



Clear Creek

A seasonal newsletter for friends of the Clear Creek Trail

Trail News

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Adopting Clear Creek

For a day or a year. The Clear Creek Trail is the jewel of Silverdale. Over five miles of trail has been built by volunteers from schools, service organizations, businesses and trail lovers. And it takes constant maintenance to keep it clean and shiny. For 18 years, Randy Peterson has overseen the maintenance. In the beginning, Randy did all of the trail maintenance. But as the trail grew, the need for more hands became apparent. Trail users sometimes pick up trash along their walk and help by letting us know when things need fixing. Sometimes volunteers make arrangements to help out at work parties to prune or plant. With more miles of trail and more users means

more hands are needed. Enter the **Adopt the Trail** program.



Trail Adoption groups are responsible for the maintenance of a specific section of trail. Duties include periodic section patrols picking up litter, controlling invasive species and reporting damage. Many thanks to the Silverdale Kiwanis who patrol from the Estuary to Ridgetop; the Sunrise Lions who

prowl behind the bowling alley, from Myhre Road to Waaga Way; Silverdale Rotarians traverse the hospital trail from the bridge and up to Ridgetop; Teletech's circuit is the North Valley Boardwalk Trail and Kitsap Atheists & Agnostics are creating a new look from Silverdale Way to Schold Road.

The next phase is a "Watch List" for the occasional two man task. The Task Force hopes to build a list of handypersons on call for odd jobs like cleaning out gutters, chain sawing work and etc. We never know what Mother Nature may deliver, so we want to be prepared. To volunteer or for more information, please contact us at clearcreektrail@yahoo.com

Trail Building

Trail building continues in 2011. This year's Earth Day project had about 100 CKHS kids laying gravel, building boardwalk and whacking invasive species. There were two work areas this year. The southern end of the Dog Park and the SW corner of the Markwick soon-to-be park. In June, volunteers from United Way's Day of Caring will gravel

the trail in the north Valley. While trail development is the lion's share of our budget, each project is tied to a specific source of revenue. If the money isn't there, the project waits until it is. Trail maintenance, the next largest element of our budget, can't wait for funding. It must be done. The Clear Creek Task Force relies on donations to keep Clear Creek's trail, facilities, and educational programs usable.

We are blessed with volunteers that generously donate their time with the upkeep and building. And to those who contribute in-kind and monetary donations. We thank you in advance for giving your time and talents, or making a donation, to help keep the Clear Creek Trail a marvelous community built and maintained project.

—Mary Earl

Please make checks payable to:

Great Peninsula Conservancy
Clear Creek Trail

P.O. Box 1188
Silverdale, WA 98383
or donate online:

www.clearcreektrail.org

Donations are tax deductible to the extent the law allows.

HONORS

Since 2002, our Paul Brittain Award honors outstanding Clear Creek Task Force members.



This year's recipient, **Steve Fabry** has been not so quietly leading by example. New volunteers are briefed and made welcome by Steve. He is always there to lend a helping hand or ask questions that improve our ability to interface with volunteers, donors and many others.

"The individual and collective efforts of volunteers are the life blood of the Task Force."

Many thanks to: Stennis Beach Detachment, Suquamish Tribe, Jon Pearson, Beach Watchers, Jayna Erickson, Pat Kirschbaum, Old Town Custom Framing, Debbie Thomas, Nancy Karle, Barb Erickson, Diane and Jack, Kitsap Atheists & Agnostics, Doug Ludvig, Jon Jai, Abby Carey & Miriam, Jennifer Wetter and Sage Manufacturing, Joyce and Kitsap Youth in Action, Exterminator Services, and so many more!!



