



In the Flow

Spring 2019, Issue 70

<https://www.clallamcountywa.gov/901/Streamkeepers>

360-417-2281



Bob Phreaner measuring stream flow in McDonald Creek

Interim report on 2019 work plan priorities:

- *Resolve the issue of Ecology accepting ProDSS turbidity data:* Ecology has said no to this, but we're continuing the dialogue.
- *Complete migration of pre-summer-2010 data into new database:* This has been completed, thanks to the heroic efforts of Bob Fitton! All the data is now in one place!
- *Convert the database to SQL Server:* Now that all the data has been migrated, we hope to be able to do this soon.
- *Devise a long-term bug sampling plan:* This will wait till we have B-IBI results from 2018, hopefully in July, prior to 2019 bug sampling.
- *Construct rating curves for stream gages on Peabody, Valley, and Tumwater Creeks as well as for other sites on these and nearby streams as possible. Assess the value of calibrated gages for Streamkeepers and other partners (e.g., calculating bacterial loading for the City of PA). Consider expanding and writing a QAPP:* Progress has been slow, but we have a team trying to calibrate the gages, and Matt Rosener will advise us on how best to move forward.

- *Explore ways to improve sharing of data findings with a variety of audiences:* Deb McKean is working on a templated, updateable version of the [State of the Waters](#) report, and Glenn Browning will help as he can.
- *Continue to seek greater integration with regional monitoring, protection, and recovery efforts:* The County Department of Community Development has received funding to reboot their efforts to implement a Comprehensive Stormwater Management Plan, and Streamkeepers will play a role.
- *Make a smooth transition as Ed retires:* We'll do our best!

Some volunteers and what they have been doing for Streamkeepers in the past year or more

- Sue Nattinger & Coleman Byrnes, et al.—bug-sorting team
- Ron Sidwell—data analysis and uploading
- Donna Spence, Karen Galvan, Jane Hutton—data entry & checking
- Hoko estuary team: Coleman et al.
- Judy Gordon—entry of 15 years of data from the monthly Hoko monitoring project
- Walt Johnson & Steve Belcher—database programming
- Alan Brackney—GIS, flow
- Bob Fitton—data analysis & troubleshooting
- Gunvor Hildal & Randy Washburne—SideBySide data entry & comparisons
- Paul Rogers—equipment wrangling
- Deb McKean—reporting on our data

Greetings from the Data-Entry Team!

Ed's note: Donna Spence, the doyenne of Streamkeepers data entry, has been entering and checking data since 2001! With her auditing background and Streamkeepers field experience, she's made a reputation as our "third eye," often catching problems that our team leader and volunteer data-checker have missed. After the loss of Marilyn Harbaugh and then Laura Erb, we were lucky to have Karen Galvan join the team last year and Jane Hutton join this year, and now the data-entry team is once again going strong! Here's a note from Karen about her experiences since joining Streamkeepers.

My name is Karen and I'm a proud Streamkeepers volunteer providing data entry and checking services with a team that includes Donna and Jane. Everyone is very generous with his or her praise, gratitude, vast knowledge and years of experience. There are numerous teams of volunteers who collect data at various locations throughout the county. Our piece of the puzzle is to correctly read and input this data, verify the input info and file away the data sheets for future needs. Occasionally this is a challenge--numbers and decimal points can be difficult to interpret or see (my own included!). This data goes to the Washington State Dept. of Ecology and the general public has access to this info too.

In summer 2018 a few of us drove to select locations across the county to post flyers informing Clallam County residents of the upcoming Streamkeepers training, inviting them to become involved. This opportunity led me to meet supportive local business managers/employees who graciously allowed us to post our flyers and visit new locales from Sequim to Discovery Bay. The annual volunteer training, which I attended, brought in about 15 new trainees for 2 evening sessions and a hands-on field-training day with a Picnic/BBQ/Potluck luncheon.

I've learned many interesting facts, such as how to pronounce fish and wildlife names and puzzle out people's handwriting, along with enjoying the great people who volunteer their time and efforts for the Streamkeepers organization.

Remembering Steve Obrebski (1938 – 2018)



Au Revoir, Mon Ami!

It is with great sadness and great memories that we bid adieu to [Steve Obrebski](#), a man whose background, interests, vocations, avocations, aptitudes, and passions were too vast to seemingly compass within the scope of a single human life...a man who could peel off environmental statistics in a way that made [Moneyball](#) look like child's play...who delighted in the crows that would gather in his driveway to eat crumbs...who spoke five languages and could talk intelligently about literature and art, and delighted in a good loaf of bread and a good stiff drink...and who cared deeply about the fate of democracy and ordinary people.

We were lucky to have Steve's services for a number of years after his retirement from San Francisco State University. He served on field teams, advised us in many matters of statistical interpretation, and was the lynchpin of the Streamkeepers Research Team, which met for as long as he had the energy to energize it. Among his studies were an [analysis of our early deployment of pH meters](#), concluding that we weren't letting them stabilize in the creek long enough; a study of the relationship between land-cover and B-IBI scores; and an [analysis of physical-habitat data](#) that Streamkeepers had gathered for five years, using Principal Components Analysis to conclude that indicators of an intact riparian area (cover, large woody debris, and an absence of noxious weeds) were the factors most highly correlated with healthy B-IBI ([Benthic Index of Biotic Integrity](#)) scores. He also shared his love of statistics with workshops on various statistical techniques, even teaching a class on Minitab, a favored statistical software of yonder-year, to a gathering of local natural-resource professionals and Streamkeeper volunteers, and buying a copy of Minitab to donate to the County.

Beyond all his accomplishments, Steve was simply one of the most broad-minded and affable people to grace our planet, and he's greatly missed. Steve was already navigating on the astral plane in this life, and we can only imagine that he'll range even farther in the next. Bon voyage, mon cher!