



Summer 2001

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## Make a difference with clean, renewable energy

*By Kelly Rodgers, Portland General Electric*

With concerns about energy supplies and global warming in the news every day, we're all looking for ways to make a difference. Besides conserving energy at home and at work, you can do your part by signing up for renewable energy through Portland General Electric (PGE).

If you're a PGE customer, you can help protect our natural resources and reduce pollution with PGE's renewable power options: Clean Wind or Salmon-Friendly Power\*. Both options help reduce our dependence on coal and natural gas power plants, decrease the emission of greenhouse gases, and slow the effects of global warming.

Approximately 5,000 residential and commercial customers have already signed up to participate. For as little as \$5 a month, they are helping to build new wind turbines, support the purchase of approximately 1 megawatt of renewable power annually and re-

store salmon habitat. What's more, we're avoiding more than 830,000 pounds of carbon dioxide emissions that would be generated by fossil fuel plants – the same environmental benefit as not driving a car more than 12 million miles.

Where does the money go? When you choose Clean Wind, your charge supports construction of new wind power facilities in the Northwest. When you select Salmon-Friendly Power, one half of the charge is used for salmon habitat restoration. The remaining half supports the construction of new wind facilities.

You can be a part of the solution, too. To sign up, visit Portland General Electric's Web site at [www.PortlandGeneral.com](http://www.PortlandGeneral.com) or

call PGE Customer Service at (503) 228-6322. Then just choose Clean Wind and/or Salmon-Friendly Power and the number of \$5 "blocks" you want added to your PGE bill each month. Each block represents 100 kilowatt-hours of electricity – about enough to run a refrigerator for one month.

*\*Salmon-Friendly Power is a certification mark of the Pacific Salmon Watershed Fund.*



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## Stewardship Program recognizes Slough Super Stewards

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



Amber Marra and Laura Perkins address the Stewardship Awards banquet at PSU.

At a May 22 reception at Portland State University, the Community Watershed Stewardship Program recognized several super stewards from Portland's watersheds. These stewards represent a diversity of constituents, from government agencies and watershed councils, to

schools and neighborhoods. They were thanked and acknowledged for their commitment to watershed conservation, protection and restoration. The reception served to recognize and celebrate the partnerships and successes throughout the year working with the Community Watershed Stewardship Program. (Stewards *continued on page 5*)

## Slough Designated as Last Chance Landscape *by BES Columbia Slough Team*

The Bureau of Environmental Services has nominated the Columbia Slough as a *Last Chance Landscape*, a designation given by Scenic America. Scenic America is a national, non-profit organization dedicated to protecting the natural beauty and distinctive character of communities in the United States. Each year they select 10 locations throughout the U.S. to receive the *Last Chance Landscape* designation, meaning that the beauty

and uniqueness of the landscape is in some way threatened.

We are hoping that selection of the Columbia Slough as a *Last Chance Landscape* will significantly help to change people's perceptions of the Slough. It will add momentum to the effort to show people that this waterway is in fact a haven for wildlife and humans. Bringing a national designation to the area would

encourage those advocates within our community to continue to fight to save the Slough and intrigue those who can become involved in future efforts to enjoy this urban oasis. We anticipate this designation will capture the attention of our City Council, local media and residents. We are working to obtain grants for education and revegetation and anticipate this designation will help us obtain fund-

ing. Finally we anticipate this designation will boost the spirits of both long-time and new Slough fans.

The nomination was submitted June 1<sup>st</sup>, and we should hear whether we have received the designation by this Fall. Keep your fingers crossed!

## Radio Towers and Wetland Powers : A review of Wetlands 101 *by Sarah Murphy*

One chilly, gray morning in April a rough and tumble group gathered at the Radio Towers wetland mitigation site to get dirty and get informed. The field trip was part of Wetlands 101: a fun, free workshop put on by the Columbia Slough Watershed Council that included an evening of presentations prior to the field trip. The class brought together 58 eager and varied peers including soil scientists, real estate developers, consultants, teachers, and interested neighbors. The class was led by knowledgeable wetland professionals including: Yvonne Vallette of EPA, Michelle Michaud of the Port of Portland, Mark Vlahakis of Fishman Environmental Services, and the Council's own

Gail Shaloum, a landscape architect and consultant with URS. The evening class was a fast paced information jam session about basic wetland ecology and regulation information and was highlighted by a field trip to the Port of Portland's wetland mitigation site at Radio Towers.

