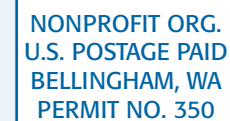




Fact: Frequent restarting has little impact on engine components such as the battery and the starter motor. Wear caused by restarting is estimated to add \$10 per year to the cost of driving, money likely recovered several times over in fuel savings.

The Fountain Plaza Design Charette has been taking place this fall. Participants have been developing a new vision for the little city park and fountain across the street from our new Sustainable Living Center in Bellingham. The process has been funded in part through a Small and Simple Grant from the City of Bellingham. Community volunteers and local businesses have been contributing in-kind research and expertise in helping make Fountain Plaza a more welcoming place. View the visioning process under way at www.re-store.org/fountain.htm



continued inside

- The Dudley Foundation for funds to support RE Sources work in the community

newsletter designed by chris coffin photography + design, coffinphoto.com



“Santa Claws”
Ken Carrasco,
red rock crab
carefully in
hand, bears gifts
of interpretation
for naturalist-led
night walks.

Appreciate Gifts from the Beach

Explore beach nightlife in winter,
and remember what we’re working all year to protect

By Doug Stark

THE HOLIDAY SEASON is a wonderful time to appreciate our health, family, and all that we can so easily take for granted. Which is why we’re going to the beach!

Even in winter – particularly in winter – the shoreline offers magic and marvels to give pause for wonder. Unlike summer, when extreme low tides leave creatures vulnerable to predation or drying out under the sun, winter low tides happen at night, so soft-bodied creatures are less likely to seek a hiding place.

By moonlight or, rather, by flashlight, anyone can explore seashore life that is only exposed by the winter low tides, which this year grace the holiday weekends of Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve and Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Looking for an extraordinary holiday star? Stars will be out in all shapes and sizes! The velvety sunflower star, with up to 24 legs, is the most mobile of the sea stars and a voracious predator. I’ve seen more in one winter night than I have over an entire summer!

Fond of festive lights and tinsel? With my flashlight for a magic wand, shrimp eyes will sparkle and dance in pools. A red beaded anemone will glow like a burning ember when lit from behind. The “burrowing anemone,” withdrawn and veiled from summer air, will earn its alias “moonglow anemone” with radiant, luminous tentacles dazzling in the damp night.

Enamored by ornaments? Myriad chitin species will come out from under rocks to graze on algae at night, decorator crabs adorn bows of seaweed, and barnacle-eating snails called whelks will converge at the low tide like strands of popcorn as they sow their “sea oats” (caviar anyone?).

