



Our mission: to create tools to empower stewards for healthy urban ecosystems.

Native Plants of the PNW



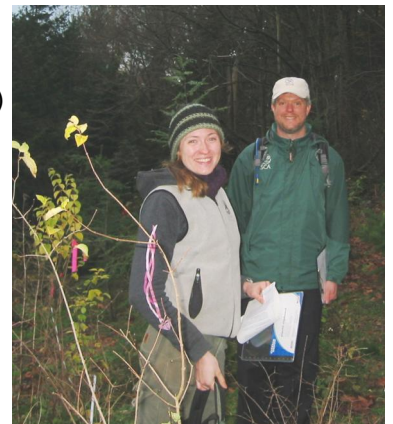
Photo courtesy of Nelson Salisbury

Vaccinium oxycoccos, also known as bog cranberry, is a rare evergreen shrub found at Shadow Lake Bog in Renton.

SUN hosts a restoration monitoring workshop for the Washington Native Plant Society

On November 17, 2007, SUN instructed 20 current and past Native Plant Stewards from the Washington Native Plant Society (WNPS) in a hands-on learning workshop on forest restoration monitoring. The workshop outlined current protocols developed by SUN and the Seattle Parks Department to track and monitor the restoration efforts undertaken through the Green Seattle Partnership (GSP). Attendees learned how to establish a monitoring plot, collect and record data, and use the necessary data collection tools.

(continued on page 2)



Rosemary Baker and Bryan Baker (no relation) at the WNPS Native Plant Steward Training.

SUN's [On-line Interactive Habitat Map](#)- in use

UW Professor Richard Strickland recently called SUN to say he was using the new interactive habitat map in Carkeek Park to teach his UW Puget Sound Ecology students about the importance of vegetation sampling as one component in the creation of ecological stream models. Could SUN show the class how a vegetation inventory is really done? SUN staff responded with an enthusiastic "yes!" Not only did our new map help Dr. Strickland locate specific urban habitats, it also led him to SUN's outreach and education arm, where SUN ecologist Nelson Salisbury and field assistants Erin Prendergast and Geoff Seymour, showed the students how to sample an urban forest using techniques from our Seattle Citywide Habitat Assessment (CHA).

With Version 1.3 of the Interactive Habitat Map now up-to-date (including quick links to Seattle Parks, native, non-native, and invasive species information, as well as over 145 Green Seattle Partnership (GSP) sites displayed), the map is turning into an amazing forest restoration resource. However, we still need your help! We have raised \$2300 of our \$5000 goal to fund the map- please consider **supporting SUN** to help keep us on the map!



A screen shot of SUN's On-line Interactive Habitat Map, displaying habitat types and a GSP site found within Magnuson Park.

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Green Footprints Project

Green Footprints Action Works

Educating neighbors in the Madison Valley about the importance of urban forests is one of the roles SUN plays in our advisory capacity to the Green Footprints Action Works (GFAW) project. In September and October, SUN assisted in four different training exercises, reaching over 100 community members!

GFAW promotes a vision of sustainable, safe and connected neighborhoods in Seattle. GFAW encourages all Seattle residents to consider our collective role as stewards of private and public land within the city of Seattle. The project area includes the hillside community of 2,520 residents bordering the Washington Park Arboretum to the west.



In October 2007, GFAW received a \$29,000 grant from the city of Seattle's Department of Neighborhoods to construct an ecological map of the neighborhood and identify opportunities throughout the

neighborhood to improve their green infrastructure. Partners in this effort include the Seattle Audubon Society and **Seattle Urban Nature**.

Over 150 Green Footprints volunteers are now collecting data on trees, invasive species, wildlife and water; they'll use these data to create resource maps of the neighborhood. These maps will include information on tree canopy, water, wildlife habitat, invasive species and impervious surfaces (pavement). The maps will help the community identify future neighborhood projects and create a neighborhood action plan. These projects may include:

- natural drainage features, including enhancements to existing streets and rights of ways to capture water
- restoration of public open spaces in the neighborhood, including wetland areas
- improvements to walking routes within the neighborhood and to the business district and the Arboretum
- certification of the neighborhood as "Community Wildlife Habitat"

SUN is excited to be a part of this project and hopes to link the maps to our new [On-line Interactive Habitat map](#). For more information about GFAW, click [here](#).

A Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus*) is found peering through the conifer trees at Shadow Lake Bog.



