

### Our Mission

"To develop an engaged and informed citizenry by connecting people to nature and each other in the context of their home communities."



### Volunteers Make Homewaters Flow

Homewaters Project would like to thank the great volunteers that keep us flowing. So far this year, 20 volunteers have donated a total of over 350 hours of their time, energy and skills to help Homewaters achieve its mission. As a small, community-based organization, we truly could not accomplish what we do without their help.

We'd like to thank the following 2003-4 volunteers: **Elise Bowditch, Ben Byers, Darcie Garland-Renn, Sam Garland-Renn, Cheryl Gauron, Laura Gray, Eric Haskins, Genie Hayes, Karen Ingalls, Tori Kemery, Donovan Marley, Thea Marshall, Derek Mullin, Kelly Ptacek, Ellen Reimer, Brock Roberts, Kelley Schneider, Man Wang, Matthew Warren, and Brady Young.**

An extra special thanks is also due to our Technology Team advisory group - **Jose A Blakely, Tom Baziunas, Eric Caldwell, Chris Davis, Karen Dvornich, John Foster, Ross Freeman, Eric Friedli, Jonathan Frodge, Rik Katz, Sue Holt, Dr. Bill Leon, Aimee Miner, John Newsom, Tom Nolan, Dr. Tim Nyerges, Daniel Pensak, Todd Slind and Mindi Sheer** - our Board of Directors and our Stewards Council (see page two). These dedicated individuals provide a continual stream of guidance, information and expertise. Thank you all!

### Students Plant Their Roots with Watershed Gardens

Homewaters Project's newest program was launched in January 2004 when Schools Coordinator, **Linda Versage**, facilitated a teacher training for the Watershed Gardens program. Through a King County Splash Grant, **Natalie Dobson** and **Diana Doran** from **View Ridge Elementary** and **Kae Waller** and **Amy Childs** from **Whitman Middle School** are receiving support from Homewaters for water conservation education projects with their 4th and 6th grade students.

Watershed Gardens will allow students to:

- Learn about how water is used at school and how to measure it.
- Design, plant and maintain a drought-tolerant garden at their school.
- Develop knowledge of the ways that water can be conserved at school and at home.

- Educate the community (students, teachers, and parents) about ways to conserve water.



View Ridge student digs in.

Currently, both schools are engaged in completing their garden projects, with fabulous support from the administrators, parents and PTSAs at View Ridge and Whitman. This spring, the teachers will attend a second training conducted by Homewaters to learn how to assist their students with completing simple audits of water use at their schools. The project will continue through the end of the school year as students celebrate and share what they learn with others in their schools and at home.



Whitman Middle School gardeners.

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## Graffiti Mapping Goes to the Community



University of Washington Geography students **Kelly Schneider, Eric Haskins** and **Donovan Marley** (not pictured) are taking their graffiti mapping work to the community. After gathering data and

mapping their work using GIS software, these Homewaters' interns are now handing out recently developed brochures on graffiti solutions to local businesses and presenting their recommendations to the Lake City Task Force this March. Kudos to these Homewaters Interns for their great work connecting people to place!



2004 Long Walk participants stand in front of the confluence of the North and South Forks of Thornton Creek.

## Water and Community GIS Program Curriculum Developed

Homewaters Project Intern **Darcie Garland-Renn** and **Sharon London**, Homewaters Director, are developing curriculum for the exciting new Water & Community GIS Module - funded by a generous grant from the Russell Family Foundation. To be piloted in April and May by three teachers - in **Eckstein and Washington Middle Schools, and The Evergreen School** - this program will connect students to their watershed by helping them identify how humans impact water resources in the Puget Sound region.

## Long Walkers Create Community

The Thornton Creek North Fork Long Walk was a great success. Fifteen people, representing many parts of our community, gathered on a cool cloudy day to explore their watershed from the headwaters to the mouth at Matthews Beach. Anecdotes, history and expertise made the journey educational as well as fun. Thanks to all who contributed and attended. Don't forget the South Fork Long Walk this June.

