



# The Grateful Dogs scoop

Fall 2009

Bellingham & Blaine

Grateful Dogs Off Leash Association

## BOARD MEMBERS

PRESIDENT  
Mollie Faulkner

PRESIDENT ELECT  
Sharon Bishop

NEWSLETTER  
Jean Webster

ACCOUNTANT  
Kelly Pederson

TREASURER  
Marly Hogan

MEMBERSHIP  
Trish Lemon

CITY GOVERNMENT LIASON  
Anara Thomas  
Coco Lomas  
Helen Rondestvedt

WEBMASTER  
BobbieRuth Langley

OUTREACH & EQUIPMENT  
Jenny Brighton

MEMBER AT LARGE  
Sheila Nickerson  
Gayle Larson  
Jason Friend  
Jay Perelman

STEWARDS  
Bonnie Bird  
Chris Camp  
Rich Warsofsky

## Membership Info:

To change your address or for membership questions, please contact Trish at 360-734-0272 or email tjlemon@comcast.net.

**We NEED your updated Email addresses!**

## From the Doghouse

Well our gorgeous hot summer came to a screeching halt Labor Day weekend. Dog Days of Summer at Lake Padden was literally blown away by heavy gusts of wind. We were there at 8 AM



*Paws and Claws*

to set up our booth. First our brand new banner blew away and was heading towards the lake hotly pursued by Jenny Brighton

and Chris Camp. Then the whole canopy came crashing down and was broken to pieces. So we soldiered on with just a table. Finally Gail Larsen and Jenny were blown over on their chairs with table and all its items on top of them. So it was time to call it quits. Not the most satisfying event but the dogs all enjoyed themselves. Thank you to all our loyal helpers. Bonnie Bird, Kelly Peterson, Coco Lomas and Donna Gallant and of course Jenny, Chris and Gail.

Our trees that we planted last October at Squalicum Creek Park are surviving. Fortunately the Parks Department provided us with Dri-Water irrigation, as there is no water supply there.

At the end of May, Grateful Dog members turned out to install these Gel-filled cartons about 6 or 8 to a tree. With the result that there appears to be only one totally dead tree, a small Douglas fir and all the rest are doing well. We will need to do the

same thing next year, but the Park Budget has been severely cut so we have been asked to raise the \$900 needed for Dri-Water irrigation. We all know how super important trees are to us dogs and our people (see Sharon's tree articles.) when we are out walking.

So if anyone has a great idea for raising the money let me know or you can do it the easy way and just donate the money.

Remember we are a 501 c/3 organization so your contributions are tax deductible.

We only have one meeting a year so a good turn out is essential. Unfortunately us dogs are not allowed but this meeting is very important for the future of our off leash areas and our organization.

It has been a fun rewarding year being "President Boule" for a year.



*Dog Days of Summer*

Thank you to all who have helped, especially my master, Kaye Faulkner, who has kept all the emails flowing since Mollie is computer



## Grateful Dogs Annual Meeting

**Tuesday,  
October 27<sup>th</sup> at 7pm**

511 E. Holly  
at the WECU meeting room  
(Next to Kinkos's)

*Listings are a service provided for businesses that join Grateful Dogs at the Business Level. Please contact Trish at 360-734-0272 or email her at [tjlemon@comcast.net](mailto:tjlemon@comcast.net) for more information.*

**PET SITTERS & BOARDING**

Field of Dreams Doggie Daycare  
 Kerri & Doug Barnett  
 916 E. McLeod Rd.  
 Bellingham, | 360-933-4838

NW Kennels  
 4796 Northwest Dr.,  
 Bellingham | (360) 384-6578

Placid Pet  
 Pet sitting & daily dog walking  
 (360) 223-3825

Ruff Day Doggie Daycare, LLC  
 (360) 527-0682  
 Ruff-Day@hotmail.com

See Spot Run  
 Pet sitting & off leash adventures  
 Kimberly Rutherford  
 Licensed Veterinary Asst,  
 Cell. 305-8020  
 duhwaguh@yahoo.com

