



# SalmonGRAM

Committed to Protecting and Restoring South Puget Sound Habitat



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## Board of Directors

*The SPSSEG is administered by a nine-member volunteer board elected by the general membership.*

Steve Brink - President  
Terry Wright- Vice President  
John Rosenberg - Treasurer  
Jennifer Whipple - Secretary  
Duane Fegergren  
Bob Barnes  
Mike Parton  
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Joe Williams

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Lance Winecka - Executive Director  
Brian Combs - Project Manager  
Kristin Williamson - Project Manager  
Jerilyn Walley - Project Manager  
Christine Garst - The Non-Profit Center  
Vacant - WCC Placement

## Contact

6700 Martin Way East, Suite 112  
Olympia, WA 98516  
Phone: (360) 412-0808  
www.spsseg.org

Cover: Ohop Creek    Back: Snorkeling Greenwater  
Photo: Brian Combs    Photo: Kristin Williamson

## Message from the Executive Director

Lance Winecka



Greetings,

In this issue you will find an SPSSEG organizational annual report and updates for several long term projects that are beginning to wrap up: Ohop and Greenwater. SPSSEG has been working with the Nisqually Land Trust and the US Forest Service (and many other important stakeholders) for close to 10 years to help complete these two important restoration projects. Each of these projects is a large scale opportunity that dramatically improves salmon habitat, albeit in much different ways and in two totally different types of watersheds. SPSSEG completes both large and small projects all throughout the Puget Sound region that provides critical habitat for all salmon life histories. Please read the articles to learn more about these two exciting projects!

As the summer construction season winds down and fall approaches, it is time for the Kennedy Creek Salmon Trail to begin. We appreciate all of the community support to help keep this educational trail successful. If you are interested in learning more about the chum salmon lifecycle and want to volunteer this year, please attend the Docent Training on October 18. Feel free to contact Jerilyn Walley for more information at [jerilynw@spsseg.org](mailto:jerilynw@spsseg.org). This is a very unique and popular volunteer opportunity in the community!

If you are interested in “hosting” our beautiful Soul Salmon in your office space for a few months at a time, she is available for a tax deductible donation. This is a great way to support SPSSEG while enhancing your office space! Please keep reading the SalmonGram for more information.

Finally, SPSSEG is planning our 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting this winter. Please be on the lookout for a save the date reminder soon! It will be another great meeting for the South Sound to celebrate and support regional habitat restoration projects.

Thanks so much for your support over the past 23 years!

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SalmonGram is published by the South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group (SPSSEG), a 501(c)(3) non-profit, volunteer-based organization.

The SPSSEG is one of fourteen Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups created in 1989 by the Washington State Legislature. The Regional Fisheries Enhancement Program is partially supported by United States Fish & Wildlife Service and by surcharges on sport and commercial fishing licenses. The Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife provides technical and administrative support to the program.

## Board Spotlight: John Rosenberg

I am a native of the upper Midwest and my fascination with fish began on the trout streams of North Wisconsin over 65 years ago. I’ve lived and worked in Washington and Oregon since falling in love with the region on a road trip in 1973. I recently retired as the Pastor at The Lutheran Church of The Good Shepherd in Olympia after serving for thirty-five years as a parish pastor, campus pastor, and college instructor. I am an avid fly fisherman and a lifelong advocate for wild salmon and healthy watersheds.

I joined the South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group Board in 2011 after serving as a volunteer docent at the Kennedy Creek Salmon Trail. I’m excited to be part of the work we do in restoring and enhancing habitat for wild salmon and steelhead. SPSSEG has an outstanding executive director and staff that enjoys a well-earned reputation as respected leaders in the statewide coalition of Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups. This came home to me in a new way recently when I had an opportunity to testify before the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission. Speaking with several of the Commissioners after the meeting, I realized that, like Sara Lee cakes and pies, “Nobody doesn’t like the South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group!” Our challenge is to turn that high regard

into stable state and federal base funding dollars that enable us to continue leveraging grants in order to do the innovative, state of the art habitat enhancement projects for which we are known.

I’m married to Nancy Faaren, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning for the Olympia School District. We live in Tumwater and are the parents of two adult daughters and grandparents of five grandchildren. I am grateful for



the privilege of serving on the Board these past three and a half years and I look forward to continuing our efforts to “Protect and restore salmon populations and aquatic habitat with an emphasis on ecosystem function through scientifically informed projects, community education, and volunteer involvement.”

# *I found KCST before it found me.*

By Ben Trowbridge, Docent

My work with a long running research program at University of California and evening teacher at City College in San Francisco left me physically and emotionally drained by the time I plopped down in Mason County. When we had moved from San Francisco, we found a neat house in rural Mason County and I started my exploring of our backyard.

