

Stream Team

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER • SPRING 2008



An Evening with Jean Michel Cousteau

Sat. March 15, 2008

7:00pm-8:30pm

**Washington Center
for the Performing Arts**

Join explorer, environmentalist, educator and film producer Jean-Michel Cousteau for a special evening of hope and inspiration. For more than four decades, Cousteau has used his vast experience to communicate his love and concern for our planet and its water resources. The son of legendary ocean explorer Jacques Cousteau, Jean Michel has spent much of his life exploring the world's oceans. As president of the Ocean Futures Society, Cousteau helps energize people all over the globe for positive change.



Free tickets will be available at the Washington Center beginning Saturday, March 1.

As a premium, a limited number of tickets will be made available to current Stream Team volunteers on a first come-first serve basis. There is a two ticket limit per volunteer and tickets will need to be picked up. Contact your local Stream Team

Coordinator to check on availability.

Please join the City of Olympia and the Puget Sound Partnership for this special event. For additional information, go to www.olympia.wa.gov or call (360)570-5841.

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Winter Floods Affect Salmon

December of 2007 brought devastating floods to people and communities in Thurston and surrounding counties. Many of our local salmon runs were devastated as well.

The major flood event that struck portions of our area this winter was considered a 100-year flood. The term "100-year flood" can be misleading as it tends to lead people into the false sense that it only occurs once in a 100 year span. In actuality, 100-year floods can, and sometimes do, occur in the same year, or consecutive years.

The term "100-year flood" is a statistical designation that means there is a one percent chance that a flood of a designated magnitude will occur during any given year. A 500-year flood then would have a 0.2 percent chance of occurring during any particular year.

The actual number of years between 100-year floods varies irregularly because the weather naturally varies over many years.

(cont. on page 2)


STREAM TEAM
OLYMPIA • LACEY • TUMWATER
THURSTON COUNTY

Celebrate with Stream Team!

Celebrate spring by joining Stream Team for our "holiday" planting work parties:

Stream Team Arbor Day Work Party

Woodard Creek Restoration Project
Sat. April 19 • 10am-1pm

Join us for tree planting along Woodard Creek. Participants receive a free native tree or shrub to take home and plant.

For information and directions, call Chris or Ann Marie @ 360-357-2491.

Stream Team Earth Day Work Party

Percival Creek Restoration Project
Sat. April 26 • 10am-12pm

Sapp Road, behind Streamland Estates

Celebrate Earth Day by taking part in the Percival Creek Restoration Project and receive a free Stream Team t-shirt!

For more information, call Debbie @ 360-754-4148.

Save 25% on Natural Yard Care Products During Northwest Natural Yard Days April 15-May 15!

Northwest Natural Yard Days is a partnership of local and regional governmental agencies and retailers to encourage environmentally-friendly yard care practices by offering natural yard care products at a discount.

Products offered this year include: electric mulching and push mowers, natural organic fertilizer, compost, mulch, water wands, soaker hoses, hand weed pullers, insecticidal soap, and less-toxic moss and slug controls.

For more information about the Northwest Natural Yard Days, including a list of participating stores and information on natural yard care, visit www.yarddays.com or call the Thurston County Common Sense Gardening program at (360) 754-4111.

Storm Drain Marker Volunteers Needed

Stream Team is looking for volunteers to help apply storm drain markers this spring and summer. The eye-catching markers carry the important message: "No Dumping; Flows to Waterways," which helps educate citizens about how storm drains can carry pollutants to our local streams, lakes, inlets and groundwater.

Storm drain marking is a great project for neighborhood associations, Scout troops, high school students, church groups and anyone interested in protecting our water resources. For information or to volunteer, check the back of this newsletter and contact your local Stream Team Coordinator.

Winter Floods Affect Salmon *(continued from page 1)*

During climatic periods in which we receive above average rainfall, we may get successive or nearly successive 100-year flood events.

As far as salmon go, severe floods such as the event experienced this winter are both good and bad. Historically, major floods have greatly benefited the salmon life cycle. In the natural environment, floods create new salmon habitat by reshaping rivers, transporting sediment and exposing gravel and uprooting river-bank trees to create in-stream habitat for salmon and other fish species.

The increased flows associated with floods can also be a benefit for salmon that either survive the flood or enter the stream after the flood event. In many

cases, the adult fish will be able to access more stream habitat in the watershed because of higher water levels, and, in turn, will seed larger areas with new salmon.

