



# 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*

## Tideman Johnson Benefits from Community Stewardship

By Marianne Colgrove,  
Friends of Tideman Johnson

Tideman Johnson Natural Area is one of the jewels of the Johnson Creek Watershed: an urban retreat beloved by neighbors in both Portland and Milwaukie and easily accessible by bike or foot from the Springwater Trail. Community stewardship efforts ensure that Tideman Johnson — and the creek that runs through it — will flourish as a natural refuge for people and wildlife.

The park property was donated by the Johnson family in 1940 and named after Tidemand Johansen Stor-dal, a Norwegian immigrant who homesteaded the area (though not the source of the name “Johnson Creek”). Since becoming a public park, Tideman Johnson has benefited from weeding and planting by neighbors and a multitude of school kids, cub scouts and other community groups.

Restoration efforts got a boost in 2006 when the City of Portland completed a major reconstruction of the creek bed, recreating riparian habitat with natural logs and boulders. Construction enhanced the creek and floodplain, but also left scars in the form of exposed and compacted soils. To ensure ongoing stewardship of this vital urban natural space, the Ardenwald-Johnson Creek neighborhood association, working in partnership with Portland Parks and Recreation and the Johnson Creek Watershed Council, established the Friends of Tideman Johnson.

The Friends of Tideman Johnson work



*After volunteers remove invasive plants, they add mulch to reinvigorate the soil. Violets, bleeding heart and trillium bloom each spring.*

plants and watched with joy as additional native seedlings such as Oregon ash and alder sprout in newly reinvigorated soils. Liberated from their ivy shroud, streambank violets, bleeding heart, and trillium chloropetalum, — an unusual variety of our revered native trillium — bloom profusely each spring.

More recently, the Friends of Tideman Johnson have expanded our science and education efforts. Working in collaboration with the Watershed Council, we’ve created interpretive signs explaining healthy stream habitat and wetland plant

communities (story on page 11). Last fall we partnered with Xerces Society to collect and count macroinvertebrate species — an established biological assessment method. While macroinvertebrates were abundant in Johnson Creek, the overall diversity was low and indicated that the water quality is “severely impaired.” This data will be combined with other bioassessment data collected throughout the watershed, and will form a baseline for ongoing, annual macroinvertebrate counts (story on page 8).

In 2010, Friends of Tideman Johnson will resume our monthly work parties on the first Saturday of the month, starting February 6th, 9am - noon. Tools and refreshments are provided and volunteers of all ages are welcome. For more information contact [mcolgrove@gmail.com](mailto:mcolgrove@gmail.com) to be added to our email list or visit our website at [www.ardenwald.org/category/tjp](http://www.ardenwald.org/category/tjp).

**Volunteer hours  
in the park are valued  
at more than \$50,000!**

to preserve and restore the local ecology, and build awareness of this natural area and the Johnson Creek Watershed. Our activities include regular work parties to remove invasive weeds, plant natives and spread mulch to conserve water and rejuvenate damaged soil. Since 2007, we have engaged more than 500 volunteers and students to maintain more than 100,000 square feet of stream bank, wetland, and upland habitat. Volunteer hours in the park are valued at more than \$50,000! We have planted 6000 native

12th Annual



**Watershed Wide Event**  
Johnson Creek Watershed Council

**Saturday, March 6, 2010 9am-12pm**

For twelve years, the Johnson Creek Watershed Council has been bringing together hundreds of volunteers throughout the watershed to help restore Johnson Creek and beautify the community. Join us on March 6th for this fun and important event. **For more information, see pages 6 and 7.**



tidee didee is proud to sponsor  
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protection and  
enhancement of  
its natural resources.



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# Reflections of a Pack 740 Parent

By Michelle Linch, Den Leader Pack 740

Two of the core values that scouting strives to instill are: give back to your community and be good stewards of the outdoors.

To aid in that teaching each year Cub Scout packs, Boy Scout troops, and Venturing crews are encouraged to participate in tree plants within their local community.

When my younger son became a tiger cub with Pack 740, I became Den Leader. In early 2006, our Pack Committee Chair was researching possible locations for Pack 740 to participate in a tree plant. During that research, she happened across information about the Johnson Creek Watershed Council. As she continued to research the areas of focus for the Council she learned that one of the sites was within our very own neighborhood – Gresham Woods.

What could be better? It is certainly a safe working environment in which to have our younger scouts work and most of our scouts actually lived within the neighborhoods surrounding or very near Gresham Woods.

