



Summer 2001

Volume II Issue 3

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**Community-Based Restoration a success throughout the watershed**

*by Ry Thompson, AmeriCorps member, Community Watershed Stewardship Program*

**OREGON HUMANE SOCIETY**

During the month of February, the Oregon Humane Society (OHS) completed the restoration of 1.5 acres of riparian and upland habitat with the help of an all-volunteer work force. The project was coordinated by Perry Cabot, community service coordinator at OHS, and funded through a Metro Parks and Greenspaces Environmental Education Grant. The goal was to restore a piece of the Columbia Slough watershed and to provide a hands-on educational opportunity to the students within the watershed. Planting commenced on February 20th and included groups such as George Middle School, Kenton Elementary, Gately Academy, Woodlawn Elementary, SalmonCorps, EnviroCorps, Community Watershed Stewardship Program, and the City of Portland. After only six days of planting, nearly 3,000 trees and shrubs were planted and beaver-guarded on the site. Having this project in place on the Humane Society property is a wonderful opportunity to demonstrate OHS' commitment to humane values outside the walls of the shelter, in addition to involvement in community education and leadership.



Oregon Humane Society pond after plantings.

**WHITAKER PONDS**

Also during the month of February, Whitaker Ponds received much restoration attention with the help of school groups, community volunteers, and Boy Scouts from around the region. Through the week of February 12, planting groups included Sitton Elementary, Astor Elementary, Turnaround School, McCoy Academy, Portsmouth Middle School, Kenton Elementary, Portland Opportunities Industrialization Center, SalmonCorps, EnviroCorps and, Community Watershed Stewardship Program, and the City of Portland. Nearly 600 trees and shrubs were planted by these volunteers. On February 17, the Columbia Slough Watershed Council, in collaboration with SOLV and the City of Portland, sponsored a community planting bringing over 60 volunteers to Whitaker Ponds. Four hundred trees and shrubs were planted by volunteers from Friends of Whitaker Ponds, Hands On Portland, Cub Scouts, Port of Portland, Waste Management, and local neighborhoods. The day was a wonderful success. Thanks to all the volunteers who pitched in throughout the planting week.



Whitaker Ponds on Community Planting Day.

**FAIRVIEW LAKE**

On February 24th, over 70 community members from around the region helped to restore the riparian areas around Fairview Lake. During the project planning process, seven sites were chosen for restoration, including four private sites, two City of Fairview sites, and *(continued on pg. 5)*

## Yummy: "Soup on the Slough" hits the spot! *By Sarah Murphy, CSWC Program Assistant*

On February 1st & 2nd business leaders, government officials, neighborhood residents, historians, teachers, and others gathered over hot bowls of steaming salmon chowder to learn about the Slough watershed, the activities of the Watershed Council, and to learn about each other. This was the sixth Soup on the Slough hosted at Whitaker Ponds - and as any cook knows

the flavor of each Soup depends on the ingredients. Joe Annett of North Portland Neighborhood Services has been working hard to raise awareness of Slough issues, and organized a diverse list of attendees for February's gatherings.

Soup on the Slough generally begins with a brief tour of the Whitaker Ponds Environmental

Learning Center, with stops at the watershed mural, the ecoroof shelter, and the pollution reduction facility. Once soup is served there is a brief introduction to the Watershed Council, then participants introduce themselves and discuss or ask questions about the watershed. Soup on the Slough is limited to 90 minutes to accommodate people's busy schedules.

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**"Soup on the Slough" heats up again on Thursday and Friday, May 10th & 11th, 2001. Contact Joe Annett at 503-823-4513 or [jannett@ci.portland.or.us](mailto:jannett@ci.portland.or.us) for more information.**

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## Reflections on Slough 101: Rain, Drains and City Streams *By BES Columbia Slough Team*

### **SLOUGH 101: Our 9<sup>th</sup> Workshop Offering**

Rains, drains, streams, bugs, games, maps and lectures were all a part in the CSWC's March 10<sup>th</sup> workshop. Held at the Pacific Power and Light Operations Center, the class focused on the relationship of urban streams and stormwater runoff. Class members played two simulation games, including a brand new group game called "Soak it Up". Hands on activities included water quality testing and bug identification. On

33rd Avenue, class members peered into a manhole to see a newly installed "in ground" water treatment system. Dawn Hottenroth, stormwater specialist with the City of Portland, provided details about the nature and of and effect imperviousness has on stormwater. She provided cutting edge examples of ways to keep stormwater out of the sewer system, on even the most urban locations, using ecoroofs, infiltration trenches, porous paving and other methods.

