

WATER WAYS

Juneau Watershed Partnership

Spring/Summer 2008

Celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Juneau Watershed Partnership



When: Friday, March 28th, 2008, 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm

Where: Treadwell Ballroom, Westmark Baranof Hotel

What: Thanks to a grant from the Holland America Cruise Lines Community Relations Board, we will have food, drinks, and a no-host bar. Music will be provided by *Salsa Borealis* - Juneau's premier salsa band.



Why: In 1998, a group of dedicated local citizens joined together to create the Mendenhall Watershed Partnership.

Ten years later, we are still working to keep our streams and rivers clean, healthy and full of fish.



We want to celebrate our success with the community, our partners and supporters, and all the people that created Juneau's watershed council.

All are welcome!



Two Interns Mean Twice the Help for JWP

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JWP has the good fortune to have not one, but two interns this summer. Thanks to the CBJ, the Leighty Foundation and Hannah Construction, Annie St. John will be our Americorps/ SAGA Connections intern from April to September 2008.

Working in partnership with the CBJ Engineering Department, Annie will be working in the field to map and assess storm drain systems in Juneau. She will be planning a joint CBJ/JWP training this spring on best management practices for storm drain conveyances, and she will be conducting community outreach on water quality for the JWP. Welcome Annie!

Thanks to a grant from the US Fish and Wildlife Service, we are also going to host an Alaska Conservation Foundation intern this summer.

Ashley McCormick, a Senior at the University of Virginia, will be doing community outreach on invasive weeds in Juneau, Skagway and Haines. Ashley will also be promoting our 'Adopt-a-Stream' and 'Slash the Trash!' programs. Ashley will also be tabling at local events for the JWP and will update our outreach materials and publications. Welcome Ashley!

Jordan Creek CBJ Water Tower Project Update

JWP has been working throughout the winter with the CBJ and other local agencies on our East Valley Reservoir (EVR) project- also called the “Jordan Creek Water Tower” project. The CBJ built the water tower in 1985, and over the years there has been an accumulation of sediment in Jordan Creek below the project. This sediment not only affects the health of the stream, but it increases the risk of flooding to houses that lie along the creek. Thanks to a grant from the Alaska DEC, JWP contracted Inter-Fluve, Inc. in November 2007 to conduct a hydrological survey of the affected area.



Low flow and high sediment input has increased the risk of flooding in local neighborhoods along Jordan Creek. Fall 2007

JWP and Dan Miller, our contractor from Inter-Fluve, held meetings this winter with local resource agencies, CBJ maintenance staff and the community to further understand conditions at the project site and identify goals for addressing the sediment problem. Several alternatives were suggested by Inter-Fluve in order to restore flood plains, enhance the aquatic habitat along Jordan Creek, and to slow the rate of sediment moving from the tributary into the creek.

Both the JWP, agency stakeholders, local residents and the CBJ felt that the best alternative to help fix this problem was a multi-faceted approach. The first phase will be to restore sediment traps under the water tower, which were put out of commission during a high flood event in 1995. Second phase work includes, removing sediment from Jordan Creek, realigning the stream, and enhancing stream habitat by adding woody debris. The flood plain along parts of Jordan Creek will be rebuilt and riparian vegetation will be planted along the new stream channel. Both the JWP and the CBJ are very committed to seeing this project through, and we have applied for funding for the planning, design and construction for this project.

This study was funded by the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation’s Alaska Clean Water Actions grant program (ACWA). If you are interested in reading the final report from Inter-Fluve, you can access it at online at: <http://www.centralpt.com/pageview.aspx?id=21183>.

Volunteer Opportunities with the Partnership



Student from Juneau Alaska Youth for Environmental Action, (JAYEA) take action at JWP’s Fall stream clean-up event. October 2007

Spring Stream Clean-up

- May 10, 2008
- 9:00 am to 12:00 pm, BBQ at 12:00 pm
- Meet at Duck Creek Market, located at 9951 Stephen Richards Memorial Drive

Meet us at Duck Creek market to sign in and pick up garbage and recycling bags. We will send groups out to clean-up Duck Creek, Jordan Creek, Montana Creek and the Mendenhall River.

This event is in conjunction with the Litter-Free “Juneau Clean-up Day”.

After the clean-up, join JWP at Duck Creek Market at noon for a community ‘thank-you’ picnic. Call us at 586-6853 for more information.

Volunteers Needed for “Adopt-a-Stream”

We still have sections of Vanderbilt Creek, Jordan Creek, and Duck Creek available for adoption by local community, church or business groups.

To volunteer, all you need to do is walk, bike, jog or drive by your section of stream once a month to check for litter and other threats to stream health.

“Adopt-a-Stream” volunteers are also asked to participate in JWP’s bi-annual stream clean-up events.

“Adopt-a-Stream” is an excellent hands-on service activity for your employees, youth group, church, volunteer group, or even a group of friends.

Call us today at 586-6853 to adopt a section of stream.



