



The Green Heron Herald

The Quarterly Newsletter of the TUALATIN RIVERKEEPERS®

Volume 15, Issue 3, Fall 2008

TRK's FALL FEST

ART • WINE • MUSIC



"Lotus" paper lamp by HiiH Gallery

Saturday, September 20, Noon - 4pm
Cooper Mountain Vineyards

Enjoy a free glass of Cooper Mountain wine, antipasti by Whole Foods, coffee bar by Feminista Coffee Co.

metal garden art • paper lamps • original paintings
hand blown glass • nature photography • copper
steel sculpture • jewelry • knits • bird houses

Advance Tickets \$20 / \$25 at the door
503-620-7507 or info@tualatinriverkeepers.org

TRK Members! Bring a friend to Fall Fest. If they join TRK, you get a FREE bottle of Cooper Mountain wine.

FALL FEST Sponsors



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Artist Profile: Lám Quáng, HiiH Gallery



For more than 10 years, Lám Quáng and his partner Kestrel Gates have been making handmade, custom paper lamps, shades, and illuminated sculptures. Lám began his career with the art of paper-making, which led to his discovery of paper lights. "The handmade paper is prepared with abaca (banana bark) and cotton fibers," explains Lám. The nearly two-day process of lamp making starts with the design of unique shapes of bent wire or bamboo to form the skeletal framework. Damp handmade paper is stretched around the forms and then dried. The lamp is then hand-painted with bright watercolors and a resin is applied to secure the structure. Finally, the electrical components are added.

Designs include insects, flowers and other unique objects, but the most popular is the Lotus flower.

Lám's most noteworthy client is the Metropolitan Opera of New York in which he made special installations for Madame Butterfly.

Lám grew up in Vietnam. When he is not spending time in his studio, Lám enjoys spending time with his one-year-old son.



"Blue Skies" by Deb Dewit Marchant, oil on wood panel, 16" x 24", was painted at the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge.

This painting will be available at Fall Fest as part of the Silent Auction. 100% of its proceeds will benefit TRK.

You can view this painting on line, and preview many of the other works of art at www.tualatinriverkeepers.org.

OUR MISSION

Tualatin Riverkeepers (TRK) is a community-based organization working to protect and restore Oregon's Tualatin River system. TRK builds watershed stewardship through education, public access to nature, restoration and advocacy.

The Tualatin Riverkeepers became a nonprofit in 1992 and is tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Please join us by completing and mailing the membership application in this newsletter or by contacting us.

Phone: 503-620-7507

Fax: 503-620-7645

info@tualatinriverkeepers.org
www.tualatinriverkeepers.org

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- Lori Kruse, *Environmental Education Coordinator/AmeriCorps Member*

The *Green Heron Herald* is a quarterly publication of the Tualatin Riverkeepers. We welcome your comments and suggestions. Please let us know if we have misspelled your name or if we mis-addressed the newsletter or sent you a duplicate copy.

Editing: Margot Fervia-Neamtzu
Design: BeBop Graphics



Tualatin Riverkeepers is proud to be a Waterkeeper Alliance Member.

Recycled paper.

From the Director



Dear Riverkeepers,

The events of summer 2008 on the Tualatin River, toxic blue-green algae bloom and an unpermitted pollution discharge led to health risks to the public. Tualatin Riverkeepers responded quickly alerting the media, health department and the public about the potential health risks. TRK staff posted warning and health information at river access points and on TRK's web site. We

responded to veterinarians, pediatricians and parents concerned about potential exposure of loved ones.

The cause of the algae bloom was an unpermitted discharge from Wapato Lake Improvement District. Unfortunately, our system of permitting and enforcement failed to protect the river for weeks after reports from the Joint Water Plant and citizens linked Wapato Lake discharge to the algae bloom.

TRK volunteers and staff worked overtime to bring attention and resolution to this problem. TRK will continue to support our agency partners in Salem by advocating for increased enforcement staff and budget, and by monitoring the efforts to develop an enforceable discharge permit.

TRK's response to these devastating environmental impacts is a good reminder that Tualatin Riverkeepers remains a very relevant organization and continues to be the strong independent voice for the Tualatin River. As a community of Riverkeepers we are able to accomplish a great deal. Thank you for your involvement as volunteers and members.

