



# SLOUGH NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE COLUMBIA SLOUGH WATERSHED COUNCIL

WINTER 2003 VOLUME 4, ISSUE 1

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## 2002 CSWC Leadership and Achievement Award Winners

By Bonnie Shoffner, CSWC Program Assistant

The Columbia Slough Watershed Council's Annual Leadership and Achievement Awards will be presented at our 2002 Awards Celebration on Friday, January 10, 2003 from 6:00 pm – 8:30 pm at the Columbia Edgewater Country Club.

The Columbia Slough Watershed Council recognizes outstanding efforts that are helping to achieve a healthy watershed through stewardship, outreach, education and volunteerism. Awards recognize outstanding individuals, actions and projects.

### 2002 Leadership Award Winners:

Dave Hendricks, 1135 Project and Drainage District Programs

Dave is a longtime Slough innovator. As Operations Manager of the Drainage Districts he began the innovations that resulted in the current meandering channel design for the 1135 program. And he has worked tirelessly to make the project a reality. Dave has worked hard to help the Council and the public understand the Slough and its watershed. And he helps us all understand the possibilities for waterway and watershed improvement.



Dorothy Sperry, CSWC Committees and Action Plan

Dorothy has been a tireless supporter of the Council's activities for years. She was instrumental in developing the Watershed Action Plan grant and is serving as a project co-manager. Dorothy is a long time member of the Council's Administrative committee and has served in various other capacities. She brings to the Council extensive experience in watershed management and an ability to think about the big picture while paying attention to the details.



Kenton Elementary Teachers – Susan Price, Kathy Rodgers, Amy Sands, and Andrew Jaquiss

These four teachers have worked together and with the community for many years to educate students about the Columbia Slough. They consistently create programs and partnerships to give 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> graders real life Slough oriented experiences. Some highlights of their activities include: producing and installing bird boxes at Heron Lakes Golf Course with partners Salmoncorps, BES, Parks, CSWC; leading dozens of field trips for water quality studies; forging a four-year commitment to a restoration plot at Whitaker Ponds and creating art for the Slough's BIG PIPE event.



### Friends of Trees' Neighborhood Trees Program

Since the inception of the Seed the Future campaign in 1996, Friends of Trees has helped to plant over 4,000 street trees in more than 15 neighborhoods in the Columbia Slough watershed. Hundreds of watershed residents have been involved in dozens of street tree planting days. Trees help to shade our streets, reduce the urban heat island effect, intercept precipitation to reduce storm water runoff, reduce sediments in streams, improve air quality, and help to build community through tree planting activities in the watershed.



(see Awards on Page 5)



Children's Arboretum Work Party  
Saturday, December 14th  
10:00 am - 12:00 pm  
Contact: Matt Burlin, Comm. Watershed Stewardship Program at 503-823-7917 or mattb@bes.ci.portland.or.us

CSWC Awards Dinner  
Friday, January 10th  
6:00 pm - 8:30 pm  
Columbia Edgewater Club, 2220 NE Marine Drive Contact: The Columbia Slough Watershed Council at 503-281-1132 or info@columbiaslough.org

Children's Arboretum Work Party  
Saturday, January 11th  
10:00 am - 12:00 pm  
Contact: Matt Burlin, Comm. Watershed Stewardship Program at 503-823-7917 or mattb@bes.ci.portland.or.us

Soup on the Slough  
Friday, January 24th  
11:30 am - 1:00 pm  
Whitaker Ponds, 7040 NE 47th Ave. RSVP: Joe Annett at 503-223-3331 or jannett@ci.portland.or.us

CSWC General Meeting  
Monday, January 27th  
5:00 pm - 8:00 pm  
Nabisco Biscuit Company, 100 NE Columbia Blvd. Contact: The Columbia Slough Watershed Council at 503-281-1132 or info@columbiaslough.org

Wilkes Creek Planting with SOLV / CWSP  
Saturday, February 1st  
9:00 am - 12:00 pm  
Riverview Village Contact: Matt Burlin, Comm. Watershed Stewardship Program at 503-823-7917 or mattb@bes.ci.portland.or.us