In the short term, however, the impact on the current run of salmon on local flood-swollen streams has been primarily negative. The raging floodwaters have the tendency to scour away salmon eggs and the redds that they have been deposited in, and can also smother the eggs by burying them with sediment.

Increased development and its associated impervious surfaces exacerbate flooding problems because rainfall no longer has the ability to slowly seep into the ground. Instead, stormwater quickly and

violently flushes into streams. Due to the extraordinary amounts of rainfall during this recent event, even less developed, non-urban streams, such as McLane Creek, were overwhelmed.

With more than 90 percent of the fall Chinook, nearly 100 percent of the fall chum, and up to 40 percent of the fall coho having spawned prior to the flood, the number of returning salmon to the storm-damaged rivers in upcoming years will certainly be adversely impacted.

In the long run, with good stewardship practices, the resilient salmon runs will survive and flourish. Within days of the severe flooding in the McLane Creek watershed, many adult chum salmon were seen fighting their way upstream to spawn.

March

Sat. March 22 • 10am-1pm

Woodard Creek Native Tree Planting Project

For information and directions, call Ann Marie @ 360-357-2491

April

Thu. April 3 • 6:30-9:30pm

Tumwater Rain Garden Workshop

New Market Vocational Skills Center
Registration required.

Call 360-754-3588 ext. 110 or 109
or e-mail ericag@wsu.edu

Thu. April 17 • 6:30-9:30pm

Lacey Rain Garden Workshop

Location to be announced.
Registration required.

Call 360-754-3588 ext. 110 or 109
or e-mail ericag@wsu.edu

Sat. April 19 • 10am-1pm

Stream Team Arbor Day Planting at Woodard Creek

Free native trees or shrubs for volunteers! For information and directions, call Ann Marie @ 360-357-2491

Sat. April 26 • 10am-12pm

Stream Team Earth Day Event

Free t-shirt for volunteers.
Percival Creek Restoration Project
Sapp Rd. behind Streamland Estates
For info, call Debbie @ 360-754-4148

May

Sat. May 17 • 10am-3:30pm

Field Class: Naturescaping for Water & Wildlife

Location to be announced.
Registration required.
Call 360-754-3588 ext. 110 or 109
or e-mail ericag@wsu.edu

Other Local Events

April 26 • 4:30pm

Procession of the Species Downtown Olympia

For info, visit www.procession.org

May 10 • 9am-3pm

Community Recycle Days South Sound Speedway

For info, call 360-357-2491 or visit www.co.thurston.wa.us/www

May 17 • 9am-3pm

Community Recycle Days Thurston County Fairgrounds

For info, call 360-357-2491 or visit www.co.thurston.wa.us/www

May 31-June 1 • 10am-4pm

WasteMobile

Yelm Middle School

For info, visit www.co.thurston.wa.us/www

June 22-28

Natural Resources Youth Camp Cispus Learning Center

Ages 12-17. To register, visit www.nryc.org or call 360-754-3588.

PLEASE NOTE: Citizens requiring special accommodations should call the Event Coordinator at least one week prior to the event.

Rain Gardens: *Your Key to Managing Rainwater and Protecting Puget Sound*

Join us for a **FREE, hands-on workshop** where you'll get all the details you need to design and install a beautiful rain garden! These shallow depressions in your landscape collect and naturally filter rainwater and are planted with a variety of flowers, shrubs and grasses. Learn how rain gardens protect our local waterways by absorbing rainwater from downspouts, driveways, and sidewalks and find out which plants will help your rain garden look beautiful while attracting birds, butterflies and bees.

You'll receive a **FREE Rain Garden manual** and additional materials and have a chance to start designing your own rain garden during the class! You can gain further hands-on experience by joining in creating rain gardens at local schools in April and May!

Choose from three area sessions:

Olympia Thu. March 6 (6:30-9:30pm)

Tumwater Thu. April 3 (6:30-9:30pm)

Lacey Thu. April 17 (6:30-9:30pm)

Workshops are free, but advanced registration is required. For more information, workshop locations, or to register, contact Erica at WSU Thurston County Extension, Native Plant Salvage Project @ 360-754-3588 ext. 110 or ericag@wsu.edu.

Funded & co-sponsored by: Thurston County Stream Team, Tumwater Stream Team, Stewardship Partners, Nisqually River Education Project, and WSU Native Plant Salvage Project/Foundation.



The City of Lacey purchased this property along Draham Road as part of their salmon enhancement program.



Stream Team volunteers have been critical in enhancing the health of Woodland Creek for over a decade.

