

# CURRENT NEWS

The Newsletter of the Clackamas River Basin Council

## Over Two Tons of Refuse Cleaned from the Clackamas

What do a shopping cart, thirty-seven mismatched flip-flops, a giant zucchini, a duck decoy, a bicycle, and eighteen hefty bags of aluminum beer cans have in common? They're just some of the items volunteers pulled from the depths and shores of the Clackamas River during the second annual **Down the River Clean Up on the Clackamas** at the end of the summer recreation season.

### Volunteers Come Together

On September 12, over one hundred and twenty volunteers assembled at Carver Park in Clackamas County to be assigned a river section and given trash bags. A diverse gathering of the river community; local river outfitters, kayakers, rafters and anglers stood shoulder to shoulder with high school students, Clackamas County Marine Sheriff Department divers and landowners - with the common goal to help care for their river. With sections of the Clackamas seeing more use over the years, long time river users have noticed an increasing accumulation of trash along river. With a growing sense of concern, the community came together to take action. The group was organized into flotillas and assigned a river section to clean. Drift boats, oarboats and rafts were designated as "garbage scows," and each was attended by a pod of kayakers.



### Rolling on the River

Whitewater kayakers showed their stuff as they demonstrated their rolls, coming up with aluminum cans. Driftboats landed dripping bags of refuse rather than shimmering steelhead. The volunteers scoured thirteen miles of riverbanks and pools, from Barton Park to Clackamette Park. Clackamas County Marine Sheriff Department divers cleaned several deep pools of spawned out aluminum cans. What these volunteers accomplished in a manner of eight hours is nothing short of phenomenal. Between the hours of 11:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. they removed over 4480 pounds of garbage from the waterway!

**"Driftboats landed dripping bags of refuse rather than shimmering steelhead."**

Staff from eNRG Kayaking, the Clackamas River Basin Council, and Portland State University's Outdoor Recreation Program spearheaded the organizational effort that drew on the talents and resources of a diverse and motivated pool of volunteer river users that included local residents; steelhead and salmon anglers; Estacada and Grant High School students; PSU's Outdoor Recreation Program; the Oregon Kayak and Canoe Club; and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife biologists.

### Date Set for Third Annual Down the River Clean Up on the Clackamas

eNRG Kayaking and the CRBC have set a date for the Third Annual Down the River Clean Up on the Clackamas...Save this date: **Sunday September 11th.**

Please join us! Volunteer to be involved on shore or on the river. We'll celebrate with a community barbecue at Carver Park when we finish the cleanup.

To volunteer or for more information contact [info@clackamasriver.org](mailto:info@clackamasriver.org) or call 503.558.0550



In September the council partnered with eNRG kayaking and PSU Outdoor

**Recreation Program** to organize and stage the 2nd Annual **Down the River Clean Up on the Clackamas**. Over 120 community volunteers joined a flotilla that removed over two tons of refuse from the river between Barton and Clackamette Park. For more about the cleanup, see article on page three.

We held our **4th Annual Watershed Celebration and Salmon Bake** at the Phillip Foster Farm in Eagle Creek.

In spite of cool rainy weather over sixty community members feasted on fresh Columbia River Chinook, enjoyed the **watercolor paintings of riverside resident Virginia Rice**, participated in an exciting silent auction, and listened to old time music by strolling musician Mike Gilbert. Many thanks to the historic **Phillip Foster Farm** and the Jackknife-Zion-Horse Heaven Historical Society for hosting us, to **Dick and Donna Carlson for cooking**, and to the Friends of Clyde Rice for joining us.



## Streamside Improvements

With a grant from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board the council leveraged grant funding from several other sources to implement **instream stewardship projects** in partnership with streamside landowners and ODFW.

At Bargefeld Creek near Fishers Mill, a culvert that hindered fish passage at a Coho spawning area was removed and replaced with a bridge. On Richardson Creek and Upper Clear Creek three **large wood projects** were implemented to add complexity and structure for salmon and steelhead habitat. We hired local contractors to do the work, bringing dollars into the local economy.

