
The Theler Times

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Thoughts on Theler

By Mel Coffman
President of the Board of Directors

One day I walked the Theler trails and realized what a wonderful and beautiful area we live in. I decided to find out a little more about this place called the **Theler Wetlands and Community Center**.

I learned a lot about Sam and Mary Theler and the contributions they made through their hard work and generosity. I could see that the Theler Community Center had great potential for growth and that I wanted to be part of that growth. I applied for and was approved as a board member in 2008. During my time on the Board there have been many changes. The most noticeable is the new landscaping in front of the building.

Landscaping—Brick by Brick

I want to bring you up to speed on how this all came about. When I became a board member, I read past meeting minutes on the Theler web site. I read that several years ago the board began a commemorative brick program. Purchased and engraved bricks were never placed. It was a great idea. I felt the Board had an obligation to the supporters that purchased those bricks. It is difficult do a project without start up money, but not impossible. So, we



Heron: Looking from the mouth of the canal towards Union—Denny Hamilton

Upcoming Theler Events 2009

November

- 10 Theler Board Meeting 6 pm
- 21 Mystery Dinner & Wine 6 pm
"The Santa Claus Holiday Party"
- 26 & 27 Closed for Thanksgiving

December

- 1 Theler Work Study 6 pm
- 5 Holiday Vendor Fair 9-4
- 5 Start of "Xmas Tree Auction"
- 8 Theler Board meeting 6 pm
- 10 "Xmas Tree Auction" Ends
- 10 Theler Chamber of Commerce Xmas Party

24-Jan 2 Theler Closed for Holidays

January 2 Theler Opening Day 2010

"The Theler Cookbook" is Coming!

By Margi Kenny

My mouth was watering just reading the 110 plus recipes submitted for the **Mary E. Theler Community Cookbook**. More than 50 people submitted recipes. Thank you so much for making the cookbook a happening fundraiser for the Theler Center. We are hoping the cookbook will be published and delivered in December.

Seafood is Featured

The sale price per cookbook is \$12. Of "course," many dishes revolve around crab, halibut or clams as the main ingredient. They are included in appetizers, main dishes and side dishes. From crab cakes, baked halibut, and the proper way to steam or boil your clams. (*Secret: Add the herbs right into the water!*) There are also plenty of beef and sausage main dishes and some Mexican specialty recipes.

Some unique pasta salads and a frozen fruit salad that sound refreshing and tasty are also included. The first course of any of these or other dishes...wonderful

Jam Packed

By Marcia Hamilton

Walking the Wetlands trail in September Denny, my friend Linda, and I were amazed at how many ripe and yet-to-ripen wild blackberries there still were all over the bushes. "What a waste," Denny said. "Why not make Jam with a Theler label?" I wondered!

So, I did a mini survey of the walkers over the next hour and all agreed. They thought it was a great idea. Then, over the next few days, with agreement from the Board, and with lots of rain forecast, Denny picked gallons of evergreens that lined the trails; he did not even make a dent. Then, with donations of jars from Teri, the Coffmans, and the Ladners, Teri Jelinek and I made the first batch of 30 the following weekend and Katie Ladner and I made the next batch on October 7. It will be on sale in late November!



The first 30 jars jam packed!

Theler Wetlands Wild

School Days in a Wetlands Classroom

North Mason High School's Aquatic World science class is held in the classroom at the Theler Center. The teacher, Ramey LeRoy, says the best part of this arrangement is, "having the wetlands as an outdoor classroom." In this class, students have the opportunity to explore the local aquatic world. Doing both classroom and field research allows students to gain an understanding and appreciation of our oceans, lakes and rivers, as well as the creatures that inhabit them. Students engage in interactive action projects in the community. Currently, students at the Theler Wetlands are conducting a field investigation on plant populations and soil types in the wetlands. They have learned how to use specific scientific methods for estimating plant populations in the area. They have also been analyzing soil samples using a Munsell Soil Chart. Students collect data, analyze it. And record their findings by writing an Investigative Research Report, according to Mrs. LeRoy. Her students are fortunate to have this unique, hands-on learning experience at the beautiful Theler Wetlands.



dips and soups. Cheese, potato or even avocado soup will start your meal deliciously. And eventually, you get to the desserts. Several "velvety" cakes and cookies can top off the meal. Our community is full of experienced cooks.

Reserve your *Mary E Theler Community Cookbooks* now. Just email me **asap!**

margiv3@yahoo.com

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.

Theler
Wetlands
Wild
Blackberry
Jam 2009

Thanks Denny for picking the blackberries, Mel and Lynn Coffman, Katie Ladner, the Hamiltons and Teri Jelinek for the jars and Teri, Katie and Marcia for the jam-making sessions!

