



August 2012

Heron Habitat Helpers' HERALD

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

SAVE THE DATE

THE *Big Cranky*

Saturday, September 22 • 3:00 to 4:30 pm
at the Discovery Park Visitor Center

Are you interested in learning more about the “Big Cranky” – otherwise known as the great blue heron? We have just the thing: a fun, casual and **FREE** open house event!

Here's your chance to find out more about these majestic birds and the large colony of herons that has been nesting in Magnolia's Kiwanis Ravine for the last decade.

- Listen to a brief talk on great blue herons by one of our region's heron experts
- See fascinating heron artifacts on loan to us from the Burke Museum
- Mingle and chat with “heron people,” including citizen scientists who've monitored herons for years

- Enjoy tasty treats from a few of our community's best food and eating spots
- See the herons in action on a short video
- Park your kids at our crafts table to create fun heron stuff
- Enter our free raffle for cool prizes
- Talk with members of the Heron Habitat Helpers board of directors, and discover why we are passionate about protecting these beautiful birds
- Learn why becoming a member of Heron Habitat Helpers is so rewarding

Watch your email for more details.
Questions? Email us at info@heronhelpers.org.

Heron Habitat Helpers Wants You to Know

By Barbara Selemom

HHH was awarded a \$16,500.00 grant from the Seattle Department of Neighborhoods to hire a consultant to investigate and develop plans for enhancing community awareness and preservation of the Great Blue Heron colony of Kiwanis Ravine. The wildlife sanctuary, home to nearly 80 nests of herons, is a Seattle treasure nestled amongst the Magnolia community and still unknown to many residents of this neighborhood.

Heron colonies are dynamic and may move to a new location or divide into smaller groups and relocate their nests. The herons in the Kiwanis Ravine have been mostly “static” or staying in place for many years; although, the nesting area within the colony has moved within the Ravine over time. HHH in partnership with the Seattle Parks Department would like to tell the story of the GBH to Magnolia residents so that more community members will have knowledge of this treasure in their backyard and actively participate in the protection of the habitat and sustaining the colony.

Funding from this grant will plan for a pilot program of citizen monitors to track feeding areas in nearby Discovery Park in conjunction with the Washington Fish and Wildlife Department. WFWD has implemented similar programs in other areas of the state and will use the data volunteers collect to enlarge their knowledge base of the heron colony from the Kiwanis Ravine. Planning will also include determining the feasibility of placing heron viewing webcam stations at the visitors’ centers of Discovery Park and the Locks.

In addition, the consultant will recommend strategies for enhanced interpretation through various means, including the use of social media to enable HHH to reach out further to the community.



HHH was formed by a duo back in 2001 and has grown into a small corps of active volunteers who continually strive to maintain the habitat along the rim of the Ravine and advocate for policies that protect the colony from disruptive behavior. Wouldn't it be great if this group's mission became an entire community project? HHH will utilize this grant to set the stage for building a community habitat program where the backyard wildlife protection envelopes an entire neighborhood.

Look for updates as this project takes shape beginning in fall, 2012. We hope you will come to know more about the Great Blue Heron who lives in your neighborhood.



HHH To Take Role In Tree Ordinance Update

COMMENTS, DUE OCTOBER 1

By Donna Kostka

Seattle's Department of Planning and Development (DPD) has issued a new draft of its Forest Management Plan. HHH feels the new draft "forgets the city's Great Blue Herons."

An HHH tree committee composed of Kay Shoudy, Donna Kostka, and possibly YOU will put together comments, due **October 1**.

Take a look at the draft and you will see what we mean.

www.seattle.gov/dpd/Planning/SeattlesTreeRegulationUpdate/PublicInvolvement/default.asp

DPD plans to eliminate the city's current protection for groves, and does not provide any additional protection for buffers around nesting heron colonies. It also lumps all "exceptional" trees into one generic 24" diameter size – whereas some of our native species like the madrone never reach that girth.

