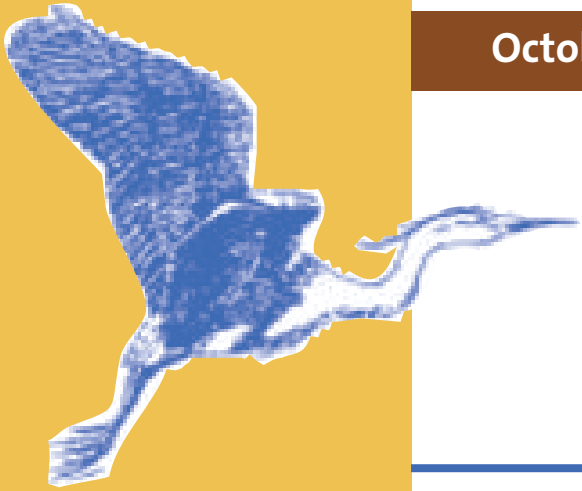


October 2009



Heron Habitat Helpers' **HERALD**

P.O. Box 99815, Seattle, WA 98139-0815

Heron Report

by Pam Cahn, Heron Monitor

The Kiwanis Ravine heron season concluded this year at the end of August, when the last late nest finally fledged one young. The colony grew to an estimated 80 nests over the season, with late nests starting in April and May. Multiple nesting attempts were observed on some nests, as first eggs were destroyed by either crows or eagles and later, nestlings were killed by eagles. Many nests were not visible again this season once the trees leafed out. Out of the visible sample of nests, at least 35 young herons survived to fledge. The two heroncams provided a great look into several nests within the colony throughout the season. Crow and eagle attacks and multiple nesting attempts could be observed on some of these nests. All the nests visible on the heroncams eventually failed, mostly due to eagle depredations.



Spot the spawners in the Lake Washington/ Cedar/ Sammamish Watershed this fall!

Fall is here, and salmon are once again returning to streams and rivers around the Puget Sound. Watch for these natural beauties at the viewing sites around the watershed as they make their seasonal journey!

For more information:
www.govlink.org/watersheds/8/action/salmon-season/default.aspx

Condo Association To Help Kiwanis Restoration

The Blue Heron Condo Association will assist Kiwanis restoration, according to a staffer of Seattle's Department of Planning and Development. Last Spring, an unknown party topped cedar trees planted on park managed property behind the condo building. HHH's "Watchdog" team reported the incident to DPD, resulting in action by a City attorney and DPD's housing and zoning inspection department. When informed about the incident, the condo association volunteered to assist as a good neighbor gesture. HHH is delighted to hear about this assistance!

The condo association has tentative plans to replace the topped trees in October, when the rains return. It also is attempting to get a faucet installed in the back of the building so that it can assist in watering the trees next summer. The Blue Heron condo building is located at 3150 West Government Way.

Do Volunteers have fun?

Heron Habitat Helpers volunteers work hard to help the herons. But do they ever have fun? Well, put together a warm sunny afternoon in August with a beautiful backyard abutting the heronry, a glass of wine and volunteers and friends; and what do you get? Fun! We had lots of fun at our summer fundraising party on August 2nd at Christine and Perry Atkin's home.

Paul Bannick, author of *The Owl and the Woodpecker*, gave a wonderful talk about the ecosystem of the heronry. He timed the ending of his presentation perfectly with a baby heron squawking for more food. It was a perfect afternoon! And we raised \$2,340.00. What do you think, does that sound like fun?

Herons Forever Work Party at the Black River Riparian Forest in Renton

by Hooper Havekotte

Saturday October 19th, the Herons Forever group in Renton hosted a work party at the Black River Riparian Forest with help from the city of Renton, King Conservation District, and the Seattle Boy Scout Troup 72. The weather started with a drizzle but soon dried up. About 60 volunteers of all ages from all around the area showed up and were assigned various maintenance tasks.

The primary objective for the day was to lay down a new layer of chips on the main path through the forest. Trimming of blackberries and other plants invading the trail was also a goal. Some new viewing areas were trimmed out along the pond, and a large invasion of Scotch Broom was cleaned out at the North end. Delicious pizza was provided for the hungry and tired workers, and a good time was had by all.



Magnolia's Climate Action Day

October 24, 2009,
10:00am-1:00pm

Discovery Park Interpretive Center

350.org "action" will bring the Magnolia Community together to plant 350 trees in Discovery Park. The 350 number symbolizes the upper survivable limit that scientists have established for atmospheric CO²....
350 parts per million.

You choose how you want to participate: donate for trees and plant them; donate for trees only; or plant them only. Choose what works best for you and join us at this event!

Email 350@sustainablemagnolia.org
to find out more on signing up.

www.sustainablemagnolia.org

New Kiwanis Ravine Interpretive Sign is here!

