

WHIDBEY WATERSHED STEWARDS

formerly
Maxwelton Salmon Adventure

Connecting water, land, wildlife and people

Volume 9, Number 2

Fall 2006

New Culvert Improves Flow of Quade Creek

A section of the major tributary to Maxwelton Creek is flowing more freely thanks to a large new culvert installed on private property this summer.

With a \$40,000 grant from the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation and Salmon Recovery Funding Board, Whidbey Watershed Stewards joined forces with the Adopt-A-Stream Foundation (AASF), Whidbey Island Conservation District and the Stilly-Snohomish Task Force to carry out the project on upper Quade Creek.

Quade Creek flows year-round from its spring-fed headwaters, about three miles upstream from the work site, down to its merge below French Road with mainstem Maxwelton Creek, and then on to Puget Sound. It's a healthy stream with great flows.

But at Margaret Delp and Evan Callahan's property on Quade Road, it



Quade Creek flows freely through a large new culvert recently installed in a collaborative project involving Whidbey Watershed Stewards and other conservation groups.

ran through an old, restricting culvert under an access road.

Before the old concrete culvert was removed, this portion of the stream was put into a bypass pipe. AASF trapped 25 cutthroat trout and relocated them downstream. After installation, the stream was returned to its original route through the new culvert.

"I was amazed at the enormity of the new pipe," said property owner Evan Callahan. "And our kids had a great

time seeing all the fish in our stream."

"When we do this kind of project, we make sure that the stream will be able to establish a natural state of equilibrium," says AASF senior ecologist Tom Hardy.

"Here, we also get the reward of eventually opening up to three miles of pristine salmon and trout spawning and rearing habitat."

Replanting is next: Turn to page 6 to learn how to volunteer.



The new culvert is 8 feet wide x 20 feet long. The original concrete pipe was only 16 inches wide and 6 feet long.

Mark Your Calendars

See inside for more information on these activities

- **Maxwelton Watershed Tour:** Through SW Parks & Rec, Sept. 23, 9:30 a.m.-noon. (360-221-5484, swparks@whidbey.com)
- **Outdoor Classroom:** Volunteer training, Sept. 27, 9 a.m.-noon
- **Bill Ruckelshaus talk:** Sept. 28, 7:30 p.m., The Whidbey Institute
- **Whidbey Island Farm Tour:** Oct. 7, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Free (whidbeyfarmtour.com)
- **Quade Creek plantings:** Saturdays, Oct. 7, 14, 21, 28; Nov. 4, 11, 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m.
- **Healthy Backyards class:** Through SW Parks & Rec, Nov. 2, 7 p.m.
- **Whidbey 101:** WSU Extension Service, Oct. 30, 7 p.m. on South Whidbey
- **Bayview Giving Tree:** December at Bayview Corner

We're Official!

Our change of name to Whidbey Watershed Stewards has been approved by the State of Washington and the IRS, continuing the tax-exempt status we enjoyed as Chums of the Maxwelton Salmon Adventure.

We also have a new logo, designed by Christine Nyburg of CK Websites. (An early version of it is used on this newsletter.) Our new website is www.whidbeywatersheds.org.

There are some Board and staff changes as well. John Hastings has left the Board in order to function solely as our restoration project manager.

John first got involved

with MSA when his daughter Emmy was in Rene Neff's fourth-grade class – and she's now a senior in college! We look forward to a continued association with John on restoration projects.

The change in John's status became necessary when watershed coordinator Scott Pascoe resigned to take a new job with Pacific Ecological Institute. Our gratitude goes to Scott for the contributions he made to the organization – we wish him well!

We are happy to welcome Amanda Moeser to our organization as an AmeriCorps worker for the next 10 months. We'll share Amanda with WSU Extension Service and the South Whidbey



Our new AmeriCorps worker, Amanda Moeser, feeds seals at Delaware's Brandywine Zoo. Amanda assures us those aren't salmon she's using for food.

School District's Learning & Community Engagement Program.

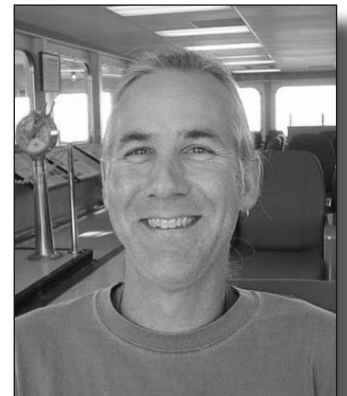
Amanda grew up in Wisconsin but comes to us from Delaware where she worked for State Parks as an environmental educator and volunteer coordinator.

