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Volume 2, Issue 2



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The Cottage Lake Connection

Cottage Lake Celebrates Spring with a Spring Plant Sale on Saturday, April 21st

Once again the Friends of Cottage Lake and the Cottage Lake Garden Club are holding a community plant sale on Saturday, April 21st from 1-3 p.m. It will be held at Susie & Kevin Egan's home on the east side of Cottage Lake behind the Woodinville library (17301 191st Avenue N.E.)



Cornus canadensis

FOCL will be selling many beautiful native plants including Trillium ovatum and Cornus canadensis pictured here. The CLGC will be selling plants propagated from their own gardens as well as

blooming spring bulbs. (See page 6 for a detailed listing of the plants that will be for sale.)

This plant sale is unique because the prices are far below normal retail prices, a wonderful opportunity for bargain hunters. The idea is to encourage everyone to plant native plants around the lake as well as enjoy the beauty of flowers and gardening.



Trillium ovatum

Both organizations will use the

proceeds towards improvements for Cottage Lake and community civic projects. So please come and support the Cottage Lake community and be sure to invite all your friends as well.

We are all looking forward to the beauty that spring and beautiful plants brings to the lake!



Japanese Painted Fern

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Raptors on Cottage Lake

by Gary Mattson

There are several species of raptors on our lake. The two most visible and entertaining are bald eagles and ospreys. The eagles seem to be around off and on, year round. When they appear, I always worry about our cat Yoda, a white Manx getting on in years. He thinks that he is the top of the food chain but I know better. Yoda looks like a rabbit to the untrained eye, but even to the trained eye of a hungry eagle, there is no difference in a potential meal. Food is food. I have watched the eagles hunt all variety of prey here, and have seen them catch rabbits on two different occasions. Hence my worries.

I have seen a very hungry eagle corral about eight coots under a dock and then hop around trying to panic them into a mistake for nearly an hour. *Coots one, eagle zero.* I also saw an eagle dive-bomb Canada geese. These geese actually can dive under water and swim when they have to. Finally, the eagle realized this food was too big and gave up.



Photo taken by Gary Mattson of bald eagle perched on floating dock

More recently, I spotted an eagle on a floating dock near us sitting on the swim ladder. After a lot of a g i t a t e d movement, the bird swooped at something near the shore. I figured some poor d u c k w a s doomed. Instead it was an otter

with a fish and the young raptor was trying to steal an easy meal. The otter dived and surfaced quickly only to be attacked once more by this crazed monster. Two dives were all it took for the eagle to give up.

Other times I cheered while eagles tried, alas without luck, to **snatch a cormorant. I don't like cormorants. Anyhow, the eagle's** strategy goes thus: dive at the quarry and circle until they must surface for air. The plan is simple but difficult to execute. Those dang sharks-with-feathers can stay down a long time and when they do come up, they can get a new breath and dive faster than Superman. *Cormorants twenty, eagle zero.* Occasionally, a half-hearted pass at some ducks is in order. Ducks seem to be simply too fast at flying or too wary to be an easy meal.

I did actually see an eagle take a fish on the lake. A friend and I were catching and releasing trout as we trolled. One poor fish was somewhat impaired after being unhooked. After we

released it, the poor thing floated on the surface, stunned, instead of swimming away. As we moved away from the scene, an opportunistic eagle dived out of nowhere and surgically plucked the not quite dead fish from about twenty feet away. What a great way to see a wasted life become a meal!

In my many observations of these magnificent birds, I have yet to figure out how they manage to get enough food to survive, but thrive they do. It is a mystery to me yet.

Osprey, "the other eagles" on the lake, are more likely to be seen between spring and fall. They eat only fish and are good at what they do, which is attacking their chosen target from on high by a fast dive which plunges them into the water. Their specialized wings pull them out of the water with ease. Once having seen this feat, you never forget it. At first, the hunter flies high over the water, circling in random patterns. Sometimes these big birds are observed by their tiny peep-peep-peep sound that belies their large size. Hearing this call alerts you to note a bird hunting so high as to seem impossibly ineffective. Here is the true marvel of this fish eater. As soon as a possible target is seen, the hunter hovers over one spot until a decision is made to dive or move on. A half dive is often seen as the bird aborts the assault midway to the water for whatever reason. When the full dive option is implemented, it is fast. **The bird doesn't always score a meal but keep watching and you** probably will see a kill before too long. The successful dive gets a fish which is turned fore-and-aft (head always forward) to be transported immediately to the nest. On the other hand, eagles carry their fish athwart ship (right angles to the body) when flying.



Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*)

Common foes of both eagles and ospreys are the ubiquitous crows we all see daily. Crows will risk dives at perched birds but also **"drive" raptors** out when air e n c o u n t e r s

happen. This is much more dangerous for the crow because the harried raptor, while in the air, will suddenly flip upside down with talons ready to impale any reckless, unwary, or overly cocky member of the posse that miscalculates. What joy to rid oneself of such an oversized gnarl!

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

The best of both worlds is when the eagles and ospreys hunt the same territory simultaneously. A fight nearly always ensues. They are mortal enemies and do not tolerate shared space.



A cormorant landing in the water

Eagles are larger, usually present in greater numbers, and seem to be more aggressive. Ospreys have an advantage in agility and speed. A

couple of years ago, I noted a record of six eagles and three ospreys over the lake at the same time. War was inevitable. One of the ospreys eventually caught a fish and three juvenile eagles decided to attack. The osprey easily outmaneuvered the trio but could not outpace the group because of the heavy catch, which he refused to release. The threesome took turns diving and harassing the smaller bird, coming perilously close several times. They were like a pack of wolves in this life-or-death drama. They were less agile but would come in from different directions. The osprey could have simply let the fish go and fly away, but chose to persist in this game until he nearly lost his life. Only then did he drop the prize and bolt. Normally, one of the eagles would have retrieved the lost fish, but this group wanted blood and continued to chase their enemy until it became obvious that there was no way of stopping this speedster now. That poor fish died only to serve as a backdrop for a seldom seen interaction between our wonderful raptors. Days like that make it worthwhile to have a dear pet at risk by predation. We pay a price for the privilege of living here, but I **wouldn't change a thing about this place (now, about those cormorants...).**



Yoda stalking and looking like eagle food.

FOCL Officer Elections were held at January 29th Meeting

The new 2007 FOCL Officers are:

President
Jonathan Morrison

Vice-President
Mary McCain

Secretary
Sally Maimoni

Treasurer
Chuck Cushing

At-Large Board Member
Stafford Miller

Newsletter Information

Newsletters are printed quarterly in
January, April, July, October

We would love to include any pictures, stories, or event announcements that relate to our Cottage Lake community. [Articles may be subject to editing.]

Submission deadlines are normally by the 15th of the month prior to the issue date.

For submissions contact :

Susie Egan
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Climate Change, The World, and Cottage Lake

By Matt McCain

While climate change is a big fat global issue, that little lake outside our windows stands to be impacted as well.

Concentrations of greenhouse gases – and especially carbon dioxide – have risen over the past two hundred and fifty years, largely due to our fast-expanding human population and combustion of fossil fuels for energy production. Scientists believe that these changes may have already begun to alter the global climate. (*Climate Change Information Resources*)

This isn't cheery stuff. Carbon dioxide levels today are nearly 30 percent higher than they were prior to the start of the Industrial Revolution, based on records

[extending back 650,000 years](#). Records show that 11 of the last 12 years were among the 12 warmest on record worldwide. According to NASA, the [polar ice cap is now melting](#) at the rate of 9 percent per decade. The number of Category 4 and 5 hurricanes has almost doubled in the last 30 years, with this trend likely to continue. (*Earth Institute at Columbia University*)

How is the Pacific Northwest fairing? Research indicates that average temperatures and precipitation have increased significantly in the Northwest over the last century. And scientists predict the coming decades in Western Washington will likely bring even warmer average winter temperatures, increased flooding, shoreline erosion from rising sea levels, decreased water supplies in summer, and a higher frequency of **“extreme” weather events, such as windstorms, heat waves, and rain and snow storms.**

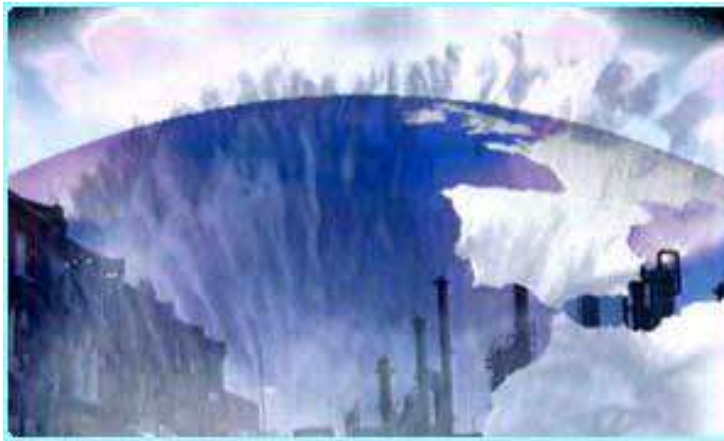
And what about Cottage Lake? Aside from the bigger issues mentioned above, increased precipitation and storm activity would likely wash more pollutants such as phosphorus into our lake via run-off through streams. Monitoring of Cottage Lake has shown that pollutant levels spike during periods of heavy rain.

