
STEWARDSHIP & OUTREACH REPORT

AUGUST 2025

Outreach

Staff: Tanja Williamson, Margo Thorp

Alchemy Art Center's "Sundays in July" painting series concluded and Island Verse Literary Collective's Tuesdays in August writing workshops kicked off! Plus, the County Fair is almost here, and Tanja is gearing up. It runs Thursday (8/14) through Sunday (8/17) with the gates opening at 10:30am, closing at 8:30 pm. The CLB booth returns to the Green Village alongside many of our partners-in-conservation. Check out the Green Village's daily Speaker Series on our [Events Calendar](#) because you may want to grab a 4-day pass – it's that good!

Margo led native plant and seed activities with Camp Huckleberry on Lopez ([Lopez Island FRC Blog Post](#)) and hosted Camp Eagle Rock for three sessions at Driggs Park on San Juan Island (Photos 1 and 2). They discussed the importance of native plants, how seeds germinate and how seeds move around, and they played an informative seed to plant matching game, they "cleaned" native seed together, and they made native wildflower bookmarks.

Salish Seeds Nursery

Staff: Eliza Habegger, Margo Thorp

Potting up for the Fall Native Wildflower Sale is complete. Seed harvest and seed processing or "cleaning" is in full swing. This is the time of year when little bags and envelopes of wild-collected seed from staff and volunteers start coming in. Ten volunteers logged a total of 26 hours at our July Third Thursday work party (Photo 4). The Organic Seed Alliance sponsored a tour of the nursery on August 1. A variety of western Washington farmers attended, with interests ranging from native seed production to on-farm pollinator habitat creation.

District 1

Staff: Doug McCutchen, Charlie Behnke, Jacob Wagner, Shauna Barrows

Field staff have kept busy with maintenance activities across the district. Mowing and doing invasive weed work have occupied an immense amount of time over the month. YCC and WCC have been working hard on various projects as well.

Beaverton Marsh: Progress continues with the Beaverton Trail project. The same four firms who participated in a site tour also submitted for the RFQ. Exceltech was selected as the prime consultant for engineering and design. Thank you to Peg and Mike for sitting on the selection committee. Contract negotiation has initiated, and we are optimistic that work will commence in the coming weeks. WCC helped Charlie put up boundary fencing at Overmarsh commons. A public scoping meeting was held for the updated Stewardship and Management plan; approximately 36 people attended. Most attendees were neighbors and responded favorably to the management concepts that were shared. Doug is working with the Conservation District to bring a public lecture and site tour of innovative forestry rehabilitation techniques by [Tal Engel from Wolf Tree Forestry](#) in Comox, British Columbia in the first week of September.

Cady Mountain: Rocks engraved recognizing the Buck family were placed where the trail entered their former parcel per an agreement during the acquisition (Photos 5 and 6). The YCC put on an incredible amount of effort hiking across the Preserve pulling Tansy and thistle. They also helped locate hundreds of Garry oak seedlings that were planted as acorns by volunteers 2 years ago. Once located, the crew put cages on some of the healthiest and most robust trees (Photos 7-8).

Driggs Park: New native plant beds in the front yard are in bloom despite a dry year and no irrigation (Photo 10).

Kellett Bluff: Staff and volunteers visited the Preserve to do weed work and check on restoration projects. A project initiated in 2017, installing a mooring buoy to support access to the site by Land Bank, Preservation Trust, BLM, and Tribes, will be installed when the work window opens in September.

