



JCWC Board member, Perry Rikli, planted maple trees at Clatsop Butte in 2011 with Friends of Trees, Oregon Hunters Association, and Portland Parks and Recreation.

Camaraderie and Restoration Go Hand-in-Hand at Watershed Wide Event

By Perry Rikli, JCWC Board of Directors

Participating in the Johnson Creek Watershed Wide Event is one of the easiest and most fun ways to help restore the watershed. The coming event is an excellent opportunity to volunteer our efforts. Pulling ivy, planting trees and bushes, and picking up garbage are not the only things to do. We can drink coffee before the event, share stories, meet people, and after three hours of honest work, we can sit for awhile and enjoy a hot lunch in the company of like-minded individuals who have done the same or similar work as us.

I began my participation in the Watershed Wide Event five years ago. Today I also participate as a JCWC board member attending meetings and volunteering at a few other events and making phone calls. But by far, the best event is Watershed Wide. I know that I am not alone. There are more than three hundred others who evidently enjoy it as I do, and they will be there again this year.

Work sites change each year, and I have had experience at Ambleside, Clatsop Butte, Errol Heights, and at private property near Leach Garden. My memories include arriving around 8:30, meeting individuals who come with family and friends, and also groups of people from schools, environmental organizations and sporting clubs. A leader assigns us a task, and then we go to work planting or pulling. I enjoy the camaraderie, the sense of accomplishment, and the participation in a team activity with people who care about the environment of the watershed as I do.

I don't like it when people discard their garbage or unwanted furniture in the public right of way. I don't like it when I walk or drive through areas where people do not clean up after

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Water Temperature in Johnson Creek

By Torrey Lindbo, Water Quality Specialist, City of Gresham

When it comes to scientific measurements, temperature is one that everyone understands. For example, almost everyone checks the news daily to find out how warm or cold it is going to be outside and whether or not it is going to rain. Small differences in temperature can make a big difference. Even though body temperature is normally 98.6°F, we usually feel ill if our temperature increases above 100°F.

Being warm-blooded allows humans to live in temperatures from below freezing to over 100°F (a 70+ degree range), while the optimal temperature range for a cold-blooded salmon is 48 to 64°F (a 16 degree range). Water temperature is the single most important factor in the success of a salmon's life—more important than other pollution in our streams such as metals, excess nutrients, and hydrocarbons. Cold water is important because it holds more oxygen and is better for spawning. Temperatures of 70°F or more can be lethal to salmon.

The temperature of a stream is primarily affected by two inputs—the amount of daily sunlight on the stream and the amount of cool groundwater entering the stream. Many human activities, including land clearing and the addition of impervious surfaces like buildings, roads, and parking lots remove shade and reduce groundwater recharge. Over the last twenty years, many government agencies and the JCWC have taken steps to reduce this warming by planting streamside

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14th Annual
Johnson Creek
Watershed Council



Watershed Wide Event

Saturday, March 3 • 9am-noon
10 Restoration Sites • Appreciation Lunch

See page 6-7 for more site details
and registration information

Camaraderie at WWE

Continued from page 1

themselves. I suppose if I do something to help my corner of the watershed, my corner of the environments that I frequent, people will see the beauty of that area and its natural attractiveness in coordination with our lives. Then, maybe some of that value to preserve, maintain, and improve our watershed will be appreciated and others will share with me in that value.

My desire is really quite selfish. I enjoy my life in a beautiful, clean, and natural environment. I also like fish. I don't know very much about either—the water or the fish that live in it—but I know the basics of caring for them means protecting and promoting native species. Water temperature is kept cooler by shading it with trees, and protecting the quality of the water means limiting erosion.

My memories of working at Watershed Wide Events include getting a bit dirty and, on occasion, wet. Like other volunteers, I have planted a lot. I have also returned to a couple of sites to see some of the changes and felt the pride of making a bit of improvement along the creek. I am getting a bit older and probably value the beauty of Oregon, Portland, and the Johnson Creek Watershed more today than I did in the past. I would like to share my values with others.

Please join us all, and contact the Johnson Creek Watershed Council to volunteer on Saturday, March 3.



Torrey Lindbo installs a temperature data logger that records water temperature hourly.

Stream Temperature

Continued from page 1

trees to increase shade and by encouraging stormwater management practices that will infiltrate stormwater into the ground to support groundwater recharge—an important factor to the health of Johnson Creek.

In an effort to track progress towards improved temperatures in Johnson Creek, the JCWC and local government agencies within the watershed have been monitoring two key pieces of information—restoration projects and stream temperatures. Over the past five years, temperature has been monitored at 30 different locations on both the mainstem and tributaries of Johnson Creek.

The results show that some locations on mainstem Johnson Creek have more than 90 days each summer when the temperature is above the maximum temperature standard of 64°F set by DEQ to protect cold water species like salmon. In contrast, some headwater tributary locations (upper Kelley and upper Butler creeks) are always below the temperature standard, which is really great news. The primary difference between locations that are cool versus those that are too warm is the amount of shade surrounding the stream.

