**Great Old Broads for Wilderness**

**Polly Dyer Seattle Chapter Meeting**

April 20, 2023, at 7 p.m. on Zoom

Penelope called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. Members present included Wendy Roedell, Penelope Peterson, Barbara Phalen, Genia Moncada, Shelley Spalding, Barbara Muirhead, Janna Treisman, Karen Lee, Larry Hubbell, Marilyn Evans, Susan Bocek, Raelene Gold, Kate Bradley, Kelly Hollowood, Nora Langen, and Cathy Gorrell.

**Presentation by Larry Hubbell**

Larry Hubbell joined us for a presentation on his vision for restoring Arboretum Creek. More information on the project can be found at the website: <https://www.arboretumcreek.org/>

* Penelope’s son, Josh, is on the Arboretum board and knows Larry. Larry told Penelope that he had been worried that there weren’t as many eagles around as had been previously, and that one way to bring more eagles would be to restore the creek.
* Larry and Dave Galvin developed the group – *Friends of Arboretum Creek*, to “rekindle the love affair between Seattle and nature”.
* Stakeholders include:
  + Seattle Parks and Recreation
  + Arboretum Foundation
  + University of Washington Botanic Gardens
  + King County Wastewater Treatment Division
  + Seattle Public Utility
  + Seattle Department of Transportation
  + Seattle Parks Foundation
* The Arboretum Creek flows through the Japanese Garden, goes underground for a while, combines with a sewer overflow, and ends up in the Montlake Cut, unless there is not enough water to carry it through, and then it just stops. At this point, fish cannot make their way up the stream because of the height of the underground pipe that flows out from underground part of the creek.
* The Montlake Cut area forms a habitat for many birds, fish, and mammals that would all benefit from greater access to the Arboretum Creek. Fish would be able to travel up the creek to spawn.
* The plan includes the Headwaters Project which will get water from two small springs to connect with the creek and run it through a Stormwater Garden to filter out the pollutants and help avoid floods.
* At the creek website, you can click on the art, and the names of the plants and animals will appear. Deciding which plants to plant by the creek requires compromise. The Arboretum Foundation mandate is to collect valuable plant specimens from around the world. The Parks Department and UW Botanic Gardens want to plant native plants. Larry hopes to attract birds by plant keystone species – plants that will attract the insects that birds feed on and use to feed their young.
* The Arboretum Creek project offers Birds and Habitat Nature walks starting at 8:30 AM the first Sunday of the month, and different Work Parties on the third Wednesday morning of the month. More information about these activities along with information about project tours can be found on the website.

**Advocacy**

1. **Update on the Snake River Dams** (Penelope)

The current goal of the Broads Lower Snake River Dam BRAT is to get President Biden to breach the dams by Executive Order. Toward this goal we are having “Breaching Tuesdays” every Tuesday where we want you to call the White House (202-456-1111) and tell Biden to breach the Lower Snake River Dams. In addition, another “listening session” will occur on May 25. A call will come out for speakers to participate so register to speak as soon as the sign-up becomes available.

* + Raelene attended the last Snake River Dams listening session. Most of the people speaking were in favor of breaching the dams. She reported that the State Legislature’s budget is currently passing funds for studies of how to replace the barges, and the other services that would need to be replaced if the dams are breached. When the next listening session is announced, it’s important to sign up fast to speak so that once again people in favor of breaching the dams will be the ones speaking. At the last session, not very many of the people opposed to breaching the dams got on the agenda.

1. **Advocacy team report** (Raelene, Shelley, Kate, and Genia)
   * **Legacy forests** on our state land are in danger because the state wants to clearcut some of them to make money. The Sherwood Forest on the Kitsap Peninsula is currently on the chopping block. The State Board of Natural Resources went ahead and approved the sale to clearcut this legacy forest even though 80% of the comments opposed it. There is a chance to stop the sale at their next meeting. Environmental groups and local people are totally opposed to this sale.
   * We will have a speaker on legacy forests at our September meeting.
   * Genia is yet not sure what the overall strategy should be for advocacy.
   * Some members of the State Board, who are the beneficiaries of these timber sales from clear cutting in state forests are looking for other options for funding. But rural counties need funding more immediately.
   * **Columbia River Treaty** **Listening Session**

Raelene spoke at this session. The utility companies feel they are paying too much to Canada. The NGO group, which Raelene is part of, wants the river to be managed better to support the fish and the wildlife and believe that an agency that knows something about fish and rivers should be involved in the management. Kate and Shelley also tuned in to the listening session. Speakers made a big point made that stakeholders need to consider the third leg of the stool--the river--in addition to concerns about regulating flooding and optimizing hydroelectric energy production for both US and Canada. Also, the need to include the tribes was discussed. The tribes understand the river and have studied it for a long time. In Canada the tribes are included in all negotiations about the river, but in the United States, the tribes are not included.

1. **Alpine Lakes** (Janna)
   * The bureaucracy around developing the plan for this area is very difficult to deal with.
   * Janna and Barbara will continue to monitor the Alpine Lakes discussions.

**Membership**

1. The Broads Central Office is giving us ten free memberships to give out for the year. If you have a friend who might be interested in joining our Broadband, please let Penelope know, and she will contact your friend about a free membership.
2. Tabling—We would like to have a table at an event or two this summer to publicize our work and recruit new members. Would you like to oversee the table? We have a new table banner and new materials (brochures, bookmarks, stickers). Do you have ideas about an event where we might table?

**Upcoming Meetings**

1. Genia Moncada will step down from co-leading the Broadband with Barb and Penelope but will remain on the Leadership Team for our Broadband.
2. Barbara Phalen and Kay will host a meeting outside at their house in Renton in June. We will have a potluck lunch so get out your favorite recipes. After lunch and a brief meeting, we will walk to the Cedar River where Barbara or a guest speaker will tell us about plans to build an asphalt plant on the river and how we might work to prevent it**.**
   * Barbara has talked with a city councilmember who is knowledgeable about the project who will possibly speak with us.
   * We decided to meet on **June 22 at 12:00 PM.**
3. August and September Meeting and Activities—Our August and September activities will include a trip/hike to the Capitol State Forest and a speaker on legacy forests. Janka has kindly agreed to host our August Broadband meeting outside at her house in Kirkland on **Thursday, August 3rd, at 1 p.m.** Our meeting will be followed by a hike in the nearby Bridle Trails State Park.

**Upcoming Planned Events**

**April 22 and 23 Earth Day** Stewardship Activities. If you have not yet signed up, please contact Genia for possible sites, or you can sign up here: Sunday, April 23rd, 10a.m. to 2p.m. <https://seattle.greencitypartnerships.org/event/22427/>

**May 13th Prairie Appreciation Day:** Experience the wonders of the prairie at the Glacial Heritage Preserve, south of Olympia. We will leave Seattle at 8:30 AM. Contact Barb Muirhead (206-491-2987) if you want to attend.

This is a prairie restoration project that has been going on for about 15 years. The project gathers the seeds, store them, and reseed them to come up the next year.

**Mary 23rd at 7 pm. Book Club: Discussion on Zoom** of Trebbe Johnson’s book,*Radical Joy for Hard Time: Finding Meaning and Making Beauty in Earth’s Broken Places.*

**July 17th and 18.th Broadband Campout at Camano Island State Park:** Twenty-three Polly Dyer Broads will attend. We will provide more details as the date nears.

The meeting ended at 8:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Wendy Roedell