



Stillwaters Environmental Education Center
RIPPLES AND REFLECTIONS
March, 2014

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WHAT'S ON OUR MINDS - *Reflections from the Stillwaters staff & board members*



Being Part of Environmental History

Recently we were honored to offer a special presentation on the work of John Muir, given by Ron Eber as a program for Stillwaters. John Muir died 100 years ago, but his legacy is one that gives us all much pleasure, as his work directly led to the creation of many of our National Parks and Forests — land that is saving the wildness of our country for all of us to enjoy. It was not easy; it was a battle then and continues to be so.

We now have the opportunity to continue the fight for preservation of some very beautiful and amazing wild places. **The Wild Olympics Wilderness & Wild and Wild Scenic Rivers Act of 2014** has been introduced in Congress by our own Representative Derek Kilmer and Senator Patty Murray.

This legislation will create 126,500 acres of new wilderness in Olympic National Forest, and newly designate 19 Wild & Scenic Rivers. It makes permanent some current, non-permanent Forest Service safeguards for

sensitive areas, so that future administrations cannot open ancient forests and rivers to logging, road building, mining, drilling or dams. It also enhances and preserves recreational access in the Olympic National Forest.



As in the process that led to the removal of the Elwha River dams, the public process leading to this act involved a very wide range of input. The Tribes, conservation groups, timber communities, business leaders, shellfish growers, farmers, local officials, hunters, anglers, mountain bikers, hikers, federal and state land managers, and just plain folks — all were consulted and involved.

This Act will protect much more of the ancient forests, free-flowing rivers & stunning scenery, as well as clean water for humans, salmon, & other wildlife. Protecting the peninsula's rivers helps to protect Puget Sound, as well.

But it will not be easy to see it enacted, as many do not want to see this change, perhaps not caring about our Earth home as much as we do. This is our opportunity to truly walk in the footsteps of John Muir, to fight for preservation of our natural lands.

Right now, you can help by signing the petition on the Wild Olympics website, and sign up to stay informed. The petition & website address is: www.wildolympics.org/take_action. Do it now! Be a part of environmental history, & make John Muir proud!



WHAT'S HAPPENING HERE

Find a place to jump in . . .



• **Stillwaters Fish Passage Monitoring** — *Citizen Scientists are doing estuary monitoring, setting up equipment, &*

recording data collected. More work is being done on data interpretation. Beach profiling (above) is a new activity. Monthly water quality monitoring on stream & estuary, & the monthly bird count continues.

• **Interns from U.W. Program on Environment** — *connecting students to the watershed & field work has been excellent training for them & helpful for us. Two interns are with us this quarter, Hannah Williams & An Ren Tan.*



- **Frog Chorus Drama Troupe** — *is getting ready for Spring performances in schools*
- **Training & Teaching** — *Two great speakers— on the work of John Muir & on Birds' Tools. We are grateful to Ron Eber & Connie Sidles for their presentations. New Monitors have been in training on the job. We're planning summer Nature Camp curriculum & EcoCruises, too.*
- **Trail, Campus, & 'Earth' Work** — *The installation of the Green Roof on the Entry Gateway is nearing completion. The box is installed & we're ready to plant on March 23rd. Our trails are looking forward to lots of TLC they need after the winter rains. Carter Gale is an Eagle Scout building a much needed shed for storing lumber here.*
- **Outreach & PR** — *Our ambassadors went to several events with the Stillwaters education display.*

- **Event Planning** — *We are starting planning for our annual Fund Raiser, which has been moved, to September 28. EcoFest will be on May 31. More Event Planners are needed!*
- **Fund Development** — *our usual fund raising continues while we collect funds to remodel the Tree House & improve the campus.*
- **Book Sale & Native Plant Sale** — *Our Annual Used Book Sale is "never-ending" — with books to sort, & lots to list online. Both book sale workers & donors are needed! Native Plants are for sale, available when we're open.*
- **Office Assistance & Mailings** — *these are critical! Jump into a mailing party or help out in the office regularly.*
- **Meeting & Planning by the Stillwaters Staff, Board & Committees** — *New members are needed on the board & several committees. That's a lot going on! No way to do all this without lots of community support. See p. 6 or the Program Flyer enclosed, & join us!*

