



Spring 2008

Fun Events

Puget Creek Restoration Work

**2nd Saturday of
each month**

9:00 a.m. to Noon

Earth Day Event

April 26, 2008

9:00 a.m. to Noon

Meet at

3505 North Alder Way.

Parking available along Ruston Way and west side of Alder.

Walk half of a block on N. Alder Way to the entrance to Puget Park. Look for PCRS banner.

We will provide refreshments, work boots, and gloves.

Western Red Cedar

by Jennifer Keesy and Nicole McKenzie

Living in the Pacific Northwest, we are surrounded by trees. One is the Western Red Cedar. It is among the most widespread trees in the Pacific Northwest and is associated with Douglas fir and Western hemlock. The Red Cedar was the most valuable tree known to Native Americans of the Northwest Coast. This particular cedar tree provided natives with the wood needed to make canoes, totem poles, houses, masks, helmets, armor, boxes, utensils, tools, and many other art and utility objects. Lewis and Clark also used the Red Cedar to make boats.

The Red Cedar continues to be highly valued and used for shelter in North America. It is a major source of shingles, shakes, and boards for untreated (natural finish) exterior siding. The hand split shakes from the Red Cedar sell for far more than those made of asphalt. They will last for nearly 100 years on an average roof. Western Red Cedar is in such high demand that even

partially rotten butt-sections will sell for a high price. "Cedar-poaching" of scattered live trees has also become a thriving illicit market.

In some cases, the Red Cedar has been referred to as "the tree of life," as it was used for a number of ailments by the Kwakwaka'wakw people and other groups. It is still held in the highest respect by the people of the Northwest Coast for its healing and spiritual powers. The Red Cedar is said to be so strong that a person can stand with her back to the tree and receive strength from it.

The height of a cultivated Red Cedar can range from 50-60 feet (130-200 feet in the wild), and can spread 15-20 feet. It is a slow-growing tree that prefers humidity and sunlight. The Quinault Lake Red Cedar is the largest known Western Red Cedar in the world with a wood volume of 500 cubic meters and is located near the northwest shore of Lake Quinault. The

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Mud-slide Update

In November 2006, a mudslide moved a large amount of sediment from private property into the Puget Creek restoration area. This mudslide was triggered by a combination of factors, including heavy rain, street run-off through a broken curb that the city failed to manage properly, and removal of plants that were stabilizing the hillside. Debris slid into two upper ponds and re-channeled a tributary across the main access path. The mudslide caused multiple problems that have increased over time, filling the Coho pond and further degrading the trail.

In June 2007, PCRS met with the City of Tacoma, Chambers-Clover Creek Watershed Council, and Metro Parks Ta-

coma. Metro Parks agreed that they would take responsibility for filing the necessary permits and hiring a contractor to repair the affected areas. Metro Parks also stated that they would pay for the repairs and pursue reimbursement from the responsible parties, as appropriate. PCRS agreed to support the project by providing information, using its current wetland development permit with the city, and coordinating volunteer workers, if necessary, to help Metro Park's hired crew. However, the PCRS board determined that PCRS resources are better spent on its current restoration work, than pursuing the permits required for the repair of the

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HONORARY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**North End
Neighborhood Council**

The Puget Creek Restoration Society protects, enhances, and restores the Puget Creek Watershed and similar streams, wetlands, and green spaces. We serve the South Puget Sound communities and invite their participation through hands-on restoration, research, education, advocacy, and by promoting a sense of stewardship.

*A tax-exempt 501(c)(3)
nonprofit organization*



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Website: www.pugetcreek.org

Calling Future Board Members!

If you are interested in filling a board position, please contact us for an application. Board meetings are the third Monday of each month, at 6:30 p.m.

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Western Red Cedar is also known as: the Tree of Life, Western Red Cedar, Great Western Arborvitae, Canoe Cedar, Pacific Red Cedar, Shingle Wood, and Giant Red Cedar.

