



# Friends' Focus

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## Upcoming Events

### Pierce County Livable Communities Fair

Saturday May 17, 2008  
Tacoma Dome  
Volunteers needed to staff booth

### Environmental Clubs

Maritime Gig parade Walkers are welcome!  
Saturday June 7, 2008  
Meet at 9:15 a.m. in line

### Crescent Creek Park Project Celebration

Saturday June 7, 2008  
12:00 p.m.  
3303 Vernhardson St.

Lunch provided

*Hope to see you there!*

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## Environmental Clubs success this year

We are wrapping up environmental clubs for this year. We educated over 50 students on the importance of water quality and salmon habitat. Students also restored riparian areas on Crescent Creek.

Next year clubs will focus on more on wildlife habitat.

We will certify BackYard and School Habitats, a program that promotes wildlife habitat in your own back yard.

Environmental club students will certify their own back yards as wildlife habitat and each school will be certified.

We will construct three rain gardens at each school. We will rely on Washington State University to provide technical support in locating and constructing each rain garden. Students and volunteers from Friends of Pierce County, Peninsula School District, Pierce County and Crescent Valley Alliance will help in the construction of rain gardens and planting.

We will increase club members skills, knowledge and abilities by hosting guest speakers to present concepts and writing lesson plans that convey conservation messages.

We will provide students critical thinking by hands-on activities that engage them in



discussions and scientific methods to solve problems.

We believe that student's will change their behavior in protecting wildlife habitat after learning how they can make improvements in their own backyard. This will increase environmental stewardship in the community.

Educational signs on Low Impact Development will be placed at each school by the rain gardens to educate other students, parents, teachers and community on the benefits of Rain Gardens and how they can construct them at their own home.

We plan to restore more habitat areas along Crescent Creek by removing non-native plants and planting natives ones.

Thanks to all our club leaders and volunteers this year: Racheal Villa, Jarisa Gregor, Sandy Dawson, Feng Sam, Jo Meints, Rhonda Haug, Carol Rivera, Leslie Harbaugh, and Brendan Berejikian.

**Call (253) 851-9524 to sign up for next school year or email to: FOPC@comcast.net.**

**Donations are critical to continue this program next year.**

**Please send in your contribution today marked "Clubs".**



*Students listen to water quality sampling testing instructions by Isabel Ragland with Pierce County Conservation District*



*Voyager and Artondale students set up for water quality sampling on April 12, 2008*



*Students work in five groups to test oxygen, nitrates, pH and turbidity at Crescent Creek*



*Bob Dieckmann with Pierce County demonstrates pollution at Voyager Elementary*



## Vision

**Communities will strive to utilize all planning strategies that balance the elements of environment, equity, and economics.**

### Board of Directors

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<b>Position 7:</b>	<b><i>Kyle Shimamoto</i></b>

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*Friends of Pierce County is a 501 (c) 3 organization.*

*Membership fees and donations are tax*

**Website hosted by:**



## Spotlight on Kyle Shimamoto

Kyle was born in Los Gatos, CA which is about an hour south of San Francisco in the south bay area.

He spent his whole childhood in Los Gatos. During his childhood, he spent lots of time exploring the beautiful foothills of the Santa Cruz Mountains and the beaches around the Bay Area. It was these experiences that originally led to his deep reverence for the beauty of the natural environment around us.

He received an EMT certificate from Tacoma Community College, attended the University of Puget Sound and is currently working on completing an American Montessori Society teaching certificate from the Montessori Educational Institute of the Pacific Northwest.

Kyle has lived in various parts of Tacoma since 1999.

He is involved in FPC because in his words,

“I believe that responsible land use is extremely important to any conservation efforts and it is often an issue that gets overlooked. FPC operates as an effective advocate and excellent resource for citizens all over Pierce County who are facing issues of irresponsible land use in their neighborhoods”.

Kyle absolutely loves to cook. He likes to source ingredients locally and develop recipes over a good bottle of Washington or Oregon wine! When not cooking, he likes to hike, play tennis and baseball, and read. He always does his best to stick his nose in local politics.



Kyle seen here on the left at Board's year-end party in December 2007

## More tips for a greener you in 2008

**Reduce Unwanted Junk Mail** - We all get junk mail. If you would like to reduce this unwanted material, go to: [www.GreenDimes.com](http://www.GreenDimes.com) to sign up for a variety of ways to do just this.

