



the Clackamas

# CURRENT NEWS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CLACKAMAS RIVER BASIN COUNCIL

Spring-Summer 2012

## Shade Our Streams Project - Coming to a Stream Near You

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The Shade Our Streams project is well under way with preparations for the beginning of large-scale tree planting in early 2013.

Eager landowners at four sites in the Clear, Foster, Eagle, and North Fork Deep watersheds volunteered their properties as demonstration sites, which will be available to the public for viewing as individuals are interested in joining the project.

Volunteers planted the Eagle and North Fork Deep Creek sites at work party events in January and February, 2012. At January's event, 17 volunteers (with a strong representation from Northwest Steelheaders) planted 700 trees in just under two hours! February's event was no less impressive. A whopping 40 volunteers hailing from the Boring/Damascus Grange, Timber Lake Job Corps, National Charity League, and Hollyview Church planted, tubed, and staked 1000 trees in just two and half hours!

This year's project activities focus on preparing areas in the Clear, North Fork Deep, Doane, and Dolan Creek watersheds for planting by removing invasive weeds, such as blackberries, ivy, and reed canary grass using the skills of contracted professional crews. Crews will then replant streamside areas with native plants in early 2012. The native trees and shrubs that will be planted thrive in Oregon's climate, are relatively low-maintenance, and provide plenty of habitat for native birds and wildlife.

If you are a Clackamas watershed landowner and have any questions about the Shade Our Streams project, please contact our office!



Executive Director Cheryl McGinnis (R) during the February 11 work party, which attracted more than 40 volunteers!



Demonstration sites at Lower Clear Creek (above) and Eagle Creek (below).



## Clear Creek Watershed Focus of In-stream Work

If you were a salmon, you'd be pleased to see the improvements made to Clear Creek recently. Clear Creek is already recognized as the highest priority Clackamas tributary for Endangered Species Act listed coho and steelhead salmon recovery, and efforts by CRBC and partners improved the watershed still further.

### Completed: Redland Road Backwatering Project



*Completed Riffle at Redland Road*

Salmon returning to Little Clear Creek to spawn will now have an additional fifteen miles of stream to explore. Previously, water flow through a culvert on Little Clear Creek was very shallow, and partially blocked fish passage. Removing and replacing the culvert was considered, but with many years of life left in the culvert and an estimated cost of over one million dollars, this option became cost-prohibitive. Professional engineering firm InterFluve came up with a solution to increase the water flow using a technique called "backwatering," which was installed by Aquatic Contracting. Installing an elevated rock riffle zone downstream of the culvert slowed down the flow of the stream. Slowing the stream forces water back into the culvert, increasing the depth of the water, and making the area passable for salmon again. This project was funded by the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board and Oregon Wildlife Heritage Foundation, with assistance from Clackamas County, Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, and Mt. Hood YESS crew.

### Completed: Metzler Park Improvements

ODFW, Clackamas County Parks, USFS and the CRBC coordinated efforts to enhance in-stream and riparian habitat, remove a cement weir, eradicate invasive plants, and enhance riparian areas at Metzler Park. The combined addition of large woody debris, boulders and riparian planting will provide long-term habitat complexity, water quality benefits, shade and cover for salmon rearing, create habitat diversity with scour pools and gravel accumulation, and increase available spawning habitat. In addition, removing a cement weir and installing a roughened streambed further enhances the in-stream habitat improvements from boulder and large woody debris placements. This project was funded by the US Forest Service's Retained Receipts program.



*Placing Logs at Metzler Park*

### Upcoming: Lower Clear Creek

CRBC will be working with partners Oregon Wildlife Foundation, Metro, the Nature Conservancy, OR Department of Fish and Wildlife, and PGE to complete a suite of habitat improvement projects on Metro property on Lower Clear Creek. These improvements will include large woody debris structures, invasive species removal, planting with native vegetation, and creation of side channels. Side channels provide habitat for juvenile fish, especially during high water flow events. CRBC staff will be responsible for managing the riparian restoration of the project, reaching out to landowners in the area to inform them about project opportunities, and engaging students in hands-on educational activities at the project site. Stay tuned for more information about this exciting project in subsequent newsletter issues! This project is funded by the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, the US Forest Service's Retained Receipts program, and the Nature Conservancy.



