



Students and staff from Urban Nature Preschool were among the hundreds visitors who came to see spawners move through the fish ladder. Photo by Tom Trulin

ANOTHER RECORD YEAR FOR COHO SPAWNERS IN FAUNTLEROY CREEK

By Judy Pickens

No one expected lightning to strike two years in a row but it did this fall when coho spawners again came into Fauntleroy Creek in record numbers.

The final count was 254, compared with 244 last year and the all-time high of 274 in 2012.

"After a big year, we expected a low count," said chief salmon watcher Dennis Hinton. "The forecast was for a large return to the Sound, but we never thought this small creek would attract so many a second year in a row."

The annual drumming to call in spawners initiated the watch on Oct. 16. After a major rain, fish started arriving in the lower creek on Oct. 24 and kept coming until Nov. 14. The watch ended a week later.

Two dozen volunteer watchers faithfully counted, pinpointed spawning, and documented fish condition. They also talked salmon, habitat, and stewardship with 440 visitors, including during a Saturday open creek hosted by the Fauntleroy Watershed Council. Among the visitors were children who had reared fry for release in the creek through the Salmon in the Schools program.

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PETITION OPPOSING FERRY TERMINAL EXPANSION HEADING TO CITY COUNCIL

By FCA President Mike Dey

For several weeks, the FCA Board along with interested neighbors and others in the West Seattle community have been collecting signatures on a petition to the City Council concerning potential expansion of the Fauntleroy ferry dock.

The petition asks the current City Council to reaffirm Resolution 29566 unanimously passed in 1997 by the then City Council. This resolution specifically states:

"The City of Seattle hereby requests that the Washington State Ferries initiate no expansion of the Fauntleroy Ferry dock and that the Washington State Ferries take all practicable steps to reduce the existing ferry traffic and mitigate the impacts of the ferry dock on the surrounding neighborhood."

To date, we have over 600 signatures and are continuing to collect more to reinforce that the future of this terminal is a concern not only of Fauntleroy but also of greater West Seattle and even the entire city. We initiated this petition to send a loud-and-clear message to the ferry system that any plan to expand the dock will be met with a great deal of resistance.

We understand that the ferry system has received about 450 comments from residents of Vashon, Southworth, and Fauntleroy on potential dock expansion, with about half supporting it and half opposing it. If this debate hinges on numbers, residents of the west side of the Sound are decidedly in the minority when compared to the residents of the east side.

We have consistently supported upgrading for seismic safety, raising the structure for sea-level rise, and replacing closely spaced creosote pilings and we have consistently opposed expansion.

We'll convey petition signatures to the City Council soon. If you haven't signed but would like to, email me at msdey50@aol.com and I'll bring it by for you to sign.

FCA'S POSITION ON TERMINAL UPGRADE

The FCA Board's position is **YES to efficiency, YES to safety, and NO to expansion.**

Efficient pre-ticketing and automated toll collection would fill the dock with cars ready to board at peak times. Efficient transit connections would reduce the number of cars. Both would improve customer service.

Strengthening the dock for seismic stability and elevating it for sea-level rise would improve safety for ferry users and crew.

Expanding the terminal by enlarging the dock or adding a second slip would degrade nearshore habitat by increasing over-water coverage. Neither would get any more passengers to their destinations faster.



(Above) One hundred forty children decorated salmon hats with the Fauntleroy Watershed Council. **(Below)** U.S. Rep. Pamila Jayapal greeted constituents, including festival volunteer Ben Weagraff.

Among the many volunteers who staffed the festival, Gordy Mandt nailed the art of helping youngsters assemble their birdhouses. *Photos by Sarah Weagraff*

The Fauntleroy Fall Festival returned to its pre-pandemic bustle of activity on Oct. 23, with FCA reporter Ben Weagraff reporting an estimated 2,000 people in attendance.

Kids and adults enjoyed a full slate of activities in and around Fauntleroy Church and the Fauntleroy Schoolhouse, including painting pumpkins, bouncing and sliding on blow-up structures, petting bunnies, walking for cakes, and eating pies competitively.

Fueled by food and beverages from FCA partners DSquared Catering, Endolyn Joe's, Wildwood Market, and others, festival goers reveled in dry fall weather to reconnect with neighbors and meet newcomers to the neighborhood.

