



February 2012

# Heron Habitat Helpers' HERALD

P.O. Box 99815, Seattle, WA 98139-0815

## HHH Annual Meeting and Celebration WELCOME THE HERONS HOME!

**SATURDAY MARCH 3 • 10:00AM – NOON • DISCOVERY PARK VISITOR CENTER**

Join Heron Habitat Helpers at our Annual Meeting. Our accomplishments, goals and great blue herons will be discussed. Afterwards, we will lead a short tour along the edge of the ravine in hopes of seeing the returning herons. Light refreshments will be served. Everyone is welcome at this free event.



Prabhu Kannan

## Kiwanis now has ONE name, KIWANIS MEMORIAL PRESERVE PARK

For the 11 years that HHH has been existence, there has been name confusion. What really is the name of Kiwanis Ravine? There were at least two different parks – and three or four different names. This always was a problem for HHH when we applied for a grant. What park would the money be spent on?

After long lobbying, the Acting Superintendent of Parks, Christopher Williams, finally wrote on November 1, 2011 to nail down ONE name. His letter to the City Clerk says ONE name will be used for all approximately 16 acres of the park.

Kiwanis Memorial Preserve Park was selected because that name was a condition of the original donation by the Kiwanis Club of the large portion of park land north of West Fort Street. And it's never too late to tip our hat to the Kiwanis folks for their generosity back in the 50's.

The small site where HHH began its reforestation effort and has a short interpretive trail with

Seattle Post-Intelligencer Collection • Museum of History and Industry



Officials from Seattle Kiwanis handing over ownership of the property to the city with the original intention of creating a summer camp. When costs became too expensive, they requested the property be left in its natural state.

signs at the corner of 36th Ave. W. and Ohman Place will still be called Kiwanis Ravine Overlook, but it is just the name of a feature within Kiwanis Memorial Preserve Park.

By Donna Kostka

# Looking for a few good volunteers!

By Barbara Selemon

## TOUR GUIDE ASSISTANT:

Soon, the herons will be back at the Kiwanis Ravine and viewing will be possible! HHH is looking for a dedicated member to train as a tour guide for spring tours. This activity is spearheaded by founding member Heidi Carpine who has a wealth of knowledge about the organization and the herony. If you would like to join Heidi in leading tours of the Kiwanis Ravine and meet other HHH members.

*Please contact Barbara Selemon, Volunteer Coordinator: [selemon@uw.edu](mailto:selemon@uw.edu) or 206-300-4179.*

## VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR ASSISTANT:

Are you passionate about the Great Blue Herons and want to spread the word? I am looking for someone who would like to assist with volunteer recruitment and appreciation activities. HHH is currently has partnerships with United Way and Seattle Works and has room to grow new connections.

*Please contact Barbara Selemon, Volunteer Coordinator: [selemon@uw.edu](mailto:selemon@uw.edu) or 206-300-4179.*

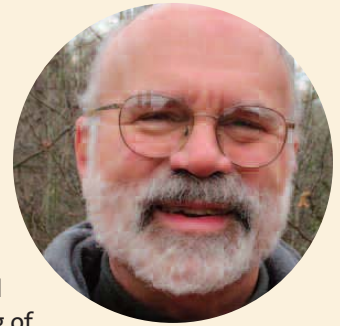
## RESTORATION VOLUNTEERS:

Restoration is an ongoing activity at the Kiwanis Ravine Preserve Park. Native plant habitat is taking shape in three main areas and volunteers are welcome to participate on scheduled Saturday work parties beginning in February.

*Either check out [www.heronhelpers.org](http://www.heronhelpers.org) or contact Scott Luchessa at 284-8052 or [sluchessa@Envirocorp.com](mailto:sluchessa@Envirocorp.com).*

## Volunteer Spotlight

By Barbara Selemon



**HOOPER HAVEKOTTE** joined HHH 6 years ago when he moved to Magnolia and did so due to his love of birds and desire for community. He has been the HHH Board President since last year and will continue through spring of 2013. Hooper has been personally involved in spearheading many achievements for HHH so when asked what he is most proud of, he answered "I am most proud of keeping the vast majority of new plants alive at KRS through attentive watering with Scott Luchessa last summer; secondly, I got to witness Kiwanis Ravine becoming the first Wildlife Sanctuary and thirdly, I love to play with the website. When asked about his vision of the future of HHH, he responded "I think we will always be small, but our people are high quality people, and we seem to get much accomplished."

**FUN FACT:** I love to play Latin rhythms on my conga drums, and I love to play tennis

## Many Thanks to Jenny Nazarko – Now Who Will be Secretary?

Recently, the HHH Board learned that our secretary of about five years duration was leaving us. Jenny Nazarko first joined HHH as secretary and later took on calendar responsibilities. That is a long time to stay in one job and to do it so well. HHH salutes you, Jenny!