*Lower Clear Creek*



## Put Wheels to the Road on the Tour de Clack!

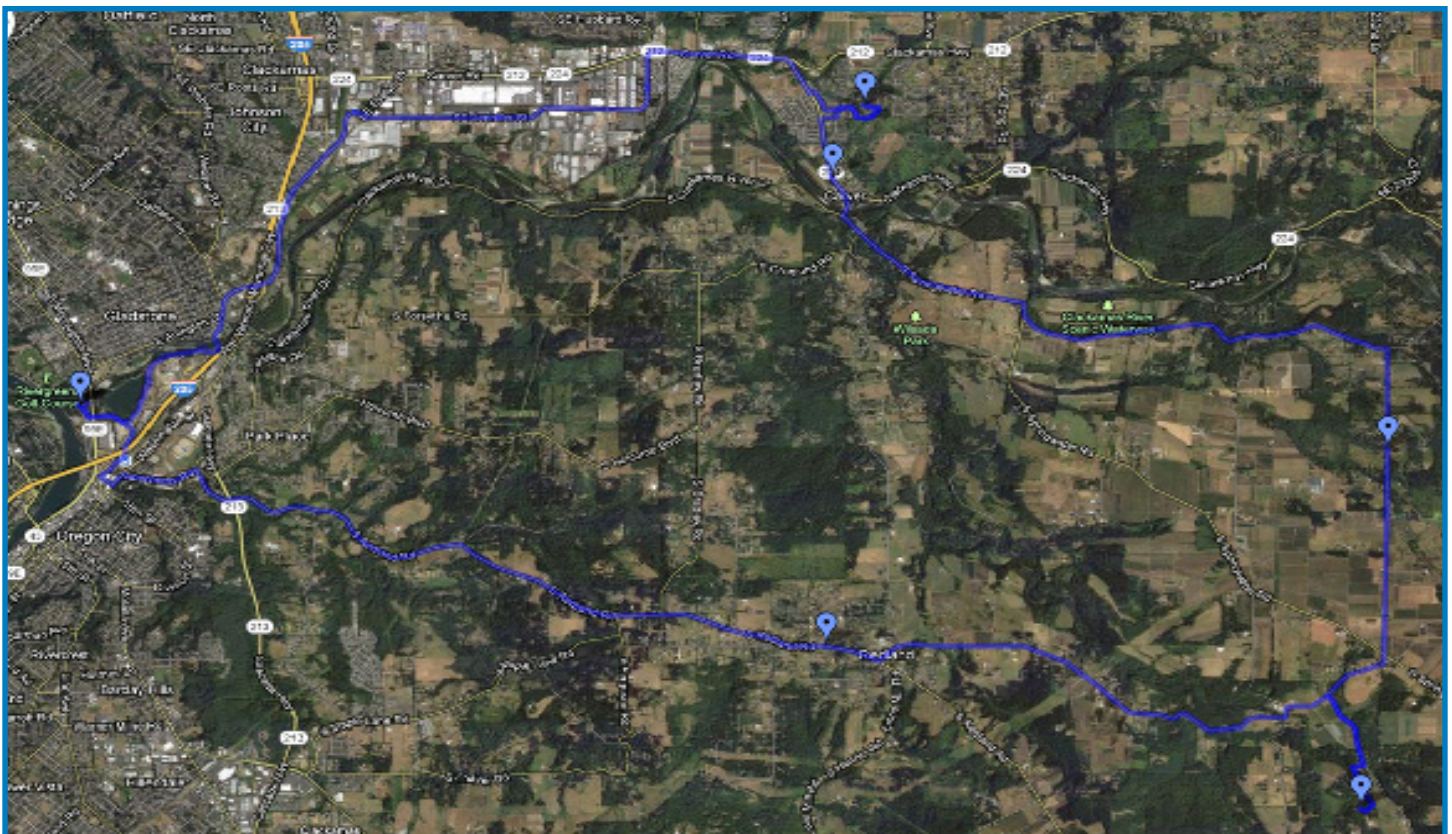
CRBC is excited to invite you to attend a new event on Saturday, July 7 - the Tour de Clack bicycle ride! This 28-mile route will feature a number of project sites and partnerships, and attendees will be able to leave the event with not only a better understanding of CRBC's completed restoration projects, but also more confidence in their ability to navigate cycling routes in rural and urban Clackamas County. The tour will begin at Clackamette Park, progress to several project sites, and conclude at Clackamette Park.