Hands Around our (Fairview) Lakes Planting  
Saturday, February 15th  
9:00 am - 1:00 pm  
Contact: Adrienne Aiona at 503-674-6251



## Watershed Council 501(c)(3) Status

by Jay Mower, CSWC Coordinator

501(c)(3) Status The Columbia Slough Watershed Council went through a significant

change this year. Since formation in 1996, the Council has been an unincorporated association. This year, it became an Oregon nonprofit corporation and has applied for 501(c)(3) federal tax-exempt status. This change was made to better position the Council to apply for and receive contributions from individuals and private foundations. Readers may know that most philanthropies will only support organizations that are recognized nonprofit organizations. This change will help diversify the funding sources that support CSWC operations. In recent years dollars from the Council's largest funder, the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, have been divided up between more and more watershed councils leaving less for each council. This reduced funding from the State will remain for the foreseeable future. In order to incorporate the Council revised its bylaws and elected officers for the first time: Jerry Rust, chair; Donna Hempstead, secretary; and Paul Trone, treasurer. The Council also assumed fiscal responsibility from its longtime fiscal agent, the East Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District. These changes have occurred while regular Council activities have continued.



Jay Mower and others at the Watershed Action Plan Open House.

Underground Water On the Horizon Cities with jurisdiction over the Columbia South Shore Wellfield have been working together in recent years to improve and coordinate land use regulations that protect this important wellfield that provides supplemental drinking water to the Portland region. These new, unified regulations are being adopted by the cities of Fairview, Gresham and Portland. Even though it's underground, the wellfield is part of the Columbia Slough Watershed. The City of Portland Bureau of Water Works approached the CSWC and proposed a partnership in which the Council will conduct public outreach efforts to residential and agriculture customers in the wellfield area. We are exploring unique ways of engaging the public in better understanding and appreciating this hidden yet vital resource. Think: well field treasure hunt; "Water Cycle" bike ride; or geo-caching in the well field. Stay tuned for details in 2003. It will be fun.

Jay Mower has been the Watershed Council Coordinator since 1996. Jay can be reached at 503-281-1132 or via e-mail at [jay.mower@columbiaslough.org](mailto:jay.mower@columbiaslough.org)

## V o l u n t e e r s W a n t e d

**Education Volunteers:** Adult and youth assistants are needed for help with Slough School (see article on page 4). The Slough School office and classroom is located at Whitaker Ponds Environmental Learning Center, although other educational sites along the Slough are also used. Education activities includes classroom activities, field studies, extended-day programs, watershed and community action projects, summer camps and service projects at sites along the Slough. Contact Rachel Felice at 503-281-1132 or [rachel.felice@columbiaslough.org](mailto:rachel.felice@columbiaslough.org).

**Event / Outreach Volunteers:** Help is needed in coordinating events such as the annual Columbia Slough Small Craft Regatta, 'Explorando el Columbia Slough', Canoe the Slough and various watershed workshops. This is a great way to meet staff and other volunteers and get out on the Slough. Volunteer activities include community outreach and publicity, volunteering on the day of events, being a liaison between different partners, and tracking the numerous details to run events. Your organizational and people skills are needed here for fun community events. Contact Jay Mower at 503-281-1132 or [jay.mower@columbiaslough.org](mailto:jay.mower@columbiaslough.org).

**Slough Stewards:** The Columbia Slough Watershed Council is seeking volunteers to do maintenance and restoration work throughout the Slough watershed. Contact Columbia Slough Watershed Council at 503-281-1132 or [info@columbiaslough.org](mailto:info@columbiaslough.org).

**Eyes on the Slough Volunteer Monitors:** Volunteer and monitor the health of the Columbia Slough by paddling a designated reach monthly. Our Eyes on the Slough volunteers create a consistent presence on the Slough's waterways, watch for illegal dumping and discharges, count wildlife, and note invasive plant communities and areas of bank failure and erosion. Contact Troy Clark at 503-249-0482 or e-mail [brillobrain@ureach.com](mailto:brillobrain@ureach.com).

