

NEWS BREAK

Wednesday's News Break selects an article from Monday, October 5 of The Seattle Times e-Edition for an in-depth reading of the news. Read the selected article and answer the attached study questions. Please remember to always preview the content of the article before sharing with your students.

Preserving Paradise (Main, page A1).

Pre-Reading and Vocabulary

1. Look at the title of the article. What do you imagine when you think of "paradise"? Make a prediction about the article based on the title and the pictures accompanying the article.
2. **Vocabulary: Match the words to the numbered definitions below.**

- A. arboretum
- B. centered
- C. deeded
- D. foresee
- E. grove
- F. itemized
- G. meticulous
- H. naturalist
- I. passion
- J. preserve
- K. rhododendron
- L. rival
- M. stipulation
- N. succession
- O. tract
- P. utilitarian

1. to create a detailed list of (things)
2. an area of land
3. a person who studies plants and animals as they live in nature
4. a place where trees and plants are grown in order to be studied or seen by the public
5. something or someone that is as good or almost as good as another person or thing
6. very careful about doing something in an extremely accurate and exact way
7. to see or become aware of (something that has not yet happened)
8. to keep (something) safe from harm or loss
9. made to be useful rather than to be decorative or comfortable
10. something that is required as part of an agreement
11. mainly concerned about or involved with something specified
12. a small group of trees
13. an evergreen bush that has large, bright flowers and that is often grown in gardens
14. to give someone ownership of (a building or piece of land) by means of a deed

15. a series of people or things that come one after the other
16. a strong feeling of enthusiasm or excitement for something or about doing something

Comprehension

1. How many passions have there been in Fir Butler's life? Name two of them.
2. What did Fir Butler say that her life with her late husband, Merlin Butler was centered on?
3. What were their dogs named after?
4. Fir Butler's legal name is Founta. Why did she begin calling herself by the nickname Fir?
5. Back in 1970, the Butlers deeded their land in Bothell to Snohomish County to be used as a park, with what stipulation?
6. Initially how many acres did the Butler's deed to Snohomish County for what is now known as Rhody Ridge Arboretum?
 - a) Two acres
 - b) Six acres
 - c) 11 acres
7. Why did Fir and her husband Merlin want to protect the land by deeding it to Snohomish County as a park?
8. Fir and her husband Merlin bought their dream property in 1957. There are about 300 to 400 rhododendrons on the site that naturalist Tom Murdoch said rival what?
9. Where did Fir and her husband go for vacations?
10. Fir and her husband kept photo albums filled with pictures of themselves on hikes - **true or false?**
11. Fir and her husband kept numerous card files that were meticulously organized. Name one thing the card were organized by.

Additional Activities

1. Have students discuss the use of land in their community. How much building development is occurring in their community? How much land has been set aside for parks or to preserve other natural areas? Do they think enough is being done to preserve nature in their community – why or why not?
2. Have students read the Sunday, October 4 article "***Congress Lets a Great Gift to U.S. Expire***" on page B1, about Congress letting the 50-year-old Land and Conservation Fund to expire. Then have students discuss the following: Why do you think Congress made this decision? Was it the right decision – why or why not? How do you think their decision will affect future conservation efforts for our country? How do you feel about this decision?

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Answer Key to Vocabulary

- A. 4
- B. 11
- C. 14
- D. 7
- E. 12
- F. 1
- G. 6
- H. 3
- I. 16
- J. 8
- K. 13
- L. 5
- M. 10
- N. 15
- O. 2
- P. 9

Answer Key to Comprehension Questions

1. There have been five passions in her life. Her husband, the six acres of land, the hikes she took with her husband, the dogs they owned. (Only two examples necessary)
2. Nature
3. Their dogs were named after trees.
4. She began calling herself by the nickname Fir after the forests she saw on a family trip she took through the Cascades when she was younger.
5. With the stipulation that they would live out their years there.
6. b) Six acres
7. Because they loved the land so much and they could foresee what would happen in the region with development.
8. That rival anything at the Seattle arboretum.
9. They went for hikes in the Cascades.
10. False, they kept picture albums of the nature they saw, mountain scenery and rhododendrons, not of themselves.
11. Examples of how the cards were organized are by hikes and by plants (Only one example necessary)