



## The People of Homewaters

~ A special thanks to our teachers and volunteers ~



Homewaters Project is a community effort - born from the dreams, passions, and dedication of people committed to educating about place. In this issue, we recognize two groups of people who make these dreams a reality: teachers and volunteers.

We are all busy in our own lives, and often it is difficult to make the time to support all that we believe in. The volunteers and teachers who partner with Homewaters Project take the extra step to dedicate their time and energy to the students and community members we serve. This year, we have served over 1300 students. Over 60 students, pro-

fessionals, and community members have volunteered to help with our programs, served on our various advisory committees, and helped govern our organization. Without the participation of teachers and volunteers, our small staff simply could not connect so many students to nature and community.

These pages highlight a few of the people we'd like to thank. To those not listed here, we'd like to extend our thanks to you as well. You are all important to Homewaters, activating our programs through your support. Thank you!

### Richard Katz

~ Applying Geography, Locally ~

Richard Katz is not your typical social studies teacher. In fact even his business card lists him as an Applied Geography Teacher because, as he puts it, "that's what I do!" Katz got involved with Homewaters Project because we connect geography - place - to real world applications. Yet what hooked Katz was the fact that we did it locally, in the neighborhoods and watersheds of his students at Washington Middle School. As he puts it, "All geography is local."

Katz loves not only the local aspect of Homewaters' programs, but also that he gets to learn and teach cutting edge technology like Geographic Information System (GIS) software as a way to learn about local environmental and social issues. "With GIS, there are no secrets; it's all public information," he says.

Involvement with Homewaters has not only expanded his ability to use GIS, but has also allowed him to use it to teach about local watershed issues, where previous curricula were nationally-oriented, at best.



### Heidi Engle

~ Volunteer ↔ Teacher ~



Heidi Engle joined with Homewaters Project this year when she learned that we were using Geographic Information System (GIS)

technology in Seattle's diverse classrooms. As a Masters in Teaching student at Western Washington University's Urban Campus (based at NSCC), and a current teacher in Monroe, the opportunity to integrate real world technology with the exploration of place in an urban setting was something she couldn't find from other avenues.

In fact, Heidi is earning Geography course credits through an independent studies program with Homewaters Director, Sharon London. Her assignments include helping develop our secondary school curriculum - Neighborhood Green Mapping - that integrates the Green Map System, GIS technology, and local watershed investigations. She is also earning her teaching practicum hours implementing the Green Map curriculum at Nathan Hale HS with teacher Jessica Torvik. Christine Schaefer, Heidi's WWU advisor, helped set up this win-win collaboration.

Spring 2005:

Teachers and Volunteers

Connecting people to nature and each other in the context of their home communities

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North Seattle Community College  
9600 College Way North  
Seattle, WA 98103-3599

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## Meet the Challenge!

Last fall Homewaters received an anonymous challenge grant for \$20,000. We are just \$4,000 short of our goal. Your generosity can help us achieve this challenge.

If you'd like to support our efforts in connecting students, teachers, and the community to their home place, please make your contribution today.

Make checks payable to "NSCC Foundation" with "Homewaters Project" in the memo. All contributions are tax-deductible and extremely appreciated.

Thank You for Your Support!



## Join Us this Spring!

**Know Your Homewaters Spring Party**  
*May 19, 2005 7:00-9:00pm, Washington Park Arboretum*  
Join Homewaters' staff, board, volunteers, and supporters to celebrate our accomplishments in the 2004-5 school year. Your \$25 ticket will provide you with a night of live jazz, delicious appetizers, wine, beer, and conversation. RSVP to Todd Burley at [tburley@sccd.ctc.edu](mailto:tburley@sccd.ctc.edu) or 206.526.0187.

**Thornton Creek Long Walk ~ South Fork**  
*June 4, 2005 - 1:00-4:00pm*  
Get outside this spring! Join us for a three-mile urban hike of Thornton Creek where we'll explore the ecology, history, and issues of Seattle's largest watershed. Reservations required - call 206.526.0187.

