

Local News

Knock Out Noxious Weeds Day

by Dick Ullmann, Trails/Natural Resources Committee

The eighth annual noxious weed party is just around the corner. Once again, the Trails/Natural Resources Committee will be sponsoring the event. Over the past seven years, volunteers have pulled, cut and whacked multiple truckloads of Scotch Broom and taken them to their final resting place. We also will be looking for patches of Herb Robert and Tansy Ragwort.

Wednesday, April 1 is the date! We are looking for volunteers to meet at the Beach Club at 1:00 p.m. to form teams and get directions to the infested locations. We will work until 4:00 p.m. and then return to the Beach Club for a complimentary BBQ and social time. All volunteers and their spouses are invited.

Sign-up sheets are at both Clubs. Bring along a lopper or pruning saw and a pair of gloves. We will have several weed wrenches available. We also could use a few trucks to transport our "loot" to a nearby dumpsite. Join us in this effort to improve the health of our forested areas. You'll enjoy the accomplishment and the chance to work and socialize with some great Port Ludlow volunteers.

OWSI Pump Failure Causes Spill

Olympic Water and Sewer, Inc., (OWSI) has reported that a pump failure in its electrical system permitted waste water to flow into Ludlow Bay in late January. An estimated 10,000 to 20,000 gallons of wastewater escaped through the bio-swales into the Bay.

According to Larry Smith, OWSI president, no long-term damage or health risks were expected. Water quality samples were taken and analyzed as a precaution. Outside consultants did water quality tests in the Bay. Their tests confirmed that there was no threat to public health.

The pump failure is highly unusual and was fixed quickly. Treatment plant records were analyzed to obtain an accurate estimate of the flow. Officials are investigating electrical modifications to prevent a recurrence of the incidence.

According to *The Leader* and *Peninsula Daily News*, investigators with the Washington State Department of Ecology (DOE) also looked into the spill.

Road Work Undertaken on Oak Bay Road

Monte Reinders, County Engineer, recently explained the geotechnical work at Oak Bay Road near the four-way intersection with Paradise Bay Road. He said that a soldier pile retaining wall at this location was failing. The failure caused the piles to



View of the challenged retaining wall with Oak Bay Road at upper right.

Photo by Bob Duncan.

lean outwards, some quite substantially, with associated cracking of the asphalt and settling of the road surface.

Jefferson County Public Works hired an engineering consulting firm to analyze the situation and design repair concepts, leading to selection of an alternate road construction. Analysis of the required roadwork at the site is expected to be completed by **April**. Final design will take longer depending on the alternative selected for completing repairs. The existence of a 55-foot deep ravine with loose fill complicates the project. The challenge for the consulting firm and Public Works is to find a durable, cost-effective solution.

The consultant team carried out the recent surveying and drilling activity as part of the project.

Northwest Maritime Center and Waterfront Tour

Ships ahoy! Imagine yourself in the pilothouse atop a ship with a commanding view of Admiralty Inlet, and with state-of-the-art navigation technology at your fingertips. You have found yourself in the Maritime Heritage Resource Building in Port Townsend, a staffed information center. This will be your gateway to the maritime activities and learning center housed in the facility. The history and culture of Puget Sound will be showcased via museum quality exhibits.

If you can hardly wait to get out on the water, this facility will assist you to do just that, as it will offer the place to

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