



Team Efforts Benefit Johnson Creek

By Keri Handaly, JCWC Board Member, City of Gresham Dept. of Environmental Services

This year, Gresham’s Department of Environmental Services installed the city’s first naturoscaped public education garden. The project was designed and managed by AmeriCorps volunteer Jamie Stamberger with support from Katia Roth and Chas McCoy, also AmeriCorps volunteers placed with the city.

The “Lewis & Clark Discovery Garden” is located at 410 N. Main Ave. at the Gresham History Museum. As a certified GREAT Business, the museum took advantage of an incentive grant offered by the city to implement naturoscaping and stormwater management projects on their property. The GREAT program, offered by the City of Gresham, partners with local businesses to encourage resource conservation and protection.

In keeping with the mission of the Historical Society, the updated landscape design follows a historical theme. Botanic markers highlight native



Gresham’s Lewis & Clark Discovery Garden

plants first documented by Meriwether Lewis and William Clark as they traveled through the Pacific Northwest. Plant species were also selected for their beauty and drought-tolerance and were grouped together based on similar light and water requirements. Planting the right plants in the right

place ensures that the gardens will flourish without the use of synthetic pesticides, fertilizers or long-term irrigation.

The project also included the replacement of 2,100 sq. feet of traditional lawn with lower-input alternatives, including 35 species of native plants, a rain garden, a porous gravel pathway and a “lazy lawn” demonstration plot. The lazy lawn is a mix of cool-weather grasses and a variety of low-growing plant species such as sweet alyssum, baby blue eyes, and English daisy that function together as a self-sustaining ecosystem. This means that once established, the lazy lawn never needs to be watered or fertilized and requires much less frequent mowing than a typical lawn—three to four inches is the optimal length.

The garden’s porous walkway is ADA-approved and serves as an alternative to conventional sidewalks, which allow rainwater to runoff into stormdrains that lead to streams and rivers. The pathway overlies a sand and gravel reservoir that temporarily holds rainwater beneath the surface,

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Invest in the Health of Your Pasture: SWCDs Can Help

By Michelle Dong, JCWC Volunteer

Conservation plans for managing pastures vary in degree and scope at the landowner’s discretion, but developing one and sticking with it can be rewarding: a long-term investment into the productivity of your land and the health of your watershed. Between their own experts and the landowners they work with, your local Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) have amassed a collective knowledge base on the issue. They offer free site visits and technical assistance on constructing and implementing conservation plans on a completely voluntary, non-regulatory level, to farmers, property owners and those simply curious about another approach to some common issues.

Some problems cause annoyance on the farm as much as they cause problems in a creek, such as the following.

Weeds: Weeds are harder to eat, less nutritious than the grass or legumes they compete for re-

sources with, and may be a source of illness for livestock. Additionally, they may hold soil poorly in comparison to native plants, contributing to the problem of erosion. They’re all tenacious, and unique in

□ Every year my pasture gets better just by doing simple things. □

-- Karin Hunt, Shady Springs Farm

infuriating ways. To help, an Integrated Pest Management Guide for Common Weeds was compiled by weed control experts: a basic guide that offers tips on evicting invasive species from your land, which can be found on SWCD websites.

Mud and Erosion: The sediment levels of Johnson Creek are 94 percent higher than the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) stan-

dard. Among other things, sediment clouds the water and harms the growth of plant life that fish and other critters use for food and shelter. Erosion eats away at both wildlife habitat and your property, and increases flooding and the presence of mud. Mud serves as a breeding ground for insects, can cause diseases such as thrush and mud fever, produces molds that lead to respiratory problems, and can increase leg injuries in livestock. Minimizing these problems increases the aesthetics of a property, the health of its plant life, and means healthier livestock and cleaner equipment.

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Saturday August 18. See page 3.

Butler and Bear Creek Greenway Restoration

By Keri Handalay

It takes a village of caring community members to help restore two of Johnson Creek's tributaries—Bear Creek and Butler Creek. In February and March of this year, a flurry of activity took place under the direction of Adela Genovese, Laura Guderyahn and Jamie Stamberger, AmeriCorps volunteers placed with the City of Gresham—all of whom have a passion for mobilizing community stewardship and removing dreadful invasive plants.

