



# North Olympic Group Newsletter

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Sept – Oct 2018

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## Meetings & Events

- Sept 7, 8, 9** – Corn booth Port Townsend Wooden Boat Festival
- Sept 8** – Rise for Orcas & Climate Justice, Port Angeles (Page 1)
- Sept 8** – “Road to Athabasca” movie, Port Angeles (Page 1)
- Sept 10** – “A Plastic Ocean” movie, Port Townsend (Page 1)
- Sept 11** – Excom meeting in Sequim, 2 – 4, Sequim Library
- Sept 15** – Salish Sea Day of Action, Port Townsend (Page 1)
- Oct 9** – Excom meeting in Port Hadlock, 2 – 4, County Library
- Oct 13** – Forum on Industrial Aquaculture, Sequim (Page 1)



Autumn carries more gold in its pocket than all the other seasons.

*Jim Bishop*



**COMING SOON**

**DON'T MISS OUT ON THESE EVENTS**

- **Sept. 7, 8 & 9** – Join NOG and other organizations at the corn booth at the Port Townsend Wooden Boat Festival. Stop by for a freshly cooked ear of corn or better yet join us in the booth.
- **Sept 8** – “Rise for Orcas and Climate Justice”, 11am – 4 pm, Port Angeles City Pier. This is a free event presented by Olympic Climate Action, which includes a bring-your-own picnic, S’mores makings, children’s games, music and more. For more information visit <https://olyclimate.org/category/allblogs/events/>
- **Sept 8** - “The Road to Athabasca” movie, 7pm, Port Angeles Elwha Klallam Heritage Center, 401 E. First St. This is the story of a bicycle ride from Vancouver, B.C. and north to the Alberta tar sands. Doors will open at 6:30 pm. Admission is free.
- **Sept 10** - “A Plastic Ocean” movie, 6:30 PM, Port Townsend Quimper Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Sanctuary. Co-sponsored by NOG, the movie shows how plastics are overwhelming our oceans and the threat to marine life and human health. The film also offers hopeful ideas, based on new technology and on policy changes. Admission is free. View trailer at [meaningfulmoviesa-plastic-ocean](http://meaningfulmoviesa-plastic-ocean)
- **Sept 15** – “Salish Sea Day of Action”, 2pm – 4pm, Port Townsend Pope Marine Park, 1000 Madison St. This is a gathering together to raise awareness of how we all can help Save the Salish Sea. The event includes song, art, and education. Featured musician Dana Lyons will perform his original songs about the Salish Sea. Community leaders will talk about the challenges that the Salish Sea faces and how we all can protect it. The family-friendly event will also include inter-generational art creation and information tables. The event is co-sponsored by NOG, Local 20/20, and QUUF Green Sanctuary Environmental Action.
- **Oct. 6** - Sierra Club Workshop on Conserving Washington’s Public Forests. Sat. 10 am to 4 am at 180 Nickerson St #202.
- **Oct. 13** – Forum on Industrial Aquaculture, 3pm – 5pm, Sequim Historical Dungeness Schoolhouse. Please mark your calendar for this important event. Panelists will be updating us on the status of different forms of industrialized aquaculture along with videos.  
Watch for more detailed information arriving in your email box by early October.

## **Group Executive Committee**

We are governed by seven volunteers, with help from our conservation committees and interested members.

To contact Excom members or for more information email us at [northolympicgroupsc@gmail.com](mailto:northolympicgroupsc@gmail.com)

Meetings are generally held on the second Tuesday of each month alternating between Sequim and Port Hadlock. See Page 1 **Meetings & Events** for next scheduled meeting.

**All Sierra Club members are welcome to attend.**



## **Officers:**

Chair: Janet Marx

Vice Chair: Darlene Schanfald

Secretary: Bill Volmut

Treasurer: Genie Mixson

## **Executive Committee:**

Norm Baker

Cherri Mann

Janet Marx

Genie Mixson

Krestine Reed

Darlene Schanfald

Bill Volmut

**Newsletter Editors** – Janet Marx and Genie Mixson

[Janetmarx\\_76@msn.com](mailto:Janetmarx_76@msn.com)

**Complaints, suggestions, and opinions are always welcome**

**WE  
NEED  
YOU!**

There are five positions on the Executive Committee (Excom) coming up for election. The Excom is responsible for administrative decisions, planning NOG activities and deciding on conservation activities. The term of office is two years.

Excom members meet once a month alternating between Sequim and Port Hadlock. If you are willing to become a candidate for the Excom please contact Janet Marx by October 15 at [janetmarx\\_76@msn.com](mailto:janetmarx_76@msn.com).