While we haven't collected enough data yet to determine at what point restoration efforts will decrease the total number of days annually above the 64°F standard, we will keep monitoring and collecting data to evaluate the success of our efforts over time.

\$200 Rain Garden Grants for Gresham Residents



Planning to landscape this spring?

By installing a rain garden to manage stormwater runoff on your property, you could be eligible for up to \$200 from the City of Gresham. To be eligible, your property must be in a Healthy Streams Neighborhood in Gresham, staff must pre-confirm the safety of your site, and your rain garden must adhere to grant application guidelines. Call today to request a free site assessment.

To find out if you live in a Healthy Streams Neighborhood:

- 1) go to gis.GreshamOregon.gov/
- 2) enter your address
- 3) select the Healthy Streams box at the top
- 4) click 'refresh map' on the right - if your house is highlighted in purple, you are in a Healthy Streams Neighborhood.

Grant application and rain garden guidelines are available on the City of Gresham's website at www.greshamoregon.gov/watershed.

The City of Gresham and EMSWCD will offer a free rain garden workshop in Gresham on Saturday, March 31, 2012 from 9am to noon. Space is limited, call to register.

Contact Jamie Stamberger at 503-618-2793 or Jamie.Stamberger@GreshamOregon.gov



This program is supported by the Partners in Conservation grant from East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District.

DIY Restoration: The Magic of Willows

By Noah Jenkins, JCWC Education and Research Associate



Newly planted willow stakes



Kelley Creek, September 2008



Kelley Creek, October 2010

Remember when you were a kid, and you thrust a stick into the ground, hoping it would grow into a tree? Well, if you do it right, there are some sticks that will actually do just that! Live staking—taking cuttings from an existing tree and planting them—

is an easy way to get a lot of trees planted quickly. Willows are a favorite, since they are very fast-growing. Red-osier dogwoods, cottonwoods, and several native shrubs will also grow from cuttings; the cuttings don't harm the existing plant, as these species re-sprout

readily when they lose branches (as long as it's just a few at a time). Cutting and planting must be done during the winter dormancy period; when the cuttings "wake up," the underground portion roots out, and a new tree is born!

Watershed Wide Event Spotlight:

Rugg Road Section in Damascus Adopted by JCWC

By Marty Urman, JCWC Outreach Associate

Last year, the JCWC adopted a section of Rugg Road in Clackamas County with help and support from the City of Damascus. The site is a one-mile section beginning where the Springwater Trail crosses Rugg Road near Telford Road. Executive Director, Matt Clark, will lead volunteers to pick up trash along this site at our 14th annual Watershed Wide Event.

The Clackamas County Adopt-A-Road program is a campaign to clean and beautify roadways, to help build civic pride and to create a sense of ownership in the community. In addition to beautifying the area, collecting garbage improves water quality for fish and wildlife living in nearby Johnson Creek and other waterways. Reducing debris along roadsides helps keep culverts from overflowing and flooding roads and decreases standing water areas available for mosquitos.

This is a free program and here's how it works: volunteer groups or individuals (over age 12) choose a mile or more of county road to clean at least two times per year for at least two years. Clackamas County provides grapples, safety vests, garbage bags, and roadside warning signs. Two post-mounted signs are installed along the roadway to acknowledge your group's participation. Watch for signs with names of long-time volunteers like Raven Off-Road, the Rohrer Family, Cheryl and Lindon Way, The Road Runners and of course, Johnson Creek Watershed Council.

Over 300 volunteer groups are active in Clackamas County, patrolling over 450



JCWC volunteers collected 25 bags of garbage on their first visit to Rugg Road in July 2011.

miles of roadway, picking up 60 tons of garbage each year! Just think of all that garbage that is not going into our waterways. There are still 950 miles of county road ready to be adopted by you or your group. If you would like to participate with Adopt-A-Road, contact Terry Ellison at 503-650-3347.

Multnomah County also sponsors an Adopt-A-Road program. It is a three year program and requires three visits per year

for litter pickup. More information about this program is available at the Multnomah County website (<http://web.multco.us/roads/adopt-road-program>).

Join JCWC on Rugg Road for the Watershed Wide Event on Saturday, March 3 from 9am until noon and then come to our Volunteer Appreciation Lunch in Gresham afterwards. Pre-registration required (http://jwc.org/wwe_register.php).



Upholding Our Mission:

Survey Volunteers Find Salmon Carcass

On December 10, 2011 JCWC volunteer surveyors Kari Harrison and Anna Stulz found what they were looking for: a coho salmon carcass in Johnson Creek.

Beginning November 1, 2011, over 30 volunteers donned hip boots and waded specific reaches of Johnson Creek (each about a mile in length) looking for evidence of spawning salmon. The volunteers were part of a pilot citizen-science project organized by the JCWC, the City of Gresham and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

“We are very impressed at the level of commitment our volunteers gave to this project and are excited it has culminated in the discovery of this carcass,” says Amy Lodholz, JCWC Outreach and Volunteer Coordinator. “Documenting the salmon in Johnson Creek is important for our work and we are thankful for the support of our volunteers.”