Add your voice to HHH comments by helping to write the comments. If you would like to be part of this committee, please contact: donna4510@comcast.net

heronnews

By Pam Cahn, Heron Monitor

HERON REPORT SUMMER 2012

The herons have been fledging throughout the month of July.

Bald Eagles have significantly impacted the productivity of many nests this year, with some complete nest failures and some nests with reduced numbers of surviving young.

For the first time this year, I observed on the heroncams a raccoon eating already dead remains on two different nests, during the daytime.

As of late July, I estimate at least 45 young herons have fledged from the visible sample of nests at both Kiwanis Ravine and Commodore Park locations.

President's Corner

BY JOHN "HOOPER" HAVEKOTTE, *President*

As we enter August, the herons are just about finished with their nesting. I have enjoyed watching them on our heron camera, and delighted in their antics.

Moving deeper into summer, our restoration efforts tend to be aligned more with maintenance rather than planting. Removing invasive weeds and mulching weeded areas and paths is hard work that must be done. We have enjoyed wonderful help from EarthCorps and Seattle Works in recent months. Thanks to them both. There is still plenty of work to be done. If you are at all inclined, please join us for our next 2nd Saturday work party on August 11th. Check our website for details.

Have you read our Mission Statement on our website? www.heronhelpers.org/AboutHHH.html Look it over and get inspired. We need your energy to accomplish our goals. Come join us!

HOW Seattle Works WORKS for HHH

By Barbara Selemon

Seattle Works is a non-profit organization whose mission statement is to connect volunteers, develop emerging leaders and inspire dialogue. In 1989, Seattle Works, first known as The Benefit Gang was started by a group of twenty somethings who wanted to become involved in community activities in a different fashion from the previous generation whose activities were composed of service club membership and attendance at high-priced charity balls. The Benefit Group started a movement of active volunteerism and innovative work within the community which has grown into an award winning institution connecting young people in their twenties and thirties with local nonprofits.



HHH has also joined Seattle Works as a Bridge Partner. Throughout the year, Seattle Works trains young professionals in topics of board governance, fundraising, financials and an overview of nonprofit workings. These individuals then meet with nonprofits through Speed Dating activities as well as other events. Bridge participants, both students and nonprofits, whose goals mesh, may then go forward with developing leadership activities that benefit both parties. HHH has participated in a few speed dating activities as well as served on the Bridge Night Nonprofit Panel, which answers bridge participant inquiries specific to their organization.

Thank goodness that Seattle has the network of Seattle Works and other volunteer organizations to help engage more people in helping the herons. It may not take an entire village, but it does take a community effort to carry out the task of providing habitat and protection for the magnificent Great Blue Heron.

Heron Habitat Helpers (HHH) partners with Seattle Works in significant ways. Our Restoration activities are listed as a venue for volunteers who are seeking hands-on, one-time environmental service work within Seattle. Seattle Works offers both Hot Projects, which are for very busy individuals who can only serve for a day as well as Team Projects which are scheduled throughout the year. HHH mostly works with the Seattle Works Team Projects during which time volunteers work alongside of HHH volunteers to pull invasive weeds, mulch and plant native plantings.



Seattle Works
HANDS ON NETWORK



Become a Member Today

WE RESTORE HABITAT.

WE EDUCATE.

WE COLLABORATE.

WE ADVOCATE.

AND WE HAVE FUN TOO!

HHH is an all-volunteer group. By joining and supporting Heron Habitat Helpers, you enable us to directly support conservation initiatives, educational programs and outreach efforts. Every membership and donation – regardless of size – truly makes a difference!

Donate online (under membership) at www.heronhelpers.org or by mail:
Heron Habitat Helpers, PO Box 99815, Seattle, WA 98139-0815

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP • \$15

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

NAME _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

PHONE NUMBER _____

\$15 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP PER FAMILY _____

Donation \$10 \$25 \$50 \$75 _____

TOTAL _____

E-MAIL _____

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

conservation programs fundraising strategic planning public relations habitat restoration

HHH is an IRS 501(c)(3) organization under the umbrella of the Associated Recreational Council (ARC). Membership and donations are 100% tax deductible.