



We Remember.

We dare to print the naked truth!

The Naked Fish

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Volume 2 • Issue 3

All Eyes Are Upon Us

At an afternoon meeting at Leonard's on Thursday, April 18th, members of MVEC met with Kathryn Neal and the County's new basin steward for Issaquah and May Valley, Mary Maier. If we are to believe what they are telling us, there is a project in the works to install a by-pass channel from the ditch on the Crane property to the confluence of stream 291A (the fish ladder



stream) at the Hansen property. A recent stream survey (see below) revealed that the creek/ditch loses its channel along the Crane property and floods to a 100'x400' morass of willows, silt and reed canary grass. The County's initial plan was to cut a channel to the north of the willow mass to allow for the area to drain. This area is one of the more significant stream obstructions in May Creek/Ditch. The kicker to this is that they had no intention of either restoring the channel to its historic dredged path or taking out the willows which are keeping the mess in place. Does this sound familiar?

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2002 Stream Survey

May Creek was surveyed between 164th Ave SE and 148th Ave SE on March 26, 2002, by Laird O'Rollins, Ecologist, and Abel Eckhardt, Ecological Technician. Float tubes and dry suits were used, as well as graduated staffs for measuring channel dimensions. Photographs were taken at significant locations.

Specific objectives included identification of channel obstructions and sediment accumulations that would decrease channel capacity and cause upstream flooding, as well as habitat features and riparian characteristics.

May Valley Stream Survey report.



UAC Meeting

On Wednesday, March 20, at 7 pm the monthly 4-Creeks UAC meeting was held at the new Issaquah Police Station. The program that night included a Q & A with Director of DDES, Greg Kipp. Also on the hot seat was Randy Sandin who heads the clearing/grading section.

The meeting was chaired by UAC President Oscar Bandelin who showed his mettle with the passionate and sometimes unruly audience.

In particular were questions directed at Kipp and Sandin regarding the qualifications for Code Enforcement Officers. As

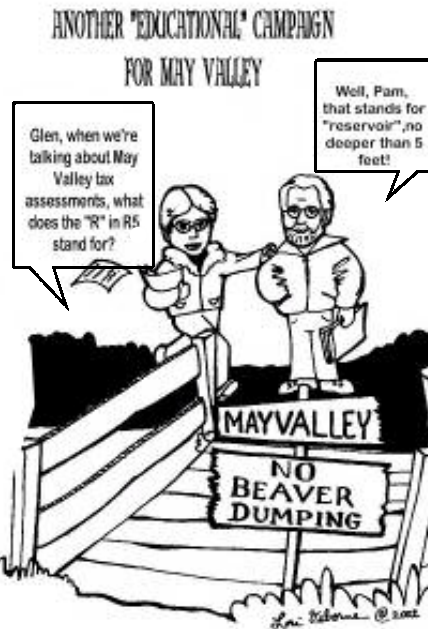
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This would take another 100 feet out of production due to "Sensitive Areas" and allow the willow swamp to go further up the land. DNR comes to May Valley saying, "trust us, trust us!" when what they really intend to do is flood us out more. We need the whole channel dredged and nothing less.

Lest we become discouraged about our progress on this matter, there is a rumor that when County employees encounter a particularly rowdy citizens group, they tell them "What? Do you want another May Valley happening in your community?" meaning all the friction, the news media coverage, the endless, non-productive meetings. Less politically aware land owners then say, "No, no" and they back down. The un-said truth for basin residents to know is that the projects in May Valley are going to be the template for every other stream repair in King County. The County has never "cleaned" a creek before; they don't know how the permitting process will go; they don't know what kind of machinery will work; they have never drawn up these kinds of engineering documents.

If we give up just one inch of what we've lobbied for these past months, another community will suffer just the way we have. I don't think anyone is saying, "don't work with the County"; on the contrary, give them all the help you can; but never, ever believe they are doing this "for the people". They are under huge pressure to get May Valley out of the headlines. Their



bosses are tired of hearing from us and want to move on to other projects. Great! But don't believe that they are on our side. They will fight us hand and foot

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MVEC Meetings
Every Monday
7 PM

Leonard's

16341 SE Renton-Issaquah Rd

Environmental Litany - Fact or Fiction?

by Rodney McFarland

¹*litany* (lit'n-ē) n. pl. *litanies*

- 1 A liturgical prayer consisting of a series of petitions recited by a leader alternating with fixed responses by the congregation.
- 2 A repetitive or incantatory recital.