The female coho salmon was found in the main stem of Johnson Creek, near the western border of Gresham. It was a naturally spawned fish since it still had its adipose fin (hatchery fish have their adipose fins clipped). Recent field surveys by the City of Portland and Multnomah County have found juvenile coho in Johnson Creek and it is possible that this fish had returned to its natal stream. The carcass was taken to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife for sampling, which will determine its age and growth rate.

If the salmon was successful in spawning, its eggs will hatch in the spring and the young will rear in Johnson Creek for a year, and then migrate to the ocean. Coho then spend about three years in the sea

before returning to spawn in their natal streams, although some do occasionally stray to other streams.

Documenting these adult spawners highlights the importance of the Council’s and other entities’ work to improve water quality and enhance habitat.

In December 2010, three adult coho salmon carcasses and one live adult coho were seen in mainstem Johnson Creek near the eastern border of Gresham, about fifteen miles from the mouth of Johnson Creek.

The Council will launch the 2012 volunteer-led surveys with an in-depth orientation session in October 2012. If you would like to be involved, please contact Amy Lodholz at amy@jwc.org.

*Our mission is
to promote restoration
and stewardship of a
healthy Johnson Creek
Watershed through sound
science and community
engagement.*

Lower Columbia Salmon Report

*By Ben Walczak, Lower Columbia Monitoring Crew Leader,
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW)*

The spawning survey season started off with good numbers of chinook salmon spawning from mid-September to mid-October. Hotspots included tributaries of Youngs Bay and Big Creek near Astoria, Plympton Creek (near Westport), and the lower Sandy River. Preliminary coho numbers are trending lower than the ten year average for the Lower Columbia. The majority of spawning coho were observed after the Thanksgiving holiday as a storm event raised river levels. Excellent viewing conditions were the norm as flows dropped during December. Many fish appear to have spawned in larger streams this year because unusually dry weather led to prolonged low, cold water. Good numbers of live coho were observed in the Salmon River (Sandy basin), Sandy River mainstem near Oxbow Park, and the Clatskanie River. Heavy rains around Christmas saw a small number of fresh coho in Columbia Gorge tributaries and Milton Creek (near St. Helens) when winter steelhead began to appear in surveys.

Highlights of this season were the coho carcass that was collected by volunteers in Johnson Creek, the live coho and redds (salmon nests) observed in Crystal Springs Creek (a tributary to Johnson Creek), and pink salmon carcass recoveries in the Columbia gorge tributaries and the Sandy River. The unusually dry weather also allowed ODFW crews to successfully survey lower mainstem reaches on the Clackamas and Sandy rivers.

E. coli Contamination in Johnson Creek

By Frank Wildensee,

Water Resources Program Manager, City of Portland Environmental Services

Homeowner B. flushes his toilet into an over 50-year-old septic system that has not been replaced since it was constructed. Pet lover K. walks her dogs every morning along Johnson Creek and once in a while forgets to pick up the little presents left behind. In upper Johnson Creek, a few cows enjoy a good drink after a great meal of fresh grass. Resident S. loves feeding the ducks and geese along Crystal Springs that have taken up residence by the hundreds enjoying the ponds and the free food.

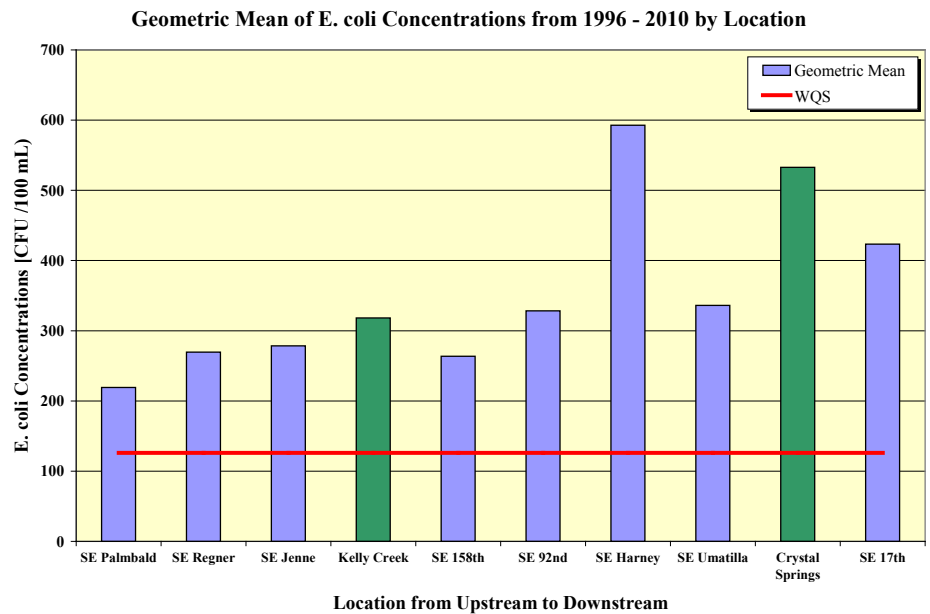
What do all these activities have in common? They all are potential sources of *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*), bacteria that are used by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ) as an indicator for fecal contamination and potential human health risks.

