



Johnson Creek Watershed Council

# Within Your Reach

*reach: a) a portion of a stream or river. b) an extent, esp. of knowledge or comprehension*



## A Stroll On The Boardwalk

- Daniel Newberry, Executive Director

With a snip of a pair of scissors, Howard and Nancy Dietrich inaugurated a Johnson Creek Watershed Council project five years in the making.

The Dietrichs were among two dozen or more donors and partners who attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new boardwalk and interpretive panels at the new Orange Line Tacoma St. station on September 17.

Johnson Creek flows through the new light rail facility. In 2013, the Council, working with engineering firm Vigil Agrimis, improved stream habitat in this stream reach. In addition to adding boulders and large wood with attached rootwads, a side channel was created that fills with water at higher flows and functions as a slack water refuge for salmon and other fish.

At the same time, the Council—along with partners Ardenwald-Johnson Creek Neighborhood Association and Oregon Community Foundation—began raising funds for an elevated boardwalk that would extend out to overlook the restoration project. A series of five interpretive panels would inform visitors about the natural and human history at this location.

An engraved handrail on the boardwalk memorializes the dozens of donors who gave to make this project a reality.

Thank you so much!



## The Mysteries of Dragonfly Migration

- Danielle Miles, Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator

Did you know that dragonfly romantically known as the Wandering Glider (*Pantala flavescens*) undergoes a multi-generational migration that can be twice as far as that of monarch butterflies? In fact, the migration of Wandering Gliders is the longest-known insect migration in the world.

Wandering Gliders migrate from India, through the Maldives, to Southern Africa, and back again- a feat up to 11,000 miles roundtrip and spanning several generations. They can fly at staggeringly high altitudes as they pass over the Himalayas, and are even known to migrate over open water at night- a risky and unusual undertaking for a flying insect.

These are some of the many interesting facts about odenata- the scientific term for dragon and damselflies- that we learned during a Science Talk on Dragonfly Biology given by Celeste Searles Mazzacanno, PhD, of the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation.

I was surprised that even today, little is known about dragonfly migration. Scientists are currently gathering information about these elusive creatures, and you can help.

Projects like the Migratory Dragonfly Partnership's Dragonfly Pond Watch Program give citizen scientists the tools to contribute dragonfly observations to a larger effort to document the distribution of dragonfly species throughout North America.

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Hello And Goodbyes on the Board

JCWC welcomes Ken Nichols to the board of directors. A resident of the watershed since 2002, Ken lives in the Eastmoreland neighborhood and is the owner of EQL energy. Ken's business experience includes finance, accounting, and risk management. He's looking forward to being on the Fundraising and Outreach Committee.

Russ Mantifel joined the board in 2009 and is the Past Chair. In his day job, he's a Policy Specialist for the Bonneville Power Administration. He and his wife Cory are expecting their first baby this fall.

Tom Skiles currently serves as the Board Secretary and joined in 2013. In his day job, he's a Fisheries Passage Specialist with the Columbia Intertribal Fish Commission. Tom is also a new father.

Russ and Tom are stepping down from the Board. Thank you both for your service to the Council. We'll miss you.

Welcome aboard, Ken!



## New Grants

- Clackamas County Water Environment Services – River Health Watershed Stewardship Program: “Volunteer and Community Engagement” – Supporting our Creek Clean up, Science Talk on Dragonflies and Watershed Wide events. (\$11,622)

Metro - Nature in Neighborhoods:

- “Spring water Corridor Riparian” – engage watershed residents, including members of underserved communities in maintaining and new plantings in riparian and wetlands areas. (\$19,661)

- “Badger Creek Culvert Fish Passage Restoration” – restore access for salmon to 1.6 miles of lower Badger Creek. This barrier is ranked within top ten for restoration out of 275 barriers in the watershed. (\$25,000)

## Dragonfly Migration (continued from page 1)

It also gives the scientists access to a larger pool of data over a wider spatial range than would otherwise be possible. To sign up or find out more, visit [www.xerces.org/dragonfly-migration/pondwatch](http://www.xerces.org/dragonfly-migration/pondwatch).

