



The Clackamas

# CURRENT NEWS

CLACKAMAS RIVER BASIN COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

## Spring 2019

- 1 - High Water Showcase
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- 3 - Annual Celebration 2019
- 4 - Donor & Sponsors Recognition

## Thank You Donors and Sponsors!

Thanks to a generous matching donor opportunity from Warn Industries, we were able to raise over \$10,000 for CRBC's work in the Clackamas Watershed at our Annual Celebration.

## High Water Showcases Restoration

The Clackamas River crested just above flood stage in early April 2019.

Clackamas River Basin staff visited sites along the river during the event to evaluate the impact of restoration projects during high water. Up river at Milo McIver State Park, the boat ramps were under water and the river was running at 21,000 cubic feet per second below River Mill Dam.



Fisher's Bend side channel entrance off of the Clackamas River.

At the restoration site at Fisher's Bend on the Clackamas mainstem, CRBC worked with Henderson Design Build Professionals to restore a side channel and alcove habitat in this floodplain area. Project partners included landowners Buck and Mary Kay Baker, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, the US Forest Service, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board and Clackamas County.

**"This site had been engineered to recreate this natural side channel and it was doing exactly what we had hoped it would do."**

- Pat Kaczmarek, CRBC Communications and Program Coordinator

The project was developed in two phases. Seven large wood structures were installed for fish habitat. An historic side-channel inlet was reconnected to an alcove outlet to let the river expand when water levels rise, and the area was treated for invasive plant species and replanted with native plants.

Staff observed the effects of the restoration work in progress. The carefully placed large wood at the side channel inlet was diverting fast moving water from the mainstem. The grade of the side channel worked to slow the water to mitigate the impact of the flooding on river banks, minimizing erosion.

The side channel and alcove offered a sheltered place from the flood waters and fast moving debris in the mainstem for fish and other aquatic life.

It was rewarding to see the restoration project functioning as designed in high water.



Flow rate drops dramatically as flood water enters the restored side channel.





## CRBC teams up with Partners to Create Fish Habitat

### Recycled Xmas Trees Offer Protective Cover and Habitat on Side Channels and Tributaries

An ongoing partnership with Trout Unlimited, NW Steelheaders and ODFW resulted in two successful work parties this spring. Members and staff from the organizations were joined by volunteers from local neighborhoods to place Xmas trees at two locations in the Clackamas watershed. The trees are collected by Boy Scout troops after the holidays, and used to create in-stream habitat and cover for young fish.



Volunteers prepare for in-stream xmas tree placement along Rock Creek near the confluence with the Clackamas River.

On April 20th, volunteers gathered at Milo McIver Park to enhance a side channel restoration site near the Riverbend Day Use Area. Then on May 4, partners and volunteers returned to Rock Creek near the confluence with the Clackamas River to continue habitat improvements along this important fish bearing tributary. Restoration efforts have improved habitat for spawning adults and for juvenile salmon before they migrate to the ocean.

The projects were supported with funding from Portland General Electric.



## Looking for Ways to Participate?

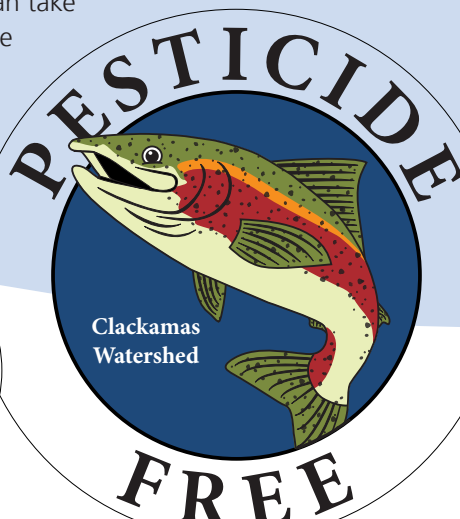
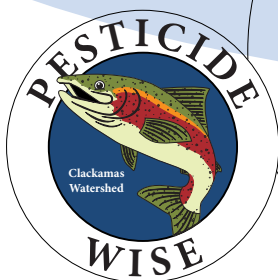
### Pesticide Pledge Program Summer Outreach

The Clackamas River Basin Council is looking for volunteers that are passionate about reducing pesticide use in the watershed. We want to have a presence in the community at farmer's markets and other targeted events where we can connect area residents with our *Parting with Pesticides* program. Residents can take a pledge to earn a free **Pesticide Wise** or **Pesticide Free** sign to display in their yard.



