

The Green Heron Herald

The Quarterly Newsletter of the TUALATIN RIVERKEEPERS®

Volume 16, Issue 4, Fall 2009

New Fleet of Kayaks for Riverkeepers

In July TRK received a \$40,000 grant from the Washington County Visitors Association (WCVA) to promote access to the Tualatin River for Washington County visitors. TRK will now offer guided kayak and birding tours for groups.

To accommodate group tours TRK will acquire a new fleet of kayaks (Pungos and Tsunamis) that will also be available for use on public trips starting next season. Try them at the Tualatin Riverfront Music Festival on Sept. 27 at Brown's Ferry Park in Tualatin. Listen from the river.



2009 Legislative Session Makes Progress on Water Quality

In 2009 TRK hired Sue Marshall and Confluence Consulting to represent our legislative interests. Among our accomplishments are the passing of Senate Bill 596 which will eliminate

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Tualatin Riverfront Music Festival

Music on the River for the River
Sunday, September 27, 2009
3 to 7pm at Brown's Ferry Park
in Tualatin

The Tualatin River is the Misty River. That's why it's so fitting that the **Misty Mamas** band is playing the first Tualatin Riverfront Music Festival. The Misty Mamas band play their own mix of acoustic bluegrass, gospel and old timey music. Misty Mamas' songs evoke the spirit of the River, its down home people and a strong connection to the natural world.

Paddle-In and listen to the concert from the river. Paddle your boat to the festival (boat parking will be available), or borrow a TRK boat. Our **NEW FLEET OF KAYAKS** will be at the festival for participants to paddle. Bring the kids and make tracks to **DIRTOWN**, where we'll be making and casting animal tracks.

Fanno Creek Brew Pub is brewing a special TUALATIN RIVER OKTOBER-FEST beer. Celebrate with us by enjoying one free glass of our special German lager. Wine co-sponsors Parallel 45 Wine Bar and WillaKenzie Estate Vineyards will pour Oregon pinots.

Volunteers will be cooking sausages, hot dogs and vegedogs for \$5. All dogs are donated, so buy a dog for dinner and all proceeds go directly to keeping TRK afloat. *Apple Brown Betty! Apple Brown Betty!* Our friends from Whole Foods Tualatin are serving dessert!

Let's get together and celebrate our River, our Riverkeeping efforts and our vision of a clean and healthy Tualatin River for all!

Tickets are \$20 for adults. **KIDS FREE** with parent. Buy your tickets online at tualatinriverkeepers.org.



WILLA KENZIE ESTATE



FOOD & PHARMACY



Portland General Electric



Fanno Creek Brew Pub



NW Natural

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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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.

Design: BeBop Graphics



Tualatin Riverkeepers is proud to be a Waterkeeper Alliance Member.



From the Board



Dear Riverkeepers,

Here's an opportunity you might want to consider if you are thinking ahead about year-end tax planning, and are contemplating a special gift to Tualatin Riverkeepers.

If you have a traditional Individual Retirement Account (IRA), 401(k) account or 403(b) account, and are of an age where normally you must take what's known as a "required minimum distribution" (RMD) each year, all of the RMD is fully taxable at your incremental tax rate. Congress has suspended the RMD requirement for 2009, meaning you have the option not to take a distribution this year if you don't want to. But it also extended through the 2009 tax year a provision allowing you to donate up to \$100,000 from qualifying retirement accounts to charities of your choice. The amount donated will not be taxed to you or to the charity!

If you elect to take a distribution from your retirement account this year in order to make a charitable donation, it's important that the donation go directly from your plan sponsor to the charity. All you have to do is to call your plan sponsor and direct them to prepare a check payable to the charity. They will send the check to you for forwarding to the charity. Make the donation by December 31, 2009, in order to lock in the favorable tax treatment for this year.

Sincerely,
Bruce DeBolt
Board Treasurer, Tualatin Riverkeepers

2009 Legislative Session, continued from page 1.

decabrominated diphenyl ether (DBDE), a hazardous flame retardant commonly used in electronics, upholstery and mattresses, from new products starting January 1, 2011. Deca is one of a family of polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDE) that is toxic, persists in the environment and bioaccumulates in fish, wildlife and humans.

PBDEs have been found to cause reproductive disorders in peregrine falcons, are suspected human carcinogens and, according to recent monitoring data, these chemicals are on the rise in both the Columbia River and Willamette River.

Senate Bill 631 limits the phosphorus content in automatic dishwashing soap, an important next step in reducing the amount of phosphorus that enters lakes and rivers. Many water bodies in Oregon have a problem with excessive phosphorus because it encourages the growth of algae and ultimately impacts water quality.

