



# 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*

## The Sponge Sucking Flies of Johnson Creek: A Mysterious Resident Unveiled

by Rick Hafele, guest columnist

There is a small aquatic insect rarely found in Oregon that calls Johnson Creek home. Like most aquatic insects they go about their life unnoticed, and in this case even if you look you are not likely to see one. One reason is that the larvae of this unusual insect only measure 3 – 8 mm long when fully grown. That's small enough to go through the mesh of many collecting nets. The other reason is that they live only on freshwater sponges. Freshwater sponges? Yep, freshwater sponges. While freshwater sponges are relatively uncommon in streams, they are a natural part of freshwater plant life, and they seem to find Johnson Creek to their liking. As a result these tiny aquatic insects also call Johnson Creek home.

The common name for the little creatures in question is spongillaflies. They be-



Spongillaflies are one of the truly unique life forms living within in our midst.

*The larvae of Sisyridae feed only on freshwater sponges by sucking the juices from the sponge tissue with fine needlelike mouthparts. This behavior gives the family its common name, spongillaflies.*

long to the order Neuroptera of which all members are terrestrial except for this strange little family with the Latin name Sisyridae. Other members of this order include green and brown lacewings (families Chrysopidae and Hemerobiidae, respectively), both beneficial to gardeners as they daily eat their

weight in aphids. Only two genera and six species of Sisyridae occur in North America.

Spongillaflies develop through egg, larva, pupa, and adult stages, with most of their lives spent as larvae feeding on freshwater sponges. The larvae have fine needle-

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Johnson Creek Watershed Council is proud to present our newest fundraising event for all ages!

See page 5 for event details.

## Annual Meeting Draws a Crowd

On a beautiful spring day in late May, nearly 150 of our friends, supporters and partners gathered together on Reed College campus for the Council's 4th Annual Meeting luncheon to reflect on the Council's successes of 2008, listen to a powerful keynote speech, and honor retiring board members and Riffle Award winners.

Executive Director Matt Clark presented the 2008 Annual Report, citing community investment as the core of the Council's mission. Matt noted the tremendous investment the community has made in the watershed, through volunteering their time at restoration events, working with the Council to manage their land to benefit the watershed, and investing in the future through education programs. Recognizing the community's readiness to invest in the watershed, Matt stated the Council's highest priority for 2009 is to develop more ways for people to become

*Continued on page 2*



*Keynote speaker, Charles Hudson, delivered an impassioned address about three species in Johnson Creek: salmon, lamprey and humans.*

Photo by Bruce McGregor 2009

involved in restoring and enhancing the watershed, particularly by creating year-round volunteer restoration opportunities modeled on Watershed Wide Event.

Keynote speaker, Charles Hudson delivered a thought provoking speech about three species in Johnson Creek- Salmon, Pacific Lamprey and humans. Hudson spoke of the cultural importance of salmon and lamprey to the Native American tribes of this area, and of the importance of Johnson Creek in their recovery. He spoke of the importance

of water across cultures, and suggested that at dinner tables throughout this watershed, people are conversing in different languages about the creek and the health of the watershed. Hudson urged the Council to bring together people of all cultures to work towards restoration efforts.

Board Chair Teresa Huntsinger honored three retiring board members, Walt Mintkeski, Gary Rydout and Jeff Uebel. Matt Clark and staff member Noah Jenkins performed a special song they wrote just for the occasion,

which drew bouts of laughter from the audience. (See the lyrics on page 4.)

The Council was very pleased to have two student groups present during the Poster Session - Terri Gibson's students from New Urban High School presented "New Urban High School (Loves) Johnson Creek" and Michael Lancaster's students from Alpha High School presented their Johnson Creek water quality research with a posterboard entitled, "How Does Turbidity Affect Macro-invertebrates?"

## 2009 Riffle Awards Honor Involvement

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

The Council's Board Treasurer, Tim Cooper, and staff member Noah Jenkins presented the 2009 Riffle Awards to the following groups and individuals:

### Business



Michelle Emmons and Alison Washburn

REI has stepped forward as a strong corporate partner, fielding an employee team at the 2008 Watershed Wide Event and awarding a grant to the Council to support the event. REI continues to be involved with the Council and we are currently planning a work party

this fall with their employees. We appreciate REI's support and commitment to local environmental issues and look forward to continuing our work with them in the future.