With their guidance, seven community events took place (including one during the JCWC's Watershed Wide Event) mobilizing 269 volunteers and representing 733 hours of donated time. Their combined efforts removed 38 cubic yards of invasive blackberry and English ivy and replanted the area with about 2400 native plants. Tremendous thanks go to Eagle Scout Bradley Craft and EnviroCorps teams who were an integral part of making these community events happen. Other accomplishments supported by Boy Scout Daniel Keyes and Eagle Scout Brett Gaboury include extensive trail maintenance and five hand-built benches installed along the trail.

Butler Creek will be featured as a work party



Seven community events included removal of invasive plants and trail maintenance.

site once again during JCWC's Summer Watershed Wide Event on August 18. See page 3 for more information!

For information about getting involved with Gresham DES Parks community volunteer projects, please contact: 503-618-2485 or www.ci.gresham.or.us/parks.

Team Efforts *(cont. from page 1)*

giving it time to soak slowly into the soil and recharge groundwater, reducing stormwater volume during rain events.

The rain garden is situated by the museum's parking lot and captures water from 1,200 sq. ft of roof via a disconnected downspout which allows groundwater recharge. The native species were selected for their ability to survive in both standing water and drought conditions.

Other natural gardening techniques that were utilized in order to prevent the need for pesticides, fertilizers, or excess watering include: a slow drip irrigation installed temporarily to help the plants establish; use of compost as a soil amendment for natural fertilizer; and the use of landscape barrier fabric and aged fir bark mulch on beds to inhibit weed growth and hold in soil moisture.

Come check out the new public education garden anytime and find native favorites for your yard! **Find out more information about native plants, how to build your own rain garden, and the GREAT Business program by visiting: www.ci.gresham.or.us/cleanrivers, or call 503-618-2657.**

Pasture *(cont. from page 1)*

A good first step in dealing with erosion is to fence off bodies of water, which keeps livestock from exposing themselves to bacteria, disturbing the water habitat, eroding the embankment, or damaging the roots of plants that keep the soil together. To reinforce this practice, you can build or maintain a riparian buffer along the stream—that is, a thicket of native plants along the stream that can filter run-off and sediment, decrease the water temperature by providing shade, and increase the biodiversity of the area by providing food and shelter to wildlife. Riparian zones also reduce flooding by absorbing excess water, provide natural insect control, and improve air quality. On top of everything else, they look nice!

Tile drains (perforated pipes that direct water to ditches equipped to handle excess water), stockwater ponds, or rain gardens (an area with very pervious soil and water-loving plants) are also good drainage techniques. Bio-swales (drainage ditches populated by native plants) can also be placed between adjoining pastures, decreasing fights between livestock, increasing the life-span of the fences, and acting as a walkway.

Heavy use areas also allow livestock owners to alleviate winter mud. A study on the different types of footing that can be installed was conducted by Karin Hunt on Shady Springs Farm. Contact your local SWCD for more information and engineered designs on how to install a heavy use area.

Run-off: On its way though the watershed, water picks up heat, nutrients and other pollutants from



Karin Hunt, Shady Springs Farm

Young stock thrive at Shady Springs Farm. Owner Karin Hunt has worked extensively with SWCDs to create a healthy pasture environment while protecting the local watershed.

the ground. One result is that Johnson Creek needs a 78 percent reduction in bacteria levels to reach the DEQ standard for bacteria. Some pollutants, like unabsorbed fertilizer, can also seep into the groundwater, and may be indicative of overfertilized lands. If animals graze on plants that are too rich, they might pick up nitrate poisoning or grass tetany, a fatal disease in cattle.

Composting manure and other organic matter (such as bedding) on a farm is a great way to reduce waste, and kill parasite eggs and weed seeds. Unfortunately, this can also leach nutrients and bacteria that pollute the drinking water, spark algae blooms in rivers, and harm the surrounding habitat in general. (And it stinks, to boot.)

Taking into account how quickly livestock produce manure, the East Multnomah and Clackamas SWCDs have written a nicely detailed guide on

manure management. A well-managed compost pile decomposes faster, leaving you with more space and less odor. The district also can provide engineered drawing of manure sheds.

