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Award Winners Announced, Gala set for Jan 12!!

The Columbia Slough Watershed Council has announced the winners of its annual Awards Program for 2000. Recipients are nominated by the Council for their outstanding achievement in the Columbia Slough Watershed.

Leadership Award 2000

Troy Clark, President, Friends of Smith & Bybee Lakes

Jennifer Devlin, Education Specialist, Clean Rivers Program, Bureau of Environmental Services, City of Portland

Mike Houck, Urban Naturalist, Audubon Society of Portland

Anne Nickel, former Executive Director, Columbia Corridor Association

Achievement Award 2000

John Bentley, Skyport Properties of Oregon

Jane Graybill, Fairview Lake

citizen activist

Ned Hayes, Donor to Whitaker Ponds Natural Area

Mike Hess, Teacher, Park Rose High School

Leadership Awards:

Troy Clark, President, Friends of Smith & Bybee Lakes:

Troy Clark is a founding member of the Columbia Slough Watershed Council and long-time advocate for Smith & Bybee Lakes. In addition to many years of active recreation and advocacy for Smith and Bybee Lakes, Troy has recently organized a volunteer monitoring program called "Eyes on the Slough" in which community volunteers canoe the Slough to observe and monitor waterway conditions. Troy is an avid birder, canoeist,

ardent advocate for wetland protection, and the development of hiking, biking and paddling access for the public. Troy is also a member of the Lower Columbia River Estuary Program implementation committee. He has served on numerous land use review committees including Multnomah County's Jail siting process and the Marine Drive expansion in Rivergate. Troy's commitment to the Columbia Slough watershed is long lived and expansive.

Jennifer Devlin, Bureau of Environmental Services, City of Portland:

Jennifer Devlin is an Education Specialist with the City of Portland's Bureau of Environmental Services. Since joining
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Gresham Stormwater Division Receives \$75,845 Monitoring & Education Grant from OWEB *By Barb Adkins, City of Gresham*

The City of Gresham Stormwater Division applied for and has received a \$75,845 monitoring and education grant from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB). The grant project is entitled, "Fairview Creek/Columbia Slough TMDL Monitoring & Educational Project".

Fairview Creek and the Columbia Slough are currently listed on the state's list of im-

paired waterbodies. In 1998, the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) completed a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) analysis on the Columbia Slough. A TMDL defines the amount of pollution that can be present in the waterbody without causing water quality standards to be violated. Both Gresham and Fairview are permittees of a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination Sys-

tem (NPDES) Permit. As designated management agencies, they are required to implement water quality management plans to control identified sources of pollution and achieve the TMDL.

The project will collect water quality samples to assess pollutant sources and loadings for compliance with the Columbia Slough Total Maximum Daily
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Soup on the Slough: It's a recipe for success! By Susan Barthel, City of Portland

November's "Soup on the Slough" gatherings at Whitaker Ponds brought 28 participants to Whitaker Ponds. "Soup" is designed to bring a variety of community members together for informal food and conversation about the slough and the watershed community.

While each of the 5 events have differed, we have offered brief tours of the Whitaker Ponds Environmental Learning Center, looked at revegetation plantings, and observed the ecoroof shelter and stormwater treatment systems at the site.

The Watershed Council also uses the opportunity to enhance

networks and relationships while it briefly describes its programs and mission. Best of all the lunches create opportunities to create new acquaintances and friendships. The lunchtime gatherings are limited to 90 minutes to accommodate people's busy schedules.

Soup on the Slough heats up again on Thursday and Friday, February 1 & 2, 2001. Call Joe Annett at 503-823-4513 for more information.

Recycled Paint, Environmental Ed, and Whitaker Ponds By Paulette Rossi, Metro Recycled Paint

Jay Mower, Columbia Slough Watershed Council Coordinator likes to say, "Metro recycles Latex paint, but the Columbia Slough Watershed recycles derelict homes into a new use."

By using Metro's recycled off-white paint in 1996, the interior of an abandoned home was brightened and the Whitaker Ponds Environmental Learning Center was created.

