



Spring 2009

Pileated Woodpeckers by Michael Green

Fun Events

***Puget Creek
Restoration Work***
2nd Saturday
of each month
9:00 a.m. to Noon

***Parks Appreciation
Day***

April 18, 2009, 9 a.m. to Noon

Watershed Conference
April 18, 2009, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.
See details on page 3.

Earth Day Event
April 25, 2009, 9 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,
rubber boots, and gloves. Dress for
weather conditions and wear
clothes you can get dirty.

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Pileated Woodpeckers are the largest of the common woodpeckers found in Puget Gulch. They are found living in the area year round. Pileated Woodpeckers are found throughout the Puget Sound region, including in well detailed forest tracts, descriptive parks and within pretty urban areas. In Pierce County the territory of the Pileated Woodpecker is between 1000 and 4000 acres. The Pileated Woodpecker is also

commonly known in the southern area of Puget Sound as the "Indian Hen" or "Rain Crow."

In dead trees, large holes are graphed and descriptively decorated by Pileated Woodpeckers. After chipping away at dead trees there are sometimes large holes and quite often the holes can cause small dead trees to break in half. Wild laughter is the communication of the Pileated Woodpecker. Its beautiful

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Board with News, by Sherry Graham, Vice President of the Board

OUR NEW TREES WILL NEVER BE BOARD because they are being planted in a protected area and will not be cut down after they have matured. We received \$8,000 worth of native trees and plants on 2-12-09. WE NEED HELP PLANTING THEM! We welcome groups of students and adults from companies wanting their employees to do community service. Please call the office and schedule a time, or just show up on Saturday, April 11, April 18, or April 25.

Every time I see the pots of plants, I can envision what the Puget Gulch will look like when they have matured. It will be the most beautiful urban wilderness in Tacoma. Shortly after you step into Puget Gulch, your mental stress and tense muscles will disappear as you become one with nature. You will feel calm but also energized and as you observe the surroundings, nothing else will be on your mind. There will be birds singing, raccoons prowling, and deer grazing. The native trees and plants provide food and shelter for wildlife. The native vegetation plays a crucial role in providing the creek with the proper habitat for salmon. In my vision, I see Coho and Chum Salmon swimming up the creek to spawn. I see the female using her tail to dig out a hole in the gravel to deposit her eggs, a male fer-

tilizing the eggs, and then the female covering them up with her tail. She will guard the nest, called a redd, until she dies. The male will also die and their dead carcasses will provide food for their young. I also see great blue herons and kingfishers eating the young salmon and the river otter will be there for dinner too. But many young salmon will survive and make it out to Commencement Bay and then on out to the ocean; in 4-5 years they will return to Puget Creek to spawn.

The sooner we get the trees and plants planted, the sooner we will all see what I envision. We are planting many different types of native trees and plants such as the following **native trees**: Pacific Yew, Western Hemlock, Douglas Fir, Western Red Cedar, Sitka Spruce, Western Crabapple, and Quaking Aspen. **Native shrubs** are Pacific Willow, Douglas Hawthorn, Cascara, Mock Orange, Red Elderberry, Red Flowering Currant, Oceanspray, Pacific Ninebark, Red Twig Dogwood, and Nootka Rose. **Native ground covers** are Sword Fern, Lady Fern, Salal, Oregon grape, and Kinnikinnick.

If you help us plant, not only will you help restore the habitat in the gulch, you will also learn how to identify native plants and will perhaps consider planting native plants in your own yard where they will also provide food and shelter for wildlife.

BOARD OF DIRECTORSSue Penhale, *President*Dr. Sherry Graham, *Vice President*Larry Yother, *Secretary*Steven Beckstead, *Treasurer*

Scott M. Hansen

A. Helge Dordal

HONORARY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

North End Neighborhood Council

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Heather Valtee, *Executive Director*

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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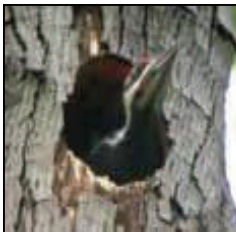
and unique drumming can be very loud, often sounding like someone striking the tree with a hammer. Female Pileated Woodpeckers also drum to attract males. Males perform the rather loud pecking to announce the boundaries, which is also known as signifying, of their territories.

As seen, the plumage and structure of these crow-sized birds present memorable and pleasantly enjoyed sight.

The viewing of these birds can tickle people's heart with joy and furnish someone's spirit, soul, eyes and mind with their colorful attributes.

Adults are 15 to 18 inches long and weigh less than one pound. Pileated Woodpeckers are mainly black with a red crest and white lines down the sides of the throat. Adult males have the red line from the bill to the throat and red on the front of the crown. On adult females from the bill to the throat the line is black and when in flight female Pileated Woodpeckers show white on the wings. The Pileated Woodpecker is expected to live twenty-five to thirty years.

Nine months following birth the baby Pileated Woodpecker, from tail tip to top of head, is five and a half inches. Due to hearing mother or father singing the baby pokes its head out of the parent dug tree.



