

# The Naked Fish



*We dare to print the naked truth!*

## Get Ready For May Valley Day!

The first annual *May Valley Day* will be celebrated August 4, 2001 from 10 AM to 4 PM. The west end of May Valley will be closed to thru-traffic (local access only!) from 148th Ave SE to the west end of 164th Ave SE near the old May Valley School. Take a stroll along the picturesque valley without fear of getting hit by a car. Ride your horse along the road without dump trucks roaring past and throwing rocks on you. Ride your bike, walk your dog (or your children). What a great day for May Valley! Maybe we should do this one day



(con't Page 2)

## MVEC WINS SKIRMISH

by  
Chuck Pillon

To those who have been keeping up with recent events and activities of the MVEC effort to restore our "Little River" (May Creek/Ditch) and its once thriving salmon run, it may not be apparent that there are other aspects to our endeavors.



Our "constructive engagement" of King County DDES bureaucrats, with the cooperation of the King County Council, has produced some measurable progress in thwarting the heavy-handed Code Enforcement actions that have so frustrated folks in Unincorporated King County. In point of fact, this petty tyranny has been, and

(con't Page 3)

Critter Report	2
Brent Lackey	2
Bear	3
Victory for Property Owners	5
Humans W/O Resources	6
Beaver Update	10
From The President	12

## Critter Report

by Mick Zevart

Did you know that the main diet of the American Bald Eagle is fish, and most of the salmon species it feeds on are now going on the endangered or threatened species lists?

Funny thing is, so much is being done to increase the number of breeding pairs of these birds, but little attention is being paid to restoring their food supply.



In the old days fishermen shot eagles, along with seals and sea lions, because these animals competed with them for the fish.

Back in the 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s, when our runs of silver salmon were still at normal levels, I would often see two or three eagles feeding on salmon trapped in pools in pastures left behind after the May Creek ditch had flooded over and then receded.

## May Valley Day (con't from Page 1)

every weekend during the summer months?

MVEC members have hired a team horses and wagon to provide free rides along sections of May Valley Road. MVEC will have a tour guide (an MVEC member) on board pointing out areas of local interest and providing commentary on the history and ecology of May Valley.

We invite all to attend this event. Call our phone line at (425) 656-9401 for more information.

Now, with the fish gone, the eagles have changed their diet to fowl and small animals. Several years ago, I was finding some of my breeding-age birds killed with the meat removed from their carcasses and lots of feathers strewn all over. I knew this was not being done by a Great Horned Owl or four-legged critter, so I started keeping watch before sunrise. I wanted to find out what was helping itself to my fowl. Sure enough, it was a large black bird with a white head and tail. These giant birds were also devouring my neighbor's gray geese.



It's a shame to have to get out of bed in the middle of the night to protect one's cash crop. After several mornings of shooting blanks in the air I convinced the eagles to change their route. So far this year, I have seen fewer eagles than in the past. Perhaps they have found another place to dine. Questions? Call me on 425-255-5690.

## Brent Lackey Resigns As May Valley Basin Steward

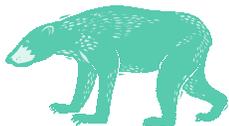
Several members of MVEC received a letter from Brent Lackey saying he was resigning as Basin Steward for our fair valley and taking a job with the City of Seattle. His new job will be as Basin Steward for Seattle City Light in the Cedar Watershed. He expressed sorrow at having to leave May Valley and considered his time with us a productive one.

There is no word yet on who will be replacing Mr. Lackey. Maybe a resident of the valley would be the most appropriate one?



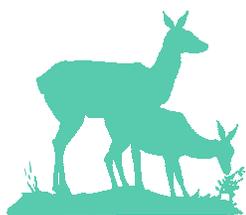
**Bear on the Farm** *by Dick Colasurdo*

An exciting sighting here on the farm was a black bear seen this past June. We were at the upper end of our farm when a woman driving along May Valley Road pulled in and said she saw a bear cross the road onto the farm. When we went to investigate, sure enough, there he was, just lumbering underneath a grove of apple trees. After a while, he headed towards the creek where he stayed for sometime until he decided to head back towards the roadway into the woods.



