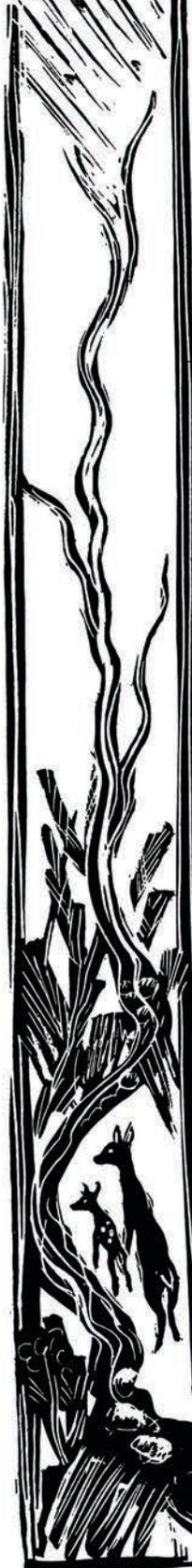




## THE MYSTERY OF TRACK #5...

*You are standing at the location where the Thunderbird track once was. Last seen prior to 2005, the whereabouts of this thunderbird track are unknown. It is possible that a big rain storm found a new home for the track, under feet of sand or even down stream. We have taken a metal detector to the area and have not found any trace of the bronze beak. Take a look around you, what do you think happened to the track?*