The Radio Towers site is located in North Portland near I-5 and the Portland Expo Center. Until December, the site was home to two 625-foot tall radio broadcasting towers. The Port of Portland bought the site to use for a wetland mitigation project. Since winter the site has been changing dramatically. The site has been partially flooded to control reed canary grass and has be-

come a haven for a variety of birds. Over the coming years the Port of Portland will continue to work on the site to enhance both wetland and upland habitat.

The Radio Towers site provided our Wetlands 101 class with an excellent outdoor laboratory for looking at different wetland soil type and hydrology. The Columbia Slough Watershed

Council would like to thank all of the students and teachers of Wetlands 101.



Mark Vlahakis (bottom left) examining wetland soils with participants at Wetlands 101 workshop.

## Citizen Involvement in the upper Columbia Slough Watershed *by Sarah Murphy*

Things are changing in our watershed. Today this 40,000-acre watershed contains 24,000 homes, 3,000 businesses, and supports 1/10 of all of the jobs in Oregon. And it is growing. With growth comes the question, how can we preserve the natural world that we love and simultaneously allow for the development of new homes, businesses, and roadways?

Columbia Slough Watershed Council member and long-time land use activist, Jane Graybill has been compelled for the last

12 years to work for the protection of land in her neighborhood. As a resident of Interlachen in Fairview, she has seen the development in the watershed creeping closer to her home at Fairview Lake. In an effort to understand the logic of development, she found a hive of planning and land use controversies. Jane began to notice that things in her neighborhood "didn't seem right". When a development of mobile homes was placed dangerously close to railroad tracks that had been the site of a train derailing, Jane began

asking questions. And more questions.

In a state where the first Land Use Goal is citizen involvement, Jane encourages concerned citizens to ask questions of their local governments and officials. And then ask more questions. In a battle to protect the things we love, we cannot expect that someone else will do the work for us. We are responsible for shaping our neighborhoods, watersheds, and cities.

Concerned about the shape of

your neighborhood? A good first place to start is with your neighborhood or business association.

In Portland, call the Office of Neighborhood Involvement at 503-823-4519 for a list of neighborhood involvement contacts.

In Gresham, call the Planner on duty at 503-618-2780.

In Fairview, call the Community Development Department 503-674-6206.

## Message from the Coordinator *by Jay Mower*

The federal AmeriCorps program provides a big benefit to the watershed council. This year's AmeriCorps member concludes his service at the end of July and we wish to thank him, along with the City of Portland's Bureau of Environmental Services, which sponsored the position. Ry Thompson is a multifaceted Renaissance man. He is as competent at the computer as he is in the field or in a meeting. Ry is an impressive naturalist and guide. He is a sponge for information, learning scores of birds and plants and watershed facts. For example, he volunteered for this year's Birdathon to raise money for the Audubon Society of Portland and won a prize for the rookie category. During his 11 month stint in the Columbia Slough watershed Ry has worked with nearly 1,000 youth, both in the classroom and in field trip activities. "Ry is universally adored by all the students he worked with," said Jennifer Devlin, watershed educator for BES. Ry helped coordinate the planting of 3,500 native trees and shrubs in the watershed. He organized a large community planting event at Fairview Lake



Ry Thompson (left) recognizes Jay Mower for his contributions to the watershed at the Community Watershed Stewardship Program's End of the Year Celebration at PSU's Urban Studies building.

at the eastern end of the Slough (the first planting was organized by Ry's predecessor). Ry coordinated "Muddy Waters," a full-day workshop about ecological restoration designed for educators, implementers, government employees and professionals. He assisted with adult education workshops and events. He participated in monthly watershed council general meetings. Another important project Ry worked on is the quarterly newsletter, which Ry edited and produced – no small task. I asked Ry what he learned over the past year. He said, "I had a solid understanding of what I wanted to do for the year: encourage community stewardship of the Columbia Slough Watershed. I now have a better understanding of the various interactions between government, non-profits, and con-

sultants in the work of watershed protection, conservation, restoration and education. I learned that there are an infinite number of paths that will help us get to the goal." Thank you, Ry!