Senate Bill 105 authorized Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to increase the maximum administrative penalty for most environmental violations from \$10,000 to \$25,000. And, for more serious violations where hazardous materials are negligently or intentionally dumped into state waters, the fines increase from \$10,000 to \$100,000. Maximum penalties for violations of environmental laws had not increased since 1973.

House Bill 2945 would have required DEQ to develop and implement procedures to analyze water samples collected and submitted to the department for presence of cyanotoxins and required DEQ to develop a program to raise awareness and improve response to public health concerns regarding outbreaks of blue green algae and associated toxins. This bill was introduced at the request of Tualatin Riverkeepers following an unprecedented outbreak that impacted drinking water, closed the river to recreation and destroyed crops.

Although the bill did not pass, largely due to the severe budget constraints, a successful public hearing was held that elevated the issue and garnered a commitment by legislative leaders to further address the issue during the interim.

Read the complete report at www.tualatinriverkeepers.org.

Volunteering

TRK Volunteer Classifieds Everyone Can Help!

We need your skills and enthusiasm to make our vision of clean water and healthy habitats a reality in our community. Join us as a volunteer. Contact Monica Smiley to volunteer at 503-620-7507 or monica@tualatinriverkeepers.org.

Tualatin Riverfront Music Festival:

Ticket takers, cashiers, paddle trip leaders, parking attendants and security needed for fun, family music event on the River at Brown's Ferry Park in Tualatin on September 27.

Marketing and Communications Committee:

Help TRK connect! The Marketing and Communications Committee work with Board and staff to develop and implement TRK's media plan. Professionals with experience in marketing, communications, public relations or related field preferred. Must be able to attend monthly meeting at TRK in Tigard. First meeting is scheduled for 9/22 at 6pm. Contact Committee Chair Nickie Harber with questions at nharber@gmail.com.

Field Trip Leader:

Learn to lead field trips for use in grades 1-8. Learn animal tracking, ecology, botany and ethnobotany. Share your knowledge of the natural world with students. Enthusiasm is a must! The field trips will take place at Gotter Prairie in Scholls and Cook Park in Tigard.

Citizen Action Committee:

Researchers, scientists, policy analysts, engineers, writers, organizers needed to help TRK develop public policy positions and advocate for the Tualatin River. Meetings are on the 4th Wednesday of each month at 6:30pm at Fanno Creek Brew Pub on Main Street in Tigard.

Paddle Trip Leaders:

Learn to lead TRK paddle trips on the Tualatin River. Are you an experienced paddler looking for an opportunity to volunteer and help protect the river? TRK trains Paddle Trip Leaders annually in March. Training includes water rescue, natural history of the Tualatin River watershed and CPR/First Aid.

Volunteer Spotlight on Fay and Jim Milne

We first met Fay and Jim in 2007, when they arrived at the Fall Fest event with a lively brood of children and grandchildren. Since that time they have become dedicated members and volunteers, participating in the Green Heron, Fall Fest and Tualatin Riverfront Music Festival committees.

"We live, walk and look daily at the Tualatin River. We knew before we bought our West Linn house in 2007 that Tualatin Riverkeepers had been monitoring the Tualatin for several years and had changed it from notoriously polluted to the clean river it is today. We can canoe, kayak, swim and fish in it now. As long as the river stays clean, it helps maintain our real estate values. As an additional bonus, it's interesting and fun to be a part of TRK," says Fay.

"Securing the funding necessary to continue the monitoring functions and actions necessary to maintain and enhance TRK's progress already achieved are challenges TRK face. Gaining new members; and getting all members to join in the joy of volunteering some time to TRK is the solution."

"We live, walk, picnic, swim, canoe and fish in it and it needs to be clean to do all that. TRK is all that stands between a clean or a notoriously polluted Tualatin," say Fay and Jim Milne.

Thank you for your enthusiasm for your cause, Fay and Jim!

RESTORATION VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Get your hands dirty out in Scholls this fall planting some native plants with Tualatin Riverkeepers. TRK has leveraged funds to restore the beautiful 72-acre Metro's Greenspace property on Munger Lane. We are on our way to completing phase I of this restoration of natural wetland and oak savanna habitat.

Contact Vicki at 503-620-7507 or vicki@tualatinriverkeepers.org for more information.

Saturday, October 17th

9am - noon

Saturday, November 7th

9am - noon



Education Program



I caught a snake, I caught a snake!

