

Subject: Fidalgo Be Wild - August
From: Rich Bergner <richb@fidalgo.net>
Date: Wed, 11 Aug 2010 10:26:29 -0700
To: Richard Bergner <FidalgoWildlifeHabitat@gmail.com>

FIDALGO BE WILD

-an email newsletter-

Fidalgo Backyard Wildlife Habitat project: [fostering a community living in harmony with nature.](#)

--Feel free to forward, copy, use this material in any way that will help to spread the word about the backyard wildlife habitat project--

August 11, 2010

c o n t e n t s

----COMING EVENTS
----PROGRESS
----NATIVE PLANT GARDEN WORK PARTY
----AUGUST HIKES
----NEWS FROM SKAGIT BEAT THE HEAT
----STREAM TEAM VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

COMING EVENTS

Thursday, August 26, 1:00 - 3:30 --- Community Wildlife Habitat certification celebration at Kulshan Station (26th and Kulshan, just off College Way in Mount Vernon)

SKAGIT VALLEY WILDLIFE HABITAT EARNS COMMUNITY WILDLIFE HABITAT CERTIFICATION

The Skagit Valley Backyard Wildlife habitat Team has earned all the requirements needed for the Skagit Valley community to earn national designation as a "Community Wildlife Habitat" through the National Wildlife Federation. This "community wildlife habitat" area will include the following areas: Mount Vernon (98273/74 zips), Clear Lake, Bow/Edison, and Conway.

A special celebration is scheduled for Thursday, August 26th from 1:00 to 3:30 and will be held at the new Kulshan Creek Community Demonstration Butterfly Garden.

The new community butterfly demonstration garden is located at the Kulshan Station at the corner of 26th and Kulshan just off College Way in Mount Vernon (near SV College)
(editor's note: If you want to carpool, let me know. =====Rich)

A news release from Roxanne Paul, Senior Coordinator, Community and Volunteer Outreach - National Wildlife Federation home office in Reston, Virginia.....

I am pleased to announce that Skagit Valley, WA has become the 45th Certified Community Wildlife Habitat in the nation, and is the 10th (yes, 10th!) community in Washington to receive this honor. (The others are Tukwila, Camano Island, Lake Forest Park, Fidalgo Island/Anacortes, Alki, Kirkland, Bellingham, Bainbridge Island, and Edmonds.)

Donna Schram and her extraordinarily talented and hard-working team have gone above and beyond the requirements of certification. In reading through her project notebook, I read the story of a butterfly garden in a low-income neighborhood that Donna and her team put in, along with nesting boxes that they helped the local children put together and a beautiful fence built by an Eagle Scout and his troop. Within a year or two, the local public works dept. declared the whole garden would have to be dug up to put in new pipes. Donna and her crew rescued the native plants and the nesting boxes and they rebuilt the garden in a new spot. Even the Scouts moved and reconstructed the fence.

A unique part of the project was getting young children to create ³fairy houses² out of natural materials, and if the houses had the 4 needed elements of a habitat, the children got a certificate. (Think water source in a walnut shell or seashell. Really cute!) What a creative way to teach children about habitats. Over 300 of these fairy houses were created.

The project partnered with a great many organizations, including the Skagit Conservation District and even the Mt. Vernon Police Department.

In all 227 homes, 5 farms, 2 businesses, 5 parks and 2 churches were certified.

Please join me congratulating the Skagit Valley Community Wildlife Habitat team!

====Roxanne Nersesian Paul
Senior Coordinator, Community & Volunteer Outreach
National Wildlife Federation
Reston, Virginia

A more personal message to the Skagit Valley group from Roxanne Paul.....

³Congratulations. Skagit Valley is now a Certified Community Wildlife Habitat. You are the 45th certified community in the nation, and the 10th community in the state of Washington to receive this honor.

³I very much enjoyed going through your project notebook. It was nice to hear how Rich Bergner was your mentor through the process. I loved your brochure and the bird painting and the line and ink drawings. Of course, I loved the fairy houses and how you have so much reached out to children. The story about the Kulshan Gardens butterfly garden was both heartbreaking and inspiring. And, I loved that fence built by the Eagle Scout and his troop out of recycled campaign slats. And, they reconstructed it again at the new garden! (All 3 of my sons are Eagle Scouts, so I know how hard it is to get them to come back once the project is over.)

