

The Rodmans 2011

Yet another wearisome revelation of the goings-on of Sharon & Paul (including a feeble excuse for the lack of 2010 news)

Left: Thanksgiving 2011 with recently-deceased, vegan Tofurky



First the excuse for a lack of holiday newsletter in 2010: Sharon left for a 6 week visit to her family just before Thanksgiving 2010. The following day Paul slipped on ice and managed to break his right ankle, and spent the next 5 weeks in a cast unable to do many things that he previously took for granted (e.g. walk to the mailbox, drive, empty the garbage, shop, etc.). Thanks to the

kindness of friends and neighbours he was able to survive until Sharon returned. However, in the process, the 2010 newsletter became relatively low priority. The ankle is now healed and he is fully mobile.

In August 2010, Paul was invited to deliver a paper at a conference near Chicago, and we both flew out there so that he could attend the conference while Sharon did sightseeing. The conference was related to astronomical imaging; the sightseeing was more interesting. Sharon immersed herself into the architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright and local prairie restoration projects. Paul joined her for a visit to the Chicago Art Institute. Once the conference was over, we did a brief road trip and visited Yerkes Observatory, Frank Lloyd Wright's Taliesin home/workplace, and various natural places along the Mississippi River.



Above: Paul at Yerkes Observatory

Closer to home, we spent a few nights in a cottage at Kalaloch on the west coast of the Olympic peninsular where we investigated the beaches and the temperate rain forest. Later this year we rented a Forest Service hut on the Teanaway River, which was mainly notable for its complete lack of amenities (no power, gas or water, and rudimentary plumbing). Sharon attended the Washington Native Plant Society (WNPS) study weekend in Winthrop, WA (with Paul tagging along as free baggage), and we both saw plenty of wild flowers. Speaking of WNPS: they bestowed upon Sharon the title of Outstanding Professional of the Year for 2010.

Sharon continues to head up the Green Kirkland Program for the City of Kirkland, and has had several successful volunteer events, with hundreds of volunteers helping to rid the city's parks of invasive species and replant with native species.

Paul (finally) released his software magnum opus to the eager masses (www.astroplanner.net) and has been enjoying some minor prosperity since. However, it's an unending process keeping the software up-to-date and fixing bugs.



Above: Sharon at Kalaloch

We will be visiting the San Francisco area over Christmas/New Year, but you'll hear about that next year, with any luck.

Please note: a version of this newsletter with more pictures is available on-line at www.ilanga.com/other/2011.pdf

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Above: Cooling off in downtown Chicago's water fountains.



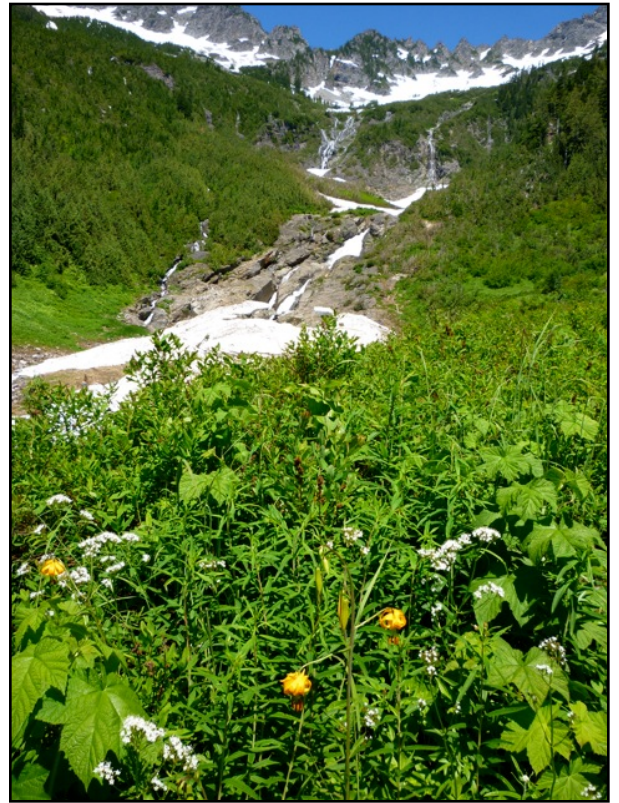
Right: Admiring sunset over the Mississippi River.



Above: Kalaloch, WA, on Pacific Ocean.



Right: En-route to Monte Cristo, WA, a long-abandoned mining town in the foothills of the Cascade Mountains.



Top left: Hut on Teanaway River, WA.
Top right: Near Monte Cristo, WA.
Left: Sharon receiving Professional of the Year award in front of Kirkland City Council.
Bottom left: Sharon's office building during an unusually pretty autumn this year.
Below: Hoh River Rain Forest, WA. One of the wettest places in the continental USA.





Left: Washington Pass, WA, en-route home from Winthrop, WA.



Below: Sharon with her mother and brothers Peter and Rodney in Ramsgate, South Africa.



Above: Sharon (right) helping to get goats to eat invasive plants. Like us, the goats are vegetarians, but far less discerning in their diet.



Right: Sharon (centre) accepting a donation from the local Kiwanis Club (think: Lions/Rotary) to help restore the natural vegetation in Kiwanis Park. The redhead she is chatting up is one of her younger volunteers.