## Strategic Planning for the Future

Over the past two years the council has established a strong foundation for collaborative partnerships in the watershed by engaging over a hundred landowners and community organizations and agencies in our Watershed Assessments. The Assessment compiles scientific information about the Clackamas Basin. It will provide a scientific basis for prioritizing actions. We look forward in the next few months and coming years to working with community groups and watershed residents to develop and implement a Watershed Action Plan; an adaptive plan of action that will guide protection and enhancement of our water quality and fish and wildlife habitat which are so important to our quality of life and a healthy sustainable economy.



## What Can I Do About Knotweed?

### Check Your Property.

If you have Knotweed call us for recommendations and help with control.

### Avoid spreading Knotweed.

Be careful working around it as small fragments can easily resprout if it gets into machinery or slash piles or are left in moist places.

Because of Knotweed's large root system and strong ability to resprout following cutting, **care must be taken to successfully control it - Especially around water.** Call our Knotweed Team at 503.658.2708 for free assistance in eradicating this noxious plant from your property.



If you are a streamside landowner in the Deep Creek Basin and have knotweed on your property, we can provide you **free assistance** for getting rid of it. Please call Greg Ciannella, our Riparian Projects Coordinator, at 503.658.2708 or [greg@clackamasriver.org](mailto:greg@clackamasriver.org) for more information.

## Streamside Stewards Make A Difference

### Streamside Restoration Crew – Keeping Waterways Weed Free and Full of Trees

The Clackamas River Basin Council is pleased to announce the hiring of a new Riparian Projects Coordinator, Greg Ciannella. Greg comes to us with experience working in streamside restoration, noxious weed management, and Geographical Information Systems. Before coming to the council, Greg worked with Metro Regional Parks and Greenspaces co-managing Japanese Knotweed Control in the Clackamas Basin and leading invasive plant mapping on Metro's Open Spaces. Accompanying Greg this year will be an AmeriCorps crew of three; June Mohler, Lacey Collins, and Chant Eicke. As a team their focus will be to continue knotweed control efforts and conduct riparian restoration along areas identified as high importance for water quality and fish and wildlife habitat.

### Riparian Planting Takes Off – Live on a Stream, Plant a Tree!

The winter and early spring months were busy for the Streamside Restoration Crew as they worked with streamside landowners to get native trees and shrubs in the ground. Just upstream of the newly replaced culvert along Bargefeld Creek, our crew and AmeriCorps volunteers planted hundreds of Western Red Cedars and willow cuttings. The crew also worked with the Cedarhurst Neighborhood Association along Spring Creek to remove invasive blackberry and plant native cedar and fir trees. Along Foster Creek, the crew helped three landowners to plant a total of 238 native trees along the streambanks. In the City of Sandy, the crew worked along Tickle Creek with a class from Portland State University planting native trees and shrubs and removing English Ivy. The program has also been working with Clackamas County work crews planting hundreds of trees along the banks of Goose Creek and Estacada Lake.

### Streamside Restoration Incorporates Knotweed Control

The council's Streamside Restoration Program will shift gears in the summer months to focus on knotweed control efforts along the Lower Clackamas and its tributaries. We will continue to monitor previous knotweed sites on the mainstem Clackamas and along Eagle, Bear, Delph, Dubois, Wade, Goose, and Clear Creeks. Our goal is to revisit previous knotweed sites to assess and treat if need be. This will also mark the first year entering the Deep Creek Basin to battle knotweed. We will embark on an outreach and education campaign to streamside landowners in the Basin, beginning in the headwaters working downstream. Our goal is to work with volunteer streamside landowners to identify knotweed locations within the Basin and to begin treatment.

## Board Member Spotlight: Two Board Members Honored

This fall, at our annual Salmon Bake/Watershed Celebration, the Clackamas River Basin Council recognized two special board members for their exemplary contributions to the council.

Local educator **Andrew Gilford**, was awarded "*The Cole Gardiner Stewardship Award*."

