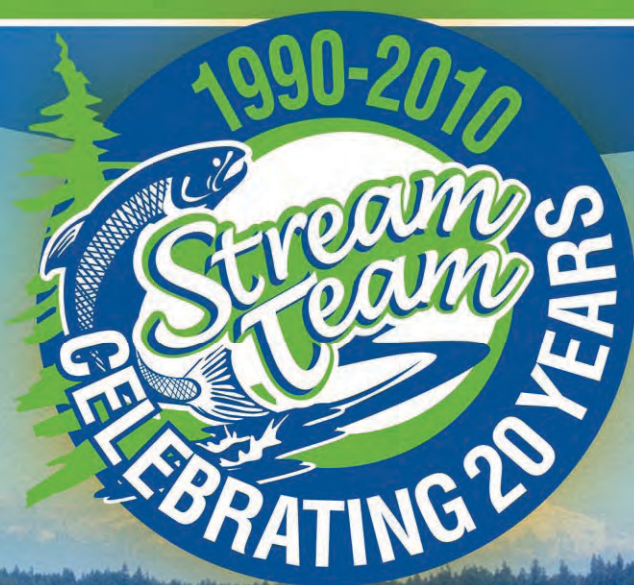




# Stream Team

EDUCATE • PROTECT • RESTORE

Olympia • Lacey • Tumwater • Thurston County



*S. Vento*

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**ON THE COVER:** Stream Team celebrated with a *P.S. I Love You* party on February 14, 2009 at the Olympia Center with over 200 people attending. After visiting all the environmental educational tables, participants received a take-home photo from local photographers, Steve Vento and Marie Martineau.



## Join the Stream Team Group on Facebook!

Stream Team members now have a way to interact with each other through the social media site, Facebook. You must have a Facebook profile set up to join. Once you are on Facebook, just go to “groups” and enter “Thurston Stream Team”. You’ll be all set to join in on the fun! Learn about new activities coming up, post messages and interact with other Stream Team members. For quality control, the posting of photos, videos and links must be done through the administrator of the site, Tumwater Coordinator, Debbie Smith.

## Stream Team Volunteers to Thank for City of Tumwater Award

City of Tumwater received the “**Wildlife Steward of the Year**” award for 2009 from Thurston Conservation District for its habitat enhancement work along Percival Creek. Stream Team volunteer, Steve Parks was invited to the ceremony to receive the award. Steve serves as Stream Team Site Steward for Percival Creek.

The success of this habitat restoration project is due to Steve, and the many hours donated by Stream Team volunteers over the last decade, including Site Stewards Dennis Matsuda, Barbara Tomford and Diana Willie. What was once twelve acres of Scotch broom, Himalayan blackberry, reed canary grass and tansy ragwort has been transformed into an urban oasis of native habitat. Water quality has improved with decreased temperatures, increased dissolved oxygen and decreased nitrate and fecal coliform levels over the course of the project.

The first salmon seen at this site in decades returned in 2008! Outstanding job, Stream Team volunteers!



Above Left: Barbara Tomford at Percival Creek (2003)  
Above Right: Matured plantings at Percival Creek (2009)

### 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: Erin Keith**

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 Water Resources Program  
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 Resources Program  
929 Lakeridge Dr. SW, Olympia, WA 98502

**Attn: Chris Maun**

Tel: 360-754-3355 EXT 6377

TDD: 360-754-2933

### NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTORS:

Erin Keith, Lacey Stream Team;  
Patricia Pyle & Michelle Stevie,  
Olympia Stream Team; Debbie Smith,  
Tumwater Stream Team; Chris Maun  
& Ann Marie Finan, Thurston County  
Stream Team

### DESIGN & LAYOUT:

Azure Summers Graphic Design

### PLEASE NOTE:

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



## 20 Years...and Going Strong!

In 1990, the City of Olympia took a bold step to create a program to engage the community in local watershed planning and “hands-on” volunteer activities. The program was called Stream Team, based on the City of Bellevue’s model of a similar program. The first action project was a stream clean-up on Indian Creek along Plum Street. From this initial effort, Stream Team has grown for two decades, evolving into a multi-jurisdictional adventure involving thousands of volunteers and a multitude of partnering groups, agencies and non-profits all working toward water resources education and protection.

In the beginning, the public was invited to participate in the early basin plans that were being developed to identify and recommend solutions for flooding, water quality and aquatic habitat problems. Eventually, basin plans were developed for Woodland, Woodard, Eaton, McAllister, Chambers, Percival, Indian, Moxlie, and Green Cove. Community and business members welcomed the opportunity to sit side-by-side with state, tribal and local staff and officials to craft the basin plan priorities for flooding and aquatic resource protection. Community members volunteered to assist with solutions to problems identified in the basin plans by working with Stream Team to stencil storm drains, perform stream clean-ups and plant native shrubs and trees.

In a community where the citizens of three cities and the County cross jurisdictional lines daily for work, shopping and recreation, it became obvious that

▷ continued on page 4



**1989**

Olympia City Council directs staff to create a program to engage & educate citizens, develop basin plans for Percival Creek, Indian & Moxlie Creeks & address flooding & aquatic habitat protection

**1990**

### STREAM TEAM STARTS

with stream monitoring & observation walks to identify landslides, dumping, fish kills, & erosion & pollution problems  
**Workshops:** Floods & Flows; Landscaping for Healthy Streams; Wetlands, Wildlife & You; Streamwalk; Bugs & Water Quality; Fish Watching

**1991**

**First Newsletter** (April)

**First Wetland Walk** draws 40 people (July)

**First Tour:** McAllister Springs (Sept)

Thurston County & City of Lacey begin public involvement & education for basin planning