SouthsidePAWS  
 Judy Farrell  
 PO Box 4411, Bellingham  
 360-766-7904

**PET SERVICES**

Earth First Lawn Care  
 Andrea Rowe  
 1-877-518-1511  
 360-813-0040  
 earthfirstlawn@live.com

City Dogs Grooming  
 Lee Ann Kelly  
 Pet Grooming for all Breeds!  
 1337 Lincoln St. Ste. 1.  
 Bellingham | (360) 756-9515  
 www.citydogsgrooming.com

**PET SHELTERS/ RESCUE**

Whatcom Humane Society  
 3710 Williamson Way  
 Bellingham | (360) 733-2080

Alternative Humane Society  
 Of Whatcom County  
 PO Box 2321, Bellingham  
 (360) 671-7445

**DOG LOVERS IN BUSINESSES**

Bakerview Nursery  
 945 E. Bakerview Rd.  
 Bellingham | (360) 676-0400

Josh Shiflet, Realtor  
 Remax Lakeway  
 913 Lakeway Dr.  
 Bellingham | (360) 739-1327  
 josh@sellwithjosh.com  
 www.sellwithjosh.com

KC Coonc, Realtor  
 Fairhaven Realty  
 1100 11th St.  
 Bellingham | (360) 676-8990  
 Cell: (360) 305-9977  
 kc@fairhavenrealty.com  
 www.realestatebykc.com

Kelly Pederson, Accountant  
 2536 Queen St. #3  
 Bellingham, WA 98226  
 360-752-1533  
 kellypederson@yahoo.com

Masters Massage Therapy,  
 Becky Masters, LMP  
 Massage for Every Body!  
 1111 W. Holly Street, Ste. F  
 Bellingham | (360) 671-2713

Ross Architecture NW  
 Bob Ross  
 115 Underhill Rd.  
 Bellingham | (360) 676-4443

Thomas Consulting Services  
 George Thomas  
 Nonprofit Organizational  
 Development  
 (360) 671-4193  
 George@sector3works.com

Webster Illustration,  
 Marketing & Graphic Design  
 Jean Webster  
 137 33rd Street  
 Bellingham | (360) 778-3211  
 Jean@WebsterGraphics.com

**VETERINARIANS & ANIMAL HEALTH**

Maplewood Animal Hospital  
 David Rabkin, D.V.M.  
 2869 West Maplewood Ave.  
 Bellingham | (360) 715-1430

Whatcom Dog Rehabilitation  
 Barb Kennedy  
 Behavioral Counselor &  
 Rehabilitation Specialist  
 108 S 7th St Lynden  
 (360) 739-8502

# AHS's Paws & Claws Expo

The music stopped, and all the watching crowd could hear were insistent calls of "Sit! Sit! No, SIT!!"

This was the scene at AHS's Paws and Claws Expo as people played musical chairs' with their dogs. The dogs had to sit before their guardians could sit, you see, and whoever was left standing was OUT!



*AHS's Paws and Claws Expo.*

Musical chairs was just one of many fun games and contests for people and pets to participate in the Paws and Claws Expo, which was held at Bloedel Donovan Park on Sunday, August 2nd.

The day began with 'Strut Your Mutt', a two mile fun run/walk to Whatcom Falls Park and back. The event also included educational presentations and demonstrations, food vendors, and nearly 20 local dog and cat related businesses and organizations. The weather was perfect, and we hear everyone had a great time.



Because the Alternative Humane Society has no shelter, office, or paid staff, 100% of the money we raised at the Expo will go toward our programs: Spay/Neuter Vouchers, Dog Foster and Adoption, and Education. We are so grateful for everyone who helped to make this event a success, and we invite you to mark your calendars and join us for next year's Paws and Claws Expo, Sunday, August 1st!



