

THE CREST

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Alone in Her Tank, an Orca Sings

By Emi Okikawa, Digital Communications Fellow

The Story of Tokitae

Three thousand miles away from Seattle, a lone Southern Resident orca swims in a tank. To visitors at Miami Seaquarium her name is "Lolita," but to the Lummi Nation she is Tokitae. It's a Chinook name, given to her the day she was kidnapped from our waters.

At 51 years old, Tokitae has spent the majority of her life --47 years-- in captivity, confined to a tiny swimming pool

with no other orca for company. She is the age of an elder matriarch and should be the mother of her own family. But instead, she is all alone.

Tokitae was taken from her family in the infamous Penn Cove capture of 1970. In the brutal attack, a group of men used boats, planes, and explosives to corral frightened and panicked orca families into nets to separate them, using long sticks to push mothers away from their calves. In the end, the remaining orca could only watch as their stolen babies and relatives were helicoptered

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THE CREST

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Message From The Chapter Chair

By Julia Reitan, Chapter Chair

You may notice that this Crest is different. We're trying something new – a new format and twice-a-year schedule for the Crest to complement our new monthly electronic newsletter, Evergreen.

Hope you've noticed Evergreen in your email in-box!

It's our new way to reach you with more timely news, updates and alerts – while reducing paper, printing, and mailings that many people tell us they don't want anymore.

The Crest will now be published twice a year instead of four times.

The Fall issue of the Crest will continue to focus on elections and candidate endorsements. In this Spring issue you will find longer stories about values, urgency, and choices that underpin work of the Sierra Club in Washington State.

Alone in Her Tank, an Orca Sings

The Sierra Club in Washington State, along with many others and especially the Lummi tribe, are working to help restore habitat and salmon runs for starving, weakened Puget Sound resident orcas. And yet, one living member of the L-pod isn't even

here. Tokitae, captured from Puget Sound in the 1970s, is in an orca tank at Miami Seaquarium. This is her story, along with that of the Lummi people who have never forgotten she is there.

Energy for Change

Washington State's newly enacted legislation for 100% clean energy, plus efficiency standards for buildings and appliances, is great! Working for sweeping, impactful energy policies such as these is what Sierra Club does best. But also, Sierra Club volunteer leaders make big personal choices to reduce their energy impacts, as told in this interview with Dean Smith and Jennie Lindberg.

Toward a More Just Environmental Movement

Sierra Club has made strong commitments to work for equity and justice. You can learn more here on the Club's website www.sierraclub.org/washington/equity-and-justice-committee. This story is adapted from a lecture by Mike Mallory. It's his way of forwarding this important work.

Explore, Enjoy, Protect

Two of the three words at the heart of Sierra Club's mission statement speak to getting outdoors. This article tells how to join Sierra Club outdoor activities.



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Preserve the Future

Not everyone can make a large gift to protect the environment during their lifetime, but you can preserve the environment for generations to come by remembering Sierra Club in your will. There are many gift options available. We can even help you plan a gift for your local Chapter.

For more information and confidential assistance, contact:

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Walking the Talk: One Couple's Low Impact Lifestyle



Dean and Jennie Harvesting

Photo: Jason Jacobson

By Marjie Fields, Crest Editor

Visiting with Dean Smith and Jennie Lindberg in their Everett home, we are interrupted by a knock at the door. Opening the door reveals a 4-year-old neighbor boy holding out a fledging strawberry plant for Dean to admire. They will plant it and more in the garden at the cohousing site where the child's family and others plan to join Dean and Jennie in creating an "intentional" community.

This interaction with a neighbor child exemplifies the way Dean and Jennie want to live their lives. Growing their own food and living in community with others of like-mind are both important to their lifestyle plan. They each have been involved with organic gardening for most of their lives, but the cohousing concept is a more recent addition.

Both activities are important aspects of their commitment to having a lighter footprint on earth. Dean and Jennie have been concerned about climate change for over 15 years, before most people had heard about it. Jennie says that when they first talked about it, people looked at them as if they were speaking a foreign language. They are happy to see that so many people have come to understand the threat of climate change, but are sad about the reasons: observable indicators of climate crisis, and

results of the 2016 elections. Dean and Jennie work with the Sierra Club and 350.org to rally local climate activists.

Living Their Values

The couple lives in a charming historic home, which they have restored and separated into two apartments. The child with the strawberry plant lives with his family in the upstairs apartment. This division of the house leaves only 750 square feet of living space for Dean and Jennie, which they find helps keep them the perils of consumerism.

