

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

JCWC Joined by Secretary of State and Students at its Third Annual Meeting

More than 150 of our partners, volunteers, supporters and friends joined the Johnson Creek Watershed Council for our third Annual Meeting luncheon on May 22nd at Reed College. Oregon Secretary of State, Bill Bradbury delivered an inspiring keynote address. He cited Oregon watershed councils as the ideal organizations to address non-point source pollution with their holistic approach to watershed health. Secretary Bradbury also reminded the audience that Measure 66 will expire in 2014, providing the opportunity for Oregon voters to re-authorize this important source of funding for Oregon watershed councils.

Executive Director Matt Clark presented the Council's first-ever State of the Watershed Report, a comprehensive review of the health of Johnson Creek Watershed. He also presented the 2007 Annual Report, highlighting the Council's achievements during the previous year. After Matt's remarks, Board Chair, Teresa Huntsinger and Watershed Stewardship Coordinator, Greg Ciannella presented the 2008 Riffle Awards.

We were proud to be joined by two of our six Youth Engaged school groups: Michael Lancaster's students from Alpha High School and Rose Sandy's students from Multnomah Youth Cooperative. Michael's students presented their Johnson Creek water quality research with a posterboard entitled, "How do lamprey survive in Johnson Creek?" Several of the guests commented on what a positive addition the students were to the Annual Meeting. They appeared comfortable and seemed to enjoy presenting their work about Johnson Creek.

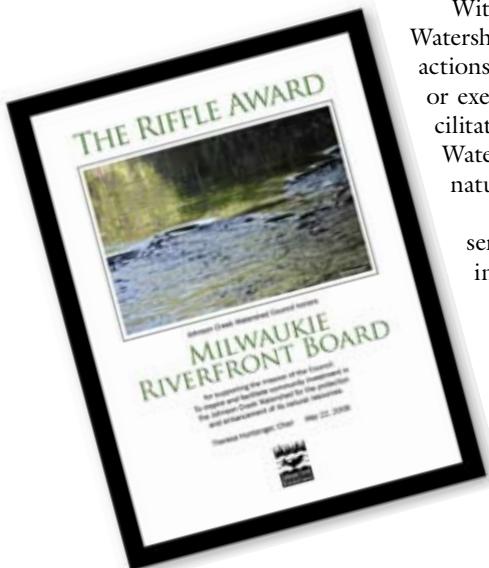
We received wonderful support for the Annual Meeting, and want to thank all those who attended or sent donations in-lieu of attendance. In particular, we wish to acknowledge the organizations and individuals who sponsored a table at the event. *Corporate sponsors:* Henderson Land Services, HSBC, The ODS Companies (donation in-lieu), and PCC Structurals; *Jurisdictional partners:* Portland Bureau of Environmental Services and Portland Development Commission; *Individual donors:* Paul Bragdon (Advisory



Keynote speaker Bill Bradbury applauds work done by Oregon watershed councils.

Circle member with donation in-lieu), the Labbe Family (Jim Labbe, board member), Walt Mintkeski (board member), and David Moskowitz (Advisory Circle member).

Riffle Awards Honor Volunteers



With its annual Riffle Awards, the Johnson Creek Watershed Council honors groups and individuals whose actions in the watershed in the past year best support or exemplify the Council's mission: to inspire and facilitate community investment in the Johnson Creek Watershed for the protection and enhancement of its natural resources.

At its third Annual Meeting, the Council presented Riffle Awards to the following groups and individuals.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Persimmon Development Group

Persimmon Development Group dropped their plans to develop a subdivision in South East Gresham and sold 92 acres to Metro, at a price below fair market value, effectively donating millions of dollars of land with high ecological value.

Continued on page 2



Bigger, better and more fun than ever!
Come to our fifth annual
Silent Auction on October 17th
at Club Paesano in Gresham.
Enjoy regional foods, wine and beer,
live music and local artists.
Bid the night away on the
banks of Johnson Creek!

See page 8 for details

2008 Riffle Award Winners



BUSINESS

PCC Structural, Inc.

PCC Structural has been a committed and generous Council partner since 2005, sending teams of enthusiastic volunteers to the Johnson Creek Watershed Wide Event and underwriting Council events such as the Annual Meeting.

Sherry Uchytil, Rita Peterson, Judi Davis, Dave Murray and Stephanie Johanesen accept the award.