The painting project, which at times had kids and Columbia Slough Watershed Council members painting side-by-side, was completed in the summer of 1999 with Miller Paints generous donation of exterior paint to match the Pond's logo.

The learning center is visited by over 3,000 school kids each year. Lessons on water quality are taught inside the home before the students do outside water sampling and field education.

The Whitaker Ponds Environmental Learning Center is just one example of Metro's Recycled Paint Project providing community benefit.

Without Metro's state-of-the-art latex paint re-blending facility, the high quality latex paint received at Metro's NW Portland and Oregon City household hazardous waste collection sites would be solidified for disposal at the Eastern Oregon Arlington landfill.

Metro's technicians use stringent methods to ensure only useable latex paint is rebled into nine attractive consistent colors.

Metro offers the paint to the general public and to businesses in 5 gallon buckets selling for \$25 for off-white and \$22 for other colors. Non-profits and government agencies may buy the paint in all colors for \$12 per 5 gallons. The paint, which contains a combination of glosses, acrylics and enamels, has a high pigment content and is comparable in quality to paint that retails for two and three times what Metro charges.

Customer's report the low-shine finish is durable. The paint has been brushed, rolled and sprayed on wood, metal and cinder block.

For information on the paint, call Metro Recycling Information at 503-234-3000, M-F, from 8:30-5:00pm. A color chart and fact sheet are also available from Metro.

Mudflats Bring Hope for Forest Habitat By Elaine Stewart, Smith and Bybee Lakes Manager, Metro

Last summer, the water level in Smith and Bybee lakes dropped to its lowest point in at least seven years. Most of the water loss was due to evaporation from the shallow lakes during the dry summer.

The low water levels had a variety of effects on wildlife. Much larger numbers of shorebirds were seen probing in the mudflats for food as they migrated through the area. Carp dominate the lakes' fish community, and carcasses of stranded carp were a common sight along the perimeter. Record numbers of fish-eating birds such as osprey, herons, and cormorants were seen, as fish were concentrated into smaller areas. Many

beavers retreated to the Columbia Slough where water was deeper.

The exposed mudflats quickly covered with lush plant growth from seeds that had lain dormant in the mud under the lakes. Beggars tick, sedge, smartweed, and dozens of other small plants were joined by cottonwood and ash seedlings. Some of the cottonwood seedlings grew more than four feet tall. The young trees' survival will depend on how quickly and deeply the lakes are filled with rainwater in winter, and whether the water recedes again in summer. Annual exposure of these mudflats would allow the forest to regenerate.

In addition to natural regeneration of wooded lake edges, many people are involved in tree planting activities. Metro has worked with the City of Portland and volunteers to plant more than 45,000 trees and shrubs at the lakes since 1996. Planting and management will continue these 65 acres, as well as an additional 280 acres.

For more information about volunteer opportunities at Smith and Bybee Lakes Wildlife Area, call Lupine Hudson at (503) 797-1850, option 8.

Upcoming Events:

Stewardship Days at Smith and Bybee Lakes - Jan 6 and Feb 4, 9-12pm. Call Lupine Hudson at 503-797-1850 x8.

Interlakes Trail Trip - Jan 7, 11-2pm. Call Jeff Kee at 503-240-0233 to register.

Smith and Bybee Lakes Paddle - Jan 14, 11am-2pm. Call Troy Clark at 503-249-0482 for more info.

Winter Birds at Smith and Bybee Lakes - Jan 20 and Feb 17, 9:30-11:30am. Free, but call 503-797-1850 x4 to reserve a space.

Coordinator's Message - Meeting with the Governor by Jay Mower

On October 25th Governor John A. Kitzhaber met in downtown Portland with watershed council representatives from the lower Willamette region, including five people from the Columbia Slough Watershed Council.

This was the Governor's last stop on a series of conversations he held with councils throughout the state. The governor was asking, "What's working? What's not?"

It was an excellent dialogue.

The atmosphere was relaxed, respectful and frank. The governor is a good listener and people felt free to share their perspectives.

