

# Within Your Reach

A publication of the Johnson Creek Watershed Council

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

## New faces bring new enthusiasm to the JCWC

by *Becky Tate*

The Johnson Creek Watershed Council is entering an exciting new phase! Though we are sad to lose our long-time Outreach Coordinator, **David Reid** (see pg 4), we have four new staff members who have recently joined the Council!

The JCWC is very pleased to welcome our first Executive Director, **Michelle Bussard**. Michelle has 20 years of experience in nonprofit management, community leadership, cultural and heritage planning, and economic development.

Prior to accepting this position, Michelle wrapped up a five year tenure as the Executive Director of the National Council of the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial. Before that, she was President/Executive Director of Leadership Washington, a nonprofit, regional leadership organization in Washington, D.C.

Michelle is a fourth generation, native Oregonian. She shares three children, a dog, cat, and African Claw Frog with her husband of 17 years, Abbie Jama, and lives in the Sellwood/Westmoreland neighbor-

hood in Portland. She holds a BA in Environmental Studies/Sociology from U.C. Santa Cruz and a Masters of Urban Planning from George Washington University. Michelle can be reached at [Michelle@jwc.org](mailto:Michelle@jwc.org).

**Christine Hurst** is also joining the JCWC team as the new Outreach and Program Coordinator. Christine received a Bachelor of Science degree from Oregon State University in Environmental Science. At OSU she studied greenhouse gas emissions with an interdisciplinary team and worked on a project assessing vegetation water use and stream flow interactions. Last year she enjoyed serving as an AmeriCorp volunteer for the South Santiam Watershed Council, where she was the Outreach and Education Specialist. She holds a Master Watershed Steward Certificate and is fluent in native plant



Staff of the JCWC (left to right): *Christine Hurst, Becky Tate, Sam Meyer, Michelle Bussard, and Jenna Ringelheim*

identification and watershed restoration techniques. For the past three months she has assisted the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board with the Small Grant Program review. Christine is an avid outdoor enthusiast who lives in the Woodstock neighborhood of Portland. You'll find her hiking, biking, or even gardening around the watershed. She can be reached at [Christine@jwc.org](mailto:Christine@jwc.org).

**CM Meyer** joins the JCWC family as our first Financial Manager. CM, or Sam, lives with her husband in the Mt. Tabor neighborhood of Portland. Sam specializes in nonprofit accounting and has a degree in Accounting from Western Business College, a degree in German Literature from the University of Oregon, and a minor in Theatrical Design. Aside from managing the finances at the Council, Sam also teaches Middle Eastern dance, makes jewelry, and sticks pins in a dress dummy (designs textiles). Sam is excited to be working with a watershed council, as she has loved and appreciated the beauty of streams  
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### Crowds gather to celebrate Johnson Creek!

It was a hot and windy day, but people gathered from all over the watershed for the 2nd Annual Springwater Festival to celebrate Johnson Creek!

The event transformed Gresham Main City Park into a festival, complete with fish necklaces, costumes, games, and food. It was a great time for watershed residents of all ages!

Turn to page 4 for more details and pictures.



## Stories From the ‘Shed: Bundy Family rich in history and full of love for the creek

Early morning, late September, I parked at 141<sup>st</sup> Ave and Foster Road. Nearby was the Johnson Creek Watershed Work Party sign with an arrow pointing down an unpaved road. I began the trek to my first work party for the Johnson Creek Watershed Council.

Backyards in various stages of summer abandon could be glimpsed through chain link and wood slat fences as I walked deeper into the canopy. The road sloped slightly as I came upon a house badly in need of painting surrounded by heaps of junk. A Rottweiler eyed me steadily.

Later, I learned that this was one of six houses built by Kingsley Bundy – two of which were for his wife, Hattie Mae, that she refused to move into. On marriage, he was purported to have said, “If the partners always agreed, why did you need the other?” Obviously, with nearly 60 years of marriage and three kids to show, they had more than agreements to keep their partnership growing.

Their legacy is strong, with stories full of wonder and amazement. The extended Bundy Family is going on 53 years of family reunions celebrating their love, service and generosity. It had been their idea to gather at this 3.6 acre park: work, restore, and remember. Recently I was fortunate to be able to sit down with family members Corrine, Don, Heidi and Jay who shared their incredible family history.

