



# 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*

## Coho Salmon Spotted in Johnson Creek

By Christine Steele, Community Outreach Coordinator

November's record-breaking rains may have reminded the region of just how 'flashy' Johnson Creek can be, but the rains also heralded the return of salmon into the Johnson Creek watershed. On a Saturday morning in early November, Dan Laffitte, Board of Directors member and Chair of the JCWC's Restoration Committee, walked along Crystal Springs Creek in Sellwood to conduct a salmon spawning survey, and spotted two Coho salmon making their way upstream. The male, discernable by its pronounced hooked jaw, swam next to the female in what appeared to Dan to be pre-spawning behavior. Coho salmon have been observed in Crystal Springs Creek for several years in a row during Johnson Creek Watershed Council's annual salmon spawning surveys.

About a week later, the Council received a call from Steve Hoiland, Superintendent of the Eastmoreland Golf Course, letting us know he had spotted Coho near the seventeenth hole. Council staff, joined by a Channel 8 camera operator, went to have a look. Three large Coho, by turns darting swiftly through the rapids or thrashing through shallow gravel beds near the dam spillway below Crystal Springs Lake, flashed their deep red color in the sun. "I feel honored to be able to work here and ensure that these fish have a place to return to year after year," said Hoiland. Michelle Bussard, Executive Director, and I stood silently watching; this was the first sighting of the Coho for both of us, although Steve commented that he has seen them many times in the years he's worked at the golf course.

Eastmoreland Golf Course has been the site of numerous restoration events over the years with our partners—including PGE, Friends of Trees, and the City of Portland's Watershed



*Coho salmon returned to Crystal Springs Lake to spawn last fall.*

Revegetation Program, among others — to improve streamside vegetation. In 2001, a fish passage project was completed that allowed salmon to navigate to spawning sites above Crystal Springs Lake. On March 3, the golf course will again be a Watershed Wide Event site.

The Johnson Creek watershed historically was home to large salmon populations: salmon runs helped feed Clackamas Indians, as well as farmers and others who settled here later. Numbers declined dramatically once urbanization began and particularly after channelization of the creek in the 1930's. However, Coho and Chinook salmon, as well as steelhead and certain subspecies of cutthroat trout have been observed in the creek in recent years. Coho and Chinook salmon and steelhead trout are listed as threatened in Johnson Creek under the En-

dangered Species Act. As an indicator species, salmon moving through the system tell us and our partners that our work to restore and protect Johnson Creek is achieving measurable successes!

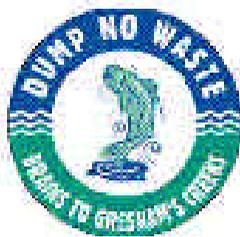
*Salmon spawning surveys are conducted by volunteers who devote six to eight hours over the course of the spawning season to observe and record salmon moving through the system. The Council has conducted these surveys for several years and will be gearing up in the future to include volunteer amphibian and bird monitoring surveys in its program to monitor the health of the creek. Interested community members can email [info@jcw.org](mailto:info@jcw.org).*



## 9th Annual Watershed Wide Event March 3, 2007

The Johnson Creek Watershed Council is bringing together hundreds of volunteers at eleven sites throughout the watershed to help restore Johnson Creek's natural functions and beautify our community.

**For information or to volunteer see page 6-7.**



## Lewis and Clark Naturescape at Gresham History Museum

The grounds of Gresham's History Museum will soon be home to the City's first naturescaping demonstration site in the Johnson Creek watershed!

AmeriCorps volunteers working with the City's Watershed Management Division have recently completed a design for the project, and the History Museum board was thrilled to accept their plans. Landscape construction will begin in this winter, and the garden will be patron-ready by spring.

The landscape design will feature drought-tolerant, native plants first documented by Lewis and Clark, a porous-walkway for on-site stormwater infiltration, and a low-maintenance eco-lawn. Once established, the gardens won't require irrigation, fertilizers or pesticides.

Additionally, as part of the project's Lewis and Clark theme, botanic garden-style plant labels will provide historical facts and figures and anecdotes from the explorers' journals.

Stop by the Gresham History Museum to see the Lewis and Clark demonstration gardens this spring! Where else in town can you learn about history and pick up eco-friendly gardening ideas at the same time?