50 residents, paddlers, teachers,

business owners, watershed workers, students and government staff appreciated "the big picture" as well as the Slough specific information!



Slough 101 participants play stormwater game

## Corps of Engineers 1135 Program Enhances Slough Habitat *By Frank Wildensee, City of Portland*

Loss of wildlife habitat and water quality deterioration are two major problems that affect the Columbia Slough. These are closely linked and were caused by: (1) construction of many miles of levees along the Columbia River and the Columbia Slough by the U.S. Army Corps

of Engineers (COE) to make the Columbia River flood plain useable first for agriculture and urban development; and (2) extensive development within the Columbia Corridor over the past decade has caused the loss of large areas of wildlife habitat and increased pollutant loading.



Bridgeton Slough meander and benches

Bureau of Environmental Services and COE entered into an agreement to cost-share in the Section 1135 program to restore wildlife habitat and improve water quality. The program combines various projects including (1) creation of a narrow, low-

flow channel and in-channel wetland benches and islands; (2) replacement of culverts with low capacity and high invert elevation; and (3) restoration of off-channel wetlands.

Specifically, dredging to create a low-flow channel will occur in the Columbia Slough main stem from NE 17<sup>th</sup> Ave. to NE 158<sup>th</sup> Ave. The removed sediment will be sidecast to create the in-channel wetland benches and islands. Expected benefits of the low-flow channel include lower residence time of the water, resulting in reduced heating and algal growth. The wetland benches will be planted with a variety of native plants to create wildlife habitat and improve water quality. Five culverts in the Buffalo

and Whitaker Sloughs will be replaced to lower the water level elevation in these side arms and create additional in-channel habitat. Replaced culverts will also help to reduce water residence time and associated temperature and aesthetics problems. Improvements to one off-channel wetland will create a significant area of contiguous wildlife habitat and also function as a stormwater polishing area.

Some of the projects will start as early as this summer and will continue for a few years. The photo on the left shows Bridgeton Slough, a test site where dredging occurred to create a meandering channel and wetland benches on either side.

## Message from the Coordinator *by Jay Mower*

The Columbia Slough Watershed Council is facing a 25% reduction in OWEB support. At the same time, Council operations and programs are growing. In early February we learned that

OWEB, the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, has received more requests for Council Support Grants than they have funds to cover. More councils have formed and existing coun-

cils have grown. All across Oregon Watershed Councils are suddenly facing reduced support.

The CSWC is considering other fundraising strategies that include:

- Broaden fundraising requests
- Apply for 501 (c) (3) tax exempt status from IRS
- Utilize other non profit resources such as:
  - River Network and
  - TACS – Technical Assistance for Community Service
- Consult with Cynthia Cumfer, co-author of Oregon Non-Profit Handbook
- Consider membership dues
- Produce fundraising events
- Write more grants
  - Grants for projects are more likely
  - Grants for operating

expenses harder to get

- Share resources and form partnerships

Our grant from OWEB provides about 50% of our budget, so this reduction is a significant alteration. The remainder of the budget is funded by cash and in-kind support from all our local jurisdictions.

Meanwhile, the ongoing work of the council continues.

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If you, your group or company would like to help support the Watershed Council, please contact Jay Mower at 503-281-1132 or [jay.mower@columbiaslough.org](mailto:jay.mower@columbiaslough.org).