I remember as my sons and I were walking out of the area, we turned and looked back to see the hundreds of blue cones surrounding the new plants and the many large piles of invasive plants removed. We discussed how our efforts that morning would help Gresham Woods in the coming years. And we decided that we should return to the spot once or twice a year to see how things progressed.

Each year since then, with Pack 740 we have returned rain or shine to continue to aid JCWC in their plan to improve Gresham Woods. In addition, my sons and I have returned to Gresham Woods on numerous occasions for a family, den or pack hike. As my sons and I walk the trail they never tire of stopping me along the way and pointing out the areas that they have helped to clear and replant. They even point to specific plants or trees and tell me – “I think I planted that one” with a big smile on their face. And we realize that our small contributions to the area have truly been important.

Hopefully other Pack 740 parents are also enjoying conversations like mine as they walk thru the area with their son(s). One of the hardest things for many of us to teach our kids is that each person’s efforts, no matter how small, can make a difference. JCWC, along with many of its other partners, has helped in that process and together we have made a big impact on improving the health of Gresham Woods.



Two of the core values that scouting strives to instill are: give back to your community and be good stewards of the outdoors.



I hope I am speaking for all past Pack 740 families in saying I am proud to have had a hand, however small, in helping with the restoration work of Gresham Woods and I hope that as my younger son, now a Webelos II (5th grader) prepares to Cross Over to Troop 740 – that future Pack 740 families will carry on the tradition that began in 2006 of participating in restoration work opportunities with JCWC in Gresham Woods.

And don’t think that my involvement with the area has ended – for just as I hope that the tradition will continue for Pack 740 – so I hope that the tradition will continue for my family.



## Nature in the city: New Kits on the Block

by Renée Moog, Watershed Resident

Last summer there were two new “kits” on the block—we affectionately called them Johnson and Johnsina. These two baby beavers became part of our backyard family. We live above Johnson Creek at SE 42nd and as far as we could tell, they live with their beaver family around the overlook at Tideman Johnson Park. They shared their section of Johnson Creek with at least five other year-old and adult beavers, as well as a wildlife menagerie that included a couple of new duck families, an occasional heron, kingfisher or flock of waxwings, a few nutria, a pair of raccoons and an occasional dog that set everyone on high alert.

The Johnson Creek beavers seemed to start their “evening visiting hours” between 6:30 and 7:00pm. Twilight strolls to visit Johnson and Johnsina became an almost nightly routine for us and countless guests from late May through August. Sometimes, at first sight, things seemed quiet but we never failed to be amused by 20 minute grooming sessions, delighted by the occasional slap of the tail, and entertained when we saw the kits catching a ride on their fellow beavers’ backs. Patience is the key to observing beavers and if you’re willing to get up before



Photo by Renée Moog/Global Village Photography

dawn, you may also have a chance to see the beavers at the tail end of their night shift.

Over the course of the summer, we watched Johnson (or maybe it was Johnsina – not sure) carry his first stick, monitored the growing height of the creek as the beavers put their finishing touches on their dam, and were puzzled by the seemingly constant shifting of dens. We also met many other beaver watching regulars on the Springwater Corridor trail with whom we exchanged little tidbits of information and theories on beaver behavior. There were differences in opinion about how many beaver there were, but one thing for sure—being able to observe beavers in your own backyard is a treat and seeing Johnson and Johnsina riding on an adult beaver’s back is one of the sweetest things you’ll ever see.

If you have observations about the Johnson Creek Beavers that you would like to share, I would love to hear them. Renée Moog, [reencemoog@mindspring.com](mailto:reencemoog@mindspring.com)

*Renée Moog captured this special moment as she observed the new baby beavers at Tideman Johnson Park last summer.*



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*Kalmiopsis leachiana*

# New Volunteer Coordinator presents Leadership and Volunteer Opportunities at JCWC

By Amy Lodholz, JCWC Volunteer Coordinator



It is an exciting and creative time for us here at JCWC. We are developing new aspects of our Volunteer Program and expanding it in new directions, as well as refining the existing ones. The staff and I have a lot of energy and enthusiasm behind these new projects, and we'd love to hear from our volunteer base: what other kinds of activities would you like to do to help the watershed? Let me know!

Please call or email me at amy@jcw.org or 503-652-7477 and we can talk.

