



the Clackamas

CURRENT NEWS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CLACKAMAS RIVER BASIN COUNCIL

Fall-Winter 2012



Celebrating
shade our streams

A CLACKAMAS RIVER BASIN COUNCIL PROJECT

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On September 29th, landowners gathered to celebrate the accomplishments of the Shade Our Streams project. Forty-three individuals came to Metzler Park to enjoy a sunny autumn day while enjoying barbecue, the fine sounds of the Steer Crazy Band, and activities including a nature walk and "tour" of a restoration project through the eyes of a salmon. Landowners currently participating in the program also had plenty of time to mingle with other streamside landowners, CRBC Board Members, and partner organizations including the Clackamas County Soil and Water Conservation District, Clackamas River Water Providers, and Green Mountain Energy.

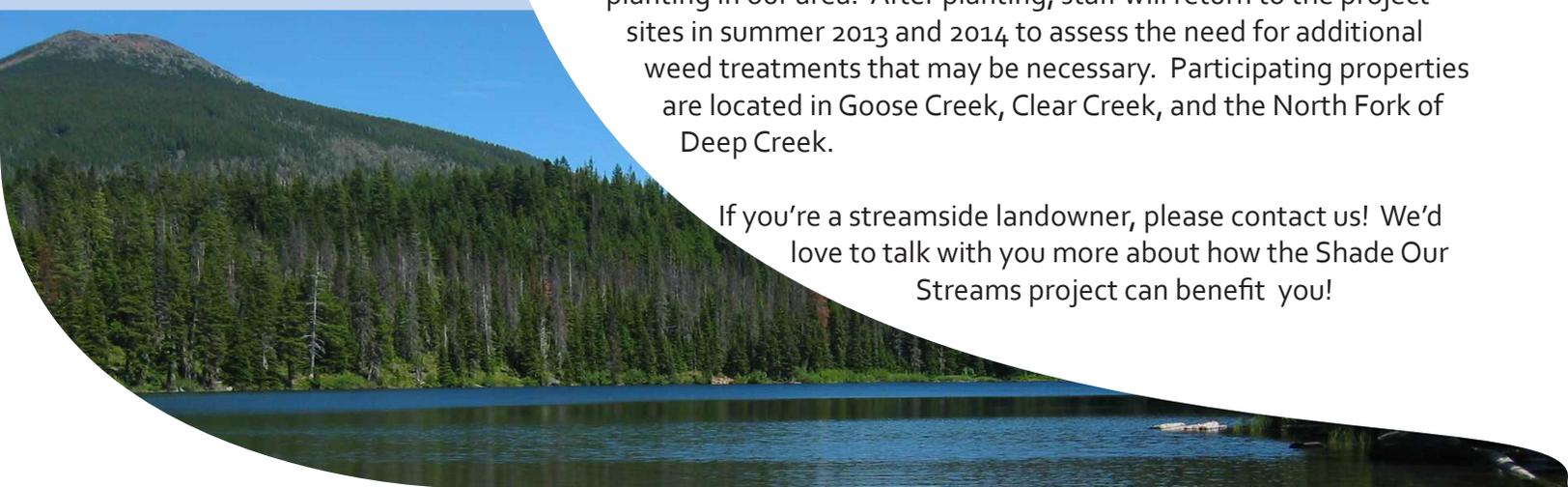


"The land will pay you back," says landowner Robyn Beisell, "we need to take care of it."

Landowners, partners, and CRBC staff and Board of Directors have plenty to celebrate this year. Twenty-seven landowners have signed on to participate in the Shade Our Streams project, which will plant over 5 miles of streamside trees and shrubs early in 2013. This will bring the total mileage planted through the program to over 6 miles!

In order to prepare the sites for planting, CRBC staff have been working with restoration crews to cut and spray invasive weeds including ivy, blackberries, and reed canary grass. Plants will be installed by professional contractors in early 2013, which is the ideal time for tree planting in our area. After planting, staff will return to the project sites in summer 2013 and 2014 to assess the need for additional weed treatments that may be necessary. Participating properties are located in Goose Creek, Clear Creek, and the North Fork of Deep Creek.

