

Clear Creek

# Trail News

A seasonal newsletter for friends and volunteers of the Clear Creek Task Force,  
a project of Great Peninsula Conservancy

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 1

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Find out more about  
Clear Creek Trail  
[www.clearcreektrail.org](http://www.clearcreektrail.org)

Great Peninsula  
Conservancy  
(360) 373-3500



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## Salmon and Students Return to Clear Creek

Nearly 500 elementary students from two dozen Kitsap County classrooms will gather at Clear Creek this March to release salmon fry they have been raising in their classrooms.

At the creek, the students split into four groups to learn about salmon habitat while they plant trees, test water quality, examine stream invertebrates, and release fish.



For more than 20 years these "Salmon in the Classroom" field trips, begun by the Central Kitsap Kiwanis, have been a vibrant, hands-on learning experience for Kitsap County students.

Thanks to support from the Suquamish Tribe, Clear Creek Task Force, Kitsap County Public Works and Stream Team, Kitsap PUD, Kitsap County Health District, City of

Bremerton Public Works Water Resources, and CK Kiwanis, hands-on salmon education continues.

We need your help. A few volunteers are needed to help students plant trees during field trips, March 16 - 26. Most importantly, volunteers will be needed next fall to coordinate next year's program. Contact [clearcreektrail@yahoo.com](mailto:clearcreektrail@yahoo.com) to learn more.

Please make checks payable to:

Great Peninsula Conservancy  
(Clear Creek Task Force)  
P.O. Box 1188  
Silverdale, WA 98383

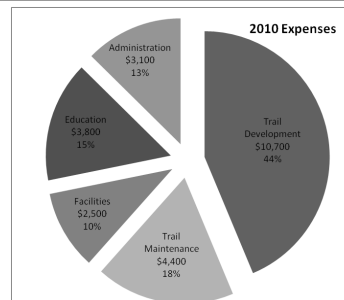
Donations are tax deductible to the extent the law allows.

Thank you!

## 2010 Budget

Trail building will continue in 2010. With the help of a Birkfeld grant, a new bridge will be built in the north valley. Through a partnership with Silverdale Dog Park and with donations from area businesses, we will build a new section of trail near Gateway Park on Earth Day.

While trail development is the lion's share of our budget each



year, every project is tied to a specific source of revenue, in most cases to a grant proposal. If we don't get the money, we don't do the project.

Trail maintenance, the next largest element of our budget, is another story. It must be done. Again this year, the trail will rely on individual contributions and donations from area businesses. To keep Clear Creek's trail, facilities, and educational programs in good working order, we'll need to raise \$14,000.

Able to help reroof a restroom? Please consider giving your time and talent, or making a donation, to help keep Clear Creek Trail a wonderful place to be.

**THANKS!**

**CLEAR CREEK TRAIL HONORS VOLUNTEERS**

Our Tex Lewis Award recognizes groups that have supported and inspired us.



2009's recipient, **Kitsap Mall**, was honored for their work in adopting a section of the trail, and for donating benches and funds to enhance the trail. Yvonne Tomascak, Paige LeJune, Mike Webb, Angie Pommery and Rene Morris accepted the plaque for the mall.



*"The individual and collective efforts of volunteers are the life blood of the Task Force."*  
— Tex Lewis

# Mark your calendars with these Events!

**DISCOVERY PLAY DAYS**  
Saturday, April 17th  
10:00 a.m. - noon

Our season of events begins with an Arbor Day lesson about trees. Young children and their parents are invited to join naturalists at the "Big Red Barn" for stories, activities, and outdoor exploration. (Story, page 3.)

**BEACH SEINING**  
Saturday, May 8th, noon  
Saturday, June 26th, 4 p.m.

Join Paul Dorn, the Suquamish Tribe's Salmon Recovery Coordinator, and the Clear Creek Task Force near the mouth of Clear Creek at Old Mill Park. On June 26th, families from the Kitsap Regional Library's "All About Water" summer reading program will join us for this fun, informative and exciting day at the beach. All types of fish will be netted, identified, measured, inventoried and released. Be prepared to get wet! (Story, Page 3.)

