

## Looking Back and Looking Forward at the Partnership

Thanks to our great staff, Board, members, volunteers and project partners, JWP successfully completed our 13th year of promoting community stewardship and sustainable use of Juneau's watersheds. Over the last fiscal year our strategic, communication and community outreach plans were updated and implemented. Our presence on Facebook (search 'Juneau Watersheds') has encouraged a whole new group of Juneauites to participate in our events and activities, and our membership list is growing every week. We also accomplished many projects tasks this year, including:

- ◆ Completing our Auke Lake Action Plan and our Juneau Stormwater BMP Demonstration Site project.
- ◆ Continuing work on our "Restoration, Enhancement and Mitigation Report" and our "Pederson Hill Conservation Plan."
- ◆ Monitoring water quality and assessing hydrologic functions of Jordan Creek.
- ◆ Monitoring fecal pollution at Lena Beach, Auke Rec, and Ann Coleman St. beaches.
- ◆ Hosted our 2nd Annual Wild and Scenic Film Festival
- ◆ Distributed outreach materials at several community events such as the Maritime Festival, Earth Day, and World Water Quality Monitoring Day.
- ◆ Began our new environmental education program for families with pre-school age children called, "Watershed Walks for Wee Ones."
- ◆ Cleaned up thousands of pounds of garbage during Juneau Clean-Up Day and International Coastal Clean Up Day.
- ◆ Partnered with the National Forest Foundation to build our organizational capacity including updated our by-laws, strategic plan, and launching our first major donor campaign.



Volunteers at International Coastal Clean-Up Day 2010



Volunteers at our Stormwater BMP Demonstration Site— 2010

This year our focus is on finding sustainable and long-term funding for our programs and projects. In order to survive and thrive as a small non-profit organization, JWP will need to maintain an individual donor base here in Juneau. If you like what we do, then we encourage you to become a member, volunteer or Board member of the JWP. Membership levels and benefits are found at the end of this newsletter. Thank you to all of our members, funders and volunteers for your support this year.

## JWP Monitoring Projects Shows Local Beaches Safe for Swimming

Preliminary results from an Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation- Division of Water (ADEC)-sponsored monitoring project confirmed levels of fecal pollution in the waters of three local beaches in Juneau were acceptably low throughout the summer of 2011. JWP received funds and support from the ADEC to monitor fecal pollution in the waters of Lena Beach, Auke Recreation Area, and Ann Coleman Road Beach.

Staff from JWP collected multiple water samples from each of these beaches and local laboratory Admiralty Environmental analyzed the samples for the presence and abundance of coliform and enterococci, bacteria that indicate the presence of fecal contamination. According to the DEC, coming into contact with or ingesting fecal pollution containing disease-causing microbes such as bacteria, viruses, and protozoa can cause stomach aches, diarrhea, or ear, eye and skin infections. Common fecal coliform and enterococci bacteria sources include household septic systems and pet or wildlife waste.

Alaska's water quality standard, or maximum, for coliform bacteria in contact recreation water is 100 fecal coliforms/100ml of water. For the two months of sampling at these three beach locations, the average level of fecal coliforms was 9.8 coliforms/100ml. The largest fecal coliform count was 48 coliforms/100ml; this sample was collected at Auke Recreation Area on August 17th. JWP received funding for FY2011-2012 to conduct local water sampling efforts and will monitor these three beach areas next year between April and June 2012, thanks to the State of Alaska's BEACH Monitoring program.

The Alaska BEACH Monitoring program was established when the U.S. Congress passed the Beaches Environmental Assessment and Coastal Health (BEACH) Act of 2000; providing funding and technical support for state programs to reduce health risks to beach users from contact with polluted water. ADEC receives funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to create and sustain the Alaska BEACH Monitoring program, which awards grant funds to non-profit organizations, municipalities and tribes to conduct local monitoring efforts. Many thanks to Brock Tabor, ADEC Project Manager, for all of his help and support on this project.

# Program Updates

## Outreach, Education and Stewardship

### World Water Monitoring Day

World Water Monitoring Day is an international education and outreach program that builds public awareness and involvement in protecting water resources around the world by engaging students and citizens to conduct basic monitoring of their local water bodies. This September, students from Harborview Elementary tested Gold Creek water quality for temperature, turbidity (clarity), pH, and Dissolved Oxygen. John Hudson, local biologist, collected and identified macroinvertebrates with the students. Adelaide Johnson with the Forestry Sciences Laboratory talked with the students concerning stream flow and geomorphology patterns formed by streams and rivers in a watershed. After the students reviewed and summarized the data collected, they all determined that Gold Creek was a healthy and productive stream.



