



October 2011

Heron Habitat Helpers' HERALD

P.O. Box 99815, Seattle, WA 98139-0815

Huge Strides Forward in Restoring Kiwanis Ravine through SPU's Aquatic Habitat Grants –

Hurrah, Hurrah, Hurrah!

By Donna Kostka and Brad Wakeman

HHH is extremely grateful for the three, 4-year grants received from Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) to restore native habitat along Wolfe Creek in Kiwanis Ravine. You may see EarthCorps staff working deep in the ravine this Fall completing their work. This is the last year of the last grant – so, it is time to say HURRAH!

HURRAH for the \$37,350, \$70,000 and \$75,000 grants given to HHH by SPU. Phase 1 concentrated restoration efforts on the west fork of Wolfe Creek in partnership with neighbors along Brygger Dr. W. Guided by SPU's recommendations, Phase 2 focused restoration on the riparian headwaters of both the east & west forks, and Phase 3 knitted together previous years' work creating a contiguous restored creek bank throughout the park.

In the first year of each grant, invasives were pulled, steep slopes stabilized, and natives planted. Earthcorps crews tackled the steep slopes with their specialized skills, and volunteers did their share of work on the flatter shoulders of the ravine. In follow-up years, EarthCorps staff collected data on how well restoration efforts

were taking hold and removed any pesky invasives still trying to grow. Native plants that had died or been eaten by mountain beavers were also replaced.

HHH sends special thanks to EarthCorps staff, who did the work – not easy work on those steep unstable slopes. A special salute to Rob Anderson for his leadership, tireless work, and in depth knowledge – he's our deep Kiwanis Ravine guru!

Additional thanks goes to SPU's Kathy Minsch and Holly McCracken who helped HHH answer a million questions and kept the bills paid.

Leads for HHH deserve applause also. Donna Kostka wrote the grant applications for HHH, supported by a number of HHHers who helped with sections of the application. Brad Wakeman stuck by this project as HHH project manager through all the years of the grant, walking through the ravine with Earthcorps, handling paperwork, and keeping the work on budget and schedule. Kay Shoudy rallied support from our

continued on page 2

Our Kiwanis History: Snapshots of an Urban Forest

By Camille Blanchette

Many key events have shaped the space we know as Kiwanis Ravine (KR). Here are just a few important dates in the history of the herons' home.

- * Indian peoples inhabited the Magnolia area for at least 4,000 years before Europeans arrived. Wolfe Creek in the ravine was a reliable source of fresh water in all seasons, and the Salish Peoples called the ravine area "Lots of Water" (heewáyqW in the Whulshootseed language).
- * In 1956, the Kiwanis Club of Seattle donated what was then called the Fort Lawton Natural Glen property (7.5 acres) to the city. The park commissioners named the park the Kiwanis Memorial Preserve.
- * Some neighbors say that heron nests have been in KR since the 1960s. The first official state account in 1988 recorded the existence of one nest. Besides the herons, about 65 bird species have been observed in the ravine.
- * In 1994, Friends of Discovery Park, Brygger Drive Alliance, and other groups secured about \$760,000 in funding from state, county, Shoreline Park Improvement Funds,

Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, and Metro mitigation for Parks to purchase private property in the ravine. More land purchases followed, and the park area now totals 16 acres.

- * Heron nest observation cameras were installed in KR by the Dept. of Fish and Wildlife in February 2001, but images from the cameras became available on the Internet only in the spring of 2008. This year marks the fourth season that heroncam images have been online for at least part of the season.
- * On March 29, 2007, Director's Rule 5-2007 went into effect. It prohibits clearing, grading, or outside construction during nesting season within 500 feet of a nesting area in properties under permit by the Department of Planning & Development. In addition, screening trees must be retained during nesting to block visual disturbance to the colony, and land parcels that abut the nesting area must have a minimum 15-foot building setback.

If you know more Kiwanis history and are willing to share it with Camille, please contact her at: (206) 781-0719 or cbredits@drizzle.com

continued from page 1

neighbors along Brygger Drive W. Mary Beth Dols and Gail Lassman recruited and organized work parties. Craig Purkey helped manage work on the East Fork. Christine Henderson helped document volunteer hours and write reports. Herb Foster, HHH Treasurer, handled the bill paying. Many thanks to all!

