



# North Olympic Group Newsletter

Explore, Enjoy, Protect the Planet

Jan – Feb, 2014  
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## Meetings and Events

**Jan. 14** — Executive Committee Meeting at Sequim Library  
1 to 3 PM (Note time and date change)

**Feb. 13** — Executive Committee Meeting in Port Townsend 1 to 3 PM - Contact Monica At [monicailet@gmail.com](mailto:monicailet@gmail.com) for more information

I pledge allegiance to the Earth and to the flora, fauna and human life that it supports, one planet indivisible, with safe air, water & soil, economic justice, equal rights and peace for all.



## A NOTE FROM MONICA FLETCHER NOG CHAIR



As I look at the year-end list of accomplishments, outings and collaborations that our local group managed to produce it is with a huge amount of amazement. Most of

These activities were taken on, planned, and produced by a core group of about a dozen people spread out over two counties. Our larger membership has supported all of these activities of course—with volunteering at events, letter writing, voting, financial support and attendance. Many NOG members are first and foremost Sierra Club supporters through their dues. Many have supported the Sierra Club for a lifetime. But these dozen or so resident stalwarts are behind most of the local actions, the on-site investigations and the local response to so much that is happening in our bays, rivers, mountains and forests. It is a great number of concerns to follow for such a small group. Fortunately other environmental organizations of our region are collaborative. There is truly a network of activists here on the Olympic Peninsula that keeps North Olympic Group in the know and effective on issues that need immediate attention.

This note is to remind our local membership that there is great need for more involvement by new individuals in the details of our mission to explore, enjoy and protect the Northern Olympic Peninsula. We have conservation committees in both counties, political committees, a need for outing leaders, a need for watchdogs, and issues-oriented volunteers. There really is nothing like the Sierra Club North Olympic Group for keeping an ear to the ground on the local situation and backing that familiarity with clear policy based on science and sustainability that is consistent throughout the organization from the local to the national level.

Please feel free to contact me at any time for a discussion on getting more involved. It is the only way to go!

Monica Fletcher, Chair, North Olympic Group  
[monicailet@gmail.com](mailto:monicailet@gmail.com).

**See Page 2 for a report on what we've accomplished this past year.**

### 2013 Report from the North Olympic Group

The NOG had a very effective year of action and influence on the Olympic Peninsula. One of our most significant accomplishments was to present an idea and dialogue with ORCAA (Olympic Region Clean Air Agency) and support our state legislators through the approval of appropriation funds that led to the purchase and placement of air monitoring equipment in Clallam and Jefferson counties that monitor ultrafine particulates. This is one of the first studies in the nation of this tiny particulate health hazard and is in response to the increased plan for biomass burning for energy in the region. We continue to closely monitor the implementation plans and actions of this effort.

We also developed (and hiked) a full slate of outings keyed to spreading on-the-ground awareness of the important Wild Olympics campaign's proposed wilderness areas and Wild and Scenic river corridors. In addition to our outings we had two film screenings of *Out of the Mist* with filmmakers present that furthered grassroots support of the Wild Olympics proposal. One screening was attended by all of the Jefferson County commissioners, and Congressman Derek Kilmer (who spoke).

Politically our NOG endorsements in Jefferson County made a big difference, all endorsees won, and in Clallam our Port Commissioner endorsement, while not successful, brought to the fore a discussion of a new path of environmental and economically sound approaches to the care of the Port region's waters.

There were three author readings including Lynda Mapes on the Elwha Dam removal, Maria Mudd Ruth on the Marbled Murrelet, and Tim McNulty on the eastern Olympic Range. Additional events ranged from Wolf Haven International's two presentations, meetings on the perils of municipal sludge, and two major fundraisers — a classical piano concert, and a corn-on-the-cob sale at Port Townsend's Wooden Boat festival that paid our legal debt on anti-biomass-burning legislation.