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Jay Mower examines runoff during Slough 101

## Watershed Monitoring takes hold in region

Throughout the region, volunteer watershed monitoring programs are encouraging citizens to be stewards and catalysts of great change. In our own watershed, **Eyes on the Slough** monitors are out paddling their reaches of the Slough monthly keeping a watchful eye on use of the waterways by humans and wildlife. The monitors will be instrumental in helping the Watershed Council in the “visioning” process for the slough. Looking at unsightly past practices is unavoidable but the future visions and possibilities for a Slough restored will be take precedence in the years to come. There are currently reaches of the Slough needing monitors. If interested, please contact Troy Clark at 503-249-0842 or [brillobrain@ureach.com](mailto:brillobrain@ureach.com).

In the Willamette River watershed, **Willamette Riverkeepers** developed the River Guardian volunteer monitoring program to get every mile of the Willamette under watchful eyes of committed citizens. These monitors look for excessive erosion, illegal dumping, riparian land destruction, sewer overflows and other problems that affect the health and water quality of the Willamette River. To get involved, contact Willamette Riverkeeper at 503-223-6418 or [libby@willamette-riverkeeper.org](mailto:libby@willamette-riverkeeper.org).

At an even larger scale, the **Lower Columbia River Estuary Program (LCREP)** will be conducting an estuary wide (Mouth of Columbia upriver to Bonneville Dam) “Snapshot Water Quality Monitoring Event” on September 28-29, 2001. See next article for more details on this program or visit [www.lcrep.org](http://www.lcrep.org).

## Snapshot Water Quality Monitoring Event

Please join us on Friday September 28th or Saturday September 29th and be a part of the first annual “**Snapshot Water Quality Monitoring Event**” on the lower Columbia River.

The Lower Columbia River Estuary Program is organizing the “**Snapshot Water Quality Monitoring Event 2001**”. This two day monitoring event is intended to combine the efforts of citizen groups, schools, organizations and agency volunteers to monitor water quality of the lower Columbia River from Bonneville Dam to the rivers mouth, including numerous tributary streams in the Estuary Program study area. This event will provide useful water quality information about the lower Columbia River and help the Estuary Program gain valuable insight into an important resource. Please join us for this Snapshot Monitoring Event on the lower Columbia River or your favorite tributary stream as volunteers show their commitment to protecting the health of the lower Columbia River by testing water quality.

We appreciate your participation. We will mail you updated information and your team assignment as the event nears. Thank you so much for your commitment to participate in the “**Snapshot Water Quality Monitoring Event 2001**.” Please contact Jennie Boyd at (503) 226-1565 or [boyd.jennie@lcrep.org](mailto:boyd.jennie@lcrep.org) for more information or to register.



**Thur., April 12, 6:30-8:30pm;**  
**Wetlands 101 Seminar** at Port  
 Commission Room, 121 NW Everett St.  
 Call 503-281-1132 to register

**Sat., April 14, 9am-12pm;**  
**Wetlands 101 Field Trip** at Radio  
 Towers at Portland Expo. Call  
 503-281-1132 to register.

**Sat., April 21, 9am-12pm;**  
**Mallory Meadows Earth Day**  
**Service Project** at NE Killingsworth  
 and Mallory. Call 503-823-7863 for  
 more information.

**Sat., April 21, May 5 & 19,**  
**and June 2; Stewardship Days** at  
 Smith and Bybee Lakes. Call 503-797-  
 1850, option 8 to register.

**Mon., April 30, 5-8pm;**  
**CSWC General Meeting** at  
 Nabisco. Call Tim Hall at 503-281-  
 1132 for more information.

**Thur., May 3, 10-11am;**  
**Big Pipe Dedication Ceremony** at  
 Columbia Boulevard Wastewater  
 Treatment Plant. Call Tim Hall at 503-  
 823-2410 for more information.

**Thur. and Fril, May 10 & 11,**  
**11:30am-1pm; “Soup on the**  
**Slough”** at Whitaker Ponds, 7040  
 NE 47th Ave Call Joe Annett at  
 503-823-4513 for invitations.

**Sat., May 12, 10am-12pm;**  
**Wildlife Home Improvement**  
**Tour** at Smith and Bybee Lakes. Call  
 Elaine Stewart at 503-797-1515 for  
 more information.

