



The Green Heron Herald

The Quarterly Newsletter of the TUALATIN RIVERKEEPERS®

Volume 18, Issue 3, Fall 2011



Development of the Tualatin River Water Trail will make remote stretches of the river between Tualatin and Hillsboro more accessible to paddlers.

Update on Water Trail Planning

Thanks to two voter-approved bond measures, Metro has purchased five sites along the Tualatin River for restoration and access. These sites were acquired with a vision of a Tualatin River Water Trail allowing public access every five to 10 miles. Tualatin Riverkeepers raised over \$1 million to restore two of these sites and managed restoration projects with Metro, but no river access has been developed.

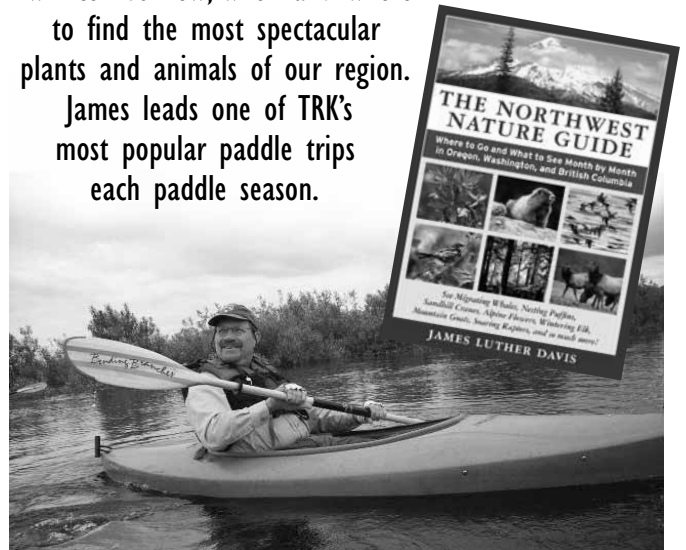
On June 22 the Metro Council passed a \$100,000 budget amendment to fund the first phase of development (planning and feasibility studies) for the Tualatin River Water Trail. Since then, Metro staff has assembled a team of planning and engineering consultants to analyze the five Metro-owned sites on the river, develop maps and grant proposals, and prioritize the first two access sites for development.

In November Metro's team will tour the five sites and existing access facilities in the region with TRK staff. A conceptual plan and cost estimate for the first site is scheduled to be ready by April 1, 2012.

Ultimate development of the Water Trail will depend on partnerships for funding, operation, and maintenance of the sites. Tualatin Riverkeepers is committed to building these partnerships and continuing steady progress towards the completion of the trail.

Save the Date!
TRK's Annual Meeting
January 21, 2012 — Saturday
1 to 4pm
Kinton Grange Hall in Scholls

TRK is thrilled to announce that local author and nature guru James Davis will be the guest speaker at our 2012 Annual Meeting. The author of *The Northwest Nature Guide: Where to Go and What to See Month by Month in Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia* will tell us how, when and where to find the most spectacular plants and animals of our region. James leads one of TRK's most popular paddle trips each paddle season.



Meet TRK's New Board Members!
See page 3.

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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.

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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.

503-218-2580

www.tualatinriverkeepers.org



Tualatin Riverkeepers is proud to be a Waterkeeper Alliance Member.



From the Director



Dear Riverkeepers,

Last year, TRK began working with the Center for Diversity and the Environment (CDE) to remove barriers to participation in TRK programs by diverse groups of people. CDE is a national organization dedicated to diversifying the environmental movement. This year TRK has made great strides towards inclusion which was especially evident at our Discovery Day paddle event this past June.

The trip was free thanks to support from the Partners for Clean Water, a group that includes local cities, the Tualatin River Watershed Council and Clean Water Services. The trip route was a short distance—2.3 miles from Cook Park in Tigard to Brown's Ferry Park in Tualatin—ideal for first-time paddlers. Our partners at two area outfitters, Next Adventure and Alder Creek Canoe & Kayak, loaned TRK fleets of boats to use for the day. Over 70 boats were on site. The barrier of hauling, lifting and carrying boats was eliminated by our gracious volunteers.

We saw a different population than we have seen on Discovery Days past and on our guided group trips—people of color and lots of families with children. Eighty percent of the people that paddled at Discovery Day this year paddled the Tualatin for the first time, and 20 percent of those were people of color.

To remain a relevant organization, we must be accessible to everyone that lives in the watershed. Everyone is important to include in our clean water vision, and we are excited to expand our vision towards inclusion.

Thanks to our founders and members for their on-going support, passion and steadfast efforts for clean water. Thank you, CDE, for your leadership and dedication to bringing inclusion to the environmental movement. Special thanks to the foundations in our community that funded this project, The Spirit Mountain Community Fund and the Collins Foundation, whose leadership on diversity and inclusion is our inspiration and who make Oregon a better place for all through their generosity.

