

## Land Trust's StreamFest Mixes Learning with Fun

Veteran fish restoration volunteer Dick Goin, who helped start North Olympic Land Trust's StreamFest, is returning to the Ennis Arbor Farm event as a walk leader for the first time in eight years.



When Goin and Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe habitat biologist Mike McHenry led nature walks at the first StreamFest, in 2000, the Land Trust had no plans to make StreamFest an annual event. They just wanted the public to learn more about the Land Trust by offering an opportunity to see a property being protected permanently by the nonprofit organization.

But Goin remembers being so enthusiastic about the interest walk participants displayed that he told Land Trust leaders, "We've got to keep this going."

They did, expanding StreamFest's purpose to helping participants learn more about enjoying and caring for all special qualities important to the North Olympic Peninsula. They enlisted other organizations, governmental agencies, businesses and individuals to help.

Now the major environmental celebration and educational offering stretches over a weekend, with three activities: Saturday StreamFest at Ennis Arbor Farm, 3-7 p.m.; Sunday StreamFest at Ennis Arbor Farm, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; and Insider's Salmon Restoration Tour, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday.

The number of participants in StreamFest at Ennis Arbor Farm has grown to about 1,000 from about 100 that first year. Continuous free shuttles have been added so participants can park at the Eagles lot, at Hwy. 101 and Penn, and not worry about finding parking on streets near the StreamFest at Ennis Arbor Farm entry, on Lindberg Road.

Goin said his other volunteer work has kept him too busy to lead walks in recent years. That includes keeping close tabs on streams around the North Olympic Peninsula, spending countless hours at meetings of restoration and watershed planning advisory groups, and helping clients of the local volunteer hospice organization.

But he took time recently to give the stream a close examination in preparation for the walk he will guide at 4 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 6.

He said Ennis Creek's habitat for salmon and other wildlife has improved greatly since that first StreamFest. Gravels important for salmon and steelhead to lay their eggs are building up in the stream since the Lower Elwha Tribal fisheries department anchored large trees with rootballs, other "large woody debris," and boulders in the stream several years ago. Fish now can hide under the added wood. Modifications to the fish passage under Hwy. 101 have reduced problems Goin and other members of the Olympic Outdoor Sportsmen Club tried to handle with hand shovels and chainsaws.

Goin said he started learning about fish and wildlife as a youngster trying to catch the once-abundant fish in Ennis Creek during the 1940s and 50s. He watched strong fish runs return to Ennis Creek during lunch breaks at the Rayonier mill, where he worked for more than 40 years. Since retiring, he's stepped up his visits to streams, keeping records on paper or in his head about such observations as redds where fish

have spawned. He figures he has explored just about all the streams from the Dungeness to the Hoh. He's started writing a book about his 50 years of Elwha River observations.

Goin's contributions to numerous fish restoration projects have brought him national as well as local recognition, but he said he doesn't keep track of such honors.

"I just like to prowl around on streams," he said.

The stream steward said he's delighted about the sample counts of coho salmon heading to saltwater this year after hatching and spending their early lives in Ennis Creek. They were more than double the numbers in 2004, and steelhead and cutthroat trout more than tripled, according to studies by another StreamFest walk leader, Bob Campbell, manager of the Feiro Marine Life Center, on the Port Angeles City Pier. Campbell, who began studying Ennis Creek as a student in the Peninsula College Fisheries Program, will lead the stream walk just before Goin's – from 3:15-4 p.m. Saturday. He'll lead another walk from 12:15-1 p.m. Sunday. North Olympic Salmon Coalition will lead walks to Ennis Creek from 6:15-7 p.m. Saturday and 1:15-2 p.m. Sunday. Professional urban planner Brad Collins, former head of the Port Angeles Planning Department, will lead the 2:15-3 p.m. walk. Certified arborist and Port Angeles Associate Planner, Scott Johns, will help anyone who wants to plant a tree beside the stream to provide future large woody debris and shade important for fish habitat.

Sturdy shoes and the ability to walk down – and up – a fairly steep trail are important for the Ennis Creek walks, Goin emphasized. People wanting to follow him onto rocks in the stream where they can observe young fish may want waterproof boots and a walking stick.

### **Other nature experiences on Saturday and Sunday don't require such strenuous hiking.**

People can hang out by ponds that help filter water from Peninsula Golf Course and a nearby housing development before it enters Ennis Creek. Retired teacher Toni Wade will host Pond Critters Open Houses there each day and offer opportunities to view water animals with microscopes from Olympic Park Institute.

At least four walks will be offered on fairly level trails through forest and across meadows, focusing on:

- Identifying birds with Dungeness River Audubon Center Director and noted birder Bob Boekelheide, 11:15-12 Sunday.
- Learning from nature with Allison Lutz, the Land Trust's Conservation Director, 5-5:30 p.m. Saturday and 3-3:30 p.m. Sunday.
- Discovering science through nature with Olympic Park Institute educators, 4:15-5 p.m. Saturday and 1:15-2 p.m. Sunday.
- Talking with an Ennis Arbor Farm owner, Jim or Robbie Mantoosh, about how the couple completed a permanent legal agreement with the Land Trust to protect the property's special qualities, 3:15-4 p.m. Saturday and 12:15-1 p.m. Sunday.