In 1905 the Bundy family moved to Oregon from Iowa, opening a livery and lumber operation. As a young boy, King grew up on the creek near 92<sup>nd</sup> Ave. En-

couraged by his parents and his own indomitable spirit, Kingsley, known as “King”, bought land, built houses, and took care of neighbors, friends and family.

Corrine, his daughter, said of him that he “didn’t know a job he couldn’t do,” whether it was digging out a basement, raising livestock, cultivating a garden, riding horses, or serving as a postman for 43 years, 22 in Lents. King married Hattie Mae in the early 1920s. Hattie Mae, whose favorite games were Drop the Handkerchief and Run Sheep Run, already knew at age twelve what she wanted to be – “a house keeper,” which was a good thing considering the six houses King built based on her floor plans.

Corrine remembers fondly moving onto the property on Johnson Creek at 141<sup>st</sup> and Foster Road, known to the family as the farmstead or Acreage. King had purchased the parcel along Johnson Creek in 1932 and built two of the six houses to his credit.

The time spent living on the Acreage was cut short sadly when in 1937, King’s sister Ida’s husband was killed in a logging accident and King moved Ida and her five children into the larger of the two houses he had built on the property. King moved his own young family to a property on 77<sup>th</sup> Ave that he’d purchased with his brother in 1923, where he built another two houses.



*Don Bundy, Corrine Bundy Van Raden, and Bob Bundy*

**“Their legacy is strong,  
with stories full of wonder  
and amazement.”**

After the move, Corrine recalled visiting her cousin Pearlette on the Acreage. They would revel in the never-pruned privet hedge, whose “fragrance was so intense on a warm summer day it was intoxicating.” They knew where the wild mint grew, how to entice a chipmunk out from hiding, and how to “smooth and fashion pottery” out of the gray clay dug from the creek bed. Recalling the fairy circles and “shady areas carpeted with Johnny Jump Ups, Mayflowers, Solomon Seal, Ferns,” Corrine could almost taste the licorice root they would chew 60-plus years ago.

Donald, “Don”, the youngest of King’s sons, was three when they lived on the creek and still lives in the house King built at what is now 7736 SE Knight (it used to be known as 59<sup>th</sup> St: 59 blocks south of Burnside). Don, whose fondest memory of the Acreage was slipping behind Hattie Mae’s back to walk barefoot to the creek squishing cowpies, is a craftsman extraordinaire, whittling all manner of life-like figurines.

As a young child, Don was allowed to roam freely on the Acreage. He made friends with the WPA’ers working on the channelization project, and recalls them “putting him up” on the family’s Shetland pony, Black Beauty. Oddly, the challenge then was not to keep livestock out of the

*[continued on pg 6]*



# Your Watershed Council in Action

## Council gears up for Watershed Wide Event 2004!

by Becky Tate

Want to be a part of a great community event? For the seventh year in a row, the Johnson Creek Watershed Council and their partners will be taking a Watershed Wide perspective on winter invasive removal, native planting, surveying, naturescaping, inventory, and more.

On **February 28, 2004** the **Watershed Wide Event** will bring together hundreds of volunteers from throughout the Johnson Creek watershed to twelve sites for a variety of activities. Volunteers of all ages and abilities will help enhance the creek by removing invasive species, planting native trees and shrubs, and mulching new plants. Some will learn the hows and whys of naturescaping their yards. Others will help survey and inventory to prepare new sites.

All the individual neighborhoods along Johnson Creek are a part of a larger community: the Johnson Creek watershed. Residents of this community know that they all live both up and down stream of other members of the watershed. They also know that in order to bring back the once-abundant salmon population and increase wildlife habitat and green spaces for people, Johnson Creek must be restored as a whole.

By coming together on this day in February, watershed residents can support restoration in their own neighborhood as well



Volunteers at Watershed Wide Event 2003 planted over 2,000 trees!

as contribute to the greater vision of a healthy Johnson Creek.

Be a part of this vision! If you would like to join in the planning of this event, call Becky at (503) 239-3932 or email her at [becky@jwc.org](mailto:becky@jwc.org). For more details as the event approaches, check out the Watershed Wide Event page on our website, at [www.jwc.org/wwe.htm](http://www.jwc.org/wwe.htm).



