



the Clackamas

CURRENT NEWS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CLACKAMAS RIVER BASIN COUNCIL

Spring-Summer 2013

Where in the Watershed?!

Clackamas River Basin Council staff are now more visible when working in the watershed. Sunrise Water Authority donated a truck for our use in hauling plants that enhance stream banks, transporting materials for volunteer work parties, carrying displays for school, educational, and community events, and traversing the hills and gravel roads to meet with landowners and plan future projects. We greatly appreciate the generosity of Sunrise Water Authority!



This Ford Ranger was donated by Sunrise Water Authority

We also appreciate the many landowners, businesses, and volunteers who partner with us to improve water quality, restore in-stream habitat for fish and wildlife, plant trees to create shade over streams, involve school-aged students in outdoor learning activities and protect and enhance the health of our watershed. Everyone's contribution benefits all the people who live, work, and enjoy this ecological gem – the Clackamas River!

Within this *Current News* you will read about many opportunities for an individual – perhaps you – to take part in preserving the quality of life we all enjoy:

- **As a streamside landowner**, take part in the *Shade Our Streams* program
- **As a resident**, join a hike showcasing native plants and identifying invasive weeds or ride along with us on the *Tour de Clack* highlighting projects throughout the watershed
- **As a volunteer**, participate in work parties on the first Saturday of each month, October – May
- **As a recreationist**, help to keep debris out of the river and from along the banks using *Stash the Trash* bags and volunteer during the September 8, 2013 *Down the River Clean Up*

Support the work of the Clackamas River Basin Council through any of these activities or with a financial donation which helps us generate supporting grants. Thank you!

To learn more, or to contact us, go to www.clackamasriver.org or call 503-303-4372.

Thank you for your support and involvement with our council as we fulfill our mission:
To foster partnerships for clean water and to improve fish and wildlife habitat and the quality of life for all those who live, work, and recreate in the Clackamas watershed.

See YOU in the watershed!

- Cheryl McGinnis,
Executive Director



In this issue

From the
Executive Director 1

Water Quality 2

Outreach Updates 3

Shade Our Streams 4

Native & Invasive
Plants 6

Donor/Sponsor
Thank You 7

Calendar of Events 8

Improving Water Quality in the Clackamas Watershed



Actions such as planting trees can improve our water quality!



WES monitors water quality along urban streams.

CRBC and partners have been planning and implementing efforts to improve water quality in the Clackamas River. Keeping the Clackamas clean is important for the 400,000 people who drink water from the river, as well as the fish and wildlife who make their homes in and around the water.

Readers interested in technical data may be interested in reading the recently-compiled Clackamas Watershed Assessment Report, which was created by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). A number of actions to improve water quality were identified in that report, including CRBC's Shade Our Streams project. More information is available here: www.deq.state.or.us/wq/watershed/watershed.htm Clackamas County Service District #1's Water Environment Services has recently completed a data analysis specific to the urban-rural interface area of our watershed (the Happy Valley-Damascus area, which includes Rock, Richardson, and Seven Creeks). Data shows that water quality has been improving in Seven Creek since 2006, and that several pollutants, such as lead, are only found in very low levels.

The Clackamas River Basin Council continues to provide education and outreach about reducing pesticide use and using pesticides wisely. This year, we surveyed agriculturally-zoned land users about their knowledge and attitudes related to sustainable agriculture certification methods. There are several certifications you may see on food that you purchase in the store or from your local farmer's market. We've compiled some information about different labels and certifications you may see on store shelves.

Global GAP certified operations may sell fruits and vegetables, flowers and ornamentals, coffee, and tea. Operations minimize risk for workers, make use of Integrated Pest Management techniques, and make efforts to use less pesticides. For a list of certified operations, you can visit www.globalgap.org.

Low Impact Viticulture and Enology (LIVE) standards are available for vineyards and are closely related to Salmon-Safe standards. LIVE has certified 224 vineyards in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and British Columbia. Vineyards who are certified make efforts to reduce water consumption, reduce pesticide use, control noxious weeds, and choose farm machinery that reduces environmental impact. To find a LIVE-certified vineyard, you can visit www.liveinc.org.

Salmon-Safe works across the West Coast to certify more than 60,000 acres of farm and urban lands. As part of this holistic certification, operations protect in-stream and riparian habitats for fish and wildlife, manage water use, prevent erosion by controlling sediment, and reduce use of pesticides and fertilizers. A list of certified operations is available at www.salmonsafe.org

The **Oregon Department of Agriculture** certifies organic producers. Facilities certified as organic do not use any pesticides. Operations can also be certified by agents such as **Oregon Tilth**, which can concurrently certify users as being in accordance with certifications such as Salmon-Safe. You can find certified farmers at www.tilth.org.