This project couldn't come at a more opportune time. The Nature Conservancy estimates that 18% (nearly one-fifth) of North American dragon- and damselfly species are at some level of risk. Threats include habitat loss and degradation, stream sedimentation, pollutants, and climate change.

We know that North American wetland habitat conservation is critical to the survival of our migratory species, which are wetland dependent. Efforts to protect and restore wetland habitat, such as the work of the Wetlands Conservancy, are critical for the persistence of North American odenates. You can see what the Wetlands Conservancy is working on by visiting [wetlandsconservancy.org](http://wetlandsconservancy.org).

Of the 5,952 known species of odenates worldwide, 463 reside in North America, 93 in Oregon, and 38 in Multnomah County. We were able to catch a few of those 38 species the weekend following the Science Talk, when Celeste led us in a guided Dragonfly Walk at Happy Valley Wetlands Park. Participants were given pointers on how to catch odenates, and how to hold them carefully but firmly where the wings attach to their thorax. Many of us were able to see a dragon or damselfly up close for the first time, as conspicuous markings and distinguishing features were pointed out before our eyes. It was a wonderful experience.

Special thanks to our event partners at the Xerces Society and North Clackamas Urban Watershed Council, and our event sponsor, Clackamas Water Environment Services.



*the RiverHealth Community Watershed Stewardship Program (RHSP) awards grants annually to nonpro t groups, such as the Johnson Creek Watershed Council, for activities that enhance the health of District watersheds. e grant program is implemented by Clackamas County Water Environment Services' district known as Clackamas County Service District No. 1 (CCSD#1).*

*e RHSP can provide up to \$30,000 for projects that protect and enhance water resources in CCSD#1 or provide watershed education and outreach. Citizen groups, businesses, schools, nonpro ts, student groups, faith organizations, neighborhood or business associations, and service groups within the Portland Metropolitan area and Clackamas County are eligible to apply.*

*Project proposals are solicited each spring. Examples of eligible projects include riparian planting, stormwater features, habitat improvements and pavement removal. District watersheds include Johnson Creek, Mt Scott Creek, Kellogg Creek, Rock Creek, Sieben Creek & others.*

*If your business or neighborhood group is interested in implementing a project to protect or improve local watersheds, please contact Gail Shaloum at 503-742-4597 or [gshaloum@clackamas.us](mailto:gshaloum@clackamas.us). More information is available online at <http://www.riverhealth.org/riverhealth-stewardship-program>.*

## Stormwater Solutions: De-Paving Paradise And Fixing Up Parking Lots

- Katie Songer, Restoration Project Manager

Question: Where does rain go when it falls on the ground?

Answer: Across the pavement, into storm drains, through underground pipes, and, in many cases, into Johnson Creek. ...In developed areas, that is.

In natural settings, rainwater filters into the soil, seeping through spaces between soil particles the same way water moves through the soil in a potted houseplant. Some groundwater is then taken up by vegetation. Some remains in the ground, winding up in aquifers. And some travels gradually to the surface again, finding its way into springs such as those that feed Johnson Creek.

But in urbanized areas, impermeable surfaces like roads, parking lots, roofs, and even compacted soil send water rapidly into ditches and city stormwater systems, where it travels through pipes that send it shooting into creeks and rivers from the outfalls lining the banks. When it rains, it pours—urban stormwater reaches streams much more quickly than natural groundwater, wreaking hydrological and biological havoc.

Gushing urban stormwater causes creeks to rise more rapidly than under natural settings. This phenomenon is called flashiness. A stream is flashy if it receives a lot of water from impermeable surfaces rather than from steadier, slower natural sources such as springs. (Think “flash” like quick—the water reaches the creek in a flash.) High, flashy flows lead to bank erosion and potentially increase flooding. Frequent flashiness also stresses wildlife—in high flows, fish and invertebrates expend valuable energy fighting the current, making refuge habitat like backwaters and large woody debris even more critical.