This is what echoed in the reptile garden at Jackson Bottom Wetland Preserve during TRK's summer Nature Day Camp. Children from Adelante Mujeres gathered around to get an up-close look at this amazing creature. The kids learned that not all snakes are poisonous, about a snake's life cycle, and that a common garter snake gives birth to live young. It was not long before the kids were carefully turning over logs to find salamanders and identifying species with field guides.

Children from Adelante Mujeres attending Nature Day Camp were sponsored by TRK members. Nature Day Camp sponsors enabled youth living in the Tualatin River watershed to turn off their x-box for the summer and experience

the wonders of nature. Summer was turned back to what it used to be—where children were catching frogs, snakes and salamanders, questioning what bird call they heard, building forts in the tall grass, gaining a sense of place and making long-lasting memories. There are many children who are lacking nature exploration in their lives and need this experience in their childhood to become future stewards of the environment. Nature Day Camp gives children the excitement of discovery while providing them with tools to become informed citizens of the community.

Above: Tom Vogt (AmeriCorps camp counselor) and Bennett Gaeta enjoying the scenery at the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge.

Right: Bird watching at Jackson Bottom Wetland Preserve.

Far right: One of the two wood duck boxes installed at Hedges Creek marsh in Tualatin.



TRK's Nature Day Camp partners are Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge, Jackson Bottom Wetland Preserve, City of Tigard, REI, The Wetlands Conservancy, Metro Regional Government, Clean Water Services, Waste Management/Hillsboro Landfill, Hillsboro Civic Center, and AmeriCorps LINKS.



Lori Kruse Joins TRK Staff as Education Coordinator

Lori Kruse, who served as an AmeriCorps member with TRK in 2009, now joins the staff as the Education Coordinator. Lori will continue to coordinate Nature Awareness Day Camp and school field trip programs. Lori's unique ability to connect children with nature and her willingness to go above and beyond have enabled her to be incredibly successful in this position. We are thrilled to welcome her back and to the staff of TRK.

Watershed Watch / Citizen Action

DEQ Water Quality Index Follow-Up

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) published a report in May 2008 stating that three monitoring sites on the Tualatin River show the biggest decline in the Water Quality Index (WQI) of the 127 sites analyzed over a ten year period (1997-2007).

The Oregon Water Quality Index is a single number that expresses water quality by integrating measurements of eight water quality variables (temperature, dissolved oxygen, biochemical oxygen demand, pH, ammonia+nitrate+nitrite nitrogen, total phosphorus, total solids, and E. coli). Its purpose is to provide a simple and concise method for expressing the ambient water quality of Oregon's streams. According to DEQ, the index allows users to easily interpret data. The WQI improves comprehension of general water quality issues, communicates water quality status, and illustrates the need for and effectiveness of protective practices.

Statistical analyses were performed by Tualatin Riverkeepers volunteers Lew Scholl and Kate Norton. Their findings were presented to the TRK Citizen Action Committee on June 24, 2009. Also present at the meeting were DEQ and Clean Water Services (CWS) staff. Both reviewers described some of the idiosyncrasies of the DEQ-WQI that influence trends in the Tualatin River data. These idiosyncrasies include:

1. Combining ammonia, nitrate, and nitrite into one sub-index.
2. If one indicator shows a problem the entire index will indicate poor water quality.
3. Data is limited to a 10 year period and therefore does not reveal the improvements in water quality that happened before this time.
4. Phosphorus data in the non-critical cool weather season when algal blooms are unlikely are not distinguished from the critical summer water quality period.

TRK analysts agreed with CWS staff that combining ammonia, nitrate, and nitrite into one sub-index is an imprecise method of characterizing water quality. Ammonia and nitrite are far more toxic than nitrate. Ammonia consumes large amounts of dissolved oxygen when it is changed into nitrate. Nitrate levels in the river are elevated (2 to 5 mg/L) downstream of CWS wastewater facilities. These levels meet drinking water standards (10 mg/L). Some studies indicate that 2-5 mg/L concentration of nitrate is harmful to developing salmonids and amphibians. Nitrate concentrations in the tributaries were at levels considered safe for aquatic life.

Beaverton Creek and Fanno Creek both showed significant declines in water quality unrelated to nitrate discharges. Increases in impervious area associated with significant urban development in the past decade, causing increases in stormwater runoff, may be a plausible explanation for water quality declines, particularly since total phosphorus was the leading indicator of water quality decline in these tributaries. Low impact development and impervious area reduction are appropriate strategies for reducing runoff in urban areas and should be mandated in the upcoming renewal of Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System Permits.

