



October 2000

Volume 1 Issue 4

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## 6th Annual Regatta: 200 Happy Paddlers

More than 200 paddlers enjoyed the Sixth Annual Columbia Slough Regatta on July 30, 2000. Not only was this the largest Regatta ever- but attendees consistently praised the sponsors for its wonderful organization, spirit of fun and variety of experiences. First timers and veterans alike agreed this was the best Regatta yet!

Portland's media and participants alike were attracted to the big top canvas tent which hosted displays about the invasive Purple Loosestrife plant, maps and info on the hydrology of the slough provided by the Drainage Districts, a 3D groundwater model supplied by the Portland Water Bureau, the watershed council's new Volunteer Monitoring program, and Naturescaping information. Once afloat paddlers were chal-

lenged to identify the answers to this years floating quiz game. All attendees received fabulous Regatta T-shirts designed by Leslie Winter-Gorsline of Portland's Environmental Services.

Sponsors included: Columbia Slough Watershed Council, Columbia Sportswear, City of Portland Environmental Serves, The Halton Company, Kenton Action Plan, Multnomah County's Sheriff's Office, Multnomah County Drainage District #1, and the

Port of Portland. Alder Creek Kayak and Canoe delivered rental water craft to the site. Trustees from Multnomah County's Inverness Jail assisted people in lugging their craft to the launch site; and launching and landing directly.



## Turning Watersheds Green: Portland's Watershed Revegetation Program

*by Susan Barthel, BES*

The Bureau of Environmental Service's Watershed Revegetation Program has planted more than half a million trees since its start in 1996. Initial funding from the EPA Slough Revitalization Grant and the endorsement of the idea by the Columbia Corridor Association jump started the program. To date 52 private partners and 8 agencies are participating.

Under George Kral's lead-

ership the program has expanded to provide planting services throughout the Metro area and its staff now numbers 14.

Ken Finney, Columbia Slough watershed revegetation coordinator, emphasizes that one of the unique features of this program is its use of locally collected seeds. The Revegetation Program collects a majority of the seed used in its the planting programs from the watershed.

Native seed stock contributes to the program's 80% (trees) and 70% (shrub) survival rate and preserves native genetics.

The Revegetation Program also uses native seeds in site preparation and to displace non-natives in invasive plant control.

The program plants riparian, wetland and upland areas as well as bioswales and retention ponds. All projects include 5 (Continued on page 5)

## “Eyes on the Slough” up and monitoring by Troy Clark, CSWC Member

The Columbia Slough Monitoring Project (CSMP) is up and running. The slough is divided into 13 reaches of roughly 2 miles each. The volunteers paddle every other month on their assigned reach. There are 26 bi-monthly volunteer slots (23 are filled!). So far we have received 8 monitoring reports. The reports have been

great, full of observations, questions and musings. The critical service of these volunteers is to provide “Eyes on the Slough” which is the informal name of the project.

Eventually the CSMP will be instrumental in helping the Watershed Council in the “visioning” component of the OWEB watershed assessment. We fully anticipate that

these volunteer monitors will also contribute their thoughts and dreams about the Slough when we begin to define our goals.

There’s something compelling and insightful paddling these waters. Looking at unsightly past practices is unavoidable but the future possibilities are also right there.

We will bring updates to the Council about this program. Sometime next year we will invite some of the volunteers to share their experience with the Council. Till then we shall be diligently providing “Eyes on the Slough”.

For more information or to sign up contact Troy Clark @ 503-249-0842 or [brillobrain@ureach.com](mailto:brillobrain@ureach.com).

## Mitten Crabs: A New Aquatic Nuisance Species by Rachel Wallack, PSU Graduate Student

The Mitten Crab (*Eriocheir* spp.) is native to the rivers and estuaries of the Yellow Sea in Asia. Mitten crabs were first found in the United States in San Francisco Bay in 1992. No one knows how they got there. It could have been accidentally on a ship or intentionally. In 1996 a total of 45 mitten crabs were found in the Bay; in 1997, it was estimated there were 16,000-20,000 mitten crabs in the estuary, and in 1998 over one million crabs were collected. One mitten crab was found in 1997 in the lower Columbia River in Oregon by a sturgeon angler.

