



Connecting people
to nature
and each other
in the context of
their home communities.

Homewaters Events

Save the Dates! More Information Inside

Saturday 03.31.07 10:30am - 1:00pm Phinney Ridge C.C. Kids' Concert with Brian Waite Band
Saturday 05.12.07 8:00am - 2:00pm Call Thornton Creek Long Walk ~ South Fork
Tuesday 05.22.07 7:00pm - 9:00pm Ray's Boathouse Know Your Homewaters Spring Party

More details and events at www.homewatersproject.org

Every Drop Counts!

This season, your support will build a strong foundation for our 2006-07 school and community programs. By contributing today you help Homewaters focus on our programs, not our finances, furthering our mission of connecting people to nature and each other.

Please consider a contribution this winter.

You can now donate online at

www.homewatersproject.org

Remember, every drop counts!

Contact Chris Page for more information:
206.529.6040 or cpage@sccd.ctc.edu

Name: _____

Address: _____
_____, _____

Phone: (____) _____ - _____

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Amount: _____

Please make checks payable to: NSCC Education Fund
with Homewaters Project in the notes section.

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a seasonal newsletter of

Homewaters Project



The Source

Winter 2007



Past, Present, & Future

As winter hints at its ending and spring peaks through grey, now is a good time to reflect and plan for the future. Included with this season's newsletter is a copy of the 2005-06 Annual Report. Highlights of last year's work include:

Engaging more than 1,600 students at 26 schools in our innovative, place-based programs.

Leading almost 100 people along Thornton Creek from its source to its end to learn about the importance of a healthy watershed during our Long Walks.

Creating partnerships and lasting relationships with 44 teachers and 53 volunteers.

These are just a few examples of the many connections and relationships Homewaters Project makes possible. With spring approaching, we're busy in the classroom, in the field, and working with our community.

You can help secure our future positive impact: Homewaters recently mailed out an appeal letter and with your generous, tax-deductible donation we'll provide students and teachers with our proven curricula and be able to expand our new programs *Ecosystems* and *Water in Our Lives*.

Inside the Source

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Homewaters Grows ~ New Staff Join the Team

We are delighted to welcome Peggy Foreman as an Education Associate. Peggy was honored to join Homewaters Project in December. After teaching for 8 years she is currently on sabbatical from Shoreline School District. She has taught 5th-7th grades and is most proud of educating students about our shared environment.



Peggy earned her degree in Marine Biology from Western Washington University and her Masters in the Arts of Teaching from University of Puget Sound. Her vast experiences include being a Water Quality Technician, Stream Team Volunteer, and Summit for Salmon Climber. She will be one of the lead instructors for our *Land and Water Program* this year. "Bringing students out into the environment and inspiring students to apply what they have learned in the classroom is vital to real world learning," says Peggy.

Peggy is also working to streamline the high school *Neighborhood Green Mapping* program for Homewaters to implement this spring and fall. Her adjustments will strengthen the teaching and learning through technology and re-organize the curriculum to offer integrated two and three-teacher models of instruction.

During the summers, Peggy works as a naturalist on whale-watching boats. She also serves as the Education Chair for the American Cetacean Society.

The newest staff member of Homewaters Project, Colin Phifer, joined us full-time in February 2007 as the Community Mapping and Outreach Coordinator, replacing Todd Burley. Colin graduated from Humboldt State University in northern California with a degree in environmental biology. He brings to Homewaters a strong background in conservation biology, community engagement, and environmental education.

"I'm excited to join Homewaters," said Colin, "and use my skills to help connect people to their environment." Colin will help tell the stories of Homewaters with press releases, our website, and publishing the newsletters while serving as a community contact. He will also manage Homewaters' *Community Mapping* programs.

"The *Community Mapping* programs are innovative and original—taking GIS technology into the classroom and using it as a tool to



connect students to their surroundings," reflected Colin. Colin will work with teachers and students this spring to create *Neighborhood Green Maps* and train Seattle Parks and Recreation staff for the summer *Mapping My Place* curriculum.

Before joining Homewaters, Colin worked as a researcher studying everything from bats to whales, from field ecology to molecular research. He complemented his research skills with service learning and environmental education work experience.