While the vast majority of these *E. coli* bacteria are harmless and should not be confused with the headline grabbing *E. coli* O157:H7 that causes food borne illnesses, they indicate the presence of fecal matter in the water. Epidemiological studies at Great Lakes swimming beaches with known human sources of fecal contamination were used to establish 'safe' levels of fecal bacteria based on an accepted risk of eight occurrences of gastro-intestinal (GI) illnesses per 1000 swimmers. These GI illnesses are most likely caused by protozoa, spores, and viruses present in the fecal matter.

According to ODEQ, no single surface water sample may exceed 406 *E. coli* colony forming units per 100 milliliter (CFU/100 mL) and the geometric mean of five samples collected within 30 days may not exceed 126 CFU/100 mL.

Research conducted by ODEQ and various Johnson Creek Interjurisdictional Committee (IJC) partners has shown *E. coli* concentrations above the water quality standard (WQS) set by ODEQ throughout Johnson Creek and its tributaries (see figure). Based on the data represented in the Figure the following observations are evident:

- The geometric mean concentrations at all locations are clearly above the WQS of 126 CFU/100 mL.
- The *E. coli* concentrations appear to be increasing from the most upstream location (SE Palmbald) to the most downstream location (SE 17th Ave.).
- Some significant source of *E. coli* enters Johnson Creek between SE 92nd Ave and SE Harney Dr. It is possible that the source of *E. coli* is old septic systems that



slowly but constantly leak poorly treated water into shallow groundwater which then enters Johnson Creek.

- Crystal Springs is a significant source of *E. coli* to Johnson Creek. Crystal Springs flows through a number of ponds, many of which are teeming with water fowl which enjoy the open water but also the free food offered by visitors to the ponds.

While numerous issues remain, including identifying sources of *E. coli* and the question of whether non-human sources of fecal contamination have the same probability of causing GI illnesses as human sources, there are many actions ongoing or in the planning phase to reduce the *E. coli* concentrations in Johnson Creek. Old septic systems are being phased out and homes are being connected to sanitary sewers. Educational campaigns inform residents about picking up after their pets. Westmoreland Pond will be removed to create a more natural stream channel and access of livestock to the stream channel is being restricted.

The IJC partners as well as the JCWC are working toward a better understanding and, more importantly, a solution to the *E. coli* problem. However, the help of all residents within the Johnson Creek watershed is necessary to make progress in reducing the *E. coli* concentrations in the stream.

Please contact Frank Wildensee at Frank.Wildensee@portlandoregon.gov to voice concerns and for more information.

Who's Pooping in Johnson Creek?

By Robin Jenkinson,
JCWC Restoration Coordinator

Johnson Creek doesn't meet state standards for swimming because of high levels of *E. Coli* bacteria, which come from the guts of warm-blooded creatures (see Frank's article on this page). The question is "Where is this poop coming from?" In order to target water quality improvement projects and address the sources of this pollution directly, the JCWC and partners will be conducting a bacteria source analysis in 2012 and 2013.

With financial support from an Oregon DEQ 319 Grant and technical support from the Johnson Creek Interjurisdictional Committee (IJC), water samples will be tested for *E. Coli* during the summer months. Those samples that exceed water quality standards for swimming will be sent to Oregon State University, where Dr. Kate Field's lab has developed methods to identify the sources of the offending *E. Coli*. To do this, they isolate the DNA from the *E. Coli* bacteria and match it with a reference library of *E. Coli* DNA from a variety of creatures. At the end of the study, we'll understand what proportion of the *E. Coli* (i.e. poop) comes from bird, cow, dog, rodent, or human sources.

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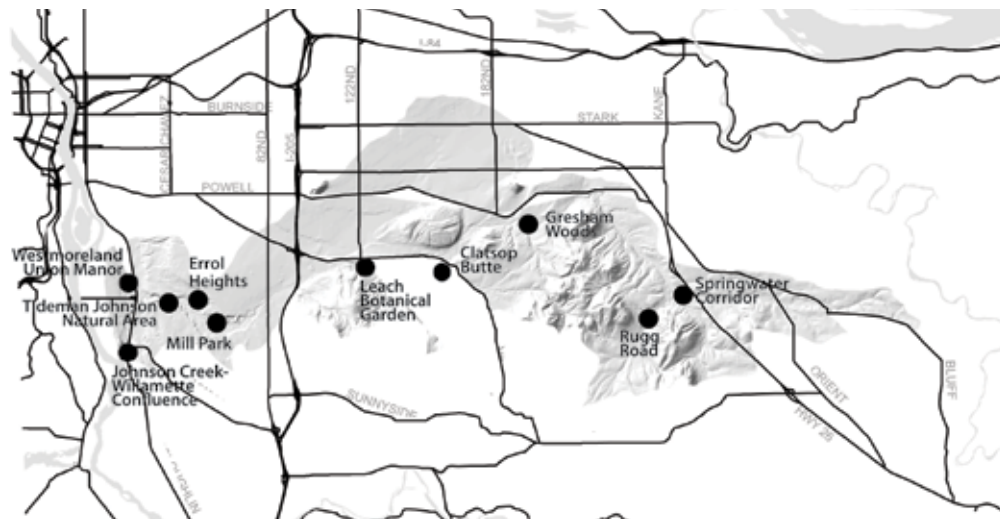


