

Hylebos Highlights

N E W S L E T T E R O F F R I E N D S O F T H E H Y L E B O S

Thank You to Our Supporters

Thanks to you – the *friend* of the Hylebos – a healthy change is occurring in our community. Forests are becoming healthier. Cleaner water is flowing from restored streams and wetlands. Each of these protected and restored habitats is providing habitat for wildlife and beautiful areas for people to enjoy.

Conservation is community. This work is about our home.

Thanks to you, *the volunteer*, seven thousand new native trees and plants are growing in our community's forests, and alongside our streams and wetlands. You've created shade that will cool stream water and nurture our native salmon. You've helped heal the natural areas that produce clean water. Four hundred and forty five volunteers donated more than 1,500 hours of conservation work for a better community.



Thanks to you for *sharing your support* for community-based conservation. Our friends dug deep to support local conservation during tough times in 2009, enabling our work to continue and thrive. More than 200 conservationists, and community and business leaders joined us for Ruby Dance 2009, raising \$35,000 for conservation.

Together, we're creating a vision for a quality community where conservation supports quality of life. Conservation starts with you!



At Ruby Dance 2009, Friends filled the room with laughter, conversation and the celebration of conservation successes! (More photos from the Ruby Dance event can be found on page 6.)

Spring 2010
Volume I

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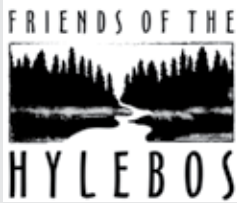
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Friends of the Hylebos has saved more than 740 trees at the Dumas Bay Preserve this year. Find out more on page 4.



*Dedicated to preserving
the West Hylebos
Wetlands and the
greater Hylebos Creek
Watershed*

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Celebrating Earth Day From the Forests to the Bay

Thursday April 22nd will mark the 40th anniversary of Earth Day. For Friends of the

Hylebos, we work to make Earth Day about transforming the global into local, personal action. This year will be an even bigger celebration - we're joining with the City of Federal Way and Citizens for a Healthy Bay to give you more opportunities for where and when to take action.



Rod and Alice delivering plants and smiles on Earth Day!

For its 40th anniversary we're celebrating *Earth Day from the Forests to the Bay*. On Saturday, April 17th Citizens for a Healthy Bay will kick off the hands-on stewardship activities with *Earth Day on the Bay*. The project will focus on stewardship of the Middle Waterway restoration site in Commencement Bay and will include a variety of hands-on educational activities for kids. The first 50 volunteers will win a free tree and TAGRO potting mix! Activities will begin at 9:30 a.m., end at 2:30 and include lunch. To register, call or email Jeannine Riss at jriss@healthybay.org or 253-383-2429.

Citizens for a Healthy Bay has been doing great work for more than twenty years, working for cleanup and restoration of the Commencement Bay ecosystem. Our conservation work in and around Hylebos Creek links up with the Commencement Bay conservation effort, so it's natural for us to work together on Earth Day. Certainly, the forests of Puget Sound's near-shore area, and the wetlands of Hylebos Creek all connect with and reinforce the Commencement Bay and Puget Sound ecosystems. (For more news about how the Friends and Citizens for a Healthy Bay are working together, see the bottom of page 5.)

The following Saturday, April 24th, you can be a *Force for the Forest*. The City of Federal Way and the Friends are teaming up to mount a citywide Earth Day effort to remove invasive English ivy from our forests and save trees from this killer vine. There will be up to ten park sites in the city where volunteers will gather to pull ivy away from our trees. The Friends will be directing efforts at three parks: Dumas Bay Preserve, Poverty Bay Park and Dash Point State Park. Call Restoration Coordinator Lili Allala at 253-740-3767 or email at lili@hylebos.org to sign up. The work will begin at 9 a.m. and end at noon.

How important is the ivy pulling work? These forests are being strangled to death and have entered a slow, but inevitable cycle of decline.



Young volunteers discover a salamander while working on ivy removal at Dumas Bay Preserve

Without ivy removal, we will lose these forests. Volunteers are reversing that decline. So far this year, Hylebos volunteers and crews have saved more than 400 individual trees and cleared more than an acre of Dumas Bay's forest from ivy.

Whether you join us on April 24th to be a Force for the Forests, Or join Citizens for a Healthy Bay on the 17th to do Earth Day on the Bay (and, of course, you can do both!), you will make a healthier community...from the *Forests to the Bay!*

Only a Donor...

By Chris Carrel

In talking with Friends' supporters, I often hear a common self-criticism. The statement usually goes something like, "I'm not that important. I don't have time (or physical ability) to volunteer. I only give money."

The speaker usually expresses embarrassment that they're not out in the trenches, working with the other volunteers. I only give money.