Flashy stormwater brings temperature swings, because surface water temperature varies more than groundwater temperature. Unbuffered by the ground and exposed to the air and the sun, surface water is warmer than groundwater in summer and colder in winter. In contrast, groundwater tends to remain at a steady temperature year round, usually the average annual air temperature of the local area. In Portland, this means groundwater temperature hovers around 54° F. (In Wisconsin it's in the 40s; in Florida it's in the 70s!) Since urban stormwater doesn't seep into the ground, influxes of stormwater bring frequent, strong fluctuations in temperature that add to the stressors



for wildlife.

Last but definitely not least, flashy surface water washes sediment and toxics into streams. Picture the first rain after a long, dry summer. It's refreshing...but in urbanized areas, it carries all the spilled auto grease and oil from the last few months, along with whatever else lingers on the pavement. In natural conditions, soil filters many toxics out of the water. Impermeable surfaces prevent that process, sending the toxics right into Johnson Creek.

Is there any hope of saving the creek from such disaster? Yes! Stormwater solutions abound in our area, and every landowner (and sometimes even renters) have the opportunity to help. Downspout disconnection allows roof water to flow into lawns rather than into storm drains. Rain gardens and green roofs collect water for slow seepage and use. And in streets and parking lots, vegetated filter strips, bio-

swales, and permeable pavements help collect overland flow and send water into the ground. These and other innovative practices can reduce the amount of water in the storm system, thus reducing streams' flashiness, erosion, flooding, temperature problems, and pollution.

Stormwater management is a way for landowners and residents throughout the watershed to positively impact Johnson Creek. You don't have to live by the water to improve it—managing for stormwater is one way everyone can improve water quality. If you live in an urban area and are interested in learning more, check out your city's stormwater management program to find out about local resources.

This year, JCWC is initiating a new stormwater program as part of our ten-year Action Plan. We're beginning to work with businesses, schools, and churches in our watershed who are interested in “greening” their parking lots, adding features like vegetated filter strips or reducing impermeable surfaces. These larger landowners have opportunities to make a dramatic, positive impact on Johnson Creek, benefitting both the wildlife and the watershed community.

Cities are hard on streams. But by being creative and working together, we can go a long way towards reducing our urban impacts, and stormwater management is a critical part of that work.



Photos: Jane Hawkey,  
IAN Image Library  
([ian.umces.edu/imagelibrary/](http://ian.umces.edu/imagelibrary/))

## We Survived Another Johnson Creek Clean Up!

- Danielle Miles, Volunteer & Outreach Coordinator



Men from the Oregon Bhutanese Community remove a water-logged piece of foam from Johnson Creek. Photo: Gary Wol

Once again, our amazing volunteers proved that neither wind nor rain can keep us from doing good work for Johnson Creek. This year, over 150 volunteers contributed to the removal of nearly 3.5 tons of garbage from nearly 6 miles of the creek. An early morning thunderstorm, high wind advisory, and a predicted inch of rainfall did not scare away our tenacious participants; and fortunately the foul weather held off for most of the event.

After our hard work, the Overland Park Coalition served up grilled burgers and potato salad aplenty as volunteers placed the strangest items they'd pulled from the creek aside for the Award Ceremony. Congratulations to longtime office volunteer Brian Art for winning the top awards for both Strangest item and the coveted Golden Soap-on-a-Rope for being the muddiest participant.

We can't wait to see what we find next year!

Thanks to our fantastic event partners: Overland Park Coalition, Green Lents, North Clackamas Parks and Recreation District, Portland Parks and Recreation, and Friends of Tideman Johnson Park. Sponsored by Metro, Clackamas County Water Environment Services, Moda Health, and Boly:Welch.



**Metro**  
boly:welch

## Creekside Hero III: Travis

- Noah Jenkins, Riparian Program Manager

Travis and Shannon Raybold have been working with Johnson Creek Watershed Council for over a decade to care for several acres of streamside forest. They have opened their property to JCWC volunteers for numerous Watershed Wide Events and other service learning opportunities in the community.

### What do you value about living in the Johnson Creek Watershed?

We think of it as both a privilege and a responsibility to live in the watershed. Part of the reason we chose to live here is to be able to give our children the chance to play and learn in Nature. It is also important for us to be good stewards of the land. It was here long before us and it will remain after we are gone. It is our privilege to help take care of it while we are here.