Hard-working volunteers at Watershed Wide Event 2002

## Johnson Creek 101 provides education opportunities

by Seth White, U.S. Forest Service

In early October, we relaunched the successful Johnson Creek 101, a workshop about the history, ecology, and conservation of the Johnson Creek watershed. A group of eleven watershed residents, community activists, and environmental professionals took part in the workshop and got a chance to experience Johnson Creek first-hand.

After being primed with an evening slideshow and discussion, people gathered on a crisp fall morning to wade the creek, look for critters, and visit some of



the conservation sites in the watershed. Participants learned about the early history of the area—the historical context that brought settlers like William Johnson (the creek's namesake) to the area—as well as the environmental impacts of later events. Discussions included the loss of salmon habitat from channel straightening projects in the 1930s, improved water quality through environmental regulations of the 1970s, and the ongoing mission of the Johnson Creek Watershed Council to conserve, restore, and provide outlets for volunteers who want to improve the health of Johnson Creek.

Future plans for JC 101 include presentations to local schools, community organizations, and other interested groups. For more information about attending or hosting a JC 101 session, contact Jenna at (503) 239-3932 or [jenna@jwc.org](mailto:jenna@jwc.org).



# Springwater Festival draws hundreds!



Facepainters Debbie Armstrong (shown here) and Sam Meyer were popular among the children.



A watershed resident takes the Pledge!

As people flocked to Gresham Main City Park on September 27, they were greeted by the sound of bluegrass music and children playing. The 2nd Annual Springwater Festival drew crowds to the park to celebrate and learn about Johnson Creek. Here are just some of the many exciting things going on that day.

Booths and displays from great organizations like Friends of Trees, Audubon Society Portland, and the Dirt were scattered throughout the festival. Participants could sign up for green power, buy a Chinook Book, or learn more about local agencies like Portland's Bureau of Environmental Services and Gresham's Stormwater Division.

The US Forest Service provided a beautiful fish tent and Web of Life costumes. Kids dressed up like butterflies, frogs, and owls and paraded around the festival grounds, before settling into the fish tent to

hear stories.

Children also jumped in the bouncy castle, had their faces painted with watershed critters, answered trivia questions for fish tattoos, and tested their salmon survival skills in the Salmon Obstacle Course.

At the JCWC booth, more than 40 people took the Pledge for a healthier Johnson Creek. Watershed residents learned about nature landscaping, invasive species removal, volunteering at the JCWC, and the newly completed Johnson Creek Action Plan.

This successful day was only possible because of the hard work of staff, board members, and dedicated volunteers. A big thank you to all who helped!

Be sure to check out more pictures on the web at [www.jcwc.org/spfest](http://www.jcwc.org/spfest). See you there next year!



Board member Karl Lee and JCWC Chair Jeff Uebel help people take the Johnson Creek Pledge.



Children parade in their Web of Life costumes

## A Very Fond Farewell

by Maggie Skenderian



October 10<sup>th</sup> marked the departure of David Reid, JCWC Outreach Coordinator extraordinaire. For the last two years, David has worked tirelessly with neighborhood volunteers, local schools, Board members, jurisdictional partners and corporate sponsors to put on special events

and develop stewardship and education programs. David also provided support to JCWC stakeholders on land use issues and was an invaluable resource to watershed residents needing assistance on a broad range of issues.

Whether he was pulling ivy and blackberries along side volunteers or writing a response to a land use proposal, David provided the expertise and enthusiasm needed to get things done. David made a particularly heroic effort this year getting the Watershed Action Plan completed, while covering extra bases during our search for an Executive Director.

"David's extensive knowledge of the watershed and boundless energy will be sorely missed" said Jeff Uebel, JCWC Board Chair. "We greatly appreciate the energy and enthusiasm David brought to the Johnson Creek watershed. The watershed and all of us have benefited greatly from his efforts. We wish him well in his new endeavors."

## Volunteers and donors heal the creek

Johnson Creek's most important resource is its people. From schools to businesses, from individuals to community and neighborhood groups, the people of this watershed are coming together to heal Johnson Creek.