Let me tell you why we appreciate people who "only give money." The Friends can't run without you. We can't work to permanently protect the streams and wetlands of the Hylebos. We can't buy the trees to plant, or the tools to plant them with. We can't organize the volunteer projects that are saving trees from slow death by ivy strangulation, and replanting our depleted forests.

Although we're a nonprofit organization, we are a business and conservation is the service we provide. We can cover some of our costs through foundation and government grants, but the support of donors is the bedrock financial layer that enables the work of Hylebos conservation.

So, what can donations do? One way to look at this is in the cost of trees. It takes about \$50 to plant a single tree, and to maintain it over the average five years needed to bring it to a self-sustaining state. If you "just donated" \$200, you planted four trees that are restoring forests of our community.

You can go to the West Hylebos Wetlands, the Lower Hylebos Marsh, or other past restoration sites and see the investment you made growing green and tall along the sides of the wetlands, and Hylebos Creek.

What are some of the typical costs of restoration? A restoration crew costs between \$1,200 and \$1,400 a day. We achieve between 15 to 20 percent of our restoration work with volunteers, but the rest is performed with professional crews who have the capacity to take on

our larger, more complicated projects. Even our larger volunteer work parties require crews to train and support volunteers. Staff costs run about \$250 for planning and implementation of a 1-day volunteer work party.

There are other ancillary costs, as well, but the point is that restoring habitat costs money. Donations from supporters are key to providing the resources to make this possible.

At the Friends, we appreciate everyone who is supporting the conservation effort: the volunteers who donate their time, the supporters who support us with fiscal donations, and those who do both.

There's no such thing as "only giving money." Financial gifts are precious things, even more so in the current economy. Your decision to donate money to the Friends is important to us; not only because of the good things it makes possible, but also because it's a statement that you share our values for clean water, healthy forests and beautiful open space. When you donate, I hope you'll feel good about it, and proud, because you're making a better community for all of us.

Please see our donor list on page 7.

*A donation of \$200
will plant 4 native trees
and maintain them for
5 years*

*"We make a living by
what we get; we make a
life by what we give."
Sir Winston Churchill*



*Former President Lou
Olmstead supports the
Friends in many way,
including her high-energy
smiles and enthusiasm!*

A Busy Year For Conservation

program and making headway in the fight against ivy.

With English ivy keeping the Friends busy, 2010's conservation program will include plenty of forest health work, a new program promoting innovative stormwater management



Jody and Shane Pattie make bundles alongside Jocelyn P. & Steven Lloyd

techniques, and several significant preservation and habitat restoration projects.

As always, our conservation work continues to be guided by the belief that conservation should serve the greater community and connect people to their local environment. We are making headway on the goals of the Hylebos Creek Conservation Initiative, where we have already preserved more than 535 acres of the total goal of 745 acres! Several preservation projects are in various stages, the most advanced being a city of Federal Way proposal to purchase 7 acres of Spring Valley wetland and Hylebos tributary habitat owned by the late Ted Enticknap (see last issue's tribute to Ted).



Justin pulls vine

This is the year of forest health for the Friends of the Hylebos. English Ivy is a serious threat to forests in the Pacific Northwest, and forests in and around the Hylebos Watershed are full of it. With the help of the City of Federal Way, Boeing and King County we have been building our Healthy Forests

Last year we completed an assessment of the health of the forest at Dumas Bay Park, and we have been spending the first few months of the year at Dumas Bay Preserve removing ivy from heavily infested areas. We worked with United Way of King County and Disney's Give A Day, Get A Day campaign, which helped us recruit over 150 people to volunteer to remove ivy. In exchange for their time, Disney is giving participating volunteers a pass to either Disneyland or Disney World. With our incredible volunteers, *more than 740 trees have been saved and better than three acres of forest cleared of ivy.*

We are also starting to address forest health at the East Hylebos Ravine, a beautiful 85-acre forest along the East Hylebos Creek at the Interurban Trail in Milton. We've removed about an acre of invasive species so far, and will be planting native trees and shrubs later in the fall. Stewardship work continues at the West Hylebos Wetlands, where we're keeping invasives out of our community's special forest, and ensuring the restoration sites we've planted continue to thrive.

The Friends is starting a new program this year, and will be reducing stormwater runoff by working with the community on building rain gardens. Rain gardens are designed to catch and store rainwater, while allowing the water to slowly percolate into the ground. Rain gardens are planted with native plants, and are beautiful. The Friends will be working with Stewardship Partners to put on rain garden workshops in the Hylebos Watershed, and will be looking for opportunities to install demonstration projects in the community. We will also be looking for volunteers to help install them!

As always, our goal is to involve as many people as possible in restoring and stewarding the natural areas of our community. If you'd like to get involved, or get more information about volunteering contact Restoration Coordinator Lili Allala at 253-740-3767 or email at lili@hylebos.org.