Ms. Dick's Harborview class and John Hudson are enthralled by aquatic bugs— 2011

### Watershed Walks for Wee Ones” or “WWW”

JWP launched our new environmental education program, “Watershed Walks for Wee Ones” (WWW) this August. Through hands-on watershed education activities for families with children 6 and under, we encourage community stewardship and sustainable use of our waterways.

Four families joined us for our first event. We went on a treasure hunt to find hidden creatures that live in our watersheds, built a watershed out of sand and watched what happens to the water and soil when it rains really hard in Juneau. The students also learned the five types of Alaska salmon and made fish mobiles. Finally, we went fishing using carrots as poles and Goldfish crackers were the catch of the day. Look for another WWW event his winter.

### Juneau Clean Up and Coastal Clean Up Day



Young, dedicated and goofy volunteers at International Coastal Clean-Up Day 2011

In May, JWP partnered with Litter Free, Inc. and Duck Creek Market to host the annual “Juneau Clean-Up Day.” Over 250 volunteers signed into our check-in station at the market alone and in total volunteers picked up 26 tons of garbage that day.

International Coastal Clean-Up Day was in September and 115 volunteers picked up 2700 lbs. of garbage from 15 different beach locations in Douglas and Juneau.

Funders and Partners of our clean-up work include the Alaska Brewing Company’s “Coastal CODE” Foundation, the Ocean Foundation, The Center for Alaska Coastal Studies, Turning the Tides, the Marine Conservation Alliance, Juneau Recycling Committee, and Litter-Free. Inc. Special thanks to the staff at Capital Disposal—Waste Management, Inc. for supporting our clean-up efforts and for being such a great community partner to us.

## Upcoming Events and Activities

### **Absinthe Films Presents- “twel2ve” and “YES. It’s a Movie”**

JWP Fundraiser on Thursday, November 2nd at Centennial Hall, doors open at 7:30 pm. Tickets \$10.

Absinthe will donate \$1 to the JWP for every ticket sold.

### **Wild and Scenic Film Festival**

Monday, Tuesday February 6 & 7th at Gold Town Nickelodeon Theater. 5:30 to 6:30pm – Kids Festival, 7:00 to 9:00 pm— Adult Festival. Ticket prices and films be announced in late December.



# Program Updates

## Applied Research and Watershed Planning

### Jordan Creek Water Quality and Habitat Improvements

JWP continued to partner with the City and Borough of Juneau and the US Fish and Wildlife Service to monitor water quality in Jordan Creek. Last year we monitored water temperature, pH, debris, total suspended solids, sediment and dissolved oxygen (DO) in the creek. Preliminary findings suggest that while there has been a reduction of sediment in the creek following last years' floodplain improvement and sediment reduction project, there are still concerns about DO, debris, and stormwater pollution into the creek. Bi-monthly sampling, the installation of a stream gauge, a physical hydrology study of the lower watershed, and a stormwater treatment plan are in the works for this year.



JWP Staff sampling Jordan Creek  
at Amalga Street-2011

### Pederson Hill Conservation Planning

JWP staff is partnering with the City and Borough of Juneau and the US Fish and Wildlife Service to create an assessment of "Pederson Hill" ; a topographic rise adjacent to the eastern shore of Auke Lake. We will work together to provide recommendations for the maintenance of watershed and habitat integrity despite any future development in this area. We will use in-field observations and GIS analysis to recommend appropriate conservation and riparian easements, watershed-boundary-conscious drainage planning, stormwater management, and the minimization of impervious areas and wetland fill.

## Communication and Collaboration

### Regional Planning for Restoration and Enhancement for Wetland Mitigation



SAWC Sponsored Wetland  
Delineation Training—Haines, 2011

JWP is partnering with the Southeast Alaska Watershed Coalition (SAWC) and their efforts to become a recognized 'in-lieu fee' sponsor organization for the Alaska Corps of Engineers (COE).