## Patti McCoy, Council Member and CCA Director

Watershed Council member Patti McCoy’s interest in the Slough is a natural outgrowth of her role as Executive Director of the Columbia Corridor Association because when it comes to the Columbia Corridor, “a slough runs through it”.

Oregon-born and raised, Patti parlayed a journalism degree from the University of Oregon into a successful career in consumer financial service public relations and marketing management. After 20 years in the private sector, Patty joined the CCA, but not before enjoying a yearlong travel sabbatical through Europe and northern Africa.

“In mid-life, I am reinventing myself,” says Patti. “I’m pleased to be putting my existing budget, program and office management, and marketing skills to good use, but I’m most excited to be learning about the environmental and land use, water, transportation, and workforce issues impacting my member businesses.”

The 15 yr. old CCA is an advocacy group for business and development interests. A few of the key objectives of the association are promoting environmentally responsible development and sustaining a favorable climate for effectively representing Corridor interests in policy making and implementation. Patti views her membership on the Watershed Council as an important component of both these objectives.




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### Volunteers Needed:Smith and Bybee Lakes Monitoring

Metro plans to restore more than 2,000 acres of floodplain habitat, much of it in the Columbia Slough watershed. In order to determine the effectiveness of restoration work, Metro is monitoring bioindicators, or species that respond quickly to environmental changes or are otherwise indicative of ecosystem health. Volunteer monitors are needed to find and map frog and salamander egg masses, count basking painted turtles, conduct bird surveys and help with other monitoring projects. For more information, call 503-797-1733.

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### Other Events at Metro’s Smith and Bybee Lakes

#### Saturday, June 9, 9 to 11am Spring Bird Walk

Spring brings more than 25 different songbirds to join the many year-round resident birds at Smith and Bybee Lakes Wildlife Area. It will focus on how to identify the birds by sight and by their songs. Bring water and binoculars. Program is free but advance registration is necessary. Led by James Davis, Metro Naturalist. Call 797-1850, option 4.

#### Saturday, June 9, 12-1:30pm Turtle Walk

Few people have seen the turtles that live around Portland because they are rare, shy, and hard to find. Smith and Bybee may have the largest population in the Northwest of the colorful Western Painted Turtle. Come on the walk and get good looks at these beautiful reptiles and learn about the natural history of the species. Led by James Davis, Metro Naturalist. Call 797-1850, option 4 to register.

The **Columbia Slough Watershed Council** is now online with a new website for the Columbia Slough. It will contain information on the watershed council, recreational information, self-guided tours, images of the watershed, a calendar of events, and links to other relevant sites. The website is located at [www.columbiaslough.org](http://www.columbiaslough.org).



training as a geologist and professor to the Council.

The **Columbia Slough Watershed Council** would like to thank Marv Welt for his more than four years of service representing fishing interests on the council.

The **Columbia Slough Watershed Council** welcomes three new members this Spring. **Chad Honl** has filled the seat for Lower Slough Residential Property Owner. Chad grew up canoeing, fishing, and playing in the Slough and is currently acting on his love of the natural world as the Program Manager for Portland Neighborhoods of Friends of Trees. **Peggy Halferty** has joined the Council as the alternate for the East Portland Neighborhood Coalition. Peggy has also worked at DEQ and is currently the liaison to the Governor's Community Development Office. **Ellen Bishop** is the alternate for the Central North/Northeast Neighborhood coalition. She is heavily involved with the Concordia Neighborhood Association and is working to strengthen links between her Neighborhood Association and local schools. Ellen also brings her professional

He is an extremely active volunteer with NW Steelheaders and works with more than 20 schools through the "Help Our Salmon" Program. This OWEB grant, supported by the council, allowed Marv and many volunteers to teach about the life cycle of the salmon, raise fish in classrooms, and then release them in appropriate, local streams.

**Slough Art** - A wonderful show of local sloughs, wetlands, and river art was on display at the Froelich Gallery, 817 SW 2 Avenue in downtown Portland. Portland artist Barry Pelzner had 3 Columbia Slough and 2 Smith and Bybee Lakes pieces displayed. Don't forget your credit cards- these absolutely lovely pieces are priced starting at \$1000.00 each.