### Bridge Project to improve Whitaker Slough

During the spring, summer, and fall, algal blooms in Whitaker Slough contribute to exceedances of water quality criteria for dissolved oxygen and pH. Additionally, the density of the algal mats makes canoeing and kayaking difficult. To improve water quality, the City of Portland Bureau of Environmental Services and Department of Transportation partnered to remove the culverts located under NE 47<sup>th</sup> Avenue and build a bridge.



Two of the three culverts are crushed and the third is too small to allow enough water to pass through. As a result the water backs up behind the culverts. With the new bridge, more water will be able to flow under 47<sup>th</sup> Avenue, thus reducing algal blooms and improving water quality. The bridge will allow canoe and kayak access to 10 miles of the Columbia Slough.

NE 47<sup>th</sup> Avenue will be closed until November 15th. During excavation and bridge construction it will be unsafe for pedestrians to use NE 47<sup>th</sup> Avenue to cross the Whitaker Slough. Whitaker Ponds, home of Watershed Council office and nature center, remains accessible throughout the road closure period. Construction will take place from mid-July until mid-November. If you have any question regarding the project, please call Brett Kesterson at (503) 823-7163.

### 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.

Similarly, the **Columbia Slough Monitoring Program** is seeking a few volunteers to paddle a reach of the Columbia Slough bi-monthly to look for illicit discharges and dumping, wildlife, human activity on the Slough and other observations. If interested, please contact Troy Clark at 503-249-0842 or [brillobrain@ureach.com](mailto:brillobrain@ureach.com).



**Sun., July 15, 10-4pm; Metro Gardens of Natural Delight Tour** at more than 20 gardens throughout the Metro area. Call Genya Arnold at 503-805-3034 for more information.

**Wed., July 18, 6-7:30pm; Soup on the Slough** at Whitaker Ponds, 7040 NE 47th. Ave. Call Joe Annett at 503-823-4513 to RSVP.

**Mon., July 23, 4:30-8:30pm; CSWC General Meeting and Field Trip.** Call 503-281-1132 for more information.

**Sun., July 29, 9am-1pm; 7th Annual Columbia Slough Small Craft Regatta** at St. Johns Landfill Boatramp, 9363 N. Columbia Blvd. Contact Joe Annett at 503-823-4513 for more information.

**Sat., Aug 4 and Sun., Aug 5; "Jammin for Salmon" Festival** at Waterfront Park. Contact the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission at 503-238-0667 for more info.

**Sun., Aug 5, and Sat., Sept 8; Stewardship Days** at Smith and Bybee Lakes. Call 503-797-1850, option 8 to register.

**Sun., Aug 19, 7pm; Oregon Symphony Concert** at Knott Park, NE 112th and Sacramento St. (FREE). Park activities begin at 3pm. Call Kristin Knapp at 503-233-1206 for more information.

**Sun., Aug 26, 7pm; Oregon Symphony Concert** at Kenton Park, N. Brandon Ave. between N. Kilpatrick and Argyle St. (FREE). Park activities begin at 3pm. Call Kristin Knapp at 503-233-1206 for more information.

## Jerry Rust, Council Member and Slough Recreation Advocate

Jerry Rust- businessman, longtime politician and ardent recreation advocate comes downstream to the Columbia Slough Watershed Council to continuing a long public / civic career begun in Lane County. A passionate advocate for public recreation opportunities, Jerry maintains that he has never seen a recreation amenity as underdeveloped, under-appreciated, and under-accessed as the Columbia Slough— "It's a conundrum and a challenge."

