

WNPS/GSP Steward Training  
Outreach and Engagement  
Nov. 13, 2014  
(print version)

## **WNPS Field Trips**

### **Salvage for Salmon**

-Dec., Feb., Mar.

### **Avian Utopia**

- Nov. 15th

### **Mosses**

- Nov. 16th

### **Migrating Birds**

- Nov. 22nd

### **Habitat and Soil**

- Nov. 22nd

[www.wnps.org](http://www.wnps.org)  
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WashingtonNativePlants](https://facebook.com/WashingtonNativePlants)  
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# GSP Resources

- Websites
  - Includes TRUMBA
- Social Media
- Tabling
- Outreach materials
- E-blast
- Signage
- Park kiosks
- Corporate groups
- Service Days
- Public Engagement Committee (Norah Kates, Rick Paulson, Dee Dunbar)

# Mary DeJong

- Cheasty Greenspace
- PlaceMaking Movement
- Outreach Practices
  - Mailchimp
  - Social Media
  - Engagement

# Steve Richmond

- Flyers
- Funding info
- Gives advice
- [seedrain.org](http://seedrain.org)

## Restoring and Stabilizing Slopes

“Vegetative management” on steep slopes is a preventive, cost-effective alternative to structural retaining walls. The gradual replacement of shallow-rooted invasives with native plants doesn’t give instant guarantees, but the soil-binding roots of native vegetation continually improve with age. At the same time, native plant diversity improves wildlife habitat, quality of life, and property values.

Invasive ivy and blackberry smother deeper-rooted evergreen plants that better intercept winter stormwater, the primary cause of landslides. Invasive plants have taken decades to establish, so it’s important to get native plants growing as soon as possible; the best planting time is winter. Restoration entails cutting back invasives enough to plant, and preserving all roots and topsoil until native plantings establish.

Healthy [greenspaces](http://greenspaces) make Seattle livable. Managing slope vegetation to balance views and stability offers peace of mind. Always consult a geo-tech and/or soil engineer for slide concerns: ([www.seattle.gov/dpd/Emergency/Landslides/default.asp](http://www.seattle.gov/dpd/Emergency/Landslides/default.asp)).

[SEEDRAIN.ORG](http://SEEDRAIN.ORG) lists professional restoration companies. In West Seattle, contact **Garden Cycles** to help you restore your slope. E-mail: [steve@gardencycles.com](mailto:steve@gardencycles.com) (GARDEC\*932JF).



## Saving Seattle Forests One Backyard at a Time

City forests are in trouble: from ivy, holly & hawthorn – and topsoil loss.

- 150 years ago Seattle’s old-growth forests were logged and replaced by maple and alder. As English ivy strangles these short-lived trees, Himalayan blackberry is preventing the regrowth of evergreen trees.
- Forestry experts project that 70% of tree canopy in Seattle’s forested parks could be lost in 20 years – if we do nothing.
- English holly now outnumbers native tree sprouts 9 to 1 in local forests. Holly is doubling every 6 years and “has the potential to become a dominant species in both number of individuals and area covered within a few decades” (Dr. David Stokes, UW Bothell).
- Ivy and a food source (blackberries, tree fruit, and bird feeders) are prime rodent habitat, while native plants promote bird wildlife and healthy human habitat.
- Evergreen trees and healthy topsoil intercept and filter polluted runoff – critical to Puget Sound’s health. For information on soil/forest preservation, see: [seedrain.org](http://seedrain.org).

For licensed, professional restoration or consultation: [steve@gardencycles.com](mailto:steve@gardencycles.com).

Only YOU can prevent plant invasions.



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# Advice from stewards

- Luke McGuff @ North Beach:  
[natureintrudes.net](http://natureintrudes.net)
- Heron Habitat Helpers: [heronhelpers.org](http://heronhelpers.org)
- Burke Gilman at Sandpoint:  
[burkegilmanvolunteers.org](http://burkegilmanvolunteers.org)
- @Ravenna
- @Frink Park
- Buffer Workshop Roundtable

# General Advice

- Build a relationship
- Try a lot of different things.
- If it's fun, keep doing it.
- Don't expect a lot of return.
- Does outreach appeal more to someone else in your group?

# Things that didn't work out (for some)

- Putting flyers in coffee shops or mailboxes.
- Putting posters in local businesses.
- Looking through staff lists of nearby schools.
- Working near a private property without talking to the neighbor first
- Speaking to home owner's association.
  - Would have worked better with clearer goals.



# Tabling at neighborhood events

- Lots of fun – if the weather is good.
- Logistics involved:
  - Need to make arrangements with the organization.
  - Need a table and a couple chairs.
  - GSP has an outreach kit and a pop-up.
  - You have to get and return them.

# Things that have worked out well

- ESRM 100 students.
  - Participation comes earlier in the quarter.
  - Might be a large discrepancy between advance sign ups and attendees (both ways).
  - Weather dependent.

# Things that have worked out well

- Blog posts/website
- Facebook page – “Friends of ...”
- Having a camera always at hand.
- Mailing lists
- Signage
- Tours
- Hats, Name tags, T-shirts
- Elevator Speech

# Other Possibilities

- YMCA Earth Service Corps <http://ymcaearth.org/>
- High School Service Learning
- Seattle Works: <http://www.seattleworks.org/>
- OneBrick: <http://seattle.onebrick.org/>
- City Quest:  
[spu.edu/depts/perkins/students/cityquest/](http://spu.edu/depts/perkins/students/cityquest/)
- UW Carlson Center

# Benefits of Volunteering Outdoors

- Mental Health Benefits
- Stress Relief
- Community Building
- Environmental Equality