Thanks for these special donations:

- ♦ *Lowe's Gift Card from Mary Neyhart*
- ♦ *Books and Tools from Rea Mowery's estate*
- ♦ *Office Supplies & Padded mailing envelopes from many of you*
- ♦ *Used Books from many folks*
- ♦ *Pest Control from Critter Ridders.*
- ♦ *Legal Advice from Beebe, Roberts & Bryan*
- ♦ *Storage Space from Kingston Mini Storage*
- ♦ *Chiropractic Services from Gaitlink Chiropractic Center in Kingston*
- ♦ *Access to their land for monitoring from Suzanne Arness, Jenny Davis, Steve & Sally Heacock, Kingston Hill Home-owners*

*The mission of
Stillwaters Environmental Education Center
is to teach, inspire & support individuals &
organizations to achieve sustainability in the use
of Earth's resources.*

The Board of Directors: Betsy Cooper, Kinley Deller & Patti Pearson, Paul Dorn, Nancy Karle, Kate Kuhlman, Naomi Maasberg, Kathryn Owen & Greg Relaford, Joleen Palmer, Kayleen & Paul Pritchard
Advisory: Wendy Armstrong, Dave Hildebrand, Mardie Prescott, Karen Ross

REMEMBERING

We are grateful for gifts in memory of friends & loved ones, from

* *James & Evelyn Chumbley, for Alan Richard Young*

STILLWATERS SPONSORS



We are honored & energized by our 2013-14 sponsors! These businesses have an interest in a vibrant community, clean water, & an educated population. Therefore, they support Stillwaters.

STILLWATERS SPONSORS for 2013-14:

KINGSTON-NK ROTARY CLUB

PUGET SOUND ENERGY

IKEA

THE WILD BIRD — POULSBO

THE SUQUAMISH TRIBE

BEEBE, ROBERTS & BRYAN, PLLC

GAITLINK CHIROPRACTIC

CHINOOK PROPERTIES

Grounds for Change

Re-Usies

If you or your business would like to join this auspicious group for 2014, contact Naomi (360-297-1226). If you contact us by May 15, you can be listed on the banner at EcoFest.

WHAT'S HAPPENING HERE (cont.)



Another **DATA LOGGER INSTALLATION** takes us a step closer to Phase 2 of the estuary restoration — the construction of a bridge to replace the tiny culvert under W. Kingston Road. In this photo, Steve Heacock is constructing the pipe assembly for the logger, which has been placed in the salt marsh.



EARLY REGISTRATION FOR NATURE CAMP opens on **April 15th**. (2014 Members can register beginning April 1 & get a special rate.) We've added a camp for older kids, and thanks to a special donation, every camper will get a special t-shirt. Dates are:

POLLIWOG CAMP — Ages 4-6

July 21-24 OR August 4-7, 9:30 am—Noon

\$85 each (\$70 for 2014 member)

NATURE CAMP — Grades 1-4

August 11—14, 9:30 am—2:30 pm

\$125 each (\$110 for 2014 member)

ECO-SCIENCE CAMP — Grades 5-7

July 14—17, Noon—5 pm

\$125 each (\$110 for 2014 member)

STILLWATERS CITIZEN SCIENTISTS —THE MONITORING PROGRAM



Our Citizen Science Monitoring Program never seems to take a break — & we are already gearing up for the very busy summer season!

The seining survey is something that's fun for anyone to join in, even kids! This year's seining is scheduled on March 21, April 25 & 26, & May 3. (See more details on the Program Flyer enclosed or call us.) The fish counts are helpful information that tell us who is using our estuary & benefitting from the restoration.



Our two U.W. interns are working on outreach & organizing photo log data related to the estuary monitoring. We'll be excited to share their work very soon.