If you're interested in the mission and work of the Johnson Creek Watershed Council, whether you enjoy being out in the field or indoors, I am certain there is a volunteer role for you here and ways you can help us.

## Outreach Task Force

For volunteers who enjoy interacting with others and representing the mission of the Watershed Council in one-on-one conversations at outreach events and fairs.

## Volunteer Restoration Leader

For individuals who would like to team-up to help lead restoration parties/activities (which are now occurring at least once a month in various locations in the watershed).

## Restoration Volunteer

Ideal for people who enjoy being outside, don't mind getting dirty, and want to help clear the way for native plants and animals.

## Educational Hike Leader

For volunteers who enjoy talking with people and are interested in environmental education.

## First Saturdays

A restoration party, event, or hike held on the first Saturday of every month starting with the Watershed Wide Event on March 6th – check out our calendar online for updates.



## Free Workshops!

Are you thinking about landscaping your yard and don't know where to start? Interested in rain gardens but aren't sure if one is right for your yard? We can help! Attend one of our free workshops or invite us to speak at your event or meeting.

### Naturescaping Basics

Saturday, February 27 • 9am-1pm  
Portland Home & Garden Show

### Naturescaping Basics

Sunday, March 7 • 1pm-5pm  
Outer SE Portland

### Rain Gardens 101

Sunday, March 7 • 1pm-5pm  
Inner SE Portland

### Naturescaping – Site Planning 1

Saturday, March 13 • 9am-1pm  
Beaverton

### Naturescaping – Site Planning 1

Sunday, March 14 • 1pm-5pm  
Outer SE Portland

### Rain Gardens 101

Wednesday, March 24 • 6pm-9pm  
N Portland

### Rain Gardens 101

Wednesday, April 6 • 6pm-9pm  
N Portland

### Rain Gardens 101

Sunday, April 11 • 1pm-5pm  
Outer SE Portland

### Naturescaping – Site Planning 1

Saturday, April 17 • 9am-1pm  
Inner SE Portland

### Naturescaping Basics

Sunday, April 18 • 1pm-5pm  
Outer SE Portland

### Naturescaping Basics

Saturday, April 24 • 9am-1pm  
N Portland

### Rain Gardens 101

Sunday, June 6 • 1pm-5pm  
N Portland



Please visit [www.emswcd.org](http://www.emswcd.org) to find out more and register online.

You can also call us at 503-935-5383.

Johnson Creek Watershed Council will bring together hundreds of volunteers at twelve sites throughout the watershed to help restore Johnson Creek's natural functions and to beautify our community. Review the description at each site to choose the location you would like to steward.

**Please register online at [www.jcwc.org](http://www.jcwc.org).**

**1. Johnson Creek Park**

**SE 23rd Ave and Clatsop Street**

Help Portland Parks and Recreation revegetate property along the lower stretches of Johnson Creek.

**2. Errol Heights**

**SE 52nd Ave. and Tenino St.**

Join long-time stewards from PCC Structuralists revegetate the Errol Heights wetlands and adjacent slopes in this upland park.

**3. Foster Place**

**SE Foster Place, off 120th Ave.**

Tucked within a wooded riparian forest along Johnson Creek, help REI employees remove English ivy. You'll forget you're in the city!



**4. Springwater Trail**

**at SE 128th (crossroad?)**

Partner with Powellhurst Gilbert Neighborhood Assoc. to remove English ivy.

**5. Powell Butte**

**SE Powell Blvd and 162nd Ave.**

Assist long-time site hosts Oregon Hunters Association plant native trees and shrubs.

# 12th Annual Watershed Johnson Creek V

**Saturday, March**

Work parties will be followed by a Volunt

Registration required at [www](http://www.jcwc.org)