It has been really exciting and rewarding to watch the Trail grow over the years. People often comment how much they enjoy the trail. What is not so apparent is the maintenance effort required to keep it in top condition. We have been blessed that Randy Peterson loves to build and has also dedicated tremendous efforts on building and maintaining. As the trail grows, the maintenance job is too much for one person. Trail Adopters have

Tex Message

taken a big load off the day-to-day maintenance. Work parties with our partners, United Way, the Military, Kitsap Youth in Action, Kitsap Juvenile Detention Teams, National Trails Association and others take care of the major efforts. Now, building the capability for "in-between" chores is a priority. This requires some tools and materials. These are normally "handyman jobs" that take a few minutes to an hour or so to do. We are looking for a few folks who would be willing to tackle such jobs. If you are interested, please let me know. We know maintenance is a permanent need. Anticipating this, we created the **Clear Creek Maintenance Endowment Fund**. The purpose of

this fund is to create a corpus of sufficient size so the interest would be enough to hire a part time handyman should that become necessary. This is really a prudent commitment to the future. The funds are building in an investment account specifically for this purpose. You can designate a gift to that fund. Maintenance is one of those things you don't notice until it's not done. We want to keep it that way.

Thanks a Million!



The bluebird has long been a favorite icon in our culture, not only for its beautiful blue color, but also for its melodic singing.



Kitsap County had large flocks of bluebirds year round, but the population started to decline in the 1940s. Through the work of the Puget Sound Bluebird Recovery Project, a local non-profit organization, a bluebird comeback is being organized. After studying the situation, the North American Bluebird Society determined four reasons for the decline: Introduction of non-native bird spe-

the Bluebird Project

cies, loss of bluebird habitat, insecticides, and a decrease in winter food supply. The destruction of bluebird habitat due to growth and urbanization is another reason for population decline. Bluebirds are attracted to rural open spaces with low grass. They will perch on branches, wires, and fence posts to hunt for insects, their main source of food. Bluebirds are secondary cavity nesters, meaning that they use abandoned cavities or tree holes created by other birds and animals. House sparrows and European starlings compete for nesting cavities and

are aggressive towards bluebirds. The Puget Sound Bluebird Recovery Project will work towards recovery through conservation, education, and research. Two community bluebird trails will be established, monitored, and maintained at Clear Creek Trail and a local Christmas tree farm. Bluebird trails will consist of a number of nesting boxes, specifically for Western and Mountain Bluebirds. Nest boxes are placed near appropriate bluebird habitat to monitor breeding and nesting season (March-August).

~Susan Ford



Our mission: to create and maintain a community-wide network to mobilize support, educate, and focus actions to preserve, protect and restore the Clear Creek ecosystem. We envision a future Clear Creek as a healthy stream ecosystem with clean water and salmon, plant and animal habitat, providing quiet enjoyment and evoking sensitivity and respect for the stream, a part of our natural heritage.

Seine with the Suquamish Tribe



Join the Clear Creek Task Force and Paul Dorn, the Suquamish Tribe's salmon recovery coordinator, for a beach seining at Old Mill Park. The dates for this activity would be Saturday, May 28 at 4:p.m. and Friday, June 24 at 1:00 p.m. **Volunteers** of all ages pull in 100 feet of net and

discover all kinds of creatures living in the nearshore habitat at the mouth of Clear Creek in Dyes Inlet. We will capture, identify, measure, and release our catch. This is truly educational fun for the whole family. Field work data will help fisheries biologists better understand

the importance of Puget Sound 's near shore habitat for local salmon populations. Dress for the weather. Bring towels, beach or wading gear and gloves.

Register Today! clearcreektrail@yahoo.com.

For Your Dance Card

VOLUNTEER!

Help at Events, Work Parties or sign up for the *Watch List*.

For more info:

ClearCreekTrail@yahoo.com
or visit
ClearCreekTrail.com



- April 21**— 18th Annual Earth Day Work Party with CKHS
- May 12** – Discovery Play Days
- May 28** – Beach Seine
- June 4** – National Trails Day Work Party
- June 22** – United Way Day of

- Caring Work Party
- June 24** – Beach Seine
- July 12** – Discovery Play Days
- July 12** – Discovery Play Days
- July 12** – Discovery Play Days



Radiator Fin Salmon JOANNE SYMINGTON

SPONSOR A SALMON
Decorate both sides of an art board salmon or create a salmon-themed work of art, name it, and donate it to the **Salmon Run Art Auction** . Salmon art is judged and prizes awarded. Winning art is auctioned during the Celebrate Clear Creek event in the fall. Proceeds benefit trail development and maintenance .Pick up your art board salmon at Old Town Custom Framing, on Lowell Street in Old Town Silverdale. Entry forms available online: www.clearcreektrail.org.

