



Friends' Focus

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Volume 7 Issue 2

Upcoming Events

4th Annual South Sound

Sustainability Expo

Greater Tacoma Convention & Trade Center

March 5, 2011

10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

FREE Event! See businesses, organizations and individuals promoting economic growth through environmentally-sustainable practices, including green transportation, recycling/waste management, energy conservation, environmental technology & local food.

Future of Food Showing

April 19, 2011

6:00 p.m.

Tacoma Grand Cinema

Please join FPC for this fun event, more details below. If you cannot attend, please consider a donation for our silent auction.

New Coalition promotes seamless connections between non-motorized trails and the planning agencies that oversee them

by Steven Garrett

Pierce County and most cities in the County have developed non-motorized transportation plans and are planning safe walking and biking routes to schools.

However, this infrastructure is expensive and there is no agency to coordinate connections between different municipalities.

Also, more walkers and bikers are needed to use the trails, sidewalks, and bikeways and to advocate for the completion of non-motorized plans.

To address these concerns and community goals, a new coalition has formed.

The Coalition for Active Transportation in Tacoma/ Pierce County (CAT) has been meeting monthly since December 2010.

The CAT supports the development and maintenance of bikeways and sidewalks throughout Pierce County to provide opportunities for safe, healthy, and environmentally sound recreation and transportation. CAT members include Pierce County, Tacoma, Tacoma/ Pierce Health Department, Puyallup, University Place, Tacoma Wheelmen Bicycle Club, Cascade Bicycle Club, Bicycle Alliance of Washington, Foothills Rails-to-Trails

Coalition, ForeverGreen, Cascade Land Conservancy, Healthy Communities of Tacoma/ Pierce County, and local Volksmarchers, with more agencies and cities joining each month.

For more information, contact Steven Garrett at geografood@yahoo.com.



Bikers in Pierce County enjoy Foothills Trail.

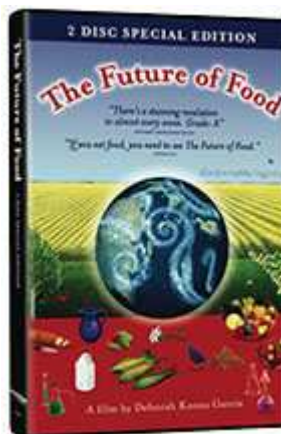
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Future of Food showing and silent auction

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| Thank you to this month's supporters: | |
| Donald Moore | |
| Charles Layton | |
| Mary Morford | |
| Karen Kiehlmeier | |
| Barbara Guller | |
| Rose Borrowman | |

Please join Friends of Pierce County for a showing of *The Future of Food* that offers an in-depth investigation into the truth behind the unlabeled, patented, genetically engineered foods. Presentations from local farmers and farmland preservation organizations will carry the discussion into the local arena of what is happening in

in Pierce County and how you can be involved.



April 19, 2011

6:00 p.m.

Admission \$15

Tacoma Grand Cinema

606 S Fawcett Ave

Tacoma, WA 98402

Reception, Hors d'oeuvres, and silent auction of local farm items to follow

Vision

Communities will strive to utilize all planning strategies that balance the elements of environment, equity, and economics.

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Please consider joining us on the board, we would love your input!

For information, contact:

Marian Berejikian

Executive Director

(253) 851-9524

Website:

www.FriendsofPierceCounty.org

Email: FOPC@comcast.net

Mailing address:

P. O. Box 2084

Gig Harbor, WA 98335-2084

Friends of Pierce County is a 501 (c) 3 organization.

Membership fees and donations are tax deductible.

Fennel Creek Watershed still needs protection by *Marian Betzer*

Located mid-way between Mt. Rainier and Puget Sound is the Fennel Creek Watershed, one of our Pacific Northwest natural resources that sustain the landscapes of Puget Sound. Created by glacial activity 15,000 years ago and formed by the Osceola mudflow emanating from Mt. Rainier 5,000 years ago, Fennel Creek is a perennial creek that is home to beautiful Victor Falls, spawning salmon, watershed ecosystems and habitats and the bird, fish and wildlife populations it sustains. Fennel Creek is the largest of eight sub-basins within the Mid-Puyallup Basin and within the Dept. of Ecology's WRIA 10 (Watershed Resource Inventory Area).

Increased impacts from development pressures has left the Fennel Creek Watershed basin vulnerable to loss of its critical and fragile ecosystems, forests and native habitats during the last decade.