We forged a plan for more youth involvement by providing two summer scholarships for youth to attend environmental science programs in Port Townsend and Sequim. We worked closely with other Olympic Peninsula groups to support and shape approaches to local matters including the Olympic Forest Coalition, Olympic Environmental Council, the new Climate Action Group in Clallam county, and local Audubon groups.



A great year!



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## Group Executive Committee

We are governed by seven volunteers, with lots of help by our conservation committees. Meetings are generally held on the second Thursday of each month. **All Sierra Club members are welcome to attend.**

**Chair:** Monica Fletcher

**Vice Chair:** Robert Sextro

**Alternate Vice Chair:** Darlene Schanfald

**Secretary:** Bill Volmut

**Treasurer:** Monica Fletcher

## Executive Committee:

Norm Baker, Monica Fletcher,  
Peter Guerrero, Darlene Schanfald,

Robert Sextro, Bill Volmut, John Woolley

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**Newsletter Editor – Janet Marx**

## A Rare Bird Indeed

Sierra Club NOG co-hosted a lively presentation on the mysterious Marbled Murrelet in November. Author Maria Mudd Ruth spent over five years researching the fascinating natural history and scientific inquiry surrounding this unassuming seabird and writing her book *The Rare Bird: Pursuing the Mystery of the Marbled Murrelet*.

For over a century from its 'discovery' by west coast explorers until the mid-1970s there was almost no data on Marbled Murrelet numbers, their habits or even where they nested. No one was paying attention enough to this small shy bird to notice the decline of its numbers or even consider the need to protect it. When the first nest was discovered in 1974 in a depression of moss on a broad limb 148 feet above the ground in an old growth Douglas-fir by a tree-trimmer in Big Basin State Park in California this accidental discovery may have come just in the nick of time.



*Maria Mudd Ruth signing book for Fayette Krause, Olympic Forest Coalition board member.*

The news of the bird's nesting dependence on big limbed-old growth has had significant effects on management of the bird and our forests. Sierra Club is active in pursuing at the Federal level ironclad protections for this self-sufficient web-footed marvel, and not allowing the sell-off its future through old growth destruction. Gill-nets, oil spills, and forage fish exploitation are additional threats that need to be monitored as well.

Olympic Forest Coalition and Seattle Audubon recently won a lawsuit to protect 12,000 acres of Marbled Murrelet old growth habitat from a WA State DNR clear-cut in southwest Washington. The court ruling stands until the agency adopts the Marbled Murrelet Long-Term Conservation Strategy required by the Habitat Conservation Plan. Long live the Marbled Murrelet!



### UP AND DOWN HILL WITH THE NORTH OLYMPIC GROUP

#### Sun at Silver Lake

Lucas Hart



October isn't a month that conjures images of piña colodas, palm trees and white sand beaches in western Washington. Then again, is there a month that we *can* equate to tropical images? Maybe not, but our October 26<sup>th</sup> trek to Silver Lake offered an opportunity to create at least one memory of Washington mountain tropics in a month that should have presented rain soaked fir bows and crackling trail ice.

As our hardy group of ten amassed at the Silver Lake way-trailhead, hands were inserted into gloves and the words "it sure is a lot colder up here" filled the air. I was reminded of my two recent treks to Silver Lake, which ended with freezing hands and sleet soaked clothes while the shimmering blue-green mountain lake hid behind an impenetrable curtain of fog. I was happy to have my memories overshadowed by warm conversation as we advanced through Wild Olympics proposed wilderness, across a frigid Silver Creek and into the Buckhorn Wilderness.

Shortly after completing our first heart-churning uphill stretch into the Buckhorn, the group was quick to notice that I had been placed under a trance by the hydration bag hidden within my backpack. Under normal circumstances, completion of a rather rigorous uphill climb is followed by a relaxing water break. My hydration pack has the uncanny ability to override my physiological requirement for these breaks, or at least it distracts me from the needs of those who do not have the ability to walk and drink water simultaneously. Regardless, I was brought back to reality after hearing the question: "can we have a water break?" from the back of our marching line.