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looked to the community for support. The first step was to have a plan. Brian Peterson deserves a huge thank you. He has an eye for this type of project and volunteered to make a sketch of the proposed area. Hence, the **Brick-to-Brick Project** was on its way. Brian was just one of many who jumped in to help get things going. Here I can't mention everyone who participated with donations or hard work but soon there will be a plaque at the center with their names for everyone to see.

We have four ten by ten foot squares with a total of **600** bricks. At one point we planned to have a section just for area pioneers, but a lot of folks wanted to have bricks for their kids and grand kids close to their own. The plan was changed so that more folks could be satisfied. As future bricks are purchased they will be engraved and set in one of the ten foot squares. This **Brick-to-Brick Project** is just one more example of what can be accomplished when the whole community works together for a common goal.

In a future article, I will bring you on board about future **Theler Wetlands and Community Center** goals and plans.

Who's Who at Theler

360-275-4898 www.Thelercenter.org

Theler Staff

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

Board Members

Mel Coffman, Board Chair
Tim Wing
Margi Kenny
Harry Martin
Doug Womack
Katie Ladner
Marcia Hamilton



From the Desk of the Theler Director, Anne Whitman

Dear Friends!

In the years that I have been at Theler I have seen support for Theler come in many ways. And now we have been able to acknowledge that support through the "Founding Friends of Theler." I feel that it is important to remind people that there are two ways that you can be a "Friend of Theler"—one is to make a cash donation, and the second (just as important) is to give of your time by volunteering or donating your services/talent. Here are a few examples:

1. Theler holds its annual "Trick or Treat on the Trails" on Halloween and we need donations of candy, small prizes and people to run activity stations, this year we had over 900 people attend.
2. We always need Trail docents to give guided tours of the trails.
3. We need people to help with our fund raising events, cooking, serving, soliciting donations for baskets and prizes.
4. We can always use help creating flyers and helping with publicity of our events and classes.

It always surprises me when I hear people ask, "Why do you do so much fund-raising at Theler?" I forget that our community is always changing and many people do not realize that Theler is a non-profit organization, and as such, we do not receive any tax \$\$ or Parks District funds.

So the Board of Directors and the staff (composed of two part-time people and me) plus many, many more volunteers are always educating Theler "visitors."

In closing I thank all current "Friends of Theler" and all future Friends as well and look forward to hearing from you or seeing you at the Center.

Anne Whitman
Director

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

"Founding Friends of Theler"

Theodore & Sue Alstrom
 Stephen Andrews
 Dorothy & Hans Ariens
 Joan Armitage
 Vicky Backus
 Beau & Brittany Bakken
 American Marine Bank
 Jim Barrett
 The Beanery
 Boys and Girls Club of
 South Puget Sound
 Belfair Branch
 Richard & Caroline Bell
 Rick & Annie Bell
 Dee Dee Bent
 Linda Blackwell
 Butch & Laura Boad
 Ken & Debbie Boad
 Cameo Boutique
 Mike & Kris Boyle
 Tom Brennan
 Bill Brioche
 Rhonda Brown
 John Burgess
 Pam Beyerly
 Don & Paulette Cady
 Mary Jo Cady
 John Campbell
 Sandra Carlson
 Lucky Dog Casino
 Keith Chamberlain
 Matthew Charlton
 Bill Chaussee
 Belfair Community
 Baptist Church
 Prince of Peace Church
 Jim & Barbara Clark
 Ms. Dawson's Fifth Grade
 Class 04-05
 Barbara Claudon
 Al & Christy Close
 Dean & Cherie Cloud

Evergreen Garden Club
 Mel & Lynn Coffman
 Ned & Kathy Cokelet
 Mitchell Lumber Company
 Gibson Construction
 Susan Corliss
 Gig Harbor Costco
 Kitsap Costco
 Shirlee Cox
 Kitsap Credit Union
 Barney Cull
 Larry & Bobbee Davidson
 Elaine Davis
 Rodger & Shelly DeBritz
 Stacy Dore
 Joni Drake
 Rob & Betty Drexler
 Richard Duguay
 Albert C Eddy
 Peggy Ellis
 Karin Escalante
 Tom & Jean Farmer
 Olympia Federal Savings
 Brian Forde
 Becki Forster
 Mike Gaudio
 Dave George
 Herb Gerhardt
 Dan & Barb Goodell
 Scott Gordon
 Rebecca Graham
 Jack & Paula Grande
 Brian D Gregory
 J.C. Griffin
 Linnie Griffin
 Scott Griffin
 Kim & Rick Haack
 Bob & Peggy Hager
 Denny & Marcia Hamilton
 Tom & Lynn Hamilton
 Sally Hanna
 Dan Hannifious