**Without your help, we will not continue to grow, keep on top of issues, and sponsor events.**

**I-1631, the Carbon Emissions Fee Measure, qualified for the ballot! We now have the chance to improve air quality and hold polluters accountable.** Standing against us is the oil industry; they are already spending millions to stop this campaign. We know they will lie to protect their billion dollar profits and continue polluting for free. **Be sure to vote for I-1631 and encourage neighbors and friends to do likewise.**

Finally, after more than two decades of pushing for a wastewater treatment plant in Victoria, BC, one is under construction and expected to be completed by 2020.

Victoria dumps millions of gallons of untreated sewage into the Strait of Juan de Fuca each day, much of it containing high levels of ammonia, fecal coliform bacteria, metals and other toxins.

This dumping chronically impacted the health of the Salish Sea and the Strait of Juan de Fuca. Pollution build-up could be affecting everything from the endangered Southern Resident Killer Whales to mussels and the shellfish industry.

If it can't be reduced, reused, repaired, rebuilt, refurbished, refinished, resold, recycled or composted, it should be restricted, redesigned or removed from production. — *Pete Seeger*

## Forests and Water

### Journey of Trees

By M.C. Medler, Sequim

My journey takes me deep into pristine wood,  
shadows, where fir trees sway, range sovereign;

echoes of song wrought of wind from distant sea.  
Forms of boughs touch impaired thought,

phantom limbs shelter fitful dreams where  
I sleep shrouded in that sweet pungent scent

that paints a colour of night fog ever creeping  
through open bramble. I grow each breath

rooted in this ground. My knuckles will bleed  
to protect it. But, seasons change, larger

than me. The avarice of others bends the wood  
to their wills and this deep forest grows slowly

thinner; a spare moment, an acre of shattered  
branch, bough and root wrought of greed.

*- Mike Medler is a Washington native, now  
living in Sequim.*

Climate change has brought flooding to some parts of our country while other areas see drought. The latter condition primes-the-pump for forest fires.

Fires have decimated huge portions of our western forests during the past decade. As the water supply from mountains and rain is diminished by climate change, we become more reliant on our forests to supply fresh, clean water to our communities.

There is an old song: "Love is a Rose" (but you better not pick it. It only grows when it's on the vine). Similarly, our healthy trees and forests are our greatest natural resource. They are so much more valuable than diamonds, gold, oil, or even the wood that they're cut for. Not only do they pull carbon pollution out of the air, forest watersheds are a key contributor to our water supply.

When the rains come, trees catch water in their leaves, preventing excess runoff. This process is called throughfall and it slows the release of water so that the earth can absorb more. And because their roots grow so deeply, water can penetrate the soil further.

Trees also moderate the earth's surface temperatures by shading the land and watersheds, which reduces surface evaporation.

Recent evidence suggests that forests contribute to the water supply in another way: By generating atmospheric water through transpiration. That is, the evaporation of the plant's excess water through its leaves. Once this water is in the atmosphere, it is picked up by the wind and distributed throughout the ecosystem across hundreds of miles.

Without our forests, our water supplies are in jeopardy. We must protect our forests as they have protected us.

### Promoting Dark Skies on the North Olympic Peninsula

*Matt Jordon*

I'm a resident of the City of Port Angeles who is concerned about the impacts bright LED street lighting has on human health; after a year of studying this topic, I believe it's worth your time.

A recent study conducted by the University of Toledo has indicated a causal relationship between bright white LED light and macular degeneration. In 2016, the American Medical Association publicly stated that LED streetlights have five times greater impact on circadian rhythm compared to conventional street lamps which all adversely affect melatonin production, a critical component in cognitive and overall physical health. Daytime productivity is also affected by bright nights.

Over-lit city streets are the leading cause of light trespass. They create an inability to "turn off the lights" which not only keeps people more awake at night but it also costs a lot of money, man-hours and valuable resources which could be apportioned elsewhere. Bright LED lighting may have been sold as a crime prevention tool, but it's a misconception that constant and extreme bright light prevents crime at all.

LED streetlights are not as smart as they once seemed. They are quietly being dimmed, replaced, or removed altogether in places like Flagstaff, AZ, Palm Springs and Monterey, CA where citizens place a high value on natural star-lit nights and a sound sleep. In my opinion, over-utilizing artificial light is a bad trend that can be reversed. I believe Port Angeles can become a real leader in Washington and other national park gateway cities by preserving our valuable dark night skies.

You can help with the effort to reduce light pollution by contacting Matt Jordon at [mjordon@gmail.com](mailto:mjordon@gmail.com) or to learn more visit the International Dark-sky Association: <http://darksky.org>

### SIERRA CLUB NOG WAS AT THE LAVENDER FEST



NOG members Marc Sullivan and Darlene Schanfald working in the booth

We had enough volunteers to staff a booth at the Sequim Lavender Fest this year. Thank you to Bob Sextro, Krestine Reed, Norm Baker (and puppies), Marc Sullivan and Janet Marx who helped to greet visitors to our booth. Special thanks to Darlene Schanfald who organized our participation in the event.