Watershed Wide Event

Saturday, March 3 • 9am-12noon

10 Restoration Sites • Appreciation Lunch

To volunteer or sponsor the event, register at www.jcwc.org



Coordinated by Johnson Creek Watershed Council

with thanks to our Sponsors and Partners and Community Groups

Lead Sponsor: Jameson Partners LLC dba Freeway Land II

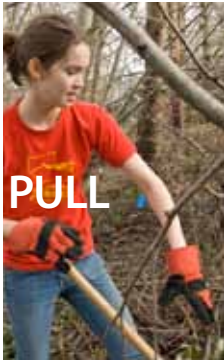
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Johnson Creek
Watershed Council

Register at www.jcwc.org



Johnson Creek-Willamette River Confluence

ODS Companies, 10505 SE 17th Ave., Milwaukie

Join the Milwaukie Riverfront Board, Portland Waldorf School, and Willamette Riverkeepers down on the river to plant native shrubs and trees in areas disturbed by the construction of the recently completed salmon habitat project.

Westmoreland Union Manor

6404 SE 23rd Ave., Portland

Come remove reed canarygrass, plant native trees and shrubs, and install wire mesh to protect the trees from the beavers alongside the Crystal Springs Community Partnership, Friends of Crystal Springs, SMILE, and Reed College.



Tideman-Johnson Natural Area

Trail Parking Area at SE 45th Ave. and Johnson Creek Blvd., Milwaukie

Enhance riparian forests on both sides of the Creek on public and private properties near the Tideman-Johnson Natural Area with JCWC co-founder Steve Johnson, Friends of Tideman-Johnson, SOLV, and Portland Parks and Recreation.

Errol Heights

SE 52nd Ave. and Tenino St., Portland

Restore an upland forest and meadow near the headwaters of Errol Creek, a spring-fed tributary to Johnson Creek. Help Friends of Trees and Portland Parks and Recreation plant trees and shrubs in an area already cleared of blackberries.

Pick Your Restoration Site!



Mill Park

SE Linwood Ave. and Overland St., Milwaukie

Overland Park Coalition and Clackamas County Water Environment Services (WES) will continue planting native trees and shrubs in this North Clackamas streamside park, as well as applying mulch to help existing plantings thrive.

Leach Botanical Garden

6704 SE 122nd Ave., Portland

In this historic garden, we'll work alongside the Audubon Society of Portland to mulch previous plantings and plant more native wildflowers, adding to the diversity of streamside forests along Johnson Creek.

Clatsop Butte

SE 156th Ave. and Evergreen St., Portland

Restore a hilltop oak meadow in the Kelley Creek Watershed, a tributary to Johnson Creek. Help the Friends of Trees, the Oregon Hunters Association, Portland Parks and Recreation, and local homeowners plant an area cleared of blackberries.



Gresham Woods

SW 14th Dr. and Binford Ave., Gresham

Work with Cub Scout Pack 740, the City of Gresham, and Youth Engaged students from Alpha and Sam Barlow High Schools to remove blackberry and ivy along the banks of Johnson Creek and install additional native vegetation.

Rugg Road Clean-Up

SE 267th Ave. and Rugg Rd., by the Springwater Corridor Trail, Damascus

Help clean our newly adopted road section in Damascus! Join JCWC Executive Director, Matt Clark, to pick up trash along our section of Rugg Road. Clackamas County Adopt-A-Road will provide litter bags, grapplers and safety vests for participants. Bring your own gloves. Ages 12 and over.

Johnson Creek along Springwater Trail

SE Palmblad Rd. and Springwater Corridor Trail, Gresham

Ride out to our bike-friendly location on the Springwater Trail, which runs alongside Upper Johnson Creek and join The Bike Bunch to control blackberry and ivy along the Trail just east of Gresham. Hot drinks will be waiting.

YES!

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

- \$35 \$75
 \$150 \$300
 \$500 Other _____

- My check is enclosed
 Charge my credit card:

Expiration, CCV code:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

- Please sign me up to receive your monthly e-bulletin

Mail to:
Johnson Creek Watershed Council
1900 SE Milport Rd., Ste B
Milwaukie, OR 97222
503-652-7477 www.jcwc.org



Johnson Creek
Watershed Council

Invest. Restore. Inspire.

Year-End Friends Campaign A Success

By Matt Clark, JCWC Executive Director

Thank you to everyone who gave generously to JCWC during our year-end membership drive. In addition to the more than 50 people who joined or renewed as Friends of Johnson Creek, we received our first two gifts totalling \$3,500 toward establishing an endowment. Also, two of our long-time supporters notified us of their intent to remember Johnson Creek Watershed Council in their estate plans. Please see sample bequest language below, and contact Executive Director, Matt Clark (matt@jcwc.org) if you are interested in learning how you can help ensure JCWC's long-term financial health with a planned gift, bequest or a major gift toward establishing a JCWC endowment.