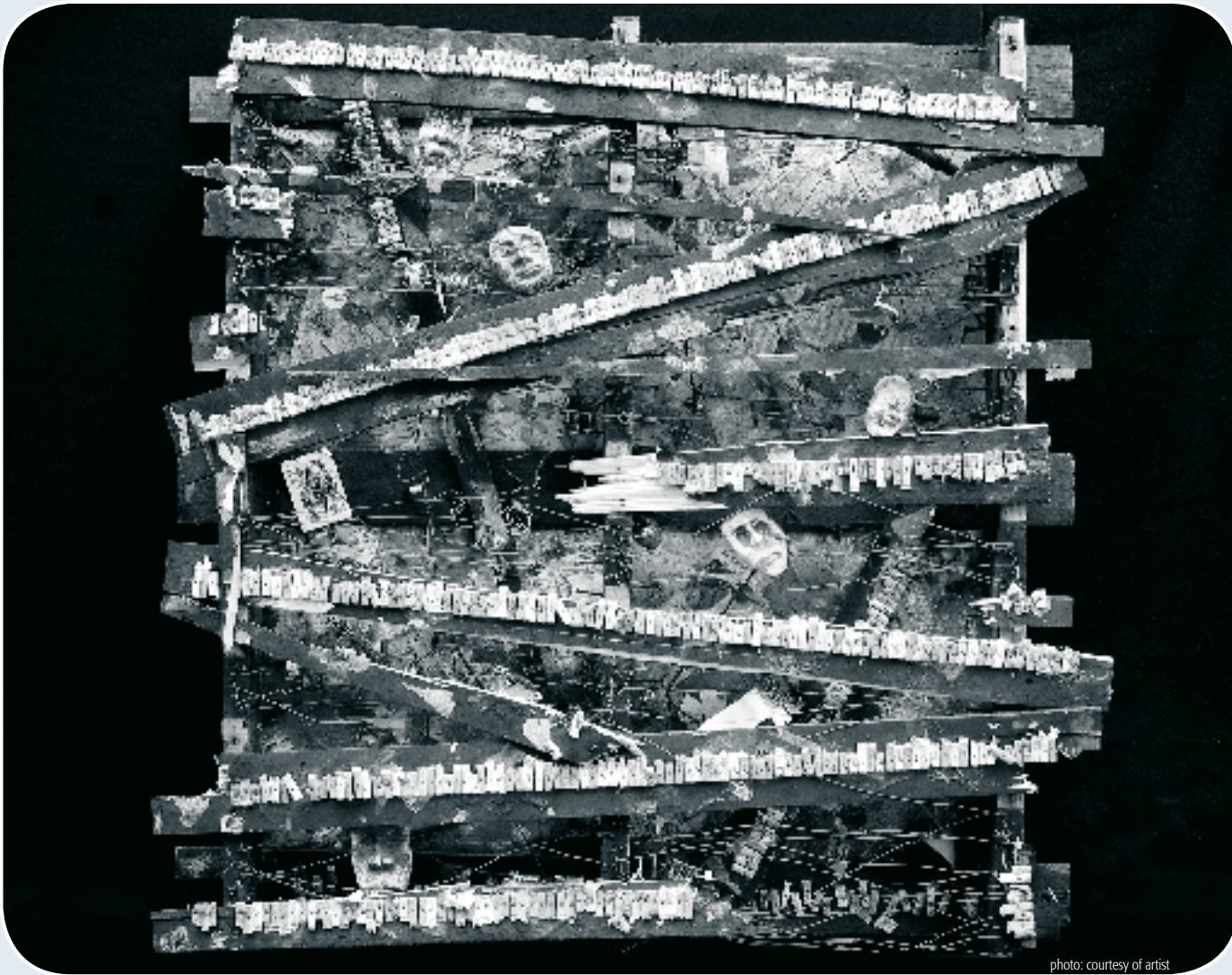
Like unwrapping presents, each year’s outing surprises me. I have found giant sea cucumbers, kelp crabs, brittle stars, leather stars and nudibranchs. The elusive octopus is always on our wish list. Maybe this year will be the first I find one!

While we at RE Sources and the RE Store are working to safeguard our water-ways, renew homes, and fight warming emissions and water pollution, the most memorable days of the year for me are nights like this. I remember why I work so hard year-round to protect what we have.

Bring your family and friends to Bellingham Bay, Birch Bay and Larrabee State Park this winter. They’ll appreciate engaging in something apart from the usual holiday grind, and we’ll all appreciate together the presence and richness of life.

My, what beautiful garbage you have!

By Jason Darling



“Prisoners of the Modern World” by Kuros Zahedi

NOW IN ITS 6th year, the Bellingham REArt show continues to grow. In addition to partnering with Allied Arts, we joined forces this year with Western Washington University’s Viking Gallery 507 to show art from all facets of the community, including students. Featuring more than 40 pieces at three locations, this year’s show included artists from four states and one province. Painted, collaged, sculpted, and fabricated pieces conveyed a wide array of ideas and feelings that included whimsy, beauty, and potent social commentary.

“A lot of higher-education students are focusing more on sustainability and green practices. We are excited to get the university campus involved,” said Heidi Norgaard, the coordinator at Viking Gallery 507. The partnership with W.W.U. gives the RE Store an opportunity to reach out to Western’s campus, as the state university steers towards greener policies and practices.