I couldn't be more proud than I am now to be a Riverkeeper. I look forward to the future of Riverkeeping with all of you.

Sincerely,

Monica Smiley, Executive Director

Staff Changes

Vicki Julis

Vicki Julis has dedicated these last five years to moving Tualatin Riverkeepers forward, serving as TRK's Finance and Restoration Programs Manager. Among her many accomplishments include the management of the Munger Farm restoration project, working collaboratively with government agencies and private land managers to restore the 77-acre prairie. This fall Vicki and her family will be moving back home to Chicago. Thank you, Vicki for your tireless effort and enthusiasm. You will always have family here in Oregon with us.

Margot Fervia-Neamtzu

TRK welcomes back Margot Fervia-Neamtzu to coordinate TRK's Membership Program and oversee our organizational administration. Margot worked for TRK from 2001 to 2006 as Office Manager and Membership Coordinator. She was never far away, though, and continued to serve as a volunteer. Margot brings with her a passion for the Tualatin River and its Keepers. We are excited to work with Margot again.

Meet our New Board Members



Welcome, Jeff Douglas

Jeff Douglas is joining the TRK Board of Directors after recently retiring from a successful and distinguished career in broadcasting. While you may recognize Jeff Douglas as the host of OPB's Oregon Art Beat, you may not know that he also created the show. Working in broadcasting for most of his life, Jeff worked as a news producer at KGW-TV and produced many OPB shows including Oregon Field

Guide. He also was a founder of KINK radio. Jeff has used his orating expertise to host many of TRK's Annual Gala events.

Jeff lives near Fanno Creek in Tigard and has been involved with the restoration of a wetland near his home. He is also an avid canoeist, paddling everything from Tualatin flat-water to Class III whitewater. He has taught canoeing and taken several long trips, some nearly 500 miles.

A few years ago, Jeff led the development of a partnership between OPB, the Oregon Invasive Species Council, Nature Conservancy, SOLV and several other organizations to launch an educational campaign about invasive species. It was a large project with lots of complications that, in the end, turned out quite well thanks in large part to Jeff's perseverance. The project won the DuPont-Columbia award, the highest award in television journalism.

Jeff is particularly interested in how the environment and economy can flourish together. "My observation is that the public's willingness to invest in the environment is greatly enhanced in a thriving economy. I think it is the responsibility of environmental organizations to find win/win projects to support, not just be a 'no' voice to every development proposal," says Jeff.

TRK Welcomes Ed Casuga to the Board of Directors

Ed Casuga is no stranger to the world of advocacy and brings to the board a strong background in working for what he thinks is right.

Ed has a 21-year-old son living with Down Syndrome and has been very active as an advocate for his son and others living with disabilities. Most recently, he has served on the Board for Down Syndrome Association of the Greater Bay Area as their Financial Officer.

Ed and his son enjoy kayaking with Adventures Without Limits, an organization that sponsors trips for individuals with developmental disabilities. As a youth growing up in near Yuba City in California, he enjoyed fishing and is looking forward to catching some fish in the Tualatin River.

"I think it will be a rewarding experience for me to help restore the environment and have an influence on others to do the same," says Ed.

Ed is a Human Resources Manager for ARRIS, a telecommunications company that sells products, software and services primarily to major cable companies to deliver Video on Demand to the household users. He earned a BS Degree in Business Administration – Accounting Concentration from San Jose State University. Ed and his family live in Tigard.



Mike Wecker Joins TRK Board of Directors



TRK is excited to welcome Mike Wecker to the Board of Directors. We first got to know Mike while he helped develop business plans for TRK paddle trips, boat rentals, and summer camps as a PSU MBA candidate. All of these plans exceeded revenue goals in 2011.

Volunteering with the Boy Scouts of America allows Mike many opportunities to enjoy nature. Each summer he leads the boys on a "High Adventure" trip where they hike, boat, or bike and camp in local wilderness areas.

Mike is currently employed with Kaiser Permanente as a health data analyst. In that position, he looks for ways to improve care for Kaiser members and increase the financial performance of the company.

Mike lives with his wife and daughter in Tigard. He holds an economics degree from Brigham Young University and an MBA from PSU.

TRK is excited to welcome these three new board members who will be officially voted onto the Board at our annual meeting in January 2012!

Youth Education / Volunteering

Boots on the Ground



Last fall we were rallying support to pass a \$17 million park bond to purchase the last best open areas in Tigard. This fall students are listening to the frogs croak, chickadees chirp, tracking deer and building an intimate relationship with one of the areas acquired—Summer Creek Natural Area in Tigard. Since the acquisition of Summer Creek Natural Area, TRK has brought 370 children to the site for school field trips and summer day camp.