### Youth/School

Sam Barlow High School has been an active participant in the Watershed Wide Event, stewarding the Hogan Cedars and Amble-side sites. For the past three years, they have contributed an average of forty volunteers to the event.

Nick Meyer, Angela Shevchenko, Nathan Walker, Rich Kirsten, teacher



### Community



Tyler and Michele Linch, Nathan Fogelson

Cub Scout Pack 740 has volunteered at the Watershed Wide Event for the last four years, providing valued service at the Butler Creek and Gresham Woods natural areas. This group of boys has returned, rain or shine, year after year, to clean up trash, plant shrubs and trees, and pull blackberry and other weeds. They are wonderful examples of neighborhood stewards.

### Public Entity

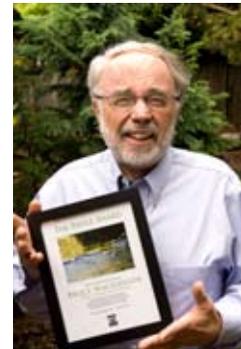
The City of Damascus is taking an innovative ecosystem approach to development and associated code. The City is in the process of developing a comprehensive plan with a conservation overlay that will protect high value conservation areas in Damascus and will safeguard public and private investment in watershed health in areas downstream in the watershed.



Barb Ledburry, Dave Green, Jim Wright

### Individual:

#### The Ernie Francisco Award



Bruce MacGregor

Bruce MacGregor has donated his skills as a photographer (and student of the professional photography program at Mount Hood Community College) to the JCWC and partners for over a year. His vision is to tell the story of the watershed and the work

to restore and renew it through his photos. He has made himself available to us whenever we needed images. As a result, his work has graced our website, annual report, and outreach brochure, among other things, and has helped us to update and 'sophisticate' the Council's image. annual meeting and riffle awards.

This award is named after Ernie Francisco, a matriarch in the watershed who has made significant steps toward preserving and restoring natural areas around the creek. Her family's most recent donation of nearly three streamside acres to the City of Portland continues this legacy.

Photo of Bruce MacGregor by Gary Klein; others by Bruce MacGregor with appreciation.

## JCWC 2009 Board of Representatives

Shannah Anderson  
Land Acquisition Specialist, Portland, BES

Rick Attanasio  
Principal project manager, CH2M Hill

Tim Cooper  
Entrepreneur

Denisse Fisher  
PhD candidate, Portland State University

JoAnn Herrigel  
Community Services Director, Milwaukie

Jason C. Howard  
Project Hydrogeologist, EnviroLogic  
Resources, Inc.

Teresa Huntsinger  
Oregon Environmental Council

Roy Iwai  
Water Resources Specialist, Multnomah  
County Road Services

Torrey Lindbo  
Water Quality Assessment Specialist, Gresham

Brad Lynch  
Manager, Cascade Meadows Nursery

John Nagy  
Water Environment Service, Clackamas Co.

Perry Rikli  
Instructor, Mount Hood Community College

Bob Sanders  
Attorney, Wood Tatum

Candace Stoughton  
Low-Impact Development Specialist East  
Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation Dist.

## JCWC 2009 Advisory Circle

Bill Bakke  
Director, Native Fish Society

Rep. Earl Blumenauer  
US House of Representatives

Howard Dietrich  
Vice President, Oregon Worsted Mills

David James Duncan  
Author

Robert Gootee  
President and CEO, ODS

Mike Houck  
Executive Director, Urban Greenspaces Insti-  
tute, PSU

Steve Johnson  
Founder of JCWC

Al Jubitz, Charirman  
Jubitz Family Foundation

Mike Lindberg  
Senior Consultant, Fleishman Hillyard

Walt Mintkeski  
Watershed Resident

Daid Moskowitz  
Consultant

Peter Shoonmaker  
Executive Director, Illahee Society

## Spongillaflies (continued from page 1)



*Adult Sisyridae are small, nocturnal and live for only a short time, and thus are rarely seen or collected.*

like mouthparts used to suck the juices from sponge tissue. Once fully grown the larvae construct a pupal cocoon with silk produced from a spinneret at the end of their abdomen. The cocoons are constructed several feet above the water on plants, in crevices, or even in the cast skins of dragonfly larvae. In one to two weeks the adults emerge at night from their cocoons. After mating females lay

their eggs – also at night – above the water on overhanging rocks or plants, and after another one to two weeks the eggs hatch and the next generation of sponge sucking larvae fall into the water. The tiny newly hatched larvae immediately seek a new patch of sponges to begin feeding on.