Congratulations to you and your hard-working, talented team.
=====Roxanne Paul

A message from Donna Schram, team leader, Skagit Valley Wildlife Habitat group....

³Dear Team and Friends -- Just got word from Roxanne Paul at NWF that we met all of the requirements for our Community Wildlife Habitat Certification. I am so proud of our team and the other volunteers that have helped us achieve our goal -- Skagit Valley Community Wildlife Habitat!! Thank you all, dear friends. This is nearly the end of this chapter and the beginning of the next.

(editor's note: I am including the following information from Donna's mid-July email to give you an idea of the preparations, etc.....)

³We have tentatively scheduled Thursday, August 26th, from 1:00 PM - 3:30 PM for our celebration ceremony. At this time, it looks as though we will hold it at our new Butterfly Garden by the Kulshan Creek Station. There is still a lot of planning and we need to work together to make our celebration a success. Officer Jon, our hero, as well as the Mount Vernon Police Department, will partner with us and the Conservation District to help with many aspects of the celebration. If you can help with the planning, we will meet next Wednesday, July 21st, from 12:15 to 1:15 at Lorenzo's, a Mexican restaurant near the corner of LaVenture and College Way This will substitute for our usual monthly evening meeting.

Finally, the new Butterfly Garden is coming along. To date, the following has been accomplished:

(another editor's note: As Roxanne Paul mentioned in her email---²Within a year or two, the local public works department [it is public property] declared the whole garden would have to be dug up to put in new pipes. Donna and her crew rescued the native plants and the nesting boxes and they rebuilt the garden in a new spot.²)

1. Sited new space and determined dimensions.
2. Borrowed a back hoe, and with the help of a volunteer, shaped the garden.
3. Weed whacked the garden and surrounding area (thank you Ani and Donna)
4. Had 14 yards of top soil delivered (thank you Mount Vernon Police Department for 8 yards and SCD for 6 yards).
5. Spread the 14 yards of top soil (thanks Kristi, Loren, Pat, Officer Jon, Donna H. and Donna S.)
6. Reinstalled garden fencing and arbor in new configuration (thanks Keegan McAdam and his Eagle Scout friends and his family members).
7. Pressure washed fence (thanks to Kristi's son and his boss from Rodda Paints).
8. Painted fence TWICE (thanks to Kristi, Pat, Donna H., and Steven who did the work, and Rodda Paints that donated the paint and supplies).
9. Had 10 more yards of topsoil delivered (thanks to SCD).
10. Spread 10 additional yards of soil (thanks to Kristi, Ani, Pat, Steven and Donna).
11. Developed a real, honest-to-goodness, landscape design for the garden (thanks to Ani, who has put in so much time and effort to make create a truly lovely place for butterflies and people)
12. Approved the plant list (thanks to the SCD, which as approved the purchase of most of the plants Ani identified to create our garden).

We still have several steps left to accomplish.
Still to do:

1. Monday, July 19, at 10 AM we will receive 14 yards of bark. Ani, Kristi and I will be there.
2. Pick up and deliver new posts and QuikCrete to mount bird houses.
3. Schedule kids to help us dig post holes, attach bird houses to poles and install the poles. This could be done as early as the end of next week.
4. Purchase and deliver the plantings to the site. Thanks to SCD for help with the costs of the plants.
5. Plant the bigger trees, etc. Again, this could be as early as the end of next week.
6. Schedule a time for kids to plant annuals and learn about the garden. Again, this will be within the next two weeks.
7. Develop a maintenance schedule. Our new plants will need tending for the next several months.

As you can tell, this is an exciting time. Please join in the fun -- and the work.

Thank you, again, dear friends,
=====Donna Schram, team leader Skagit Valley Wildlife Habitat

CERTIFICATION PROGRESS

Total number of certified wildlife habitats on Fidalgo Island is now 598.

National Wildlife Federation
July 2010

- 1 - Irene Villiott 134,129Home
- 2 - Karen and Carl Latham.....134,130Home

Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife updates on progress are periodic because of cutbacks in WDFW's staffing and budget.

NATIVE PLANT GARDEN WORK PARTY

A reminder that we have a work party scheduled for this coming Saturday, August 14th, from 10 am till 3 pm.

Please join us at the Native Plant Garden at the WSU-NWREC Discovery Garden.
This is a very busy time so we can use your help! Any time you can give is most welcome.