JCWC Endowment

By the end of 2012, we intend to raise the initial \$25,000 funding to establish a Johnson Creek Watershed Council endowment in partnership with the Oregon Community Foundation. As part of the OCF Endowment Partners Program's pooled portfolio, with a 4.5% annual pay-out, a JCWC endowment will provide permanent financial support for our organization. As JCWC grows our endowment over time through planned and legacy gifts, it will become a significant annual source of funds that will ensure that JCWC can continue innovative programs like Youth Engaged, which connects the next generation of stewards to Johnson Creek. And it will ensure we have the resources needed for ongoing maintenance of priority restoration sites to ensure they remain a community asset for all to enjoy.

Sample Bequest Language

Unrestricted Bequest Language

An unrestricted bequest can be used by JCWC where the need is greatest:

"I give to Johnson Creek Watershed Council, a non-profit public benefit corporation of the State of Oregon, [the sum of \$_____] or [____percent or fraction of my estate] to be used to further its purposes as its Board of Directors in their discretion may deem appropriate."

Restricted Bequest Language

A restricted bequest will be used by JCWC for the purpose you designate:

"I give to Johnson Creek Watershed Council, a non-profit public benefit corporation of the State of Oregon, [the sum of \$_____] or [____percent or fraction of my estate] to be used for [PURPOSE]."

Residual Bequest Language

A residual bequest comes to JCWC after your estate expenses and specific bequests are paid:

"I give to Johnson Creek Watershed Council, a non-profit public benefit corporation of the State of Oregon, [all OR _____percent or fraction] of the rest, residue and remainder of my estate for [PURPOSE]."

Contingency Bequest Language

Takes effect only if a primary intention can't be met:

"If [Name] is not living at the time of my demise, I give to Johnson Creek Watershed Council, a non-profit public benefit corporation of the State of Oregon [the sum of \$_____ OR all or _____percent or fraction of the rest, residue and remainder of my estate] for [PURPOSE]."

Perpetual Endowment Bequest Language

A gift that lasts in perpetuity:

"I give to Johnson Creek Watershed Council, a non-profit public benefit corporation of the State of Oregon, the sum of \$_____, to be used as a permanent endowment, the income only from which shall be used for its general purposes (or describe the specific purpose, if desired)."

AmeriCorps NCCC Team Arrives at Johnson Creek

What is AmeriCorps NCCC?

AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) is a U.S. federal volunteer program for young people ages 18 to 24. If accepted into the program, they are given a team assignment and for one year travel a region of the United States performing service work in the areas of unmet human needs, disaster relief, education and environment.



What will NCCC do in Johnson Creek's Watershed?

In partnership with the City of Gresham and the Salvation Army's Camp Kuratli, JCWC is hosting an NCCC Team of eleven to work full-time for eight weeks beginning in January. Camp Kuratli (a camp for underprivileged youth) will enjoy the efforts of NCCC to improve the camp grounds and the camp's youth activities for two weeks. The team will also assist the City of Gresham during an intense planting season, helping put in over 20,000 native trees and shrubs at Johnson Creek Watershed restoration sites!

The Council has many other single day projects throughout the watershed that the team will also work on, focused mainly on the outdoor efforts of invasive species removal.

This is a tough group of young adults that will be working outside in winter conditions (the ideal planting season) despite the challenges. JCWC estimates that in this short two-month interval, the team will have contributed over 2,500 volunteer hours to Johnson Creek Watershed restoration efforts!

Stay tuned for updates on the Team's work while they're here.



AmeriCorps NCCC team members came out in force with other JCWC volunteers on January 16th to commemorate Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. The group worked hard in wintery conditions to pull weeds and plant trees at Butler Creek in the upper watershed.

JCWC Welcomes New Board Members

The Johnson Creek Watershed Council is pleased to welcome three new board members who have joined the Board of Directors in the last year.

Tracy Hokanson is a supervisor and distribution engineer at Portland General Electric. He has worked on Johnson Creek floodplain restoration near I-205 as it relates to PGE infrastructure. Having grown up in the heart of the Wyoming Rocky Mountains, Tracy has a deep appreciation for wildlife and their habitats. His hobbies include flyfishing, camping, kayaking, hiking, mountain biking, and motorcycling. He also serves as a mentor for an at-risk boy through Oregon's Big Brother / Big Sister Program.

Celeste Mazzacano is the Aquatic Program Director for the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation, a national non-

profit organization based in Portland. Her work at Xerces centers on preserving habitat and developing management plans for threatened aquatic invertebrates in North America. She recently returned from a research trip to Veracruz, Mexico, studying the annual long-distance migrations of dragonflies. Trained as an entomologist (a scientist who studies insects), Celeste spent a decade after graduate school doing research and teaching, then moved to the Missouri Department of Conservation where she worked in stream sampling and aquatic macroinvertebrate taxonomy until moving to Portland three and a half years ago.

