**Great Old Broads Polly Dyer Seattle Chapter Meeting Minutes**

**Meeting**: 1:00 PM, September 29, 2022

**Location**: Pati An’s property, 16044 NE 180th Street, Woodinville, WA

Members present were Wendy Roedell, Nora Langan, Margaret Rands, Raelene Gold, Susan Bocek, Genia Moncada, Pam Hawes, Barb Muirhead, Esther MacIlroy, Pati An, Penelope Peterson, Cathy Gorrell, Natalie Taylor, Kate Bradley, Kay Sanderson, Barbara Phalen, Janet Treisman

**Tour of Pati An’s restoration**

Pati guided us around her property and described her restoration efforts.  She showed us that where the giant blackberry bushes originally had taken over, she has now planted beautiful growths of native plants.  Pati battled the blackberries, planted a few of the native plants and allowed others to fill in once they had the opportunity.  Pati continues to fight with knotweed, and she has had to resort to injecting poison into the stems. It’s a continuing battle. Pati’s property borders on an idyllic little lake.  It was wonderful to see so many native plants living in harmony with each other.

The meeting was called to order by Penelope at 2:30 PM

**Overview**

Penelope reminded everyone that Education, Advocacy, Stewardship, and Fun are the four pillars of the Great Old Broads.  Our three leaders have divided up these areas of responsibility.  Penelope focuses on Education, organizing the meetings, finding speakers, and leading the book group, and she also helps out in the other areas.  Genia focuses on Advocacy, gathering support for rallies and letter writing and other activities supporting causes we are concerned about. Genia also leads Stewardship activities and organizes  our participation in stewardship projects.  Barb focuses on Fun, planning hikes and other outings. Barb also assists Genia with Stewardship.

**Education (Penelope)**

Earlier this summer Penelope distributed a survey of members asking about our interests in various areas that we might pursue this coming year.  She handed out the survey results, and we discussed them.  Seventeen Broads completed the survey.

In the area of possible education activities, the top three choices determined by votes were (1)  bringing in local speakers; (2) going on field trips to learn about environmental issues, and (3)  participating in the ongoing book club reading and discussion.

For stewardship activities votes were closely divided among all options. The top two choices were partnering with local tribes (13 votes) and cleaning up beaches (12 votes); other options received between 9 and 11 votes each.

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Top vote getters in the Advocacy area were Lower Snake River Dam removal (14 votes), Climate Forests Campaign (14 votes), Save the Silence (12 votes), and Work with and support local tribes on their issues (12 votes).

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In the area of Fun, most of our group was most interested in shorter hikes. Easy walking of 1-2 miles got 14 votes, short hikes of 2-3 miles got 13 votes, while longer hikes received only 6 votes. Camping options received 4-5 votes except the idea of camping out in tents at Shelley Spalding’s place, which received 9 votes

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Fourteen people were in favor of combining a monthly meeting with a picnic or potluck at someone’s house, and 13 were interested in combining a picnic with a local hike.

Several people offered their home as a place to hold a meeting including Pam, Alice, Janna, Janka, Barb Phalen, Kate, and Pati An.  Seward Park and the Arboretum were also mentioned as possible meeting venues.  Everyone agreed that the Broadwalk in Sequim was wonderful!  Our Broadwalk will be featured in the next national newsletter.

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Forterra was suggested as a source of local speakers by Pam, who has a contact there. Information about both the depth and breadth of their work would be interesting.

**Advocacy and Stewardship (Genia)**

As part of the Great Old Broads, Pacific Northwest Broadband leaders have created several Broads Regional Advocacy Teams, known as BRATS.  BRATS  focus on issues specific to the Pacific Northwest states which include Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and California.  Genia is a member of the Forest BRAT; Penelope is on two BRATS focusing on Snake River Dams Removal and Grazing, respectively. All Broads are welcome to join the teams, and if you are interested, please contact Genia.

