



# JOURNAL

A School in the Woods



## Grand Opening!



ISLANDWOOD

formerly  
The Puget Sound  
Environmental  
Learning Center



### JOIN US FOR OUR GRAND OPENING – SEPTEMBER 22

'Explore and Discover' Community Tours celebrate our new campus, educators, the natural world and learning. See page 4.

### ISLANDWOOD IS OUR NEW NAME!

Change from Puget Sound Environmental Learning Center inspired by community input. See page 2.

### CAPITAL CAMPAIGN MAKING GAINS

Fundraising efforts at 90% of goal. See page 5.

## A Grand Opening – and A Grand New Name!

### Questions & Answers About Our New Name IslandWood

**Q:** It seems like the organization was moving successfully forward with the old name. Why change it?

**A:** Community support for this project has been phenomenal, from the beginning, and for that we are grateful. However, we have consistently heard from people throughout the Puget Sound region that the name was difficult to say, difficult to remember, and – to some – confusing as to what exactly our organization was all about. Some thought it was a political think tank, while others thought it was a learning center focused only on the environment. As we looked to the future of the organization, we felt it was important to create a name and information line that would communicate a broader range of educational programs.



**Q:** IslandWood doesn't sound like it has anything to do with learning. Why choose that name?

**A:** We were fortunate in this naming process to receive donated services and expertise from the prestigious brand development firm, Heckler & Associates. Terry Heckler, the firm's founder and principal, stressed that any new name will take some time to be associated strongly with our programs, people and campus. But, he said, when you have a name that is quick to say, easy to understand and relates to your location and what you do, the power of that name builds quite quickly.



**ISLANDWOOD™**  
A SCHOOL IN THE WOODS

In response to significant feedback from people across the Puget Sound region, we have changed our name.

The Puget Sound Environmental Learning Center is now IslandWood.

With the formal Grand Opening of our campus and programs, we saw the perfect opportunity to explore a name for our new organization and campus that accomplished two key objectives:

- \* It was easy to say and remember.
- \* It described the wonderful, dynamic community in which we are located, and gave a stronger sense of our magical 255-acre campus.

Along with our new information line – “a school in the woods” – we believe we've created a new identity that will, more naturally, grow with the organization over time.

“This is never an easy process, especially for a young organization like ours,” said Debbi Brainerd, IslandWood's co-founder and board president. “But we felt strongly that the previous name was too difficult for people to say and remember, and that our new name would, in the long term, reflect the broader range of programs and educational goals of the organization.”

The organization worked with community members, board members, children, parents and teachers in coming up with the new name and information line.

“There was overwhelming response in favor of changing our name,” said Carole Grisham, IslandWood's Executive Director. “And the support we received in helping determine what our new name should be was fantastic. Overall, the feeling was that our name and information line should reflect a strong sense that this is a magical place where serious, significant learning occurs.”

A transition plan is now in place to ensure that those who know the organization as The Puget Sound Environmental Learning Center will be able to quickly make the link to IslandWood.

“We're excited to be formally opening the campus in September, and thrilled to unveil our new name,” said Brainerd. “Over time, I know this name will be synonymous with high quality educational programs.”



ROBERT DASHIELL

**Q:** You must be spending a lot of money throwing away business cards, signs, and other materials that have the old name on them.

**A:** Just the opposite. We pride ourselves on sustainable practices, so any waste associated with changing our name will be minimal. For example, we waited until our new name was finalized before ordering permanent signs for our campus, and we ordered smaller quantities of stationery, timing re-printing for when the new name was introduced.

**Q:** So if your name doesn't have “Environmental Learning” in the title, does that mean you don't teach outdoor education?

**A:** The natural world — and our spectacular 255-acre campus — is a critical part of our curriculum, and always will be. But we're more than just our campus, or our buildings. We're a powerful learning organization that uses the natural world as a way in which to inspire learning and stewardship in children and adults. More importantly, our faculty and curriculum emphasize the integration of science, technology and the arts as a way to reach out to kids and adults who have a wide range of learning styles.



CHRISTINE LLOBREGAT



## Carole Grisham Appointed Executive Director

Carole J. Grisham was hired as IslandWood Executive Director in May 2002. Carole was formerly associate director of Seattle's Pacific

Science Center. She replaces Acting Executive Director Paul Brainerd, who will remain on the organization's board of directors.

