



FALL 2005

*A Quarterly  
Newsletter of the  
Regional  
Stream Team  
Program*

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

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## "Creatures of the Night" Haunted Mystery Hike

**October 22, Priest Point Park - Rose Garden  
5 to 7:30 pm. Costumes encouraged, but not required!**



Have fun with Stream Team on a forest hike with guest appearances by bats, owls, and giant spiders. Unravel the mystery of the missing salmon with ghouls and goblins during a guided hike in the park with lots of spooky and fun interactive activities. All ages can enjoy this exciting trip around the loop trail by Priest Point Park Rose Garden. Guided mystery hikes will leave from the Rose Garden shelter every 10 minutes between 5:30 and 6:20 pm. The mystery hike will take approximately 45 minutes. (Youth under age 16 must be accompanied by an adult.)

Special guest storyteller, Rebecca Hom will also be on hand to captivate the audience with her suspenseful folk tales. Enjoy storytelling at the Rose Garden Shelter at 5 pm, 6 pm, and 7 pm. Each session is 30 minutes long and the stories grow "scariest" as the night gets longer.

Volunteers for this event are still being recruited to help at the stops along the hike. Be prepared to dress up and be creative! Call Patricia at 360-570-5841 if you'd like to help with this new event.

## See Local Salmon, Learn from Stewards



It's amazing that returning adult salmon come right through downtown Olympia on their way back to the Deschutes River. The 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue Bridge and Tumwater Falls Park are great places to view the salmon, and Stream Team's Salmon Stewards will be there this fall to provide lots of information. Salmon Stewards will be at the 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue Bridge from September 3 - 25 on weekends from 11 am to 5 pm and weeknight evenings from 4 to 6 pm. Salmon Stewards will be at Tumwater Falls Park from September 17 - October 9 on weekends from 11 am to 5 pm. In addition, they will be there on weekday evenings in September from 4 to 6 pm. In November, wild chum salmon return to McLane Creek to spawn. These salmon can be viewed at McLane Creek Nature Trail off Delphi Road. Salmon Stewards will be there on weekends from 11 am to 3 pm beginning November 12 and ending December 4.



# Calendar

## October

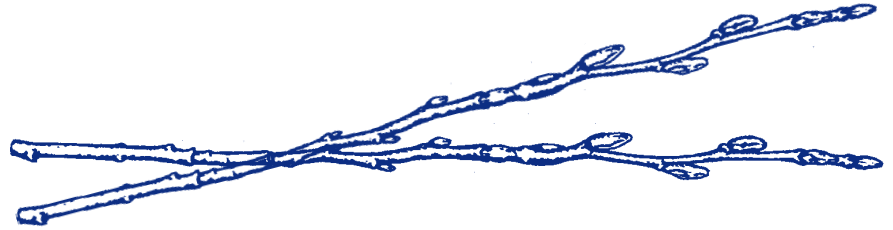
- 2 Tumwater Harvest Festival,**  
10 am to 4 pm, Tumwater Falls Park. Call Debbie @ 360-754-4148 for details or to volunteer.
  
- 15 Salmon Stewards Field Day,**  
9 to 11:30 am. McLane Creek Nature Trail. Call Patricia @ 360-570-5841 for more info.
  
- 22 Creatures of the Night Haunted Mystery Hike,**  
5 to 7:30 pm. Priest Point Park Rose Garden Shelter. Call Patricia @ 360-570-5841 for details or to volunteer.
  
- 23 Adams Creek Revegetation Project,** 1 to 4 pm. Call Susie @ 360-754-3355, ext. 6377 for details.
  
- 30 Green Cove Creek Revegetation Project,**  
1 to 4 pm. Call Susie @ 360-754-3355, ext. 6377 for details.

## November

- 5 Deschutes River Revegetation Project,**  
10 am to noon. Meet at Tumwater Valley Golf Course Clubhouse. Call Debbie @ 360-754-4148 for more info.
  
- 16 Workshop: "Naturescaping for Water and Wildlife",**  
6:30 to 9 pm, Thurston County Courthouse, Building 1. Contact Erica @ 360-754-3588, ext. 110 or ericag@wsu.edu to register.

