



THE STEWARDSHIP Messenger

Newsletter of Stewardship Partners

Helping Landowners Preserve the Environment

Summer / Fall 2011

12,000 
RAIN GARDENS
in Puget Sound

After more than five years of work helping landowners and businesses install rain gardens, this spring Stewardship Partners is taking that effort to a whole new level. In partnership with Washington State University Extension, we announced a ground breaking campaign to install 12,000 rain gardens by 2016. This ambitious campaign stands to be a model for the entire nation demonstrating what one region can do to address polluted run off and engage the public in an unprecedented way.

Stewardship Partners has become a recognized leader and trusted resource for rain gardens and other LID projects. Working with WSU, we have installed over 100 rain gardens in neighborhoods throughout Puget Sound. On 8th Ave N in Puyallup, for example, what used to be a neighborhood full of compacted high maintenance lawns has been transformed into 21 beautifully landscaped rain gardens.

These neighborhood cluster rain garden projects start with one champion who contacts their neighbors. For example, Stephanie Berg rallied her community to address drainage issues in her Burien neighborhood. She was able to convince six other neighbors that the gardens look great and also serve many beneficial functions. "Beyond solving a flooding problem, it's rewarding to know that I'm helping to protect our local stream and Puget Sound." Stephanie just bought her house and this also gave her a chance to meet new friends on the block.



Volunteer planting kinnikinnick in a rain garden.

We have installed rain garden clusters in several neighborhoods within Puyallup, Eatonville, and Burien. This summer, we will build our first Seattle rain garden cluster near Longfellow Creek in the Delridge neighborhood. The last cluster project of the season will be in Everett this September. Each project will be a community event, so please let us know if you would like to volunteer on the big planting day.

Our recipe for these unique rain garden projects is worth replicating; that's why we're promoting rain gardens throughout Puget Sound. To achieve this goal we will need the support and enthusiasm from all communities throughout the region. You can get involved by attending a free rain garden workshop, a volunteer planting event, or a walking tour in many cities around the Sound. Watch WSU's 30 minute online video from the comfort of your own home, or even become a Rain Garden Mentor through WSU's Master Gardener program. See our recent op-ed in the *Seattle Times* and other articles at www.12000raingardens.org. This website has a wealth of resources and a place to register your own rain garden.

Stewardship Partners helps private landowners restore and preserve the natural landscapes of Washington State.



New Wetland at Oxbow Farm & Education Center



Hardstem bulrush
Scirpus lacustris

Marsh Wren
Cistothorus palustris



Stewardship Partners embarked on a new project this past fall with Oxbow Center to create a two acre wetland. With support from the King Conservation District, Ducks Unlimited and the Snoqualmie Watershed Forum, this project restored wetland conditions in a remnant channel of the Snoqualmie River that was dominated by reed canary grass and not suitable for farming.

Prior to planting, the area was excavated to reach the shallow water table and the area was planted with a mix of trees, shrubs, and emergent plants; all chosen because of their ecological importance to a variety of native amphibians. Downed woody debris and standing snags were installed to provide habitat for birds and other wildlife.

North American Beaver
Castor canadensis



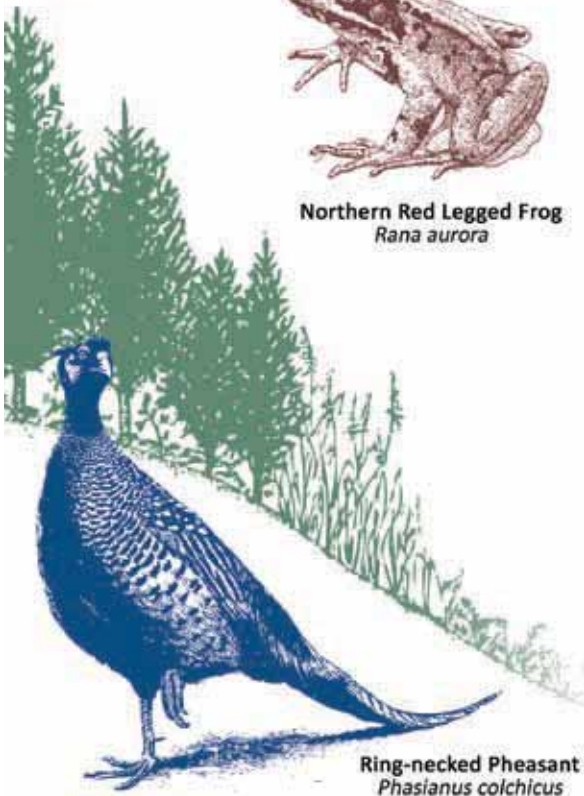
The different aspects of the wetland provide habitat for frogs, salamanders, birds, and other aquatic and terrestrial animal species. Since its installation there have been sightings of frog eggs, birds, and other critters that had not inhabited the area since it was overrun with non-native species. This project will be monitored and maintained while it matures into a healthy and highly functional wetland that will provide habitat and increased water quality to the area.



