

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

Leveraging Resources to Serve Your Watershed

“The first steps towards stewardship are awareness, appreciation, and the selfish desire to have things around for our kids to see.”

-Barbara

Michelle Bussard, Executive Director

To paraphrase Barbara Kingsolver, Johnson Creek Watershed is my place. Because it is your place too, **I am asking you to become a true Friend and committed contributor of the Johnson Creek Watershed Council.** Like you, the Council takes its role as a watershed steward to heart while acknowledging our place in the larger world where calamities of near biblical proportions call for our support. Yet the contours of this watershed hold me. They remind me that a sustainable future starts locally. I believe that it is important to you

“I am asking you to become a true Friend of the Johnson Creek Watershed Council.”

to know that the quality of life that roots you here will remain the quality of life that sustains future generations.

The Council has been a committed steward of this watershed for over a decade. With your support, we will remain so for the next decade. Through our partnerships, we support a profitable agriculture sector which uses state-of-the-art conservation practices, a desirable urban living environment based on the most effective watershed protection practices and a public recreation corridor with diverse wildlife habitat along its length.

We look to nature for guidance in using our limited resources frugally. A stream takes the path of least resistance, not expending unnecessary energy to navigate its way through its watershed. Wildlife uses the same conservative approach, only hunting when hungry. We strive to take our cues from these role models. And we are mindful to apply your contributions where their worth can be fully realized.

Unfortunately, being mindful of sustainable resource utilization is not enough in our urban water-



shed. The impact of metropolitan growth has already taken a toll on many of the reaches of this stream. But with your support we will continue to practice and promote sustainable development techniques and make on-the-ground efforts to restore and protect these impacted reaches of our watershed our top priority.

Please take a moment to reflect on the many benefits provided by this amazing natural resource flowing through your urban landscape. If these rewards offer a quality of life that you value for yourself and generations to come, help us ensure a sustainable future for Johnson Creek Watershed by contributing to the Council. Together we can realize our vision of a healthy Johnson Creek Watershed by balancing the needs of our society with the needs and limitations of the fish and wildlife that also call this community home. Our deepest thanks and appreciation,

Michelle Bussard

Your Dollars at Work

Ever wonder what your donation can buy? Here's a breakdown of how far JCWC stretches your dollars.

| Donation | Watershed Benefits |
|-----------------|---|
| \$25 | 30 plants provide stream bank stabilization and habitat for wildlife |
| \$50 | 3 hour field trip with watershed school group |
| \$100 | Hip boots and a sampling net for in-stream water quality monitoring |
| \$500 | Dumpster, 10 loppers and 10 pairs of gloves for invasive plant removal |
| \$1,000 | 700 native plants, equipment, supplies, and crew leaders for 5 restoration work parties |





On the evening of September 8, 2005, over seventy watershed residents joined Rep. Carolyn Tomei, Council members, Advisory Circle members Mike Burton, Paul Bragdon, Mike Lindberg, Terry Todetemier and David Moskowitz, staff and volunteers to enjoy the Johnson Creek Watershed Council's second annual Open House and Silent Auction. The gathering, held at the JCWC creek side office, began and ended with music performed by the tremendously talented local bluegrass band, Rattlebone Hollow. During

the band's performance, attendees enjoyed excellent food prepared by our Executive Director, Michelle Bussard, and bid on a wide array of silent auction items.



Attendees make their last minute bids on the 55 donated items in the Silent Auction.

Following the closing of auction bidding, we recognized some of the outstanding volunteers who have made the work of the Council possible throughout the last year. The award winners were: Kendra Peterson-Morgan, Michael Scisco, Tom Sullivan, Dan Laffitte, Karl Lee, Portland General Electric and Hollydale Elementary School. Congratulations to all award winners, and thank you again for your tremendous dedication to the restoration and protection of Johnson Creek!

The highlight of the evening was our keynote speaker, Robin Cody, local author of *Ricochet River* and *Voyage of a Summer Sun*. After hearing the Council acknowledge its volunteers Cody said, "These volunteers are the people with mud on their boots. I'm here to remind them how important it is that they keep repairing this stream." He continued to praise the work of the Council and its watershed community by emphasizing the importance of natural areas to community health.