For more information, contact: Jamie Stamberger, project coordinator  
City of Gresham, Department of Environmental Services  
Phone: 503.618.2793, Email: [Jamie.Stamberger@ci.gresham.or.us](mailto:Jamie.Stamberger@ci.gresham.or.us)

### City of Gresham Neighborhood Restoration Spring 2007 List of Events



#### **Bear Creek Neighborhood Event, February 10, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.**

Come remove invasives and plant native species on the banks of this small Butler Creek tributary! The event site is just NE of SW Willow Parkway between SW Meyers Place and SW Meyers Drive and can be accessed via Butler Creek Park.

#### **Kelly Creek Neighborhood Event, March 10, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.**

Help restore the native plant community along this vital Sandy River tributary! This event will be held on the stretch of Kelly Creek between SE Palma Avenue and SE Barnes Avenue. More details will emerge as event coordination progresses.

#### **Friends of Trees Planting Events at Gresham Woods, March 17 and March 24,**

**8:45 a.m. to 1 p.m.** Help Friends of Trees and the City of Gresham improve the water quality of Johnson Creek by restoring woodlands along its banks! Event sites are located at SW 6th Dr. and Riverview Pl. along the Springwater Trail. For more information, or to RSVP for parties of more than 10, contact Kathryn White at 503-262-6646 ext. 12 or [kathrynw@friendsoftrees.org](mailto:kathrynw@friendsoftrees.org).

# Knotweed, Knotweed Everywhere

By Noah Jenkins, AmeriCorps Invasive Species Outreach Specialist

Not if we can help it! Thanks to the participation of hundreds of watershed residents, the Johnson Creek Watershed Council had great success last year in finding and treating knotweed in the eastern half of the watershed. This year, the battle continues, and we need your help! If you live by a stream in the watershed, keep your eyes peeled for this fast-growing, very invasive plant. Starting as a humble-looking, asparagus-like stub in late March or April, it will reach as much as 15 feet in height by June (did I mention fast-growing?). Other distinguishing characteristics are stems like bamboo, big, heart-shaped leaves, and pretty clusters of small, white flowers starting in July. It may be nice to look at, but it has the potential to wreak havoc on watershed health—it's been known to out-compete blackberry, and can quickly choke out native vegetation (and anything else you might want to grow!).

The Johnson Creek Watershed Council is beginning its second year of a campaign to rid the watershed of this ill-behaved perennial, and



*Knotweed can grow to 15 feet in only a few months. Eradication requires special treatment. Contact JCWC if you see it on your property.*



will continue our work this year from Powell Butte downstream to Milwaukie. If you live on this stretch of Johnson Creek, or any of its tributaries, you'll be hearing from Noah Jenkins, an AmeriCorps member working on the knotweed project. He will send a mailing about the project in March, and follow that up with door-to-door visits to seek cooperation in finding and treating knotweed. We are able to offer FREE treatment of this weed for landowners in the watershed! So, if you know you have this plant on your property, or have seen it in the watershed, please contact Noah at (503) 652-7477.

For more information on knotweed or about this project, check out our website at [www.jcwc.org](http://www.jcwc.org). Spread the word to your friends and neighbors about the problems of knotweed in Johnson Creek!

By locating and treating all stands in the watershed, we will be able to keep this plant from getting out of control and preserve wild-life diversity along Johnson Creek and its tributaries.

Leach Botanical Garden is a public garden dedicated to the study of botany and horticulture with an emphasis on plants of the Pacific Northwest and an ecologically sensitive approach to gardening. We are located on the banks of Johnson Creek.

Originally developed by renowned botanist Lilla Leach and her husband John, Leach Botanical Garden boasts a diverse collection of specimens found throughout temperate area of the Americas & Asia as well as numerous specimens of tropical origin. Come see what we have to offer!

✿ *Tours & Classes*

✿ *Plant Sales*

✿ *Horticultural Library*

✿ *Wedding & Business Rentals*

✿ *Gift Shop*

✿ *Nature Fair*

✿ *English Teas*

✿ *Holiday Bazaar*



The garden is open Tuesday - Saturday 9:00 am - 4:00 pm, Sunday 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm.  
We are located at 6704 SE 122nd Avenue (south of Foster Road). Tours are offered Saturdays at 10:00 am.

503-823-9503 ✿ [www.leachgarden.org](http://www.leachgarden.org)



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# Education Spotlight: Service Learning at David Douglas High School

By Noah Jenkins

The Johnson Creek Watershed Council has recently partnered with the City of Portland and Stacey Barber's Natural Resources students from David Douglas High School to study and restore a site on Johnson Creek.

