

CURRENT NEWS

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Fostering partnerships for clean water and to improve fish and wildlife habitat for those who live, work, and recreate in the Clackamas watershed.

Get Out and Play this Summer!

You don't have to go far from home to have an amazing outdoor experience this summer — the Clackamas watershed abounds with lots of options for every recreationist, from those who want to put major miles on their feet, to those who'd just like to put their feet up for a bit.

Guided Nature Hikes with Bryon Boyce

One of the best ways to see the watershed is with CRBC Board Member Bryon Boyce on one of his guided nature hikes. For more detailed hike descriptions and information on how to RSVP, please visit our website! On **June 26th**, hikers will visit Hawk Mountain, which features wildflowers, wetlands, meadows, and a spectacular view from a historic 1933 former lookout cabin.



On **July 16th**, you can visit several of the most easily accessible sources of the Clackamas River. We will visit Little Crater Lake, teal-colored Clackamas Lake and nearby Forest Service museum, Summit Lake, and Lower Lake. Two more notable stops will be Triangle Lake, the highest year-round source for the mainstem Clackamas, and Head Lake, at 4,935 ft. one of the highest sources for the Clackamas River.

An **August 21st** tour will visit 2010's Bull of the Woods Fire Complex which was active for over a month. Learning about fire ecology and fire management in Western Oregon will be the focus of the tour. The plant zones we will pass through vary from high elevation forest to open rocky meadows to dense forest. The valleys of the fire area all drain to the Collowash River. Due to uncertainty about trail reconstruction and snag clearance at heavily burned lower elevations, there are two possible routes to be followed.



Rafting the Clackamas

If kicking back and floating your way through the summer is more your style, consider putting in at a Clackamas County park. CRBC's Stash the Trash bags, reusable bags that can be used to store any garbage or recyclables you generate on-water, are available at Barton, Carver, and Riverside Parks, as well as the Barton Store. You can also help CRBC and We Love Clean Rivers clean up after less-responsible river users at our 9th Annual Down the River Cleanup event on Sunday, September 11th. Check out our online calendar for details. For information about rafting and other recreational opportunities in Clackamas County Parks, visit <http://www.clackamas.us/parks/> You can also learn more by visiting the North Clackamas Parks and Recreation District site at <http://ncprd.com>.

Biking

Mt. Hood Territory (<http://www.mthoodterritory.com/>) has recently released a Bike It! Map, showing the safest routes in the area. You can also visit the Territory's website for information about upcoming events, lodging, and agritourism.





Boring Station Trailhead Riparian Planting

The thought of restoring your streamside can be daunting, especially if there are invasive species like English ivy or Himalayan blackberry taking over. However, any “sweat equity” you invest pays you back in multiple ways through erosion control, increased property value, and wildlife watching opportunities. You don’t even have to sacrifice your view of the creek!

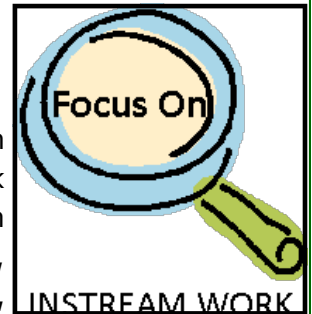
INSTREAM WORK

One site that demonstrates how much restoration can make a difference is our demonstration planting site at Boring Station Trailhead Park, located on SE Richey Road just south of its junction with Highway 212. CRBC has worked with the City of Damascus, Boring/Damascus Grange #260, and the Friends of Boring Station Trailhead Park to cut stands of ivy from trees and revegetate the stream with native trees and shrubs. Along the way, we’ve had help from volunteers representing AmeriCorps, REI, KeyBank, and Trout Unlimited (to name a few!), and received funds from PGE, Metro, OWEB, and Water Environment Services.



We’ve planted over 900 trees and shrubs and removed hundreds of pounds of ivy and blackberry. Species planted include taller conifers, such as Douglas fir and Western red cedar, along with smaller trees and shrubs like vine maple, snowberries, and elderberries. Staff chose species that would thrive in the habitat conditions at Boring Station Trailhead while also providing visual interest and attracting wildlife and pollinators with flowers and berries. If you’d like to improve your streamside area, give us a call — we’ll be more than happy to try to make your streamside restoration dreams come true.