Some help by volunteering at tree plantings and work parties in their neighborhoods. Some help by naturescaping their own yards. Some donate money to buy the tools and supplies needed for restoration work. Some participate in critical land use planning processes.

Every person in this watershed, regardless of age or ability, has a role to play in the health of Johnson Creek. To find out what you can do, turn to page 7.

Together the following people have donated nearly 300 volunteer hours and \$800 to the protection and restoration of Johnson Creek over the past six months. Thank you for your support!

Buddy Allen	John and Willie Gibbs	June Oakley
Cari Allen	Linda Ginenthal	Susan Oliver
C.E. Allesina	Dominic Green	Lori Partinico
Dennis Bachman	Ted Gresh	Kim Peoples
Kristy Banks	Scott Guptill	Jack Perry
Casey Banks	Keri Handaly	Nancy Peters
Bruce Barnett	Matthew Harris	David and Elaine Prause
Jim Barrett	Vivian Healy	Aparna Ravihumar
Steve Bennett	Deborah Hofmann	Louis Reed
Ruthanne Bennett	Patricia Keeney	Bob and Bev Reeves
The Big Purple House	Lynne Kennedy	Dean Reichman
Jon Bowers	Jess Kimball	Kristin Rein
Boy Scout Troop 699	Mary King	Michael Rosen
Lucas Brockway	William Kraai	Gail Roudebush
Linda Bryan	Jim Labbe	Gary Rydout
Deville Bundy	Karl Lee	Mary Ann Schmidt
Jay Bundy	Chandra Lee	Jill Schwie
Corinne Bundy Van Raden	Glendia Lemoine	Priyamaladha Sekaran
Barbara Butler	Kelly and Chris Lett	Bob Sharp
Thomas Butler	Sam Liebelt	Carolyn Sharp
Daniela Cargill	Jeff Locke	Derek and Amy Shugart
Alice Chang	Amy Long	Maggie Skenderian
Corinne and Michael Coles	Nathaniel Lundgren	William Smith
Carlotta Collette	Kathy Luscher	Molly Sullivan
Julie DiLeone	Kathy Majidi	Robert Threadgill
Nicole D'onofrio	Margaret McCarthy	Jeff Uebel
Melinda Dow-Ehrlich	Otto Cushing Miles	Gerry van Deene
John Dvorsky	Walt Mintkeski	Lynn Volz
Ross Edginton	Steve Moen	Mary Beth Wagner
Nan Finch	Kent Montgomery	William Walker
Patricia Fryer	Nadine Morris	Justin Wall
Kevin Galaas	John Nagy	Stephanie White
Greg Geist	Calvin Noling	Ali Young



### 2004 Johnson Creek Watershed Awards

Annually, the JCWC recognizes the outstanding people and associations that have demonstrated an exceptional commitment and dedication to the protection and enhancement of the Johnson Creek watershed's natural resources.

Towards that end, the JCWC is seeking nominations in the following categories: Leadership Initiative; Land Use Advocacy; Volunteer of the Year; Above and Beyond!; Education; and finally, the Ernie Francisco Award for Dedication, Enthusiasm and Service.

The awardees reflect the diversity of the watershed's assets and values through their leadership, service, dedication, and enthusiasm.

Last year's award recipients were: Jon Bowers (Leadership), Gresham Butte Neighborhood Association (Land Use Advocacy), Troy Doss (Volunteer of the Year), Maggie Skenderian (Above and Beyond!), John Richter (Education), Jeff Uebel and Walt Mintkeski (Ernie Francisco).

The six new awardees will be honored this spring at the **Johnson Creek Watershed Awards Gala** - watch for details for this not-to-be-missed event!

You are invited to submit a nomination! Nominations can be made by anyone and must be submitted to the JCWC by March 1, 2004. To receive a nomination form, go to [www.jcwc.org](http://www.jcwc.org) or call Becky Tate. Award recipients will be selected by the Awards Committee.



# News From Your Reach

## Judge rules for pesticide-free zones

By Becky Tate

This July, federal judge John Coughenour ruled in favor of pesticide-free buffer zones along some streams to protect endangered salmon. The ruling was a follow-up to a ruling a year earlier in which Coughenour found that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was not doing enough to protect endangered salmon from pesticide use.