Ms. Barber's students began stewarding the Bundy Wildlife Refuge on Johnson Creek in September. In the spirit of service learning, they are combining academic study of the area—everything from geology to fungi to oral histories—with efforts to improve the riparian area along the creek. At a recent visit in December, they removed a nasty swath of invasive English ivy, and collected samples for projects.

The students, who are engaged in this stewardship as part of their Certificate of Advanced Mastery program in Natural Resources, are hugely enthusiastic about their work at the site. Asked what their favorite part is, the unanimous reply was "Getting dirty!" The group was all smiles after a three-hour work party, and they were visibly proud of the huge pile of ivy they left in their wake.

Bundy Wildlife Refuge is a unique, forested parcel on the mainstem of Johnson Creek, with tall cedars and native shrubs that provide habi-



*David Douglas students tackle invasive ivy plants at Bundy Wildlife Refuge*

at for animals in and out of the creek. The area was donated to the city by Mr. and Mrs. Kingsley Bundy and their daughter and son-in-law in 1975, fulfilling Mr. Bundy's longstanding wish that others should be able to enjoy this forest on Johnson Creek.

The students from David Douglas will be

returning to the site in March to continue with site maintenance and begin planting native shrubs and trees as part of the Watershed Wide Event. Removal of invasive plants such as ivy and blackberry, combined with new native plantings, will create better habitat and enrich the site for wildlife and visitors alike.

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**The Johnson Creek Watershed Council** is bringing together hundreds of volunteers at eleven sites throughout the watershed to help restore Johnson Creek's natural functions and beautify our community. Review the description at each site to choose the location you would like to steward. Pre-registration is appreciated. Learn more at [www.jcwc.org](http://www.jcwc.org).

**1. Klein Point**

SE McLoughlin and Jefferson  
Come help volunteers from ODS and the Sierra Club remove invasive English ivy and plant willow stakes at this site near Johnson Creek's confluence with the Willamette River.

**2. Eastmoreland Golf Course**

SE 27th and Bybee Blvd  
Friends of Trees will lead this planting along Crystal Springs to complement other restoration projects on site.

**3. Errol Heights Wetland**

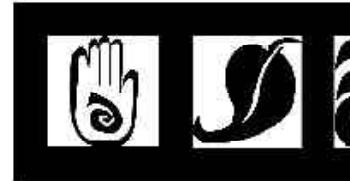
SE 45th and Harney  
Join Portland Parks and Recreation and the Friends of Errol Heights to plant wetland species in this unique wetland situated in inner SE Portland.

**4. SE 120th and Foster Place**

Come help remove English ivy from trees within this beautiful riparian forest — you'll forget you're in a city!