The event was a huge success! The Council exceed its fundraising goal and had the pleasure of welcoming many new friends. Thank you to all of the volunteers and generous donors who dedicated their time, money, energy and enthusiasm to make this event such a valuable accomplishment for the Council and its watershed!

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Outstanding Volunteers!

THANK YOU!

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| Cheryl Ausmann-Moreno | Noah Jenkins |
| Jim Barrett | Melissa Johnston |
| Lowery Brown | Heath Kiersted |
| Robin Cody | Jim Labbe |
| Carlotta Collette | Dan Laffitte |
| Shirley Craddick | Walt Mintkeski |
| Keri Handaly | Suzette Moreno |
| Teresa Huntsinger | Kim Peoples |
| Rin Carroll Jackson | Mary Sause |
| Joe Jackson | Mary Ann Schmidt |
| Tom Jackson | Jeff Uebel |
| Linda Jackson | |

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- Al Jubitz, Jubitz Foundation
- Albertsons
- Assaggio
- Barbara Bernstein, Media Project
- Bill Bulick
- Bob's Red Mill Natural Foods
- Border's Books
- Bridgeport Brewery
- Chief Carla Piluso, Gresham Police Department
- Christine Hurst
- Ciao Vito
- Cistus Nursery
- Columbia Sportswear
- David Moskowitz, Wild Salmon Center
- Deek Heykamp, Next Adventure
- Don Carlson, City of Portland
- Fred Meyer, Mike Roth
- Grand Central Baking Company
- Jeff Uebel
- Jim Barrett
- Jim Labbe, Audubon Society
- Jordan Vinograd
- Julie Bussanich, Lauka and Associates
- Julie DiLeone
- Kendra Petersen-Morgan, Sunporch Massage
- Kim Peoples, Multnomah County
- Leach Botanical Gardens
- Marlene Huntsinger
- Mary Sause
- Metro
- Metro Recycling
- Michelle Bussard
- Mike Burton, PSU School of Extended Studies
- Mike Lindberg
- New Seasons
- Oregon Trout
- Pamela Fiehn
- Patagonia
- Peter Schoonmaker, Illahee Society
- Portland General Electric
- Portland Nursery
- Regent Street Photography Inc.
- Schondecken Coffee Roasters
- Sherry Manning, Lewis & Clark College
- Shirley Craddick
- Starbucks
- Steve Johnson
- Teresa Huntsinger
- Terry Bradshaw
- The Nature Conservancy
- Walt and Vicki Mintkeski
- Willamette Riverkeeper



Stories from the 'Shed

*Then and now, Steve Johnson defends his canyon:
Johnson Creek Canyon*

By Michelle Bussard, Executive Director

In the 1950s, the Golden Eagles, a gangling group of young boys including Steve Johnson, would stand lookout atop what had been a hill, now leveled as the home of Allied Chemicals. At the sight of the opposing gang assembled just east of S.E. 45th Ave., the Golden Eagles would arm their 4' sling shot with creek rocks, claiming the now official Springwater trailhead as theirs for another day. In the 1990s, he was equipped with the Johnson Creek Marching Band, which may have lacked any semblance of musical talent but did not lack the courage to confront rabble-rousing motorcycle gangs tearing up Tideman Johnson Park.

Steve's great grandfather, Tideman Johnson, moved out west with the building of the railroads. In 1880, he purchased eighty acres from the Wills Family of Willsburg Town located near the S.E. 32nd Ave. viaduct, and with his wife, Olava, built their first home. Although Tideman and Olava died before they could live in their second house built in 1912, their children moved in. Eventually, Steve's Uncle Telmer would inherit the home and acreage which included what is now Tideman Johnson Park. The park land was connected to the Johnson property by a footbridge built in the thirties by the Works Progress Administration (WPA). It was at about the same time that the WPA embarked on their "channel improvement" project, paving and straightening the creek. Throughout the twenties and thirties, Telmer encouraged use of his land as a park and even sponsored July 4th fire-

Watch for these Johnson Creek Watershed Council Events!