While salmon get most of the attention when discussing water quality and stream habitat for the Johnson Creek watershed we shouldn't forget that many other creatures also call the stream home. Spongillaflies are one of the truly unique life forms living within in our midst.

*Rick Hafele is an aquatic entomologist recently retired from DEQ, who has worked on monitoring stream health throughout Oregon for over 25 years. Rick is a watershed resident and has written a number of books on flyfishing.*

## New Board Members Offer Fresh Insight at JCWC

Since the beginning of 2009, five new members have joined the Johnson Creek Watershed Council Board of Representatives. The Council will benefit immensely from their diverse set of skills and experience.

**Rick Attanasio** is a water resources engineer and Operations Leader for the Water Resources Group for CH2M Hill. He has a strong interest in stream and riparian area restoration. Before his present career, Rick was one of the first paramedics in New York City.

**Denisse Fisher** is pursuing her doctoral degree in Environmental Sciences and Management at Portland State University. Her initial research is focused on how urbanization has affected several smaller streams in Oregon. The second phase of her research will focus on modeling stream water temperature patterns in restored watersheds in order to determine which restoration techniques are most beneficial to cold-water fish species and their habitat. A native of Mexico, Denisse performed hydrologic research as well as environmental education work in the border communities of Arizona and Sonora, Mexico before moving to Portland.

**Brad Lynch** is the manager of Cascade Meadows Nursery, located on mainstem Johnson Creek in the upper watershed east of Highway 26. Brad has worked hard to make Cascade Meadows a model of environmental stewardship, for example by revegetating the riparian areas next to Johnson Creek. He is currently serving on a committee of the Oregon Association of Nurseries focused on sustainable nursery practices.

**Perry Rikli** is a language instructor at Mount Hood Community College, teaching English to non-native speakers. His association with the east county college, its natural resource programs and diverse cultural population could benefit the Council's work in the watershed. An active flyfisherman, Perry has participated in several restoration projects prior to joining the Board.

**Bob Sanders** is an attorney at Wood Tatum, the oldest law partnership in Oregon, where he focuses on maritime law. For a short time before becoming an attorney, he worked in the shipping industry. He has lived in Johnson Creek Watershed since 1970. During the 1970s and 80s, Bob served on the board of trustees and as an officer of the Portland Civic Theater, and has volunteered with a number of environmental groups and schools.

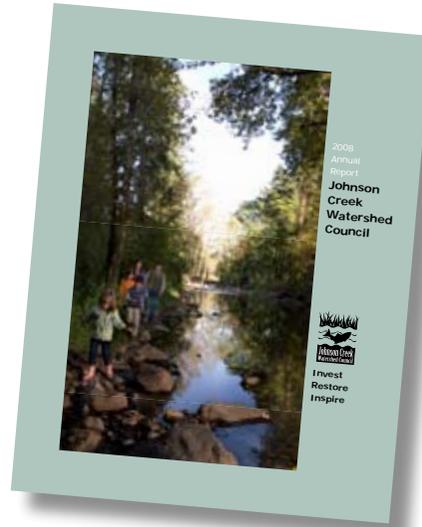
# JCWC Releases 2008 Annual Report

By Julia DeGagne, guest columnist

JCWC has completed its 2008 Annual Report, summarizing the year's activities and presenting a focus for 2009. Here are some of the highlights:

The March Watershed Wide Event was again a great success, with almost 400 volunteers helping to plant native species and remove invasives and trash. The Council also reached out to the wider community by tabling eleven events, sponsoring two Rain Garden workshops, and leading two bike tours. The Youth Engaged Program continued, educating and involving more than 200 students in watershed restoration projects. Community involvement in the watershed continues to grow, and next year the Council hopes to increase the number of community and volunteer activities and to reach out to more diverse stakeholders.

At the 2008 Annual Meeting, the Council recognized the significant contributions of a diverse group of watershed supporters by presenting Riffle Awards to PCC Structuralists, the Oregon Hunters Association, Michael Lancaster's classes at Alpha High School, the Milwaukie Riverfront Board, Lee Dayfield,



*Call to receive a paper copy or go online at [www.jcwc.org](http://www.jcwc.org) to view it electronically.*

and the Persimmon Development Group. The 2008 State of the Watershed Report will help to guide on-the-ground restoration efforts. The success of the Riparian Rehabilitation Program, which removed invasive

species on 120 sites, has ushered in a spate of revegetation efforts to replace the weeds. A project to provide off-channel habitat to salmon at the mouth of Johnson Creek is in the design phase, with construction anticipated for 2010.