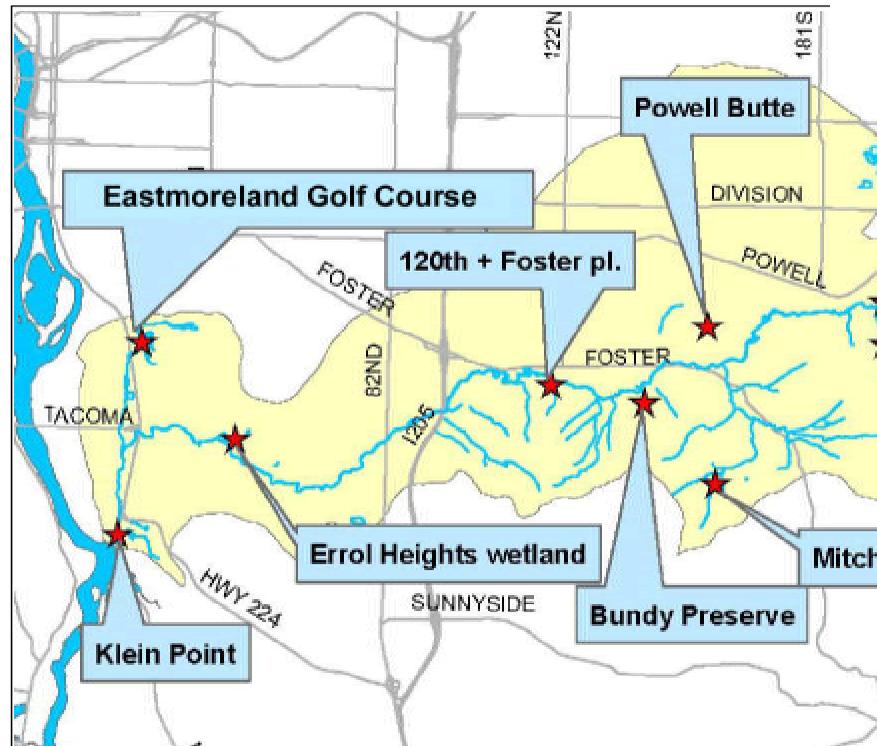
**5. Bundy Preserve**

SE 141st off Foster Road  
Assist local residents and a high school class with the stewarding of this wildlife preserve, removing invasive plants and planting native trees and shrubs.



# Johnson Creek Wa Saturday, March :

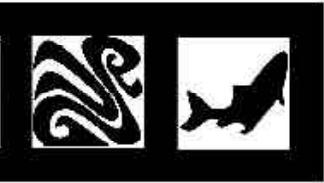
Work parties will be followed by a  
Pre-registration appreciated: at [www.jcwc.org](http://www.jcwc.org)



**Many thanks to our numerous partners. Coord**

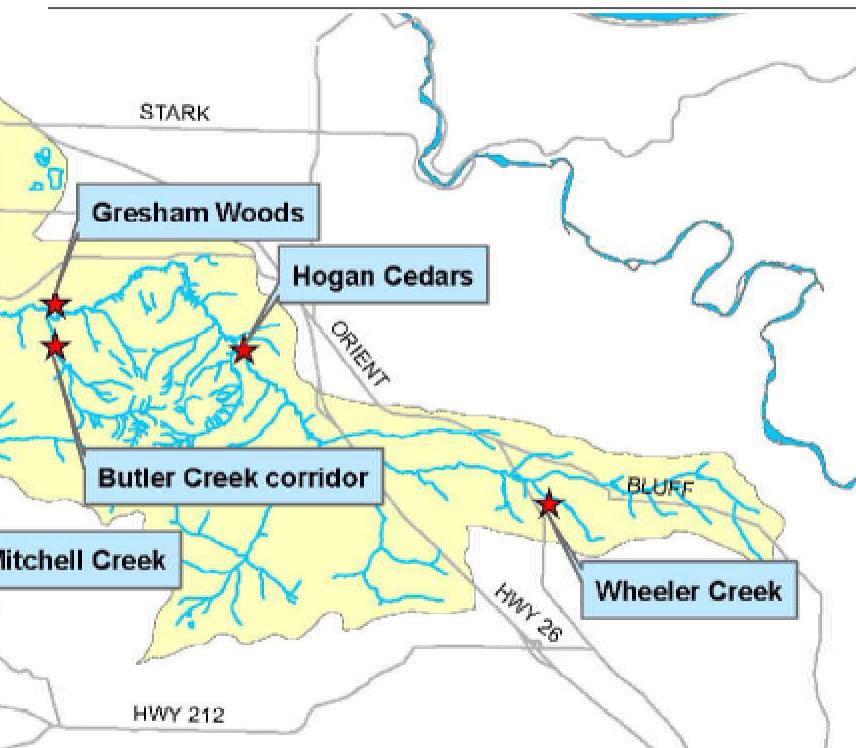
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East Multnomah SWCD • ESA Adolphson • Friends of Errol Creek • Friends of Tree  
The Jubitz Foundation • Metro • MU Graphics • Northwest Steelheaders, Mc  
Portland Nursery • Portland Parks and Recreat

**Connecting communi**



# Watershed Wide Event 2007 9am-12pm

Free celebration lunch at two locations  
For more information call 503-652-7477 or email [info@jcwcc.org](mailto:info@jcwcc.org)



## Organized by the Johnson Creek Watershed Council.

Partners include: Clatsop County SWCD • David Douglas High School • Eastmoreland Golf Course • Hawthorn Ridge Neighborhood Association • Historic Downtown Gresham Kiwanis • Johnson Creek Watershed Council Chapter • ODS • Oregon Hunters Association • PCC Structural • PGE • The Sierra Club • Veterans Conservation Corps

Participate through stewardship

### 6. Powell Butte Nature Park

SE 162nd and Powell

Join Portland Parks and Recreation and the local chapter of the Oregon Hunters Association as they plant shrubs and remove invasive hawthorn trees.

### 7. Mitchell Creek

SE 162nd and Clatsop

Assist the local neighborhood association in stewarding this second growth forested open-space gem. Help remove invasive species to prepare for planting.

