



Stillwaters Environmental Center **RIPPLES AND REFLECTIONS**

Fall, 2019

email: info@stillwatersenvironmentalcenter.org
website: www.StillwatersEC.org

26059 Barber Cut Off; Kingston, WA 98346
phone: 360-297-1226

WHAT'S ON OUR MINDS - Reflections from the Stillwaters founders

This year Stillwaters is celebrating 20 years of successes, amazing work done by many amazing people — the Stillwaters tribe.

It's common, when looking back over a long process to say "where did the time go? It seems like just yesterday . . ." But so much has happened in these 20 years that, to us, it seems more like it must have been much longer! How did we possibly do so much? Not only have we saved and restored a critical estuary and marsh, built bridges, dropped LWD logs, restored watershed riparian areas, and trained about 20 interns — we have inspired dozens of children (some of them going on to careers in science), dozens of citizen scientist volunteers, and hundreds of other adults, as well, to care about and care for Earth, no matter where they live. And we created a community among them.



Some days we look back with wonder that so many were able to understand and believe in the vision we had once we moved to this land in 1992. We bought the land with a very different purpose in mind, but we hadn't lived here long when the land spoke to us and we listened. It gave us the vision of protecting and preserving it for all, while sharing it with any who would also listen to the land and learn from it. That surely seemed to some like a silly vision from two nutty women, but we are so thankful for those who have joined us in our slow slog through these years.

Remarkable things can happen when people care deeply about Earth, and are dedicated, committed, and work hard. That is the definition of our work ethic, and we are so thankful that so many people in the Stillwaters groups share that ethic and have joined with us and taken Stillwaters to heights beyond our first visions.



We are in awe of the creativity, drive, and goodwill that we have seen in the staff and volunteers we have had the privilege to work alongside for 20 years. We leave the leadership role with full confidence that the collective vision, passion, and hard work will continue to lead us to places we are only imagining today. No matter what role one plays in this Stillwaters tribe, you are not just "holding down the fort" — you are the fort!

We hope that Earth will never lose her "tribe of Stillwaters", hanging out here in Kitsap. We hope this place, this environmental center, will be here to welcome all who care about Earth, for many decades to come.

But even more than that, we hope that the science, research, and education of Stillwaters will continue to expand and flourish. We got started at a time when salmon recovery around Puget Sound was just starting to get serious attention and funding. Twenty years later, that need is still with us, heightened by the effect it's had on the Orcas. It's not going away soon.

Stillwaters needs to continue to contribute to the efforts to create a healthy Puget Sound—for both wildlife and humans. We started with protecting

(Continued on page 2)

and restoring one estuary and watershed, but our vision has grown way bigger than that!

Now it is time for us, appreciatively, to pass on the torch. We couldn't be more confident in the future of this organization we have created. It is in the good hands of very capable staff and board members, as well as scores of volunteers, with support from even more donors and community folks.

While we are not leaving the Stillwaters tribe (we'll still be next door—on our land), we look forward to being just “one of the gang”, helping out from the luxury of retirement. So this isn't “good-bye” - just “see you later!”

— Joleen and Naomi

WHAT'S HAPPENING HERE



Find a place to jump in . . .

- **Stillwaters Fish Passage Monitoring** — Citizen Scientists are doing estuary, stream & salt marsh monitoring, monthly birding, inundation surveys, pore water & ground water sampling, sediment analysis, recording data collected, various photo reference logs, green crab monitoring, Large Wood Material survey, drainage channel characterization, metals monitoring, invertebrate surveys, and vegetation, fish, and insect surveys & i.d. More volunteers needed!
 - **Interns from U.W. Program on Environment & WWU-Huxley College of the Environment**— connecting students to the watershed & field work has been excellent training for them & helpful for us. We're looking forward to new interns starting in January!
 - **More Training & Teaching** — Community members joined our monitors for a training workshop last January. Field trips were provided for hiking groups, local school groups, and others. "Change is Our Choice: Creating Climate Solutions" is the NWEI class enjoyed by participants for 4 weeks this fall, as they examine their own lives and learn about sustainable options.
 - **Trail, Campus, & 'Earth' Work** — Cleaning up the February windstorm debris has become a full-year project, still not completed. But we are also cleaning out & sprucing up the Tree House, along with the usual trail upkeep.
- **Outreach** — We're using every opportunity to talk about the restoration and science research done here at Stillwaters. We've been to many events and fairs, including Poulsbo & Kingston Markets, Salmon Days, Discover Kingston, & Kingston Port event. “Estuary Week” in September was a week of several opportunities to educate about salmon & what Stillwaters is doing.
 - **Board & Fund Development** — Our fantastic board members are invigorating our work, as usual fund raising continues. We are also doing planning and strategizing for moving Stillwaters into the future, most particularly moving Stillwaters into one building and purchasing the land it sits on.
 - **Office Assistance & Mailings** — these are critical! Jump into a mailing party or help out in the office regularly.
 - **Event Planning** — There have been several events this year, such as potlucks, Estuary Week, Bingo and Trivia nights, and more. The Annual Dinner continues to be our biggest event (see p. 3). Event Planners are always needed!
 - **Book Sales & Native Plant Sales** — The local book sale was discontinued this year but we still **want book donations** and have thousands of books **listed online**. Our Native Plants are for sale all year, (in our nursery that always needs tending) available whenever we're open.
 - **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 volunteers. See p. 6, & join us!**