## Track 5 Stream

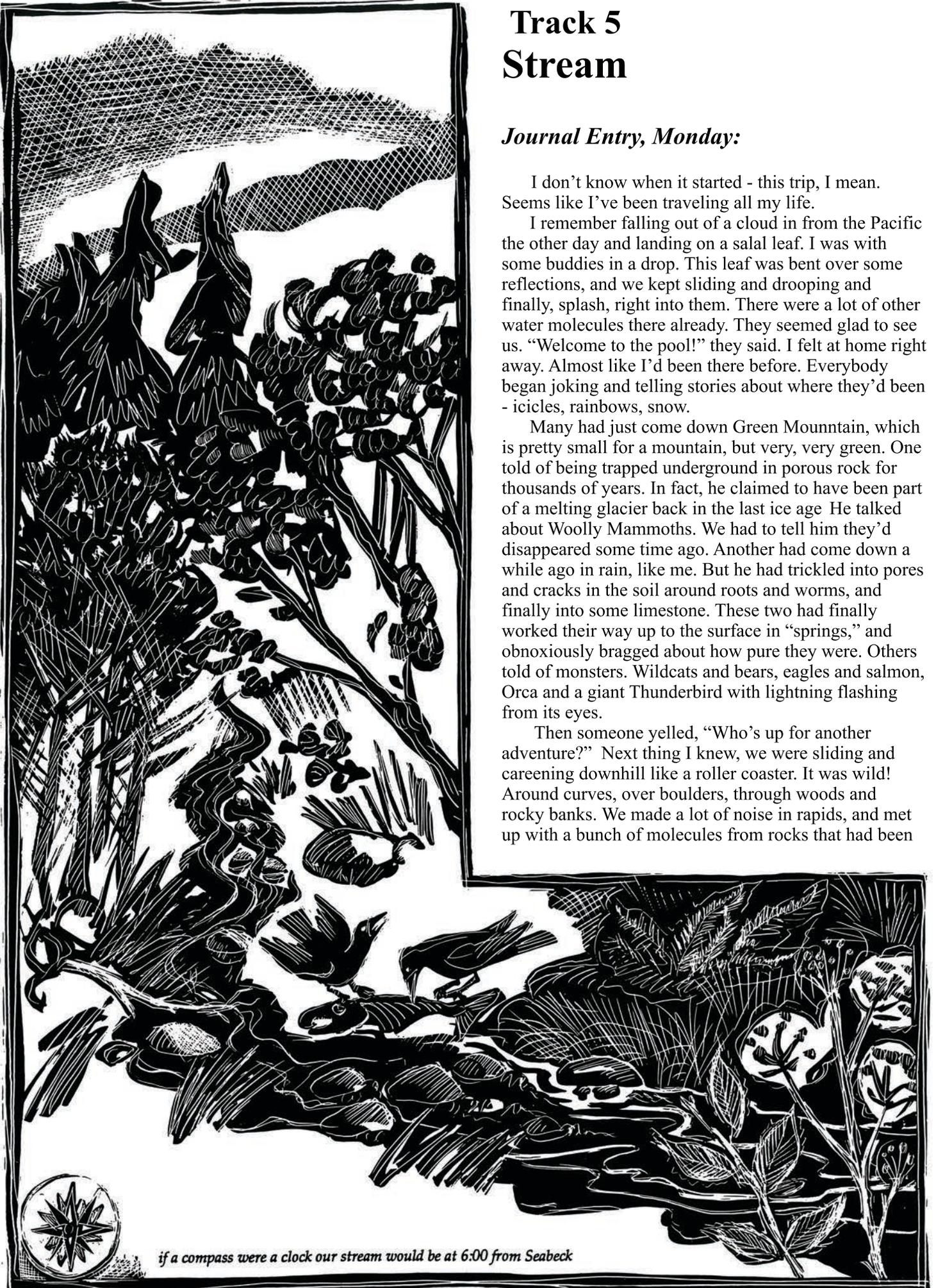
### *Journal Entry, Monday:*

I don't know when it started - this trip, I mean. Seems like I've been traveling all my life.

I remember falling out of a cloud in from the Pacific the other day and landing on a salal leaf. I was with some buddies in a drop. This leaf was bent over some reflections, and we kept sliding and drooping and finally, splash, right into them. There were a lot of other water molecules there already. They seemed glad to see us. "Welcome to the pool!" they said. I felt at home right away. Almost like I'd been there before. Everybody began joking and telling stories about where they'd been - icicles, rainbows, snow.

Many had just come down Green Mountain, which is pretty small for a mountain, but very, very green. One told of being trapped underground in porous rock for thousands of years. In fact, he claimed to have been part of a melting glacier back in the last ice age. He talked about Woolly Mammoths. We had to tell him they'd disappeared some time ago. Another had come down a while ago in rain, like me. But he had trickled into pores and cracks in the soil around roots and worms, and finally into some limestone. These two had finally worked their way up to the surface in "springs," and obnoxiously bragged about how pure they were. Others told of monsters. Wildcats and bears, eagles and salmon, Orca and a giant Thunderbird with lightning flashing from its eyes.

Then someone yelled, "Who's up for another adventure?" Next thing I knew, we were sliding and careening downhill like a roller coaster. It was wild! Around curves, over boulders, through woods and rocky banks. We made a lot of noise in rapids, and met up with a bunch of molecules from rocks that had been



*if a compass were a clock our stream would be at 6:00 from Seabeck*

knocked around and ground up by the current upstream. They introduced themselves, but I'm bad at names. I do remember calcium carbonate and iron and magnesium oxide, maybe because I liked their looks. One of my friends said she'd even bumped into a few atoms of gold. True or not, word spread like crazy. We decided then and there to name our creek after them.

And then there were these creatures. You'd go in one end and come out a flapping thing someone called a gill. It was bright pink inside. And outside there were shiny scales. The creatures looked sort of like boulders, but were a lot livelier. They thrashed and lashed, working their way upstream. All the other water molecules were as excited as I, and I heard the word "spawning" again and again. It seems that's why these characters were working so hard - to get some place upstream to lay and fertilize their eggs. I'm glad I don't have to go through all that, but it sure is fun to be part of it. They couldn't do it without us.