The 2023 edition will be Sunday, **Oct. 15!**

NEIGHBORHOOD EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS HAS NEW MANAGER

If you were at the Fauntleroy Fall Festival, you may have noticed a changing of the guard at the emergency-preparedness table.

Chris Jaramillo recently replaced Cindi Barker and Gordon Wiehler as area manager. Both will be available to consult with Chris, and Cindi will continue as the City of Seattle's contact for this neighborhood.



Emergency preparedness area manager Chris Jaramillo. Photo courtesy West Seattle Blog

Fauntleroy is one of 12 hubs in West Seattle that will work together in the event of a major emergency. Chris is now responsible for making sure that residents know that the Fauntleroy Church upper parking lot is this neighborhood's meet-up point. Residents would convene at this hub to seek first aid, share information, pool resources, and solve problems until emergency responders can take charge.

Chris is manager of the King County Office of Cable Communications and a long-time Fauntleroy resident.

To learn more, visit the website specific to the hub network - seattleemergencyhubs.org/. Contact Chris at chris.jaramillo@kingcounty.gov or 206-932-2201.



CHRISTMAS EVE
4:00, 7:00, 11:00 PM

*All services will be in person.
7:00 will be streamed on YouTube;
see website for details.*

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FROM PAST TO PRESENT

HOW FAUNTLEROY'S NOT-SO-WELL-KNOWN PARKS CAME TO BE

By Judy Pickens

Everyone in this neighborhood likely knows about Lincoln, Fauntleroy, and Cove parks. But we have more! Read on to learn about the parks that pale in comparison and how they came to be.

Colman Triangle Park

Fauntleroy's tiniest park is named for a daughter of Laurence and Ida Colman, one of the earliest families to establish year-round residence in Fauntleroy and co-founders of Fauntleroy Church. Katharine was an invalid most of her life, such that her parents asked architect Arthur Loveless to include



**Katharine Colman
1898-1925**



an elevator when he designed the historic family home in Lauretide.

After her early death, her father saw to it that the 0.11 acre point at the northwest

corner of the church grounds became an official city park. Volunteers maintain it as part of the church landscape.

Kilbourne Park

This 0.79-acre natural city park is in the southeast corner of the ravine that conveys the middle reach of Fauntleroy Creek, opposite the south wall of the Fauntleroy schoolhouse.

Dr. Edward C. Kilbourne, a dentist, gifted the parcel to the city in 1951 in hopes that it would become an amphitheater. It remained in its native state,



**Edward Kilbourne
1856-1959**

however, except that a ledge envisioned for audience seating was carved into the south slope.

The dentist never lived in early Fauntleroy but he joined others in developing the residential



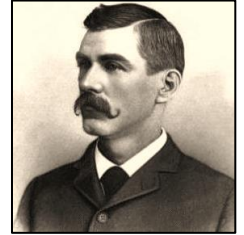
neighborhood, most notably advocating for extension of electrical lighting and streetcar service to the area.

Kilbourne was also a force behind establishment of the Seattle YMCA and what became the Fauntleroy YMCA. His other lasting mark here is Kilbourne Court SW near 45th Ave. SW and SW Roxbury.

A few years ago, the Fauntleroy Watershed Council used grant money to restore habitat in the Kilbourne ravine. Seattle Parks looks after the park portion, and the council uses donations to its stewardship fund for annual maintenance of the rest, including undeveloped city right of way through the base of the ravine..

Lowman Beach Park

The Yesler Logging Company, James D. Lowman, president, gave this 1.6-acre parcel to the city in 1909. Originally named Lincoln Beach, it was renamed in 1925 to avoid confusion with Lincoln Park to the south.



**James Lowman
1856-1947**

Claimed by both Fauntleroy and Morgan Junction neighborhoods, Lowman Beach

Park was the first Seattle park to front Puget Sound. A recent project removed the last of a 1926 seawall to restore the park's natural shoreline.

Lowman came to Seattle in 1877 to work for his uncle, Henry Yesler, who would count on his nephew the rest of his life to rescue him from dire financial straits.

The young man soon was able to purchase a half-interest in a bookstore, then bought out his partner and joined with a printer to form Lowman-Hanford Stationery and Printing Company. The business printed all the city's newspapers and also equipped the growing city with typewriters, sewing machines, pianos, and organs.



When the Great Fire broke out in 1889, Lowman quickly moved the presses to his home out of harm's way. The business was soon up and running again and profited from selling to gold-rush hopefuls headed to the Klondike.