She will do more of the same for us, coordinating volunteers for the planting projects and teaching at the Outdoor Classroom. Our thanks to Susie Richards at LACEP for organizing this new collaboration!

We also give thanks for Ann Linnea's service as Education Coordinator. Ann is now devoting full time to her personal business, PeerSpirit, Inc., and her writing. She will remain an active supporter (on our Advisory Council) and volunteer.

In fact, Ann will assist with a Maxwelton Watershed Tour on Sept. 23 offered through South Whidbey Parks & Recreation. (See

their Activities Guide at www.swparks.org to sign up.)



Davide Kane is a new board member.

We're collaborating with other organizations too. Our association with Friends of Glendale Creek (the only other salmon-bearing creek on Whidbey Island) led to Glendale landowner Davide Kane joining our Board.

Davide and his wife Cherrie are both Beach Watchers; Davide was a great help with our last two smolt counts and our planting projects. Welcome Davide!

Teaching Assistants Wanted!

Fall season at the Outdoor Classroom is ready to go: The teachers are preparing, the students are eager, the curriculum is in place. Now we just need a few more of YOU to help us out.

The elementary grade classes rely on volunteer teaching assistants to work with lead teacher Nancy Scoles and assistant Jeanie McElwain, Tuesday through Friday from Sept. 28 through Oct. 27. Volunteer training will be held Sept. 27 from 9 a.m. to noon. This fall the lessons are about the anatomy and adaptations of salmon, and their incredible journey upstream. We'll train you in the specifics and ask a small commitment of time in return.

We had a very good spring at the Outdoor Classroom, holding 24 teaching sessions, with an outstanding set of volunteers. There is a "tried and true" group of assistant teachers who love coming to the Outdoor Classroom and continue to see value in their experience.

Service-learning opportunities with older students are also available. Help them learn about ecology and watersheds as they do projects to improve our local environment. .

If you can help out, please call us at 360-579-1272 or e-mail education@whidbeywatersheds.org.

Thank you!

Whidbey Watershed Stewards Events of Note

Save this page as a reminder of tours, classes and holiday suggestions

Take a **Maxwelton Watershed Tour** on Saturday, Sept. 23 with Whidbey Watershed Stewards and South Whidbey Parks & Recreation!

We'll visit many historic sites by van, including the first schoolhouse, the community hall and the 1904 Feek Mansion, plus take a few short walks on public trails while learning more about how the watershed functions.

The tour is from 9:30



South Whidbey's first schoolhouse will be one of the sites on the Maxwelton Watershed Tour Saturday, Sept. 23.

a.m. to noon and begins at the Community Park. There is a \$2 fee to pay for the

van. Sign up through Parks & Rec, 360-221-5484 or swparks@whidbey.org.

William (Bill) Ruckelshaus visits Whidbey Island Thursday, Sept. 28 for an important lecture on "Climate Change, Water and the Choices Ahead."

Ruckelshaus is co-chair of the Puget Sound Partnership and chair of Washington's Salmon Recovery Funding Board.

Whidbey Watershed Stewards is a co-sponsor of this event, to be held at 7:30 p.m. in Thomas Berry Hall at the Whidbey Institute in Clinton. Admission is \$5 at the door. For more information, visit www.whidbeyinstitute.org.

Whidbey Watershed Stewards is proud to be a co-sponsor of the first **Whidbey Island Farm Tour** on Saturday, Oct. 7 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

With 17 participating farms, you can experience a wide variety of locally grown food and products from both land and sea.

You'll also learn the benefits of local agriculture for health, wellness and the economic strength of Whidbey Island.

Be sure to visit Quail's

Run Farm in the Maxwelton Watershed, Paradise Found Fiber

Farm in Glendale Watershed and Whoamule Farm in Cultus Bay Watershed.

Eat out — many local restaurants will showcase Whidbey's farm products with special menu items that Saturday.

For the free tour brochure and map, visit www.whidbey-farmtour.com.



New to Whidbey Island?

Need help knowing about how things work here? What resources are available?

Take **Whidbey 101**, a workshop offered by WSU Extension Service programs such as Waste Wise and Beach Watchers.

The free event includes information booths about many aspects of island living, including emergency preparedness, septic systems, wells, community events and festivals.

Participants will learn about small farming on the island, where and how to recycle, alternative transportation, parks, public beaches, gardening on the island, preserving our open spaces and more.

The next one on the South End will be Monday, Oct. 30

at 7 p.m. Whidbey Watershed Stewards will participate along with several other groups.

Learn more and sign up through www.island.wsu.edu or 360-679-7327.