If you're a streamside landowner, please contact us! We'd love to talk with you more about how the Shade Our Streams project can benefit you!



10th Annual Down the River Clean Up Nets Plenty of Trash

Over 375 volunteers gathered at Barton Park to take part in the 10th Annual Down the River Clean Up on Sunday, September 9th. Despite somewhat cloudy and chill weather, the flotilla of SCUBA divers, rafters, kayakers, and drift boaters collected approximately 18 pounds of trash per person, for a total of 3.35 tons of garbage! Trash and recyclables coming off the River were sorted by a dedicated Material Recovery Team, who kept recycling, scrap metal, and trash separated within the dumpsters. Thanks to their meticulous efforts and the work of our solid waste hauler partners, 38% of the items pulled out of the River were recycled and kept out of landfills.

This year's efforts bring the grand total of tons collected by the River Clean Up to 26.42 tons. That amount is roughly equivalent to the weight of thirteen cars, and this trash, piled up, would measure 581 cubic yards, enough to fill 32 dump trucks. Some of the more noteworthy items collected this year included two wedding bands, a length of heavy chain, and dirty diapers.

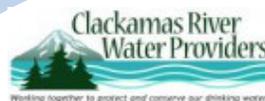
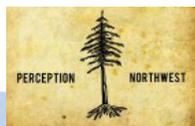
After their hard work was completed, volunteers re-convened at Barton Park to enjoy a barbecue lunch from Here & There Catering, the fine sounds of Tapwater, and a silent auction benefitting We Love Clean Rivers, event co-coordinators. The fun didn't stop at the Clean Up, though - artists participating in the Ripple Effect sorted through the trash to find items that could be re-imagined as art pieces. The art created by participants was exhibited as part of an art walk during the re-opening of the Arch Bridge over the Willamette, which took place the weekend of October 12th -14th. River Clean Up participants and other volunteers were also invited to help with building the first phase of a sculpture made of trash collected from the Clean Up. The sculpture, installed at Clackamette Park, will be a legacy piece dedicated to the efforts of those who have worked to clean up the Clackamas. The sculpture effort is organized by We Love Clean Rivers and the Clackamas County Arts Alliance.



Volunteer and Sah-Hah-Lee Golf Course Owner Steve Lisac diligently searches for every last bit of trash.

We encourage everyone to keep the spirit of the Clean Up alive throughout the year by being responsible river users.

Thank you to all of our event sponsors!