February 25, 2006: *Watershed Wide Event*

May 2006: *Annual Meeting & State of the Watershed Report*

July 2006: *In-Stream Watershed Wide Event*

works. In a 1931 letter to the editor of the *Oregon Journal*, the park was described as a "certainly beautiful place, with a running stream for fishing and swimming and with lovely beaches and an ice-cold spring of cold water." But, like his nephew, Telmer's feelings soured as vandals began to take advantage of his generosity. The bridge would eventually wash out and in 1942, the Johnson family donated the 6 acres that became Tideman Johnson Park.

With Telmer's death in 1938, Steve's father stepped into the property and ensured that the piece that Steve now calls home would remain in the family. When not hanging with the Golden Eagles, Steve recalls accompanying his father to collect rent from the Italians who leased part of the acreage for a truck farm. Rent was paid in gold coins and often graced with mason jars filled with homemade wine and spaghetti dinners. (Steve still treasures the spaghetti recipe which can also be found in the Oregon Episcopal Church Cookbook. Should anyone reading this own a copy, share it with us!) Throughout the fifties, Steve saw fox, deer, plenty of fish, muskrat, beaver, snakes and crawfish. But by the 1960s, the creek was rapidly losing its allure. It had long been forgotten as a "beautiful place." Steve moved away. When he returned in 1991 after his father's death, he was discouraged by rampant vandalism, muddy, warm waters and an alarming absence of wildlife. At times, he wanted to give up.

Throughout the nineties, Steve and many others quietly amassed a coalition of neighborhood conservationists, bureaucrats and coalition builders. From this unlikely union grew the "marching band" that eddied into Friends of Johnson Creek, eventually plunging into the Johnson Creek Watershed Council. Johnson Creek now had the voice it had lacked. And while Coho and Chinook remain as ESA listings, the indicator species for Steve is the woman jogging the Springwater Trail and kids' voices filling the air as they learn about the creek, invasive species and macroinvertebrates. "When I saw this," he said, "I knew I could die and the creek would be okay. Collectively we weren't going to let what had happened, happen again. It's all worth it to have come from the sixties to the sounds of kids' voices filling Johnson Creek Canyon, again."



JCWC Staffer Christine Hurst Supports the Katrina Relief Effort

JCWC Watershed Stewardship Coordinator, Christine Hurst, has taken her passion for community restoration and dedicated it to the ultimate watershed catastrophe, the Hurricane Katrina relief effort.

With the blessing and support of the JCWC staff and Board of Directors, Christine headed to San Antonio, Texas in September to work for three weeks in a Red Cross shelter. There she organized food distribution for the hurricane victims and Red Cross volunteers. The Council is extremely proud to have one of its own on the "front lines" and is grateful to Christine for providing an opportunity to indirectly share in this compassionate endeavor.



JCWC Internships

Fostering Career Development

Throughout its history, the Johnson Creek Watershed Council has been extremely fortunate to have an amazing series of dedicated interns who have committed their time, energy, talents and enthusiasm to the watershed. Interns have joined us from Portland State University, Reed College, AmeriCorps and the watershed community. JCWC internships have focused on a variety of topics such as education and outreach, land use, restoration and monitoring. While widely varied in focus, all have made important contributions to the progress of the Council.

Sadly, the JCWC is losing two fabulous interns, who have been with us for over a year now. Congratulations to both Kendra Petersen-Morgan and Michael Scisco on their new jobs in natural resource management! We wish them both the best of luck in their new positions!

In keeping with the JCWC tradition of fabulous interns, two new

I have been working with the watershed council for the past year on a riparian restoration survey. This work, which is a part of my master's project in Environmental Management at Portland State University has focused on compiling project histories and providing a water-



Kendra Petersen-Morgan

shed-wide glimpse of the current conditions and maintenance needs of restoration projects that the council has been involved in. I am currently mapping each project site, identifying the current vegetation conditions and utilizing a matrix of ecological and social conditions to determine the ecological potential of each project. My vision is that this work will provide the watershed council with a management tool with which to focus limited resources. Additionally my work will contribute to a restoration database which will be used to track project activity and catalogue the wealth of information that exists throughout the watershed.



