



Volunteers helped plant over 40,000 trees this year in a reforestation effort to shade Johnson Creek.

Become a Johnson Creek Friend, Your Gift Will Be Matched!



In the past eighteen months, we've learned a lot about the salmon and trout in Johnson Creek Watershed, finding them in places we never thought we would. Last fall and spring, surveyors documented coho salmon and/or steelhead and cutthroat trout in nearly every upper Johnson Creek tributary they looked, even in small and intermittent streams. Last December, two JCWC volunteers found a wild adult coho that had just spawned in a reach of Johnson Creek in Gresham.

Unfortunately, we also know that most of Johnson Creek and many of its tributaries are too hot for salmon in the summer, at peak times reaching the temperature of the average swimming pool, more than 15 degrees too hot for cold-water species like salmon.

It's estimated that Johnson Creek needs 80% effective shade to achieve optimal summer stream temperatures for salmon. Currently, Johnson Creek is at 40% effective shade, half of what is needed.

How do you achieve shade? You plant trees. That's why JCWC has made streamside reforestation a top priority. Last year alone, our staff, volunteers, and contractors planted more than 40,000 trees. And this September, we hired a new staff member to work solely on streamside reforestation, finishing planting projects that are in progress, planning, and implementing new ones.

In hiring new staff, we took a calculated risk. We hadn't, and we still haven't, secured all the money to support our new Riparian Technician position. We need your help to do that, which is why I'm asking you to become or renew as a Friend of Johnson Creek today.

To sweeten the deal, **ODS Health and the Mintkeski Family Fund of the Oregon Community Foundation look forward to matching all gifts to the Council, up to \$10,000 combined. And Plywerk, a local eco-conscious photo mounting company is offering a 20% discount** to those who donate to JCWC before the year's end.

You'll find an envelope enclosed in this newsletter. Mail your 100% tax-deductible contribution today. You can also make a secure on-line donation through our website—jwc.org. And remember, setting up a recurring monthly or quarterly donation helps ensure stable funding for JCWC throughout the year.

Your help is important and we need your help. The fish in Johnson Creek need your help. By planting trees and bringing stream temperatures down, we can expand their habitat so that someday soon, our volunteers will find not one, but 50 Coho salmon spawning in our creek.

Warm Regards and a Cooler Creek,

Matt Clark, JCWC Executive Director

Community Supports Johnson Creek Days



Johnson Creek Days are a series of free activities throughout the month of September meant to raise watershed awareness with new and different audiences. This year, JCWC reached watershed families with the Children's Discovery Carnival and the art community with our Art Show. We also engaged running and bicycling enthusiasts with our Bicycle Bonanza and Fun Run. We thank Tidee Didee Diaper Service and Natural Baby Boutique for sponsoring this year's events.

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Johnson Creek Clean Up

The kick-off event mobilized 130 volunteers on Saturday, August 25, to remove three tons of trash from five miles of Johnson Creek, including a new reach in Gresham. Special thanks to City of Gresham, Clackamas County Water Environment Services, Green Lents, Overland Park Coalition, and REI for their support of this event.

Johnson Creek Art Show

The third annual Johnson Creek Art Show was held at Reed College's Vollum Lounge from September 7 through October 12. Twenty artists participated showing 48 oils, acrylics, watercolors, pastels, and photographs. Many of the works were created during Paint Out sessions at Johnson Creek Park and Gresham Main City Park. A Photo Workshop was also held at Leach Botanical Garden. One goal of the show was to introduce artists and viewers to new locations in the water-

Continued on page 2

Johnson Creek Days: Building watershed awareness

Continued from Page 1

shed and this was clearly evident in the titles of the works: Reed Lake, Sunshine Creek, Eastmoreland Pond, Powell Butte Meadow, and Johnson Creek Park.

The Opening Reception, sponsored by East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District, was well-attended by artists and guests. The evening included lively music by White Rhino Marimba. Special thanks to other supporters including Art-Heads Framing, Mezza Middle Eastern Cuisine, Reed College, UnionActive.com, and volunteers Caitlin Dobson, Sarah Ferguson, Bruce MacGregor, Gary Michael, and Kelsey Wirtzfeld.

Children's Discovery Carnival

JCWC brought the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Leach Botanical Garden, the City of Portland, and East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District (to name a few) to Lents Park to explore and learn about the environment around us through crafts, displays, and games. Over 165 children attended the event as JCWC continues to promote environmental education in its watershed.