Hylebos Movie Premiere

In a run-up to the Oscars, Friends of the Hylebos and the Historical Society of Federal Way offered our own homegrown movie, debuting “The

Hylebos: Discovering a Hidden Jewel” in February at the Federal Way Community Center. The 18-minute documentary is a project of local resident and Friends’ supporter Mary Longhurst. In the movie, Mary uses interviews, historical

photographs and maps, and current footage of the park to tell the story of the effort to preserve the West Hylebos Wetlands and the Friends’ subsequent evolution to a watershed conservation organization.

Mary began the project as a capstone project in her communications studies at Antioch. The



“Movie creator Mary Longhurst addresses the audience at the premiere of *The Hylebos: Discovering a Hidden Jewel*”

school project, however, quickly became something much, much larger, as Mary grappled with the deep history of the Hylebos conservation effort. The resulting documentary movie is both a compelling introduction to the Hylebos

and a rich historical account. The movie is currently online at the Friends YouTube Channel. Point your browser to www.youtube.com then type “hylebosity” into the search field.

The February 6th premiere drew

more than 50 guests to the Community Center, including King County Councilman Pete von Reichbauer, Federal Way City Councilman Mike Park, Lakehaven Commissioner Chuck Gibson and Federal Way Councilwoman Jeanne Burbidge who spoke about the connections between conservation and community before introducing the movie.

Friends and Citizens for A Healthy Bay Team Up

Friends of the Hylebos and Citizens for a Healthy Bay have been working to restore and steward Commencement Bay and Hylebos Creek sites under the Commencement Bay and Hylebos Superfund projects. Recently, the two groups formed a partnership, along with Cascade Land Conservancy, to more efficiently maintain specific sites.

The City of Tacoma hired CHB and the Friends to provide stewardship of ten restoration sites, including Lower Hylebos Marsh, for the next three years. Working together has enabled our two organizations to secure the city funding to sustain efforts to maintain sites like the Lower Hylebos Marsh, Mowitch, Skookum Wulge and Squally Beach. The partnership is also laying the groundwork for better collaboration and effectiveness across the 28 NRDA (Natural Resources Damages Assessment trustees for the Superfund clean-up) restoration sites in Commencement Bay. Cascade Land Conservancy supported the partners’

proposal to the city and is working with the Friends, Citizens for a Healthy Bay, and the Natural Resources Damages Assessments Trustees to develop strategies for funding long-term maintenance for all of the sites.

In an era of financial constraints, collaborations between conservation groups will grow increasingly important in order to maximize limited financial resources for conservation. The Friends is happy to be on the front end of this trend, and in such good company.



Volunteers are essential to stewardship of Hylebos and Commencement Bay conservation properties.

Upcoming Events

Ruby Dance 2010 September 25th

Ruby Dance 2010 will be held Saturday evening, September 25th at the Weyerhaeuser King County Aquatic Center.

More than 200 guests joined us last year to enjoy food and drink, and a festive auction. The evening raised more than \$35,000 for Hylebos Conservation. Ruby Dance was a winner! Join us for Ruby Dance 2010.



Guests are greeted with delicious Hors d'oeuvres



The silent auction tables feature treasures that draw guests' attention throughout the evening



King County Councilman Pete von Reichbauer served as the 2009 Ruby Dance Honorary Event Chair



Mel Coffman's exquisite metal great blue herons anchored the 2009 Ruby Dance table centerpieces.



Ruby Dance is an evening for friends and laughs

DONOR LIST
Continued from page 3

Thank You To All Our 2009 Donors!

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*Protecting and restoring the
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Friends Celebrate The Life of Thais Bock



Thais Bock receiving the Lifetime Stewardship Award from King County Councilman Pete von Reichbauer and Friends President Margery Godfrey at the 2009 Ruby Dance.

On February 25th when longtime local conservationist Thais Bock passed away, one friend noted that her spirit had “taken flight,” an appropriate metaphor for the Federal Way resident who spent much of her life studying birds and passing on her knowledge and skills to hundreds, if not thousands of fellow birders. Her passion for birds also led her to lead efforts to preserve bird habitat like the heron colonies at Dumas Bay Preserve and Peasley Canyon. A close friend of Friends’ founder Ilene Marckx, Thais was also involved early on in the effort to preserve the West Hylebos Wetlands.

This was exceedingly humble, and declined to be featured in Highlights articles in the past. She was reluctant to accept the Friends Lifetime Stewardship Award at the 2009 Ruby Dance, but when presented with the award and a chance to speak, she charmed the audience with her gentle grace, dignity and humor.

She will be sorely missed, but she left a life of purpose and friendship to be celebrated. She also left a record of conservation that challenges us to carry on her legacy and continue to improve our community through preserving and restoring habitat.