My time as a land use intern at JCWC was enjoyable, productive, and educational. The level of exposure to local land use issues allowed me to understand the importance of becoming involved in shaping the future of our communities. This experience has given me

the tools to not only become a politically savvy citizen, but also provided me with experience in the realm of public administration, natural resource protection, and the inner workings of an environmental non-profit organization. I am a firm believer that what you get out of a situation depends upon how much effort, time, and energy you invest. Future land use interns will find limitless opportunities to make connections with elected officials, environmental representatives, concerned citizens, and staff members of local municipalities. I would like to thank the staff at JCWC for being supportive and allowing me the opportunity to become involved in protection of the watershed while still having time to pursue other professional endeavors as well as continuing my education. I intend to supplement my new position with the North Carolina Coastal Land Trust by involving myself in local environmental issues as an educated and concerned citizen of my community. Thank you everyone!!!!

interns will be joining us this fall! Mark Morley is our new Land Use/Environmental Planning Intern and Noah Jenkins is our new AmeriCorps intern filling the position of Invasive Species Outreach Specialist.

Mark will be working with the Council following several front-line land use and environmental planning initiatives that will dramatically reshape the watershed over the course of the next several decades. His work will involve reviewing and summarizing planning documents, attending meetings as a JCWC representative, reporting back to the Council and Board, developing recommendations and developing our Citizen Action Guide.

Noah will be initiating assessment and mapping of Japanese Knotweed stands in the Johnson Creek Watershed, selecting an infested area for a pilot inoculation program and developing an action plan for knotweed eradication. In addition to his work with Japanese Knotweed, he will be working to engage a cadre of community members in unified stewardship activities around the removal of invasive species and the value of native plantings.

We look forward to working with both Noah and Mark in the upcoming year and welcome them to the JCWC family!





A young steward helps a plastic fish through a tricky culvert while playing the Council's "Salmon Toss" at the Salmon Festival at Oxbow Park.

Outreach Overview

Working together to inspire community stewardship

By Jordan Vinograd, Community Outreach Coordinator

The JCWC's outreach efforts have been following the current of the watershed community's needs, ebbing and flowing with the tides of

ing (to be held in May), two Watershed Wide Events (the usual one in February and a new in-stream event in July) and continued tabling and education events like the Salmon Festival and Naturescaping workshops. In addition to planning for outreach events, the Council has been creating new outreach materials as well.

We have been developing a suite of three guides: 1) Citizen Involvement Guide of watershed technical assistance resources, 2) Volunteer Handbook

for community members interested in becoming active with the Council, and 3) Watershed Resident Handbook describing land use issues pertinent to being a responsible steward in the Johnson Creek Watershed. We are actively looking for funding for these publications and have volunteers working on layout and design. Once completed, this suite of guides will be shared broadly among existing neighborhood and civic associations to support effective public participation in the watershed community.

If you would like to get involved with the JCWC Outreach Task Forces please let us know! We are always looking for new community partners. Please contact Jordan Vinograd at (503) 652-7477 or jordan@jwc.org. To see what the Outreach Task Forces are currently working on, check out our website at www.jwc.org.

The projects the Outreach Task Forces (OTF) have been working on are as varied as their approach. Aside from the JCWC Open House and Silent Auction (see story on page 2), the OTF have been working on preparations for the Council's first ever Annual Meet-

ing (to be held in May), two Watershed Wide Events (the usual one in February and a new in-stream event in July) and continued tabling and education events like the Salmon Festival and Naturescaping workshops. In addition to planning for outreach events, the Council has been creating new outreach materials as well.

JCWC Resource Library is LIVE!

Our dedicated volunteer from StreamNet, Lenora Oftedahl, has been working with the Council for over a year on cataloging and organizing our Resource Room Library. This effort has involved many hours of entering titles, subjects and authors into a database; assigning Dewey decimal numbers to each of the resources; creating and affixing a label with the assigned number; and organizing the hundreds of documents, reports, videos and CDs into a catalogued library format. Thanks to Lenora's efforts, the Council is proud to announce that our Resource Library is now in a searchable on-line database which can be found at: <http://www.fishlib.org/catalog/johnsoncreek.htm>.

Healthy Waters Institute:

Commitment to Education

The Healthy Waters Institute (HWI) partnership with Oregon Trout continues to progress as we move into the first school year of the program's implementation. We have had 3 meetings with a Leadership Team made up of community members representing a diverse array of local water education providers. These well-attended meetings have helped us determine how HWI will satisfy the needs of the education community in the Johnson Creek Basin.