David Scharfenberg teaches at Pleasant Valley School where the "Wild Side" project that he started has become a rite of passage for sixth graders. The Wild Side project is restoring wildlife habitat and ecological and

hydrological functions to seven acres on the school grounds (near Kelley Creek, a major tributary to Johnson Creek). To date, David has led students, parents and school faculty in planting almost five thousand native trees and shrubs onsite. They have also installed a 400 foot bioswale. The Wild Side is linked to the sixth grade curriculum in reading, writing, math, and science. Students make most of the Wild Side management decisions (i.e. which species to plant and where) with facilitation from David and other school faculty. David received the Cooperator of the Year and Teacher of the Year awards in 2009 from East Multnomah SWCD and the Oregon Association of Conservation Districts respectively.

On January 20, 2012 David was recognized as Educator of the Week by Concordia University and K103FM. Congratulations David!

JCWC UPDATES

Why Fish Need Bicycles

Portland-based KEEN Footwear surprised the Council with a grant to build a bicycle designed for stream restoration work parties. The bike will be designed to carry mulch and native plants, garbage and weeds, shovels and tools, and serve as a mobile outreach unit for Johnson Creek on the Springwater Corridor Trail. The rubber will hit the Trail in August, 2012.

Johnson Creek Through the Seasons

New Volunteer Stewards Program

In partnership with Portland Parks and Recreation (PP&R), JCWC is launching a new volunteer program in January 2012 called the Johnson Creek Park Stewards. The six selected Stewards will work two hours at a time, once a month, for twelve months in a designated natural area that has been identified as sensitive. Stewards will maintain the native plants in areas unfit for the foot traffic of large volunteer groups. Their work will enhance the large scale invasive species removal work that PP&R and JCWC groups have completed at these sites.

The program will also allow Stewards to develop a keen understanding of how restoration sites transform themselves after restoration efforts. Attending one restoration event annually doesn't allow a volunteer to truly visualize how their work benefits the habitat there. But, by tending to a restoration site all the way through winter, spring, summer, and fall, Stewards will see how the landscape changes and witness the explosion of growth and blossom from all those "sticks" volunteers have put in the cleared ground in years prior.

Sites included in the program this year are Kingsley D. Bundy Natural Area, Dardorf Natural Area, Buttes Natural Area, Campfire Natural Area, and Powell Butte Nature Park.

2012 Stewards include Patty Robards, Frank and Jeanie DiGregorio, the Shaeffer Family, Thomas Krause, Jing Wang, Karin Grasberger, and Peter Martin.

The Stewards Program allows PP&R and JCWC to ensure continued maintenance on these healthy, restored sites. These volunteers will strengthen our abilities of early detection and swift removal of quickly growing invasive plants. Bravo!



Intern Spotlight:

John Cox

John Cox started his Outreach Internship with the Council in the fall of 2011 after working with Bull Trout in Crater Lake National Park over the summer. He will be graduating from the Fisheries and Wildlife Science program from Oregon State University shortly. Cox has long been passionate about conservation and restoration of freshwater ecosystems and Oregon's trout, salmon and steelhead populations. Growing up in Portland, his parents used to take him to Johnson Creek, where he would search for signs of his revered fish.

Because of these early experiences, volunteering with the Johnson Creek Watershed Council was an obvious choice. Working with the Council, Cox gained valuable experience recruiting volunteers and developing outreach materials, as well as gaining a better understanding of how a non-profit is run. He also helped out with the first year of salmon spawning surveys.

In the future, Cox hopes to contribute work toward positive environmental change, ideally with stream systems and fish. He is interested in how we can continue restoring urban watersheds and finding the difficult balance between cities and nature.

Strategically Speaking, A New Website is Key

As our organization continues to mature, so do our tools of communication. Thanks to the efforts of web designer Crawford Designs (crawpdx@me.com), JCWC will be launching a brand new beautiful website in February 2012. It will enable the Council to update its information more timely and efficiently. The new website will also include more resources like video archives, links, and photos.

Our current strategic plan states that JCWC will work to continue developing electronic information about the Watershed that helps decision-makers and the interested public understand and interpret important scientific information about the Johnson Creek Watershed. Our website will also help us significantly increase local and regional residents' awareness and pride in the Watershed and expand their vision of the economic, social, environmental and recreational value of the Creek to the community.

The Council will also update its logo and newsletter look while retaining the basic idea of the older models. The goal is to graphically unify the look of JCWC with a more contemporary feel in its website and print media.



Great Backyard Bird Count

The Great Backyard Bird Count will take place February 17-20, 2012. This is a great time to enjoy Johnson Creek and its many tributaries. Birds love our watershed and there are many types to watch and enjoy. Some favorites we will be looking for are the Great Blue Heron, Anna's Hummingbird, and the Rufous-sided Towhee. This is a great time to learn about birds and help with a nation-wide effort.

Participating in the Great Backyard Bird Count will also aid in the health of our watershed by giving much needed information on what kind of habitats we can focus on improving. If you would like to do be involved in the Great Backyard Bird Count go to <http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc/>

JCWC UPDATES

JCWC Event Committee 2012

The 2012 JCWC Event Committee roster includes Maryann Brunner, Caitlin Dobson, Lee Spiker, Karen Williams, Phoebe Johnson, Nicole Alexander (Committee Chair), Quintin Bauer, Jessica Beutler, Nancy Robrecht, and Kelsey Wirtzfeld. These volunteers bring a level of community knowledge, enthusiasm, commitment and event planning expertise to JCWC. We are confident that this group will continue to help JCWC's free community events expand and mature to be even more creative, inclusive, and fun.