A TIME OF TRANSITION



20 years ago Stillwaters was created with the goal of environmental education and preservation of habitat and wetlands. Stillwaters started programs to monitor environmental conditions while also providing classes on sustainability and later hosting college interns.

The founders, Naomi Maasberg and Joleen Palmer, are still providing oversight for the core programs, while transitioning that work to professionals brought into the organization in recent years – Jennifer Donaldson, Melissa Fleming, and Lisa Reynolds.

Stillwaters must transition into an independent space, as Joleen & Naomi prepare to retire. The board spent many months discussing various options for where Stillwaters would be located in the future (like working out of a trailer, locating on other properties, leasing an office). Our best solution, by far, is to use the structures

we already own, the Tree House and Cedar Post Pavilion.

So we are arranging for Stillwaters to trade some property, so that Stillwaters will own the land where our Tree House and Cedar Post Pavilion are located, and still retain access to the estuary & marsh through an easement. The Tree House and the 2+ acres surrounding it will become Stillwaters' new home.

We need help to make it happen! You can donate to the Property Transition Fund at our online donation page (at stillwatersec.org—click on donate now, & check the appropriate box under 'comments').



ANNUAL DINNER & AUCTION — AN ENCHANTING EVENT!



Stillwaters Annual Dinner & Auction

November 3, 2019
4–8 pm at the
Village Green,
Kingston

tasting, door prizes, desserts and live blue grass from Stillwaters' own Lisa Reynolds and her band, Rat Proof Bucket.

Our Annual Dinner and Auction on November 3 will be a special event this year, as we celebrate 20 years of Stillwaters' work and commemorate the retirement of our founding Directors, Joleen and Naomi. But more importantly, we will be having a lot of fun as the Stillwaters community gathers to raise funds for the important work of protecting our Earth and Puget Sound, while educating the next generation of Earth advocates.

The 'happy hour' & silent auction time will offer wines from Eleven, Hood Canal beer, appetizers, and live music by John Ellsworth. Our dinner will again be prepared by Anna Moore of Mi Sueno. Dessert items will be provided by Kingston's own Sweets & Savories as well as Flying Apron Bakery from West Seattle.

Our Dinner Speaker will be Jenise Bauman of WWU-Huxley, who has been an integral part of Stillwaters' work for many years. Stay after the program and dinner for an extra special hour of Heritage Distilling bourbon (and more)

AUCTION PREVIEW & ABSENTEE BIDDING — Catch a glimpse of auction items at our website. If you can't come to the dinner, you can still bid on auction items shown on the website—just email us with your top bid for your desired items. A volunteer will bid for you at the event.

Thanks to our Dinner Sponsors—**Clearwater Casino and Resort, Landau Associates, Mi Sueno Catering, Sweets & Savories, Flying Apron Bakery, and Heritage Distilling**—your \$50 dinner ticket is a donation to Stillwaters. Read more about the dinner, preview auction items, and order tickets from our website: www.stillwatersenvironmentalcenter.org.

WHAT'S HAPPENING HERE



Lisa posted a little something on our Stillwaters Facebook page about the passing of a real conservation leader, Helen Engle. It was a really nice article about her history protecting the coast, and it really touched a lot of our members.

Through Facebook, several people shared the post with friends outside of Stillwaters. Somehow, both Helen's daughter and granddaughter were alerted to the post through a friend of Stillwaters, and they made their way to our page.