Limekiln: WDFW will hold a public meeting on August 13th regarding their plans for control of invasive Northern pike in Westside pond. They will be proposing use of rotenone piscicide as the most effective tool available for this ultra-high priority issue. Staff began lowering water levels to help facilitate whatever management strategy WDFW chooses to implement in early fall. Kwiaht provided data from passive bat surveys between June 20-July 30:

171	Hoary Bat, <i>Lasiurus cinereus</i>
538	Silver-haired Bat, <i>Lasionycteris noctivagans</i>
79	Big-brown Bat, <i>Eptesicus fuscus</i>
479	California Myotis, <i>Myotis californicus</i>
903	Yuma Myotis, <i>Myotis yumanensis</i>
431	Little Brown Myotis, <i>Myotis lucifugus</i>
35	Long-eared Myotis, <i>Myotis evotis</i>
12	Long-legged Myotis, <i>Myotis volans</i>

Mount Ben: Doug developed a restoration plan for the SW corner of Mount Ben which will support a nearby SJPT acquisition. If successful, the project will compliment restoration activities envisioned on the potential future SJPT preserve.

Mount Grant: Volunteer Jon Howe discovered a barred owl with a broken wing. Staff were able to collect the bird and bring it to Wolf Hollow for treatment (Photo 11).

District 2

Staff: Peter Guillozet, Tyler Goodman, Scot Devereaux

Coffelt Farm: Following additional design revisions and submittal of the permit application, Peter held a pre-bid meeting for the septic system replacement project. Bids are expected in the next week. An unauthorized promotional flight over the Preserve by two piloted, drone-like aerial vehicles and a helicopter created quite a stir. Communications with the companies involved are ongoing.

Coho: Tyler assisted Jenny DeGroot on a seining effort of Cascade Creek (Photo 13). A total of 113 Coho fry and 74 coastal cutthroat were observed along with various sculpin species, a handful of non-native brook trout and a crayfish.

Crescent Beach: The shaded fuel break and forest thinning project is underway. The trail is closed but beach access remains open (Photos 14-16).

Dolphin Bay “Cherry” property: A waiver of retroactivity was provided by RCO, which will enable grant applications even after closing.

Deer Harbor Waterfront: YCC joined Scot and Tyler to implement some drainage improvements, brushing and adding a fresh layer of gravel along the forested trail portion of the Preserve (Photo 17).

Diamond Hill: Tyler and Peter met with part-time volunteer steward and donor of a portion of the property, John Lane, to discuss happenings on the Preserve.

Eastsound Waterfront: Preparations continue for implementation of the shoreline restoration project by the Friends in mid-September.

Judd Cove: Preparations continue for the shoreline restoration project in early September.

North Shore: A youth volunteer group from Camp Orkila assisted with watering plantings, totaling 250 gallons of water. Scot pulled a tansy patch.

President Channel: Tyler and Scot joined Meghan Howard from the SJPT for a yearly visit of annual monitoring. Efforts were made to remove the small number of invasive weeds on the property.

Turtleback Mountain: Scot and Tyler have spent a significant amount of time tackling invasive species from both trailheads. YCC has joined in on efforts to brush the north trail road and remove scotch broom and mullein (Photo 19). Following the recent fire, Peter held an informal meeting with neighbors along the southeastern border of the Preserve to discuss potential cross-boundary collaboration for fire risk reduction and ecological enhancement in the affected area.

District 3

Staff: Amanda Wedow, Claire Waterman

Hummel Lake: Botanists Peter Dunwiddie and Peter Zika visited the Hummel Lake bog with Amanda and Claire. The core of the bog consists primarily of Labrador tea (new genus is *Rhododendron* from *Ledum*) (Photo 21), salal, shore pine and sphagnum moss. A Lopez deputy assisted staff in locating the owner of a truck that crashed in the driveway. The owner had the vehicle towed. An arborist removed a willow tree that was leaning precariously into the parking area. Staff have been finding trash along the parking area.

Lopez Hill: YCC helped with trail brushing and weed removal (Photo 22). Claire also tackled more tansy and thistle. After several years of teasel removal, none has been found. The kiosk was pulled out of the ground with a vehicle and left in the middle of the parking lot. Deputies completed a report. The sheriff's log for that weekend had five reports of malicious mischief on Lopez. Amanda and Claire started to replace the posts, but it became apparent that the kiosk was too badly damaged. They disassembled the structure and are exploring ideas for replacement.