Northern Red Legged Frog
Rana aurora

In addition to its direct impacts on the animal species, the project also helps maintain the floodplain ecology of the Snoqualmie Valley that has been severely degraded; Approximately 80% of the original wetlands have been filled or destroyed in the Snoqualmie Watershed. Already the wetland has proven to increase the functionality of floodplain. During the past flooding season the wetland held large amounts of water, decreasing the impacts the floods had on the farm. The wetland also provides sediment control, carbon sequestration, and infiltration of pollutants. All are beneficial to everyone who calls the valley home and to those who eat the produce grown there.

Another encouraging aspect of this project is that it serves to demonstrate wetland restoration and its benefit to agricultural landowners. We are all pleased with the success of this project and believe that it will encourage other landowners to look for restoration opportunities on their property.



Ring-necked Pheasant
Phasianus colchicus



Oxbow Center is a new non-profit with educational programs on organic agriculture and environmental conservation.

Which Came First? The Salmon, the Chicken, or the Egg?

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Stewardship Partners is proud to announce the Salmon-Safe certification of Draper Valley Farms. Draper has been a Northwest institution since 1935. Today they are the largest poultry producer in the state. Their guiding principle “the way nature intended” tells customers their chicken is fresh and raised with natural and humane methods.

Draper Valley is the largest farm to be Salmon-Safe certified in Washington, second is the state’s largest egg producer, Wilcox Farms. Draper operates an array of diverse properties including small parcels and property with salmon-bearing streams surrounded by large forest patches and highly functional wetlands.

Draper has excellent habitat resources and is exemplary in operation and land management. For example, litter and chicken waste products are kept within the houses and taken directly off-site to a composting facility to prevent any contamination of water on the property. Three of the newer sites successfully support and promote ecosystem services within the agricultural landscape. The properties were designed to convey stormwater to constructed wetlands where water can be infiltrated on site. The

wetlands also host native plant species providing excellent habitat for a variety of wildlife while maintaining high water quality in the watershed.

“Going through the Salmon-Safe process was a great learning experience for us and changed our perspective on how we view our operation. Now when I go to our sites, I not only look at the chicken houses and how we manage them, but I think about the land, streams, trees and environment” says Dave Wilson, farm operations manager at Draper Valley.

Draper Valley has also developed a new product line which is certified organic that launched in November of 2010. They are also an emerging leader in green packaging through the use biodegradable trays instead of the more common Styrofoam or plastic trays.

The attitudes, interests, and goals of Draper Valley Farms make them an outstanding new Salmon-Safe partner. Look for the Salmon-Safe label on packages of Draper Valley organic and Ranger chicken in your local grocery store. By purchasing, you are supporting a business that is dedicated to keeping water clean so wild salmon can thrive.



BUY CHICKEN. SAVE SALMON.

DRAPER VALLEY FARMS is proud to be certified **SALMON-SAFE** for protecting native salmon habitat and water quality in the Skagit Watershed. Look for the Salmon-Safe logo on Organic & Ranger Chicken at your local market.

www.stewardshippartners.org





Stewardship Partners & Boeing Celebrate Earth Day



Volunteers plant native trees and shrubs along the Snoqualmie River.