The Red Cedar produces a large number of reddish seed cones. The egg-shaped cones have 8-12 scales that are about 1cm long. They are found in loose clusters that are green when they are immature. As they mature, they start to turn brown in color, become woody, and turn upward. At full maturity, their seeds are winged. This means when the seeds pop out, instead of falling to the ground, they catch wind and are dispersed throughout the environment. This is a vital part of the reproduction of Red Cedar trees.

The Red Cedar grows along the Pacific Coast from the southern part of the Alaska Panhandle through British Columbia, western Washington, western Oregon, and barely reaching into northern California. It grows from sea level to 3500 feet elevation in the Northwest but reaches 4500 feet in southwest Oregon. The Red Cedar likes moist soil, so they also grow along the moistest part of the Rocky Mountains system in southern British Columbia, northeastern Washington, northern Idaho, and northwestern Montana, below 500 feet of elevation. In cultivation, Red Cedar can be effectively used as a hedge or screen and can be grown close to buildings. Foliage of the Red Cedar is glossy, green and scale-like, and is aromatic. The bark is reddish brown and sheds. The foliage may turn brownish bronze in winter.

Red Cedar can be affected by bagworms, spider mites, leaf miner, and deer, but overall, insects have little effect on the Red Cedar. A number of bole-rotting fungi are active in Red Cedars. The bole-rotting fungi are mostly found in trees that have the yellow ring rots (*Poria* spp.) present. Nevertheless, the Western Red Cedar is among the most durable trees living in the Northwest. It has tough, yet supple, boughs that are not easily damaged by heavy snows and are

relatively wind-firm despite the tree's shallow root system. The Red Cedar will still thrive under conditions of extreme shade.

The Red Cedar is as valuable while it is alive as when it dies. When a Red Cedar ends its life cycle valuable nutrients are recycled into the forest floor below, which begin another 1,000-year life cycle of the Red Cedar.

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mudslide.

Subsequently, PCRS provided to Metro Parks the information needed for the required Joint Aquatic Resource Permits Application (JARPA) and Hydraulic Project Approval (HPA) permit. PCRS also emphasized, repeatedly, that the only time in-stream work can be performed without damage to the salmon spawning pattern is between April 15 and October 15. Metro Parks assured PCRS that this issue would receive immediate attention.

As of mid-March, applications for permits have not been filed. Typically, these permits take a month or two to be approved. Since last summer, PCRS has made repeated attempts to obtain the current status of this project from Metro Parks, including e-mails to the Metro Parks staff member responsible for this project, the Metro Parks Commissioner, and the Executive Director.

The damage to the salmon habitat is increasing each week and it needs to be stopped during the fish window this year. If the Coho pond becomes full, the sediment will begin to enter the stream and fill the spawning gravel beds. Salmon eggs need gravel beds that are clear of excess sediment. The gravel holds the eggs in place and allows water to wash away waste produced by the eggs. Sediment and waste in the gravel bed reduce the availability of oxygen and can cause the eggs to be smothered. These gravel beds need to be returned to the best condition possible before the next spawning season begins in mid-October.

Metro Parks' delay in this project is of great concern. PCRS encourages its supporters to call Metro Parks and ask about the delay of progress.

Welcome Anni!

We are pleased to introduce the new SYTI Program Coordinator, Anni Watkins.

Anni is a native Washingtonian and has lived here most of her life. She has two degrees in geology, is a licensed geologist, has a GIS certificate, and values learning on a daily basis. Her family lives throughout the Pacific Northwest, with one exception, her daughter, who is currently teaching in Aberdeen, Scotland.

Anni enjoys geology, native plants, gardening, and birding. A goal is to someday have her yard designated as a bird sanctuary, and filled with many native plants.

This is her first position with a non-profit organization. Volunteering and promoting environmental awareness were always on her to-do list. Now that she's finally involved, she realizes how rewarding it is and will not only continue but increase her involvement with restoration work.