Sites will include:

- **Burlwood Homeowners Association.** At this site, riders will learn about the Rock Creek Partnership, which includes CRBC, Friends of Trees, and SOLVE. The Rock Creek Partnership offers free restoration services to landowners in the Rock Creek Watershed. This stop will feature a riparian restoration site in progress.
- **Cedarhurst Neighborhood Association.** This site will serve as a rest point during the trip, and will feature projects including the installation of a walking bridge, riparian restoration, culvert removal, and placement of large woody debris. Riders are encouraged to bring along a lunch or snack to enjoy in the property's meadow, and dip their toes in Clear Creek.
- **Redland Road Projects.** Riders can visit a number of sites at this location. Featured projects will include a removed abandoned water pipe as well as an engineered riffle and backwatering that allows fish passage through the box culvert (see related article on Clear Creek projects, Page 2).

Participants must bring their own bicycles and helmets - no riders without proper safety gear will be permitted to participate. Pre-registration is required - visit our website, [www.clackamasriver.org](http://www.clackamasriver.org), or email Becki Walker at [rebecca@clackamasriver.org](mailto:rebecca@clackamasriver.org) to do so for more event details.

Funding for this event is provided by the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB).



# Working together

CRBC and partners are working together for clean water in many different ways. Everyone can make a positive impact on water quality, and the partners of the Clackamas Technical Working Group, which includes CRBC and members from Clackamas County Service District #1, Clackamas County Soil and Water Conservation District, the Clackamas River Water Providers, local City governments, the OR Department of Environmental Quality, the OR Department of Agriculture, the OR Department of Forestry, OSU Extension, the US Geological Survey are working to share different ways you can do just that.

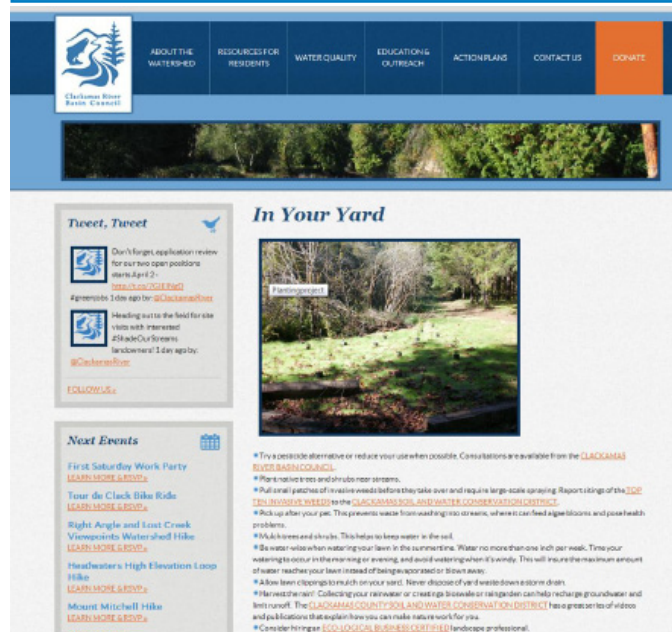
Together, members have created content for a website (available at [www.clackamasriver.org](http://www.clackamasriver.org)) that will help local landowners and residents answer water quality questions. One section of the website, "What You Can Do and Why It Matters" provides tips for keeping rivers healthy while in your car, at home, at work, on working lands, or while floating the river.

