

Awards Presentation • May 1, 2003

For their outstanding contributions in schools, King County recognizes the following Earth Heroes and their work to protect the environment.

Teachers

Mary Clevenger - Bright and Carolyn Barden

Brookside Elementary, Lake Forest Park 206-368-4140

Mary was the catalyst for enlisting the services of Master Gardener volunteer Carolyn Barden to develop the Children's Garden at Animal Acres Park. Mary and Carolyn worked together to design lessons on composting, soil structure, plant growth and weather for 2nd graders. This learning project transformed an unkempt piece of remnant farmland into a vital park.

Jon Ezelle - Twin Lakes Elementary, Federal Way 253-945-4227

The long established recycling program at Twin Lakes exists due to the commitment of Jon Ezelle and his class of 5th and 6th grade students. Jon uses project work to educate his students about the environment and their responsibility to care for it. Thanks to Jon's efforts, Twin Lakes can proudly claim that it has 454 recyclers.

Rose Palmer - Eckstein Middle School, Seattle 206-252-5010

The work and dedication Rose has demonstrated over the years since the inception of the Community Garden at Eckstein Middle School is reflected in the changed environment of both the school and the neighborhood, and the active interest of students in caring for the garden. A teacher in and out of the classroom, Rose spends many out-of-school hours working with students to tend the garden.

Mary Robinson - Vashon Island High School

Vashon 206-463-9171

Under Mary's guidance, the greenhouse and acreage at Vashon Island High School flourishes year round. Much of the campus landscape is organically maintained due to Mary's expertise regarding pesticides and their effects. Outside of the classroom Mary speaks to local groups on gardening and has taken a leadership role in soil remediation in the community.

Staff/Volunteers

Julie Lemme - Peter Kirk Elementary, Kirkland 425-822-7449

Julie is in charge of the school's Outdoor Classroom Project, which coordinates the integrated activities of K-6 students. From kindergartners planting seeds using compost prepared by the 2nd grade to 5th graders informing 3rd graders of their monthly stream monitoring results, each grade level interacts with another to give all the children in the school a broad picture of how ecosystems work and their role in protecting the environment.

Elizabeth Mooney - Lockwood Elementary, Bothell 425-489-6328

Elizabeth has put extraordinary effort into assisting teacher Justine Hurley start a stream restoration project. Upon learning that a small stream in Kenmore had diminishing Coho and Cutthroat populations, she researched project possibilities and assembled support, contacting numerous volunteers and educational mentors for the students. The class worked on water quality analysis, insect identification, litter removal, replacement of invasive plants with natives, and creation of interpretive signs. Thanks to Elizabeth's efforts this project will leave a legacy for years to come.

Cathy Liu Scott - Parkwood Elementary, Shoreline 206-368-4170

Cathy is responsible for turning an untended courtyard into an outdoor classroom. She recruited and coordinated volunteers, obtained grant

funding and involved students in planting native plants, designing a pond, and writing grants for projects. This outdoor classroom, which has been designated as a Backyard Wildlife Sanctuary, has become an integral part of the learning experience for Parkwood students.

Snohomish County Master Gardeners at

Canyon Park Junior High, Bothell 425-489-6476

For the past 12 years volunteer Master Gardeners have worked with the 7th grade garden project at Canyon Park Junior High. The Master Gardeners have donated over 800 hours of in-class time and donated tools, soil and seeds to support the project which includes over 300 students. They educate the students on garden care, beneficial insects, proper use of chemicals, organic methods of gardening, composting, and grass-cycling. The "living lab" of the garden teaches students to take an active role in preserving the environment.

Maggie Windus - Laura Ingalls Wilder Elementary

Woodinville 425-869-1909

Maggie's long-time involvement with environmental projects include an Adopt-a-Watershed program in which students were trained to perform wetland surveys and vegetation inventories, creation of a rustic outdoor learning center, and coordination of weekly dam and fish ladder clearing work parties to allow the successful migration of Coho salmon. Maggie's passion for children and the environment will soon find expression in a classroom of her own when she completes her teaching certification requirements.

Students

Vivian Choi - Newport High School, Bellevue 425-456-7400

As a member of the school's Ecology Club, Vivian is helping to raise awareness of environmental issues by organizing an all-day Earth Day teach-in. Vivian has worked as an intern at the Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center, and is also involved with a student project to monitor the condition of Coal Creek.

John Denault - West Seattle High School, Seattle 206-252-8950

A student at the school's Environmental Science Academy, John played a significant part in developing and implementing a restoration plan for Hamilton Viewpoint Park in West Seattle. John had a lead role in mapping the soils and fine-tuning the plans for planting native species. He oversaw and participated in the placement of over 300 native trees and shrubs at the park. John is also restoring a lot belonging to his church into a native plant sanctuary.