Her daughter Melanie & granddaughter Erica are now "friends" of Stillwaters via Facebook, and they are pretty impressive women, too. Melanie Engle lives in Seattle. She seems to be quite an activist and environmentalist. Erica Engle lives in Jackson Wyoming, and she's sponsored by North Face - quite a mountaineer, avalanche trainer, and guide to the big peaks. There is only so much research one can do on Facebook, but these two women alone will continue to watch the work we do, and hopefully spread the word and the support.

We never thought very highly of Facebook due to all of the potential for fake news and ugliness. In terms of reaching people with something positive, though, it can be pretty effective. Touching.

National Estuary Week in September inspired Lisa Reynolds, our Outreach and Development Coordinator, to create an event here in Kingston. Stillwaters hosted events almost every day that week, all centered on the need for salmon recovery to sustain all Puget Sound wildlife, including our beloved Orca. But the week was full of fun, too!

We connected with many at the Kingston Public Market and the Kingston Open House; hosted the showing of the film & discussion, The Greatest Migration; played bingo at The Downpour, complete with big salmon hats (above); hosted estuary trivia night at The Filling Station; sponsored a class on planned giving; and conducted our Carpenter Creek Watershed Tour. All week long, little ones participated in the "Find a Fish" contest, a scavenger hunt for salmon all over town!



Thanks for these special donations:

- ◆ **Used Books** from many folks
 - ◆ **Mold Services** from Sentinel Construction
 - ◆ **Pest Control** from Critter Ridder's
 - ◆ **Legal Advice** from Roberts & Bryan
 - ◆ **Chiropractic Services** from Gaitlink Chiropractic Center in Pt. Gamble
 - ◆ **Access to their land** for monitoring from Suzanne Arness, Jenny Davis, Steve & Sally Heacock, Kingston Hill Homeowners
-

STILLWATERS SPONSORS



We are honored & energized by our sponsors! These businesses have an interest in a vibrant community, clean water, & an educated population.

STILLWATERS SPONSORS for 2019:

KINGSTON-NK ROTARY
ROBERTS & BRYAN, PLLC
CLEARWATER CASINO & RESORT
GAITLINK CHIROPRACTIC
CRITTER RIDDER PEST CONTROL
LANDAU & ASSOCIATES
SENTINEL CONSTRUCTION
VISIT KITSAP
MI SUENO TACOS Y MAS

If you or your business would like to [join this auspicious group](#), contact us (360-297-1226).

LIFE AFTER THE STORM

Although we are still cleaning up from the February

snow and wind storm, and many downed trees still need to be cut up so we can re-plant, there is good news, too. The much loved weeping willow, which has shaded hundreds of gatherings, is still with us & growing, although diminished in size. This 100+ year old tree is a testament to life, resilience, and perseverance.



WHAT YOU CAN DO

More than ever NOW is the time to get involved! Do whatever you can to stand up for Earth. Check out some websites. Find a few that resonate with you, & get on their mail lists. And then **RESPOND** — learn more, sign their petitions, donate, or volunteer. Raise your voice for EARTH!



CHRISTMAS BIRD

COUNT is a holiday tradition you won't want to forget! This year you have opportunity to join the Audubon Count and try a day of birding, no matter what your skill level.

The traditional Kitsap County Annual Christmas Bird Count is on **Saturday, December 14**, and the North Kitsap circle is on **Saturday, December 21**. All skill levels are welcome, because we need help counting and recording our observations, as well as spotting and identifying birds. **You are welcome to join the count in Kingston on 12/21, organized by STILLWATERS**—call us at 360-297-1226 to join.

KITSAP SALMON TOURS—Nov. 9, 11am-3pm. Bring your friends to celebrate the kickoff of salmon returning to Kitsap streams at this **FREE** event! Visit one or more of the 8 event sites across Kitsap county to learn about our local salmon populations and search for them in the streams. Some sites involve a hike to the stream. To learn more about each site, visit www.kitsapsalmon tours.org.

The **KITSAP PHOTO CONTEST** has exciting prizes to offer 12 talented winners. They're looking for photos that show the natural beauty of this county and highlight the importance of preserving our lands and waters.



The contest closes on November 15th. This contest is brought to you by WSU Kitsap Extension Water Stewardship Program and Kitsap County Parks. Learn more at their Facebook page (search for "WSU Kitsap Water Stewardship"). Winners will be announced in the WSU Extension December newsletter, so stay tuned!