### 8. Butler Creek Corridor

SW 14th and Binford

Join the City of Gresham and area residents as they work to improve the vegetation community along the Butler Creek corridor removing invasive plants and planting trees and shrubs.

### 9. Gresham Woods

SW 14th and Binford

Join Historic Downtown Kiwanis in planting along Johnson Creek in this stunning 50-acre preserve right along the Springwater Corridor in Gresham.

### 10. Hogan Cedars

Hogan Road and Springwater Trail  
Assist Metro in splicing and planting sword ferns along Johnson Creek. Plant lovers: learn what you can do with native plants.

### 11. Wheeler Creek

Wheeler Road off Stone Road

Wheeler Creek is a tributary to Johnson Creek in the upper part of the watershed just east of Highway 26. Come help plant willow stakes, cedars, and shrubs along its banks.

*We help people care  
for their land (and water).*



We have been providing conservation education, technical, and financial assistance to private landowners, governments, and non-profit organizations for over 56 years. Some of our services include nature-caping workshops, assistance with riparian restoration, noxious weed control, and erosion prevention. All of our programs use a cooperative, non-regulatory approach to voluntary natural resource conservation to preserve our soil and keep our water clean.

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# Land Use Update

The following are just two of the issues that the JCWC's Land Use Committee has been following.

## Wal-Mart in Gresham

In early 2005, Wal-Mart mailed 16,000 fliers to nearby residents regarding their intent to submit an application to build a supercenter at an 11-acre site near the intersection of Powell Boulevard, 182nd Avenue and Southwest Highland Drive, an intersection that Gresham city planners call one of the city's 10 deadliest. The site also borders Johnson Creek, the Springwater Corridor Trail, and the Fairview Creek Headwater Restoration Project, and is located within one half mile of three schools. A community meeting was held January 27, 2005 and was one of the largest gatherings on a land-use issue in the city's recent history, with an estimated 700 attendees. During the subsequent public comment review period, the City Planner received a record-setting 7,471 comments. The City reviewed the application based on compliance with a number of regulations including parking, building heights, traffic impacts, landscaping, storm and wastewater and noise pollution, and on August 16, 2005 denied the plan based on traffic and safety concerns. Gresham's Hearings Officer upheld the decision in November of 2005.

On February 23, 2006, Wal-Mart submitted a new application for a smaller supercenter (122,000 sq. ft.) on the same site, which they had recently purchased. On July 27, 2006, Gresham Planning staff approved the application 'with conditions': the conditions con-

cerned the traffic flow at the Powell/182nd/Highland intersection. Again, a record-breaking number of comments were received by the City of Gresham. This decision was appealed on August 4 by Centennial, Hollybrook and Southwest Neighborhood Associations, along with Gresham First, a local community action group. Local fundraising efforts had allowed Gresham First to hire a professional team made up of traffic consultants and land use attorneys to review Wal-Mart's application. In September, an appeals hearing was held to a standing-room only crowd, and on November 16, 2006, Gresham's Hearings Officer denied the retailer's proposal based on the traffic concern.

On December 6, 2006, Wal-Mart appealed the decision to Oregon's Land Use

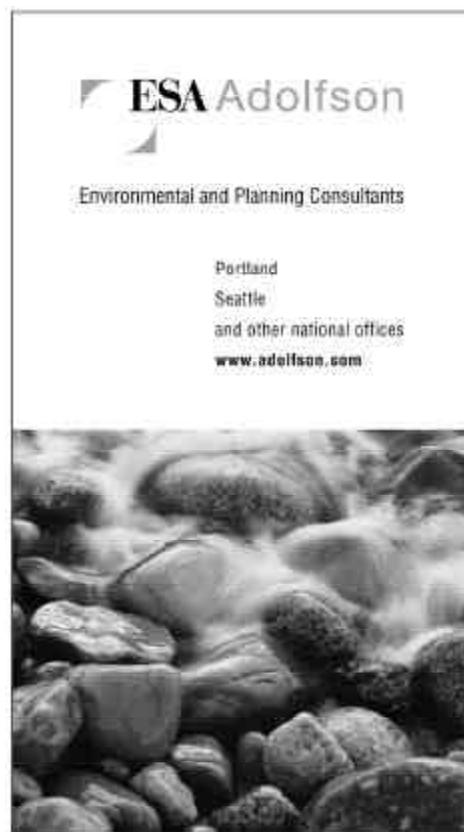
### Do you have an interest in land use and protecting the resources of the Johnson Creek watershed?

