



Clear Creek

A seasonal newsletter for friends of the Clear Creek Trail

Trail News

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FALL 2011

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Capital Fund Drive

Several major breakthroughs for the **Clear Creek Trail** happened this year.

After considerable waiting, access has been graciously been given to build the final downtown section of the **Clear Creek Trail**.

This section requires boardwalk around a wetland and about 900 feet of gravel. It's located on the west side of the creek from Ridgetop Boulevard to the Pedestrian Bridge ~ about a quarter mile north.

On this 17 acre parcel, we plan to convert an old shop/garage to a picnic shelter and secure tool storage facility for planned Pea Patch Gardens.

This property is located on the northeast corner of Silverdale Way and Waaga Way. Our annual Earth Day with CKHS students built the first section of the trail



on the former Markwick property that will link Silverdale Way to the Ridgetop housing areas.

We are really excited because these projects have been pending for some time. We have launched these projects on a wing and a prayer; mobilizing volunteers, and praying for the funds for materials. Up to now, your generous donations have been sufficient to cover the costs for our annual construction materials, maintenance of the trail and to maintain and operate

the Sa'qad Interpretive Center and restroom. However, in the next year, our materials costs associated with these projects will more than deplete our operating funds.

We feel it is essential to maintain our forward momentum on these projects, so after considerable knuckle-gnawing, we decided to launch this fundraising campaign. These funds are needed for capital improvements in the coming years. We will squeeze every last drop out of every nickel we get. See attached flyer.

Mail your tax deductible gift to:

GPC - Clear Creek Trail Construction Fund,
P.O. Box 1188,
Silverdale, 98383.

Thanks a million!

Please make checks payable to:

GPC
Clear Creek Trail

P.O. Box 1188
Silverdale, 98383

Donations are tax deductible to the extent the law allows.

Thank you!

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 scores of 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

**2010
HONORED
FRIENDS**

\$1000+

Kiwanis Club of CK
Tex & Lynda Lewis
Steve & Betty Fabry
AN & PL Morton
Jim Rodman

\$100+

Anonymous Cash Donations
Joyce Merkel
Kitsap Enological Society
Lisa & David Kidd
Old Town Custom Framing
& Gallery
Kitsap Community
Foundation
Brian Slagle
Bremerton Garden Club
Central Valley Garden Club
Merrill & Betty Koster
Andrew Hamilton
Gayle Helseth Kenison
Michael Kenison
Silverdale Whaling Days
Phil & Karen Best
Bonnie & Sig Chrey
Gary & Debbie Davis
Louis Graham
Christine Grenier
Ward & Jane Hinrichs
Gregory & Margaret Joyce
Kitsap Audubon Society
Ellen & Allan Newberg
Robert & Melissa Olson
Larry & Jenny Paulson
Ryan Sells Uptegraft Inc PS
Barbara Wilhite

**THANKS
A
MILLION!**



We are very excited about a couple long-awaited events coming to fruition this year. First, we got permission from the new property owner to extend the last section downtown. This soon to be built trail runs on the west side of the creek from the Ridgetop Boulevard north to the big Pedestrian Bridge. Second, we started trail expansion from Silverdale Way up to the Ridgetop housing areas. As part of this effort, we plan to rehabilitate a former shop/garage to create a picnic pavil-

Tex Message

ion and secure tool storage shed. Much like the Brown Pavilion on Ridgetop and between Blaine and Levin, this will be a pleasant resting spot. Pea Patch plots are another goal. We plan to complete these projects over the next couple years. In preparation for next year's Earth Day event, we needed to install about 60 feet of boardwalk and a small bridge. We completed those jobs. We also refurbished the old bridge to make it safe for trail users. We took the funds out of our

operation kitty. However, the remaining work is well beyond our financial capabilities, We thought long and hard about this because your generosity over the years has kept our nose above water. We determined to launch a construction fundraiser. (page 1) To conserve energy, we named this our "Non-Event Fund Raiser." I can assure you, the energy we save will be directed to getting these jobs done.