"It is incredibly exciting and important to apply & extend their [students'] learning through local stream investigations, especially when they make science connections in their own backyard! Thanks again for your great programs!" ~ Joni Pecor, Sacajawea Elementary

Save the Dates Upcoming Events

Kids' Concert with Brian Waite Band Saturday, March 31st!

Formed by three local dads who love music and kids, the Brian Waite Band is famous for its audience participation, zany songs and on-stage skits. The trio's music is rooted in jazz, blue grass, rock-n-roll, and is always danceable! Bring the kids to dance and sing, enjoy snacks and drinks, and hear the latest Homewaters news at this fun event at the Phinney Ridge Neighborhood Center Community Hall beginning at 10:30am. Contact Colin to learn more about this exciting event.



Hike Thornton Creek Saturday, May 12th!

Join Homewaters and the Street-Smart Naturalist himself, guest guide David Williams, on this urban adventure that follows Thornton Creek's South Fork from its beginnings at Northgate Mall to its end at Matthews Beach Park on beautiful Lake Washington. Along the way, we'll learn the natural and cultural history of Thornton Creek watershed and why it's important to our health. Contact Colin to sign up (reservations required).



Homewaters' Spring Gala Tuesday, May 22nd!

Come celebrate Homewaters Project at Ray's Boathouse Restaurant! From 7-9pm the night's festivities includes live music, food, drinks, and a silent auction with fabulous water-themed donations. Check your mail for an invitation this spring or contact Chris Page if you're interested in volunteering to help make this an unforgettable night!

Lakeside School Grows Watershed Garden!

By the time you read this, 64 sixth-grade students at Lakeside Middle School will have had an intimate encounter with *Aquilegia formosa*, *Ribes sanguineum* or perhaps even *Erythronium revolutum*. These are just 3 of the 41 native species that students just planted outside the front door of their school.

Since last fall, students and their teachers have been participating in Homewaters' Watershed Gardens water conservation education program. Teachers Scott Jamieson (science), Dan Reeder (math), Meera Patankar (social studies) and Lance King (English) have worked together to implement lessons from *Watershed Gardens* with support from Homewaters Project's Linda Versage.

This is the fourth year that Homewaters has assisted schools with *Watershed Gardens*. Until now, it has been primarily used by fourth and fifth grade teachers with self-contained classrooms. This year's multi-class approach showcases the interdisciplinary nature of the year-long program. Students have employed a wide range of skills including math, English, science, research, mapping and design and computer skills.

In math, students measured school water use by conducting audits of their building's restrooms and classroom sinks and reviewing the school's water bills. For their English class, students communicated with maintenance personnel to determine how the school uses water to maintain its existing outdoor landscapes. They also found and

examined the school's irrigation systems and plantings.

To learn how to garden in ways that minimize water use, beautify grounds, and educate others, students then began planning and designing a native plant garden. Teachers and students selected four planting areas near their school's entrance, and will decide how to communicate the benefits of the garden to schoolmates and the community. In Social Studies, they measured and mapped these areas and conducted site assessments by noting elements such as:

- The amount of light and moisture
- Soil types
- Traffic patterns
- Existing wildlife

These site assessments informed the next stage of the sixth-graders' process. In science class, students designed their sites and consulted reference books and King County's Online Native Plant Guide to choose native plants for the four sites. Each class worked together to create a plant list that they submitted to Linda, who then made the final plant order.

At the end of February, growers delivered 625 plants! On March 1, using shovels and hand trowels, the young stewards helped all these plants find a new home in the soil and a place to spread roots and grow. The garden presents tangible evidence of the hard work and pride of the students – but the real growth is something harder to see: the learning among the students and teachers!

Making the Connection: Planting Your Own Watershed Garden

For the students of Lakeside School the capstone of our *Watershed Garden* curriculum was planting a water-wise garden. You, too, can landscape your yard to consume less water, create wildlife habitat, and still be a beautiful garden. Here's a small sample of the many native plants you can use that benefit you and the Earth. For shrubs, try Serviceberry, Tall Oregon Grape, Red Flowering Current or Nootka Rose. For Perennials, plant Red Columbine, Woodland Strawberry, Coast Penstemon, Fringecup or Nodding Onion.



