

## BEACH NATURALIST EXPLAINS UNDERSEA WONDERS

By Kim Petram

Saturday, June 14, proved to be a lovely day for a beach walk. The sun was shining, the air was crisp, and beach combers were ready for an undersea adventure. The Fautleroy Community Association sponsored our first **low - tide beach walk and picnic**, taking advantage of the lowest tide of the year at minus 3.8. We were lucky to have beach naturalist, Denise Chanez from King County assist with identifying beach and sea life and educating the group about beach preservation.

**People for Puget Sound** (see box below) and **FCA** provided pamphlets and beach guides. Our shelter at Lincoln Park was busy with people perusing the assortment of informative literature.



Children and adults alike enjoy the bright sunshine and the undersea world seen only at the lowest tides



Naturalist Denise Chanez explains the complexities of a sea star to an interested audience

A brisk fire in the fireplace warmed participants as they picnicked in the shelter after a morning of sea life observation and identification.

Event coordinators, Kim Petram, Sheila Weaver and Gordon Wiehler planned and promoted the event, readied the site, and were on hand to assist throughout the day. Beachcombers who attended seemed to be equally split between those who happened to be strolling by and those who came specifically for the beachwalk. Everyone seemed to have a good time and plenty of enthusiasm for another day of community beachcombing.

**People for Puget Sound** works with volunteers who live on the beach as well as upstream neighbors who wish to learn more about geology, ecology, marine life and the impacts of living near the shoreline. West Seattle needs a "Pod Leader". For information on the Shoreline Stewardship Program or pod leadership, check out [www.pugetsound.org/shoreline](http://www.pugetsound.org/shoreline) or contact Anne Dalrymple by phone at 206 382-7007

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# MONITORING TALLIES FISH LEAVING CREEK

By Tom Linde

How many coho salmon does Fauntleroy Creek nurture?

Until this spring, the only clue was how many adults returned to spawn – a helpful but inexact number.

A more reliable way to answer the question is to trap juvenile fish as they leave the creek for saltwater. The city staffed traps in only two creeks this spring but Fauntleroy participated through volunteers.

With advice from Seattle Public Utilities, Steev Ward and I built, installed, and monitored a trap in the fish ladder that gently caught everything leaving the creek over a 12-week period, starting April 2. We waded in twice a day to count, measure, and release what was there and this is our tally:

- 37 smolts – 4" to 6" fish that had survived in the creek just over a year.
- 84 dead fry – small fish too weak to survive.
- 637 live fry.

Oh, and one salamander!

This being our first year of monitoring, about 100 of the live fry came through before we started measuring. Of those we measured,

- 227 were under 2" long. They were fish hatched or released this spring that weren't strong enough to resist being washed out by the current.
- 310 were bigger – some as long as 3". These may have also been this spring's fish but ones that grew quickly by eating their comrades.

What can we infer from this data? Not much yet but they raise more questions: Why did so many fry go out early? Why do we seem to get more spawners returning than smolts leaving? Could anything be done to improve the survival rate?

By monitoring out-migration year after year, we'll see an increasingly clearer picture emerge to guide decisions affecting this habitat and maybe other urban creeks as well.

# 'MOREY'S BENCH' BECOMES A BOOK

By Judy Pickens

The stories told by community elder Morey Skaret as a regular feature of this newsletter have grown into a book.

*Morey's Bench: Stories from the Life and Times of Morest L. Skaret* saw the light of day on his 90th birthday, August 2. It presents 43 stories ranging from his childhood on a Canadian homestead and coming of age in West Seattle during the Great Depression to dual careers in law enforcement and the Coast Guard and community life in Fauntleroy.

"As many people in the neighborhood know, Morey is an excellent storyteller," said Judy Pickens. "What

drew me to compile and edit this book with Morey was his ability to use stories to illuminate history in a very down-to-earth way."

The FCA Board honored Morey with a book-signing reception on August 6, complete with a proclamation by the mayor.

Thanks to owner Bernie Alonzo, The Original Bakery has copies of the 130-page illustrated paperback for sale (\$15) in the neighborhood. The book is also available at Square 1 Books in Jefferson Square and the Log House Museum in Alki.