**EARTH DAY**  
Thursday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>  
9:00 a.m. - noon



Volunteers are needed for our 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Earth Day event. We anticipate about 100 of Marie Crumb's CKHS students will participate again this year. With our partners, Silverdale Dog Park, we'll add 600 feet of trail in their site at Silverdale Gateway Park. Thanks to ACE Paving, County Parks, Public Works, Silverdale Water, Taco Bell, and Starbucks among others for their steady support. Working with the students is fun. We need some adult volunteers to help guide the effort.

**UNITED WAY DAY of CARING**  
June 23<sup>rd</sup>

United Way's Day of Caring Volunteer Center connects people with opportunities to serve the community. Throughout Kitsap County, there are hundreds of agencies and organizations that need volunteer help to complete projects that may not otherwise get done.

For the past 6 years, support from Day of Caring volunteers have helped Clear Creek Trail greatly with many of the never-ending jobs of trail maintenance.

Visit our website for a link to sign up for United Way's Day of Caring this May.

**To RSVP or for more info:**  
email [clearcreektrail@yahoo.com](mailto:clearcreektrail@yahoo.com), call 360-613-5500, or visit [clearcreektrail@yahoo.com](http://clearcreektrail@yahoo.com)

## Tex Message



We gathered for our annual "Rethink" in January to review our accomplishments over the last five years and lay out some goals for the next five.

We have been pretty good at getting stuff done! We have added new friends, supporters, and programs; we have lived within our means; and we generally feel we are going in the right direction. We've been blessed with great friends.

Looking ahead, we have some real estate issues to work out to meet long-term goals of expanding the trail.

But, in the area of education we are charging ahead. Working with the Kiwanis, we have picked up the Salmon in the Classroom program and are keeping kids engaged in sustaining the health of Clear Creek. We will need to add new volunteers and friends to support that program.

We set a goal to grow our endowment fund so that it helps maintain the trail in the future.

It has been a good year, and we have a lot on our plate in the future.

For all your help and support, thanks a million.



**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.

# Suquamish Tribe brings back beach seining

Kitsap Regional Summer Reading participants are “making a splash” this year. Water is their focus and the Suquamish Tribe has invited them to get wet! Join the Clear Creek Task

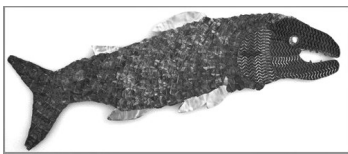


Force and Paul Dorn, the Tribe’s salmon recovery coordinator, for a beach seining at Old Mill Park, Saturday, June 26th at 4 o’clock. We will guide volunteers of all ages as we pull in 100 feet of net and discover all kinds of creatures living in the nearshore habitat at the mouth of Clear Creek.

We will capture, identify, measure, and release our catch. Last year we found staghorned sculpins, starry

flounders, three-spined sticklebacks, Chinook salmon, and 1,600 shiner perch. To volunteer to help, email [clearcreek-trail@yahoo.com](mailto:clearcreek-trail@yahoo.com). Families who want to participate should sign up with Kitsap Regional Library in Silverdale.

For more information about the nearshore study visit: [www.nwifc.org/2007/08/squamish-deep-into-east-kitsap-nearshore-study](http://www.nwifc.org/2007/08/squamish-deep-into-east-kitsap-nearshore-study).



## SPONSOR A SALMON Beginning March 12th

Salmon sponsors decorate both sides of an art board salmon (or create their own salmon-themed work of art), then name it, and donate it to the Salmon Run Art Auction. Salmon art will migrate through Silverdale on its way to Clear Creek, where it is judged and prizes awarded. Winning art is auctioned during our 9th annual Celebrate Clear Creek event. Proceeds benefit development and maintenance of the Clear Creek Trail system.

## Mark your calendars!

Pick up your art board salmon at Old Town Custom Framing, on Lowell Street in Old Town Silverdale, Tuesday–Saturday, 10–4.

Art board salmon are also available during two special events: March 12th at the Silverdale Art Walk in Old Town Silverdale, 6–8 p.m.; and July 25th & 26th at our Whaling Days booth.

Entry forms available online: [www.clearcreektrail.org](http://www.clearcreektrail.org).

