



Annual Party at Historic Schmidt House

Join us at 7 pm on January 19 for our annual celebration of Stream Team volunteers to recognize the great work done in 2005! This year's event will be held at the historic Schmidt House in Tumwater (see article on page 3). To kick off our environmental history theme for the new year, the evening's program will include a presentation by Don Trosper, president of the Tumwater Historical Association. Volunteers of the year will be recognized and accomplishments of all the great

volunteers will be celebrated with cake, coffee and punch. This is a great opportunity to get to know more about our local environmental history, as well as more about Stream Team and the terrific work our volunteers do every year. Please join us. The Schmidt House is located at 333 Schmidt Place SW, off Custer Way. This event is free and open to the public, but please plan on coming early since space is limited.



Winter Workshop "Tending the Tidelands: Growing Shellfish in South Puget Sound"



People attending the Henderson and Eld Inlet Watershed Tours over the years have often asked how they can grow shellfish on their own tidelands. Now everyone can learn about tideland farming at a new workshop on Saturday, March 25, from 10 am to 1 pm. Several speakers, including Bill Taylor from Taylor Shellfish Farm and long-time Stream Team volunteer, Paul Meury, will cover the mechanics of growing your own shellfish as well as environmental health/safety considerations. In addition, in keeping with our environmental history theme for the year, a short history of shellfishing in South Sound will be presented. Besides being delicious, shellfish fulfill many beneficial ecological functions (see article on page 6 for more info).

The following groups are assisting with the workshop and will have displays on hand: Puget Sound Restoration Fund, Pacific Shellfish Institute, and Thurston County Environmental Health program. This free workshop will be held at Thurston County Courthouse, Building 1, Room 152. You don't have to own tideland property to enjoy these informative presentations! Please register by calling Susie Vanderburg at 360-754-3355, ext. 6377, or email vanders@co.thurston.wa.us.

WINTER 2006

*A Quarterly
Newsletter of the
Regional
Stream Team
Program*

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

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Calendar

Here is our 2006 Stream Team calendar for you to save and refer to throughout the year! This listing includes field classes, trainings, monitorings and other events. Look for announcements of additional Stream Team events and action projects in future issues of the newsletter. Registration is required for all field classes, workshops and monitoring trainings. To sign up or find out more, call the coordinator listed with the event: Lisa Dennis-Perez at 360-438-2687, Patricia Pyle at 360-570-5841, Debbie Smith at 360-754-4148, Susie Vanderburg at 360-357-2491, or Erica Guttman at 360-754-3588, ext. 110.

WINTER

- Jan. 19** **Annual Party and History Talk**, 7 to 8:30 pm, The Schmidt House, 333 Schmidt Place SW, off Custer Way in Tumwater (*All*).
- Feb. 5** **History Presentation "Glaciers, Water and Land"**, speakers Roger Easton and Weldon Rau, 2 to 3 pm, TC Courthouse, Bldg. 1 Rm. 152 (*Patricia*).
- March 4** **Deschutes River Revegetation Project**, 10 am to noon. Meet at Tumwater Valley Golf Course Clubhouse (*Debbie*).
- March 5** **History Presentation "Land, Water and Early Peoples"**, speaker Shanna Stevenson, 2 to 3 pm, TC Courthouse, Bldg. 1 Rm. 152 (*Patricia*).
- March 11** **Woodard Creek Revegetation Project**, 10 am to 2 pm. Location TBA (*Susie*).
- March 25** **Workshop "Tending the Tidelands: Growing Shellfish in South Puget Sound"**, 10 am to 1 pm, TC Courthouse, Bldg. 1 Rm. 152 (*Susie*).

SPRING

- April 2** **History Presentation "Sylvester's Window - The Changing Landscape Around Sylvester Park from 1841 to 2001"**, speaker Lynn Erickson, 2 to 3 pm, TC Courthouse, Bldg. 1 Rm. 152 (*Patricia*).
- April 29** **Field Class "Naturescaping: Creating Earth-Friendly Yards"**, 10 am to 3:30 pm, Thurston County Courthouse, Bldg. 1 Rm. 152 (*Erica*).
- May 7** **History Hike "Ethnobotany - Native Uses of Plants in Priest Point Park"**, speaker Paul Moody, 2 to 4 pm, Ellis Cove Trail at Priest Point Park (*Patricia*).
- May 20 & 21** **Lacey Spring Fun Fair**, 10 am to 7 pm on May 20, 11 am to 5 pm on May 21, St. Martin's Pavillion (*Lisa*).
- June 3** **Field Class: "Meet the Trees of Washington"**, 10 am to 3 pm, TC Courthouse, Bldg. 1 Rm. 152 (*Erica*).
- June 4** **History Hike: Watershed Park**, 2 to 4 pm, Watershed Park (*Patricia*).
- June 26** **Macroinvertebrate Monitoring Training**, 6:30 to 8:30 pm, TC Courthouse, Bldg. 1 Rm. 152 (*Susie*).

