



CREOSOTE CLEARING SCHEDULED FOR COVE

By Judy Pickens

For more than a century, creosote was the go-to preservative for wooden pilings, docks, and floats. Eventually, large agencies stopped using it but it's still permitted for certain uses.

As structures deteriorate, tons of creosote debris finds its way into Puget Sound and onto its beaches, including in Fauntleroy Cove. Find a log on the beach with a hollowed-out center and it's likely been treated with the preservative.

Creosote is comprised of more than 300 chemicals. Pressure treating an 8-foot log requires about 8 gallons of the concoction. Some of those chemicals are bad news for marine species, especially when exposure to sunlight makes them even more toxic and even more likely to leach into the water.

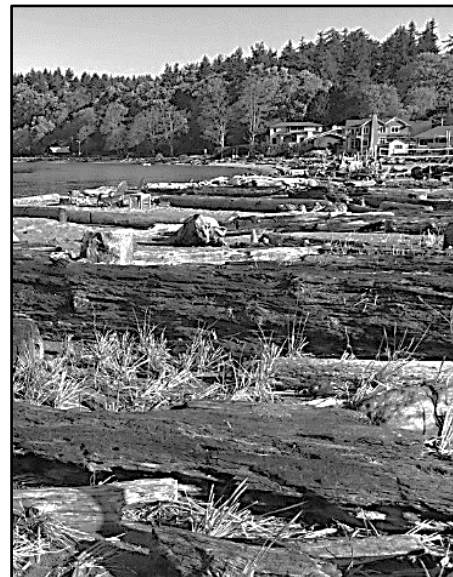
Juvenile salmon are among those species. Migrating through contaminated estuaries can stunt the growth of smolts and alter their immune function. When they eat contaminated prey and when larger species eat them, the toxicity

spreads up and down the food chain. Human health is at risk, too, when warm sunlight or beach fires release creosote chemicals into the air.

The State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) launched its creosote removal program in 2003 and since then has rid Puget Sound of more than 26,000 tons of creosote-treated wood, 291,000 square feet of treated overwater structures, and 6,770 tons of treated beach debris, and 25,000 pilings. According to DNR restoration specialist Kristian Tollefson, those pilings represent about 2.2 million gallons of liquid creosote.

Knowing a bit about the harmful effects of creosote and being concerned about Fauntleroy Creek coho, FCA President Mike Dey contacted DNR about having creosote logs removed from the cove and its beaches.

When Kristian visited in September, he saw a lot of debris to add to the state's tonnage. "He was very excited about the project because people with private beaches don't typically ask for the logs to be



removed," Mike said. "He saw a lot more of them at Lincoln Park."

Since then, Mike has been collecting permission signatures from fellow beachfront owners around the cove. Kristian expects DNR to start a series of periodic removals in January, as weather permits. Crews comprised of staff and AmeriCorps volunteers will remove the logs using landing craft, cut them into 4-foot sections, and take them to a landfill approved for creosote disposal.



Fire took this derelict West Seattle house to the ground in 2017 after squatters had caused two prior blazes. Photo courtesy West Seattle Blog

MONITORING OF VACANT BUILDINGS TO INCREASE

The budget approved Nov. 19 by the Seattle City Council included a funding proposal strongly supported by FCA to provide more monitoring of vacant buildings.

The line item sought by Councilmember Lisa Herbold will add three full-time inspectors to the vacant building monitoring program run by the Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections.

The city requires that owners secure and maintain vacant buildings to prevent deterioration and unauthorized entry. Those out of compliance are placed in the monitoring program and slated for quarterly inspection, at owner expense.

Complaints about vacant buildings rose 58 percent between 2013 and 2016, resulting in development of the program. A status report earlier this year led to development of the budget proposal.

According to city data, West Seattle has the highest number of vacant buildings and the lowest number being monitored. As a result, many become a public-safety nuisance, especially when occupied by squatters.

"FCA wrote in support of the proposal as we have at least two vacant houses here in Fauntleroy," said President Mike Dey. "We learned in mid November that the city had cleared squatters from one of them."

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A GOOD TIME WAS DEFINITELY HAD!

In perfect weather, an estimated 2,000 people came out for the 16th annual Fauntleroy Fall Festival on Oct. 21. Children decorated 800 pumpkins and built 200 birdhouses while hundreds of others enjoyed food, music, pony rides, the cake walk, a pie-eating contest, and much more, including an appearance by Elvis (Bret Wiggins).

Thanks to these generous sponsors and donors: \$5,000 Seattle Department of Neighborhoods grant, \$2,000 FCA, \$1,554 Endolyne Joe's dine-out event, \$1,642 dine-out raffle, \$1,000 YMCA, \$500 John L. Scott Realty, \$400 Fauntleroy Church, \$400 Little Pilgrim School, \$450 FCA members when paying dues, and \$800 festival attendees.