In addition to attracting students to our show, REArt featured pieces from many artists who find working with reused materials rewarding and inspiring. Thor Myhre, a Bellingham-area professional artist who works almost entirely with used materials, appreciates the show’s focus. Thor explained, “Materials that have already been used have a life and story all of their own. I interpret those stories.”

The REArt program gives people an opportunity to see reuse and our habits of consumption through the lens of art. Art reflects and informs current issues and concerns about the times we live in. When we give people a chance to express themselves through art and reuse, their voices join with many others to herald the mission of sustainability and reducing our ecological footprint. RE Store’s partnerships with arts organizations help to build and inspire a growing web of innovative people moving towards a healthy, green future.

JOIN and GIVE

Please select the amount you would like to give: ☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$500 ☐ Other_____

This donation is for: ☐ General membership support ☐ Sustainable Living Center

Name_____

Address_____ Phone_____

City_____ State_____ Zip_____ Email_____

PAYMENT METHOD

☐ My check, made payable to RE Sources, is enclosed. ☐ Please charge my credit/debit card

☐ I prefer to make monthly or quarterly donations with my credit/debit card. I understand I can cancel at any time with a simple phone call.

☐ Monthly ☐ Quarterly donation of: _____ Please charge my ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard
☐ \$10 ☐ \$15 ☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ Other_____

Card No:_____ Expiration Date:_____ Signature:_____

Save paper and a stamp! Visit www.re-sources.org/join-donate.htm and click on the “donate now” button to make a gift with your debit/credit card via our secure online website.

‘Tis the Season...

By Bernadette Castner

AS THE RAINS return and the trees lose their brightly-colored leaves, it’s a great time to ponder the past year, count our blessings and consider what we’d like to foster in the coming years.

For those of us at RE Sources, 2007 has been a year of celebrating our 25th anniversary, moving our Bellingham RE Store and education offices and continuing to work on issues such as air and water quality, waste reduction, green building and global warming. As we look to 2008, we’re excited to provide Whatcom County with more opportunities through workshops, educational displays and community events at the new Sustainable Living Center, but we can’t do it without you.

Our membership is growing and our supporters shape our organization through financial, volunteer and collaborative efforts. When issues of the environment or sustainability arise, it is you, the community member, who can truly make a difference. RE Sources provides a catalyst for action and tools through which you can make your voice heard.

As a grassroots sustainability group, we are striving to be self-sustaining in many ways, including financially. RE Sources relies on earned income, individual memberships, grants and contracts to carry out our mission. Your membership dollars are an important source of support for RE Sources education and advocacy work. In fact, in 2008, fully one-quarter of our education and advocacy budget will come from donations.

One of the best ways you can support the ongoing work of RE Sources is to join our Sustainer’s Circle. Sustainer’s Circle members make monthly gifts to provide ongoing support to RE Sources programs. It is easy to do. Even \$10-25 per month adds up to a significant annual gift and enables RE Sources to continue its great work to protect the natural and human communities of our northwest Washington home.

You decide how much to give and this is deducted automatically from your checking account or credit card each month. Monthly donations provide us a reliability that is invaluable in planning, making strategic decisions and leveraging matching funds.

To join our Sustainer’s Circle, simply fill out the appropriate portion of the form above, or contact Bernadette Castner at 360-733-8307 or bernadettec@re-sources.org or visit our website at www.re-sources.org and click on the “Make a Gift” button.

Thanks for providing your sustaining support!

Prefer to cozy up by a fire with a good book?

The Highest Tide by Jim Lynch is a wonderful coming-of-age novel in which young Miles O’Malley uncovers natural wonders and fundamental questions that transform him and his quiet bayside community.



We hope you like the new look of our newsletter. We plan to focus on different programs each issue so if your favorite segment is missing this quarter, you’ll be tickled when it appears in an upcoming issue. Visit our website for more up-to-date information and in-depth articles.