SUMMER

- July 13-16** **Lakefair Stream Team Booth**, shifts available each day, Percival Landing (*Patricia*).
- July 19** **Macroinvertebrate Monitoring Training**, 6:30 to 8:30 pm, TC Courthouse, Bldg. 1 Rm. 152 (*Susie*).
- July - Aug.** **Macroinvertebrate Monitoring**, sign up for various sites at the training (*All*).
- Aug. 29** **Salmon Stewards Classroom Training (part 1)**, 6 to 9 pm, Smith Bldg. 837 7th Ave SE (*Patricia*).
- Sept. 7** **Salmon Stewards Classroom Training (part 1)**, 6 to 9 pm, Smith Bldg. 837 7th Ave SE (*Patricia*).
- Sept. 9** **Salmon Stewards Field Day**, 9 to 11 am, 5th Avenue Bridge (*Patricia*).
- Sept. 14** **Salmon Stewards Classroom Training (part 2)**, 6 to 9 pm, Smith Bldg. 837 7th Ave SE (*Patricia*).
- Sept. 16** **Salmon Stewards Field Day**, 9 to 11 am, Tumwater Falls Park (*Debbie*).
- Sept. 16** **Watershed Tour: "Watershed Stories of Henderson Inlet"**, 9 am to 1 pm (*Lisa*).

FALL

- Oct. 1** **Tumwater Falls Harvest Fest**, 10 am to 4 pm, Tumwater Falls Park (*Debbie*).
- Oct. 14** **Special Event "Creatures of the Night Haunted Mystery Hike"**, 1:30 to 5:30 pm, Priest Point Park. Event will be postponed until October 21 in case of heavy rain (*All*).
- Nov. 15** **Workshop: "Naturescaping for Water and Wildlife"**, 6 to 9 pm, TC Courthouse, Bldg. 1 Rm. 152 (*Erica*).

“First Sunday” Environmental History Talks

In 2006, Stream Team will be hosting a new series of Environmental History Talks. Join us on the first Sunday of each month, starting in February, to hear local experts share information that reveals how water is the connecting thread in the history of South Sound. Find out how water, in the form of glaciers, carved out the sound and shaped our landscape. Discover the importance of local rivers as transportation corridors to all the early people of South Sound. Learn how the abundance of food in local estuaries sustained early people and contributed to the economy.

The environmental history series begins with the most remarkable impact on our Puget Sound

landscape – the glaciers. In February, Geologist Weldon Rau and local historian Roger Easton will discuss the influence of glaciers on our landscape in Thurston County, including the formation of the Mima Mounds. In March, Thurston Regional Planning Council Planner, Shanna Stevenson, will give an overview of the history of human activity in South Sound and how water helped to encourage settlements of both native people and new settlers. In April, Lynn Erickson will discuss “Sylvester’s Window”, the new educational project that depicts the land changes looking north from Sylvester Park between 1841 and 2001 using eight custom-painted historical prints. The first three talks will be held at

Thurston County Courthouse, Building 1, Room 152, from 2 to 3 pm. Light refreshments will be served.



In May, join Paul Moody on an ethnobotany tour of Priest Point Park, and in June, former mayor and local activist Bob Jacobs will lead a tour of Watershed Park. Talks will resume in September with an Olympia downtown history talk, a tour of McAllister Springs in October, and a tour of McLane Creek Nature Trail in November. The history hikes will be from 2 to 4 pm. *(The history series is geared toward adults and is not intended to hold the attention of children under 10 years of age.)* For more information, call Patricia at 360-570-5841.

The Schmidt House: A Local Historical Gem

Compiled from the work of Terry Badger with Washington State Archives and Peter Schmidt

Step back in time to the home of one of Tumwater’s first families to capitalize on one of our greatest resources: water! Leopold Schmidt, drawn to Tumwater from Montana to use the natural spring water, started the Olympia Brewing Company in 1896. Schmidt found that the local spring water was perfect for crafting beer. By 1906, he had a thriving business that would eventually become one of the largest employers in Tumwater. With this success, in 1904, Schmidt moved his family up to the top of the hill behind his brewery, where the now historic Schmidt House overlooks the mouth of the Deschutes River.