By KC Dietz

A new interpretive sign, funded by our 2008-9 Department of Neighborhoods Small and Simple grant, has arrived. The sign has been installed along the north side of West Government Way, between 34th and 35th Ave West, just at the overlook to the West Fork of Wolfe Creek. Craig Purkey, KC Dietz and Donna Kostka worked with Pacific Studios in Ballard to produce a beautiful new sign that educates the public about the Wolfe Creek Watershed, the Great Blue Herons (of course), the acquisition of park land at Kiwanis and the HHH Restoration efforts. Sounds like a lot of information for a 34" x 40" sign? There was so much cool information we had to edit out, like pictures from the 1950's of a flood in the ravine, views of West Government Way before the trees grew so big and nearby photos showing the stumps of old growth forest recently cut to make way for the road infrastructure image of the new interpretive sign on West Government Way.

Craig Purkey spent many an hour looking through archival information to acquire the historical information, photos and graphics. Donna lent us her thorough research and editing eye. KC Dietz created the computer generated maps using City of Seattle GIS data. Photos were donated by Kathleen Atkins and Mary Beth Dols. The Department of Neighborhoods generously extended our grant end date and the Seattle Parks Department reviewed text and quickly installed the sign once it arrived. Pacific Studios graphic artists artfully placed the text, supported by the beautiful old maps, photos and modern day maps. Thanks to all! The result is stunning. We hope you get a chance to walk by and take a look.

Check out the new sign that educates the public about the Wolfe Creek Watershed, the Great Blue Herons (of course), the acquisition of park land at Kiwanis and the HHH Restoration efforts



PHOTO BY KC DIETZ

MEMBERSHIP

SAVE HHH \$\$\$

October is membership renewal month for 2010 HHH. You can help us save the cost of mailing your notice by renewing today.

Please send your \$10 dues to:
Heron Habitat Helpers
P.O. Box 99815, Seattle, WA 98139-0815

Extra donations are always welcome, of course. We will put your money to work helping Seattle enjoy, learn about and protect the great blue herons of Kiwanis Ravine.

(be sure to include your updated email address!)

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Get a sneak preview of the upcoming \$600,000 Parks Levy restoration projects in Kiwanis Ravine!

Take a look, talk to the experts, plant a tree:

Saturday, November 21, 2009

Saturday, December 12, 2009

Kiwanis Wildlife Corridor • 10:00am – 2:00pm

HHH is hosting these two workparties in partnership with:

- EarthCorps
- Green Seattle Partnership
- Seattle Parks & Recreation Department

This will be a terrific opportunity to discuss the project, offer your ideas, get involved with your neighbors!

RSVP: earthcorps.org/volunteer.php

Don't need a paper copy of the newsletter?

Help save the environment and reduce our mailing costs
by receiving the newsletter via email.

To sign up for email please contact Hooper Havekotte at
4.hooper.4@comcast.net

MISSION

To help Seattle enjoy, learn about, and protect its largest nesting colony of Great Blue Herons in Magnolia's Kiwanis Ravine Park.

WEB

www.heronhelpers.org

EMAIL

info@heronhelpers.org

PHONE

(206) 284-6489

TO VOLUNTEER

volunteer@heronhelpers.org

TO BECOME A MEMBER

Send your check for \$10/year (January-December) along with your name, e-mail, phone number, postal mailing address, and how you'd like to help to:

Heron Habitat Helpers
PO Box 99815
Seattle, WA 98139-0815

Donations are welcome!

HHH and Seattle Parks Meeting

By KC Dietz

Members of the HHH board, KC Dietz, Brad Wakeman, Donna Kostka and Mary Beth Dols met with Seattle Parks and Recreation management; Melinda Nichols, Mark Mead, Rory Denovan (Green Seattle Partnership), and Becca Fong after a long hiatus. Parks has been restructuring its' organization over the last few years with the arrival of the new superintendent, Tim Gallagher. Many Parks contacts have retired or left for new challenges, leaving some communication gaps with HHH. After the departure this spring of Patti Petesch, manager of Discovery Park, we had a lot of questions to ask. A letter sent by the board, as well as the start of the 2008 Park Levy restoration project in Kiwanis Ravine, provided the impetus to sit down and figure out how we would be coordinating our work with the Park Department in the near future. The meeting was very energizing.

To begin, Melinda Nichols had only glowing reviews for the work HHH has done to date. She let us know that the Seattle Parks Department has respect for all the various volunteer groups

around the city that provide support, funding and enthusiasm for our park system. They are looking forward to working with us in many different ways. HHH was given a preview of the new organizational structure at Parks, which provided us with contact information and direction on how to interact with the new team. Mark Mead, city arborist, will be the lead of the Kiwanis Ravine levy project and attending many of our upcoming Restoration Meetings. Becca Fong will be our day to day contact at Discovery Park. Rory Denovan, Parks Plant Ecologist, who works directly with Green Seattle Partnership will also be involved in the levy sponsored restoration project in Kiwanis Ravine. Melinda Nichols is the new manager of the Environmental Learning Centers.

By the end of the meeting, all 15 of our concerns from signing a volunteer agreement to resolving encroachment in the ravine was discussed and an action plan determined. We are pleased with our new found communication with the Parks Department.



PHOTO BY MARY BETH DOLS