COMMUNITY

Oregon Hunters Association

Since 2004, the volunteers of the Oregon Hunters Association have been a stalwart presence at the Watershed Wide Event, tackling the invasive hawthorn trees on Powell Butte with a vengeance and sometimes with a chainsaw. Oregon Hunters Association is the largest conservation non-profit in Oregon dedicated to wildlife, wildlife habitat, and hunters' rights.

Troy Chase and Kathy Hamell accept the award for the Association.



INDIVIDUAL

Ernie Francisco Award

Lee Dayfield

Over the last three years, Lee has worked tirelessly with the Council's Land Use Committee to advocate for the watershed and advance JCWC's mission throughout East County. In her service on Gresham's Tree

Preservation Council Advisory Committee, Lee has played a key role in developing and funding urban forestry programs in Gresham. She is now a lead organizer of the October 4, 2008 East County Parks and Tree Summit.

SCHOOL

Michael Lancaster's class at Alpha High School

Michael Lancaster's classes from Alpha High School have been doing restoration work at the Gresham Woods natural area since 2002. They are a strong part of the Council's Youth Engaged program, serving as site anchors at Gresham Woods for the 2008 Watershed Wide Event.

Principal Peter Kane (back left) and Michael Lancaster (back right) attended with students Jena Hancock, Derick Johnson, Brook Leslie, Melanie Rauscher, Cody Riley, Rosa Robertson and Brandon Shaffer.

PUBLIC OFFICIAL

Milwaukie Riverfront Board

Milwaukie Riverfront Board was appointed in 1998 to guide development and oversight of downtown and the Willamette riverfront. In their capacity as advisory body to the City Council, they have spoken for the watershed when threats loomed (such as the light-rail alignment), and have supported plans to rehabilitate Klein Point at the confluence of Johnson Creek and the Willamette River.

Dave Green and Gary Klein accept the award for the seven member board.



New Publications Released at Annual Meeting

by Julia Degagne, JCWC Volunteer

2007 Annual Report

Read about the Johnson Creek Watershed Council's busy year in the 2007 Annual Report! From community outreach to intensive on-the-ground restoration, JCWC has taken strategic steps to protect the watershed's natural resources.

As always, volunteers boosted successes in all the Council's program areas. Over 475 hard workers labored outside at the Winter and Summer Watershed Wide Events and helped out at the Silent Auction, which raised \$10,000 for conservation efforts. Exciting changes were afoot as JCWC gained the new leadership of Teresa Huntsinger (replacing Jeff Uebel as Chair of the Board of Representatives) and Matt Clark (replacing Michelle Bussard as Executive Director).

The year's outreach highlight was the new Youth Engaged Program, which allowed 100 high school students to help restore streams while learning about watershed systems. JCWC also involved younger students in learning about the watershed by hosting field trips and leading activities at local events.

The biggest news in on-the-ground restoration this year was the Bradshaw Fish Passage Project, completed in partnership with Terry and Shari Bradshaw. The project included the removal of a 6-foot dam on Kelley Creek, Johnson Creek's largest tributary. It also addressed fish habitat needs, ultimately adding 2,500 feet of high quality fish habitat and improving water quality. JCWC has also made progress on the invasive species front by surveying, mapping, and controlling three invasive species in 95% of the upper watershed.

In preparation for future conservation, JCWC completed their first-ever State of the Watershed Report, and also planned an update of the 2003 Watershed Action Plan. JCWC has also been working closely with the City of Gresham on plans to improve water quality and sustainability.

Read both reports online at www.jcwc.org or call our office 503-652-7477 to receive your own copy.



2008 State of the Watershed Report

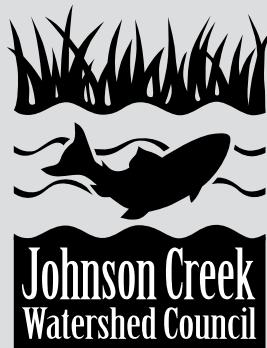
In the spring of 2008, Johnson Creek Watershed Council released its first-ever State of the Watershed Report. The report condenses scientific data into a readable, four-page eco-reportcard for Johnson Creek Watershed. If you've ever been curious about what kinds of salmon live in Johnson Creek or how its water quality measures up, the answers (and many more) are here. According to the report, watershed health has improved in recent years – but there is still work to be done!

