

CURRENT NEWS

The Newsletter of the Clackamas River-Basin Council

Community Volunteers Clean Up the Clackamas River

A community of river runners joined together for the *5th Annual Down the River Clean Up on the Clackamas* co-sponsored by the Clackamas River Basin Council (CRBC), eNRG Kayaking and the PSU Outdoor Program. These river stewards were drawn by the opportunity to give back to a river that sustains so many of us throughout the year with its playful whitewater, plentiful fish, and peaceful meanders.



On September 9th, over 300 volunteers convened to form an armada of floating trash collectors along a 14 mile stretch of the Clackamas River. Participants were assigned to scour a 1-mile section in hardshell and inflatable kayaks, rafts, catarafts, canoes, and drift boats.

By day's end, the river bed was cleansed of more than 6,400 pounds of beer bottles, scrap metal, discarded flip-flops – everything, including the proverbial kitchen sink. (Or rather, a kitchen stove.)



Recognition was awarded to some of the most unique items recovered from the river clean up. The cutest item was an inflatable dolphin, the most

fashionable an Obi-Wan Kenobi robe, and the weirdest...a live snake in a jar.

Although this year witnessed an increase in volunteers, the total tonnage of trash decreased from last year's event. One likely reason for this decline in river refuse is the success of the **Stash the Trash** campaign. Reusable mesh bags, stationed at Barton, Carver, and McIver Parks, provide convenient receptacles for trash. Initiated only this spring, the Stash the Trash effort has put over 5,000 of these bags into the hands of river-users, keeping untold quantities of garbage from settling into our river.

The Down the River Clean Up culminated with a festive barbeque at Carver Park, which featured organic beef and locally grown produce. Exhausted but excited volunteers drank from reusable water-bottles and dined with compostable utensils – these corn-based forks and knives won't clog up our landfills but instead will soon become mulch. Thanks to the exceptional efforts of our event organizers, only a 1/4-trash bag of garbage was generated!



Lively music was provided by Jim Brunberg (of Mississippi Studios), Clif Bar Green Notes artist Garrett Brennan, Matt Vrba and Keep Your Fork There's Pie.

The 6th Annual Clean Up is scheduled for the first weekend after Labor Day 2008. So, mark your calendars!

The New Faces of The Clackamas River Basin Council

Organizational Growth



In recent months the CRBC expanded its capacity staffwise. Executive director **Cheryl McGinnis** has much to smile about with new staff.

Matthew Kimble has a Ph.D. from the University of Washington, which focused on restoring the biodiversity of aquatic ecosystems, especially those impacted by rural or urban development. He has jumped right into his role by identifying priority sites for landowner contacts where we can provide increased shade from tree plantings to help reduce water temperature in identified reaches of Rock and Richardson Creeks. He also participated in the July 28th Damascus Day Celebration where he met many community members.



Laura Offerman has a Masters in Science Teaching in General Science from Portland State University with a concentration in ecology and environmental education. For the CRBC, she works as the Riparian Field Crew Leader contributing to invasive weed control, environmental outreach, and riparian restoration. Previously, she served in the Nevada Conservation Corps focusing on invasive species management, desert habitat restoration and forest fuel reduction. She has been involved in environmental outreach initiatives with high school, undergraduate and graduate students.



Maile Uchida works with the CRBC staff as an AmeriCorps crew member contributing to invasive weed control, riparian restoration and community outreach. Maile has studied in Hawaii, Japan and Portland, OR focusing on environmental studies, and graduated with a degree in Environmental Science from Portland State University. Having a long family history in the Clackamas River Basin area, her interests range from sustainable urban practices to watershed education.

Rachael Schultz is the newest member of the Riparian Field Crew, sponsored by AmeriCorps. After graduating from Swarthmore College with a degree in Biological Anthropology, Rachael has served as a crew leader for the Youth Conservation Corps and worked as a field archeologist for the National Park Service. Having hiked the Appalachian Trail in 2005, she anticipates a trek along the Pacific Crest Trail in the near future.



A Grand Goodbye!

Katrina Montoya is a senior in the Environmental Science undergraduate program at OSU with a minor in Natural Resources and Botany. Kat has three years of field work experience which includes working as a botany assistant for the

West Eugene Wetland restoration program, serving as a member of the Northern Arizona Conservation Corps fuel-reduction chainsaw crew, and a 2006 River Steward intern for CRBC. Kat worked for two seasons at CRBC helping with invasive plant control and restoration management planning.