Sincerely,

Monica Smiley

Thanks for supporting the 19th Annual Discovery Day!

- 2008 Discovery Day Committee
- 71 Event Volunteers
- Willamette Riverkeeper
- City of Hillsboro Parks and Recreation
- Washington County Facilities Management and Parks Services Division
- Boy Scout Troop 221
- Starbucks Coffee
- Willamette River Fund
- Vial Family
- Denio Family
- City of Tigard
- Terry Rilling



Volunteer Committee Member Suzanne Whisler



Portland General Electric



Washington County

Volunteering

Volunteer Spotlight on Kathy Genochio



“I have been canoeing and kayaking on the Tualatin River for last five years. Many of my friends still think that the Tualatin River is the same as it was 20 years ago and aren’t aware of the improved quality of the water and the natural beauty of the river. They couldn’t be more wrong. Each time I paddle I see herons, turtles, ducks, geese and fish jumping in the river. I know how hard TRK works to ensure these improvements continue and the large contribution they make to protect the beautiful wildlife on the river and wetlands.

Volunteering for TRK is a way to give back for my many hours of enjoyment on the Tualatin River, and also gives me an avenue to raise awareness in the community of its natural beauty and the importance of protecting it.”

Kathy first volunteered for TRK at the 2006 Fall Fest. “The experience educated me on the mission of TRK and the group’s efforts to protect the river. Not only do I believe in the cause, but I really enjoy the people I’ve worked with and the fun we have putting the Fall Fest together. I’m now on my 3rd Fall Fest and looking forward to more volunteer opportunities in the future.”

The Fall Fest committee is having tons of fun, but they are also working hard to plan the best Fall Fest event ever. Please join us for art, wine and music at Cooper Mountain Vineyards on September 20.

Find your niche. Contact Monica Smiley at monica@tualatinriverkeepers.org or 503-620-7507 to put your skills to work protecting clean drinking water and wildlife in your community.

TRK Volunteer Classifieds Everyone Can Help!

Do you have special skills or a desire to learn new skills as you help protect and restore your Tualatin watershed? Contact Monica Smiley to volunteer at monica@tualatinriverkeepers.org or 503-620-7507.

Office Volunteers: Your office skills are needed one time per week for filing, mailings or data entry.

Nature Field Trip Leader: Share your knowledge of the natural world with students. Enthusiasm is a must! Field trips take place week-days in the fall and spring in Scholls and Tualatin.

Citizen Action Committee: Researchers, scientists, policy analysts, engineers, writers, and organizers needed to help TRK develop public policy positions and advocate for the Tualatin River. Meetings are the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm at Max’s Fanno Creek Brew Pub on Main Street in Tigard.

Fall Fest Event: Event volunteers needed Friday, September 19 & Saturday, September 20 for event set up, registration, cashier, beverage server, traffic control and event take down.

Gardener: We planted a native garden at our office space. Come in once or twice a month to help us keep it up.

Calendar of Events

September

Saturday, 13	10am to 1pm	School’s In Paddle Trip <i>99W Bridge, Tualatin</i>
Sunday, 14	10am to 1pm	River Clean-up Paddle <i>Tualatin Community Park</i>
Saturday, 20	Noon to 4pm	FALL FEST <i>Cooper Mountain Vineyards, Beaverton</i>
Saturday, 20	1pm to 3pm	Nature Awareness Hike <i>Tualatin Public Library Wetlands & Fanno Creek Trail</i>
Saturday, 27	10am to 4pm	TRK Members Only Upper Tualatin Van Tour <i>Leaving from Fernhill Wetlands & touring the watershed</i>

October

Saturday, 11	1pm to 4pm	Autumn Colors Paddle Trip <i>Tualatin River NWR, Sherwood</i>
Saturday, 18	9am to Noon	Restoration event <i>Metro’s Gotter Prairie, Scholls</i>