Shortly after the fire, Lowman founded the Seattle Steam Heat & Power Company, which laid pipes under streets to provide essential

(continued next page)

steam and hot water as the city rose from the ashes.

Lowman went on to figure in consolidation of Seattle's electric streetcar lines and to serve one term as a park commissioner. His contributions to rebuilding downtown include the 10-story Lowman Building in Pioneer Square, now housing studio apartments.

Captain's Park

This strip of green space is along upper Fauntleroy Way SW. The bluff overlooking the Fauntleroy Ferry Terminal between SW Henderson and SW Director is city property but Morey Skaret maintained it as a vantage point for everyone in the neighborhood.



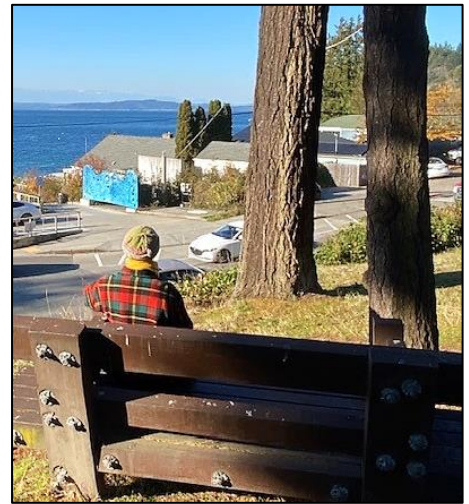
**Morey Skaret
1913-2014**

In 1912, voters rejected Virgil G. Bogue's comprehensive plan for redesign of Seattle. It called for this strip of land to be part of a narrow park corridor extending south from Lincoln Park to about SW 100th. Instead, was left alone as minimally landscaped city property cared for by nearby residents.

A World War II veteran of the Coast Guard, Skaret well knew the skills required to captain a ship. The "Captains Park" sign he tacked to a tree on the strip was

his way of honoring the ferry captains who daily traverse the triangle route.

Skaret lived on the bluff for 74 years, and the rustic bench he built there was where he often entertained anyone who happened by with stories of his adventurous life.



After his passing at age 100, the original "Captain's Park" sign rotted away. When neighbors replaced it, they decided to add an apostrophe in remembrance of a great storyteller.



Sources: *HistoryLink*; *West Side Story*; *Museum of History and Industry*; *Don Sherwood Park History Sheets*

All park photos courtesy of Tom Trulin

HELP DEVELOP CITY'S 2024 PLAN FOR PARKS, OPEN SPACE

Seattle Parks and Recreation is offering two ways to help develop the city's 2024 Parks and Open Space Plan. The department updates this plan every six years to align acquisitions and capital projects with priorities.

One way to participate is to take the five-minute survey at seattle.surveymonkey.com/r/2WK9WHW between now and Jan. 31.

The other is to attend a comprehensive-plan meeting on Thursday, Dec. 8, 6:00-8:00 pm in the Brockey Center at South Seattle College. The meeting will solicit input about where to locate housing and jobs, as well as where and how to invest in transportation, utilities, parks, and other public assets.

Visit seattle.gov/parks/about-us/projects/2024-parks-and-open-space-plan for details about this planning process.

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- Fauntleroy Church, United Church of Christ
- Fauntleroy Community Service Agency & Fauntleroy Children's Center
- Friends of Lincoln Park
- Garden Coaching Solutions
- HomeStreet Bank
- Kamila Kennedy Homes
- Kimberly Terry, Evergreen Home Loans
- Pia VanHanan, Keller Williams Realty
- Pilates at Fauntleroy
- Sky Printing
- South Tacoma Way, LLC
- Synergy Homecare
- The Kenney Retirement Community
- The Unsweetened Tooth
- Treg Organic Salon LLC
- Trutech Wildlife Service
- West Seattle & Fauntleroy YMCA
- West Seattle Blog
- Wildwood Market

SPAWNERS (continued)

While some spawners could have originated here, Dennis said that many of the extra-large fish had likely been released as smolts by fish hatcheries and had sought a creek or river that smelled like it would provide a healthy habitat for the next generation.

Most spawners stayed low in the system, near the fish ladder. Volunteers documented about a half dozen spawners as far up as 45th Ave. SW, where a culvert blocked passage farther upstream.

With so many fish, late arrivals dug up the redds of earlier fish. The eggs they set adrift benefited birds and cutthroat trout eager for a meal.