The Environmentalist Litany goes something like this:

- ◆ Human overpopulation is destroying the world.
- ◆ We can't feed the current population, let alone more.
- ◆ The forests are disappearing.
- ◆ We are rapidly running out of energy.
- ◆ We are rapidly running out of non-energy resources.
- ◆ The air is unfit to breathe.
- ◆ Water pollution is bad and getting worse.
- ◆ The earth is one big paved parking lot.
- ◆ Our fertile topsoil is gone.
- ◆ Man-made chemicals are killing us.
- ◆ 40,000 species go extinct each

year.

- ◆ Man is responsible for global warming.
- ◆ Developed nations use too many resources.
- ◆ All of the above get worse each year.

I'm sure this isn't the first time you have read or heard the statements listed above as well as other Litany items not mentioned above. The question is, how much, if any, of the Litany is true. As you can tell from the way I phrased that last sentence, this article and others to follow will take a look at the parts of the Litany (most that don't match the available data.

We are constantly bombarded with this Litany. Environmental doom and gloom is beamed at us from every angle. Our view of the environment is shaped by the images and messages that

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Comparative Rain Totals In Inches*

	1999- 2000	2000- 2001	2001- 2002
Sept	.25	2.25	0
Oct	3.25	5.35	5.00
Nov	3.25	4.40	12.95
Dec	13.45	3.70	7.55
Jan	7.25	3.40	8.15
Feb	3.75	2.75	5.10
Mar	6.60	3.90	4.65
Apr	4.45	4.55	4.75
May	2.15	2.50	
June	3.15	3.75	
July	2.05	1.30	
Aug	.70	1.95	
	45.95	40.70	48.15

*taken at the boundary of Zevart and Bandelin property

All Eyes Are Upon Us (con't)

(Continued from page 2)

over our right to maintain our own land and our own ditch.

At this same meeting we heard things like "there will be no defiance" from property owners. Defiance? Is this the father admonishing his children? This sounds like how King George talked about the colonists just before the Boston Tea Party!

We were told that County employees live in a world where everything has to be done legally. What condescension from a bureaucracy that expects people to stand idly by while its rules destroy our lives and livelihoods because "It's the law!" when in truth it's simply a rule they've conjured out of thin air. Many of us wonder where was the legality in taking our land by means of regulation?

With the intentional flooding of the valley, the County has wiped out acres and acres of fertile land by turning them into swamps. With the stroke of a pen, the County took 100' buffers around every creek with the now infamous Sensitive Areas Ordinance. No one that I know has ever been compensated for those areas. And

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Floodplains

A rule amendment would allow homes to be rebuilt in floodplains.

OLYMPIA - The state legislature recently changed state law to allow homeowners to repair or reconstruct homes in floodways, and now the Department of Ecology is updating its criteria for implementing that law.

Since 1968, it has been illegal to construct new homes inside "floodways," which is the area around a stream that transports the majority of the water during a flood. Until 1999, that law also prevented substantial repairs, reconstruction or improvements on existing homes located in floodways.

Instead, homeowners were expected to rebuild their homes farther away from the stream. But in a few cases, the property has not been large enough to allow long-time homes to be reconstructed outside of the floodway.

In 1999, the legislature amended the law to allow "grandfathered" houses to be rebuilt in floodways when there are no other options on that piece of property. The change in the law means Ecology must amend its floodplain-management regulations to clarify how a home can qualify to

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Environmental Litany (con't)

(Continued from page 3)

confront us on television and in newspapers and magazines. The subject is on every politician's lips and is discussed around the break table at work. Joseph Goebbels, Hitler's propaganda minister, who said, "A lie repeated often enough becomes the truth," would stand in awe.

The Litany has been repeated so often that it is now instinct for many.

Time magazine started an article in 2000 by stating as entirely obvious how "everyone knows the planet is in bad shape." Bjorn Lomborg expresses the pervasiveness of the Litany well, pointing out that, "Even children are told the Litany, here from Oxford University Press: *Young Oxford Books*: 'The balance of nature is delicate but essential for life. Humans have upset that balance, stripping the land of its green cover, choking the air, and poisoning the seas.' Equally, another *Time* article tells us how 'for more than

40 years, earth has been sending out distress signals' but while 'we've staged a procession of Earth Days ... the decline of Earth's ecosystems has continued unabated.' The April 2001 Global Environment Supplement from *New Scientist* talks about the impending 'catastrophe' and how we risk consigning 'humanity to the dustbin of evolutionary history.' Our impact is summarized with the headline 'Self-destruct':

'We humans are about as subtle as the asteroid that wiped out the dinosaurs ... The damage we do is increasing. In the next 20 years, the population will increase by 1.5 billion. These people will need food, water and electricity, but already our soils are vanishing, fisheries are being killed off, wells are drying up, and the burning of fossil fuels is endangering the lives of millions. We are heading for cataclysm.'