Also, recently, I saw for the first time, an otter down by the flooded waters. When I caught sight of him, I didn't really know what it was; he was in the act of running down a duck. He eventually caught and killed it. I described what I saw to a few folks, who confirmed that it was an otter. In all our years here on the farm, my family and I have never seen one here before. We wonder what brings him to May Valley.

I have been watching a huge bald eagle lately. There haven't been mature fish in the creek for years, so I assume the eagle is catching ducks and/or their ducklings. I have seen him sitting on a fence post or near the flooded ditch waiting for possible prey.



Then, of course, there are the deer. Although their sightings are much more frequent, it is always an awesome sight to see two or three travel across the farm. With the huge developments in China Creek and the Highlands of Newcastle, you have to wonder where are these critters supposed to go? I'll surely be seeing more of them as they get squeezed out of their upper habitat and down into the valley.

**MVEC**  
**Monday night meeting**  
**at Leonard's**  
**7 PM Sharp!**

**Skirmishes** (con't from Page 1)

remains, a prime cause of the unrest that has led in past years to the effort to form a new county on the east side (Cedar).

Wielding "code sections" that are not in fact law, the Code Enforcement officers regularly invade and search private property without the authority of a search warrant. They "seize" (in the form of recording information) so-called evidence of "code violations" which they then seek to hammer unwitting property owners into submission. You must either pay "civil penalties" (fines, in the common lexicon), or surrender use and/or value of your property. To certain well-insinuated minions in the bureaucracy (who have a clear, and hardly hidden, agenda), they cause the destruction of that right that is so central to the liberty that some folks take too much for granted...private ownership and control of non "public" land.



These "code sections" are, in great part, the creation of those who then "enforce" them. The codes are often NOT the result of the required legislative process that would have the County Council take them up in the proper context, for public discussion and input, no indeed. They are, instead, the concoction of the staff of DDES, which is itself, an agency of the Executive Branch in County government. This clear violation of the doctrine of Separation of Powers in our system of government seems to trouble few at the Courthouse.

That this agenda is also calculated to extort the very funds that advances this cynical "cause" from the folk who are its victims, could not be more clear. DDES is an agency that relies on fees and penalties for its very existence. Roughly a year ago, the major media in the region reported that staff had been put on notice that revenue was down...and this had to be fixed! (con't Page 4) The ensuing frenzy of "code enforcement" came as no surprise.

This insanity is, not only destructive of the public trust government cannot do without, it is enormously destructive to the (con't Page 4)

## Skirmishes (con't from Page 3)

very environment it pretends to protect. Our "Little River" was a man-made amenity that allowed irrigation and flood control in a once productive, farming community (the May Valley/Coalfield area) beginning in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century.

In the 25-30 years, the "Code Enforcers", using such unilateral poppycock as "sensitive area" designations, have forced landowners to sit by and watch the willow, loosestrife and canary grass weeds choke the stream into lifelessness.

The salmon, which once coursed this waterway by the hundreds, are now down to a dozen or so sightings a year. These salmon were introduced into this man-made treasure in the late 1930's as excess stock from the Issaquah hatchery; itself, a monument to the hand of man



Two very similar cases-in-point illustrate not only the complexity of this destructive turn-of-events, but the events themselves, more importantly, illustrate what a community can do to slow, and even reverse, the bureaucratic juggernaut. These events show how we can begin to restore the natural wonder that was, in its heyday, an example of the benefit of wise, private stewardship of the land.

Harlowe Bonn and Villiani Veetutu are near-neighbors on the stream/ditch in May Valley. Both watched as flooding of the land increased in the 1980's as a result of the government-mandated demise of the May Valley Ditch. Both saw their open land disappear for much of the year, as flooding became chronic. Both were ordered not to take machinery near the ditch (now a so-called "sensitive area") and both learned, in short order, that you can't win over those pervasive-threats such as the aforementioned willow, loosestrife, et al in "hand to hand" combat. The weeds won out and the choked-off stream flooded each neighbor in turn.



