



**CSWC Annual Awards Celebration & Silent Auction!**

The Columbia Slough Watershed Council is pleased to announce the winners of the 2007 Watershed Council Leadership & Achievement Awards. "These community leaders remind us how important the Columbia Slough Watershed is to our region and the health of our ecosystem," said Jane Van Dyke, CSWC Executive Director. "It is important to take time to recognize their dedication and contribution to improving our community and watershed." The awards will be presented at the Council's **Ninth Annual Awards Celebration and Silent Auction on Friday, February 1, 2008** at the Acadian Ballroom in NE Portland.

Please join us! We'll celebrate the many activities, people, projects and programs that improve the watershed and

recognize the Leadership & Achievement Award Winners who have provided outstanding contributions to the Columbia Slough and the Council in 2007.

A silent auction, beer & wine bar, passed hors d'oeuvres, bountiful buffet dinner and entertaining awards program will be enjoyed by all. Bring your friends for the fun! Meet other interested Slough supporters! Bid on fabulous auction packages and items! All of the funds raised will go to support our work in the watershed and toward improving our education programs, outreach activities and stewardship projects. Dress ranges from your favorite fleece or Friday's finest. Take a look inside for a sneak peek at some of this year's fabulous auction items!

**A special thanks to the following supporters of the Annual Awards Celebration!**

Celebration Sponsors

The Boeing Company, City of Gresham - Watershed Management Division,  
City of Portland - Bureau of Environmental Services, Multnomah County  
Drainage District, Port of Portland

Table Sponsors

Arclin Surfaces, East Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District, Owens-  
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**Friday, February 1, 2008**

**6-9pm**

**The Acadian Ballroom**  
1829 NE Alberta Street  
Portland, OR 97211

**\$35 per person**

**For Reservations:**

Call 503-281-1132 or email

[katie.meckes@columbiaslough.org](mailto:katie.meckes@columbiaslough.org)

**Congratulations to this year's Award Winners**

The Council's Leadership Awards recognize "individuals who demonstrate an extraordinary and long-term commitment to the watershed". We congratulate the 2007 Leadership Award Winners:

- ◆ Erwin Bergman – Council Member – Neighborhood Advocate
- ◆ Richard and Gyrid Towle – Columbia Children's Arboretum Advocates

The Council's Achievement Awards recognize "extraordinary projects or project-related efforts". The 2007 Achievement Awards go out to:

- ◆ City of Gresham – Keri Handaly and Kris Rein – Fairview Creek-Burnside to Stark Restoration Project
- ◆ Multnomah Youth Cooperative – Rose Sandy & Jeff Walker – Youth Watershed Restoration Crew
- ◆ Northwest Discoveries – Ken Barker & Jerry Lanz – Canoe Week and Explorando el Columbia Slough Paddle Guides
- ◆ New Columbia – Housing Authority of Portland, Steve Fancher & KPFF Consulting Engineers – Green Streets & Stormwater Facilities

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7040 NE 47th Avenue  
Portland, OR 97218

Phone: 503-281-1132  
[www.columbiaslough.org](http://www.columbiaslough.org)

## Christmas Bird Count “Eagle Eye” Spotted at Whitaker Ponds

by John Fitchen

Despite an ominous weather forecast, 42 men, women and children rolled out before dawn on January 5<sup>th</sup> for the North Portland/Columbia Riparian (NoPo/ColRip) component of the Portland Christmas Bird Count (CBC). One of the 1,624 CBCs conducted nationwide (46 of them in Oregon), the Portland count has taken place every year since 1926. CBCs are carried out within count circles that measure 15 miles in diameter. In Portland, the circle is centered on Pioneer Courthouse Square.

CBCs are always exciting and interesting, but this year was special, both for the Columbia Riparian segment and for the count as a

whole. NoPo/ColRip found 106 species, shattering the record of 99 set last year. And the full circle tallied a total of 118 species, handily besting the previous record of 113 set in 1976.

The most unusual and dramatic bird of the day was an Osprey found by City of Portland biologist Ry Thompson, CSWC's own Jesse, Jane and Rachel, along with team members Bill and George when it plunged into the water at Whitaker Pond to catch a sizable carp. The bird was seen minutes later flying over PDX with the fish clutched firmly in its talons. Osprey has not been recorded in the Portland CBC since 1947!

The coveted “Eagle Eye Award” was bestowed upon the group for their extraordinary find. Other notable species included Red-shouldered Hawk, Peregrine Falcon, Common Yellowthroat, Eared Grebe, Dunlin and American Pipit.