Three generations of Schmidts lived in the house, fondly referred to by family members as “Three

Meter”. The origin of the nickname is a matter of family debate, but one story suggests that workers in the old brewery below, hearing the boisterous play of the young Schmidt boys in the yard up the hill, jokingly stated that all the noise reminded them of the battle of Three Meter Hill. The name caught on and has been used down through the years.

The Schmidt Family, ever active donors of their time and money, believe strongly in giving back to the community which gave so much to them. During the Second World War, Clara Schmidt and the house gardener operated a large vegetable garden, taking the produce to “U-Can-Em” in Olympia and donating to families in need. In keeping with the family’s

community tradition, the family formed the Olympia-Tumwater Foundation, which now manages the Schmidt House, making it available to the community for government, corporate, and private events such as meetings, retreats, weddings and receptions. The Olympia-Tumwater Foundation also donated the Tivoli Fountain to the Capitol Campus. Today, the Foundation is the community’s largest private scholarship fund, recently granting \$77,000 to 29 graduates of the class of 2005 to start their college education.

Experience a bit of local history by touring the home and listening to a history presentation by Don Trosper, as part of the **Stream Team Annual Party**, January 19, from 7 to 8:30 pm.

Team News



Lacey

Volunteers have been busy marking storm drains in Lacey with colorful decals that remind residents not to dump waste into the drains. Deanna Maldonado marked over 170 drains; members of Cub Scout Pack #222 and Boy Scout Pack #202 marked over 150 drains on one day and 221 more a few weeks later; and College Street Christian Church marked 159 drains. Thanks to these great volunteers for their patience and perseverance waiting out the rain to ensure that these markers will last a long, long time!

Olympia

With fall rains came the return of the salmon and Stream Team Salmon Stewards. In 2005, 9 new Salmon Stewards joined 14 returning Stewards to put on their fishing vests and caps and answer the public's questions about salmon. A big "thanks" goes to these volunteers for their many hours of outreach last fall! New Salmon Stewards were: Alice Havlick, Bill Lepman, Bonnie Stack, Donna Armitage, Linda Hurtado, Matt Menze, Rich Kalman, Scotty Kufus and Shannon Caeson. Returning Salmon Stewards were: Ann Mataczynksi, Don Eveleth, Anne Fiala, Chuck Peterson, Lynn Corliss, Diane Skov, Tom Dowell, Donna Smith, Gary Sprague, Kathy Evans, Patrick Stack, Paula Stack, Sue Stack, Deanna Chew and Dennis Connolly.

Salmon Stewards spoke to 1,186 visitors at Tumwater Falls Park and 650 visitors at the 5th Avenue

Bridge. In addition, Salmon Stewards volunteered for three school field trips, talking to over 200 fourth and fifth grade children and adult chaperones. Many Stewards reported that their favorite moment was seeing a seal catch and eat a salmon and watching the river otters.

Salmon Stewards also braved November's chill and volunteered at McLane Creek Nature Trail during the weekends to educate the public about the natural chum run. They talked to 75 fourth and fifth grade children during 3 different school field trips to see the salmon spawning.

Tumwater

Annual fairs, festivals, and planting season were in full swing this fall. Stream Team volunteers came out in force, bringing their talents and skills to public outreach education and habitat enhancement efforts.

At the Puyallup Fair, Stream Team volunteers Diana Willey, Bethany Diehl and Emily Smith taught children and their parents about the life cycle and habitat needs of salmon while stringing colorful bead chains. Staff and volunteers with Natural Resources Youth Camp also helped out with the fair activity.

The fifth annual Tumwater Falls Harvest Fest was held on the rainy day of October 2. Stream Team Salmon Stewards Diane Skov, Bonnie Stack, Kathy Evans and Donna Smith provided information to the public about the returning

Chinook salmon in the Deschutes River. Student volunteers from River Ridge, Olympia and Tumwater High Schools assisted children with salmon-themed arts and crafts activities in the Stream Team booth. Volunteers also helped children in and out of FIN, the ever-popular 25-foot-long fiberglass salmon.

Heavy rains occurred during the week of the revegetation project along the Deschutes River on November 5. The river was high and flowing swiftly while thirty dedicated Stream Team volunteers safely planted native vegetation along the slope of the bank at Site 130 on Tumwater Valley Golf Course. Thank you, volunteers!

T.C.