The report discusses the watershed's assets, including streams dominated by native fish and 4,600 acres of parks and open space. Aquatic habitat quality within the watershed has improved in recent years, thanks to efforts including the restoration of stream-side vegetation and the removal of fish passage barriers.

The quality of Johnson Creek's water has improved dramatically over the past few decades, but like many urban watersheds, levels of pollutants still remain above the specifications of the Clean Water Act (CWA). Summer creek temperatures also exceed CWA standards for aquatic habitat, an indication that more shading is needed throughout the creek system.

Johnson Creek faces water quantity issues as well, tending to have too little water in the summer and too much in the winter. Floods are exacerbated by a high percentage of impermeable surfaces in the watershed, and anticipated development may increase that percentage even further.

These are just a few highlights from the report, which provides a concise assessment of the watershed's health. JCWC will use the completed report and additional data (as it becomes available) to help frame conservation efforts and work toward improved watershed health.



Johnson Creek Watershed Council
thanks PCC Structurals, Inc. for their
financial support as well as their continuing
dedication to the health of Johnson Creek.

PCC Structurals' volunteers
partnered with the Council at the
2008 Watershed Wide Event at Errol Creek.

PCC *Structurals, Inc.*

The logo for PCC Structurals, Inc. The word "PCC" is in a large, bold, black, sans-serif font. The letters are slightly slanted to the right. A series of five thin, light-grey horizontal bars are positioned behind the "C" and extend slightly to the left and right. To the right of "PCC", the words "Structurals, Inc." are written in a bold, italicized, black, sans-serif font.

Thank you!

10th Annual



Watershed Wide Event

Johnson Creek Watershed Council

400 volunteers

12 restoration sites

2000 pounds of garbage collected

8 tons of invasive debris removed

6025 native trees and shrubs planted

The JCWC Board of Representatives, Advisory Circle and staff honor the volunteers, donors, partners and supporters of the 10th Annual Watershed Wide Event

Join us again next year!

Bring your friends.

**11th Annual Watershed Wide Event
Saturday, March 7, 2009**

Council Welcomes New Staff Member

Lori Sams, Community Outreach Coordinator, joined the JCWC staff in June. She has worked for several local non-profits, including River Network, the Native American Youth and Family Center, Ecotrust and Salmon Corps. She has a broad array of skills in program development and management, event planning, fundraising and human resources. Lori enjoys simply spending time outside, whether it's hiking, biking or camping, and is very happy to be working for JCWC. We're happy to have you aboard!

New Member Joins Board

The Council board and staff are pleased to welcome long-time Damascus resident, Kitty O'Meara as the newest representative on the Council's Board. Kitty recently retired from teaching nursing at Oregon Health Sciences University and University of Portland. She has been an active participant in land use planning in Damascus, providing data and testimony to Damascus City Council on issues such as the recent tree protection ordinance. She enjoys a range of hobbies including music, kayaking, birding, and gardening. Kitty looks forward to serving on the Council board, linking the Council's efforts with planned growth in Damascus, the region's newest urban growth community. Welcome Kitty!

Free Native Plants Available to Creekside Landowners

In an effort to restore Johnson Creek's native vegetation along the creek, the JCWC has been working tirelessly over the last three years combating invasive weeds such as knotweed, yellow flag-iris, garlic mustard, and false brome. The council has been targeting these weeds specifically since their presence in the watershed is still relatively low and complete eradication is still possible. During this time we've worked with hundreds of landowners and have been largely successful suppressing these weeds. Now the time has come to reintroduce native trees and shrubs in these areas, and we need your help! If you live along Johnson Creek, or



Oregon Grape and other native plants provide cover for wildlife

one of its tributaries, you may qualify for free native plants. Our crews will plant in the winter months of December through March, and will provide maintenance for up to two years. If your creekside property lacks native plant cover critical for wildlife habitat and erosion control, give us a call! Contact Greg Ciannella for more information, greg@jcwc.org or 503.652.7477.

This program is made possible through generous grant support from Metro, City of Portland, and the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board.



Photo by Bruce McGregor 2007

Join the Overland Park Coalition for a Johnson Creek Clean-up Saturday, August 16, 2008

Join the Overland Park Coalition, and partners, Johnson Creek Watershed Council, North Clackamas Parks and Recreation, and SOLV, at a volunteer work party to clean up Johnson Creek. Volunteers will be divided into three or four groups and assigned a section of Johnson Creek, which flows through the heart of the Overland Park neighborhood. After the work is done, relax at a Volunteer Thank You Party at Mill Park.