Featured Stream: Woodland Creek

Much of the historical information about Woodland Creek is related to its use by humans. The first pioneer settlement occurred approximately two miles south of Woodland Creek, around 1843, in the area currently known as Chambers Prairie. The creek is named after Isaac Wood, who claimed a piece of land in 1852 where a small creek flowed into and out of a lake. An 1853 land survey reveals the landscape contained fir trees 10-40 inches in diameter, alder 10-14 inches, cedar up to 50 inches, as well as ash, willow and crab-apple. In the early 1900's, the creek was dammed to provide a source of power for St. Martin's College (now University). The 1936 construction of Highway 99 (currently Martin Way) began a practice of diverting Woodland Creek through culverts. Today, Woodland Creek passes under several roadways, including Pacific Avenue, Carpenter Road, Interstate Highway 5 and Draham Road.

Woodland Creek drains an area of approximately 29.7 square miles and flows through northeast Olympia and central Lacey before emptying, as the largest tributary, into Henderson Inlet of Puget Sound. Hicks, Pattison, and Long Lakes and Lake Lois are connected by extensive wetlands. Hicks Lake is the "headwater" of Woodland Creek, which flows into Pattison Lake, then into Long Lake, followed by Lake Lois and finally into wetlands at the south end of Henderson Inlet. A major groundwater contribution to the creek in the form of springs occurs just north of Martin Way near the Nisqually Trout Farm.

The Woodland Creek basin is one of the fastest-growing areas in Thurston County. The creek flows through residential, commercial, and agricultural areas. Land use within the 200-foot-wide stream buffer is 7% residential; 9% parks, recreation and greenbelts; 6% streets and roads; 25% undeveloped critical

areas; 32% developed critical areas; and 21% undeveloped. The hydrology of Woodland Creek is characterized by high peak flows that develop quickly during heavy rains and prolonged periods of low or no flow during the summer and early fall. Coho, chum and fall Chinook are documented as using Woodland Creek.

Stream Team volunteers have been critical in enhancing the health of Woodland Creek for over a decade. Stream walks, fish surveys, macroinvertebrate sampling, water quality testing, installing fish weirs, depositing spawning gravel, public outreach, and marking storm drains that run to Woodland Creek are regular activities for our volunteers. Revegetating the creek at Woodland Community Park has occurred since 1997, and is no easy task given the harsh openness of the area, the pesky rodent population, and rocky soil. Thousands of locally-donated salmonberry, common snowberry, clustered wild rose, cascara, salal, Douglas-fir, noble fir, red alder, western redcedar, Pacific dogwood, tall Oregon grape and sword fern have been planted, while Scotch broom and Himalayan blackberry have been removed.

To enjoy this culmination of lakes, wetlands, groundwater springs and rainwater, and to view the results of volunteer work, visit the 72-acre Woodland Creek Community Park at 6729 Pacific Avenue SE. Woodland Creek meanders through this park, which also houses the Lacey Community Center, the Lacey Senior Center and Long's Pond.

Stream Team would like to thank Jared Burbidge from the City of Lacey and the Washington State Department of Ecology for their contributions to this article.

Beyond Stream Team: City and County News

Stream Team To Help Improve Woodland Creek Water Quality

Dept. of Ecology studies have found that Woodland Creek, which flows through unincorporated Thurston County and Lacey into Henderson Inlet, has serious fecal coliform bacteria pollution which has resulted in Dept. of Health downgrades and closures of much of Henderson Inlet to shellfish harvesting.

Among the major problems identified is the aging stormwater infiltration system in the Tanglewilde neighborhood. Several decades ago, failing drywells were corrected by collecting stormwater and sending it directly into Woodland Creek through an outfall pipe on Martin Way. The outfall contributes almost half of the bacteria conveyed by stormwater to the creek, and is the single largest contributor of fecal coliform.

Seeking a solution, Thurston County applied for and was awarded a \$750,000 grant from the Dept. of Ecology. The funds will be used to repair 83 drywells and up to 5.5 miles of bioswales – shallow, grass-lined ditches that collect and hold rainwater, allowing it to seep back into the ground.



During Phase II of this project, Stream Team members, Tanglewilde residents and local students will help build twenty rain gardens. Rain gardens are modest depressions in the landscape that collect, absorb and filter stormwater runoff from roofs, driveways and walkways, before it enters the street and catch basin system.

Watch for updates about this project in future issues of this newsletter. To learn more about rain garden design and construction, see the calendar page of this newsletter for upcoming rain garden workshops.