"We know the Litany and have heard it so often that yet another repetition is, well, almost reassuring. There is just one problem: it does not seem to be backed

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All Eyes Are Upon Us (con't)

(Continued from page 3)

then our new "basin steward" says, "I don't need to take the tour. I already know the problems here." How many times have we heard that statement! The real truth about the County is that they already "know" the solutions before they even talk to the residents who live

with the problems. No wonder we pay for study after study. If they'd listen in the first place they'd get it right first time out.

Welcome this "new cooperation" with DNR, but be vigilant! Give them just one inch of your land and they'll have the whole parcel!

Environmental Litany (con't)

(Continued from page 4)

up by the available evidence.”² Mr. Lomborg, a Danish statistician and Greenpeace member, conducts a thorough look at the real state of the environment as compared to the Litany in his book *The Skeptical Environmentalist*. The Litany does not fare well. It is interesting that Mr. Lomborg started his research to prove detractors of the Litany wrong and couldn't.

Those of us who live in May Valley know the Litany well. Belief in it has caused the politicians and bureaucrats who control our lives to make bad decisions that have destroyed our little valley while the Litany told them they were our saviors.

The constant repetition of “the Litany” and other environmental exaggerations has serious consequences. It encourages us to spend our resources and attention solving phantom problems while ignoring more important real and

pressing issues that have nothing to do with the environment. Do you really think that the \$400,000 King County has spent on Pioneer Park was the best possible use of the money? How about the \$350,000 spent on the fish ladder to nowhere?

The purveyors of the Litany have successfully convinced the politicians and bureaucrats that the Litany is the best available science on the various subjects involved. That leads to some controversy with constituents, since the available science often disagrees with the Litany. The politicians of the State of Washington solved that problem when they passed RCW 36.70A.172, which requires all counties and cities in Washington to include the best available science in developing policies and development regulations to protect the functions and values of critical areas. They ensured that the Litany prevailed by publishing a list of the acceptable science references.

Precedence is given to state agency publications, of course, and the list is short! The Washington State Department of Ecology is obviously filled with the brightest minds on the planet judging by the large number of their publications on the list. In Washington the world is flat because the law says so! So the cities and counties of Washington have to break state law to use any science that disagrees with the Litany. Skagit County just got dinged for trying to set 75-foot buffers on agricultural land.

The environmental movement is based on the idea that man has a moral duty to the rest of nature because of our ability to weigh alternatives and make choices. If it is not concerned with depicting the possible or probable consequences of current behaviors and if it is not concerned with

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Floodplains (con't)

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be reconstructed or substantially repaired.

The department formed an advisory group to help develop the proposed rule amendment. Specifically, it would allow:

* The repair or replacement of a

substantially damaged farmhouse residence in the floodway if no other suitable site is available.

* The repair or replacement of a substantially damaged non-farmhouse residence in the floodway if no other suitable site is available, provided that other state and federal laws

governing construction or repair are adhered to and the structure is not located in an area of deep and/or fast-flowing water during a flood.

Gordon White, who manages Ecology's shorelands program, noted that the regulation would provide greater latitude

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Environmental Litany (con't)

(Continued from page 5)

proposing alternatives, on what is it spending your and my life energy and resources? The environmental movement is either a serious moral and intellectual inquiry or it is not. If it is not serious, it is not worth our energies and should get its hand out of our wallets. If it is serious, it must consider arguments on all sides of a question, not just blindly follow the Litany. The environmental movement needs to foster a thorough and dramatic competition of ideas. It cannot afford a single smelly orthodoxy to which all must conform or it will die off as more and more reflective people recognize the uncorrected errors in the Litany.³ Political chicanery such as RCW 36.70A.172 can only serve to hasten that death.

In the coming months we will take a closer look at some of the individual pieces of the Litany to see if they are fact, fiction or somewhere in between. The Litany has a very insidious quirk. Not only does it assume that we all know it to be true, but it assumes we all know that anyone who claims anything else must have evil intentions of some sort as well as being a pathological liar. We saw that plainly exhibited at the Near Term Action Agenda hearing in Renton.

When Rick Spence handed a participant a copy of *It's Not About Fish* the man said that he didn't have time to read fiction. In mere seconds, and without opening the cover, the Litany enabled him to judge a book about the very subject he was there to learn about as not worthy of his time.

I will state my intentions right up front. To err is human – to really muck it up requires government. Politicians, bureaucrats, and uninformed voters have bought into the Litany big time and put governments in charge of the environment. They are horrible stewards, as a quick trip to any closed King County Park will attest.

