

# Wetherill Nature Preserve



## 2023 Annual Newsletter

[www.wetherillnp.org](http://www.wetherillnp.org)



### Letter From the Commission

#### To our friends of the Wetherill Nature Preserve

2023 has seen various changes in the Preserve and on the Wetherill Nature Preserve (WNP) Commission. If you have visited the Preserve in the last few months, you likely noticed the changes involving the two entrances. The main entrance off the Points Loop Trail, rebuilt at the end of 2022, was finalized this past April with major plantings thanks to the Seattle Garden Club members and community volunteers.

The 33rd Street temporary entrance, kindly provided by the Applegate family these last 10 years, is now closed. Access to the Preserve is now via two entrances along the Points Loop Trail, the main entrance and the upper east entrance.

#### The impact of climate change

You may have also noticed the dying Poplar trees in some areas of the Preserve. We are sad to see them go, but we are working with experts to address the problem caused by climate change and root rot. The debris will be cleared over winter and spring and we will use it to enhance and create more wildlife habitat. We will also continue to improve the drainage and trails, remove invasives, and plant new trees.

We would like to thank **Marian Bergey**, for her 14 years of service on the Commission, and all her work on the newsletters and donor relations. She will be retiring at the end of 2023, but we are happy to welcome **Meredith Shank** as her replacement. **Bruce Jones**, Commission Chair for the last 10 years, is retiring and **Mike Koss** will take on this leadership role in 2024. Bruce will continue his work on the commission until his At-Large position is filled.

#### How You Can Help

Thank you to all our donors, volunteers, and supporters! Our ability to maintain WNP relies on your donations and the support from the Towns of Yarrow Point and Hunts Point. A suggested donation of \$150 per family is greatly appreciated, but we welcome any amount. Thank you for your continued support of the Preserve!



We are incredibly grateful to **Bruce Jones** (left) who served as the Commission chair for past decade, and welcome **Mike Koss** as the new chair starting in 2024.

## What You Might See in our Preserve

The Preserve is home to an ever-changing collection of birds, bugs, and critters and many stay hidden in the lush growth, mucky swamp, and shallow pools at the lake's edge. As the seasons change, bald eagles, osprey, and heron can be seen, while colorful woodpeckers, spotted towhee, and shimmering green hummingbirds flit amongst plants. Birds are easy to see and hear in the Preserve, but other wildlife prefer to hide.

You might spot Pond Sliders with a bright red mark behind their ears. Females leave the water only to lay eggs and their young hatch late summer or early fall. Pond Sliders hibernate in the mud and sand during the winter.

Wildlife are easily frightened and harmed by dogs and humans that venture too close. Please stay a respectful distance from the wildlife, **keep dogs on leash**, and use the zoom on your camera to get that great photo!



The Red-Eared Pond Slider was seen laying eggs along the upper meadow trail.



A heron watches closely for its next meal at the water's edge.

The 16-acre preserve was given to the towns of Hunts Point and Yarrow Point in 1988 by **Sidonia Wetherill Foley** and **Marjorie Wetherill Baird**, descendants of a pioneer Seattle family. It is managed and supported through resident commissioners, volunteers, and caring donors.

## Grateful to Volunteers!



The Wetherill Commissioners greatly appreciate Daniel Domingos for choosing WNP for his capstone Eagle Scout project. Daniel and 20 fellow scouts volunteered 60 man-hours to move 3 tons of gravel and trim over-hanging branches to create an improved NE Forest trail.



In April, the Seattle Garden Club helped to enhance the main entrance, planting ferns and other deciduous plants.

## Your WNP Commissioners

Bruce Jones, At-Large, Chair  
David Bergey, Yarrow Point  
Marian Bergey, Yarrow Point  
Ronni McGlenn, Yarrow Point  
Nelson Adams, Hunts Point  
Alane Moran, Hunts Point  
Mike Koss, Hunts Point



## Wetherill Nature Preserve

In the Preserve, visitors see the conscientious attachment to the land of several generations. What surprises new visitors are its vast acreage, the number of trails it offers, and the variety of birds and other animals that call the Preserve's undeveloped acreage their home.

### WNP Facts

*Did you know that...*

- 75+ trees were planted last year and nurtured in 2023.
- The Preserve has 5,020 feet of trails.
- 25 dying poplar trees were professionally taken down this Fall.
- 8 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> acres of Preserve wetland are designated as critical area.

### Entrance and Parking

The main entrance to the Preserve is located about halfway between Hunts Point and Yarrow Point, along the Points Loop Trail. Some parking is available at the Hunts Point Town Hall.

Please keep **dogs on leashes**. Enjoy your Preserve!

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## Donating is Easy!