With our muscles rehydrated, we continued gaining altitude. Judging from my previous experiences at Silver Lake, I had no reason to doubt that the air would progressively cool as we approached our destination. But something was different this time. I paused briefly to assure that my hydration pack had not found a new route into my psyche and then realized that indeed, it was getting warmer!

Silver Lake soon came into full view with the surrounding mountains funneling a reflection of the clear blue sky upon its surface. Rock strewn mountain slopes hung inverted in the water making it appear as if a simple downhill walk could deliver us to high-flying peaks. Half of our group realized this observation was an illusion and wisely opted to take advantage of warm sun along the lakeshore. The rest of us zigzagged our way uphill across ice and snow to enjoy elevated views of the sun-soaked Olympic Mountains.

We never did discover white sand and palm trees, but the snow and evergreens of our Olympic Wilderness were a fair trade on this unusually warm day. Only piña colodas could have made it better.





### WHAT'S HAPPENING TO OUR FOOD and FORESTS????!!

*Darlene Schanfald, Ph.D. & Richard C. Honour C., PhD*

At first it was pesticides, and then imported toxic food, then GMO, now hazardous industrial waste which contains all the others. Few people know that food can contain whatever industry and households flush or pour down sewer pipes.

#### WHAT?!

That's right! Food can be grown in soils treated with processed sewage sludge (aka "biosolids"), polluted solids removed by wastewater treatment plants (WWTP). These pollutants can then run off into water bodies, and pollute wells and any life in their wake.

This toxic brew is also spread in forests. Land managed by the State's Department of Natural Resources are generally open to the public for many non-vehicular uses, right amongst the sewage sludge dumping fields. The largest metropolitan areas in Washington State generate the greatest amounts of sewage sludge. King County, for example, generates and collectively manages the disposal of perhaps 150,000 - 200,000 tons of sewage sludge per year. About 15,000 tons of sludge are annually land applied in our western Cascades forests, with about 90,000 - 120,000 additional tons applied to rangelands and agricultural crop lands in central and eastern Washington. Lesser amounts of sludge are diverted to alternate uses and sold as compost or mulch, such as does Port Angeles and Port Townsend.

The US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) sanctions this activity as Beneficial Use, with state and county agencies labeling the activity as Beneficial Reuse, Recycling, and more.

#### WHAT POLLUTANTS ARE IN TYPICAL BIOSOLIDS?

Beyond our personal waste, WWTPs accept dozens of metals and tens of thousands of synthetic chemical compounds from industries, medical and dental facilities, laboratories, educational and research facilities, funeral parlors, superfund sites, storm water, metal plating shops, etc., for a complex mix of heavy metals, dioxins, volatile and semi volatile compounds, animal and plant poisons, prions, pharmaceuticals including vaccines, antibiotics and antibiotic resistant strains, personal care product contaminants, fluoride, toxic household products (e.g. fire retardants), viruses, bacteria, pathogens, household cleaning agents, radioactive material and, yes, even natural gas drilling wastes. The latest research indicates that WWTPs are superbug breeding grounds and emit high levels of nitrous oxides, a powerful greenhouse gas.

The USEPA 2006-2007 study, "*Biosolids: Targeted National Sewage Sludge*", of 84 sewage sludge samples collected from 74 randomly selected publicly owned treatment plants producing 1MGD in 35 communities were:

- 27 metals, 3 steroids, 3 pharmaceuticals, 4 anions and all but one flame retardant (BDE-138) in every sample;
- 9 pharmaceuticals and 6 steroids in 80 samples;
- 4 semivolatile organics and PAHs in 72 samples;
- BDE-138 flame retardant in 54 samples.

[http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/cwa.cfm?program\\_id=45](http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/cwa.cfm?program_id=45)

Yet municipalities need only test for eight metals and a few pathogens before marketing or land spreading this waste.