Volunteers donated 1,465 hours

**1992**

**Thurston County & City of Lacey hire Stream Team coordinators**

**First Stream Team Summer Camp** (July)

**First Stream Team T-Shirts Earned** by volunteers

**First Volunteer Recognition Event** celebrates 2 years of achievements & over 2,600 volunteer hours (Dec)

**1993**

McAllister & Eaton Creek Basin Plans involve over 2,000 citizens

Stream Team volunteers donate over 2,000 hours to protect natural resources

**1994**

Over 3,200 people involved in basin plans, events, action projects, education programs, monitoring, tours, Native Plant Salvage & Operation Waterworks

**Native Plant Salvage Project started** with WSU Master Gardeners & Stream Team as major supporters of the program.

**1995**

Stream Team volunteers donated 3,382 hours & stenciled over 600 storm drains

**New spawning areas created** on Moxlie & Woodland Creeks

Over 1,000 trees planted at new Black Lake Meadows Stormwater Facility, Eaton Creek, Indian Creek & Woodland Creek  
4,600 participants in Stream Team & associated activities

**1996**

**City of Tumwater joins Stream Team**

3,770 volunteer hours logged for Stream Team activities

Stream Team co-sponsors Naturemapping & fish survey training with WDFW



## 20 Years ▷ continued from page 6



Stream Team & Harbor Patrol volunteers install & maintain East Bay Purple Martin house. (2004)



Salmon of Percival Creek Field Class (1997)



City of Olympia staff member, Liz Hoenig explains to Billy Frank Jr., County Commissioner Les Eldridge and a group of interested citizens how to stencil storm drains. (1993)



Watershed Project (2000)

Stream Team should be geographically broadened. In 1992, thanks in part to Public Involvement and Education grants provided by the Puget Sound Water Quality Authority, Stream Team expanded to include the City of Lacey and Thurston County. Local stormwater utilities provided, and still provide, much of the source of funding for the program.

With the addition of dedicated staff and funding from the City of Lacey and Thurston County, Stream Team took off. Staff from the three jurisdictions cooperatively developed public involvement and education (PIE) work plans with associated performance measures and delivered the programs. By the mid-1990's, City of Tumwater staff also attended the work planning meetings. Soon after, all four jurisdictions would have Stream Team coordinators and a robust and comprehensive program. Ultimately, the success of the inter-jurisdictional effort was due to more and more volunteers joining Stream Team, bringing their talents and positive energy to the program.

Stream Team, often in collaboration with other agencies and non-profits, have utilized various forms of media and outreach tools including producing videos, radio interviews, public service announcements and segments for local radio and television stations. Stream Team articles have appeared in many regional publications, including *The Olympian*, *Green Pages* and *Nisqually Valley News*. Stream Team has also produced numerous educational brochures and publications. Stream Team has hosted many public presentations that feature notable speakers, such as Christopher Swain, David Montgomery and Jean-Michel Cousteau. Stream Team has also embraced the internet to keep volunteers informed of news items and upcoming events.

Over the years, the Stream Team program has changed to adapt to the interests and needs of the community and sponsored an array of exciting, interactive programs. Successful programs have included the "Forest, Stream and Sound" and "Adventure to Action" Day Camps, Sound Stewards, macroinvertebrate monitoring, Salmon Stewards, Site Stewards and Haunted Hikes. When these programs were created, their presence in South Sound was new and innovative, and they served as models for other regional programs.

The planting and maintenance of native trees and shrubs in riparian buffers continues to be a popular Stream Team program. Volunteers consistently come out in droves, rain or shine, to plant along the Deschutes River, Percival Creek, Green Cove Creek, Woodard Creek, Woodland Creek and Black Lake Ditch, to name just a few stream locations where thousands of trees and shrubs have been planted over the years.

Two successful, signature Stream Team programs were both launched in 1998: macroinvertebrate monitoring and Salmon Stewards. Macroinvertebrate monitoring follows a specific scientific protocol to collect insects and other small invertebrates from stream beds. This data generates a Benthic of Biological Integrity (BIBI) score for each site tested. This biological water quality data is used by local jurisdictions to help them monitor the health of our local streams and plan actions to protect them. Stream Team monitoring sites have increased from two streams in 1998 to 20 stream locations in 2009.

Salmon Stewards serve as local interpreters at three popular salmon viewing locations. Salmon Stewards obtain classroom and field training in salmon biology, water quantity and quality issues, human history and other related topics. Salmon Stewards volunteer at 5th Avenue Bridge, Tumwater Falls, and McLane Creek. Salmon Stewards' popularity with volunteers and the public is extraordinary.





The Stream Team program also provides pollution prevention messages and helps to solve barriers, so people can take actions to protect our water resources. Volunteers mark storm drains with a “no dumping” message to remind people that storm drains connect the road to streams, lakes and Puget Sound. Stream Team provides neighborhoods with plastic pet waste bag holders and signs to remind people to pick up after their pets, educates the public about proper car washing procedures including the “Clean Cars-Clean Streams” charity car wash program, and holds workshops and field classes, which address how to create “natural” yards and install native landscapes or rain gardens.

Working with community partners has always been an important component of the program, one which seems to grow stronger every year. A few of our partners have especially interesting histories with Stream Team. Native Plant Salvage Project actually started as an off-shoot of the Stream Team program. South Sound GREEN (Global Rivers Environmental Education Network) was started by local businessman, Steve Hulbert as part of the initial basin plans and Stream Team actions along Indian Creek. South Sound GREEN is now housed at another one of our partners, Thurston Conservation District.

Stream Team created the Sound Stewards program through a partnership with YMCA Earth Service Corp. Sound Stewards trained volunteers to lead walks around Budd Inlet, teaching community members about Budd Inlet’s natural history. The YMCA Youth Earth Service Corps continues to partner with Stream Team to engage high school students in citizen action to protect water quality.

Through it all, one thing has been clear. Stream Team is so much more than just an “inter-jurisdictional program”. Stream Team is a cadre of amazing volunteers who care passionately about the Earth and its waters, have volunteered over 65,000 hours in twenty years, and go out of their way (rain or shine) to make a difference...a really big difference!