We now need someone who will step up to the plate. The Board needs a volunteer to write its minutes for its four (or more) meetings per year, as well as help with the calendar and occasional correspondence. It's not a big job. But it requires someone who is a good writer and respects deadlines. You could start writing notes for our upcoming annual meeting March 3.

*Please contact Barbara Selemon, Volunteer Coordinator: [selemon@uw.edu](mailto:selemon@uw.edu) or 206-300-4179.*

# Would you Like to Tour the Kiwanis Heronry?

Join or renew your 2012 HHH membership and you and a guest are eligible to experience an unparalleled view of the heron nests from a private backyard.

Standing at the edge the ravine, gaze upon the herons and listen to their squawks as they build their nests and select their mate. Learn about herons and the history of the ravine and HHH.



Members can schedule a tour by contacting our fabulous and knowledgeable tour guide, Heidi Carpine at (206) 284-6489.

**Don't miss out on this incredible opportunity!**

Our Annual  
Membership Drive is on now!  
Join now by mailing the  
form on page 7 or go paperless  
and donate online at:  
[www.heronhelpers.org](http://www.heronhelpers.org).

## heronnews

By Pam Cahn

### HERON REPORT WINTER 2012

December's winter nest count showed 78 nests in the main colony, but I estimate 84 active nests for the 2011 heron season, with an additional 8 nests in Commodore Park. Over the past 10 years the herons have returned to Kiwanis Ravine sometime between the end of January and mid-March, with no evident pattern. They have typically laid first eggs sometime between mid-March and the first week in April.

## Second Saturday Work Parties begin March 10 • 10:00 am - noon

Do you love to grub out invasives and listen to the birds at the same time? Do we have a deal for you! Bring your work gloves and dress for the weather.

Check [www.heronhelpers.org](http://www.heronhelpers.org) for the work location.  
**Join us and you'll be doing your part to help the herons!**



# Annual Kiwanis Ravine Recon

By Mark Ewbank



On Sunday, January 29th a group of eight people (comprised of HHH members Mike Marsh, Linda Marsh, Hooper Havekotte, Scott Luchessa, Marla Master, and Mark Ewbank, and joined by Karen Peterson of the King County Noxious Weed Program and her friend who is a PhD student conducting amphibian research at the UW ) ventured into the bottom of the ravine for our annual reconnaissance.

As in years past, we wanted to do it in the winter after leaves have fallen from the trees for better sight lines across the ravine canopy, and yet complete this recon before the herons return to nest once again. With all the rain we've gotten in January it made for some squishy terrain to navigate, almost sucking the boots off some of our feet!

Our primary goal of this year's recon effort was to see for ourselves where EarthCorps has established monitoring transects and photo points to evaluate performance of grant-funded restoration work along the east and west forks and mainstem channel of Wolfe Creek, so that we can begin to familiarize

ourselves with these monitoring locations. When the Pro Parks Levy funds run their course in a few years, and monitoring is no longer required as a condition of past grants and the levy funding, HHH may want to continue use of some or all of these monitoring locations. A secondary goal of this recon was to look for invasive species in areas where we hoped not find them: garlic mustard in the northern end of the ravine and

knotweed anywhere in the ravine. HHH, EarthCorps, and contractors hired by the Parks Department have spent a lot of time and energy in recent years eradicating these bad actors and we want to stay on top of any recurring patches that may otherwise become a larger problem for successful native plant restoration in the future.

Scott did yeoman's work patiently collecting GPS points at each of over ten monitoring transects in the ravine while others among us made sense of various monitoring location markers placed by EarthCorps in numerous locations, assessed the condition of saplings that have been planted in large swaths adjacent to the creek and on the lower slopes above it, and snapped some photos, all while trying to avoid slipping down muddy banks into the creek. All in all the restoration work done to date in the bottom of the ravine is looking really good. The locations where plantings have failed are outweighed by the large amounts of invasive plants that have been successfully removed and the extent of plantings that are surviving well. The heron nesting trees are truly a magnificent sight from the vantage point of the creek bottom, with all those nests clearly visible way up high floating in the treetops towering above the ravine floor. But we cannot assume it will be a long-term success without continuing to keep a close eye and some muddy boots on the ground on our progress!

Thanks to all who attended, to Rob Anderson of EarthCorps for giving us a good map and associated GPS data to work from. If you have ideas for good ravine recon pursuits in the future, please let the restoration committee know about them.



# Heron Camera System gets Upgrade

*By Hooper Havekotte*

On January 27, Chuck Gibilisco from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WSDFW), Philip Turner from Olympia Systems, and Tom Otto from Canopy Conservation and a few helpers got together behind the Atkins home to work on our heron camera system. Our cameras are a part of the Critterzoom system, made up of cameras streaming live feeds from various critters around Washington State.



The upgrades were necessary because our system had to cope with the falling of one of the nesting trees hosting one of our cameras (many of the trees are getting old!) We've also had to endure the cutting of the camera cables by a landscape maintenance contractor who thought the wire was a vine or root. So this upgrade put the cables in conduit running from the Atkins property border down the hillside to the base of trees central to the nesting sites.