Present were coordinators and members from Clackamas, Johnson Creek, Sandy, Tualatin, Yamhill, and Columbia Slough watershed councils; staff from Clackamas, East Multnomah, and Washington SWCDs; Geoff Huntington, OWEB director and Vivienne Torgeson, OWEB Willamette basin manager; Louise Solliday from the Governor's office; Deb Marriott, director of the Lower Columbia River Estuary Program; and staff from the City of Portland. Columbia Slough WC members present were: Susan Barthel, Chuck Harrison, Linda Robinson, Dorothy Sperry and coordinator, Jay Mower.

A week and a half later, on November 6th, the governor summarized the things he heard from all the regional meetings in his opening remarks at the joint

OWEB/OACD conference held in Eugene. He said he heard virtually the same thing at every regional gathering.

1. The importance of securing long-term, stable funding for watershed councils.
2. The ongoing need for technical assistance to councils.
3. The importance of celebrating our successes.
4. The need to simplify complex permitting processes required for watershed restoration projects.
5. The growing need for fiscal and business management training for watershed councils, which are like small businesses.

He said, "The work you are doing is critical to Oregon's economic, environmental, and social sustainability. Neither I nor any agencies can do what you have done."



Oregon Governor John Kitzhaber, M.D., and Jay Mower on the Willamette River following a meeting of watershed council leaders from the Lower Willamette.

What's outside this Season? (and a notice From Audubon's 1999 Christmas Bird

Count) By Ry Thompson, Comm. Watershed Stewardship Program and Jennifer Devlin, City of Portland, Environmental Services

If you are out on the golf course or walking your dog, you will notice many species of waterfowl settling into local ponds and the Slough for the winter.

Seems like we have many kinds of ducks out there, how many species do we have?

We have about eighteen species, most of the females look different than males, so it may appear as if there are thirty or more kinds of waterfowl out there.

What are the waterfowl doing and what are they finding to eat this time of year?

Many eat fish, some eat aquatic vegetation and the tiny water shrimp and insects that are hang-

ing on to the plants. The healthier the water is, the more they have to eat. As far as what they are doing and thinking about, they are hanging out together hoping that hungry Bald Eagles will eat the duck on the OTHER edge of the group.

So what are some of these ducks and why are they collecting here now?

Most of the ducks winter here, as we are south of their breeding territory in Canada and Alaska. Our ducks are species such as Northern Pintail, Ruddy Duck, American Widgeon, Ring-neck Duck, Bufflehead and Hood Mergansers.

So, do all ducks quack?

Only the Mallard and Gadwall make the "Brack, brack, brack, brack" sound. My favorite duck sound is the American Widgeon, which says "Whip wheep wheep, whip wheep wheep"

Not only are the many ducks in the Columbia Slough watershed during the winter months, there will also be large numbers of bird watchers (or birders) out on December 30. They will be participating in Audubon Society's 101st Christmas Bird Count.

The Christmas Bird Count Movement started in 1900 as a protest to the traditional indiscriminate hunts of any feathered creature. The movement has grown worldwide with over 40,000 participants helping out.

We Need Your Help! You do not have to be an elite birder to count. We need people to drive, to tally, and to yell "hey, there's a bird." While some parts of the Portland count circle have been traditionally well-covered, the other two counts and the northeastern part of the Portland count have been under-covered. Given the importance of the habitats in these areas, we need more counters.

To get involved in the Columbia Riparian Count on Dec. 30, contact John Lawes at 503-238-0745 or camgco32@earthlink.net



Sat., Jan. 6, 2001; 9-noon
Stewardship Day at Smith and Bybee Lakes. Call Lupine Hudson at 503-797-1850 option 8 for more information.

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

Mon., Jan. 8; 5:00-6:30pm
CSWC New Member Orientation at Whitaker Ponds, 7040 NE 47th Ave. Call 503-281-1132.