CWS has proposed changes in operations at the Fernhill and Jackson Bottom wastewater plants that would reduce summer discharges from the Rock Creek Plant. This is expected to reduce the nitrate load on the river.

Links to articles and reports on this topic can be found at www.tualatinriverkeepers.org/advocacy.



Attorney General John Kroger and other public officials toured the Tualatin River in July. TRK Citizen Action Committee member Paul Whitney paddles in the background. 100 people attended the environmental town hall meeting in Tualatin Community Park following the tour.



Senator Richard Devlin of Tualatin talks about landmark environmental legislation passed in Salem this session at the Tualatin River environmental forum. Senator Devlin is a former Tualatin Riverkeepers board member. Photo by Eric Lindstrom.



Tualatin Valley Water District Commissioner Marilyn McWilliams won the 3rd Annual Mayors' Challenge Paddle Race at Cook Park in June.

Trips & Tours



TRK Members-Only Upper Tualatin Watershed Tour

Join TRK founding member Rob Baur on an informative, all-day tour of the Upper Tualatin Watershed. Discover waterfalls, salmon spawning grounds and crystal-clear water! This Member-Only* trip is always popular and space is limited to the first 14 people, so reserve your spot now online at www.tualatinriverkeepers.org.

Date: Saturday, September 26th

Time: 10 am to 4 pm

Place: Leaving from Fernhill Wetlands & traveling to various locations throughout the watershed

*Not a member yet? That's okay, you can join online when you register for the tour.

Ki-A-Kuts Hike

Wednesday, September 16th

Join TRK Board member Tarri Christopher on a day hike to Ki-A-Kuts Falls. We will meet at 9am at the Jackson Bottom Wetlands and carpool to the trailhead. Participants should plan on a full day of hiking and pack a sack lunch and plenty of water. Though the hike itself is not very long or too strenuous, there is a steep slope to navigate with some scrambling so participants should be fit. Dress appropriate for weather.

Registration is required and there is a 12 person limit. So register online early at www.tualatinriverkeepers.org before the trip fills up!



2009 Tualatin Riverkeepers' Paddle Trip Schedule

TRK trips are open to all members and the general public. Space is limited and reservations are required. *There is a trip charge of \$5 per person for TRK members and \$10 for nonmembers. Canoes are available to members free of charge by reservation. Nonmembers may rent canoes for our trips for \$30. Annual memberships start at \$35.*

Register ONLINE at www.tualatinriverkeepers.org/paddle_trips.

For more information, please contact us at 503-620-7507 or info@tualatinriverkeepers.org.

September 12, Saturday

Members-Only Advanced Paddle

Where: Eagle Landing to Scholls Time: 9 am to 1 pm

September 27, Sunday

Tualatin Riverfront Music Festival

Where: Brown's Ferry Park Time: 3 pm to 7 pm

October 10, Saturday

Autumn Colors Paddle Trip

Where: 99W Bridge, Tualatin Time: 1 pm to 4 pm

Dates and times subject to change. Please check our website for updates at www.tualatinriverkeepers.org.



Winter Waterfowl

Saturday, Oct 24, 1-3pm

Local expert birder **Doug Robberson** will be teaching a class at Tigard Public Library on the Winter Waterfowl of the Tualatin River watershed. Learn about bird identification, breeding, and migration patterns. The class is FREE and open to the public. Contact the Tigard Public Library at 503-684-6537 or by visiting the Library's web page at www.tigard-or.gov/library for more information.

Membership

We would like to thank the following Riverkeepers who joined or renewed their membership between May 16, 2009 and July 31, 2009.

PROTECTOR (\$1,000+)
Backyard Bird Shop
Stephen Larson*
Andrea Paulson

GREEN HERON MEMBERS
(\$500+)

Joe and LaVonne Blowers*
Ronni Lacroute
West Coast Bank

OSPREY MEMBERS (\$250+)

Karen Apland*
Tarrì & Kent Christopher*
Bill & Frances Coffield*
Bob Fuquay*
Bill Iron & Katherine Meads*
Susan Murray & Jeff Tripp*
Karen Pazucha &
Laurence Morandi
Bill and Ruthie Shields
Bill Weismann*
Ramsay Weit*

KINGFISHER MEMBERS (\$100+)

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Wendy Burchfield*
John Desmarais & Karen Garber*
Alice & Ron Ellis Gaut*
Gary Furgus
Jay Hamlin & Kay Demlow*
Keith & Lisa Hansen
Joe & Elizabeth Kaliszewski
Jeffrey & Jennifer Kohne
Mark & Pamela MacDonald*
Claudia McNellis*
Melanie Moler
Tom Napier
Donnielle O'Neill