## Deschutes River Bank Stabilization Project Nears Completion

Stream Team volunteers are needed to help the City of Tumwater complete a bank stabilization project, identified as Site 130, to control sediment and erosion along the Deschutes River this fall. The effort is the final phase of a Centennial Clean Water Fund project administered by the Washington Department of Ecology. The Site 130 project includes the use of large woody debris, rock, and native plants to reduce streambank washout, limit sedimentation, and improve fish and wildlife habitat. Volunteers are needed to plant willow stakes and other native vegetation on Saturday, November 5, from 10 am to noon. If you would like to help out, meet at the Tumwater Valley Golf Course Clubhouse at 10 am. Please call Debbie at 360-754-4148 for more information.



## Henderson Inlet Community Shellfish Farm Work Party

Help harvest the community farm's first oyster crop on October 28, 29 and 30! The crop will be sold to commercial shellfish farmers, and the proceeds will be used to support future activities at the community farm, including educational field trips for students. This is hard work, but it will be good fun too!

Don't miss this unique opportunity to experience oyster farming, up close and personal. Come help any one of the three days, or more if you'd like! Contact Mark Fischer at 360-866-8960 for meeting times and directions.



## What is This Thing Anyway?

If you have been to the base of lower Tumwater Falls during the great spring smolt migration to the sea, you may have seen a strange looking contraption that looks like it came straight from The



Adventures of Huckleberry Finn. It is not, in fact, an adventure raft; it is a Department of Fish and Wildlife trap that captures downstream migrating coho and chinook. Currently, the trap is in operation from April to June, 24 hours a day. Wild coho smolts are captured and coded-wire tagged before they are released. In the fall, returning adult coho are captured in holding pens, examined for coded tags and counted. In this way, smolt-to-adult survival is measured. Chinook smolts are also trapped, counted, and released. WDFW has been monitoring production and survival rates of the Tumwater Falls Hatchery salmon in this way since 1976. For more information, visit the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife site. [http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/wild\\_salmon\\_monitor/deschutes\\_river.htm](http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/wild_salmon_monitor/deschutes_river.htm).

## Two New Reveg Sites in Thurston County Need Your Help!



This fall, all volunteers are invited to help plant native trees and shrubs along Adams Creek near Boston Harbor Road NE and along Green Cove Creek near Kaiser Road NW. The Adams Creek site is a culvert replacement project completed by South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group. The Green Cove Creek site is a wetland buffer in the headwaters of the creek, on property owned by Ernie Paul and Mike Leigh. Planting days are Sunday afternoons on October 23 and 30, respectively. Watch for more info in a Stream Team email, or call Susie at 360-754-3355, ext. 6377 for details.

## Other Events

### Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Days

**September 23 - 25**

The Waste Mobile is back! The free household hazardous waste disposal unit returns to its Olympia site at Westfield Shopping Center. The WasteMobile operates from 10 am until 5 pm Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Call Jennifer Johnson @ 360-754-4111 for more information.

### Henderson Inlet Community Shellfish Farm Harvest

#### Work Party

**October 28, 29, & 30**

9 am start time. Call Mark Fischer @ 360-866-8960 for more details.

### Septic Sense Workshops, All held 7 to 9 pm.

Learn to prolong the life of your septic system. Protect your investment and the environment. Register for one of these FREE workshops by calling 360-754-4111.

**Thursday, October 13**

Rochester Fire Station

**Tuesday, October 18**

Thurston County Fairgrounds

**Tuesday, October 25**

South Bay Fire Station

(for sand or mound systems)

**Wednesday, November 2**

McLane Elementary School

# Team News



## Lacey

Macro monitoring was smooth sailing this year at four

sites in the Woodland Creek basin. The weather was perfect on August 13, when Diane Skov, Jack Havens and Eli Perez helped collect bugs on Woodland Creek at Draham Road, and Roberta Woods and Chris Hempleman helped out at the creek near Pleasant Glade Road. On August 16, Dennis Matsuda and Don Eveleth endured leeches in the name of science, collecting bugs at Fox Creek (a tributary to Woodland). Lacey staff finished up by collecting bugs at Palm Creek (another Woodland trib). Returning volunteers shared their expertise with newcomers to ensure that bugs were collected in keeping with a stringent protocol. Thanks to all these great volunteers for their dedication and patience!