(Fairview *continued from pg 1*)

one site owned by a neighborhood association. The event was a symbol of the collaborative efforts taking place in the upper Columbia Slough Watershed. Project partners included City of Fairview, Interlachen Inc., Interlachen PUD, Fairview Lake Property Owners, City of Portland, Community Watershed Stewardship Program, and the Columbia Slough Watershed Council. Nearly 1,000 trees and shrubs were planted on the seven sites. A special thanks to Misty Schlegel for her work in organizing the event with the

City of Fairview and the many project partners in the upper watershed.

Thanks to all the volunteers who made these community based restoration events a tremendous success. I look forward to next years planting season.



EnviroCorps member Chris Corneille and volunteers examines Hockaday site plan



**Sat., May 19, 11:30-2:30pm; Big Pipe Party celebrating no more CSO's in Slough** at Columbia Boulevard Wastewater Treatment Plant, 5001 N. Columbia Blvd. Call Tim Hall at 503-823-2410 for more information.

**Sat., May 19, 8:30am-4pm; Smith and Bybee Lakes Day.** Come enjoy bird watching, journeying into wetlands and a paddle trip. Call 503-797-1733 for more information.

**Mon., May 21, 5-8pm; CSWC General Meeting** at Nabisco. Call 503-281-1132 for more information.

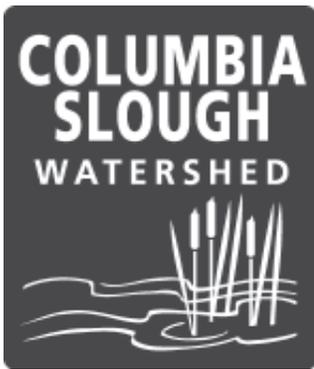
**Wed., May 30, 6-8pm; Canoe the Slough** at Whitaker Ponds, 7040 NE 47th. Call Joe Annett at 503-823-4513 to RSVP. Canoes provided.

**Sat., June 2, 9am-12pm; Canoe the Slough** at Whitaker Ponds, 7040 NE 47th Ave. Call CSWC at 503-281-1132 to RSVP. Canoes provided.

**Sun., June 3, 3-6pm; Kayak/Canoe the Lower Slough** at Kelley Point Park with Mike Houck and Linda Dobson. \$8 fee. Register with Portland Parks and Recreation at 503-823-5132.

**Mon., June 25, 5-8pm; CSWC General Meeting** at Nabisco. Call 503-281-1132 for more information.

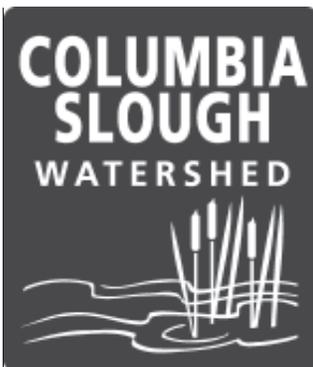
**Sun., July 29, 9am-1pm; 7th Annual Columbia Slough Small Craft Regatta** at St. Johns Landfill Boatramp. Contact Joe Annett at 503-823-4513 for more information.



*Columbia Slough  
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## Canoe the Slough *Free!*

**Bring the kids and neighbors, your boss and ball team - bring your own canoe - or ride in ours (they are linked together so they will not tip). Come see how Whitaker Ponds is changing with improvements, cleanup and planting. And enjoy the wildlife and waterway accessible only from this area!**

**May 30 (Wednesday ) 6:00pm-8:00 pm  
June 2 ( Saturday ) 9:00am-noon**

**Whitaker Ponds Learning Center  
7040 NE 47th Avenue**

**Register Please:** [jannett@ci.portland.or.us](mailto:jannett@ci.portland.or.us) or (503)823-4513

**Sponsors:** *Bureau of Environmental Services, Columbia Slough Watershed Council, ONI*

**Space is limited:** Register early!!

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.