We sure met A LOT of people that just moved here. We had several members stop by from NOG, two re-located Sierra Club members and others from out of town groups.



## Brinnon Group Update

The Brinnon Group filed appeals to invalidate the developer agreement and supporting ordinance with both the Kitsap County Superior Court and the state of Washington Growth Management Hearings Board. They had also moved to have both ordinances reviewed by the Growth Management Hearings Board. However, on August 22<sup>nd</sup> Kitsap County Superior Judge Sally Olsen ruled that the appeal should be heard as two different appeals to two different entities.

“It doesn't make sense that two different bodies should render decisions on a single project,” said Richard Aramburu attorney for Brinnon Group. “It should be one decision, from one hearing body.”

The August decisions were procedural and the court's decision has not resulted in any substantive rulings against Brinnon Group.

The Celebrate Brinnon! event to raise funds for legal fees on August 25 at Whitney Gardens was a big success with proceeds amounting to almost \$5000. Everything for the event was donated, so all proceeds are going to legal expenses. Between 200 to 250 attended the event. Nearly every local business participated. It was a positive event that brought the community together.

**THANKS TO ALL WHO ATTENDED AND/OR CONTRIBUTED.**



## NAVY GROWLERS UPDATE

On June 25<sup>th</sup> the Navy announced that Alternative 2, Scenario A is the preferred alternative for the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS). The FEIS is scheduled for release in late summer, 2018. After the FEIS is released, the public will have another chance to comment during a period of at least 30 days. According to the Navy about 12,000 Growler touch-and-go passes, or 23,700 “operations,” would occur annually at Outlying Field Coupeville under the alternative. An operation is defined as a takeoff or landing, so each pass accounts for two operations. Currently, about 6,000 operations occur annually at OLF Coupeville.

According to Port Townsend Mayor Deborah Stinson “This news is not good and we are disappointed. It greatly increases the amount of traffic in Coupeville's Outlying Field. This impacts our neighbors on Whidbey, but it also impacts us. The noise we hear in Port Townsend is from these takeoffs and landings at this field, typically at night.”

NAS Whidbey continues to monitor noise complaints. Residents who are disturbed by the noise can call public affairs at 360-257-2286 with the exact date and time.

For more information visit <http://www.savetheolympicpeninsula.org/>



## WILD FISH CONSERVANCY LAWSUIT

Wild Fish Conservancy Northwest (WFC) is a nonprofit, headquartered in Duvall Washington, dedicated to the recovery and conservation of the region's wild-fish ecosystems. The following is a recap of an ongoing lawsuit instigated by the WFC. The case focuses on Atlantic salmon net pen aquaculture and the potential risk to Endangered Species Act (ESA) -listed species.

**2008** - WFC brought a lawsuit against NOAA and the EPA for putting ESA-listed salmon and Southern Resident killer whales at risk of harm by failing to consult best available science when approving state regulations for Atlantic salmon aquaculture. At the time, the agencies even failed to take into consideration NOAA's own recovery plans for both species.

**2010** - In April, the judge ruled in favor of WFC and ordered the federal agencies to reconsider the effects of Atlantic salmon net pens on ESA-listed species using best available science, as mandated under the ESA.

**2011** - EPA and NOAA announced they had completed another informal review and maintained their stance that the regulations in place are adequate. They concluded that Atlantic salmon net pen aquaculture is "not likely to adversely affect" any ESA-listed species in Puget Sound.

**2017** - The case was nearly ready for presentation to the Court when one of the net pens at Cypress Island facility collapsed in August.

**2018** - August 7th Judge Barbara J. Rothstein denied two separate motions intended to dismiss the case, thereby allowing all four of WFC's causes of action to go forward against NOAA and the EPA.

**In her written order to dismiss, the federal judge strongly criticized the federal agencies' argument that they have no legal responsibility to consider the adverse effects of Atlantic salmon farms when consulting on approval of state regulations**

NOAA and EPA continue to argue that it is the responsibility of the state and not federal agencies to regulate net pens and that the federal agencies therefore have no ESA responsibilities with respect to the effects of Atlantic salmon farms.

You can learn more at the Wild Fish Conservancy website [www.wildfishconservancy.org](http://www.wildfishconservancy.org). The website includes lots of "fishy" information about our area, plenty of science and an opportunity to donate to their efforts.

*From a tribal legend, we learn that when the Creator was preparing to bring forth people onto the earth, He called a grand council of all creation. From them, He asked for a gift for these new creatures—a gift to help the people survive, since they would be quite helpless and require much assistance from them all. The very first to come forward was Salmon, who offered his body to feed the people.*



## THE GOOD NEWS PAGE

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**YEAH!! A BIG WIN** - August 30<sup>th</sup> a Canadian court sided unanimously with environmentalist and indigenous groups in a decision that indefinitely halts the construction of the controversial Trans Mountain Pipeline expansion project. The ruling by the Federal Court of Appeal reverses the Canadian government's approval of the troubled multibillion-dollar project. The court said the government failed to "fulfill the duty to consult owed to Indigenous people." It also concluded that the National Energy Board, the country's energy regulator, unjustifiably excluded "marine shipping from the scope of the Project. As a result, the true environmental effects of the project could not be assessed.