Photo courtesy of Nelson Salisbury

SUN teams with the Seattle Parks Department to tackle invasive tree eradication efforts

SUN recently completed a comprehensive report analyzing the distribution of two key tree species commonly found invading our parks and natural areas. The report was requested by the Seattle Parks Department to help prioritize their eradication efforts. Using SUN's 1999-2000 habitat survey data, the locations and abundance of English holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) and cherry laurel (*Prunus laurocerasus*) were documented throughout the city.

(continued on page 5)

Restoration monitoring workshop... (continued from page 1)

The 2007 Native Plant Stewards will use this information to collect monitoring data for their current GSP restoration projects. The information gathered through these and other efforts will provide important feedback to help SUN monitor and track restoration efforts throughout the city. We would like to thank Gary Smith and Jill Politsch of the WNPS for their help organizing and running the workshop.



Nancy Bowen-Pope, a WNPS Native Plant Steward, uses an electronic clinometer to measure tree heights during the SUN restoration monitoring workshop.

The Starflower Legacy

SUN sadly bids goodbye to the Starflower Foundation, which closes its doors at the end of this month. The Starflower Foundation, SUN's sister organization, was founded by Ann Lennartz in 1996 to assist with the creation, rehabilitation and stewardship of Pacific Northwest native plant communities. During the past decade, Starflower implemented some of the most extensive restoration projects ever attempted in Seattle.



This summer, SUN assisted Starflower with a comprehensive inventory of restored sites in five parks throughout the city: Pritchard Island Beach Park, Roxhill Park, Greg Davis Park, Colman Park and Genesee Meadows. These inventories resulted in detailed vegetation management plans and maps for each park which contain the management and project histories, detailed planting and seeding lists and results of the surveys for each management zone, along with future stewardship recommendations.

So far, three of the reports are available in a brand new section of the [Washington Native Plant Society](http://www.washingtonnativeplantsociety.org) website, where the Starflower legacy lives on. The remaining two reports will be available by the end of the year. In addition, the site features a wealth of native plant resources such as a gallery of native plants searchable by scientific name, common name, flower color, growth form and a wide variety of other criteria. The website also contains beautifully illustrated ID cards featuring 111 species of native plants and 51 species of non-native weeds and invasive plants, and great information and activities for schools and educators.

It's Conference Season!

This fall, SUN disseminated research and project results to the professional community all over the state. In late September, staff ecologists Ella Elman and Nelson Salisbury headed to Yakima for the annual conference of the Society for Ecological Restoration (SER). Ella was moderator and speaker for the "Performance Monitoring in Urban and Recently Restored Environments" session, which was very well attended with over 100 people in the audience. She presented a talk about the results of last year's King County Community Salmon Fund monitoring project (please see article on page 4 for more information).

In early November, Ella returned to Yakima as an invited speaker at the Weed Conference, an annual meeting for weed professionals, including the state's noxious weed agencies. Approximately 150-200 people attended her talk about invasive species in urban forests. SUN is pleased at the attention and positive feedback that our work is getting!



SUN Ecologist Ella Elman gives a talk at the Society for Ecological Restoration (SER) conference in Yakima, WA.

Photo courtesy of Nelson Salisbury



Photo courtesy of Nelson Salisbury

New SUN Plant Fact Sheets!!
Free on the Web

PNW PLANT UPDATE! SUN has just released a new series of color fact sheets highlighting the most common invasive trees, shrubs, and plants found throughout Seattle's urban forests. Many of these plants are widely planted horticultural varieties found in people's gardens. These fact sheets are intended to educate the public about the impacts that common garden plants have on our natural areas and local parks. Along with the invasive plant fact sheets, SUN has provided native tree, shrub, and plant alternatives that you may consider for your property.

Go to www.seattleurbannature.org

to download these fact sheets today!

Green Seattle Partnership site monitoring

In August 2007, SUN signed a contract with Seattle Parks and Recreation (SPR) to establish permanent monitoring plots in 15 Green Seattle Partnership (GSP) restoration sites distributed throughout the city of Seattle. The 15 sites represent 10% of the total registered GSP sites in the city to date, a number which continues to grow.

This fall, SUN established permanent 0.1 acre monitoring plots in 15 parks, and marked them with wooden stakes and rebar to allow relocation in future years. Each plot location and restoration site was mapped with a GPS unit, and photographs were taken of conditions on each site. Data gathered for each site included the species and density of trees, along with species and percent cover of shrubs, vines and forbs. In addition, a subplot was established to measure the survival and vigor of planted trees and shrubs.

This data provides a comprehensive baseline for both SPR and site stewards, which will enable the GSP program to evaluate how well restoration and management goals are achieved in future years. As part of this project, SUN is now hosting the location of all 145 GSP sites on our [On-line Interactive Habitat Map](#).

