

CURRENT NEWS

the newsletter of the Clackamas River Basin Council

Volunteers combine forces to clean the Clackamas

On Sunday, September 13th, approximately 300 volunteers descended on Barton Park with one goal in mind: cleaning the Clackamas River. Arming themselves with protective gloves and bags for trash and recyclable items, "pods" of volunteers hopped into a myriad number of boats to get the job done. Pods were assigned to scour different stretches of river between Barton and Clackamette Parks, and did so cheerfully and competently, removing 2.48 tons of trash, a marked decrease from years past. At the end of the day, volunteers were treated to a barbecue coordinated by Next Adventure and the sounds of Swing Papillon, a jazz/blues band.

The event represents a culmination of months of planning among several different organizations, including the newly formed We Love Clean Rivers, Inc. Donations from a variety of generous sponsors and supporters were also integral to the event's success. CRBC would like to especially thank those organizations listed below, and remind you to stay tuned for information about next year's cleanup!



Salmonids cheer removal of weir!

The CRBC is excited to announce that another half-mile of stream habitat on the North Fork of Deep Creek has been made available to salmonids. A concrete weir was removed in August 2009, improving habitat for spawning and rearing. The weir, which was located near the Boring Trail Station, was approximately 30 feet in width and 5 feet in height, making it a significant barrier for fish passage. This project was accomplished by Aquatic Contractors, and work was financed through a combination of WES funds and CRBC monies from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and US Forest Service.



Fish can now travel through this area.

What's in Your Creek?

**2009 Snapshot Event
Monitoring Results**

On August 13th, a number of Portland State University students in the Student Watershed Research Project Capstone Class presented the results of their scientific water quality monitoring to the CRBC. Led by Professor Mary Ann Schmidt, they spent a day collecting water samples from several different creeks. Students measured nitrates, phosphates, pH, ammonia, turbidity, and dissolved oxygen throughout the Clackamas watershed in order to gain a "snapshot" of watershed health at that time. The students also sampled benthic macroinvertebrates (spineless, stream-dwelling organisms whose presence or absence is an indicator of stream health), and staffed an educational booth at the Day in Damascus.

"...the 2009 data showed a decrease in phosphorous."

Though several of the streams the students visited were classified as "impaired" by the Dept. of Environmental Quality, the report indicated that the overall health of the watershed could be labeled with an "adequate" ranking. The 2009 data showed a decrease in phosphorous from those sites that were also monitored in 2008, and levels for nutrients and pH are at acceptable levels for nearly all of the sites surveyed. The students stressed, however, that these results represented a one-time picture of stream health, and that more comprehensive monitoring was needed to gain a full picture of water quality.

If you would like a full copy of the SWRP report, please contact the CRBC.

WES Watershed Action Plan

Working to improve watershed health

Clackamas County recently took another step towards improving watershed health in the Clackamas Basin. At the August meeting of the Basin Council, Carol Murdock of WES (Water Environment Services) described the recently completed Watershed Action Plans for the Kellogg-Mt. Scott and Rock Creek basins.

These Action Plans serve a multi-faceted purpose. After staff collected valuable data through assessing water quality, riparian (streamside) conditions, aquatic habitat, and stream flow, a list of potential remediation activities was generated. WES then worked to develop a system to prioritize potential projects, so that funding and staff time could be used most effectively.



Planting projects will be an important part of fulfilling the plan's goals.

The CRBC looks forward to playing a role communicating the goals of the Action Plan to the community, and working with WES to identify potential habitat improvement projects.

To access the full text of the report, visit <http://www.riverhealth.org/stakedocs.cfm>.

CRBC's efforts

The CRBC is working to remove invasive species from the Clackamas watershed. Reference sites are currently being established as part of a grant from our local Soil and Water Conservation District. CRBC will periodically survey these photo points in order to detect and respond to invasives, and use this data to generate information about species management. Three of the invasive species of particular concern in this area include English Ivy, Japanese Knotweed, and Himalayan blackberry. If you are a streamside landowner and have seen any of these plants on your property, please contact CRBC! We are happy to provide removal advice, and may be able to secure free native plants for re-planting efforts.

Japanese Knotweed

Japanese knotweed (*Polygonum cuspidatum*), can be nearly impossible to eradicate once it becomes a mature stand.

The best defense against knotweed is never allowing it to become established in the first place. Knotweed is especially fond of disturbed soils, so monitor property carefully. If you need to remove an infestation, be careful not to cut the plant into many pieces -- each piece with a node can re-root. To avoid this, you may pack the uprooted knotweed in dark plastic bags, or smother it with plastic at the restoration site itself.



Have you seen these invaders?

English Ivy

As its name suggests, English ivy (*Hedera helix*) is native to Europe. Here in America, it is known for creating dense mats of vegetation on the ground, or climbing trees by affixing suckers to bark. In this way, the ivy can often pull down fully-grown trees and smother native vegetation. Natural resources managers use a variety of tactics to control ivy, depending on the level of infestation. Loppers may be used to trim around the base of a covered tree, but be sure not to leave root nodes on the ground, as they may re-root and produce a new plant. Ivy removal efforts should also be sure to cart the plant material from the site, and throw it away.



Himalayan Blackberry

One of the more painful invasive species to remove is Himalayan blackberry (*Rubus discolor*). Though there are blackberry species native to the Northwest, Himalayans are distinguishable by their larger thorns. Blackberries may form dense clumps of vegetation, and it's best to use a chainsaw to cut them off at ground level. This process can be repeated until the plants have exhausted themselves. Removing their extensive root systems can also be performed, so long as this process does not create excessive erosion. As with ivy, be sure to remove all material after uprooting the plants -- you don't want them to come back!