Olympia NeighborWoods Sets Goal of Planting 1000 Trees

2008 marks the second decade for *NeighborWoods*, a City of Olympia program that assists neighborhoods and communities with their own planting events by providing technical assistance, equipment and, of course, trees! Since it began in 1997, more than 5,000 trees have been planted, and over 750 volunteers have been trained to plant and care for trees so that they grow healthy and strong.

On March 29, Olympia's Arbor Day, *NeighborWoods* invites everyone who lives, works, and plays in Olympia to celebrate trees and their place in our lives by helping to plant 1,000 street trees in our residential neighborhoods! Just as the one billion trees planted worldwide through the Green Belt Movement were not planted by one person or group, these trees will be planted by people from all walks of life representing the diversity of citizens that comprise our community.

To learn how you can be part of the Greenest Day in Olympia's history, contact Lucy Coffman, City of Olympia Urban Forestry Volunteer Coordinator, at 360-570-5845 or lcoffman@ci.olympia.wa.us.

College Regional Stormwater Facility in Lacey

The College Regional Stormwater Facility was constructed in 2007 on the campus of St. Martin's University in Lacey. A project of the City of Lacey, in cooperation with St. Martin's Abbey, the facility is intended to mitigate the large flows of untreated runoff water discharging to the College Ditch channel and reduce pollutant loads to Woodland Creek. Completion of site landscaping is anticipated for spring of 2008.

The facility consists of three connected water quality treatment ponds that collect runoff from approximately 430 acres, via the College Street/6th Ave and campus storm sewers.

The first pond contains a permanent pool of water that allows particulates in stormwater to settle. At the outlet of the first pond, a splitter directs base flow and most storm

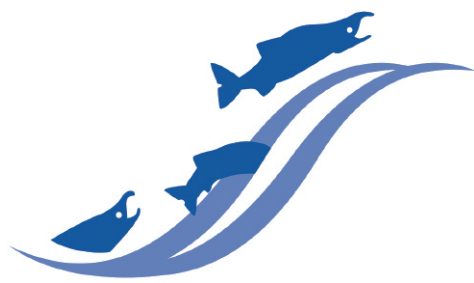
flows to the east pond and, during less frequent high-flow events, flow is directed to the west pond. The ponds are designed to contain flows from a 100-year event without overtopping their emergency spillways.

The east and west ponds flow northward to an existing storm pipe, through wetlands, into a culvert under Interstate Highway 5 and into Woodland Creek. This type of facility typically removes 70-90% of suspended solids, reduces nutrients by 30-50% and reduces fecal coliform bacteria by about 75%.

Tumwater Receives Grant to Enhance Stormwater Program

The City of Tumwater Water Resources received a \$75,000 grant from the Dept. of Ecology to enhance its stormwater program. The funds will be used to implement requirements for Tumwater's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit and assist with:

- Initial funding for a stormwater-focused new hire in Water Resources
- Developing education and outreach materials focused on reducing non-point pollutant loads in stormwater, including petroleum products and pet wastes
- Ensuring adequate training of City personnel for the review of development projects and control of sediment-laden runoff from construction sites
- Developing and implementing a comprehensive stormwater ordinance
- Providing emergency spill kits, drain plugs and other items for the City's Operations and Fire Departments
- Reviewing existing Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDDE) capabilities and developing a comprehensive program to address future needs
- Developing a city-wide private stormwater facility inspection program



Salmon Return

Information from Deschutes River
Tumwater Falls Hatchery
As of 10-20-07

Chinook Spawned

Males: 1,498
Females: 1,559
Jacks: 19

Chinook Passed Upstream

Males: 877
Females: 872
Jacks: 22

Eggs Taken

6,558,490

Total Chinook Return

Males: 9,304
Females: 3,873
Jacks: 1,190
Total: 14,367

Other Species

Coho: 84
Sockeye: 2
Cutthroat Trout: 7

Salute to 2007 Salmon Stewards



As the Chinook salmon were preparing to head up the Deschutes River to spawn in mid-August, the new and returning Salmon Stewards were preparing to greet people at the 5th Avenue Bridge Dam. Salmon Stewards volunteered over 102 hours at the bridge and talked to 2,593 people; answering all kinds of questions about the salmon they saw below the bridge.

