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Volume 1, Issue 1,  
September 2005

## NEWSLETTER

### Meet The Board!

For our beginning series of newsletters, we've decided to include two Board Member biographies to help you become familiar with the folks most involved in the organization. For our first issue it is only fitting that we introduce the world to our President and Vice President.



**Noah Halverson,**  
President

A resident of Washington State for over 20 years and a graduate of University of Washington, Tacoma, Noah holds a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science and works for his family's business in Gig Harbor. In 2003, after working with PCRS as a volunteer diver, Noah found that he was truly interested in the health and welfare of the Puget Creek Watershed and Nearshore area and was invited to join the Board of Directors. In January of 2005, he was appointed President. Noah believes that protecting and the restoring of wetland and critical area habitats and the survival of aquatic and terrestrial wildlife are vital steps in maintaining healthy environments for people.

### NEWLY DISCOVERED FISH PASSAGE PROBLEM FOR PUGET CREEK

As many of you know, we have been working to get Cutthroat Trout, Coho and Chum Salmon back into Puget Creek. We've had some successes since 2000, but in 2004 we were back down to only three Cutthroat Trout sightings, and in that same year no one reported any Salmon sightings. The returns were good and in an estimated range of what they should be until last year. We were dismayed at the small return numbers compared with having 50,000 Chum-eyed eggs in the Remote Site Incubator (R.S.I.) and 12,000 Coho-eyed eggs that Paul Billingham and PCRS have placed in the stream each year. We expected 50 adults to return. In May of 2005, Paul Tappel (fisheries biologist/engineer) and I inspected the culvert under Ruston Way/No. Alder Way for a potential project to develop an estuary. To our disbelief, we discovered why our returning adult salmon numbers are low. The underground fish ladder was installed incorrectly in 1997. The bottom of the fish ladder is elevated 18" above the surface of the water in the main culvert under the road. That is a fish impasse, as the maximum Chum Salmon are able to jump is 8" up into a stream or structure. Working with Paul Tappel, the City of Tacoma and through a grant (hopefully accepted) from the Port of Tacoma, plans will be developed as to what is needed to rectify the situation. We will keep you informed of the progress in the growing saga of Puget Creek Salmonid returns.

Sincerely,  
Scott M. Hansen-Vice President  
Board of Directors



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Welcome to new member Ron Costi! If you are wondering how you, too, could become a member of this wonderful organization, please visit our website at [www.pugetcreek.org](http://www.pugetcreek.org) or call us, (253) 779-8890.

### Horsetail Fun Facts

- Horsetail reproduce by both spores and rhizomes. Weeding, cultivation and herbicides don't seem to make any difference, as the rhizome system is so broad and deep.
- The spores can be found in the cone structure at the tip. This structure was once used for scouring pans.
- The latin name for horsetail is Equisetum sylvaticum (equus = horse, seta = tail, sylva = woods, aticus = habitat)
- Horsetail grows on all continents but Antarctica and Australia.
- Horsetail is a very old plant. It dates back to the Carboniferous period, as much as 340 million years ago. Back then there were many different kinds of horsetail, including one that grew as a tree.
- Horsetail is generally thought to be poisonous to both humans and animals, though it is sold as an herb in various forms for a wide range of purposes.



By: Katie Price

## Meet The Board!



**Scott Hansen,**  
Vice President

Scott was born and raised in Washington State. He places a very high value on the environment and health of streams, gulches, green areas and wetlands in the Commencement Bay area. He holds a Masters Degree in Environment and Community and is currently working on his Project Management Masters. Scott became interested in the Puget Creek area while monitoring the beach and water quality for Puget Creek through two different Pierce County Programs in 1997. Scott is shy about admitting it, but he is also the main founder of our great organization.

## Report Summaries

Thank you and Kudos to our Student Buddies!

Jennifer Halaas from Puget Creek wrote a paper on the water quality, macroinvertebrate and gravel composition of Mason Creek and its appropriateness for salmon habitat. She also worked as an intern.

Rachael Burkle, Elizabeth Cantrell, Lisa Sunner, T-Kay Innis, and Monina Lachica wrote a paper titled "Friends of Puget Creek." They also did a lot of work in terms of community outreach.

Robert Whiting from the University of Puget Sound interviewed our Vice President, Scott Hansen (see "Meet our Board Members") for his paper on how the environmental movement can utilize social capital to its benefit.

Erin Spear from the University of Puget Sound did a research project on the Puget Creek Beach area. Her report was important in helping us understand the effects of contaminants in sediment around eelgrass beds.

Jamie Doran and Stephanie Parido from The Evergreen State College conducted some water quality monitoring and prepared a power point presentation documenting their results.

## Thank You's!

Where would Puget Creek Restoration Society be without Grantors? We'd be up a Creek without enough money to buy a paddle – or office supplies, tools, or other vital stuff. Thank you so much to the following grantors: The City of Tacoma Splash Grant, The North End Neighborhood Council, The Pierce Conservation District, The Greater Tacoma Community Foundation, Grantmaker Consultants, Inc., The Russell Family Foundation, Washington Native Plant Society Central Puget Sound Chapter, Washington Foundation for Environment, Port of Tacoma/City of Tacoma/Pierce County, Puget Sound Action Team, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Trout Unlimited, and the Washington Department of Ecology.

## And now a word from our committees...

The Board of Directors recently formed three committees – Education and Membership, Terrestrial and Nearshore, and Grant Writing and Fundraising. Members of the community are welcome to attend committee meetings and to become committee members. Here is what each committee has been up to, and what each has planned for the near future:

### Education and Membership



- Committee members did presentations and had booths at the USSEE Conference, Freedom Fair, and Proctor Days Festival.
- The Education and Membership Committee completed the first ever Puget Creek Restoration Newsletter - what do you think?! We're pretty proud.
- We have a Native Plant I.D. Course and a Tacoma Public Schools Drawing Contest planned for the near future.
- Look for details in next month's newsletter, or contact the office for more info anytime.

### Terrestrial and Nearshore



- The Nearshore/Terrestrial committee schedules dives in order to monitor the eelgrass beds that continue to grow in the sound where Puget Creek empties into Commencement Bay. We are always looking for certified divers and we even provide the snacks!
- Salmon Spawning Surveys begin in October, and the committee is working to track increases and decreases of various species of birds, insects and mammals as well. Contact the PCRS office if you are interested in getting involved.

### Grant Writing and Fundraising



- The committee raffled off a sleeping bag and sold a tent. Both items were found at the creek. While the organization does not typically advocate the abandonment of unwanted items at the creek, we would not complain if someone were to leave additional valuable items in a safe, dry place. Some suggestions are a new Sony plasma screen television, a new or only slightly used front loader Bobcat (please mail the keys to the office), or a voice activated 2006 Dell laptop – preferably wide screen, but we won't complain if it isn't.
- We will be auctioning off two scenery photographs from world-renowned photographer, Henry Haneda and are in the process of auctioning off a scenery print by an unknown artist.
- The committee has a 1984 Toyota pickup for sale. Please call (253) 779-8890 or e-mail us at [pugetcreek@yahoo.com](mailto:pugetcreek@yahoo.com) if you are interested.

Thank You and Have a Good Day!