Alison Driver and Felicia Gray

Nathan Hale High School, Seattle 206-252-3735

Alison and Felicia have transformed their school's EarthCorps Club from a stagnant group of a few members to a large and vibrant organization. Their natural leadership, extensive knowledge of local and large-scale environmental concerns, and a true passion for making the world a better place have resulted in numerous successful projects including erosion control at Thornton Creek, and the formation of various club subcommittees to focus on recycling, campus beautification, and invasive species removal. Currently, Felicia and Alison are leading an effort to find funding for putting a sustainable landscape plan in place at their school.

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Matt Gelber - Beaver Lake Middle School, Issaquah 425-837-4150

As president of his school's environmental club, Matt helps coordinate outings and workdays, most notably plant salvage and native plantings on the Issaquah Plateau. On his own initiative, Matt has become involved with a community environmental group in Klahanie, attending meetings and providing information back to his school club on community stewardship opportunities. Matt has shown leadership not only with his peers at school but with his Klahanie community.

Shirley Hu - Eastlake High School, Sammamish 425-836-6600

A vital part of the school's environmental club, Shirley has helped coordinate a number of events including planting and reclamation projects, an Adopt-a-Highway program, and improvements to the recycling program. She is currently organizing an effort to monitor Monarch butterfly migration and to obtain a grant that will be used to educate elementary students about butterfly migration on the West Coast.

Lynn Thayer - Enumclaw High School, Enumclaw 360-802-7773

Lynn took a class assignment and turned it into a personal commitment to restore a section of Boise Creek and educate others about the environment. After her project group surveyed the site and performed a live and dead tree count and water quality tests, Lynn retained adoption of the site. She has catalogued and removed noxious weeds and planted new trees and has prepared presentations to teach other students about stream restoration.

Program/School

Mountaineers Post 84 at Garfield High School Seattle 206-252-2344

This outdoor education program is student-led and open to all high school students in Seattle. The program encourages environmental awareness, leadership, diversity, self-confidence, and knowledge of the outdoors. A special course called Silent Survival is aimed at giving

35 deaf and hearing-impaired students the opportunity to gain outdoor skills. All of the students who participate in Post 84 have their lives changed and are more aware of their role on this planet.

Pathfinder K-8, Seattle 206-252-9710

A passion for the environment characterizes the curriculum at Pathfinder where students are not in classes, but in clans and the school is divided into the water hall, the earth hall and the sky hall. Each clan focuses on a particular aspect of the natural world and all the groups participate in a three-day camping trip to learn about the human impacts on rivers. Many students spend time helping to fix trails in local parks. For the Pathfinder staff, protecting the earth is not just a unit for study, it's a full-time activity.

Sustainable Community Landscapes (SCL)

University of Washington 206-685-2595

SCL projects allow collaboration between University of Washington students and K-12 students to improve or restore landscapes using environmentally friendly solutions. SCL has worked with students and staff at Garfield High School, Nathan Hale High School, NOVA High School and Our Lady of the Lake School and Parish. Students analyze soils, hydrology, light levels and other conditions, create a design and management plan, prepare the site and install the landscape. Everyone involved gains an understanding of the complex, interdisciplinary process of creating healthy ecosystems that sustain both plants and people.

Waskowitz Environmental Leadership Semester (WELS)

Highline School District 425-277-7195

Each semester WELS, part of the Highline School District's Outdoor Education program, accepts 15 students who spend the entire semester immersed in environmental education. Through field trips, service projects, discussion and assignments, students make personal connections to the environment. Recently students helped restore three sites, all part of the salmon habitat protection and restoration effort in the Green/Duwamish and Central Puget Sound Watershed.

Green Schools Program Recognition

King County's Green Schools Program has two major goals:

- 1 To help participating schools improve or expand their conservation practices and possibly reduce costs; and
- 2 To help participating schools become better stewards of the environment and serve as models for their students and the community.

Congratulations to the three schools participating in the pilot year of this program.

Crestwood Elementary in Kent has made progress in its goals to:

- Reduce the school's waste volume by 5% or, if food waste is composted, reduce waste volume by at least 15%.
- Reduce water consumption by 20%.
- Reduce energy consumption by 10%.
- Integrate environmental issues into the curriculum of one or more classrooms.

Tolt Middle School in Carnation has made progress in its goals to:

- Increase recycling rate to 40%.
- Reduce energy consumption by 5%.
- Purchase fifteen percent of copy paper with recycled content and ten percent of cleaning products from list of less toxic products.

- Reduce idling time of school buses by 20% and of delivery vehicles by 40% on school grounds.
- Include hazardous waste information in the curriculum.

Bellevue High School has made progress in its goals to:

- Increase recycling rate to 60%.
- Reduce water consumption by 20%.
- Reduce energy consumption by 3 - 5%.
- Replace one existing product with an environmentally preferable substitute.
- Reduce litter by 50%. Decrease custodial time spent on litter by 10%.

The Earth Heroes at School Program is part of a countywide Earth Legacy Initiative, which consists of a number of programs that protect and enhance the environment of King County.

www.metrokc.gov/earthlegacy

*King County thanks
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