Management of any land or resource by everyone (government) without a private property interest leads to a phenomenon named by Garrett Hardin as the *Tragedy of the Commons*. When the inhabitants of an apartment complex share a garden they all want it to look good. But they all want someone else to do the hoeing and weeding. Salmon mismanagement is a classic example as is May Valley since government took control. No private owner, personal or corporate, would have spent \$400,000 to achieve whatever King County thinks it is achieving at Pioneer Park. Those of us who do own the private property interest in May Creek can't seem to stop the errors. Can you imagine the waste on waterways totally in

"I know that most men, including those at ease with problems of the greatest complexity, can seldom accept even the simplest and most obvious truth if it be such as would oblige them to admit the falsity of conclusions which they have delighted in explaining to colleagues, which they have proudly taught to others, and which they have woven, thread by thread, into the fabric of their lives." — Tolstoy

government hands? I will do my small part to point out the errors in the Litany to anyone who is interested in the hopes that eventually we can return to tackling the more pressing problems of life on earth.

¹~~The American Heritage~~ © Dictionary of the English Language, Fourth Edition, (Houghton Mifflin, 2000).

²Lomborg, Bjorn, *The Skeptical Environmentalist*, (Cambridge/New York: Cambridge University Press, 2001), 3-4.

³Paraphrase of the first paragraphs of the Introduction written by Michael Novak to *Earth Report 2000*, (New York: McGraw-Hill), 2000:xvii with additions by this author.

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An Open Letter to Dept. of Natural Resources

by Douglas Bandelin

In the wellspring of heartfelt goodwill toward others there is a dry hole of immeasurable depth. It has not always been so. Once it was full and brimming with the sweet water of human trust. But over the years trust has been given and given again. My soul has waited for the rains of reciprocity to replenish the deep well, but none came; just withdrawal after withdrawal. And then the inevitable just happened: the well ran dry. There was no secret reason, no shocking confession, but plain old neglect has caused this to be so.

But now my government is standing at the well yet again, bucket in hand, looking for trust and understanding. "Just one more time," they plead, "one more withdrawal and it will rain goodness and mercy on your valley."

I look upon the outstretched hand and I

shake my head. "Sorry," I say. "The others of your ilk, the ones who came before you, have taken it all. There is none left to give. But one more thing before you leave. If you can make it rain, please do so. I thirst; the whole valley thirsts for a righteous deed, a sign from their government.

"If you could do such a thing, perform such a miracle, we would remember you. You would become part of the story, the song that is the legend of the valley. We would remember you, the ones who brought water to the deep dry well of goodwill.

"We would smile at the thought of you, and rejoice in your presence. When you come to our land we would be happy and secure in the knowledge that you were here to help and not to harm, as there would be water in the well again."

Floodplains (con't)

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for farmhouses than for other types of homes.

"Rebuilding homes in flood-hazard areas is generally not a good idea, but sometimes farmers have a critical business need to have their homes near other farm operations, and they have no choice but to rebuild in the same place," White said.

Two public hearings were held to take public comment on the proposal.

The proposed rule and related information can be downloaded from the internet at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/laws-rules/activity/wac173158.html> or may be obtained by contacting Scott McKinney at 360-407-7297 or smck461@ecy.wa.gov.