Soon flooded open land became a lesser concern as floodwater lapped at their very doors even as, so King County itself has documented, water covered their septic systems. Now, there was and remains a government-created threat to

public health. The septic systems would contaminate the Ditch, the Ditch flows into May Creek, and on to the swimming beaches of Lake Washington. Harlowe and Vil, as well as other neighbors did what any caring, sensible citizen would do; they covered their septic systems with fill to prevent septic effluent from leaching into the floodwaters. Harlowe, at a cost to his family of thousands of dollars, also had to jack up his home and build a new foundation. You might think at this point that the County, which had imposed this burden on them, owned them something...at least a note of thanks. Alas, it was not to be.

No, years after the fact and square at the height of the aforementioned enforcement frenzy, both were served with complaints that threatened them with massive fines if they did not remove the fill. Never mind its purpose - the fill had to go or there was hell to pay. Both neighbors naturally consulted lawyers, and of course, soon learned it would take thousands of dollars to challenge the County; and success was only marginally likely. Both then turned to MVEC in desperation.



MVEC mounted a two-pronged challenge. In the Veetutu case, an attorney was hired as the case had already gone to Court. In the Bonn case, a letter was written to the County demanding a "hold harmless" provision for Harlowe, in the face of the inevitable pollution to the public waterways that would result from the fill removal. Suddenly, the almighty County blinked. Harlowe's letter was sent as an appeal to the County Hearing Examiner, the very astute Mr. Stafford Smith.

When the County Code Enforcement officer began to restate the demand for fill removal with obvious indifference to the public health issue, the good Mr. Smith cut her off at the pockets. "No", said this true servant of the public interest, "Any fill placed to protect a septic system must stay...and further, any fill placed before 1990 should stay as well". Mr. Smith was so good as to cite the actual code sections here applicable...and told the Code Enforcement officer to go back and sort things out at the site, with proper consideration of those aspects of "the Code" she had earlier ignored or been ignorant of (hard to say which is worse).



(con't Page 6)

# Victory for Property Owners

by Oscar J. Bandelin, Ph.D.



Anthony Palazzolo of Westerly, RI has won a significant victory in a fight for his land rights that he has carried on for more than twenty years. He was probably among the most grateful of Americans on Independence Day 2001.

The week before, the United States Supreme Court had agreed that the State of Rhode Island might have harmed the octogenarian when it failed to compensate him after it prohibited him from building on eighteen acres of salt marsh that he owns in Westerly. Harold Johnson, an attorney with the Pacific Legal Foundation, the organization that represented Palazzolo, discussed the case in an article published in *The Wall Street Journal* on July 3. The Rhode Island Supreme Court's justification for its treatment of Palazzolo was that his land was a salt marsh, or, more to the point, a "wetland." It was home, therefore, to a variety of wild fauna and flora. Palazzolo could retain title to the land, but because of its classification the state declared that he had no right to develop it. Of course, the state would continue to tax him on it; and because Rhode Island had allowed him to build a home adjacent to it, the state argued that it would not have to defend an action for taking the land. In addition, the state held that since the environmental regulations in question had been in effect when Palazzolo assumed sole interest in the land in 1978, he had been "on notice" of the restrictions attached to it. Thus, he could not argue that the state violated his land-use rights or caused him economic loss by virtue of those measures. Palazzolo had originally acquired the land with a partner in 1959-60.

The U.S. Supreme Court held that Rhode Island's "on notice" argument was unjust, because it effectively allowed the state to subvert the principle behind the Takings Clause, which requires just compensation to landowners whose property is appropriated by the government. Justice Kennedy went so far as to declare that this reasoning applies to any property, regardless of when environmental regulations affecting it were passed.

The case has been remanded to the Rhode Island courts, which must now take seriously the question of whether a "taking" has occurred in Pazzolo's case, and the extent of compensation due to Pazzolo. The U.S. Supreme Court could not impose a direct penalty, because it held that a literal taking had not occurred. Rhode Island had indeed allowed Pazzolo to build the home. But the Court has raised the question of whether this was perhaps only a token gesture, designed to circumvent liability for damages resulting from Pazzolo's inability to make use of his property because of environmental regulations.