The "Resources for Residents" section of the website is designed to direct people with questions to professionals that have answers! Whether you have questions about rain gardens, educational programming for students, or have a concern about the water quality of a nearby creek, more information is only a click away.

CRBC and partners welcome your feedback on the website, and hope that it will prove useful to watershed residents and visitors! The website can be viewed by navigating to [www.clackamasriver.org](http://www.clackamasriver.org), then clicking the "Water Quality" button in the top banner.



*The website features water-friendly tips for homeowners, gardeners, and river users. Let us know what you think!*





# for clean water.

## Gardening for Water Quality with Integrated Pest Management

CRBC has worked with partners to create pesticide use reduction fact sheets on several topics, including Integrated Pesticide Management (IPM). IPM is a common-sense technique that revolves around creating a plan for your area, scouting your property regularly, and then making use of less-hazardous treatment techniques first. For example, you'd be implementing IPM if, while walking your property, you saw a small stand of blackberries and removed them by hand, rather than allowing them to grow to a large patch, necessitating the use of herbicide for removal. Our pesticide use reduction work is funded by the Clackamas River Water Providers.

### IPM Tip:

#### Prevent a Need for Pesticides

One thing you can do to make it less likely you'll need to use pesticides or herbicides in your lawn, garden, or streamside area is to put the right plant in the right place.

Before purchasing a plant, take a look at your planting site - how much sun does it get? How well does the soil drain? Is the site at the bottom of a slope? Is the soil healthy, or does it need amendments, such as compost? The results of your investigation may indicate a need to move some plants to different areas of your yard. Also consider the plant -- is it native? Native plants are hardier, and well-prepared for our climate. You can also purchase plants that are disease-resistant. Many native plant nurseries will be able to help you make the best decision, especially if you come with specific information about your site.

Insects and diseases are naturally attracted to plants that are already stressed by environmental factors, so doing your research before installing a plant will help you, and our watershed, in the long run.

### IPM Tip:

#### Know If You Need Pesticides

It's a familiar site: you look at your garden and notice your tomatoes are drooping or your zucchini are covered in what looks like mold. Your first instinct may be to reach for a pesticide or other chemical to boost the plant's growth, but you may not need to.

Often, plants may look diseased or unwell because of environmental factors - is the plant getting too much water? Is it sunburnt? Or is it simply an annual at the end of its growing season and not likely to rebound from damage anyway? Ruling out environmental factors first can save you time and money by not applying chemicals that could have little to no impact on plant health.

If you've ruled out environmental factors as a cause of your plant's ill health, do some research to determine exactly what might be impacting your plants - the OSU Extension Master Gardener program is a great resource. Once you've figured out the culprit, you can select a least-toxic cure that will specifically affect your target pest.

## Invader Alert! Japanese Knotweed

Japanese Knotweed takes over open, wet locations, especially stream and river banks. Currently, much of the land along the lower Clackamas mainstem is overrun with this invader, causing concern for many landowners with streamside properties.



Japanese Knotweed is a bamboo-like perennial that spreads by long creeping rhizomes to form dense thickets.

Stems are hollow and reddish-brown in color, reaching between 4-12 feet in height. Stems die back in fall, and re-emerge in spring. Leaves are usually 4-6 inches long and 3-4 inches wide, are spade shaped, and tough in texture. Flowers are white and emerge in July and August, growing in plume-like branched clusters.

Knotweed chokes out and displaces native vegetation, clogs stream systems, creates bank stabilization problems, and degrades fish and wildlife habitats. Plants can re-sprout from any root or stem fragments, as well as from seed dispersal, which is why it spreads so quickly. Flooding, construction, and even beavers can cause plants to break apart and move locations and establish new colonies.

Herbicide may be the best way to remove knotweed from your property. Alternative methods of removal run the risk of stimulating or spreading the plant to new locations.