Increased summer temperatures would also further stress cold-water fish species such as salmon that use Cottage Lake and connecting streams for spawning (water temperatures

above 68° F are lethal to salmon). Warmer water temperatures would also foster increased growth of certain algae in Cottage Lake, **an issue we're already facing.**

Reducing and slowing the severity of all this scary stuff depends on how much people everywhere reduce emissions from factories, power plants, cars, and other sources of

“greenhouse gases” such as carbon dioxide. Below are some **“small” ways to fight** climate change at home. A few small changes can make a big difference.



- Walk, bike, carpool or use public transportation whenever possible.
- Recycle and buy minimally packed goods as much as possible.

- Wash clothes in cold or warm water, not hot.
- Install low-flow shower heads to use less water.
- **Run the dishwasher only when full and don't use heat to dry dishes.**
- Replace standard light bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs.
- Plug air leaks in windows and doors to increase energy efficiency.
- Replace old appliances with energy-efficient models.
- Adjust your thermostat—lower in winter, higher in summer.
- Plant a tree.
- **Don't burn yard waste.**

OTHER SOURCES:

“Impacts of Climate Change on Washington's Economy” , University of Oregon

“A warmer, wetter Northwest”, *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*

“Our Warming World: Effects of Climate Change bode ill for Northwest”, *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*

Spotlight on other Cottage Lake area groups

Editors Note: We thought it might be interesting to include a recurring column in our newsletter spotlighting other area groups that may be of interest to Cottage Lake residents. We are kicking off this column with an article on Water Tenders, a non-profit organization that cares about the wetlands and streams in the Bear Creek watershed.

Water Tenders

Why stop with the FOCL newsletter? Water Tenders is a conservation group that is dedicated to preserving the health of the Bear Creek watershed, including Cottage Lake and Cottage Lake Creek. We produce a newsletter twice a year devoted to the



natural world of the watershed.

Just as most FOCL members live along the shores of and consider themselves to be stewards of Cottage Lake, most Water Tenders live along the waterways of and consider themselves to be stewards of Bear Creek and its tributaries. We are a grassroots, all-volunteer group of citizens who created a non-profit organization to ensure that

the Bear Creek basin remains intact and healthy. Through educational outreach programs, we try to instill good stewardship ideals. Some of our educational efforts include **"Meet the Salmon" each fall, educational kiosks, community projects, work parties, and of course, our newsletter.**

As you might expect, our newsletter has the same focus. It includes articles on the bird, plant, insect, animal, and fish life in the Bear Creek environs, local recreational opportunities, tips for low-impact living, volunteer opportunities, reports on local and environmentally-themed books, and other conservation-oriented pieces. Each issue includes a calendar of events and phone and email contacts.

Subscription to the Water Tenders newsletter is included with Water Tenders membership, so why not join us today? Point your browser to www.watertenders.org and click Become a Member.

Guy Baltzelle

April 2007

A WATERSHED WATCHERS EVENT

Hosted by

FRIENDS OF COTTAGE LAKE and WATER TENDERS

Wednesday, May 23, 2007, 7PM – 9PM

Woodinville Water District Meeting Room

17328 NE Woodinville Duvall Road

The Cold Creek Aquifer Study

Presented by Ken Johnson, Geohydrologist, King County

Cold Creek is the primary source of cold water and summertime flow to the Bear Creek system. Where does it come from? How can we protect it?

Ecology's Plans to Improve Water quality in the Bear and

Evans Creek Systems (TMDL)

Presented by Sinang H. Lee, Water Quality Improvement Lead, WA

State Department of Ecology

Bear and Evans Creeks have problems with dissolved oxygen, temperature and fecal coliform bacteria. Learn about recent studies and plans to improve water quality. Share your ideas.