The data we collect is very critical for a baseline picture, or for a foundation in securing funding — all helpful to keep the habitat of our watershed pristine. Any data is only as good as the accuracy of our equipment & our volunteers, so our citizen scientists are trained adequately & supervised well. Our monitoring protocol sets the bar high for our volunteers. We are proud to say that we have been told by professionals we are “way ahead of the curve” when it comes to the quality of our citizen science program!

More volunteers are always welcome, & YOU can be part of the team. If interested, contact Joleen at 360-297-1226.

EcoFest May 31

11 am—3 pm at Stillwaters



Want to participate? Sign up soon!

Educators, entertainment, food & volunteers are all needed! Let us know how you would like to be part of the fun for this sustainable lifestyle fair & community festival! Call 360-297-1226 or email

info@stillwatersenvironmentalcenter.org

WHAT'S HAPPENING HERE —

CAMPUS UPDATE

The campus is improving all the time. . .or we like to think so!



EAGLE SCOUT
Carter Gale met with his Scout advisor to review his plans to build a storage shed for our construction lumber. This large amount of lumber is currently stored out in the weather, in a

jumbled pile by the Cedar Post Pavilion. Not only will the new shed keep our lumber dry & sorted (so we can find it), it will free up more space for program use in and around the Pavilion, & Carter will earn his coveted Eagle badge. We are very excited about this project! Several other Scout projects have improved our campus greatly over the years.



The **ENTRY GATEWAY GREEN ROOF** took a big step forward when the box was built & the drain mat laid this month by Bert, Kinley, Allie, Jared & Naomi.

GREEN ROOF PLANTING — Want to watch or help with the final planting of the green roof on our new entry gateway? Come by on **SUNDAY, MARCH 23** after 1 pm.

We need helpers to get the soil & plants up to the roof, but it's ok to just watch & learn, if you prefer!



STILLWATERS' WISH LIST

Contact Naomi Maasberg at 360-297-1226 or naomi@stillwatersenvironmentalcenter.org.

For the Program, Trails & Property:

- Round cardboard oatmeal boxes for a Nature Camp project
- Crushed Rock or Wood Chips for path — **NEEDED NOW!**
- BOOKS for the used book sale—see p. 8
- Lumber & construction materials in usable, good condition, including shingles
- Garden tools
- Hammers, Pliers, Tapes
- 6-foot or 4-foot folding tables
- Pop-up tents in good condition
- Non-perishable snacks, tea, coffee or cocoa bags

For the Office:

- Unused envelopes—6 3/4" return envelopes
- Scratch Paper - 8 1/2 x 11", printed only one side, staples removed
- Bond paper, 8 1/2 x 11", white or color—recycled paper is great!

OR See our Amazon.com wish list for more ideas


Annual Used Book Sale
 Mark your calendars! Book sale dates are 
 September 5– October 12: Fridays, 
 Saturdays and Sundays, 9 am to 4 pm. 




STILLWATERS MEMBERSHIP

OUR MEMBERSHIP PLAN: You become a member of Stillwaters with the first \$25 of your annual contribution to the General Fund. That's it. We're keeping it simple!

If you haven't done so already this year, please take time soon to send in your annual membership contribution. There's a form on p. 7.

Here is what you will get with a \$25 annual membership donation:

- Discounts on selected programs
- Early registration time for Nature Camps
- A \$5-off coupon good on used books, shirts, cards, or cookbooks from our Stillwaters Store, or a Stillwaters education program
- The newsletter, "Ripples & Reflections"
- The satisfaction & joy of being part of the Stillwaters community! Thanks so much!

WHAT YOU CAN DO

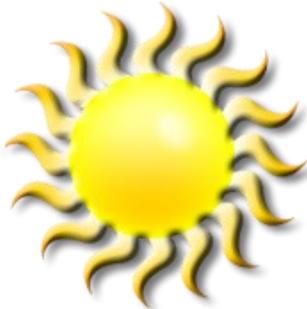


Shop at **THE WILD BIRD** in Poulsbo. Tell them Stillwaters sent you & they will credit your purchase toward the Stillwaters fund. Whenever we corporately reach \$150 in sales, they will make a donation to Stillwaters!