As Lane County commissioner for 20 years, Mr. Rust was actively involved in numerous land-use and human resource issues. He also mounted a campaign for governor in 1982.



Jerry Rust (right) discussing possible canoe launches with Metro Councillor Carl Hosticka during a recent fieldtrip around Kenton Cove.

Willamette Province Advisory Committee (WPAC) the organization overseeing the implementation of the Northwest Forest Plan to which he brings a special interest in water and forest thinning issues.

In the 1990's Jerry helped found the Native Yew Conservation Council, a group dedicated to preserving Oregon's native yew trees. Recently returned from China, Mr. Rust visited Asia's largest greenhouse (used to grown millions of yew trees for production of taxol.) His interests extend to complex conservation issues, information exchanges, ecological reconstruction and reforestation, erosion control, technology transfer and the possibilities of business stimulation in both countries.

Boat crazy and dinghy! Jerry admits that he is "in recovery"- from a boat buying bug. Rumor has it that Jerry's personal fleet numbers less than 10 with boats available to stimulate thinking about ecotourism and green assets, jobs and opportunities.... and they are an excuse to play in the water ( Jerry has 3 kids and 4 grandkids).

Jerry is convinced that the Slough should - and will - provide recreational access for thousands of neighbors, residents. And that ecotourism at a local scale can bring multiple benefits. It's Jerry's goal to move people, programs and dollars towards these goals.



Jerry is also the founder of the Hoedads Inc, a tree-planting cooperative. The 3000 members of the labor co-op celebrate its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary this August. Jerry personally planted half a million trees in 5 years- so he has a huge appreciation for the issues related to ecological and forest health. Jerry is an appointed a citizen member of the

The **Columbia Slough Watershed Council** would like to thank member **Peggy Halferty** for her submission to the East Portland Neighborhood News on behalf of the Council. Her article defined the term watershed, and then detailed the watersheds of East Portland including Johnson Creek, the Columbia Slough, and the Willamette. Thanks Peggy!

The **Columbia Slough Watershed Council** would like to thank **Sarah Murphy** for her hard work and dedication to the Watershed Council during the last year. She began as Program Assistant in October, 2000 and has worked part time on a number of important activities including: development of council member handbook and new council member orientation, creation of a watershed council flier, organization of adult education events including Wetlands 101 and Soup on the Slough, coordination of web-site development, and planning for the 7th Annual Regatta. Thanks Sarah for all of the hard work and dedication. Sarah will be leaving the Council in August due to the budget shortfall.

Volunteers are needed to help Metro **moni-**



**tor western painted turtles at Smith and Bybee Lakes Wildlife Area**, located in Portland, Oregon. The lakes are home to what may be the largest population of painted turtles in Oregon, and work is under way to determine their habitat needs and population status at the wildlife area. Volunteers can help Metro's biologist with live-trapping, nest searches, visual surveys and other field work. For more information, contact Lupine Hudson at 503-797-1733.

Columbia Slough Watershed Council member **Jerry Rust** was recently elected by Kenton neighborhood residents as the Chair of the Kenton Neighborhood Association. Congratulations Jerry for all the great work you are doing on behalf of the neighborhood and the Columbia Slough.

Know of anyone interested in **editing the Columbia Slough News**? Submit ideas and feedback on the Columbia Slough News to Sarah Murphy or Jay Mower. They can be reached at 503-281-1132 or [jay.mower@columbiaslough.org](mailto:jay.mower@columbiaslough.org) or [sarah.murphy@columbiaslough.org](mailto:sarah.murphy@columbiaslough.org).



**Mon., August 27, 5-8pm; CSWC General Meeting** at Nabisco. Call 503-281-1132 for more information.

**September 15 - October 21; Oregon Watershed Weeks.** Call Paul Heimowitz at 503-722-6718 for more information and a list of events.