Written comments must be submitted

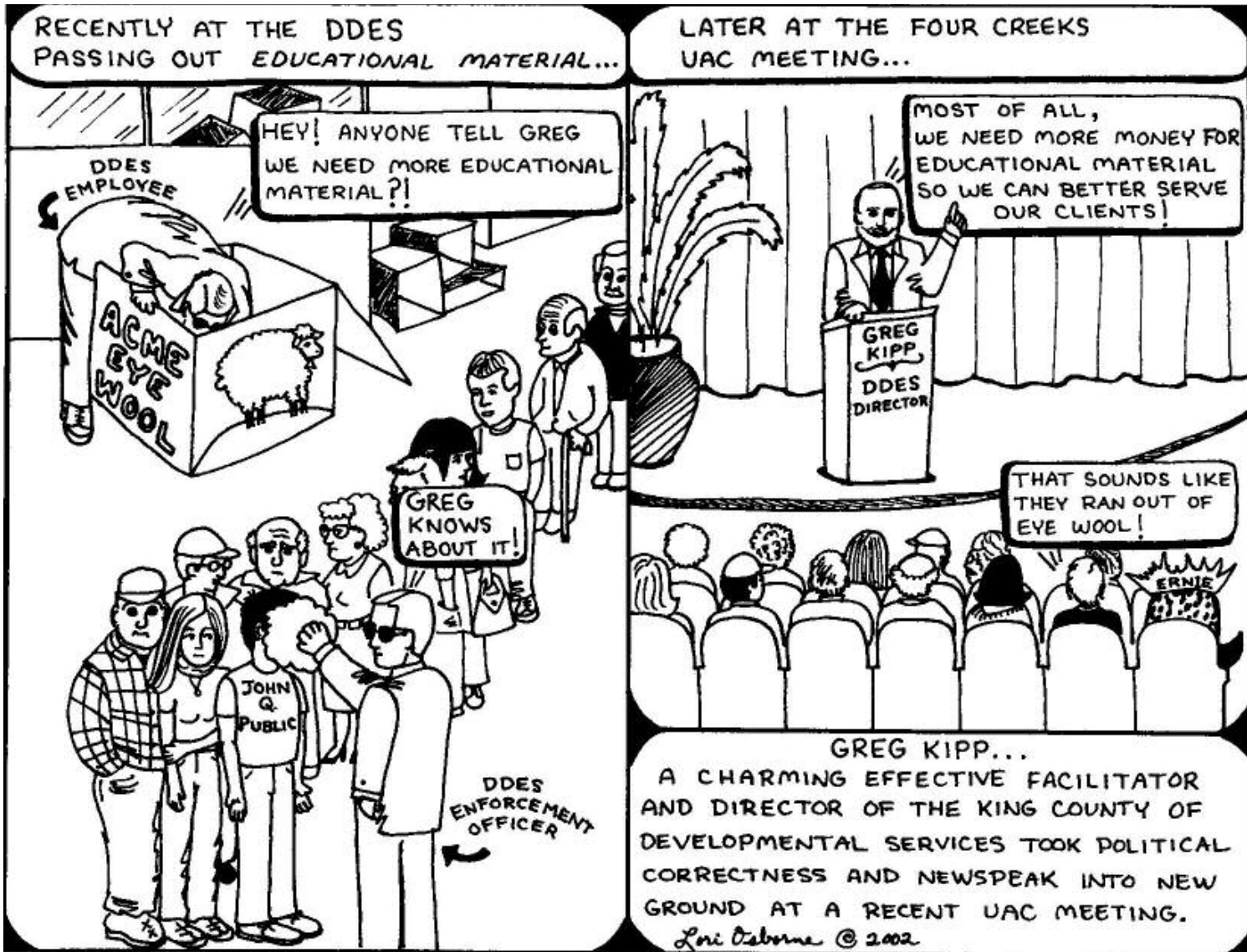
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They're Back!

During the stream survey, it was very evident that beaver are alive and well in May Creek Ditch. These photos were taken at Pioneer Park and show the easily seen activity. Remember the split-trunked alder that had shown beaver damage from years ago? The beavers have evidently decided to make another run at it!. Does MVEC need to wrap wire



around the trunk to save this tree? It won't take too much more chewing before it falls across the stream.



4 Creeks UAC (con't)

quickly a case was resolved and how many cases went to the Arbitrator. There was not one measure which dealt with interpersonal skills or even how well a CEO knew the regulations!

Clearly the focus for DDES is a “get ‘em in, get ‘em out” philosophy. Given the pressure CEO’s are under to resolve cases early (their job performance depends on it!), it’s no

wonder people have so much trouble with and don’t trust Code Enforcement Officers.



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it turns out, you don’t need a college degree or any special training to be a CEO. Performance measures were vague, but a few that were cited included how

Critter Report

by Mick Zevart

Wood Ducks (*Aix sponsa*)

Did you know that King County's Division of Surface Water Management, now part of the Department of Natural Resources, is making so-called habitat out of our



pastures, gardens, and back yards? They're plugging up *our* ditch with useless silt and willows and other plants, giving rise to what they call "emergent wetlands." Most of us living here in the valley would call it just plain flooding. This so-called habitat production has destroyed our run of silver salmon and has been very detrimental to the reproduction of waterfowl.

Before my appointment as the new MVEC Basin Steward, I was still sort of a valley watchdog. Now, with my new job, I try to make one trip a day through the valley. On my daily jaunts down May Valley Road, I pay attention to the water



level and look for any new signs of beaver. As a wildlife enthusiast I

also look for ducks, noting what kind and how many I find, as well as Canada geese, *Branta canadensis moffitti*. These are the locals we have here.

They don't migrate, which is one reason they were introduced here back in the 1950s.

Other species I look for include Lesser Canada geese, *B. c. parvipes*; Cackling Canada geese, *B. c. minima*; and White-fronted geese, *Anser albifrons frontalis* (of which I saw two a while back on "Glazier Lake," after the last heavy rain). Now and then I see an eagle, but more rarely these days because they don't have so much to eat as in the past, when there were salmon carcasses lying on the banks of the ditch. When the eagles hatch their eaglets in a month or so, they'll feed them with our chickens, our ducks, our geese, and maybe one or two of our cats.