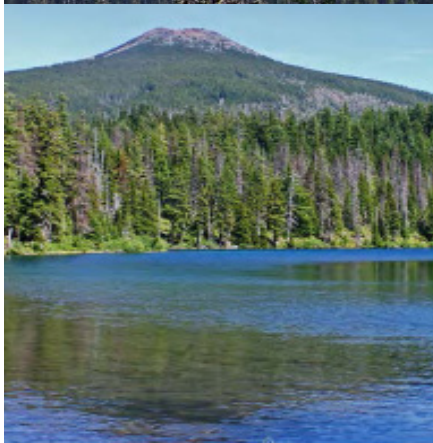
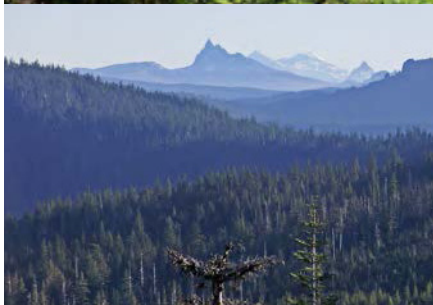
If you're purchasing a tree for the next holiday season, you can find one that comes from a **Socially and Environmentally Responsible Farm**. This relatively new certification was established in 2007 by a group of four private Oregon Christmas tree farms. Certified farms take measures to protect wildlife, preserve habitat, utilize Integrated Pest Management, and protect workers. For more information, visit www.certifiedchristmastrees.org.

Connect with your Watershed this Summer!

As the weather shifts from cooler winter temperatures into spring and summer, activities available from CRBC shift focus from tree planting at First Saturday Work Parties to recreational events. During this past planting season (October through March), volunteers planted more than 9,000 trees, shrubs, and wetland grasses! Work parties will resume again in October 2013 - keep tuned to our website to find out more. In the meantime, we invite you to relax and enjoy the fun summertime activities we have planned!

Tour de Clack Bike Ride

Our second annual Tour de Clack Bike Ride will take place on June 30th. Participants will be able to choose from a 30 or 50-mile route option that features projects in the Estacada area. Expect to see examples of streamside planting projects, in-stream improvements, and bioswales. The ride is free for all participants, and registration is required. Register online and view the route options at www.tourdeclack2013.eventbrite.com



Guided Watershed Hikes

CRBC Board Member Bryon Boyce has a series of hikes that will provide a great experience for those looking to explore areas in the upper Clackamas watershed. You can anticipate learning more about geology, local flora and fauna, and the history of our watershed as you experience far-ranging views and travel to lesser-known hiking locations.

All hikers should meet at the Estacada Ranger Station (595 NW Industrial Way in Estacada) at 8:30 a.m. for carpooling to the hike location.

Participants should bring plenty of water, a camera, bug spray, and lunch. Temperatures in the upper watershed are often cooler than down below, so dress for the weather in layers and sturdy shoes. Register to attend the hikes by signing up at the CRBC website (www.clackamasriver.org) or calling Becki at (503) 303-4372 x101.

June 15th, Cache Meadows: Explore early season wildflowers, vernal ponds, wetlands, unusual waterbodies, and geology on this short loop. The area also includes old-growth forests, lakes, and wet meadows. The route is 3 miles in length with an elevation gain of 300 feet.

July 13th, Hawk Mountain: This tour features spectacular views along the trail and from a 1933 cabin and former lookout site. Hikers will be rewarded with a view from the top of 5,277-foot Hawk Mountain. The route is a 4.6 mile out-and-back with 900 feet of elevation gain.

August 31st, Olallie Highlands Lakes: Highlights of this tour include lakes with spectacular photogenic viewpoints in the Olallie Scenic Area. Most of the lakes are accesible with minimal walking - the entire tour is a little over 2 miles in length with 125 feet of elevation change.