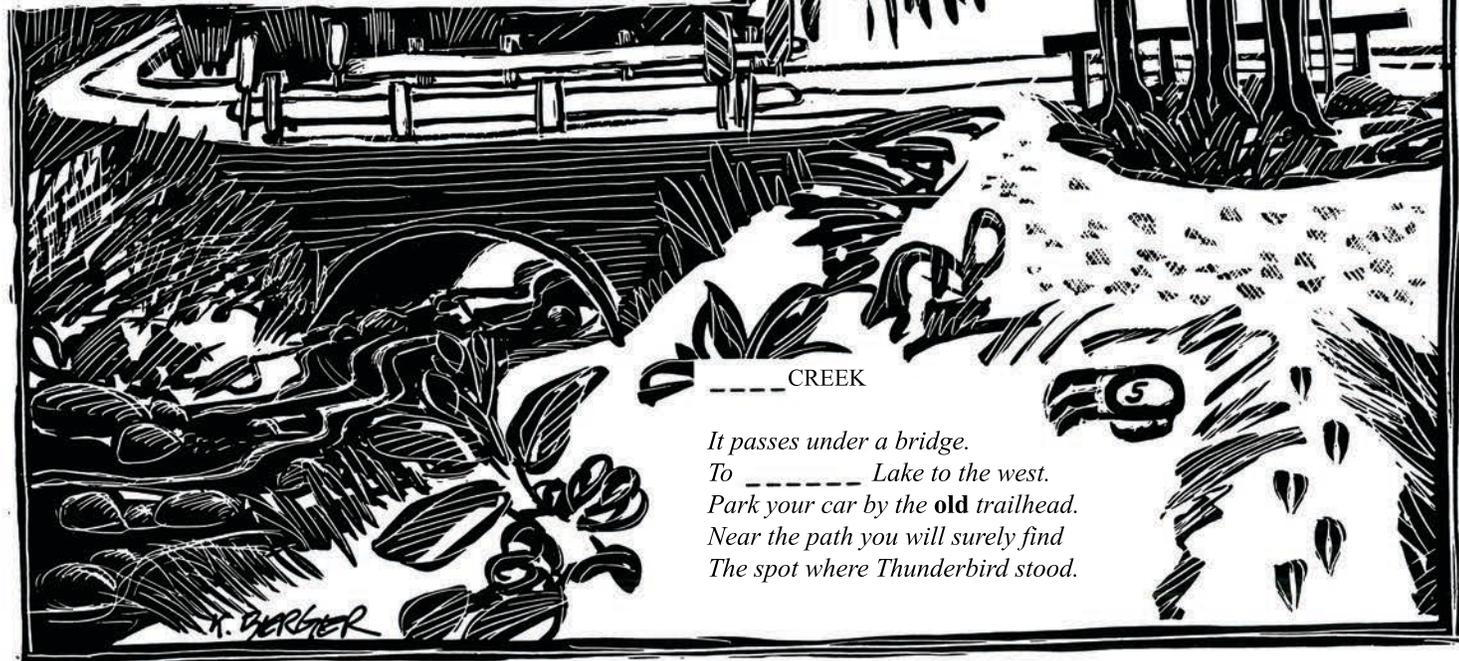
Soon we were zipping under a low bridge with yellow and black striped signs by it. Wheeled machines were loud on the bridge and someone who'd been there before said that it was part of a road on the east side of a lake.

And what do you know? We soon ended up in that lake! It was quiet and restful. We found ourselves yawning and all those yawns sounded like Tuh-HOO-ya, Tuh-HOO-ya, Tuh-HOO-ya. We relaxed awhile, enjoying the scenery which included some strange drowned trees. Then we were carried away and down a river.

Now I'm hanging around in a bay rubbing shoulders with a lot of sodium chloride and other mineral molecules. It feels different from the rain and the pool and the creek and the lake. But there's something familiar about it. Think I'll stay a while and see what happens next. Got lots of company. Even boats.