Celebrating 10 Years!



1997

CRBC Inception

Community partnerships initiated

2000

Streamside assessment



2002

Fish passage barrier assessments

Eagle Creek woody debris placement



AmeriCorps partnership for field projects

PSU Student Watershed Research Project - water quality sampling

Co-Sponsor Down the River Clean Up - 2004 to present

Side Channel project

2005

Basin Action Plan created



Water Education Time Teacher & student workshops began

Project Implementation Planning Team established

Bargfeld Creek Bridge Project

2006

Spring Creek Bridge Project & Habitat Restoration



2007

Stash the Trash Campaign runs May - September

Estacada Library Bioswale - featured as demonstration project

Annual Meeting with 10 Year Review

Annual Meeting

Despite overcast skies and persistent rain, over 40 members of the Clackamas River Basin Council gathered at Barton Park on September 30th to celebrate the year's activities and our 10th anniversary. The event centered around recognizing contributors and landowners. A poster presentation highlighted a decade's worth of accomplishments for the council.



As their parents and friends enjoyed the traditional salmon bake, the younger generation capitalized on the rainy weather, stomping gleefully through puddles and tossing salmon (plastic, of course!) at the trademark fish-toss display.

Several individuals were recognized for their exceptional service within the watershed – Andrew Gilford and his HS ecology class received the Stevens River-Watch award, for their biomonitoring study. Kristin Dahl and Sam Drevo were named the Cole Gardiner River Stewards, for organizing the annual Down the River Clean-Up since its inception. Michael Walter was presented with the Outstanding Support award for generating in-kind and monetary support to the council.

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All Hands on Deck!

Local residents of the Cedarhurst neighborhood remember the days when blackberries grew in abundance and ivy blanketed the ground, making it nearly impossible to reach Clear Creek's banks. A multi-year effort has transformed the landscape into an inviting community site; including an event with Mt. Hood Community College Youth Employability Support Services crew. Several days' worth of invasive removal helped prepare the site for the riparian planting event with REI. Today a well-trod path winds through newly planted stands of native trees and shrubs providing easy creekside access.



On October 7th staff of the Clackamas River Basin Council (CRBC) teamed up with approximately 50 REI employees days before the new Clackamas Town Center store opened. Members of the Cedarhurst Improvement Club (CIC) also came out for a successful restoration work party at the confluence of Spring and Clear Creeks. With the help of REI and the CIC over 500 square feet of English ivy was removed, and 185 native trees and shrubs were planted in areas previously infested by reed canarygrass.

A Day in Damascus

Held each year in the newly-incorporated city of Damascus, this event is geared toward families. On July 28th CRBC hosted its famous fish-toss exhibit, which was as popular as ever with the younger set. They threw plastic salmon through differently-sized culverts at varying heights, while CRBC staff explained the real-world applications of the game - spawning salmon are inhibited by culverts. Prizes included stickers, magnets and even native trees, and all contestants were given a Stash the Trash bag to collect goodies from the fair and garbage later on. By the end of the day, the reusable bags were slung over the shoulders of many children at the fair.



Students Keep an Eye (Dropper) on Watershed Health

Clackamas High School students in Andrew Gilford's summer Watershed Ecology class conducted water sampling and habitat analyses at sites within the Rock Creek watershed. They sampled from the mouth of the creek and upstream. Their results show that the lower reaches have better water quality – lower temperatures, higher dissolved oxygen, and lower nitrogen and phosphorus – than stream segments further upstream. This effect is attributed to pollution and lack of tree shade in the upper watershed, as well as to clear, cold groundwater entering Rock Creek in its lower reaches. The study reflects the importance to water quality of continuing to allow rain to infiltrate into groundwater, and of maintaining an intact riparian canopy.

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The silent auction showcased generous contributions from local businesses and individuals. We thank ALL who donated items to the event!



Urban Shade Study Sets Stage for Plantings

A study completed for Metro analyzed the streamside areas of Rock and Richardson Creeks. Although the majority of the banks are shaded, a number of significant sections lack shade entirely. Streamside trees and shrubs help reduce water temperatures, in addition to filtering pollutants and sediments before entering the creeks. Metro's study identified priority areas for future plantings of native trees and shrubs. The CRBC riparian crew will be recruiting landowners and planting trees as part of the effort to improve stream shading and water quality.