The mitten crab can be identified by its “hairy” claws and its presence in fresh water.

The invasion of mitten crabs into the Columbia River system is a concern because of the potential impacts of this introduced species. Mitten crabs interfere with fisheries and water engineering projects. The burrowing activity of mitten crabs may cause erosion of banks and levees. Mitten crabs are catadromous, and the most severe impact in California has been interference with fish-handling facilities caused by out-migrating adult mitten crabs. Power

plants have also been affected with reduced flows in the cooling water system and clogging of pipes due to mitten crabs. The genus *Eriocheir* was placed into the Prohibited category of the Wildlife Integrity Rules by the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission on December 17, 1999. The genus is also considered injurious wildlife by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) under the Lacey Act.

PSU, in collaboration with the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission and the USFWS, is currently conducting an educational program on mit-

ten crabs and developing a monitoring program for mitten crabs in the lower Columbia River.

**NOTE: Oregon has no native freshwater crabs. If you find one, the number below.**

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For more info, call the PSU Center for Lakes and Reservoirs at 503-725-3834 or [rwallack@pdx.edu](mailto:rwallack@pdx.edu)

## Algae and Macrophyte Sampling in the Slough by Chee Choy, BES CS Sediment Project

A BES field crew recently spent two warm September days taking samples of floating aquatic plants (mostly algae) and rooted aquatic plants (macrophytes). This reconnaissance sampling was conducted with Multnomah County Drainage District cooperation and is a component of the Columbia Slough Sediment Project. The main objective was to develop a method of sampling algae and macrophytes and to test these plants to determine if

they contain toxic organics (PCBs and pesticides), heavy metals and nutrients (such as nitrogen and phosphorus).

The study will provide the Bureau with basic information on whether these aquatic plants and algae take up pollutants. If these aquatic plants have absorbed high levels of toxic organics and heavy metals from the water and sediments, a more comprehensive sampling will occur next year. Followup sam-

pling would evaluate the feasibility of using these prolific plants to clean up pollutants from the water and sediments.

Because this is a preliminary study to work out the “kinks” or potential problems of the sampling and analytical procedures, both floating aquatics and macrophytes samples were taken from a limited number of areas: 4 sites in Buffalo Slough, 1 site in Prison Pond, 1 site in the main stem of the Middle

Slough, and 2 sites in the Upper Slough (east of the 143<sup>rd</sup> mid-dike levee). These sites were selected based on the levels of toxic organics in the sediments. Results of this preliminary investigation are expected to be available in December.

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For more info, contact Chee Choy at (503) 823-5310 or [cheec@bes.ci.portland.or.us](mailto:cheec@bes.ci.portland.or.us)

## Coordinator's Message by Jay Mower

How is the Columbia Slough Watershed Council funded? Let's count the ways.

General operating funds for the Council come from several sources. Every two years we apply for a grant from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB), a state agency.

Each year the Council asks local government agencies who serve on the Council for cash support. Contributors include: the Cities of Portland, Gresham and Fairview; Multnomah County, Metro Regional Services, Multnomah Drainage District #1, and the Port of Portland.

Smaller cash support comes from the Columbia Corridor Association, businesses and Council members. All members give a lot of time and energy to help make the Council work. Various state and federal agencies provide in-kind support and technical expertise. Nabisco donates a conference room for our monthly meetings. Portland Parks & Recreation provides office space at Whitaker Ponds Learning Center for the Council office (our budget pays for telephone, heat, water, garbage, lights).

The Council applies for grants to do specific projects. Right now we have two grant proposals pending; one with DEQ and the other with OWEB, both involving assessment and planning. We

currently have a grant from the Lower Columbia River Estuary Program for the bio-control of Purple Loosestrife. EPA awarded the Council with a grant to help with our watershed assessment. Right now we are finalizing a general operating support grant request to OWEB for 2001-03. The Council is affiliated with the East Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District, which serves as our fiscal agent.

