



Dragon News - [Keep up with the dragons on our new Facebook page!](#) And upcoming on Whidbey Island - two events to celebrate the "How to Train Your Dragon" movie in Langley. [Sat., May 22nd - Dragons in Puget Sound](#) [Sat., May 29th - Book reading at the new SW Commons Coffeehouse Bookstore](#)



Yvonne Palka

Yvonne is the award-winning sumi-e artist who wrote and illustrated *Dragon Fire, Ocean Mist*. A retired college professor, grandmother, biologist and naturalist, she is passionate about introducing children and adults to the wonders of the natural world.

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[Northwest Beaches: Puget Sound Starts Here!](#)

Did you know that your favorite beach starts in your backyard? It's all about watersheds - what starts in your backyard eventually ends up in the Puget Sound. The [Puget Sound Starts Here](#) initiative is hosting workshops teaching landowners how to work with their yards, including dealing with pet poop, so that the water that runs off into the Sound is clean and healthy for fish and other critters. A great program for kids is [Be A Drain Ranger - check it out!](#)

Recently we got together with neighbors and planted a hedgerow on the border of the [Highlands in Langley](#) where we live. Hedgerows of native plants support and attract wildlife, control runoff and keep sediment and pollutants out of the streams and the Sound. And create beauty as well - more birds, butterflies and beneficial insects (and perhaps dragons too)!

And similarly, [Whidbey Watershed Stewards](#) is working to restore native vegetation at various sites on local streams to create healthy spawning habitat for salmon. They are the recipient of this month's donation from the dragons who are excited to support groups working to preserve and restore Puget Sound.

"I loved your book - it is really good! I stopped reading all of the other books I was reading in order to read [Dragon Fire, Ocean Mist](#) all the way through. I read it two times!"

Beatriz S., age 11, Kirkland, WA



[Dragon Fire, Ocean Mist](#)

Written & Illustrated by
Yvonne Palka

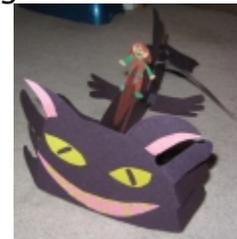
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Putting in the native plants in our new hedgerow

Dragons: "How to Train Your Dragon"

If you haven't seen it yet, check out the new movie, ["How to Train Your Dragon"](#). It's a good film for elementary school kids. The part I liked the best is the theme that the dragons are mean 'cuz people (and, of course, the great monster dragon too) are mean to them. When the hero, Hiccup, befriends Toothless, the Night Fury dragon, and teaches the other kids how to befriend dragons instead of trying to slay them, it reminded me of Zorg's transformation in [Dragon Fire, Ocean Mist](#). Amazing how a little kindness goes a long ways in both the dragon and human world!



Hiccup and Toothless out of construction paper by a talented young artist

Asian Art: Super Simple Sumi Snail

For the next couple of months I'm going to post some of my super simple sumi ideas. This month, to go along with the garden theme (since snails love gardens), meet the Super Simple Sumi Snail. To do this painting, either with brush and ink, watercolor or tempera, start by making a gray spiral stroke for the shell. Then add a broad gray stroke for the body and the foot. Finally take a small brush (or marker pen) and put in the eye stalks, with eyes on the end, and some marks on the shell. You can even give the snail a smile!



Super Simple Sumi Snail



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