*(continued on Page 6)*

### WHAT ARE THE HUMAN HEALTH HAZARDS?

Hazards include respiratory diseases, other health reactions and death from direct contact or from inhaling sludge particulates.

Toxicology testing by sludge producers is never performed on sewage sludge, leachate or runoff, so the actual human health or environmental impacts are not evaluated to determine the toxicity associated with land applied sludges. However, plants uptake sludge constituents beyond simply the amount and kind of metals claimed to be “beneficial use.”

### WHAT CAN BE DONE WITH SEWAGE SLUDGE?

There are existing technologies that can turn this waste into energy. For instance, anaerobic digesters and gasification methods turn sludge into non-fossil fuel energy, and landfill disposal results in methane that can be harnessed as a renewable energy source.

Communities need to stop spreading this toxic material that pollutes air, water, soil, wildlife and humans. Communities need to research how other countries and some U.S. municipalities are turning their waste into energy, systems appropriate for their areas, and create a safe energy resource.

### WHAT CAN YOU DO ABOUT THIS?

- Join activists working on this issue.
- Encourage community decision makers to outlaw the land spreading of this waste.
- Encourage them to look at waste2energy methods.
- Support a labeling law for foods grown in soils treated with biosolids, and municipality labeling of potential contaminants in the sludge sold as tonnage or bagged for markets.

For more information, contact Darlene Schanfald at [darlenes@olympus.net](mailto:darlenes@olympus.net) or Richard Honour of the Kenmore based The Precautionary Group at [rhono@precautionarygroup.org](mailto:rhono@precautionarygroup.org)  
Also visit, [www.sludgefacts.com](http://www.sludgefacts.com)



### North Olympic Group Showcases Olympic Wilderness

by Peter Guerrero

This year the North Olympic Group sponsored a series of hikes showcasing areas that would be designated as new wilderness or as Scenic and Wild Rivers under the Wild Olympics proposal. Beginning in March, these monthly hikes culminated in November with a final hike along the beautiful Duckabush River.



*Duckabush Valley*

Battles to preserve the Olympic Peninsula's unique scenic and ecologically important habitats date back to the nineteenth century when most of the Peninsula's forests were first set aside as a forest reserve. Decades of back and forth battles between environmentalists and timber interests followed with the original preserve being considerably whittled down to the existing boundaries of the National Park. Additional wilderness protection was given to a portion of U.S. Forest Service lands in the 1990s

Despite these protections none of the Peninsula's spectacular rivers are protected by a Wild and Scenic River designation. Furthermore, unsustainable timber cutting driven by global demand--87 million

board feet will be shipped from the Port of Port Angeles this year with nearly the same projected for 2014—continues to threaten ecologically important areas that are not currently protected.

University of Maryland researchers recently published interactive maps showing global deforestation over the last decade. These maps, based on Landsat images, are truly chilling:

<http://earthenginepartners.appspot.com/science-2013-global-forest>

The website can be searched to highlight specific areas, such as the Olympic Peninsula, showing the extent of this deforestation locally. On the ground it looks like this



*Olympic Peninsula clear cut*



*logs awaiting export in Port Angeles*

If history provides any lesson it's that the struggle to protect our environment is never over but it's greatly assisted when people are aware of what's at risk and why it needs to be protected. Advocacy by David Brower, the Sierra Club's first executive director, led to the establishment of nine national parks and seashores, including Kings Canyon National Park, Redwoods National Park, and Point Reyes National Seashore. He also played an instrumental role in passing the Wilderness Act of 1964. His accomplishments were the result of getting people out into these areas to see what would be lost without protections. Along these lines, the North Olympic Group plans to continue getting people out into the Olympic wilderness to ensure their preservation for future generations.



### Little River Rock Quarry

by Carmin Germain of The Upper Elwha River Conservation Committee (UERCC)

Here's an update concerning the proposed 70-year rock quarry on Hot Springs Road on the Elwha river.