**End of the Year Picnic**  
*June 10, 2005 - 5:00-8:00pm, Matthews Beach Park*  
Join Homewaters staff, board, volunteers, and friends for an end of the year party at Matthews Beach! Bring a potluck item and



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## Homewaters Project

North Seattle Community College  
9600 College Way North  
Seattle, WA 98103-3599  
206.526.0187  
www.homewatersproject.org

### Staff

- ◆ Executive Director  
Sharon London
- ◆ Schools Coordinator  
Linda Versage
- ◆ Outreach Coordinator  
Todd Burley
- ◆ History Coordinator  
Bob Lapsley (Lakeside School)

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Brent Lackey  
Elisa Murray  
Sue Stillman  
Nelda Swiggett

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Shoreline Public Schools  
Jamie Pierre, Pierre Enterprises  
Elaine Woo, Seattle School District  
A.J. Skurdal, Community Volunteer  
Sam Stalin, Northgate Mall



## Sid Carden

~ Nurturing Student Growth ~



Sid Carden teaches at Shoreline Public Schools' Room 9 Community School. This year Sid and her co-teacher, Darren Frink, are working with Homewaters for the first time in the year-long Watershed Gardens program, funded in part through a King County SPLASH grant.

Their theme for the year was water, and they saw Watershed Gardens as a great opportunity to look at water use and see how to reduce it. Creating a native garden, needing limited water, was a great way to beautify the site of their new school as well. Sid took the lead in facilitating the creation of a water-wise garden with the 4th/5th grade students. Although she had not previously assisted students with a garden, Sid



## Karen Gran

~ Applying Her PhD ~

As a Ph.D. candidate in river geomorphology at University of Washington, Karen Gran answered the call to volunteer with Homewaters Project's Land and Water Field Investigations so she could share her love of rivers and creeks with hundreds of 5th grade students in an interactive way. Karen is a perfect fit for this program. She previously worked with Seattle teachers who use the classroom Land and Water science unit that Homewaters' program extends to the real world. Karen trained teachers to give them a more in-depth understanding of the concepts in the unit so they could better teach students.

Karen has an interest in working with the public and says that volunteering with Homewaters made it easy.... "the program was written, the connections made, and the logistics are all arranged...all I have to do is show up and teach."

Karen's involvement with Homewaters is a

dove in with enthusiasm, an openness to learn, and a strong belief that her students could drive their own learning.

"This project has produced many 'aha moments'," says Carden. "It pays to give students control and allow myself to be their guide. Many times adults were available to finish or start jobs and I declined the assistance telling them the kids can do it, and they did! To see how proud they are of the garden and to see them sharing the experience they had with their parents is most rewarding. You hear them say 'that's my bed, I planted that.'"

"Homewaters Project provides an opportunity for students to apply their knowledge, be outside, be part of the community they live in, and be responsible citizens. The funding and support from Homewaters is essential since classroom teachers have such limited funds and time."

Knowing that future generations are being mentored by teachers like Sid brings hope and inspiration to our community. We are all deeply grateful for your dedication, Sid!



win-win. Although Karen teaches college students, she had never taught elementary students before, so it's a learning experience for her. When considering the fifth graders, Karen remarks, "What a great opportunity for them to see in the real world what they're learning in the classroom." For a small organization like Homewaters, the benefit of having the dedication and experience of volunteers like Karen is immense.

When connections are made to the local environment, Karen feels that this leads students to a deeper understanding and respect. She uses this methodology as well with her college students and finds that when locally relevant examples and activities are used, it helps learners internalize the scientific concepts. Homewaters is fortunate to have Karen on its teaching team.



## Keeping us on Track

Ever wonder how Homewaters' small staff can keep up with educational trends, technological innovations, and the most effective online communication? We do too, sometimes! Lucky for us, there is a whole network of dedicated professionals who offer us advice on these issues.