"Carole's history of leadership and accomplishment with one of our region's most respected educational organizations made her the right choice for IslandWood," said Debbi Brainerd, co-founder and board president. "She has played a major role for the last 25 years in shaping the Science Center's internal operations and staffing, as well as overseeing development and growth of programs, fundraising and major construction projects."

During Grisham's tenure with the Pacific Science Center, the organization underwent dramatic growth through the development of major programs, building projects, exhibits and fundraising initiatives. Grisham also directed the Pacific Science Center's \$41 million capital construction program, bringing the project in on time and on budget.

"This is a project I have been following for several years, and it has captured my interest on a very personal and emotional level," Grisham said. "Joining IslandWood is an opportunity to be a part of an incredible educational resource for our children and to teachers and families in this region."

## Pat Guild-O'Rourke, Ed.D., Named Director of Education

Pat has been an educator for more than 35 years, working as a teacher, principal and university faculty member. Her research has focused on learning styles, and she has published two books and numerous articles designed to help educators and parents honor diverse ways of learning and teaching. For the past 25 years, Pat has worked in teacher education, most recently directing certification programs in Kitsap County for Western Washington University. She served in the Peace Corps, taught at a university in East Africa, and developed multicultural curriculum materials. She received a doctorate in international education and her master's in teacher education from the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, and an undergraduate degree from Queens College in New York City.



## Board of Directors Announces New Members

The IslandWood Board of Directors is pleased to announce Deborah Black, Jeannie Nordstrom and Howard L. Wollner as new board members.



### Deborah Black

Deborah is a Corporate Vice President at Microsoft Corporation, with responsibilities that include strategic planning, product development and marketing. Prior to joining Microsoft in 1992, she worked at Bell Northern Research (NorTel). Deborah serves on the board of the Kindering Center, a not-for-profit neurodevelopmental center providing services for children who are disabled, medically fragile or vulnerable because of abuse and neglect. She is a member of the Seattle Children's Hospital Mary M. Gates Guild.



### Jeannie Nordstrom

A former elementary school teacher, Jeannie is an active community volunteer, giving her time most recently to the board of directors of the Pike Place Market Foundation, and as past president of the YWCA of Seattle and the Delta Society. Jeannie's devotion to community service extends also to her active involvement in the Washington Women's Foundation, Friends of Cancer Lifeline, and as a Purrfect Pals Foster Parent.



### Howard L. Wollner

An officer of Starbucks Coffee International since 1992, Howard's current role is Senior Vice President, Strategic Business Systems. Most recently he has led a two-year project to create global business systems that support business partners around the world in operating Starbucks retail stores. Prior board membership includes the Seattle Children's Museum.



### Current IslandWood board members include:

- Debbi Brainerd, president
- Paul Brainerd, vice-president and treasurer
- Martha Kongsgaard, secretary
- Fraser Black
- P. Dee Boersma, Ph.D.
- Patsy Collins
- Elizabeth Evenson Drury
- Jack Faris, Ph.D.
- Ellen Ferguson
- Herman McKinney
- Don Nielsen
- Eleanor Moseley Pollnow
- Yvonne Sanchez
- Katherine James Schuitemaker
- Dwight Sutton, Ph.D.
- John Warner



### More New Staff

The transition to full operations has brought us new employees who keep systems, food services and the campus running smoothly. We welcome the following staff members: Aileen Agricola, database specialist; Jeff DeSobry, maintenance technician; Fantahuen Hussein, maintenance technician; Troy Kelly, maintenance technician; Tom Loverich, Cook; Kerrie Sanson, Cook; Lisa Hall, Cook; and Farhad Tyabji, maintenance technician.



## Join Us for Our Grand Opening Celebration!

IslandWood is pleased to announce its Grand Opening Celebration, September 21 & 22, on our new 255-acre Bainbridge Island campus.

The creation of the organization and campus has — from its inception — been a community effort. Children, teachers, artists, parents, business, civic leaders and countless others have worked with us over the last four years to make this dream a reality.

In that spirit of collaboration and unity, our Grand Opening weekend will include events and activities designed to celebrate and recognize the contributions of all who have helped to build this magical “school in the woods.”

We will be honoring our major donors and those individuals and groups who have helped to design and create our campus in private events on Saturday, September 21, while reserving Sunday, September 22, for the local community to explore and discover our campus.