Seven volunteers came out on a warm, but rainy day in October to help plant 100 native trees and shrubs around a new culvert on Adams Creek, a tributary to Budd Inlet. South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group completed the new fish passage project at the site in September and invited Stream Team to help with the replanting. Over thirty Stream Team and Native Plant Salvage Project volunteers gathered in late October to plant 250 trees and shrubs in the wetland buffer of Green Cove Creek off of Kaiser Road. There was much site preparation and mulching to do, but all the work was completed just in time for the November rains. Stream Team also helped Capitol Land Trust with maintenance work at their McLane Point site in November. A big thanks to all the volunteers who gave up their weekends last fall to help restore our streams and shorelines!

Other Events

Native Plant Salvages:

January 8, 21, and 29,
February 10 and 22, and
March 5, 10 am to 2 pm

Assist the WSU Native Plant Salvage Project by salvaging plants from sites slated for development. Salvaged plants are potted and stored for use during future restoration projects. Call Erica at 360-754-3588, ext. 110 for more info.

South Puget Sound Salmon

Enhancement Group Annual Meeting:

January 26, 6 to 9 pm

at the Tacoma Power Auditorium

Keynote Speaker is Peter Donaldson from SalmonPeople. For more info, contact SPSSEG at 360-412-0808.

Winter Twig Identification Field Class:

February 5

Choose Session I: 10 am to 12:30 pm
or Session II: 1 to 3:30 pm

Contact Erica at 360-754-3588, ext. 110, to register. Fee for the class is \$10, which includes the revised edition of *Winter in the Woods*, or \$5 without the book.

TCD Native Plant Sale:

February 18, noon to 4 pm at the
Thurston Conservation District office,
located at 2400 Bristol Court SW

Purchase native plants and learn about plant care and associated topics at informational booths. Visit www.thurstoncd.com for an order form and more information.

WSDOT Spring Planting

March 18, 10 am to 1 pm

Join the Washington State Department of Transportation to help plant the south side of Highway 101 near Crosby Boulevard with native plants. Meet at WSDOT's Mottman Maintenance Facility located at 2220 R.W. Johnson Blvd. in Tumwater. We will walk from there. Please dress appropriately for typical Northwest spring weather. Contact Bob Barnes at 360-357-2733 for more information.



Haunted Mystery Hike a Huge Success!



Stream Team presented a new fall “kick-off” activity last October, a “haunted mystery hike” at Priest Point Park.

Over 700 people followed the haunted trail getting clues from forest creatures to find out why the salmon did not return to the stream to spawn. Many people helped with the hike, and their participation was even more appreciated with such a large unexpected crowd.

Garfield 4th graders and Reeves Middle School Alki Program students made the spooky decorations. The YMCA Earth Service Corps Leader, Claire Graser, and teens Shanti Herzog, Lea Franklin, Teale Niles and Andrew Foster helped to decorate the trail on Saturday. The following people were characters on the hike route: Susie Vanderburg, Joe Roush, Annie Henkins, Derek Caldwell, Riley Lord, Keith Eisner, Ben Thompson, Melody Mayer, Stephanie Leisle, Dennis Connolly, Riley Haub-McElreath, Patricia Pyle, Raven Connolly, Liam Connolly, Bethany Diehl, Susan Burnham, Kate Trafton, Tatyana Gibbs, Amber Mount, Tikva Breuer, TJ Monaghan, Karen Gibbs, Donna Smith, Stacey Ray, Tyler Ray, Rich Hoey, Lisa Dennis-Perez, Eli Perez, Jim Cooper, Andy Haub, and Ariannah Richardson. Storyteller Rebecca Hom, Micki McNaughton, and Debbie Smith were on spontaneous crowd control while people waited in line to go on the hike. Thank you to everyone who lent a hand. Great fun was had by all, and hundreds of participants learned how to help save our salmon!



Stream Team Remembers

Stream Team honors the passing of two extraordinary people who were instrumental in enhancing stream habitat in Thurston County.



Virgil Drewry passed away in September. Virgil owned property along the upper Deschutes River. For a number of years, he graciously allowed Stream Team volunteers to harvest willow and red-osier dogwood stakes on his property for use in revegetation projects downstream. His wife, Betty Drewry, will continue this tradition. A memorial tree has been planted at Tumwater Falls Park in his honor.

In October, Philip Sievers passed away. Philip was a member of the Washington Conservation Crew. Philip worked with the crew on many habitat enhancement projects throughout Thurston County. Philip and the crew worked closely with Tumwater Stream Team on the city's twelve-acre property along Percival Creek at Sapp Road. A memorial tree has been planted in Philip's honor at the site.