## Columbia Slough Watershed Action Plan

By Susan Barthel, City of Portland Environmental Services



Susan Barthel discusses the Action Plan with Bob Grocznack and Connie Lively

The Action Plan, a Council work plan and prioritized project/ program list, focuses on achieving the Council's vision for the Columbia Slough and its watershed for the next 2-5 years. It also identifies long-term goals and objectives. The first open house for the Action Plan, held on October 29 at the McMenemy's Kennedy School, was attended by 102 people.

The Council officially began its Action Plan process in December, 2001, yet many ideas date back to an earlier "visioning" workshop. The Council has collected and is using existing information and studies that address watershed impairments and improvement strategies and plans.

The Action Plan document will:

- Identify potential water quality / quantity and habitat restoration / enhancement sites;
- Develop a methodology for ranking and assessing projects;
- Prioritize projects and action items that include outreach and education, stewardship, restoration, monitoring, and recreation projects;
- Provide list of current mitigation and potential future mitigation sites; and

Identify data gaps and compile baseline information and maps in an annotated bibliography/database and GIS program. The annotated bibliography includes all Columbia Slough Watershed projects and studies known to date and will be available on the web.

The Action Plan will be a living document that will include new ideas and opportunities as they become known. The Council strives to develop projects through partnerships and voluntary actions. Funding for the Plan's Actions is unsecured and will be solicited through grants, donations, and other means.

The Action Plan completion date is March 31, 2003. The Plan will be available on the Council's Website, [www.columbiaslough.org](http://www.columbiaslough.org), and directly from the Council. A Council Technical Committee directs the work of Action Plan Consultants. Volunteer project managers are Dorothy Sperry, 503-944-7644, [sperrd@portpld.com](mailto:sperrd@portpld.com), and Susan Barthel 503-823-7268, [susanb@bes.ci.portland.or.us](mailto:susanb@bes.ci.portland.or.us). The Consultant Team Project Manager is Kathi Futornick, [futork@onlinemac.com](mailto:futork@onlinemac.com). Action Plan funding is provided by the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB), USEPA, Oregon DEQ's 319 Project funds and other contributors.

## A Year on the Slough in 2002: A Review

by Bonnie Shoffner, CSWC Program Assistant



### 'Explorando El Columbia Slough'

The first ever 'Explorando El Columbia Slough' festival was held at Whitaker Ponds on Saturday, June 29. Our first outreach event with the Spanish speaking community was very successful, with 250 people attending and enjoying a day of music, tours, games, and canoe rides. The Spanish language edition of the 'Exploring the Columbia Slough' recreation guide was well received. Face painting, live DJ music from KMUZ LAZ radio, fish necklaces, and t-shirts were favorites of the day. Family members of all ages enjoyed educational displays, listened to story telling, toured Whitaker Ponds, and watched a tree pruning demonstration by Urban Forestry.

During the event's formal presentations, Franco Restoration members received an award from CSWC, presented by Ken Finney, BES Watershed Revegetation Program. This award honors Franco Reforestation for their work with BES and local

partners planting over 700,000 trees and shrubs in the watershed since 1996!

A special thanks to our volunteers, the event planning committee, the sponsors, and the support of the Council who made this wonderful event possible.

Sponsors - Audubon Society of Portland, Barney & Worth, Inc., Boeing Portland, and City of Portland Environmental Services  
Explorando Brochure - Audubon Society of Portland, City of Portland Environmental Services and Parks and Recreation, CSWC, Fernando Velez (translator), and Laurie Causgrove (designer)

(See Events on Pg. 4)



**CSWC Watershed Action Plan Open House**  
Tuesday, February 18th  
9:00 am - 12:00 pm  
Location TBA Contact: The Columbia Slough Watershed Council at 503-281-1132 or [info@columbiaslough.org](mailto:info@columbiaslough.org)

**CSWC General Meeting**  
Monday, February 24th  
5:00 pm - 8:00 pm  
Nabisco Biscuit Company, 100 NE Columbia Blvd. Contact: The Columbia Slough Watershed Council at 503-281-1132 or [info@columbiaslough.org](mailto:info@columbiaslough.org)