Photo: Red Flowering Current

Source: Seattle Public Utilities

Author John Lombard Read from his New Book *Saving Puget Sound: A Conservation Strategy for the 21st Century*

Homewaters welcomed 53 citizens to North Seattle Community College on Wednesday, January 31st to listen to local author John Lombard. Focused on preserving our gorgeous and vital natural heritage, Mr. Lombard detailed shortcomings of current policies and recommended thoughtful, common sense actions to restore the ecosystems that provide us services such as: clean water and air, natural resource economies, flood control, greenhouse gas mitigation, and weed and pest control.

Mr. Lombard presented key factors in preserving these natural systems, including floodplain interactions, mature forests, riparian vegetation, and control of rural sprawl. Controversially, he noted that while urban habitats can help limit harm to larger ecosystems and provide important amenities for education, they have little role in broader ecological health. Instead, John urges us to pay rural landowners for conserving more whole natural systems, since they provide the significant regional benefits.

To save Puget Sound, Lombard details how to fund acquisition of key habitats and critical programs such as stormwater control. Currently, no one pays even a penny for the water we draw out of our rivers and the ground (we pay for the pipes, pumps, and treatment). The same water would otherwise support salmon habitat at crucial times. Why not charge users 1/10 of a penny for a gallon of water? This would raise approximately \$250 million annually. With this and other reasonable "ecological pricing," we could fund efforts that may reach \$10 billion over the next twenty years.

For more details on John's timely and fascinating set of recommendations, you'll have to pick up a copy of *Saving Puget Sound* yourself! Visit www.savingpugetsound.com to read excerpts, learn about upcoming events, and buy this important book. Homewaters is proud to have presented his reading free of charge.



Program Update: Green Mapping

Sustainable Shoreline ~ Mapping the Green in Shoreview Park

Last fall, Sustainable Shoreline approached Homewaters Project with an ingenious application of our *Neighborhood Green Mapping* curriculum: to have high school students locate and map significant trees and stands of native or invasive plants on public land in the City of Shoreline. We happily joined a planning group that included the Washington Native Plant Society, the Shoreline School District, Shorewood High School environmental science teacher Alisan Giesy, and Wendy DiPeso and Bill Bear of Sustainable Shoreline. With the blessing of Shoreline's Director of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services, Dick Deal, we applied for project support from the Natural Resources Stewardship Network administered by King County.

The County's grant review team made a site visit in November to Shoreview Park, west of Shorewood High and the home of Boeing Creek, which flows into Puget Sound. Homewaters, Sustainable Shoreline, and Ms. Giesy answered questions

and showed the group around the park where students will map the urban forest using our *Green Mapping* approach. The Washington Native Plant Society kindly offered volunteers to assist students in plant identification, and Seattle Urban Nature (SUN) committed staff hours to assist with data collection protocols. We learned in mid-December that the grant review team decided to fund this collaborative, creative, and practical initiative.

Once students have collected data and created paper maps of the plant types and locations, they will create a digital map from the data they have collected. Students will present their findings to a local neighborhood association or community council and make recommendations on how to improve the health of the forest. This activity will build participating students' communication skills and leadership while alerting local residents to the issues surrounding urban forests and informing them how they can be good stewards. Student maps will be posted

on the internet and the data shared with Shoreline parks managers and the City Council.

Young stewards in Ms. Giesy's Students Acting For the Environment (SAFE) club at Shorewood High will pilot this innovative vegetation mapping approach in the spring, dovetailing with SUN's technical assessment work in Shoreview Park (Shoreline has contracted with SUN to assess the condition of urban forests on that city's public lands).

Ms. Giesy's environmental science students will monitor the changes to these urban forests over time. Future classes will use data collected by both SUN and previous classes to compare their findings to 2007 baseline conditions and examine the impacts of human actions on ecosystem health. Assuming the pilot effort proves feasible, interesting and useful, we hope to engage additional teachers and students across town at Shorecrest High to map vegetation in Hamlin Park and the South Woods.