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Fourth of July Celebrations on the Lake

Welcome to our second issue of the *Cottage Lake Connection*. For those who may have missed our first issue, this is a quarterly newsletter published by the Friends of Cottage Lake for those living in the Cottage Lake area. It is our hope that this will be a fun, informative, and motivating newsletter that will help build a caring community spirit.

While this newsletter will be a new Cottage Lake tradition, we thought we'd look back at one of Cottage Lake's older traditions: the 4th of July fireworks on the lake. Many of you may have heard of the impressive fireworks displays that Norm Fragner (owner of Norm's Resort) put on for the community during the 60 and 70s. Weeks before the 4th of July, volunteers canvassed the Cottage Lake neighborhood seeking donations to cover the cost of the fireworks. The actual date for the celebration/fireworks was July 3rd, so that Norm would have an easier time finding an available pyrotechnician. It was a great excuse for lakefront residents to invite many friends and relatives over for a BBQ and then watch the glorious display of brilliant colors in the evening sky and reflections on the water. The finale often involved an enormous wooden structure that was constructed by volunteers to create a specific custom image. Everyone would wait in eager anticipation to see what spectacular image would appear. Carol still remembers the year that it was a very large American flag. It was a quite a sight!

At the suggestion of the Bucks who live on the east side of the lake, a new tradition was started during the last couple years: A Ring of Fire. At dusk, residents who live around the lake light red flares along their shoreline resulting in a beautiful red fiery ring around the lake.

Speaking of traditions, FOCL would like to invite Cottage Lake area residents to the following event:



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Know Your Neighbors Frances and Rosalie

... musings with a historical perspective

By Carol Porter

Yesterday I spent a wonderful day having lunch with two of my former Cottage Lake neighbors, Frances Gasslander (90 years old) and Rosalie Kirsop-Lewis (91 years old.) They now coincidentally live down the hall from each other at Woodinville's Brittany Park Retirement Center. They are examples of the treasures that still remain from the older Cottage Lake era. They were both animated when talking about their many memories of "The Lake" and showed an amazing recall of many names and stories from the distant past. We are fortunate to have Frances who lived on the lake for 50+ years and Rosalie who lived on the lake for 40+ years, as well as other old-timers of Cottage Lake who can share "the good ole times" and give us an appreciation for the lake's interesting history. I'd like to share with you the magic of Cottage Lake I saw through their eyes.

Frances is part of the well-known DeYoung family who came to Woodinville when she was nine years old. The year: 1925. As you can imagine things were quite different back then. Frances describes venturing out of Woodinville on hot summer days to go to "The Lake."

They drove there along the graveled Old Cottage Lake Road we now know as 165th which runs along the south side of Cottage Lake. Only a few homes or should I say cabins, dotted Cottage Lake's shoreline back then. Most of the people who owned property around the lake only spent the summers there. "A lot of women didn't like it out here so several owners sold when their wives became unhappy with the country life." noted Frances.

Frances holds a unique place in Cottage Lake history in that she met some of the original Cottage Lake homesteaders including Ezra Jurey who built the historic Jurey House in 1891 on the south end of the lake.

After many years of being a Cottage Lake visitor Frances finally moved to the lake when she married Dick Gasslander in 1943. They lived on Cottage Lake for over fifty years where they raised their two daughters.

Frances remembers when her first grader would have to venture out to Woodinville-Duvall Road to catch the school bus, driven by Gene Mack (founder of Mack's corner.) Back then 185th (the street on the west side of Cottage Lake where Rosalie and Frances lived) was much lower and it often flooded. Frances and Rosalie laugh when they think of how their little kids all had to take off their shoes to "fjord" the stream running over the road to get to their school bus.



Frances Gasslander and Rosalie Kirsop-Lewis
now neighbors at Brittany Park

In the early days when Frances first moved to Cottage Lake, it had two resorts, Camp Comfort (on the south end where the Cottage Lake Beach Club is now) and Erickson's Resort (on the north end which became Norm's Resort and later the King County Park.) They provided great entertainment for the Woodinville area in those days. There were Friday night dances at the dance hall, tennis during the day, boat rentals, fishing and Sunday picnics all of which made Cottage Lake a fun-filled destination and gathering place for miles around. Some of Frances' memories of the 1930s included the time Cottage Lake froze over and someone drove a Model T onto the ice. Don't you wish you could have seen that? She also recalls the owner of Camp Comfort inviting all the school kids to go ice skating on the lake. That was obviously before the days of personal injury lawsuits!