Edible Weed Walk

Herbalist Randi Embree took 25 guests on a short walk down the Springwater Trail to learn the history behind some of the common weeds found in the Johnson Creek Watershed. Embree talked in detail about the medicinal properties and herbal remedies that explain the abundance of some types of plants here today. She has a wealth of knowledge on the subject of weeds, and her talks are a great opportunity to learn more about Oregon's common plants. Don't miss this event next September.



Gracie Campbell displays her monprint, Grooming, at the Johnson Creek Art Show.



Herbalist Randi Embree explains weed lore at the Edible Weed Walk along the Springwater Trail.



Artist Vicki Zimmerman discovers Johnson Creek Park in a Paint Out sponsored by JCWC.



Children touch animal skins, horns, and shells at the Children's Discovery Carnival.

Watch for the fourth annual Johnson Creek Days
September 20-22, 2013



Tidee Didee supports
Johnson Creek Days
to raise watershed awareness
for a healthy future for Johnson Creek

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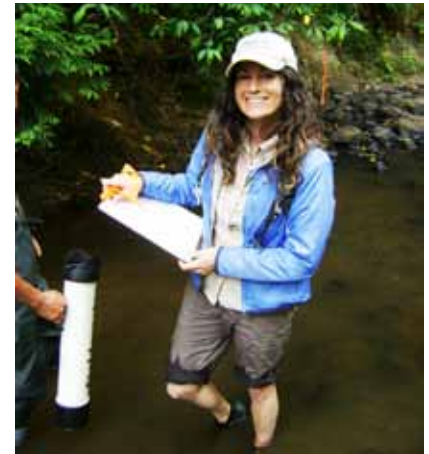
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Freshwater Mussels in Johnson Creek: Cleaning up the Neighborhood

Michele Blackburn and Celeste Mazzacano, *Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation*

Freshwater mussels often go unnoticed, as they closely resemble the rocks surrounding them, but they speak volumes about the biological health of a stream. These unassuming bivalves improve water quality and habitat for native fish and other animals, but much remains to be learned about their distribution and life histories in northwest waters. The Xerces Society, Johnson Creek Watershed Council, and local partners joined forces in 2010 to learn more about native mussels in the Johnson Creek watershed. Armed with underwater viewing scopes, volunteers and staff splashed their way through miles of stream over two years to uncover the mysteries of these underwater denizens. But why so much interest in a creature that looks like a rock?

Freshwater mussels play critical roles in the streams, lakes, and reservoirs they inhabit. Their filter-feeding improves water quality; one mussel can filter up to 18 gallons per day, and water clarity is greater around large mussel beds. Mussel beds are part of the substrate (surface of the creek bottom), creating habitat for snails, midges, and caddis flies and stabilizing the stream bed. Their excreted "pseudofeces" provide nutrients for other aquatic invertebrates that are then eaten by fish. Clearer, cleaner water plus increased numbers of invertebrates means that fish have more to eat and an easier time seeing their prey. Native mussels are eaten in turn by otters, raccoons, herons, egrets, and muskrats; a small pile of empty



Left: two size classes of *Margaritifera falcata* (western pearlshell). Right: Michele Blackburn takes data during a volunteer mussel survey at Ambleside in the upper watershed in August 2011.

shells surrounded by clawed footprints on shore is a frequent sight when mussels are present. Their long lives (15 to 100 years, depending on species) and limited mobility make mussels the silent sentinels of their aquatic homes, reflecting long-term changes in ecosystem health.

Mussels are the most imperiled animals in North America, with more than 70 species considered endangered and many more at risk. The Northwest has only a small share of the great diversity of mussels in the U.S., with species in three genera: western pearlshell (*Margaritifera*

falcata), western ridged mussel (*Gonidea angulata*), and oysters (*Anodonta* species). Native mussels are threatened by pollution, sedimentation, damming, channelization, flow diversions, and invasive species such as zebra mussels and Asian clams. Their reproduction and distribution depends on native fish hosts, which transport larval mussels (glochidia) to new habitats; declines in native fish, which face many of the same threats, are linked to declining mussel populations.

Urban streams can provide an important refuge for these vulnerable animals. Over six miles in Johnson Creek mainstem and tributaries have been surveyed, and despite Johnson Creek's impaired status, the watershed supports substantial numbers of western pearlshells and oysters. Most are older and of similar age cohorts (based on shell length measurements), but smaller younger mussels are also found throughout the watershed. Unfortunately, the invasive Asian clam was also found, at low numbers in Johnson Creek but very abundant in Crystal Springs. The upper watershed has more mussels in larger beds, but mussel presence in more degraded urban reaches of the lower watershed continues to surprise us.