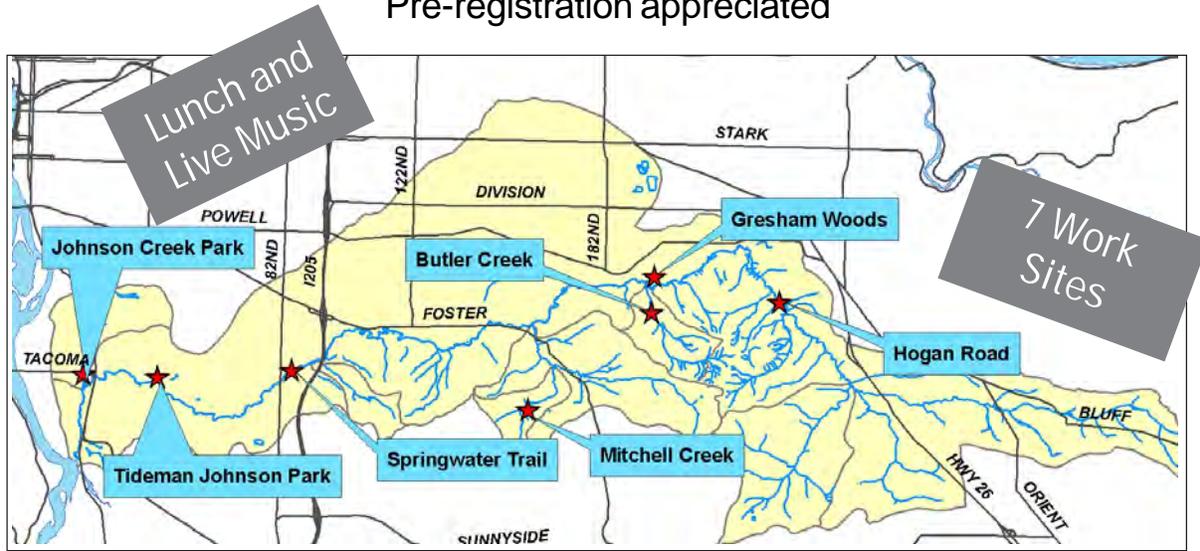
The SWCDs in the Johnson Creek Watershed offer a wealth of literature on these topics on their websites, as well contact information should you want to know more.

**East Multnomah
Soil and Water Conservation District**
<http://www.emswcd.org>

**Clackamas County
Soil and Water Conservation District**
<http://www.cc-swcd.org>



Johnson Creek Watershed Council
 2nd Annual Summer Watershed Wide Event
Saturday, August 18 9am-12noon
 Pre-registration appreciated



We'll be walking Johnson Creek to tackle trash and invasive plant removal, and mulching native plants to help them make it through the hot summer.

Come one, come all! Bring your family, coworkers, club or community group for a morning of rewarding work restoring Johnson Creek. Bring hat, sunscreen, gloves and waterproof shoes. Water and snacks provided.



Following the cleanup, bring your musical instruments or your toes for tappin' and join us for our first ever **Jammin' for Salmon BBQ**, starting at noon.

Bring your instrument and be a part of the open jam session, led by Mary Roundthaler and friends, or just sit back and enjoy the music! A BBQ lunch will be provided to all volunteers.



Get in the stream of things.

For more information or to register, contact info@jcw.org or call 503-652-7477

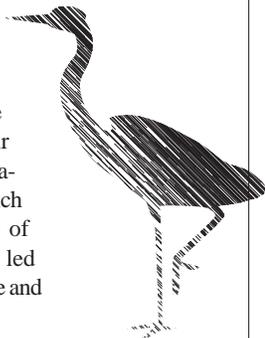
JCWC Honors Community Members at Annual Meeting

By Christine Steele, Community Outreach Coordinator

JCWC hosted its second Annual Meeting on the Reed College Campus in May. In addition to a beautiful setting and delicious lunch, guests were treated to an inspired speech by Kim Stafford, renowned poet and Director of the Northwest Writing Institute, which included an impromptu serenade with guitar in hand. "Stafford has an unprecedented perspective and feel for what it means to meet in and care for this place we call the Johnson Creek Watershed," said JCWC's Executive Director, Michelle Bussard. "His talk could hardly be a more fitting tribute to the volunteers that make the work of the Council possible."

Michelle Bussard, in her remarks, announced the release of our 2006 Annual Report, copies of which are available by contacting the Council, and on the website (www.jcwc.org).

Paul Bragdon, President Emeritus of Reed College and member of JCWC's Advisory Circle, rounded out the program with his remarks giving a unique perspective of the changes the campus has seen in its stewardship of Reed Canyon. Zac Perry, who heads up management of Reed Canyon for the college and has spearheaded their work stewarding and rehabilitating the canyon, which houses the headwaters of Crystal Springs creek, led tours of the canyon before and after the luncheon.