The Council's Land Use Committee has built a strong relationship with the City of Gresham, helping to support urban forestry planning, protect riparian areas from development, and increase the City Council's focus on watershed health. The Committee anticipates replicating these efforts in other urban areas, particularly Damascus, in 2009.

Given the current economic climate, increasing fundraising capacity was a main focus for the Council in 2008. October's Silent Auction raised over \$7,000, and the Council expects to emerge from the recession stronger than ever, thanks to the ever-increasing support of the community.

JCWC Executive Director Matt Clark presented the 2008 Annual Report at the Annual Meeting on May 21st at Reed College. For more information on this event, please see the cover story on page 1.

## “Three Wise Men of JCWC”

*Written by Matt Clark, performed by Matt Clark and Noah Jenkins*

The tones are hushed when people speak  
Of the three wise men of Johnson Creek  
For eight full years they've bent their heads  
Around the health of the watershed

Chorus:

Three wise men of JCWC,  
Three wise men of JCWC  
Debating revisions to the bylaws, or revegetating  
native shrubs and trees  
We owe a debt of gratitude, really, quite a lot,  
to the three wise men of JCWC

Walt rides his bike wherever he goes  
He got us heaters in the office before we all froze  
Social as a butterfly, busy as a bee  
Because he also volunteers for the OLCV

Gary is a bastion of independent thought  
He's remembered all the local knowledge others  
forgot

He knows the goings on at Westmoreland Park  
From early in the morning until after dark

Jeff is a guy who knows his fish  
He's got as much acumen as anyone would wish  
For Jeff no idea is ever too large  
That's why for years Jeff led the charge



*Gary Rydout, Walt Mintkeski and Jeff Uebel were honored at the Annual Meeting for their commitment to Johnson Creek and the Council. The three each served term limits of eight years.*



*Matt Clark and Noah Jenkins honored retiring board members with an original song.*

Listen to  
“The Three Wise Men of JCWC”  
on our website: [www.jcwc.org](http://www.jcwc.org).



## Johnson Creek Watershed Council has a new fundraising approach.

Now you have the opportunity to raise money for a great cause, discover new areas of Milwaukie, Portland, Gresham and Boring, commune with nature, get lots of exercise and visit with friends --

### Here's how it works....

**Register.** Complete a registration form online or download and mail in a form. We'll then send you a registration packet with all the details, including pledge forms.

**Set a fundraising goal.** Think big! Think about eradicating garlic mustard from the watershed. Think about educating youth about the importance of caring for Johnson Creek. Think about the cool prizes you could win.

**Raise money and spread the word about JCWC.** Gather pledges for per-mile or flat donations, and let people know that their donations support JCWC's restoration, education and outreach programs in the watershed. To save time later, collect any flat pledges as you go using the Pledge Form.

**Bike, walk, run, or jog and log your miles as you go.** Use the Springwater Cycle Stroll Mileage Log Form to keep track of the dates and miles you cover in September.

**Return your pledges and Mileage Log Form to the JCWC office by October 14.** This gives you two weeks to total your miles and collect any per-mile pledges.

If you or your business are interested in sponsoring this event, please contact Lori at [lori@jcw.org](mailto:lori@jcw.org).

#### Questions?

Check out our Springwater Cycle Stroll Frequently Asked Questions online at [www.jcw.org](http://www.jcw.org)



# Overland Park Second Annual Johnson Creek Clean-up Saturday, August 29th

The Overland Park Coalition invites you to help clean up the Johnson Creek that flows through the North Clackamas neighborhood of Overland Park.

## Volunteers Needed!

Volunteers will be cleaning Johnson Creek from Luther Street to 45th Avenue. Due to the creek flooding, there is plenty to do. The goal is to clean the debris out of the creek to improve the natural habitat for fish and wildlife. Due to the uneven bottom and water quality, it is recommended that volunteers wear knee boots and gloves. For safety concerns, children under 12 will only be permitted in the creek at Mill Park. Minors must be accompanied by an adult.

Meet at Mill Park on the corner of Overland and Linwood  
Sign in 8am-9am      Clean-up 9am-1pm  
Post clean-up Party 1pm-3pm      Sponsored by Fred Meyer

For more information, call 503-788-7661.  
Register at [www.OverlandParkCoaliton.org](http://www.OverlandParkCoaliton.org).