*Stream Team thanks former Coordinators, Susie Vanderburg and Cedar Bouta for their assistance in compiling the Stream Team historical information contained in this newsletter.*

**1997**

Volunteers donated approximately 2,990 hours to regional Stream Team activities at a value of \$37,338 worth of time. Volunteers participated in 25 action projects at 10 locations; stenciled storm drains; were trained & monitored local aquatic habitats.

**Workshops:** Orientation & Marine Mammals; Wet Whiskers & Beaks; The Journey Home: Salmon of Percival Creek; Living with a Wetland

**Sound Stewards program launched with partners**

**1998**

**Macro monitoring begins:** trained Stream Team volunteers collect macroinvertebrates from local streams following a scientific protocol

**Salmon Stewards Program Launched:** Over 900 citizens reached

3,000 volunteer hours, including 400 storm drains stenciled & 23 action projects completed by volunteers

**1999**

1999 Volunteer hours=4,388

**Volunteer hours tally since 1991=13,105**

*Seven Actions for Salmon & The S Files: Stormwater, Salmon, & Streams* videos completed

**Field Classes:** Naturescaping; Streamside Livin'; Constructed Wetland; Homebuilders

**2000**

**Over 2,700 citizens reached through the Salmon Steward Program**

**Field Classes:** Urban Wildlife; Streams 2000; Silt Stops Here; & Homebuilders

**2001**

Volunteers donated 3500 hours to Stream Team projects

Stream enhancement & plantings took place along Percival, Woodland & Indian Creeks & Chambers Ditch & Budd Inlet's East Bay shoreline

**Highlights:** Henderson Inlet Tour, Naturescaping & Stormwater Pond maintenance workshops, Salmon Stewards, Summer Day Camps, & water quality & culvert monitoring

**2002**

**Macro-Monitoring:** more streams added and protocol changes to 3 samples from 3 riffles

**Workshops:** Eco-Dog and Eco-Friendly Living; Great Practices for Home and Lawn

**2003**

**First year for the successful Trees of Washington class & Down by the Bay: South Sound forage fish & shellfish**

**2004**

31 Salmon Stewards talk to 3,900 people at 5th Avenue Bridge & Tumwater Falls Park about the Deschutes Chinook salmon return

**Christopher Swain** Columbia River swimmer, is guest speaker at Stream Team's annual volunteer recognition "King of Fish" author & UW professor, **David Montgomery** presents to Salmon Stewards & the general public



## Clean Cars, Clean Streams

### Call Before You Stage a Charity Car Wash

Each spring, surely as the swallows return to Capistrano, charity car washes crop up at corner gas stations, convenience stores and church parking lots. But what happens to the soapy, grimy rinse water that flows down the nearest stormwater catch basin?

Most people think that stormwater is treated at a wastewater treatment plant, but this is almost never the case. The water is often conveyed directly into streams, lakes and even Puget Sound.

Car wash runoff contains more than simple dirt and grime. It also contains petroleum products, heavy metal particles such as copper and zinc, antifreeze and other contaminants. These contaminants degrade water quality and can harm juvenile salmon and other aquatic organisms.

Even soap can harm water bodies. Car washing soap often contains surfactants and nutrients, such as phosphates. Excess nutrients enable explosive algae growth that can block sunlight used for photosynthesis by other plants. When these algae blooms occur, bacteria then multiply to feed on this decaying material. This decomposition can consume so much dissolved oxygen that fish and other organisms can have trouble “breathing” and even die off. Ideally, only rain should go down the drain.

So how can you stage a charity car wash that protects streams and other waterways? The best alternative is to raise money by selling vouchers to commercial car washes. Commercial car washes are better for the environment because they use only a fraction of the water that “do-it-yourselfers” use. Commercial car washes also remove toxins from wash water and then usually pipe it to a treatment facility. Car washes that participate in a discount ticket program include Shur-Kleen, Hulbert Car Wash, Tumwater Auto Spa, and The Wave Car Wash. Also, Clean Finish offers a free car wash bay for groups to use.

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## Let It Soak In: Two FREE Rain Garden Workshops



**Choose from  
two locations:**

**Thurs., April 1 • 6:30–8:45 p.m. • Yelm**

**Thurs., April 15 • 6:30–8:45 p.m. • Tumwater**

Creating a home rain garden is a way for you to make a big difference in protecting water quality, while also beautifying your yard. Rain gardens are shaped and sized to fit your yard and planted with a variety of flowers, shrubs and ornamental grasses. Rain gardens act like a native forest by collecting, absorbing and filtering stormwater runoff from rooftops, driveways, patios and other areas around our homes that do not allow rainwater to soak back into the groundwater.

Join us for this hands-on workshop to learn how to add one of these lovely “stormwater” features to your yard. The workshop will give you all the details you need to design and install a beautiful rain garden that will manage your home’s stormwater drainage while protecting our local water resources.

Participants will receive a full-color rain garden poster and a copy of WSU’s “Rain Garden Handbook for Western Washington Homeowners”.

Workshops are free. Advanced registration is required, and space is limited. For more information or to register, contact WSU Native Plant Salvage Project at 360-867-2166 or [nativeplantsalvage@gmail.com](mailto:nativeplantsalvage@gmail.com)

*Co-sponsored by Stream Team and WSU Native Plant Salvage Project.*



# Attract Wildlife While Conserving & Protecting Water Resources

## Naturescaping for Water and Wildlife Field Class

Sat., May 15 • 9 a.m.–3 p.m. • Olympia

Learn how to turn your yard into a lovely year-round landscape that attracts birds, butterflies and amphibians with beautiful plants that require less water and help protect water quality.