Why such a large number of spawners is open to speculation. Dennis gave great credit, however, to the volunteers who kept the mouth of the creek clear of drift logs. Mark Sears led a work party to relocate logs jammed into the sand and kept watch daily to be sure spawners continued to have access.

For more about salmon in Fautleroy Creek, visit fautleroywatershed.org.

200 PUMPKINS FOUND HIDING

FCA's "Great Pumpkin Search" on Oct. 8 went off without a hitch as 70+ hunters discovered all 200 pumpkins hidden by volunteers. Some had gifts attached, including a special one donated by Avalon Glassworks.

Candace Blue led the project, with Susan Lantz-Dey always close at hand to advise. Frank Immel set up tables and assisted all day. Paulette Eister, Claudia Levi, Catherine Bailey hid pumpkins, as did Loren, MacKenzie, and Philip Tapia. Scott Wiesemann scouted where hunters might still find their prey.

The West Seattle Chamber of Commerce and the *West Seattle Blog* helped with publicity. Endolyn Joe's and Wildwood Market pitched in, as did El Camion when the bag supply for hunters ran low.

ON THE CALENDAR

HOLIDAY PORTRAITS: Gail Ann's pop-up photo studio will be back in the Fautleroy Schoolhouse **Dec. 3 - 18** for holiday portraits. Email gail@gailannphotography.com to make an appointment for yourself or family members (including pets). \$55 plus donation of people or pet food.

FCA BUSINESS MEETINGS: Any resident is welcome to attend FCA business meetings on Tuesday, **Jan. 10, Feb. 14, or March 14**, starting at **7 pm** on Zoom or in person at the Fautleroy Schoolhouse. Email FCA President Mike Dey (msdey50@aol.com) to receive the Zoom link.

FOOD FEST: Mark your calendar for this spring get-together on **Tuesday, March 21**, in the Hall @ Fautleroy!

TIME TO RENEW FCA MEMBERSHIP

After a fruitful year of neighborhood advocacy, plus a welcome return of major pre-pandemic events, it's time to renew your FCA membership. Renew **by Dec. 31** at fautleroy.net/membership.

The website gives you the option of subscribing for automatic annual renewal. If you're already on automatic renewal, you don't have to do anything.



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NO REST FOR FCA BOARD NEAR CLOSE OF PRODUCTIVE YEAR

By FCA President Mike Dey

As we wrap up this year, I am thrilled to be watching our society and the world open up again for visits to friends and family, as well as travel. Let's hope we get through the winter months free of serious illness.

The work of the FCA Board, however, hasn't ended for the year. In addition to staying focused on the ferry-terminal upgrade, we'll soon have a walk-around with Greg Spotts, the Seattle Department of Transportation's new director. We intend to emphasize traffic volume and speed on Fauntleroy Way SW and efforts to improve pedestrian safety there. We'll also bring up the traffic snarls and hot tempers that often accompany rush-hour congestion at the ferry terminal.

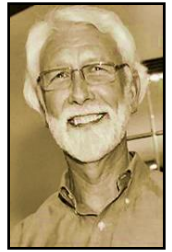
Another emphasis will be the work the city has done to try to increase pedestrian safety in the Endolynne business area, as well as tweaks to reconfiguring SW Brace Point Drive. We'll cap the tour at the schoolhouse/church pedestrian crossing and concerns about speeding, especially given that so many children are in that area.

The work FCA gets done is by engaged residents who volunteer in many ways to make Fauntleroy a wonderful place to live and raise children. I'll highlight just a few.

Sidney Hammerquist recently stepped down from the FCA Board, where she made a huge contribution to increasing FCA awareness and membership. Nils von Veh served as secretary and, while remaining on the board, has stepped down; Kris Ilgenfritz has replaced him in that role.

Diana Spence is our newest board member. A long-time resident of West Seattle, she recently retired from Boeing. Diana also volunteers on environmental and immigration issues in this area.

My sincerest thank you to all these great people and the other board members who continue to do so much for our community.



FCA LEADERSHIP

Mike Dey, president; 206-661-0673

Catherine Bailey, vice president

Alexis Zolner, treasurer; 206-935-6721

Kris Ilgenfritz, secretary

Bruce Butterfield Alan Grainger

David Haggerty Frank Immel Susan Lantz-Dey

Nils von Veh Diana Spence Bill Wellington

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