For more information about the Alternative Humane Society, visit us online at [www.alternativehumanesociety.org](http://www.alternativehumanesociety.org).

## Report from the PR Committee (or Lobbyists)

The team is made up of Sharon Bishop, Helen Rondestvedt, Coco Lomas and Anara Thomas.

Meeting with Public Works: Several board members met with Bill Reilly, storm water manager for public works. He's part of the Cordata housing and parks development planning team. Bill is involved in the planning stages because he is mandated to reduce fecal coli form bacteria that gets into streams near these developments. Planners can't control the wildlife factors like birds and rats that put coli form bacteria into the streams, so they look elsewhere like excluding dogs in those areas.

We searched for common ground to help with that mandate and came up with several partnership possibilities: promote public education and collaborate on projects so dogs can be included in the park plans, like sponsoring certain areas including our own signage; promote respect for a clean environment besides monthly cleanups at the off leash sites; GD include a small article from our group in the city water and sewage bill. We'll explore what works.

Little Squalicum Park Development Planning Meetings: Several GD board members attended the 2nd of 3 Parks Planning meetings for the above site. There were 2 plan proposals presented plus asking for more input. Even though several of us voiced our input, we were urged to have a lot of people contact the Parks Department to request an off leash area in that Park. If they don't hear that people want an off leash area they won't put it in. We ask you to contact Gina Austin at city parks as soon as possible with your request that a dog off leash area be included in the Little Squalicum Final Park Plan. Gina's email is: GAustin@cob.org.

The next Park Planning meeting is November 12, 7 pm at the Fireplace Meeting Room, 625 Halleck St. (side of Municipal Court Bldg). The October 14th Parks Board Meeting would be important to attend to make sure they are including an off

leash area in the Park plan. Call the Parks Office for meeting location at 778-7000. That meeting starts at 7:15 a.m. (I won't be in town for that meeting.)

Upcoming meetings and approvals are as follows. While citizens are encouraged to attend the third and final public meeting on November 12, all of the meetings are open to the public.

**Oct. 7, 2009** | 2 – 5 PM  
Location: Fireplace Meeting Room at 625 Halleck Street (Municipal Court Building), Bellingham

Purpose: Stakeholder representatives workshop meeting (Port of Bellingham, Neighborhood Reps, City of Bellingham staff, Businesses, etc.) to review public comments & develop the final preferred master plan

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**Oct. 14, 2009** | 7:30 AM  
Location: Please call the Park's office at 778-7000 for location and directions.

Purpose: Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting to review the preferred master plan

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**Nov. 12, 2009** | 7 – 9 PM  
Location: Fireplace Meeting Room at 625 Halleck Street (Municipal Court Building), Bellingham

Purpose: Public meeting to review the final master plan

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**Dec. 9, 2009** | 7:30 AM  
Location: Please call the Park's office at 778-7000 for location and directions.

Purpose: Parks & Recreation Advisory Board meeting to adopt final master plan

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**Jan. 2010** | (Time TBD)  
Location: City Hall, City Council Chambers, 210 Lottie Street, Bellingham

Purpose: City Council adoption of the final master plan

Contact: Anara Thomas

## Introducing Grey Muzzle

Some of you are already familiar with The Grey Muzzle Organization (GMO). For those of you who are not, here's a brief introduction. GMO was founded by Julie Nowicki in Washington in 2008. (She now lives in North Carolina.)



As a former foster and adopter of old dogs from OldDog Haven, she realized that not nearly enough was being done to help old dogs around the country. GMO received its 501(c)

(3) non-profit status in July 2008 and in its first year of operation it has been able to give more than \$50,000 in grants and funding to 19 different rescue organizations and shelters in 12 states.

Three of the west coast organizations that received funding were OldDog Haven in WA, the Sanctuary for Senior Dogs in OR, and Muttville in CA. GMO has also been able to provide orthopedic beds and cots from its Bed Fund to 12 different shelters in 8 states.

