

For nine years, Stream Team volunteers have collected benthic macroinvertebrate samples from local streams. These aquatic insect samples provide valuable information used by local governments to assess the biological health of our streams. Volunteers who help with macroinvertebrate monitoring learn a scientific protocol to ensure that samples are collected in the same manner at each site.

The protocol will be taught at a two-hour training. This year, two training dates are scheduled. Volunteers sign up at the trainings to monitor particular streams. The actual monitoring takes between 3 to 5 hours.

Volunteers can sign up for as many monitoring sessions as they like. Monitoring generally is scheduled during weekends and weekday evenings in July and August.

Choose one of two training dates:

**Monday, June 26 • 6:30-8:30pm OR
Wednesday, July 19 • 6:30-8:30pm**

Thurston County Courthouse
2000 Lakeridge Drive, Bldg. 1, Rm. 152

*To register, please call Ann Marie at
360-754-3355 ext. 6857.*

Those interested in viewing Macro results for the past 5 years can see the article on page 6.



Spring History Series Events



**"Sylvester's Window"
History Talk**
Speaker: Lynn Erickson
Sunday, April 2 • 2-3pm

Thurston County Courthouse
2000 Lakeridge Drive. Bldg. 1, Rm. 152

"Sylvester's Window," a new educational curriculum developed by Lynn Erickson, uses eight custom prints to depict land changes around Sylvester Park from 1841 to 2001.

The prints, drawn by Bob Chamberlain, show the changes to the land from Edmund Sylvester's third story window. The images capture events that changed the Olympia landscape, including the Indian Wars, the Northern Pacific Railroad, the formation of Sylvester Park, the damming of Capitol Lake, and the Nisqually Earthquake.

The prints depict historical events, people and buildings, and clearly show the growth and development of downtown Olympia. Come learn more about the Olympia of today through images of the past, as Lynn Erickson discusses this new project and our local environmental history.

Children ages 9 and older are encouraged to attend. For more information, call Patricia at 360-570-5841.



**History Hike:
Native Uses of Plants
in Priest Point Park**
Sunday, May 7 • 2-4pm

Meet at the Ellis Cove Trailhead on the west side of Priest Point Park.

Not so very long ago, people depended on their local environment to fulfill their daily needs. In South Sound, food, clothing, and shelter could all be found in the forest. Join Paul Moody and City of Olympia staff to explore the Priest Point Park forest in search of these plants. Learn what they look like and what they were used for. Wear proper clothing and comfortable walking shoes.

Attendance is limited. Please register by calling Patricia at 360-570-5841 or e-mail ppyle@ci.olympia.wa.us.



**History Hike:
Watershed Park –
Past and Present**
Sunday, June 4 • 2-4pm

Meet in the parking lot at the Henderson Blvd. entrance to Watershed Park.

Learn about the park's history on a guided hike with former City of Olympia Mayor, Bob Jacobs. The 171 acre park is home to Pileated Woodpeckers, Wood Ducks, Winter Wrens, and many other birds. There are numerous springs, all contributing water to Moxlie Creek and serving as Olympia's water supply in the early 1900's. Wear appropriate clothing on this 1.5 mile loop trail hike.

Attendance is limited. Please register by calling Patricia at 360-570-5841 or e-mail ppyle@ci.olympia.wa.us.



11th Annual Garden Rhapsodies Tour!



Saturday, July 29 • 10am-4pm

This annual garden tour features lovely local gardens that are maintained in an earth-friendly manner. The tour provides an opportunity to pick up tips from experienced gardeners, visit with friends, listen to live music, and see artists in action. Don't miss it!

Tickets will be available in July at many local nurseries, or through the mail by contacting Jennifer at 360-754-4111 (TDD 360-754-2933).

Sponsors include Thurston County, WSU Extension Native Plant Salvage Project, Thurston County Master Gardeners, Olympia Symphony Guild, and City of Olympia.

April

April 2 • 2pm-3pm

"Sylvester's Window" History Talk

Speaker: Lynn Erickson

Thurston County Courthouse

2000 Lakeridge Drive, Bldg. 1, Rm. 152

For more information,
call Patricia @ 360-570-5841.

April 8 • 10am-Noon

Percival Creek Restoration Project

For more information,
call Debbie @ 360-754-4148.

April 22 • 9am-Noon

Earth Day Clean-Up

For more information,
call Patricia @ 360-570-5841.

April 29 • 10am-3:30pm

Naturescaping for Water & Wildlife

Thurston County Courthouse

2000 Lakeridge Drive, Bldg. 1, Rm. 152

Registration required. For information or to
register, call Erica @ 360-754-3588 ext. 110,
or email ericag@wsu.edu.

PLEASE NOTE: Citizens requiring special accommodations should call the Event Coordinator at least one week prior to the event.