I do not remember what lead me up that particular road, but I found a trail complete with benches, bridges, water, and a strange tee-pee shaped structure. It was a mess when I discovered it, but it was enchanting. It became my favorite place to get away from it all. I found Kennedy Creek before it found me. Eventually fall came, the trail cleared and signs put in place. It was all about salmon! It did not take long to connect with SPSSEG and the rest is history.

Soon I will have reached my 84th year - hearing not so good and pegs not so pliable. Docenting has been an exhilarating trip, an amazing 7 or 8 years. The great kids, wonderful teachers, and fellow Docents pulled me out of the slump. Kennedy Creek is very special to me now. For all the despondent folks out there, there is no better medicine than being a Docent. It is a very special environment, beautifully designed and cared for lovingly by a very talented crew. The kids' enthusiasm and delight in being set loose in this environment brings everything in focus. These young folk and their very special teachers will be in the forefront of saving salmon and our environment and it is inspiring to see their wonder of it all.

Thank you for the gift and I will see you on the trail.



Artwork from student visitor (above)



# *Communities of all kinds meet at KCST*

By Leeann Tourtillott, Docent

Kennedy Creek is fish-full of cherished and soggy memories. It is an interesting thing to stand for 5 hours on a rainy November day, watching the fish, walking the trails, sharing the magic of the salmon with eager and excited children. I count myself amongst those children. I am as a child to this forest. This place has seen so many seasons, so many fish, so many trees, so many souls pass through it. It brings the delight and curiosity of childhood to me still.

In 2002, I told my kids they were going to teach folks about salmon. This was our home school class in science and community service rolled into one, and I was the class organizer they were stuck with. We enjoyed eating salmon and it felt right to give back to the fish since they gave of the flesh. I also am just the sort who loves being in the outdoors, and am eternally curious about so many things. It was fascinating to me to see and learn about these amazing fish and I just loved how clearly they connected so many aspects of a big and diverse community.

Clearly linked is a community of plants and animals, and the community of people through time that have been impacted by the fish in this beautiful magical forest. Many humans over many seasons have come here, celebrated, and appreciated these cycles of life. I like feeling linked to humans through time. I also love the story of the creek's recovery, as it so beautifully illustrates how the cooperating community of caring diverse groups can bring about such a positive outcome.

Kennedy Creek embodies the concept of overlapping and integrated communities; communities of species, communities through time, communities of people who love and value salmon for the future as well as for ourselves. Through 1000s of school children and visitors, KCST has launched communities for generations to come, showing how we can all help care for the future of life on this earth.

Kennedy Creek has taught me that there is a very big picture that I am an integral part of. Coming into this endeavor, I would have predicted that after 12 years as a docent, I could speak with some authority about the patterns of rains and fish. I have been humbled. I have watched the runs each year for 12 years and no two are the same. You never know how one small thing can lead to life enriching lessons.

Nature knows no finite "normal," it eludes and surprises us, and I love that. It reminds us, sometimes mercilessly, we are not in control. We humans forget that all too often, feeling we are the masters of something when indeed we are as cogs. We are about as powerful as the salmon we cherish and return to each season. It is great company to count one's self as important as these noble fungus splotched, slime bags of fertilizer charging into the forests' eager and passionately hungry arms!

So 2002 we started, two kids and my self. This year both my kids are off on their own endeavors, they carry the creek's lessons with them. I am curious to see how the run will intrigue and surprise me this year.

# Lower Ohop Restoration

By Morgan Greene, Nisqually River Council



This summer, the Nisqually Tribe, the Nisqually Land Trust and the South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group added another 1.5 miles of restored habitat to Ohop Creek.

Over a century ago farmers turned the creek into a straight-flowing ditch in an attempt to dry out the valley floor and create cattle pasture. However, deep clay deposits in the soil continued to hold water year round, and despite the failed effort to completely dry the valley the stream remained channelized.

The Ohop Creek restoration included digging an entirely new channel as well as adding other features, such as logjams and deep pools, that provide habitat for salmon.

Salmon habitat restoration on the creek began in 2009 with a repaired one-mile channel just upstream of the new site. That channel was constructed to restore a sinuous stream that connected to its floodplain. The floodplain, now replanted with native vegetation, re-creates 80 acres of healthy riparian habitat that controls water temperatures and stabilizes the stream banks.

Ohop Creek is one of two major tributaries to the Nisqually River that can support chinook salmon and steelhead, both of which are listed as threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act.

Even though construction season is winding down, it certainly isn't going to get quiet around Ohop for a while! With the inevitable winter rains comes the

opportunity to plant trees along the newly constructed creek channel, and create a forested floodplain.

Planting trips will be hosted by the Nisqually River Education Project, the Nisqually Land Trust and Nisqually Indian Tribe. All three groups are always looking for volunteers! With thousands of trees and shrubs to plant this year, our hands are full!