November

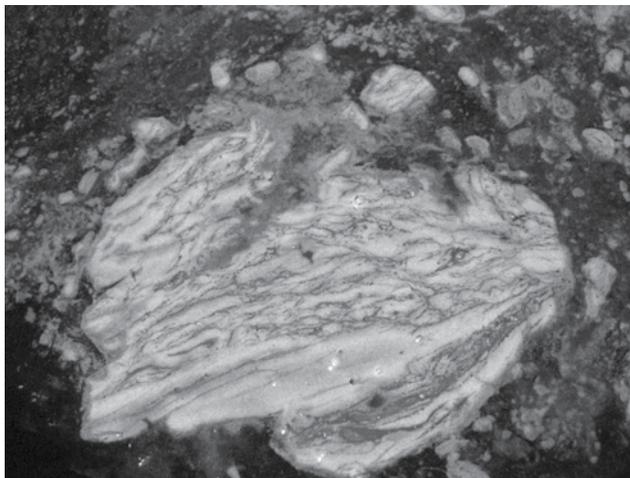
Saturday, 8	9am to Noon	Restoration event <i>Metro’s Gotter Prairie, Scholls</i>
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Watershed Watch / Citizen Action

Toxic Algae, Drinking Water Stink Hit Tualatin River

This summer, after many years and millions of dollars in water quality improvements, the Tualatin River was hit hard.

At the beginning of June, residents of Hillsboro and Beaverton began complaining about a musty taste and odor in their tap water. Hillsboro officials stopped counting telephone calls complaining about the water when they numbered over 200. Lab results confirmed that the taste and odor problems were caused by *geosmin*, a chemical produced by blue-green algae.



Anabaena on the Tualatin.

In mid-June, the Joint Water Commission (JWC) plant operators began adding powdered activated carbon (PAC) just prior to filtration. However, the plant's existing manual-feed system was unable to add enough PAC to successfully remove all taste/odor agents. JWC has since obtained two automatic PAC injectors, which were installed and put into service at the plant on July 12, 2008. This equipment substantially increases the amount of PAC that can be injected into the water. The additional PAC removes even more of the unpleasant tastes and odors. Also, the PAC injection point was moved to the beginning of the treatment process, which allows the PAC more time to work as the water travels through the plant. The PAC is then removed, along with the taste and odors it has collected, as the water is filtered.

Additional sediment in the water coming into the plant has also increased the plant's alum demand. Alum is used to clarify water

by catching the very fine suspended particles in a gel-like precipitate of aluminum hydroxide.

Costs of additional treatment at the drinking water plant this summer have averaged around \$6000 per day according to the Hillsboro Water Department. The agency also incurred a significant increase in monitoring costs in response to the geosmin problem.

On Wednesday July 9, scientists from U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) alerted Tualatin Riverkeepers and Oregon

Department of Human Services (DHS) to a massive blue-green algae (aka cyanobacteria) outbreak in the river in the vicinity of Cook Park. Tualatin Riverkeepers and the City of Tigard responded by posting warning signs at public access points on the river. The next day, USGS had identified Anabaena, a blue-green algae capable of producing several toxins, as the predominant algae in the bloom. On Friday, lab results from USGS confirmed the presence of toxins.

Saturday morning, DHS issued a health advisory for the Tualatin River that lasted two weeks.

Clean Water Services, USGS, and several Tualatin Riverkeepers members all reported that an algae bloom of this magnitude had not been seen on the Tualatin River for at least two decades. Before the formation of the Unified Sewerage Agency (now Clean Water Services), massive algae blooms were common on the Tualatin River in summer.

Excerpt from "The Times" article by Darryl Swan (www.tigardtimes.com)

Stewart Rounds, a hydrologist with the United States Geological Survey, said an analysis of the lake water he sampled on July 19 showed levels of phosphorus many times higher than the benchmark for phosphorus in the Tualatin River, levels that may have played a part in the algal bloom.

Phosphorus is a key nutrient for algal growth. It is also one of the parameters local water quality agencies, including Clean Water Services and local municipalities, have attempted to control through multi-million dollar enhancement projects in the Tualatin basin. USGS river monitoring data points to higher counts of blue-green algae and zooplankton discharging from Wapato Lake, Rounds said. Zooplankton is a class of small aquatic invertebrates that feed on algae but for the most part shun blue-green varieties. The water sample has also shown higher concentrations of organic material and oxygen-depleted water.

Rounds said, taken together, the factors all lead him to believe there is a link between the lake discharge and the algal bloom. "All I can say is it's consistent with our hypothesis," Rounds said. "It makes sense that discharges from Wapato may have had a downstream effect."

Watershed Watch / Citizen Action

Tualatin Riverkeepers Fight Unpermitted Discharge State agencies fail to enforce water quality rules.