The Johnson Creek Watershed Council is looking for motivated volunteers to help us watch-dog local issues, such as tracking Damascus Comprehensive Planning and Measure 37 claims in the watershed. The Land Use Committee meets on the last Wednesday of every month, 6:30 to 8:30pm at Main Street Ale House in Gresham (333 N. Main Ave.). Knowledge of local land use issues is appreciated but not required to get involved. Come join us! For more information, contact Christine Steele at [christine@jcwcc.org](mailto:christine@jcwcc.org) or 503-652-7477.

Board of Appeals (LUBA). Gresham First also appealed the decision to LUBA, contending that Gresham should have used stricter guidelines when reviewing the Wal-Mart application, beyond the traffic issue; this appeal will ensure that all issues are discussed at LUBA, not just those raised by Wal-Mart. LUBA is expected to make a final decision in March of 2007. Stay tuned! For more information, go to [greshamfirst.org](http://greshamfirst.org), or come to a Land Use Committee meeting (see box).

## Natural Areas Parks and Streams Bond Measure

Election Day in November saw the passage of Metro's Bond measure to preserve greenspaces, water quality, and habitat within the urban growth boundary. Johnson Creek is one of 27 target areas identified in the bond measure for habitat and water quality protection efforts. The Johnson Creek watershed has already been the recipient of funds from this measure, with the purchase of an acre of property in Sellwood in December. The property can be seen from the recently opened bicycle and pedestrian bridge over Johnson Creek, part of the Springwater Corridor trail's "Three Bridges" project completed this fall. Portland Parks and Recreation will manage the Sellwood site through an intergovernmental agreement with Metro and already has plans to restore the stream with native vegetation which will improve water quality.



## Stories from the 'Shed:

# What Was and Is – Sharing a Bridge: The Franciscos and the Raybolds

By Michelle Bussard, Executive Director

The bridge is the Douglas fir that toppled in the last wind storm; the footings are the homes and hopes built on either side of the creek in 1958-59. Back then, the traffic was kids creek-walking, fishing and making their way to the swimming hole “there at the big bend, where its real deep,” Ernie Francisco said pointing to the knobbed trunk, like an index finger bent over at the joint, “just there.” Today, Ernie and Dave Francisco remain in their home snuggled into the creek’s steep southern bank that they began building with extended family and friends on September 14, 1959. The date is honored by a small 3”x 3” square from an ashen grey calendar page pasted into a green leather bound photo album of black and white pictures depicting the time and place of building. Arriving, I am knowingly escorted down steps still ice-frosted, Ernie’s broad warm back my bulwark, a piercingly cold railing my outstretched hand’s guide.

For 11 years Ernie, Dave and their two daughters, Trudy and Melinda, lived on the lot in their garage while building the house that had simply been a picture gleaned from a magazine in 1950 shortly after the Franciscos were married. “That was a mistake,” Ernie said. “What,” I asked in near horror as Dave sat nearby, “getting married or the house?” “No, looking at that picture because the house was built in La Jolla; it was never meant for the northwest! Dave thought we’d have unlimited power. You know, he worked for the Bonneville Power Administration.” Indeed, the house with its expansive windows nearly gulps in the four-acre vista of stately evergreens that form a circle at the edge of their lawn. And although I can’t see the Raybolds’ house, I can imagine them just yonder.

Ernie urges Dave to tell about building the house: how he drew up the plans himself from just the picture; how civil and mechanical engineering friends helped him, an electrical engineer, detail the broad bones of the home’s massive beams, its foundations and inner workings; how they would clear the land. “We’d use dynamite, you know,” Dave said, “those alder root balls were almost impossible to dig out. Only had one close call then.” Much later, death’s fine brush stroke would take their daughter Trudy at 33 from cancer and

Melinda at 45 in a fatal car accident just 10 miles from a family reunion at a favorite KOA campground.

In 1965, with the help of countless friends and family, the house was finished. “I think that happened a lot then,” Ernie

who “had 10 green thumbs” according to Ernie, proceeded to work the four acres planting neighbors’ cast-off “rhodies,” knotweed (then considered a hearty decorative plant!), ferns, alders and cedars. Upon returning to their home three years later, son Grant was born.