## Olympia

Thanks so much to all of the terrific macro

monitoring volunteers who sampled insects with us on Olympia streams! Macroinvertebrate sampling couldn't be done without the enthusiasm and skill of those who donned their waders for science!

At Mission Creek, we had help from Bethany Diehl and her niece Jade, who was visiting from San Francisco. Bethany has been very active this summer, both with macro monitoring and with storm drain stenciling in her neighborhood. Lisa Monahan also volunteered with us and, sadly for us, is moving from this area to the Methow Valley next week. Veteran monitor, Nicki Johnson, came along to make sure we were sticking to the protocol.

Veteran sampler Roberta Woods once again braved the steep ravine of Ellis Creek with the assistance of Michelle Williams. Michelle's enthusiasm got us back up the slope! Excellent work by this team!

Autumn Dryden, who returned to Moxlie Creek after stepping into a 4' deep pool last year, was greeted with a near-dry experience! Shocking! Her friendly demeanor was complemented well by Bonnie Stack's laid-back manner, in sampling this thorny, overgrown site. Patience and skill - what a great combination!

Tricia Kiech, Mark Davis and Rhonda Davis offered their time and water shoes to collect macroinvertebrates in the warm water of Black Lake Ditch. We carefully cleaned all the rocks looking for black fly larva. Thanks to Mark's youthful enthusiasm, we were reminded that, though this is science, we need to have fun!

Indian Creek was the last stream monitored this season with Ann "The Stop-Watch Queen" Mataczynski and Don "The Stir-Meister" Eveleth accompanied by interns extraordinaire, Abi Groskopf and Claire Graser, on this enjoyable outing.

Keep a lookout for macro monitoring results in *Stream Team News* next year!

## Tumwater

Students attending the Trout Unlimited

Academy pitched in to improve the health of the Deschutes River on June 23 by weeding the Stream Team native plantings along the riverbank. Students worked during the heat of the midday sun to pull Scotch broom, cut Himalayan blackberry, and hand-pull other weeds from around the plantings. Thanks to the Trout Unlimited volunteers, led by Dick Nye, and to the students for their hard work and dedication!

Stream Team volunteers and Cub Scout Pack #618 joined together on July 16 to help eradicate the noxious weed tansy ragwort from the banks of the Deschutes River. Volunteers donned gloves and hand-pulled all the visible plants along a stretch of the riverbank downstream from the Tumwater Valley Municipal Golf Course



Volunteers collect bugs along Woodland Creek near Draham Road.

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

Clubhouse. Some of the eager Cub Scouts also tackled cutting invasive Himalayan blackberry back from Stream Team native plantings. Thanks to these hard workers!



Cub scouts remove blackberry along the Deschutes.

The new storm drain marking system got off to a good start through the assistance of Tumwater's Old Towne Center Youth Program. On August 8, volunteers applied new 4 inch round markers, reading "No Dumping; Flows to Waterways", next to all the storm drains in the Streamland Estates neighborhood near Percival Creek. Old Towne Center plans to make Stream



Applying a storm drain marker in Streamland Estates.

Team activities a regular part of its program. It's great to have these eager youth working with us!

August was time once again for the annual macroinvertebrate monitoring of local streams. Bug samples were collected to determine the biological health of streams. Stream Team volunteers worked with City of Tumwater Stream Team on August 6 at Percival Creek and on August 20 at the Deschutes River. Thanks to volunteers Phyllis and Mitch Craig, Jane and David Stone, Liz Werner, Emily Conrad, George Harmon, Margaret Hancock, Anthony Kelly-Glasoe, and Stephanie Mangus for gathering this important data.



Volunteers scrape bugs from rocks collected from the Deschutes.

