

The Source

A Newsletter of the Thornton Creek Project

FALL, 2002

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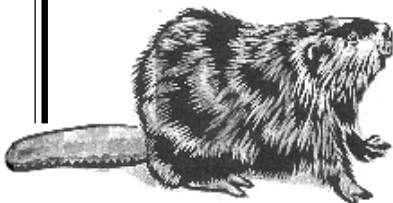
A New Name for TCP!

As we enjoy the last blackberries of summer and the first vine maples turn orange and red, students and teachers return from vacations and are out learning in their communities once again. And once again, the Thornton Creek Project is here to lead and support them in their efforts to understand local connections between people and nature and to recognize each person's role in shaping the future. As we enter our tenth year, our educational programs are stronger than ever, and our little organization is growing.

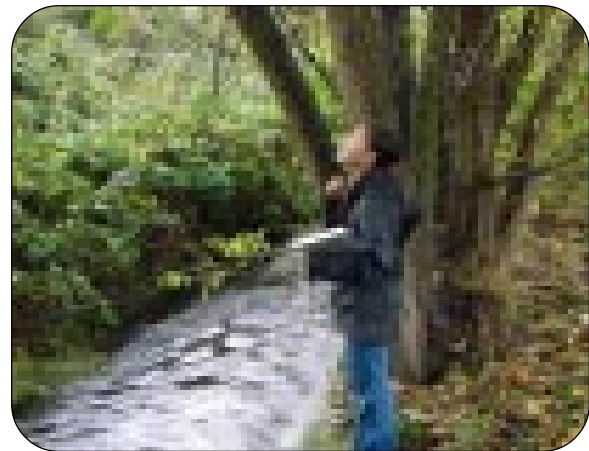
Over the past several years, the number of students, teachers, and community members that we serve has steadily increased, and today a significant percentage of our service requests come from schools outside the Thornton Creek watershed. Because we are committed to building ecological awareness and engaged citizenship throughout the entire region, especially in underserved schools and communities, we have begun to offer our services to schools from a broader geographic area. Our plans to expand sustainably include developing model projects, partnering with school districts and community organizations, and sharing resources through consultations, our lending library, and the internet.

To reflect our growing client base, we have decided to change the name of our organization. The Thornton Creek Project name has become misleading, not only because it is geographically limiting, but also because it has led to confusion with local advocacy groups. While the Thornton Creek watershed will remain our home community, we believe that a name change is in everyone's best interest.

After working with a variety of communications professionals and stakeholders, we are pleased to choose **Homewaters Project** as our new name. We believe that this name conveys our role in stimulating a connection to place, while acknowledging the role of water as the essential natural resource in uniting communities. We will officially change the name of the Project at an event in November (see calendar section) and will use both names until then. We hope you will join us to celebrate this significant rite of passage. n



***Did you know** that several beavers share our watershed home? Come to Meadowbrook Pond in November to learn more about our furry neighbors! [see **Leave it to Beavers**, in **Calendar**, pg. 4]*



Our field trips harness student curiosity to motivate learning.

Who's Who in the Thornton Creek Project

Staff

Director - Meredith Lohr
Technology and Communications
Coordinator - Emily Inkpen
Schools Coordinator - Linda Versage
History Program Coordinator - Bob Lapsley

Steerers Board

Chair - Richard Gelb
Vice Chair - Janet Charnley
Board Members:
Marina Alberti
Tom Griffith
Rich Stearns
Susan Stillman
Linda Vane

Stewards Council

Co-chair - Elaine Woo, Seattle Public Schools
Co-chair - Nancy Ahern, Seattle Public Utilities

Email: tcp@scsd.ctc.edu (email has changed)
Website: www.thorntoncreek.org

Our First Annual Fund

Did you know that the Thornton Creek Project depends on contributions from individuals to fund our programs with children, teachers, schools and the community? This fall we are kicking off our first annual fund, and our goal is to raise \$60,000 by the end of '02.

We encourage everyone who believes that local experiences with nature and community should be part of every child's education to make a contribution today. Gifts of any size are encouraged and all donations advance our progress toward our goal. You'll receive more details in the mail soon, but in the meantime, feel free to contact our office with questions or to make a pledge. Our students and communities are counting on you. [n](#)

Building our Board

Our illustrious Steerers Board is looking for a few new members to join them in providing leadership for the Project in this exciting time. The board meets every other month and is a great group of energetic and creative people who are committed to our mission and ensuring our success. The board would especially like to find new members with interest or experience in finance, accounting, marketing and fundraising. Please contact **Richard Gelb**, Board Chair, at 684.0631 to learn how you can get involved. [n](#)

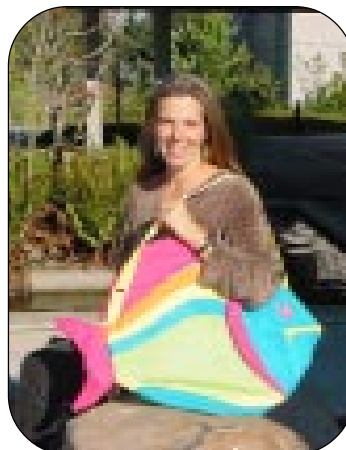
Greetings from the New Schools Coordinator

My name is Linda Versage, and it is with much enthusiasm that I introduce myself as the 2002-2003 Schools Coordinator. I greatly look forward to working with teachers, students, volunteers, community members, and staff in the coming months. My work will focus on providing opportunities and support for teachers and students to complete local investigations that connect schools' existing curricula with their local communities.

