

# Penwicle

## Peninsula Wilderness Club Events

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**October 1991**

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Peninsula Wilderness Club meets on the second Monday of every month at 7:30 PM at the Kitsap Unitarian Fellowship Church on Perry Avenue in East Bremerton. The public is cordially invited.

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### Meeting October 14

#### Mushrooms of the Northwest

Eric and Martha Edman of the Kitsap County Mycological Society will present "Mushrooms of the Northwest". Learn about where to look for and how to identify edible mushrooms as well as some of the dangers involved. Hope to see you there.

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### Upcoming PWC Events

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#### Bicycle Sammish River Trail

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5TH: Join Jim Drannan for bicycle trip on the BGT-Sammish River Trail (25 flat miles). A winery tour is included. Call Jim at 479-4171. Leave a message on the answering machine.

#### Hike to Lena Lakes

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12TH: Join Dennis Gregg for a day hike to Lena Lakes in the Olympics. Those wishing to stop at the lower lake (2.8 miles) can relax while the others go on to the upper lake (4 miles, 3850 foot gain). Dennis has a van for car-pooling. Call Dennis at 377-3692.

#### Skokomish River Hike

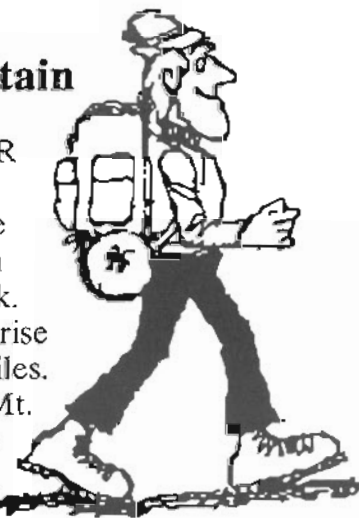
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13TH: Join The PWC Amblers for a hike on the beautiful Lower South Fork Skokomish River Trail. See 500 to 700 year old firs and moss covered maple groves in a virgin forest wonderland. This will be an easy hike at an easy pace. Call Helen Schwartz at 377-9822.

#### Happy Lake Ridge Loop

WEEKEND OF OCTOBER 19TH - 20TH: Doug Savage will be going on an overnight backpack trip to Happy Ridge. Spend the night at Happy Lake (5.5 miles, 3125 foot gain) then return via Boulder Lake (a 10+ mile day). This is a classic fall hike promising great fall colors. If interested call Doug at 698- 9974.

#### Burroughs Mountain

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26TH: Randy Grunigen will be going on a day hike to Burroughs Mountain in Mt. Rainier National Park. The trail leaves from Sunrise gaining 2800 feet in 3.3 miles. There are great views of Mt. Rainier and the Winthrop Glacier from the summit. Call Randy at 779-6457.



## 24 Months of Skiing

*By Don Paulson*

Last month I had the pleasure of accompanying PWC'r Jim Drannan on a ski trip to the Flett and Russell Glaciers on Mount Rainier. The trip marked Jim's 24th consecutive month of skiing in Washington, no easy accomplishment to say the least.

When it comes to skiing Jim doesn't let the little things slow him down. It doesn't matter what the weather conditions are, he just goes. On this particular trip, the weather forecast was for an ugly and rainy weekend. We started out in a steady drizzle, but by the time we reached the snow we were under clear-blue skies, looking down at the clouds. Sometimes you get lucky.

I recall a few ski trips where I had to help Jim get a wool sock over one hand. The huge cast covering his thumb and wrist didn't stop him from skiing, only from putting on a ski glove. Of course it was a grievous skiing accident that injured his thumb in the first place (well sort of). You see upon returning from a ski trip with a van full of skiers, Jim failed to remove his thumb before slamming the van door closed.

Not long after the thumb healed, a more serious skiing accident badly damaged the ligaments in Jim's shoulder. When I heard the bad news, I figured that this was the end of Jim's skiing quest and it would have been had it not been for Jim's tenacity (or lack of good sense if you listen to his doctor). Jim figured out a way that he could ski with one good arm and the other tied to his waist.

This month Jim is hoping to find some fresh snow to ski on. If there is any new snow, you can bet he'll be one of the first in the state to find it.

## Pesty Pillow Puzzles PWC'r

*By Roger Gray*

When I'm camping out, I make a pillow by putting all my spare clothes in a stuff sack, usually a mosquito headnet. I put in spare socks, shirt, rain suit, anything I'm not sleeping in.

One night this summer when camped at Boulder Lake in the Olympics, I got into my tent, stuffed all my spare clothes in the mosquito headnet, took off my pile jacket and stuffed it in, then laid down for sweet dreams. Instantly, I heard what sounded like something walking around inside my pillow. I concluded it was all in my head, like tinnitus, and determined to ignore it. But the sound persisted and I could not escape the impression that something was walking around inside my pillow. Eventually, knowing full well I was being totally illogical, I decided to look. I turned on the flashlight, opened my mosquito headnet pillow, pulled out the pile jacket (the last item to go in), and there staring back at me in the light of the torch was a bumble bee the size of my thumb. I opened the tent door and evicted the vagrant. After that there was no more noise in my pillow.

