

Thornton Creek Project



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The Source

Newsletter for the Thornton Creek Project
Fall 2001

What's inside...

Welcome1
 Mission Statement1
 From the Schools Coordinator ..1
 Mark Your Calendar!2
 What's New with TCP?2
 An Inside Look at TCP3
 Who's Who in TCP4
 Make a Difference4
 History Hunt4

Welcome to the Thornton Creek Project!

It is a new school year, and we at the Thornton Creek Project are enthusiastic for another year of connecting teachers and students with our watershed community!

As usual, there are already many things to look forward to this fall ("Mark Your Calendar," page 2), and updates on recent Project events ("What's New with TCP?" page 2).

For people new to the Thornton Creek Project, this newsletter gives an overview of how we support teachers to help them complete projects in the watershed (page 3).

Visit our website for more information:
www.thorntoncreek.org.

Mission Statement

By inspiring and supporting educators' use of Thornton Creek and its watershed, the Thornton Creek project fosters educational innovations that make local community an essential element of teaching and learning.

Hello from the new Schools Coordinator

Greetings to all Thornton Creek watershed (and other) teachers! Please allow me to introduce myself as this year's Schools Coordinator for the Thornton Creek Project. My name is Peter Lortz and I am also a Life Sciences teacher at North Seattle Community College. I have been at NSCC for seven years and have taught a variety of classes, from Environmental Science to Anatomy & Physiology.

I have been involved with TCP in various capacities for about five years, and am very excited to spend the school year working closely with you as the Schools Coordinator. I will be the primary liaison between the teachers and TCP. If you have any questions about how TCP can help you, please do not hesitate to call (206-528-4516) or email me (plortz@sccd.ctc.edu).

I look forward to meeting and working with you!
~Peter Lortz

Thornton Creek near Matthews Beach



Mark your Calendar!

Who's Who in the Thornton Creek Project

Staff

Director - Meredith Lohr
Technology and Communications
Coordinator - Emily Inkpen
Schools Coordinator - Pete Lortz
Program Developer - Peter Hayes

TCP Steerers Board

Chair - Richard Gelb
Vice Chair - Janet Charnley
Treasurer - Mary Manous
Board Members - Linda Vane,
Tom Griffith

Stewards Council Co-Chairs:

Elaine Woo - Seattle Public Schools
Scott Haskins - Seattle Public
Utilities

October 11th - Watershed Orientation, Meadowbrook Community Center, 4:30-6:00 p.m.

Teachers, we encourage you to come learn how TCP can help your students learn about their community. We will provide you with resources that connect the watershed to what you are doing in classroom. Contact the TCP office before Oct. 8th to sign up.

October 20th - Long Walk of the North Fork of Thornton Creek, 9 a.m.

Join us and other watershed-curious folk as we follow the North Fork of the creek through Shoreline to the mouth at Matthews beach. If you want to meet up with us along the way, that's great, too! **Please call the office to RSVP.** We don't want to leave anyone behind!

October 29th - Computer Mapping Workshop, North Annex, Seattle School District, 4-5:30 p.m.

A workshop for teachers to learn a geographic information system (GIS) for mapping local geography, history, or watershed monitoring data. Contact Emily Inkpen at 526-0187 or tcptech@nscdux.sccd.ctc.edu for more information.

November 15th - Local History Roundup, Library Classroom, Lakeside School

(high school campus - 14050 1st Av. NE), 7 p.m. The Project is looking for teachers of any level and people with interest and/or expertise in local history to be involved with developing our Local History program. All are welcome. To learn more about this event and local history activities, contact Peter Hayes at 440-2754 or peter.hayes@lakesideschool.org

Contact the Project office at 206.526.0187 or tcp@nscdux.sccd.ctc.edu

What's new with the Thornton Creek Project?

Technology in the watershed

The Thornton Creek Project strives to make technology equitably available to schools and to support the use of technology where it logically fits within classroom curricula.

Many teachers have designed innovative projects that integrated technologies such as web authoring software, word processing, computer mapping, and digital scanners into community-based learning. We have profiled some of these projects on our website to share these ideas with other teachers.

Goals, required resources, and contact information for each project are available at www.thorntoncreek.org.