The fact that the U.S. Supreme Court did not impose a direct penalty on the state is significant. Some have argued that this takes the teeth out of the ruling. The truth, however, is that the punishment meted out by the Court to the State of Rhode Island is far worse than its critics admit. *Land-use legislation by environmental regulation, at least insofar as it affects private property, has been declared unconstitutional.* (editor's italics) Moreover, Rhode Island has been forced to consider that it may have violated Palazzolo's constitutional rights; and, if so, it must determine its own penalty for having done so. I can think of nothing more humiliating. It will be interesting to see what Rhode Island finally determines to be fair and just, especially after decades of skirting the issue.

The ruling is a breath of fresh air to those around the country who have watched as regulatory zealots have effectively claimed their land without payment in the name of nebulous environmental causes. Now government officials will have to answer directly for the economic harm that their measures cause to citizens whose lands they affect. If they insist on appropriating lands, it will not be so easy as it was in the past for them to do so with relative impunity. At long last, measures designed to protect the environment will have to be considered with genuine care rather than imposed arbitrarily, as the government will have to pay for the lands it takes. Property owners now have much stronger grounds on which to defend their rights, thanks to the generation-long battle of a true American patriot. Thank you, Mr. Pazzolo.

## Skirmishes (con't from Page 4)

This led to the immediate evaporation of the draconian threat to Harlowe's pocketbook (those so-called "civil penalties"). A very amicable resolution, which brought this matter to a close, has been reached in which the fill on Harlowe's land will be marginally rearranged and the public health will be protected.

This enabled a resolution of the Veetutu case on the same basis. Our attorney, David Smith of Kirkland, was most helpful in drafting a settlement, and at every turn, took pains to minimize costs on behalf of Veetutu and our community group. Dave Smith did a lot to enhance the oft-tarnished image of his trade and is worthy of inquiry, if you need a GOOD attorney.



This happy ending might seem worthy of celebration, and in fact, we did a little. But, remember, the many folk who have not had the wherewithal or community support to weather their own assaults on their homesteads. They have

paid dearly with loss of fortune and land.

In the greater sense then, this was just another opening skirmish in what remains a daunting challenge for all who love "Our Land" (meaning our country)...and our land. The battle for our freedoms is perpetual. The generals of foreign armies cannot reach our shores, but the bureaucrats are in our midst.

So, finally, the question.... how can this be??? Here in the "Land of the Free", how does government become our enemy; taking liberty with the law-of-the-land they are sworn to uphold, and abusing their so-called authority to mount these assaults on our rights???



The answer to this question is no mystery. We must, and will, put things right in that grand rebellious tradition that is...American Citizenship! Let the petty tyrants beware. WHAT TO DO???

**WATCH THIS SPACE!!!**

# Humans Without Resources

by Rodney McFarland

## Part 2

### History continued:

The first article in this series covered the history of the Pacific Northwest from the beginning of ray-finned fishes 400 million years ago through two waves of human immigration across the Bering land bridge from Asia. [Vol 1, issue 2, The Naked Fish, June 2001]

Until approximately 8500 BC all humans were hunter-gatherers. A combination of factors at that time led to the development of food production (farming) in the Fertile Crescent area of

of Southwest Asia. One factor was the decline in the availability of wild foods, primarily large mammals. Many large mammals had become extinct by this time due to increasing numbers of skilled human hunters or due to climate changes. Just as the depletion of wild game made hunter-gathering less rewarding, an increased availability of domesticable wild plants made plant cultivation more rewarding. Climate changes at the end of the Pleistocene greatly expanded the area of habitat in the Fertile Crescent suitable for huge crops of wild cereals which could be harvested in a short time. The newly available wild cereals accelerated the development of the technology for collecting, process-



(Continued on page 8)

## The White Car

by Douglas Bandelin

*(dedicated to Mr. Buckley, Mr. Kirkpatrick and  
Mr. Glazier.)*

As I sit on the old cottonwood stump  
And contemplate what was, is and is to come  
Fire burns within my soul  
Shooting up white hot sparks of anger

Who could have done this [I ask ]  
Who could have been so careless  
So callous to let the garden go to this

Silt laden stream stagnating  
In it's own shallow muck  
Overrun with bramble and thorn  
Lifeless murky water  
Shorn of it's pristine sparkle and finny delight

Could it have been that old man over there  
Who walks not straight but by limp from vacca's horn  
Or the old woman whose back is bent but mind is full  
of  
Sweet memories, laughing youth and bountiful fish  
Perhaps they were the rapers' of streams  
The plundering pirates of natural wonders

## Silt Facts

The amount of silt that water picks up is determined primarily by three things: the type of material it is flowing over; its rate of flow; and the amount of silt it already contains.