A typical day of summer camp this past season started with observing a hawk find its breakfast. Then, the children would gaze at the ponderosa pine tree and notice how it would be a great place for a hawk. After discussing the hawk habitat, the children notice the many other living things on or around the pine tree. As the day progresses the children begin to see even more relationships and build even more connections; questions are asked, field guides are used, and conclusions are made. The skill of making observations and inquiries, problem solving and answering your own questions about the world comes from having the opportunity to *be* in nature. This is a skill that cannot be acquired from a textbook or a computer. These skills are learned at summer camp during field trips, by taking the time to just observe.

Because of the hard work of the City of Tigard, Trust for Public Lands, Clean Water Services, Metro, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, and TRK to save this land from development, children across the whole watershed are having priceless experiences. Every deer track discovered, every plant identified, and every boot on the ground has brought this generation closer to understanding the interconnectedness and responsibility we have to the diminishing natural areas. The work of those who put in the extra time and effort, such as TRK's volunteer naturalists will pay off with a new generation of watershed stewards.

Dear Tigard Voters,

Thank you for this land I am extremely happy to be here and we have been learning about our environment. Catching and identifying these crawdads was the best part. I love the forest and now want to help my surroundings to make the environment a better place.

Thank you, Aadhen

PS it's pronounced Aiden

Tualatin Riverkeepers Volunteer Classifieds Experts and Novices Needed!

We need your skills and enthusiasm to make our vision of clean water and healthy habitats a reality. Contact Monica Smiley at monica@tualatinriverkeepers.org or 503-218-2580 to volunteer.

Green Heron Gala Event Planner:

Have you ever planned a wedding for a family member, retirement party or other elaborate event? Party planners are needed to help with menu, raffle, invitations, decorations and more. Your excellent administrative and creative skills are needed. Evening meetings December through April at TRK's Tualatin office.

Paddle Trip Leader:

Learn to lead paddle trips on the Tualatin River. Seeking experienced paddlers to volunteer and help introduce people to the river. Next training is in Spring 2012. Training includes water rescue, history of the river, and CPR/First Aid.

Naturalists:

Utilize your love of nature! Become a mentor and a nature guide for students as they discover the natural world around them. Hundreds of children go through TRK's field trip and summer programs. Volunteer Nature Guides make this possible. As a Volunteer Naturalist you will learn about native plants, birds, and wildlife, plus you'll learn teaching tactics to help you enrich the lives of the next generation. Training begins March 2012.

Membership Committee:

Help TRK achieve membership goals, and inspire others to support TRK's mission and vision. Committee will meet one evening a month at TRK's Tualatin office starting January 2012.

Watershed Watch/Citizen Action

Advancing Smarter Solutions for Clean Water

Polluted stormwater runoff is one of the largest pollution sources of our waterways as well as a major cause of flooding and sewer overflows.

Unfortunately, the most commonly used treatment and management approaches have failed to significantly reduce these impacts. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is currently working to modernize national stormwater regulations, presenting one of the best chances in years to make major progress towards clean water in urban areas. EPA is on track to propose new safeguards in Fall 2011 and finalize them by November 2012.

Coincidentally DEQ is working on a new municipal stormwater permit for the urban areas of the Tualatin Basin. If this permit looks anything like the permits issued to Portland, Salem and other large urban areas in Oregon last year, there will be a greater emphasis on Low Impact Development (LID) approaches that reduce runoff.

Recently, we have seen some local projects that are beginning to reduce the impervious areas that cause runoff. Tigard's Burnham Street project is one good example, using roadside rain gardens to soak up runoff and pollution.

Metro has proposed bringing more land into the Urban Growth Boundary (UGB). It will be challenging to do this without increasing stormwater runoff. Tualatin basin soils drain slowly, requiring special design considerations for LID. Of particular concern is the possibility of urbanizing areas of Cooper Mountain and Bull Mountain. Shallow slow draining soils on slopes make it especially difficult to stop runoff. Clearing of trees for development will only increase runoff.

What can you do to help our urban streams recover?

- Talk to your local politicians about Low Impact Development.
- Urge Metro councilors to avoid expansion of the UGB on areas of slopes and shallow slow-draining soils.
- Ask Metro and city councilors to require forest protection, reforestation, and 100% on-site stormwater retention when new areas are brought into the UGB.
- Call Senator Merkley and Senator Wyden and ask them to support a strict EPA post-construction stormwater rule that prevents runoff from new development.

TRK is part of a broad coalition, Clean Water for Healthy Communities, promoting a set of core principles for new EPA regulations:

Control onsite generation of stormwater using an objective performance-based standard for clean water and promote the use of LID approaches.

Require significant existing stormwater sources to reduce their impact by decreasing impervious areas that create runoff.

Require all dischargers to do their fair share to control pollution and protect watersheds. New regulations should target areas of new or expected development, critical or sensitive watersheds and impervious areas that cause water quality problems.

