

## Conservation News & Announcements

September 19, 2007



### Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Plants Trees with SPS Students

On Wednesday, September 19, Chief Sealth High School hosted Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, Professor Wangari Maathai, for a ceremonial tree planting at Pelly Place Ravine as part of Project Earth Care, an environmental project created by Chief Sealth High School students. To launch the event, Chief Sealth High School hosted the Seattle Earth Summit II in its Little Theater at the campus. World famous nature photographer Art Wolfe served as the keynote speaker.



Photo by Emily Tanner, courtesy of Seattle Arts & Lectures

Professor Maathai was in Seattle to speak at a sold out Seattle Arts and Lectures event to talk about her work. She is the founder of the Green Belt Movement, a group that provides income and sustenance to millions of people in Kenya through the planting of trees. It also conducts educational campaigns to raise awareness about women's rights, civic empowerment and the environment throughout Kenya and Africa. Through the Green Belt Movement Maathai has assisted women in planting more than 20 million trees on their farms and on school grounds and church compounds. She was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2004.

The summit was organized by Peter Hubbard, a Lawton Elementary School teacher who was instrumental in starting the Lawton composting project. Students from Chief Sealth High School are producing the tree planting event, which also includes students from Gatewood Elementary and Denny Middle schools.

*"...there are vital connections among peace, democracy and good management of the environment."  
~Wangari Maathai*