List of Plant Available at Cottage Lake Plant Sale

The following plants will be available at the Cottage Lake Plant Sale

On Sat., April 21, 2006—1-3 pm



Natives Plants from the
Friends of Cottage Lake:

Trees:

<i>Abies procera</i>	Noble fir
<i>Acer circinatum</i>	Vine Maple
<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i>	Douglas-Fir
<i>Rhamnus purshiana</i>	Cascara Tree
<i>Thuja Plicata</i>	Western Red Cedar

Shrubs:

<i>Amelanchier alnifolia</i>	Western Serviceberry
<i>Aruncus dioicus</i>	Goatsbeard
<i>Cornus sericea</i>	Red-Osier Dogwood
<i>Gaultheria shallon</i>	Salal
<i>Holodiscus discolor</i>	Ocean Spray
<i>Lonicera involucrata</i>	Twin Berry
<i>Mahonia aquifolium</i>	Tall Oregon Grape
<i>Oemlaria cerasiformis</i>	Indian Plum
<i>Philadelphus lewisii</i>	Mock Orange
<i>Physocarpus capitatus</i>	Pacific Ninebark
<i>Ribes sanguineum</i>	Red Flowering Currant
<i>Rosa Nutkana</i>	Nooka Rose
<i>Symphoricarpos albus</i>	Snowberry
<i>Vaccinium parvifolium</i>	Red Huckleberry

Perennials & Groundcovers:

<i>Achlys triphylla</i>	Vanilla Leaf
<i>Arcostaphylos uva-ursi</i>	Kinnikinnick
<i>Asarum caudatum</i>	Wild Ginger
<i>Cornus Canadensis</i>	Bunchberry
<i>Mahonia nervosa</i>	Low Oregon Grape
<i>Maianthemum dilatatum</i>	False Lily-of-the-Valley
<i>Oxalis oregana</i>	Wood Sorrel
<i>Tiarella trifoliata</i>	Foamflower
<i>Tolmiea menziesii</i>	Piggyback Plant
<i>Trillium ovatum</i>	Native Trillium
<i>Trientalis latifolia</i>	Western Star Flower
<i>Vancouveria hexandra</i>	Inside Out Flower

Ferns:

<i>Adiantum aleuticum</i>	Western Maidenhair Fern
<i>Blechnum spicant</i>	Deer Fern
<i>Polystichum munitum</i>	Western Sword Fern



Exotics Plants from the
Cottage Lake Garden Club

Perennials:

<i>Alchemilla alpina</i>	Alpine Lady's Mantle
<i>Alchemilla mollis</i>	Lady's Mantle
<i>Anemone blanda</i>	Anemones (blue)
<i>Corydalis lutea</i>	Yellow Corydalis
<i>Eryngium giganteum</i>	Sea Holly
<i>Helleborus orientalis</i>	Lenten Rose
<i>Helleborus argutifolius</i>	Corsican Hellebore
<i>Helleborus foetidus</i>	Stinking Hellebore
<i>Hemerocallis 'Stella d'Oro'</i>	Day Lilly
<i>Hesperis matronalis</i>	Dame's Rocket
<i>Hosta</i>	Miniature Hostas
<i>Iris foetidissima</i>	Stinking Iris
<i>Iris pallida variegata 'Zebra'</i>	Zebra Iris
<i>Iris siberica 'Flight of Butterflies'</i>	Iris
<i>Lathyrus vernus</i>	Spring Vetchling
<i>Petasites japonicus var. giganteus</i>	Giant Japanese Butterbur
<i>Phlox paniculata - Pink</i>	Garden Phlox
<i>Ranunculus ficaria</i>	Lesser Celandine
<i>Stachys monieri 'Rosea'</i>	Common Betony

Groundcovers:

<i>Arum italicum 'Pictum'</i>	Marbled Arum
<i>Lysimachia Nummularia</i>	Creeping Jenny
<i>Viola</i>	Sweet Violets

Grasses:

<i>Carex buchananii</i>	Red Curly Sedge
<i>Tipa tenuissima</i>	Mexican Feather Grass

Succulents:

Hens & Chicks	Assorted
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Bulbs:

<i>Hyacinthoides hispanica</i>	Spanish Bluebells or English Wood Hyacinths
<i>Muscari armeniacum</i>	Grape Hyacinths
<i>Tulipa 'Triumph'</i>	Tulip 'Triumph'

Ferns:

<i>Athyrium niponicum 'Pictum'</i>	Japanese Painted Fern
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Interview with long-time Cottage Lake residents Louise & Stafford Miller

by Susie Egan

Editors note: While doing my research on the history of Cottage Lake I was finally able to arrange an interview with Louise & Stafford Miller. I am glad I can share with you what I learned about them and their early years on Cottage Lake.