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## Door Prize Winner

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Rob Shope walked away with a great door prize at the September meeting. The door prize, which is donated each month by the Mount Constance Mountain Shoppe, was a Pezl zoom head lamp. Thank you Judd for your generosity, and congratulations to Rob.

Bad news: Garrison Springs Lodge will no longer be operating - The lodge has been purchased by a private owner as a residence.
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# **A Tree of Hope**

*By Don Paulson*

Once thought of as a giant weed by the Forest Service and logging industry, the spindly Pacific yew has been thrust into the spotlight as a tree of hope and controversy. From its bark, researchers have derived the drug taxol, a promising cure for cancer. The problem lies in the fact that it takes the bark from up to six 100-year old trees to make enough taxol to treat one patient.

Removing the bark kills the tree. This has environmentalists worrying about the death of a valuable resource. It's like cutting your apple tree down to harvest the apples. A synthetic version of the drug is probably 10 years away. Producing the drug from the needles without killing the tree shows promise, but is 2 to 5 years away.

Meanwhile most of the bark is being collected from yew cut down in the course of logging other timber. Between a half and two thirds of the bark came from logging sites on federal lands. Peelers earning \$2.25 a pound, have collected more than 750,000 pounds of bark this year. It is estimated that this amount of bark will be needed for the next several years. To put this in perspective, bark must be removed from at least 38,000 yew trees annually to meet this objective. This amount of bark will yield about 25 kilograms of taxol or enough to treat 12,500 patients annually.

But next years logging will be cut back sharply on federal lands as a result of the spotted owl controversy. This will leave peelers looking to the forest for harvesting the bark. The Forest Service last month gave the National Cancer Institute permission to selectively harvest the yew trees from otherwise protected lands, if they don't harm other trees.

I contacted the Forest Service Office in Olympia. I was told that harvesting of yew trees will mainly be in areas that are slated for logging. In the coming years a portion of the yew bark will be harvested from areas outside of proposed timber sales. Cutting of yew trees is not allowed in wilderness areas and here is now no intention of entering spotted owl habitat areas.

Unlike most evergreen trees, the individual yew is female or male. Seed is produced only on female trees. The fruit is bright red, pea sized, and resembles a berry. But the yew mainly reproduces by "layering". When the branches touch the ground, they can develop roots, and grow new stems. The yew can also regenerate by sprouting from its stump after the tree is cut.

Since theft of bark is becoming a problem, rewards of up to \$10,000 have been authorized for information leading to the arrest of persons stealing bark on National Forest lands.

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## **New Officers nominated**

At last month's meeting, Harry Wilson presided over nominations for next year's officers. Except for President, only one person was nominated for each office. However, the nominations will remain open until the October meeting. The club President nomination went to Doug Savage and to Judy Guttormsen, neither was present to accept the nomination. Judy later declined the nomination. Harry Wilson accepted the nomination for a second term as Vice President and Kathy Weigel accepted the nomination for a third term as Secretary. Kevin Kilbridge has been the PWC treasurer for the past five years and was nominated for a sixth term.

## Upcoming Events

*Continued from page 1*

### Ozette Beach Backpack

WEEKEND OF NOVEMBER 2ND-3RD: Joyce Kimmel is going on an overnight hike to the coast from Lake Ozette. The hike is a flat 3 miles, much of which is board walk. This should be beach camping at its best. Call Joyce at 876-1497.

### PWC Amblers Walk

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2ND: Helen Schwartz will be going on a easy 4-6 mile hike somewhere on the Kitsap Peninsula (more info later). Bring a thermos with hot drinks, but plan on a late lunch at a restaurant. Call Helen at 377-9822.

### Heather Park Hike

WEEKEND OF NOVEMBER 9TH OR 10TH: Doug Savage will pick the day with the best weather forecast for a great hike to Heather Park in the Olympics near Mount Angeles. Leaving from Heart O'the Hills area, the trail gains 3500 feet in 4.1 miles to breathtaking views of the Straights and Mt. Angeles. Call Doug at 698-9774.

**WANTED:** Information you may have concerning a mysterious hot spring in the Olympics - not Olympic or Soleduck. Pass your leads & info to Dennis Gregg, 377-3692. Let's find out if the rumors are true.

#### Club Officers

President ...Doug Savage ....698-9774  
Vice Pres ...Harry Wilson ...479-1322  
Secretary ...Kathy Weigel ...871-0291  
Treasurer ...Kevin Kilbridge 871-2537

#### Newsletter Staff

Don Paulson .....692-5086  
Jim Drannan .....479-4171  
Jim Luddon .....373-0431

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