### What role do you think homeowners should have in Johnson Creek management?

We think that homeowners, by choosing to purchase creekside land, have a responsibility to help preserve the natural resources on that land.

### What is the best ideal future for your Johnson Creek and how do you hope to be a part of it as a creekside homeowner?

We would love to see our property continue to be cleared of ivy, holly, and other invasive species. By providing native, natural habitats for animals to access, we hope to see an increase in the amount of wildlife in the area. We will do our parts to continue to be good stewards of the land and to teach our children about the "magic" of Nature.

### What are some of the challenges you have faced as a Creekside homeowner in Portland?

The biggest challenge that we face as creekside homeowners is continually

## and Shannon Raybold

*"It's a privilege and a responsibility to give our children the chance to play and learn in Nature." —Travis and Shannon Raybold, Johnson Creek Heroes.*

*Photo: brucemacgregorphotography.com*



cleaning up the garbage and tires that float downstream. We also have to be mindful to try to keep up with maintaining the areas that have been cleared of invasive plants, such as ivy.

**Tell us about your relationship to the Council.**

We are extremely grateful to the Johnson Creek Watershed Council. They have helped organize numerous volunteers,

work parties, and AmeriCorps teams to help remove invasive species from our property, as well as to plant native plants in their place. The Watershed Council has been a fabulous resource for us to ask questions about the habitat we own. We really appreciate their long term commitment to work with homeowners. They have not abandoned the land that they restored. In the decade that we have lived here, we have seen a huge transfor-

mation of the natural areas on our property. It is wonderful to see the diversity of plants and animals that live here, even though we live in the city of Portland!

*With support from photographer Bruce MacGregor, Within Your Reach launches "Creek Heroes" – a storytelling portrait series that focuses on homeowners with creekside property.*

## Another Year of Citizen Science Opportunities - Danielle Miles



Jill Bonanno and Ashley Smithers walk Johnson Creek in search of spawning salmon. Photo: bruceamacgregorphotography.com

This fall, volunteer Citizen Scientists will help Johnson Creek Watershed Council document the distribution of salmon species through Johnson Creek. Biologists from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife provide training to volunteer spawning surveyors in ODFW protocols for conducting spawning surveys.

Between October 17th and December 12th, you may spot volunteers walking selected sections of Johnson Creek in pairs, searching for salmon and evidence of spawning. The data that is collected during surveys is used by JCWC and other agencies such as ODFW and can influence future decisions about restoration work.

Last year, 11 wild coho were spotted in just one weekend in Crystal Springs Creek, which was significantly higher than previous years. This highlights the value of the recently completed restoration work on Crystal Springs Creek by the City of Portland's Bureau of Environmental Services, which included the removal of several fish passage barriers and improved in-stream habitat. Last year volunteers also spotted a wild coho carcass that had spawned past SE 252nd Ave/Palmblad Rd in Gresham.

### Thank you Moda!

We would like to extend a huge thanks to Moda for providing printing services.



## Second Annual Salmon Celebration A Huge Success! - Danielle Miles

For another year, Johnson Creek Watershed Council had the privilege of participating in the planning committee for this uplifting community celebration to honor the return of wild salmon to Crystal Springs Creek and Johnson Creek. The event began with Native American drums calling participants together, where Judy Bluehorse Skelton gave a blessing. Activities included a traditional Salmon Bake (including salmon head soup made with Douglas Fir needles and rose hips) by Clifton and Christine Bruno of the Warm Springs tribe; storytelling by Ed Edmo, Shoshone-Bannock writer and storyteller; and inter-tribal games.

The Council hosted a scale-sampling booth with two freshly caught, hatchery-origin Chinook carcasses. Did you know that salmon scales, like tree rings, give us clues as to the environmental conditions a salmon encountered in its life? Scientists can even ascertain the point at which salmon moved to the ocean and back again.