**Take a walk to Mac’s Pond.**

**Stroll across a suspension bridge over a lush ravine.**

**Enjoy hands-on learning activities for the whole family**



### **‘Explore and Discover’ Community Campus Tours — Sunday, September 22, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.**

Come experience the magic and beauty of IslandWood’s new \$32 million campus and its surrounding natural habitat. Take a walk to Mac’s Pond, stroll across a suspension bridge over a lush ravine, take part in fun, hands-on learning activities for the whole family, and meet our powerful team of education professionals. There will also be music, art and other activities, as well as light refreshments.

#### **How to Reserve Your Campus Tour:**

Tour tickets are available at the Pavilion Box Office, 403 Madison Avenue North, in Winslow, beginning September 3, on a first-come, first-served basis. Tickets are free, but limited in supply.

There will be no parking on our campus on Sunday, September 22. Free shuttles will be running throughout the day at designated pick-up/drop-off areas on Bainbridge Island. When you pick up your ticket, you will receive detailed information on shuttle times and pick-up/drop-off locations. Tour times will be from 9–11 a.m. and 1–4 p.m. Our campus is ADA accessible.

**More ‘Explore and Discover’ Community Tour information — including shuttle schedules and pick-up/drop-off areas — is available online at [www.islandwood.org/grandopening](http://www.islandwood.org/grandopening).**

## Capital Campaign Progress

The Campaign to Build IslandWood now totals \$47 million, nearly 90% of our goal of \$52 million. Unprecedented support for IslandWood continues to fuel our campaign.

Individuals, groups, foundations, businesses, community leaders and many others have given their time and money to help make this project a reality.

The next few months of our campaign year will be critical. Here's a quick look at the funding still needed to complete our campaign:

- \* Building and construction: \$30.3 million raised, \$1.7 million remaining.
- \* Education Endowment: \$700,000 raised, \$4.3 million remaining.



### Education Endowment for Student Scholarships

The success of our Spring 2002 Overnight School Pilot Program, as well as the fact that our 2002-03 school year is nearly sold out, underscores that our programs provide an important educational need. However, regardless of the quality and innovation of our programs, we must ensure that students and schools have access to these programs despite economic limitations. The Education Endowment is an investment in the future that will provide access to life-changing educational experiences for students and teachers.

### Annual Operating Support – A Year of Transition

As we celebrate the Grand Opening of IslandWood and bring our capital campaign to a successful conclusion, we will offer opportunities for annual support of our programs. As an annual member of IslandWood, you will receive community program discounts, invitations to special events, and much, much more.

Please contact Joan Caine, director of development & capital campaign, at 206-441-2769 (ext 26), for more information on how you, your family, friends or your place of business can support IslandWood throughout the year.



## What People are Saying About IslandWood Programs!

### School Overnight Program

"Most of these students have never experienced life outside their neighborhood or city... It opened their eyes to applied knowledge and use of education outside the traditional school setting. It allowed them to use problem-solving skills, teamwork, patience and behavior strategies in a new environment... The results are conclusively and indisputably positive. [IslandWood] offers so much more than environmental education for our students — it offers them life skills and the opportunity to think, live and grow."

—Jeffrey Fortier, Fifth Grade Educator, Bailey Gatzert Elementary School



### From the kids:

"Hi! My name is Max... This was the first time I ever saw a Bald Eagle... I thought it was cool that the people here gave us rain gear so we could go on muddy trails..."



"My name is Carmen... I had a great time... I liked the cabins a lot because it had bunkbeds and a couch. The cabins were warm and the place felt like home. In my study group, we learned about plants and we did art projects. I will always remember the fun time I had here."



"Hi! My name is Neama, and I am eleven years old. It was a special trip to me because the trees, the trails, the marsh, and especially the mud reminded me of my home country of Oromia, Asaasa, Ethiopia and the trail I took to visit my grandmother when I was a little girl. I had a great experience because I learned about the water cycle and the different kinds of trees and plants. Thank you for the memories."

## The IslandWood Learning Experience



PHOTOS: CHRISTINE LOBREGAT

*Each One Teach One* is a learning activity used by IslandWood educators where students teach each other about native plants found on our 255-acre campus. The learning activity is, by design, experiential and explorative. In other words, the students get their hands on the earth, and they quickly communicate their experience and knowledge to someone else. That kind of learning experience happens everywhere at IslandWood, from our faculty and graduate students to the teachers and students in our School Overnight programs to those participating in our community workshops and programs. They learn by doing. And they take what they learn and pass it on to others.