### The field class will cover:

- Water-wise ideas for your landscape
- Keys to attracting birds, butterflies, beneficial insects and amphibians
- Easy ways to minimize lawn space
- How to solve drainage issues with on-site stormwater management
- Planting for four-season interest
- Landscaping for tricky areas like slopes
- How simple landscape changes can save you time and money!

The workshop will be taught by two local professionals with a passion for gardening and protecting water and wildlife habitat: Linda Andrews, owner of Linda Andrews Landscape and Design, and Erica Guttman, Program Coordinator for the WSU Native Plant Salvage Project.

The morning classroom session will be followed by site visits to local gardens. Bus transportation is provided. Registration is required, and space is limited. For more information or to register, contact WSU Native Plant Salvage Project at 360-867-2166 or [nativeplantsalvage@gmail.com](mailto:nativeplantsalvage@gmail.com)

*Co-sponsored by Stream Team and WSU Native Plant Salvage Project*



Join Stream Team  
as we celebrate  
**20 years**

- ▶ INTERACTIVE DISPLAYS
- ▶ HANDS-ON EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES
- ▶ VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES
- ▶ CAKE & REFRESHMENTS

**Saturday, May 1 • 1 p.m.–3:30 p.m.**

Olympia Center in downtown Olympia  
FREE • Family-Friendly Event • Open to Public

A volunteer recognition ceremony will take place between 3–3:30 p.m., which will include past and present volunteers and Stream Team Coordinators.

For more information about this celebration, or if you would like to volunteer to help, please contact Patricia Pyle at 360-570-5841 or [ppyle@ci.olympia.wa.us](mailto:ppyle@ci.olympia.wa.us)

**2005**

Stream Team tackles pet waste problem by providing bag dispensers & educational signage to local neighborhood associations

New Drain Dare stormwater education trailer is put into action at public events

### First Haunted Mystery Hike:

The "Creatures of the Night" draws over 800 people

Over 5,100 people reached at public events with messages about non-point pollution prevention

**2006**

Over 200 people attend talks, walks, & tours on South Sound history & geology related to water resources

### "Tale of the Disappearing Forest"

**Haunted Hike** draws 750 visitors, 100 people volunteered to help, & 10 groups provided educational activities

**Volunteers mark over 600 storm drains in three days in City of Lacey.**

**2007**

### "To the Bottom of the Sound"

**Haunted Hike** draws 550 people; over 50 volunteers helped tell the haunting tale of the plagued waters of Puget Sound & what can be done to save them

The National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit arrives, requiring local municipalities to include water resources education as part of the permit requirements. Stream Team was ahead of the game, & had already been doing such work for seventeen years.

Two Tending the Tidelands workshops that visited current commercial & historical Native American shellfish farms & harvest sites draw 65 people

**2008**

In March, Stream Team helps to bring world renowned ocean explorer **Jean Michel Cousteau** to the Washington center for the Performing Arts

### Stream Team launches new hands-on "Rain Gardens" workshops

34 Stream team volunteers enjoyed a geology field trip with Centralia Community College geology instructor Pat Pringle. They visited the Upper Deschutes Falls and Glacier Heritage Preserve.

**2009**

Stream Team launches "**Marine Creature Mondays**" at Boston Harbor Marina: over 75 people attended

17 Salmon Stewards spent a combined total of 210 hours at McLane Creek, the 5th Avenue Bridge, and Tumwater Falls, and were able to reach 2,965 people

First *P.S. I Love You* event: Over 200 people showed their "love" for Puget Sound

Over 30 volunteers collect "stream bugs" samples from 20 stream sites throughout Thurston County

**2010**

**STREAM TEAM CELEBRATES 20 YEARS!**



# outstandingVolunteers

*From the beginning, committed individuals have volunteered countless hours to Stream Team activities. They have shown that the combined efforts of many individuals make a difference in the long-term quality of habitat and life in our community.*

Don Eveleth has been a long-time winter steelhead fisherman and outdoorsman. Don lives in McCleary but commuted to work in Olympia at Crown Cork and Seal since 1967. He first got involved in Stream Team around 1993, when he was a Troop Master searching for a project for his Boy Scout troop. They borrowed storm drain stencils from Stream Team and painted "Dump No Waste" messages on every storm drain in the town of McCleary. Since then, Don has worked on just about all of the different types of projects that Stream Team has sponsored.

Don has participated in wetland surveys at Summit Lake, macroinvertebrate monitoring, revegetation projects, Salmon Stewards and more. In addition, he makes and installs nest boxes for wood ducks and has run workshops for students to construct nesting boxes. Don retired in 2004, which enables him to spend much of his time with his two grandsons or geocaching, hiking, fishing, gem hunting, and, of course, Stream Team. His love of being outside and preserving natural habitats has inspired him to put in many volunteer hours with Stream Team, as well as with the Departments of Ecology and Fish and Wildlife and WSU Native Plant Salvage Project.

**Don Eveleth**



**Nicki Johnson**



Nicki Johnson grew up in Olympia. Nicki loves the outdoors and plants, so joining Stream Team was a perfect way to spend her free time doing what she loves. She first participated in Stream Walks, a program to assess the physical characteristics of streams as part of a long-term monitoring program. This monitoring provided overall information on the physical characteristics of streams, such as stream bank stabilization, canopy cover and stream depth.

Nicki is one volunteer who truly embraces and participates in the full cycle of habitat enhancement. Each spring and fall, Nicki is out with Stream Team along our streams helping to plant native trees and shrubs, often serving as a Crew Leader. In the summer, she helps water and weed the plants to ensure

their survival and conducts plant survival counts. In the winter, Nicki works with WSU Native Plant Salvage Project to salvage plants from sites slated for development. The plants are taken to holding beds where they are potted up. Native Plant Salvage Project then donates many of those salvaged plants to Stream Team planting projects.

Nicki also participates in macroinvertebrate monitoring, serves as a Salmon Steward and assists with educational outreach events.