- Most of the canyon area is silty sand that is easily eroded.
- The creek falls approximately 300 feet from 148<sup>th</sup> to Lake Washington, which keeps the rate of flow much higher in the canyon than in flat May Valley.

No!! Their eyes also cloud with tears when  
looking  
On the beauty that was and the horror that is  
It could not have been these souls  
[I must look elsewhere]

perhaps there in that white car where sit  
two young people with knitted frowns  
holding volumous books lacking common  
sense  
perhaps they have something to do with this  
sadness

they are moving now, out of the car  
talking to the old people waving their arms  
and raising their voices while pointing  
at the clogged ditch and tall cattails

the old people turn white with fear  
fall down and get up no more  
both young people smile, return to their car  
and drive away

I watch all of this silently  
while the anger burns brighter still  
and I cry for us

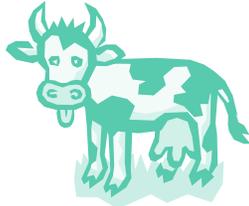


*Thank you Dick Colasurdo  
and  
Craig and Mary Celigoy*

## Humans Without Resources

(Continued from page 6)

ing, and storing cereals. Crop production encouraged people to stay in one place which in turn led to the domestication of certain mammals (goats, sheep, pigs, cows) so that it was not necessary to travel to hunt. Domestication of the cow allowed the invention of the plow, which significantly increased crop production. The final factor was the two-way link between food production and human population density. As the population grew there was increased pressure to find food and those who took steps toward producing it were rewarded with increased supplies. Food production tends to lead to increased population densities because it yields more edible calories per acre than does hunter-gathering. Once people began to produce more food and became sedentary, they could shorten the birth spacing and produce still more people, requiring still more food.



Farming allowed one man to feed several others, which allowed the development of other specialties. The first was probably the toolmakers (technology) which increased further the productivity of the food producers.

Politicians and bureaucrats soon followed to form governments to control food production and distribute it (taxes) to the specialists. Government growth led to the need for increased land area to govern (annexation). Since not all areas agreed to annexation voluntarily, the third and fourth specialties (soldiers and weapons makers) developed and slavery was started to force the newly acquired population to continue to produce food instead of reverting to hunter-gathering and leaving.<sup>1</sup> Thus farming begat technology which begat bureaucrats which begat growth. Currently farming, technology, and

growth are all blamed for the ills of the planet while bureaucrats are heralded as our saviors and yet they have been in control all along. American farmers currently support 88 other Americans (including 5.9 bureaucrats and one-half soldier)<sup>2</sup> while exporting large amounts of food and fiber to the rest of the world.

Meanwhile, Native Americans did not begin domesticating plants until about 2500 BC primarily because of a lack of suitable large mammals and plants. They abandoned most of their local domesticates when corn, beans, and squash from Mexico became dominant around A.D 900. The Native Americans of the Pacific Northwest were sedentary (not nomadic) but still hunter-gatherers until recent times.



Population growth forced the people of the Fertile Crescent to expand to fill Asia and Europe. When ocean-going ships were developed, European rulers began to send explorers out in search of new land and resources. Columbus' landing in the New World in 1492 and claiming



it for Spain launched a European rivalry for territory. Over the next two years, the Pope responded to the discovery and the threat of competition over it by dividing the Western Hemisphere into Spanish and Portuguese zones of influence, and assigned the Pacific Northwest to Spain. The clash between the cultures of Europe and North America was inevitable. The stone age hunter-gatherers of the Pacific Northwest were no match for the late iron age, early industrial age newcomers who had a several-thousand year head start in converting natural resources into food, tools, and other useful goods. Sheer numbers alone would have prevailed without the added technological advantages; just as in modern King County, the rural residents are being overwhelmed by the urban culture.