If Judge Wood rules that the site is consolidated rock, the Clallam Critical Areas Ordinance (under county jurisdiction) will not apply to the site. If he rules that the site is an erosion hazard, the CAO would apply, and the county could enforce the ordinance.

All parties agreed that the equal protection/constitutional issue is a separate issue and not part of this ruling. Shaw and Lane are arguing that other rock quarry/gravel pits in Clallam County are similar to theirs and have been permitted; they have offered no evidence to support this claim. We don't know if this argument will result in a request for another ruling.

Brian Wendt is the attorney representing the county's position; Toby Thaler continues as our counsel representing the UERCC, which has standing in this case along with the county.

### North Olympic Peninsula Group Endorsement Successes

By Monica Fletcher

We endorsed four candidates in Jefferson County, all of whom won, and likely provided the margin of victory in one of those races where Pamela Adams, running for Port Townsend City Council, defeated Harold Sherwood by 16 votes. Pam acknowledged NOG's endorsement made the difference. Pam will be tracking the Port Townsend Paper Company's plans to construct a controversial biomass facility. It should be said that Mr. Sherwood did not acknowledge our endorsement communications.

We also endorsed incumbents Michelle Sandoval, who was successful in her race to maintain her City Council seat against Bob Jautz, and Catharine Robinson, who maintained her seat against challenger Patrick Moore. Michelle is a strong supporter of the Wild Olympics Campaign and Catharine is a strong supporter of mass transit.

We also endorsed one candidate for Port Commissioner in Port Townsend. After reviewing responses from both Brad Clinefelter and Peter Quinn, we felt Clinefelter had both the experience and motivation to make environmental concerns a key factor in Port management decisions.

In Clallam County we supported Del DeLaBarre for Port Commissioner based on his support for the Wild Olympics Campaign and other issues Sierra Club is working on. His opponent, Colleen McAleer, a current Port employee, handily won the seat.

We also endorsed two initiatives: The Port of Port Angeles proposition to reduce Port commissioner terms from six to four years, a citizen-initiated action, handily won. Indeed, it was the most popular item on the ballot, garnering the most votes and winning 87.52% to 12.48%.

And, we are pleased that both Jefferson and Clallam Counties strongly supported I-522, to label genetically modified food. We are disappointed, however, with its statewide defeat.



## Rayonier-Port Angeles Harbor cleanups and the *FRESH START* Self-Guided Tour



Photo by Tim Riley

2013 was a banner year for moving forward the Port Angeles Harborwide cleanup process. The Port of Port Angeles, the City of Port Angeles, Georgia Pacific, Merrill & Ring, Nippon and other shoreline and nearshore industries stepped forward and agreed that they were potential liable parties (PLPs) of the Harbor contamination and signed Agreed Orders with the WA State Department of Ecology (Ecology) to participate and help finance Harbor cleanups.

KPly, the former plywood mill on Marine Drive, and its tall stack are gone. ITT Rayonier purchased that mill in 1971 from a workers' co-operative and renamed it PenPly. They, in turn, sold it to the Canadian Klukwan Tribe in 1989, who operated it until 2008. It remained closed until 2010 when a KPly employee convinced the Port and City to invest in reopening the mill and it again became PenPly. This was a financial boondoggle for all, leaving the City and Port hanging financially for overdue rent and utilities when PenPly closed in 2011.

The Harbor sediment study is completed. Background sediment contaminant studies comparing other bays to the Port Angeles Harbor are done. These and other studies will be ready for public view and comment in 2014 and 2015.

For more information about these cleanups, go to [www.ecy.wa.gov](http://www.ecy.wa.gov). Search for Rayonier Mill, K Ply, Marine Trades Area, and or Western Port Angeles Harbor.

The Olympic Environmental Council just produced a beautiful color brochure entitled, *Port Angeles Harbor Area Self-Guided Tour*. It is a waterfront guide from Rayonier to and through Ediz Hook. It is full of history and lovely historical photos; photos of areas to be cleaned; and a compilation of the contaminants of concern in each area of the Harbor, as well as other waterfront points of interest.