Zac Perry leads tours of Reed Canyon, where he has spearheaded years of restoration work.

Christine Steele



Keynote speaker, Kim Stafford, honors the work of watershed advocates with a song

Bruce MacGregor



Paul Bragdon, President Emeritus of Reed College, remarks on Reed Canyon

Bruce MacGregor

JCWC Welcomes New Board Members, Says Goodbye to Others

As part of our annual Board of Directors transitions, the JCWC welcomes new board members, and says farewell to others. We are truly grateful to Board members **Daryl Houtman** and **Rosy Mazaika**, who stepped down this year, for their service in furthering the mission of the Johnson Creek Watershed Council. We wish them all the best!

We are thrilled to welcome three new members to the board, and look forward to benefiting from the unique skills and insights they will bring to our table. **Byron Estes** is currently Senior Development Manager with the Portland Development Commission where he leads PDC's neighborhood urban renewal program. In this capacity, Byron's main focus is the redevelopment and revitalization of communities within the Interstate, Lents Town

Center, and Gateway Regional Center urban renewal areas. **Matt Koozer** serves as an experienced stream designer and constructor for many of Henderson Land Services' environmental rehabilitation design/build efforts. He has led numerous stream and wetland mitigation and rehabilitation projects, focusing on wetland delineation, functional assessment and mitigation site design, goals, and standards criteria. **Jerome Todd** comes to us as Senior Special Tester for Portland General Electric, where he has worked for twelve years in several capacities, including as an active volunteer at PGE's adopted Johnson Creek site, Eastmoreland Golf Course. As a member of the Clark-Skamania Flyfishers, Jerome has adopted the motto: No habitat, no fish. No fish, no fishermen. In addition, we welcome back **Maggie Skenderian**, who had

served on the board previously. Maggie heads up the Johnson Creek Watershed Team at the City of Portland's Bureau of Environmental Services.

The JCWC is also excited to announce a new slate of officers. **Teresa Huntsinger** takes the helm as Board Chair, **Jason Howard** steps in as Vice Chair, **Tim Cooper** has taken on the role of Treasurer, and **David Praise** as Secretary. The JCWC thanks last year's team of officers, and would like to especially thank **Jeff Uebel**, whom the board created a new position for as Chair Emeritus, and **Walt Mintkeski**, who is stepping down as Treasurer but will remain on the board and actively involved. The JCWC owes much to both of these men for their years of dedicated service. The Council would not be what it is today without their efforts and guidance.

Riffle Awards Honor Volunteers

The JCWC honored the groups and individuals on this page with a Riffle Award for their support of and service to the mission of the Johnson Creek Watershed Council. Each honoree was given a plaque and small pots of native plants donated by Portland Nursery. If you happen to run into them in the watershed, let them know your appreciation too! A riffle is a shallow stretch of a river or stream where the current flows a little faster and where the water forms small rippled waves as a result. It may consist of a rocky bed of gravels or other small stones and is often important habitat for aquatic invertebrates and juvenile salmonids.



Community Group

Historic Downtown Gresham Kiwanis adopted Gresham Woods in 2005, and arranges quarterly work parties at their site for invasive plant and trash removal and tree planting. Gresham Woods is a 71-acre site situated between Johnson Creek and the Springwater Corridor Trail. Owned by the City of Gresham, the site is open as a public natural area.



Public Official

Shirley Craddick, shown here with Board member Jim Labbe, is a former Land Use Committee member and serves as the current President of Gresham City Council. She consistently supports environmental and sustainability issues coming before the City Council.



Business Award

The ODS Companies have worked in partnership with the Johnson Creek Watershed Council since 2001 to steward their creekside property just upstream of where Johnson Creek meets the Willamette. Over the years they have fielded teams at Council work parties, provided access and allowed restoration work on their property, and worked with the Council to seek funding for important restoration projects. Todd Murray accepted the award for ODS Companies.



Youth Group

Stacey Barber's David Douglas High School class adopted Bundy Nature Park in September 2006. As part of David Douglas' award-winning Natural Resource Academy Certificate of Advanced Mastery program, students commit to serving the environment by donating time and effort in the field of natural resource restoration. Stacey's class has visited the site more than four times over the school to work, and will continue stewardship of Bundy as a partner in our Youth Engaged program. Bundy Park, 4.76 acres of streamside property south of SE 141st and Foster, was donated to the city of Portland by the Bundy Family. Student Amanda Krekow accepted the award with Stacey Barber.



