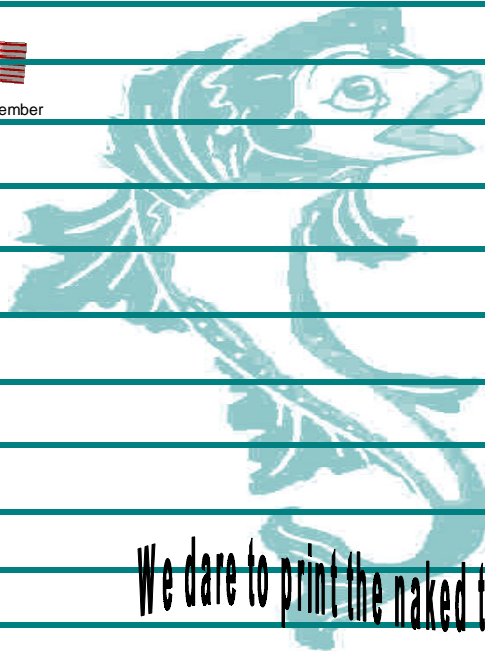




We Remember



The Naked Fish

We dare to print the naked truth!

\$250,000 FOR THE NEXT PHASE

The King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP) has budgeted \$250,000 (0.09% of its \$279 million 2003 budget) for work in May Valley in 2003. Specific projects have not yet been identified. The pilot project completed in 2002 cleaned 250 feet of stream channel for \$120,000, which is \$480 per foot. This year's \$250,000 should enable DNRP to clean an additional 520 feet of the approximately 14,700 feet of stream channel that remains to be cleaned. At that rate, recommendation 5 of the May Creek Basin Action Plan 2001 will be completed in 2031. By then the 250 feet cleaned in 2002 will have filled in again.

There has to be a better way! Last year DNRP spent \$100,000 to convince itself, DDES, and a couple of state and federal regulators that it was okay to spend \$20,000 cleaning 250 feet of creek. A non-union private contractor could have accomplished the actual work for \$5,000. Surely \$250,000 would be a big enough bribe to the regulators to get permission for the landowners to clean our own ditch. We ran the pilot program and the world didn't end. Newcastle and Renton are still downstream. We actually had some fish come to the newly cleaned area this fall.

King County, Renton and Newcastle are only spending \$240,000 to drop 90 death-trap logs via helicopter into a long stretch of lower May Creek. How much of that money did they spend to get permission? Very little, would be our guess. But, of course, the DNRP bureaucrats love logging trash almost as much as they love flooding rural residents, so it was an easy sell.

Many thanks go to Ron Sims and the King County Council, especially Dave Irons, for getting this money included in the budget so that further implementation of the Basin Plan can take place. We hope it is not seen as ungrateful to ask for the further work necessary to make it a wise expenditure instead of just more bureaucratic pork.

And Now I Ask

By Reggie Hopper

*And now I ask why
Why have we worked so?
Why have we plowed?
Why did we sow?*

*Is it for this?
This paltry thing,
This soggy field,
Flooded by damaged ditch?*

*What has been done in this
place
In our name?
Who spent our money?
Who caused this shame?*

Inside "The Fish"

Our Trip to Nowhere	2
Last Call for Liberty	3
Court Upholds Fines	4
Missing Sparrows	5
Letter to God	6
The Night Before Christmas	7
Cartoons	7 & 8
Cooking with Sally	8
Advertisers	9
From the Presidents	10

Thinking cannot be carried on without the materials of thought; and the materials of thought are facts, or else assertions that are presented as facts. A mass of details stored up in the mind does not in itself make a thinker; but on the other hand thinking is absolutely impossible without that mass of details. And it is just this latter impossible operation of thinking without the materials of thought which is being advocated by modern pedagogy and is being put into practice only too well by modern students. In the presence of this tendency, we believe that facts and hard work ought again to be allowed to come to their rights: it is impossible to think with an empty mind.

J. Gresham Machen

The Naked Fish is published by May Valley Environmental Council (MVEC) a non-profit community group dedicated to sensible environmental management of private property. Articles in *The Naked Fish* cover subjects of concern both to local and national readers. We try to provide environmental information not commonly found in the major media. Articles with bylines reflect the research, views and opinions of the author which may not reflect positions on the issues adopted by MVEC.

The editors can be reached at:

MVEC
15125 SE May Valley Road
Renton, WA 98059
425.917.9944
Editor@maycreek.com

Subscriptions are \$20 per year.
MVEC membership is \$40 per year.
Donations are gladly accepted.