Photos courtesy Monika Ledman



MAKEOVER IN PROGRESS FOR 'FAUNTLEROY FLASH'

By Bill Wellington

As some of you know, FCA has long used a community email list made possible by the City of Seattle for sending the "Fauntleroy Flash." Historically, we've used this list to alert area residents to upcoming events, call attention to issues of concern, and promote FCA membership.



We are moving the Flash to MailChimp in order to increase our ability to tailor electronic mailings to segments of our community and to communicate with FCA members specifically. For instance, some people may appreciate hearing from us

through the Flash about their membership. Others might like to receive *Neighbors* that way; MailChimp will let us be that targeted.

To make this transition, we first copied email addresses from our membership database onto MailChimp. Unfortunately, our database did not have an email address for everyone who might have one, and several were unusable. Our next step was to use the Flash to ask members to confirm their address and select mailing preferences. Those who did not respond received a reminder in mid November.

We appreciate your cooperation (and patience!) as we complete this updating to improve FCA's communication with all our members.

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FAUNTLEROY CREEK HABITAT APPEALS TO COHO SPAWNERS; PLANTING WORK PARTY NEXT

The annual drumming to call in coho spawners to Fauntleroy Creek was Oct. 28 and the very next day, watchers documented the first six arrivals. When the watch ended Nov. 18, the tally of spawners stood at 18 - the most in four years.

The vigorous fish stayed near the fish ladder in the lower creek. Three spots are marked to monitor in a few weeks for emerging fry, signaling successful spawning.

The season brought nearly 100 students from two area schools to the creek, plus a total of 240 visitors. Half came during two weekend "open creeks" and the 16 watch volunteers invited the rest down from the fish-ladder viewpoint for a closer look.

Next up for local volunteers will be distributing eyed eggs in early January to 14 West Seattle schools for students to rear and release as fry in May.

By spring, the 200 native plants to be installed soon near the fish ladder should be showing new growth. Volunteers will plant them in the flat portion of the 12,550 sf open-space parcel there. That work party will complement extensive contractor planting through March of the remainder of the steeply sloped site. Restoration is being coordinated by the Green Seattle Partnership.



This coho spawner in a hurry was one of 18 on Fauntleroy Creek this fall. Photo courtesy Mark Ahlness

STEWARDSHIP FUND GROWING

By mid November, the Fauntleroy Watershed Stewardship Fund launched in March had grown to \$8,925 in donations.

The money will be used to preserve restored habitat, upgrade instream structures to withstand heavy flows, improve student safety, and renew vegetation on eroded streambanks.

To learn how to make a tax-deductible legacy donation, visit www.fauntleroywatershed.org/donate.

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SEAWALL PROJECT ON THE MOVE

In May 2017, Seattle Parks and Recreation hosted an open house about the future of the seawall at Lowman Beach Park. Now the project is about to move into detailed consideration of the most feasible options for what to do.

The original Depression-era structure failed and was replaced in the early 1950s by a 250 ft. wall. It began to fail in the mid 1990s and the city removed the south half. In 2015 when the remaining 130-ft. section was noticeably cracking and tilting, the city initiated a process to identify possible options and get public input.

Project lead David Graves is finalizing the contract for the design/engineering team that will examine the most promising possibilities in detail. This phase of what could be a \$2 million project will include getting more input from the community early in the new year.

Watch the *West Seattle Blog* for notice of the public meeting or track progress at www.seattle.gov/parks/find/parkslowman-beach-park. For specific questions about the project, email david.graves@seattle.gov or call him at 206-684-7048.



The cracked and tilting seawall at Lowman Beach Park is allowing erosion. Photo courtesy Seattle Parks





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BUSINESS NOTES

Wildwood Market will host its festive “**Blithe Bazaar**” on **Sunday, Dec. 9, 4 - 8 pm**. Expect to be tempted by tasty refreshments and gift ideas offered by upwards of 10 artists who will be showing and selling their work. Details at <https://wildwoodwestseattle.com> or just stop by.

Beginning in February, long-time instructor Pamela Phillips Blevins will offer an all-level **Pilates mat class** at the Fauntleroy Schoolhouse Community Center every **Wednesday from 6:30 to 7:30 pm** in Room 4. For details and to pre-register, call 206-890-6802 or email bodybalance3@hotmail.com.



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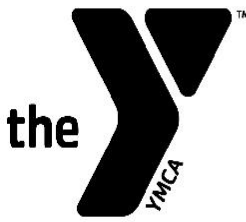
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COMMUNITY EVENTS NOT TAKING A WINTER BREAK

After the holiday frenzy, the pace of community events slows but keep an eye out for additional reasons to brave the rain to see your neighbors.

SANTA PHOTOS: Gail Ann Wodzin (aka Gail Ann Photography) will be at the Fauntleroy Schoolhouse Community Center on **Sat., Dec. 8,** and **Sun., Dec. 9, (9 am - 4 pm each day)** for photos with the jolly man himself. Walk in with two-legged or four-legged family members or friends or book an appointment: gail@gailannphotography.com or 206-371-0585.