### School Overnight Program

Over 3,000 children, teachers and parent chaperones will participate in our four-day residential programs. We are pleased to announce that we are more than 90% booked for the 2002-03 school year. This is a testament to the success of our recently completed Spring Pilot Program, where more than 750 students from elementary schools across the region officially "christened" our new campus and overnight program. News about our quality educational programs traveled fast in the education community!

Our School Overnight Program begins with outreach to teachers and classrooms by our School Partnerships Coordinator, and our residential graduate students, who take the first steps in establishing relationships with schools registered for our four-day program. Our IslandWood faculty and graduate students make strong connections with teachers and students before they arrive on campus, and they then do follow-up project work with the schools once they have returned to their home classrooms.

In late September, we will welcome the Seattle School District's Bryant Elementary and Bellevue Montessori to begin our first formal year of School



CHRISTINE LOBREGAT

Overnight Programs, which run from September 2002 through June 2003. For more information about our School Overnight Programs, call 206-855-4300, or go online at [www.islandwood.org](http://www.islandwood.org).

## Weekend and Summer Community Programs

More than 500 adults, kids and families participated in our weekend and summer community programs, designed to bring the IslandWood curriculum to the greater Puget Sound community. Both renowned regional and national instructors and our own highly qualified IslandWood faculty lead these workshops, which include a wide range of arts, science and technology programs.

Tuition fees help support our mission of making IslandWood programs available to kids and schools throughout our region, regardless of their economic status.

**Check out our Fall 2002 Community Programs catalog, included with this newsletter!**



## IslandWood Graduate Program

Earlier this summer, the IslandWood Graduate Program granted Certificates in Environmental Education to its first-ever graduating class, which included: Toby Brown, Erica Curry, Lisa Kittleman, Janelle Schafer, Adam Sundstrom and Susan Tallorico.

Graduate students were key to the success of our Spring Pilot Program for fourth and fifth-grade students, as instructors during the nine weeks of pilot programs on our campus. As part of the Certificate in Environmental Education, the students earn 30 graduate credits that can be used toward further study at the University of Washington and other institutions. IslandWood has established partnerships with the School of Education and the Graduate School Biology Teaching Group at the UW to facilitate entry into their graduate programs.

Our 2002-03 class of 16 residential graduate students arrived in August for intensive training prior to the start of our Overnight School Program on September 23.

For more information about the Graduate Program, call Kristin Poppo, graduate program coordinator, at 206.855.4311 or visit [www.islandwood.org/graduateprogram](http://www.islandwood.org/graduateprogram).

# The Living Machine™ — Clean Water, Naturally

At the edge of our main campus, just south of the Learning Studios, is a large greenhouse. As you'd expect, there are a variety of beautiful plants inside. But they aren't being cultivated for their aesthetic qualities or for their ability to supplement Dining Hall meals with fresh produce. These plants are working—along with a multitude of small aquatic animals and organisms—to purify wastewater.

This organic filtering system is the first of its kind in Washington State and one of just a handful of facilities installed in the U.S. and Canada. Called a Living Machine™, construction was recently completed on the IslandWood campus.

## Why a “Living Machine”?

It's far superior to “secondary treatment” facilities, which is how communities treat water in our region, pumping waste and toxins into Puget Sound every day. “It's really ideal for IslandWood,” said Dean Newcomb, facilities manager. “It provides a needed service, it's ecologically responsible and it offers a great opportunity for kids to learn—about biology, about ecosystems and about recycling.”

## A Clean Water Classroom

“Because this is a tertiary wastewater treatment system, the water is actually cleaner than if it went through a regular wastewater treatment facility,” explained Henning Gatz, president of Aquacare Environment, Inc., the company that installed the Living Machine™ on the IslandWood campus.

In fact, organizations and businesses around the country—including the Audubon Society, Oberlin College and M&M/Mars—are turning to the Living Machine™ as an economical, environmentally responsible alternative to traditional wastewater treatment.

Its simplicity is what makes the Living Machine™ a one-of-a-kind educational tool. Kids witness firsthand how plants, such as calla lilies, depend on water to survive, yet are essential to the life cycle in an aquatic habitat—sheltering microbes that break down pollutants.

## A Greenhouse, Too

In addition to producing clean water and providing a rich teaching environment, the Living Machine™ even fulfills the expectations of its greenhouse appearance—potentially growing everything from beautifully cut flowers, to landscape plants, to a vegetable garden. It can also support fish—something IslandWood plans to include in the near future as a “living” example of how clean the water really is.