**Slough 101 Workshop**  
Saturday, March 15th  
9:00 am - 1:00 pm  
Location TBA Contact: The Columbia Slough Watershed Council at 503-281-1132 or [info@columbiaslough.org](mailto:info@columbiaslough.org)

**CSWC General Meeting**  
Monday, March 24th  
5:00 pm - 8:00 pm  
Nabisco Biscuit Company, 100 NE Columbia Blvd. Contact: The Columbia Slough Watershed Council at 503-281-1132 or [info@columbiaslough.org](mailto:info@columbiaslough.org)

**Soup on the Slough**  
Friday, April 4th  
11:30 am - 1:00 pm  
Whitaker Ponds, 7040 NE 47th Ave. RSVP: Joe Annett at 503-223-3331 or [jannett@ci.portland.or.us](mailto:jannett@ci.portland.or.us)

**Adventure in the Well Field - Geocaching / Treasure Hunt**  
Saturday, April 26th  
Time TBA  
Location TBA Contact: The Columbia Slough Watershed Council at 503-281-1132 or [info@columbiaslough.org](mailto:info@columbiaslough.org)

**CSWC General Meeting**  
Monday, April 26th  
5:00 pm - 8:00 pm  
Nabisco Biscuit Company, 100 NE Columbia Blvd. Contact: The Columbia Slough Watershed Council at 503-281-1132 or [info@columbiaslough.org](mailto:info@columbiaslough.org)





Wetlands 101 Workshop  
 May date TBA (Th pm  
 and Sat am in May)  
 Location TBA Contact: The  
 Columbia Slough Watershed  
 Council at 503-281-1132 or  
 info@columbiaslough.org

CSWC General Meeting  
 Monday, May 26th  
 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm  
 Nabisco Biscuit Company, 100  
 NE Columbia Blvd. Contact:  
 The Columbia Slough Water-  
 shed Council at 503-281-1132  
 or info@columbiaslough.org

'Explorando el  
 Columbia Slough'  
 Saturday, June 28th  
 4:00 pm - 8:00 pm  
 Bring your family to the 2nd  
 Spanish Language Festival in  
 the Columbia Slough Water-  
 shed for music, games, prizes  
 and more. Whitaker Ponds,  
 7040 NE 47th Ave. Contact:  
 The Columbia Slough Water-  
 shed Council at 503-281-1132  
 or info@columbiaslough.org

CSWC General Meeting  
 Monday, June 30th  
 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm  
 Nabisco Biscuit Company, 100  
 NE Columbia Blvd. Contact:  
 The Columbia Slough Water-  
 shed Council at 503-281-1132  
 or info@columbiaslough.org

CSWC Field Trip and  
 General Meeting  
 Monday, July 21st  
 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm  
 Location TBA Contact: The  
 Columbia Slough Watershed  
 Council at 503-281-1132 or  
 info@columbiaslough.org

9th Columbia Slough  
 Small Craft Regatta  
 Sunday, July 27th  
 9:00 am - 1:00 pm  
 Bring your family and your boat  
 to the largest paddling event in  
 Oregon. Location TBA  
 Contact: The Columbia  
 Slough Watershed Council at  
 503- 281-1132 or  
 info@columbiaslough.org



Kayakers enjoy the Upper Slough at this year's Regatta.

(Events, Continued from Page 3)

Event Committee - Jorge Alvarado, Susan Barthel, Ivan Camacho, Mike Houck, Maria Lopez, Jay Mower, Sarah Murphy, Bonnie Shoffner, Louise Shorr, and Fernando and Melody Velez

Columbia Slough Small Craft Regatta 2002  
 The 8th Annual Columbia Slough Small Craft Regatta, held on Sunday, July 28, was the largest yet. The Regatta has grown into the largest paddling event in Oregon! Over 340 people and 160 boats attended this summertime tradition. The Regatta helped both newcomers and longtime residents discover this unique, hidden treasure in our urban backyard. A special thanks to our volunteers, the event planning committee, the sponsors, The Oregonian for excellent media coverage and all others who made this event possible.