May

May 7 • 2-4 pm

History Hike: Native Uses of Plants in Priest Point Park

Meet at the Ellis Cove Trailhead
on the west side of Priest Point Park.

Registration required. For information or to
register, call Patricia @ 360-570-5841.

May 13 • 10am-Noon

Percival Creek Restoration Project

For more information,
call Debbie @ 360-754-4148.

May 20 - May 21

Lacey Spring Fun Fair

St. Martin's University Pavilion.

2 hour shifts: 10am-7pm on May 20
and 11am-5pm on May 21

For more information or to sign up
for a shift, call Lisa @ 360-438-2687.

June

June 3 • 10am-3pm

A Walk in the Woods: Meet the Trees of Washington

Thurston County Courthouse
2000 Lakeridge Drive, Bldg. 1, Rm. 152
and McLane Creek Nature Trail

Registration required.

For information or to register, call
Susie @ 360-754-3355 ext. 6377,
or email vanders@co.thurston.wa.us.

June 4 • 2-4pm

History Hike:

A History of Watershed Park

Meet in the parking lot at the Henderson
Blvd. entrance to Watershed Park.

Registration required. For information or to
register, call Patricia @ 360-570-5841.

June 26 • 6:30-8:30pm

Macroinvertebrate Monitoring Training

Thurston County Courthouse
2000 Lakeridge Drive, Bldg. 1, Rm. 152

Registration required. For information
or to register, call Ann Marie
@ 360-754-3355 ext. 6857.

OTHER LOCAL EVENTS

FREE Septic Sense Workshops

To register for one of these workshops, call 360-754-4111:

April 5 / 7-9 pm

Boston Harbor Fire Station 5046 Boston Harbor Rd., Olympia

April 18 / 7-9 pm

Tumwater Middle School (auditorium) 6335 Littlerock Rd., Tumwater

April 25 / 7-9 pm

Tenino High School (library) 500 W. 2nd Street, Tenino

May 4 / 7-9 pm

Grace Covenant Community Church 5501 Wiggins Rd SE (at Yelm Hwy)
(Co-Sponsored with City of Olympia)

April 29 • 5:30 pm

Procession of the Species

Downtown Olympia

Visit www.procession.org for more information.

June 25 - July 1

Natural Resources Youth Camp

Ages 12-15 / Cispus Learning Center near Randle

Call Debbie @ 360-754-4148 or visit www.nryc.org for more information.

July 29 • 10am-4pm

11th Annual Garden Rhapsodies Tour

Pick up tickets at local nurseries or call 360-754-4111.

Team News

LACEY

Winter was quiet for Lacey Stream Team, with no Team News activities to report. However, we are gearing up for our spring activities and are looking for volunteers for the Lacey Spring Fun Fair and Storm Drain Marking.

OLYMPIA

Danielle Moore dug up about 25 baby cedar seedlings in her yard and donated them to Stream Team. The baby seedlings were potted up and will be planted in the ground at a future tree planting. Thank you, Danielle!

Four B'nai Torah teens and two adults spent a windy Sunday in February planting native trees and shrubs next to Mission Creek. The teens dug holes in rocky soil full of massive blackberry roots to finish planting the streamside property that was once covered in 6 foot high blackberry bushes. Roosevelt, Lincoln, and McKenny Elementary School students have also planted trees and shrubs on the site. The B'nai Torah youth also spread woodchips to enhance the beauty of the site. The B'nai Torah teens get together once a month to do service projects; Sherri Shulman is the group leader.



▲ Students help out at Mission Creek Planting Site.

TUMWATER



▲ Planting along the Deschutes River at Site 130.

On March 4, Stream Team volunteers finished the last phase of the Site 130 project by planting native shrubs along the Deschutes River at Tumwater Valley Municipal Golf Course. Nootka rose, snowberry, ocean spray, beaked hazelnut and other native plants were used along the upper bank to augment the willow and red-osier dogwood planted on the lower bank by volunteers last November.

The bank stabilization project included the use of large woody debris, rock, and native plants to reduce streambank washout, limit sedimentation, and improve fish and wildlife habitat.

The project was funded by a grant from the Washington Department of Ecology's Centennial Clean Water Fund. Plant material was donated by Washington Department of Transportation and WSU Native Plant Salvage Project.

Thanks to our great volunteers and partners!

THURSTON COUNTY

A sincere thank you to Don Eveleth and Jack Havens for spending an afternoon helping Ann Marie set up for the planting along Woodard Creek. They worked tirelessly to cut wire fencing and distribute plant protection materials throughout the planting site...even in the cold, wet snow.

A warm thanks to the 17 volunteers who helped plant Western red cedars along Woodard Creek in March. The private landowners recognized that the riparian buffer was lacking in taller, longer-living trees such as cedars, which will provide shade and important stream habitat for salmon and other aquatic wildlife.