OUR TRIP TO NOWHERE

By Reggie Hopper

My friends, my neighbors, I am sorry I have failed you.

Ontology is the science or study of end results. Ontological arguments basically run like this: "If this is not the road to victory, we are not going to win."

I fear we are not on the road to victory, but I am sorry to say I do not know what road we are on, or how we got on this road, or even how to get off this road.

Two years have gone by. Fun years they have been, filled with meetings, meetings, meetings, and still more meetings. I am glad talk is cheap, or we would all be poor. Still, what has happened? Two good things. First, Jullianne Bruce and her children are no longer the open shame of King County. We should all clap. Second, Dick Colasurdo has gotten some relief. These things are good, and I suppose we could point to these two events and shout, "Victory, victory!" Nevertheless, they were merely the results of two battles. Should we declare victory on their merits, we would be like the South in the Civil War, or the U.S. Army in Vietnam. We won the Battle of Bruce and the Battle of Colasurdo, but we are losing the war.

The war is over who controls the May Valley Ditch. Is it King County and its minions in the DNRP and the DDES, or the citizen property owners? I see no victory for the property owners. The county insists that only it can touch the ditch, only it can determine what is to be done, and when it is to be done. Those of us above Dick's property are still flooding as a result.

The activity at the "park," specifically the planting of 250 trees on the north side of the ditch, has effectively divided the valley in half. The trees, including many cottonwood and willow trees, were planted to supply large woody debris to the ditch.

(Continued on page 3)

HUMAN INTEREST STORIES WANTED

The editors of *The Naked Fish* wish to provide more local interest items in this publication. The items can be either news — births, deaths, marriages, accidents, etc. — or human interest type stories about local residents. Please send anything you think would be of interest to our readership to:

nakedfish@maycreek.com

or

Naked Fish
15019 SE May Valley Road
Renton, WA 98059.

Last Call for Liberty

By Reggie Hopper

Each generation is born into liberty with the understanding that it must fight to keep alive the torch's flame. Regrettably, the flame is waning in our time, growing ever feeble. China is already as attractive to money as our own shores; soon it will be so to immigrants. No matter how difficult it is to tend the flame of freedom, it is much more arduous to light anew a torch gone cold with governmental tyranny. I fear my generation has failed to understand this.

In our desire to set the world ablaze, we have let the light grow dim at home. The attraction of our homeland to others now lies in its promise of a life of ease and luxury rather than an energetic devotion to the cause of freedom.

The republic is dead. Long live the tyranny of the masses. It is as if the lynch mob has won the hearts of the powerful. "Bread and circuses!" was the cry of corrupted Rome; it is our slogan too—no freedom is too sacred, no dignity of humanity too sublime, to tread upon in our quest for comfort. We race on down the road of mechanical fixes, the best universal systems, all the while oblivious to where it leads, ignoring its destruction of all culture. We have declared mob rule to be the best of all possible systems, and its attendant ideology to be supreme.

Before our money, power, and zeal, all cultures are puny foes. "Resistance is futile," we cry. "You will be assimilated." There are those who say "No," even "No way," and they are slated for destruction, removal, cleansing. "We make no war against people," we say, "only governments." Only ideas we do not like. Ideas like private property, divine beings, discipline, morals. We even dictate such minutiae as who can buy and sell to whom, and when, and how to raise children.

It amazes me that we dare call ourselves free. Perhaps young people can buy it. After all they really do not remember a country that was free. But we do. My generation—the people who came before the Great Society of Lyndon B. Johnson—remembers.

Think back. Think of all the government programs, all the rules, all the freedoms we gave up for them. Is it better now? No, I'm not asking whether you're richer now. I mean do your grandchildren have as many options as we did? Can they do the simple things we did? Can they eat at Sambo's, or read Huckleberry Finn in school? Can they be proud of Washington or Jefferson? Can they have fireworks on the Fourth of July? Can they wave a Confederate flag? Can they say "Merry Christmas" and participate in a Christmas program at their local school, or talk about

(Continued on page 4)

OUR TRIP TO NOWHERE

(Continued from page 2)

The ontology of this statement is as follows. The county wants the trees to fall over into the ditch, plugging it up and making the water flow around the obstruction and meander through the valley floor from one side of the flood plain to the other. In short, the trees were planted there to cause flooding. Furthermore, the trees keep people away from the ditch so that it will never be cleaned again, and they saddle Chuck Pillion with a punitive restoration bill, satisfying the bureaucrats' petulant thirst for vengeance.