In recognition of Earth Day, over fifty volunteers from The Boeing Company helped to restore a half-mile section of river bank habitat at a Hmong flower farm near Carnation. On Saturday April 16th the volunteers worked to help the farm come closer to achieving Salmon-Safe certification.

The energetic volunteers braved the elements and spent the day planting 1,100 native trees and shrubs along a quarter mile of the Snoqualmie River that once was choked with non-native blackberry. This was the largest and most productive volunteer event we have had in the 10 years of restoration work in the watershed. Boeing's contribution to restoring the Snoqualmie is a terrific example of the public-private partnerships that are so vital to recovering wild salmon and local farms in the region.

"Maybe it was the people, the changing weather and persistent threat of rain, the need for spring, the fresh air, the eagle call, the quiet rush of the river...probably all of it...but the day remains one of my top, most memorable days of the year." Barbara Bailey, Volunteer Coordinator with Boeing.

Your business can also choose to adopt a buffer, and sponsor community based restoration events. Volunteer activities include trail building, tree planting, and maintenance of existing planting sites. Stewardship Partners has worked with farmers throughout the Snoqualmie Valley to restore nine miles of riverbank that provide critical habitat for wild salmon, wildlife and help protect farmland. Visit our website to find out about upcoming volunteer events.

Summer Harvest Feast on the Farm

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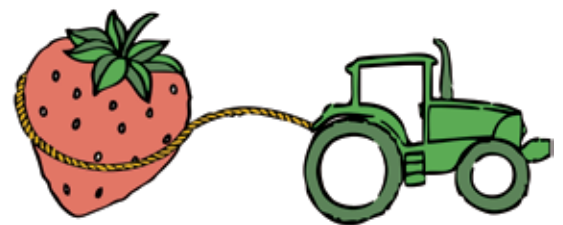


Children ran to rows of raspberry bushes, returning with red-stained fists of fruit while their parents passed platters of salmon and roasted vegetables along linen-cloaked tables as long as bowling alleys. Fruits and vegetables at the table came from Full Circle Farm, an organic and Salmon-Safe certified farm in Carnation. The Salmon-Safe wine from Novelty Hill, Hedges Estates, Buty and beer from Deschutes brewery completed the meal, a genuine Feast on the Farm for members of the Stewardship Partners family and supporters. This first-of-its-kind event was on a July evening as beautiful as the bounty of the farm itself. For 100 people gathering in the Snoqualmie Valley at the very edge of the urban-rural boundary, the moment was something like a symphony.

Andrew Stout, owner of Full Circle Farms was host. His farm spreads over 400 acres, and is one of the largest suppliers of organic produce in western Washington. It is, both in vision and reality, a place where the ideas of sustainability and the ideals of Stewardship Partners meet. For Stout, the evening was a way to showcase his family farm and acknowledge the critical principles that support both organic farming and sustainability. Stewardship Partners co-founder Chris Bayley welcomed the guests and got everyone settled in. Music from the trio of Stone Gossard, Barbara Ireland and Keith Lowe had diners moving around the tables to keep close to their songs. Chef Holly Smith, a renowned recipient of the 2008 James Beard Best Northwest Chef award and Kirkland's Café Juanita, provided another kind of inspiration with her dishes. Full Circle Farm provided all of the seasonal ingredients and the plank roasted wild Salmon was sourced from Geoff Lebon and Halmia Fish, who are committed to sustainable fisheries and providing the highest quality wild Salmon. Afterward, Smith said she thought it went well. That's after the applause finally ended.

At sunset, this was the moment to savor the beauty of the Snoqualmie Valley. The Valley, and Stewardship Partners' role in its future, may be the bell weather of the region's understanding of smart growth and viable land use. The Snoqualmie Valley watershed contains some of the healthiest populations of salmon amid 17,000 acres of agriculture. As the Snoqualmie River meanders under bridges and along farms, it shoulders tributaries for five species of salmon, including as many Coho as the coast of Oregon.