**Batteries** - Did you know more than 350 million rechargeable batteries are purchased annually in the United States? About 75 percent of municipal solid waste is either sent to a landfill or incinerated. Neither of these methods is suited for the disposal of rechargeable batteries. Many retailers, which will properly dispose of them. Find out where at [www.earth911.org](http://www.earth911.org)

**Paper Towels** - Did you know if every household in the U.S. replaced just one roll of 180-sheet virgin-fiber paper towels with 100-percent recycled paper towels, we could save: 1.4 million trees, 3.7 million cubic feet of landfill space, and 526 million gallons of water, and prevent 89,400 pounds of pollution? Several companies make paper towels from 100-percent recycled paper, with a minimum of 90-percent post-consumer materials. You can find these products at many grocery stores, particularly those that specialize in natural foods. Better yet, make do without paper towels. Use dish towels instead.  
Source: <http://nationalzoo.si.edu/Pub>

## Green Roofs offer a variety of benefits

Integrating living plants with the built environment has many advantages. According Dunnet and Kingsbury, authors of “*Planting Green Roofs and Living Walls*” (2004), Green Roofs provide visual and aesthetic aspects in the urban environment, provide habitat for wildlife, help reduce pollution by trapping dust, recycling carbon dioxide and breaking down pollutants. Green Roofs help regulate interior climates providing insulation and thus reducing heating and cooling costs. Green Roofs also combat urban flooding by absorbing rainfall that runs off hard surfaces. It has even been shown that Green Roofs last longer than conventional roofs.

A Green Roof is a green space created by adding layers of growing medium and plants on top of a traditional roofing system. Usually they are composed of two layers, the vegetation and a substrate in which the plants grow. Some also have a drainage layer.

There are many systems and various techniques available. For more information go to the following resources: <http://www.greenroofs.com>, <http://www.greenroofs.org> and <http://www.greengridroofs.com>.

## Gravel Mining versus Aquifer in DuPont

On May 6, 2008, residents will have the opportunity to listen to a proposal in the City of Dupont by Glacier Northwest to drain an aquifer to get to the gravel underneath it.

According to a recent story published in the *Home Town Clipper* (April 2008) by Cara Mitchell, Glacier Northwest wishes to expand its mining operations by 177 acres towards Sequatchew Creek and the DuPont Civic Center. The company will construct a new tributary as mitigation for this project.

The Final Environmental Impact study does mention that this project will decrease water depth in Edmonds Marsh of 6 to 18 inches.

How will this proposal affect the streams, wetlands and aquifer?

According to David Sherrard, AICP, Project Manager with Paramatrix, the company recently retained by the city to review the applicant and the Final Environmental Impact Statement and prepare a Draft Staff Report, Paramatrix has a team of technical specialist in the early stages of familiarizing themselves with the project and the large amount of information generated. They will utilize this information and concerns expressed by the public at the May 6 meeting, and formal comments on the applications to prepare the staff report.

Paramatrix has not yet determined dates for the following steps in the process:

1. **Issuance of the staff report**  
When issued, it will be available to parties of record in accordance with the city's standard procedures.
2. **Public Hearing**

Members of the public will be able to give testimony on the record or submit comments at/or prior to the meeting in accordance with standard city procedures.

### 3. **Decision by the Hearing Examiner**

Email any concerns you have about the project to: [DSherard@paramatrix.com](mailto:DSherard@paramatrix.com). Comments sent to Mr. Sherrard will NOT part of the formal record, but will be useful in preparing the staff report.

If you have comments to be included in the formal record, submit them directly to John Darling with the City of DuPont: [JDarling@ci.dupont.wa.us](mailto:JDarling@ci.dupont.wa.us).

### **Project meeting**

**May 6, 2008 at 7 p.m.  
Dupont City Hall  
303 Barksdale Ave**

*Use what talents you possess: the woods would be very silent if no birds sang there except those that sang best. Henry Van Dyke*

# Join FPC today!

As a member, you will receive newsletters and weekly email updates informing you of county-wide planning, development and environmental issues.

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Enclosed is \$35 for my annual membership dues.

\_\_\_ Enclosed is a donation for \$ \_\_\_\_.

I am interested in helping with the following:

\_\_\_ Environmental

\_\_\_ Education and Outreach

\_\_\_ Fundraising

\_\_\_ Membership

\_\_\_ Communications

\_\_\_ Budget/Finance

Non-profit org  
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