(Continued on page 9)

## Humans Without Resources

(Continued from page 8)

Spain's galleons began sailing between Mexico and the Philippines in 1527 and in 1707 the galleon San Francisco Xavier, sailing from Manila to Acapulco, shipwrecked on the Oregon coast near Nehalem beach. The Spanish sent exploratory voyages in 1774 and 1775 and performed ritual acts of possession that asserted their claim to the territory. The Spanish did not sail north seeking resources. They had their hands full extracting resources from Mexico. They wanted to reinforce their claims to the land and establish a buffer between themselves and the Russian settlements in Alaska.



The British approach was quite different. Captain Cook's third expedition of the Pacific Ocean (1776-1780) made landfall at Nootka Sound on Vancouver Island in 1778. He acquired sea otter and beaver pelts and continued up the coast to Alaska. Cook's crew was initially uninterested in the Pacific Northwest until they learned of the economic value of fur pelts to the Chinese, whereupon they hustled back to the Northwest Coast to do more trading and exploring. They sent 25 vessels between 1785 and 1794, primarily to participate in the maritime fur trade. In contrast to the Spanish, the British were on the lookout for economic resources and good harbors from the beginning and approached colonization of the territory more aggressively.

The difference in approaches led to the Nootka Sound controversy of 1789-1794 in which Spain and Britain challenged one another's claim to the Pacific Northwest. The following is excerpted from a great lesson from the Center for the Study of the Pacific Northwest.<sup>3</sup> The crisis started in 1789

when Spaniards tried to defend their claims to the territory by capturing British trading vessels as they arrived at Nootka Sound, on the West Coast of Vancouver Island.

The British seized upon this incident, and talked about going to war over it, because they saw it as an opportunity to promote a different approach to

colonization in the Americas. Spain should not be permitted simply to claim territory and prevent other Europeans from doing the same, the British argued, unless it was actually occupying and making use of the territory. In essence, Britain wanted to change the "rules" of colonization more to their favor. Rather than rely upon the edict of the Pope or some ritual act of possession to assert control over territory, it insisted, relatively unoccupied lands ought to be accessible to any nation that could make productive (i. e., economic) use of them. This concept of colonization was written into the Nootka Sound Convention (signed in 1790, amended in 1794), which resolved the controversy between Britain and Spain." Had the Spanish prevailed maybe this area would be part of Mexico and our environmental problems would be much worse! At least we can drink our water.

Britain sent Captain George Vancouver to implement the agreement and undertake detailed exploration of the region, which included a tour approximately 100 miles up the Columbia River as well as the first recorded non-native visit to Puget Sound.

Americans Robert Gray and John Kendrick arrived on the Northwest Coast to trade furs in 1788. Robert Gray returned in 1792 and discovered the Columbia River. From 1788 to 1794 fifteen American vessels



came to trade furs. From 1794 to 1804 fifty American vessels (compared to nine British ships) came and between 1805 and 1814 forty ships arrived (compared to three British ships). In 1846 the Americans and British divided the region by drawing a boundary between Canada and the United States at the 49<sup>th</sup> parallel. In 1867, Russia sold Alaska to

the United States. The maritime fur trade reduced the ocean mammals almost to extinction<sup>4</sup> by 1900, which undoubtedly helped increase the salmon population. Any beavers in May



Valley during those years were trapped and sold by the local Native Americans and did not return until 1954. They were promptly eliminated once again and did not show up until the late 1980s.<sup>5</sup>

(Continued on page 10)

## Humans Without Resources

(Continued from page 9)

As the supply of furs diminished, more attention was focused on the possibility of exporting salmon. Captain John Dominis of Boston sailed the brig *Owyhee* into the Columbia River in 1829 and became the first American to cure and ship Pacific salmon to the East Coast.<sup>6</sup> The Hudson's Bay Company dominated the fur trade and also salt cured and sold salmon in its company stores. Salted salmon suffered from a major problem. It didn't taste very good. The problem was solved by William Hume who applied a process invented in 1809 by French biochemist Nicholas Appert. Appert entered a contest to devise a way to preserve food for Napoleon Bonaparte's scurvy-ridden army and figured out the canning process. From a start of 2000 cases on the Sacramento River in 1864, the salmon canning industry exploded across the Pacific Northwest. In 1913, 2,583,463 cases were canned in Puget Sound alone.<sup>7</sup> The salmon fishery had peaked by 1915 and begun its slow decline to its present level which most experts rate as 5% of the peak years.