# making a difference...

*Stream Team wishes to thank all of our wonderful volunteers for their service. In this 20th Anniversary issue, we are featuring just a few of the inspirational stories of our many outstanding volunteers.*

Ann Mataczynski first got involved with Stream Team in 1991 after seeing a flyer at Capital Mall advertising volunteer opportunities. At the time, Ann worked for the State and was on the lookout for a volunteer projects for her work team. Ann and her co-workers soon became the adoptive caretakers of Moxlie Creek, which ran close by their office in downtown Olympia.

## Ann Mataczynski



For Ann, the stream walks were just the beginning of countless hours spent helping to restore and protect habitat in Thurston County. Over the years, she has participated in plantings on just about every creek in North Thurston County. She also participates in summer macroinvertebrate monitoring. Ann is always easily spotted out in the field wearing her trademark red pants.

Ann is also a trained Salmon Steward. She has educated citizens about local Chinook runs at sites along the Deschutes River and continues to Salmon Steward in the late fall rains during wild chum spawning season at the McLane Creek Nature Trail.

## Bernd Pielmeier



Bernie and Nancy Ryan have volunteered for Stream Team since moving to Thurston County in 1991. They first learned of the opportunities through a colleague of Bernie's at the state Senate and have volunteered for a variety of efforts since then--removing invasive plants along stream sides, transplanting cedar seedlings from their own yard, and doing whatever restoration projects come along. Bernie worked in Tajikistan and Afghanistan and has seen first-hand the results of years of environmental degradation and deforestation in Asia, which helped inspire

his decision to participate here. They are often among the first to arrive at a site and bring their own tools, so there will be enough gear for the other volunteers. "We often have a very inadequate sense of just how fragile our earth is, which becomes really evident when one goes to other countries and sees the results of governments which cannot or will not step up to address the decades of abuse. Everything we do to help re-birth is important, no matter how huge the task might seem." Bernie and Nancy know the value of the efforts Stream Team makes in restoration, and also recognize there is even greater value in the education component. They have participated in those efforts and will continue to do so. Their focus in the next year will be to show up at even more events and recruit their friends and colleagues to join them.

...in the long-term quality  
of habitat and life in our  
community.



# newVolunteers

*New volunteers infuse more energy into Stream Team. Among recent volunteers, three individuals and one family have participated in all four Stream Team activities: macroinvertebrate monitoring, action projects, Salmon Stewards and educational classes. These activities have earned them an exclusive P.S. I Love You reusable, organic cotton bag.*

## Betsy Brandt-Kreutz



Betsy and her husband, Rick moved to Olympia in June 2008 from California. Tired of life in Fresno, the move was by choice but the location by happenstance. Rick was offered a job at Providence Hospital through a national job search. Betsy was employed full time in Fresno. The move to Olympia gave her the free time she wanted to quilt, perform volunteer service and get involved in the community.

Surrounded by the South Sound's natural beauty, Betsy and Rick were looking for something to do outdoors and to give back to the environment and the community. They read about the Stream Team celebration picnic at Tumwater Historical Park and decided to check it out. They got "hooked" by the welcoming reception they received at the picnic. Just as important, was that Stream Team activities were right here in their own backyard. Both Rick and Betsy got involved.

In only one year, Betsy attended nearly all the Stream Team sponsored workshops and restoration projects. She collected macroinvertebrate samples from five streams. Her favorite activity has been serving as a Salmon Steward. Growing up in Texas and living in Fresno, she didn't know anything about salmon, except that they were in the freezer section in the grocery store. Through the training she learned so much about Pacific Northwest salmon and the local runs. Both Rick and Betsy volunteered at the 5th Avenue Bridge and Tumwater Falls. Betsy also helped out with the school program field trips to watch the chum spawning in McLane Creek. In total, Betsy volunteered over 30 hours with Stream Team this year alone!

Steve saw a Stream Team announcement in *The Olympian* for removing Himalayan blackberry at the City of Tumwater's Percival Creek property located off Sapp Road. He was used to battling blackberries on his family's property in Brinnon, so this activity intrigued him, and he decided to sign up. To Steve's astonishment, the property and trees were covered in blackberries – some reaching over 6 feet in height. A small area was designated for the blackberry removal on that day in June 2007. The group of volunteers was unable to finish, so Steve decided to come back on his own and finish off the job. That was the beginning of Steve's two and half year effort to eradicate the blackberries, liberate and care for buried and bent trees, plant more native trees and shrubs, remove dumped lawn debris and garbage and single-handedly foster the survival of many trees previously planted by Stream Team volunteers.

## Steve Parks



Planting gets all the glory, but maintaining the trees until they are big enough to survive on their own requires commitment and vigilance. In this regard, Steve has spent countless hours removing blackberries very carefully, so he did not cut buried trees accidentally. Mounds and mounds of thorny blackberries have been cut and removed. Once the

blackberries were under control, Steve began mowing an area of small trees struggling to grow in reed canary grass. After cutting back the reed canary grass, he observed extraordinary growth of the trees in one summer and hopes that, within a year or two, they will be tall enough to out-compete the grass.

In addition to his work at Percival Creek, Steve participates in the annual macroinvertebrate monitoring, Salmon Stewards, Tumwater Falls and public outreach education events and restoration projects elsewhere in Thurston County. Steve has also mentored a number of young adults who assisted him in the work out at Percival Creek. Steve is not only an outstanding volunteer, he is passing on his passion for protecting our streams and his strong work ethic to the next generation.