CRBC and Eagle Scouts partner to improve watershed

CRBC is proud to engage with a variety of different volunteers to make the work of keeping the Clackamas healthy a lighter load for all parties involved. We were quite delighted to work with two different Boy Scouts working to attain their Eagle Scout ranking. Jared Christensen and Josh Grimm collaborated with former Education and Outreach Coordinator Laura Nappi to identify different riparian sites in need of remediation. The young men then removed invasive species and implemented the planting plans they'd designed on their own. These streamside plants will help to filter pesticides and eroded soil, and provide shade to creeks, keeping temperature low for salmonid populations. We salute the efforts of these Scouts and wish them the best of luck in future endeavors.



*Volunteers
hard at work on Jared's project site.*

EcOzone works to promote a clean Clackamas

If you notice blue-and-green signs dotting the landscape as you're travelling Clackamas County, take notice! The county continued a program begun last year called the "ecOzone campaign." This campaign focuses on pollution prevention along the Clackamas River, and is housed at the 17-acre site of the former Carver Curves.

In addition to the Carver Curves home base for the group, ecOzone efforts can be seen close to the water. If you're boating between Barton and Carver Parks and find yourself feeling a need to heed nature's call, you can use a portable restroom, as well as recycle any items you may find weighing your raft down. Volunteers have also distributed marine whistles, signs to homes and public areas, and other materials to promote river health.



The land was purchased by Metro using funds from the Natural Areas bond measure, passed by voters in 2006. The deed was then immediately transferred to Clackamas County, who will manage the property indefinitely.

For more information, contact Pamela Girtman, Clackamas County, at pamelagir@co.clackamas.or.us.

If you or your organization would like to plan a restoration project, please contact Becki Walker at (503) 558-0550 or rebecca@clackamasriver.org to set up a date that works for you.

CRBC Welcomes New Staff



On August 3rd, Becki Walker joined the CRBC team as the Education and Outreach Coordinator. Becki moved to Oregon in 2007, and has worked

as a horticulturist at the Oregon Garden and an environmental educator for the City of Salem. Call her at 503.558.0550 or email her at rebecca@clackamasriver.org.

Free Pesticide Reduction Consultations

Do you have problems with weeds or rodents on your property? Would you like to know how to properly apply pesticides, or to use different methods that achieve the same ultimate goals? Consider inviting CRBC to your property to do a pesticide reduction assessment! All visits are free! Simply call or email our office to schedule.

Proud of what we're doing?

If you'd like to support habitat and education projects for clean water and healthy streams, please use the envelope inside this newsletter to make a donation.

You can also donate online! Check out our website for more information.

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

Many thanks to our partners and donors:

Dave Albrecht, AIRE, Alder Creek Canoe & Kayak, American Medical Response, AmeriCorps, Backyard Bird Shop, Biokleen, Boring Park Commission, City of Damascus, City of Estacada, City of Happy Valley, City of Lake Oswego, City of Milwaukie, Clackamas Community College, Clackamas County (CC) Board of Commissioners, CC Dept of Transportation & Development, CC Marine Sheriff, CC Parks, CC Soil & Water Conservation District, CC Water Environment Services, Clackamas Emergency Services Foundation, Clackamas Fire Dist #1, Clackamas High School (HS), Clackamas River Water, Clackamas River Water Providers, Columbia Sportswear, Concordia University, Damascus Civic Club, DeAngelo's Catering, Dump Stoppers, Eagle Creek Barton CPO, Eagle Creek Elementary School (ES), Earlean Marsh, eNRG Kayaking, Estacada HS, Estacada Library, Fertile Ground Landscaping, Friends of Clyde Rice, Friends of Tickle Creek, Happy Valley ES, Higgins Restaurant, Heart in Oregon, Irwin-Hodson Printing, John Inskeep Learning Center, KEEN footwear, Latitudes Printing, LINKS Program, Lowell Hanna Studios, Cheryl & Paul McGinnis, Meat is Good For You, Metro, CM Meyer, Mississippi Studios, Mt Hood Community College Youth Employability Support Services, MTI Adventurewear, NOAA, Noah's Bagels, Newland Communities, New Season's Market, Next Adventure, NW Rafter's Association, NW Steelheaders, NRS, Oak Lodge Water Dist., Old Spaghetti Factory, 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 Wildlife Heritage Foundation, OSU Extension, OSU Sea Grant, Patagonia, Patterson Nursery, PGE, Portland State University, Rack Attack, RAZ Transportation, REI, Riot Kayaks, River Connection, River Network, Ruff Wear, Sah-Hah Lee Golf Course, Sandy WC, Shadowridge Neighborhood Association, Siri & Sons Farms, Sleepy Hollow Tree Farm, 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, Werner Paddles, West Hills Development and Arbor Custom Homes, West Linn HS, Whitewater Designs, and Yakima

Clackamas River Basin Council Calendar



There are many ways for you to become involved with the CRBC. Meet new people at a work party, learn more about the watershed on a guided hike, or share your knowledge and opinions at a council meeting.

- **Clackamas River Basin Council Meetings**

Third Thursday of the month, 6 p.m. until 9 p.m.

The public is always welcome, and you are invited! Contact the CRBC with any questions.

- **First Saturday Work Parties**

First Saturday of each month, location TBA

Contact Becki for specific times and locations.

- **Water Environment Services of Clackamas County Work Parties**

Dates and times may vary

For more information on how you can help, visit www.clackamas.us/wes/

- **Green from the Ground Up Seminars**

Dates and times may vary

Metro is sponsoring a number of seminars open to the general public. For details on these seminars, visit their website: <http://calendar.oregonmetro.gov/events/index.php>

For more details on any of these activities, contact Becki at rebecca@clackamasriver.org or (503) 558-0550.



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Basin Council

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