Providing information to local residents at events and farmer's markets is a fun and productive way to be a positive force in your community. You can make a difference in protecting our watershed.

**Want to take the pledge and get your FREE yard sign?**  
Go to [www.clackamasriver.org/pesticidepledge](http://www.clackamasriver.org/pesticidepledge).





# Annual Celebration is a Fundraising Event!

Our 18th Annual Celebration on May 16th at the Abernethy Center in Oregon City was a wonderful success.



Curt Melcher, the Director of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, was the keynote speaker for the evening event.

The event highlighted a variety of perspectives on the Clackamas River and surrounding watershed. Our keynote speaker was Curt Melcher, the Director of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Highlights of the event included a video presentation of Clackamas River Basin restoration projects. The video can be found on the CRBC website home page at [www.clackamasriver.org](http://www.clackamasriver.org). The sites featured in the video included: Port Blakely's managed forest along Little Clear Creek and Mosier Creek; Bonnie Lure State Recreation Area, Barton Park and Clear Creek North Natural Area.

Local watershed residents and visitors offered their perspectives on the river, including small woodlot owner David Bugni, PGE Biological Services Manager Tim Shibahara, recreationist and river advocate Tina Johnson and local kayak shop owner Sam Drevo.



Awards for outstanding accomplishments and service were presented to the following organizations and individuals:

- ✦ The Cole Gardiner Stewardship Award was presented to Clackamas County Water Environment Services for the Carli Creek Water Quality & Habitat project.
- ✦ The Stevens River Watch Award to Michael Walker for protecting water quality through river stewardship.
- ✦ The Outstanding Support Award to Bill Monroe for his service on the CRBC board, raising public awareness of CRBC and for stewardship of the watershed.
- ✦ The Thalweg Award to Brian Vaughn of Metro, for providing valuable leadership for the Clackamas Partnership.
- ✦ Special Recognition was given to Ron Blake, past Chair of the CRBC, for his fundraising and volunteer support for the Council over many years



Award winners from from left: Michael Walker, Bill Monroe with CRBC Executive Director Cheryl McGinnis, Ron Blake and Gail Shaloun representing Clackamas County Water Environment Services.

Local manufacturer, Warn Industries, provided a wonderful match donation opportunity that helped the organization raise \$10,000 in donations. Our silent auction which is supported by area businesses and individuals raised another \$4,600 to aid the work of Clackamas River Basin Council.

We are grateful to all of our sponsors and donors for their contributions and generous donations. A BIG thank you to volunteers, board members and staff who worked to make this a successful event.

## Summer Volunteer Days

SOLVE, as part of their summer waterways cleanup is hosting monthly cleanups at High Rocks this summer.

Clackamas County Water Environment Services (WES) is a sponsor of these events.

June 15, July 20, and Aug 17, from 10 am to noon.

**Visit [clackamasriver.org/get-involved](http://clackamasriver.org/get-involved) for more details.**



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## Thank You 2019 Annual Celebration Sponsors and Silent Auction Donors

Our Annual Celebration was supported by the following sponsors and auction donors:

### *Event Sponsors*



Warn Industries



Metro Regional Government

**Metro**

### *Table Sponsors & Donors*

Dave and Jan Albrecht  
Clackamas County  
Water Environment Services  
Interfluve  
J. Frank Schmidt & Son, Co.

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OTAK  
Portland General Electric  
Trout Unlimited Clackamas  
River Chapter

### *Silent Auction Donors*

Alan Dyck Photography  
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