Mattoon Road Culvert Removal



CRBC and partners have completed a number of projects in Clear Creek, which is seen as a high priority for salmon habitat in the Clackamas watershed. This is due to the fact that Clear Creek has excellent spawning and rearing habitat for coho and steelhead, which seek cover from predators in isolated pools and beneath undercut banks. Now, thanks to the efforts of CRBC, Clackamas County, and partners at Oregon Dept. of Fish & Wildlife and the US Forest Service, salmon will have an additional 2.6 miles of prime habitat to conduct their business in.



The new bridge, nearly ready for traffic.

Spring Creek, an important Clear Creek tributary, previously flowed under Mattoon Road through a pair of aging culverts, which prevented fish passage. These culverts were removed in 2010 and replaced with a 30-foot-wide modular bridge constructed by Pacific Bridge Construction, Inc. CRBC also worked with neighbors and service learning groups from Grant High School and the Mt. Hood Community College YESS program to remove invasive species and replant the project site’s banks with native groundcovers, shrubs, and trees.

Neighbors have already reported seeing salmon pass under the bridge since its installation!

Funding for this culvert removal, which was identified as a priority in the CRBC’s Basin Action Plan, was provided by the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board and the Clackamas Stewardship Partners. If you’d like more information about how to improve salmon habitat on your property, or have a fish passage barrier of your own, contact CRBC! There may be opportunity for us to help you obtain an OWEB Small Grant, which provides funds of up to \$10,000 for landowners.

Eye on Invasive Species:

Purple Loosestrife

by Greg Bengé

Purple loosestrife was introduced from Europe in the early nineteenth century. Originally this plant was used for medical purposes, such as the treatment of ailments like dysentery and bleeding. The expansion of settlement and the use of purple loosestrife for ornamental purposes helped perpetuate the plants expansion throughout most of the lower 48 states.



Description

Purple loosestrife is a perennial herb 3-7 feet tall with a dense bushy growth of 1-50 stems. Flowers vary from purple to magenta and bloom from July to September. Leaves are opposite, nearly linear, and attached to four-sided stems without stalks. It has a large, woody taproot with fibrous rhizomes that form a dense mat (dnr.wi.gov).

Why is it problematic?

Purple loosestrife produces between 100,000 and 300,000 seeds per year. It can also reproduce through its root system, or through shoot segments, which may be accidentally distributed through shipping and the transportation of goods (dnr.wi.gov). The high reproductive capability of this species allows it to take over large sections of habitat, destroying wildlife habitat.

How can I get rid of it?

The best way to eradicate purple loosestrife is to prevent it from ever establishing. For small patches, manual removal of the plant, including roots, is suggested. Make sure to throw away all parts of the plant in sealed containers.

Herbicide treatment is most effective in mid-summer, before the plant starts to flower. When applying herbicide, make sure to read the label in order to ensure proper use, and research which product works best, or if there's a less-toxic alternative. Further questions should be directed to local and state agencies such as the Soil and Water Conservation District or OSU Extension, or your local supplier.

Biological control is a fairly new weapon being used against purple loosestrife. Multiple species of weevil and beetle are being released in order to weaken and hopefully kill the plant.

Native Species of the Month:

Douglas Spiraea

by Greer Ramsey

If you are looking for a flowering plant for your garden or streamside area, why not try native Douglas spirea? This erect deciduous shrub from the rose family is a beautiful alternative to purple loosestrife or other invasive weeds.

Historical Use

Native Americans used the seeds for a medicinal tea. They also used the branches to make brooms and structures for hanging and drying salmon.

Environment

Spiraea is found from southern Alaska to northern California. It can tolerate a wide range of soils, but prefers those that are moist to wet. It thrives in areas with dappled shade or full sunlight. Spiraea is often found near streambanks and meadows at low- to mid-elevations.