8am-9am: Registration • 9am: Safety Talk • 9am-3pm: Clean-up
3pm-5pm: Volunteer Thank You Party with food and music at Mill Park

For more information, please call 503-788-7661 or
<http://www.overlandparkcoalition.org/Events.htm>

Metro and Gresham Officials Offer “Sneak Preview” Tour of Newly Protected Natural Areas

Come visit Gabbert Hill, one of the new areas protected through Gresham and Metro's partnership. Until last year, this 37-acre natural area was one of only a few key, privately-owned parcels that interrupted Metro and the City of Gresham's ownership in the East Buttes. Its protection helps permanently secure a connected habitat corridor so critical for wildlife movement in our growing region.

For more than a decade Metro and Gresham have worked together to preserve the butte tops, steep slopes, and densely forested areas of the East Buttes. Land acquisition protects wildlife and water quality from potentially harmful impacts of urban development. Metro has acquired more than 500 acres directly south of the hundreds of acres Gresham protected with their own acquisition program in the early 90s. It is some of

Thursday, July 24
6:30 to 7:30 p.m.
East Buttes Natural Area
Gresham, Oregon



the most valuable property in the region—both economically and for fish and wildlife.

Council President David Bragdon, Metro Councilor Rod Park and Gresham Mayor Shane Bemis will co-host a short site visit to highlight the great partnership between the two agencies. Metro and Gresham staff will be on hand to answer questions. Community partners from Johnson Creek Watershed Council and The Audubon Society of Portland will offer their perspective about what the new land acquisition means to recovery efforts in the Johnson Creek watershed and the future of the region's wildlife.

The tour is suitable for adults and children 10 and older. Free. Advance registration required; call Carrie Belding to register 503-797-1545 or email her at carrie.belding@oregonmetro.gov.

Exploring the Links between Urban Parks, Trees, Public Safety, & Economic Vibrancy

East County Urban Parks & Trees Summit

Saturday, October 4, 2008 • Gresham City Hall • 8:30-3:30 • Field trip 3:30-5:00

Registration information available at www.pfpevents.org or call 503-667-2300

Sustainability and public safety increasingly dominate public policy discussions at the local, state, and national levels. In the Portland-Metro Area these issues are juxtaposed most strikingly in the urban communities of East Multnomah County. Gresham, Troutdale, Wood Village, and Fairview are all striving to enhance their desirability, economic competitiveness, and livability by fostering greener and more sustainable urban communities.



Explore these important questions and more:

- How are sustainability and public safety connected in fostering quality of life?
- Are greener streets safer streets?
- Can East County better optimize its investments in a greener and a safer community?
- Can urban trees help reduce crime and traffic accidents?
- How do trees and greenspaces contribute to business vibrancy, increased property values, and enhanced fiscal health in East County?
- Can an excellent and integrated parks and open space system make East County healthier and safer?



Feature guest presenter
Kathy Wolf,
Research Director at the
University of Washington's
Human Dimensions of
Urban Forestry and
Urban Greening program



OUTLOOK





Upcoming Events

July 24, 2008

Metro East Buttes Natural Area Tour
6:30-7:30pm
Advance registration required

October 4, 2008

East County Urban Parks & Trees Summit
Gresham City Hall, 8:30am-5pm

October 17, 2008

JCWC's 5th annual Silent Auction
7-10pm, Club Paesano, Gresham

Fall 2008

Friends of Johnson Creek Campaign

March 7, 2009

Winter Watershed Wide Event

May 21, 2009

Annual Meeting

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Friday, October 17, 2008

Club Paesano, Gresham, Oregon

Relax and explore the Oregon Coast!

Land a steelhead from a Sandy River driftboat!

Indulge your inner diva with a professional sound engineer!

Learn to cook like a gourmet!

And you can win all these fabulous items at the Council's 2008 Silent Auction

Bid the night away at Club Paesano on the banks of Johnson Creek

Friday, October 17 7-10pm Tickets \$25

To make a donation, volunteer, or purchase tickets contact Lori at Johnson Creek Watershed Council.

lori@jcwc.org or go to www.jcwc.org or call 503-652-7477

Check out our website for more auction items!



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