Dean's work to restore the home involved removing pipes for gas lights, installing good insulation and also solar panels. These actions paid off; it takes little energy to heat their small space, and Dean says they produce as much electricity as they consume. They drive an electric car, re-use containers, and work to reduce plastic in their lives. Jennie even makes her own shampoo and lip balm to avoid plastic containers. Most of us would agree that these are admirable goals, but few of us actually "walk the talk" like Dean and Jennie.

Growing Their Own Food

Jennie says that their main passion is their organic garden. They consider taking care of the soil to be an important part of taking care of the earth. Although they

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Alone in her Tank, a Orca Sings - Continued from page 1

away to be distributed to various marine parks around the country. According to the Lummi, the orca have since avoided Penn Cove because it's still the site of such painful memories.

Of the original Penn Cove orca that were captured, only one remains: Tokitae. And despite this incredible hardship, Tokitae remains strong and healthy. This, to the Lummi is a sign of her resilience, one that they see reflected in themselves.

According to Kurt Russo, The Lummi Nation's political strategist, this is deeply personal to the Lummi and ties into their very identity. "According to Lummi traditional knowledge, the Blackfish (qwe lhol mechen) is a relative," Russo said. "Not in the evolutionary sense, but in the sense of direct family--[it] means 'the people that live under the water.' It is a very different world-view, but one with a long history, and a history that guides their beliefs today."

The Lummi have been fighting to bring Tokitae home for over ten years.

The Totem Journey

In 2018, the Lummi planned a cross-country totem journey from Seattle to Miami to raise awareness for the plight of Tokitae, and to call for her immediate release from the Seaquarium. The Tokitae Totem Pole was carved by the House Of Tears Carvers (Jewell James and his brother Doug James) specifically for this journey.

Now, in 2019, they're making the trip back.

"The upcoming 2019 Totem Pole Journey is dedicated not only to the return of Tokitae, but also to the Lummi tribe's work to help bring healing to the Southern Resident Killer Whale (SRKW) population," said Russo. "The totem pole will be present at each of these events where presenters and performers will bring attention to

the importance of returning Tokitae to her SRKW family, the urgent care we need to provide to the SRKW to restore them to vigor, and what we all can do to help restore and protect the Salish Sea and our other sacred lands and waters."