Volunteers from the Juneau LDS Church take a cocoa break after hauling out 1.2 tons of garbage from Montana Creek. July 2007



Juneau Watershed Partnership

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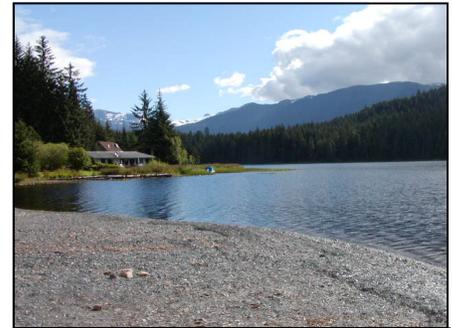
Auke Lake Watershed Assessment Update

This winter JWP has been busy working on our Auke Lake Watershed Assessment. The goal of our assessment is to provide the City and Borough of Juneau (CBJ) with an overview of the health and current conditions of the Auke Lake watershed. This assessment is intended to be used by CBJ staff, Planning Commission, Wetlands Advisory board, the City Assembly, as well as Juneau residents and local, state and federal agencies involved in conservation and land management decisions within the Auke Lake Watershed.

In November 2007, JWP staff met with our technical advisory group. This group is comprised of local State and Federal agency staff and the CBJ. Representatives from NOAA, the US Forest Service, AK Department of Fish and Game, and others came together to review the draft outline of our report, help compile previous research conducted on the lake, and discuss potential management recommendations for the watershed. This meeting was an incredibly helpful first step in our assessment process, and we thank all those who participated.

In January, JWP held a well attended community meeting at the UAS campus for our assessment. At the meeting residents had the opportunity to describe ways they use Auke Lake, what they value about the lake and also describe concerns they have about Auke Lake management. Community surveys regarding Auke Lake were distributed in January to Juneau residents through our website. The results of these surveys and the comments collected at the community meeting, will be summarized in our report. Thank you to all who participated in our community meeting and submitted comments via our survey.

The next step in this process is to compile all the information we have gathered over the last 8 months and create a final draft of the assessment. We will meet again with both the technical advisory group and interested community members this spring to review and gather comments on our draft document. We hope to have the final report done by September 2008. If you would like to be a part of our Auke Lake Watershed Assessment, please contact us.



Mouth of Lake Creek at Auke Lake
Fall 2007.

To Keep Working for Healthy Watersheds- We Need Your Support

JWP Membership Form

Name: _____

Business/
Organization: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City, State, Zip
+4: _____

Home
Phone: _____

Work
Phone: _____

Email: _____

Sign up for our monthly "Watershed Notes" e-newsletter? Y N

Membership Levels:

\$500 _____ \$100 _____ \$50 _____ \$30* _____ \$10 _____

*A donation of \$30 or more entitles you to a free William Spear enamel pin!

Please select one of the following: Cutthroat Trout _____ Steelhead _____

Coho Salmon _____ King Salmon _____ Sockeye Salmon _____

Please make your checks payable to:

Juneau Watershed Partnership

Attn: Membership

P.O. Box 32559

Juneau, AK 99803



Get a free William Spear
enamel pin with a donation
of \$30.00 or more!

Where does your membership money go?

- Office supplies and materials
- State and Federal grant match
- Additional costs associated with our interns
- Insurance and taxes
- Non-grant funded outreach and project work
- Community Outreach- such as stream clean-up events, community meetings and community education.



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Weeds in the Watershed– Japanese Knotweed



One of the nastiest invasive weeds we have in Juneau is Japanese Knotweed (*Polygonum cuspidatum*). There are three species of knotweeds of concern in Alaska: Japanese knotweed, giant knotweed (*P. sachalinense*), and a hybrid cross of Japanese and giant knotweed known as Bohemian knotweed (*P. x bohemica*). The three are often collectively referred to as “Japanese knotweed.”

Japanese Knotweed is extremely bad for watersheds because it can clog waterways, and lower the quality of riparian habitat for wildlife, insects, and fish. Knotweed can also displace native subsistence plants along shorelines, such as salmonberries and thimble berries.

Knotweed can spread two ways– expansion of roots through the soil and propagation of plant parts. Roots and stems, even pieces as little as 1/8th of an inch, can easily establish roots and grow into new colonies. Once knotweed is established in or near a stream, it can be moved by flood waters to colonize an entire watershed.

Eradication of Knotweed is difficult, time consuming and expensive. You do not want to pull Knotweed, as you might increase the spread of the plant. Instead, smother the plants with heavy plastic and cover that plastic with rocks, or wood. Keep the covering in place for 3 to 5 years and monitor the site after you remove the cover.

For more information on Japanese Knotweed, or other invasive weeds we have in Alaska, check out the Alaska Committee for Noxious and Invasive Plants Management (CNIPM) at <http://www.uaf.edu/ces/cnipm/>. Thanks to the US Forest Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Private Forestry for their assistance for this article.