2008 Clean-up. Photo by Bruce MacGregor.

Partners: Johnson Creek Watershed Council, SOLV, North Clackamas Parks and Recreation District, and Portland Parks.

# Thanks To You 2009 Watershed Wide Event

**6 tons of invasive plants removed**  
**10 restoration sites**  
**17 bags of garbage collected**  
**32 partners supported efforts**  
**350 volunteers**  
**1,400 volunteer hours**  
**4,835 native trees and shrubs planted**

The JCWC Board of Representatives, Advisory Circle and staff honor the volunteers, donors, partners and supporters of the 11th Annual Watershed Wide Event

Join us again next year! Bring your friends.  
**12th Annual Watershed Wide Event**  
**Saturday, March 6, 2010**

For more photos of the 2009 event,  
visit our website: [www.jcwc.org](http://www.jcwc.org)



Volunteers at Lovena Farm pose after a morning of planting



## Five years later: A check in with restoration efforts on Butler Creek

By Kristie Lukas, AmericCorp Environmental Outreach Coordinator, City of Gresham

Thanks to five years of effort from hundreds of volunteers from the Johnson Creek Watershed Council, Historic Downtown Gresham Kiwanis Club and the community, two restoration sites managed by the City of Gresham's Watershed Management Division – Gresham Woods and Butler Creek – are showing significant ecological improvements. No longer overrun with invasive Himalayan blackberry and English ivy, these sites are now established with native plant communities and support healthy populations of wildlife like red-legged frogs, long-toed salamanders, lampreys and pileated woodpeckers.

**At the Gresham Woods site**, a 22 acre parcel located at the confluence of Butler Creek and Johnson Creek, five years of work has restored the native forest to a healthy condition. Although on-going maintenance is still necessary, the Gresham Woods site is truly a success, and will continue to be so with the efforts of volunteer stewardship groups.

Just upstream from the Gresham Woods site, the 9.71 acre **Butler Creek site** is now in its fourth year of restoration. During 2009, the City intends to finish restoring the last remaining section of the site. In March, volunteers at the JCWC Watershed Wide Event helped us get even closer to our goal by installing 750 native plants. The planting of more than fifty different species of na-

tive trees and shrubs throughout the riparian area will create a varied and dense forest canopy to keep water temperatures cool and improve wildlife habitat.

Despite the enormous progress made so far at these sites, there is still work to be done! Each site needs to be monitored several times each year for sprouts of invasive vegetation. Additional native trees and shrubs need to be planted to create a denser canopy shading the stream.

If you, your community group, or your business would like to join in the effort to make these natural areas healthier for people and wildlife, contact Laura Guderyahn at 503-618-2246 or [laura.guderyahn@ci.gresham.or.us](mailto:laura.guderyahn@ci.gresham.or.us).



Contact us:  
Only 1 more issue to go!

Please let us know if you would like to continue receiving paper copies of our newsletter at [info@jcw.org](mailto:info@jcw.org) or call 503-652-7477.

In an effort to "go green" and to save our hard earned dollars, the newsletter will only be sent to "Friends of Johnson Creek" and those who request it. Of course, it will be available three times per year online at our website: [www.jcw.org](http://www.jcw.org).

## JCWC Upcoming Events



- July 25 **Day in Damascus**, 10am-4pm [www.dayindamascus.org](http://www.dayindamascus.org)
- August 1 **Picnics in the Park**, 11:30am-1:30pm at two locations
- August 29 **Overland Park Clean-up**, 8am-1pm, Post clean-up party 1-3pm
- August Date TBA **JCWC House Party**
- September 1-30 **Springwater Cycle Stroll**, A Fundraising Event for all ages
- Fall 2009 **Friends of Johnson Creek Campaign**
- March 6, 2010 **Winter Watershed Wide Event**
- May 2010 **Annual Meeting**



kids activities  
watermelon  
family fun  
watershed info

# picnics <sup>in</sup> the park!

saturday, august 1

11:30am-1:30pm

Bring your own picnic

Johnson Creek Park in Portland  
SE 21st Avenue & Clatsop Street

Main City Park in Gresham  
219 S Main Street

Sponsored by Johnson Creek Watershed Council

Nonprofit Org  
US Postage Paid  
Portland OR  
Permit No 1153

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