To receive a FREE brochure, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to: OEC, PO Box 2664, Sequim WA 98382. This is a walk you will want both yourself and your visitors to take.



## Have You Heard?

The North Olympic Group recently commented on the Navy's plan to address aircraft noise associated with training flights at the Whidbey Naval Air Station and a landing strip called the Outlying Landing Field (OLF).

Whidbey Island, where these facilities are located, is a vibrant, beautiful, and historic community that has been adversely affected by the extreme aircraft noise from the Navy's training flights. Ebey's Landing National Historic Reserve, a 24,000-acre national park of environmental, cultural, and historical significance has been particularly affected. The Reserve is an important wildlife and migratory bird habitat that is in the vicinity of an antiquated World War II landing strip, the OLF, that is used by the Navy for practice touch and go exercises.

In addition to adversely affecting wildlife, the Navy's own audit found that its jet aircraft emit noise well in excess of the normal human pain threshold. Training flights have occurred at all hours of the day and night and often continue for extended periods of time. Nearby residents experience high levels of jet noise even within their shuttered houses and visitors are unable to avail themselves of state and federal park and recreational lands during these times.

We will continue to track this issue, particularly the Navy's development of an environmental impact statement to address the concerns that have been raised.

*(contributed by Peter Guerrero)*



**WAmend**, a coalition of grassroots organizations, is working toward putting Washington State on record as calling for an amendment to the Constitution that restores constitutional rights for human beings, not corporations. WAMEND hopes to get voters to approve a public initiative in November 2014. In order to get the initiative on the ballot, in early January WAMEND will file their petition with the Secretary of State. Then in a January to June time frame they must collect 360,000 signatures. This requires a huge volunteer force and they will need OUR HELP.

To learn more visit the [www.wamend.org](http://www.wamend.org).

*(contributed by Janet Marx)*



### *Even More Have You Heard?*

Thank You to the Coastal Watershed Institute for organizing and co-leading the recent “Value of Our Ecosystems”, an Ecosystem Analysis of Clallam County, including the nearshore. Ecosystem Services. Storm water filtration, flood control, and beach building processes are what keep our world intact. Even more important-they are free. ‘Lose an ecosystem service - gain a taxing district’ is a one sentence synopsis of how ecosystem services benefit us. Earth Economics, a non-profit devoted to financial solutions, quantified our nearshore’s natural capital: estimated to be 18-52 billion dollars a year (annual flow) for habitat creation, commercial and recreational fishing, carbon storage and feeder bluffs for their sediment transfer. This information should impact our thinking about the value of our local ecosystems. The project was funded by an EPA grant thru the WDFW and DNR. The link to the full report is here: <http://www.coastalwatershedinstitute.org/earthEconomics.pdf>

There are about 100 crop species that provide 90 percent of food globally and, of these, 71 are pollinated by bees. In the US alone, a full one-third of the food supply depends on pollination from bees. A recent pilot study reveals that more than half of garden plants attractive to bees sold at Home Depot and Lowe’s have been pre-treated with pesticides that could in fact be lethal to the bees

The Puget Sound Hatchery Reform Advisory has finished its’ roster of meetings. WDFW is implementing the recommendations made by this group. All hatcheries need to have a strict conservation purpose or they will eventually be closed. Even the protocol of using wild fish as parental stock for hatchery smolts has not worked as well as hoped.

The basic problem with allowing hatchery fish to breed with wild fish is that the offspring have reduced ecological fitness. Research has shown that a wild run can be completely domesticated in as little as seven generations. The result is that that wild run can become completely dependent on a hatchery for continued reproduction. Green River stocks are an excellent example. Historically, it had strong wild runs that were supplemented with enormous amounts of hatchery fish. Now the entire stock for Green River is hatchery dependent.