HONORED

Our Tex Lewis Award recognizes groups that support and inspire us. In 2010, the

Kitsap Audubon Society was instrumental in producing six new bird



interpretive signs. They created the text, chose the birds and compiled a list for common birds seen on the Clear Creek Trail. In addition, the inclusion of the Old Mill Park and the Clear Creek Meadows in the Great Washington Birding Trail Guide was because of their efforts.



A New Twist to Discovery Play Days

Children, 2 to 10 years, explore around the Clear Creek Trail. They'll learn about the connections to nature through story time, a touch table, hands-on craft or other activity, and then an exploratory walk on the trail. Three of the Discovery Play Days will focus on the different aspects of birds and do observations. Other Discovery Play Days, we'll look for animal signs on the trail, learn about trees, explore the beach, and so much more.

Save these Dates!

- Saturday, May 12:** Birds
- Tuesday, June 21:** Wetlands
- Tuesday, July 12:** Beach Combing
- Tuesday, Aug. 2:** Trees
- Saturday, Aug. 6:** Nests and Eggs
- Tuesday, Aug. 23:** Wildlife
- Saturday, Oct.:** Birds and Beaks

10 am to noon

Homesteading Clear Creek Valley



COn June 2, 1864, Clais Wilhelm Gustafson was born. He emigrated from Sweden, to Minnesota in April 1887. To escape a typhoid epidemic there, Clais moved to Seattle. On March 1, 1894, renouncing allegiance to all foreign sovereignties, he became a citizen of the United States of America.

Lina Johnson, born in Sweden, December 18, 1864, immigrated to Iowa in 1882, working as a seamstress. She also found her way to Seattle where they met. Both were charter members of the Swedish Tabernacle, later known as the Swedish Mission Covenant Church.

After they married, they homesteaded north of Silverdale, in the Clear Creek Valley. Gustafson Road, north of Westgate, is named for this pioneering family.

Fearing the many bears in the valley, they slept in trees until their home

was built. Their first home was made of logs which Gustafson finished with lumber inside and out. To obtain bricks, he rowed to Waterman and back, put them in a wheelbarrow and toted them the 2 ½ miles home.

When the children were born, Clais rowed to Port Orchard to get the doctor. Of the four children, two daughters Helen and Agnes grew to adulthood. Agnes' birth was difficult and Clais could only locate a veterinarian to provide assistance. Helen attended Clear Creek School from 1904 to 1912. After her mother died on December 29, 1904, Helen helped at home and took care of her sister, even

taking her to school with her. Clais married Augusta Anderson, a friend from the Mission Covenant Church on March 7, 1919. She also emigrated from Sweden to Seattle. Augusta loved beautiful clothes and was also deeply religious. When she discovered moth damage in her treasured wardrobe, she felt the Lord had sent the moths to punish her for vanity. Gustafson farmed for 54 years before selling and entered Ebenezer Home in Poulsbo, now known as Martha and Mary. Clais died on August 19, 1946 and Augusta on May 28, 1947.

~ Claudia Hunt, History Geek



Clais and Augusta Gustafson at their homestead.



Clear Creek Trail News Team

Mary Earl, Tex Lewis, Claudia Hunt,
Steve Fabry and Susan Ford

The Dog's Hind End

Pet waste is a common source of the fecal coliform bacteria contaminating streams. In 2010, there were over 28,200 dog visits on the Clear Creek Trail. An estimate from the number of mutt mitts dispensed at six stations along the Trail. This past year, Surface and Stormwater Management provided Mutt Mitt Stations (4) and supplies (30,000 mitts.) Jayna Erickson of SSWM says. "Using a conservative factor of 0.33 lbs/bag, we estimate ...9,306 pounds (1 year) removed from Clear Creek Trail alone! If you add that to the 6,765 pounds removed from the dog park's 20,500 Mutt Mitts (5 mos.), *you have collectively prevented over 8 tons of pet waste from washing into Clear Creek.*" But there is nasty evidence that not all of you are picking up after your dogs. The solution is easy: **Bag it and trash it.** Landfills are designed to handle pet waste. Not the bottom of someone's shoe, not the bushes, not along the trail for someone else to pick up. Thank you.

