

WATERSHED STEWARDS

OF CLARK COUNTY

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PHOTO BY ROY ZILKO

NONTOXICS CLEANING



Participants at October 23 workshop.
Photo by Luisa Eding

NONTOXIC CLEANING CLASS BENEFITS HEALTH AND THE WATERSHED

By: **Patty Page, Watershed Steward**

Q. What watershed-friendly action can you take that will have the most direct, immediate and positive impact in your own home?

A. Replace commercial cleaning products with non-toxics products.

The Watershed Stewards' Non-Toxic Cleaning Workshop brings our environmental efforts home. Following workshop instructions, we can help restore water and air quality and reap personal health benefits at the same time. And once we've made the modest investment of time and money to make the switch, we actually save time and money from that day forward

The nontoxic cleaning workshop, also known as "green cleaning workshop" has two parts: a slide-show discussion followed by hands-on take-home cleaning kit assembly. The discussion pulls the enticing marketing masks away from commercial products to reveal the hazards that lurk behind them. We turn from the hype of "new," "improved,"

"powerful," and "easy" to the small print on the back, the "signal words" like "caution," "warning," "danger," and "poison" that tell us about some, but by no means all, of the risks we take when we are up close and personal with these hazardous chemicals.

For each risk-laden commercial product, we learn the non-toxic alternatives, starting with the big bad three: drain opener/cleaner, oven cleaner, and toilet bowl cleaner. We learn why it is vital to avoid "antibacterial" products as much as we can, and which ingredients get a free ride through septic and sewer treatment, adding their polluting potential to the load of persistent harmful chemicals in our water and air.

We'd like to see every Watershed Steward take this class, so we've decided to bribe you in two ways! 1. Any Steward who assists at a NTC workshop will receive their own kit to take home. 2. For any Steward who completes 40 hours of volunteer service in the preceding 12 months, we will halve the workshop fee to \$7.50 for your class. Watch for upcoming workshop dates in your e-announcements.

The Watershed Steward offers non-toxic cleaning products workshop several times each year as a part of the community workshop series. Seasoned Steward Patty Page presents and assists during the green cleaning workshops and other events in addition to being on the Clean Water Commission.

Product Signal Words

Poison - very toxic. Fatal dose: a few drops

Danger - highly flammable or corrosive

Warning - moderately toxic. Fatal dose: 1 teaspoon

Caution - mildly toxic. Fatal dose: 2 Tablespoons

Non-Toxic - does NOT mean "safe" only means it does not qualify for signal words: Poison, Danger, Warning or Caution

PARTNER PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

FISH FIRST A PARTNERSHIP FOR WATERSHED STEWARDS

by **Terry Schulz, Watershed Steward**

Fish first started about 12 years ago by Gary Loomis, when he realized that the salmon and steelhead fishery in the Lewis River system had declined drastically. Since then through volunteer efforts, Fish First has made great strides in their efforts to improve habitat in some of the tributaries along the Lewis river.

The goals of Fish First are to improve and restore stream habitat so that the salmon and steelhead have better quality spawning and rearing habitat previously degraded due to development, logging and gravel mining in the East Fork and its many small tributaries. Under the direction of Richard Dyrland, hydrologist, an integrated design for stream restoration was carried out in several Lewis River tributaries. The restoration (nearly 30 projects since 1999) included cross vanes, root wad placement,

specialized spawning gravel and native vegetation. All projects have been paid for through grants and donations totaling nearly 1.8 million dollars, along with hundreds of volunteer hours.

Projects have included side channel restoration, fish passage improvement, culvert removals, construction of net pens and remote site incubators (egg boxes) as well as in stream restoration efforts. Egg boxes used to hatch coho eggs and reintroduce natural spawning coho into several tributaries of the North Fork Lewis has increased from 80 thousand eggs in 1996 to over 800 thousand in 2004 through 2006.

These projects have dramatically helped Fish First toward their long-term goal, a sound and healthy population of spawning salmonids in the Lewis River system. These projects continue and can use volunteers. If you are interested in getting involved call (Dick Doi 360-566-8415 or Dick Dyrland 360-887-0866). Remember to let Jen or Luisa know the hours you work as a Steward on their projects!

THE LATEST FROM GEE CREEK

By **Lynn Cornelius, Watershed Steward**

Extension Coordinator and Watershed Steward (class of Spring 2006!) Lynn Cornelius (887-4106 Lynn_Cornelius@fws.gov) works on Gee Creek Watershed Restoration with members of the Gee Creek Enhancement Committee work group. The project emphasizes improving water quality and habitat conditions throughout the watershed through restoration and education for area residents on best watershed practices.