The **CLEAR CREEK TRAIL** has been selected to be part of a national donation program sponsored by the National Parks and Recreation Association (NRPA) and Macy's, Inc. The program will match donations made to the Clear Creek Trail at the Silverdale Macy's during March 7 - March 31. This national customer engagement program conducted by Macy's, Inc. is in partnership with NRPA. Clear Creek Trail was selected by Silverdale Macy's store personnel as the recipient of any local donations. Between March 7 — 31, customers will be asked at the time of checkout if they would like to make a donation to support the Clear Creek Trail. No purchase is necessary. Macy's Inc. will match donations dollar for dollar up to \$250,000 nationwide. To ensure your donation is matched, make your donation early. For more info, go to www.Clear-CreekTrail.org.

Celebrate Earth Day with an **ENVIRONMENTAL WRITING CLASS** — Saturday, April 26, 9am-5pm — at the Burke Museum. Authors Wendy Coll, Craig Lesley, & Ana Maria Spagna will lead this workshop that includes both classroom & field-based sessions. They bring unique perspectives in writing but have all written deeply & provocatively about wild & urban landscapes. They will bring one to a new way to look at nature & to develop deeper connections to place. To register or get more information, call the Burke at 206-543-9681 or go to their website at www.burkemuseum.org/events.

SOLARIZE KITSAP is a program available until April 30, so think about it now! Do you have an interest in getting solar power? There are many benefits, besides reducing your carbon footprint. Now is a good time to look into it since you can get great savings with a group purchase and installation program. No, you don't have to create the group — just join the program.



Check it out or schedule your consult by calling 360-643-3080 or go to www.solarizekitsap.com.

HARVEST DINNER & AUCTION IN FALL



Please put it on your calendar now – The Stillwaters Annual Auction, with an addition of a local “Rustic Farm to Table Dinner” hopefully will be **Sunday, September 28** at the Indianola Clubhouse.

This year you will note the addition of a dinner, which will be focused on delicious local foods of the season. This is why we moved the event to a time of year when the harvest is plentiful!

Auction donations are welcomed NOW and can be accepted until August 15. In keeping with our mission, this year we are focusing on experiences, services, and everyday useful items. Some good examples:

- ♦ “Experiences”: Local guided hike; paddleboard or kayak trip or rental; tickets to concerts or events; entry passes to zoos, museums; a stay at motels, condos, or guest houses; restaurant meals.
- ♦ “Services”: Massage; landscaping or yard work; fitness club membership; classes; car repair.
- ♦ “Everyday Useful Things”: Gift certificates for grocery & retail stores, restaurants, local shops; coffee or specialty foods; plants & nursery items; CSA memberships.

If you have any of the above, let us know soon! We will be delighted to help with the paper work! Call us at 360-297-1226 or email to kari@stillwatersenvironmentalcenter.org.

KEEPING OUR COMMUNITY STRONG is important to achieving sustainability. A very real concern in North Kitsap these days is the growing number of ‘at-risk’ youth, some of whom are homeless & some are just not doing well & need support beyond their families. The Coffee Oasis in Poulsbo has been a big help there. What can we do for kids here, who can't get to Poulsbo?

A team of Leadership Kitsap, including Stillwaters members, has organized three community forums, sponsored by Kingston Rotary, Kingston Kiwanis, Kitsap Community Foundation & Coffee Oasis: **March 20, April 10, & May 1** — all Thursdays, at 6:30 pm, at Kingston Middle School. See you there!

WHAT YOU CAN DO (cont.)

ADVOCATE FOR PUGET SOUND —

Kitsap 99% has compiled a petition on Change.org, which anyone can sign, to support the cleanup of Puget Sound. Here is the text, which tells the story:



“The signers of this petition, are critically concerned about the health of Puget Sound & consumers of its resources. We believe that the fish consumption rates under review by the Washington State Department of Ecology (DOE) heavily influence regulation of water quality standards & are an indicator of the strength of our resolve to both clean up the Sound & protect our health.