How have we gotten here? Where is our judge, our champion who will set the people free from the tyranny of bureaucracy instead of government of the people, by the people, and for the people? Who will enforce the solemn promises of the fathers of our fathers? Indeed, I see no white knights, no champions of the people among the watermelon men who are the county government. Let us return to the right road, the one that leads to victory, not regulatory stagnation.

**MVEC meets every
Monday at 7 PM at
Leonard's Bar and Grill
See you there!**

Last Call for Liberty

(Continued from page 3)

Easter? No, those times are now "Winter Break" and "Spring Break," and don't you forget it. Hell, we used to think South Africa was bad because it had passed laws establishing national I.D. badges. Kind of like mandatory Social Security numbers.

Are our grandchildren safer now than we were? Can they walk the streets at night? How about wear bootblack and play a minstrel song? Ah, yes, the land of the free. The home of the brave. What have we done to our country? Who or what is benefiting from our self immolation? Now we have to say "he/she," "her/him." Why? I see no benefit, only confusion.

Do you think for one moment that such foolishness gains for us one friend, one ounce of respect, one note of thanks from a hostile world hell-bent on our destruction? Of course not! Our enemies merely laugh at our insanity, snicker and giggle, and plot our downfall with ever-greater determination.

In short, I say, freedom, my ass. All I see is bureaucratic tyranny, small-minded people in charge of a once-great society, ushering us pell-mell toward our destruction. I say boot the bastards out.

Politics is the art of looking for trouble, finding it, misdiagnosing it, and then misapplying the wrong remedies.

Groucho Marx

Court Upholds Fines in Wetlands Case

By Gina Holland - AP

Supreme Court justices clashed in a major wetlands protection case December 16, 2002, with a 4-4 stalemate that sets the stage for renewed debate over whether farmers should have more freedom to work in environmentally sensitive areas.

The court affirmed a judgment against a California man punished for converting wetlands into vineyards and orchards without getting permission first.

Angelo Tsakopoulos, who has 900 acres of apples and wine grapes in California's Central Valley, wanted the justices to rule that farmers do not need the same pollution permits to plow fields that developers need to build shopping malls or new subdivisions.

Because Tsakopoulos is an acquaintance of one of the justices, only eight court members took part when the case was argued last week at the Supreme Court. The eight announced Monday they were equally divided and would not write an opinion. They did not announce the breakdown of the vote.

Some environmental activists fear the tie signals that the court could be close to again limiting the government's oversight of wetlands. "It's a reprieve, but we shouldn't dance too hard into the night. It does show the protections are quite fragile," said Tim Searchinger, a lawyer for Environmental Defense.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Environmental Protection Agency (news - web sites) determined that Tsakopoulos' Borden Ranch violated the Clean Water Act of 1972. He was ordered to pay \$500,000 in fines and restore four acres of wetlands.

Justice Anthony M. Kennedy, who did not participate in the case, is also from California. "Had Justice Kennedy been able to participate in this case, we quite likely would have won it," said Timothy S. Bishop of Chicago, one of Tsakopoulos' attorneys. "The issue is now teed up for the court in the future."

Bishop also said the Corps of Engineers should be more selective in pursuing fines against farmers. The Corps lost a Clean Water Act case at the Supreme Court in 2001 over its attempt to block a landfill in the Chicago suburbs that critics said would harm migrating birds. The 5-4 decision limited the scope of government's protection of wetlands. Kennedy was in the majority. Patrick Parenteau, a Vermont Law School professor

(Continued on page 5)

THE CASE OF THE MISSING SPARROWS

By Peter Ford

It is almost as if they were tired of being taken for granted. Common house sparrows, symbols of European city life, have almost disappeared from some of the Continent's capitals, and nobody has the slightest idea why.

In central London, where cheeky "cockney sparrows" once flocked to eat crumbs from peoples' hands, there is not a sparrow to be seen today. In Amsterdam, the little gray and brown birds no longer cock their heads by the sides of the city's canals. The grimy north German port of Hamburg, the urban habitat par excellence for man's closest avian companion, is now a sparrow-free zone.