Several Committee volunteers (and Watershed Stewards!) have been carrying the torch to improve Gee Creek for more than 10 years. Three committee members, Gary Bock, Anne Jackson, and Dennis Yarosz, along with Stewards Carol Moffet and Tim Dean, have been assisting Jeff Schnabel, Clark County Water Resources, with a one year project to conduct monthly sampling of turbidity and bacteria in upper Gee Creek in order to isolate sources for these contaminants. Dennis has also single-handedly led efforts to conduct a stormwater and stream features assessment of Gee Creek, hiking many stretches and recording information using standard protocols.

Tree planting continues this winter on the Carty Unit of the Refuge. Around 90% of all first year cuttings rooted and survived, but field mice caused higher-than-predicted late-season damage which will require retrofitting some areas with taller mesh tubes, as well as placing metal fencing around selected trees along the creek to protect the trees from beavers until the trees mature.

Two watershed stewards and refuge volunteers passed their state Pesticide Applicator's license and can now treat blackberry! If any stewards are interested in obtaining their license and volunteering some application time in return on the refuge please contact Lynn. The refuge has funding to cover book costs, test fees, and travel to Olympia for testing for two volunteer applicators in 2008.

TENNY CREEK RESTORATION PROJECT



TENNY CREEK RESTORATION PROJECT QUESTION AND ANSWER

with Jac Arnal, Watershed Steward

Jac Arnal started his own restoration project this year on a property owned by Clark County adjacent to his property. The site is mostly wetland and located on Tenny Creek, a tributary of Salmon Creek. Jac is an active Steward and will take weed management classes at WSU Vancouver in January with the goal of getting his applicators license to apply herbicide in riparian areas. The Tenny Creek project is ongoing.

Q. Why did you start this project?

A. I did a lot of landscaping when I moved into my house in 2003 and saw a need on the adjacent property owned by Clark County. At the time, I asked Clark County if I could plant trees to buffer 24th Avenue noise, but was not approved to do so. After my Watershed Stewards training in the fall of 2006 I asked Gary Bock [the Watershed Stewards Coordinator at the time] how to control the blackberry

and plant trees on the wetland on the back of my house. Gary contacted the County and because of the reputation of WSU and the Watershed Stewards program we did get the green light to do what we want in the wetland. This is the way my restoration project started.

Q. What are the goals of the project?

A. To restore Tenny Creek to its original beauty.

Q. You had a work party on November 10th? What did you do?

A. We [Jac and three other Watershed Stewards] planted 20 Doug Firs, 16 Western Hemlocks, 5 cottonwoods and 16 red cedars. CPU donated the trees because Tenny Creek is a tributary of Salmon Creek where CPU has a big restoration project.

In January, Jac will organize a couple of Saturdays of blackberry vine removal to cleanup the rest of the (weather dependant). If Stewards would like to help with this project, contact Jac at jarna@msn.com

TIPS FOR STREAMSIDE RESTORATION

(Adapted from Streamside Planting Guide for San Mateo and Santa Clara County Streams by San Francisco Creek Watershed)

- Use locally collected plant material. Local plant material better adapts to local site conditions and exhibits higher survival rates since these plants often come from existing "gene pool".

- Observe adjacent or nearby creek habitats and determine which native plants grow in your immediate vicinity and where they grow in relation to the stream. This is one of the best sources of knowledge for determining appropriate selection and location of plantings.

- Never use fertilizers or pesticides in riparian or aquatic zones since runoff into creeks can kill insects, fish and birds.

- Be sure to follow up with new plantings.



Stewards Kerry O'Leary and Jac Arnal demonstrate proper planting technique.



STORM DRAIN STENCILING PROGRAM



Colby stencils another drain. Vancouver Vineyard Church's project. Photo courtesy of Jim Sutherland

DIVERSE GROUPS PREVENT POLLUTION

VANCOUVER VINEYARD CHURCH

Teaming up with the Watershed Stewards Program, the Vancouver Vineyard Church is making a difference in the health of our environment. Four teams of church members teams painted over 100 drains to educate people to do their part.

“When I learned that 170 thousand gallons of motor oil was being dumped each year in Clark and Skamania Counties, I knew I had to do something”, reports Jim Sutherland, director of the Creation Care Program at Vancouver Vineyard Church.

Jim feels we all should realize we need to work interdependently with the earth, taking care of it so it can take care of us, and we will be on the right track. He says, “I personally believe the world is not here to use as we want, but that this is God’s planet, and we are suppose to do our part in taking care of it.”