LINCOLN LOVERS: Show your love of the park's urban forest by joining **Friends of Lincoln Park** for work parties on the **first Saturdays (Jan. 5, Feb. 2, March 2)** and/or **third Sundays (Jan. 20, Feb. 17, March 17)** of the month. Muster at the kiosk in the north parking lot at **9 am** with sturdy shoes, long pants, work gloves, and water. Contact Sharon Baker at sabaker41@gmail.com or 206-464-1068.

COMMUNITY BUSINESS: The FCA Board invites residents to its monthly business meeting **on second Tuesdays (Jan. 8, Feb. 12, March 12)** at **7 pm** in the boardroom at the Fauntleroy Schoolhouse Community Center. Contact FCA President Mike Dey about the agenda at msdey50@aol.com or 206-661-0673.

FAUNTLEROY WATERSHED COUNCIL: Residents wanting to help steward natural areas in the neighborhood are welcome **Thursday, Jan. 10 and March 14 7 pm** at Fauntleroy Church. Contact judy_pickens@msn.com or 206-938-4203.

FOR THE BIRDS: Bird lovers of all ages and knowledge levels are invited to join Audubon volunteers for the monthly bird survey in Lincoln Park on second Sundays (**Jan. 13, Feb. 10, March 10**), starting at **9 am** at the kiosk in the north parking lot. For details and to enroll, email Neighborhood Bird Project leader Kersti Muul at kersti.e.muul@gmail.com.

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MUSIC OF THE SEASON

Two concerts will bring music of the holiday season to the neighborhood and both are free.

The South Seattle College Community Choir will be performing in the Fauntleroy Church sanctuary on **Sunday, Dec. 9, at 7 pm** under the direction of John Lehrack and Bronwyn Edwards.

Bron will be back with baton in hand on **Sunday, Dec. 16,** when the combined choirs of Peace Lutheran Church and Fauntleroy Church perform at **4 pm** in the sanctuary. The program will feature diverse styles of music with an emphasis on jubilant alleluias. Expect guest musicians and carol singing for all.

SOUTHWEST PRECINCT OFFERS FREE SERVICES TO DETER THEFT

Of the 174 crimes reported to date this year in Fauntleroy, 160 were property related. The Southwest Precinct offers two free services that could help you avoid joining the list of victims.

One is free rental of a professional engraver to mark such things as bicycles and electronics with an identifying number of your choice. If a marked item is stolen, the police will use that number to try to recover your property.

To borrow an engraver, stop by the precinct (2300 SW Webster) and speak with the desk officer. Someone is on duty 24/7.

Two is a free residential or commercial safety/security assessment to help you decide about investing in some kind of system. Simply contact Jennifer Danner, crime prevention coordinator for the precinct, to schedule, reach her at 206-256-6820 or jennifer.danner@seattle.gov.

Also email her if you'd like a household inventory form to fill out and keep in a safe place. In the event of a theft, having details at hand will greatly aid an investigation.




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YOUR BEHIND-THE-SCENES INPUT CRITICAL, APPRECIATED

By FCA President Mike Dey

As we enter the season when we are reminded to give thanks, it's appropriate for me to thank those many volunteers who contribute to FCA's work.

I have previously highlighted the time and energy put in by those who give in a public way - board members, fall festival volunteers, newsletter mailers, helpers at the annual meeting and food fest, tenders of the planters in the Endolyne triangle, and so on.

Now I put the spotlight on those many neighbors and members who act behind the scenes to speak out on issues.

Over the years we have had local issues where neighborhood input proved essential to a positive outcome for this community and, by example, for others. Some of you will recall the attempt in the 1980s to expand the ferry dock; many of you will recall the more recent attempt to install a commercial zipline in Lincoln Park. We repelled both by being informed and vocal.

Current issues where we've asked you to speak out include Mandatory Housing Affordability and Housing Affordability and Livability proposals and draft zoning changes related to accessory dwelling units. Many of you

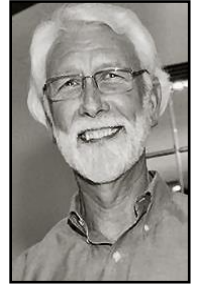
have responded and, by stating your opinions, you shaped the framework for our collective feedback to the city as a community association. Thank you all.

I frequently get notes from Councilmember Lisa Herbold thanking us for our input. Hearing what you want to happen makes her job easier; she doesn't have to guess or succumb to pressure to support other councilmembers' positions.

We have not seen the end of housing-related proposals and we know others are coming. Resolving them is very difficult and deciding the details of implementing them will be, too.

Then we have the ferry system's proposed long-range plan, which will include replacing the dock here. Your input will be critical if the state and our elected officials are to know what you want.

I realize that being engaged takes time but it does make a difference. Thanks to each of you who has made your voice heard and who stands ready to do it again and again on behalf of our community.



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