Some years later in 1962, during a camping trip to Norm's Resort, Rosalie and her husband, Ray Fleek, found their Cottage Lake home. They had rented a boat to explore the lake and came across a home for sale on the west side. Despite owning and managing a Mexican restaurant in Seattle they couldn't pass up the opportunity to make Cottage Lake their home. That same year, Rosalie, anxious to share the lake with others, invited a busload of Girl Scouts from Los Angeles to stay with them at Cottage Lake. For a week the girls camped out on the Fleek's front lawn, attended the World's Fair in Seattle and had fun on the lake. *(continued on next page)*

Know Your Neighbors - continued from page 2

Rosalie has many fond memories of life on the lake and Norm's Resort was one of them. Like the Gasslander girls, Rosalie's kids enjoyed taking swimming lessons and socializing with all the locals at Norm's Resort. Rosalie and her husband loved the jazzy music that came from Norm's. They would often row across the lake to join in the fun. When Rosalie's kids were at Norm's they had a unique way of communicating with each other. When she needed to get their attention, she would hang a large towel over her deck railing. When the kids saw the towel hanging there, they would go down to one of Norm's docks and proceed to shout back and forth across the lake to one another. There was much less road noise back then so it was not hard to hear each other, much different than our current method of constant cell phone contact, don't you think?

An important part of Rosalie's life was being a teacher/librarian at Cottage Lake Elementary School for seventeen years. Not only did she teach during the day, but also took classes at night towards a Master's Degree in Library Science, helped her husband with their Seattle restaurant in the evenings and raised five kids. After receiving her master's degree she became the school's librarian which allowed her to have contact with all grades. During those many years at Cottage Lake Elementary, she endeared herself to many local children, including myself.



Carol Porter skating on Cottage Lake during a freeze in the late '70s

of ice skates. I wore them proudly as she cheered me on from the shore.

One of my most wonderful childhood memories was a special thing Rosalie did for me. As a young girl I loved ice skating and when the freezing weather arrived between December and February I would impatiently wait for the lake to freeze over. Rosalie and I would often talk at school about the chance of ice. Knowing my love of ice skating, Rosalie loaned me my first pair

One thing that amazed me was how many people both Rosalie and Frances knew in the Cottage Lake community. Today most people only know a handful of neighbors and often don't even know those who live directly across the lake or street from them. I was surprised to learn from them that the way people used to often meet each other in those days was to row their boat around the lake and visit their neighbors by water. What a great idea! I discovered long ago that walking dogs is a great way to meet people but I had never thought about rowing around the lake as a way to connect with lakeside residents.



Beside the friendships they had at Cottage Lake, they both also miss the sights and sounds of the lake. Rosalie suffers from Macular Degeneration and is nearly blind. Her son and daughter-in-law still live in the family home on the lake and bring Rosalie over to sit out on the deck. She loves having him describe what is going on around the lake: the number of people fishing, how many people are on the park's dock and what wildlife are out at the time. How often we all take these things for granted.

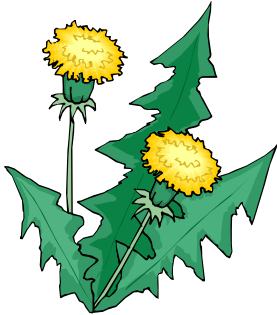
I know I will never see a full moon over the lake again without thinking of Rosalie, who says that one of her most treasured memories of lake life were the evenings she was treated to a full moon. She remembers how she would carefully position herself in bed at night to catch the perfect view of the moon coming over the trees on the east side of the lake, I loved drifting off to sleep as I watched the moonlight brilliantly shimmering on the lake's surface.

Visiting with both of these women gave me a renewed appreciation for how fortunate we are to have people like Frances and Rosalie to remind us of the continuing history and beauty of Cottage Lake.

Do I Love Gardening?

Or do I need a mental checkup?

[ramblings of mentally deranged gardener]



By Susie Egan

I tell people my real passion is gardening. And those who know me and have seen me become a permanent fixture in my garden would probably agree. But I think my passion is now changing into a love-hate relationship.