“When acceptable water quality standards are based on the assumption that very little fish is eaten - as implied by the current extremely low consumption rate of 6.5 grams/day, the result is a direct threat to the health of a large & growing population of seafood consumers. We therefore advocate the adoption of a consumption rate of 225 grams (1/2 lb.) per day. . . .

“We urge the DOE to adopt this new fish consumption rate to assure food safety & prompt action to clean up Puget Sound, one of our greatest natural resources.”

To sign the petition, go to <http://chn.ge/1fPjxb3> .

Make **TRAVEL PLANS TO BENEFIT STILLWATERS** by using **CM Travel 4Fun** agency in Hansville. 10% of the fees can be donated to Stillwaters! Contact them at 360-638-2773 or neal@cmtravel4fun.com.

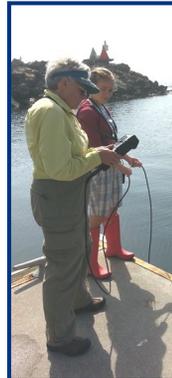
TRAFFIC TICKET OPTION — when you get a traffic ticket you can opt to perform community service hours in lieu of paying the fine. So donate some hours to your favorite environmental center, enjoy the time, & save your money. The court cashier will give you the paperwork & we'll find a great project for you.

MAKING IT HAPPEN

VOLUNTEERS ARE PRICELESS

around Stillwaters! You can get on our email list to be notified of projects & respond when you can. Check out our “Project List”, or make yourself available for some of these ongoing opportunities:

- ◆ **SORT & LIST BOOKS:** The books for our Book Sale can be sorted NOW. Your schedule is fine, once we show you the system. We also need people to list books online, in the office—we make half of our book income with online sales.
- ◆ **STREAM & ESTUARY MONITORS:** Collect water quality data monthly in the estuary or creek. We do stream monitoring on Sundays; estuary monitoring dates vary. We also need monitors to help with the estuary sampling of soils, bugs, & more. Training is provided.
- ◆ **DATA MASTERMIND:** Do you like numbers? Data collection & organization — like graphs & charts? Do you enjoy working with numbers & factors & scatter points? We need you! Help us quantify & organize our data.
- ◆ **COMMITTEE MEMBERS:** Help needed now for EcoFest or Auction Planning, Architecture Committee, & Development Committee.
- ◆ **PROPERTY & TRAIL WORK:** Special gardening, painting, clean-up, & other odd jobs. See the Project List for examples.
- ◆ **OFFICE ASSISTANT:** Commit 2 - 3 hours a week for small jobs or computer work.



CURRENT PROJECT LIST

- Help Plant the Green Roof & make a new path
- Fix gutters on barn
- Paint door & rails on Tree House Porch
- Build alcove & install windows in Gathering Room
- Add insulation above Gathering Room
- Help Re-roof the pump house
- Build Access Dock for Pond
- Replace decking on big deck
- Install solar lights on driveway
- Remove Ivy & Blackberries at monitoring sites
- Cut out holly in upper wetland & plant cedars
- Triangle Trail – fix boardwalk & open up entry
- Pond Trail – repair/rebuild
- Path to road – trim up, open up entry
- Limb up birch by Pond Office
- Apple Tree Pruning
- Native Plant Nursery tending

To volunteer, call 360-297-1226 or email to kari@stillwatersenvironmentalcenter.org

STILLWATERS' STORE



"FOREST" SWEAT SHIRT A serene green shirt with "May the Forest be with You" design on the front and Stillwaters' logo & name on the sleeve. Heavyweight, 50/50 Sizes S, M, L, xL \$ 25.00

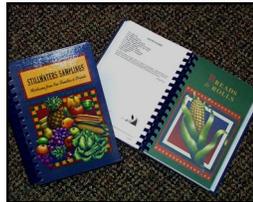


I Heart PUGET SOUND T-SHIRT — sporting the clever logo & a message on the back. White, short sleeve, 100% cotton. Sizes: Kid's M; Adult S,M,L,xL \$ 7.50



RAIN BARRELS We have 55 gal. rain barrels, ready to go with vents, overflow connection & hose spigot at the bottom. Pick up at Stillwaters only \$50.00

"STILLWATERS SAMPLINGS" It's a 265-page hardback cookbook, with yummy recipes from friends of Stillwaters. \$12.50



MEMBERSHIP & SPECIALTY GIFTS Give someone a Stillwaters membership or a special donation to Stillwaters in their name. This is a gift to Earth, & to your favorite Earth-lover. \$25—\$150

Two excellent plant books we have available:
Grow Your Own Native Landscape—native plant guide—our top recommendation — \$15.
Trees of Washington — great descriptions of the most native conifers & deciduous trees—\$10.