<http://www.animals.tube.com/video/>

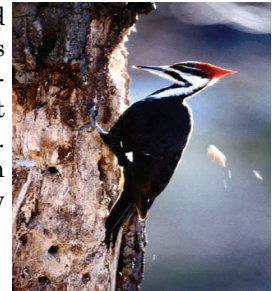
After the Pileated Woodpeckers' eggs fall off the nest to another site, usually to the ground, it has been observed the woodpecker moves their eggs by first etching the destination. This is done by poking the ground then lifting whatever needs to be lifted.

These woodpeckers enjoy eating insects especially beetle larvae and carpenter ants as well as fruit, berries, and nuts. They often chip out large and roughly rectangular holes in trees while searching out insects, such

as their favorite meal, active Leaf Beetles.

Bald eagles and a variety of hawks hunt Pileated Woodpeckers, as do snakes and wildcats.

Pileated Woodpeckers compete for nesting holes with the Red Capped Woodpeckers and with the Ivory-billed Woodpecker it contends for food. They compete with the House Sparrow for roosting sites.



Picture from <http://animals.nationalgeographic.com>

Sources:

<http://www.pileatedwoodpeckercentral.com/information.htm>

http://identify.whatbird.com/obj/183/_/Pileated_Woodpecker.aspx

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ivory-billed_Woodpecker

THANK YOU!

PCRS thanks the following organizations for their generous support:

The Mountaineers Foundation Port of Tacoma

We would also like to thank these members for their recent activity and/or donations:

New Members

Candie Harrell, and Glenn & Mimi Kray

Renewing Members

CW & Jill Clark, Tracy & Matt Marander Jose & Karen Cabrera, Xavier Al-Mateen Cemil & JoAnn Bayrakci, Steve Beckstead Richard Dorer, Sherry Graham, Scott M. Hansen, John Inch, Steve Mead, Jennifer Keesy, Richard Watkins, Richard Winters, Tom Hanson, Sarah Figeroa, Jeremy Carmack, Doug Shulene, Janet Pouvi, and Danny Kroeger

Donations

Dave & Linda Duley, Tracy Marander, The Trex Company, Candie Harrell, and Katie Downs Tavern & Eatery

Volunteer Groups

CenterForce
Charles Wright Academy
Salt Lake Community College

2009 WATERSHED CONFERENCE

On Saturday, April 18, 2009, there will be a Watershed Conference at The Mountaineers Clubhouse in North Tacoma. This conference will bring together experts in the restoration, protection, and other factors of urban streams. The speakers will be from various nonprofits, City, County, State, and Tribal agencies. This conference will allow our organization and other agencies working on similar projects to share information and to learn the best and most comprehensive methods to proceed with urban stream watershed issues.

This is a great opportunity to learn about the importance of healthy urban streams and the importance of watershed planning. Every individual is capable of making a positive difference; therefore your participation would be greatly appreciated.

Our guest speakers and topics will be:

Bart Madison, Trout Unlimited, *The Views from a Nonprofit Organization of Salmon Issues in Urban Streams*
 Al Schmauder, Chambers Clover Creek Watershed Council, *Watershed Council Views on Urban Stream Issues*
 Dr. Barry Goldstein, UPS Professor in Hydrology & Geology, *How Hydrology Plays on the Formation of Urban Streams in Tacoma Area*

Dr Jill Whitman, PLU Professor in Hydrology & Geology, *What are the Geology Influences on Urban Streams?*

Dr Lorin Renelt, Pierce County Surface Water Manger, *How Pierce County Views the Importance of Urban Streams*

Chris Ott, City of Tacoma ESA Coordinator, *Views on ESA Issues in Urban Streams*

Russ Ladley, Puyallup Tribal Fisheries, *Tribal Salmon Issues Involving Urban Streams*

Mike Rubright, City of Tacoma Storm Water Management, *Water Quality Monitoring in Urban Streams*

Betsy Dicks, Department of Ecology, *The Importance of Water Quality Monitoring in Urban Streams as Viewed by State Agency*

Isabel Ragland, Pierce Stream Team, *What Monitoring of Urban Streams Should Include, What Tacoma Does, and How Habitat Restoration Improves the Quality of Urban Streams*

Thersea Dusek, AHBL Architects, *Wetlands, Their Condition, and Importance for Urban Streams*

The Mountaineers Club

2302 North 30th Street
 Tacoma, WA 98407

Saturday Evening, April 18, 2009

5:00p.m. – 8:00p.m.

Calling Future Board Members!

If you are interested in filling a board position, please contact us for an application.

Board meetings are the third Wednesday of each month, at 6:30 p.m.

GardenSphere proudly supports the efforts of PCRS.

To offer our thanks to members of PCRS, **GardenSphere** will donate 10% of member purchases to PCRS as well as give an additional 10% off.

OR

Members can choose to be truly generous and pledge the full 20% to PCRS!*



*Valid in-store only, name on newsletter or e-mail must match purchasers ID, valid during dates of newsletter.

GardenSphere LLC
 3310 N Proctor, Tacoma, WA 98407
 253.761.7936, www.gardensphere.biz

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

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