Acquisition for the purpose of preservation is the No. 1 recommendation in the Fennel Creek Master Plan, located on the Pierce County website under PALS/ Other or at; <http://www.co.pierce.wa.us/xml/services/home/property/pals/pdf/Fennel%20Creek%20Corridor%20Master%20Plan%200905%20.pdf>

In 2010, WSDOT acquired a 20-acre mitigation site along Fennel Creek and began restoration in the Fall of 2010 with planting and restoration continuing into Spring 2011. Prior to the start of restoration work, WSDOT in partnership with the City of Bonney Lake, BLHS and FCPG sponsored a June 2010 high school field trip to Fennel Creek where Sophomore students were introduced to archeological history of the site, learned about the Fennel Creek

channel and shoreline restoration plan, and planted native trees and plants in Fennel Creek riparian areas.

In Nov. 2010, with invitation from Bonney Lake Mayor Neil Johnson and the City Council, Carl Ward/ WSDOT presented a PowerPoint about this mitigation/restoration project. Link to this power point describing the restoration plan is available on the City of Bonney Lake's website under Community/ Fennel Creek Trail/WSDOT plan or at; http://www.ci.bonney-lake.wa.us/UserFiles/File/Community_Downloads/Parks/2010.11.17%20BL%20SR%20410%20Fennel%20Cr%20Mitigation%20Site.pdf

Preservation of the unique and valuable Fennel Creek Watershed basin will provide us with clean water, native habitats, ecosystems, open spaces and sustain wildlife populations for generations to come.

For more information:

Marian Betzer

Fennel Creek Preservation Group/Facilitator

m.betzer@comcast.net

http://www.fennelcreek.org/linked/2010_fc_brochure.pdf



Victor Falls July 2007, Marian Betzer

RESILIENT HABITATS CAMPAIGN DIFFERENT FROM SIERRA CLUB'S WILDLIFE TRADITIONAL LANDS AND WILDLIFE PROTECTION WORK *by Graham Taylor, Sierra Club*

The Sierra Club has been successfully protecting wild places, native ecosystems and wildlife for over 118 years, and we have over 250 million acres of protected lands to show for our efforts. But climate change has changed the rules of the game.

Once upon a time we could assume that if we set aside large parks and wilderness areas and let nature run its course, those areas and natural ecosystems would be protected in perpetuity.

Now we understand that even the largest parks are at risk due to climate change. Among the threats that do not respect protected area boundaries are: sea level rise, increased flooding, decreased snow packs, drought, increased wild fires, and rising temperatures.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change projects even under a low emissions scenario where temperature increases are held to about 1.5-2.5 degrees Celsius, up to 30% of living plant and animal species worldwide could go extinct.

Climate change has already led to extinctions, major species relocations, and natural ecosystems starting to disaggregate.

As a result, we need to immediately adopt new ways to protect nature. In addition to setting aside large wild areas where nature is allowed to run its course, we must simultaneously adopt new strategies to build ecosystem resistance and resilience to climate change (sometimes referred to as 'adaption').

Sierra Club founder John Muir first made the case that when we try to pick out anything by itself we find it hitched to everything else in the universe. The Resilient Habitats Campaign embodies that philosophy by insisting that we look at interconnectedness, cumulative impacts, and entire ecosystems, in a dynamic world.

The Resilient Habitats Campaign will spend much of 2011 focusing its energy on the Puget Sound Basin and the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest.

This year there are exciting opportunities to become involved in the planning processes that help manage and restore these majestic ecosystems. The year, 2011 marks the year the Puget Sound Partnership will revise the Puget Sound Action Agenda, a document that spells out how we can restore Puget Sound by 2020.

In addition, there exists opportunities for the public to communicate with the Forest Service on how we should manage the Okanogan-

Wenatchee National Forest over the next 20 years.

As we engage on these issues, the Sierra Club's Resilient Habitats Campaign is specifically interested in building local coalitions that work to steward these planning and restoration processes. As we build these coalitions, we will also recruit volunteer leaders to help with our activism, resulting in a strengthened environmental movement to fight for the health and well being of our communities.

If you would like more information on our campaign or become an advocate for the environment, please do not hesitate to contact Graham Taylor at graham.taylor@sierraclub.org.



The Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest at Tiffany Lake. Photo courtesy of the Sierra Club. Photo Courtesy of Graham Taylor.

Join FPC today!

As a member, you will receive newsletters and weekly email updates informing you of county-wide planning, development and environmental issues.

Name: _____

Address: _____

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____ Enclosed is \$35 for my annual membership dues.

____ Enclosed is a donation for \$_____.

I am interested in helping with the following:

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