Andrew represents Education and Youth on our board and serves as chair of the Outreach Committee and as a member of the executive committee. He can always be counted on to help staff community outreach activities.

A Clackamas High School biology teacher, Andrew instructs in a way that inspires as well as educates. His students say that Andrew helps them to actively explore the world and to understand ecological relationships in a real, rather than theoretical way. This sometimes means getting their feet wet and encountering bugs, but as student Krizthine Gutierrez says, "this is the best class!"

Class activities might include visiting local creeks to take water samples, teaching hands on science activities to younger students, using the latest computer technology to map natural resources, or interviewing local elders about the Clackamas they knew in their youth. Last summer the council sponsored Andrew's two week long summer Watershed Ecology class for fifteen lo-

### Many Thanks to Our Partners and Donors of 2004:

All Star Raft Company, The Art Institute of Portland  
Aunt Fannie's Old Egg Shoppe & Mercantile, Baja Fresh, Barbara Colburn, Backyard Bird Shop, Baskin Robbins 31, Blue Sky Rafting Company, Camp Collins, City of Estacada, City of Lake Oswego, City of Milwaukie, Clackamas County Board of Commissioners, Clackamas County Department of Transportation and Development, Clackamas County Marine Sheriff, Clackamas County Soil and Water Conservation District, Clackamas Fire District, Clackamas County Parks, Clackamas County Soil & Water Conservation District, Clackamas High School, Clackamas River Water, CM Meyers, Coho Productions, Concordia University, Damascus Civic Club, Dave Harmon, Eagle Creek Barton CPO, Earlean Marsh, eNRG Kayaking, Estacada High School, Friends of Clyde Rice, Friends of Tickle Creek, Goddess Gallery, Higgins Restaurant, Jackknife Zion Horse Heaven Historical Society, Jacqueline Tommas, John L. Scott Realty, Lauren and Ken Rector, Lowell Hanna Studios, Oak Lodge Water District, Oregon Department of Agriculture, Oregon Department of Fish and Game, Oregon DEQ, Oregon Parks and Recreation, Oregon Trout, Oregon Wildlife Heritage Foundation, OSU Extension, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, Metro, NOAA, NW Service Academy-AmeriCorps, Northwest Steelheaders, Papa Murphy's Pizza, The Philip Foster Farm, Pittock Mansion, PGE, Portland State University, River Network, Riverview Guest House Bed & Breakfast, Sandy Watershed Council, Sleepy Hollow Tree Farm, South Fork Water Board, Student Watershed Research Project, Sunrise Water, Three Rivers Land Conservancy, Timberline Lodge Tim Simpkins & Family, Traeger Industries, Trout Unlimited, USGS, USDA Forest Service, Water Environment Services, Water Cycle Inc., Willamette Falls Hospital, Willamette Restoration Initiative



cal high school students. Getting fifteen high schoolers to voluntarily take a summertime science class is testimony to an outstanding educator. Thanks Andrew, and to his wonderful family who share him with us; wife Debra, son Asher and daughter Elia.

**Jacqueline Tommas** was awarded the "*Stevens River Watch Award*". This award recognizes the work of Stanley and the late Hazel Stevens, long time river residents who worked to protect the Clackamas River and were instrumental in a Wild and Scenic River designation for this much loved waterway.

Jacqueline is a local attorney who grew up near Fishers Mill. She represents the Friends of Central Clear Creek on the CRBC board. Jackie is active on the board's executive and land-use committees. Besides her legal expertise she helps staff our outreach booth and shares her considerable skills in pie baking and flower arranging- something we all enjoy at our annual watershed celebration. Thanks Jackie!

## Your Home May be Waterfront Property!

When it rains on your property where does the water go? Some water may enter your lawn and garden, but what about the rain that hits your roof and driveway? If you live in a rural area the water that flows off your gutters and driveway may go into a ditch or drainageway that leads to a creek or wetland. If you live in a more residential part of the watershed, the stormwater flows into stormdrains which typically drain directly to creeks.