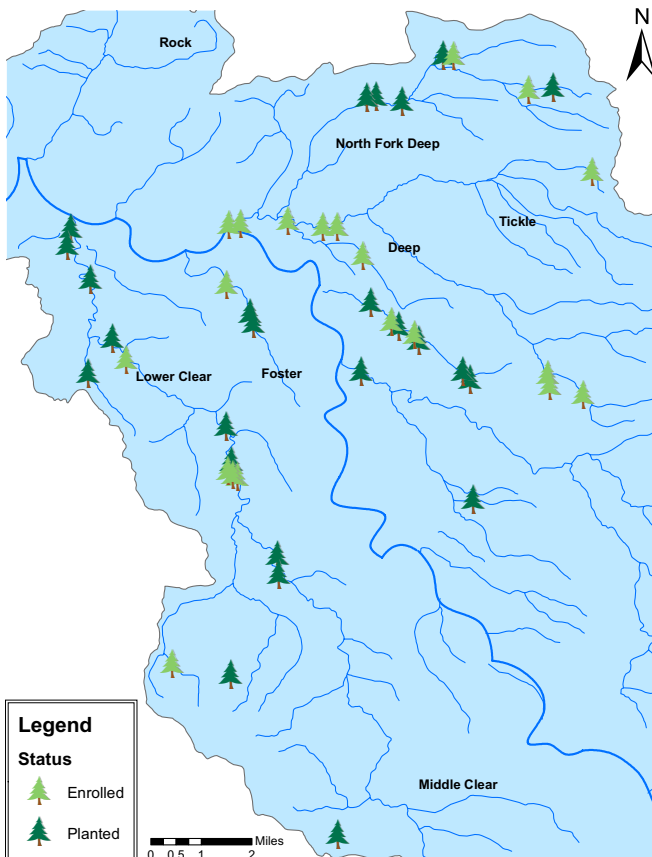
Shade Our Streams

Golden Shovel Groundbreaking

The Clackamas River Basin Council embarked on our first large-scale Shade Our Streams planting effort with the Golden Shovel Groundbreaking Ceremony on February 14th. County Commissioner Tootie Smith was in attendance to kick off the ceremony and wish us well as we continue this project, which will result in 30 total miles of trees planted along streams in the Clackamas watershed. In celebration of the dedication and enthusiasm of everyone involved in the project, CRBC board members ceremoniously planted the first tree of the season on the blueberry farm of long-time Estacada resident, Miriam Glover.



Planting the first tree at the Golden Shovel Groundbreaking Ceremony.



Map of planted and enrolled Shade Our Streams properties throughout the Clackamas watershed.

Meanwhile, Ash Creek Forest Management's professional restoration crew waited on the streambanks to plant the remainder of the streamside buffer zone along Miriam's stretch of Goose Creek.

This single Douglas fir was the first of over 106,600 trees and shrubs planted along 5.3 miles of property in February and March. These trees represent the project's first large-scale planting, with five miles per year to be planted for the next six years.

This single Douglas fir was the first of over 106,600 trees and shrubs planted this winter.

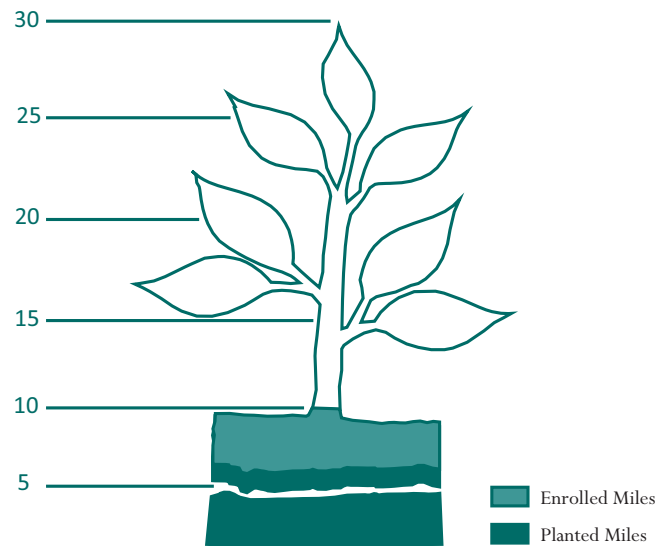
We'd like to thank all of the 21 landowners that volunteered to improve the health of their streamside properties this year. Just imagine what these stretches of creek will look like in five, fifteen, thirty years. We look forward to seeing the widespread improvements to fish and wildlife habitat, water quality, and soil health that will result from this long-term project.

Trees Take Root

Next Steps for Planted Properties

Landowners whose properties were planted this winter now enter a maintenance phase. CRBC is committed to making sure trees and shrubs thrive and reach a state where they are “free to grow”. This involves controlling invasive weeds on these planted properties, which will occur for the next two years. Landowners who enroll in the program can look forward to invasive weed removal activities on their properties this spring and summer as well. What does this weed removal look like? Check out photographs of the different treatment phases below.

Planted and Enrolled Stream Mileage



In the photos above you can see the phases of weed treatment from left to right - an untreated stretch of Dolan Creek overrun with Himalayan blackberry, the site after it is cut, and the creek shines through after weeds have been treated with pesticide on the right.



After completing site preparation activities, trees and shrubs are planted during winter months, as seen above.

How Can I Get Involved?

Want to find out how you can be a part of this growing movement for clean water and healthy habitats? It's not too late to get enrolled for planting in a future year. Call us at (503) 303-4372 x101 to learn about how Shade Our Streams can benefit you and your property.