The abundance of pearlshells in several restored reaches gives hope that ongoing projects to improve water quality and habitat in the Johnson Creek watershed will help support healthy native mussel populations and restore the vital ecosystem services they provide for years to come.

For more information visit <http://www.xerces.org/western-freshwater-mussels>. The final mussel report for Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (who funded the surveys) will be released in the next few months. For specific questions, readers are invited to send email to michele@xerces.org.

Full Sail Brewing keeps the salmon wild with



Salmon need clean water. This fresh hopped beer uses Salmon-Safe certified hops exclusively. Which means that drinking Hopfenfrisch helps keep local streams clean enough for wild salmon to thrive.



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JCWC Thanks its Donors: Old and New

October 1, 2011-October 31, 2012

Johnson Creek Watershed Council gratefully acknowledges its numerous donors who make our programs possible. Through your generosity, the Council continues to improve the health of Johnson Creek. We are particularly pleased to acknowledge those who have contributed to the longterm Endowment Founders Circle that will sustain the legacy of Johnson Creek Watershed Council.

Endowment Founders Circle

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Jim Cooke
Jameson Partners LLC dba
Freeway Land II
Linda Setchell
Julie and Curt Stevens

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Nicole West
Kristi Whildin
Paula Wight in honor
of Diane Boly
Frank Wildensee
Karen Williams
John (Jay) Wilson
Gary Wol
Dolores Wood
Todd and Beth Zilbert
Vicki Zimmerman

First Science Pub a Smashing Success

In early September, over 60 fish-heads, creek geeks, a number of upper watershed residents and several Gresham Councilors, gathered at Gresham's 4th Street Grill for the first ever Johnson Creek Science Pub, entitled "Hot Fish; Cold Beer." Attendees sipped beer and dug into burgers and salads while being scientifically illuminated to the sounds of rock 'n roll waiving up from the bar. Using 3-D graphics of stream temperatures and land cover, Torrey Lindbo (City of Gresham Water Quality Specialist) contrasted the generally too-warm summertime mainstem creek with cooler, forested headwater tributaries that provide thermal refugia for fish. Then, Roy Iwai (Multnomah County Water Resource Specialist) inspired us with beautiful, close-up photos of cutthroat, steelhead, coho and other fish found during the extensive surveys in upper Johnson Creek last summer, which documented threatened salmon and trout east of Gresham and in many tributary streams. Curious for more? Join us at the next Science Pub called "Straight Up...Floodplains with a Twist" on December 10th at Dig A Pony, 736 SE Grand Avenue, Portland.



Forty salmon spawning volunteers packed the JCWC Board Room to learn how to identify spawning fish.

Eyes and Ears on the Creek

Coho Spawning Volunteers Take to Water

Every weekend in October through December, six teams of hardy volunteers are slogging up mile-long reaches of Johnson Creek looking for adult, spawning coho salmon. In 2010 and 2011, wild coho were found in early November in and upstream of Gresham. This year the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW) worked with the Council to train 40 people in low-impact survey techniques and basic salmon identification using carcasses from nearby hatcheries. Thanks to a four year East Multnomah SWCD grant, the Council purchased wading gear and polarized glasses for check-out by volunteers and plans to coordinate more citizen-science surveys in 2013-2015. Please help augment this survey information—be "Eyes and Ears on the Creek." If you see any spawning salmon, hear news of sightings or have seen salmon in Johnson Creek in the past, please contact the Council and let us know!

JCWC Presidential Service Awards



The Presidential Service Award is given by JCWC to its volunteers who within the calendar year have completed over 100+ hours of service. This award is issued by the President of the United States and is a great honor to bestow upon our well-deserving volunteers. This year's winners include: Paul Ciri, Carli Ewert, Stephen Kravetzker, Laura Noe, and Nancy Robrecht.

A message from Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator Amy Lodholz:

"I am so proud to award our volunteers this honor. These individuals were trailblazers here at our organization and deserve this recognition. They have an amazing volunteer spirit and we are so fortunate to have their support. These volunteer leaders had the initiative to start new projects, assist with field research and really step-up when we needed them the most. I challenge all JCWC volunteers to reach this level of achievement. It's about nine hours of volunteer time each month on a schedule of your choosing that you can complete at our group restoration events, our office, or with an individual project. Please don't hesitate to ask if you have questions about how to earn this award. Congratulations to this year's winners!"