### Storm Drains Are Not a Sewer

I peered into those mysterious gaps on the curbs when I was small, dropping sticks down and wondering where they went. One day, my brother told me about the sewer monster that might grab me, and from that point on I assumed these stormdrains went into the sewer. It was not until much later in life that I realized that they drained to creeks and rivers.

If your driveway is near a stormdrain you have “waterfront property.” How we treat our yards, gardens, roofs, streets and parking lots determines how clean or dirty stormwater runoff is. Anything poured or discharged into a stormdrain can flow directly into a creek or river with no treatment to protect people, fish or wildlife from pollutants. This type of pollution from diffuse sources is sometimes called “non-point source pollution.” While many people think that industry is the biggest source of water pollution, the majority of impacts to our water comes from runoff that travels over urban landscapes, roadways and agricultural land. No matter where we live, we can positively or negatively impact our waterways. Some of the tributaries in our watershed are showing signs of impact and degradation. But the good news is that there are many actions we can take that will help minimize these effects. Here are just a few.

### Keep Your Lawn Green, the Stream Clean, and Save Money

Before you purchase and reach for weed killer and chemical fertilizer consider using less toxic alternatives. There are great resources to help you go easy on the chemicals and get started with this sort of yard care. The Clackamas County Soil and Water Conservation District (CCSWCD) offers workshops on how to keep your lawn green and remove moss and weeds

## Your Clackamas River Watershed Reflections

In our last newsletter we invited folks to share their thoughts, words and musings about the river and landscape of the Clackamas River Basin. Below are some haiku that members of the watershed community submitted.

*“Quickly past my land  
a racing tributary  
anxious to go home.”*  
-Jaime Daimon; Eagle Creek

*“Watching the fish spawn  
fulfillment at its finest  
devotion yields bliss.”*  
-Danette Ehlers; Clackamas Fish Biologist

*“Think like a raindrop,  
fall and bring offerings to us  
Clackamas River.”*  
-anonymous

To submit your Clackamas Reflection for possible posting in future newsletters or on our website send to:  
[info@clackamasriver.org](mailto:info@clackamasriver.org)

*When you drink the water, remember  
the spring.*  
-Chinese Proverb

without using too many expensive and toxic products. Free Naturescaping workshops will introduce you to plants that are attractive and require less labor intensive care and water. By using naturescaping techniques you can often lower your water bill while providing a safer habitat for both people and wildlife. **(Continued back)**

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### **Keep Soapy Water off the Streets**

As for your car, it is best washed at a carwash where the soapy water is recycled or sent to the sewer. However, if you must wash your car at home, try to direct the water to a soil, lawn or gravel area rather than pavement. Try to sweep your walks and driveway rather than hosing them down. For more ideas on how you can make a difference at your waterfront property and help take care of your watershed visit [www.cleanriversandstreams.org](http://www.cleanriversandstreams.org)



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## **Clackamas River Basin Council Watershed Calendar**

- **June 19 Thunder Mountain Watershed View Hike**

Join us for a hike to the top of Thunder Mountain. This 5185 ft. peak is a remnant of a once large volcano. The broad top has some nice wildflower areas and views of the Cascade Range from Hood to the Three Sisters. This hike is at the hard end of moderate with a continuous 1200 foot climb over two miles.

Meet to carpool or caravan at 8:45 AM at the SE corner of the Clackamas Fred Meyers at 16301 SE 82nd near Exit 12 (12A if from the North) off I-205. A 2nd meeting place for those east is 10 AM at Ripplebrook Ranger Station, 61431 E Highway 224, 25 miles east of Estacada on the Clackamas River Road Highway 224. Bring water and picnic lunch. Dress appropriately for the weather and have hiking footgear.

- **Citizen's Snapshot Water Quality Monitoring Event- Rock and Richardson Creeks - July 16**

- **Third Annual Down the River Clean Up on the Clackamas- Sunday, Sept. 11**

Join the CRBC, eNRG Kayaking and the Oregon Kayak and Canoe Club to clean up our river!



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