Homewaters currently has three advisory groups to help us improve our programs and keep our operations on track: the Technology Team, the Education Advisory Task Force, and the Website Advisory Group.

Technology Team members assist primarily with our Community Mapping programs which use Geographic Information System software to investigate community health issues. Their breadth of knowledge and experience allows us to create curriculum that can be used by students of all ages.

Members of our Education Advisory Task Force (pictured above) are examining our evaluation



procedures for all our programs and advising us on key educational trends and concerns. Most members are either teachers involved in the K-12 school system, or have program evaluation experience.

Homewaters' Website Advisory Group is involved in the 2005 update of our on-line presence. They have helped identify the best layout, content, and technology to make our website work better for you, our audience. Changes should be completed by this summer.

To get involved on any of these committees, contact our office at 206.526.0187.

## New Board Members

### Brent Lackey

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The most recent addition to the Homewaters Board of Directors, Brent joined in March of 2005. Brent is a Watershed Planner for Seattle Public Utilities, based out of the Cedar River Environmental Learning Center. Homewaters will benefit from his strategic planning experience and level-headed approach to non-profit management.

### Katz, from page 1...

Richard has worked with Homewaters for the past five years - first with UW students on a local GIS project, and in the past two years implementing our Water and Community GIS program with his students at Washington Middle School. He has been an active member of our Technology Team by sharing perspectives on how to make technology accessible to K-12 students. This year he also helped ensure all our programs are achieving their goals through participation in our Education Advisory Task Force.

For Katz, Homewaters provides programs that meet state learning requirements, teach real world knowledge and skills, and get his students involved in their communities. In essence, programs that apply geography, locally! It is the dedication of teachers like him that make our programs successful. Thanks Richard!

### Nelda Swiggett

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Since joining the Board in summer 2004, Nelda has enthusiastically supported Homewaters' projects and programs. Among her other roles, Nelda is an excellent jazz pianist, piano teacher, and a mother of two boys who participate in Homewaters programs! Nelda will be sharing her musical skills at our Spring Party on May 19th.

### Engle, from page 1...

As Engle says, "GIS technology is ideal for exploring connections between humans, land, water, and history. It puts it all together in one place so that students can explore the interrelationships and connections."

These local connections are what Homewaters offers in all its programs, and what makes them so effective in the classroom. "When students are studying their neighbors and community, they are engaged and can see relevance and connection. Connection to place equals increased likelihood of commitment to place," says Engle, "and kids love looking at their neighborhoods on the computer!"

Heidi's work on the Neighborhood Green Mapping program has been integral to its success. Thanks for your dedication Heidi!

## Now Hiring for a New Director!

Sharon London, Homewaters' Executive Director, will be stepping down this summer to spend more time with her soon to be expanding family.

The search is on to hire a new ED. If you or someone you know are interested, please visit our web page for more information:  
www.homewatersproject.org.

## Green Map Exchange

On June 2, students from Nathan Hale HS and Cleveland HS will meet in Seattle City Hall to present their Neighborhood Green Map investigation findings to each other.

A City of Seattle Technology grant enables Homewaters to train teachers to use GIS and Green Maps in their classrooms, and set up this exchange.

## Watershed Gardens Teachers for 05-06

Are you a 4th-6th grade teacher? Looking for an integrated, year-long project that allows your students to learn about water conservation and create a native garden on your school site? Want a \$20/hour training stipend, year-long support from Homewaters' Schools Coordinator, funds for plants/soil amendment, and lessons?

Contact Linda Versage, lversage@secd.ctc.edu or 206.526.0187. Applications due June 6, 2005.

## Adobe Action Grant

A special thanks to Adobe for awarding Homewaters with a 2005 Adobe Action Grant for \$5,000. This is the first year Adobe has offered this program, and we are excited to help launch their new effort.

Learn more at the Community section of www.adobe.com.