**This event is coordinated by the Johnson Creek Watershed Council**

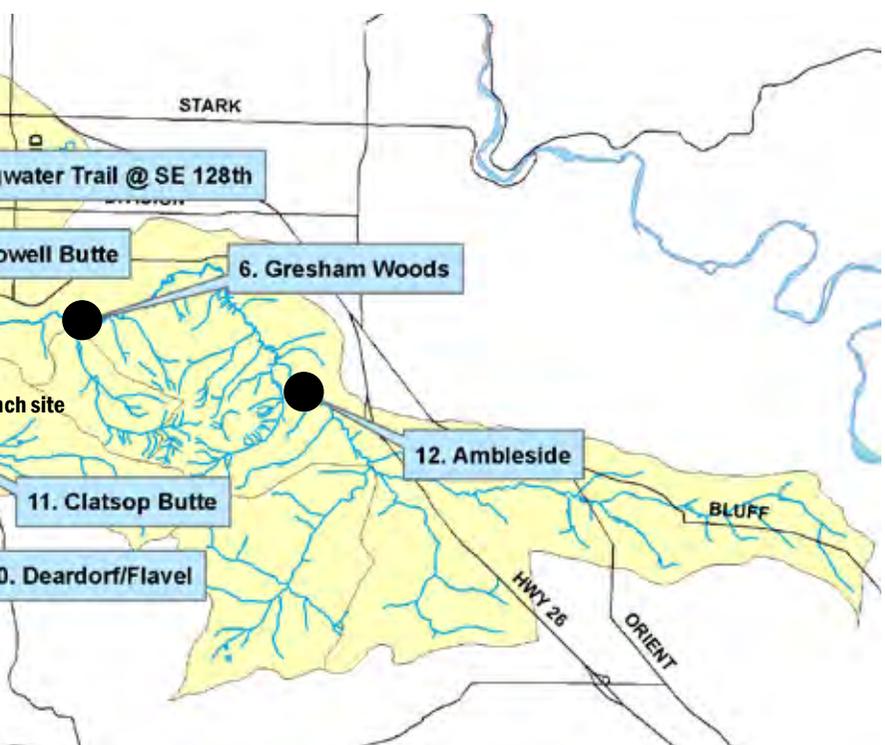
- Albertsons • Alpha High School • Boy Scout Pack 100
- City of Gresham • City of Portland, Bureau of Environmental Services
- Clackamas County SWCD • Clackamas County Water Environment Service
- Dave's Killer Bread • David Douglas High School • Demeter Design • East
- Friends of Tideman Johnson Park • Great Harbor Club • Leach Botanical Gardens • Lents Community Center
- MYC, Reynolds School District • New Season Community Garden • Overland Park Coalition • PCC Structuralists
- Portland Nursery • Powellhurst Gilbert Neighborhood Assoc. •

**Connecting communities**



# Wide Event Watershed Council

**6 2010 9am-12pm**  
**Peer Appreciation Luncheon at two locations**  
[www.jcwc.org](http://www.jcwc.org) or call 503-652-7477



**Watershed Council with many thanks to our numerous partners**

Boy Scout Pack 740 • Brown and Caldwell Environmental Engineers  
 Friends of Environmental Services? • City of Milwaukie?  
 Friends? • Cleveland High School • Columbia Sportswear • Commerce Bank of Or-  
 west Multnomah SWCD • Fred Meyer • Friends of Errol Heights? • Friends of Trees  
 Harvest Bread • Historic Downtown Gresham Kiwan-  
 s Corridor Habitat Restoration Project ? • Metro  
 Farmers Market • Noah's Bagels • Oregon Hunters Associa-  
 tions • Portland Parks and Recreation •  
 REI • SMILE • Starbucks • Tidee Didee Diaper Service • Trader Joe's

**Participates through stewardship**

## 6. Gresham Woods SW 14th and Binford Ave.

Work together with the local Historic Downtown Gresham Kiwanis Club, Youth Engaged students from Alpha High School and Boy Scout Pak 740 in their long term stewardship in this beautiful open space along Johnson Creek



## 7. Tideman Johnson Park SE 45th Ave and Johnson Creek Blvd.

Get your hands dirty with the Friends of Tideman Johnson and the local community to plant, mulch and weed the natural area nestled in a gorge along the banks of Johnson Creek.

## 8. 1-205 7204 SE 92nd Ave.

Help the Friends of Trees plant native trees and shrubs. [More?](#)

## 9. Freeway Lands SE Foster Road at 104th

Tackle English ivy with Lents Corridor Habitat Restoration Project and Tidee Didee in this secluded wooded section.

## 10. Deardorff/Flavel 7505 SE Arnold Way

Join [who?](#) to clear ivy from trees in this unique ravine.

## 11. Clatsop Butte [new site need address](#)

Join the local homeowners association and Friends of Trees enhance this open space by planting native trees.

