

# THE MILLER BAY GUARDIAN

Vol. 5 No. 1

April 2002

## The State of the Bay

Lane E. Holdcroft, MBCAG President

Over the past decade, the population of our Miller Bay watershed has increased over 30 percent. The pressure of man-made development is destroying the Bay's water quality and marine life, particularly its fisheries and shellfish resource. The fish and shellfish and the species they feed on hang in the balance as sprawling suburban development continues to threaten critical spawning habitat in the Miller Bay watershed. New housing units being constructed on waterfront lots around the Bay and on the spit, and elsewhere in the watershed, contribute to degradation of the physical environment of the Bay and its watershed at an alarming rate. Rains continually wash soil from land cleared for construction into the numerous streams that drain into the Bay.

Our Miller Bay community has offered the rural environment of a sheltered bay, beaches, forests, streams, plentiful and varied wildlife, yet at a location close to the amenities of the urban and metropolitan areas. However, the uniqueness of

our Miller Bay community is increasingly threatened by numerous economic and demographic pressures that, if ignored, will wreak havoc with the physical environment and quality of life in our community.

*"To conserve and preserve the waters, wetlands, wildlife habitat, timberlands, undeveloped land, scenic areas, etc. in the areas around or near Miller Bay."*

### The Miller Bay Citizens Action Group:

Our County needs strong local citizens groups with voices that can be heard. An organization of local citizens enhances the power of its members through the aggregation of their individual strengths. Our Miller Bay group provides a way to intervene in a coherent and organized fashion to preserve and enhance our citizens' interests. Too often our County government \_ beleaguered as it is by a variety of special interest groups - has difficulty engaging in a process that listens to local citizen groups. So our County government tends to respond to other special interest groups at the expense of the usually weak and poorly funded community citizen groups.

Since its founding in 1989, the MBCAG has had as its purpose:

"To conserve and preserve the waters, wetlands, wildlife habitat, timberlands, undeveloped land, scenic areas, etc. in the areas around or near Miller Bay."

*Continued on p. 6*



*Virginia Cowling walks along Cowling Creek, which flows through her property in North Kitsap.*

## Fund raising efforts in full swing Cowling Creek Project Takes Off

The Miller Bay Citizens Action Group's commitment to raise \$250,000 to purchase 18 acres adjoining the Cowling Creek hatchery received a boost in March 2002 when the Suquamish tribe committed \$5,000 towards the land acquisition. The tribe recognized the importance of protecting this watershed area which directly affects the health of their hatchery operation.

Other fundraising projects scheduled include grant requests, benefits and eBay sales of donated goods and services. Grants requests from the Charlotte Martin Foundation and others are in process. Benefits currently scheduled include "A visit from John Muir" on April 20 at the Poulsbo Library, 10 K Walk for the Watershed in Indianola on June, 2 and a performance of the Total Experience Gospel Choir at the Indianola Clubhouse in September. Donations are welcome any time. See the membership form at the end of this newsletter for information on how to make your donation.

*For additional information about the Cowling Creek Project contact Lane Holdcroft at (360) 598-3420.*

### Why is the Cowling Creek Project important?

- As part of the Cowling creek watershed, this forested property filters and moderates creek flow, protecting downstream chum salmon habitat and Miller Bay fish, mollusk and bird populations.
- This property provides a corridor for many animal species for movement between the forest and the marine environment.
- As an aquifer recharge area, the soils on the property allow rain and surface water to replenish local aquifers.

## EcoFest at Stilwaters Center

### Celebrate Earth Day with kindred spirits

This year EcoFest will retain its character as a community celebration, but will vastly expanded its selection of vendors, presenters, and displays. The focus will be on the Center's goals for community environmental education but the emphasis will be on fun.