**T.C.** Storm drain stenciling in Thurston County neighborhoods continued throughout July and August, bringing the total number of drains stenciled to over 250! A big "thanks" goes to summer stencilers, Kristin Gomez and family (Hewitt Lake Park) and Tom Fields and family (The Ridge). There is still time in early fall to stencil your neighborhood, so call Susie if you'd like to borrow a stenciling kit. We are especially looking for volunteers to stencil

drains in Wilderness, Tamoshan, Timberlake, Terri Ct, Thompson Place, Cedrona, New Castle, Dover Glen, and Eagle Estates.



Macro monitoring along McLane Creek.

Stream Team volunteers monitored for macroinvertebrates at two Thurston County sites this summer: Liz Werner, Emily Conrad, Melinda and Leo Spencer, Bethany Diehl and Bethany's niece, Jade, hiked into McLane Creek on a gorgeous day to collect samples along the beautiful, shady riffles. Six-year-old Leo was a great help with taking measurements of the site. Anna Clark assisted Thurston County staff in monitoring a new site on Little McAllister Creek, just downstream from a proposed stormwater retention project. Besides being a meticulous macro sampler, Anna was a great help with identifying the native plants. Thank you, macro volunteers! Those long hours you spent monitoring are really appreciated.



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

# Salmon Carcasses: The Ocean-Forest Link

For many Stream Teamers, the high point of the year is the fall spawning season. The beauty and perseverance of our Pacific salmon at this stage of their life cycle never fails to amaze us. No less amazing, however, is the importance of the next life cycle stage in maintaining the health of our Northwest ecosystems.

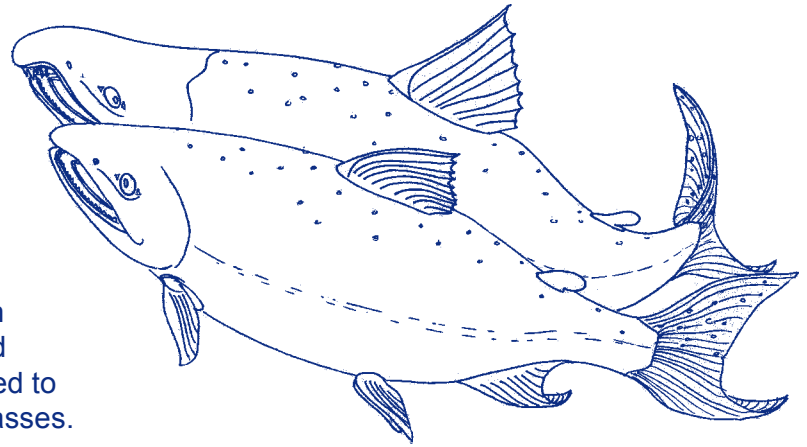
As we all know, Pacific salmon die after they spawn. Yet, because spawning salmon return from the ocean, each fish brings several pounds of marine nutrients back to its home watershed. The decomposing carcasses offer an important food source for a host of organisms which, in turn, become prey for other species. Of the 137 species documented as depending on salmon, 41 are mammals including killer whales, bears and river otters; 89 are birds; five are reptiles and two are amphibians.

Studies have found that the decomposing carcasses in the water, besides providing food for young fish, promote the growth of algae which aquatic insects consume. Stoneflies and other insects also feed directly on carcasses. Through the detection

of marine isotopes, it was found that 40 to 60 percent of the stomach contents of young salmon and steelhead could be traced to salmon carcasses.

Flood waters and scavengers carry the carcasses beyond the streams and deposit them in the forest where the carcasses provide food for maggots, slugs, insects, birds and mammals. The carcasses, along with scat from these animals, fertilize the plants, thereby enriching the entire forest ecosystem.

Without salmon bringing in marine nutrients, the whole ecosystem suffers. Researchers have calculated that, due to declining salmon runs, just five to seven percent of the nutrients historically delivered by salmon to streams is now available. Thus the streams are starving from lack of salmon, and that lack of salmon is hurting the ability for the next generation of salmon to survive.