**Mon., Sept 24, 5-8pm; CSWC General Meeting** at Nabisco. Call 503-281-1132 for more information.

**Sat., Oct 6, 9am-1pm; Whitaker Ponds Open House for Oregon Watershed Weeks** at 7040 NE 47th Ave. Call 503-281-1132 for more information.

(Stewards *continued from pg 1*)

For their commitment to the Columbia Slough Watershed, Ry Thompson recognized stewards from Open Meadow's CRUE program, Columbia Slough Monitoring Program, Office of Neighborhood Involvement, Oregon Humane Society, Hands Around Our Lakes Restoration Planting, and many more. Jay

Mower and Misty Schlegel were recognized and honored as super stewards for the year.

Jay Mower, Council Coordinator, was recognized for his long-standing commitment to the Columbia Slough Watershed Council and the conservation, protection and restoration of the watershed.

Jay has been the Council coordinator since 1996, and has been a dedicated watershed steward in his own neighborhood in Southwest Portland as well. Thanks Jay for all of your hard work and commitment to the Columbia Slough Watershed.



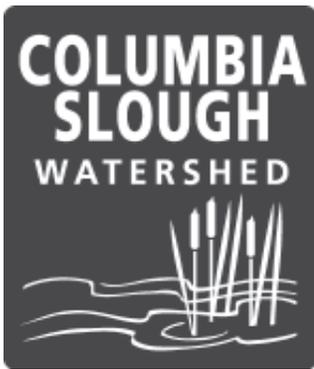
Mindy Correll (left), BES Slough Team, discusses community watershed stewardship with Stewardship Program Coordinators Jamae Hilliard-Creecy of BES and Barry Messer of PSU.



Misty Schlegel, watershed steward and Council member, being recognized for her commitment to revegetation around Fairview Lake.

Misty Schlegel, Fairview Lake Resident and Columbia Slough Watershed Council Member, was recognized for her commitment to the restoration and revegetation of the upper watershed. Misty Schlegel, a nurse by profession, spent many volunteer hours making phone calls, organizing meetings and talking to neighbors in preparation for the "Hands Around Our Lakes" planting day around Fairview Lake in February. She is a natu-

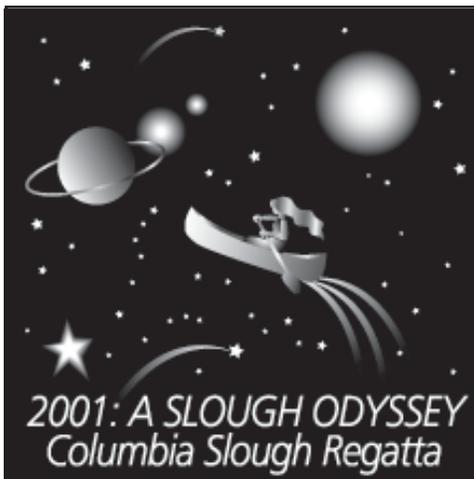
ral organizer and educator and has an energy level that can't be matched. Misty works closely with the City of Fairview in promoting watershed conservation and restoration and recently helped to create a video on riparian plantings. Thanks Misty for all of your hard work and dedication to the watershed.



*Columbia Slough  
Watershed Council*

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**Sunday, July 29**  
**9:00 am - 1:00 pm**  
*Free!*

**Bring the kids and neighbors, your boss and ball team. Bring your own canoe, or ride in ours. Come see the lower Columbia Slough and enjoy music, food, wildlife, and friends at the 7th Annual Regatta. Music by Zimba Marimba and local musicians throughout the day.**

**St. Johns Landfill Canoe Launch**  
**9363 N. Columbia Blvd.**  
**(located 4.5 miles west of I-5 across from Chimney Park)**

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

*Sponsors: Alder Creek Kayak & Canoe, Boeing Portland, Burgerville, Columbia Slough Watershed Council, Columbia Sportswear, Metro, Multnomah County Drainage District #1, Multnomah County Sheriff's Office, Office of Neighborhood Involvement, Port of Portland, and Sunkist*

**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 the coordinator, Jay Mower, at the CSWC office for more information.