As an extension of this project, SUN conducted a training session on how to implement these protocols for the Washington Native Plant Society (WNPS) Native Plant Stewards (please see article on page 1 for more details).

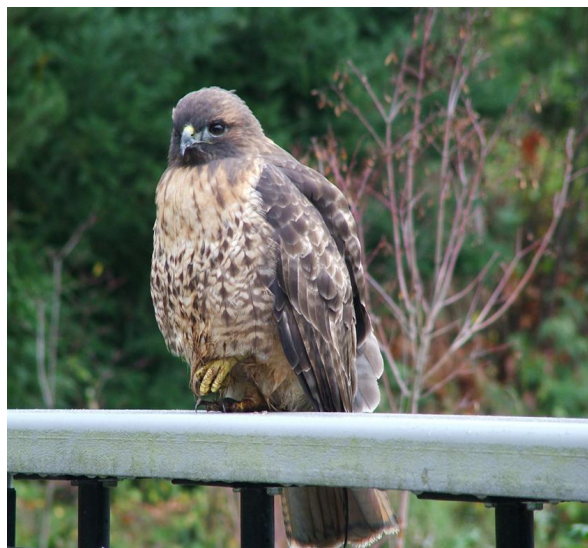


Photo courtesy of Nelson Salisbury

*This Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*) is keeping a watchful eye on a restoration area at Ravenna Park in Seattle.*

Stream Restoration Monitoring Report Now Available

In late 2006, SUN and EarthCorps embarked on a ground breaking project, focusing on monitoring 10 recently restored King County Community Salmon Fund sites (please see the [February 2007](#) issue of “The Understory” for an in-depth description of the project). The result of this project, completed in the beginning of 2007, was a 182 page report looking at data from each site as well as a comparison of data across all of the sites. The report was prepared by SUN staff and reviewed by King County biologists. We are pleased to announce that the final review by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation is complete and the report is now available from this [link](#).

It is estimated that since 1990, over a billion dollars has been spent annually on river restoration projects in the United States. However, a 2005 study by Bernhardt et al. of more than 37,000 river restoration projects in the United States found that only 10% of all projects had any type of monitoring, and that methods used for monitoring were not appropriate for assessing the ecological effectiveness of restoration activities.

It is our hope that this report, entitled [“A Survey of Ambient Conditions at 10 Recently Restored Stream Sites,”](#) provides invaluable information to professionals and community groups involved in stream restoration. In particular, the ecological benchmarks identified in the report can be important tools to create effective project designs and monitor project success.

*A slippery jack mushroom (*Suillus sp.*) found in Shadow Lake Bog.*



Photo courtesy of Nelson Salisbury

More SUN Projects

Shoreline parks inventory analysis in full swing

SUN's efforts continue to help the City of Shoreline map and inventory the natural areas in four parks. Our staff is currently analyzing data collected this summer in South Woods, Hamlin, Shoreview, and Boeing Creek parks. These data will be synthesized into a comprehensive report for each park that will address issues such as the current structure and composition of forests and natural areas, invasive species distributions and extents, and overall management priorities and recommendations. In



(Left) A Pileated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus pileatus*) searches for insects in a snag in Hamlin Park; (Top right) A bird's nest fungus (*Cyathus striatus*) found in Shadow Lake Bog; (Bottom right) *Lycopodium clavatum*, or running clubmoss, found in Shadow Lake Bog.

addition to maps that show the extents of prevailing habitat types, detailed maps will also be created that show specific locations of dominant invasive species infestations. This information will allow the City of Shoreline to plan and prioritize for the restoration and management of these important natural areas. SUN is looking forward to passing this information on to Park managers and to continued collaboration with the City of Shoreline.

Shadow Lake Bog field survey complete

The inventory of 92 acres of forested, wetland, and sphagnum bog habitats was concluded early last month.



Photo courtesy of Nelson Salisbury

SUN staff ecologists established and surveyed a total of 41 inventory plots stratified throughout the property. The information collected will help SHADOW better

understand the floristic diversity of their property and develop plans for restoration and management efforts.



Photo courtesy of Nelson Salisbury

SUN will create a comprehensive vegetation management plan for SHADOW in early 2008 that will include strategies for citizen-science monitoring of their forests and wetlands. The mission of SHADOW is to Save Habitat and Diversity of Wetlands. Their purpose is to promote the

preservation and protection of wetlands for this and future generations. For more information, visit SHADOW's website at <http://www.shadowhabitat.org/>.