One thing I love about gardening is that I get to talk to myself, a lot. It is a behavior that I have come to find reassuring and comforting. I even began answering my own questions and bantering back and forth with myself like an old married couple. "What the heck have I gotten myself into?" "What kind of a maintenance nightmare have I created?" "What was I thinking? Was I really that stupid to think I would always have unlimited energy and physical stamina to maintain all these cute little garden rooms?" "What if something ever happened to me? Would my husband keep up the garden or would it grow into a tangled jungle?" Worse yet, "Would he remarry someone who would asphalt everything over?" The more I babble, the less I seem to get accomplished. But I keep babbling and mumbling around the garden, getting sidetracked from one garden chore to the next and never finishing any. It just may be time for the funny farm. Oh. Maybe they will have a garden there that I can work on.

Gardening is supposed to be enjoyable and fun, not stressful and never-ending work. And most of the time I do enjoy it. But every spring when the plants go into hyper-gear, everything needs to be done all at once: planting all the new plants I've bought, which almost always requires rearranging the old ones, then there are the weeds which are popping up by the minute, plus there are the new volunteer seedlings that need potting up, then there are the tall perennials now flopping over and in need of staking, and there is the mulching that needs to be done before the summer's heat sets in, not to mention, oh the dreaded lawn maintenance. The list never ends. Then an overwhelming sense of panic begins to set in. How will I ever get it all done?

This week I vowed to get all the plants planted that I bought this spring. Sounded simple but I soon lost focus when I spotted the morning glory wrapping itself around some of my newly leafed

out shrubs. I sat down to patiently attend to this tedious chore when I noticed that weeds had completely infiltrated the lawn I was sitting on. Then I glanced up and saw the bright yellow flowers of dandelions and buttercup blooming in the flower beds above. Didn't I just pull out all that shot weed last week? "Where did this new crop come from?" Oh, they are so faithful in making their regular return to my garden.

And how can I possibly be sitting here typing this article when I have so much to do outside? Don't even mention the inside of my house. It is the last thing I get to, to my husband's chagrin. But I am lucky to have a husband who supports my passion. Well, up to the point that it requires him to do any weeding. But in the beginning, he did offer to help plant a few trees for me. That was until I noticed his big heavy boots were actually standing on some of my precious and rare tiny Himalayan blue poppy seedlings. "Oh, my God!" I screamed.

He shouted back, "What? What's wrong?"

"Can't you see that you're standing on my Himalayan blue poppies?"

"Well, no. I don't see anything blue; just thought they were weeds. In fact, I was going to pull them out for you."

We soon discovered it was a little too painful for both of us to have him help me in the garden, so we accepted he was best at mowing the lawn. But now I think my passion, or affliction, whichever way you view it, has passed on to him. He has become quite skilled at and somewhat addicted to clipping ferns. Did you even know you could clip ferns? We have hundreds of sword ferns on our property and I began noticing him disappearing for extended periods of time. Was he off visiting the asphalt lady? No, just out giving his little



Happy Gardening!

ferns a spring haircut. I guess I won't worry until I hear him purring away in the garden, talking to them and calling them by name. At least if we have to go to the funny farm together, it could be someplace called "Susie's Garden Terrace and Kevin's Friendly Fern Grotto."

Where are our Salmon? Do salmon still pass through Cottage Lake?

By Karen Mattson

Have you ever seen salmon in Cottage Lake? While sightings are few and far between, lately, one lakeside resident, Ron Mosher and his son Wyatt, spotted a salmon in Cottage Lake as recently as last fall. Numbers are clearly dwindling, though, as he has only seen three total, in the past four years. A few other observers also saw salmon two or three years back in upper Cottage Creek, one of Cottage Lake's tributary streams. Since then, no official data, or even much along the lines of local anecdotal sightings, has surfaced, though many groups—Salmon Watchers, biologists from the Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Basin Steward Program, Water Tenders, and others—are involved directly or indirectly with welfare of salmon and watching for their return.

Whats the problem? Where are our fish, a symbol of the Northwest? Biologists aren't sure, though they tell us that over the last couple of years, salmon runs have been horrible; that two years ago, plenty of salmon gathered in Puget Sound, then congregated in Lake Washington, waiting for fall rains, but for some reason, they didn't go on upstream when rains came (nor did signs of a major fish die-off show up in that lake). By some counts, 200,000 fewer showed up than expected in the Bear Creek basin (of which Cottage Lake is a part).