It's easy to get involved. All you need are warm clothes and boots, a willingness to play in the mud, and lots of energy! The three groups will provide the gloves, the plants, and the location. For specific dates and times, please check the calendars on [www.nrep.nisquallyriver.org](http://www.nrep.nisquallyriver.org) and [www.nisquallylandtrust.org](http://www.nisquallylandtrust.org), or call 360-438-8715! Make sure you register prior to volunteering.

All the trees and shrubs that will be planted are native. Example species include:

- Cottonwood
- Alder
- Red-osier Dogwood
- Spruce
- Cedar
- Ninebark
- Twin berry

The winter season is a great chance to get involved with the Ohop Valley Restoration Project. We hope to see you out there!

# First Salmon Returns Home

By John Rosenberg

If you've stopped by the offices of SPSSEG or been at our Annual Meeting, you've no doubt met First Salmon. At better than six feet long, she's hard to miss! She was part of the Soul Salmon project begun in 2000 by TAHMANAWIS ("familiar spirit" in the Chinook jargon), a non-profit organization committed to artistic "actions" in support of wild salmon restoration. The project created fiberglass salmon and invited communities to transform them artfully. These salmon have been a springboard for art projects throughout the Puget Sound basin that engage people in salmon knowledge and restoration. You can see more Soul Salmon in the lobby of the Olympia Community Center.

First Salmon is the creation of artists Loren White, Lane Quine, and Steve Brown who used a style reminiscent of indigenous northwest coastal art. She was the very first fish pulled from Tom Jay's Soul Salmon mold and became the ambassador for the Soul Salmon project as she traveled to all points between Portland and Vancouver, BC. Several years ago, Lenore Jensen generously donated her to the South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group.

For the past several months, First Salmon has been in residence at The Lutheran Church of The Good Shepherd in Olympia where she helped to promote a presentation by John Rosenberg on "Why salmon matter." She liked it so much that she stayed for several months, much to the delight of everyone who saw her. As she quietly rested just inside the front doors, she testified to the long history and importance of salmon to native peoples and current livelihoods in the Pacific Northwest; a bioregion that writer Tim Egan once defined as "any place salmon can still get to."

If you are interested in giving a donation to SPSSEG and inviting First Salmon into your space, please contact Jerilyn at [jerilynw@spsseg.org](mailto:jerilynw@spsseg.org)



- 1 month ..... \$ 250
- 3 months ..... \$ 700
- 6 months ..... \$ 1,250

All donations will be used to support the Kennedy Creek Salmon Trail and our Education and Outreach program.

# Greenwater River LWD Photo Update



The last four large woody material jams were installed as final part of the Greenwater River Floodplain Connection project this past summer. These jams create safe, sheltered nutrient rich areas for rearing juvenile salmon. In as little as two weeks after Jam #2 was installed, SPSSEG staff saw juvenile coho inhabiting the area. (above) The woody material creates habitat for algae, macro-invertebrates and other organisms that the juveniles eat. The pools created by the jams are also sort gravels and provide resting places for adults returning to the river to spawn. These jams are located on US Forest Service Property and are easily accessible off Highway 410.

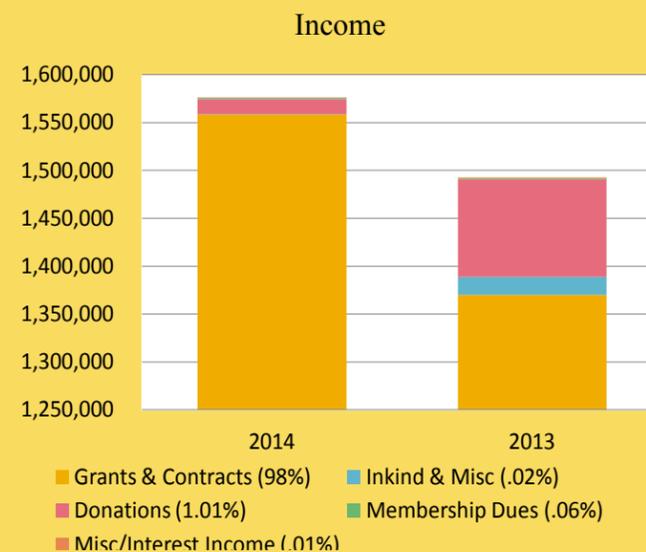
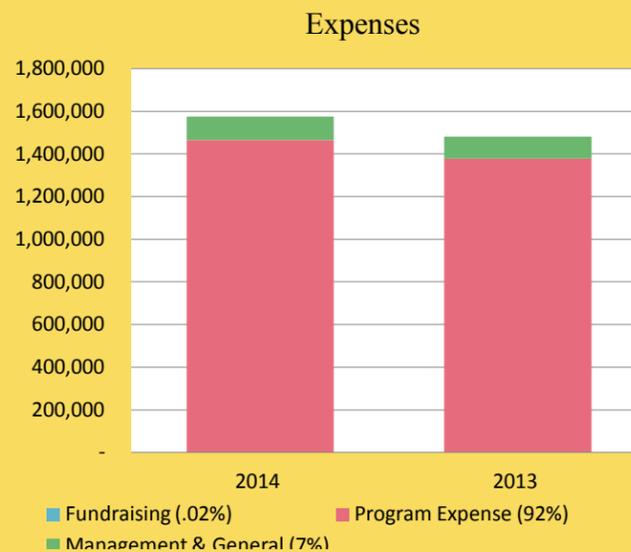