# infusing energy

**Feeling inspired? Sign up!** (More events listed in Calendar on page 15 or on our website at [www.streamteam.info](http://www.streamteam.info))

- ♥ **Black Lake Ditch Tree Planting** (off RW Johnson Road SW) • Mar 13, 10 a.m.–Noon; Mar 27, Noon–2 p.m. • Contact Patricia, 360-570-5841
- ♥ **Pioneer Park Earth Day Event** (off Henderson Blvd) • April 24 • 10 a.m.–Noon • Contact Debbie, 360-754-4148
- ♥ **Macro Monitoring Classroom Training** (Thurston Co. Courthouse) • June 16 or July 1 • Contact Ann Marie, 360-754-3355 x6857
- ♥ **Salmon Stewards Classroom Training** (Olympia location) • Aug. 17 (Part 1) & Aug. 24 (Part 2) • Contact Patricia, 360-570-5841

While visiting her new grandson in 2003, Linda chanced upon the returning Deschutes Chinook salmon at the 5th Avenue Bridge. She was amazed and spoke with the Stream Team Salmon Steward on duty about the run and how to become a Salmon Steward. Within 6 months, she had moved to Olympia to be closer to her son's family. That August, she took the training to be a Salmon Steward.

## Linda Hurtado

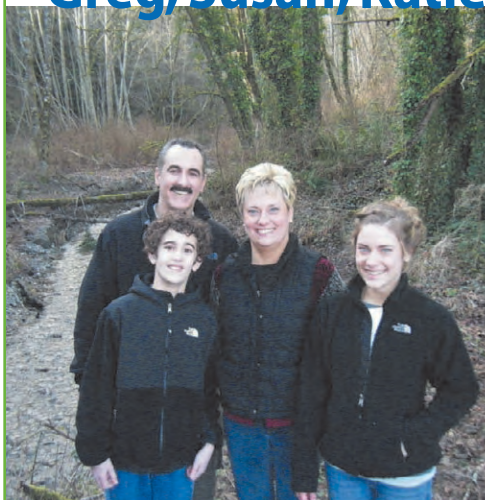


Since 2004, Linda has logged in more than 75 hours as a Salmon Steward. She earned a "limited edition" Salmon Steward fleece vest for volunteering over 30 hours

in a two year period. Linda has exceptional people skills and easily engages people in conversations about the salmon. She has consistently been the Salmon Steward who gives out the most educational materials, as she chats with people about the salmon. In a typical 2 hour shift, Linda talks to an average of 25 to 50 people, sometimes conversing with up to 75 people.

In 2009, Linda decided that she wanted to participate in other Stream Team sponsored activities, in part to be eligible for the *P.S. I Love You* tote bag. This year, Linda was the first Stream Team volunteer to participate in all 4 activities: macroinvertebrate monitoring, action project, educational talk and Salmon Stewards. Congratulations, Linda!

## Greg, Susan, Katie & Henry Williams



While doing landscaping around their home, the Williams family uncovered a buried storm drain and wondered where the runoff from the drain goes. At the time, Katie Williams was in 4th grade and learning about streams, the water cycle and salmon. After doing some research, they figured out that the runoff from this drain, and all the

other drains in the neighborhood, flows to Schneider Creek. As a family, they discussed the possibility of pollution entering the creek via the storm drain from the way people do things outside, such as wash their cars or fertilize their grass.

This chance encounter with a storm drain by two environmentally-conscious parents ignited an ethic of neighborhood stewardship and created a Stream Team family. Katie and her brother, Henry are well-versed about salmon, Puget Sound and water quality. Greg brings Katie and Henry along for the annual summer macroinvertebrate collection from Schneider Creek. In addition, Greg, Susan, Katie and Henry took the Salmon Steward Training three years ago when Henry was in 4th grade.

Henry's former teacher, Beth Swift noted the value of Henry's interest in and knowledge of local salmon: "Henry helped present the water and salmon curriculum to the students in his classroom, and we all benefitted from his knowledge gained by working with Stream Team. The students and I both learned valuable information about our community, and how we can do our part to be responsible citizens with our environment."

Last summer, Henry and Susan marked 30 storm drains in and around their neighborhood. Henry says it is important to remind people that the drains flow to Puget Sound. After all of their hard work, the family was delighted to learn that Schneider Creek got its highest BIBI score ever during the macroinvertebrate monitoring in 2009. The scores shifted the creek into the highest biological integrity range.



# 5 EASY Steps to a Healthy Yard

Our yards often become an extension of our home, a shady retreat after a warm sunny day, a place to relax with our families or to throw a ball for our dog. Our desires to have the “perfect” yard can sometimes lead us down an unhealthy path of chemical use and water-guzzling landscapes.

As the ground begins to warm back up this year, and our landscapes begin to turn green, here are some easy tips for maintaining the perfect yard, without wasting water or using chemicals that can harm our families or pets and pollute our waterways.



## Resources for Healthy Yards

*Grow Smart, Grow Safe: A Consumer Guide to Lawn and Garden Products*, Sixth Edition, 2009: a joint publication of Metro regional government in Portland, OR, and the local Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County.

*The Common Sense Gardening Guide to Natural Lawn Care*, 2007: a joint publication of Thurston County and the WA Department of Ecology.

The guides listed above, as well as other gardening and pest control guides, are available from the Thurston County Common Sense Gardening program, at 360-867-2674 or [www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/ehcsg](http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/ehcsg)

## 1 Give your lawn proper nutrition and air!

The soil in our yards needs nutrients to grow healthy plants, just like our kids need to eat their fruits and vegetables to grow strong!

- **Aerate** your lawn in the spring or fall. It will add oxygen to the soil and allow for better water infiltration.
- **Top-dress** your lawn by raking in a half inch layer of weed-free, fine compost.
- **Over-seed** thin areas with a “Northwest” blend of grass seed.

## 2 Mow high and let it lie

It is very important to adjust your lawn mower to mow your grass high (2 inches), mow often, and remove and sharpen the blade regularly for a “clean” cut of the grass blades. This encourages your lawn’s roots to grow stronger, which creates lush, green lawns that your neighbors will admire.