The extra effort to protect the cedar trees from browsing, by installing wire fencing around the trees, will pay off in the long run!

A big thank you also goes to Washington Department of Transportation for donating the 100 cedar trees.



Welcome Back!

Remember This Face?

Ann Marie Finan is the new Thurston County Stream Team co-coordinator. Ann Marie previously served as coordinator for the Tumwater Stream Team and the Nisqually Stream Steward Program. *Welcome back, Ann Marie!*



Remember to keep track of your volunteer hours with a Kudo Kard!

As your hours add up, you are eligible for great Stream Team items, like t-shirts, hats and mugs! Pick up a Kudo Kard the next time you volunteer for an action project.

Volunteers Honored at Annual Party

The historic Schmidt House in Tumwater was the setting this January for the Annual Stream Team Party and Volunteer Recognition event.

Don Trosper entertained Stream Team volunteers with his talk on rivers and local pioneer history. Students from Bob Cooksey's history class at Tumwater Middle School attended in pioneer attire and assisted with the event.

Recipients of Stream Team Volunteer of the Year awards for 2005 were

Joe Reder and the staff and board of The Olympia-Tumwater Foundation, City of Tumwater Parks and Recreation Old Town Center Youth Program, and Bethany Diehl.

Joe Reder and the staff of The Olympia-Tumwater Foundation provide invaluable support to Salmon Stewards at Tumwater Falls Park, including at the annual Tumwater Falls Harvest Festival. Joe and staff have also planted trees in the park to honor Stream Team volunteers and have made the Schmidt House available for Stream Team events.



▲ "Volunteers of the Year" recognized at Stream Team's Annual Party.

Tumwater's Old Town Center Youth Program, under the guidance of Charlie Groth, participated in monthly Stream Team action projects. The youth have planted trees along the Deschutes River, weeded and mulched plants along Percival Creek, and marked storm drains in Streamland Estates.

Bethany Diehl was 2005's Outstanding All-around Individual. This multi-talented volunteer attended almost every Stream Team event last year. She planted trees, weeded, stenciled storm drains, monitored streams by taking benthic macroinvertebrate samples, and worked at

education outreach events including the Haunted Hike and the Puyallup Fair.

In honor of the 2005 Stream Team Volunteers of the Year, the book *Living with Wildlife in the Pacific Northwest* by Russell Link has been donated to the Tumwater Timberland Library.

Thanks to all of these outstanding volunteers and all of you who help make Stream Team successful!

Stream Team Day Camp Makes Changes This Summer

Stream Team Day Camp was started in 1992 by the City of Olympia as one of the first Stream Team educational activities geared towards children. When the camp first began, there were very few camp options for children, and fewer that had an environmental focus. Today, there are more camps offered around the area – many with environmental themes. Consequently, the City of Olympia has decided to take a break from running the Forest, Stream, and Sound day camps and instead partner with the Olympia Department of Parks, Arts, and Recreation's Camp Olywahoo day camp and offer educational field trips.

At Camp Olywahoo, children will take part in a series of water-related activities and field trips on Tuesdays. Using a new curriculum called the "Be Nice to Budd Club," children will investigate and explore our urban environment and learn how their actions can help keep Budd Inlet clean.

Children ages 9 to 11 can participate in the Friday Field Trips beginning on July 7 and ending on August 11. The 4-hour trips have different themes and activities focused on our local environment.



Enrollment for both Camp Olywahoo and the Friday Field Trips is through the Olympia Department of Parks, Arts, and Recreation at 360-753-8330. Details on the activities and field trips can be found in the Parks, Arts, and Recreation Summer Guide, on the City's web site at www.ci.olympia.wa.us or by calling the Olympia Center at 360-753-8380.

For questions, call Danielle at 360-753-8563.



Naturescaping for Water & Wildlife
 Saturday, April 29
 10am-3:30pm

Thurston County Courthouse
 2000 Lakeridge Drive. Bldg. 1, Rm. 152

Learn how to incorporate beautiful native and drought-tolerant plants into your landscape to attract wildlife and nurture a healthy environment. Participants will learn about reducing unnecessary lawn; design ideas for "hardscapes" and tricky spots, such as slopes; how to deal with drainage problems and manage storm-water on-site to protect water resources – and much more! The morning classroom session will be followed by a field trip to private gardens to see examples of naturescaping in action!

Attendance is limited. Please register early by calling Erica at 360-754-3588 ext. 110, or email ericag@wsu.edu. Sponsored by Stream Team.



Earth Day Clean-Up
 Saturday, April 22
 9am-Noon

Meet at 9am on the north side of Sylvester Park. Trade your shovel for a broom and help get the winter grime off the sidewalks, out of the gutters, and away from the storm drains. This year, Stream Team will help the Olympia Downtown Association make downtown sparkle and keep the urban grime from washing into Budd Inlet. The ODA sponsors the clean-up from 8am to 2pm with lunch included. A shorter time slot is available with Stream Team. Work at least three hours and get a complimentary t-shirt!