Some time back I had a conversation with the editor, Kathy Jones, after which I decided I'd focus on the Wood duck. Many have been seen on "Colasurdo Lake," the Red Barn



Ranch, and other places along the ditch in the past.

The American Wood duck, *Aix sponsa*,

is also known in Europe as the Carolina duck. Its main nesting



range covers Washington, Oregon and southern British Columbia, as well as from the eastern part of the Midwest to the east coast from Maryland north to the Canadian provinces of Ontario, Quebec and Nova Scotia.¹ While he was Wildlife Park Superintendent at Schubencadie, Nova Scotia, Mr. Eldon R. Pace propagated 15,000 hand-raised Wood ducks.² In addition, members of the California Waterfowl association introduced a producing flock into Sacramento Valley.

Today, Wood ducks are one of the most numerous types of breeding waterfowl of the eastern U.S., but Wood ducks were exceedingly rare in the early years of the twentieth century. The great hardwood forests were systematically cut, and old, dead trees with hollows were eliminated. Drainage systems were established. Semi-automatic shotguns increased market gunning in the fall and spring. Unregulated sport hunting for both food

(Continued on page 10)

Critter Report (con't)

(Continued from page 9)

and feathers for the trout fly trade proliferated. All these things combined led to a drastic decline in the Wood duck population. The Wood duck was thought to be extinct by 1918, but in reality a few

had escaped hunters.

By the fifties it was clear that the Wood duck had survived. Here in the North-

west it was forbidden to shoot Wood ducks, as the Wildlife people had no idea how large the population was.

Some time in the 1960s hunters were allowed to shoot one Wood duck along with Mallards, teal, wigeons, Pin tails, etc., per season.

Some of my neighbors and I had never seen a Wood duck here in May Valley until a young fellow who helped us with the pheasants we used to raise here obtained some. He had purchased the Wood ducks from the late Charles Pilling, who had a federal permit to propagate and sell migratory waterfowl. Mr. Pilling had raised and released many Wood ducks in the Seattle area. They could be seen over Green Lake and hanging around Woodland Park.

Anyhow, back to the pair here in the valley. The female died from injuries from a Canada goose gander, and we took care of the lonesome drake (male). He would sit and call, and one morning when I went out there were seven wild Wood duck drakes sitting on top of the pen. When I arrived home from work that afternoon there were fifteen, seven males and eight females, so we released our male.

The following year the hired help acquired several pairs of Wood ducks. From these they raised some thirty youngsters. Half were banded and released, while the other half were kept for brood stock. This went on for three or four years. When the boys left for college and the Army, they banded and

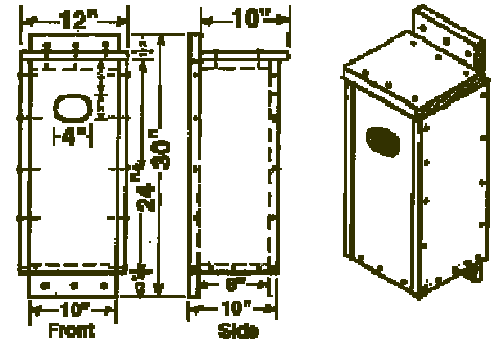


released all the brood stock.

Those ducks were quite a sight. They were seen on lower May Creek, Coulon Beach Park, Cedar River and other areas in the lower valley around Renton. Along with the boys here, John Morgan and his younger brother Jimmie were propagating Wood ducks.

For many years one could see Wood ducks during the winter months from Julianne Bruce's place to "Colasurdo

Wood Duck Nest Box Plans



Lake." We fed a dozen pairs most winters.

There was quite a good population of these beautiful birds. It seems that a lot of organizations were involved with some sort of Wood duck program, building and hanging Wood duck boxes. The Washington Duck Hunters placed some of these boxes here on the upper ditch, as did a father and son group from Pastor Donald Collins's Baptist church. Many of these boxes were used. The Wood duck is a cavity nesting bird, tending to nest six to ten feet high. The youngsters can jump out over land or water, but this bird seems to prefer nesting over water. The only problem with the nesting boxes was that starlings, gray squirrels, and small owls would use them. I even had a pair of Blue-backed swallows nesting in a box over my pond.

In the area fenced off along the ditch or

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Critter Report (con't)

(Continued from page 10)

the Colasurdo place, the boxes were positioned too low. I don't think the "woodies" ever used them.

While we had a good population of "woodies," it was nice to get a phone call from our neighbors up in Ellenswood asking us to be on the lookout for a Wood duck hen with a dozen ducklings walking down 176th on their way to the ditch. We were also asked to please look out for them as they crossed May Valley Road.