The Council could not operate without the support of all these people and agencies. Let me take this opportunity to say thank you, on behalf of all the Watershed Council members, to our funders. We appreciate your support.



## Naturescaping for Clean Rivers seeks community hosts for Spring '01

Naturescaping for Clean Rivers offers free workshops focusing on native plants, natural landscapes and water-friendly gardening practices. Workshops are held only in neighborhoods where NCR is invited by a group or groups who then serve as "community hosts." As the host, the group is expected to help secure a room for the workshop, assist with local publicity, provide volunteers to help with set-up and take-down the day of the workshop, and provide refreshments. The host group is encouraged to set up a display at the workshop, and is given an opportunity to talk about the group and its activities.

The workshops are usually held only in the spring (mid-March through early June) or the

fall (late September through mid-November). They are generally scheduled on a Saturday morning (9:00 am to 1:00 pm) or a Sunday afternoon (1:00 pm to 5:00 pm).

A wide variety of groups have served as community hosts over the past six years — neighborhood associations, garden clubs, watershed councils, PTAs, school environmental or natural resource classes, after-school programs, church groups, youth groups, "friends of" groups, businesses, libraries, park departments, non-profit environmental groups. Often two or three groups work cooperatively to host a workshop.

Workshops sites have varied as much as the hosting groups — schools (from pre-school to

college), churches, dance studios, businesses (restaurants, utility companies, factories and more), portable classrooms in parks, community centers, city halls, police stations, watershed council offices, botanical gardens, water quality labs, nature centers, OMSI, the Zoo — even private homes (although this is discouraged in most cases).

The Naturescaping for Clean Rivers program was developed and is co-sponsored by East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) and the Portland Bureau of Environmental Services (BES). The workshops are free to those who attend. The only cost to community host groups inside the City of Portland is for refreshments.

NCR is also able to offer the workshops anywhere in Clackamas, Multnomah and Washington Counties at \$700 per workshop. The Unified Sewerage Agency, City of Gresham, and Clackamas County have sponsored workshops outside Portland. Last spring's workshop in Fairview was sponsored by the Columbia Slough Watershed Council with the \$700 cost share provided by the CSWC.

If your group is interested in hosting an NCR workshop, contact Linda Robinson at 503-261-9566 or [lrobins@pacifier.com](mailto:lrobins@pacifier.com)



**Tues., Oct. 24; 6:30-8:30pm**  
**Community Energy Project**  
**Water Conservation Workshop**  
 Alameda Community School  
 2732 NE Fremont

**Mon., Oct. 30; 5-8pm**  
**CSWC General Meeting** at  
 Nabisco. For more information  
 call 503-281-1132.

**Thur., Nov. 2; 6-7:30pm**  
**Community Energy Project**  
**Water Conservation Workshop**  
 University Park Community Center  
 9009 N. Foss

**Thur. & Fri., Nov. 16 & 17;**  
**11:30 - 1 pm**  
**Soup on the Slough**  
 Whitaker Ponds  
 7040 NE 47th Ave.

**Mon., Nov. 27; 5-8pm**  
**CSWC General Meeting** at  
 Nabisco. For more information  
 call 503-281-1132.

**Wed., Dec. 6; 7-8:30pm**  
**Community Energy Project**  
**Water Conservation Workshop**  
 Peninsula Park Community Center  
 9009 N. Foss

**Wed., Dec. 13; 6:30-8pm**  
**Community Energy Project**  
**Water Conservation Workshop**  
 Parkrose High School  
 12003 NE Shaver

**Sun., Dec. 17; 11-2 pm**  
**Winter Solstice Paddle**  
 Smith and Bybee Lakes  
 For more information, call  
 Emily Roth 503-235-6272

## Linda Robinson, Council Member and Networker Extraordinaire

Linda Robinson was organizing the Watershed Council before it was a Council - and she's still highly involved today. Linda represents the East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District on the Council and serves on both the Administrative and Awards Program Committees. Linda is also known for her association with the FOWL (Friends of Wetlands/What's Left) and FAUNA (Friends of Urban Natural Areas) organizations and the Naturescaping for Clean Rivers Program.