In just nine meetings from January to August the group will work out the details of Johnson Creek Days including publicity and day-of planning. The goal of Johnson Creek Days is to engage with many different and new audiences to celebrate Johnson Creek and to show healthy ways of enjoying this urban gem such as running, biking and painting. Trash clean up, stream and site monitoring, and weed removal events are ways the community can help improve watershed health.



*"Noontime on Johnson Creek"
Watercolor by Jo Ann Pullen
Exhibited at 2010 Johnson Creek Days*

A note from the painter:

"I just sold my watercolor from last year's Paint Out. This is the 20% I pledged. The buyer was happy to know that part of the money was going to JCWC. He used to live on Johnson Creek and bought the painting for his son."

Introducing: Meet Your Neighbors

For several years, the JCWC's monthly e-bulletin has featured a "Weed of the Month," as a way to help watershed residents learn about invasive plants and what to do about them. One of the keys to invasive species control is re-planting after removing the offenders, so the "blank spot" isn't just filled with more weeds.

So, to take things in a more positive direction, we've launched a new feature, called "Meet Your Neighbors," devoted to introducing the amazing variety of native shrubs and trees that call the Pacific Northwest home. We'll include information on shape and size, color, and habitat, along with photos to showcase the beauty of our native flora. Got an empty spot in your yard? Tired of that overgrown laurel hedge? Keep an eye out for each month's e-bulletin for ideas on native plants you can use to beautify your yard and provide habitat.



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.

<p>Site Planning 1 Saturday, February 11 • 9am-1pm Tigard</p> <p>Rain Gardens 101 Saturday, February 25 • 9am-12pm Portland Home & Garden Show (Expo Center)</p> <p>Naturescaping Basics Sunday, February 26 • 1pm-5pm Gresham</p> <p>Naturescaping Basics Saturday, March 3 • 9am-1pm Outer SE Portland</p>	<p>Site Planning 1 Saturday, March 17 • 9am-1pm Outer SE Portland</p> <p>Naturescaping Basics Saturday, March 24 • 9am-1pm North Portland</p> <p>Naturescaping Basics Saturday, April 14 • 9am-1pm Hillsboro</p> <p>Site Planning 1 Sunday, April 15 • 1:00-5:00pm N Portland</p>	<p>Rain Gardens 101 Saturday, April 21 • 9am-1pm Inner SE Portland</p> <p>Site Planning 1 Sunday, April 22 • 12:30pm-4:30pm Inner NE Portland</p> <p>Rain Gardens 101 Sunday, May 6 • 12:30pm-4:30pm Inner NE Portland</p> <p>Rain Gardens 101 Saturday, May 12 • 9am-1pm N Portland</p>
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Please visit www.emswcd.org to find out more and register online.

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



Calendar of Events

For more details please visit our website: www.jcwc.org or call 503-652-7477

January 16 through March 2, 9am-5pm
The Americorps NCCC Team will be out in the field. Volunteers are welcome to join the crew. Contact Amy at amy@jcwc.org to make arrangements.



Sunday, February 12, 1-3pm
Bowling Fundraiser at Milwaukie Bowl
3056 SE Harrison Street in Milwaukie
\$15 for 3 games
Register with Amy at amy@jcwc.org

Saturday, February 18, 10am-1pm
Volunteer Restoration Event
With Powellhurst-Gilbert NA and PP&R
SE 128th Ave and SE Reedway in Portland
Register with Amy at amy@jcwc.org

Sunday, February 26, 1-5pm
Free Naturescaping Workshop
Weston Kia
22309 SE Stark Street in Gresham
Register at www.emswcd.org

Watershed Wide Event

Saturday, March 3, 9am-12pm
Watershed Wide Restoration Event
and Volunteer Appreciation Lunch
10 locations throughout the Watershed
Register yourself or a group at
www.jcwc.org/wwe_register.php

Saturday, March 12, 10am-1pm
Volunteer Restoration Event
Site to be determined
Register with Amy at amy@jcwc.org

Saturday, March 31, 12-3pm
Restoration Site Tour
Meet at the Hawthorne Hostel
3031 SE Hawthorne Blvd. in Portland
Register with Amy at amy@jcwc.org

Sunday, April 22, 10-1pm
Earth Day Volunteer Restoration Event
Register with Amy at amy@jcwc.org

ANNUAL MEETING: SAVE THE DATE!

Thursday, May 24, 11:30am-1:30pm
JCWC Annual Meeting Luncheon
and State of the Watershed Report
Reed College in Portland



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Within Your Reach
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We are always looking for
guest writers to contribute
stories to our publication.
Please contact Marty if you
would like to submit an article.

marty@jcwc.org



Watershed Wide Event
Volunteers at Clatsop Butte 2011



Watershed Wide Event
Volunteers at Crystal Springs Creek 2011