SUSTAINABILITY DISCUSSION GROUPS

have long been a popular education opportunity here at Stillwaters. Our recent study group, "**CHANGE IS OUR CHOICE: CREATING CLIMATE SOLUTIONS**" , is meeting this fall, making choices in their lives for the betterment of the planet. Here is a sample of their thought-filled readings:

"But what should we do with this fear that comes from living on a planet that is dying, made less alive every day? First, accept that it won't go away. That it is a fully rational response to the unbearable reality that we are living in a dying world, a world that a great many of us are helping to kill, by doing things like making tea and driving to the grocery store and yes, okay, having kids. Next, use it. Fear is a survival response. Fear makes us run, it makes us leap, it can make us act superhuman. But we need somewhere to run to. Without that, the fear is only paralyzing. *So the real trick, the only hope, really, is to allow the terror of an unlivable future to be balanced and soothed by the prospect of building something much better than many of us have previously dared hope.*



"Yes, there will be things we will lose, luxuries some of us will have to give up, whole industries that will disappear. Climate change is already here, and increasingly brutal disasters are headed our way no matter what we do. But it's not too late to avert the worst, and there is still time to change ourselves so that we are far less brutal to one another when those disasters strike. And that, it seems to me, is worth a great deal.

"Because the thing about a crisis this big, this all-encompassing, is that it changes everything. It changes what we can do, what we can hope for, what we can demand from ourselves and our leaders. It means there is a whole lot of stuff that we have been told is inevitable that simply cannot stand. And it means that a whole lot of stuff we have been told is impossible has to start happening right away.

"Can we pull it off? All I know is that nothing is inevitable. Nothing except that climate change changes everything. And for a very brief time, the nature of that change is still up to us."

— from [This Changes Everything](#) by Naomi Klein

Volunteers are Making it Happen!

All of what we do at Stillwaters is done by or with our volunteers! Join us! Call 360-297-1226. Here's our crew so far in 2019 — Thanks!!



Satya Advani
Michelle Amicucci
Renee Amicucci
Dave Anderson
Jenise Bauman
Beth Berglund
Jacob Bradley
Frederick Branchflower
Patricia Charles
Gemma Clohesy
Betsy Cooper
Geoff Custer
Ameena Deller
Kinley Deller
Nara Deller
Dave Dixon
Jaron Donaldson
Alisha Douglas
Nancy Dumcum
Hillary Eichler
John Ellsworth
Kit Ellsworth
Shari Evans
Laura & Waylon Finch
Mary Gleysteen
Andrea Godbolt
Kim Greenwood
Holly Gronvoll
Sally & Steve Heacock
Chris Heinlein
Gloria Hill
Alexis Hixson
Lisa Hurt
Bert Jackson
David Jacobs
Carlene Jensen
Severne Johnson
Nancy & Tim Karle
Nica Klaber
Zane Kratz
Claire Larson
Ina Larson

Arthur Lee
Emily Lekberg
Marilyn Love
Joe Lubischer
Sally Manifold
Amy Maule
Sue Michaelis
Abi Moosmiller
Paris Nelson
Cindi & Tom Nevins
Daniel Nguyen
Alicia Olivas
Lorelei Pagan
Jacque Palacio
Ken Patterson
Patti Pearson
Kari Pelaez
Kathy Peters
Nancy Petersen
Joe Peterson
Mardie Prescott
Kayleen Pritchard
Adam Rappaport
Carol Rappaport
Irene Robertson
Kenzie Rutherford
Tor Sather
Linda Scibilia
Justice Serafin
Sonja Selboe
Fiona Shannon
Sharon Smuin
Maria Steinbeisser
Shaun Stephenson
Andy Tiffany
Carolina Veenstra
Gretchen Waymen-Palmer
Amanda Weiss
Laurie Yamamura

Thank you!

VOLUNTEERS ARE PRICELESS around Stillwaters!

You can get on our email list to be notified of projects & respond when you can.

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

ONGOING OPPORTUNITIES

- ◆ **PROPERTY & TRAIL WORK:** Special building, gardening, painting, clean-up, & other odd jobs that are on our list—like hanging drywall!
- ◆ **MOVING HELP:** Moving furniture and supplies from one building to another, as we consolidate the work spaces into one building.
- ◆ **HABITAT 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 salt marsh & estuary sampling of soils, bugs, & more. Training is provided.
- ◆ **LIST BOOKS:** We need people to list books online, done in the office; we'll show you how.
- ◆ **COMMITTEE MEMBERS:** Help needed now for Events & Architecture Committees.

MORE — CURRENT PROJECTS

- * Construction jobs—small, specific projects
- * Native Plant Nursery tending
- * Office assistant, help with mailings, list books
- * Remove Ivy & Blackberries at monitoring sites

STILLWATERS' WISH LIST



Contact Jennifer Donaldson at 360-297-1226 or jennifer@stillwatersenvironmentalcenter.org.