Linda grew up on property that contained an unnamed tributary to Johnson Creek and she credits her childhood waterway and gardening experiences with her present day involvement with environmental issues.

Linda's interest in the Slough grew out of news articles featuring fellow Council member Alice Blatt's efforts to influence the Columbia South Shore Natural Resources Management Plan development. She soon found herself writing letters, circulating petitions and testifying at City Council about the Slough's wetlands and wildlife.

FAUNA concerned itself with generating support for urban Greenspaces bond measures and bringing "Friends" groups together. Happily the 1995 measure passed! As coordinator, Linda also oversaw the publication of the first Portland area *Natural Resource Directory*.

These days Linda is busy directing the Naturescaping for Clean Rivers program. More than 1500 people have taken classes designed to create environmentally beneficial landscaping. And Linda continues to grow a program which is now found in every watershed in the City.




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## Book Review: *Wild in the City* by Mike Houck, Urban Naturalist, Audubon Society of Portland

*Wild In the City* is a comprehensive guide to the Greenspaces of the Portland-Vancouver metropolitan region. Organized by watersheds, it emphasizes the important ecological linkages among natural areas and offers site guides with detailed maps to natural spaces, trails, waterways, parks, golf courses, and even cemeteries, where significant habitat or other natural history features can be viewed.

The book is interspersed with engaging, lively natural history essays and colorful "tidbits" of information written by experts in their fields and those who have an intimate knowledge of the sites and natural history. *Wild in the City* gives the reader an uncommon look at local geology, flora, fauna and seasonal changes. It also will include a calendar which will provide the reader with "must see" natural history events throughout the year. *Wild in the City* is a compilation from a variety of dedicated volunteer naturalists throughout the metropolitan region who have contributed to the Audubon Society's quarterly publication, *The Urban Naturalist*, since 1982. It contains guides to almost 100 Greenspace sites throughout the metropolitan region.

No comprehensive guidebook of this nature exists for the Portland-Vancouver metropolitan region. Guidebooks to hiking and biking do exist, but because of *Wild in the City's* extensive coverage and the variety and expertise of its contributors, there is nothing comparable on the market. *Wild in the City* will be the "must have" reference book and field guide for birdwatchers, hikers and nature enthusiasts who want to know where the best natural areas, trails and wildlife viewing opportunities are throughout the Portland-Vancouver metropolitan region.

*Wild In The City* will be available in late October at the Audubon Society of Portland Nature Store, Oregon History Center, and bookstores throughout the Portland metropolitan region. Cost: \$21.95



**New Faces in the Watershed**

The **Columbia Corridor Association** welcomes Patty McCoy as the new Executive Director. She can be reached at (503) 287-8686.

**Portland's Office of Neighborhood Involvement** welcomes

Joseph Annett to work on Columbia Slough Watershed outreach for BES. He can be reached at (503) 823-4513 or joanne@aol.com.

**The Community Watershed Stewardship Program** welcomes its eight new members for the year. Two members will be working for one year on Slough watershed education and outreach. Ry Thompson is an AmeriCorps volunteer, and Jacob Brostoff is a PSU Graduate Student in the Masters of Urban and Regional Planning Program. They welcome your project ideas and partnership possibilities and can be reached at (503) 823-7753 or ryt@bes.ci.portland.or.us and jacobbb@bes.ci.portland.or.us.



**Slough Art found at the Portland Art Museum**

Two artists are using the Columbia Slough as their subject. The newly expanded gallery is showing the Charles McKim

(1872-1939) impressionist painting titled "Mt. Hood from a Marsh, 1911". It is a lovely impressionist piece painted from "the Columbia Slough, one of McKim's favorite sites". Also spotted in the museum is a 1911 photograph of the Columbia Slough by Benjamin Gifford. The exhibit, "Benjamin Gifford - Scenes from Oregon," is located downstairs in the Gilkey Center for Prints, Drawing and Photography.