Image courtesy <http://oregonstate.edu/>

Description

The leaves of the spiraea are bright green and fuzzy underneath. The fragrant flowers are a deep rose color and bloom from June to September. In the winter, it retains its reddish-brown seed heads. This shrub can grow to a height of 6 feet.

Habitat enhancement

Spiraea provides excellent cover for native birds and small animals. The showy flowers attract pollinators like hummingbirds and butterflies. The roots of the spiraea are great soil stabilizers, thus reducing erosion and preventing sediment pollution of nearby waterways. The spiraea is a delightful addition to any native garden!

Water Quality in the

CRBC protects and monitors water quality in numerous ways throughout the watershed. “Flow” from drop to drop to find out more about what we do, and how you can have your own water tested!



Future samplers can learn all about water quality at the Day in Damascus!

Snapshot Water Quality Monitoring

If you live near a stream and have ever wondered just how healthy your creek is, you can contact the Clackamas River Basin Council to help you find out!

We partner with Portland State University’s Snapshot Water Quality monitoring program each year to sample temperature, turbidity (cloudiness), oxygen levels, and other stream health indicators on private property each summer. Students then compile the information they collect into a report showing a “Snapshot” of the watershed, and give a presentation to the CRBC Board of Directors about their findings. Landowners that participate are invited to the presentation, and receive a copy of the student-produced report.

All information about your private property is kept strictly confidential! Sampling happens in June and July, and takes less than an hour at each site. This is a great way for you to find out more about your local environment while providing a valuable educational experience for students.

You can also visit the Snapshot students and CRBC at the Day in Damascus to see just how the water testing process works, and participate in hands-on educational activities that are fun for the whole family.

The Clackamas Basin

Pesticide Reduction

Have you ever wondered how to read a pesticide label? Are you curious about pest management techniques?

Contact our office! We've recently updated our acclaimed series of pesticide fact sheets, which feature information about label reading, pesticide alternatives, integrated pest management and tips for reducing your use. If you'd like a home visit and information about how to handle weeds on your property, we'd be more than happy to help!

You can also be watching for a fall Pesticide Round-Up Event — if you're an agricultural resident of Clackamas County, we can assist with disposal of your outdated or unusable pesticides. At our spring event, we collected over 35,000 pounds of pesticides!



Got ivy? Give us a call! We can help you find the best way to get rid of it and other invasive weeds.

Coordinating Partners

Through a grant received from DEQ, CRBC is coordinating meetings of the Clackamas Water Quality Pesticide Management Team, which includes Clackamas River Water Providers, OR Dept. of Agriculture, DEQ, Clackamas Soil & Water Conservation District, US Geological Survey, and Water Environment Services. Together, our group is working to coordinate water quality data that's been collected in the Clackamas basin, and determine how to share that data with the public in a meaningful way. We'll also be sharing some of the data from our meetings on the CRBC website, so check out the "Water Quality" section if you're interested in water quality in your area. CRBC has already shared a report with some preliminary findings of our own sampling efforts.



CRBC Program Assistants Greer Ramsey and Greg Bengé monitoring water quality.

Volunteer Spotlight : Timber Lake Job Corps

Job Corps students hard at work planting the banks of the North Fork of Deep Creek on February 12th.



Near the end of his cautionary tale, Dr. Seuss's Lorax states "Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not." CRBC gets to interact with so many people that "care a whole awful lot," on a daily basis. This time, we'd like to focus on the members of the Timber Lake Job Corps.

The Job Corps is a program operated by the US Forest Service, and is administered through the US Dept. of Labor. This no-cost education and technical training program has the admirable mission of teaching eligible young people the skills they need to become employable and independent, and placing them in meaningful jobs or further education. Job Corps is also

committed to the development of green job training. All students who enter in Advanced Manufacturing, Automotive, or Construction career technical training areas will train in a variety of green subject areas. This interest in a useful education and green training makes Job Corps and CRBC a natural fit!