Thousands of Sunday Parkways bicyclists strolled through the celebration as they made their way along the Sunday Parkways route. Thanks to the many partners who helped put together this great event: Crystal Springs Partnership, the City of Portland's Bureau of Environmental Services, Bureau of Transportation, and Portland Parks & Recreation, the Native American Community Advisory Council to Portland Parks and Recreation, Columbia River Intertribal Commission, Sellwood Moreland Improvement League, and Tracker's Earth.



## Welcome Katie...

Greetings! I joined JCWC in August as the new Restoration Project Manager, carrying on the good work of my predecessor, Robin Jenkinson. My main projects are overseeing the replacement of culverts to foster fish passage, developing a stormwater program for mid-sized properties in the watershed, and creating a user-friendly Johnson Creek science hub on our website. I'm also helping with citizen science projects like



salmon surveys. In other words, I get to work on a wide variety of tasks with lots of different people—just the kind of work I love.

I grew up in Portland, and my background includes environmental science, outreach, and intercultural work as well. In the past I've run environmental and English Language Learner programs at Clackamas High School, done community outreach in a small Tanzanian village with the Peace Corps, interviewed 50 Wisconsin farmers on their dairying practices, and spent several years as a stream ecologist for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. (I earned my MS in soil and water conservation from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.) I returned to Portland in 2014 and am very happy to be working and playing once again in the wondrous Northwest landscape.

Much inspiring work has already been done to restore, study, and care for Johnson Creek. I feel very fortunate to be a part of the JCWC team!



## ...And Janel



Hello! My name is Janel Hull and I'm excited to join Johnson Creek Watershed Council as the Outreach and Riparian Specialist through the Confluence AmeriCorps program. In my time at the council I will be working with community volunteers to restore Johnson Creek, a mission that is close to my heart. I come to the council as a past JCWC intern and volunteer. As a volunteer, I loved spending my rainy Saturdays pressing small native trees into the ground while laughing with new friends. I believe these community restoration events have the power to both strengthen our communities and our watersheds.

Prior to volunteering with Johnson Creek, I studied biology at Lewis and Clark College. My research focused on how to effectively restore riparian plant communities in urban forests. I learned how important our urban riparian forests are for water quality, wildlife habitat, and creating spaces for communities to appreciate the great outdoors. After graduating, I continued to pursue my passion for maintaining healthy streams

by working with the City of Gresham's Watershed Management Program and with West Multnomah SWCD's Healthy Streams Program. Through these experiences I've learned that we have a lot hard work to do to restore



healthy streams for our native plants, fish, and communities. But I believe our community, when armed with trowels and a whole lot of mulch, has the power to do that hard work. I look forward to laughing and working hard with many of you on rainy Saturdays in the future!

### Become A Friend Of Johnson Creek Today!

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Please remit payment to: Johnson Creek Watershed Council  
 1900 SE Milport Road, Suite B, Milwaukie, OR 97222  
 503-652-7477 www.jcwc.org



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## Calendar of Events

For more info, email or RSVP to Danielle at [danielle@jcw.org](mailto:danielle@jcw.org) or call 503-652-7477

### Volunteer Restoration Event - Powell Butte

Saturday, November 14th, 10 am - 12 pm  
Powell Butte Forest Wetlands - Springwater Entrance, Portland



### Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

Thursday, December 3rd, 6-8pm  
Cedarville Lodge, 3800 W Powell Loop, Gresham

### Planting with Friends of Trees - Kelly Butte

Saturday, December 12, 9 am - 12 pm  
Kelly Butte, 2850 Southeast 103rd Ave, Portland



### Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service

Monday, January 18th, 9 am - 12pm  
Multiple locations throughout watershed

### Planting with Friends of Trees - Veterans Creek

Saturday, January 23rd, 9 am - 12pm  
9795 SE Mt Scott Blvd, Portland



1900 SE Milport Road, Suite B  
Milwaukie, OR 97222  
503-652-7477



[JohnsonCreekWC](https://www.facebook.com/JohnsonCreekWC)

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AmeriCorps Outreach & Riparian Technician

### Noah Jenkins

Riparian Program Manager

### Danielle Miles

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