- The program will include singing and dancing by a Makah nation family, Mary Jo Butterfield, Ticishway Windy Boy, and Carson Tholt.
- Peg Tillery, the Horticulture Coordinator for WSU Extension and noted garden columnist, will be just one of several special seminar speakers.
- We will be giving away trees and binders full of information about ways residents can improve their lifestyles and improve their environment.
- Sponsors of EcoFest will also have coupons in the binders for their earth-friendly products or services.
- Over 25 informational displays will cover topics pertinent to everyday living for the environment, such as septic alternatives, earth-friendly gardening, construction, hybrid cars, green household products and clothing, protection for the natural systems, the countywide movement to Smart Growth and more!

Stillwaters Environmental Education Center is located at 26059 Barber Cut Off Road, Kingston WA 98346.

*For more information contact Naomi Maasberg or Joleen Palmer at 360-297-2876 or SwatersEEC@cs.com.*

# West Sound Conservation Council Formed

## MBCAG joins new umbrella group

The West Sound Conservation Council is a coalition of conservation groups in the West Puget Sound dedicated to bringing the voice of environmental responsibility to public debate.

Their goals are to:

- ❖ *Attain a balanced use of natural resources*
- ❖ *Rehabilitate damaged ecosystems*
- ❖ *Increase public commitment to environmental stewardship*
- ❖ *Achieve responsible public environmental policies*
- ❖ *Ensure enforcement of environmental regulations*
- ❖ *Hold public officials accountable as stewards of public resources.*

WSSC will promote cooperation, networking and communication between West Sound environmental groups and inform public opinion on environmental issues. By joining together many small environmental groups, WSSC will provide a stronger more effective voice to influence city, county and state government policies.

Since WSSC was formed in November, 2001, six organizations have joined in. They are MBCAG, Cutthroats of Carpenter Creek, Chums of Baker Creek, Kitsap Conservation Voters, Hood Canal Environmental Council, and Kitsap Citizens for Responsible Planning. Many more organizations are planning to join in the coming year.

*For more information, contact WSSC president Ed Bass by email at edb55@attbi.com*

