



SLOUGH NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE COLUMBIA SLOUGH WATERSHED COUNCIL

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COLD AND RAINY: A FORECAST FOR REVEGETATION

Contributors: Lynn Barlow and Markelle Smith

Planting trees and shrubs in the cold Northwest winters? Sounds like bum advice from an age old Farmer's Almanac. Truth is that it works. In fact, trees and shrubs actually thrive when planted during winter. Native plants are adapted to the climate of this region and are dormant in winter. Planting during this season prevents the initial shock of being put in the ground. Planting in the middle of the rainy winter also ensures that there will be enough soil moisture for good plant establishment.

More than ninety-five percent of the trees and shrubs that the City of Portland's Watershed Revegetation Program plant during the winter planting season of January through March are bare root. Unlike container plants, bare root trees and shrubs are sold in bags of hundreds. Once removed from the bag, an individual plant looks naked or bare, with its roots exposed. Bare root plants are both less expensive and easier to store and transport. Also, bare root plants don't require pots or soil and therefore generate less waste.

Plant material is relatively inexpensive for the Watershed Revegetation Program, and therefore they can plant densely, approximately 2000 trees and shrubs per acre. Even with some mortality expected, a healthy stocking rate at the end of a five-year project can be achieved.

Environmental Services' Revegetation Program will be working on several projects in the Columbia Slough this planting season:

- 1 43.5 acres in Smith and Bybee Lakes Wildlife Area on Port of Portland property
- 1 12.2 acres at Johnson Lake
- 1 1 acre at the new 47th Ave. bridge
- 1 Approximately 50 acres on private property throughout the Slough

To learn more about Environmental Services' Revegetation Program logon to www.cleanrivers-pdx.org/clean_rivers/watershed_revegetation.htm.

Lynn Barlow is the revegetation projects manager in the Columbia Slough watershed for the Bureau of Environmental Services' Watershed Revegetation Program.



Bare root western red cedar

COLUMBIA SLOUGH WATERSHED ACTION PLAN

Contributors: Susan Barthel and Frank Groznik

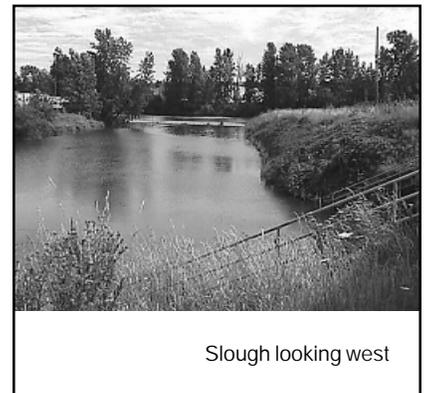
The Columbia Slough Watershed Council is working on an Action Plan to address environmental quality issues in the Slough and to identify ways to achieve its recently adopted vision statement: "An urban watershed rich in healthy habitat and clean water that supports the needs of fish, plants, wildlife, and people."

The Action Plan will map out a strategy to identify watershed issues as well as strategies and projects that address these issues. The Action Plan will also be used as a tool to find potential partners and funding sources and will be a resource for stakeholders in the watershed. These stakeholders include OWEB (Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board), the Watershed Council, landowners, potential partners and funders. These groups can then use the Action Plan to identify and prioritize their resources and efforts.

The Action Plan is actually three separate projects the Council is undertaking simultaneously. It includes a DEQ 319 water quality improvement grant, an EPA grant, and OWEB Action Plan. The Action Plan will identify and prioritize both short-term and long-term projects that the Council wants to see implemented in the next two to fifteen years. This is the first Action Plan dealing with an urban watershed and therefore, presents some unique challenges.

There are three major stages of the process. First, is to collect existing information on the watershed, including reports, photos, etc. Then compile an annotated bibliography and make this available to people in the watershed. Second, is to solicit information on potential projects. Third, is to select criteria that will enable ranking of those projects, i.e. a cost-benefit analysis. After that, funding sources will be identified, and project implementation can begin. We have also scheduled six separate meetings for public input, three with property owners in the Slough and three with interested parties.