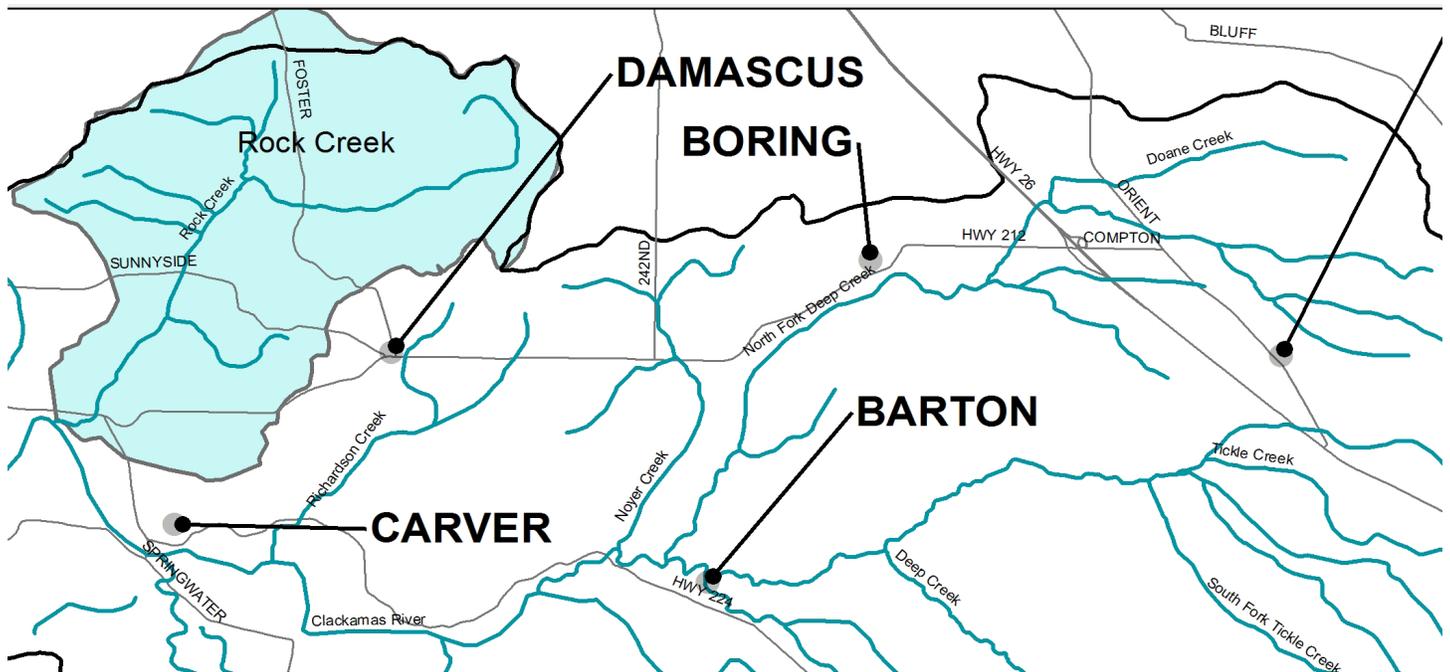


The Rock Creek Partnership: Teaming Up to Make a Difference

Clackamas River Basin Council, Friends of Trees, and SOLVE had each been working in the Rock Creek Watershed to make a difference by planting trees and removing invasive species, but the creation of Clackamas County Service District #1's Rock Creek Watershed Action Plan drew attention to the need for concerted action to improve this watershed's health, and recognized the importance of streamside planting efforts. Rock Creek drains into the Clackamas near Highway 212 in Damascus. The watershed itself is close to ten square miles in area, and is home to fish species, including salmon and lamprey. However, the water quality in this area has shown elevated water temperatures, pesticides and herbicides, and low dissolved oxygen.

Enter the Rock Creek Partnership. Since the group's formation, thousands of trees (including 1500 planted during last year's Watershed Wide Event) have been planted on private and publically-owned properties. Landowners participating in the Rock Creek Partnership receive these trees as well as services to remove invasive weeds at no cost to them. CRBC and our partners also provide maintenance services to property owners to ensure that trees and shrubs are able to reach a "free to grow" state at the end of a five-year term. These trees and shrubs will prevent soil erosion, provide habitat for birds and wildlife, improve water quality, and enhance the natural beauty of the watershed. If you live in the Rock Creek Watershed and would like to get involved, visit www.RockCreekPartnership.org, or call Becki at CRBC at (503) 303-4372 x101.

A map of the Rock Creek Watershed showing its place in the Clackamas watershed.



Upcoming Rock Creek Partnership Work Parties

December 1st:

CRBC Planting at Orchard Summit Property

Visit: <http://clackamasriver.org/events/29>

Saturday, January 12th

CRBC Planting at Hemrick Road Property

Visit: <http://clackamasriver.org/events/31>

Saturday, February 23rd

SOLVE Planting at Rock Creek Confluence

Visit: <http://solv.org/get-involved/events/rock-creek-clackamas-confluence>

Saturday, March 9th

Friends of Trees Planting at Rock Creek Trib

Visit: www.FriendsofTrees.org/calendar.php

Saturday, March 16th

Rock Creek Partnership Watershed Wide Event

Visit www.RockCreekPartnership.org

Saturday, March 23rd

Friends of Trees Planting at Rock Creek Trib

Visit: www.FriendsofTrees.org/calendar.php

Restoring our watershed

OWEB Small Grant: Foster Creek Bridge Replacement

Terry Low is a proactive streamside landowner - he was one of the first to become involved in the Shade Our Streams project. Earlier this year, his property was planted with nearly 5,000 native trees and shrubs. However, Terry had another concern about his streamside property: the 30-year-old railcar bridge in his driveway crossing Foster Creek was not in the best shape, and the eroding abutments of the bridge were in the stream channel. CRBC worked with Terry to write an Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) small grant application, which provides funds of up to \$10,000 for private property improvements. The grant provided funds to remove the bridge and replace it with a new bridge that fully spans Foster Creek, adding 4 feet of width to the stream channel. This project was completed in partnership with the Oregon Department of Forestry and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), with Terry contributing a majority of the bridge's cost.



Before: Note the narrow channel under the bridge.



Terry Low (R) during construction.



After: The channel is wider for salmon, and bridge is safer for driving.

OWEB Small Grant:

Eagle Creek Large Woody Debris Placement

CRBC also had the opportunity to work with another proactive landowner on instream enhancement thanks to the OWEB Small Grant Program. Longview Timber Corporation had planned timber harvesting activities in an upland area of their property, and collaborated with CRBC to make use of 20 of the trees as large woody debris structures in Eagle Creek, which is seen to have too little large wood. Large woody debris structures will benefit cutthroat trout, lamprey, and other fish by creating pools and riffles in the stream and increasing cover over the channel. Pools and riffles provide places for juvenile fish to hide from predators and rest, in addition to creating habitat for the stream insects young fish feed on. Overhead cover from structures' leaves and branches contribute more food for stream insects, and creates shady spots for the fish. The large wood structures will also help to recruit cobbles and gravel, which is very important for spawning fish. This project was completed in partnership with ODFW, and Longview Timber donated logs used.



Log placement occurred in late summer 2012.



with in-stream projects.

Lower Clear Creek: Working With Partners to Make a Big Impact

Though Clear Creek is one of the highest-quality lower Clackamas tributaries, there is still room for habitat improvements. Specifically, Clear Creek lacks streamside vegetation and large woody debris. In 2011, the Oregon Wildlife Foundation worked with CRBC and Metro to submit a grant application to OWEB for a large-scale restoration project including streamside planting and invasive species removal, large woody debris placement, channel backwater habitat improvement, and floodplain restoration. These activities will benefit the coho, chinook, and winter steelhead that make their homes in Clear Creek.

The project site is owned by Metro, purchased with funds from a voter-approved 1995 bond measure to protect natural areas, and encompasses almost two continuous miles of lower Clear Creek. Activities that occurred were focused at three different sites. At site A, large wood and boulders were placed in a backwater channel that feeds into Clear Creek, and large log jams were constructed at the channel's confluence with Clear Creek. Backwaters provide an important refuge for young fish during high water flows, allowing them to avoid being washed downstream. At Site B, more large woody debris was placed in Clear Creek, and wood was placed in the floodplain next to Clear Creek. Placing wood in the floodplain increases roughness, which helps to slow high water flows, if a flood occurs. Slower water is not likely to be as destructive as faster-moving water. Additional log placement occurred at Site C as well, with a total of 191 logs and 345 boulders used during the course of this project.

CRBC's role in the project is to oversee the invasive species removal and streamside revegetation components of the project. A 2.5-acre portion of the project area, which totals 35 acres in size, was planted as a pilot site for the Shade Our Streams project. This year, the remaining project areas were cleared of invasive species and will be planted with native species in early 2013. The 58,000 plants to be installed include conifers such as grand fir and Western red cedar, broadleaved trees like alder and ash, and shrubs including spiraea, ninebark, and red osier dogwood. Installing a variety of trees and shrubs will help to create a diverse and healthy habitat for fish, wildlife, and birds. Further support for this project is provided by the US Forest Service, PGE, ODFW, and The Nature Conservancy.



Photos of restoration work on-site.

Left: Large wood at Site A. Right: Trees planted at Shade Our Streams pilot site along Clear Creek.

Invader Alert! Tree of Heaven

Tree of Heaven, *Ailanthus altissima*, is a tall tree that can be found in streamside habitats as well as disturbed areas, such as urban sites or along the edges of fields or roadsides.