For information, call Patricia at 360-570-5841.



▲ Collecting bugs from the stream – knee boots recommended!

2005 Macro Results Are In!

Thanks to the many volunteers who collected macroinvertebrate samples last summer!

Macroinvertebrate monitoring samples are sent to a laboratory where all the insects in the samples are identified and tallied. Each sample is given a score called a Benthic Index of Biological Integrity (BIBI). The range of numbers indicates the health of the stream at the time the sample was taken. Many variables can affect the score outcome; this is why multiple year data and other testing/sampling data are needed to make scientific assessments. For a look at the health of many of our local streams, see below for the monitoring results of the past five years.

Interpreting BIBI Scores

SCORE	BIOLOGICAL INTEGRITY
1-24	LOW
25-39	MODERATE
40 +	HIGH

Benthic Index of Biological Integrity (BIBI) Scores

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

Lawn Care and Salmon: Time for Northwest Natural Yard Days!



Indian plum is blooming which means the spring growth spurt for our lawns, gardens and weeds can't be far behind! Here are some resources to help you take care of your yard in an environmentally-friendly manner.



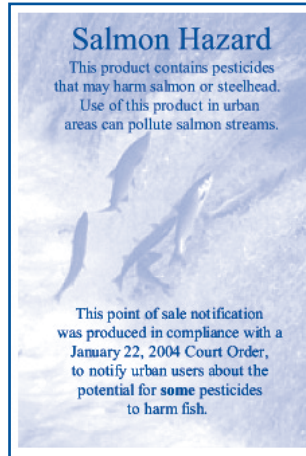
Savings On Natural Yard Care Products



Stores around the region will offer natural yard care products at a discount – up to 25% off regular prices – to encourage environmentally-friendly yard care. Northwest Natural Yard Days, a partnership of governmental agencies and retailers, begins April 15th and runs through May 15th. Participating stores are listed on the website at www.yarddays.com.

Products on sale this year include: electric mulching mowers, push mowers, natural organic fertilizer, compost and woody mulch, water wands and soaker hoses, insecticidal soap, hand weed pullers, and less toxic moss and slug controls.

No-Spray Buffer Zones and Consumer Warnings On Pesticides



Another resource originated in the courts, but should soon be visible in stores.

The U.S. Supreme Court upheld a 2004 lower court ruling putting in place no-spray buffer zones near western salmon streams and consumer warnings on certain pesticides. The label information warns that certain pesticide products may harm salmon or steelhead, and use of the pesticides can pollute salmon streams. Products containing 2,4-D,

carbaryl, diazinon, diuron, malathion, trichlopyr BEE, or trifluralin are to be posted with the warning.

Typical weed and feed ingredients as well as many other commonly used home and garden products are among those requiring a salmon hazard warning. Thurston County's Common Sense Gardening program can provide information on effective alternatives to these and other pesticides.

Staff members are available during business hours at 360-754-4111 (TDD 360-754-2933). You may also visit us at our website at: www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/ehrp/gardening or for look for free "Common Sense Gardening" guides in local stores and nurseries.





**A Walk in the Woods:
Meet the Trees of
Washington**
Saturday, June 3 • 10am-3pm

*Thurston County Courthouse
2000 Lakeridge Drive. Bldg. 1, Rm. 152 and
McLane Creek Nature Trail*

Everywhere we look, we see tall, majestic trees, reminding us that we live in the “Evergreen State.” But how do we tell them apart? How do the trees of Washington benefit our communities and our health? This class will begin with a slide presentation and a hands-on activity to introduce Washington’s native trees. A second presentation will highlight additional native plants and eco-systems of the Pacific Northwest. We will then take a guided field trip to McLane Creek Nature Trail, which will appeal to “first-time explorers” as well as to those with more advanced native plant identification skills.

To register, call Susie at 360-754-3355 ext. 6377, or email vanders@co.thurston.wa.us.

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.

STREAM TEAM INQUIRIES:

In Lacey: City of Lacey Water Resources Program
P.O. Box 3400, Lacey, WA 98509-3400
Attn: Lisa Dennis-Perez – 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
921 Lakeridge Dr. S.W., Olympia, WA 98502
Attn: Susie Vanderburg – Tel: (360) 754-3355 x6377 / TDD: 360-754-2933

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTORS:

Lisa Dennis-Perez, *Lacey Stream Team*
Patricia Pyle & Danielle Harrington, *Olympia Stream Team*
Debbie Smith, *Tumwater Stream Team*
Susie Vanderburg & Ann Marie Finan, *Thurston County Stream Team*

DESIGN & LAYOUT: Barbara McConkey, *Inform Design*



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