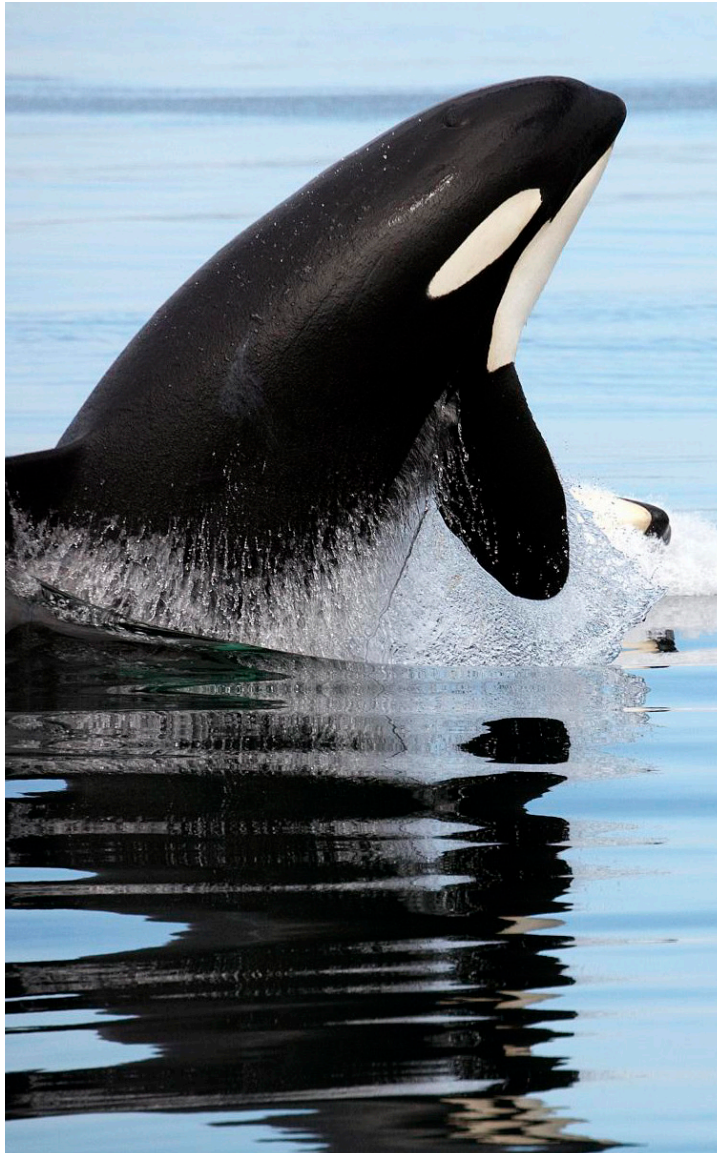
A Daunting Challenge

But recovering the Southern Resident orca population is a daunting challenge. The era of Tokitae's capture has led to catastrophic impacts that reverberate throughout the Salish Sea to this day.

The NRDC estimates that "at least 45 Southern Resident killer whales were captured and delivered to marine parks between 1965 and 1973." This decimated their population to the point that now, Southern Resident orcas are one of the most endangered marine mammals in the world.

Currently, they are at a 30-year low with only 74 individuals remaining. Their situation is extremely precarious; they are swimming on the brink of extinction. From noise to pollution, the southern residents face pervasive and extensive challenges in their fight for survival.

The Chinook salmon populations these whales once relied on, particularly those in the Columbia-Snake Riv-



Breaching Orca Whale

Photo: Christopher Michel

er Basin, are just a remnant of their former numbers, leaving these whales with far less food to eat. The Columbia and Snake River Chinook were once the largest and most abundant salmon species anywhere on the west coast, providing Southern Residents with a critical winter food source.

The decline of salmon populations across the Northwest is complex, and a significant factor is the degradation of salmon habitat--particularly the damming of rivers. Dams and their reservoirs slow adult and juvenile salmon migration, making them increasingly susceptible to predation and lethally warm water. Large reservoirs on the Columbia and Snake rivers make it difficult for young salmon to quickly and safely migrate to the ocean where they can mature into adults.

A Legislative Priority

This year, the fight for orca survival was an important piece of the 2019 state legislative session. The Washington State Sierra Club has been working with Tribal Nations like the Lummi to advocate for the passage of orca-friendly legislation in Olympia, and we've seen considerable success. Sierra Club worked with partner organizations and tribes to pass better protections for near-shore habitats, important oil spill prevention legislation, and legislation to prevent toxins from entering Puget Sound.

We've also spent time in Olympia working to secure funding for a) increasing spill over existing dams to aide juvenile salmon survival, and b) convening a stakeholder forum for Snake River communities to identify potential issues and possible solutions if the four lower dams are removed. Both were finally funded in this year's state budget, which is very good news.

Because our southern resident orcas migrate south to feed near the Columbia in the winter and spring, a focus on the Columbia and Snake River system salmon will be a key to orca survival. Decades of scientific research and observation have shown that increasing spill-- the amount of water spilled over the federal dams--is the safest way for young salmon to migrate past dams and reservoirs to reach the ocean. Higher levels of spill also result in larger

adult salmon returns in subsequent years, meaning more food for orca.

The science also strongly supports dam removal as the most effective recovery action for Snake River salmon. A stakeholder forum would assure equitable representation and participation to identify issues that need to be addressed if the dams were removed. It is essential that we create space to hold discussion and dialogue to identify solutions that work for people, communities, and our iconic Northwest species.

“She still sings, you know?”

The Grief of Tahlequah

Last year, the world collectively grieved with the mother whale, Tahlequah, who held her dead baby aloft for 17 days, across hundreds of miles. The orca calf was the first to be born in three years and lived for only about a half an hour after its birth.

That day on the water--the birth and death of Tahlequah's calf, was a landmark moment.

In some ways, it became a rallying point for many and opened a conversation about the very real impact we, as humans, are having on the environment around us, especially on the most innocent. The image of a mourning mother holding the body of her child seemed to captivate the whole world, and for many, it was impossible to look away.

Just a Stone's Throw Away

One of the final things Russo tells me before we part is that Tokitae's enclosure is just a stone's throw away from the ocean, meaning than she can hear the waves crashing, and smell the ocean life just out of her reach--she remembers where she came from.

He pauses briefly, before continuing, "She still sings, you know?"

Every night, alone in her tank, Tokitae will listen to the sound of the waves and sing her L-pod song--the song of her family. For years it has stretched out into the night, only to be met with silence.

But maybe we're finally ready to listen.



PRINCIPLES IN CLIMATE JUSTICE: CAN WE CHANGE THE SYSTEM?

