

The Theler Times

Periodically #2 Spring 2010 * www.Thelercenter.com *

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Thoughts on Theler

By Mel Coffman, President of the Board of Directors

In my first article of *The Theler Times* I brought you up to speed on our *Brick-to-Brick Project* and the new landscaping at the Theler Center. Since that publication many things have happened. We have installed almost all of our thirteen new windows, thanks to several volunteers and Doug Womack, one of our board members. We have also installed a retaining wall on the east side of the parking lot. Both the windows and the manor stones for the wall were purchased from *Brick-to-Brick Project* sales. These improvements have happened in just a few months. We selected two new candidates, out of five applicants, to fill the two vacant positions on the Theler Board. Both were approved by the NM School Board and we are very excited to have Karri Hohmann and Fay Marley-Clarke as part of our board.

I continue to be amazed at how the community has come together in support of the Theler Center. The donations from "*Friends of Theler*" and the volunteers who devote countless hours have helped to make our Community Center a place we can all be proud of. As you may know, two years ago the Trustees of the Theler Trust eliminated the thirty thousand dollars that was paid to the Center each year. This obviously was a devastating blow but we have survived thanks to our community and to Anne Whitman, our general manager. We look back over the last years with pride and to the future's exciting plans.

Strategic Planning

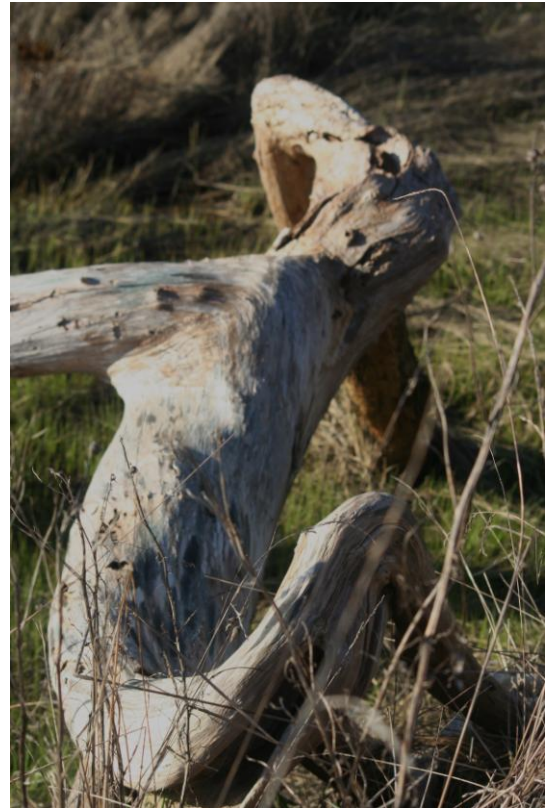
In my last column, I said that in a future article, I would bring you on board about the goals and plans for future Theler Wetlands and Community Center. Here is a synopsis. At the Strategic Planning Meeting conducted *pro bono* by Marcia Hamilton for the Theler Center in January 2010, the Board did a series of analyses. These included (1) an *Achievement Analysis* (which looked at accomplishments over the last two years); (2) a *Situation Profile* (which examined the current situation); (3) a *Vision of Theler's Future* answering the question, "What do we want Theler to be three years from now?" (4) Actions needed now to achieve that vision and (5) Costs and Budgeting. The Board came up with the following strategic objectives.

Theler Center Strategic Objectives

By the end of 2013 the Theler Center is a well-known, well-used and well-coming place in the Community.

The seven-member Theler Board is a positive, forward-thinking team.
The staff is well compensated, skilled, loyal and not overworked.
Theler has an ample, enthusiastic, active, coordinated pool of volunteers.
The facility is improved to facilitate classy functions.
The grounds are improved to enhance aesthetic appeal.
Wetlands Trail maintenance is supported.
The Community has a positive attitude towards Theler.
Quality events are held that reach preset goals, are profitable and successful.
Theler finances continue to be stable.

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**Driftwood Dragon along the Wetlands Trail
—Denny Hamilton**

Upcoming Theler Events 2010

July 17	Xmas in July BINGO Wine tasting
August 20	Jamboree Berry picking
September	Mystery Dinner and Special Event
October	Trick or Treat on the Trails
November	Xmas Tree Auction
December	Holiday Vendor Fair

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....from the President of the Board

The Board also came up with actions under each objective needed to achieve it and some of them have already been initiated. They include: publication of this *Theler Newsletter*; the recruiting and election of two new board members; the hiring of a volunteer coordinator, the evaluation of staff, and the planning of one key event per month.

Summer Parco, our new volunteer coordinator is actively working on establishing a "Friends of Theler" volunteer group to help with events, as well as maintain and beautify the grounds outside and the rooms inside the building. We also planned a year of fun-raising and fundraising events. Including the *Theler Cookbook* (See below, it's here), Sweethearts Dinner, Friends of Theler, Easter Egg Hunt, Health Fest, Mystery Dinner, Xmas in July, Blackberry Jamboree, Pig Roast, Trick or Treat on the Trails, Fall Mystery Dinner and Xmas Tree Auction and Holiday Vendor Fair. Come in to visit any time. You are most welcome.