If you miss that one, Whidbey Watershed Stewards and friends will offer a class on how to keep the water and land of South Whidbey and Puget Sound safe for wildlife and people by preventing non-point pollution.

It's called "**Healthy Backyards**" and will be held at South Whidbey Intermediate School on Thursday, Nov. 2, from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

You'll learn techniques to apply at home, work, school and play. Sign up through South Whidbey Parks & Recreation District, 360-221-5484 or swparks@whidbey.org.



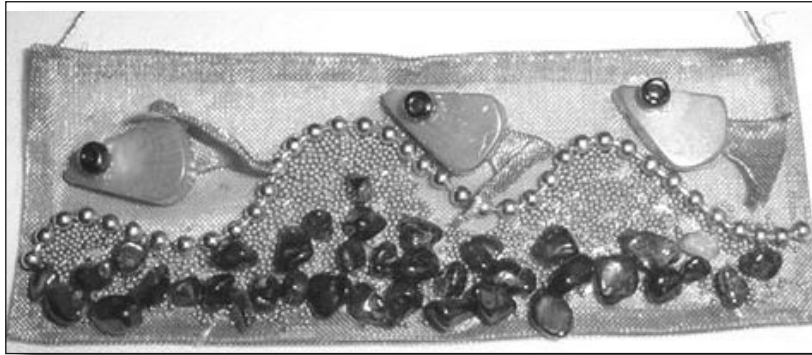
Paradise Found Fiber Farm in the Glendale Watershed will be one of the participants on the Whidbey Island Farm Tour October 7.

Holiday List

New Tree Ornament designed for Whidbey Watershed Stewards

A Holiday Ornament from Whidbey Watershed Stewards will once again hang on the Goosefoot Holiday Giving Trees at Bayview Corner and Neil's Clover Patch.

A new original design from Diane Kaufman will feature "salmon" swimming in a "stream" – a great companion piece to last year's version.



The 2005 holiday ornament from Maxwellton Salmon Adventure was part of the Goosefoot Giving Trees at Bayview Corner and Neil's Clover Patch restaurant. This year a newly designed ornament will be offered by Whidbey Watershed Stewards.

Buying one of our ornaments and to remind friends to keep our watersheds healthy! is a great way to support us

The new **Water's Edge Field guide** will be available this holiday season at Island bookstores and the Admiralty Head Lighthouse gift shop for about \$15 or by mail-order for \$18 (including postage and handling) from <http://beach-watchers.wsu.edu/island>.

The full-color, spiral-bound book, about three times the size of the original 1994 publication, is a joint project of Island County Marine Resources Committee and Washington State University Beach Watchers.

It describes 67 public shoreline access sites on Whidbey and Camano and contains 18 trail maps. It's packed with entertaining and informative content including write-ups about Maxwellton Beach, Maxwellton Creek and the historic Chautauqua.

Watershed Friends Share a Salmon Enchanted Evening

Steve Raymond, left, reads from his latest fly fishing book to an appreciative crowd at our Salmon Enchanted Evening fundraiser. Below, Candace Jordan tries her hand at casting with support from Carla and John Stroh.



Human Ecology Students Assess Habitat

Whidbey hosts college classes in learning project

In all projects our organization undertakes, we seek to integrate education with watershed improvement.

A new partnership with the Service Learning Program at Edmonds Community College brought students to Whidbey this summer for habitat assessments at three different Quade Creek sites.

In late spring, EdCC students helped clear blackberries and do preliminary plantings at the Quade restoration site. Then, in August, the members of the human ecology class in the Anthropology Department, who are also part of the AmeriCorps program, came for three days of intensive learning and practice doing “transects” and “quadrants” along the Quade.

Two of the sites were current or potential restoration projects; the third was a “reference” site at the Quade headwaters at the Whidbey Institute.

The students catalogued vegetation types and canopy cover at all three sites and



measured dissolved oxygen, temperature and stream flow.

The class also learned from Whidbey Watershed Stewards and guest speakers about the history and significance of the Maxwellton Watershed and the role of salmon recovery in Island County. A panel of local farmers and Conservation District staff met with the students to talk about rural agriculture.

“You have helped significantly enhance the learning experiences of the students,” said Dr. Thomas W. Murphy, Anthropology Dept. chair. “I especially appreciated the efforts you put into organizing a panel of landowners and some expert speakers for the students. It really helped bring out the human side of ecological restoration.”

College students record the percentage of canopy cover at a Quade Creek restoration site.

