



## STILLWATERS ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER

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November Greetings!!!

Isn't this an exciting time? Maybe it's a little scary, too, but it is truly exciting that once again (or still) people are speaking up for what they believe in! There is nothing that will crush our community faster than apathy on the part of the people.

*We've been borrowing from the future, and the debt has fallen due. The science says we have physically entered a period of great change, a synchronized, related crash of the economy and ecosystem. We have the opportunity to build a society that represents our highest capacities . . . that works with rather than against nature. This crisis represents what may be a 'once in a civilization' opportunity for a step change in human evolution. . . . We are the people we have been waiting for. This is the time.*

*-- Paul Gilding in "The Great Disruption"*

We people tend to get to work on making change when we feel motivated in our personal lives – when we have personal experiences that illuminate the problems to be addressed – when a crisis touches us personally. A crisis we are concerned about is the state of Puget Sound.

*Restoring runs of wild salmon to the Pacific Northwest to levels that will support substantial fishing will not happen if current trajectories continue. . . . Although few people appear to be happy with the present situation, and a strong majority publicly professes support for maintaining wild salmon, there is little indication that society is inclined to confront the fundamental agents of the decline. Those causes deal with both individual life style and sheer numbers of people. Thus, it is likely that society will continue to chase the illusion that wild salmon runs can be restored without massive changes in the number, lifestyle, and philosophy of the human occupants of the western United States and Canada. --- Robert Lackey, EPA*

This is why Stillwaters is so needed: the Salish Sea cannot be protected without changes in each of us humans that occupy its shores and its surrounding watersheds. These are changes both in our lifestyles and our philosophy about Earth.

This is the reason we need a better campus here at Stillwaters, one that can serve more students of all ages, coming here for a very personal experience with Nature, an intellectual struggle with sustainability concepts, or an instructional workshop on specific lifestyle changes for Earth. While we need general funding to keep offering various opportunities for community education, we also need capital funds to make our campus more useful and accessible to more people.

### **PROGRESS IN THE STEPPING STONE FUND –**

Lots has happened in our slow progress toward making the Tree House building into an excellent environmental education center, with a monitoring & research lab and a

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nature library for the whole community. Our many supporters have stepped up to get the driveway & parking area started. This is critical in order to open the campus to the public, to remodel the beautiful Tree House building, and to accommodate school buses full of children who want to explore the natural world at Stillwaters.

It is wonderful that we have received **\$45,000** in cash, to date, for the Stepping Stone Fund. We have also benefitted from over 80 hours of volunteer time in 2011, directly related to working on the project – a value of over **\$140,000!** With your contributions and that donated labor, we were able to

- purchase on contract the needed acre for the driveway,
- design the Living Fence and Entrance Gateway,
- start the reconstruction of the parking area and entry to the gardens,
- lay out the circular drive, and
- start getting bids on the remodeling of the Tree House.

In addition, we have offers for more professional volunteer help & equipment once we have the funds and can start construction.

As much as we would like to, we are not slowing down for the holidays! We have the ambitious goal of applying for a major grant of \$100,000 for the Tree House renovation. This is ambitious because we need to have all our budget, drawings and permits in hand in order to apply by the next grant deadline in March. That's going to take some funding to get us ready! Our overall budget for this project is about **\$280,000**, so this would be a very significant amount of the total, if we can get it. Cash donations, in-kind gifts, and volunteer labor are all critical demonstrations of the community support we receive!

The continued local support we receive from people like yourself goes a very long way in helping us to get grants such as this. So thanks for continuing on the road to sustainability with us, and thanks for your ongoing support for our shared work.



Naomi Maasberg, on behalf of

The Board and Staff of Stillwaters Environmental Education Center --

*Betsy Cooper, Don Davidson, Kinley Deller, Paul Dorn, Kari Golden, Nancy Karle, Nick Jewett, Kate Kuhlman, Naomi Maasberg, Kathryn Owen, Joleen Palmer, Patti Pearson, Greg Relaford, plus Advisory members: Wendy Armstrong, Dave Hildebrand, Mardie Prescott, & Karen Ross*

PS. You are welcome to donate online, at [www.stillwatersenvironmentalcenter.org](http://www.stillwatersenvironmentalcenter.org),

PPS. **Need MEANINGFUL HOLIDAY GIFTS?** We hope you will take a look at the many options of gifts and donations in the enclosed flyers. We have gift ideas that support Stillwaters, and, therefore give to Earth as well as your loved ones.

There are a few gifts for yourself you may want to consider, too, such as a wreath for your door, the Stillwaters "Forest" sweatshirt, or a relaxing afternoon at our "**Homemade Holidays**" workshop on November 20th, 1-4 pm at Stillwaters. It's a fun time to get Eco-friendly ideas for decorating, gifts, and holiday activities, and you can pick up any of the items in our Holiday Gift Catalog.