By Mike Mallory, Sierra Club Sno-Isle Group
and Climate Reality Snohomish County Chapter

After Mike Mallory and his wife Marilyn retired, they knew they wanted to spend some of their time giving back to the world and they wanted to do it together. They found that climate activism was high on both their lists, in large part because of concern for the future of their grandchildren. They were attracted to the intensive Climate Reality training from top climate scientists, policy makers and health care workers. This training emphasized the need to inform people about the causes and consequences of climate change. The following is based on one of their presentations to spread the word.

When we hear stories about the frontline of environmental degradation, our sense of fairness is awoken and we are often moved to action. But when we move to action it is important to keep Environmental Justice in mind, so that we do not reinforce the pre-existing threads of oppression and injustice already woven into the system. "Justice" is generally about balancing rights and responsibilities, benefits and burdens. Justice, in its applications to the Environment, can be divided into three categories.

- Participatory Justice – Which deals with fairness in decision making.
- Distributive Justice – Which balances the benefits and burdens of our social and ecological system.
- Restorative Justice – Which guides us in restoring the balance when lost.

Participatory Justice

Participatory Justice can be described as meaningful access for all stakeholders to fair and responsive decision-making. There are important decisions that need to be made which will affect the entire biosphere. The conversations and resulting actions are of universal concern.

Participatory Justice – Requires:

1. An invitation to the table to all stakeholders: Invitations are more inclusive than mere access. Stakeholders are all those affected by our current and contemplated actions.
2. That each collective voice is heard: We must accommodate different languages and cultures. Each group must be allowed to speak for itself and groups must be allowed to select their own representatives.
3. That voices be equalized: Power affects the volume and bandwidth of messaging. Those without power are entitled to equal consideration.

Therefore

- Vulnerable voices must be highlighted. Those without power are historically underrepresented. We must allow those voices to move to the forefront and we must truly listen.
- Economic voices must be brought into scale. Power has the ability to drown out the voices of others. We must turn down the amplification of power.
- Non-Traditional Stakeholders must be included: This includes people who will speak for animal and plant life on this planet and also future generations, our grandchildren and their grandchildren.

4. Participatory justice also requires information, not misinformation. If decision making is to be wise, the decision makers need to be knowledgeable. Climate denial must be called out.

Distributive Justice

Distributive justice is ideally an initial social or ecological system that shares the benefits of natural resources and environmental costs equitably. One approach to de-

termining whether a system is fair is described by John Rawls in his book, *A Theory of Justice*. Rawls offers a thought experiment – imagine that before you are born, you are provided briefly with a full understanding of the world. You understand all there is to know about the way society is organized: economic differences, racial and ethnic differences, etc. But you do not know whether you will be born black, white or some other race, rich or poor, in a developed or developing country, in this time or sometime in the future. There is an equal chance of every outcome. Are you comfortable? Only when we are comfortable with all the possible outcomes using intuitive contemplation, which Rawls calls reflective equilibrium, is the system just.

Rawls further points out that if there are adjustments to the system, they are only valid if they give an advantage to the least advantaged groups rather than exacerbating current inequalities.

Restorative Justice

Our world is riddled with injustice, so when there are conflicts within the system we need to use that opportunity to move toward a condition that increases justice in the system as a whole.

Fairness requires equal access to the benefits of development. We do have the ability to provide development to remote areas without repeating the greenhouse-gas emitting technology of the past. We can

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bring solar or wind generating micro-grids to communities from Northern Alaska and Siberia to Central Africa and the Amazon.

Restorative justice must also address environmental costs as well as benefits. We sometimes hear about communities in the “frontline” of pollution. “Frontline” is a valuable term when referring to localized pollution such

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Top Left to Right: Mt. Saint Helens from Elk Rock - by Andre Silvery, Sierra Club Friends enjoying a outing to Big Four Mountain - by Elsie Spinning Lower Bottom: May Lake 22 - by Tom Crisp

EDUCATIONAL OUTINGS

Connect With The Outdoors With The Sierra Club

By Lehman Holder, Loo Wit (Vancouver area) Outings Leader



Flowers are blooming, trees are leafing out, birds are chirping – it's time to start thinking about your outdoor adventures.

Sierra Club Outings were started in 1901 by Sierra Club founder John Muir. He knew the best way to persuade people to work to save valuable wild areas is to take them into the wilderness and let them experience for themselves the beauty that needs defending.

Local, national and international Outings are offered. If you're tempted to participate in Outings run by the National Sierra Club, read about them at:

www.sierraclub.org/outings, or in the Sierra magazine.