~ Tex Lewis

Salmon Art Migration

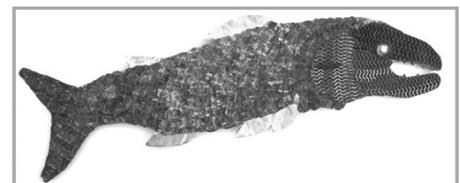


Decorate both sides of an art board salmon or create a salmon-themed work of art, name it, and donate it to the Salmon Run Migration. Salmon Art is judged and prizes awarded at the Salmon Migration. The Migration will take place in Old Town Silverdale on October 15th from 11:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. It's sponsored by the Old Town Artwalk Association and the Kitsap Peninsula Visitor and Con-

vention Bureau.

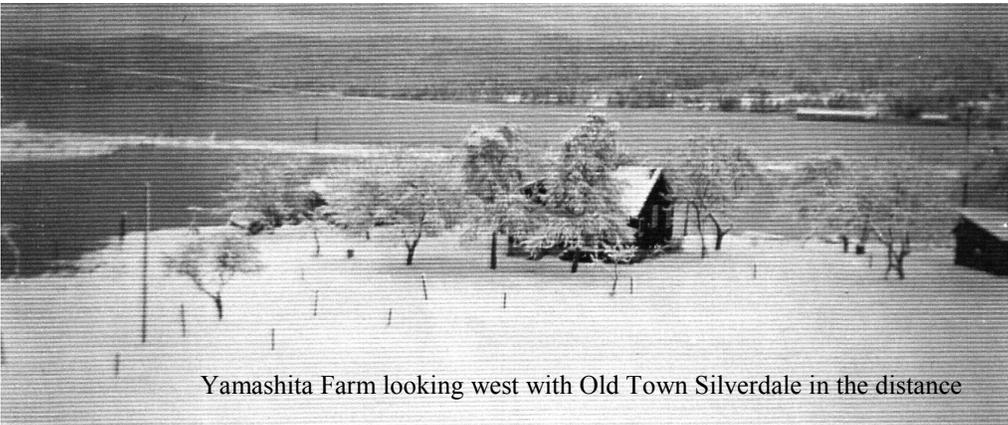
Art board salmon and adoption papers are available at Old Town Custom Framing, on Lowell Street in Old Town Silverdale. Tuesday through Friday 11 to 5 p.m. and Saturday, 11 to 3p.m. Adoption forms are also available online: clearcreektrail.org.

To be eligible for judging and prizes, entries must be returned to Old Town Custom Framing by September 30th.



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.

Homesteading Clear Creek Valley



Yamashita Farm looking west with Old Town Silverdale in the distance

Let us introduce you to the pioneers that helped settle the Clear Creek Valley. Beginning at the estuary where Clear Creek ebbs and flows into Dye's Inlet, the heart of the Clear Creek Valley.

In the early 1940s, on the east side of Dye's Inlet, a series of sheds, houses and a barge were visible. It was an oyster farm, run by the Yamashita family and it was turning into a profitable business. Most consider Dye's Inlet too warm for oysters, but there are still oysters in the area, and an abundance of Manila clams, thought to have been brought in on the bottom of barges which brought the Japanese oysters.

Takuji Yamashita, an early civil rights hero, and an alum of the University of Washington Law School's second graduating class in 1902, successfully passed the bar exam. He soon learned his ancestry prohibited him from becoming an American citizen, a requirement for admission to the Bar. The 27-year-old argued his case before the state Supreme Court and lost. He argued a second time in 1921 and lost in a twist of circular reasoning, that cited

its own ruling in 1902 that Japanese couldn't be lawyers. Unbowed by his legal losses, Yamashita made the most of his life. He and his wife, Ito, settled on a 20-acre leased farm in Silverdale at the end of Mickelberry Road in 1914 and raised five children, strawberries and oysters.