**The Lawn Institute recommends that you never mow off more than 1/3 of the grass leaf tissue because a “drastic decrease in height can shock the plant.” So, if you like your grass 2” high, mow it when it gets to be 3” high.**

“Grass-cycling” is the FREE way to provide nutrients to your lawn. Simply leave the grass clippings on your lawn when you mow. The grass clippings provide nutrients as well as a means for storing water and keeping your soil nice and cool.

## 3 Use natural or slow-release fertilizer

Fertilizers can provide your lawn with the nutrients it needs to be healthy. If you plan to fertilize your lawn, make sure to purchase a fertilizer that says “slow-release” or “natural” on the bag. Slow-release and natural fertilizers allow the nutrients to feed your lawn the way nature intended, slowly, rather than all at once. The “quick-greening” formula fertilizers force feed your lawn, but do not address the problems that are causing poor lawn health. If you are unsure of what to buy, consult the new edition of the Grow Smart, Grow Safe guide on the county’s web site for product information: [http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/ehcsg/pdf/growsmart\\_growsafe.pdf](http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/ehcsg/pdf/growsmart_growsafe.pdf)

## 4 Water deep...and less often

Watering your lawn everyday not only puts your lawn at risk for disease, but it also wastes water. Most lawns here in Thurston County only need about an inch of water a week (including rain) to stay green. So how much water is an inch? To find out, just place a few tuna cans around your yard. Once they are filled, you have your one inch for the week. It’s that simple!

Watering deeply once or twice a week, instead of every day, encourages your lawn’s roots to grow deeper, creating a large, sturdy root system. On the flip side, when your lawn receives only a small amount of water every day, the roots never have to grow deep. This will cause the roots to become weak and more susceptible to the effects of drought or other severe weather changes.

## 5 Just say NO to weed and feed!

Avoid fertilizers combined with weed or insect control, such as “weed and feed” products. Most of these products contain chemicals for pests and weeds that aren’t even present in the Pacific Northwest. In addition, these products spread weed killer all over the yard, wasting product where it’s not needed and killing off beneficial microbes and nematodes that help to enrich the soil. It is much more efficient, cost effective and healthy to either hand pull, or at least spot-spray, weeds instead of treating the entire lawn with unnecessary chemicals. Many weeds thrive in nutrient-poor environments. If you follow steps 1 – 4, your lawn will have nutrient-rich soil and healthy roots, which will help it outcompete the weeds without the use of chemicals.





## Stream Team Partners to Address Water Quality in Puget Sound

*Puget Sound Starts Here* is an educational outreach campaign dedicated to improving water quality in Puget Sound and our local lakes, rivers and streams. A coalition of more than 300 Puget Sound organizations, including cities and counties, environmental and stewardship groups, and businesses and universities, have launched a ground-breaking public education campaign to reduce the daily flow of 140,000 pounds of toxic chemicals from entering Puget Sound.

The campaign, *Puget Sound Starts Here* educates residents on how changes in their everyday actions can help save the Sound. The effort is the largest in history to save Puget Sound and is led by the Puget Sound Partnership, S.T.O.R.M. (Stormwater Outreach for Regional Municipalities) and the Washington Department of Ecology.

The *Puget Sound Starts Here* campaign illustrates the severity of the problem and explains how each of us can be part of the solution by changing a few everyday activities. Everyone who lives in the Puget Sound region can make a difference.

The *Puget Sound Starts Here* campaign is initially focusing on four

common behaviors that most residents can easily adopt to reduce pollution from entering the Sound.

1. **Take cars to a commercial car wash**, where wash water is properly handled. Car wash water can harm fish and be as potentially toxic as some industrial wastewater discharges.
2. **Fix car leaks**, or place cardboard under the car in the short term to catch leaking oil or fluids.
3. **Use compost** – instead of fertilizers or pesticides – to grow a healthy lawn and garden.
4. **Pick up pet waste with a bag** – both in the yard and in public places – and place it in the trash.

Each of the behaviors addressed in *Puget Sound Starts Here* support the message that many of the Sound's problems start in our own backyards. Water from washing the car in a driveway or street carries oil, zinc, lead, copper and soap into storm drains that empty into rivers and streams that ultimately lead to Puget Sound.

Stormwater runoff – which occurs when rainwater is not absorbed into the

ground – picks up oil from car leaks, toxic yard chemicals from pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers, along with bacteria such as fecal coliform from pet waste. These harmful substances are also washed down storm drains. Washington State's Department of Ecology estimates that 75 percent of the 140,000 pounds of toxic chemicals entering the Sound each day are carried by stormwater runoff.

Many people believe that wastewater treatment plants clean stormwater runoff that flows into storm drains before it reaches local waterways and Puget Sound. This is not the case. The fact is that most stormwater runoff is piped or ditched into the closest stream, lake or directly into Puget Sound. A total of 549 rivers, streams and lakes throughout the region suffer from poor water quality and, in many cases, polluted stormwater runoff is a contributing factor. Everyone can take action to help protect and restore Puget Sound. Just as we learned with recycling, simply doing things a bit differently than we did before results in big improvements for the environment!

Information about these and other ways to become involved with *Puget Sound Starts Here* is available at [www.pugetsoundstartshere.org](http://www.pugetsoundstartshere.org)



## How to Earn Your *P.S. I Love You* Tote Bag

Earning the limited edition Stream Team, *P.S. I Love You* tote bag is easy! Participate in these FOUR types of Stream Team Activities:

- Macromonitoring
- Salmon Stewards
- Revegetation Event
- Educational Workshop

...to earn your tote bag and show everyone that Puget Sound is in your heart!

Keep your eye out for the *P.S. I Love You* stamp in our newsletters and emails; all qualifying activities will be marked with the *P.S. I Love You* stamp.

The tote is made of heavy organic cotton with an embroidered *P.S. I Love You* logo, designed by local artist Nikki McClure, on one side and the Stream Team logo on the other side.