We are developing a web-based directory of local resource providers, where educators will be able to find programs or services that complement their curricular offerings. Curriculum development has begun for a program called 1,000 Drops, and hope to begin implementing this program in the spring of 2006. This fall Salmon Watch has already been implemented with eight watershed schools. In addition, we will continue working with the Leadership Team, area schools and teachers to develop and distribute protocols for using field study sites to alleviate possible strain on the area's fragile natural resources.

Addressing the concerns of Johnson Creek Basin resource users and providers is an on-going process. If you would like to be involved or learn more about the HWI please visit our website at www.healthywatersinstitute.org or contact Jordan at (503) 652-7477 or jordan@jwc.org.



Watershed Happenings

The Community Restoration Partnership

The Community Restoration Partnership (CRP) began in July of 2002. The goal of this pilot program is to generate landowner stewardship to restore the watershed. This project focuses on the reach from S.E. 117th Ave to S.E. 148th Street, covering 1.95 stream miles. The goals for water quality improvements are increased shading, reduced toxins, stream bank stabilization, and enhanced storm water retention. To achieve these goals the partnership has focused on supporting landowner stewardship. Through information sharing among neighbors, a community which embraces and values the environmental benefits that Johnson Creek provides can be strengthened.

During the first year of the project, a database was created, project designs were developed for flood storage, a demonstration project at Bundy Wildlife Refuge began, and initial contacts were made with residents. The focus of the past two years has been on developing relationships with landowners in project area. The Council has worked with a number of residents to begin connecting their needs to available resources. We hope that this will inspire other neighbors to get involved as demonstration projects take shape.

We are always looking for watershed residents to support and model good streamside stewardship practices! If you are interested in doing your own streamside restoration project or have any questions about this process, please contact Christine Hurst at (503) 652-7477 or christine@jwc.org



Wal-Mart in the Watershed?

An eddy of representations swirl around whether a Wal-Mart will be erected at S.E. Tacoma/McLaughlin site. The community's collective opinion is boldly staked out in area neighborhoods and JCWC has been asked, "What is your position?" Howard Dietrich, the developer, has long been a supporter of the JCWC, providing office space for Council staff for many years. In our letter to him, we acknowledge our relationship with him and stated that we trusted him to engage in full disclosure and public discussion of the environmental impacts of *any* proposed development on the site. It is our position that what is developed on the site should *create no negative impact on Johnson Creek*; demonstrate best management and design practices for stormwater management, habitat and riparian restoration; and model how economic development, watershed enhancement and green building practices can go hand-in-hand. For further information, contact either Gary Rydout, Vice Chair of JCWC or Michelle Bussard, Executive Director.

Gresham Stormwater Update

The City of Gresham Stormwater Division is currently in the process of updating the four year Stormwater Management Plan for 2006-2009. This draft document will be available for public review and comment in January 2006. If you would like to receive a copy of the plan on CD ROM that will be submitted to OR DEQ as part of the City's compliance with the Clean Water Act for stormwater management, please call Carrie McKowen at 503-618-2683 or email Carrie.McKowen@ci.gresham.or.us. This report will also be available on the City's website (www.ci.gresham.or.us) and for public review at Gresham City Hall located at 1333 NW Eastman Parkway.

Damascus/Boring Concept Planning

The Damascus/Boring Concept Plan is being prepared by the cities of Damascus and Happy Valley, Clackamas County, Metro and the Oregon Department of Transportation, with the assistance of an Advisory Committee and area citizens. The plan will be a blueprint for development of the 12,000 acres of the Damascus, Boring and east Happy Valley communities that were brought into the region's urban growth boundary (UGB) in 2002. This area includes both the Kelley Creek and Sunshine subwatersheds.

The last community forum on the Damascus/Boring Concept Plan was held on October 8, 2005. The information collected at the Community Forums and from comment forms will be compiled and presented to the Advisory Committee on November 8. The Advisory Committee will consider the input received and determine if any adjustments to the draft Concept Plan are necessary. On December 13, 2005 the Advisory Committee is expected to have finalized their recommendations and present them to elected officials of the Cities of Happy Valley, Damascus and Gresham, Clackamas County, Metro, and the State.