If you choose to use herbicides, read the label, and follow all local laws and regulations pertaining to herbicide application. For information on pesticides and invasive species removal, please visit our website at [www.clackamasriver.org](http://www.clackamasriver.org). There may also be knotweed removal assistance available through the Clackamas County Soil and Water Conservation District. You may contact them at 503-210-6000, or check out their website, [www.conservationdistrict.org](http://www.conservationdistrict.org).

### Reference

King County, Washington. <http://your.kingcounty.gov/dnrp/library/water-and-land/weeds/BMPs/Knotweed-Control.pdf>

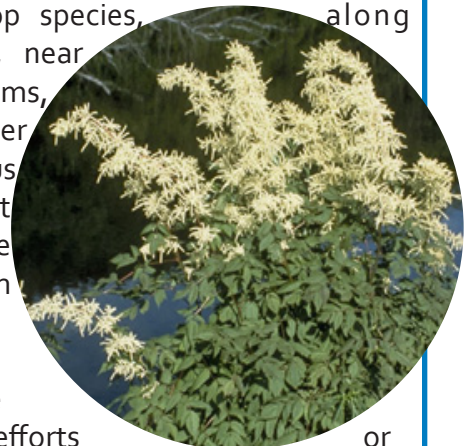
## Native Replacement: Goat's Beard

Goat's Beard, or Bride's-Feather, is a northwest native and a great alternative to Japanese Knotweed. Also found in wet, open locations, Goat's Beard provides great habitat for fish and wildlife, while lacking the spreading capabilities that makes knotweed so intrusive.

Goat's Beard is a perennial that reaches between 3-5 feet in height. Flowers are white and grow in clusters, emerging in May and June. Male plants produce showier flowers, although both male and female plants flower.

This plant prefers moist to wet soils, with partial to mostly sunny conditions. Goat's Beard is commonly found along stream banks, and can tolerate seasonal flooding.

Propagation of Goat's Beard can be done through root division or seed dispersal. This plant does well as a backdrop species, along woodland borders, near creeks and streams, and as part of water gardens. No serious disease or insect problems are associated with Goat's Beard.



Goat's Beard can be used in restoration efforts or home landscaping. Like all native species, Goat's Beard has low maintenance needs, and is able to withstand western Oregon's climate. Flowers also attract butterflies, supporting pollination. Contact a local native plant nursery to purchase Goat's Beard. To find a native plant nursery near you, check out [plantnative.org](http://plantnative.org), and select your state.

### References

University of Texas, Austin. [http://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id\\_plant=ARDI8](http://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id_plant=ARDI8)

Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis. <http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/gardens-gardening/your->

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All donations are highly appreciated, and are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

Return the envelope provided, or donate online via PayPal - just head to our website and click the "donate" button.

Our tax identification number is  
91-1838169.

Thank you for considering a donation!

## Welcome, New Board Members!

CRBC is pleased to welcome new Board Members to our organization.

Jaynelle Nash, representing Tributary Property Owners, was voted in during the May 2011 Annual Meeting.

Ivars Steinblums previously served on the Board as US Forest Service Liaison, and joined the Board as Citizen-at-Large in February 2012.

Clay Courtright, Park Supervisor with the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, represents State Natural Resource Agencies, and joined the Board in February 2012.

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### **Calendar of Upcoming Events**

We have opportunities for individuals interested in improving our watershed!

Contact us if you have questions about how you can volunteer!

Volunteer opportunities and more information about particular events is 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.

#### **Tour de Clack Bike Ride**

Mark your calendars for July 7 for our first-ever Tour de Clack Bike Ride! The 28-mile route will feature CRBC projects and partners, and is a great way to get to know our watershed.

#### **Guided Watershed Hikes with Board Chair Bryon Boyce**

Hikes will take place June 24 (Lost Creek and Right Angle Viewpoints), July 22 (Headwaters), and August 5 (Mount Mitchell). Visit our website for hike details and to register.

#### **Down the River Clean Up**

This year marks our 10th year of teaming up with fellow non-profit We Love Clean Rivers. September 9th our flotilla will take to the water again! Visit [www.welovecleanrivers.org](http://www.welovecleanrivers.org) for more information on registration as the event nears.



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