

Memories of Warmer Days

Wintertime is a quieter season for creatures in the forest around Drift Creek Camp. However, come summertime, kids of all ages can be spotted in large flocks around camp. For these campers, summer nature activities were in full swing for 2009, thanks to an experienced naturalist, Nissi Gershom, and on-site staffer, Laura Sigmans, both of whom designed and led activities for the campers.

Camp counselors also played an important role during the week, helping to spark campers' interest in God's creation. They were encouraged to do this by taking advantage of the beautiful setting and the resources available in the Nature Information Center. During counselor orientation, Laura gave counselors various nature guides found in the NIC to use on a group nature walk. She pointed out many "fun facts" about DCC's flora and fauna and encouraged them to do the same with their campers.



Above, a camper examines a tiny Alevin, part of a salmon life cycle display. Photo: Laura Sigmans

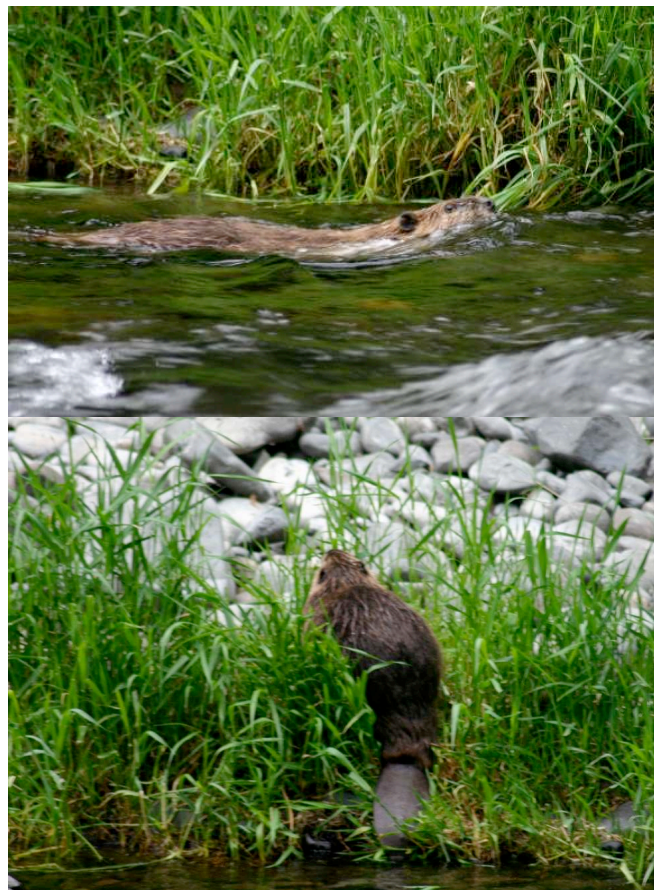
The Drift Creek Nature Center continues to enrich the summer camp experience by consistently providing campers with unique hands-on experiences. The most popular activities last year were: *X-Stream Exploration*, *All About*

Salmon, *Nature Photography*, *Nature Games*, and *Animal Senses*.

Although 2009 was the last year for Laura, she has already left an extensive list of ideas and materials for next year. While she will be greatly missed, the directors definitely feel more confident that Laura's successor will be left well prepared because of all of her hard work.

Paw Prints

Did anyone ask the "real" beavers how they felt about the latest game? It looks like it is business as usual for these beavers spotted in the creek.



Jesse Sigmans, 2009

Was Drift Creek Nature Center on Santa's list this year? Here are some ways you can give that you may not have heard about:

- **Cash for Cartridges** (give your used printer ink cartridges to camp or a camp rep)
- **Monthly Automatic Giving** is the easiest way - download a form at driftcreek.org
- **Avoid the mall** by giving your loved one a beautiful commemorative gift card stating that a gift was made to Drift Creek in their honor (specify the nature center)
- **Stuff our stocking** with one of the items on the wish list below

DCNC Wish List for 2010

1 dozen pocket magnifiers \$5 ea.
1 dozen rubber animal casts \$10 ea.
1 dozen face masks and snorkel sets \$40 ea.
Digital Camera \$250
Tripod \$250
Digital Camcorder \$400
Large Screened-in Canopy (outdoor classroom tent) \$500
Birding Scope \$500
Telescope \$500
Laptop Computer: iBook or MacBook \$1000
Desktop Computer: iMac G4 or newer \$1250

The Down-Low on Fallen Trees

Each time there is a winter storm in the coast range, more trees come down around Drift Creek Camp. This is a natural progression for trees as they age and begin to decompose.

If you own some land, you may notice fallen trees on your own property. What you probably didn't know is that the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife wants to help preserve trees like these where they fall with a program called the Urban Wildlife Tree Project.

These dying trees are also called snags and become critically important to a wide range of native wildlife species including beneficial insects, birds and mammals. A lack of understanding about these trees usually leads to their removal,



To the left, a **Spotted Tussock Moth** caterpillar at camp prepares for winter, when it will hibernate away from the elements. In the spring, the caterpillar will transform into a fawn-colored moth. Photo by Laura Sigmans.

but they should be allowed to persist whenever possible. To obtain all-weather signs with this information to place on a fallen tree you would like to preserve, send \$5 per sign and a return address to:

WDFW Reg 4, Attn UWTP
16018 Mill Creek Blvd.
Mill Creek, WA 98012

Hydroelectric Generator Update

The Drift Creek Camp hydroelectric project is now in **Phase 2** as outlined by Jesse Sigmans: Gain approval from National Forest Service and State Agencies (proposal submitted December of 2008). Following this step, comes **Phase 3**: Find the best-suited Micro-Hydroelectric Generating Station vendor, **Phase 4**: Raise funds to cover costs of the Micro-Hydroelectric Generating Station, **Phase 5**: Implement system installation time line, and finally **Phase 6**: Organize volunteer workforce and install system (driftcreek.org).

Drift Creek Nature Center

is under the guidance of the Drift Creek Camp Board of Directors.

DCNC committee members are:

Joe Ebersole, Bruce Flaming, John and Louise Gingerich, Tony and Brenda Kauffman, Kayla Mast, Glen Oesch, Jesse and Laura Sigmans, Ken Snyder, Jon Yoder and Anna Williams.

📄 To learn more, visit us online at driftcreeknaturecenter.org