SAWC has been invited by the Juneau Field Office COE to provide Ad-Hoc and In-Lieu Fee compensatory mitigation to applicants of Clean Water Act section 404 permits in Southeast Alaska. JWP is supporting this work and will partner with SAWC as a subcontractor to receive funds from local landowners and developers to conduct on-the-ground restoration and enhancement projects for compensatory mitigation of wetland fill.

### Community Events, Meetings and Activities

JWP staff and Board participated in several community events and activities this year including Juneau Clean-Up Day, International Coastal Clean-Up Day, Earth Day, World Water Quality Monitoring Day, and the Juneau Maritime Festival. JWP staff and Board also attend several community and agency meetings throughout the year. This year we have participated in meetings on the AJ Mine Project, CBJ snow storage site development, Low Impact Development planning, and the creation of a regional Fish Habitat Partnership, among others. JWP staff and Board also attended a few trainings this year including a wetland delineation training, fish passage design workshop, and a fundraising training.

## Volunteer Spotlight– Amy Sumner, JWP Board member

*"I was on the banks of Fish Creek, segregating and counting aquatic insects when I spotted something I did not recognize. I called to my mentor, John Hudson, who came over, knelt beside me and took the shifting, yellow-green skin out of my hand. "Watch," he told me, though the instruction wasn't needed. There was a slight struggle, then small wings shook off the binding skin, and the insect was off in a minty blur. John was up the second it was gone, hopping with excitement. "That was so awesome!" ...I agreed.*



Amy cleaning up garbage and debris from the Mendenhall Wetlands– 2010

*That was how I came upon the morphing stonefly and my passion for watersheds. I have been involved with the JWP in various capacities ever since: as a Project Coordinator, a volunteer, and now a Board Member. Why have I spent so many years being involved with this organization? Two reasons-*

*One: Watersheds are about connection. I know this seems a hippie-dippy cliché, but think about it. The very look of a watershed is that of a web with streams connecting alpine, forests, wetlands, cities, towns, and the ocean. Though the water flow would suggest otherwise, these connections are never going in one direction. For this reason, watershed science is naturally a complex, interdisciplinary field, which makes it all the more fascinating to me.*

*Two: Working at a watershed scale is about community. No community, human or otherwise, can be sustained without water. So, what could be more important, or more rewarding, work than ensuring that our watersheds are well managed?*

*I never suspected an insect would change my life, but it did. And I never would have had that moment if it wasn't for volunteering. Even if it is not with the JWP, I encourage you to volunteer; you never know what may come of the experience."*

**-Amy Sumner is a Stormwater Projects Specialist with the Alaska Department of Transportation. Amy has volunteer, staff member, contractor and is now currently serving on our Board of Directors.**

## Like What We Do? Become A Member!

For JWP to survive and thrive, we rely on the financial contributions of individual and business members. As a member of the JWP you will receive our monthly e-newsletters, our annual report, new publications, and notices about public meetings, upcoming events, and volunteer opportunities. We are a federally recognized 501c-3 non-profit organization (ID # 92-0171846) and your monetary and in-kind donations are tax deductible by law.

### New and Renewing Membership Form

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

Business/Organization (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

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

City, State Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Membership Levels:  Friend (\$30-\$100)  Supporter (\$100-\$250)

Guardian (\$250-\$500)  Benefactor (\$500 and up)

I do NOT wish to receive:  Monthly e-newsletters or  Annual Report

I wish to remain anonymous, please do not list my name online or in our publications.

I cannot donate money right now, but I would like to be a volunteer!

All members receive monthly Stream Scene e-newsletters and our annual report, as well as invites to our Annual Meeting and other local events. Guardian level sponsors receive (2) free tickets to our annual "Wild and Scenic Film Festival" and will have their logo or business name displayed at our events, in our newsletters and our website.

Benefactor level sponsors receive (4) free tickets to our annual "Wild and Scenic Film Festival" and will have their logo or business name and web link displayed at our events, in our newsletters and our website.

# Thank you!

**Many thanks to our many business partners including Duck Creek Market, Capital Copy, Capital Disposal/Waste Management, Kai Environmental, Foggy Mountain Shop, Alaska Fly-Fishing Goods, Corvus Designs, Rendezvous Bar, Alaskan Brewing Company, The Rock Dump, Dolphin Tours, Costco, McDonalds, and Wal-Mart.**

**Thank you to all of our new and renewing members and donors!**

### Our Guardian Level Sponsors

