

# My Monday Memo

February 14, 2022

Adventures in the PNW

Issue 90

Today is... February 14th

National Impotence Day

On this day in 1962

First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy gave a tour of the White House on CBS television.

## Quote of the Week

"What's better than having a boyfriend on Valentine's Day? Being single on February 15th. All the candy and wine is half off, and no one care if you get fat."

- Courtesy of someecards

## MIRA'S PHOTO OF THE WEEK



## Super Bowl LVI

And the winner is...

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

- Just kidding -

Los Angeles Rams- 23  
Cincinnati Bengals- 20

## R.I.P. Roadkill



## SHADOW Lake Nature Preserve

By Rachel Brandes

On Saturday, February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022, Mira and Rachel had their first adventure of the year with a visit to SHADOW Lake Nature Preserve. Back in the 90s, a couple by the names of Erin and Max realized that the abandoned land next to their home was in fact a wetland by the name of Shadow Lake Bog. In 1995 these do-gooders purchased this 18-acre parcel of land that included the Bog. It would be 1999 when they formed the non-profit Save Habitat And Diversity Of Wetlands (SHADOW). In 2000 they hosted their first group of student visitors. Mira and Rachel were excited to explore this area but even more excited to see Shadow Lake.

They arrived just in time for their reservation to figure out the parking situation and locate the appropriate trail entrance. The morning would consist of a handful of small trails, which at the end of the day totaled roughly two miles of hiking around.

There were certainly some beautiful views along the trails. There were bright moss-covered trees, fascinating fungus, and even a pile of what Mira assessed to be cougar scat. They even found a couple of trees to play a bit of [peek-a-boo](#) behind. Wait, cougar scat? Hmm, they have seen all sorts of local creatures, but a cougar was something that has eluded their adventures. After this discovery, the anxiety may have amped up a notch.



Pictured clockwise: The infamous grave; an interestingly formed tree; and the questionable markings on the tree.

In their quest to find this mysterious lake and not be eaten by a cougar or murdered and buried in the pre-dug grave by the madman, Mira and Rachel nervously made their way along the trails. They came across what appeared to be a small white conduit sticking out of the ground. Rachel quickly asked Mira to photograph her pole-dancing. One can only dream of another career that will never be. When they came across a much larger scale pole, Rachel jumped up again and even got Mira involved in the fun.

They only heard the cougar and madman stalking them a few times and figured they were safe enough. Safe enough until they both heard a louder sound echo through the forest. This was bad timing as Rachel had just mentioned that they needed to find a spot for her to relieve her uber-tiny bladder. Mira, always with camera in hand, got a good laugh at Rachel's reaction and said, "[I can't!](#)" Rachel always enjoys providing Mira with these little moments of laughter and joy.

Mira and Rachel never did find that lake and were most definitely disappointed. It's a good thing they had so much fun or the whole adventure may have been a bust. They are happy to report that they are both still alive and have not been eaten by a cougar nor murdered by a madman. Until next time, be well.



Maybe these two pole-dancing queens could take their show on the road one day.



Mira and Rachel on the Bog/Boardwalk Trail. What a fun curvy boardwalk.

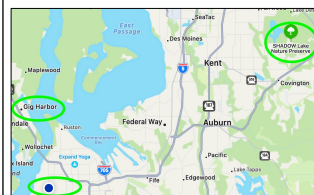
One interesting find along the trail was what appeared to be a human-sized grave dug in the ground that had now been somewhat overgrown with foliage. It was far too deep and wet, or Rachel would have been thrilled to lay inside for a photo opportunity. Had someone been murdered by a madman, buried, and subsequently unearthed? They would never know. What they knew was that they now had cougar scat and a grave; anxiety level one notch higher. They would have to *collaborate* to stay safe.

Moving along the trail, Rachel spotted what appeared to be markings on a tree that could have only been made by a person's nails while in distress as they escaped the local madman while being chased through the forest. Mira quickly pointed out that what she saw was the word "Hi" carved into the tree. Either way, it still looked a bit creepy.



Pictured L to R: The Wetlands Trailhead, maybe the lake is nearby? Nope. An interesting landscape along the Bog/Boardwalk Trail had the hiking duo intrigued.

## Where in the world...



This week's adventure took Mira and Rachel to Renton, just a short 45 minutes or so from Rachel's home (blue dot at bottom left). Mira's home of Gig Harbor is also circled (just above and left of Rachel's).