In recent years, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife has been placing hatchery salmon carcasses in streams to try and restore some of the lost nutrients. Oregon also has a smaller, but growing, carcass distribution program. The extent of carcass distribution in this manner is limited by concerns over spreading disease and the resources to distribute the fish.

You can learn more about the importance of salmon carcasses to Northwest ecosystems in the report: *Pacific Salmon and Wildlife: Ecological Contexts, Relationships, and Implications for Management*, available from Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/hab/salmonwild>.

## Tumwater Falls Harvest Festival Celebrates 5<sup>th</sup> Year

Come celebrate the return of the salmon and our area's pioneer history at Tumwater Falls Harvest Festival on Sunday, October 2 from 10 am to 4 pm! Stream Team Salmon Stewards and Washington Fish and Wildlife Department staff will present information and demonstrations about the salmon (primarily chinook) returning up the fish ladders at Tumwater Falls. Tumwater Stream Team and Friends of Deschutes Watershed Center will offer salmon-themed arts and crafts activities, river walks, FIN - the 25' walk-in salmon, and delicious barbecued salmon dinners. Admission and activities are free; food is reasonably priced. Please call Debbie at 360-754-4148 for more information or to volunteer in one of the booths.



# Day Camp Thank You!

We have completed another summer of Stream Team Day Camps! The three different camps engaged, inspired, and educated children about our local area. Camp would not be possible without the many people (both volunteers and staff) who provided their expertise and time to lead activities for the campers. Many thanks to the following people:

*Annie Hankins* and *Jan Rocks* from Black Hills Audubon led three stations focused on bird calls, bird adaptations, and nests. *Diane Skov* volunteered to lead two activities – dying wool with nature materials and mining activities. *Erin Montgomery* taught an excellent week-long activity called Box City in which campers designed a city that protects local water resources. *Lynn Risenhoover* assisted us in planning and executing an excellent Pioneer day, and *Anne Kelleher* spoke about how pioneers depended on and used Pacific Northwest natural resources. *Mikel Losh* volunteered a full week of time and made excellent biscuits on Pioneer Day. *Rich Kalman* photographed campers on Pioneer day spinning wool, laundering clothes, and sawing logs.



*Camper Hannah looks for animals at the beach.*

Thanks to the many City of Olympia staff and terrific guest speakers who helped make the camps so successful. Thanks also to the following organizations and people for making the campers' field trip to the Henderson Inlet Community Shellfish Farm such a memorable activity: *Anne Mills, Sara Carter, Ernest Lockett II, Rick Peters, and Lex Vinsel* with Thurston Conservation District; *Dan Barth and Mark Fischer* with Puget Sound Restoration Fund; and *Hector Beltran and Aimee Christy* with Pacific Shellfish Institute.

Last, but not least, thanks to our excellent group of volunteer teen counselors, who helped by leading games with campers, setting up, and cleaning up. These teen volunteers included: *Willie Blackman, Larissa Rogge, Brian Eschels, Stacy Stamm, Derick Finch, Devon Finch, Anna Marie Clark, Ryan Lawrence, Kate Healy, Valerie Verhei, and Bryson Albrecht.*



*Stream Team day campers key out native plants with counselor Valerie Verhei.*



*A group of campers prepare to explore the shellfish beds at the Henderson Inlet Community Shellfish Farm.*



*John stands near a bird nest he created on a Douglas-fir.*

# “Naturescaping for Water and Wildlife” Workshop

Join us on Wednesday evening, November 16, from 6:30 to 9 pm for our fall workshop on water-wise landscaping. Find out how you can turn your yard into a beautiful landscape that attracts butterflies and birds while also reducing the need for watering. Other topics covered include design ideas for “hardscapes” and tricky spots (such as slopes), how to minimize lawns, dealing with drainage problems, and managing stormwater on-site to protect water resources. Our partner, WSU Native Plant Salvage Project, will be hosting the workshop at Thurston County Courthouse, Building One, Room 152. Contact

Erica Guttman, NPSP coordinator, to register: 360-754-3588, Ext. 110 or [ericag@wsu.edu](mailto:ericag@wsu.edu).



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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.

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

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