# Financial Report

Below is a brief look at SPSSEG's financials for the 2013-2014 Fiscal Year. We consistently seek diversified funding opportunities. The vast majority of our funding is from project oriented grants, while donations and memberships account for 1.07%.

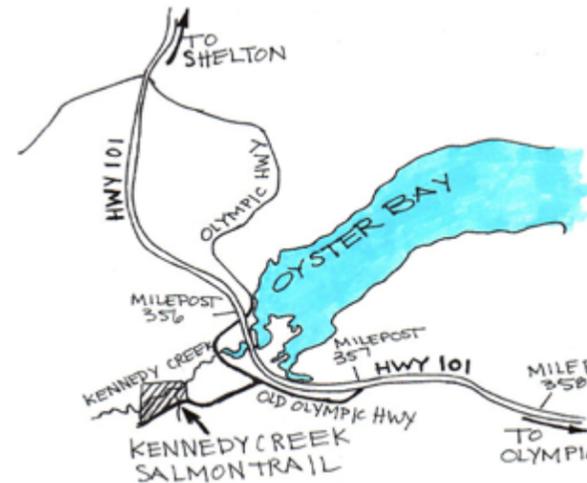
Abbreviated Summary of Activities As of June 30, 2014		
Support & Revenue	6/30/14	6/30/13
Grants & Contracts	1,558,428	1,369,851
In-Kind Grant Match	319	101,512
Donations	15,987	18,989
Membership Dues	990	1,220
Misc/Interest Income	165	1,172
<b>Total Support &amp; Revenue</b>	<b>\$1,575,889</b>	<b>\$1,332,454</b>
Expenses		
Program Expense		
Restoration	1,332,714	1,034,352
Education	28,583	19,968
Other	103,152	322,859
Management & General	111,199	102,925
Fundraising	391	798
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$1,576,039</b>	<b>\$1,481,902</b>
<b>Net Result</b>	<b>(\$150)</b>	<b>\$10,842</b>

Abbreviated Statement of Financial Position As of June 30, 2014		
Assets	6/30/14	6/30/13
Cash	163,146	246,941
Receivables	111,599	187,160
Prepaid Expenses	2,560	2,281
Equipment <i>(Less depreciation)</i>	18,065	18,065
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$295,370</b>	<b>\$454,446</b>
Liabilities	\$180,178	\$339,104
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>\$115,192</b>	<b>\$115,342</b>
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Net Assets</b>	<b>\$295,370</b>	<b>\$454,446</b>



Above figures are pre-audit and subject to minor adjustments

## Chum, Chowder & Chocolate Saturday, November 15 & 22



The KCST Chum, Chowder and Chocolate fund-raiser has been such a success, it's being expanded to 2 days! On **Saturday, November 15 and Saturday, November 22**, from **11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**, SPSSEG and Taylor Shellfish will host our 3rd annual fund-raiser at the Trail. Please mark your calendar, invite some friends, and come support community education in action.

If you are not able to attend, please consider making a donation to support a school group or school bus trip. School busses are approximately \$150 for one round trip to the Trail and back and a \$35 donation supports 10 student visitors to the Trail.

Thanks to our generous recent donors: Olympia Federal Savings, Squaxin Island Tribe, Green Diamond Resources, The Mountaineers Foundation, South Sound Flyfishers, Taylor Shellfish, Xinh, and most importantly our docents!

### Become a Chum! Support the Kennedy Creek Salmon Trail!

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Please Return form to:  
 SPSSEG  
 6700 Martin Way East, Suite 112  
 Olympia, WA 98516

- ◆ Chum Egg .....\$250 - \$500
- ◆ Chum Fry .....\$500 - \$750
- ◆ Spawning Chum .....\$750+
- ◆ Corporate Chum .....\$1,000+
- ◆ Other Tax-Deductible Donation .....\$\_\_\_\_\_



*Please forward this newsletter to a friend  
Thank you!*

South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group  
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[www.spsseg.org](http://www.spsseg.org)



## ***South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group Mission:***

To protect and restore salmon populations and aquatic habitat with an emphasis on ecosystem function through scientifically informed projects, community education, and volunteer involvement.