The main avenue for doing this will be through the Project's Watershed Ecology programs. I will primarily be engaged in:

- *Leading field trips for the Land and Water/Salmon in the Schools program (see related article)*
- *Supporting several classrooms in applied learning projects that integrate stewardship of local resources*

- *Providing consultations, assistance with project planning, and resources to teachers interested in designing ecological projects*
- *Leading trainings and orientations*



Linda Versage, TCP's new Schools Coordinator.

I feel I am well poised to accomplish the above due to my previous experiences. I have been coordinating programs, teaching students about native ecology and helping teachers connect curricula with their local communities for many years. I've done this through positions with the Seattle Parks Department, Seattle Public Schools, nonprofit organizations, and as a consultant.

Please give me a call or send me an email with your ideas, needs or requests!

Linda Versage

New Leader for History Sleuths

We are very pleased to welcome **Bob Lapsley**, Lakeside Upper School English teacher, to the Thornton Creek Project staff. Bob has taken over from Peter Hayes as the coordinator of our Exploring Local History program. Thanks to the support of Lakeside, Bob will coordinate teachers and students from a variety of schools as they address important historical questions using the archives, photography, and oral histories that comprise the ELH program. He'll also be working with community volunteers and his own students to improve and expand the collection, which is currently available through our website and in printed form. With Bob at History's helm, it should be a great year to explore and document our watershed's past. Please contact him at 206.368.3600 if you'd like to learn more or get your students involved. [n](#)

Schools Map Local Geography

Where are the important places in my community? What are the natural resources of my neighborhood? How do my actions affect the rest of the watershed? These are some of the compelling questions students can investigate in our Community Mapping program. This year we are excited to be integrating this program with middle school geography. In this way, students can apply skills and knowledge from school to understand the complex world around them.



During the year TCP will offer workshops for teachers to learn the computer mapping software, ArcView GIS, and to practice some simple lessons usable for classes. Please see the calendar for more details and to sign up for the October workshop. Numerous resources for Community mapping are available through TCP and are detailed online: www.thorntoncreek.org. Please give us a call to find out more. [n](#)

Land and Water Meets Salmon in the Schools: *Programs and Teacher Orientations*

As a result of a partnership between Seattle Public Utilities (SPU), the Seattle Public Schools' Inquiry-based Science Program, and the Thornton Creek Project, TCP will be leading approximately 30 classes through field investigations at the stream near Nathan Hale High School and Meadowbrook Pond during this school year.

The fourth and fifth grade classes participating in these field trips are studying the Land and Water science unit and raising salmon in their schools. Most of the schools that TCP will serve in this program are within, or in close proximity to, the Thornton Creek watershed.

In their science unit, students create models of streams in their classrooms and learn how water and land materials interact with each other. Our inquiry-based field trip component guides students through investigations, explorations and reflections of a real stream so they can make comparisons and connections with their classroom studies. Students will also investigate the human and natural influences on Thornton Creek and determine how these affect salmon habitat.

Reminder: If you are a Seattle teacher who is already signed up with SPU for this program, you are required to attend a Teacher Orienta-

tion at North Seattle Community College on either Saturday, September 21 from 9 am - 12 pm or Monday, September 30 from 4:30-7:30 pm. For more details, contact our office at 206.526.0187.

If you are a Seattle teacher who will be teaching the Land and Water unit this year, and you are interested in this program but not currently enrolled to participate, call Carlton Stinson at SPU at 206.684.7624. [n](#)



On a Land and Water field trip, flags are placed to mark areas of erosion, deposition, and fast or slow moving water.

Mission Statement:
 To create an engaged and informed citizenry by integrating local connections between people and nature into learning communities.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Email: tcp@sccd.ctc.edu
 Phone: 206.526.0187

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Calendar: September-December

Land and Water and Salmon in the Classroom Orientations: Sept. 21st, 9 am -12 pm, and Sept. 30th, 4:30-7:30 p.m. NSCC. If you are planning on taking a field trip for land and Water or Salmon in the Classroom, you must attend one of these orientations. RSVP.

Exploring Local History: Teacher Meeting, Oct. date TBA. Contact Bob Lapsley at Lakeside Upper School for more information, bob.lapsley@lakesideschool.org, 206.368.3600. RSVP.

Volunteer Orientations: Oct. 8th, 3-5 p.m., or Oct. 9th, 7-9 p.m. NSCC. If you are a student or community member interested in volunteering with TCP, this is for you. You will learn more about our programs, meet the staff, and see how you can help. RSVP.

National Water Quality Monitoring Day: October 18th. Join thousands across the nation in assessing the health of local waterways. TCP has maps to sites and equipment for loan.

Community Mapping Teacher Workshop: Oct. 24th, 4-6 p.m. Shoreline Center. Teachers will learn basics of geographical information systems and complete exercises appropriate for upper elementary and middle school with students that address geography and technology EALRS. RSVP.

Leave it to Beavers: Sat. Nov. 16th, 4-5 p.m. Meadowbrook Pond. Would you like to learn about the natural history of some of the most controversial residents of our watershed? Join us for a naturalist-led walk through local beaver habitat and maybe even catch the busy critters in action. RSVP.

TCP to Homewaters, Name Change Celebration: Sat. Nov. 16th, 7:00 p.m. Fiddler's Inn, 9219 35th Ave. NE. Live music and merry making will mark this rite of passage. No RSVP required!

North Fork Long Walk: Sat. Dec. 7th, 9 a.m. Join us as we walk from the headwaters of the north fork of Thornton Creek to its mouth at Matthews Beach. This fascinating journey is about six miles. RSVP.

RSVP, 206.526.0187 or tcp@sccd.ctc.edu



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