Thanks also goes to folks who live along Brygger Drive W and the numerous work party volunteers who helped pull invasives and plant natives on the flatter shoulders of the ravine.

To all – it's a job well done!

Hurrah!

Contributions to HHH Always Appreciated

By HHH Board

Did you notice? HHH did not have its usual summer fundraiser in 2011. In the past, we've had so many pleasant summer interludes celebrating our herons. The backyards of the Atkins, Carpine, Dols, and Kildall families come to mind.

This last summer, we just could not muster enough volunteers to put on such an event. But that is not to say the funds are not needed. Donations help pay for HHH's marketing efforts, printing, mailing, snacks for work party volunteers, and many other items that grants just don't pay for.

So, if you haven't yet made your 2011 contribution, use the form on page 6 and please send it with your name and address to:

P.O. Box 99815, Seattle, WA 98139-0815

HHHers and the herons will thank you! You will receive an acknowledgement in the mail that is suitable to justify including your HHH donation as an IRS deduction.

And, for next summer, think about helping put on another fundraiser. Please contact Donna Kostka at donna4510@comcast.net to share your ideas.

heronREPORT

By Pam Cahn

Labor Day weekend marked the end of the heron season this year in Kiwanis Ravine. It was very difficult to see and count nests this season and to see what was happening during the frequently heard eagle incursions.

The main colony had around 80 nests this year, with another 8 nests in Commodore Park. The Commodore Park group got started earlier and finished earlier than the main colony in Kiwanis Ravine.

The colony was significantly impacted again this year by Bald Eagles, although they seemed less disturbed during egg laying time than in the previous year. Some residents along the Salmon Bay waterfront reported seeing heron chicks carried off by an eagle on several occasions.

At least 53 young herons fledged from the visible sample of nests in both locations.



We're on Facebook! Like us and keep up to date on news, stories and special events. Feel free to post your own stories and photos related to our herons. Pass this info to friends and help keep our Heron Habitat Helpers community growing.

<http://www.facebook.com/HeronHabitatHelpers>

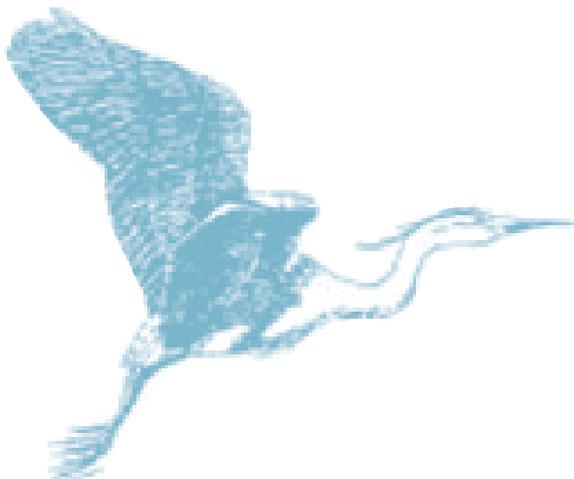
HHH Seeks Your Help!

By Barbara Selemon

Heron Habitat Helpers would not be the active, cohesive organization that it is today if it were not for all the wonderful volunteer support maintained throughout the last decade. HHH is undergoing changes in board membership, expansion into social media communication as well as continuing as the steward of Kiwanis Sanctuary, a dynamic green space in the middle of Seattle. Our success depends upon an active volunteer corps. If you have time and interest, please consider serving the organization's needs through a volunteer position. Current needs are listed below, but if your keen interest is not listed below, call Barbara Selemon, Volunteer Coordinator and let her know how you would like to be engaged. We'll find a spot just for you.

Volunteer Archive Assistant

Long term board members have been holding down the fort for a long time now and also keeping records, artifacts and other organizational materials. What are these treasures? We need someone who would like to inventory the wealth of information and other HHH resources (photos, educational materials, etc.) for future reference and use. If you like to work behind the scenes and would be interested to learn more about the history of HHH contact Barbara Selemon, Volunteer Coordinator.



Volunteers are needed to assist in Volunteer Recruitment, Membership Coordination, and Planning for the future.