*Wood sorrel (Oxalis oregana)*

# Northern Kitsap Initiative

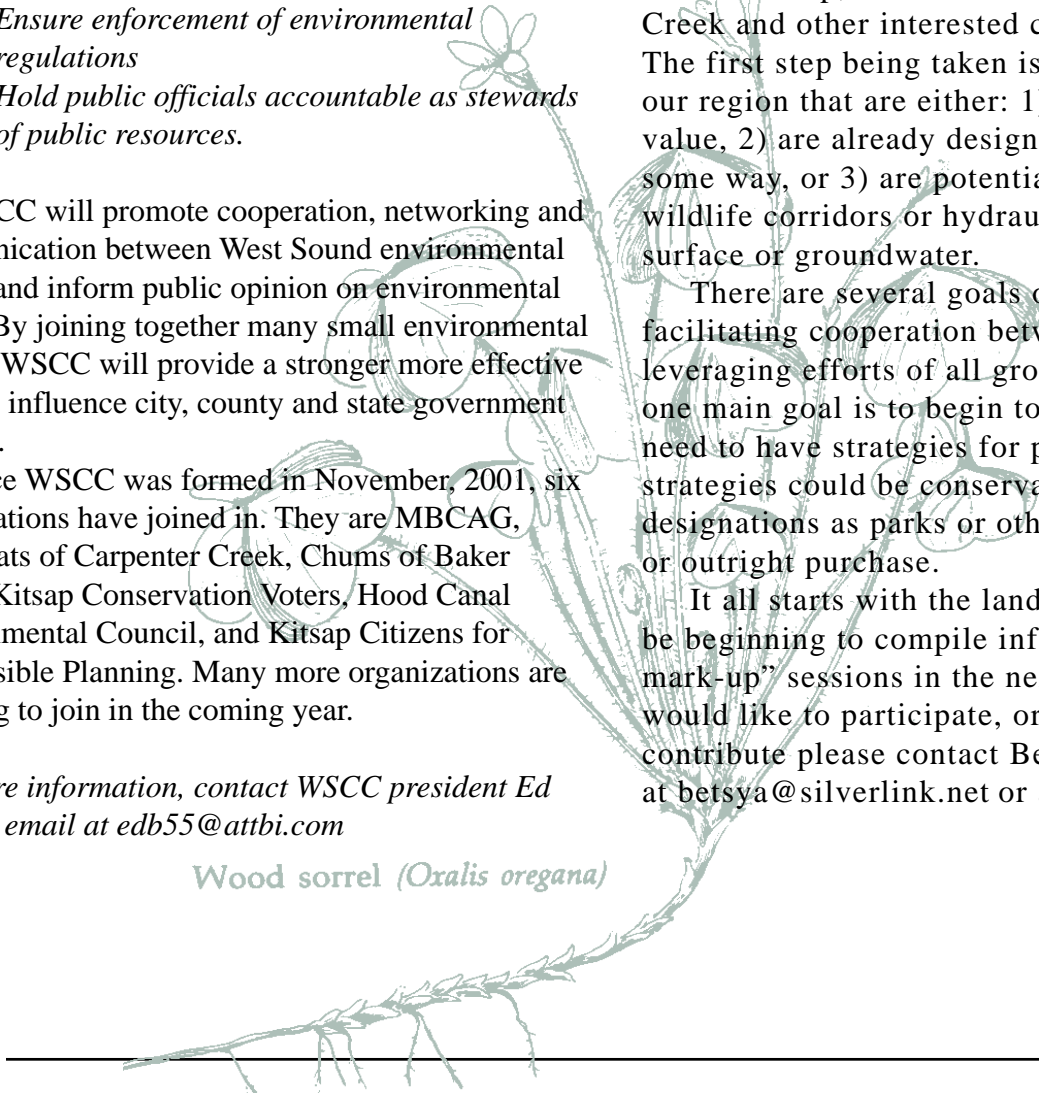
By Betsy Cooper

Several groups in the northern Kitsap area, including the Miller Bay Citizen's Action Group, have stepped up and taken an active role in learning about the natural system in their watershed. They are educating their friends, neighbors, and government representatives about the importance of their riparian and wildlife resources.

To complement these efforts and to begin to provide a look at how these and other natural features of the Northern Kitsap area can be protected and enhanced, a new effort is beginning. This effort, yet unnamed, is beginning with representatives of the Miller Bay Citizen's Action Group, the Cutthroats of Carpenter Creek and other interested citizens of Kingston. The first step being taken is mapping areas in our region that are either: 1) of natural resource value, 2) are already designated protected in some way, or 3) are potential connections for wildlife corridors or hydraulic connectivity surface or groundwater.

There are several goals of this effort, such as facilitating cooperation between groups and leveraging efforts of all groups involved, but one main goal is to begin to identify areas that need to have strategies for protection. Those strategies could be conservation easements, designations as parks or other protected status, or outright purchase.

It all starts with the land though, so we will be beginning to compile information at "map-mark-up" sessions in the next month. If you would like to participate, or have information to contribute please contact Betsy Cooper by email at [betsy@silverlink.net](mailto:betsy@silverlink.net) or at (360) 297-4772.



# Virginia Cowling nominated for Earth Day Award

Every year an award is given by Kitsap County for conservation leadership and Virginia Cowling has been nominated for the 2002 Earth Day Award. As noted by Niki Quester in the nomination application, Virginia's real gift is more than the sum of its parts: it is how she inspires all of us who come in contact with her. It is how she inspires us to look around our community, our world, our checkbooks (yes, money is needed) to see how we can make things better.

In addition to the 14 acres she sold to the Tribe at a bargain sale price, Virginia used her own money to purchase an adjoining 10 acres which will go to the Great Peninsula Conservancy at her death. It is her vision which has inspired the MBCAG to work to save the CCP (Cowling Creek Project) for open space. She is a legend in her own time!