# LOGS TO GIVE MOTHER NATURE A HAND

By Judy Pickens

Logging trucks are returning to Fauntleroy but, unlike many decades ago, they're bringing logs, not taking them away.

The arrival of 20-foot logs at the S.W. Barton Street entrance to Fauntleroy Park will begin the installation phase of a major project to reduce erosion into Fauntleroy Creek and improve instream habitat.

Initiated by the Fauntleroy Watershed Action Plan, the project will invest \$80,000 in city drainage revenue and a \$20,000 grant from NOAA Fisheries to add large woody debris to the creek in Fauntleroy and Kilbourne parks, modify selected trail crossings to reduce erosion, and add native plants to redirect public access.

## LOGS (continued)

"Large woody debris occurs naturally when trees fall into a creek," explained Chris Woelfel, project manager for Seattle Public Utilities. "It's Mother Nature's way of trapping sediment and slowing the water into pools that make great habitat. Because of Fauntleroy's steep slopes, fallen trees tend to bridge the channel rather than settle in to do their job."

The project calls for the criss-cross placement of some 180 logs in 2,200 linear feet of channel. The mixed-species cull logs used for such work range

from 6" to 12" in diameter.

The lion's share of the work will be done this summer and the remainder next. Young adults with EarthCorps, an international environmental training program, will do the heavy lifting and placement, all by hand. SPU staff and volunteers will monitor silt levels in the creek to document results over time.

For more information call Chris Woelfel at Seattle Public Utilities (206 684 7599).

## 2003 FAUNTLEROY FALL FESTIVAL

OCTOBER 19, 3-7 PM

*COME ONE, COME ALL*

It's not too early to volunteer to assist with this very popular event. We need help with the planning and lots of hands to decorate, set up, and then clean up on the day of the Festival.

The Festival cannot happen without your involvement. Plan to help, then join in the fun.

■ Crafts ■ Games ■ Story Telling ■ Pumpkin Painting ■ Evening Barbeque ■ Dance

Call Deb Kerns (206) 937-6709 or Marty Westerman (206) 938-3847 to volunteer.

## WASHINGTON STATE PASSENGER FERRY UPDATE

By Gary Dawson

Washington State Ferries passenger-only service between Seattle and Vashon Island has been funded by the Legislature for another two years. For budgetary reasons WSF had planned to eliminate all passenger-only service effective in June.

Earlier this year, while CEO Michael Thorne, WSF was preparing to present his plan at public meetings, the ferry advisory committees were organizing a community response.

His well-prepared presentations detailed the financial crisis requiring cuts in service, and commuters responded with equally challenging reasons for continuing the service.

The Vashon, Southworth, and Fauntleroy ferry advisory committees invited 34th District Representatives and King County Councilman Dow Constantine all expressed strong support for continuation of the service.

Eliminating passenger-only service from Vashon would impact commuters, as well as increase vehicle traffic through West Seattle.

A special thanks goes to Eric Poulsen, Eileen

Cody, and Joe McDermott, all from the 34th district, as well as Dow Constantine for helping persuade the Legislature to provide additional funding during this session.

This has been a good example of communities organizing for a common need and working towards a beneficial outcome. South Sound ferry advisory committee's members have been meeting with WSF Operations and Scheduling to study the possibility of providing direct auto ferry service from Southworth to downtown Seattle. Although there is much support from Southworth commuters to have a one-boat service during peak periods, it is unlikely at this time because a vessel isn't available. Also a round trip to Seattle from Southworth would mean a gap in service that may be unacceptable to other commuters.

The South Sound Ferry Advisory Committee public meeting originally scheduled for August 12 at the Fauntleroy Church has been postponed until October. Time and location to be announced. For more information check [www.faultleroy.net](http://www.faultleroy.net).

# PROGRESS ON OUR TRAFFIC CONCERNS

By Phil Sweetland.

Progress has been made because of our work with the City and ferry system on traffic concerns in our neighborhood. Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) and Washington State Ferries (WSF) have improved signage and striping of the ferry queue. Additional sign clarification is to come and a 30-mph sign has been added near SW Kenyon Place.