**Like What We Are Doing?
Want to support our habitat and education projects for clean water and healthy streams?
Use the envelope inside this newsletter to donate.**

All contributions are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

Many Thanks to Our Partners and Donors of 2007:

Dave Albrecht, Alder Creek Canoe & Kayak, All Star Raft Company, American Whitewater, AmeriCorps, Backyard Bird Shop, BioKleen, Cedarhurst Improvement Club, City of Estacada, City of Lake Oswego, City of Milwaukie, Clackamas CC, Clackamas County Board of Commissioners, Clackamas County Dept of Transportation & Development, Clackamas County Fire Dist #1, Clackamas County Marine Sheriff, Clackamas County Parks, Clackamas County Soil & Water Conservation District, Clackamas HS, Clackamas River Water, Clackamas Watershed Management Group, Collins Retreat Center, Concordia University, Damascus Civic Club, Dump Stoppers, Eagle Creek Barton CPO, ECONscious, eNRG Kayaking, Estacada High School, Estacada Library, Fertile Ground Landscaping, Friends of Clyde Rice, Friends of Tickle Creek, Grant HS, Happy Valley ES, Higgins Restaurant, Inner City Youth Institute, John Inskeep Learning Center, Johnson Creek Watershed Council, KEEN footwear, LINKS Program, Lowell Hanna Studios, Cheryl & Paul McGinnis, Metro, CM Meyer, Mississippi Studios, Mt Hood CC Youth Employability Support Services, NOAA, Newland Communities, Next Adventure, New Season's Market, NW Rafter's Association, Northwest Steelheaders, Oak Lodge Water District, One Percent for the Planet, Oregon Dept of Fish & Wildlife, Oregon Dept. of Forestry, OSU Extension, Oregon DEQ, Oregon Kayak & Canoe Club, Oregon State Parks, Oregon Trout, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, Oregon Wildlife Heritage Foundation, Patagonia, Patterson Nursery, PGE, Portland State University, REI, River Network, Sandy Watershed Council, Sleepy Hollow Tree Farm, SOLV, South Fork Water Board, Spring Mountain ES, Stone Cliff Inn, Student Watershed Research Project, Sunrise Water Authority, The Nature Conservancy, Three Rivers Land Conservancy, Timberline, Jacqueline Tommas, USGS, US Forest Service, Water Environment Services, West Hills Development and Arbor Custom Homes



Thanks For Lending a Hand to Support Clean Water and Salmon!

Clackamas River Basin Council Calendar



- **April 19th Celebrating Water- Earth Day Event: “Connecting Water, Land, and People”**

This Earth Day event, held at the Gregory Forum at Clackamas Community College, is a celebration of our connections to water and what water means to our community. We invite children and families to explore and enjoy a variety of hands-on interactive water resource related activities, storyteller, workshops and exhibits.

- **Water Environment Services of Clackamas County sponsors habitat restoration work parties.**

For more information on how you can help, visit <http://www.co.clackamas.or.us/>

- **Clackamas River Basin Council Meeting**

When: Third Thursday of the month, 6-9 P.M. Public is always welcome. You are invited!

Where: Sunnyside Service Center, First Floor Auditorium, 9101 SE Sunnybrook Blvd. Clackamas, OR.

- **Coming Next Summer - Natural History of the Clackamas Watershed Naturalist-Led Hikes.**

Lace up your hiking boots and grab your cameras to join CRBC board member Bryon Boyce on several day hikes in summer 2008.

- **June 22nd CRBC Hike - Right Angle Viewpoint**

This outing into the lushly forested Western Cascades includes open wildflower areas and a sampling of features that illustrate the ancient volcanic history of the region.

- **July 13th CRBC Hike - Bull of the Woods**

Expect many wildflowers and views on this 6.4 mile long round trip. Natural rockgardens and meadows are seen as we pass over to the shoulders of Dickey and South Dickey Peak to Bull of the Woods Lookout at 5523 ft. This is the westernmost ridge which features plants more common to the east.

- **July 20th CRBC Hike - Headwaters High Elevation Loop**

Visit the under-appreciated highlands of Olallie Scenic Area. Most of the area underwent sheet glaciation rather than valley glaciation, resulting in flatter terrain and so many lakes and ponds that many have never been named. This 5 mile partial loop hike will pass well over a dozen water bodies. Other features include wide-ranging views with the glaciers of Mount Jefferson only 9 miles distant, glacial striations in bedrock, wildflowers, and a mixed woodland vegetation with subalpine variations.

- **Sixth Annual *Down the River Clean Up on the Clackamas* - September 7th - Save the Date!**



Clackamas River
Basin Council

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