**Contemporary Art & The Slough**

Lin Haak, a Portland oil painter is creating a series of Slough paintings. And Irene Buszko, of New York was back out on the Slough this summer creating the latest in her series of acrylics for her New York art dealer.



**Tues., Dec. 19; 6:30-8pm**  
**Community Energy Project**  
**Water Conservation Workshop**  
 Dishman Community Center  
 77 NE Knott, Craft Room

**Sun., Jan. 7, 2001; 11-2pm**  
**Interlakes Trail Walk**  
**Smith and Bybee Lakes**  
 For more information, call Jeff Kee at 503-240-0233

**Sun., Jan. 14 2001; 11-2pm**  
**Sunday Afternoon Paddle**  
**Smith and Bybee Lakes**  
 For more information, call Troy Clark at 503-249-0482

**A Monday in Jan 2001**  
**CSWC Awards Ceremony**  
 For more information, call Susan Barthel at 503-823-7268

**Mon., Jan. 29 2001; 5-8pm**  
**CSWC General Meeting** at Nabisco. For more information call 503-281-1132.

(Reveg continued from page 1)

years of maintenance. The BES program also works closely with the Drainage Districts vegetation management and restoration programs.

Columbia Slough Planting:  
 Totals 1996-2000:  
 Trees: 258,690  
 Shrubs: 138,929  
 Live pole cuttings: 47,700  
 Acres: 281  
 Wetland plants: 86,300  
 Wetland acres: 67.75 acres  
 Bank length: 50,344 feet

Metro Area Planting: Totals  
 Trees: 557,541  
 Shrubs: 269,466  
 Live Pole cuttings: 75,900  
 Total Acres: 654  
 Wetland Plants: 109,900  
 Wetland acres: 80  
 Bank length: 63,614

The 2001 season will be the

most ambitious to date with the program planning to plant 358 acres, 433,000 trees, 322,000 shrubs 60,000 pole cuttings and 58 wetland acres in one year!

The program uses the following trees in its program: Grand fir, Big-leaf maple, Red Alder, Madrone, Serviceberry, Black Hawthorne, Oregon Ash, Western Crab Apple, Mock Orange, Valley Pine, Black Cottonwood, Douglas Fir, Garry Oak, Cascara, Pacific Willow, Blue Elderberry, Western Red Cedar, Western Hemlock

Shrubs Include: Vine maple, Red Osier Dogwood, Salal, Tall Oregon Grape, Oceanspray, Indian Plum, Ninebark, Red Flowering Currant, Bald Rose Hip, Nootka Rose, Swamp Rose, Thimbleberry, Salmonberry, Scrub Willow, Red Elderberry, Hardhack, Snowberry and Sword fern.

For more information and Revegetation partnership opportunities contact:  
 James Allison,  
 (503)823-2365





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Watershed Council*

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**“Many Hands Make Light Work” (9 Ways To Assist the Council Coordinator)**

1. I will run a training program for the “Eyes on the Slough” monitoring program.
2. I will write an article for the newsletter.
3. I will help coordinate the awards program entertainment (once a year).
4. I will be in charge of organizing the decorations at the awards program in Jan.2001.
5. I will raise money for the awards program.
6. I will locate and schedule two locations for a Slough slide show presentation to groups in the watershed (businesses or neighborhoods).
7. I will attend and co-host a weekday “Soup on the Slough” lunch at Whitaker Ponds to help educate residents about the Slough.
8. I will work with AmeriCorps member Ry Thompson on a native plant planting at Fairview Lake during early 2001.
9. I will serve on a small committee for one year to analyze, develop and run a Website for the Council.

**The Columbia Slough Watershed Council** is an active group of 50 citizens, neighbors, agency, business, government, and environmental representatives with an interest in the Slough. The Council’s mission is to *foster action to protect, enhance, restore, and revitalize the Slough and its watershed.* The group convenes monthly to learn about and discuss slough issues, plan events, and coordinate efforts, etc. Monthly meeting agendas are available to all. Contact coordinator, Jay Mower, at the CSWC office for more information.

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