The EPA agreed to research the dangers of pesticides to salmon, but four environmental groups argued that protections were needed in the meantime.

The exact specifics of the buffer zones have not yet been determined, but the rul-

ing suggests banning the use of 54 pesticides from within 20 yards of streams with endangered salmon. This could potentially affect hundreds of miles of waterways in Washington, Oregon, and California.

Some environmental groups would like to see an additional 13 pesticides, used by homeowners in urban areas, also banned from along streams, but Coughenour favors public outreach campaigns to combat this threat to salmon.

Pesticides can cause great harm to salmon, even in very small amounts. Pesticide poisoning can cause birth defects, swimming difficulty, and death to salmon.

## Council completes Watershed Action Plan



After a year of hard work, the JCWC and its partners have completed the Watershed Action Plan! This plan assesses the state of the watershed and lists the top projects necessary for protecting and restoring Johnson Creek. This plan will act as a guide for the future work of the Council.

The plan outlines priority projects to be undertaken in four areas: Protection, Restoration, Stewardship, and Monitoring. The Council's Land Use Advocacy Committee will work on the Protection projects, the Restoration Committee will work on the Restoration Projects, the Outreach Committee will work on the Stewardship projects, and soon-to-be formed Monitoring Committee will work on the Monitoring projects.

Because the watershed is always changing, the Action Plan is a living and malleable document. The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), which helped develop the plan, will be meeting regularly to update the plan as needed.

You can read the Action Plan online at [www.jcwc.org](http://www.jcwc.org), or call us at (503) 239-3932 for a copy of the summary (pictured).

Thank you TAC members for all your hard work!

- |               |                  |
|---------------|------------------|
| Jeff Uebel    | Ruthanne Bennett |
| Jon Bowers    | Kathy Majidi     |
| Karl Lee      | Lynne Kennedy    |
| Kim Peoples   | Ali Young        |
| Chuck Beasley | Daniela Cargill  |
| John Nagy     | Ted Gresh        |

## Bundy Family shares their stories

[continued from pg 2]

creek but off Foster Road. King eventually put the old pony down then "dug 'em in four feet deep with all four hooves sticking up." Don and Corrine shook with laughter as Don retrieved one of Black Beauty's hooves he had kept all these years.

The 141<sup>st</sup> Ave Acreage is now a 3.6 acre park, donated by King to the City of Portland in 1975, and the site of our work party. Here once flowering mosses and trilliums grew; once the Bundy family's abundant garden provided; once Don road Black Beauty and, in season, fetched sacks full of crawdads with bacon bits, clothes pin and string. Now masses of Himalayan blackberries ensnare Snowberries, and English ivy stubbornly clings to cedars and Douglas firs.

But on that day in late September, nearly two dozen people spread out over the area, hacking, pulling, raking away the

invasion as the morning sun sent Jacob's ladders rays spilling into the grove. For the better part of that morning, King and Hattie's descendants, including all three of their children, worked side-by-side with JCWC staff and board members and two families from India.

Gathering to leave, Corrine's radiant smile seemed to glow with the glee of a child who had uncovered a great treasure - and indeed we had: the Acreage had begun to reemerge. Over time it will become home to fish and wildlife again as King and his family intended when donating the land. King is buried on the property; Hattie Mae's ashes may follow someday if and when Corrine finds the right urn. Meantime, we will return over the years with the Bundys, treasuring this family's wondrous presence and spirit.



## JCWC provides volunteer opportunities

Johnson Creek Watershed Council depends on the good work of many hearty souls to protect and restore the watershed. In the months ahead, we will be encouraging you to engage with the Council in a number of new and different ways. For starters, please think about some of the opportunities listed below and call us!



### *Johnson Creek Watershed Awards Gala*

Volunteers are needed now to help turn this annual event into a fun and fabulous fund and friend raiser for the Council. Volunteers will select the location, menu, and entertainment, identify and approach sponsors, work up a terrific program, and most importantly, select the Awardees! Volunteers with experience in special events, marketing, retail, entertainment, and fund raising are especially encouraged to call. Call Becky or Michelle to help with the gala. (6 month commitment, 1-2 meetings a month.)