"The Cookbooks Are Here!"

By Margi Kenny

The cookbooks are here! The cookbooks are here! After much ado, the Theler Center is happy to let you know that the cookbooks are completed and available for \$12 at the Center. Most people who reserved books have already been contacted and have purchased theirs. 200 were printed, so get them quickly. You can call the Theler Center at 275-4898.

Dozens of people contributed recipes. There are even two recipes from Mary E. Theler reprinted from the 1977, "A Country Cookbook" published that year as a fundraiser. Many recipes reflect the cooking skills of our community members utilizing the wonderful fish and shellfish from our region. Several businesses purchased ads to help defray the publishing cost. Thank you Faith in Action, North Mason Chamber of Commerce, Gibson Construction, Custom Concrete, Coalition of Churches and Community of North Mason, TAP, Mason County Fire District #2, Top dog Etiquette, Arnold & Smith Insurance Agency and KMAS Radio. Thanks to you all for your support.



Purchase your cookbook today!
Why not give this lovely gift for Mother's Day!

Jam Packed

By Marcia Hamilton

Our idea to make special Theler Wetlands Blackberry Jam came to fruition (pun intended) when Katie Ladner, Teri Jelink and I made the jam. Katie's kids labeled it, and Linda Taylor came up with the idea to display it on a cart. The jam was gobbled up, lickity split! What is left (and there isn't much!) of the 2009 first edition batch is what you see in the picture of the jam cart below—less than 20 jars. And it's still only \$5.00!

Since it was such a success, we are going forward with a Wetlands Blackberry Community Jamboree (Get it?) on August 20. We will begin picking when the berries are ripe and will invite the entire community to come to the Wetlands for a day of berry picking, hot dogs, hamburgers and music! Mark your calendars for August 20,



The Jam Cart is jam packed with Theler Wetlands Wild Blackberry Jam 2009

The wild evergreen black berries used to make this jam were handpicked in the Theler Wetlands in September 2009 and made into jam in the Theler Center's commercial kitchen. The bushes grow about a mile down the trail. They are distinguished from the Himalaya berries not only by their leaves, but by their distinctive taste. Only pectin, sugar and lemon have been added to the berries.

Introducing the Theler Board

Mel Coffman, President of the Board, retired from the Washington State Patrol after a 28-year career. Within a month of retirement he took a position as Injury Prevention Coordinator for the North Central Trauma Care Council in Wenatchee. He retired from that position after eight years. He and his wife of 44 years have two daughters and four grand children. Both daughters live local in Paulsbo and Belfair. He has many projects around the house that Blue Eyes (wife) keeps him busy. Volunteering in the local community also takes much of his time. He has been heard to say that he might have to get a job to get some rest.

Katie Ladner has lived in Belfair for over 16 years with her husband, Chris Ladner, and two children, Ben and Maya. Her background is in Public Health Nutrition. She has worked for WIC and taught childbirth classes. Katie currently spends her time at her working/hobby farm where she has many animals and a large garden. She volunteers as much as she can and enjoys being outdoors.

Doug Womack and his wife Julie moved to Belfair in 1995, they have two children that attend North Mason School District. He is a veteran from the US army, and is employed by Kitsap Garage Door, he was elected to the Board of Directors of The Pierce County Master Builders Association. Doug joined the Theler Board of Directors in 2009.

Margi Kenny is in her third year as the secretary of the Theler Board of Director's. She has lived in the Belfair area since 1976 and is a graduate of North Mason High School. Her three children, Brian, Shauna and Jason Veitch were raised in Belfair and are also graduates of North Mason High School. She states it has been a lovely place to raise her children. margikenny@yahoo.com

Marcia Hamilton is the international management consultant and coach who developed *LOOP* as a personal planning tool. Over the last 30 years, as a GTZ certified facilitator, strategic planner and counselor, she has designed, conducted, and written training programs and projects in the US, Africa, Asia and Europe. She runs Training Associates Pacific with her husband and business partner, Denny Hamilton, out of their Tiger Lake home. www.tap-traininigassociatespacific.com.

Karri Hohmann, married, mother of three has lived in Belfair for 40 years. Her background includes sales and education. She has been involved in various children's groups in the area. Currently Karri is in the process of becoming a licensed Real estate agent with Reid Realty in Belfair. Her passions are working with kids, community and helping to create a better world.

Fay Marley-Clarke, is an award-winning international photographer who has traveled the world photographing people from varied backgrounds and cultures. She was lured from her home in Scottsdale, AZ to Belfair, WA by two new grandsons and the beauty of the Puget Sound where her new studio in Belfair has with beach access to Hood Canal. "What a fabulous place to shoot in", says Fay, "...I am feeling spoiled with all this beautiful light and soft clouds." www.AlwaysElegancePhotography.com

A Birds –Eye View of Who’s Who at Theler

360-275-4898

www.Thelercenter.org



Bird House Reflection
(Denny Hamilton.)