Photos by Bruce MacGregor

The Ernie Francisco Award

(for Individuals): Gary Klein has been an active member of JCWC's Restoration Committee for years. He also designed and provided shelving and tool storage for the tool room, maintains and annually supplements its inventory, as well as cleans the tools and supplies after big work parties. Gary and his wife donated Klein Point, a .62 acre plot near the confluence of the creek, to the City of Milwaukie. Klein Point is the site of annual stewardship projects at Council Watershed Wide Events.

Invasive Plant Campaign Update

The Watershed Council and partners are out in full force again this summer tackling state-listed invasive knotweed, Yellow flag-iris, and false brome along Johnson Creek and its tributaries. Spearheading the battle is our cracker-jack field crew made up of AmeriCorps member Noah Jenkins, and LINKS volunteers Annette Garrigues, Carie Henderson, and Kate McQuillan. Last year's inaugural efforts focused primarily on the upper portion of the basin in Boring, Damascus, and Gresham. This summer the crew is making its way downstream into Portland surveying, mapping, and controlling these destructive weeds in our watershed. Through outreach and education to streamside property owners, the field team applies best management practices to carefully control these nuisance weeds. If you live along Johnson Creek or its tributaries, you may have one or more of these species growing on your property. Thanks to generous grants from Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, East Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District, and Metro, we offer FREE assistance to landowners dealing with these three targeted weeds. If you think you may have these weeds on your property, and want FREE assistance, give us a call! Contact greg@jwcw.org or call us at 503-652-7477.



Land Use Update: Land Acquisitions

As a target area identified in Metro's land acquisition program, the Johnson Creek Watershed has benefited greatly from recent purchases and donations of core upland and streamside properties. In addition to the one-acre property fronting Johnson Creek and the Springwater Corridor Trail, more than 100 acres have been acquired in key upland habitat in Gresham and outer Southeast Portland, including one hundred and thirty acres in the Gresham Buttes threatened by impending development. These acquisitions protect regionally significant habitat and headwaters the Johnson Creek Watershed.

Gresham City Budget

Members of the JCWC and its Land Use Committee have held meetings with Gresham Mayor Shane Bemis, City Councilors, and the City Manager to familiarize officials with Johnson Creek, its importance to Gresham's surroundings, and its future protection. The group successfully lobbied for additional natural resource staff positions during Gresham's recent budget process, including a Natural Resources Technician position, to assist Department of Environmental Services staff, and an Assistant City Planner/Zoning Inspector position, which will, in part, be responsible for in-field verifications of tree protection measures. These two positions are not permanent so members of the JCWC will continue their efforts to increase funding and ensure permanency for staff positions beginning next September when the Gresham budget process begins again.

WEED CONTROL WORKSHOP

Saturday August 11th from 10:00am to 12noon

Leach Botanical Gardens

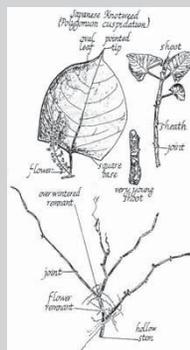
6704 SE 122 Avenue, Portland, OR 97236

Learn how to control state listed invasive plant species such as Japanese knotweed, Yellow flag iris, false brome, and garlic mustard

If you live or own property along a creek or tributary drainage, you may have one or more of these destructive weeds growing along your segment of creek. Attending this workshop, you will learn methods and techniques on the most effective ways to manage and control these state-listed, high-priority weed species. We will demonstrate the use of state of the art equipment and gear specifically designed for these weeds. We will provide you with a list of appropriate chemical products and their rates of application to maximize your effectiveness while protecting fish and the environment.

RSVP via phone or email by August 8 to Greg Ciannella at 503-652-7477 or greg@jwcw.org.

Coffee and pastries provided! Hosted by the JCWC with funding from Metro.



How Did Those Signs Get There?

By Marty Urman, Outreach Associate

In working to place the 55 signs which currently mark creek crossings and watershed boundaries, I have learned quite a bit. It is no small task to get even one sign placed along the roads of the five cities and two counties that Johnson Creek and its tributaries run through.