Vancouver Vineyard Church Members are part of a growing movement of churches and faith-based groups interested in protecting the environment.



Clark College student shows finished product. Photo courtesy of Adam Blackburn

CLARK COLLEGE

Adam Blackburn headed up a team of five Clark College students to stencil 21 drains in the Burnt Bridge Creek watershed. Adam used the storm drain stenciling program to fulfill a class project where they presented their findings and community project to their class.

Adam’s group chose to report on Columbia River salmon conservation. The goal of the assignment was to identify a problem and propose solutions, then take action in the community based on their solutions.

From research, they learned that one of the things that affect salmon health is surface water pollution, some of which comes from urban runoff flowing freely into local storm drains. Since the runoff is untreated, the pollution enters surface waters and impacts the health of salmon.

Adam said the group “really enjoyed stenciling storm drains. [By stenciling] we saw a connection between storm drains and salmon”.

Contact Luisa Eding at 360-397-6060 x 7705 or email Luisa.Eding@clark.wa.gov or if you’d like to learn more about stenciling

HAPPENINGS WITH THE STEWARDS

FROM THE COORDINATOR:

By Jenifer Naas, Program Coordinator

The Watershed Stewards program experienced quite a year of change in 2007. Even though former coordinator Gary Bock moved on, he is still an active Watershed Steward. As the new Coordinator, I’m excited to get to know all the great work that Stewards do in the community. For 2008, expect to see more continuing education events for Stewards and new workshops. I hope to see most of you at the annual Volunteer Appreciation Banquet and want to hear your ideas about the program and also what you do as a Steward.

A little about me: I am a native Washingtonian, born and raised near Snohomish on five acres in the unincorporated county. I received my undergraduate degree from University of California at Davis in Environmental Policy and just completed my graduate studies at University of Washington in Public Administration and Urban Planning. My previous experience was as a city planner for the City of Kent, Washington and working for the King County Department of Transportation. I’ve just moved to the area and am still finding my way around, but feel right at home in Brush Prairie!

I would also like to acknowledge and thank Luisa Eding, the Program Assistant for keeping everything

going this summer, particularly during the Clark County Fair and Volunteer BBQ. Luisa worked so hard this summer and continues to be a valuable resource for the program. Thank you so much Luisa!

CONTINUING EDUCATION EVENTS:

JANUARY: AN INTRODUCTION TO THE ART OF FLY TYING

Wednesday, January 30th 6:30pm at CASEE
WS Ben Dennis will show us how to tie flies. Whether you fly fish or just enjoy the art, come and try your hand at creating food for fish ... and keep up on your invertebrate identification at the same time!

FEBRUARY: WATERSHED STEWARDS TRAINING

All Stewards are welcome to sit in on new Steward training. Classes are on Tuesday evenings starting February 12th.

MARCH: WATERFOWL AND THEIR PREDATORS – IDENTIFICATION THROUGH SIGHTS AND SOUNDS

Doug Robberson has been birding in the northwest since he was a boy and brings a classroom experience filled with sights and sounds followed by identification in the field. Come and join in on this unique education class to help identify our local waterfowl.

WELCOME 2007 WATERSHED STEWARDS:

Spring:

Bill Kline	Bill Zimmerman
Bryan Carter	Darric Lowery
Doug Martel	Frances Foley
Janet Swihart	Jeanne Simon
Jeminie Shell	Linnea LaRocque
Matt Ross	Mindy Brooks
P. Alex Mintz	Roy Zilko
Shelina Nelson	Ray Nelson (honorary)

Fall:

Ana Mollinedo	Ben Dennis
Carleen Pagni	Corinne Thompson
Daniel Swink	Eldon Schmidt
Kari Mullikin	Kimberley Morris
Lisa Anderson	Lonny Heltzel
Rita Ruff	Sherry Montgomery
Sonya Norton	Tara Smith
Walt Griffith	

Upcoming Events:

January 21: Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service at CASEE

January 30: Fly-tying continuing education event

February 12: Spring Watershed Steward training Classes Start

March 6: Volunteer Appreciation Banquet [tentative]

April 19: Earth Day with SOLV

April 25-27: Clark County Home and Garden Idea Fair



The Watershed Stewards Program is jointly funded and sponsored by WSU Clark County Extension and the Clark County Clean Water Program and is paid for through Clark County Clean Water Service Fees



Clean Water Program

<http://www.clark.wa.gov/water-resources>

WATERSHED STEWARDS PROGRAM

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