



Summer 2008

Community Service

by Scott Swanson

Fun Events

Puget Creek Restoration Work

**2nd Saturday of
each month**

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.

I found about Puget Creek Restoration from United Way when I was inquiring about some non-profit organizations to do some community service hours. The reason I have to do this community service work is because I was charged with and DUI in 1999 and received 46 hours of community service work. I completed the community service work with the Salvation Army in 2000. After completing all the court ordered requirements, I thought everything was taken care of. Two weeks ago when I was taking care of some things, I contacted the El Paso County courthouse in Colorado Springs, Colorado and they informed me that they had never received the paperwork showing that I had completed the community service. After three days of searching through the records they called me back and said they could not locate any of the paperwork. It is really

frustrating that when somebody else loses the paperwork it is still my fault, but everything is for a good cause and that I would just complete the hours again.

What does community service mean to me? Community service is for the community and it is work or time given back to the community. There are a lot people that give many hours to the community and that is such a great thing. Then there are many more people that give nothing and care to give nothing until it is them who need something. There is nothing wrong with giving a little bit of your time to help out non-profit organizations. There are so many organizations that would not be around today if it weren't for people giving there time and knowledge to

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Brazilian Elodea, an invasive, non-native fresh water plant

by Andrew Butac

Brazilian elodea is a popular aquarium plant that can be found for sale in most pet shops, usually under the name Anacharis, although the sale of this plant in Washington is illegal. The trouble starts when Brazilian elodea is accidentally or deliberately introduced into lakes and ponds. The characteristics that make Brazilian elodea a good aquarium plant also make it a nuisance plant outside of an aquarium. Brazilian elodea forms dense mono-specific stands that restrict water

movement, trap sediment, and cause fluctuations in water quality. Brazilian elodea is a submersed, freshwater perennial herb, generally rooted on the bottom in depths of up to 20 feet or drifting. It is found in both still and flowing waters, in lakes, ponds, pools, ditches, and quiet streams. It tends to form dense nonspecific stands that can cover hundreds of acres.

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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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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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help out the organization. There are so many organizations that with the help of volunteers make people or places in need get the extra help they need to survive. It does not bother me at all that I have to do these community service hours again; it is going to an organization where I enjoy working.

I have always been interested in the outdoors and making sure everything will still be there when it comes time for my grandkids to go out there and enjoy the outdoors. Not enough people today take enough, or any at all, interest in saving the environment or any of the elements that go with it. Too many people care about their immediate needs or wants and do not care about the future of certain items. That is not the case for me; I take interest in the future of parks.

After being informed by the United Way about Puget Creek Restoration, I knew right away that this would be some place that would interest me. I called Scott at Puget Creek Restoration and he explained what Puget Creek restoration was about. I asked him when I could come down there and get started. His response was that we are always doing something so you can come down when it is convenient for you. I told him I would be down there the very next day.

Working with Scott has been a great experience for me. I started the first day at the office and he had me doing some computer work. After completing the computer work, I was preparing for the next day and pairing up some gloves so that everyone would have a pair for the park project. Once I completed that

mission, Scott asked if I ever used a microscope. I responded many years ago. He explained what I would be doing now is conducting sand lance sampling analysis. This entailed looking through a microscope into a little dish that had about a tablespoon of sand with some distilled water in with the sand. The sand in which I was looking was taken as a sample in December. The process was very tedious; I would look through the microscope into this dish looking for the eggs. It was explained that the process was to look at every space in the dish and then shake it up, move it around and look again. Do that five times and make sure you hit every area in the dish. I did see some interesting pieces of sand but did not find any eggs. I shook up the sand and tried again. I did not finish before I had to go home so we sealed off the dish so I could continue later and then called it a day.

The next day I arrived at the office about ten minutes to eight and was informed that the University of Puget Sound students would not be able to make it. So Scott and I went to the park ourselves. That day was a very interesting day. We started out by carrying boards to the wet area so we could walk on them and not damage the wetlands any more than we had to. After setting the boards, we went back to the shed, picked up some tools, and headed up the hill. We made a couple of trips up the hill with some tools before we went back to the shed to retrieve the new ladder section we would be placing. We took out old ladder sections that had been placed on the hillside and replaced them with a better built ladder sections. That day we replaced a total of five ladder sections, each time taking out the old ladder section, removing the rebar stakes that were holding the ladder

section in, and then securing all of that and heading down the hill, through the trail and back to the shed, securing a new ladder section and some new rebar stakes and back up the hill to place the new ladder section. Once finished with placing the ladder sections, we had to recover our tools and the boards we placed earlier and take all of it back to the shed. After locking up everything at the park we returned to the office. Once I returned to the office, I continued what I did not finish the day prior with the sand lance sampling analysis and once again I was not able to find any sand lance eggs. I then cleaned out the dish and called it a day.

The next week I spent a lot of hours down at the creek. I started on Tuesday preparing the park for the upcoming events. We hauled some boards down to the planting site and placed a lot of boards on the trail so the wheel barrows will not sink into the mud. After setting all the boards in, we replanted some plants from flats into some pots because they were getting bigger. After replanting we moved everything back to the shed and called it a day. The next day I went back to the creek and we prepared some more by taking some trees to the planting site for the next day of planting. I also planted some bleeding hearts on the hillside along the road. On Thursday students from Pacific Lutheran University showed up and we planted the trees we set out the day before and after planting we removed some ivy from the hillside. On Friday, we started at the creek and prepared the site for some students from the YMCA to show up. The students never showed up but the teacher made it and she helped out for a little while. We once again prepared the planting site for the next day by taking some western hemlock and western cedar trees to the site. After a short day at the creek, I went back to the office and continued to work on the sand lance sampling analysis and made some buttons. On Saturday, we went back out to the creek and some students from the University of Puget Sound showed up to help. We started out by removing the salmon incubators from the creek and then headed back to the hill. Once we finally all got to the base of the hill we started removing ivy from the hillside. After removing some ivy we started to plant some trees. We planted all the hemlocks and cedars that we hauled there the day before and then started to return all the equipment back to the shed.

The past week has been a great experience for me. I want to thank Scott at Puget Creek Restoration for all the things he has taught in the little time I was there. He really is a brilliant man and really enjoys what he does and is good at doing it. The past week has made me think even more about the restoration of parks. Upon the return from my upcoming deployment to Iraq I will definitely be volunteering my time to continue the restoration of Puget Creek Park. I will be looking forward to see the things that Scott and the great volunteers have done to the park.

THANK YOU Volunteers!

Your work is essential to the restoration of the Puget Creek watershed.

Thank you all new members and businesses that have participated with us.

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Brazilian elodea is a native to the central Minas Geraes region of Brazil and to the coastal areas of Argentina and Uruguay. Due to its popularity as an aquarium plant, Brazilian elodea has spread to many countries. The earliest report of Brazilian elodea in the United States was in Millneck, Long Island, where the plant was collected in 1893. It was offered for sale in the United States in 1915, where it was recommended as a good "oxygenator" plant. In Kitsap County, this plant has been



This photo shows Brazilian elodea (*Egeria densa*) on the far right, in comparison to the native varieties (the smaller stems middle and left). Notice how robust the Brazilian variety (non-native) is compared with native elodea.

reported in Long Lake since the early 1970s. Brazilian elodea infests many western Washington lakes and waterways scattered over a wide geographic area. In Washington State, local and state government and lake residents spend thousands of dollars every year to manage Brazilian elodea infestations. The cost of the control project in Silver Lake, Cowlitz County, is over one million dollars. State officials in Oregon consider Brazilian elodea to be their worst aquatic plant problem.

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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