Step One: Decide which locations would be most visible. This requires a visit to creek crossings and watershed boundaries; a determination of road type (arterial, collector or local), figuring out what these road types mean; knowledge of which city/county jurisdiction the crossing is in (thank you, Thomas Guide); noting the density of nearby signs; and, observing the population density of the surrounding neighborhood. Whew! A numeric value is then assigned to each category to create a ranking system.

Step Two: Contact the jurisdictions. These include Multnomah and Clackamas counties, the Oregon Department of Transportation and the cities of Portland, Gresham, Milwaukie, Happy Valley and Damascus. Each jurisdiction has its own signage rules and permitting processes. I have learned there is a lot of variety to these rules and permitting processes.

Step Three: Place the signs. Some jurisdictions are able to do this for us at little or no cost, some just need us to provide the posts, and some prefer the JCWC to do the placement ourselves. Volunteers, staff and board members have all helped out with this task.

Step Four: Dig lots of holes. Once you have done the "locates" and the utility companies have OK'd the site, the heavy duty work begins. A lot of materials are needed for each sign: one 12' metal post and 2' sleeve, one 60 lb. bag of cement, one 2' x 3' sign (don't forget the sign!), several post-hole diggers, shovels, a level, lots of duct tape (you never know when you'll need it!), a hammer, a pair of pliers, tape measure and hardware. I have learned that anti-seize spray comes in handy to spray inside the metal sleeve so the post slides out of the sleeve easily in case it needs to be replaced. Of course you are sure to dig into rocks, which bend the post-hole diggers; a hammer and pliers will straighten them out nicely. Each sign we have placed has been a learning experience, and heightens our appreciation for the work of our jurisdictional partners. When they offer to put in the signs for us we always say "yes!"

Funding for our signage project has been provided by ThermoFluids, Inc. and Metro. **Many thanks to the jurisdictions who worked with us to place these signs.**

Stories from the Shed: David's Tree

By Michelle Bussard, Executive Director

Layers of dirt, peeled back by machines as massive as David's house, expose East Buttes, a.k.a. Alsop Brownwood, where soon Johnson Creek will emerge in the sinuous shadow of its history. Nearly 80 years ago, a family named the Switzers, neighbors to the Brownwoods, were moving in and beginning a new life.

Arriving at the gate, I wave in greeting as David Switzer, nearly dwarfed by his 124-lb Rottweiler, Guppy, ambles down the packed dirt driveway in bright afternoon sun, a frayed straw hat shading his face. A brown toothy grin meets me as the gate swings open and Guppy insinuates his gargantuan body against my legs. Soon, the Rottweiler was draped over my feet as David's story unfolded in bits and unconnected pieces woven together with smiles.

David's dad, Daniel Switzer, born in 1891 in Austria/Belgium, arrived at age 14 in the United States on a cattle boat that took 34 days to make the crossing. Daniel plied his trade as a blacksmith and eventually crafted ironwork at Timberline Lodge while others employed by the WPA were tiling Johnson Creek. David's mother, Dorothy, was born in Minnesota in 1900; she taught school in the early '20s on Sauvie Island, commuting back and forth by log raft.

In 1929, when his dad bought land near what is today 158th and the Springwater Trail, relatives "thought he'd lost his mind living out there in the sticks." To David, who spent most of his high school years cutting class, the "sticks" were braided by a creek full of 22-inch cutthroat and 7 to 8-lb silvers, and laced with fields for hunting pheasant, fox, beaver, and muskrat for \$8 a pelt.

The family was known as the "5 Ds" for Daniel, Dorthy, Devonna, David's older sister, David, and younger brother Danny. They lived on what would eventually be 21 acres in a home, now long gone, with 5 bedrooms, a wrap-around porch, stone fireplace, and a cooler. A pitcher pump in the kitchen brought water up at the rate of 50 gal/minute from a 112-foot well drilled by Alban Olsen. With pride, David noted that the well he currently uses, which descends 28 feet deep into the bedrock lava and pumps 30 gal/minute, was also drilled by the Olsens.

Neighbors are recalled as street names and land plots now: Jenny, Brunkow, Brownwood, Butterfields, Malloy, Eggemans, Alsop. David recalls the picnics and pitching in with work. As our conversation meandered through the 73 years of



Bruce MacGregor

David's cedar tree measures 12 feet and 3 inches around the base. It will remain after the East Buttes project to help shade Johnson Creek.

his life, I appreciated how real the cycle of life and death and life was in David's life. Whether sanguinely sharing how he stood by while their dog killed 75 rats infesting a neighbor's chicken coop or using dead aim with a 30/30 to "dump those dagnabit roosters" that were messing up his mother's hens or telling me in avid detail about "Little Big Joke," the banty roster that would chase and rip up his brother's boots, David's life was, and is, the rhythm of life on the land.