- **Volunteer recruitment** is an essential part of growing the organization. I would appreciate assistance with the current activities undertaken to find new volunteers as well as help in reaching out to new volunteers through channels not yet taken.
- **Our Membership group** works diligently to bring in new members and keep track of the entire enrollment of people affiliated with HHH. A membership assistant would take on a variety of tasks involved with the people of this organization.
- **The Outreach committee** is hoping to put plans in place for HHH marketing and education. If you have the knowledge and/or the interest to be engaged in planning, please step up and share your expertise.

Volunteers for Restoration

Don't forget that every 2nd Saturday of every month, there is a work party at one of the restoration sites located within the Kiwanis Ravine. You can be spontaneous and join the group, or contact one of the Restoration leaders beforehand to find out where and what they will be doing that week. Come on out and join in the hands on fun activities! For more information, contact Hooper Havekotte, Mike Marsh or Scott Luchessa. Barbara can put you in touch.

Barbara Selemon, Volunteer Coordinator
Heron Habitat Helpers
Cell phone: 206-300-4179
Email: selemon@uw.edu

Second Saturday Work Parties – Mark Your Calendar For November 12 and February 11

By Hooper Havekotte

Participation in our Second Saturday work parties has been less than uplifting this year. Often no one showed up other than the host, but we could be turning the corner on that. We now have a presence on Facebook, and we are broadcasting notice of these work parties to a larger email group.

These Second Saturday work parties are your opportunity to see up close the work that HHH is doing to restore and maintain Kiwanis Ravine Park. Most of the park is off limits because of the steep slopes, but Kiwanis Ravine Stevens (KRS), Kiwanis Ravine Overlook (KRO), and Kiwanis Wildlife Corridor (KWC) are the three areas where we common folks can do the restoration and maintenance work to make the park a better place for the herons. These work parties often involve planting new shrubs or trees, trail maintenance, and weeding the invasives between our plants. No one is expected to do anything that they do not want to do. Working together on a common project is actually lots of fun.

In October, November, and February, we work from 10:00 am until noon. We take December and January off for holiday festivities. Hope to see you November 11 or February 11. Check our website for where to show up. www.heronhelpers.org

SECOND SATURDAY WORK PARTIES

10:00 am – NOON

NOVEMBER 12
FEBRUARY 12

For more info check the HHH website
or contact Hooper at
4.hooper.4@comcast.net

Heron Habitat Helpers at Magnolia Farmers Market

By Marla Master

Giselle Lovekin
and Marla Master



Heidi Carpine with Steve Lovekin who helped with set up and take down, and Giselle Lovekin.

The sun was shining September 3, as Heron Habitat Helpers were on hand at the Magnolia Farmers Market. Founder Heidi Carpine and outreach members Giselle Lovekin and Marla Master, shared information about the herons and Kiwanis Ravine.

Many people stopped by to swap stories, learn about HHH, pick up our new brochure, – and a few became our newest members.

A huge thanks to our supportive community!

President's Corner

2011 has been a good year for the Heron Habitat Helpers. Early in the year we seemed desperate to find anyone who wanted to sustain the work of HHH, but with luck and getting the word out to a wider audience, we now have "new blood" in the Outreach committee and on the Board. Welcome to the new folks!

We are looking forward to a stronger year in 2012 with more wonderful achievements. The Outreach committee has a long slate of active projects and the Restoration committee has achieved great success in getting both KRS and KWC planted with new specimens of native plants. Stop by and check out the progress. We lost a few cedar trees at KRS over the summer, but for the most part, we were able to nurture everything else through the hot summer months.

John "Hooper" Havekotte, president



KATHLEEN ATKINS PHOTOGRAPHY

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, March 3, 2012 • 10-12 a.m.

HHH Annual Meeting and Elections
at the Discovery Park Visitor Center

If you can help put on this event, contact:
info@heronhelpers.org

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP • \$10

Mail your check to: Heron Habitat Helpers • PO Box 99815, Seattle, WA 98139-0815

Donations are welcome!

NAME _____	<input type="radio"/> \$10 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP PER FAMILY _____
MAILING ADDRESS _____	<input type="radio"/> DONATION _____
_____	TOTAL _____
_____	_____
PHONE NUMBER _____	E-MAIL _____

WOULD YOU LIKE TO VOLUNTEER? YES NO check field of interest(s) _____

conservation programs fundraising strategic planning public relations habitat restoration