As one of two Northwest WA ambassadors, I'm proud to represent Grey Muzzle. I continue to have a special place in my heart for senior dogs. I may not be able to help them financially, but I can at least be a voice for them.

I encourage you to check out Grey Muzzle's website at [www.greymuzzle.org](http://www.greymuzzle.org) and read some of the wonderful stories of dogs that have been helped: <http://www.greymuzzle.org/dogs.htm> ... stories like Lena's, deformed from lack of care and ending up in a huge shelter, but thankfully rescued by OldDog Heaven.

Lena was one of the beneficiaries of a Grey Muzzle grant to OldDog Haven, for their program that helps dogs that have only a short time left.

If you, or anyone you know, is interested in

volunteering for Grey Muzzle as an ambassador or other special volunteer, please go to: [www.greymuzzle.org/volunteer.htm](http://www.greymuzzle.org/volunteer.htm)  
Thank you!

Contact: Julie Pruitt | Northwest WA Ambassador  
The Grey Muzzle Organization | [juliepr@greymuzzle.org](mailto:juliepr@greymuzzle.org) | (360) 371-0241  
<http://www.greymuzzle.org>

## Low Cost Spay & Neuter Options

Bellingham's local SNAP (Spay Neuter Assistance Program) has provided service to hundreds of low income family pets.

Applications for SNAP are available at both shelters and online at [www.whatcomhumane.org](http://www.whatcomhumane.org)

Also, WeSNIP (Whatcom Education Spay & Neuter Impact Program) has a mobile spay/neuter unit that travels throughout Whatcom and Skagit counties.

Thank you,

Contact: Katy James | Whatcom Humane Society  
(360) 733-2080 ext.3014 | [edasr@whatcomhumane.org](mailto:edasr@whatcomhumane.org)

## Bloedel Donovan Park

### \*\* UPDATE \*\*

The Park will not be closed this fall for re-seeding as planned. It will however be closed in the Spring again.

The Parks Department are asking dogs and their owners to move their activities around when heavily used areas show signs of wear.

Please be respectful.

## Five New Dog Waste Collection Stations along Railroad Trail :: Thanks to The City of Bellingham



City of Bellingham Public Works crews installed five new dog waste collection stations along Railroad Trail from Memorial Park on King Street to Electric Avenue near Lake Whatcom.

The City of Bellingham Public Works crews installed five new dog waste collection stations along Railroad Trail from Memorial Park on King Street to Electric Avenue near Lake Whatcom.

These unique steel structures were designed by students in the Industrial Design Department at Western Washington University. Interpretive map on top indicates location of each station. The project was funded by a grant from the Department of Ecology intended to address high levels of fecal coliform bacteria found in Fever Creek and Whatcom Creek. The grant also covers the cost of dog waste bags and routine maintenance.

Railroad Trail crosses two tributaries of Fever Creek, which ultimately flows through the Roosevelt Neighborhood into Whatcom Creek. The trail is shared by bicyclists, dog walkers, runners and walkers. Dog waste bags and collection stations will help keep this busy trail clean and enjoyable for all users.

Pet waste contains disease-causing bacteria and microorganisms that are harmful to humans and water. Even if it is not in direct contact with a waterbody, contaminants from pet waste can

travel over and through the ground polluting our lakes and streams.

### Background:

Whatcom Creek is listed on Department of Ecology's 1996 and 1998 303(d) list of impaired waters because of high temperatures and high levels of fecal coliform bacteria. Excess bacteria and poor water quality creates a human health hazard for children playing in the creeks during summer months. According to the Whatcom Creek Bacteria TMDL Technical Study, Fever Creek has the highest fecal coliform counts of the tributaries to Whatcom Creek.

City of Bellingham residents are required to properly dispose of pet waste (*City of Bellingham Code, Ordinance 8.04.070*). Bagging dog waste and cat litter and placing it in the garbage is the safest method of disposal. Landfills are equipped to handle pet waste disposal safely and effectively.