Growing up, the family kept a herd of dairy cows. Over time they bred in Angus stock until the final steer was slaughtered in 1981. It dressed out at 1,227 lbs: "Pulling him over on our Model M John Deere, the front wheels were coming off the ground," David recalled. "It took 5 of us to winch him up but the 2 1/2-inch pipe started bending so we just started cutting stuff off of him 'cuz we sure didn't want to be underneath that guy." The front shoulders alone weighed in at 345 lbs each and David said he "could cut those roasts with a fork." Dairy cows provided cream and milk for market. A three-acre strawberry patch provided the household with a new \$900 1941 Plymouth, electric refrigerator, stove, and water heater. David was sure they were rich. And in a way, they were.

In the '60s, David's son Bobby was born with fishing and hunting in his genes. David taught him to fish and recalled how one day, his son, with a simple cast, hooked the 12-inch cutthroat

David had been playing. That was about the last time he recalled fishing Johnson Creek. Change was in the land for David. Deer began appearing in the late '60s in the lowlands, development was encroaching, and fish and pheasants were disappearing. In 1973, David's mom died of thyroid cancer. "It was fast," he said. Three years later his dad was mowing grass, got off his John Deere briefly, left it running, then slumped alongside a cedar that stood sentinel on the banks of Johnson Creek, dying of a heart attack. "Died with his barn boots on just like he would've wanted," David said.

As we wrapped up our meandering conversation, David wanted to "tape a couple of those trees down there," including the cedar where his dad died. With Bruce MacGregor, who joined us from a day of photographing the big machines moving dirt, we quietly slipped onto land, long since sold off, to "tape" trees. First was a big fir: the tape read 15 feet 7 inches. Then, the cedar, saved from being felled as part of the East Buttes project, was measured: the tape read 12 feet 3 inches.

Bruce had David lean into the tree as he snapped pictures until finally it was David and Guppy, framed in the viewfinder, hunched at the foot of David's Tree, resting carefully and comfortably in each other's company.

A Farewell Note

By Michelle Bussard, Executive Director

Here it ends like the sweet confluence of Johnson Creek with the Willamette - a kiss of hope and gratitude blown into the swirling currents that carry and hold us in our work. As I wrote this farewell, I was looking at "Map 4. Stream Order" contained within the *Willamette River Basin Atlas*, because it is the larger basin into which Johnson Creek flows and I wanted to envision the sinuous, complex, life-affirming capillaries that feed each of the watersheds as they feed us and the larger landscape. I know and am inspired daily by the fact that we are actually all part of and contributing constantly to something so much larger no matter where our watershed resides on the landscape....

Continued on page 8

Farewell *(cont. from page 7)*

I'm leaving the Council to lead the Forest Park Conservancy, one of the nation's largest urban forests at 5,000 acres. It will be a challenge that is deeply compelling and one that I believe will ultimately be as gratifying if 50-100 years from now, Forest Park remains a place where we can linger in the shadow of its massive conifers or plunge deep within to find solace, recreational challenge, opportunity, and vast learning.

I have learned well from all of you the power of communion and collaboration around a shared vision. I leave with profound respect for the incredible watershed stewards and leaders throughout our watershed that each of you are and represent. To paraphrase Barbara Kingsolver, Johnson Creek has put me in my place. In fact, it is my backyard and I continue to want to care for all of it but no one person can alone; so, let me now ask each of you to carry on, in perpetuity and in community. I've appreciated this time I've shared with you and truly hope that as the future unfolds, we will find confluence in our life-lines.

Save the Date! New Location at the Club Paesano in Gresham



To donate an item for the auction
or for information,
contact christine@jwcw.org
or 503-652-7477

Upcoming Events

August 11, 2007

Weed Control Workshop
10am-12noon
Leach Botanical Garden

August 18, 2007

Summer Watershed Wide Event
9am-12noon with lunch to follow

September 9, 2007

Upper Watershed Bike Tour

October 11, 2007

Silent Auction
Club Paesano, Gresham

Fall 2007

Friends of Johnson Creek Campaign

March 1, 2008

Winter Watershed Wide Event



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