## Staff News

### Amanda Moeser: On To New Adventures

The City of Lacey's Water Resources Intern and Stream Team Coordinator Assistant, Amanda Moeser left her position to take on new and exciting challenges.

Last fall, she was fortunate enough to receive a grant as part of her education to complete research in South Africa. While there, she worked on several research projects, including tracking radio-collared lion and Cape buffalo and conducting aerial surveys for large herbivores. She also went cave diving with great white sharks.

Amanda's soft, friendly demeanor and true passion for the environment will be missed, but we wish her all the best in the life she faces ahead. And, we can't wait to hear about her new adventures!



## Clean Cars, Clean Streams ▷ continued from page 6

If you choose to wash cars yourself, please select the site carefully. Some commercial sites, especially gas stations, connect to special stormwater systems that filter out some pollutants. At a minimum, make certain the receiving stormwater catch basin flows to a stormwater retention pond and not directly into a creek or stream. If possible, redirect runoff onto grassy vegetated areas where plants can absorb soap and nutrients.

Your local storm and surface water utility can help you find an appropriate site. We may also be able to provide a kit that includes biodegradable soap, a bucket, sponges and a sign that lets people know that you're hosting a "certified clean charity car wash".

So, if your car is grungy and you'd like to support a good cause, buy commercial car wash tickets from fundraising groups, or look for an event that displays the "Clean Cars – Clean Streams" sign.

**For information on the Puget Sound Car Wash Associations fundraiser program visit [www.charitycarwash.org](http://www.charitycarwash.org) or call your local stormwater utility:**

**City of Lacey . . . . . 360-438-2687**

**City of Olympia . . . . 360-753-8346**

**City of Tumwater . . . 360-754-4148**

**Thurston County . . . 360-754-4681  
ext. #4**





# Calendar of Events ▷

## MARCH

### Percival Creek Planting Project ♥

**Sat., Mar. 6 • 10 a.m.–Noon**  
Sapp Rd. behind Streamland Estates.  
Contact Debbie @ 360-754-4148  
or dmsmith@ci.tumwater.wa.us

### Spurgeon Creek Planting Project ♥

**Sun., Mar. 7 • Noon–2 p.m.**  
Registration required for carpool.  
Contact Ann Marie @ 360-754-3355 x6857  
or finanam@co.thurston.wa.us

### "Naturescaping for Water & Wildlife" Workshop ♥

**Thurs., Mar. 11 • 6:30–9:30 p.m.**  
Lacey. Registration required.  
Contact Native Plant Salvage Project  
@ 360-867-2166  
or nativeplantsalvage@gmail.com

### Black Lake Meadows Planting Project ♥

**Sat., Mar. 13 • 10 a.m.–Noon**  
R.W. Johnson Rd SW  
Contact Patricia @ 360-570-5841  
or ppye@ci.olympia.wa.us

### Upper Deschutes (Rainier) Planting Project ♥

**Sun., Mar. 21 • Noon–2 p.m.**  
Registration required. Carpool available.  
Contact Ann Marie @ 360-754-3355 x6857  
or finanam@co.thurston.wa.us

### Black Lake Meadows Planting Project ♥

**Sat., Mar 13 • 10 a.m.–Noon**  
**Sat., Mar 27 • Noon–2 p.m.**  
R.W. Johnson Rd SW  
Contact Patricia @ 360-570-5841  
or ppye@ci.olympia.wa.us

## APRIL

### "Rain Garden" Workshop ♥

**Thurs., Apr. 1 • 6:30–8:45 p.m.**  
Yelm. Registration required.  
Contact Native Plant Salvage Project  
@ 360-867-2166  
or nativeplantsalvage@gmail.com

### Tumwater Falls Spring Salmon Event ♥

**Sat., Apr. 10 • Noon–4 p.m.**  
Celebrate the release of juvenile salmon.  
Contact Debbie @ 360-754-4148  
or dmsmith@ci.tumwater.wa.us

### Eaton Creek Planting Project ♥

**Sunday, April 11 • Noon – 2 p.m.**  
Registration required for carpool.  
Contact Ann Marie @ 360-754-3355 ext. 6857  
or finanam@co.thurston.wa.us

### "Rain Garden" Workshop ♥

**Thurs., Apr. 15 • 6:30–8:45 p.m.**  
Tumwater. Registration required.  
Contact Native Plant Salvage Project  
@ 360-867-2466  
or nativeplantsalvage@gmail.com

### Arbor Day Work Party at Woodland Creek Park ♥

**Sat., Apr. 17 • 3–5 p.m.**  
Participants receive a free t-shirt!  
Contact Erin @ 360-438-2687  
or ekeith@ci.lacey.wa.us

### Earth Day Work Party at Pioneer Park ♥

**Sat., Apr. 24 • 10 a.m.–Noon**  
Participants receive a free t-shirt!  
Contact Debbie @ 360-754-4148  
or dmsmith@ci.tumwater.wa.us

## MAY



### Stream Team 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

**Sat., May 1 • 1–3:30 p.m.**  
The Olympia Center, 222 Columbia St. NW  
Contact Patricia @ 360-570-5841  
or ppye@ci.olympia.wa.us

### "Naturescaping for Water & Wildlife" Field Class ♥

**Sat., May 15 • 9 a.m.–3 p.m.**  
Olympia. Registration required.  
Contact Native Plant Salvage Project  
@ 360-867-2166  
or nativeplantsalvage@gmail.com

### Lacey Spring Fun Fair

**Sat., May 15 & Sun., May 16**  
Volunteer for the Stream Team booth!  
Contact Erin @ 360-438-2687  
or ekeith@ci.lacey.wa.us

### McLane Creek Trail Work Party ♥

**Sun., May 23 • 1–3 p.m.**  
Registration required. Carpool available.  
Contact Ann Marie @ 360-754-3355 x6857  
or finanam@thurston.wa.us