Dry Creeks Should Not Affect Salmon Run

Visitors to the Outdoor Classroom in August noticed that Maxwellton Creek there is dry, and wondered how this will affect the Coho salmon and cutthroat trout in the creek.

While some young salmon are no doubt lost, experts assure us that most fish swim upstream to higher water early enough to survive.

Obviously, the recent drought conditions contribute to the creek drying up. Some people worry about upstream beaver activity, but stable beaver dams let enough water through to maintain the creek at a low level. That was the case last year, and this summer as late as Aug. 3.

But when a dam is disturbed, the beavers redouble their efforts, and that can temporarily halt the flow. It's very important to leave the dams alone.

By the time salmon are ready to come back up the stream to spawn, there will be plenty of water. Our salmon return is historically late in the year, usually after Nov. 4 and sometimes at late as Dec. 5. It depends on the timing of heavy rains and the tides.

This year the return should be facilitated by repair of the tidegates at Maxwellton Beach to a more fish-friendly operation. Thanks to the Conservation District and Diking District #2 for making this change!



Larry Daloz meets with students at the Whidbey Institute headwaters.

Our Quade restoration contract also calls for post-culvert replacement assessment at the Quade Creek site. The Edmonds students' work helped us refine the protocols to be used for that and for future projects, possibly with local students.

We plan to continue to offer service-learning experiences to students, both individually and in class settings.

Yes! I/We want to support Whidbey Watershed Stewards with a tax-deductible contribution.

My/Our check is enclosed

I/We will make our contribution by credit card online at www.salmonadventure.org

I/We can also volunteer for _____

Name _____

Address, City, State, Zip _____

Phone/E-Mail _____

Whidbey Watershed Stewards • P.O. Box 617 • Langley, WA 98260 • 360-579-1272

Time to Re-Plant at Quade Creek

Now that the Quade Creek culvert is in, native plants need to be re-established around the site to shade the creek and attract and provide habitat for wildlife. We'll need a lot of hands on deck to get it done!

You can help by participating in our volunteer planting dates:

Saturdays

9:30 a.m. — 2 p.m.

October 7, 14, 21, 28

November 4 and 11

It's not heavy labor – placing cardboard, planting and mulching are the main tasks. We provide all equipment. Young people old enough to help are welcome. Wear sturdy shoes or boots,



Chris Hoffman Hill and Erin Imes plant trees at last year's restoration site.

bring gloves if you want them, and rain gear if needed.

We'll also provide snacks and good company. Bring a lunch if you want something more substantial.

Meet at the Outdoor Classroom by 9:30 a.m. to carpool to the site where parking is limited. We can get you back to the parking lot early if you have time constraints. If you arrive late, directions will be posted at the parking lot kiosk.

Please let us know ahead of time which Saturday you plan to attend; it helps us plan our equipment and carpools.

Call 360-579-1272 or email info@whidbeywatersheds.org to sign up. Thank you!

Privacy Note at the Outdoor Classroom: Please respect the privacy of our next-door neighbors on French Road when using the trails and facility. Their driveway is to be used only for emergency and loading purposes; it is not the general access or exit point for the trails, even on foot. Thank you!

Whidbey Watershed Stewards

Board of Directors: Linda Ade Ridder, president; Candace Jordan, secretary/treasurer; Davide Kane, Felix Kristanovich, Gregg Ridder

Staff: Jeanne Celeste, bookkeeper; John Hastings, project manager; Jeanie McElwain, Outdoor Classroom teacher; Amanda Moeser, volunteer coordinator; Nancy Scoles, Outdoor Classroom lead educator; Nancy Waddell, administrator

Advisory Committee/Key Volunteers: Robert Barnes, June Fitzpatrick, Marge Maurer Gemkow, Greg Gilles, Janet Hall, Anne Hayden, Jan Holbrook, Diane Kaufman, Ann Linnea, Nicole Luce, Jeanie McElwain, Rene Neff, Yvonne Palka, Michele Sakaguchi, Nat Scholz, Mary Jo Sievers

Whidbey Watershed Stewards promotes the integrity of our watersheds and nearshore for the mutual benefit of people, their sense of place, and the Puget Sound environment. We engage the Island County community to conserve and restore watersheds. We educate people of all ages to be good stewards of the land.

Whidbey Watershed Stewards Newsletter

Mail: P.O. Box 617, Langley, WA 98260

Phone: 360-579-1272 (voice message)

Email: info@whidbeywatersheds.org

Website: www.whidbeywatersheds.org

Prefer to get this newsletter via email? Send your email address to info@whidbeywatersheds.org and we'll save paper!

Look inside for this fall's events!



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