Under the direction of Warren Cunningham, Community Liaison, students participated in work parties in November and December of 2010, and February, March, and April of 2011. They also pulled invasive Scotch Broom plants from the Job Corps site (in the Mt. Hood National Forest) during summer 2010. With 12-15 students at each event, these volunteers have logged a total of 240 hours, an incredible contribution. **Thank you,** Job Corps!



Kids' Corner: Word Search



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| H | E | U | V | D | E | B | R | I | S | O | Y | U | J | C | V | R |
| C | N | N | A | I | R | A | P | I | R | X | Z | C | L | E | A | N |
| F | H | Y | B | F | T | A | T | I | B | A | H | G | D | X | F | V |
| B | A | D | A | E | H | L | E | E | T | S | S | E | V | S | Z | F |
| M | N | C | O | T | D | H | Z | P | R | E | H | R | W | I | W | V |
| F | C | L | H | F | Z | Y | N | T | R | S | R | X | S | L | W | B |
| S | E | C | O | A | F | D | H | Q | R | O | A | O | A | M | G | N |
| R | Y | W | C | L | W | X | E | E | N | G | T | D | S | T | R | R |
| Y | I | T | T | R | V | G | T | L | C | X | D | E | S | I | E | K |
| M | D | U | I | G | E | A | S | L | H | E | M | M | C | H | O | I |
| H | T | A | E | D | W | T | A | A | R | G | B | W | K | T | S | N |
| R | S | O | M | O | I | C | A | B | L | F | G | P | O | E | H | N |
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| I | W | T | M | O | A | T | O | U | G | D | P | N | I | O | E | S |
| R | T | A | Y | H | H | D | Y | C | T | N | E | H | H | I | Z | B |
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- Chinook
- Clackamas
- Clean
- Coho
- Dam
- Debris
- Enhance
- Erosion
- Fish
- Habitat
- Ladder
- Protect
- Riparian
- River
- Salmon
- Shade
- Soil
- Steelhead
- Tributary
- Turbidity

Student Spotlight



Matt Lensch, clean and smiling

CRBC thanks Matt Lensch and Aaron Scobert! Both students organized work party events as part of their senior projects. Matt's work party was held in Damascus in January. He recruited several fellow students to help plant over 100 trees and do trash pickup. This work party was part of restoration funded by Water Environment Services.

Aaron's project took place at a City of Sandy-owned wetland along Tickle Creek in March. Volunteers at this event planted 111 trees and shrubs, and removed invasive species. This project is funded by ODSL.

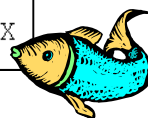


Aaron Scobert, who was a bit dirtier after the work party

If you're a student (or you know one!) that's interested in doing a project, just contact us!



How many words can you find?



Would you like to be a part of CRBC?

Consider making a charitable donation to the Basin Council today — all donations are highly appreciated and tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

**You can also donate on our website via PayPal.
Thank you!**

Welcome, Jenny!

CRBC staff was very excited to welcome new Project Manager Jenny Bieger at the beginning of this year. Jenny holds a BA in Environmental Science and Geography. She has previously worked with several governmental and non-profit agencies in natural resource management within the Portland Metro Area and the Sandy River Watershed. She has worked on multiple riparian habitat enhancement projects, vegetation monitoring projects, and landowner outreach programs to improve native fish habitat and overall watershed stewardship. She is excited to begin working within the Clackamas Basin! You can reach her at jenny@clackamasriver.org.



CRBC WANTS YOU

**TO VOLUNTEER FOR YOUR WATERSHED.
CONTACT OUR OFFICE OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE
FOR MORE INFORMATION.**

Stay connected online!



Our Twitter handle is [ClackamasRiver](https://twitter.com/ClackamasRiver)



You can also be our fan on Facebook!