They have faded from the landscape without anybody paying attention. "You don't notice common species because they are around you all the time, and then suddenly they aren't there any more," says bird expert Rosie Cleary. Dubbed Britain's "sparrow czar," she has just taken charge of a nationwide survey of the sparrow population for the British Trust for Ornithology.

Sparrows are seen fondly in European eyes. Cockney East Enders in London took the diminutive, resilient "sparrer" to their hearts, and the French singer Edith Piaf, who grew up in the streets of Paris, was nicknamed "Kid Sparrow."

The mystery of the sparrow's disappearance from so many European cities is all the more baffling because the bird is still found in normal numbers in other metropolitan areas, such as Berlin. "The most fascinating thing about the situation is that it is by no means uniform across Europe," says Denis Summers-Smith, a British ornithologist who has been studying sparrows for half a century and who first raised the alarm.

That would seem to assuage the fears of those who have suggested that the sparrow could be the canary of modern urban life, warning us of hidden dangers. But it does not help explain the phenomenon.

Britain, where the sparrow is now on the "red list" of species in danger, has seen the most dramatic decline in numbers. Where 12 million pairs nested 30 years ago, there are no more than seven million pairs today—a drop of 10 million birds. And central London has suffered the most.

In Kensington Gardens, 2,603 house sparrows were counted in 1925. Last year just four males were left, and this summer they moved on.

(Continued on page 6)

COURT UPHOLDS FINES IN WETLANDS CASE

(Continued from page 4)

who represents wetlands managers, said the next major Clean Water Act case to reach the high court could involve land clearing and mining excavation. But he said justices may be reluctant to get involved in another case for some time.

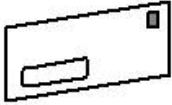
The Corps regulates work on wetlands, which are home to many plants and animals. In 1997, America had about 105 million acres of wetlands, enough to cover the state of California. The Fish and Wildlife Service estimates the nation has lost about 58,500 acres annually since then.

At issue in the Borden Ranch case was the use of a "deep ripping" plow that punctures the soil at a depth of about six feet. Deep ripping is a common farming practice for preparing orchards for planting.

The ranch attorney argued last week that the plowing, like seeding and irrigating, is a normal farming activity that Congress has exempted from regulation.

The Corps lawyer said Tsakopoulos used a footwide, 5-foot-long deep ripper that trails behind a 20-ton bulldozer to break up soil and make it suitable for planting vineyards and orchards.

The case is Borden Ranch Partnership v. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 01-1243.



THE CASE OF THE MISSING SPARROWS

(Continued from page 5)

"In big towns, the population went into freefall around 1990, and there is no evidence that it is stabilizing," says Dr. Summers-Smith.

Questions have been asked in Parliament. A national newspaper has offered a reward of \$8,000 for anyone who can solve the mystery of the missing sparrow. The British Trust for Ornithology is calling on thousands of volunteers across the country to report on sparrows they see over the next 18 months, to try to clarify what is happening.

Across the Channel, the French Bird Protection League is organizing a similar survey in Paris this spring, after local birdwatchers reported puzzling sightings. In one park, they found the same number of sparrow nests as there were 10 years ago. In another, the population has dropped by two thirds.

In both places, says bird-lover Christian Gallinet, who worked on the study, "the couples that we fed had no more than one or two young, when normally they should have three or four. "Something odd is going on, and nobody has any explanation for it yet," he adds.

Some experts have suggested that as cities have protected their suburbs, prohibiting building, developers have turned their attention to innercity wastelands, robbing sparrows of the overgrown, weedy areas where they typically forage for seeds.

Others wonder whether modern buildings lack the nooks and crannies that sparrows like to nest in. But that idea takes a knock in Holland, where birdwatcher Guus van der Poel found as he counted sparrows that "some city centers are sparrow-free, and in areas where the houses were built before 1953 there is a good chance there will be no sparrows at all."

Suspicion has also fallen on *Felis domesticus*, the house cat. One study found that as many as 25 percent of sparrows in an English village fall prey to prowling felines. But cats have been hunting birds since time began, and though food shortages may have forced sparrows to take greater risks, it is hard to believe that predators could have halved the British sparrow population in 30 years.

A key problem, a number of experts agree, appears to lie in a shortage of the tiny insects that fledgling sparrows need during the first three or four days of their lives, before they move on to a vegetation diet. Mr. Van der Poel blames industrial agriculture, which he says has robbed the countryside of the variety of flowers and weeds that insects need.