## CSWC Silent Auction Sneak Peek

*Bid early & often! Give to an excellent cause and bring home some fabulous items!  
Here is just a sampling of many items you can bid on:*

Passes to Oregon Zoo, OMSI, Children's Museum, Oregon Coast Aquarium and more! ♦ Bike Commuters Basket with free REI bike tune-up ♦ Guided Canoe Tour of Ross Island ♦ Children's Nature themed birthday party ♦ Yoga Starter Kit including one month unlimited Yoga at Yoga in the Pearl ♦ Framed, Fired & Quilted Artwork by local artists ♦ Birding Essentials Basket ♦ Reiki Healing Session ♦ Free Yard Debris pick up by Think Green ♦ Gardener's Delight Basket ♦ One night stay at Breitenbush Hot Springs! ♦ Wine Tasting ♦ Gift Certificates to delicious local eateries ♦ Rock Climbing class for two at Portland Rock Gym ♦ ½ Day Outdoor Adventure with Wanderlust Tours ♦ Patagonia Outdoor Gear ♦ Ski passes to Mt. Hood Meadows ♦ Children's Book Collection ♦ And much more!

## Opportunity Knocks

by Jane Van Dyke

Curious to learn more about the Columbia Slough Watershed? Want to work with like-minded individuals to “foster action to protect, enhance, restore, and revitalize the Slough and its watershed”? Care to assist watershed residents to be responsible caretakers of the natural resources within the watershed? You should apply to become a member of the Council Board of Directors.

Last year, the Columbia Slough Watershed Council rewrote our bylaws. As part of the revision, we established new categories and numbers for the Council Board of Directors. The new categories include government agencies and departments, businesses, residents, education-scientific-academic interests, neighborhoods, recreation, environmental, tribal, and at-large. We are currently seeking new council members, particularly for recreation and environmental seats.

The council board of directors meets on the last Monday of each month. Additionally, council members serve on one of five standing committees: executive, finance, action plan, outreach, and education. Council members also assist with various special events and activities such as the Columbia Slough Regatta, Explorando el Columbia Slough, Aquifer Adventure, and the Annual Awards Celebration.

With just a few hours a month, you could have such a positive impact on the watershed! Think about it. For more information or an application, please contact Jane Van Dyke at 503\*821-1132 or email: [jane.vandyke@columbiaslough.org](mailto:jane.vandyke@columbiaslough.org)

## Spectacular Stewardship Saturday Success!

by Jesse Rosenbluth

**“You’ll have to ask the steadfast volunteers who have been coming out every month for Stewardship Saturdays.”**

While walking along Whitaker Ponds you may occasionally notice how the sparrow flirts below the dogwood, how the chickadee perches upon the Oregon grape, the ruby-crowned kinglet that balances on a delicate willow shoot, or how on the blackberry . . . wait a second, what happened to all the blackberry? I could have sworn just last month there was an enormous cluster of blackberry growing all over Whitaker ponds by the Bunn house. Why, it was growing over trees, creeping into gutters, choking out flowers and feeding on the porch floorboards!

If you’re wondering where all the blackberry went, you’ll have to ask the steadfast volunteers who have been coming out every month for Stewardship Saturdays. You’ll have to ask Randall, you’ll need to find Steve, you’ll have to seek out Sara! You’ll need to call Gail and Claire! Phone David and John and Keti and Lisa! Write letters to Ashlea, to Celeste, to Denise, to Matt and Louise!!

And if you do, if you’re lucky enough to meet one of these inestimably fine people, you’ll discover that it wasn’t magic, miracle or mischief that removed the blackberry, for it was those volunteers who came for Stewardship Saturdays!

They removed a veritable mountain of blackberry around the Bunn House in the southwest corner of Whitaker Ponds dramatically improving the area.

It has been incredible to watch volunteers of all skill levels and ages, from knee high to tree-toppers, working together on such a thorny task. So, a big thanks to our wonderful volunteers, THANK YOU!

Want to join the fun and continue this momentum right into the spring and summer? Keep your eyes on [www.columbiaslough.org](http://www.columbiaslough.org) for upcoming Stewardship Saturday events that take place every second Saturday of the month from 9am-12pm.