For more information, check out stormwaterstories.blogspot.com.



Not So Pretty After All

Here is a photo for use on the TRK website or newsletter. I wish it were a fun/happy photo but it is not. This photo was taken after the first major rain this year. The urban runoff from our neighborhood gets discharged into the river just a few yards from our back yard (RM 2.0), and I noticed one day that the river had all this "stuff" floating on the surface, and I took this photo at the source of the problem. I drove around the neighborhood to see if the pollution source was fresh but saw nothing. Rather, I figure it was the result of all the stuff that builds up in the storm drain over the entire summer, all coming out at once.

*Regards,
Jeff*

Reports like this from Jeff Kohne, one of our members who lives on the Tualatin River, are important in raising awareness about street to stream pollution and help us when we urge our local agencies to do more about stormwater runoff polluting our river and streams. Send your stormwater stories and photos to brian@tualatinriverkeepers.org.

Watershed Watch / Citizen Action

DEQ Proposes Changes to Tualatin Basin Water Quality Standards

DEQ is seeking comments on its draft documents describing pollution limits and plans to improve water quality in the Tualatin River basin, ensure streams are healthy for fish and wildlife, and remain safe for fishing and swimming. Three problems have been identified for water quality in stream reaches in the basin: temperature, phosphorus and ammonia.

The Federal Clean Water Act requires DEQ to develop plans with goals and pollution control targets for improving water quality in the watershed. DEQ is doing this by first establishing limits known as Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) for each pollutant entering the water system.

A TMDL document uses scientific data collection and analysis to determine the amount and source of each pollutant entering the river system. It allocates pollutant loads to each source at levels that would ultimately restore water quality to clean water standards. A load is the amount of each pollutant a waterway can receive and not violate water quality standards. A TMDL takes into account the pollution from all sources.

Wastewater discharge from industry and sewage treatment facilities may increase loading of nutrients and organic matter. Other sources of nutrients and organic matter are natural sources, agricultural runoff, fertilizers, septic systems, and waste deposits from animals.

Water temperature is greatly affected by a variety of human activities associated with how land is used for forestry, agricultural, residential, urban and industrial purposes. The principal cause of stream heating has been the removal of shade-producing vegetation from stream banks.



Changes in water quality standards would allow summer discharges from the Forest Grove Wastewater Treatment Plant (photo) and the Hillsboro Wastewater Treatment Plant at Jackson Bottom.

Tualatin Riverkeepers is focusing its comments on a few areas:

1. Preventing runoff and additional pollution from new urban areas.
2. Updating the Forest Practices Act to keep streams cool for fish.
3. Reasonable assurance that water quality standards will be met.
4. Adequate monitoring of agricultural impacts on water quality.
5. Assuring that changes in discharge points for wastewater treatment plants do not impact the river.

If you'd like to speak up for water quality within the Tualatin River Basin, send your comments to DEQ. **Comments are due by 5 pm on November 30, 2011**, and should be sent to avis.newell@deq.state.or.us. Get more information at www.tualatinriverkeepers.org/advocacy.

Metro Councilors Shirley Craddick and Carl Hosticka (right) paddled their way to victory in the team category of the **Tualatin River Politician's Challenge** on September 21, 2011. Sherwood Mayor Keith Mays won our single division. All were participating in support of the Tualatin River Water Trail—increasing access to the River in our community to grow support for conservation. Thank you to all the racers who participated, including Tigard Mayor Craig Dirksen and Durham Mayor Gery Schirado.



THANK YOU
to all our generous funders

Community Events & Sponsorships

NW Natural \$5,000
Clean Water Services \$1,500
PGE \$1,500
Columbia Community Bank \$250
Anthro Corporation \$250

Diversity Project

Spirit Mountain \$25,000
Collins Foundation \$8,000

Trips & Tours

City of Tigard \$3,000
Willamette River Fund \$3,000

Volunteerism

REI \$10,000

Watershed Watch

Bullitt Foundation \$35,000
American Rivers \$1,000

Youth Education

City of Tigard \$30,000
Gray Family Foundation \$10,000
Oregon Community Foundation \$1,500

Membership

We would like to thank the following Riverkeepers who generously donated between April 1 and September 30, 2011.

(* Indicates Monthly Riverbank donor.)

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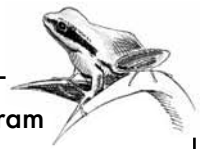
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River Bank Program

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 Margot at 503-218-2580 for more information. You may also find this form on www.tualatinriverkeepers.org.



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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.

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

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- Please deduct the indicated amount from my CHECKING ACCOUNT. Submit a voided check.
- Please charge my CREDIT CARD. Contact Margot at 503-218-2580 or join online.

Join online at www.tualatinriverkeepers.org