Kym Fedale: Environmental Educator | Green Government Team  
Coordinator | City of Bellingham | 360-778-7970 | [kfedale@cob.org](mailto:kfedale@cob.org)

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## Blaine Grateful Dog's Park expansion & NEW BLOG!

Check out the new Blaine Grateful Dog's blog at: [www.blainegratefuldogs.blogspot.com](http://www.blainegratefuldogs.blogspot.com).

On June 20th the Blaine Dog's Park expanded the park's perimeter by over 450', doubling the total area to 0.86 acres.

Because the dog park is located next to Blaine's Dierks Airfield, the Dog Park mascot is named Deirks.

Find out more about Blaine's Dog Park events when you visit the blog.

Rich Warsofsky | Blaine off-leash chairperson & blogster  
[20.10@comcast.net](mailto:20.10@comcast.net) | (360) 543 7883.

# The Legacy of Trees

Webster defines legacy as 1: a gift by will esp. of money or other personal property 2: something received from an ancestor or predecessor or from the past.

Our parks and the trees in them are truly gifts from the past. Bloedel Donovan Park was created in 1946. The silver maples that provide so much shade there are 60 years old. On a warm summer morning I am truly grateful for those trees and the shade they provide while my dogs play with their friends. If I need to walk them in the



*Grateful Dogs members planting trees for the future  
October 2008, Squalicum Creek Park*

afternoon the shade of the trees in Whatcom Falls Park (created in 1908) or Cornwall Park (created in 1909) is there. Another park good for walking in shade is the Sehome Hill Arboretum. Five acres were donated in 1893 and another 95 acres were purchased in 1919 by the Park Board for the sum of \$2001.75.

In the winter when I am trying to get all the sunshine I can the new Squalicum Creek Park is my first choice. And over 100 of the young trees in that park are a little bit of legacy that Grateful Dogs (and friends) are leaving for generations to come. Every morning I walk my dogs in Boulevard Park. This is one of our newer parks - created in 1980. I am lucky enough to live on South State Street. I can walk to Boulevard Park and to the Sehome Hill Arboretum. The great thing about this town is that no matter where in

Bellingham you live there are trails to walk your dog.

One of my favorite parks is Elizabeth Park and my dogs have never been there. I am a Whatcom County/WSU Master Gardener and a tree hugger. Elizabeth Park is a great place to study tree identification. There is a map on the internet ([www.theeldridgesociety.org](http://www.theeldridgesociety.org)) where the trees are numbered and correspond to an inventory of the trees. John Wesselink, a retired postal carrier, created the inventory that lists the common name and the botanical name of the tree. The land was donated in 1884 but, the trees in Elizabeth Park were planted circa 1901. The Bellingham Parks Dept. plants new trees when necessary. My favorite tree in this park is the Copper Beech (*Fagus sylvatica* forma 'purpurea'). Going to Elizabeth Park just to gaze at the trees should be on everyone's 'bucket list.'

If you would like to know more about the history of our parks there is a book in the library 'A History of Bellingham's Parks' by Aaron Joy copyright 1999.

Sharon Bishop | Park Steward



*A stately madrona tree overlooking the water.*

## UPCOMING POOP SCOOP PARTY DATES:

### POST POINT

*First SATURDAY of  
the month - 9am*

Sat. Oct 3  
Sat. Nov 7  
Sat. Dec 5  
Sat. Jan 2  
Sat. Feb 6  
Sat. Mar 6

### BLOEDEL DONOVAN

*First SATURDAY of  
the month - 9am*

Sat. Oct 3  
Sat. Nov 7  
Sat. Dec 5  
Sat. Jan 2  
Sat. Feb 6  
Sat. Mar 6

### LAKE PADDEN

*Every Friday morning  
at 9am*

### LITTLE SQUALICUM BEACH

*Fourth SUNDAY of  
the month - 2pm*

Sun. Oct 25  
Sun. Nov 22  
Sun. Dec 27  
Sun. Jan 24  
Sun. Feb 28  
Sun. Mar 28

## Lake Padden Bark Park

Hello, Grateful Doggers,

Rae Edwards, the Volunteer Coordinator of the Parks Department for the City of Bellingham, called me Saturday to alert me that the Parks Department will be laying gravel trails in the Bark Park at Lake Padden sometime before the November rains come.