**To RSVP or for more info:** email [clearcreektrail@yahoo.com](mailto:clearcreektrail@yahoo.com), call 360-613-5500, or visit [clearcreektrail@yahoo.com](http://clearcreektrail@yahoo.com)

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Help staff our information booth at these events:

**April 27** – Family Night at the Fairgrounds 3:30 – 7:30

**May 2** – Ecofest at Stillwater Environmental Center

**May 29 & 30** – Kitsap Harborfest, Bremerton

**July 24 & 25** – Whaling Days booth and parking lot fundraiser, Silverdale

**July 31 & August 1** – Great Peninsula Future Festival, Kitsap County Fairgrounds

To volunteer email [clearcreektrail@yahoo.com](mailto:clearcreektrail@yahoo.com)

## THANKS!

Our Paul Brittain Award honors outstanding volunteers.



Jim Rodman

Paul Brittain was an admired member of the Silverdale community who, among other things, created the Clear Creek Task Force to help preserve Clear Creek as a place for the community.

This year’s recipient, **Jim Rodman**, was instrumental in securing a Birkenfeld grant to build boardwalk in the Ponds area north of All Star Lanes and a soon-to-be-constructed bridge in the north valley.



## Discovery Play Days — fun for kids at Clear Creek Trail



Saturdays: April 17, May 22  
Tuesdays: June 22, July 13, August 3, August 24  
In “The Big Red Barn”  
10:00 — 12:00

Our popular Discovery Play Days return to Clear Creek Trail this April. Children and their parents will join naturalists in our interpretive center for stories, songs, and crafts at 10:00. Then we head outdoors to explore from 11:00 to noon.

This spring we have two Saturday programs. April 17th we’ll celebrate Arbor Day and learn all about trees. Saturday, May 22nd we’ll go on an “I-Spy” scavenger hunt. Our summer programs begin Tuesday, June 22nd. We’ll look for animal signs on the trail, explore the beach, and so much more. Visit our website for program details and a list of some of our favorite stories: [www.clearcreektrail.org](http://www.clearcreektrail.org).

## Great Peninsula Conservancy

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### Clear Creek Trail News

Mary Zabinski, Editor

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### Clear Creek Task Force

a project of Great Peninsula Conservancy  
360-373-3500; [www.greatpeninsula.org](http://www.greatpeninsula.org)



For more information:

[www.clearcreektrail.org](http://www.clearcreektrail.org)

[clearcreektrail@yahoo.com](mailto:clearcreektrail@yahoo.com)

360-613-5500

## It's My Trail... I support it!



**It's My Trail...** 50 community volunteers came together for a Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service at Clear Creek Trail, January 18th. Together we wacked back blackberry, repaired benches, and cleaned up the trail.

Afterward we gathered together for hot soup and trail talk inside a warm interpretive center. Many thanks to all who came out to lend a hand.

**It's My Trail...** Teletech has adopted the north valley section of Clear Creek Trail. Silverdale Rotary has adopted the trail near Harrison Hospital. As trail adopters they maintain a 1/4 mile section of trail: picking up trash, cutting back brush, removing leaves, trimming grass, and reporting damage. Thanks a million.

**It's My Trail...** Webelo, cub, and tiger scouts from pack 4552 raked the gardens and cleaned up the woods around our interpretive center in January.

**It's My Trail...** Silverdale Dog Park volunteers hosted workdays in February and March to prepare a site for new trail. New trail will be laid during our Earth Day Work Party. (Story, page 2)

**Clear Creek Trail** was built by volunteers in 1993 on GPC property in Silverdale and continues to be developed and maintained by a small group of volunteers. Organizations can help by adopting sections of the trail. Individuals are also welcome.

*"Normally maintenance does not require heavy effort, but does need constant attention," said Tex Lewis, one of the trail founders. "We are always looking for groups to maintain sections of trail, and anyone who would like to help with routine maintenance should give us a call. We would like to expand our 'skilled' maintenance crew."*

For information about adopting part of the trail, contact the Clear Creek Trail at [www.clearcreektrail.org](http://www.clearcreektrail.org) or (360) 613-5500.



Donations to Clear Creek Trail can be made through Great Peninsula Conservancy, 360-373-3500.