Invader Alert! Garlic Mustard



Garlic mustard (*Allaria petiolaris*) is an herbaceous plant that has somewhat-limited presence in our watershed - let's keep it that way!

Garlic mustard is a biennial, which means that it has a two-year life cycle. In its first year, the plant is an unassuming groundcover with kidney-shaped leaves with scalloped edges. By its second year, it can grow up to two feet tall, and has numerous white flowers (and thousands of seeds). Flowers are in bloom from early May until June.

Garlic mustard was originally found in Multnomah County in 1959, and was likely introduced for use as a culinary herb. It can pose serious problems for native species - it displaces native wildflowers and herbaceous species and can limit food sources for browsing animals, like deer. Garlic mustard is usually found in woodlands and alongside trails and road rights-of-way, where it can limit visibility. Hikers and outdoor recreators can be a vector for the spread of this plant, so be careful to stay on designated trails, and check clothing and other gear for seeds.

Small patches of garlic mustard can easily be removed manually. It's best to remove them before the plant begins to flower, so that you can avoid spreading the seeds during removal efforts. If the plant is flowering, be sure to bag all plant material.

You can report sightings of this weed to the Clackamas County Soil and Water Conservation District online here: <http://conservationdistrict.org/how/report-weeds> or call the Oregon Department of Agriculture's Invasive Weed Hotline at 1-866-INVADER (468-2337)

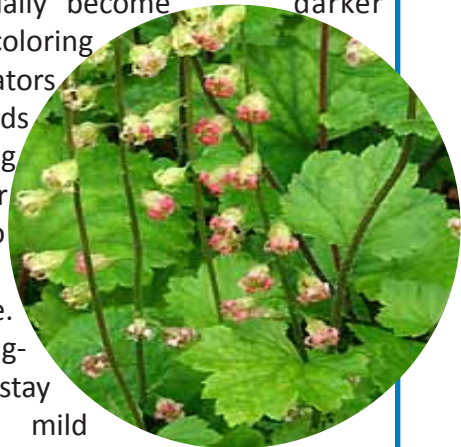
Reference: http://www.oregon.gov/ODA/PLANT/WEEDS/pages/profile_garlicmustard.aspx

Native Replacement: Fringecup

Fringecup (*Tellima grandiflora*) is a native plant that has similar appearance and habitat needs to garlic mustard, so if you find yourself with a garlic-mustard free area in need of re-planting, this species can be a good choice.

Fringecup (also referred to as "false alum root") is a perennial groundcover with fuzzy heart-shaped leaves, somewhat similar in appearance to grape leaves. It thrives in moist areas with partial to full shade, such as woodlands. Fringecup is a vigorous grower, and reaches heights of up to two feet tall. Individual plants measure about one to two feet across, and are slightly mound-shaped. It has a tendency to spread through its rhizomes and seeds.

Flowers appear in a spike in early summer. Colors usually begin the blooming season as light pink or white, and gradually become darker as they age. This coloring can attract pollinators such as hummingbirds and butterflies, making it a good choice for individuals trying to improve habitat for birds and wildlife. This plant is also slug-resistant and may stay evergreen during mild winters.



Many ornamental varieties of this plant have been developed, and a variety of choices in colors of foliage and flowers are available to those who may wish to purchase fringecup plants.

References: <http://biology.burke.washington.edu/herbarium/imagecollection.php?Genus=Tellima&species=grandiflora>

<http://www.perennials.com/plants/tellima-grandiflora-forest-frost.html>

Support our work by making a charitable donation!

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 www.clackamasriver.org and click the "donate" button.

Our tax identification number is
91-1838169.

Thank you for considering a donation!

Welcome New Board Members!

Gordy Webster and Sam Doane, staff at J. Frank Schmidt Nursery serve as a representative for the Agricultural stakeholder group.

Bruce Zoellick represents the Bureau of Land Management's Salem District as a liaison of Federal Landowning Agencies.

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Basin Council"

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Calendar of Upcoming Events

If you're looking for a reason to get out into the watershed this summer, look no further!

Council Meetings

We meet on the third Thursday of each month at the Mt. Scott Fire Station, on 9339 SE Causey Avenue in Clackamas. 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 June 30th for the second annual Tour de Clack ride! We'll offer 30- and 50-mile loops for participants. Learn more and register at www.tourdeclack2013.eventbrite.com.

Guided Watershed Hikes with Bryon Boyce

Hikes will take place June 15 (Cache Meadows), July 13 (Hawk Mountain), and August 31 (Olallie Highlands). Visit our website for hike details and to register.

Down the River Clean Up

This year marks our 11th year of teaming up with fellow non-profit We Love Clean Rivers. September 8th our flotilla will take to the water again! Visit www.welovecleanrivers.org for more information on registration as the event nears.



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