Now for the bad news. The past two winters we have had only two Wood duck drakes feeding with our geese. In early February 2002 I saw one female with the two males. Now and then on my trips up and down May Valley Road, I've seen one here and one there. In the



past I would see all kinds of them.

One might see a female in the spring with a brood of twelve to thirteen newly-hatched ducklings. But a few days later she'll likely have only two or three, and later in the summer maybe one fledged youngster will have survived. I used to see Mallards with youngsters on my pond every summer. That was before

the banks of the ditch became a jungle. Last year I saw the first brood of Mallards I had seen in three years.

With "emergent wetlands" come willow, nightshade, spirea, purple loosestrife, and many more plants. Some of them are noxious weeds; people can't tell me what they are. But before this jungle grew along the ditch, the owls and Red-tail hawks took care of the brown



rats and the weasels. But now, under cover of many acres of non-native vegetation, the number of predators feeding on duck eggs, birds sitting on eggs, and newly-hatched ducklings has increased. (For more information, see my article on possums.) Some of my colleagues have talked about a propagation program to raise and release Wood ducks like the boys did back in the seventies. But until most of the brush along the ditch is removed, that would be a wasted effort.

¹ Frank S. Todd, *Natural History of the Waterfowl* (San Diego Natural History Museum: Ibis Publishing Co., 1996).

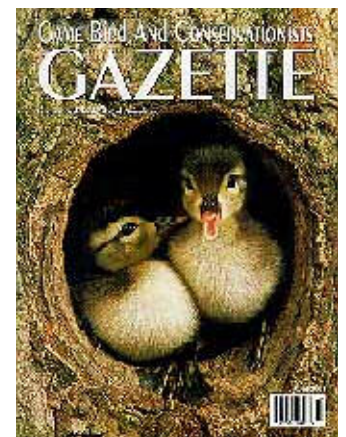
² Mr. Pace is a personal friend and serves with me on the Board of Directors of the International Wild Waterfowl Association. While at the park he was credited with the first breeding in captivity of Atlantic brant, Atlantic, or common, eider, and wood caribou.

Raising Wood Ducks

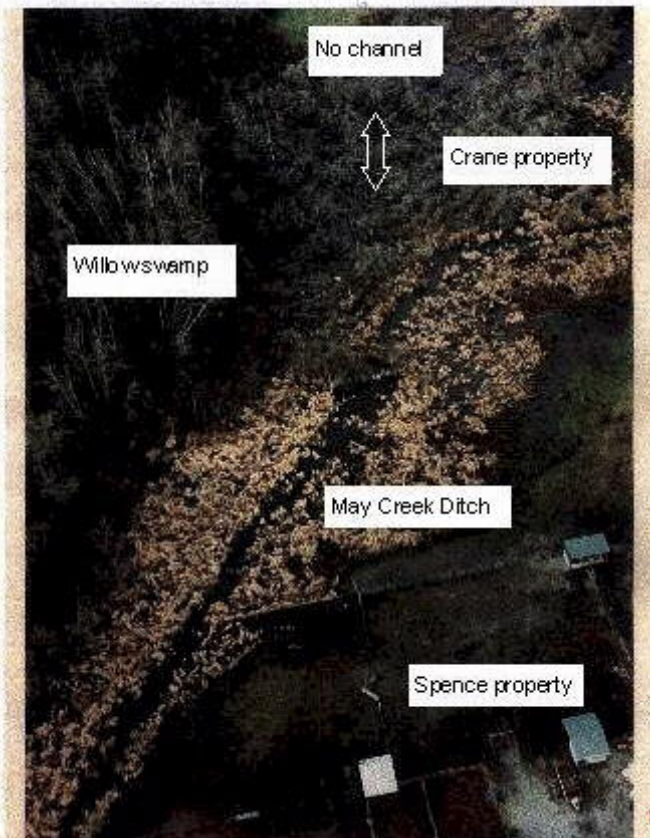
Two of the most colorful and exquisite of the waterfowl are the North American Wood Duck and the Mandarin Duck of east Asia and Japan. Both are



commonly kept on game farms and in zoos. They are cheap to buy and easy to care for and breed which makes them an appealing choice for the beginner. Their stunning beauty and charming behavior has made them among the most popular of all the ducks. These wonderful ducks are always available for sale in the classified advertising section of the Game Bird Gazette magazine where there are many reputable and reliable breeders. For information on the magazine, go to <http://www.gamebird.com/refs.html>. The magazine is also a source for information on keeping and breeding hundreds of other species of ducks.