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August 18<sup>th</sup> Environmental, landowner, and Tribal Nation plaintiffs scored a significant win in their case against TransCanada's Keystone XL pipeline after a federal court ruled that the U.S. Department of State had cut corners when approving the project's Nebraska route. It ordered the government to go back to the drawing board and conduct a proper environmental review. This ruling throws up yet another obstacle to the climate-wrecking pipeline, and leaves investors questioning the need for the project

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August 16<sup>th</sup> the Center for Biological Diversity sued the Trump administration for failing to protect the West Coast ocean habitat of the last remaining Southern Resident killer whales. The critically endangered species is down to just 75 orcas, the lowest number in more than 30 years.

The National Marine Fisheries Service failed to act on the Center's 2014 petition calling for an expansion of habitat protections off Washington, Oregon and California that could help Southern Resident killer whales, which are starving for lack of salmon and also being hurt by boat traffic and water pollution.

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August 24<sup>th</sup> a federal appeals court ordered the Environmental Protection Agency to ban within 60 days a widely used pesticide associated with developmental disabilities and other health problems in children. This after the pesticide and agriculture industries had successfully lobbied the Trump administration to reject a ban. With a 2-to-1 vote, the judges gave the agency two months to finalize the ban on the product whose leading manufacturer is DowDuPont.

However, will Trump's EPA follow orders to ban chlorpyrifos once and for all? Let the EPA know that you are watching to make sure they take the pesticide off the market within the next 60 days →

<https://act.nrdc.org/letter/epa-chlorpyrifos>

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Bayer has inherited a Roundup headache - On Aug. 10 a California court awarded a school groundskeeper dying of lymphoma \$289 million on a claim that exposure to glyphosate, Roundup's key ingredient, had contributed to his cancer. The verdict—the first in what may be thousands of cases—sent shock waves through Bayer and erased \$16 billion from the company's market value in a week. "The odds are that Bayer will suffer more losses" in litigation over Roundup, says Elizabeth Burch, a University of Georgia liability law professor. "Investors better get prepared."

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***Don't give up. It's not over. The universe is balanced.  
Every set-back bears within it the seeds of a come-back.***

*Steve Maraboli*

## Excerpts from The Hidden Life of Trees

Author: [Peter Wohlleben](#)

*Article by Suzanne, presented by Genie Mixson*

After reading these excerpts from subject book submitted by Suzanne, I remembered that I had a copy I intended to read but got busy and set it aside over a year ago! Thank you, Suzanne, for waking me up!

In The Hidden Life of trees, Wohlleben shares his deep love of woods and forests and explains the processes of life, death, and regeneration he has observed and the amazing scientific processes behind them.

Similar to human families, tree parents live together with their children, communicate with them, and support them as they grow, sharing nutrients with those who are sick or struggling and creating an ecosystem that protects the group from heat and cold extremes.

Isolated trees have far shorter lives than those living connected together in forests. Every tree is valuable to the community, even the sick and aged.

Contrary to common belief, it is not possible for trees to grow too close to each other. When trees grow together sometimes spaced no more than 3' apart, nutrients and water can be optimally shared.

Forests have an underground network of fungus that can cover many square miles. It functions like an "internet," exchanging news about insects, drought and other dangers.

Trees communicate with smell and taste; releasing chemicals that repel predator attacks but they also send pleasantly perfumed invitations from blossoms to attract bees.

Our cultivated plants and trees have largely lost their ability to communicate and are easy prey for insects—that is one reason why modern agriculture uses so many pesticides.

One of the oldest trees on Earth, a spruce in Sweden, is more than 9500 years old.

Trees can take up 130 gallons of water a day. Imagine how long it would take to get that water up to a crown more than 300 feet tall. Deforested areas often have serious drainage problems and some become deserts.

Thirst is harder for trees to endure than hunger.

Woodpeckers can be tree helpers like pecking off the bark beetles that infest spruce, and wood-boring beetles from oaks. They can also be threats and trees defend against such 'sap-suckers' by releasing defensive compounds and forming a thick outer layer of bark.

Trees adapt to many characteristics of their environment - light, dark, wet, dry, hot, cold, lacking in nutrients, stormy, and much more. Spruce are specialized to cold and long winters. Oils in their needles and bark keep them from freezing and not breaking when masses of snow fall on them.

**The clearest way into the Universe is through a forest wilderness.**

*John Muir*