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Genia reported that fourteen people sent comments about the Inslee-Murray report on the Snake River Dams.

Barb, Cathy, and Genia attended the rally about the legacy forests at the Office of the State Department of Natural Resources in Olympia, focused on saving mature and old-growth trees. The issue is to get them to recognize that the forests should be reserved for all people as stated in the state constitution, not just be used for revenue.  Many of the forests are managed by individual counties, which makes it difficult to get a statewide policy.

At the last Forest BRAT meeting on September 19, BRAT members argued for Broads Central Office to write a position statement for forests, and Broads Central is now doing this. ·The location of all the old growth and mature trees in the world has been mapped using satellite imaging by Dominick DellaSalla and a group of scientists.  Dr. DellaSalla is a scientist and one of the founders of the Wild Heritage organization whose mission is to “To  protect and restore ecosystem integrity and safeguard biocultural diversity around the world.” The next step in mapping the trees is to visit the locations, measure, photo, and document them.

A  rally in Portland in November is being planned for a date between the 14th and 19th.  The goal will be to put pressure on the Region 6 US Forest Service to define old growth trees and save them from logging.  The Region 6 office is located in Portland, and advocates plan to visit in person to make this plea.  Advocates will explain why it’s important to save mature and old growth trees, especially concerning climate change. Genia will organize us to be in attendance. The next Forest BRAT meeting is October 17th at 10am.

Thomas Friedman’s opinion piece in the Sept. 27 New York Times, *Putin’s War is a Crime Against the Planet*, was noted.  The article discusses the impacts of the Ukraine war on the forests in Ukraine as well as the impacts on forests in indigenous areas in the Amazon where people are looking for fuel to replace the fuel not coming from Russia. Here’s a link to the article: https://www.nytimes.com/2022/09/27/opinion/ukraine-war-environment.html

The Columbia River Treaty between Canada and US, signed in 1964, focuses on maximizing hydro-electric power and on engineering flood control.  However, the Treaty ignores indigenous rights, fish, water quality, the health of the river, principles of good governance, and the reality of present and worsening climate disruption.  The Treaty is now under negotiation for modernization.  Although the Canadian government has included public engagement in their part of the revision process and has worked in partnership with their indigenous groups, the US negotiators have been silent to the public for the past two years. The tribes would like the process to include a focus on ecosystem functioning and tribal inclusion. Broads need to advocate for more transparency, inclusion of the public and the tribes, and care for wildlife and the health of the river.  We need to send letters to support this effort. Genia will send an email with links to a webinar for more information and a link to the action section where we can either sign an already written letter or write our own.

October 29th is Green Seattle, Seattle Forest Week, and the day for our Stewardship activity.  In line with our advocacy for mature and old-growth forest, we will meet at 9 am in Seward Park to plant native plants and bushes.  Genia has sent out the information on how to sign up. Please text Genia if you have signed up for this event already.  Text or email if you need more information or have difficulty signing up.  Genia would like more people to sign up.

In addition, if you are not able to make it on October 29, Barb Muirhead is planning to plant trees on October 23 as part of Seattle Forest Week.   Contact Barb if you want to join her on October 23rd for this stewardship activity.

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**Fun (Barb Muirhead)**

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Barb proposed a group hike at Soaring Eagle regional park in Sammamish on October 10 starting around 10:00 AM.  She said that Soaring Eagle connects to the Hazel Wolf Wetlands and has several short trails we can explore, with little to no elevation gain.  She noted that if people want to carpool she could pick people up at the Northgate light rail station if someone wanted to take light rail.  If you plan to come on this hike, please text Barb at 206-491-2987 so Barb will know who to expect.

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Barb welcomes any suggestion you might have for future hikes. Barb Phalen suggested Millersylvania as a place for camping sometime in the future.

**Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be a Zoom meeting on November 10 at 7:00 PM.  Penelope is hoping to have a speaker for that meeting.

 Penelope adjourned the meeting at 3:15 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted, Wendy Roedell*