The project is directed by the Council's Technical Committee with Susan Barthel and Dorothy Sperry as volunteer project managers. The Council hired LimnoTech to develop the project. Frank Groznik leads a team of consultants that also includes staff from Fishman Environmental Services, Metropolitan Group, GeoEngineers. The Plan will be finished in 14 months, by May of 2003



Slough looking west

HOT NEWS!

COLUMBIASLOUGH.ORG

Check out the new Watershed Council website at www.columbiaslough.org. The website includes a calendar of upcoming events, Council meeting agendas and minutes, and general information about the Columbia Slough.

SLOUGH HISTORY ON THE WEB

An innovative internet exhibit of Columbia Slough history is now online. Portland State University and the Center for Columbia River History partnered to compile histories of eight Columbia River Basin communities. Visit the Slough section at www.ccrh.org/comm/slough/main.htm.

RADIO TOWERS ONLINE

The Port of Portland has launched a new interactive Internet-based exhibit describing the unique history of what was known for many years as the Radio Towers site. The new website highlights an historical account of the property's transformation from farmland to radio transmission facility to its current status as a Port-owned wetland mitigation site. To visit the Port's Radio Towers website, log on to www.radiotowersite.com.

COORDINATOR'S MESSAGE by Jay Mower WATERSHED COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS, 2001

Here is a re-cap of Council and Watershed accomplishments for the past year. During 2001 several longstanding Council goals were implemented, including: producing a Council Members' handbook; producing a brochure about the Council; and developing a new CSWC Website: www.columbiaslough.org. The Website contains general information about the Slough, a calendar of upcoming events, and Council meeting agendas and minutes. In the future it will contain the Watershed Action Plan, now under development.

In January 2001 we held our second annual awards celebration to honor eight recipients for their leadership and achievements in the watershed; 76 attendees. In March we held a workshop: Slough 101: Rains, Drains, and City Streams; 47 attendees. In April we held our first-ever workshop about wetland fundamentals, Wetlands 101, an information-packed evening class followed by a weekend field trip to a wetland; 56 attendees. In May and June we held two Canoe the Slough outings. Then there is our innovative program called Soup on the Slough where we invite 18-20 people to the Whitaker Ponds natural area (and home to the CSWC office) for a short tour, lunch, and brief discussion. Co-produced by the City of Portland BES, this is geared to acquaint businesses, neighbors, and interested parties with the Slough, Whitaker Ponds and the Watershed Council. We held six events with a total of 102 attendees.

In July 2001 the Seventh Annual Columbia Slough Small Craft Regatta brought out 300 paddlers. This year's T-shirt theme played off the famous movie title: "2001 A Slough Odyssey." It was the first time we had live music at the regatta, with Zimba Marimba. Key sponsors continue to be Multnomah Drainage District,

the Port of Portland, Multnomah County Inverness Jail, the City of Portland BES, and Alder Creek Canoe & Kayak.

You may be interested to know how the CSWC is funded. The bulk of funding is from grants we apply for from OWEB, the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, a State agency, followed by grants from the City of Portland, the Port of Portland, and the Multnomah Drainage District. The East Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District is the fiscal agent for the Council. Smaller donations are made by individuals and businesses. We received an OWEB Action Plan grant to produce a comprehensive watershed action plan. The Action Plan will be completed by March 2003.

The CSWC occasionally becomes involved in land use review activities. Two examples: the Council had a positive influence on a wetland/fill proposal by Columbia Steel Casting Company; and the Council, working with the Port, convened a key group of interested agency people and stakeholders to review implementation plans for the Radio Towers mitigation site. The forum was helpful in fine-tuning the design and getting further buy-in by all parties.

In early 2001 the City of Portland Bureau of Environmental Services completed on time and under budget the Columbia Slough Consolidated Conduit Project – otherwise known as the Big Pipe Project. The Big Pipe Project now captures all 13 Combined Sewer Overflow outfalls into the Slough and sends the mixture of stormwater and sewage to the Columbia Boulevard Wastewater Treatment Plant for treatment. This means that for the first time in over 100 years



there is no sewage in the Slough. This is a major accomplishment. Also, the Port of Portland completed a major component of its deicing stormwater management strategy. A new reservoir was completed off of NE Cornfoot Road that will capture and treat deicing-laden stormwater from the airport before it enters the Slough. This is also another major accomplishment.

