



2015 Hood Canal Environmental Award Winners

Congratulations to our 2015 Hood Canal Environmental Award Winners Newberry Hill Heritage Park Stewards and Beards Cove Community Organization!

October 9, 2015

The Hood Canal Environmental Awards is an annual event that honors people for their dedication to protecting, enhancing and restoring the natural resources and water quality of the Hood Canal watershed. Nominees embody the spirit of fostering cooperation, collaboration, and building lasting relationships to achieve a healthy Hood Canal. Former HCCC staff person Donna Simmons started the awards in 1988.

The 2015 Hood Canal Environmental Award Winners are:

Newberry Hill Heritage Park Stewards

Park stewards volunteer to support wildlife in the Little Anderson Creek watershed that drains into the Hood Canal. They worked with Silverdale REI to install a fence to keep people from walking on a beaver dam, and they also collaborated with the Suquamish Tribe, the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group to build a sustainable bridge over the mouth of the creek where beavers have flooded a trail. Their goal is to replace culverts blocking salmonids on Newberry Hill Road and Seabeck Highway to allow a continuous, protected path for Coho to thrive in healthy spawning grounds. In addition, NHHP stewards spend hundreds of hours educating themselves with stream, forest and wetland courses to stay current on the science. They crafted the first version of a forestry management plan adopted by Kitsap County as a template for area parks. Their restoration forestry program is a model for other agencies dealing with disturbed woodlands and monoculture issues. Many other community organizations regularly step in to help with these restoration efforts.

Beards Cove Community Organization

This organization represents over 500 property owners on the north shore of Hood Canal. Concerns over the health of Hood Canal moved the BCCO Board to join the Great Peninsula Conservancy and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife to explore ways to improve water quality, fish habitat, and the overall health of Hood Canal. Discussions led to the Beards

Cove Restoration Project that will soon return Union River estuary shoreline to its original historic conditions. The estuary had been the focus of three decades of conservation work by land trusts and agencies, adding up to over 700 acres of preserved shoreline, marsh, and forest. The Beards Cove Restoration Project completes the missing link in 1.7 miles of unbroken saltmarsh along the north shore of the Union River estuary. Efforts resulted in removal of 45,000 cubic yards of fill, derelict structures, a septic system and paving, reconfiguration of the shoreline, and planting native vegetation to enhance habitat for summer chum and other species. This community's foresight and commitment has been essential to the success of the project.

The HCCC Board of Directors acknowledges these additional nominees in appreciation of their efforts:

Amy Georgeson, Washington Department of Health...For her contribution to the Hood Canal Regional Pollution Identification Correction program and as an author of the Hood Canal Shellfish Growing Area#6 Shoreline survey

Navy Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration...A partnership comprised of the Navy, Washington Department of Natural Resources, The Trust for Public Lands, Washington State Parks, and Pope Resources, who work together to protect Hood Canal from adverse development pressures and impacts

Olympic Forest Coalition...For its part to protect, conserve and restore natural forest ecosystems on the Olympic Peninsula and in Hood Canal and for the Washington Wildlife Restoration Initiative, a coalition of 15 conservation and recreation organizations

Seth Book, Skokomish Tribe...Who tirelessly tracked the low dissolved oxygen event and associated fish kill noting conditions on the ground including impacts to species

The Skokomish Tribe...For planning an extension of the wastewater force main along Highway 101 up to the Lucky Dog Casino along with the wastewater treatment facility that was recently built to restore and preserve Hood Canal

Thom Johnson, Point No Point Treaty Council...For his role in the development and implementation of the Hood Canal Summer Chum Conservation Initiative, a crucial component to the ongoing recovery of Hood Canal Summer Chum

Save the date!

2016 Environmental Awards Celebration

Friday, November 4, 2016

10:00 AM to 1:30 PM,

Kitsap Conference Center at Bremerton Harborside

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