Steering committee members met July 8 with Trevor Partap, SDOT engineer for arterials, Mike Anderson, WSF Director of Operations and Officer Robert Belshay with the Seattle Police Department. We used Trevor's review of our document (see [www.faultleroy.net](http://www.faultleroy.net)) to address issues. Here's a summary of the key concerns:

- **Police traffic enforcement:** This has increased and we are awaiting feed-back from division representatives.
- **Faultleroy Way:** Some fine-tuning of ferry queue signage remains. Studies will continue about a pedestrian light at Othello and a light for the users of the wading pool and playfields.
- **45th south of Wildwood:** Further work is needed to keep foliage trimmed near Roxbury. We asked for a rough cost number to install sidewalks south of Roxbury and just south of Brace Point Dr. We will have continuing discussions on how to slow



traffic on 45th. Trevor will request the "speed watch" trailer to gather information and will explore criteria for a crosswalk at Brace Point

- **Business Triangle:** SDOT is ready to try a period of making Brace Point Dr. one way between 45th and Wildwood. This change should eliminate the danger at the intersection of Wildwood and Brace Point Dr., as well as provide diagonal parking on the north side of Brace Point, thus increasing parking in the area. Phil Polizzato will collect signatures from adjacent residents and businesses before SDOT can proceed.
  - **Area north of Wildwood:** Trevor encouraged us to get involved in a neighborhood speed watch program for these non-arterial streets. We were disappointed that the City is not repainting crosswalks on non-arterial streets. He suggested that we work with SDOT to develop a circulation plan for the neighborhood to find how traffic could be controlled. With the budget cuts, reinstalling the traffic circle at 45th and Trenton could be difficult, he said.
  - **47<sup>th</sup> Ave:** SDOT supports the effort to install speed bumps and design work is in progress. Additionally, extension of the curb bulb at Brace Point Dr. is a possibility.
  - **Director at Barton:** Redefining the "Do Not Enter" portal is difficult because of the entrance requirements for fire equipment. We will continue to pursue this concern.
- We will review progress at a general FCA meeting later in the year.

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## HELP WANTED: GARDENING ANGELS FOR COVE PARK

- JOB DESCRIPTION:** A bit of trimming, weeding, sweeping, pressure cleaning, art maintenance, etc.  
**WHEN:** Two or three times a year for about three hours each time;  
**WHERE:** Faultleroy Cove Park  
**COMPENSATION:** Free aerobic workout, a chance to meet new neighbors, chat with delightful companions, snacks (maybe even lunch!)

The beautiful park beside the ferry dock, is a thriving example of a community's getting together and adding a wonderful jewel to a neighborhood. The planning began in 1996 and was dedicated three years ago. What was once a bit of urban blight is now a lovely spot of native plants and fine artwork. The plants are thriving but still need a bit of care every so often and the artwork must be maintained.

Ann Dawson, a park neighbor, has offered to form a committee of volunteers willing to help out on an occasional basis. Besides an initial planning session, she thinks the maintenance will take about three work parties a year: a spring clean up, a summer tune up, and a final one to put the park to bed for the winter.

The park has had a devoted crew of helpers who have done a wonderful job but the group should be larger so the workload is less for everyone. Ann is hoping to expand the list to at least 30+ volunteers. Even if only half the volunteers can come to work, the work will be done quickly. If you could help even a couple of times a year, please call Ann at 206 937-7265 or email her at [garyann@quidnunc.net](mailto:garyann@quidnunc.net).

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S NOTEPAD

# VOLUNTEERS HELP MAKE FAUNTLEROY GREAT

By President Bruce Butterfield

Spring and early summer has been an active time for the Fauntleroy Community Association.

We had a fun and flavorful spring Membership Meeting. MANY thanks go to our hosts, **Tuxedos and Tennis Shoes Catering at the Hall at Fauntleroy**. The old Fauntleroy School is a major hub in the neighborhood. David Haggerty and David Meckstroth donated The Hall and wonderful food. Our "Think Globally, Eat Locally" theme also included tasty samplings from **The Original Bakery, Guadalajara Mexican Restaurant, On-Safari Foods on 35th** and **Endolyne Joe's**. We thank them for participating in the neighborhood and hope you will support them.