Fri., Jan. 12; 6:00-8:30pm
CSWC Awards Dinner and Celebration at Northstar Ballroom, 635 N. Killingsworth Ct. call 503-281-1132 to RSVP

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

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

Th./Fri., Feb 1&2; 11:30 - 1pm
Soup on the Slough at Whitaker Ponds, 7040 NE 47th. Ave. Call 503-823-4513 for more information.

Sun., Feb. 4, 2001; 9-noon
Stewardship Day at Smith and Bybee Lakes. Call Lupine Hudson at 503-797-1850 option 8 for more info.

(Awards continued from page 1)
the Bureau in 1997 Jennifer has conducted environmental outreach to over 40,000 students and community members throughout the Columbia Slough watershed. Jennifer teaches in classrooms, assembly programs, and hands-on field trips at the Whitaker Ponds natural area and at the Columbia Slough. Because of Jennifer's work a new generation of young people will better understand the concepts of watershed, water quality, water pollution, stewardship, and restoration. Jennifer is a fantastic networker, enrolling kids, teens, parents, teachers, and community members in environmental education and restoration efforts.

Mike Houck, Urban Naturalist, Audubon Society of Portland:

Mike Houck has devoted the past 20 years to protection of what he calls the urban "greeninfrastructure". A founding member of the Columbia Slough Watershed Council, Mike has led countless tours of the Columbia Slough watershed by foot, water and bike. Mr. Houck was the chief writer of a popular comprehensive brochure about the Columbia Slough and its amenities. Mr. Houck was instrumental in the Metro Greenspaces Program and the development of the successful Bond Measure to purchase metropolitan area natural areas. In addition he serves on numerous national, state and local committees. Most recently Houck co-edited, *Wild in the City* a visitors guide and collection of essays about the Portland areas wild spaces and their inhabitants. Mike Houck is a unique combination of advocate, watchdog, writer, conservationist, pragmatist, wildlife expert and politician.

Anne Nickel, former Executive Director, Columbia Corridor Association:

Anne Nickel, who headed the Columbia Corridor Association for nine years was a founding member of the Columbia Slough Watershed Council. Anne is committed to finding ways to collaborate while finding solutions for difficult environmental and economic issues. Ms. Nickel's support of the Slough watershed revegetation program jump-started this successful public private partnership within the business community. Anne's determination to recruit and support and encourage business people to be involved in the Council's work, education and events has brought a wide range of views, opinion and expertise to the Council and community!

Achievement Awards:

John Bentley, Skyport Properties, is recognized for revegetating 3500 feet of streambank and designing commercial property with a view of the Slough.

Jane Graybill, Fairview Lake resident, is recognized for her work on upper watershed issues and the recent Fairview Lake fish summit.

Ned Hayes, Donor, is recognized for his land donation to the Whitaker Ponds Natural Area.

Mike Hess, Teacher, is recognized for his development of a native plants nursery and outstanding ecology program at Parkrose H.S

Presentations: A special Awards Dinner and Celebration will be held Friday, January 12, 2001 from 6:00 - 8:30 PM, NORTH STAR BALLROOM, 635 N Killingsworth Court, Portland, Oregon.



The **Center for Columbia River History** is online with new and expanded information on the Columbia Slough, the Port, and its residents through archived photos, documents, maps, aerial photos, and oral histories. The website is located at www.ccrh.org.



The **Columbia Slough Watershed Council** welcomes four new members. **Jerry Rust** is the Neighborhood Coalition Representative from North Portland. He lives in the Kenton neighborhood, and is very active in trying to get more public recreational access to the Slough. **Evelyn Anton** will fill a Business Representative seat. She works as a community investor for The Boeing Company, and is also involved with the Columbia Corridor Association. **Gail Shaloum** is a Middle Slough Residential Property Owner Representative. In addition to living in the watershed, Gail brings her experience as a consultant in wetland mitigation, erosion control, and Storm Water Best Management Practices planning and design to the Council. **Paul Trone** will fill the Environmental Representative for Hydrology Seat. He works with AMEC Earth and Environmental Inc., a consulting firm with several clients in the Watershed.