Violet (*Viola flettii*)



## MILLER BAY CITIZENS ACTION GROUP BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT	LANE HOLDCROFT
VICE-PRESIDENT	PAUL DORN
SECRETARY	NANCY D'ARCHANGEL
TREASURER	JANET HOLDCROFT

### MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

VIRGINIA COWLING	(2000-2003)
LEIGH TATUM	(2000-2003)
ROGER MEYER	(2000-2003)
DICK D'ARCHANGEL	(2001-2004)

NEWSLETTER EDITOR  
NANCY & DICK D'ARCHANGEL



## Preserving Our Natural Systems

## Suggested Plants for Native Vegetation Zones

These lists include various categories of plants native to Kitsap and abutting counties. When choosing plants, remember to consider your garden's microclimates. "Edible" means good for humans. "Nonedible" means non-palatable to humans, though possibly valuable to wildlife. "Poisonous" means poisonous.

*M=moist conditions*  
*Sh=shady*  
*S=sunny*  
*O=forest edge*  
*T=tolerant*  
*B=maritime*

**Groundcovers**

Bunchberry (Sh)  
Coastal wild strawberry (S, B)  
*Gaultheria ovatifolia*, teaberry (Sh)  
Wild ginger (Sh)  
Kinnikinnick (S,O)  
Pickleweed, *Salicornia* (B)  
*Potentilla anserina* (S, B)  
Stonecrop, *Sedum spathifolium* (S)  
Trailing blackberry, *Rubus ursinus* (S)  
Twinflower (Sh)  
Evergreen violet (Sh)

**Trees**

Oregon ash (M)  
Bitter cherry (M)  
Black hawthorn (M)  
Dogwood (Sh)  
Douglas fir (T)  
Hazelnut (T)  
Madrone (S)  
Mountain ash (S, O)  
Red alder (M, T)  
Vine maple (T)  
Western hemlock (T)  
Western red cedar (M, Sh)  
Willow (M) Remember: sometimes you need wiener sticks and pussy willows  
Yew (M) A Blakely Harbor native; berries good for birds, bad for children

**Shrubs**

Red huckleberry (O) On rotted cedar stumps; edible berries  
Evergreen huckleberry (T) Good pie fruit  
Manzanita, *arctostaphylos patula* or *columbiana* (S, O). Good replacement for poison oak; carried at Forest Farm Nursery  
Nootka rose (S, O) The larger flowered species of native rose  
Oregon grape, *Mahonia nervosa* (T) Good also as taller groundcover; edible berries  
Native rhododendron (Sh, O)  
Salal (T) Edible berries  
Snowberry (T, S, O) Indians regarded as poisonous or medicinal; berries make pretty Christmas decoration  
Wild currant (T, S, O) Unpalatable, harmless berries  
Thimbleberry (S, O) Edible berries; quick growing

**Tall Shrubs**

Indian-plum  
*Mahonia aquifolium* (S, O) Able to flourish on aggregate rock bank; edible berries  
Mock orange (S, O) Fragrant  
Ninebark (M)  
Ocean spray (S, O) Quick growing  
Red elderberry (S, O) Berries edible cooked only, or made into wine  
Red-osier dogwood (S, O) Also good wiener sticks; what to put in creek bed that goes dry.  
Saskatoon berry / service berry (S, O, T) Does well on rocky bank; lovely flowers, boring berries  
Salmonberry (S,O, M) Woodsy looking, stickery, exquisite flower, dull edible fruit

**Ferns**

Bracken (O, T) Appreciate these in autumn!  
Deer fern (M, Sh)  
Lady fern (M, T)  
Licorice fern (M, Sh) Grows on rocks & bigleaf maple trunks  
Maidenhair fern (M, Sh)  
Sword fern (M, T)

**Horsetails (M)**

Horsetails are a handsome plant (M)

