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It's All *WITHIN YOUR REACH*

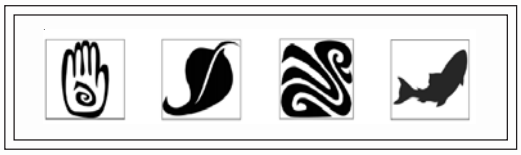
A publication for teachers and educators from the Johnson Creek Watershed Council

Communities Converge for Annual Johnson Creek Event

By Jordan Vinograd, Outreach Coordinator

Hardworking volunteers and enthusiastic creek stewards from throughout the Portland area will converge on the Johnson Creek Watershed on **March 5, 2005**. For the 7th year the Johnson Creek Watershed Council will host its **Watershed Wide Event**. Continuing the tradition of successful events, this year the Johnson Creek Watershed Council has ten restoration sites and two free workshops planned. For complete details, go to *www.jcwc.org/wwe.htm*.

Johnson Creek is a unique, urban creek stretching 26 miles long through four cities and two counties. It is one of the last free-flowing streams in Portland, and it still supports five salmon species and an incredible variety of wildlife. This event will connect over 700 volunteers to the amazing assets and features of this watershed.



Two workshops will educate watershed stewards about composting and ways you can help the creek from the comfort of your own backyard. The composting workshop will be taught by Master Recyclers at the Leach Botanical Gardens. The "Landscaping Secrets 101" workshop will be taught at Lynch View Elementary School by Clair Klock, a local expert on native plant landscaping and the superintendent of Stone Creek Golf Course. Both workshops will be free of charge and open to the public.

*See "**EVENT**" Page 2*

How Can Your Students Get Involved?

Do you want your students to be a part of the Johnson Creek Watershed Council's 7th annual Watershed Wide Event? Help your class gain a Watershed-Wide perspective on winter invasive removal, native planting, surveying, landscaping, composting, and more by participating in this unique community event.

Ways Your Class Can Get Involved:

1. Field a crew at one of the ten restoration sites on the creek!
2. Be a site leader and help organize the volunteers at that site on the creek.
3. Have your students attend one of the two free workshops on composting or backyard stewardship for extra credit.
4. Help plan and design advertising posters/brochures for the event.
5. Help distribute brochures in the neighborhoods surrounding restoration sites.

To learn more and to register for the event, please visit *www.jcwc.org,* call (503) 652-7477 or e-mail *jordan@jcwc.org*.

Johnson Creek Watershed Council

Event

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Residents of this community know that they all live both up and down stream of other members of the watershed. They also know that in order to bring back the once-abundant salmon population and increase wildlife habitat and green spaces for people, Johnson Creek must be restored as a whole.

At the ten restoration sites, volunteers of all ages and abilities help enhance the creek by removing invasive species, planting native trees and shrubs, and mulching new plants. Restoration parties take place from 9am-12pm at the following locations:

WWE2005 Sites
- Brookside Park
- Bundy Wildlife Refuge
- Butler Creek
- East Buttes Open Space
- Eastmoreland Golf Course
- ODS, Milwaukie
- Powell Butte Nature Park
- Springwater Trail/Lents
- St. John's Church, Milwaukie
- Wheeler Creek

There will be a free celebration lunch to follow! To make this event possible, the Johnson Creek Watershed Council is collaborating with a diverse array of nearly 20 different partners, including neighborhood associations, local governments, businesses and area non-profits.

A participant at last year's event fills a bucket with mulch to spread around new plants.

Education Spotlight: Sellwood MS

Sellwood Middle School Students Adopt a Site on Crystal Springs

On November 3rd, representatives from the City and the Watershed Council joined the students as they worked to remove invasive plants from the site at 21st and Tacoma St. in Sellwood.

Johnson Creek Watershed Council has recently partnered with the City of Portland, Americorps, and Heidi Perry's Mix Team students from Sellwood Middle School to restore a site on Crystal Springs, a tributary to Johnson Creek.

A Sellwood Middle School student enjoys pulling invasive plants.

In just over two hours, the students and parent helpers had identified and flagged dozens of native plants, removed a truckload of invasive plants, and cleaned up garbage from the site. The students have also completed a class project to make brochures describing their work to distribute to the neighbors surrounding the site area. Thanks to everyone who helped make this work party a huge success!