The reason for this? Some fisheries experts speculate that in 2004, Lake Washington, or its watershed, or even the Northern Pacific itself had temperatures too high for salmon survival. In support of this theory, coastal ocean temperatures were again 2-5 degrees above normal in the spring of 2005, and the fall water temperatures last year in the Lake Washington Ship Canal and Lake Union were at the lethal level for sockeye. A further indication of temperature-as-culprit shows up in similar salmon population drops in the Cedar River Basin, south of here, as well as in the Fraser River system of British Columbia.

Some activists see the hatcheries, such as the one in Issaquah, as a solution for failing salmon runs. Certainly, several local elementary schools, including Cottage Lake, Hollywood Hill, Bear Creek, and Wilder, have involved their students in salmon restoration programs in the past. One, Bear Creek Elementary, has been part of a Salmon Release Program for fourteen years and continues through the current school year. According to Mike Wooten, a sixth-grade teacher there, the project idea originated with himself, two other 6th grade teachers, Louisa Hatala and Robin Phillips, and a teacher intern, John Schmeid. Currently, all three sixth grade classes are involved in obtaining 250 eggs each year

from the Issaquah Hatchery; those eggs must be fertilized, put into a tank, and raised to the fry stage (necessitating daily monitoring of water temperature, pH and nitrates), then released into Bear Creek, a process which takes from January until April. First graders at the school also participate in the salmon release. The students really take ownership for the salmon, declares Wooten, and every year, high school kids come back here to ask about their fish. In addition to the salmon release, the school and surrounding community have made extensive upgrades in the riparian environment at the school's streamside location, with plantings, a pathway, and shaded waterways.



Salmon spawning along the creek

Other salmon experts believe that salmon-friendly landscaping along lake, river, and creek banks, as well as conserving water, and removing chemicals from what we release into the watershed, may be the most direct help most of us can offer. The reason for misgivings about salmon planting is, many biologists have observed that hatchery-raised fish have less vigor, smaller size, less diversity,

higher vulnerability to disease and parasites, and thus, lower survival rates than wild salmon. Thus, releasing hatchery fry into our watershed may simply overload an overstressed system, adding one more factor weighing against salmon runs. Yet even if hatchery salmon planting doesn't recreate fish runs, the intense student participation in such programs offers clear educational value and strong motivation to preserve salmon. After all, the same students that plant fry today will some day be citizens making decisions that affect watershed quality – an environment which may still sustain a revival of one of the Northwest's oldest cultural and economic icons. In the meantime, as the National Academies of Science conclude, As long as human populations and economic activities continue to increase, so will the challenge of successfully solving the salmon problem.

Credit for information used in this article is given to: Dick Schaezel, Water Tenders; Mike Wooten, 6th grade teacher at Bear Creek Elementary; Mary Maier, Bear Creek Basin Steward; Ron Mosher, Professional Fisherman and Cottage Lake resident; Steve Foley, Biologist and District Fisheries Manager; Jennifer Vanderhooft of Salmon Watchers; James Chandler, Project Manager for School Salmon Restoration; Beth Cullen, Water Quality Planner in King County's Lake Stewardship Program; Doug Margeson's 6/26/05 *Journal American* article reprinted in the Fall 2005 Water Tenders Newsletter; and the online article *Salmon and Society in the Pacific Northwest* by National Academies of Science, found at <http://www.nap.edu/readingroom/books/salmon/summary.html>



Michael Murphy of King County Lake Stewardship Program taking water samples

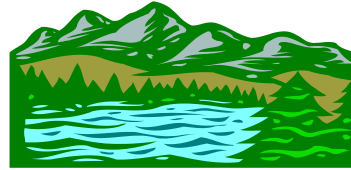
By Beth Cullen

Consider this your first class in limnology, the study of lakes! In the next few newsletters look for articles that highlight and explain the water quality measurements that are taken on Cottage Lake. Since Cottage Lake is listed on the Federal Clean Water Act 303(d) list for having too much total phosphorus, let's take a look at this water quality parameter, how it affects the lake, and our ultimate phosphorus concentration goal.

Phosphorus is a limiting nutrient

Phosphorus is a naturally occurring element in the environment that is essential to plant growth. It is vital in lakes to help algae and aquatic plants grow, which in turn support a healthy lake ecosystem. Phosphorus occurs naturally in soils and organic materials, but is in such small quantities in fresh water that it is often the limiting nutrient necessary for algal growth. A limiting nutrient is defined as a chemical that is essential for plant growth, but available in smaller quantities than other nutrients that are also necessary. Once a limiting nutrient is exhausted in the system, the plants and algae must stop growing. If more of the limiting nutrient is added, plants and algae will keep growing until that nutrient, or another one, is again exhausted.