New Board Member Sherry Graham

Sherry was a chiropractor for 25 years and is now in the Environmental Science



and Technology Program at Clover Park Technical College. She has been an avid hiker and cross-country skier for 21 years, as well as a scuba diver and plans to be part of the PCRS dive team. She has also been a birder for eight years will help out on the bird surveys.

Volunteers of the Year

Dr. Cemil Bayrakci

PCRS is very grateful to Dr. Bayrakci for his work both in field and in the office. He assists by eradicating invasive plants, planting native plants, and leading work crews. Additionally, he helped put together photo albums and native plant ID cards. Dr. Bayrakci also sits on the Nearshore Terrestrial Committee.

John Inch

In addition to being an EnviroChallenger for the City of Tacoma, John serves as dive master for PCRS eel grass monitoring team. He also uses his kayaking skills to take oxygen readings at low and high tides and to deliver quadrates to divers who install them in the eel grass beds.

THANK YOU!

Donations (time, money or misc. items)

AHBL Architects
Antioch University Legacy Program
BCRA Architects
Bellarmine Preparatory
Boy Scout Troops Pack 227
CenterForce
Clover Park High School
Clover Park Technical College
Curtis High School
Greater Tacoma Community Foundation
Harmon's Restaurant
Keystone
Lowell Elementary
McGavick Graves
Metro Parks
Mt. Tahoma High School
Native Plant Salvage Program
Pierce College
Pacific Lutheran University
Puyallup Tribal Fisheries
Rios
Sequoia Foundation
Simpson Tacoma Kraft
South Puget Intertribal Planning Agency
Stadium High School
Starbucks
Tacoma Community College
United Way Pierce County
University of Puget Sound
University of Washington Tacoma
Washington Dept of Fish and Wildlife
Woodbrook Nursery
YMCA
All our field/office volunteers
Everyone else who has helped

New/Renewed Memberships

Brian Alarcon
Xavier Al-Mateen
Jenifer Anderson
Chris Andree
Brian Annola
Yessie Arallano
Brian Arnold
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C & J Bayrakci
Harry Bechtold

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Brett Bevins	Kevin Layne
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Malcolm Frank	Janet Pouvi
Robert Gatmueller	Dena Reaugh
Aaron Goodall	Grayson Reim
Rebecca Gooding	Cynthia Rennie
Ryan Gore	Laura Resop
Maurice Green	Joseph Rhodes
Tom Hanson	Javier Rodriguez
Joe Hanson	Karrie Ross
Aaron Harper	Jami Russert
Sadora Hickmon	Karen Sawers
Allison Holmes	Marcasa Seats
Kuni Hongo	Jim Shearer
Robert Hoover	Doug Shulene
Traci Hoover	Josh Simpson
Leonelle Ignacio	Sydney Skagen
John Inch	Michelle Smith
Courtney Irby	Ryan Steele
Lynn Johnson	Jennifer Straling
Kirby Johnson	Christian Stricklen
Gwyneth Jones	Ian Tarleton
Jennifer Keesy	Suzanne Taylor
Jenifer Kelsy	Thomas Tran
Bethany Kingery	Mark Tuck
Sarah Kingery	Beata Uzueta
Ramona Kliptas	Ben Uren
Candice Knoblock	Georgia Urps
Natalie Kopytko	Richard Watkins
Danny Kroeger	Richard Winters
Jacob Lake	Peggy Yates

Join the Puget Creek Restoration Society

Note: The PCRS is a 501c(3) organization and your dues are tax deductible.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Membership Dues - Please choose one:

_____ Business - \$50/year

_____ Family - \$30/year

_____ Individual - \$20/year

_____ Work nine or more volunteer hours

_____ Other

Which of the following types of activities are you interested in? *Please check all that apply.*

_____ Office work

_____ Research

_____ Restoration activities

_____ Education/Outreach

_____ Legislative issues

_____ Salmon enhancement projects