You can donate by credit card via the Town of Yarrow Point's website:  
<https://yarrowpointwa.gov/wetherill-donations/>

Or by check made payable to:

**Wetherill Nature Preserve**  
c/o Town of Yarrow Point  
4030 95th Avenue NE  
Yarrow Point, WA 98004

Donations are tax deductible

**Thank You!**

## Donation Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

- I would like to make my contribution a memorial donation 'in memory of':

\_\_\_\_\_

- Yes, add me to your volunteer list

# Thank you Wetherill Nature Preserve Donors

## November 1, 2022 to October 31, 2023

### General Donations

Larry & Kelly Almeleh  
Joe & Kristina Belfiore  
David & Marian Bergey  
Marilyn & John Black  
Leslie Brewer & Arnold Blinn  
William G. Boettcher  
Ned & Jean Brockenbrough  
Jeanne & Leland Buse  
Ward & Julayne Bushnell  
Pete & Glenna Carroll  
Darryl & Pamela Pearce Carver  
John & Shanna Case  
Lin Cheng & Cheng Wei  
Dennis Chinn  
Kristina & Robert Clawson  
James Claypool  
Mark Colver & Moya Laigo  
Grady & Nancy Cunningham  
Paul & Nancy Daltas  
John & Therese Delaney  
John & Marlene Durbin  
Mary Elmore  
Sally & Gary Eastes  
Hamid Farhoosh & Homa Shirazi-Shad  
Patrick & Laurie Finnelly  
Brian & Krista Fleming  
Ted & Geri Frantz  
Jen Fuller  
Sue S. Gilbert  
Tom Goodenow  
Susanne & Scott Guthrie  
Katy & Holly Harris  
Randy & Melanie Hassler  
Monica & Wayne Hedden  
Jolie & Carl Hellings  
Richard & Marilyn Herzberg  
Kevin & Krista Hughes  
Suzanne Lile Hunter  
Richard & Aimee Jones  
Bruce & Joanne Jones  
Jun Yong Kim & Inae Tark  
Robert Kirkman & Gakyung Chung  
Dr. Thomas & Suzanne Knauss  
Michael Koss  
Michael & Karin Kuntz  
Vince & Wendy La Cava  
Denise Lane  
Janet & Michael Lawler  
Verne & Sharon Lawrence  
Carl Lombardi

Richard & Ruby Lyons  
Michael & Vilma McComsey  
Diane & Kirby McDonald  
Mary Lee McDougall  
Ronni & John McGlenn  
Sam & Jayne Minamoto  
Evan & Chelsea Moore  
Mary & Stuart Morrow  
Dan & Denise Niles  
Mike & Penny O'Byrne  
Rod & Janice Olson  
Pal Ottesen  
J.P. & Erika Pendergast  
Meg & Scott Penner  
Peter & Molly Powell  
Neville R. Ray  
Kerry Reid  
Satya & Rao Remala  
W. Thomas Richards  
Gregg & Cristina Riva  
Zach & Emily Roberts  
Peter & Julie Rose  
David & Sandra Sabey  
Joe & Anna Sabey  
Gregory & Carole Scallan  
Carl & Carole Scandella  
Leslie Schofield  
Seattle Garden Club –  
Conservation Committee  
Seattle Garden Club –  
Horticulture Committee  
Kass & Becky Sells  
Craig Shank & Meredith Stelling  
Gary Slotnik  
Debra Slye  
Fred & Sidonia St. Germaine  
Jo Ann & Hobie Stebbins  
Carl Sutter  
Bruce Tall  
Daniel Temkin  
Dave Thompson & Judy Jesiolowski  
Marc & Nancy Tollefson  
Mary Ellen & Jim Weber  
James L. Weymouth  
Art & Carolyn Whittlesey  
Robert & Peggy Wilkerson  
Sally S. Wright  
David & Barbara Young  
Chun Yuan & Tong Zhu

### Memorial Donations

Chris Baliga & Jean Hong –  
*In memory of Donald Miser*

Jan Deaton & Family –  
*In memory of Ted Deaton*

Alyssa Goldberg –  
*In memory of Bonnie Previte*

Diana Barton Lyons –  
*In memory of Jim & Mary Barton*

Alane Moran & Phil Crocker -  
*In memory of Kevin Cooney*

Ernest Norehad –  
*In memory of Judith Norehad*

Virginia Park –  
*In memory of Karin Bond*  
*In memory of Donald Nelles*

Donna Shannon –  
*In memory of Cheryl Cooney's*  
*mother, Betty*

Kathy J. Smith –  
*In memory of Lenore Lile*

Richard Smith –  
*In memory of Susan Clark Smith*

Bruce Sutherland –  
*In memory of Jean Sutherland*