She said that people who use the Bark Park should be prepared to be patient, because the gravel trails will be a great asset to the park when it gets really soupy out. She also said that the Parks Department was going to install a culvert or too for dogs to run through. Sheer play things!

I thanked her on behalf of all of us. I'd like to encourage people who use the off-leash dog trail at Padden to do as much "trail repair" as they can when the trails get sodden in the wintertime.

People come though the wet trails on bikes and horses and dig ruts into them.

If you stomp the dirt that bike wheels and horse hooves pull out of the ruts back into the ruts, it helps keep the trail walkable. Please just take a minute or two every once in awhile and

smooth out the ruts with a spritely jig or a hoe-down stomp; it will make everyone's life better.

Thanks,

Bonnie Bird | Park Steward

**We long for an affection altogether ignorant of our faults. Heaven has accorded this to us in the uncritical canine attachment.**

*-- George Eliot*

## Bay View Cemetery Proposed Pet Cemetery Survey

We are looking for feedback from the public, and specifically, Grateful Dogs Members.

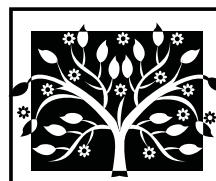
If you would like to contact us about your thoughts on the following questions, please call or email:

Marcia Wazny, *Bay View Cemetery manager*  
Office 360-778-7142  
Cell: 360-303-1586  
email: mwazny@cob.org

\*\*\*\*\*

- If there were a pet cemetery available would you use one?
- If yes - would you prefer cremation (ashes) or full body burials or both?
- If full body burial would you most likely select a traditional graves in grass setting with memorials, or an area which is more natural with enough space for burial and memorial?
- If cremation would you prefer a wooded scatter garden for the spreading of cremations (ashes) with no memorial, or an area for burial and a memorial?
- If the ashes are scattered would you be interested in a group memory memorial where your pets name could be entered?
- Even if not required would you be likely or not likely to purchase a memorial for your pet?

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR VALUABLE FEEDBACK!**



# Support off-leash Areas - Join Grateful Dogs Today!

Please join Grateful Dogs or renew your annual membership. Grateful Dogs is dedicated to monitoring and improving our off-leash areas. These areas are constantly subject to review and some face possible closure and/or are under continual pressure from opponents. Your membership dollars help us fund the fight to keep Bellingham off-leash areas open and accessible to the public.

Thank you for your continued support.  
Renew today!

## New Grateful Dog Members

Please let us introduce two of the newest members of Grateful Dogs...



Chaucer

Jasmine (*Jean Webster*), is a silly fawn boxer girl who wants nothing more than to play..especially if it involves her mom's socks or undergarments.



Jazzy

Chaucer, (*Marley Hogan*) born in February, has been a greand adventure! Energy, stubbornness and personality plus have make this puppy time a joy.

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Federal ID #30-0317079

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Dogs name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

If you are interested in receiving the newsletter by email, please check box

(Circle one) Type of membership: New/Renew

(Circle one) Family \$15 | Individual \$10 | Business Sponsor \$40

Volunteer Interests: \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail this form with your check to the treasurer at:  
Grateful Dogs; PO Box 31884, Bellingham, WA 98228 (*Bellingham Memberships only*)



**GRATEFUL DOGS  
OFF-LEASH ASSOCIATION**  
Bellingham & Blaine  
PO Box 31884, Bellingham, WA 98228

*Do you have a pet related business?  
Consider advertising in this newsletter!*

**Dogs are not our whole  
life, but they make our  
lives whole.**

-- Roger Caras