For the Monitoring Program, Trails & Property:

- Shop Vac
- Re-bar and PVC type pipes, flagging tape
- Lumber & construction materials —usable
- Garden tools, Hammers, Pliers, Measuring Tapes, Loppers

For the Office:

- Multi-page scanner
- Fluorescent tube light bulbs, any LED bulbs
- Scratch Paper - 8 1/2 x 11", staples removed
- Bond paper, 8 1/2 x 11", white or color



STOCK DONATIONS & RMD's



As you contemplate your year-end giving . . . did you know that it's quite easy to donate stock to Stillwaters? If you have stock that has appreciated and you don't want to get hit with the capital gains tax when you sell it, you can donate it directly to Stillwaters and avoid that tax.

You will need our routing and account numbers for our brokerage account — just email Naomi at naomi@stillwatersenvironmentalcenter.org or call 360-297-1226.

RMD's—Taxpayers over 70 1/2 are required to make annual distributions—“RMD's”—from their IRAs, which are then taxable. The IRA Charitable Rollover allows you to make donations directly to Stillwaters from your IRA, without counting those donations as taxable income, and therefore, without paying taxes on them. Contributions need to be made directly from your IRA trustee and before December 31.

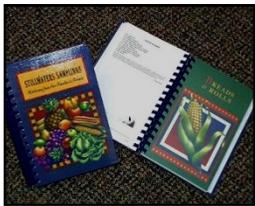
STILLWATERS' STORE

MAY THE FOREST—both sweats & T's—in sizes S to xxL
Brown Hoodie—\$32
T-shirt—\$18
Green Sweatshirt—\$27



“STILLWATERS SAMPLINGS”

It's a 265-page hardback cookbook, with yummy recipes



from friends of Stillwaters. \$10

All prices include tax. Shipping will be added: \$4 per item. Discover, VISA & MasterCard accepted.

BOOKS & PLANTS — We have a large selection of used books always out at Stillwaters, priced from \$5 up to \$100 in a good variety of fiction & non-fiction. Books are available online at www.abebooks.com — To search through our books, go to abebooks.com, click on “Sellers” and search for Stillwaters. You can buy them online, or buy at Stillwaters & save the shipping cost.

The Native Plant Nursery is open whenever we are! Good idea to call ahead—360-297-1226.



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 keep it simple!

If you haven't done so already this year, please take time soon to send in your annual membership contribution.

TO SUPPORT STILLWATERS



___ My membership gift of \$25.00 is enclosed

___ My donation is enclosed for \$ _____

For the ___ General Fund ___ Property Fund

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

___ I have an in-kind donation of _____

___ I would like to volunteer to _____

Purchases — Please send (describe items)

_____ \$ _____
_____ \$ _____
_____ \$ _____
_____ \$ _____

(enclose all details of style, color and size)

Please add shipping of \$4 per item.

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ OR

PAY ONLINE at www.stillwatersec.org donation page (for donations or purchases) OR

Charge \$ _____ on my card # _____

Exp. Date: _____ CVC code on back: _____

Signature: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

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



Holiday Blessings from the staff at Stillwaters!

Jennifer Donaldson, Administrative Assistant
Melissa Fleming, Program Assistant
Naomi Maasberg, Administrative Director
Joleen Palmer, Program Director
Lisa Reynolds, Outreach & Development Coordinator

I believe in you and I believe in me.

We can change ourselves. We can change our communities.

We have incredible spirit.

We can brave life's pains and enjoy the triumphs.

Generation after generation of human beings have walked this Earth. They have known hunger, fear, ignorance and pestilence, war and rape.

But they endured.

You and I are here, thanks to them. They bequeathed to us the will to go forward.

Our dead mothers and fathers believed we would go forward. They did what they did with little hope of immediate reward, but with a hope that life would be better for their children and their children's children.

We are those children. We cannot fail.

—Rita Mae Brown



Stillwaters Environmental Center
26059 Barber Cut Off Road
Kingston WA 98346

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Kingston WA
Permit #11

Return Service Requested

***OUR VISION: Healthy Puget Sound
Lowland Streams & Estuaries
Stillwaters Environmental Center advances
scientific research, education, & restoration on
Puget Sound lowland streams & estuaries.***

The Board of Directors: Beth Berglund, Naomi Maasberg,
Alicia Olivias, Joleen Palmer,
Ken Patterson, Linda Scibilia,
Shaun Stephenson