## Green Mapping Expands

The Green Mapping project at Nathan Hale High School - where students mapped the cultural and ecological features in their neighborhoods and looked for ways to improve their community - begins a new life this spring with support from Seattle Public Utilities.

**Brady Young**, a new GIS Intern for Homewaters Project, is revising and assembling the lessons and GIS layers into a CD that high school teachers interested in Green Mapping can easily use. **Jessica Torvik**, the Nathan Hale ecology teacher who piloted the project this year, is providing insight into lessons learned and is eager to implement Green Mapping next year alongside a teacher from another school. If you are interested in incorporating Green Mapping into your high school classroom next fall, please contact our office.



## Teachers Trained as Tiny Neighbors



Teachers Craig Arango and Kathleen Sherman experience Tiny Neighbors from a new perspective.

In August 2003 and February 2004, Homewaters Project partnered with the Seattle School District to train 12 more 5<sup>th</sup> grade teachers and two student teachers in the cooperatively developed Tiny Neighbors program. These teachers are now equipped to help their students extend the learning from their Microworlds science unit - in which they explore microscopes and microorganisms - by investigating local ponds, lakes and wetlands.

Tiny Neighbors is a teacher-led three lesson investigation. During the teacher workshops for Tiny Neighbors, participants experience the same activities their students will, including pre/post assessments, using the equipment,

going on a mini field trip to collect water samples and exploring the microorganisms in the classroom using pipettes, slides and microscopes.

Homewaters Project supports teachers in this program by co-leading the teacher trainings with Seattle Schools, facilitating the loan of field materials, assisting with planning the field component and providing adult support during the teachers' first Tiny Neighbors field trip with their students.

This spring, Homewaters Project anticipates supporting some of these newly trained teachers in carrying out Tiny Neighbors field investigations at ponds, wetlands or lakes in close proximity to their schools.

## Call for Shoreline Teachers

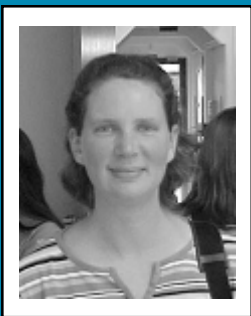
Homewaters is accepting applications from the Shoreline School District to begin Watershed Gardens in September 2004. If you are a 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher in Shoreline, please contact Linda Versage at 526-0187 or [lversage@sccd.ctc.edu](mailto:lversage@sccd.ctc.edu).

## A Thank You

After many years on the Homewaters Board of Directors, **Richard Gelb** is stepping down to join the King County Conservation District Board of Directors. We'd like to thank Richard for his years of dedication and look forward to his continued involvement on our Stewards Council. Thank you from everyone at Homewaters!

## Volunteer Spotlights

Ellen Reimer has been a versatile member of the watershed ecology volunteer team since 2002. Not only has she taught in our Land and Water and Tiny Neighbors field programs, but she has also helped in the behind the scenes work of program preparation.

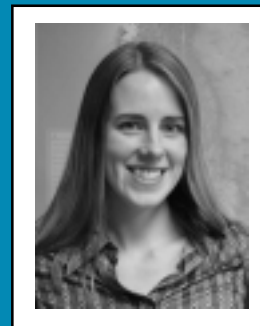


Ellen has a BS in Biology from Ohio University and worked in biotech for eight years. When she began volunteering with

Homewaters, she was considering a career change. Ellen wanted to explore the possibility of becoming a teacher by getting some experience with students. Apparently this new focus suited her! She is currently a student in the Masters in Teaching program at WWU's Urban Center, based at NSCC. By summer 2005, she'll have a degree in Secondary Education.

Even in the midst of her current studies, Ellen still finds the time to help us out whenever we call her. We are so grateful!

Darcie Garland- Renn knows Homewaters Project better than most volunteers. For the past two years, she and her husband have volunteered with our Land and Water field programs. Now she is assisting in project development for the Water and Community Geographic Information Systems (GIS) module.