Tree of Heaven is also one of our more literary invasive weeds - the main character in the novel "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn," remarks on how hardy the tree is, and how it is able to crack through even the thickest of sidewalks in an attempt to grow. This is one of the biggest problems with Tree of Heaven - it is able to form dense colonies that crowd out native vegetation in a number of different habitats. This is due in part to the fact that, like Japanese knotweed, it is able to spread through its roots. In addition, Tree of Heaven is what's known as allelopathic, which means that its roots emit a chemical that prevents other plants from establishing nearby. Tree of Heaven is also a prolific seed producer, creating more than 300,000 seeds per year.

One of Tree of Heaven's identifying characteristics is the fragrance emitted by crushed leaves - it smells like "rancid peanut butter." This feature makes it easily distinguishable from Oregon Ash. The leaves are also very long (up to four feet) and have several long, narrow leaflets arranged opposite each other. The tree produces a yellow-pink flower, which eventually turns into a reddish-brown fruit.

If you have Tree of Heaven on your property, be prepared to spend several seasons eradicating it. You can cut the tree or girdle it (remove the bark from a strip around the trunk) in the spring, and cut the trees back repeatedly as they re-sprout - you may be able to do this as often as once per month! Herbicides have been seen to be effective in treating Tree of Heaven - always read the pesticide label and follow its instructions. If you're located in Clackamas County, you can report sightings of this plant to the Soil and Water Conservation District on this webpage: <http://conservationdistrict.org/how/report-weeds>

References

Garden Smart Oregon Guide: <http://www.portlandonline.com/bes/index.cfm?a=197414&c=47570>

Image courtesy <http://dnr.state.il.us>

Native Replacement: Oregon Ash

Oregon Ash is one of the most common and versatile native trees found in riparian buffer zones. It occurs throughout California, Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia in elevations ranging from sea level up to 5,000 feet.

The Oregon Ash is a fast-growing tree for the first third of its lifespan (which can be up to 250 years), which makes it ideal for planting in riparian buffer zones in need of shade and bank stabilization. It also prefers poorly-drained bottom land soil, and can tolerate the hot summer temperatures we experience in the Willamette Valley.

Oregon Ash can be planted in a number of different habitats, and is usually found with other native trees including bigleaf maple, red alder, black cottonwood, and willow species in riparian buffer zones. Ash is one of the trees that is commonly provided to landowners in the Shade Our Streams and Rock Creek Partnership projects.

Like the Tree of Heaven, Oregon Ash has compound leaves made up of several smaller leaflets, so landowners who find the Tree of Heaven visually appealing are likely to appreciate the look of Oregon Ash as well. Ash is commonly used as a street tree and an ornamental variety thanks to its symmetrical shape and rapid growth rate. The tree can reach from 60 to 80 feet in height when fully mature, though in drier climates and higher elevations the tree is often smaller. Ash produce small greenish flowers in April and May, and samara fruits (winged seeds, similar to the "helicopters" we see on maples) in September or October. If you have questions about Oregon Ash or any other native trees and shrubs, please contact us! We're happy to help you pick out what's best.



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References

http://www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/silvics_manual/Volume_2/fraxinus/latifolia.htm

Image courtesy Wikimedia Commons

Welcome, New Board Members!

CRBC is pleased to welcome three new Board Members to our organization!

Guy Rodrigue of Oregon State Parks and Recreation was confirmed by the CRBC Board as a State Natural Resource Agency representative in August. Guy is the Ranger Supervisor at Milo McIver and Tryon Creek State Parks.

Randy Tyler of Pacific Property Search was also ratified in August. He represents Commerce interests. Randy has been involved in promoting green development practices at the Clackamette Cove.

Bill Monroe represents Recreation Interests as ratified at the CRBC Board Meeting in September. Recent subjects in his Oregonian column featured Rudyard Kipling in the Clackamas.

Welcome, Zachary and Chelsea!

Two new staff members began working at CRBC in June of 2012.