Gary & Pam Hanson
 Marilyn Hanson
 Sandy Hanson
 Wendell & Faye Harder
 Mc Lendons Hardware
 Scott McLendon's
 Hardware
 Jason Hernandez
 Bob & Karen Herr
 Jeromy & Jenna Hicks
 Tom Higgins
 Harmony Hill
 Rick Hlas
 Clint & Casey Hoffman
 Mason County Hospital
 District #2
 Faith In Action
 Fred Barrett & Debbie
 Jacobs
 Sherry Jeffery
 Bob & Mary Johnson
 Colleen Johnson
 Gordon Johnson
 Jack & Kathy Johnson
 Mark & Susan Johnson
 Marla Johnson
 Steve & Lenny Johnson
 Margie Kaiser
 Randy & Margie Kaiser
 Byron & Sara Kane
 Gordy Kauhanen
 Belfair Kawanis
 Frank & Margi Kenny
 North Mason High School
 Key Club
 Dave and Terri Kinnee
 Jill Kirlich
 Richard & Bonnie Knight
 Aretha & Larry Kralcek
 Les & Betty Krueger

Rick & Leslie Krueger
 James LaBalanc
 Chris & Katie Ladner
 Laurie & Bruce Landram
 Will Langemack
 Dragouns Leir
 Craig & Margareta Lenhart
 John & Betty Lokosh
 Barbara Loudenback
 Craig Louderback
 CarrieMann
 Belfair Farmers Market
 Harry Martin
 Daren McAdams
 Barry McCoinnell
 Pat & Bonnie McCollough
 Becky McKenzie
 Brian & Buff McLellan
 Valerie Mcleod
 Harrison Medical Center
 Pamela Merrill
 Peter Merrill
 Jill Metcalf
 James Miller
 Mary Minnis
 Gordy & Mary Jo Monten
 Eleanor Morris
 Fran Moyer
 William F. Moyer
 Sharon Mullins
 Laurie Nanstad
 Herman Nelson
 Vern & Susan Nelson
 Jan Newton
 Jack & Sandee Nicklaus
 NMARES
 Dan & Diane O'Neal
 Greg Oldham
 Tim Osborn
 David Overton
 Fred & Diann Pape
 Stephanie Parker

Lori Patterson
 Lisa Pedersen
 Brian & Jacquie Petersen
 David Peterson
 Jeanne Peterson
 Peninsula Physical
 Therapy
 Rick Plumb
 Mike & Bonnie Pope
 Home Depot Port
 Orchard
 Gladys Pruettt
 Brooke Quigley
 Jerry & Nancy Reid
 Peggy Reitz
 Harold & Jenny Rice
 Beth Riebli
 Robert Riel
 Jim & Ellie Roberts
 Irene Russman
 Belfair Safeway
 Casey Salisbury
 Williams Family Salsa
 Sanders & Sanders
 James Sandy
 James M Sauget
 F.R. Sawyer
 Billie Schmidt
 John & Sharon Schrader
 Judy Scott
 Paul & Lori Severson
 Perk & Pam Shearer
 Chuck & Karen Shell
 Pat Silva
 Carrie & Bud Sittauer
 Gary & Wendy Sleight
 Marguerite Smart
 Kathy & Covie Smith
 Mike & Eileen
 Southerland
 Susan Spencer

Dolores Sperling
 Belfair Starbucks
 Mike & Valori Stoican
 Ray & Satoko Stutz
 Jill Sullivan
 Leanne Swanson-Sanchez
 Lee & Mary Swoboda
 Carol Taylor
 Clayton & Linda Taylor
 Vince & Joanne Tejada
 Pet Town
 Timm Tripp
 Girl Scouts Troop 51786
 Alexis Tucker
 Tom & Frannie Underhill
 North Mason United
 Methodist Church
 Ken & Peggy Vanbuskirk
 Mark Wadkins
 Elsa Walsh
 Mary Ann & Jay Watson
 Karen Wehnert
 Jeff Werdall
 Neil & Willa Werner
 Lisa Weyerhaeuser
 Brad & Dee Dee White
 Brent White
 Art Whiteman
 Anne Whitman
 Ken Wilson
 Hoodspout Winery
 Celebration Wines
 Petes Wines
 Paul & Debbie Wing
 Tim & Betty Wing
 Catherine Ann Wolf
 Gary & Cathy Wolf
 Doug Womack
 Local Wrench
 Kitsap YMCA
 Waddell & Reed



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 & WETLAND TRAILS

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