Sponsors - Alder Creek Kayak & Canoe, Boeing Portland, City of Portland Environmental Services, Columbia Slough Watershed Council, Columbia Sportswear, Multnomah County Drainage District #1, Multnomah County Sheriff's Office, Oregon Screen Impressions, Portland General Electric, and Port of Portland

Canoe the Slough

On Thursday, October 10, the Columbia Slough Watershed Council and BES staff hosted an "at dark" paddling event on the Upper Slough. Over a dozen canoers and kayakers lit up the night with headlamps and glow sticks for this moonlight paddle. Great Blue Herons, Red-tailed Hawks, swimming beaver, and the orbiting space station were sighted on the evening of this special trip. Look forward to more full moon and evening paddles in the future.



Slough School in Session

by Rachel Felice, CSWC Slough School Educator



Local students collecting macro-invertebrates from Whitaker Ponds dock.

The CSWC is proud to announce that it has hired an Environmental Educator, Rachel Felice, to start its new youth education program, Slough School! This program has been created to provide hands-on programs for students to learn about the history and ecology of the watershed and its organisms as well as human impacts on the area. Slough School involves K-12 students throughout the watershed in classroom activities, field studies, extended day programming, watershed and community action projects, summer programming and service projects.

The Slough School program began in August 2002 and has already involved more than 1300 students from schools in the Reynolds, Parkrose and Portland Public School Districts. Students have completed field studies focused on water quality parameters such as chemical and biological indicators as well as native plants and animals of the area. West Whitaker Pond has served as the main study site for scientific investigations, as well as Smith and Bybee Lakes. Classroom lessons have focused on watershed awareness, riparian plants, macro-invertebrates, stormwater treatment and water chemistry.

The main mission of Slough School is to engage K-12 students throughout the watershed in environmental education and service-learning projects in an effort to raise awareness of the watershed while empowering youth as active, engaged citizens. The Slough School works closely with City of Portland Environmental Services, the Lower Columbia River Estuary Partnership, Portland Parks and Recreation, City of Gresham's Stormwater Division, Portland Public School's 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers and Portland State University's Center for Science Education. Funding for Slough School has been made possible through a grant from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board.

Rachel Felice is the new Slough School Educator for the Council, joining us with extensive experience at Portland Public Schools and PSU's Center for Science Education. For more information about this program, please contact Rachel Felice at 503-281-1132 or rachel.felice@columbiaslough.org.



Rachel Felice and local students protect a native plant bed by installing a fence.

## Columbia Slough 1135 Project Update

By Nancy Hendrickson, City of Portland Environmental Services

### 1135 Project Update

The wetland bench portion of the 1135 Project will result in the creation of emergent wetland habitat or "benches". Soil from the slough channel is being 'stacked' to create in-channel wetlands. The dredging also creates a deeper meandering channel and improved water flow. Thus far MCDD and the Corps' contractor have completed 2 miles of the 7.5 mile project - from the Drainage District office to the mouth of Whitaker Slough and from the NE 143rd levee to NE 158th. The constructed wetland benches and islands have been seeded, and additional plantings will occur this winter. Dredging work has been completed for the season.



Heavy machinery constructing wetland benches in Middle Slough

### Forested Wetland and Springs Acquisition

The City of Portland acquired a 21-acre parcel in the Upper Slough watershed for protection and restoration. This unique parcel includes several freshwater springs coming out of the hillside, a large pool and a forested wetland.



Forested wetland area on the recently acquired Springs property

The Watershed Council was first advised of this site by Alice Blatt in 1994, and Alice has unceasingly advocated for its protection. There is some native forest, but the understory is fairly sterile. Until recently it was Himalayan Blackberry. Site preparation and exotic plant removal has begun and will continue through next summer. Planting by the BES Watershed Revegetation Program will occur in winter 2003/2004.