(Continued on page 7)

A little boy wanted \$100 to buy a new bike so his mother told him to pray to God for it. He prayed and prayed for two weeks, but nothing turned up. He decided that he should write God a letter asking for the \$100.

When the postal authorities received the letter addressed to God, they opened it and decided to send it to Ron Sims. Mr. Sims thought it was cute so he wrote a short note to Gary Locke on the back and sent it to the Governor.

Governor Locke wrote a note on the back explaining that the budget shortfall prevented him from addressing the problem and shipped it on up to President Bush.

The president, being one of those strange compassionate conservatives, had his secretary send the boy \$10 from the Republican soft money fund. He also added a note to the back of the letter wishing the boy well in his quest for the bike.

The little boy was delighted with the \$10 and sat down to write a thank-you letter to God, which read:

Dear God: Thank you very much for the money. I noticed that even you have to pay federal, state and local taxes.

THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS

As Reported by Dale Koler

“Twas the night before Christmas and all through May Valley
not a creature was stirring, not even Bert or Sally –
they were stuck in the silt.

The stockings were hung on the 164th bridge with care
Hoping Saint Nick soon would be there.

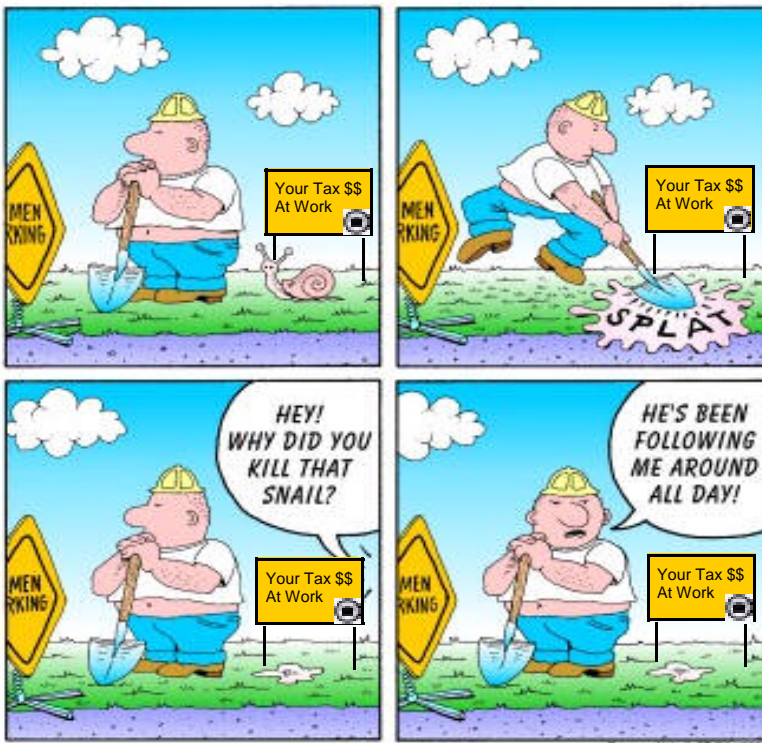
Residents were asleep in their beds
While visions of clean water danced in the heads.

Out in Pioneer Park there rose such a clatter
They jumped from their beds to see what was the matter.

What to their wondering eyes should appear but a King County car
With Chris Tiffany at the wheel and Ron Sims by her side.

They said not a word but went straight to their work
Posting code violations throughout the Valley.

As they worked they were heard to say, “those MVEC
people are putting up one hell of a fight!
And to all a good night!”



THE CASE OF THE MISSING SPARROWS

(Continued from page 6)

Summers-Smith points the finger at another culprit - unleaded gasoline, though he acknowledges that the evidence is only circumstantial. The catastrophic fall in urban sparrow populations began in 1990, he points out, one year after unleaded gas was introduced in Britain.

Unleaded gas contains unstable toxic compounds that Summers-Smith believes might be killing off the invertebrates that baby sparrows depend on. The fact that sparrows in Paris are doing better than their London cousins, he suggests, may have something to do with the fact that diesel fuel is much cheaper, and thus much more commonly used, in France than in Britain. But he says his ideas are "highly speculative and highly circumstantial. This problem requires academic research."

Belatedly, perhaps, ornithologists are now turning their attention to the lowly sparrow. "When I first started studying the sparrow just after the (Second World) War, most of my colleagues didn't think it worthy of even being called a bird," Summers-Smith recalls. "Now it is a high-profile bird."



FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Rick Spence

(Continued from page 10)

resident of May Valley, Jim brings first hand knowledge of what life here in May Valley could be like again. He also brings a pragmatic approach to accomplishing our goals within a very intractable system of overlapping bureaucracies. I'm sure he will do a great job, as will all the directors, and I enthusiastically look forward to 2003.

**Start planning now
for the second annual**

**Spring Flood Festival
&
May Valley Potluck**

February 25, 2003

FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Jim Osborne

(Continued from page 10)

Another idea I had was to have a central record keeper, i.e. valley history, projects and associated paperwork, agency correspondence, and, of course, past and present copies of our Naked Fish.

If you have other ideas or would like to comment, my ears are always open. I really want this group to be as good as it can be. I'm the third generation to live on this land. Getting the ditch cleaned, the fish to return, and the swamps back to the pastures they once were is one of my greatest dreams.

COOKING WITH SALLY

Where have the Salmon gone? Perhaps into this tasty concoction.

Smoked May Valley Salmon Spread

8 ounces cream cheese - at room temperature

¼ cup whipping cream

1 green onion - thinly sliced

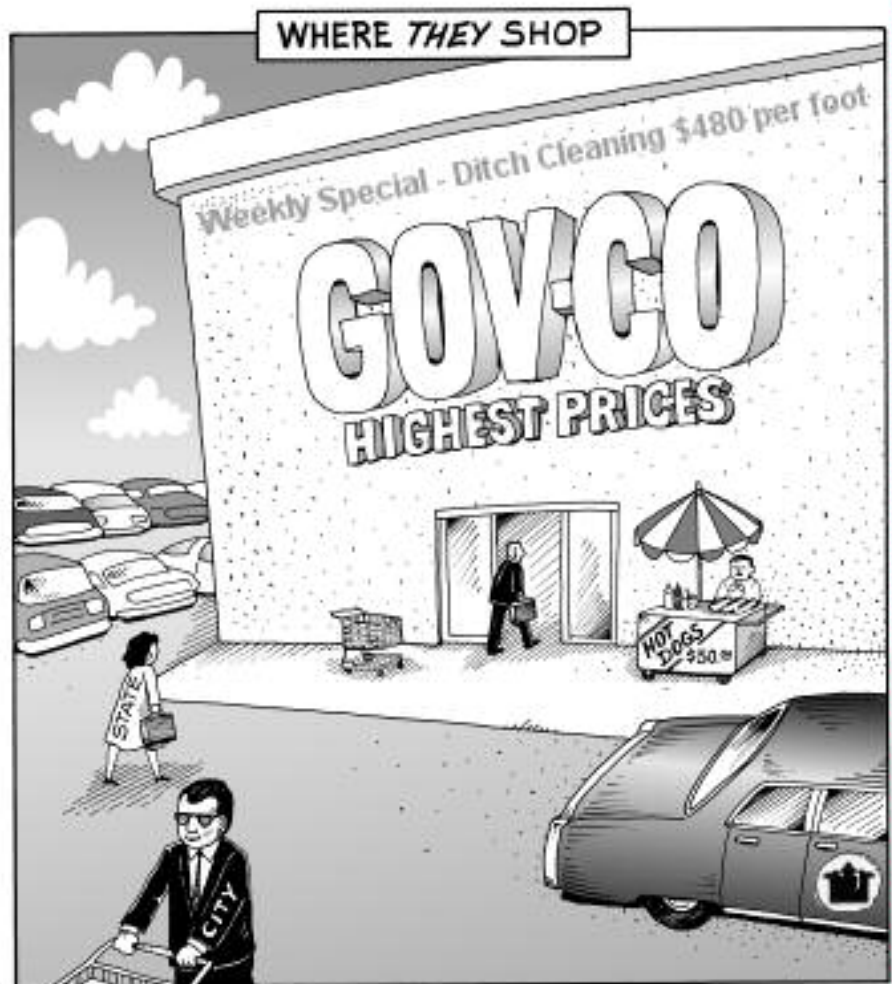
1 tsp. fresh lemon juice

Dash of Tabasco sauce

4 ounces smoked May Creek salmon, gently shredded (obviously, you will need another source and perhaps a new name for this recipe)

Gently mix the cream cheese and cream in a mixing bowl. Stir in the onion, lemon juice and Tabasco sauce. Gently fold in the smoked salmon until well combined - but do not over mix. (The shreds of salmon should remain whole). Makes 2 cups.