Our state offers an amazing array of beauty, and our local Outings program can help you access and appreciate it. Activities often include bicycling, sea kayaking, conservation outings, urban rambles, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. Local Outings are open to members and non-members. Typically, no fees are required, although many participants choose to make a small donation to cover Outings expenses. Some groups, such as Loo Wit in Southwest Washington, dedicate a portion of donations to purchase carbon offsets at year-end. What if your group doesn't offer Outings?? Please read on.

Become an Outings Leader!

Our Outings program depends on volunteer leaders. Sometimes several volunteers in one part of the state offer an active and diverse selection of Outings. However, sometimes the cycle of activity wanes until new leaders step forward. If there isn't much going on in your area, you can change that and be part of the solution. Information about local Sierra Club Outings across Washington and how to become a leader is at:

www.sierraclub.org/washington/outings



Mt Adams

Photo: Noel Romines

One of the many perks for Outings leaders is that they can offer specific activities they enjoy and want to share with others, at a time that fits their schedule. It's about connecting people to the outdoors and acquainting them with Sierra Club priorities and values.

Explore, Enjoy, Protect the Planet Spring and Summer Outings

So, what's required to be an Outings leader? For day trips, complete the Outings Leader Training (OLT) 101 class, become certified in basic first aid, and do two co-leads with a currently certified leader. OLT 101 may be taken in a class or on-

line. Leading backcountry overnight trips require completing the OLT 201 class and Wilderness First Aid. Find more information about becoming a leader at:

www.sierraclub.org/washington/outings-committee

As any Outings leader will tell you, leading Outings for Sierra Club will enrich your life. Over time you will accumulate wonderful stories and memories, and meet amazing people who share your values.

Whatever your interest, get out there! Make a Sierra Club Outing part of your spring and summer recreation plan.

You'll have fun, meet new people, and support Sierra Club's motto: Explore, Enjoy, Protect the Planet. You'll be glad you did.

www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Outings-Western-Washington



as communities living downwind of a smokestack. However, climate change is global and is affecting everyone, whether rich or poor. Sea level rise affects the poor in Bangladesh but it also affects the wealthy in waterfront homes in Miami. Hurricanes destroy the homes and businesses of the wealthy and the poor alike. Everyone will have to deal with the effects of climate change.

The difference that matters when discussing justice is one

of resilience. The wealthy can afford to adapt to climate change; those with few resources lack that resilience. Climate vulnerability accurately describes those unable to adapt to climate change.

When we respond to an environmental crisis we must listen to all affected groups, understand the benefits and burdens of development through the historical lens of oppression and exploitation, and work to embed practical solutions into a restorative justice framework.

From Diane Shisk, Equity and Justice Committee Chair:

The Washington Sierra Club has an Equity and Justice Committee that works to assist the Washington Chapter in transforming from an historically white-led group to an equitable group that is a strong ally to communities of color and tribes. We have developed resources to that end which can be found here:

<https://www.sierraclub.org/washington/equity-and-justice-committee>.

We welcome inquiries.

Walking the Talk: One Couple's Low Impact Lifestyle - continued from page 3

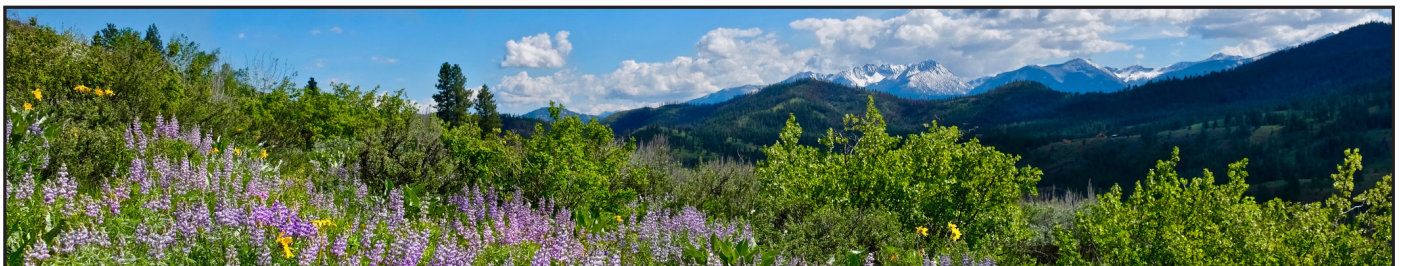
live in Everett, a few years ago, they bought a 1.5 acre farm a few miles out of town and named it Simplicity Rose Farm, after the roses growing there. They bought it for the condition of the soil, and planted about ½ acre in vegetables. The farm also has a very productive fruit orchard and a berry patch. They raise chickens and ducks too. The ducks do a good job of eating slugs and slug eggs, but ducks also like to eat lettuce and strawberries – and predators like to eat ducks. Nevertheless, duck eggs are especially good for baking.