Three state hatcheries are closing this year and the group recommendations for special management protocols for the remaining healthy wild runs of steelhead and salmon are being implemented. This was the creation of Wild steelhead and Salmon Management Zones. The reasons are quite clear. Hatchery fish are bred to survive best in a hatchery. New management protocols were developed to reduce or remove the hatchery fish from the river and let the wild fish continue all reproduction. We expected that recreational fishermen would be strongly opposed. Surprisingly they are not. Their interpretations are that WDFW should have done this some time ago to protect remaining runs. Their interpretation is that these areas are “gene banks” that deserve special protection.

*(contributed by Norm Baker)*



### New Hope for Scotch Broom Control

By John Woolley

Tourists ask if the brilliant yellow flower along the road is Washington's State Flower. It is so prolific here. What do we say in reply?

Scot's (or Scotch) Broom is an invasive plant, or migrant, from Europe. French broom, Italian broom and Spanish broom are also *cystisus* species. These species have been managed by humans for centuries on the Eurasian continent, as fodder or stubble in classic pasture farming where sheep, goats, and cattle are abundant, and broom is therefore not. Brought to North America for forage and highway embankment stabilization, without sheep and goats to keep it in check, Scot's broom has a direct impact on our environment and economy.

Researchers report a range of impacts due to interference with nutrient availability for other plants, allowing broom to successfully compete and become dominant. The State of Oregon reports losses of \$40 million annually in State land forest production alone due to Scot's Broom. By replacing native plant communities, Scot's broom displaces habitat for wildlife, and is documented to literally stop the natural succession of species into mature forest stands. While broom can eventually be shaded out by trees, the seeds last up to 80 years, and harvest rotations are down to 50. With up to 12,000 seeds per plant, broom comes back with a vengeance after harvest, impacting the growth of the next forest stand and understory species.

Broom has likely been with each of us since childhood, but there's a lot more of it now, and the yellow blaze in spring continues to spread. Powerlines and highways are corridors that broom travels, before spreading into adjacent lands – federal, state, county, industrial, and private. Addressing broom and its impacts across the Olympic Peninsula and on the San Juan Islands is the focus of a new Scotch Broom Working Group (SBWG), made up of more than 25 concerned citizens, groups, agencies, and tribes. On December 12th, Jill Silver, 10,000 Years Institute, called the second meeting of the SBWG. The group's mission is a commonsense, cost-effective, collaborative approach to controlling SB in western WA (with the goal of eventual elimination).

Getting the public's attention is the key. One of the group's projects is to get funding for a statewide analysis of the economic costs of noxious weeds including broom on the environment, resources such as forestry and agriculture, and economy. Local noxious weed programs do exist at the County level, but with little funding, rely on volunteers to get broom pulled. The State Weed Board has a very helpful booklet regarding native plant alternatives to replace aggressive nonnative plants and shrubs. They invite your calls and emails - see the links at the bottom.

Remember the basics for your own use: Cut or pull Scot's broom stems before flowering in spring. You can simply let it lie in place or stack it. With enough moisture, it will decompose in a year. Otherwise, pay heed to broom disposal programs that will be forthcoming. If you are thinking of giving broom eradication a try, contact the Washington Department of Transportation – DOT to adopt a highway section. Senior high school projects and community volunteer projects are also an option. Chat up a proposal with your friends, work on your Google map skills. Let's get serious about doing something. Start with making sure that the nurseries you visit are not selling Scot Broom, or other noxious plants.

State Noxious Weed Board: <http://www.nwcb.wa.gov/>

Noxious Weeds booklet, and more: [http://www.nwcb.wa.gov/nwcb\\_publications.htm](http://www.nwcb.wa.gov/nwcb_publications.htm)

Clallam and Jefferson NWCBs: [http://www.nwcb.wa.gov/nwcb\\_county.htm](http://www.nwcb.wa.gov/nwcb_county.htm)

10,000 Years Institute: [info@10000yearsinstitute.org](mailto:info@10000yearsinstitute.org)