I think almost everyone on Cottage Lake has heard of Louise and Stafford Miller. Louise is a former State Representative and former Chair of the King County Council. She was also instrumental in helping King County purchase the property for the Cottage Lake Park and the Cold Creek Natural Area. Many of us have also seen Louise and Stafford at the Friend of Cottage Lake meetings through the years. It was obvious they were a couple who knew what was going on in the community and knew how to make things happen.

For 13 years Kevin and I have lived up the street from them and somehow never had the opportunity to get to know them until last December when they came to our house for the FOCL holiday party. What a wonderful surprise it was to see them. Afterwards I told them I would love to interview them for the upcoming issue of our newsletter and they graciously agreed. I figured everyone would enjoy knowing more about this wonderful couple who has done so much for Cottage Lake.

First of all Louise & Stafford have been married for 47 years! They have two children, a son, Jeff, and daughter, Becky. They both attended Cottage Lake Elementary School and went on up through the Northshore School District to Leota Junior High and then to Inglemoor High School.

Interestingly Stafford and Louise met each other in California while attending San Jose State University. They both received degrees there in music along with their teaching credentials. Louise played the guitar and Stafford the bass.

In 1966 they moved to Seattle so that Stafford could receive his PhD in Music. The following fall, they moved to Cottage Lake into **one of the original "spec" houses in the Cottage Lake Beach Club.** Then in 1971 they bought the property where they currently reside.

As with most properties on the lake, the house on the property had been a summer cabin built in 1936. They briefly rented it out to a woman who was a descendant of the Colt Firearm family but in the fall of 1972 tore it down to build a new house. They saved some of the knotty pine which they reused in the house which they moved into on January 15, 1973.

Since Louise & Stafford have lived on Cottage Lake for over 35 years now, they have many memories of Cottage Lake. **They remember when Norm's Resort was located on the north end of the lake where King County's Cottage Lake Park is now located.** While many have fond memories of Norm's Resort, Stafford said there were many problems created by having a resort on the lake including loud noise late at night and litter and water pollution, especially on Monday mornings after a busy weekend. Stafford said the Cottage Lake Improvement Association was formed back then to deal with these problems since there were no noise ordinance in place at that time.



Louise & Stafford Miller

He said when Thousand Trails bought the property from Norm there was no longer public access to the lake and things quieted down quite a bit. Thousand Trails also repainted **the resort's buildings white, a color Stafford preferred over Norm's signature orange buildings.**

Another fond memory they have of **Cottage Lake's past were the mini-hydro boat races.** These races went on for probably 8 or 10 years ending around 1976 or 1977 when one of the boats went out of control and

went up on the shore. Everyone enjoyed these races and **actually felt they helped the lake's water quality by stirring up the water.**

One of their best memories though were those of Opening Day. They and their kids would stay up all night the night before so that exactly at midnight they could start fishing off the dock. Their children's friends would often come over too and they would camp outside in sleeping bags. They would have the dock lit so they could fish and Louise would fix them hot chocolate and pancakes for breakfast.

They also said that the lake used to freeze over more often especially in 1983 when the temperatures got down to 13 degrees and the lake froze a foot thick. They know it was a foot thick because Stafford actually cut a hole in the ice to check. Their daughter, Becky, used to ice skate on the lake. They also remember the flooding in 1996 when five docks floated off into the lake.

It is obvious that Louise and Stafford both love living on Cottage Lake. I am glad I could share some of their memories with you and lets hope we all have such wonderful memories to share with our children in the future.

Cottage Lake Connection

Newsletter from the Friends of Cottage Lake
17214 185th Avenue NE
Woodinville, WA 98072
www.friendsofcottagelake.org



Friends of Cottage Lake

MEMBERSHIP & DONATION FORM

\$10 Membership Fee

\$_____ Donation for support of FOCL activities

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Yes, please email my next *Cottage Lake Connection*

Make check payable to: Friends of Cottage Lake

Cut out this page, complete membership form, fold, stamp
& mail

All fees & donations are tax deductible—**Due now!**

Calendar of Cottage Lake Events

- April 21 9 am Woodinville Garden Fair
Woodmoor Elementary School
(22225 NE 160th St., Bothell)
Rain Barrel & Compost Bins for Sale
- April 21 1pm to 3pm - FOCL & Cottage Lake Garden Club Spring Plant Sale -17301 191st Ave NE
- May 23 Cold Creek Aquifer Talk
Woodinville Water District
- June 4 7:00—FOCL Community Meeting—Woodinville Library