Johnson Creek Watershed Council

SCIENCE PUB



Second in a series of Science Pub Talks Across the Watershed

Straight Up... Floodplains with a Twist

A discussion about urban streams and flooding

Monday, Dec. 10, 5-7pm
Dig A Pony
736 SE Grand Avenue
Portland, OR 97214

Since the 1930s, starting with dredging and rock-lining the creek, people have been trying to control the flooding of Johnson Creek. Join us for an evening discussing hydrology, flooding, and what's been done recently to keep water within the floodplain and out of the kitchen.

Guest speakers

Karl Lee co-authored the 2009 "Hydrology of the Johnson Creek Basin" report and retired from the US Geological Survey last year.

Maggie Skenderian began work for the City of Portland's Bureau of Environmental Services in 1996 and has been the Johnson Creek Watershed Manager since 2005.

Join us for an educational event and a cold beverage.

Please RSVP to amy@jcw.org or call Amy at 503-652-7477.

DIG A PONY
PORTLAND, ORE.



Johnson Creek Watershed Council



Persimmon Country Club, located in the upper reaches of the Johnson Creek Watershed, is a certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary. Hogan Creek, a tributary of Johnson Creek, runs through the course.

Golfing for Salmon

JCWC had 17 teams compete in the inaugural year of the Johnson Creek Charity Golf Classic. The fundraising event brought in over \$4,000 for Council programs and highlighted the salmon in Hogan Creek—a Johnson Creek tributary that runs through the course. Special thanks to the event sponsors: Enterprise Rent-a-Car, GeeksAKnockin, Pleasant Valley Wildside Crew, and UnionActive.com. Thanks to volunteers Jason Howard and David Scharfenberg for their hard work in helping plan this event. Numerous other volunteers played a major role in the success of the tournament as they spent the day at the golf course with check-in, photography, communications, tabling, and hosting players.

Johnson Creek Charity Golf Classic will be held at Persimmon Country Club on Monday, July 29, 2013.

For information on how to participate or sponsor the event, please contact Amy at amy@jwc.org.



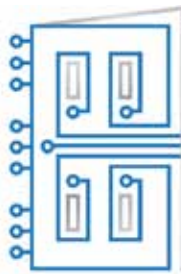
Board chair Jason Howard's team.



The Wildside Crew from Pleasant Valley Elementary School sponsored hole seven.



Champions for JCWC:
The 2012
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and
Johnson Creek Days



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**We're the Wildside Crew
and we're here to say,
Let's make the planet better
in a greener way.**

*– Pleasant Valley Elementary School
Wildside Crew*

The Wildside Crew supports JCWC
and the 2012 Johnson Creek Charity Golf Classic.

*See the summer edition of Within Your Reach and read about the Wildside Crew
and their restoration project at Pleasant Valley Elementary School.*

JCWC UPDATES

CreekCare, Year Two

Since 2010, JCWC—in partnership with the Clackamas County Soil and Water Conservation District, and funded by Oregon Water Enhancement Board—has worked with private landowners in the Clackamas County portion of the upper Johnson Creek watershed on CreekCare. It is a program that works to control priority invasive weeds and install native plants to provide shade and habitat. This winter, we will be planting six new properties and adding to prior work at six others. In all we'll install over 11,000 new native trees and shrubs! This work, combined with past years' efforts, will result in the restoration of nearly a mile of streamside habitat on Sunshine and Badger Creeks, covering more than 6 and a half acres. Knowing that juvenile salmonids are found in both of these streams (see "Within Your Reach", Summer 2012), it is more critical than ever to continue working to provide the shade and habitat they need. With your generous contribution, we intend to do just that.

New to the JCWC Staff Roster

Jill Bonanno



Greetings! I'm Jill, the new AmeriCorps placement here at JCWC. I will be here for an 11-month term as the Riparian Technician. My job is to help create a strategic plan for enhancing the riparian areas throughout the watershed, with the ultimate goal of increasing stream shade and making creek temperatures more suitable for our native salmon.

Originally from Tempe, Arizona, I've been in Oregon for six years. At the University of Oregon, I studied environmental science and biology, and I have personal interests in native botany and backyard farming. I look forward to getting to know the Johnson Creek Community over the next year!