## 12. Ambleside Springwater Trail at SE Hogan Ave.

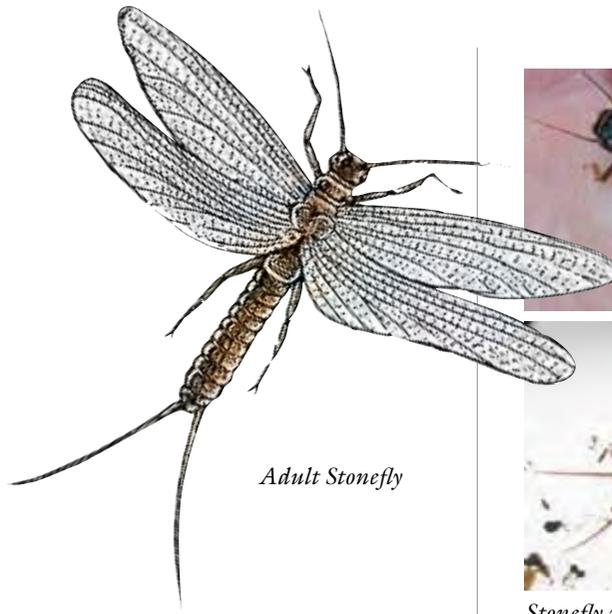
Youth Engaged students from [Barlow High School ?](#) and Multnomah Youth Cooperative lead the way planting native trees.

# Restoration Project a Refuge for Sensitive Insects

By Noah Jenkins, JCWC Education and Research Associate

An aquatic insect sampling event in August has turned up an interesting result: a JCWC restoration project in Kelley Creek (a tributary to Johnson Creek), completed in summer 2007 is playing host to a diversity of stonefly larvae (order Plecoptera). The project, which removed a dam on private property, created 500 feet of new stream channel; meanders and riffles have replaced the former pond, providing the kind of environment sought by aquatic macroinvertebrates. These insect larvae are an important food source for juvenile salmonids, as well as indicators of water and habitat quality. Stoneflies are rare in urban environments, due to their sensitivity to impaired stream channel characteristics—such as a lack of riffles and sinuosity—and poor riparian cover. The relative diversity of these insects at this site indicates that, from a bug’s-eye perspective, the new channel and plantings in Kelley Creek are providing valuable habitat.

That’s the good news. The bad news: the sampling results indicate that even the best sites in the watershed are degraded.