The students will return to the site in February to continue with site maintenance and begin planting more native plants.

If you would like to get your class involved with a project like this along Johnson Creek, contact Jordan at *jordan@jcwc.org* or (503) 652-7477.

Partnership Opportunity

Oregon Trout Starts the Healthy Waters Institute

The Healthy Waters Institute is a statewide, student-staffed institute improving education by working with communities to engage all students with their home waters.

The Institute is growing so that it can provide students and teachers with more hands-on opportunities to learn than ever before.

The Johnson Creek Watershed Council has applied to Oregon Trout to be one of its first "Pilot Watersheds." This in turn would provide you, the teachers, with more opportunities to help your students learn about their watershed! Stay tuned for more information, or visit: *www.ortrout.org/4education/healthywaters.html*

Resources

Here is our second installment of great curriculum activities and ideas. See www.jcwc.org for more!

[www.classroomearth.org]: Classroom Earth, The National Environmental Education & Training Foundation (NEETF). A great resource that has different environmental education websites categorized and rated. Includes both online activities and curriculum information.

[www.projectwet.org]: Project WET (Water Education for Teachers) has programs around the world and also has a great curriculum book available to order. The website provides information about the Project WET curriculum, which covers all areas of water education for a wide range of grade-levels.

[kids.earth.nasa.gov/droplet.html]: "Droplet and the Water Cycle" Follow Droplet through this interactive website and learn about the water cycle firsthand. Answer questions about the water cycle and then help Droplet move through the earth safely.

[www.k12.atmos.washington.edu/k12/pilot/water_cycle/teacherpage.html]: This website provides lesson plans for a two week module on the water cycle. It is intended for students in 3rd and 4th grades. The "Water: A Never Ending Story" module provides activities that will teach the students about each different phase that water goes through during the water cycle. It is a comprehensive site that provides teachers a solid background, discussion questions, and activities.

Watershed Activity: *Where Does Our Water Come From?*

From the EPA: *http://www.epa.gov/OGWDW/kids/where.pdf*

Objective:
This taste test will illustrate the differences between groundwater and surface water, highlight some of the common contaminants in natural water, and encourage student thought on the sources of drinking water.

Background and facts about water in the United States:
Every day, the average American uses about 50 gallons of water; most people are unaware of the source of their water; about 88 percent of the population is supplied by community water supply systems; about 12 percent is supplied by non-community means, such as private wells; 64 percent of public water systems use surface water as their source; 36 percent use groundwater from wells; groundwater often has a slightly metallic taste and may contain high amounts of minerals; surface waters usually have a musty taste and look cloudy. Treatment techniques aim to produce a water that is: safe for human consumption, appealing, and good tasting to the consumer.

Materials:
1 gallon of distilled water, 1 gallon of tap water (identify the source), 1 gallon of mineral water (or private well water, if available), 1 gallon of filtered tap water, cups for the class (4 cups each).

Procedure:
1. Mark a set of 4 cups for each student. Label each cup 1 through 4 and fill them with the different types of water. Make sure that similarly labeled cups contain the same type of water.
2. Indicate on the board the different types of water present in the four cups. Have the students work together in groups to try to identify different tastes, smells, and appearances in the water. Have each group write down their observations on each water sample, and identify which cup has which type of water.
3. After everyone has completed their observations, have the students mark their guesses on the board. Ask the students what types of impurities they would expect to find in the different types of water, and if their senses confirmed their intuitions. Record these observations on the board.
4. Reveal to the students which samples contained which type of water. Discuss with the students their observations and what other impurities might be found in these waters. Also discuss the source of water for the community. If anyone in the class lives in a location supplied by a private well, ask him/her to describe the water at their home, and how it compares to other water he/she drinks in the community.

Follow-Up Questions:
1. What are some possible sources of water in your community?
2. Which type of water tasted best? Why?
3. Which type of water do you think is safer to drink: groundwater from a spring or surface water from a stream?

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Inside this Issue:

Do you have watershed education ideas or needs that aren't addressed in this issue? Let us know: info@jcwc.org or (503) 652-7477. We appreciate your input!

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