

Meet The Board!



Helge Dordal, President

Helge has been married for 43 years, has four children (Anita, Sonja, Susan and Erik) and seven grandchildren. He is a professional engineer (civil and structural), with B.S. degrees in engineering and business marketing. He was born in Norway and is now a U.S. citizen. Helge's hobbies are photography; fishing; coaching soccer, basketball, and hockey; and hiking and skiing.

Our New Executive Director!!!

Hello everyone! I am Marian Berejikian, your new part time Executive Director. I have a B.S. degree in Environmental and Systematic Biology (Fisheries). I make my home in Gig Harbor with my husband and two children who are eight and ten years old. My children have attended many environmental events and meetings in their short lives and know a lot about salmon from their parents who are both educated as fish biologists.

During the last 15 years, I have worked for state, tribal, and federal governments and private consulting firms on fisheries related issues and habitat assessment. I was the Technical Director for a local community association for three years, and am currently the Executive Director for Friends of Pierce County, which I founded in July 2002. I have been involved for over seven years working on land use issues in Pierce County, including Critical Areas Ordinances and comprehensive plan amendments. I recently launched a habitat restoration project on Crescent Creek at the Gig harbor City Park.

Enough of the background facts. I really am excited about all the wonderful restoration work, science and community involvement that Puget Creek Restoration Society is doing. Please drop by the office to chat or call me at (253) 779-8890. I look forward to meeting with all the great PCRS volunteers. -Marion Berejikian

Pacific SandLance Fun Facts



Photo by
Dan Penttila, WDFW

Scientific Name: Ammodytes hexapterus

Habitat: Open water, intertidal zone, nearshore bays and estuaries

Diet: Zooplankton

Spawning: November through March, during high tide, on sandy or sandy-gravelly beaches

Range: Baja, CA to Alaska, through Arctic waters to the Sea of Japan

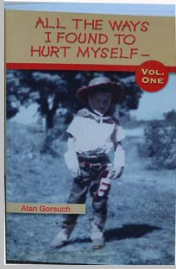
Identification: sword-shaped body, 5-8 inches in length (adult) silver sides, gray-green above

FUN FACTS:

- The Pacific Sand lance are an important item on the menu for juvenile salmon, especially the Chinook
- Many other marine animals (some of which are also economically important in fisheries) also eat Sand lance, including seabirds, seals, sea lions, dogfish, pacific cod and pacific hake
- During the day, schooled adult sand lance swim around eating, but at night, they burrow in the sand to avoid being eaten
- If attacked during the day, the sand lance will gather up into a great writhing ball of fish, lessening the chance that any individual will become dinner
- Sand lance mass spawn tiny eggs (less than 1 mm) which become stuck to sand grains making them difficult to distinguish from the rest of the beach
- At hatching, the 4mm larvae mix with the plankton until they become juvenile size (about 22mm) and then begin to school
- Not much is known of their life history, because it wasn't until 1989 that they officially began to be studied
- Sand lance are vulnerable to shoreline development and here in the Puget Sound, permits for building along the shore may be denied if doing so is beneficial to the species
- 2 United States Navy Submarines were named after the species

-By Susan Penhale

Good Reading!



All the Ways I Found to Hurt Myself – a book of hilarious stories about how the author, Alan Gorsuch, frustrated teachers and just generally put himself in danger. Half the proceeds for all sales made from our office will benefit PCRS. Stop by to get your copy today!

PCRS T-Shirts

Great news! Puget Creek Restoration Society now has their own official t-shirt! We currently have green, sky blue and grey shirts in S, M, L, XL & XXL, and plan to have more colors available in the future. Collect them all! Proudly show your support, get yours now. \$9 for members & \$11 for non-members. Call or email us to arrange a time to pick up your shirt. Or, pay the postage and we will mail one to you



Thank You

Grants R.E.I.

Donations (time, money or misc items)

Paul Sporich for donating a cork line to protect eelgrass
Fred Ogden for donating his boat use
Truman Appraisals for free beach property appraisal
Peter Buffo for donating book shelf
Gloria Meyer for donation
Tyanna Harolde for donating fire extinguisher and lawnmower
Net Secure Wireless for donating cell phone and paying fee on it
WDFW for donating salmon carcasses
Macy's Department Stores for donating fund raising tickets

New/Renewed Memberships

Christine & Robert Greeson
Sherrie Duncan & Dan Gadsden
Eric Bitten
Brittney Curtis
Richard Dorer

Discovering a Sense of Place

What draws you to Puget Gulch or other woods, fields, or shorelines? What does it mean to “live in place” when we’re always on the move? How can we assume greater responsibility for the health and continuity of a place? Explore these questions and more by participating in a Northwest Earth Institute (NWEI) discussion course, *Discovering a Sense of Place*. Join with others during the eight-session course to reflect on your personal views, listen to others, and build community. Attend an introductory presentation on February 11th to learn more and sign up. To be notified of the presentation date and time, contact us at (253)779-8890. The only fee is a \$15 charge for the course book, which may be shared, paid directly to NWEI. The Institute is a 501(c)3 environmental organization based in Portland; courses are offered in the Tacoma area through funding from the Russell Family Foundation of Gig Harbor. More information about NWEI can be found at www.nwei.org.

Education & Membership Committee:

A big part of our mission as an organization is to increase environmental awareness. That’s what this committee is all about! Currently we’re working on the Annual Meeting to be held January 21st (you’re invited, by the way!). We’re also in the process of updating our brochures and might even be planning a race along the creek sometime next year! And, as always, this committee is responsible for writing the newsletter. Like Santa, as soon as the “big day” comes and goes, we start working toward the next. However, unlike Christmas, the newsletter is due four times a year. We’re a busy bunch of elves! If you’ve got skills – writing skills, people skills, organizational skills, any skills, really – we could really use your help.

Fund Raising and Grant Writing Committee:

This quarter we have been very busy. We’ve completed a grant request to McGavick Graves, P.S. in hopes of receiving funds for the Student/Youth Job Training/ Internship Program participants and local schools for transportation to visit Puget Creek. The Peanut Bench created through a grant from Starbucks was auctioned at Bumbershoot for \$1300. We have received grants from the Greater Tacoma Community Foundation, the Russell Family Foundation, the Sequoia Foundation, REI and Pierce County for various activities and supplies. We’re also looking into several other funders and methods for support. We are still looking for new committee members, so if you’re an expert on Fund Raising or just want to learn, come meet with us the second Monday of the month at the Puget Creek Restoration Society Office.

Terrestrial and Nearshore Committee:

Within PCRS, we deal with putting boots on the ground, getting our hands on the vegetation/fish, collecting and entering data in the computer, and responding to or commenting on proposed local and state ordinances and regulations. This seems like a lot (it is!!), so we could use your help with on the ground or in the office tasks! We periodically survey for returning salmon, eel grass, sand lance eggs, etc. This past spring we conducted the first breeding bird survey of the entire Puget Creek watershed, and we need a lot more help to repeat the survey this year, starting in February and running through July. Come help for a day, a week, or several days or weeks! We train! Join us in December and January on the third Thursday of those months to find out more about this, that, and all the other things we’re doing!