The 1135 project is a partnership of the US Army Corps of Engineers, City of Portland Environmental Services, and the Multnomah County Drainage District. The purpose of the project is to improve water quality and habitat in the Columbia Slough. For more information on this project, please contact Nancy Hendrickson, Columbia Slough Watershed Manager, City of Portland Environmental Services at 503-823-6001 or [nancyh@bes.ci.portland.or.us](mailto:nancyh@bes.ci.portland.or.us).

(Awards, Continued from Page 1)

2002 Achievement Award Winners:

USACE, BES, and MCDD: Section 1135 Ecosystem Restoration Project

This unusual urban restoration project started with a series of meetings with the Corps of Engineers in 1994. Since then the Corps and its partners, the Multnomah County Drainage District #1 and the City of Portland's Bureau of Environmental Services have worked unceasingly to make this project a reality. The partners persistence and hard work is resulting in a project that will improve water flow, create wetlands, preserve 20-acres with springs, seeps and streams.

American Honda Company, Inc.: Innovative Stormwater and Energy Use

American Honda has made a noteworthy effort to construct its new facility in an environmentally efficient manner. Honda's reuse of stormwater for irrigation and plumbing through the use of a 30,000 gallon cistern is unique in the Portland area. We applaud their leadership in demonstrating that building innovations can reduce costs and make \$/sense.

Alder Creek Kayak & Canoe: Regatta Support

This award recognizes Alder Creek Kayak and Canoe's enthusiastic support of the Regatta. The Company has provided rentals for the event since 1995. For the last 4 years Alder Creek has provided free boat rentals - for hundreds of paddlers. This family oriented opportunity helps the Council achieve its goal of building appreciation for our unique urban waterway. To date these free rentals have resulted in more than 65 free excursions on the Slough.

Fernando Velez: 'Explorando el Columbia Slough'

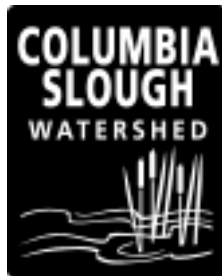
Fernando Velez was instrumental in the effort to create the Slough's Spanish language natural history, recreation and stewardship guide. He took the lead in translating and modifying text and graphics for the 'Explorando el Columbia Slough' brochure. Fernando and his wife Melody led the effort to create a successful community celebration of the Slough. His work with the planning committee and his energy and commitment to the brochure and celebration was a key element in making the Council's first 'Explorando el Columbia Slough' a huge success. We applaud Fernando for helping us launch efforts for our whole community.

The Columbia Slough Watershed Council Awards Committee would like to extend a special thanks to all Council and community members who submitted nominations for this year's Awards. The Council would like to see you at the Awards Celebration on January 10, 2003 at Columbia Edgewater Country Club to help recognize the 2002 Award Winners and all other people and projects who were nominated.



Columbia Slough Watershed Council  
7040 NE 47th Avenue  
Portland, OR 97218

CSWC Awards Dinner  
Friday, January 10th  
6:00 pm - 8:30 pm



Space is Limited!  
Buy your tickets  
today!

The Columbia Slough Watershed Council will gather to celebrate eight outstanding people and projects that have protected, enhanced, and revitalized the Columbia Slough Watershed in 2002. The Awards will be presented at the Fourth Annual Columbia Slough Awards Celebration on Friday, January 10, 2003 from 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm at the Columbia Edgewater Country Club at 2220 NE Marine Drive, Portland. The event will include dinner, live music, and presentation of the awards. Individual tickets are \$ 25.00. Table Sponsorships are available for \$300.00. Contact 503-281-1132 or e-mail [info@columbiaslough.org](mailto:info@columbiaslough.org) for more information.

**CONSIDER DONATING TO CSWC DURING THIS HOLIDAY SEASON!!**

Help the CSWC, a non-profit corporation, to achieve their mission of revitalizing the Slough.

Please send tax-deductible donations to:

Columbia Slough Watershed Council at 7040 NE 47th Ave., Portland, OR 97218.  
For more information or to discuss in-kind donations, contact Council Coordinator,  
Jay Mower at 503-281-1132 or e-mail [jay.mower@columbiaslough.org](mailto:jay.mower@columbiaslough.org)