Limnology 101



[the study of lakes]

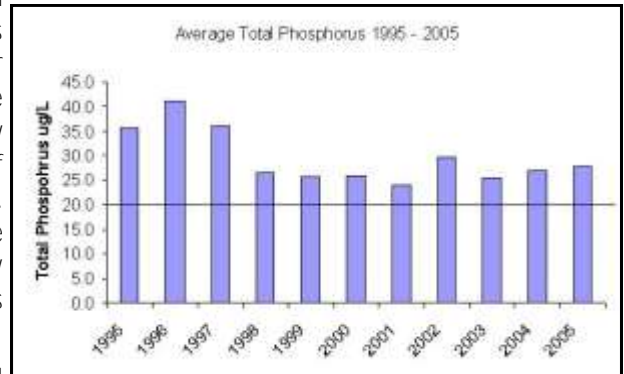
In Cottage Lake, as in many King County lakes, the limiting nutrient is phosphorus. Excess phosphorus can be directly correlated to the algae blooms and excessive plant growth, which often interfere with recreational activities such as swimming, boating, and fishing. Not only can excessive phosphorus hinder beneficial uses for humans, it also changes the lake ecosystem balance by decreasing the availability of dissolved oxygen for fish. Other effects can include changing predator-prey relationships and decreases in water clarity.

Cottage Lake and Phosphorus

In 2004, the Washington State Department of Ecology (DOE) and the Environmental Protection Agency determined a regulatory limit for phosphorus concentrations in Cottage Lake through the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) process. In order to protect beneficial uses, the goal is for Cottage Lake phosphorus levels are to be at or below 20 $\mu\text{g/L}$ (micrograms per liter).

Where is Cottage Lake now relative to this goal? Since 1995 Cottage Lake has been monitored by the King County Lake Stewardship Program, which takes several water quality measurements through the summer months (May through September). The program has tracked total phosphorus in Cottage Lake,

showing that since the beginning of monitoring, the lake's total phosphorus has been over the state and federal target goal. The chart shows the target total phosphorus level as a horizontal line, and each bar represents the May-October average of total phosphorus for each year.



The goal of the recently awarded Centennial Clean Water Fund Grant, from the Washington Department of Ecology to King County and the Friends of Cottage Lake is to reduce total phosphorus levels under the 20 $\mu\text{g/L}$ threshold. Through the educational events sponsored by the grant and activities planned by the Friends of Cottage Lake, we hope to help the communities of the watershed to reach the phosphorus target in the next several years.

Stay tuned – next time measuring other water clarity parameters, such as Secchi depth and chlorophyll *a*: what are they and how do they relate to phosphorus?

Cottage Lake Connection

Newsletter from the Friends of Cottage Lake
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Welcome New & Renewed FOCL Members

Bill and Eleanor Barnes
Barbara Bowen
Judy Dunning
Kevin & Susie Egan
Leo and Virginia Egan
Jim Fleek & Sally Maimoni
Ed Grubbs
Anita Johnson
Gary & Karen Mattson
Mary & Matt McCain
Jonathan Morrison & Lucy Davies
Steve & Janet Okerlund
Don & Anne Pettit
David & Carol Porter
Matt Schmitter
Nidy Scott
Greg Shelton & Jean Harrison
Robert Wright

If you do not see your name on this list you can use the membership/donation form to renew your membership

Calendar of Upcoming Cottage Lake Events

- July 4 Fireworks on the Lake by lakeside residents
- July 8 Cottage Lake BBQ & Fireworks Cleanup
3 pm to 5pm - Cottage Lake Park - Large Pavilion
Hot Dogs, lemonade & cookies will be provided
- A great chance to meet your Cottage Lake neighbors and give back to the community!
- Sept 16 FOCL & Cottage Lake Garden Club Plant Sale
Location to be announced

Newsletter Information

Newsletters will be printed quarterly on Jan. 1, April 1, July 1, and Oct. 1.

We welcome any submissions; however, they may be subject to editing. The deadline for submissions is the 15th of the month prior to the issue date.

Send submissions to:
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