Cathy Geiger

As the new Finance and Operations Coordinator, I would like to say I am very excited to be working with such dedicated staff and volunteers. I am making the transition from 30 years in the corporate world, and when I learned about this opportunity to be able to bring my accounting knowledge into a wonderful organization, I knew my heart would be very happy. Living along Johnson Creek for several years now, I have come to understand what a very special place we live in and want to do my part to keep it that way!



JCWC Intern Spotlight

Michael Dooley

Hometown: Portland, Oregon
Education: B.A Political Science, University of Puget Sound
JCWC Focus: Research; writing for outreach
Professional Interests: Environmental Policy/Conservation
Interests: Backpacking, soccer



Growing up near Johnson Creek, I never really appreciated it for its resiliency in the face of all the urbanization around it. However, as I enrolled in college courses about the natural world and learned how delicate ecosystems can be, Johnson Creek's revival began to impress me more and more. Understanding now what the creek has faced throughout the years, I have truly come to appreciate it as a valuable piece of nature in this very urban setting. I have enjoyed working with JCWC and look forward to seeing Johnson Creek continue to heal over the coming years.

Adriana Escobedo-Land

Hometown: Newberg, Oregon
Education: Sophomore, Environmental Studies-Biology, Reed College
JCWC Focus: Outreach, event planning and calendar updates
Interests: Backpacking and Im

It is great to be a part of the wonderful environment that JCWC has. I am interested in doing scientific research in my future, but I also want to be able to follow the information I produce down to the policy level. Being able to see a small organization produce data and process that information for the public has given me great insight on the workings of a small and successful nonprofit that has made an impact in its community.



SEED Interns Add International Perspective

Jeymmi Alinan, Guatemala

Lackis Charles, Haiti

Larson Crisanto, Nicaragua

Ingrid Corrales, Nicaragua

Four international students from Mt. Hood Community College SEED (Scholarships for Education and Economic Development) program completed internships for JCWC this summer. One SEED program goal is to provide training for students so their environmental experience will be useful in their native countries. The students' plans included forest restoration and eco-tourism in Nicaragua and working on deforestation, water quality and recycling in Haiti. The Johnson Creek Watershed community benefited through their intern service as well with their support with Johnson Creek Days events, especially the Creek Cleanup and the Children's Discovery Carnival. We wish Jeymmi, Lackis, Larson, and Ingrid the best in the future as they take their Johnson Creek experience to other parts of the world.



Jeymmi Alinan, Amy Lodholz (JCWC Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator), Ingrid Corrales, Larson Crisanto and Lackis Charles work out details of the Johnson Creek Days events.

Calendar of Events

For details visit our website: www.jcwc.org or call 503-652-7477. Please RSVP to Amy (amy@jcwc.org).



Salmon Spawning Surveys
continue through December 15.
See article on page 5.

Tree Planting
Friday, November 30, 10am-12:30pm
Johnson Creek Park, SE 21st and Clatsop

Volunteer Appreciation Potluck
Saturday, December 1, 6pm-8pm
VFW Gresham, 150 W. Powell Blvd.

Rain Garden Workshop
Saturday, December 1, 9am-12pm
Woodstock Community Center,
5905 SE 43rd Ave.
Hosted by JCWC. Register at esmswcd.org

Volunteer Restoration Event
Sunday, December 2, 10am-12pm
near Leach Garden

**Science Pub:
Straight Up...
Floodplains with a Twist**
Monday, December 10, 5pm-7pm
Dig a Pony, 736 SE Grand Avenue

Johnson Creek Watershed Council

**SCIENCE
PUB**



MLK Day Volunteer Event
Monday, January 21
JCWC Headquarters, 1900 SE Milport Rd.

**Friends of Trees and
JCWC Volunteer Event**
Saturday, January 26
near Clatsop Butte

**15th Annual
Watershed Wide Event**
Saturday, March 2, 2013
12 locations throughout the Watershed



OUR MISSION

The mission of the Johnson Creek Watershed Council is to promote restoration and stewardship of a healthy Johnson Creek Watershed through sound science and community engagement.

Your generous contribution advances our mission. Thank you!

BECOME A FRIEND OF JOHNSON CREEK

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- My employer will match my gift.
- I have included JCWC in my estate planning.
- I am enclosing an additional gift to fund the Johnson Creek Endowment.

* We do not share or sell this information • Required if paying by credit card

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\$35 \$75 \$150 \$250 \$500

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Signature _____

Please sign me up to receive your

- monthly e-Bulletin
- quarterly newsletter

Please remit payment to Johnson Creek Watershed Council, 1900 SE Milport Road, Suite B, Milwaukie, OR 97222
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