Our winter-long efforts working with city and state officials to calm traffic impact and hazards in our area is paying off. The traffic committee is pressing for improvements and safety measures and some are in the works. Concerns are speeding cars, motorists not watching for pedestrians and overall driver behavior. That is difficult to enforce unless we find cops to sit by every crossing, intersection and side street. We can help ourselves by not rushing through residential streets and being as friendly in our cars as we are on foot. Fauntleroy is blessed with a mature population and growing numbers of small children. I

think we all agree they deserve safe streets. Contact Phil Sweetland or any board member to get involved in our traffic improvement efforts or for more information.

It is time for me to ask you to join the FCA if you are not yet a member. The dues are low, just \$10 per year for individuals, \$20 per year for couples, families and businesses. Your dues support production of this newsletter.



Becoming involved in your neighborhood will help you meet neighbors and contribute to keeping Fauntleroy a great place to live. Right now, we need volunteers to help us with Cove Park maintenance and the Fauntleroy Fall Festival. A little time from many of us makes the synergy happen that brings results fast. Our little park provides great access to the water. Last year's Festival brought hundreds of neighbors together to enjoy food, children's games, music and dancing. This year Festival planners have a few specific needs to help make this event a success. Call Deb Kerns (937 6709), Marty Westerman (938 3847) or any board member for more information.

I recently heard someone say, "You know, Fauntleroy is the *greatest* place to live." They are right. Thanks for making it happen.

## WHO'S WHO IN YOUR COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

BOARD MEMBER	POSITION	PHONE	E-MAIL	
Butterfield, Bruce	President	206-932-2400	Bruce@BruceButterfield.com	The FCA Board meets on the <b>second Tuesday</b> of the month in the conference room at the Fauntleroy schoolhouse, starting at <b>7 PM</b> . Any FCA member is welcome to attend. FCA's mailing address is <b>P.O. Box 46343, Seattle 98146-6343</b> . Web address is <b>www.fauntleroy.net</b>  Contact Newsletter Editor, Martha Callard, by email at <b>news@fauntleroy.net</b>
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# COASTAL LIVING: 12 Simple Steps to Protect Your Shoreline Property

- ★ Keep your property well vegetated. Native trees and plants hold soil in place on slopes, filter pollutants and provide wildlife habitat.
- ★ Protect your property by building and locating structures the maximum distance possible from the high water mark.
- ★ Accept that some erosion is natural along bluffs in order to nourish beaches, and plan accordingly with adequate setbacks.
- ★ Consult an expert for ways to "soften" your shoreline. Hard shorewalls disrupt natural processes and may cause erosion elsewhere. Bulkheads also destroy important fish and wildlife habitat.
- ★ Minimize erosion by managing upland runoff; use natural ground covers and porous materials so that runoff can be absorbed and filtered naturally.
- ★ Check regularly for non-native invasive plants and report their occurrence to the appropriate authority.
- ★ Pump out your septic tank regularly every two years for a field system. Site drain fields as far as possible from the shoreline.
- ★ Use environmentally friendly alternatives to toxic chemicals and pesticides; maintain your equipment to prevent leaks and spills.
- ★ Give clear instructions to your contractors and monitor their work.
- ★ Use public marinas or shared boat facilities when possible. Private boat docks can shade valuable fish habitat; wood preservatives present in some building materials can be a source of pollution.
- ★ Share beach access with neighbors where possible, to limit structures and walkways in sensitive areas.
- ★ Prevent pets from harassing wildlife and dispose of pet waste properly.

*Note: Always check local regulations before building, or when making changes to your shoreline, including the removal of invasive plants.* ©2003 The Living By Water Project and People For Puget Sound

## SALMON WATCH 2003

Organizing will begin soon to monitor coho spawners returning to Fautleroy Creek starting in late October. For details about participation in Salmon Watch 2003, contact Sherry Richardson at 935-8991 or [rasr@comcast.net](mailto:rasr@comcast.net)

Address Service Requested

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