Many thanks to our partners and donors:

Dave and Jan Albrecht, AIRE, Alder Creek Canoe & Kayak, American Medical Response, AmeriCorps, Backyard Bird Shop, Benchmade, Biokleen, Boring Park Commission, Burgerville, City of Damascus, City of Estacada, City of Happy Valley, City of Lake Oswego, City of Milwaukie, Clackamas Community College, Clackamas County (CC) Dept of Transportation & Development, CC Marine Sheriff, CC Parks, CC Soil & Water Conservation District, CC Water Environment Services, Clackamas Fire Dist #1, Clackamas High School (HS), Clackamas River Water, Clackamas River Water Providers, Kristin Dahl & Jake Gunderson, Teresa Collins LMT, Columbia Sportswear, Concordia University, Damascus Civic Club, Dump Stoppers, Eagle Creek Barton CPO, Eagle Creek Elementary School (ES), Earlean Marsh, EcoMetro, EcoZone, eNRG Kayaking, Estacada HS, Estacada Library, Friends of Clyde Rice, Friends of Tickle Creek, Gateway Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation Clinic, PC, Grand Central Bakery, Heart in Oregon, Irwin-Hodson Company, John Inskeep Learning Center, KEEN footwear, Kokatat Watersports Wear, Lafuma, Lowell Hanna Studios, Maravia, Meat is Good For You, Metro, CM Meyer, Mt Hood Community College Youth Employability Support Services, MTI Adventurewear, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, New Seasons Market, Next Adventure, Noah's Bagels, NW Rafters Association, NW Steelheaders, NRS, Oak Lodge Water Dist., OR Dept. of Agriculture, OR Dept. of Environmental Quality, OR Dept. of Fish & Wildlife, OR Dept. of Forestry, OR Kayak & Canoe Club, OR State Lottery®, OR State Parks, OR Trout, OR Watershed Enhancement Board, OR Whitewater Association, OR Wildlife Heritage Foundation, OSU Extension, OSU Sea Grant, Patterson Nursery, PGE, Portland State University, Rack Attack, RAZ Transportation, REI, River Connection, River Network, Ruff Wear, Safeway, Sah-Hah-Lee Golf Course, Sandy WC, Sckavone's Neighborhood Restaurant, Shadowridge Neighborhood Association, Smith Optics, SOLV, SOTAR, South Fork Water Board, Spring Mountain ES, St. Croix Paddlesports, Stone Cliff Inn, Student Watershed Research Project (SWRP), Stumptown Coffee Roasters, Sunrise Water Authority, The Nature Conservancy, The North Face, Three Rivers Land Conservancy, Timberline, Jacqueline Tommas, US Geological Services, US Forest Service, Water Environment Services, We Love Clean Rivers, Werner Paddles, West Linn HS, Whitewater Designs, and Yakima.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

There's a way for anyone who's interested to become involved with CRBC. If you represent a youth group, community service organization, or local business that's looking to do more good in the community, please contact the Education & Outreach Coordinator at (503) 558-0550 or rebecca@clackamasriver.org to schedule a service project!

- **Council Meetings**

The CRBC meets on the third Thursday of each month from 6 p.m. until 9 p.m. at the Mt. Scott Fire Station on 9339 SE Causey Avenue in Clackamas. These meetings are open to the public. Contact the Council if you have any questions!

- **Guided Watershed Hikes**

Join Council member Bryon Boyce on any or all of the three guided hikes he's offering this summer! You can explore **Hawk Mountain** on June 26th, **the Clackamas Headwaters** on July 16th, and a special **Bull of the Woods Fire Tour** on August 21st. Contact CRBC at (503) 558-0550 for more details, and to register.

- **Down the River Cleanup**

Mark your calendar now to remind yourself to attend the 9th Annual Down the River Cleanup, to be held on Sunday, September 11th! Keep abreast of all River Cleanup news at www.welovecleanrivers.org!

- **First Saturday Work Parties**

Come get dirty while cleaning up the watershed!

Volunteers will help to remove invasive species and plant native trees while learning more about this great place we call the Clackamas watershed. We'll resume our First Saturday Work Parties in October.

Please recycle this newsletter when you've finished fully enjoying it.



Clackamas River Basin Council
PO Box 1869
Clackamas, OR 97015
(503) 558-0550
www.clackamasriver.org
info@clackamasriver.org



Check out our website, which was re-designed by students at the Art Institute of Portland!