*Writer: Margi Berger; Track Sculptor: Peter Allen*

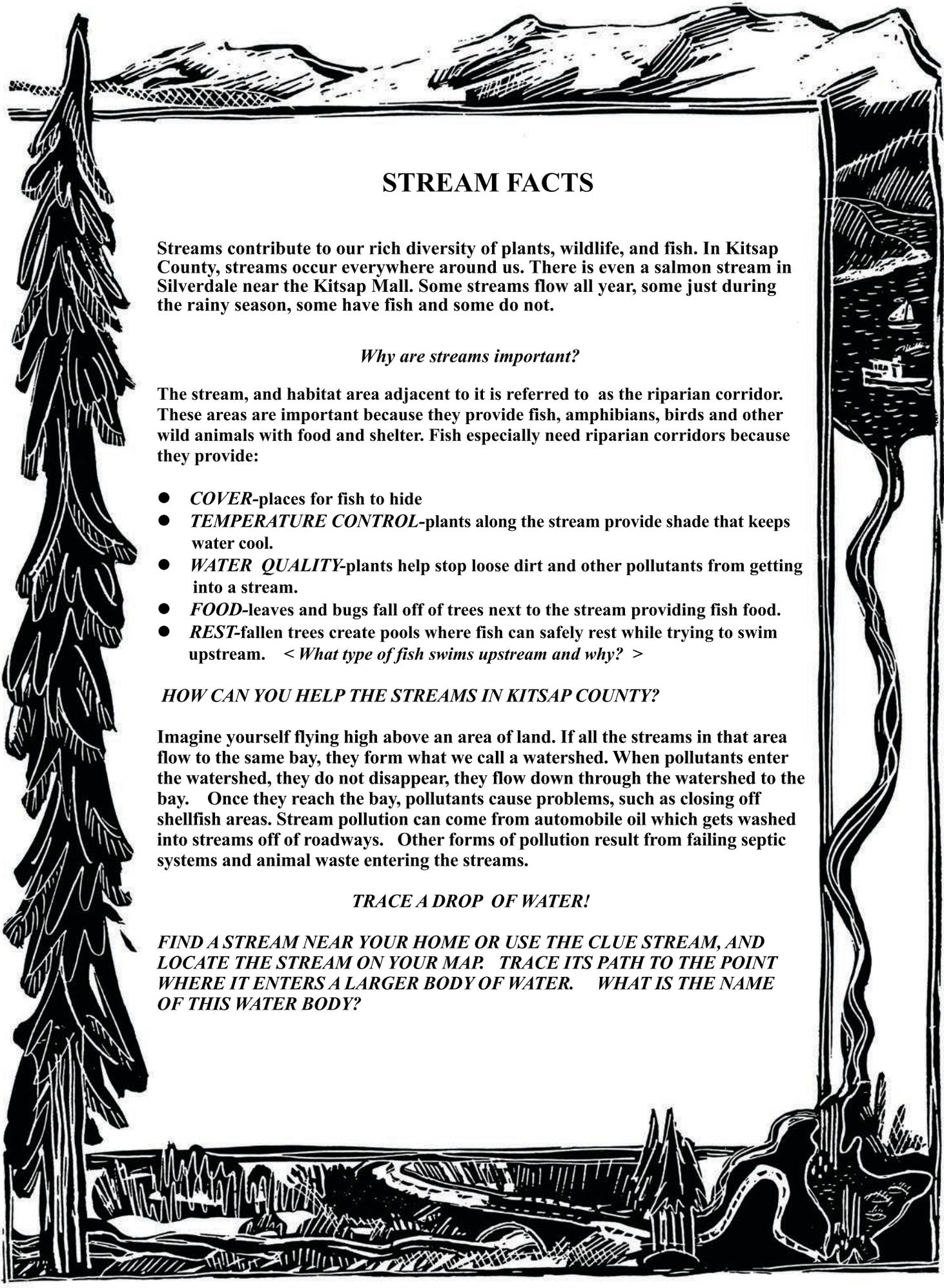
*Graphic Artist: Kari Berger; Fact Page: Dave Greetham & Rick Kimball*



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CREEK

*It passes under a bridge.  
To ----- Lake to the west.  
Park your car by the old trailhead.  
Near the path you will surely find  
The spot where Thunderbird stood.*

*M. BERGER*



## STREAM FACTS

Streams contribute to our rich diversity of plants, wildlife, and fish. In Kitsap County, streams occur everywhere around us. There is even a salmon stream in Silverdale near the Kitsap Mall. Some streams flow all year, some just during the rainy season, some have fish and some do not.

### *Why are streams important?*

The stream, and habitat area adjacent to it is referred to as the riparian corridor. These areas are important because they provide fish, amphibians, birds and other wild animals with food and shelter. Fish especially need riparian corridors because they provide:

- **COVER**-places for fish to hide
- **TEMPERATURE CONTROL**-plants along the stream provide shade that keeps water cool.
- **WATER QUALITY**-plants help stop loose dirt and other pollutants from getting into a stream.
- **FOOD**-leaves and bugs fall off of trees next to the stream providing fish food.
- **REST**-fallen trees create pools where fish can safely rest while trying to swim upstream. < *What type of fish swims upstream and why?* >

### *HOW CAN YOU HELP THE STREAMS IN KITSAP COUNTY?*

Imagine yourself flying high above an area of land. If all the streams in that area flow to the same bay, they form what we call a watershed. When pollutants enter the watershed, they do not disappear, they flow down through the watershed to the bay. Once they reach the bay, pollutants cause problems, such as closing off shellfish areas. Stream pollution can come from automobile oil which gets washed into streams off of roadways. Other forms of pollution result from failing septic systems and animal waste entering the streams.

### *TRACE A DROP OF WATER!*

***FIND A STREAM NEAR YOUR HOME OR USE THE CLUE STREAM, AND LOCATE THE STREAM ON YOUR MAP. TRACE ITS PATH TO THE POINT WHERE IT ENTERS A LARGER BODY OF WATER. WHAT IS THE NAME OF THIS WATER BODY?***