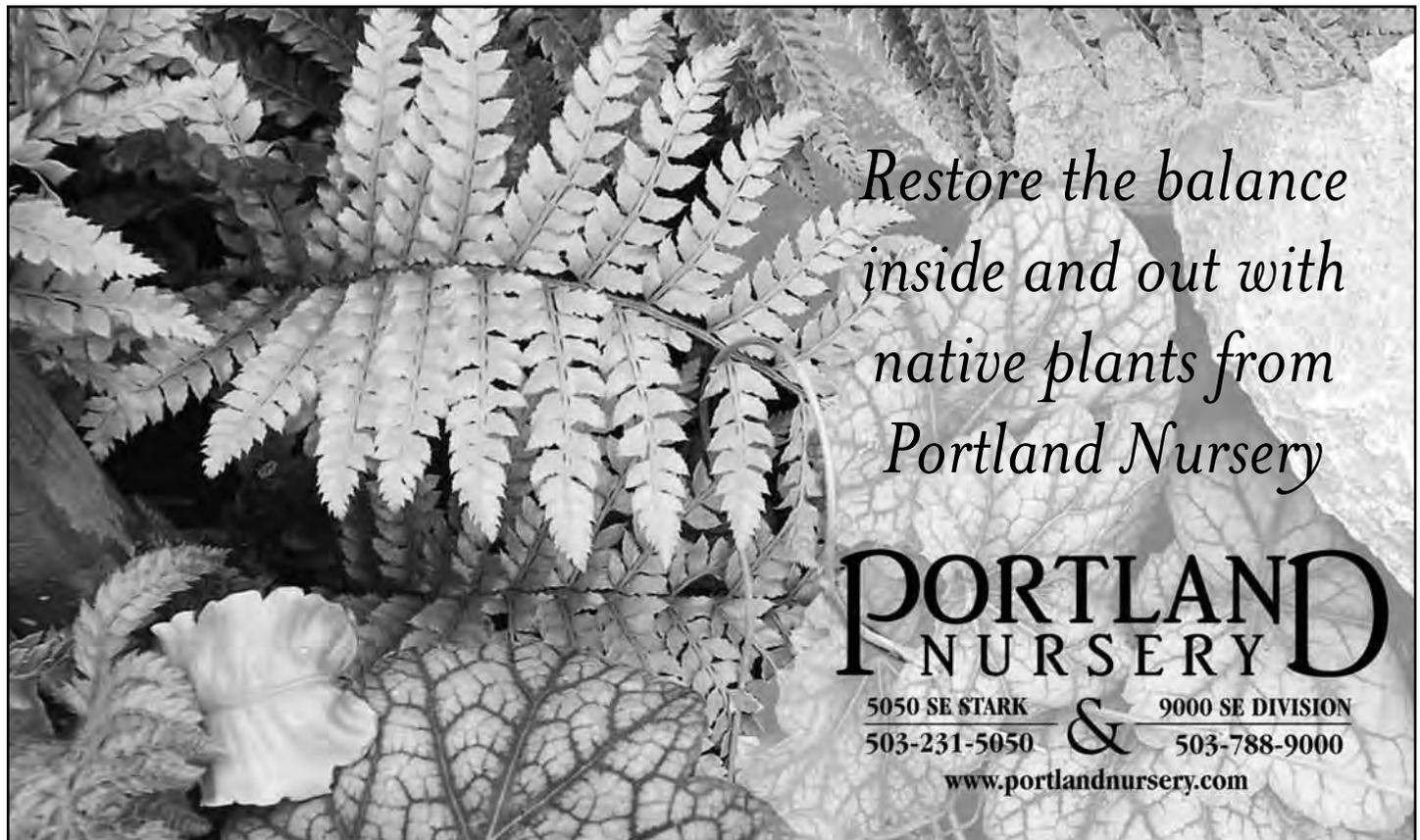
Adult Stonefly



Stonefly nymphs

This is typical of urban streams. But, as the restoration project above shows, creating viable habitat can be done. The Council’s annual Watershed Wide Event presents an opportunity to do just the sort of restoration those stoneflies are looking for! Come join us to help bring these beasts back to the watershed; “if you plant it, they will come.”

For more information about invertebrate studies and habitat, see [http://www.archive.org/stream/analysisofaquatjulyaug2000bollrich/analysisofaquatjulyaug2000bollrich\\_djvu.txt](http://www.archive.org/stream/analysisofaquatjulyaug2000bollrich/analysisofaquatjulyaug2000bollrich_djvu.txt)



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# JCWC Staff Member, Greg Ciannella, Departs for New Oregon Adventure

By Matt Clark, JCWC Executive Director

In December, Greg Ciannella left his position as Watershed Stewardship Coordinator with Johnson Creek Watershed Council to begin a job as a Natural Resource Specialist with Oregon Parks Department in Bend. His area of responsibility with the Parks Department includes much of central and eastern Oregon, a vast amount of land from the Willows to Steens Mountain, including newly acquired acreage on the John Day River, where Greg will put his invasive species expertise to use.

Greg came to JCWC in May 2006 with strong skills as a field ecologist and professional experience in invasive species management, specifically Japanese knotweed. In his three and a half years with the Council, he and co-worker Noah Jenkins expanded the initial project focused



Noah Jenkins and Greg look for invasive plants.



Always at home in the field, Greg Ciannella leads a group of educators on a watershed tour.

solely on knotweed control into a comprehensive streamside rehabilitation program with four additional target weed species, a phased revegetation strategy, and a new geographic focus (the StreamCare program is a partnership with East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District in the upper watershed).

Greg managed the completion of the Bradshaw project, which removed a fish passage barrier, reduced temperature and bacteria, and created 400 feet of stream channel habitat on Kelley Creek. He also coordinated the design and permitting of a salmon habitat project at the mouth of Johnson Creek, which the Council will construct in the summer of 2010, dependent on funding.

We will miss Greg tremendously. He was curious and committed to expanding his skills as an ecologist and project manager. He was a big picture thinker, frequently reviewing his work plan to ensure that he was targeting the highest priority projects. He was a successful grant writer who viewed it as his responsibility to secure funds for his projects. Most importantly, Greg was personable, well-liked by co-workers, board members, private landowners and project partners alike. We wish him the best in his exciting adventure, exploring new ecosystems on the dry side of Oregon.

The Council is in the process of filling the Restoration Coordinator position (the position was renamed from Watershed Stewardship Coordinator). We look forward to introducing our new Restoration Coordinator in the summer edition of our newsletter.