Thanks to Stewardship Partners board member Jim Vesely for a beautiful account of our first Feast. Our second Summer Harvest Feast on the Farm this summer is at Oxbow Farm in Duvall. The evening will feature food prepared by celebrity chef Matthew Dillon from The Corson Building and Sitka and Spruce restaurants, who is also nominated for the 2011 James Beard award. Guests will enjoy music by Kevin Large from the band Widower.



summer harvest
feast^{on} the farm

Sponsored in part by





Puget Sound Businesses become Salmon-Safe

More than a decade after initially certifying farms in Oregon's Willamette Valley, Salmon-Safe has become one of the nation's leading regional eco-label programs, with more than 60,000 acres of farm and urban lands certified throughout Oregon, Washington, California and most recently, British Columbia.

Several high profile Seattle-area institutions were honored by Salmon-Safe, Stewardship Partners and its Seattle-based outreach partner The Network for Business Innovation and Sustainability (NBIS), for their commitment to protecting wildlife habitats and improving water quality in the Puget Sound region. The latest prestigious organizations to receive Salmon-Safe certification include the University of Washington's Seattle Campus; REI's headquarters, distribution center and downtown flagship store; the Seattle Art Museum's Olympic Sculpture Park; and PCC Natural Market's Edmonds store. In addition, Turner Construction has been recognized as the first Salmon-Safe accredited construction management company.

"Salmon-Safe certification is a rigorous but voluntary approach that is essential to the recovery of Puget Sound salmon," said Washington Governor Christine Gregoire. "I applaud each of these dedicated urban leaders for going above and beyond local and state regulations, and I hope their example will motivate other businesses and institutions to adopt Salmon-Safe standards."

Understanding that rapid growth in the urban landscape is the biggest single factor affecting the Puget Sound ecosystem, Stewardship Partners has joined with NBIS and Salmon-Safe in 2007 to launch the Puget Sound urban initiative. Salmon-Safe standards for urban properties help landowners develop comprehensive management plans and innovations that capture and treat stormwater on site, reduce water consumption, and eliminate harmful fertilizers and pesticides.

To qualify for Salmon-Safe certification, each organization went above and beyond local and state regulations to adopt significant measures to restore in-stream habitat, conserve water, protect streamside and wetland habitats, reduce erosion and sedimentation, and reduce the use of chemical pesticides.



PCC, Edmonds

www.resorthotelphotographer.com

Stewardship Partners has also expanded the Salmon-Safe program to residential developments that incorporate low impact development practices and golf courses (see article regarding Tacoma Meadow Park) that incorporate best practices for pest management, water consumption, and water quality. In partnership with Built Green of King and Snohomish County, we have developed a joint Salmon-Safe certification program for future Five Star Communities. Salmon-Safe team members David Burger, Josh Cerra and Ellen Southard worked closely with the organization to contribute to their new certification point system emphasizing site development and water strategies.

As part of our ongoing efforts to promote this program, our Salmon Safe Outreach Manager, Ellen Southard, has been on the road providing talks and workshops to a wide variety of audiences. These events have included Cascadia Green Building Council's Living Futures Conference in Vancouver, B.C.; Washington Association Of Landscape Architect's Sustainable Site Initiative Summit; Skagit Conservation District Workshops and King County Sustainable Cities Training in June. We were also featured in a segment for New Day Northwest with PCC Markets in February.

Stewardship Partners is proud to be playing a critical role in expanding Salmon-Safe certification and helping protect salmon habitat and other precious Northwest ecosystems.

What's New at Stewardship Partners

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We are excited to announce our new partnership with Ideal Network! The Ideal network connects people with nonprofits and local merchants in a “mindful” marketplace that balances profitability with philanthropy. Like other daily deal sites, the Ideal Network offers generous discounts from your favorite local merchants every day. The difference: get a great deal here, and 25% of your purchase goes to a great cause you care about, Stewardship Partners!

Signing up is a way to make everyday purchases into tangible benefits for our communities. Our current Ideal campaign is helping us move towards our goal of building 12,000 Rain Gardens in Puget Sound by 2016! Please join the efforts and sign up for the Ideal Network today at www.idealnetwork.com.