Do bring work clothing, sun and/or rain protection, lunch and water and your favorite garden tools.

We will provide juice and cookies.

Questions? Please call me at 360-293-5815 or email to eyrie@cnw.com

See you in the garden,

=====Marianne Kooiman

AUGUST HIKES

Join us for a guided hike and get to know your Anacortes Community Forest Lands!

For more information about our group or these hikes please contact Denise Crowe or Jean Andrich at 293-3725. You may also visit our website www.friendsoftheacfl.org or inquire by email at info@friendsoftheacfl.org

SENIOR/ADULT HIKES

A little bit gentler, with an adult level flora and fauna focus.

Beaver Ponds

Friday, August 13th

10:00 - noon

The Little Cranberry Lake area is filled with a network of beaver ponds created and maintained by local beaver families. We will explore trails that reveal their lodges, dams, mounds, and other daytime clues to their nighttime secret ways. Meet at the ACFL kiosk on A Ave. and 37th.

ALL AGES HIKES

Great for families and folks of all ages, these are hearty hikes with forest lore suited to the day's participants

All around Heart

Saturday, August 14th

10:00 - noon

There is no better place to be in the middle of summer than in the middle of our woods. Get to know the heart of the forest on this wonderful journey all the way around Heart Lake. Lush deciduous areas flow into an amazing old growth grove. Meet at the Heart Lake Parking lot.

=====Denise Crowe and Jean Andrich

NEWS FROM *Skagit Beat the Heat* ...(working to slow climate change and grow local resilience)

Please join us on Wednesday, August 11, 6:30 PM (6 PM eat-n-greet) for our monthly meeting upstairs at Village Pizza. We'll discuss the latest on the climate change front, local resilience efforts and the possible evolution of Beat the Heat into an official Transition group (what is the Transition Movement? A good place to learn more is here: <http://transitionus.org/transition-101>)

*"Our central survival task for the decades ahead, as individuals and as a species, must be to make a transition away from the use of fossil fuels and to do this as peacefully, equitably, and intelligently as possible."*² Richard Heinberg

=====Evelyn Adams

 CONSIDER BECOMING A STREAM TEAM VOLUNTEER

Skagit Waterways Need Your Help!

Skagit County is blessed with a myriad of streams, lake, and rivers. Not only are these waterways our source for drinking water, but we also use them for irrigation, agriculture, industry, hydroelectric dams, and recreation. Monitoring on a regular basis is an essential element to help assess the health of our local waterways, to document changes in stream health over time, to detect pollution problems before a crisis occurs, and to track progress towards improvement. You can help protect our legacy of clean water by participating in the Skagit Stream Team Program!

How the Program Works:

- €Stream Team volunteers participate in an annual 3 day training event taught by local professionals and held in September of each year.
- €Stream Team volunteers monitor streams located in the Samish Bay, Padilla Bay, Fisher Creek, Gages Slough, Brickyard Creek, Kulshan Creek, and Trumpeter basin.
- €Volunteers are supplied with a handbook, equipment, supplies, and technical assistance.
- €Volunteers are responsible for either collecting and recording water quality data in the field or conducting testing in the lab on a monthly basis from October - June.
- €Volunteers learn sampling and analytical techniques used by environmental professionals.
- €Volunteers have the opportunity to learn new skills, gain new insights, network with local experts, meet new friends, and participate in a worthwhile community program.

2010 SKAGIT STREAM TEAM TRAINING DATES:

Wednesday, September 8th.....6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
 Thursday, September 9th.....6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
 Saturday, September 11th.....9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
 New volunteers must attend all three sessions

PRE-REGISTER by September 1st, 2010

Training will be held at the Padilla Bay Interpretive Center
 10441 Bay View Edison Road, Mount Vernon

Questions?

Contact Kristi Carpenter @
 (360) 428-4313
 or email: kristi@skagitcd.org

The Skagit Stream Team is a partnership of local citizens, Skagit Conservation District, the Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, the City of Mount Vernon, City of Burlington, City of Sedro-Woolley, & Skagit County.

*Partial funding for this program is provided by:
 WA Dept. of Ecology Stormwater Education Grants Program*

=====Kristi Carpenter, Skagit Conservation District

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 ====Rich Bergner, editor of this email newsletter

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