The Ecological Role of Shellfish

Excerpted in part from "An Abundance of Riches: Enjoying and Preserving Washington's Shellfish Resources" by Puget Sound Action Team, July 2003

Shellfish are integral components of the coastal ecosystem, so much so that some ecologists view oyster beds and oyster reefs as the outstanding communities of the estuary. The interactions between shellfish beds and other organisms of the coastal ecosystem are numerous and complex. Environmental factors such as water temperature, salinity, food availability, substrate, and predators determine the distribution, abundance, and condition of different shellfish species. In similar but reverse fashion, shellfish exert a dramatic influence on the character and condition of the estuarine environment, providing three-dimensional structure and habitat for plant and animal life of all kinds and playing important roles in the uptake and recycling of energy and nutrients.

Clean water has been called the lifeblood of the shellfish industry. Perhaps less well known is the critical role that shellfish play in keeping clean the very waters in which they live. Shellfish perform functions in the coastal ecosystem similar to the role that kidneys play helping to filter and regulate the flow of blood in the human body. A bivalve filters seawater at a rate ranging between 6 and 26 gallons a day, depending on size, species, and other factors. Some mature oysters can filter as much as 55 gallons of water a day. Healthy populations of shellfish can filter a substantial fraction of an estuary's water on a daily basis, and in the process help regulate vital flows of nutrients and energy in the overall coastal system.

Oysters, mussels, and most clams are suspension feeders, meaning they capture and eat plankton and other particles that are free-floating in the water. The shellfish assimilate some of what they take in and pass on the rest as material that settles to the bottom sediments. This uptake and recycling of organic matter help control phytoplankton levels, improve water clarity, supply nutrients to bottom sediments and allow greater light penetration for the growth of sea-grasses and other bottom vegetation.



Shellfish beds also provide three-dimensional structure and create conditions that are often attractive to other animals. Clumps of shellfish bound by byssal threads (secreted by mussels) provide habitat for amphipods and other marine macroinvertebrates, which, in turn, provide food for salmon utilizing the nearshore. Crabs and forage fish also find shelter among shellfish reefs.

Shorebirds can be seen feeding on shellfish, some by prodding the mud, and others by dropping bivalves onto hard surfaces to crack the shells. There are likely hundreds of other ecological interactions among shellfish and other nearshore life, most of which have not yet been discovered, but one thing is clear: shellfish are an integral component of a healthy estuarine system.



Reminder:

Kudo Cards are one way Stream Team says "thank you" to all our great volunteers. Volunteers use the cards to keep track of how many hours they have worked on Stream Team action projects. As the hours add up, volunteers can choose from a variety of Stream Team award items – patches, hats, mugs, t-shirts, and sweatshirts. Kudo cards can be picked up at any Stream Team action project. Just ask the Coordinator at the project to sign off on the hours you worked and you are on your way to earning a nifty Stream Team gift!



New Look for Stream Team News

Stream Team News will be getting a facelift in 2006! In the next few months, we will be updating the newsletter header and developing a new layout. We hope these changes will make the newsletter more readable and eye-catching. Look for the new format in the Spring issue.

A Year in the Life of Stream Team...



Thanks to Many for Helping Stream Team in 2005

Harbor Patrol; Nisqually GREEN; Capitol Land Trust; Puget Sound Anglers; The Volunteer Center; South Sound GREEN; People for Puget Sound; Pacific Shellfish Institute; YMCA Earth Service Corps; Leadership Thurston County; The Evergreen State College; Veterans Conservation Corps; US Department of Agriculture; Thurston Conservation District; Olympia-Tumwater Foundation; Puget Sound Restoration Fund; WA State Dept. of Transportation; Trout Unlimited, Olympia Chapter; WSU Native Plant Salvage Project; The Mountaineers, Olympia Chapter; City of Lacey Parks & Recreation Dept.; Thurston County Parks and Recreation; Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission; Washington State General Administration; City of Tumwater Parks & Recreation Dept.; Thurston County Juvenile Detention Center; City of Olympia Parks, Arts, and Recreation; City of Tumwater Planning & Facilities Dept.; Girl Scouts of America, Pacific Peaks Council; Boy Scouts of America, Pacific Harbors Council; Thurston County Environmental Health Program; USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service; South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group; Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife; City of Tumwater Old Town Center Youth Program; Washington State Department of Natural Resources; WSU Extension Puyallup Research Farm; South Sound Fly Fishers; Alki Program at Reeves; Garfield Elementary School

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

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