**Mosses**

Paint surfaces where moss is wanted with fish fertilizer solution or buttermilk

**Wildflowers and plants**

Alumroot (M, Sh)  
Armeria, sea thrift (B)  
Beach peas (B, S, O)  
Beach sand-spurry (B, S)  
Pacific bleeding-heart (M, Sh)  
Broadiaea (O, S)  
Columbine, red, *Aquilegia formosa* (M, O, Sh)  
*Erythronium oregonum*, Oregon trout lily (S, O)  
False lily of the valley, *Maianthemum* (M, Sh)  
False Solomon's seal, *Smilacina racemosa* (M, Sh)  
Fireweed (S, O, T)  
Foamflower (M, Sh)  
Foxglove (T, O)  
Fringecup (M, Sh)  
*Fritillaria lanceolata*, chocolate lily (S, O)  
Goat's beard, *Aruncus syvester* (O)  
Great mullein (S)  
Gumweed / yellow beach daisies (S, B)  
Lupine, *Lupinus littoralis* (S, B)  
Miner's lettuce (M, T)  
Monkey-flower (M) Wetland plant  
Piggy-back plant (M, Sh)  
Pipsissewa (T) Wants humus, drainage  
Queen Anne's lace (S, O, T)  
Rattlesnake plantain (Sh, M) Needs humus  
Sea blush, *Plectritis congesta* (M, O, S, B)  
Sea Plantain (M, S)  
Shooting star, *Dodecatheon pulchellum* (M, B, S)  
Skunk cabbage (M) Wetland plant  
Sorrel, *Oxalis oregana* (M, Sh)  
Starflower, *Trientalis latifolia* (Sh)  
Trillium (Sh, M)  
Vanilla leaf (Sh, M)  
Wood saxifrage (M)  
Yarrow (S)

**Grasses and sedges**

Seashore bluegrass  
Dunegrass  
Red fescue  
Sedges, *Carex hendersonii* (M, O) *C. stipata*, *C. obnupta* (M)

**Vines**

Orange honeysuckle (O) Inedible berries  
Poison oak. Get rid of this with specific poison oak spray; you can teach children to avoid it, but you can't teach your cat.

# John Muir visits North Kitsap

Recent winners of the Choruses from Creeks under 500 Gallons Per Minute Talent Contest on National Environmental Radio, the Cowling Creek Chorus, will offer a cascade of earth friendly tunes to welcome a rare and inspiring visit from the most widely know conservationist and environmentalist in history, John Muir - as personified by Tom Banks.

In a performance lasting 40-45 minutes, Tom will tell stories from the great conservationist's life and answer questions from the audience. Tom has portrayed Muir since 1983 in performances at Redwood National Park, John Muir National Historic Site, and Muir Woods National Monument, California.

Donations will be accepted to raise funds for the Great Peninsula Conservancy, a merger of four local land trusts whose mission is to preserve open space, wildlife habitat, wetlands, and land with scenic or educational value in the greater Kitsap County area.

The performance is a benefit for The Cowling Creek Project, and will take place at 7:30 pm on Saturday, April 20 at the Poulsbo Library.

*For more information call 360 598-6564 or email [darchang@tscnet.com](mailto:darchang@tscnet.com).*

## 'State of the Bay'

*Continued from front page,*

In the face of the urbanization of our County, we have been successful in influencing several efforts to improve the health of the Bay. We, with other community groups, have supported a number of successful efforts to strengthen the County's Growth Management Plan, protect critical areas, and acquire waterfront and woodlands for future generations to enjoy. We have furthered the preservation of wildlife habitat, including blue heron nesting places. We have successfully opposed zoning changes that could have hastened the urbanization of the Miller Bay watershed.