Welcome Alex Ko, Our new AmeriCorps member!

Alex is our current Program Assistant, providing support and assistance for the Salmon-Safe, Snoqualmie Stewardship, and 12,000 Rain Gardens programs. He is excited to use his knowledge of resource management and sustainable development from his studies, abroad, and on a farm to inform, inspire, and excite citizens throughout the Puget Sound. Alex is a native to the Queen Anne neighborhood of Seattle, and delighted to return to the beautiful northwest. He graduated in 2010 with a degree in Environmental Science and an emphasis on sustainable development from Emory University in Atlanta. In his spare time he enjoys dancing, gardening, Ultimate Frisbee, and other outdoor activities. Here he is pictured with Sal the Salmon, our 9 foot salmon puppet riding the bus.



Stewardship Partners Video

This new Stewardship Partners video by filmmaker Donovan Greene beautifully captures the Salmon-Safe program. The video features leading Salmon-Safe operations from Washington and Oregon: Oxbow Farm, Novelty Hill-Januik Winery, Oregon hop grower Goschie Farms, and Deschutes Brewery, brewer of Green Lakes Organic Ale, the first beer sourced from Salmon-Safe hops. View the video on our websites or our YouTube channel!

Find Us On-line!





Message from the Chair



On Wednesday June 8th I had the great pleasure of flying some of our Nisqually friends and Stewardship Partners funders over the Nisqually Watershed from its mouth at the Nisqually Wildlife Refuge up to our landing at Alder Lake in the shadow of Mount Rainier. On our way up the 30 miles of river we looked down on newly opened estuary lands, the amazing broad prairie inside Fort Lewis which is the largest in the Northwest and on which we could see swaths of purple camas, and finally the restored meanders of Ohop Creek. Aboard DeHavilland Beaver N2502 were Shyla Miller (Boeing), Christina Arnold (The Russell Family Foundation)

and our Nisqually partners David Troutt and Jeanette Dorner of the Nisqually Tribe and Justin Hall of the Nisqually River Foundation. After docking at the Alder Lake Park we were joined by Nisqually Land Trust ED Joe Kane for a land tour. Jeanette showed us completed Ohop Creek meanders and sections remaining to be done, then to Eatonville to see something new to me, “engineered” log jams on the Mashel River as it flows through town.

Mayor Ray Harper of Eatonville proudly explained the importance of these logs in restoring salmon habitat until the day when newly planted streamside trees are old enough to die and topple over into the river and create the same thing in a natural way. With the help of David Hymel and Marilyn Jacobs his Honor then led us past a variety of rain gardens including the town library and a local high school. He hosted the group for lunch in a brand new square wooden building where tourists will see a diorama of Mt. Rainier and environmental projects around the town. The mayor proudly proclaims Eatonville the “rain garden capital” and he’s right in installed capacity compared to population. Our 12,000 Rain Garden Campaign will succeed if a hundred other communities can do half as much as Eatonville in the next five years.

We were very lucky on weather, taking off into a stiff breeze over Renton Airport and threading through clouds and restricted airspace with the help of controllers about 1,000 feet below the ceiling. Our flight down the sound and up the river took an hour, and coming back we flew direct in less than ½ hour and landed in Lake Washington just before visibility went down and serious rain began. It was great fun to see and show others the demonstrable results of what we and our partners are doing!

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IN MEMORIAM RICK BUSE, RAIN GARDEN CHAMPION

Stewardship Partners Newsletter



Tacoma's Meadow Park Golf Course is Salmon-Safe!

Stewardship Partners would like to recognize Meadow Park Golf Course for their efforts to protect water quality and wildlife habitat. As the first golf course to receive Salmon-Safe certification, Meadow Park serves as a model for the rest of the golf community by irrigating efficiently, using natural alternatives to chemicals, promoting biodiversity, controlling erosion, and managing stormwater. Next time you hit the links, swing for salmon at Meadow Park Golf Course.

Left: a lush riparian buffer protects Leach Creek as it meanders through the course. **Top right:** An interdisciplinary team of experts participated in the Salmon-Safe site assessment.