Reservations for nature walks with limited capacity will be accepted at the Land Trust's booth starting at 3 p.m. Saturday and 11 a.m. Sunday.

Children, who must be accompanied by parents throughout StreamFest at Ennis Arbor Farm, will have an opportunity to collect stamp images of animals, plants and other symbols from booths, walks and other learning experiences. Those collecting at least 10 will get to dig some Ennis Arbor Farm potatoes to take home.

Participants who just want to sit and learn can explore such topics as how to support environmentally harmonious food production. They also can listen to storyteller Alice Susong's cautionary tale about keeping watersheds safe for all living things.

StreamFest Silent Auction shoppers will be able to learn from artist Clark Mundy while he demonstrates and talks about the hand-hammered copper fish he creates. He donated one of his latest pieces, "Elwha Jumper," to the auction (see sidebar). Several photographers and other artists have donated works inspired by their favorite North Olympic Peninsula places. Among them are Bob Kaune with "Elwha River Reflections," Eric Neurath with "Upper Elwha," and Charlotte Watts, with a photograph of trees. Zenzizi store owner Bunny Cornwall drew her inspiration from farther away to create a necklace she calls "Verdant Jungle." A chance to spend a week near Mt. Hood, in a two-bedroom condo at Whispering Woods resort near Mt. Hood, is one of dozens of other donations with themes of appreciating and caring for the environment.

Joy Siemion, owner of Joy's Wine Bistro, said people even can learn more about appreciating local food and drink by eating at StreamFest's first Smorgasbord, which she is coordinating.

The Smorgasbord will feature organic pasture-raised chicken from Nash's Organic Produce and wild salmon from nearby waters, vegetables from Nash's and other Port Angeles Farmers Market Vendors, Sunny Farms, and Ennis Arbor Farm. Chef Jamison Brandt will grill the chicken and fish. Joy's Wine Bistro and Alder Wood Bistro will prepare the vegetables. StreamFest volunteers will shuck and cook the corn-on-the-cob. Cedar Creek Cuisine will provide bread from its new Bell Street Bakery. Joshua's Restaurant & Lounge again will bake cobbler from Ennis Arbor Farm berries. Drinks will include Princess Valiant's "socially conscious coffee," Country Aire Natural Foods tea, apple cider, Olympic Cellars wines and Port Townsend Brewing Co. beer and Joy's lemonade and iced tea.

Another StreamFest first, Procession of the Species, offers an opportunity to create costumes and masks from recycled materials and celebrate favorite animals and plants. Meggan Uecker and Mattias Jarvegren, who are organizing a North Olympic Peninsula version of the event that started 14 years ago in Olympia and has spread internationally, will help people make costumes at an art booth they will host before parades at 5:30 p.m. Saturday and 3:30 p.m. Sunday. They have posted information at [www.paprocession.blogspot.com](http://www.paprocession.blogspot.com) about how to make outfits ahead of time.

Even the StreamFest music will support the emphasis on enjoying what's local. Washington Old Time Fiddlers Association, District 15, is following a "Homegrown Hoedown" theme by presenting groups of local musicians and encouraging all musicians to bring their instruments and join in jam sessions both Saturday and Sunday. Longtime Port Angeles area entertainer, Dave Secord, will lead the first jam session on StreamFest's main stage at 4:15 p.m. Saturday and then help get smaller groups going on various meadows. Secord hosts popular weekly jam sessions at the Port Angeles Elks Lodge that were a fixture at Fairmount Restaurant until an auto accident damaged the room where players gathered. Black Diamond Fiddle Club, with all local musicians, will take the stage Sunday, from 12:15-1:15 p.m.

Admission to StreamFest at Ennis Arbor Farm continues to be free. Tickets for the full Smorgasbord are available for \$18 each from Port Book and News and Feiro Marine Life Center, in Port Angeles; Pacific Mist Books, Sequim; and Sunny Farms Country Store's Farm and Garden Store, between Sequim and Port Angeles. Small-plate and meatless versions can be purchased at the event for \$5 to \$10, as long as food supplies last.

Insider's Tour tickets are available only through the Land Trust office, 360-417-1815. They are \$60 each and cover transportation and guiding to significant salmon restoration and protection sites in the Salt

Creek watershed and a picnic lunch. The 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. tour will leave from Albertson's, 114 E. Lauridsen Blvd.

More information, including possibilities for arranging for special needs accommodations, is available from [www.northolympiclandtrust.org](http://www.northolympiclandtrust.org) and the Land Trust office, 360-417-1815. (Posted 8/21/2008)