**Like to get a closer look at the Living Machine™? Join Henning Gatz on Saturday, October 19, on the IslandWood campus for an educational workshop that takes an in-depth look at the Living Machine™ and its benefits for the natural world. See the Fall Program guide included with this newsletter for more information and registration details.**



## How It Works

Wastewater (including sewage) is collected from the buildings on our campus through pipes and then sent to a large tank. Solids are allowed to settle and any oils are skimmed from the surface and disposed of. Aerobic bacteria in the tank work to break down the waste,



while charcoal filters absorb harmful methane and hydrogen sulfide gas. The water flows to a second tank where the process continues, with oxygen added to prevent the formation of methane and to help convert nitrates to nitrogen. In a third tank, organic solids are removed and other bacteria continue the decomposition process.

In the next three tanks, aquatic plants and zooplankton begin to consume nutrients like nitrogen and phosphorus. With each tank, the water becomes cleaner and clearer as a variety of marsh plants and animals, like snails, digest and break down bacteria in the water.

In the final tank, the water is clarified. Remaining solids are pumped into a sludge tank while clear water is pumped out into a final filter. The resulting sludge is completely non-toxic and can be composted and reused as a nutritional supplement for plants around our campus. An ultraviolet filter kills any remaining bacteria in the clear water. The purified water is then sent to a holding cistern and reused in toilets and for campus landscape irrigation.



**Living Machine™  
Ecological Wastewater  
Recycling Systems  
Saturday, October 19  
10:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.  
\$75 per person**

**To register, call the  
IslandWood Registrar  
at 206.855.4300**

PHOTOS: CHRISTINE LOBBEGAT

# Artists-in-Residence Program



## Tomas Oliva, artist

The title of Tomas' residency was: *Stories in the Land—Relationship to Place; Building Community Through the Balance of Human /Nature Relationships.*

**Included here are four artists we partnered with for our School Overnight Pilot Program in Spring 2002.**

The Artist-in-Residence program at IslandWood supports participation in the arts as a means to access and nurture the relationship between nature and the human spirit. These artists, who represent various disciplines, media, cultures, experience and age, work with visiting school children in the School Overnight Program and Community Programs to expand students' understanding and relationship with both natural systems and cultural communities. The length of residencies may last from one day to three weeks, with an emphasis on the longer residency.

### Eligibility

Resident applicants are selected on teaching experience as well as artistic merit, including exhibition and publishing experience. The application process is ongoing throughout the year. Artists interested in teaching during the School Overnight Program are scheduled from September through June. Artists interested in teaching in Community Programs are scheduled on weekends and throughout the summer months.

To apply for the Artist-in-Residence program, please request an application form from Lee Ann Woolery, IslandWood arts coordinator, 206.855.4310, or by e-mail to [leeannw@islandwood.org](mailto:leeannw@islandwood.org).

**"What we want the students to know in their minds, and carry in their hearts from this program is the idea that there is a living spirit found in all of earth's beings, and that there is a respect and responsibility we all must carry for these beings."**

— Roger Fernandes, Native American educator, storyteller and carver



## Roger Fernandes, artist

Roger, a member of the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, is a Native American educator, storyteller and carver. In his two residencies this spring, Roger presented a collection of favorite Native stories in an evening performance at the Friendship Circle, and led a group of students as they performed their own stories, the culmination of their week's work together.

## Paul Kikuchi, artist

As a guest conductor and percussionist, Paul led students in an experience with percussion instruments as they produced a musical composition entitled: "Rhythms of Nature—The Storm."



## Melinda West, artist

Melinda instructed students on the use of indigenous materials found on the IslandWood campus for the purpose of weaving and sculpting musical instruments, which they then played in an evening performance.



## A School in the Woods

Build your own rustic furniture on Oct 26 and Oct 27 at IslandWood.



IslandWood is committed to providing access to and reasonable accommodations in its services, programs, activities, and education programs, for individuals with disabilities. Please advise us if you will need interpretive services or other reasonable accommodations by contacting the registrar 2 weeks prior at 206.855.4333 or e-mail to [registrar@pselc.org](mailto:registrar@pselc.org)

IslandWood welcomes students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship programs, and other school-administered programs.

This first issue of the IslandWood Journal is printed on recycled paper with vegetable-based inks on an alcohol-free press.

Susan Dumett, contributing writer and editor  
Design by Partners in Design



**"The look and feel of this facility is conducive to positive learning and sharing experiences."**

— from a participant in an IslandWood community program

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