By mid-September, as the salmon migrated upriver to Tumwater Falls, so did the Salmon Stewards, who greeted the public at the fish facility and along the Deschutes River walking trail at Tumwater Falls Park. Here, Salmon Stewards logged over 110 hours in talking with park visitors. In November, nine Salmon

Stewards migrated to the McLane Creek Nature Trail to talk to hikers about the wild chum salmon spawning in McLane Creek. The Salmon Stewards braved the winter elements to volunteer over 52 hours and talk to 419 people at McLane Creek.

Many thanks to the numerous people who assisted with our Salmon Stewards Trainings and Program including Gary Sprague and Larry Kessel at the 5th Avenue Bridge and Lee Pilon, fish biologist for WDFW, and City of Tumwater historian Carla Wulfsberg at Tumwater Falls Park.

Thank you Salmon Stewards!

Returning Salmon Stewards: Susan Camp, Shannon Claeson, Deanna Chew, Chris and Lisa Cooley, Tom Dowell, Kathy Evans, Don Eveleth, Caren and Tatyana Gibbs, Brenda Griffen, Linda Hurtado, Rich Kalman, Bill Lepman, Jessica Moore, Verl Rogers, Donna Smith, Ann Mataczynski, Dennis Matsuda, and Gary Sprague

New Salmon Stewards: Nicki Johnson, Kathy Johnstone, Irene Lewis, Steve Parks, Warren Smith, Satori Stratton, Kara and Rick Walk, Katie, Susan, Greg and Henry Williams, Byron Yoshina, and Lani Vento

YMCA Earth Service Corp Members Plant Trees at McLane and Swift Creeks

On a mild November day, YMCA Earth Service Corps members helped Stream Team plant native trees and shrubs at the confluence of McLane and Swift Creeks. Also present that day were numerous chum salmon, which were busy spawning in the creeks. The enthusiastic volunteers dug through blackberry debris, reed canary grass clippings and gravel to plant nearly 300 plants!

Alas, many of the plants were washed away during the flooding this winter. On a positive note, numerous chum salmon were seen spawning in the creeks after the water receded.



Volunteer & Staff News



Steve Parks displays Himalayan blackberry roots he removed from the Percival Creek site.

Volunteers' Hard Work Pays Off at Percival Creek

Percival Creek has a new ally in the form of Stream Team volunteer, Steve Parks. Steve has agreed to become a Stream Team Site Steward for the City of Tumwater property located along Percival Creek north of Sapp Road. Steve joins long-time volunteers Barbara Tomford, Diana Willie and Dennis Matsuda who devote much of their time to maintaining plants previously planted by Stream Team volunteers.

This past fall and winter, Steve has helped to plant willows along the streambank, removed all remaining traces of Scotch broom from the twelve-acre site, and cut thousands of square feet of Himalayan blackberry to the ground. He is now supervising community service volunteers at the site, and will lead a project to lay landscape fabric over the blackberry areas in preparation for future native plantings.

Steve also served as a Stream Team Salmon Steward this year. His training came in handy when he spotted a couple of Chinook salmon carcasses at the Percival Creek project property. These are the first fish reported at this site in years. The carcasses were both males, so there will be no offspring from this pair, but the find is still exciting. Revegetation efforts by Stream Team volunteers are paying off in increased water quality and enhanced habitat.

Volunteers Complete Bird Study

Volunteers Nancy and Janet Partlow have completed a baseline study of birds for the Percival Creek project site. Nancy and Janet devoted several mornings to identify the birds, making use of the native vegetation planted by Stream Team volunteers. Results of the study are in the column at right.

Goodbye to Sara

Stream Team bids a fond farewell to Sara del Moral as she leaves her intern position with the City of Tumwater to pursue her Master of Environmental Studies degree at The Evergreen State College. Sara accomplished much during her time with Stream Team. She will be especially remembered for her hard work on Tumwater's habitat enhancement projects along Percival Creek and the Deschutes River. We hope to see her again at future Stream Team events!

Tumwater Coordinator Wins Award

Tumwater Stream Team Coordinator Debbie Smith received the Thurston County Conservation District "Partner of the Year" Award for 2007. Debbie was honored for her partnership work on many of Thurston Conservation District's programs. These include the annual native plant sale, South Sound GREEN (Global Rivers Environmental Education Network), TCTV riparian habitat program, Natural Resources Youth Camp, WRIA 13 Salmon Habitat Workgroup and the CREP (Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program) riparian restoration work along Percival Creek.

Congratulations Ann Marie Finan

Thurston County Stream Team Assistant Coordinator, Ann Marie Finan's temporary employee status with Thurston County Water Resources was recently upgraded to permanent! Ann Marie has a wealth of experience in water resources through her work with the City of Tumwater Stream Team and as coordinator of the Nisqually Indian Tribe's Stream Stewards program. Congratulations on your new "official" status Ann Marie!