Richardson Marsh: Amanda and Claire completed a variety of tasks to move towards officially opening the Preserve. The trail was brushed, gravel was spread at the trail entrance, and the overlook trail tread was improved to be more level (Photos 23-24). Weed work was completed to remove bull thistle.

The Spit at Fisherman Bay Preserves: Island marble butterfly habitat plots were tarped to smother the grass and create bare ground for planting field mustard in 2026. YCC helped to remove arum seeds and thistles. Staff have been finding more trash along the parking area. The Preserve has been consistently busy, especially on weekends.

Weeks Wetland at Fisherman Bay Preserves: Staff began disassembling the platform and are considering plans for replacement. "The Peters" also visited the Preserve and were impressed with the patch of *Sidalcea hendersonii* (checkermallow) growing at the wetland (Photo 25). A handful of plants are protected from deer browse by cages. We also observed large seed stalks on plants growing along Nootka rose. YCC helped to maintain the cages and disassemble the platform.

Upright Head: A recent tour of shoreline restoration areas, sponsored by the Friends of the San Juans, highlighted the beach project here and the abundance of surf smelt eggs. Attendees were also fortunate to witness two Bald eagles utilizing the site during the visit (Photos 26-27).

Watmough: Claire has been tackling thistles. Amanda and Claire built a stacked rail fence along the property line. Erin continues to work with RCO to provide the very last details necessary for final reimbursement -- We are almost there!



Photos 1 and 2. Margo Thorp works with summer camp groups on Lopez and San Juan Islands, learning about the importance of native plants and how to clean native seed.



Photo 3. Native plant “volunteers” border the perimeter of the Salish Seeds Project, creating a beautiful display.



Photo 4. Volunteers potted up and labelled plants for the upcoming Fall Native Wildflower Sale.



Photo 5. One of two engraved granite boulders placed at either end of the Cady Mountain trail.
Photo 6. Doug highlining in an engraved boulder for the Cady Mountain trail to honor the Buck family.



Photos 7 and 8. "Are we supposed to be caging oaks or ourselves?" The YCC spent a day pulling weeds and caging Garry oak seedlings.



Photo 9. WCC Queer Affinity Crew helping repair old oak cages on Cady Mountain.

Photo 10. Douglas aster in bloom in the new native perennial beds at Driggs Park.



Photo 11. Jon Howe found this barred owl with a broken wing while on an early morning stroll at Mount Grant Preserve. The owl is now in the care of Wolf Hollow Animal Rehabilitation.

Photo 12. A rustling amongst dry leaves led to the sight of an otherwise hard-to-detect reptile in the islands, a Northern alligator lizard.



Photo 13. Tyler observes a coho salmon and cutthroat trout during a seining effort at Coho Preserve.
Photo 14. A track-mounted grinder clears a stand of blackberry and hawthorn at Crescent Beach in preparation for planting with native species.



Photo 15. Small-diameter conifer thinning underway at Crescent Beach Preserve.
Photo 16. The Crescent Beach trail is closed, but the parking lots and beach access along Crescent Beach Drive remain open during forest health work.



Photo 17. YCC after adding gravel to the Deer Harbor Preserve trail and parking lot.

Photo 18. The work is never done...a large pine limb falls at North Shore Preserve.



Photo 19. Tyler and Scot lead the YCC crew in weed pulling on Turtleback Mountain.

Photo 20. Tyler tackles a disappointing sight -- trash dumped at a trailhead -- with ready ease (and a quick wit).



Photo 21. Labrador tea at Hummel Lake bog/*Rhododendron groenlandicum*

Photo 22. YCC helped with trail brushing and weed removal at Lopez Hill.



Photos 23-24. Before and after trail photos at Richardson Marsh Preserve.



Photo 25. Checkermallow/ *Sidalcea hendersonii* at Weeks Wetland.

Photo 26. An adult and a juvenile Bald eagle were witnessed using Upright Head Preserve during a recent boat tour of shoreline restoration projects.



Photo 27. Oodles and oodles (technical term) of surf smelt eggs were detected at the pocket beach at Upright Head.