## \$100 Rain Garden Grants available in 2010



### Planning to landscape this spring?

By installing a rain garden in your landscape to manage stormwater from your home, you could be eligible for up to \$100 from the City of Gresham and East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District. Interested Gresham residents should contact Keri Handaly to schedule a pre-installation safety inspection because rain gardens are not appropriate for all homes depending on local drainage, slope, etc.

Grant rules and installation guidelines will be available soon. Visit our website for more resources on rain gardens: [greshamoregon.gov/watershed](http://greshamoregon.gov/watershed)

The City of Gresham and EMSWCD will also offer a **free rain garden workshop** at the end of March. Workshop attendance is encouraged, but not mandatory for receiving grant funds.



For more information contact Keri Handaly at 503-618-2657 or [Keri.Handaly@GreshamOregon.gov](mailto:Keri.Handaly@GreshamOregon.gov)



Photo by Eric Griswold 2009

PCC Structurals, Inc. volunteers pictured above partnered with the Council at the 2009 Watershed Wide Event at Errol Creek.

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





Amy Lodholz, JCWC Volunteer Coordinator, Evan Urman, volunteer, and Perry Rikli, JCWC Board member, check out the new interpretive signs in Tideman Johnson Park.

## Learn More at Tideman Johnson Park

Two interpretive signs were installed at Tideman Johnson Park along the Springwater Corridor Trail in the fall of 2009 (SE 37th Ave and Tenino Street).

The sign near the upper overlook discusses healthy stream habitat and how the area benefits from the addition of log structures, boulders and side channels. The sign on the lower boardwalk explains how native plant communities work in relation to the amount of moisture they receive.

Funding came from the City of Portland, Friends of Tideman Johnson, Johnson Creek Watershed Council, Portland Parks and Recreation, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and Thermofluids, Inc. Thanks go to Marianne Colgrove, Sue Thomas and Marty Urman for developing and illustrating the signs.

## Annual Friends Campaign Within Reach of Goal

Thank you to everyone who has generously donated to the Council during our annual Friends Campaign. With your loyal support we have raised over \$4,400!

Your support helps us reach our ambitious goals for 2010, including planting 5,000 native trees and shrubs along upper Johnson Creek, launching a "First Saturdays" outreach program, and expanding volunteer opportunities.

The campaign isn't over yet and we are asking you to help us reach our goal of raising \$5,000! If you haven't renewed your annual financial contribution to the Council yet, or would like to become a new Friend, now's the time!

Online donations are available through Network for Good on our website where you can also schedule automatic monthly contributions.

Thanks again for all of your support. Your contributions make it possible for us to continue to protect and restore the Johnson Creek Watershed.

To make a donation, contact us at 503-652-7477, mail in the donation envelope inserted in the last newsletter, donate online at



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[www.conservationsdistrict.org](http://www.conservationsdistrict.org)

**Yes!** I want to become a Friend of JCWC and help protect and restore the creek for generations to come.

\$35    \$75    \$150    \$300

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1900 SE Milport Rd., Ste B  
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Ph: 503-652-7477  
On the web: [www.jcwc.org](http://www.jcwc.org)



**Save the Date!**  
*JCWC Annual Meeting*  
 Thursday, May 27  
 Reed College  
 Portland, Oregon

## Upcoming JCWC Events

**Saturday, March 6**  
**12th Annual Watershed Wide Event**  
 9am-12pm with lunch afterward  
 Register online: [www.jcwc.org](http://www.jcwc.org)

**Spring Rain Garden Workshop**  
 To be announced

**Saturday, April 3**  
**Lower Johnson Creek Bike Tour**  
 9am-12:30pm  
 in partnership with Audubon Society  
 For more information: [info@jcwc.org](mailto:info@jcwc.org)

**Saturday, May 1**  
**Morning Bird Walk**  
 Returning guides Christine Steele  
 and Joe Liebezeit  
 To register: [info@jcwc.org](mailto:info@jcwc.org)

**Thursday, May 27**  
**JCWC Annual Meeting**  
 11:30-1:30pm  
 Reed College, Portland, Oregon

**Saturday, June 1**  
**JCWC Bike Tour**  
 with Executive Director, Matt Clark  
 To register: [info@jcwc.org](mailto:info@jcwc.org)

**September 1-30**  
**Springwater Cycle Stroll**  
 Ride, run or walk the trail to raise  
 money for JCWC

**December 2010**  
**Friends of Johnson Creek Campaign**

Artwork to come for back page

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