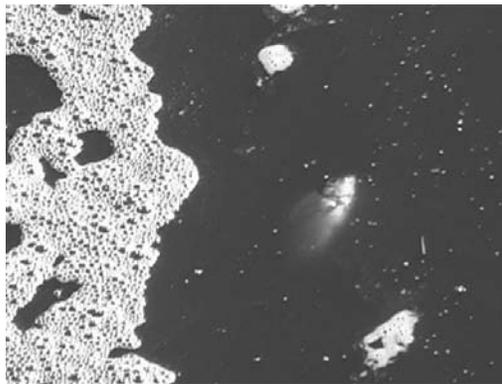
Wapato Lake Improvement District in Gaston pumped water with high levels of phosphorus into the Tualatin River upstream of the drinking water plant without a permit this summer. The discharge has been blamed for an outbreak of cyanobacteria (blue-green algae) that produces geosmin, an odorous musty tasting chemical that has cost the Joint Water Commission over \$6000 a day to remove.

The discharge has also been blamed for an outbreak of Anabaena, a cyanobacteria that produces several types of toxins. Oregon Department of Human Services issued a health advisory for the Anabaena outbreak in July.

State water quality rules for the Tualatin basin prohibit the discharge of wastewater if the discharge reduces the quality of such waters below the water quality standards established by the Environmental Quality Commission. These rules also prohibit the discharge of irrigation water between May 1 and October 31. Water pumped from the lake is used for irrigation by farmers outside the dike.

Despite the clear violation of these rules, Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) has refused to take enforcement action against Wapato Lake Improvement District.

Upon witnessing the discharge, Tualatin Riverkeepers called Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and asked them to put an end to the pollution. DEQ had been notified previously about the problem by the U.S. Geological Survey.



TRK also contacted the Wapato Lake Improvement District (WLID), asking them to stop the pumping while the investigation was going on. WLID refused.

DEQ's response to TRK was that the problem fell

under ODA's jurisdiction. When TRK called DEQ again, and told them that numerous dead fish were seen in the discharge, DEQ told us that it fell under Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's Jurisdiction. Only after TRK issued a press release criticizing the state's response did DEQ investigate the problem.

ODFW visited the site at least twice and took measurements of dissolved oxygen and temperature. They examined the dead fish and finding no dead salmonids, took no enforcement action. ODFW has the authority to charge Wapato Lake Improvement District for the value of the fish killed, but has yet to take action.



One federal agency has been very responsive to these problems. U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) first alerted TRK, Oregon Department of Human Services and other agencies about the Anabaena

outbreak. They followed up with lab work that identified the cyanobacteria and toxins present in the water. Then USGS surveyed the river for sources of the outbreak and made the connection with the high phosphorus levels in the Wapato Lake discharge. TRK is very appreciative of the diligent work of USGS to protect the river and its users. Another federal agency, NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service, is pursuing enforcement action under the federal Endangered Species Act.

TRK also thanks the City of Tigard, who upon learning about the Anabaena outbreak, immediately posted warning signs at Cook Park. TRK posted warning signs at access points in Tualatin, Rivergrove, West Linn and Durham.

Press coverage of these events has exceeded that of any other event on the river since the 1996 floods. KGW, KATU, and KOIN provided television coverage of the Anabaena bloom and Wapato Lake Discharge. OPB radio also covered the discharge. The *Oregonian*, *Argus*, and *Times* newspapers also covered the bloom and discharge.

Tualatin Riverkeepers is continuing to push for control and enforcement action regarding the Wapato Lake discharge. Due to the failure of state agencies to act, TRK has engaged legal help from the Northwest Environmental Defense Center (NEDC) at Lewis and Clark Law School. NEDC has a history of collecting more in environmental penalties than DEQ, ODA and the Oregon Department of Justice combined. NEDC was also responsible for historic litigation that led to the establishment of pollution limits on the Tualatin under the federal Clean Water Act.

Education Program

We'll Miss You, Tarri Christopher

In August AmeriCorps member Tarri Christopher completed an 11-month term of service as TRK's Youth Education Coordinator. Tarri facilitated the Nature Awareness and Service Education program, providing nature education and outdoor experiences for 1,000 youth during the 2008-2009 school year. These record numbers for participation are one of Tarri's many amazing accomplishments.