2001 Aerial Surveys



Dept. of Natural Resources (DNR) of King County has released photos of an aerial survey performed along May Creek Ditch during December of 2001.

The photo to the left is of a section of the ditch along the Spence/Crane properties. This is the area where the County proposes to dig a bypass channel to the north of the willow swamp. The waterway which heads off at right angles from the ditch is actually a drainage channel from the Crane property, not the ditch itself. The main channel is totally obliterated to the west, as you can see from the photo.

If you live on the ditch and would like a copy of the photo for your property, call Kathryn Neal 206.296.1961.

New County Basin Steward

Members of MVEC recently met the newly appointed King County Basin Steward, Mary Maier. May Valley already has a basin steward in the form of Mick Zervart, but the County evidently felt they needed another one. Mary worked for four years as a project manager for the Conservation and Restoration Program for the Applegate River Watershed Council in Jackson-

ville, OR, a non-profit organization that works voluntarily and cooperatively with private landowners to restore watershed health. She gained experiences working with rural landowners and agencies to restore riparian habitats, develop farm management plans, and remove noxious weeds. She conducted education and outreach programs, conducted watershed assess-

ments and wrote grants. Prior to that she has worked with the USFWS, US Forest Service and BLM doing surveys throughout Oregon and California for goshawks, spotted owls, eagles, bats, fishers (the 4-legged kind) and the endangered 'Alala and 'Io in Hawaii National Park. She holds a B. S. in Wildlife Management from Humboldt State University.

Dredging Permitted

Department of Ecology
April 23, 2002

Maintenance dredging of Columbia mouth permitted, with conditions

OLYMPIA - Washington state has issued two approvals that will allow the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to proceed with annual maintenance dredging of the navigation channel at the mouth of the Columbia River.

The two approvals are the "401 certification" under the federal Clean Water Act, which certifies that the state's water quality standards will be met during dredging and disposal. The second approval is that the project is consistent with the federal Coastal Zone Management Act.

Through federal consistency, the project has to meet the requirements of several state laws, which include clean-water, shoreline and other laws.

The approvals allow the Corps to dredge and remove river bottom sediments only if specific environmental conditions are met, according to Gordon White, shorelands manager for the state Department of Ecology.

"We understand it is important for the Corps to stay on track with its timelines to maintain navigation channels, but it's equally important to

proceed in a manner that keeps, not depletes, our already shrinking source of sand in the system," White said.

"Sand from the river helps feed eroding beaches," White explained. "When it is dumped far out at sea, it is lost and there can be no environmental benefits."

Other key conditions of the approvals are that the project protects navigation and the state's important crab fishery, White said.

To address the issue of removing sand from the river system, Ecology is requiring the Corps to monitor and report results of sand placement in the identified disposal sites.

Annual maintenance dredging allows the river navigation channel to be kept at federally authorized depths of up to 55 feet by removing restrictive shoals made up of naturally occurring sedimentary material. The project will remove four to five million cubic yards of material from approximately six miles of the navigational channel in the river mouth. The material will be placed in a variety of in-water "disposal" sites.

Routine maintenance dredging in the river mouth differs from the proposal to deepen the river channel, which has yet to receive environmental permits

from Washington.

Contact: Sandy Howard, public information manager, 360-407-6239.

Ecology's Web site: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov>.

Message from the President

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homes with their increased runoff and the idiotic rules of King County that prevent ditch maintenance are forcing a few landowners to bear all the costs of storm water mismanagement.

Floodplains

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or postmarked by 5 p.m. on April 25¹ to Scott McKinney, SEA Program, Department of Ecology, P.O. Box 47600, Olympia, Wash., 98504-7600.

Media contacts: Sheryl Hutchison, Communication Director, 360-407-7004

Scott McKinney, Floodplain Management Policy, 360-407-7297.

¹[Editor's Note: while this deadline has passed, send your comments anyway. When has government ever done anything in a timely manner?]



A Message from the President

❖ Our neighbors in Newcastle are getting some help with their traffic problems with the expansion of Coal Creek Parkway. Unfortunately, many of the trucks working the project have been using May Valley Road, often at high speed. That use is not compatible with the recreational corridor designation of the road and its very narrow width. We would ask that the managers of the project direct the truck traffic to State Route 900 as called for in the planning documents. That will reduce considerably the



chance of walkers, bicyclists, and equestrians tangling with a truck many times their size.

Many thanks to mayor John Dulcich for his help in addressing this problem promptly.

❖ The regulations that have destroyed May Valley are causing the same problems on property along Panther Creek near Kent. Several residents there who have maintained their creek for decades are being forced to watch their once prime land turned into swamp. Just as in May Valley, the combination of new

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