

# GRAYS HARBOR STREAM TEAM

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER ~ SUMMER 2019



## THIS QUARTERS NEWS AND UPDATES:

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**Progress Report - 1**

**Work Parties - 2**

**Outreach - 2**

**Educational**

**Opportunities - 3**

**Meet Alexa - 3**

**Upcoming Events - 4**

**Sponsors & Partners - 4**

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## PROGRESS REPORT

### Updated By Alexa Jones

February was a time of transition for the Grays Harbor Stream Team. Katie Lutz moved on from the Coordinator position and Alexa Jones stepped in as the new Coordinator. Katie accomplished great things as the coordinator and set up the position perfectly for it to be passed on. Thank you so much Katie and Joe Kalisch (previous Coordinator) for all that you have done to make the Grays Harbor Stream Team what it is today!

Since the beginning of 2019 the Grays Harbor Stream Team has:

- Hosted eight work party events
- Recruited 97 new volunteers, 65 of which were youth
- Volunteers worked a total of 462.5 hours
- Removed 3,300 pounds of invasive plant material and 2,266 pounds of trash from our streams and parks
- Planted 1,470 trees over 3.3 acres
- Reached 740 children and 359 adults with educational and outreach material over 16 separate events.

# WORK PARTIES

## Fun and Full of Satisfaction

On March 16th the Grays Harbor Stream Team partnered with two local land owners Lawren and John to plant 265 trees with 18 volunteers over three hours.

Grays Harbor Stream Team partnered with Grays Harbor Audubon and Chehalis River Basin Land Trust to remove Scotch broom at Elliott Slough on April 13th. Eight volunteers showed up in the middle of a rain storm and worked for three hours to remove 300 pounds of Scotch broom.

On April 20th the Grays Harbor Stream Team Partnered with Grays Harbor College Fish Lab, Clean Streams and Memes and the City of Aberdeen to cleanup Fry Creek. Fifteen volunteers worked for two hours to pick up 1,866 pounds of garbage from Fry Creek.

Grays Harbor Stream Team partnered with the City of Cosmopolis and Cosmopolis Elementary to bring Mrs. Wilson's class out to Mill Creek Park on May 20th to remove ivy. Twenty students and three adults removed 500 pounds of invasive species over two hours.

On June 8th the Grays Harbor Stream Team teamed up with the City of Cosmopolis, Grays Harbor College Fish Lab, and the Grays Harbor Noxious Weed Coordinator to remove invasive species from Mill Creek Park. Twenty four volunteers removed 2,000 pounds of invasive species over three hours of hard work.

Grays Harbor Stream Team teamed up with Friends of Schaffer and Lake Sylvia, Washington State Parks, Grays Harbor College Fish Lab, and WSU Grays Harbor and Pacific Counties Master Gardeners to remove invasive species on June 15th. Seventeen volunteers removed 500 pounds of invasive species over three hours. Helen Hepp led an informative nature walk following the work party.



The Roush Family at Mill Creek Park invasive removal work party



Grays Harbor College Fish Lab students and volunteers at the Fry Creek Cleanup



Noel and her son at Lawren and John's tree planting

# OUTREACH

## Biology & Brews Pub Talks

Grays Harbor Stream Team held a Biology and Brews pub talk on March 28th at Mount Olympus Brewing in Aberdeen. Kiley Smith the Grays Harbor Noxious Weed Coordinator talked about invasive species.

On April 18th the Grays Harbor Stream Team held a Biology and Brews pub talk at Mount Olympus Brewing. Five community members came to listen to Jennifer Riedmayer the Non-point Water Quality Specialist present on Washington State Department of Ecology's Non-point Water Quality Program.



Mindy Roberts speaking at the Chehalis River Basin Land Trust pub talk at Mount Olympus Brewing on orcas and salmon

# EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

## Rivers, Macros, and More

Friends of Schafer and Lake Sylvia (FOSLS), WSU Master Gardeners, Grays Harbor Stream Team, and teachers at Simpson Elementary organized a field day for fourth grade at Lake Sylvia State park on April 22nd. 100 students cycled through Grays Harbor Stream Team invasive species station. The students also learned about moss and lichens, native plants, and invasive plants. On April 30th the fourth graders visited Schafer State Park and learned about macroinvertebrates, local geology, nature poetry, and forestry. On May 10th the fifth graders visited Lake Sylvia State Park and learned about macroinvertebrates, native plants, and micro organisms in the soil.

Kathy Jacobsen and the Grays Harbor Stream Team traveled to Robert Gray Elementary School to present the River Table on April 24th. 120 children from five different classes spent their class period being taught about the River Table. They learned about how rivers flow, how human impacts change the river and how to live in balance with our local river system.

The Grays Harbor College Fish Lab organized a field day for Emerson Elementary on May 24th. 120 students passed through the Grays Harbor Stream Team's Salmon Lifecycle Bracelet making station. The student went on a nature hike and observed juvenile coho and rainbow trout.

Grays Harbor Stream Team partnered with the Highly Capable Coordinator for the Elma School District to teach two lessons to the Highly Capable Summer Camp on June 19th. 22 students learned about the salmon lifecycle and native and invasive plant species at Lake Sylvia State Park.



Two fifth graders from Simpson Elementary drew their own macro



These awesome girls helped remove ivy at Mill Creek Park



These two removed the largest ivy root seen at Mill Creek Park

## MEET ALEXA

### The Grays Harbor Stream Team Coordinator

Hello, I have been inspired and highly motivated by this community, thank you for giving me the chance to serve in this position. I grew up in the Gig Harbor/Key Peninsula area. I graduated from Peninsula High School and moved to Bellingham to study at Western Washington University. I spent five years there studying hard for a Bachelors of Science in Environmental Science and a Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Policy with a minor in Economics. During my time at the University I interned for six months as a Stream Restoration Intern with the Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association (NSEA). I then became a Student Board Member for a year and moved on to become the Administrative Assistant to the Executive Director at NSEA. I then spent two summer seasons with the Department of Natural Resources Aquatics Division working to eradicate Spartina and treat for other invasive species throughout Willapa Bay and Grays Harbor. When I heard about the Grays Harbor Stream Team and the open Coordinator position I applied immediately. This position has pushed me to grow in so many ways and I am so thankful to be a part of this wonderful community.



All photos pictured are taken by me, Alexa Jones

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Something for Everyone

- August 3rd Wishkah Gardens Invasive Removal Work Party 10:00 am - 1:00 pm
- August 10th Mill Creek Park Invasive Removal Work Party 10:00 am - 1:00 pm
- August 31st Wishkah Gardens Invasive Removal Work Party 10:00 am - 1:00 pm
- September 14th Wishkah Gardens Invasive Removal Work Party 10:00 am - 1:00 pm
- September 21st Fall Festival at Lake Sylvia State Park 7:00 am - 4:00pm
- October 12th Mill Creek Park Tree Planting 10:00 am - 1:00 pm



Volunteers removing ivy at Mill Creek park

For an updated list of our events, check out our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/pg/GraysHarborStreamTeam/events/>

## SPONSORS

Thank you so much for your support, you are essential to our success!

*Wildlife Forever Fund*



**FOSLS**



## PARTNERS