SUN teams with Seattle Parks Department... (continued from page 2)

The areas where these species occurred were then prioritized for restoration based on the average percent cover in each habitat, the type of habitat invaded, and the proximity of an invaded area to a priority habitat (such as a wetland, etc.). Based on this information, a priority list of parks and natural areas was created, specifically targeting Seattle Parks Natural Area Crew eradication efforts. Further consideration was given to all areas with low cover of holly and laurel, which were designated for low intensity restoration projects by volunteer and community groups involved with forest restoration efforts.

English holly and cherry laurel are carried by birds into forests where they can form dense thickets that dominate the tall shrub layer and suppress germination and growth of native tree and shrub species. Both species are listed as "Noxious Weeds of Concern" by the King County Noxious Weed Control Board.

Over 25 people attended "Fun & SUN at Woodland Park," our annual BBQ in September. The party celebrated the launch of SUN's On-line Interactive Habitat Map, accessible from our website at

www.seattleurbannature.org. We held a silent auction and raffle to raise funds at the event. Some items featured in the auction included a wetland delineation by SUN board member Josh Wozniak, a reflexology session by Lara Simmons, and framed nature photographs by Catherine Anstett, among many other generous donations.



Thanks to the various in-kind donations we received, there were many happy faces at the SUN BBQ held at Woodland Park.

In order to supplement SUN's fundraising efforts to support the On-line Interactive Habitat Map, we also sent out an appeal letter in early November.

As a result of the silent auction, raffle, and individual contributions, SUN has raised over \$2300 for the On-line Interactive Habitat Map to date. Thanks to all who donated!! However, we are still **\$2700** short of our goal. If you are interested in supporting SUN, please click [here](#) to make a **tax deductible** contribution on-line. Thanks for your support!!

SUN Outreach

In a continued effort to stay connected with past projects and forest stewards, SUN staff members attended an October work party at Llandover Woods. In 2005-2006, SUN worked with the Friends of Llandover Woods to conduct a vegetation survey and write a vegetation management plan for the group. To learn more about this project, please visit the [projects page](#) on our website.

Along with other community volunteers in attendance at the work party, we assisted forest steward Glenn Austin with weeding, planting, wheel barrowing, and mulching a restoration area within the park. Glenn then led volunteers on a nature walk of the area, pointing out native plants and signs of birds along the way.

Interested in upcoming work parties? Go to our [events page](#) to see where SUN will be working next. Also, check the [Seattle Parks & Recreation website](#) for work parties in your local park.

Thank You

SUN would like to thank the following businesses and individuals for their generous in-kind contributions this fall:

- **Blue Dog Coffee House**, for their generous gift certificates
- **Go Natives! Nursery** (Don Norman), for the backyard consultation
- **Good Nature Publishing** (Tim Coleman), for his colorful plant and wildlife posters
- **Great Harvest Bread Company**, for their beautiful basket of baked goods
- **Herrera Environmental Consultants** (Josh Wozniak), for the wetland delineation
- **Homestreet Bank**, for offering their space for the SUN Board Retreat
- **Lara Simmons Reflexology**, for the relaxing reflexology session
- **Mighty-O Donuts**, for their delicious vegan donuts
- **QFC**, for their generous gift certificate
- **Seattle Audubon** (Matt Mega), for the birder's fun pack

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------------|
| Catherine Anstett | April Mills |
| Councilmember Richard Conlin | Randi Shaw |
| Peggy Gaynor | Janet Way |
| Ivona Kaczynski | |

Thanks again for your support! We couldn't do it without you!!



*(Above) Rebecca Rosman, daughter Piper, and the London-Foster family enjoy a break at the Llandover Woods work party; (below) Frieda Foster holds up a Big-leaf maple leaf (*Acer macrophyllum*) in Llandover Woods.*



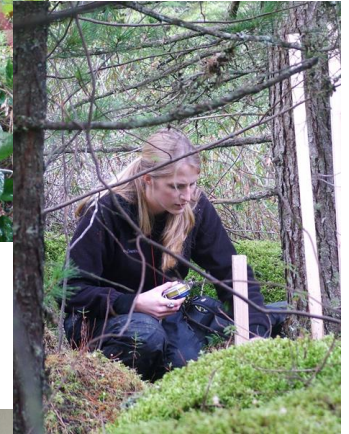
New Faces at SUN

Staff Member Update

SUN would like to thank **Geoff Seymour** and **Erin Prendergast** for their assistance in the field throughout the fall season! With their diverse backgrounds and experiences, Geoff and Erin helped SUN monitor GSP restoration sites throughout Seattle and complete surveys at Shadow Lake Bog in Renton. Thanks so much for your help!!