This year one hundred percent of students participating in the Nature Awareness program developed their own community service project. The projects ranged from building bee boxes and conducting weekly litter patrol, to designing power point presentations and making daily announcements about ways to protect the environment. The momentum is electric.

In addition to the many successes with school field trip programs, Tarri also designed a Nature Awareness day camp program that will be available for kids entering 4th through 7th grade in the summer of 2009.

Tarri is a gifted educator and naturalist. Her ability to engage her students through wildlife observation will increase their enjoyment of the natural world throughout their lifetimes. Tarri will continue to be involved in the Nature Awareness program as a volunteer Naturalist. Thank you, Tarri for your commitment to the children of the Tualatin River watershed. They are our future Riverkeepers.



Rumba al Rio participants learn the "fox walk" from Tarri.



Lori Kruse to Coordinate TRK Nature Awareness Programs

TRK is excited to welcome Lori Kruse as our new Youth Education Coordinator. Lori will serve an 11-month AmeriCorps term of service through the Northwest Service Academy. She will coordinate TRK's Nature Awareness programs during the 2008-2009 season. Our goal is to lead 1,000 kids on school field trips and develop eight, three-day summer day camp programs to serve 160 kids.

In 2007, Lori earned a B.S. in Environmental Studies with an emphasis in Natural Resources and a minor in Environmental Education from the University of Nebraska. She has extensive experience as an educator and naturalist. Lori is currently employed with the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department as a Stormwater Researcher and Educator. Please join us in welcoming Lori!

90 Señoras y Niños Paddle at Rumba al Rio (Heading to the River)

Ninety women and children from Adelante Mujeres (Forward Moving Women) and PODER (Power) participated in the 4th annual Rumba al Rio on August 7. Both organizations are members of the West Washington County Family Literacy Collaborative. The group enjoyed a guided paddle trip, nature awareness activities, barbeque lunch and PEAK presentation by REI. Thank you to the volunteers that made the event possible.



Membership

We thank those members who joined or renewed their membership between May 16 and July 31, 2008.

PROTECTOR (\$1,000+)

John Driscoll & Janet Bailey
Stephen Larson*

GREEN HERON MEMBERS

(\$500+)
Anonymous
Joseph & Lavonne Blowers*
Lee Engvall
Shields Manufacturing

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Ron & Karen Garst*
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Paul & Audrey Oliver
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William Long*
Sharon Chynoweth
Bruce & April DeBolt
John Desmarais &
Karen Garber*
Jeff Douglas
Alice & Ron Ellis Gaut*
Daniel & Linda Gipe
Gerry & Kathy Gregg
Jay Hamlin & Kay Demlow*
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Claudia Black
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Linda Lane & Wayne Waters
Ronald & Aldene Leistra
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Sue & Jerry Manning
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Wilma & Joel McNulty
Sue Moir
Melanie Moler
Walter & Carol Ottoson*
Lisa & Helios Ovando
Susan & Joe Peter
Susan Pflaum-Quarterman &
Chuck Quarterman*
Kay & David Pollack
Mark Post
Ralph & Susan Luan Reisbeck
Scott Schroeder
Philip & Nancy Smith
Douglas Spray
Anne Squier
Nicholas Valentine
A. Richard Vial
Brian & Karen Wegener

Bill Weismann*

Barbara & Dean Wilson
Elisabeth Zeller

DRAGONFLY (\$50+)

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Eric Barger
Thomas Bobal
Scott Bowler*
Valerie Briggs
Luanne Bye
Kathy Casson*
Clifford & Mary Davis
Ian Dees & Lynn Paget*
Martha Denis
Mary & Spencer Dick
Kim N. Diestler &
Jeanne M. Rich
Lois & Michael Eaton*
Richard Eyde
Dan & Sandy Fuchs
Valerie Garst
Mike & Claudia Grover
Diana & Richard Harris
Jerry & Donna Heppell
Henry Hickox
Steve & Kristine Hudson
Peter Jolivet
Vicki & David Julis
Lesley & James Kempself*
Helen Krieger
Sylvia & Walter Larsen
James Marshall
Catherine Myers*
Steve Najjar & Sylvia Randall
Steve & Sandy Norcross
Jeff Olson*
Greg O'Neill
Anita Rotkowski
Courtney & Scott Shaff*
Dan Scott
Sharon Selvaggio &
Ed Buursma
Tim & Cathy Stanton
Gary & Amy Swanson
John Vitas & Pat Towle
Patricia Wall
Gerald & Sandra Zimmer