Construction on a new bridge over 47th Avenue in front of Whitaker Ponds was completed. This project improves water quality, water flow and public canoeing access by replacing collapsing old culverts. The Council helped nudge crucial funding decision-makers forward to do this project.

As you can see, through a combination of large scale government projects, public education and involvement, and the efforts by numerous businesses, landowners and homeowners in the community, the Columbia Slough watershed continues to improve. Keep up the good work.



CWSC Coordinator- Jay Mower

**UPCOMING
EVENTS**



**PLANTING THE PENINSULA
CROSSING TRAIL**

Saturday, February 9th,
9am-12pm at the Columbia
Boulevard Wastewater
Treatment Plant. Call Markelle
Smith at 503-823-7753 to
register.

**HANDS AROUND OUR
LAKES PLANTING EVENT:**

Saturday, February 23rd,
9am-12pm at Lakeshore Park.
Call Rick Rothat 503-674-6251
for more information and to
register.

CSWC GENERAL MEETING:

Monday, February 25,
5pm-8pm at Nabisco. Call the
Watershed Council at 503-
281-1132 for more information.

SLOUGH 101 WORKSHOP:

Saturday, March 2,
9am-1pm at Pacific Power
Operations Center, 7544 NE
33rd Ave. Call the Watershed
Council at 503-281-1132 for
more information.

CSWC GENERAL MEETING

Monday, March 25,
5pm-8pm at Nabisco. Call the
Watershed Council at 503-
281-1132 for more information.

CANOE THE SLOUGH

Saturday, April 13,
9am-12pm at the St. Johns
Landfill boat launch, 9363 N.
Columbia Blvd. Call the
Watershed Council at
503-281-1132 to RSVP.

SOUP ON THE SLOUGH

Thursday and Friday,
April 25 & 26, 11:30am-1pm
at Whitaker Ponds, 7040 NE
47th Ave. Call Joe Annett at
503-823-4513 for invitations.

3rd Annual Columbia Slough Watershed Council Awards Celebration: A Night to Remember ~by Markelle Smith

Who could forget the Topsy Carps & the Sloughettes belting out 'Channel of Love' and award winner Linda Robinson with her many attributes hanging around her neck? And what about the unique centerpieces on each table representing plants and animals you might see in the Columbia Slough watershed? And who was that singing lady with the feather boa?

More than 150 supporters of the Columbia Slough came to the North Star Ballroom on Friday, January 11 to celebrate the accomplishments of eight people and projects who have led the community in the protection and enhancement of the Columbia Slough watershed.

The 2001 Leadership Award Winners honored for their long term efforts to improve the Columbia Slough are: David Eatwell for founding the Annual Columbia Slough Small Craft Regatta; Donna Hempstead for her commitment to making the Council an organized and official group; Linda Robinson for her dedication to restoring the health of the Slough and her work to create the Naturescaping for Clean Rivers Program; and The Open Meadow School's Corps to Restore the Urban Environment (CRUE) for their outstanding efforts in Slough and Portland based restoration and stewardship projects.

The 2001 Achievement Award Winners recognized for their exceptional projects or project-oriented efforts are: The Center for Columbia River History for compiling an extensive internet exhibit displaying community histories from the Columbia Slough; Julie Howland of Portland Public Schools for her work designing and implementing curricula to encourage the study of the Columbia Slough by thousands of young adults; Port of Portland for returning Vanport Wetlands (formerly the old KGW Radio 620 transmission towers) to its historic wetland habitat; and Leslie Winter-Gorsline for designing graphics for a myriad of Columbia Slough Watershed Council projects and events.

Thanks to all of those people who have so positively affected the Columbia Slough watershed. We look forward to seeing even more Slough supporters at next year's Awards Celebration.

Markelle Smith is an AmeriCorps member with Environmental Services' Community Watershed Stewardship Program



Leadership Award
Recipient-
Donna Hempstead



Left to Right- CSWC Coordinator Jay Mower, Joe Annett, Open Meadow's Andrew Mason, Jerry Rust, Open Meadow's Carol Smith at the Awards Celebration



COLUMBIA SOUGH
WATERSHED COUNCIL

7040 NE 47th Avenue
Portland, OR 97218