All prices include tax & shipping. Discover, VISA & MasterCard accepted. To order, email info to naomi@stillwatersenvironmentalcenter.org, or call 360-297-1226, or use form to right.

Order **SHIRTS & MORE** with a printed Stillwaters logo **ON LINE** at www.CafePress.com/stillwatersshop



These are unique shirts & other items you can't get here. A portion of proceeds goes to Stillwaters. Look for the hoodies, tote bags, kid sizes, mugs & more.

TO SUPPORT STILLWATERS



___ My membership gift of \$25.00 is enclosed

___ My additional donation is enclosed for \$ _____

For the ___ General Fund ___ Property Fund ___ Nature Camp Scholarship Fund

___ Make it a ___ monthly or ___ quarterly pledge donation of \$ _____

___ Please send ___ cookbook(s) (\$12.50 ea.)

___ Please send ___ Grow Your Own Native Landscape (\$15 ea.) or ___ Trees of WA (\$10)

___ Please send ___ T-shirts, size ___ (\$7.50 ea) or ___ 'Forest' sweatshirts, size ___ (\$25 ea) – (enclose all details)

___ I have an in-kind donation of _____

___ I would like to volunteer to _____

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____

OR

Charge \$ _____ on my credit card

_____ Exp. Date: _____

Signature: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Stillwaters is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization; all gifts are tax-deductible, as allowed by law.

NATIVE PLANTS ARE THE BEST
 MANY NATIVE PLANTS ARE AVAILABLE AT STILLWATERS — Besides trees & shrubs, we have some varieties of ground covers, small plants & ferns. *Call ahead, or drop in during office hours.*
 360-297-1226 — **Cost: \$2.50 — \$25**

GOT BOOKS????



We need your books NOW! This year, more than ever, we are dependent upon donations from individuals for our supply of books. We sort our books for the used book sale all year long. Please don't wait until later in the year to donate!

What can we use? All kinds of books—new and old. Our sale is HUGE and covers all subjects.

What NOT to bring us . . . Any encyclopedia, Readers Digest novels, dated computer books, or badly damaged books (covers missing, water damage, etc.).

When & where to take them — Drop them off any time on the porch of the Tree House—the first building on the left as you come down our drive. If you have a big load, call ahead so we can help — 360-297-1226.



This sale raises about 15% of our annual income!
THANKS SO MUCH!



© 2009 Paul Bannick

Birds & Their Tools — Beaks & Feet

**Saturday, March 15
9:30 am—Noon
At Kingston Fire Station**

Join Stillwaters and our very special guest —
Connie Sidles

This will be a morning of fascinating avian education. Connie is the author of several books about local birds. She will have wonderful slides and hands-on ways to explore the amazing skills of a variety of birds. What they can do with their beaks and their feet is critical to their ability to eat and to explore their world. Connie is great at helping you understand what a bird can do by having you try it yourself!

Suggested donation: \$10—\$20 per person

This special Stillwaters event will be held at the Kingston Fire Station (26642 Miller Bay Road). Please RSVP to 360-297-1226 or kari@stillwatersenvironmentalcenter.org.



Stillwaters Environmental Center

*26059 Barber Cut Off Road
Kingston WA 98346*

nurturing a sustainable world through education

Nonprofit Org.
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Return Service Requested

EMAIL NEWSLETTER OPTION

You can get your *Ripples & Reflections* newsletter via email, if you choose! It will come in pdf format. You will also receive weekly updates on the latest programs. Just send your email address to

naomi@stillwatersenvironmentalcenter.org