This was a huge effort, and the team accomplished their goals.

Thank you everyone!



# Looking for Ideas

*By Carol Burton*

HHH is looking for fresh ideas that will help all of us protect and enjoy the herons in Kiwanis Ravine. We are doing habitat restoration, removing invasive plants and planting natives – that is ongoing. We've had tours of the heron colony to view nests. We also have two cameras looking at heron nests (the heron cam) so that anybody can view the nests on a computer (check heronhelpers.org to view the heron cam). Kiwanis Ravine has recently been designated a Wildlife Preserve to further protect all wildlife in the park.

So – what else would you like to see or do in the heron colony and ravine? Let's think of ways to strength and expand that community. Send us ideas that could be used to apply for grants to help herons and wildlife. No limits on ideas – brainstorm here – we can work out feasibility later.

Send your ideas to Carol Burton:  
ctburton7@gmail.com or 206-691-1298  
Hope to hear from you soon! Thanks



## We're on Facebook!

**Like us and keep up to date on news and special events. Feel free to post your own stories and photos related to our herons. Pass this info to friends and help keep our community growing.**

<http://www.facebook.com/HeronHabitatHelpers>

# President's Corner

While Winter has brought a slowing down of outdoors activity, there is actually quite a bit going on. With the new year comes our annual drive for membership renewal and reaching out to prospective new members. You folks know what to do.

Over the last few months, I have had the pleasure of getting to know Bob Kildall, who authored the book about the history of Kiwanis Ravine. Bob still lives in our area, and he represents a wealth of information about the ravine and historical efforts to protect the ravine for the herons. You can see his book on our website on the page titled "About Kiwanis Ravine." The history of how our park came about leads me to the mention that Parks has finally established one name for the whole park: Kiwanis Memorial Preserve Park. More about that on page one.

Another item of merit is the finishing up of our last grant for restoration of the park, the Aquatic Habitat grant. Brad Wakeman did a fine job managing that grant and making a final report to formalize the completion of that project. Kudos to Brad.

Finally, the camera team from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, WDFW, made some much needed upgrades to the camera system, so that this year we will hopefully have two cameras streaming live video of nesting heron couples.

Then some of us lucky folks got to go on the annual Reconnaissance Tour of Kiwanis Ravine. What an adventure! We were bush whacking all the way.

The annual March meeting is coming up March 3rd, so save the date. We'll have some fun and refreshments, and we'll elect some new board members.

The meeting is at the Discovery Park Visitor Center, 10:00am – noon. Hope to see you there.

**JOHN "HOOPER" HAVEKOTTE,**  
*President*



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## Discovery Park to Host Heron Class

**Saturday, March 17 • 10:00 am-noon**

Discovery Park has announced one of their trained naturalists will lead a Great Blue Heron Class for adults and families. This class will offer information on the life history of herons and (if the birds cooperate) the naturalists hope to take you to see some, too. Discovery Park is the sister park of Kiwanis Memorial Preserve Park. Space is limited, inquire early.

Contact Penny Rose for more information.  
[penny.rose@seattle.gov](mailto:penny.rose@seattle.gov)

A small fee may be charged.

## C A L E N D A R

Don't miss a single HHH event, mark your calendar with these dates. Check [www.heronhelpers.org](http://www.heronhelpers.org) to confirm date, time, and location.

**February 7**, 6:00-8:00 p.m., Wildlife Sanctuary Group

**March 3**, 10:00-noon, HHH Annual Meeting and Tour

**March 10**, 10:00-noon, Second Saturday Work Party

**April 14**, 10:00-noon, Second Saturday Work Party

**May 1**, 6:00-8:00 p.m., Wildlife Sanctuary Group



# Annual Membership Drive

**WE RESTORE HABITAT.**

**WE EDUCATE.**

**WE COLLABORATE.**

**WE ADVOCATE.**

**Join, renew or donate today!**

HHH is an all-volunteer group. By joining and supporting Heron Habitat Helpers, you enable us to directly support conservation initiatives, educational programs and outreach efforts. Every membership and donation – regardless of size – truly makes a difference!

**Donate online (under membership) at [www.heronhelpers.org](http://www.heronhelpers.org) or by mail:**  
Heron Habitat Helpers, PO Box 99815, Seattle, WA 98139-0815

## **ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP • \$15**

Mail your check to: Heron Habitat Helpers • PO Box 99815, Seattle, WA 98139-0815

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

\$15 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP PER FAMILY \_\_\_\_\_

Donation  \$10  \$25  \$50  \$75  \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

WOULD YOU LIKE TO VOLUNTEER? YES  check field of interest(s) NO

conservation programs  fundraising  strategic planning  public relations  habitat restoration

*HHH is an IRS 501(c)(3) organization under the umbrella of the Associated Recreational Council (ARC). Membership and donations are 100% tax deductible.*