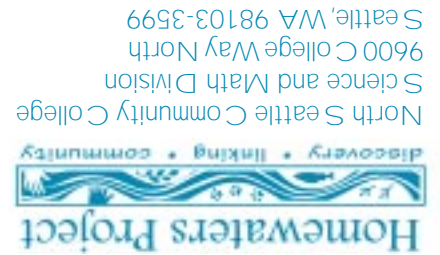


Darcie has a background in GIS and Resource and Environmental Management from Macquarie

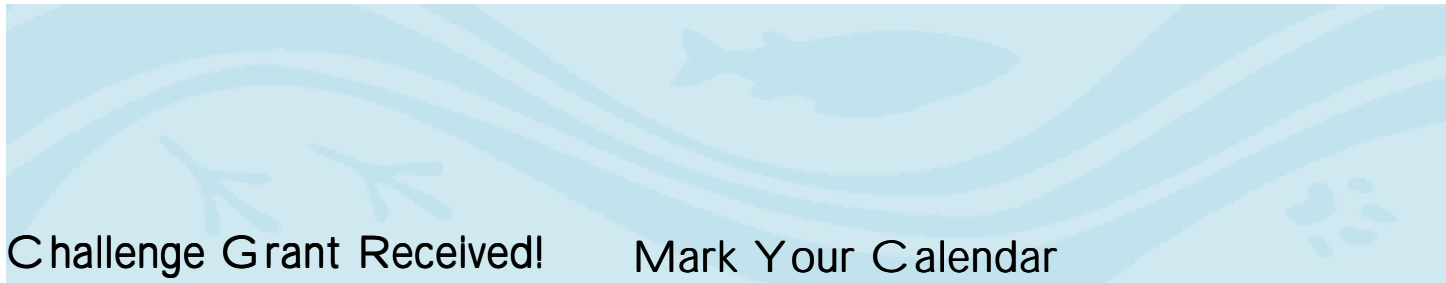
University in Sydney, Australia. Currently she works as a Research Associate at Triangle Associates Inc. In her spare time, Darcie volunteers with Homewaters Project and is the captain of her snowboard team at Snoqualmie Pass. According to London, "Darcie is a pleasure to work with. She quickly grasps new ideas and is able to turn abstract concepts into clear, concise documents. We are really lucky to have her working with us."

Thanks for all your dedication and hard work over the years Darcie!

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## Challenge Grant Received!

Homewaters Project has received a **\$20,000** Challenge Grant from an anonymous donor! If you've been thinking of contributing to Homewaters, **now is the time**. Every dollar you donate will be matched, so don't wait.

And during this tax time, remember that all donations to Homewaters are tax-deductible.

Homewaters Project is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization under the umbrella of the North Seattle Community College Foundation. Please make checks payable to *NSCC Foundation* with *Homewaters Project* in the memo line.



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## Mark Your Calendar

**Building Bridges Over Troubled Water:  
Cross-Cultural Curricular Resources and Action  
Opportunities for Teaching about Water**  
*April 15th, 4:00-7:00pm*

*Seattle Asian Art Museum - Volunteer Park*

Homewaters Project will be on a panel at this conference focused on community water issues. For more information contact Homewaters or go to: [www.world-affairs.org/calendar.cfm](http://www.world-affairs.org/calendar.cfm).

**Living With Beavers Open Lodge and Presentation**  
*April 27th and 29th, 7:00 - 9:00pm*

*Meadowbrook Community Center*

Seattle Parks, SPU and Homewaters Project share information about how to live with beavers and other urban wildlife.

**South Fork Long Walk**

*June 4th*

Homewaters will lead this annual urban hike, completing 2004's Thornton Creek Long Walks. We'll investigate this section of Seattle's largest watershed. Space is limited, so sign up soon! *All are welcome to join us at Matthews Beach following the Long Walk for our annual year-end celebration picnic.*



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For more information, visit [www.homewatersproject.org](http://www.homewatersproject.org)