The **Columbia Slough Watershed Council** welcomes a new staff person to the office. **Sarah Murphy** is a recent college graduate from Cornell University in Ithaca, NY where she studied international development and environmental studies. Sarah will be helping out on many projects for the Watershed Council.

The new **Pollution Reduction Facility (PRF)** at Whitaker Ponds is now online and operating effectively. The vault and three infiltration / storage ponds will help to infiltrate and clean the stormwater from 12 ac of Columbia Blvd. before entering Whitaker Pond West.

The **Big Pipe** in the Columbia Slough Watershed is now online. It stores stormwater and sewage (that otherwise would have entered the Columbia Slough) until the treatment plant is ready to treat it. Thanks, BES for removing Combined Sewer Overflows (CSO's) from the Slough.

(Gresham continued from pg 1)

Load (TMDL) regulations. Both instream and outfall monitoring data will be collected to augment existing data, isolate problem drainages, and identify source controls and best management practices.

Teachers from several local schools will be trained by staff from the Student Watershed Research Project (SWRP) a program of the Oregon Graduate Institute. The trained teachers and their students will assist the City of Gresham in obtaining water quality samples. Biological (macro-invertebrate) sampling will also be conducted along with water quality (chemical) samples to assess Fairview Creek's overall health and biological integrity. Educational materials will be produced which will aid watershed residents in understanding and taking ownership responsibility for their wa-

tershed. The Watershed Council and Watershed Enhancement Group will design a survey to be mailed out asking watershed residents about their knowledge and impression of the health, pollution problems, and potential impacts to and solutions for improving the waterbodies within the watershed. Watershed signs will be developed and installed alerting motorists that they have entered the Fairview Creek and Columbia Slough watersheds. Storm drain curb markers (in English and Spanish) will also be permanently installed warning residents to not dump wastes to Fairview Cr. or the Columbia Slough.

The following agencies and groups have agreed to help sponsor and participate in this project: City of Fairview, Oregon Graduate Institute (SWRP), Fairview Watershed Enhancement Group,

Multnomah County, Boeing Corp., LSI, Fujitsu, and the Columbia Slough Watershed Council. The project is expected to begin in January 2001 and be completed by June 30, 2002.

For more information, contact Barbara Adkins, City of Gresham, Stormwater Division, at 503-618-2405 or adkins@ci.gresham.or.us



Sat., Feb. 17; 9-12pm
Restoration Planting with SOLV at Whitaker Ponds. Call 503-823-7753 for more info.

Sat., Feb. 24; 9-12pm
Restoration Planting at Fairview Lake. Meet at Interlachen Gazebo Park, 21230 NE Interlachen Lane. Call 503-823-7753 for more information

Sat., Feb. 24; 8-12pm
Naturescaping Workshop at Home and Garden Show, Expo Center. Call 503-797-1842 to register.

Mon., Feb. 26; 5-8pm
CSWC General Meeting at Nabisco. Call 503-281-1132 for more information.

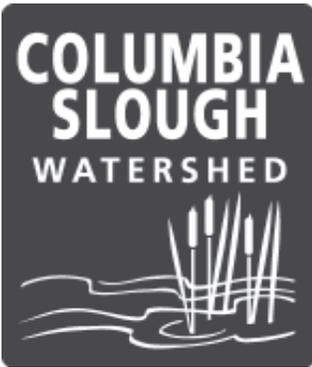
Sat., March 10; 9-1pm
Naturescaping Workshop at Albina Youth Opportunity School. Call 503-797-1842 to register.

Sat., March 10; 9-1pm
Slough 101 at PPL, 7544 NE 33rd Drive. Call 503-281-1132 for more information.

Mon., March 26; 5-8pm
CSWC General meeting at Nabisco. Call 503-281-1132 for more information.

Thur., April 12;
Wetlands 101. Time and location to be announced. Call 503-281-1132 for more information.

Sat., April 14;
Wetlands Tour. Time and location to be announced. Call 503-281-1132 for more information.



*Columbia Slough
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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.

The long awaited *Wild in the City* is now available in stores and includes 13 sites in the watershed.