*Watershed Wide Event* – Volunteers are needed for work parties and other activities such as naturescaping, surveying, and inventorying throughout watershed on February 28, 2004. Working with staff and the Outreach and Restoration Committees, volunteers will help coordinate, develop sponsors and partners, and publicize the event. Anyone with media, develop-

ment, and natural resources conservation and restoration experience are encouraged to call us! Call Christine or Becky to sign up. (3 month commitment, 1-2 meetings a month.)

### *Cultural and Community Round Table*

Explore how the Council might approach community and culture in the watershed. This group will initially work with the Executive Director to explore how we might approach questions around community, culture, and water in the Johnson Creek Watershed and what resources are available for doing so. If you're interested, please call Michelle at the JCWC. (2-4 month commitment, 3 meetings.)

*Education/Educators* – We need individuals with an enthusiasm for life long learning and developing future watershed stewards to help us reach out to watershed schools! Call Jenna for information. (Indefinite commitment.)

*Committees* - A few good souls are invited to join the Restoration, Outreach and Land Use Committees. These standing committees are an important mainstay for the JCWC. We need your expertise and leadership! Committees meet once a month in convenient locations throughout the watershed. Call Christine or Becky for details. (Indefinite commitment.)

## JCWC welcomes new faces and new enthusiasm

*[continued from pg 1]*

ever since growing up on Rock Creek. You can email Sam at [CMM@jwcw.org](mailto:CMM@jwcw.org).

Rejoining the office is **Jenna Ringelheim**, former AmeriCorp volunteer and our new Community Stewardship Coordinator. She will be setting up education and volunteer programs throughout the watershed. Originally from Wellesley, MA, Jenna has degrees in Environmental Studies and Anthropology from Skidmore Col-

lege. She spent the past several months traveling and working in Alaska, Massachusetts, and Idaho. Jenna can be reached at [Jenna@jwcw.org](mailto:Jenna@jwcw.org).

Finally, **Becky Tate**, has been newly promoted to Communications and Events Coordinator. Becky has been with the Council for nine months as a temporary employee and is thrilled to be taking on new responsibilities. You can reach her at [Becky@jwcw.org](mailto:Becky@jwcw.org).

## Upcoming Events

For more information and meeting agendas, call (503) 239-3932 or email [becky@jwcw.org](mailto:becky@jwcw.org). Visit our calendar at [www.jwcw.org](http://www.jwcw.org)!

Tuesday, November 18, 6-8pm  
**Council Board Meeting (Reed College, Vollum 110)**

Board meetings are open to the public.

Wednesday, November 19, 4-6pm  
**Outreach Committee Meeting (JCWC office)**

Meets regularly on the third Wednesday of each month.

Saturday, November 22, 9am-3pm  
**Natural Area Restoration Crew Leader Training (Friends of Trees)**

The Natural Area Restoration program restores and enhances degraded urban natural areas to preserve biodiversity, improve water and air quality, protect native species, and enhance wildlife habitat. This is a great way to learn more about improving Johnson Creek! For more information, call Rachel Sanchez at (503) 232-8846x12 or email her at [rachels@friendsoftrees.org](mailto:rachels@friendsoftrees.org).

Tuesday, December 2, 5-7pm  
**Restoration Committee Meeting (JCWC office)**

Meets regularly on the first Tuesday of each month.

Monday, December 8, 6-7:30pm  
**Land Use Committee Meeting (Gresham City Hall, Rm 2B)**

Meets regularly on the second Monday of each month.



## Restoring Johnson Creek



A narrow ribbon of green and blue, Johnson Creek is one of the resources that makes the Portland area a wonderful place to live. The creek flows 26 miles from its headwaters near the Sandy River to its confluence with the Willamette River, passing through four cities and two counties along the way.



Water that once flowed clear and cold through dense forests and verdant wetlands now travels through neighborhoods, under freeways, and next to parking lots. Historic salmon and steelhead runs are threatened with extinction, and the creek suffers from pollution.



Fortunately, there is hope for one of our community's most important resources. The Johnson Creek Watershed Council works with local citizens, agencies, and organizations to protect and enhance Johnson Creek.

To get involved, call us at (503) 239-3932 or visit us on the web at [www.jcwc.org](http://www.jcwc.org). Look inside to find out more!



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