Baseline Bird Study

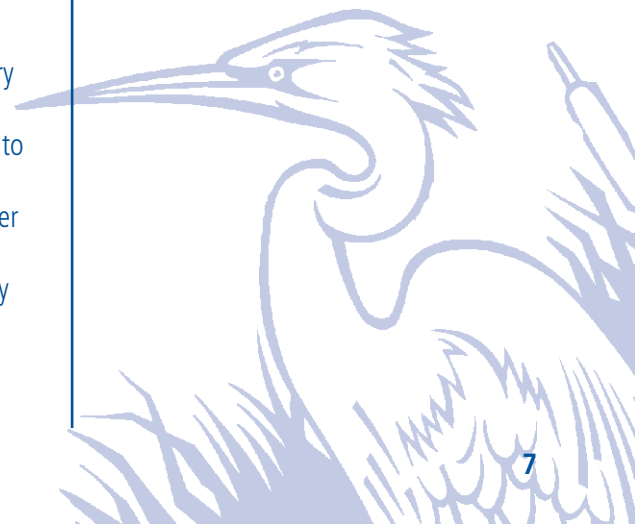
*Observations by Nancy & Janet Partlow
Percival Creek Restoration Site, Spring '07*

Birds

American Crow	Pacific-slope Flycatcher
American Robin	Pine Siskin
Band-tailed Pigeon	Red-breasted Sapsucker
Black-capped Chickadee	Red-shafted Flicker
Black-throated Gray Warbler	Red-tailed Hawk
Bushtit	Red-winged Blackbird
California Quail	Ring-necked Pheasant
Chestnut-back Chickadee	Rock Dove
Common Yellowthroat	Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Cooper's Hawk	Rufous Hummingbird
Dark-eyed Junco	Song Sparrow
Downy Woodpecker	Spotted Towhee
Golden-crowned Sparrow	Starling
Goldfinch	Steller's Jay
Great Blue Heron	Tree Swallow
Green Heron	Violet-green Swallow
Hairy Woodpecker	Warbling Vireo
House Finch	White-crowned Sparrow
House Sparrow	Yellow Warbler
Hutton's Vireo	
Killdeer	
Kingfisher	
Mallard Duck	
Mourning Dove	
Orange-crowned Warbler	

Butterflies

Satyr Anglewing
Silvery Blue
Veined White



FIELD CLASS



Naturescaping for Water & Wildlife Field Class

Saturday, May 17 • 10am to 3:30pm
FREE! REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Get free hands-on landscaping advice from two pros with a passion for protecting water and wildlife habitat. Join landscape designer Linda Andrews and Erica Guttman of WSU's Native Plant Salvage Project for this field class focused on sustainable landscaping. Learn techniques that will save you time and money; how to attract birds, butterflies, beneficial insects and amphibians to your garden; how to get started on a landscape plan; water-wise ideas for outdoor living spaces; planting for four-season interest; managing drainage on site and dealing with slopes and trouble spots.

A morning classroom session will be followed by a field trip to local private gardens; bus transportation is provided. Advanced registration required as space is limited. For details and registration call 360-754-3588 ext. 110 or email ericag@wsu.edu.



929 Lakeridge Dr. SW • Olympia, WA 98502

STREAM TEAM MISSION: To protect and enhance the water resources, associated habitats and wildlife of Thurston County through citizen education and action.

Stream Team is funded by Storm and Surface Water Utility revenues.

STREAM TEAM INQUIRIES:

In Lacey: City of Lacey Water Resources Program

P.O. Box 3400, Lacey, WA 98509-3400

Attn: Tim Wilson – Tel: 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 – Tel: (360) 570-5841 / TTY: 360-753-8270

In Tumwater: City of Tumwater Public Works

555 Israel Road SW, Tumwater, WA 98501

Attn: Debbie Smith – Tel: 360-754-4148 / TDD: 1-800-833-6388

In Thurston County: Thurston County Water & Waste Management

929 Lakeridge Dr. SW, Olympia, WA 98502

Attn: Chris Maun – Tel: 360-754-3355 ext6377 / TDD: 360-754-2933

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DESIGN & LAYOUT: Barbara McConkey, *Inform Design*

PLEASE NOTE: Citizens requiring special accommodations should call one of the coordinators listed above at least one week prior to an event.

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