They grow about half of all their own food, which gives

Dean and Jennie great satisfaction, as well a flavorful and nutritious diet. Canning and freezing produce in season allows them to enjoy it year round. Jennie says that growing food and preparing it for people to eat is what gives her the most pleasure. She and Dean always eat dinner together and they pay attention to how much food on their plates is food they have produced.

They are very careful about what they plant as well as how they grow their food. For instance, they don't want tomatoes bred for durability in shipping, so they harvest seeds from heirloom tomatoes and start their own plants.

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**SIERRA
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Washington State Leadership Directory
www.sierraclub.org/washington/leaders

Similarly, they started with a dozen kernels of heirloom corn as seed; and now they have a large corn crop that is not contaminated with genetically modified seeds.

As they move on to their cohousing adventure, Dean and Jennie are selling Simplicity Rose Farm; but ensuring that it will live on. The young family who has been renting the farmhouse will be the new owners of the farm and are committed to carrying on the vision of growing food in a way that is healthy for their family and respectful of the Earth.

Living in an Intentional Community

Not surprisingly, the community garden is the first ground-breaking at Sunnyside Village, the cohousing community Dean and Jennie are starting in Marysville. They purchased nearly 5 acres, which will be shared by many families, each with their own separate home. Cohousing allows for smaller homes with smaller carbon impact because of shared spaces and materials. A Common House will have a community kitchen and dining room for optional community meals plus guest rooms. The plan is for small family homes with a big, shared garden.

Cohousing can reduce the individual's carbon footprint not only by sharing the space in the Common House, but also by sharing a workshop and craft room, and sharing tools and appliances rather than each individual family having their own. Community members can share rides to shopping, share babysitting, and check on one another's well being. Jennie, a family therapist professionally, points out that current research shows longevity is greatly improved by a sense of community, purpose and belonging.

Dean will be a presenter at the National Cohousing Conference in Portland next month. He will emphasize the value of a community garden as part of a healthy lifestyle – knowing how your food is grown, what's in the soil, and that no toxic sprays were used. This conference offers

opportunity for exchanging ideas and information with others involved in cohousing projects.

Sunnyside Village is called an intentional community because it involves people who make a conscious decision to be part of a like-minded group, rather than randomly choosing a neighborhood based on an attractive house. The community will self-select to live cooperatively, work together, and support one another. Dean and Jennie report that the people they have met are the best part of the work they are doing to create Sunnyside Village.

Having Fun

It is inspiring to see a couple sharing a vision, a purpose – and excitement about their goals. They consider their farming and gardening work to be their hobby,

their exercise and their entertainment. Jennie says that every time she plants a seed, it seems like a miracle that something will come from that small hard object buried in the dirt. She says, "Working in the garden, harvesting fresh vegetables and preparing them for our dinner makes me feel most alive and connected to the earth and myself."

As environmental activists, they work together to raise awareness of the issues and encourage necessary change. They believe that people

are finally coming to understand the need to change life styles in order to mitigate and adapt to climate change. Dean emphasizes that there are no simple, easy solutions; Jennie says she feels like she can never do enough. They advocate a "one step at a time" approach, doing what you, yourself feel passionate about rather than adopting someone else's "should."

Dean and Jennie follow their passions for gardening and community as they strive for a low-carbon lifestyle. It is clear that they are having fun in the process of planning the cohousing village; and visualizing the outcome gives them great pleasure. Dean says, "That's the way I want to grow old, surrounded by kids and a caring community."



Dean with Neighbor, Jupiter

Photo: Jennie Lindberg



Thank You Sierra Club Members!

Your membership supports the critical work of Sierra Club nationwide – including here in Washington State – but also in Washington D.C. and every state where Sierra Club is working to end dirty coal-fired power, protect our nation’s great outdoor places, and more.

A direct gift to the Washington State Chapter stays here 100%.

For Sierra Club’s work in Washington State including. . .

- Action for Puget Sound orcas and endangered Snake River wild salmon
- Accelerating climate action in Washington State and 100% clean energy
- Protecting our state’s great forests and rivers, waters and wildlife, habitats and hiking trails

Make a Gift for Sierra Club Work in Washington State

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