During the upcoming year, we have three matters deserving of our time and other resources. First we must continue our efforts to acquire the Cowling Creek property for the Great Peninsula Conservancy, as preserving this open space is critical to the health of the Bay. Second, we must support county and state "Smart Growth" approaches to development that coordinate strategic public investment with land use and other goals to enhance economic development, affordable housing and environmental protection for a better quality of life. Third, we must initiate additional Miller Bay nearshore habitat activities, ala the successful Liberty Bay Nearshore Habitat Project. Of course, we must also continue to be watchful and observant of local activities on and around our Bay, and monitor the actions of our County and State officials. Otherwise we will have little impact on decisions that affect the quality of our Bay and its watershed - and ultimately the quality of our lives. We can have a voice, a place at the table, in decisions that impact on our community — but only if we work together to maintain an active and vital MBCAG.



# EVENT CALENDAR

DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT
MARCH 16	8 AM TO 3 PM	2ND ENVIRONMENTAL CONFERENCE	ABC AND OTHERS CHARLES SCHMID - SECRETARY	ABC PO Box 10999 BAINBRIDGE ISLAND, WA 98110
MARCH 20	6-9 PM	SPEAKOUTS WORKSHOP AND COMMUNITY FORUMS	NORTH KISAP HIGH SCHOOL	KITSAP COUNTY DEPT. OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
MARCH 23	9AM-12PM	SPEAKOUTS WORKSHOP AND COMMUNITY FORUMS	CENTRAL KITSAP HIGH SCHOOL	KITSAP COUNTY DEPT. OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
MARCH 22-23	6-9 PM FRI., NOON-11 PM SAT.	CONSCIENCE PROJECTOR FILM FESTIVAL	B.I. HIGH SCHOOL	KITSAP COUNTY ACTIVIST NETWORK WWW.KITSAPCAN.ORG 206 842-9582
MARCH 24	NOON-5 PM SUN.	CONSCIENCE PROJECTOR FILM FESTIVAL	LYNWOOD THEATER	KITSAP COUNTY ACTIVIST NETWORK WWW.KITSAPCAN.ORG 206 842-9582
MARCH 27	6-9 PM	SPEAKOUTS WORKSHOP AND COMMUNITY FORUMS	SOUTH KITSAP HIGH SCHOOL	KITSAP COUNTY DEPT. OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
APRIL 10	7-9 PM	ECONOMICS AND INFRASTRUCTURE	OLYMPIC COLLEGE	KITSAP SMART GROWTH COALITION
APRIL 20	11 AM-4 PM	EARTH DAY EcoFEST	STILLWATERS ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER 26059 BARBER CUT OFF ROAD, KINGSTON, WA	SWATERSEEC@CS.COM 360 297-28776
APRIL 20	7:30 PM	A VISIT FROM JOHN MUIR AND THE COWLING CREEK CHORUS - A BENEFIT FOR THE COWLING CREEK PROJECT	POULSBO LIBRARY	MILLER BAY CITIZENS ACTION GROUP DARCHANG@TSCNET.COM 360 598-6564
JUNE 2	TBA	10 K WALK FOR THE WATERSHED - ABENIFIT FOR THE COWLING CREEK PROJECT	INDIANOLA	WE CAN

MILLER BAY CITIZENS ACTION GROUP  
PO Box 37  
SUQUAMISH, WA 98392

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**TIME TO RENEW NOW!**

**JOIN MBCAG AND MAKE A DONATION TO THE COWLING CREEK PROJECT**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

- I INCLUDE \$15 FOR A ONE YEAR MEMBERSHIP.\*
- I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A DONATION OF \_\_\_\_\_ FOR THE COWLING CREEK PROJECT. \*\*
- I WOULD LIKE TO HELP \_\_\_\_\_

\* MAKE MEMBERSHIP CHECKS TO MBCAG.

\*\* MAKE COWLING CREEK PROJECT DONATIONS TO THE GREAT PENINSULA CONSERVANCY.

MAIL CHECKS TO MBCAG, PO BOX 37, SUQUAMISH, WA 98392