Walter & Carol Ottoson*
Susan Pflaum-Quarterman &
Chuck Quarterman*
Douglas Spray
Barbara & Dean Wilson
Bill & Leslie Winton
Elisabeth Zeller

DRAGONFLY (\$50+)

Doris Beck
Claude & Maureen Bonfiglio
Scott Bowler*
Kathy Casson*
Anne Clark
John & Kathelene Cover*
Ian Dees*
David & Alice Drescher
David & Sally Dull
Lois & Michael Eaton*
John & Lorraine Fervia
John & Susan Foy
Paul Gorman
Mike & Claudia Grover
Mary Gurney
Scott Hamersly
Jennifer Hanson &
David Van Speybroeck
Jerry & Donna Heppell
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Jeffery Johnson
Lesley and James Kempzell*
Steve Kessler & Alma Wong
Roger & Carolyn Knutson
John & Merle Kovash
Helen Krieger
Helen & Paul Lyons
Harry MacAlpine
Catherine Myers*

Jeff Olson*
Travis Parker
Christine Riley & Alan McConkie
Lauren Rykert
Karen Schaefer
Carol Shaff
Thomas & Gwen Sieben
Kathrin Strieby &
Charles Congdon
Thomas Thomas

INDIVIDUAL/FAMILY (\$35+)

Barbara Acker
Stephen Amy
Robert & Linda Armstrong
Loren & Mary Bell
Arthur & Virginia Brown
Wendy & Rob Burchfield
John Callen
Ann Chilcote
Cynthia Chilton
John & Kathelene Cover
Bob Crepps
Annabel Dickerson
Lisa Erickson
Pam Farris
Marty Fraser
Holly & Eric Frohlick
Dan & Sandy Fuchs
Susan Fuller
Steve & Megan Goetz
Donna Grasly
Karen Griffin
Linda Hallberg
Nickie Harber
Robert Haring-Smith
Larry & Janet Harrington
Stephanie & Terry Hellickson
Michael Hevron

Kashala Hill
Marissa Houlberg
Diana Karim
Annie Lawrie
Kenneth Marlow
Kevin McLaughlin
Dinorah Metzger
Robert & Dernen Meurisse
Diane Morris
Michelle Muresan
Michael Passalacqua
The Portland Garden Club
Eric Post
Deane Radar
David Raffo
Paula Roberts
Martin & Ronaele Rupert
Claudia & Mark Sanzone
Erik & Jen Scharffenberg
Loren Shaw
Carol Silva & Mary Cox
Seth Smythe
Paula Squire
Diane Stone
Kevin & Teresa Svilich
Nikola & Mariana Tcherven
Jack & Diane Trenhaile
Darlene Vogel
Annette Wager
Coral Mirth Walker
Sandra Wallsmith
Dave Walters
Russell Weight
Gene & Jackie Westberg
David & Mary Whiteford
Gordon & Kari Williamson
Phyllis Wolfe

*River Bank Members, a monthly donation program

Contribute to EarthShare at your workplace: it's so easy

As summer comes to a close, we all reflect on the beautiful places we enjoyed during Oregon's great outdoor season—the beaches, high desert, crystal rivers and craggy mountains. The treasures of this state endure because we protect them. And now as the sunny months leave us, we do what we can in other ways.

It's fundraising season.

Tualatin Riverkeepers is a proud member of EarthShare of Oregon. What does this mean to you? You and your fellow employees can choose to have contributions sent automatically to your favorite Oregon conservation groups, including Tualatin Riverkeepers. Since your contribution is spread out over the course of a year, the amount deducted from your paycheck is minimal, and all gifts are fully tax deductible. You can make a difference!

If your workplace is not currently involved in an EarthShare giving campaign, establishing one is easy. EarthShare will work with your employer to set up a program that meets your company's needs.

Oregon's natural beauty and livability is legendary. With your contribution to EarthShare, you can help ensure that it stays that way. For more information, please contact Meghan Humphreys at EarthShare: 503-223-9015 or meghan@earthshare-oregon.org; or visit www.earthshare-oregon.org.



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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.

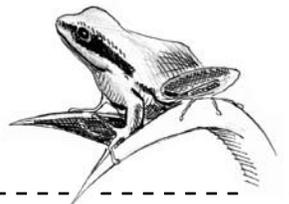
- \$35 Family/Individual \$50 Dragonfly \$100 Kingfisher \$250 Osprey \$_____ Other
- \$500 Green Heron \$1,000 Protector \$2,500 River Benefactor

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.



Join online at www.tualatinriverkeepers.org