If your class has used technology in a community-based project, or is interested in doing so, we'd love to hear from you!

Contact Emily Inkpen at tcptech@nscdux.sccd.ctc.edu or by phone at the Project office.

Sister watershed in Chile!

Last spring, the **Thornton Creek Project**, with assistance from the non-profit organization **Partners of the Americas**, hosted **Doris Venegas**, a teacher from the town of Traiguen, Chile, as the first step in a cross-cultural partnership centered around watershed education.

Doris was chosen out of numerous applicants as the recipient of a 10-day trip to western Washington, which was funded by Partners. During her visit, Doris met with many educators from Seattle and Shoreline and shared strategies for connecting students with their local watershed communities. Her interests include oral history projects, stream ecology, and role-playing activities.

This "**Cuencas de Amistad**" partnership could also include international correspondence between U.S. and Chilean students. Spanish teachers with interest in community-based education should contact the Thornton Creek Project for more information about how to get involved.

An Inside Look at the Thornton Creek Project

Activities Linked to School Curricula

There are five main program areas through which the Thornton Creek Project supports elementary, middle, high school and college teachers: Field Activities to Support Science Units, Confluence, Creek Health, Community Mapping, and Local History.

Field activities to support science units: TCP has developed inquiry-based field activities that complement and provide local context for 3 of the elementary science units taught in Seattle Public Schools: **Land and Water, Ecosystems and Microworlds**, as well as for the Salmon in the Schools program. We also lead a limited number of free field trips in the watershed, which are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Confluence: Students role-play different people with different viewpoints and concerns to understand how multiple perspectives shape our community. They use these insights to plan and implement actions to positively shape the community's future. Confluences have been convened with upper elementary school students as a day-long activity, and at the high school level as a week-long activity.

Creek Health: TCP supports teachers and students with stream monitoring, restoration, and other lesson plans that incorporate assessing creek health into curricula. Check out the water-quality monitoring database on our website!

Community mapping: Students make their own maps of the Thornton Creek watershed using a geographical information system (GIS), to the understand geographical, historical, and environmental aspects of this community.

Local History – new focus: From the beginning of the Project, TCP has worked with enthusiastic teachers and students on many wonderful local history projects. This year, to encourage even more participation, the TCP staff will work with interested teachers, administrators, and friends of local history to develop and put to use new activities focused on better meeting school goals through investigating local history.



Students investigating a sample of creek water on a field trip tied to their Ecosystems science unit.

The Project is looking for teachers of any level and people with interest and/or expertise in local history to be involved with developing this new program. **Interested? Come to the Local History Roundup ("Mark Your Calendar," pg. 2).**

Resources

Many of our resources are available to teachers and community members throughout the Thornton Creek watershed and beyond.

Professional Development: Opportunities include watershed orientations, workshops on stream ecology and computer-based mapping, forums, roundtables and long walks (see "Mark Your Calendar" for upcoming events and workshops).

Technology: TCP supports teachers and classes in using our digital library and website for sharing information, computer mapping for investigating the spatial relations of the community, and email and listserves for communicating with others. We also provide both training with the computer mapping program and the related software for your school.

Materials: TCP's lending library includes curricular materials, relief models of the watershed, TCW atlases, stream monitoring equipment, and books and references: *The Right Places Guide*, *A Thornton Creek Reader*, *Salmon Nation*, and GIS references. Please see our website, www.thorntoncreek.org, for more details!

Make a Difference!

The Thornton Creek Project makes a difference, and so can you! The Project's success depends on the efforts of community-minded people, and now is an excellent time to get involved. We have a variety of interesting opportunities for volunteers, and we welcome any and all financial contributions.

For more information, please call our office at 206.526.0187. Your support will help ensure that our students become informed and responsible community members, prepared to meet the challenges of the future.

North Seattle Community College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, age, marital status or disability.

For more information including accommodations for people with special needs, call 206.526.0187.

History Hunt

To continue to build the Project's collection of historical contacts and resources, we invite you to help answer the following questions: 1) Which current resident of the watershed has **lived here the longest**? 2) Who has the **earliest memories** of the watershed area? And 3) Where are the **oldest structures** in the watershed? Mysterious, cheesy rewards await those who are most helpful in answering these questions!! Email or call your answers to TCP.