The rest of this series will explore the issues and events leading to that decline as well as proposed methods to return to those peak runs.

<sup>1</sup> Diamond, Jared, *Guns, Germs, and Steel: The Fates of Human Societies* (New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 1999)

<sup>2</sup> <http://factfinder.census.gov>

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.washington.edu/uwired/outreach/cspn/hstaa432/lesson\\_3/hstaa432\\_3.html](http://www.washington.edu/uwired/outreach/cspn/hstaa432/lesson_3/hstaa432_3.html)

<sup>4</sup> D. Dodds, "What We Can Do About Saving Salmon!", <http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/endangered/Htms/DonDodds.htm>

<sup>5</sup> Conversations with Mick Zevart, Dick Colusurdo, and other longtime May Valley residents.

<sup>6</sup> J. Lichatowich, *Salmon Without Rivers* (Washington: Island Press, 1999).

<sup>7</sup> Lichatowich, *Salmon Without Rivers*



## Beaver Update

by Mick Zevart

After several days of waiting for the okay from King County to obtain permits from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Carl Jensen moved in on the May Creek Ditch to remove our much hated beaver.

On July 1, 2001, along with two helpers Tom Mitchell and Mike Morris, they cast off into the stream using a small canoe and a flat-bottom boat. They set some 12 to 15 traps from the Spoon place up to the upper end of the Bruce property. Carl stated they walked and floated the Ditch from the bridge at 164th up to the upper end of the Beckman farm. Some sign of beaver was seen but it was old sign from the past winter.

On Monday, July 9, Carl decided to start working below the bridge at 164th. One adult beaver was taken below Larry Crane's house. As of July 14, Carol said that if there were still beaver in the upper valley, they must be above SR-900, somewhere below the landscape and nursery people's place. He was to check out the section of the Ditch below the Jones' horse farm and Eyak Acres. If no sign was found they would pull out and send King County the bill.

Without any beaver in the Ditch, there should be no reason why the dams can't be taken out and the residents of May Valley to get on with their lives.



### Visit [www.maycreek.com](http://www.maycreek.com)

If you haven't already visited our new website at [maycreek.com](http://maycreek.com), please do so. Rod McFarland has done a great job of posting the history of May Valley as it was developed by our technical team as well as great photos of events during the past year.

# May Valley Day 2001



**SE MAY VALLEY ROAD\* CLOSED**  
**ALL DAY FROM 10 AM - 4 PM LOCAL ACCESS ONLY**  
**.WALK THE WEST END OF THE VALLEY WITHOUT FEAR!**  
**.RIDE YOUR HORSE on the road WITHOUT TRUCKS!**



# August 04, 2001



Ride Your Bike



Walk Your Dog

Sponsored by: *May Valley Environmental Council*

(425) 656-9401

- . Free horse-drawn wagon rides**  
(\*SE May Valley Rd to be closed from 148th Ave sE to the west end of 164th Ave se)
- . learn the history of may valley**
- . updates on the 2001 basin plan**





## A Message from the President

“It’s A Ditch!”, says MVEC President Rick Spence. “Just keep in mind these facts.

- It was dug before 1913 for agricultural purposes.
- It is "May Creek Ditch" on property descriptions and used as a boundary.
- It is mentioned in the 1983 federal registry of wetlands as a ditch.
- It was mentioned as a ditch or as being ditched in the three

May Valley basin plans: 1965, 1980 and 1998.

- It was mentioned in the King County Soil Conservation Plan of 1950 # 53 as a ditch.
- It was used agriculturally for both drainage as well as irrigation for over 90 years and maintained until 1990 when King County denied people the right to maintain their own property.

When you meet people interested in our valley, take

every opportunity to re-enforce the idea that a good portion of May Creek is actually May Creek Ditch”, Rick emphasized.

“We must not let the County take away our right to maintain the Ditch by cleaning—each and every year.

Go to our website, [www.maycreek.com](http://www.maycreek.com), for more information.”

### *The Naked Fish, a publication of the May Valley Environmental Council*

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**Don't let our valley disappear!**