SUN Field Assistants
Geoff Seymour (left)
and Erin Prendergast
(below)



Board Member Update

SUN would also like to extend a warm welcome to **Linsey Blake** and **Eldan Goldenberg** as new members of the SUN board!

Linsey Blake has nine years of work experience in wildlife biology and a B.A. in Environmental Studies/Conservation Biology from Middlebury College. Desiring a more hands-on approach to conserving biodiversity, she recently moved to Seattle to work for EarthCorps as a restoration project manager. The fundamental connection between wildlife and habitat made this career shift a natural one; to protect one is to preserve the other. She is excited to affect positive change within the Seattle area and its community, and brings her interests in wildlife, habitat conservation, and using solid science to make good decisions to SUN.



New SUN Board
Members Linsey
Blake (left) and
Eldan Goldenberg
(below)

Eldan Goldenberg moved to Seattle in 2005. Having previously lived in Istanbul, London, Brighton and Cleveland, he was awestruck by Seattle's urban forests. He volunteers for a wetlands restoration project with People for Puget Sound, where he realized how much needs to be done to protect the pockets of nature in our city, and decided to get involved with SUN. Eldan has six years of experience as a technical trainer and website developer, and two organizing Dorkbot-Seattle, a volunteer-driven arts group. When he's not helping with the war on blackberry, he likes to ride his bike, ski and take photos of everything.



SUN staff would also like to thank **Bryan Baker** and **Nancy Whitlock** for their service on the SUN Board. We appreciate all of your help and dedication to the organization!! Good luck in your future endeavors!

Volunteer Update

SUN would like to thank **Derek Wilson** for his continued GIS assistance as we update our 1999-2000 survey data. We truly appreciate Derek's help and expertise!!



(Left) SUN
volunteer
Derek
Wilson

**Interested in a Habitat Map of your neighborhood?
SUN Maps cover the entire city of Seattle.**

For additional details, contact us at (206) 522-0334 or download a form to order individual maps at www.seattleurbannature.org



SUN Board and staff at the annual Board Retreat in November.

SUN Board of Directors

- Peggy Gaynor **President**
- April Mills **Vice President**
- Josh Wozniak **Secretary**
- Charlie Crissman **Treasurer**
- Linsey Blake
- Eldan Goldenberg
- Ivona Kaczynski
- Matt Mega
- Randi Shaw
- Janet Way (Advisory)

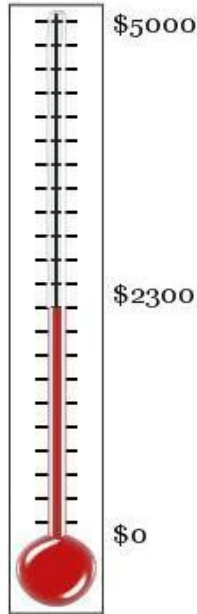
SUN Staff


- Sharon London **Executive Director**
- Ella Elman **Ecologist**
- Nelson Salisbury **Ecologist**
- Sarah Zerbonne **Outreach and Field Assistant**

Seattle
Urban
Nature



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www.seattleurbannature.org



 **Help Support SUN**

We are just \$2700 short of our \$5000 goal to fund our On-line Interactive Habitat Map. Almost half way there!!

Please consider contributing to SUN. We rely on the support of people like you for our continued success.

Click [here](#) to contribute on-line.

SUN is a 501(c)3 non-profit - contributions are tax deductible.

SUN Services

SUN offers a number of services to assist public, private, and non-profit organizations.



Ecological Services

- Habitat Mapping and Assessment
- Vegetation Inventory and Management
- Restoration Planning and Monitoring
- Vegetation Monitoring
- Wetland Delineation



Mapping Services

- Custom Mapping of Project Sites
- Mapping for Grant Reporting Purposes
- GPS Data Collection
- Printing Large Size Maps or Posters



Training and Education

- Habitat Survey and Assessment Methods
- Monitoring Restoration Sites
- GPS and GIS Training
- Plant Identification
- Habitat Restoration Techniques

Please contact us at (206) 522-0334 for more information.



SUN's mission is to create tools
to empower stewards for healthy
urban ecosystems.

Comments, questions, or submissions? Please contact Sharon London via e-mail at sharon@seattleurbannature.org. If you would like to receive this newsletter in a different format or would like to be removed from the mailing list, please let us know. Learn more about SUN at www.seattleurbannature.org.

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