Perched high on Johnson Creek’s northern flank just opposite the Franciscos, at the very tip of the Douglas fir’s now fallen majesty, are the Raybolds. Their home was built in 1958 by Mr. Eatch, Sharon Eatch’s dad, who hand-crafted its spacious, welcoming rooms. At her door, Shannon Raybold’s smile and belly nourishing a 38-week pregnancy greet me. A deep, wide vista of mature cedars towers benignly, “planted 50 years ago by Sharon and her mom,” Shannon says. “Then, Sharon told me, they were only as tall as her mom.” Today, delicate drifts of snow rest on branches sweeping the air as if to welcome Shannon, Travis, her husband, and the new life they have invited to share this place with them.

With barely two official weeks remaining of her pregnancy, Shannon stoically copes with the baby in breech position. She remains hopeful for the home birth they’ve planned in a home she says “we bought as much for the magic of the place as the home itself. What better gift can we give our children than this?” Shannon adds, “This land, this place is magical to me. It is peaceful. I love listening to the trees.” As a special needs teacher focusing on autistic children, I suspect she listens well and deeply, observes

closely and carefully, isn’t startled easily. And, I’m guessing she’s doing something similar in this place as she reflects on the joy of finding evidence of wildlife sharing their more than three acre forest nestled into Johnson Creek: a deer’s den, a beaver’s dam, a cache of feathers, tracks imprinted in mud. And, the surprises: “...one day, I was hiking down below by myself and heard this big crash through the trees. There was a huge deer.” A smile curls around her entire face not unlike Johnson Creek curling through the canyon.

The Raybolds and Franciscos recently met

*“This land, this place is magical to me.  
It is peaceful. I love listening  
to the trees.”*



said, “friends and family helping and all.” But, it wasn’t to be home for long; Dave accepted a promotion and moved the family to Idaho Falls for 3 years. “Oh the girls resented it,” Ernie said. “They didn’t forgive us until they were in their 20s and had their own children. You know how that goes.” Dave smiled recalling a trip to Craters of the Moon in Idaho; he snapped a picture of Trudy and Melinda. “Oh, you should have seen the sour looks on their faces.” In the Francisco’s absence, Dave’s parents moved into the house and his dad,

*Continued on Page 11*

to discuss the demise of the Douglas fir. Knowing their shared passion for the outdoors, I imagine the conversation coming around to comparing notes on mountains climbed, hikes mastered. As I wonder about small worlds, theirs now connected by creek and tree, Dave offers up that his parents were friends of John and Lila Leach, and active members of Mazamas, a tradition the Franciscos heartily carried on.

Leach Botanical Garden sits an eighth of a mile from the Raybolds and Franciscos. It was Dave and his Dad who first hiked the trail through what would become the Francisco's lot that led to its purchase; years later Charlene Holsworth would walk down the Francisco's drive to ask if they wanted to be founding members of Friends of Leach Botanical Garden. Melinda, "who was a plant person," Ernie offered, was the third president of the Friends group. Plant prints and embroideries fill the



walls of Ernie and Dave's richly wood paneled home: a testament to Melinda, a reflection of Ernie's liberated passions. Travis honors his passion for their land and its wood sprites in his

stained glass pieces perched on window sills; titles on book spines lined up on the shelves, hand-crafted by Mr. Eatch, tell of the Raybold's values.

A downed Douglas fir says that Shannon and Travis, Ernie and Dave share values, including the honor of serving as stewards of Johnson Creek. Years from now, I imagine that instead of a cesspool, Travis and Shannon will also share a sewer line with Ernie and Dave—who will have nearly forgotten the trauma of laying sewer lines 30' deep on their property—as will most of the folks in this stretch of Johnson Creek. But even more, I imagine the echoes in the forest: where once Melinda and Trudy played house among rotting tree trunks and Grant made tree huts, so will Shannon and Travis' children grow up with a forest floor to cushion their falls and a creek to inspire their wonder.



## Albina Community Bank

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## Calendar of Upcoming Events

**March 3, 2007**

Winter Watershed Wide Event

**May 17, 2007**

State of the Watershed/  
Annual Meeting

**August 2007**

Summer Watershed Wide Event

**September 2007**

Open House & Silent Auction

**October 2007**

Friends of Johnson Creek Cam-  
paign



9th Annual

**Watershed Wide Event**  
**March 3 9am-12pm**  
**Free lunch to follow!**

Volunteer at one of eleven sites  
within the watershed

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See page 6 and 7 for details

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