INDIVIDUAL/FAMILY (\$35+)

Judy Adams
Elizabeth & Mark Aguon
Mary Angerman &
Paul Chase
Pamela Asboe
Priscilla Blake
Luana Blunk
Kathleen Buck
Pat Budahl
Merle & Tom Burgess
Randy & Lean Carpenter
Ann Chilcote
Anne Clark
Bill & Frances Coffield
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Samantha Cook
Joanne Cornelius

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Mary Schroeder
Joel Shaich
Donald Swygard
Mary Turnock
Cindy von Ofenheim &
William Leler
Joe & Jan Weihmann
Arnold & Betty Wight
Gina Wilson
Lynn Woolson



*River Bank Members, a monthly donation program

We would give special thanks to the following Riverkeepers who generously contributed to the special appeal to support our Trips & Tours program.

(\$500+)
Anonymous
Ash Creek Forest
Management
Ron & Karen Garst
Scholls Valley Native
Nursery
(\$250+)
Janet Black & Deane Blair
Kay Demlow & Jay Hamlin
John Frewing &
Gayle Kauffman
Marianne Kandel
Steve Mullinax &
Bonnie Messenger
Paul & Audrey Oliver
Paul & Jean Rose
Bill Weismann
(\$100+)
Joe & LaVonne Blowers
Lynn Carver
Kathy Casuga
Bruce & April DeBolt
Steve & Claire Deremer
Jeff Douglas
John Driscoll & Janet Bailey
Alice & Ron Ellis Gaut
Lorraine & John Fervia
Gerry & Kathy Gregg
Rick Hardt
Barbara Hochgesang
Carl Hosticka &
Claudia Black
Linda Lane &
Wayne Waters
Sue & Jerry Manning
Jim & Fay Milne
Sue Moir
Melanie Moler
Lisa & Helios Ovando
Susan & Joe Peter
Sarah Pinnock
Barbara Schaffner &
Shap Shapiro
Monica & Tony Smiley
Anne Squier
Rebecca &
Darryl Walters
Ramsay Weit
(\$50+)
Ron Atkins
Kip & Phyllis Ault
Pieter Braam
Richard Eyde
Carl Fink
Valerie Garst
Henry Hickox
Vicki & David Julis
Dick & Nancy Mitchell
Kay & David Pollack
Greg Schifsky
Tim & Cathy Stanton
Mary L. Taylor
Peter & Emily Toll
Richard & Becky Turner
Brian & Karen Wegener
Michael & Margie Wilhelm
Gerald & Sandra Zimmer
(Other)
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Judy Inmon
Jim Kimball & Linda Craig
Clay & Jan Funkhouser
Richard Meyer
Jane & Dick Miller
Dana Mosher-Lewis
April Olbrich

River Bank Program

Take part in our **River Bank Program**, an easy and convenient monthly donation program that supports TRK programs. No more renewal notices — just fill out a one-time form. Even a \$5 per month donation, less than a movie ticket, provides a stable source of funding all year long. These donations will ensure the independent voice for the Tualatin River. Sign up today! Please contact Vicki at 503-620-7507 for more information. You may also find this form at www.tualatinriverkeepers.org.



12360 SW Main Street
Tigard, Oregon 97223

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Join Tualatin Riverkeepers today.
Your membership will help protect and restore the Tualatin River.

Name _____ Email _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (h) _____ (w) _____

For a membership of \$35 or more, you will receive our quarterly Green Heron Herald newsletter, and discounts at events and classes, as well as use of canoes on our trips.

- \$35 Family/Individual \$50 Dragonfly \$100 Kingfisher \$250 Osprey \$_____ Other
- \$500 Green Heron \$1,000 Protector \$2,500 River Benefactor

Check enclosed for \$_____ Your contribution is tax-deductible as allowed by law.

Please charge my: VISA MasterCard Discover

Signature _____ Card Number _____ Exp. Date _____

- I will donate on a monthly basis with the **River Bank Program**. Monthly amount \$_____.
- Please deduct the indicated amount from my CHECKING ACCOUNT. Submit a voided check.
- Please charge my CREDIT CARD. Fill out the information above.