Happy Valley, Damascus and Gresham will use the Concept Plan as a basis to amend and develop their comprehensive plans and zoning ordinances starting in early 2006. Please contact the appropriate city for further information on their public process and timeline for completing their comprehensive plan and zoning ordinances work. For contact information go to www.co.clackamas.or.us and search "Damascus/Boring Concept Plan."



Why Johnson Creek is Important to me...



By Walt Mintkeski, Board Member

I was recently asked why Johnson Creek is important to me and why I am involved in the Johnson Creek Watershed Council (JCWC). Well, it all began in the mid 1980s when Vicki (my wife) and I had two young boys who needed an outdoor place to play and experience nature. We discovered Tideman Johnson Park between SE 32nd and 45th Avenues. Here Johnson Creek runs through a beautiful canyon where tall Douglas firs and cedar trees shade the creek and quiet the noise of our busy urban lives. We loved to take our sons there and watch them explore the natural wonders of the woods and creek. But during the rainy months, we saw the creek swollen with runoff and polluted by debris thrown in by careless people and washed in from storm sewers. During the late 1980s, I met Steve Johnson (see article on page 3), Ethan Seltzer, and Terry Toedtemeier, who had been working to publicize the plight of the Creek for many years. Through my conversations with them and others, I began to realize that the public's perception of Johnson Creek was that of an open storm sewer. However, they also showed me their vision of the Creek as a fish bearing stream and a wildlife and recreation corridor running along the Clackamas/Multnomah County line from the Sandy River to the Willamette River. I was hooked by that wonderful vision and decided to begin to make it a reality in Tideman Johnson Park. So with help from Steve Johnson and other concerned neighbors, we organized an April 1990 Earth Day cleanup of the Park. We literally jumped into the Creek and pulled out all kinds of debris including 20 tires, 6 shopping carts, 3 motorcycle bodies, and half a Volkswagen bug. What a feeling of accomplishment! That began a series of annual cleanup events under the auspices of an all-volunteer group I chaired called Friends of Johnson Creek Canyon.

During the period from 1990 to 1995, the old Springwater Railroad line running along Johnson Creek from Sellwood past Gresham was being converted into a walking and bicycling trail, providing 15 miles of public access to the Creek. A citizen's group called

Friends of Springwater Corridor oversaw that project which the Cities of Portland and Gresham implemented. During that time, Friends of Johnson Creek Canyon and Friends of Springwater Corridor merged into Friends of Johnson Creek and Springwater Corridor. Also during 1990, the City of Portland convened the Johnson Creek Corridor Committee, on which I was asked to serve. Over the next 5 years, the Committee advised the City on the development of a Resources Management Plan for the Creek. One of the Plan's recommendations was the formation of the Johnson Creek Watershed Council, which began in July, 1995.



Walt Mintkeski has been involved with the protection and restoration of Johnson Creek for the past 15 years.

So within a mere 5 years, the Vision for Johnson Creek was launched with an explosion of activity which today has changed the public's perception of the Creek tremendously. Over the past 10 years, use of the Springwater Corridor has climbed steadily and people have been able to see first-hand the Creek and the many restoration projects coordinated by the JCWC in conjunction with the Cities of Gresham, Portland, and Milwaukie and other partners. It is this progress toward

realizing the Vision of the Creek as a healthy stream and recreation and wildlife corridor that has kept me involved in Johnson Creek activities over the past 15 years and serving as a member of the board, past Chair and current Treasurer of the JCWC during its first 10 years.

In order to keep the momentum going to implement the Vision, the JCWC needs your support. I hope you will join me in making an annual tax-deductible donation to the Council during its tenth year. This citizen-led group is where the passion lies to make sure that the Johnson Creek Vision is kept in the public's eye and implemented. That passion for the Vision is what keeps me going.

Walt

Save the Date!

for the 8th annual
Johnson Creek Watershed Wide Event



Saturday, February 25, 2006

9:00 - noon

With a Pizza Party to Follow!

For more information please contact us at info@jwcw.org, 503-652-7477 or visit www.jwcw.org.



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