Serve on lightly toasted mini bagels or black bread.



(425) 226-5239
 FAX: (425) 226-8579
 16442 S.E.
 RENTON-ISSAQUAH RD.
 RENTON, WA. 98059

**KEPPLER
 FEED
 &
 RECYCLING**

OWNERS: PETE &
 BERNICE RIPPLINGER
 MANAGER: TERRI BAYS



HAY, STRAW, BARK, FEED, ANIMAL
 PRODUCTS, RECYCLING CANS & SCRAP
 APPLIANCES, LIVE ANIMALS, WE BUY USED
 TACK / CASH OR TRADE. STOP IN TO SEE
 OUR COMPLETE LINE OF HORSE VET
 SUPPLIES & SUPPLEMENTS.

SAVE THE EARTH
 RECYCLE



Delivery and Pickups Available

**CONTACT
 JODY PEDEFERRI
 TO PLACE YOUR
 ADVERTISEMENT
 IN THE NEXT**

Naked Fish
 206.853.1619
 Jpedeferr@aol.com

COALFIELD Bus. 255-8517

**LEONARD'S
 RESTAURANT & LOUNGE**

16341 S.E. Renton-Issaquah Road
 Renton, Washington 98056

Lois & Leonard
 Davidson Res. 222-7421



Kim Clark
 proprietor

16300 Sunset Blvd.
 Renton, WA 98059

425-430-4505

Buy Nine and the
 Tenth One's on Us!

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 *free*



BlinkCraft
 RV / Mobile Home
 Parts & Repair
 Annie or Dave Dahlin

16796 SE Renton-Issaquah Rd. Tel. 425-271-8799
 Renton, WA 98059 Fax 425-271-9044

EXECUTIVE
 Real Estate, Inc.

Marilyn Zevart
 Sales Associate

Business: (425) 455-5913
 Fax: (425) 455-3843
 Cell: (206) 498-4117
 e-mail: mzevart@aol.com

40 Lake Bellevue ■ Suite 100 ■ Bellevue, WA 98005



14427 156th Ave. SE
 Renton, WA 98059

Office - 425.226.3792
 Cell - 206.551.2064
 Email - vldz95@aol.com

CDH Construction Inc. - General Contractor
Chad Harris - President
 Lic. CDHCO1990DW Bonded & Insured



CHERYL KUMMA
 REALTOR®

(425) 454-0470 BUS., (425) 455-9639 FAX
 (425) 900-0192 DIRECT
 cheryl@ccherylkumma.com E-MAIL

**COLDWELL
 BANKER**

BAIN ASSOCIATES
 150 BELLEVUE WAY SE
 BELLEVUE, WA 98004
Cell 425-442-9555

Each Office is Independently
 Owned And Operated.



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENTS



Out With the Old — In With the New

By Rick Spence

Being the president of MVEC the last couple of years has been challenging and rewarding. It has been rewarding to see all parties involved in solutions to our problems here in May Valley finally coming together in a cooperative effort striving to achieve the goals set forth in the Basin Plan. The challenges are not over, however. In some ways they are larger than ever. I intend to remain as active as ever in promoting the restoration of May Valley to the wonderful watershed and ecosystem it once was. Not the 1800 model some in the bureaucracy would like, but the 1950 model where humans and agriculture, fish and wildlife coexisted successfully and flooding only occurred in “bad” winters.

I look forward to working with MVEC’s new president, Jim Osborne, in the coming year. As a lifelong

(Continued on page 8)

By Jim Osborne

It’s the start of a new year with new challenges for MVEC. The county has allotted us \$250,000 for this year and, hopefully, we can get a better rate than \$480 per foot for cleaning the ditch.

Some of my first plans are to get the group a little more organized. For instance, we will be putting together a letter-writing committee to get answers to some looming questions. Letters written to a public official must be responded to within 30 days.

We will also put together a public outreach to get ahold of other like-minded individuals and groups. This outreach would also talk to locals on May Creek ditch and its tributaries. I’m sure most of them remember when there was salmon and trout and would like to see them return.

(Continued on page 8)

*The Naked Fish, published by
May Valley Environmental Council
©Copyright 2003 MVEC, All rights reserved
15125 SE May Valley Road
Renton, WA 98059
(425) 917-9944 Email: editor@maycreek.com*



**Protect
Historic
May Valley!**

The printing of this newsletter was made possible, in part, through the **King County Water Quality Fund**, awarded by the King County Council.