This birdhouse is about ¼ mile down the trail and often has ducks swimming under in the pond below.

Theler Staff

Anne Whitman....Executive Director
Linda Taylor.....Admin Coordinator
Cindy Perry.....Custodian
Dave George.....On Site Security
Summer Parco....Volunteer Coordinator

Theler Board Members 2010

Mel Coffman, Board Chair
Marcia Hamilton
Karri Hohmann
Margi Kenny (resigned May 2010)
Katie Ladner
Fay Marley-Clarke
Doug Womack
Karen Horniak (new to the Board, May 2010)

Theler Center Events

Weekly

Mon & Wed	Zumba (pm)
Wed & Fri	Zumba (am)
Tue & Thurs	Senior Nutrition
Tue & Thurs	NM Senior Association social
Tue & Thurs	Blue Dragons Martial Arts
Tue & Thurs	Fitness Training
Thurs	Tot Time
Thurs	Girl Scouts
Thurs	Cub Scouts (temp)

Monthly

1st Sun	Hood Canal Metal Detectors
1st Tue	Theler work-study
2nd Tue	Theler BOD
2nd & 4th Wed	Shotokan Martial Arts
4th Wed	Chamber of Commerce Lunch
3rd Thurs	Faith in Action BOD
Last Sunday	Sunday Supper



*From the Desk of
Theler Director,
Anne Whitman*

It's starting to look like spring has sprung around Theler, the first sign I look for is the Magnolia tree, or as I called it as a child, Tulip tree, to bloom out

This year spring had a new look on Easter! We have very egg-citing news! Theler hosted the egg-stravaganza on Easter Day! For a month, volunteers (thank you Art, Gus, ladies, Linda) feverishly stuffed some 40,000 Easter eggs with candy for the big day! About 1000 moms, dads and kids came and picked up eggs to the tune of "Here comes Peter Cottontail" and other favorites. The excitement was high. I am sure that I will be dreaming of eggs for many months...LOL.



The picture above was taken by our new Board member who also happens to be a great photographer—Fay Marley-Clarke www.AlwaysElegancePhotography.com).

Can you guess who the Easter Bunny is? And who is the little boy sitting in the Bunny's lap? The child smiled widely, put out his arms and said, 'Hi, Easter Bunny

We will also continue the tradition of our (now 5th) annual Walk for the Wetlands—a pledge walk whose proceeds help fund Center activities and maintain the Wetland Trails and its accompanying event—the 2nd Annual Health Fest—which both took place on May 8th.

In the new year we said good-by to Tim Wing and Harry Martin as board members. We will miss them very much and we thank them all for their continued support. We now welcome Karri Hohmann and Fay Marley-Clarke to our Board of Directors and look forward to working with them. And I am also excited about the newest addition to our staff, Summer Parco, our "Zumba" instructor who is taking on the Volunteer coordinator position. I am sure her infectious enthusiasm will get you to volunteer for one of our many projects or events.

Looking back at 2009, I am proud to say that we stayed within our Theler budget of \$116,000.00 and still managed to discount \$135,000.00 of rent to various community groups and agencies for the benefit of our North Mason Community! We are also delighted that the trail saw some 200,000 visitor/walkers and we had 60,000 people come through the front doors of our little community center! It is hard to believe we have that many people come to Theler each year.

And then, last year, because so many companies and people donated time, energy and materials, we were able to purchase new, double-paned, insulated windows and get them installed—and complete the landscape project to create a new home for all of our Bricks in the "Brick by Brick Project!" (By the way, we do still have a few blank bricks available so you may call the office or stop in for an order form.) See you around town!

Stop in to see us at Theler any time! In fact we are proud to announce that new to the Theler center on the green, is a volleyball net available for community use. The volleyballs are available for use during office hours. Come and enjoy!

Anne Whitman

P.S. Help us be green. Send us your email address for future "Theler Times" issues (periodically). theler@hctc.com

“Founding Friends of Theler”

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 Stephen Andrewski
 Dorothy & Hans Ariens
 Joan Armitage
 Vicky Backus
 Beau & Brittany Bakken
 American Marine Bank
 Jim Barrett
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 Mary Jo Cady
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 Gordon Johnson
 Jack & Kathy Johnson
 Mark & Susan Johnson
 Marla Johnson
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 Gordy Kauhanen
 Belfair Kawanis
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 Dave and Terri Kinnee
 Jill Kirlich
 Richard & Bonnie Knight
 Aretha & Larry Kralcek
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Rick & Leslie Krueger
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 Jan Newton
 Jack & Sandee Nicklaus
 NMARES
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 Greg Oldham
 Tim Osborn
 David Overton
 Fred & Diann Pape
 Stephanie Parker

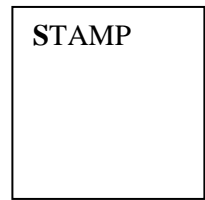
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 David Peterson
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 Therapy
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 Gladys Pruettt
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Theler
 COMMUNITY CENTER
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PO Box 1445
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 Trainings and other Business events. Just call or email **360-275-4898** www.Thelercenter.org