

Puget Creek RESTORATION SOCIETY

June - August 2007

Fun Events

2nd Saturday Each Month

9:00 a.m. to 12 noon

Puget Creek

Restoration Work

Meet at 3505 North Alder Way, Tacoma WA 98405

Parking available along Ruston Way and west side of Alder Way. Walk 1/2 blocks on Alder Way until you reach the entrance to Puget Park. Look for PCRS banner.

We will provide refreshments, work boots, and gloves

Puget Creek Neighborhood Nature Walk

September 9, 2007

9:00 to 11:00 a.m.

Our habitat ecologist will point out interesting and fun facts about the watershed and its wildlife.

Refreshments provided at this free event. Please join us!

Let us know what you think about our new newsletter format - we welcome your feedback.

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Student Youth Job Training Internship Program provides students peek into environmental field *by Chris Andree*

Over the years, local high school and college students have been interested in completing their volunteer hours, culminating projects, internships or boosting their resumes. To assist their efforts, the PCRS has developed the Student Youth Job Training Internship Program (SYTI) funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development via Pierce County. Additional support comes from the Hugh and Jane Ferguson Foundation, Puget Sound Flyfishers, Starbucks, and Lumberman's Club.

We all know that hands-on experience is a greatly effective way to learn, and sometimes difficult for schools to continually provide.

The SYTI program is targeted towards low-income individuals, but open to all. Participants commit to an average of 60 hours, however additional hours are available.

Social and technical skills are practiced though SYTI program in three arenas and an array of options are available. Participants are in the field 50% of their time.

Students are encouraged to follow their interests in the following areas listed below with activities:

1) Field Work

Monitoring and restoring habitat and human amenities and salmon; water quality and macro-invertebrate testing, beach activity and wildlife monitoring, aquatic eelgrass monitoring, use of GPS mapping systems, bird studies, invasive and native plant identification, invasive eradication, native planting, plan development, trail work and maintenance.

2) Office Work

Materials development, research, filing, data entry, GIS mapping, letter and email correspondence.

3) Outreach Efforts

Developing short instructional projects for local children; staffing booths at numerous public events; leading volunteer groups; and engaging a variety of local residents to disseminate informational material about the organization.

As we operate year-round, **this summer** could be a great time for students to receive a balanced sampling of environmental experience.

Please contact Annie Dean at (253) 779-8890 or email to: puget-creeksyti@yahoo.com for more information.



SYTI students fix egg incubator
Photo: PCRS

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Protecting, enhancing, and restoring the Puget Creek Watershed.

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Serving the South Puget Sound communities through hands-on restoration, research, education, and advocacy, and promoting good stewardship.



**702 Broadway Suite 101
Tacoma, Washington 98402
Phone: (253) 779-8890
Email: pugetcreek@yahoo.com
Website: www.pugetcreek.org**

Good bye to some of our wonderful workers!



Natalie Kopytko from TESC worked on GIS mapping and field work.



Cody Masterson from Clover Park Technical College files office reports.



SYTI Coordinator Chris Andree and Clover Park intern Traci Hoover (left of photo) work at Puget Creek leading volunteer crews eradicating non-native plants and repairing gravel trail.

We also thank the following interns whose photo is not pictured here:

- Laurie Delaney, University of Puget Sound
- Athena Lyda, Tacoma Community College
- Sadora Hichmon, Evergreen State College
- Emi Brizuela, School of the Arts

Outreach to Puget Creek Neighbors - help wanted!

With the large amount of homes around the Puget Creek watershed, we realized that in order to better protect this area, these neighbors and potential members should be aware of our organization's restoration work in "their backyard".

As a result, the board has put together a plan to outreach into these Puget Creek neighborhoods. We have finalized a letter, set up a free nature walk on September 9, 2007 for neighbors who wish to become better acquainted with our group's efforts.

We request your help on June 23 to go door to door and distribute organizational materials. **Meet at the office at 9 a.m. for orientation. Lunch will be provided.**

Please RSVP to 253.778-8890 so we can make the necessary arrangements for lunch.



Puget Creek Watershed aerial overview - neighbors on all sides will be contacted by our dedicated volunteers this summer. Please sign up to help!

Calling Future Board Members - Now is the time for you to sign up for next year's board positions. If you are interested, please contact the office for an application. Board meetings are the third Monday of each month, 6:30 p.m at the PCRS office, 702 Broadway, Suite 101, in Tacoma. Attend a board meeting to find out what is happening.

November's Mudslide into Puget Creek recovery progress

Last November, a large slide dumped sediment into Puget Creek from a steep slope hillside on private property. The slide deposited an area of 100 feet long by 70 feet wide of material on top of a natural seep area. As a result, sediment has been transported into the off channel rearing salmonid habitat ponds. The Puget Creek Restoration Society has been working with the involved parties (Metro Parks, City of Tacoma, and the homeowner), since the slide occurred to resolve the issue.

This June, a scope of work was drafted for approval of all parties. Once finalized, a company will be hired to repair the damage. Some ideas are to remove all materials on the surface, remove sediment from ponds and some material from wetland area.

Water diverted from the slide has cut a new channel through the recreational path and has placed material in the two upper ponds that were restored by the PCRS for salmon to use as over-wintering habitat and to act as a sediment trap for fine materials

found in the creek. As a result of this new material deposited, the ponds have been made smaller and don't trap as much sediment as they once did.

"These wetland areas were basically filled in with upland soil which is of a different type and does not belong there", Board member Scott Hansen reported.

"We are very disappointed that years of restoration work was buried by all this upland material", Hansen added.

The road to recovery will take a while due to all the parties and permits involved. "If we are real lucky, we will get it fixed before the next rainy season", Hansen stated.

The mudslide was seen recently in a story by King 5 news that took an aerial photo of the area. The photo showed that a substantial amount of the hill came tumbling down.

We will work with hired contractor hosting work parties to remove material and re-plant the area. Stay tuned!



Mudslide on steep hillside



Mudslide deposited sediment

Next issue - Watch for Boardwalk plans taking shape and grants received.

Global Warming issues.

New board members.

Fundraiser at Vino Aquino a success

A huge thank you to Vino Aquino who let us host this event at their establishment on 6th Ave in Tacoma. They provided all the taste sampling wines and donated 20% of that night's proceeds to the PCRS!

Thanks to all our supporters who attended our wine tasting event in May. We plan to host another one next year.

Thanks to QFC for donating food for this event.

Thanks to our very special volunteers Ben Price, Natielle Kopytko and Sue Penhale for providing tasty treats for this event!

Thanks to Judy Estes who arrived early and helped us set up for the event.

A fun time was had by all participants.



President Helge Dordal converses with new friends while sampling many tasty wines. *Photo: PCRS.*

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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702 Broadway Suite 101

Tacoma, WA 98402