He opened the Togo Hotel in Bremerton and when the Navy took over the area for shipyard expansion, he opened the Rainier Hotel and also ran a restaurant called the People's Café. After closing the café at night, he would join his oyster harvesting crews in Silverdale. After the bombing of Pearl Harbor, the federal government placed about 70 Japanese families in Silverdale, Poulsbo and Kingston, and around 200 residents of Bainbridge Island in internment camps. The Yamashitas were sent to a camp in Tule Lake, California, for the duration of WWII.

After the war, Takuji and Ito lived with their daughter, Martha, in Seattle where, Yamashita, a UW graduate, worked as a housekeeper.

Their son, Joseph is buried in Bremerton's Ivy Green Cemetery. Following Martha's death in 1957, the Yamashitas

returned to Japan, where Takuji, died two years later.

On March 1, 2001, ninety-nine years after Mr. Yamashita was refused admission to the state Bar Association, the State Supreme Court granted him that honor posthumously.

The banker who took over the farm sold it to James and Thelma Guilford in 1943. They raised cattle and turkeys and in 1946, built the Guilford's Feed and Seed on Silverdale Way which is now Farmland Pets and Feed.

The property located at the Dyes Inlet end of Mickelberry Road NW, was purchased in 1957 by Harriet and Kirk Best.

The Bests sold the northeast portion to the Betty Smith Family.

In 1993, the Smith Family generously donated the land with the old barn to Clear Creek Trail. The Clear Creek Saq'ad Interpretive Center now graces the northeast side of the Dyes Inlet estuary.

~ Claudia Hunt

2010 HONORED FRIENDS

Under \$100

Nancy Sennett
 Dave & Sue Gitch
 Natalie Bryson
 Charles & Sandra Coates
 Cindy & Mike Dodge
 Marjorie Gustafson
 Mickey & Betsy Hall
 Joe Kaech
 Bart & Carrie Kale
 Gerald & Margaret Mittet
 John Nelson
 Linda Benedict
 Richard Shattuck
 David & Janet Skelton
 AC Sleight
 Gary Smith & Janet Tracy
 Terry & Tony Stanton
 Phyllis Summers
 Richard & Dawn Woolsey
 Candy Casper
 Louise Anderson
 Doug & Barbara Billing
 Elisabeth Bondy
 Randy & Sharron Collins
 Kathryn Ozimek
 Silverdale Chamber
 Burton & Mary Jo Tharp
 Margaret Weems
 Richard Calvin
 James & Margaret Garry
 Richard & Susan Leavell
 Merwin & Diane Linsley
 Peter & Ellen Barnett

THANKS A MILLION!

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

— Tex Lewis

Keeping Clear Creek Clear

Pet waste is a common source of the fecal coliform bacteria that contaminates surface water and eventually ends up in Clear Creek.

Fecal coliform bacteria in the water is an unhealthy environment for stream bugs. If the stream bugs don't want to live there, then the salmon won't go there either. Stream bugs and macroinvertebrates are dinner for salmon, you know. The solution is easy: ***Bag it and trash it.*** Landfills are designed to handle pet waste.

To that end, the Clear Creek Task Force and Surface and Stormwater Management (SSWM) provided Mutt Mitt Stations and 30,000 mutt mitts. We have been educating dogs on how to train their humans to use a mutt mitt *and* then properly dispose of it.

In 2010, there were over 28,200 visits on the Clear Creek Trail. Anyway, that was the number of mutt mitts dispensed at six stations along the Trail. Most dogs walk the north valley. This we know from the number of mutt mitts that are restocked every week.

SSWM is also making it more convenient to dispose of those used mutt mitts. There are two trash cans on Schold Road for this purpose. These will now be emptied by Waste Management rather than the guy with the pacemaker. The 32 gallon cans can get heavy on sunny weekends.

Unfortunately, there is nasty evidence that not all dogs have properly trained their humans. **Bad Dog!**

Please do not let humans leave used mutt mitts in the tall grass, at the base of the mutt mitt station or along side the trail for a volunteer to pick up.

Thank you for bagging it and trashing it!



Great Peninsula Conservancy

3721 Kitsap Way, Suite 5
Bremerton, WA 98312

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Clear Creek Trail

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