*Join us on February 9<sup>th</sup> for a special Stewardship Saturday workshop! Come to learn how to make nest boxes for Wood ducks! We’ll work to ensure that the Slough is kept choke full of ducks!*

## Welcome to the CSWC quarterly Native Plant Profile

by Kathy Shearin

**Why plant native plants?** Well the answer is simple – Native plants are less susceptible to pests and diseases and they attract birds and butterflies to your yard. Because native plants are adapted to our soil and climate, they need relatively little water, fertilizer and care once established. As a result, Naturescaping reduces water use, storm water runoff and pollution while saving you time, money and energy – all while providing habitat for birds and other wildlife. Everybody wins when you plant with native plants! This quarter’s pick:

**Snowberry - *Symphoricarpos albus*** Snowberry is a popular ornamental shrub grown for its decorative white fruit and other seasonal attractions such as the slender branches, delicate blue-green leaves, and the small white/pink bell-shaped flowers that precede those unusual looking berries. It’s easy to spot Snowberry this time of year, as it’s little round, waxy, white berries persist through much of winter, and stand out against a backdrop of fern or other deep green foliage. The berries are an important food source for birds such as quail, pheasant and grouse, however should not be eaten by humans as they are considered mildly poisonous.

This versatile little shrub does well in dry-to-moist and even seasonally wet soil, and can be planted in full sun to full shade. Its roots are dense and act as good erosion control on disturbed sites



and riparian areas that experience flooding.

Snowberry is just one of 42 plants offered through **EMSWCD’s 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Native Plant sale**. To participate in this year’s pre-order plant sale, check out our website: [www.naturescape.org](http://www.naturescape.org).



Pre-orders close on February 4th at 5:00pm. Place your order soon - quantities are limited and on a first-come first-served basis. You can pick up and pay for your plants with cash or check on **Saturday, February 16th from 10am-3pm**.

To learn more about Native Plants, attend one of EMSWCD’s **Free Native Plant workshops** where you will learn proper planting techniques, how to choose the right plants, and how to maintain your plantings to ensure success. If you want even more information on native plants and wish to learn how to create a Naturescape, attend one of our **Free Naturescaping Workshops**. These four-hour workshops walk you through the landscape design process. You can find more information including dates and locations of upcoming workshops on our website.

*Brought to you by Kathy Shearin, Naturescaping Program Coordinator for the East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District (EMSWCD)*



### **Interested in finding out where the native turtles are in the Columbia Slough?**

You can help to monitor a portion of the Columbia Slough in spring 2008! Surveys will occur between March - June 2008 after a training that will take place in early Spring. Please email Ry Thompson at [ryt@bes.ci.portland.or.us](mailto:ryt@bes.ci.portland.or.us) if you are interested.

## **CSWC Calendar of Events**

For more information about Columbia Slough Watershed Council events, call 503-281-1132, email [katie.meckes@columbiaslough.org](mailto:katie.meckes@columbiaslough.org) or visit [www.columbiaslough.org](http://www.columbiaslough.org)

### **February**

Friday, 1            6-9pm            CSWC Annual Awards Celebration & Silent Auction  
*Please join us to honor the recipients of the Columbia Slough Watershed Council 2007 Leadership and Achievement Awards. RSVP required.*

Saturday, 9            9am-12pm            Stewardship Saturday  
*Join us for a special workshop and learn how to make nest boxes for Wood Ducks! Contact Jesse at [volunteer@columbiaslough.org](mailto:volunteer@columbiaslough.org) or call our office for more information.*

### **March**

Saturday, 8            9am-12pm            Stewardship Saturday  
*Stay tuned for details. Contact Jesse at [volunteer@columbiaslough.org](mailto:volunteer@columbiaslough.org) or call our office for more information.*

Friday, 15            9am-1pm            Slough 101 Workshop  
*Join us for a hands-on workshop that will give you an understanding of the unique character, challenges and opportunities of the Slough and it's watershed. Registration required.*

### **April**

Saturday, 12            9am-12pm            Stewardship Saturday  
*Stay tuned for details. Contact Jesse at [volunteer@columbiaslough.org](mailto:volunteer@columbiaslough.org) or call our office for more information.*

### **May**

Friday, 9            11:30-1:00            Brunch with the Birds  
*Join the Columbia Slough Watershed Council for brunch, and a birding tour of Whitaker Ponds, the junkyard-turned-environmental education center. Registration required.*

Saturday, 10            9am-12pm            Stewardship Saturday  
*Stay tuned for details. Contact Jesse at [volunteer@columbiaslough.org](mailto:volunteer@columbiaslough.org) or call our office for more information.*

Saturday, 17            9am-1pm            Wetlands 101  
*Get to know your local wetlands! Join us for a FREE workshop that will highlight the dynamic Big Four Corners area located in the upper Columbia Slough. Registration required.*

Wednesday, 28            6-8pm            Evening Canoe the Slough  
*Join the Columbia Slough Watershed Council, City of Portland's Environmental Services and Northwest Discoveries for a guided paddling tour to explore the tree-lined Whitaker Slough. Registration required.*