Field Activities Coordinator Zachary Bergen will lead restoration crews in the field as they accomplish on-the-ground work removing invasive species and planting trees for the Shade Our Streams and Rock Creek Partnership projects. He can be reached at zachary@clackamasriver.org or (503) 303-4372 x103.



Outreach Assistant Chelsea White-Brainard's primary focus will be promoting the Shade Our Streams project through attending public events and contacting landowners in the watershed. She can be reached at chelsea@clackamasriver.org or (503) 303-4372 x105.



Thank you to our donors and partners!

Dave and Jan Albrecht, Adventure Without Limits, Alder Creek Canoe & Kayak, All Star Rafting, American Medical Response, Backyard Bird Shop, Eileen Belanger, Ris Bradshaw, Burgerville, Burlwood Homeowners' Association, Carver Hangar, Cedarhurst Neighborhood Association, Chinook Book, City of Damascus, City of Happy Valley, City of Oregon City, Clack-a-Craft Drift Boats, Clackamas County Historical Society, Clackamas County Dept of Transportation & Development, CC Marine Sheriff, Parks, CC Soil & Water Conservation District, Clackamas Fire Dist #1, Clackamas High School (HS), Clackamas River Trout Unlimited, Clackamas River Water, Clackamas River Water Providers, Concordia University, Damascus Civic Club, Dave's Killer Bread, Dump Stoppers, eNRG Kayaking, Estacada HS, Estacada Library, Friends of Clyde Rice, Friends of Tickle Creek, Friends of Trees, Kathryn Hurd, John Inskeep Learning Center, Laughing Planet Cafe, Phil Lingelbach, Lowell Hanna Studios, Earlean Marsh, Metro, Mt Hood Community College Youth Employability Support Services, National Charity League, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Natural High Rafting, New Seasons Market, Next Adventure, NW Flyfishing Outfitters, NW Rafters Association, NW Steelheaders, NRS, Oak Lodge Water Dist., Organically Grown Company, OR Dept. of Agriculture, OR Dept. of Environmental Quality, OR Dept. of Fish & Wildlife, OR Dept. of Forestry, OR State Parks, OR Trout, OR Watershed Enhancement Board, OR Wildlife Heritage Foundation, OSU Extension, Outward Bound, Pacific Seafood, Patagonia, PGE, Pleasant Valley Greenhouses, Portland State University, REI, Reser Foods, River Network, Safeway, Sah-Hah-Lee Golf Course, Seeds of Health, Siri & Son Farms, SOLVE, Stone Cliff Inn, Sunrise Water Authority, Sunshine Bagels, Tebo's Restaurant, Terra Casa, Timberline Lodge, Timber Lake Job Corps, Jacqueline Tommas, USGS, US Forest Service, Voodoo Doughnut, Water Environment Services, We Love Clean Rivers, West Linn HS.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

We have opportunities for individuals interested in improving our watershed!

Contact Becki Walker, rebecca@clackamasriver.org if you have questions about how you can volunteer.

Volunteer opportunities and more information are listed on our website.

Council Meetings

We meet on the third Thursday of each month at the Mt. Scott Fire Station, on 9339 SE Causey Avenue in Happy Valley.

These meetings are open to the public. Check our website for information about that month's featured presentation.

First Saturday Work Parties

Join us to plant trees and remove invasive weeds in our watershed! Volunteering is a great way to get to know our area, meet new people, and get some exercise while helping out our streams. You'll be provided with tools, gloves, and water. Please bring a water bottle, dress for the weather, and wear closed-toed shoes or boots. All events start at 9:00 a.m. and end at noon, unless otherwise noted.

- December 1 - Orchard Summit Property, Damascus
- January 12 - Hemrick Road Property, Damascus
- February 2 - Shade Our Streams Site Planting, Estacada
- February 9 - Deep Creek Annex Planting, Boring
- March 2 - Tickle Creek Wetland Planting, Sandy
- March 16 - Watershed Wide Event with Friends of Trees and SOLVE
- April 6 - Shadow Ridge Mulching, Happy Valley
- May 4 - Burlwood HOA Mulching, Happy Valley



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