



# The Green Heron Herald

The Quarterly Newsletter of the TUALATIN RIVERKEEPERS®

Volume 21, Issue 2, Spring 2014

## Protecting Trees in New Urban Planning Areas

To cut or not to cut, that is the question. Some property owners in the newly urbanizing area of South Cooper Mountain have chosen to clear cut forests on their property in an attempt to avoid permits and fees when they develop their property in the future. Navigating Beaverton's development code to find out what is required for tree protection is no easy task, so some of the swift clear-cutting could be motivated by fear of the unknown.

Stimulating wholesale clear-cutting of tree groves on Cooper Mountain is clearly an unintended consequence of Beaverton's development code. And, Beaverton is not the only place where clearing to avoid perceived regulatory costs has happened. When Metro was developing its regional Goal 5 Natural Resources Protection Plan, several landowners made the headlines by clearing their land unnecessarily to avoid what they feared was a government takeover.

Continued on page 6.



Erosion caused by poorly designed development.



## 2014 Green Herald Award Winner John Driscoll

When thinking about longtime TRK board member **John Driscoll**, we are hard-pressed to think of a program or event that hasn't benefitted from his valuable input. He has taken leadership roles in every one of our programs.

Serving as a Volunteer Naturalist since the inception of TRK's education program, John has a gift for sharing his enthusiasm for the natural world with children. As a Volunteer Paddle Trip Leader, he shares his vast knowledge of the river with both young and old. A paddle trip is always more interesting with John Driscoll telling stories.

John was a site steward for some of our largest restoration projects and led volunteer events for restoration, maintenance and monitoring on these sites. Rainy mornings or warm summer afternoons, John could always be counted on to show up, lead the way, and dig in. Participating on the Diversity-Equity-Inclusion Committee since its creation, he has had a critical role in building our partner relationships which are crucial components of TRK's restoration and education programs.

Always willing to testify on behalf of the environment, John was instrumental in elevating the importance of urban and rural reserves while engaging TRK in these efforts. As Chair of the TRK's Citizen Action Committee, he has helped guide TRK through many difficult land-use issues.

John has been TRK's go-to guy for over a decade. His fingerprints are all over TRK's accomplishments and we are so thankful for those helpful hands. We're thrilled to be placing our 2014 Green Heron Award into these hands at our **Green Heron Gala on May 3 at the Tualatin Country Club**. Join us and give John a high-five for all his accomplishments!

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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 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,*

After starting work here in the winter, spring is a particularly exciting time for me. I am seeing the activities for the warmer months rev up as we kick into gear for 2014's paddling season and all the exciting events coming up to engage the public. I've had the pleasure of meeting with some of our most active trip leaders as well as corporate program sponsors like Next Adventure and REI. TRK continues to have an excellent

reputation for its vibrant personality, volunteer drive, and ability to make our mission to the public relevant year in and year out. We've chosen June 28 for our 25th Annual Tualatin River Discovery Day, so please mark your calendars. With our nature education school field trips and summer day camps starting to book up, I'd like to remind you all to take full advantage of this incredible resource for the special children in your lives.

This spring season please remember that as a TRK member you are an ambassador for your watershed. We appreciate you taking the time to bring new voices, perspectives and members into TRK's ever growing water world. Being a grassroots non-profit, our membership numbers speak to the strength of our mandate from the community. Stronger numbers mean a stronger voice.

TRK has revamped its website to give a more visually dynamic and broad description of our work and how it fits together with our mission. If you haven't had the chance, please stop by [tualatinriverkeepers.org](http://tualatinriverkeepers.org) to learn more about our programming, staff, public events, and educational opportunities. Our blog, calendar, Twitter and Facebook are all integrated and accessible from this online portal, so we hope you continue to stay abreast of all things Tualatin.

Sincerely,

Mike Skuja, Executive Director

**EarthShare Workplace Giving**

Tualatin Riverkeepers' membership in EarthShare Oregon enables us to reach out to community members who might not otherwise learn about our work. This boosts our financial support and helps us build bridges to new volunteers and supporters.

With EarthShare, you can donate at work with simple payroll deduction contributions. Your employer may even match your gift, increasing the impact of your investment.

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. To learn more, contact Jan Wilson at [jan@earthshare-oregon.org](mailto:jan@earthshare-oregon.org) or 503-223-9015, or visit [earthshare-oregon.org](http://earthshare-oregon.org).

**THANK YOU FUNDERS**

- Cohen Foundation  
\$5,000
- NW Natural  
\$4,000
- Backyard Bird Shop  
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- Anthro Corporation  
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- Dicks Sporting Goods  
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- Premiere Community Bank  
\$750
- Washington County Strategic  
Investment Program  
\$500



# TRK News

## Building on TRK's Storied Restoration History

As the new director for TRK, it became immediately clear to me how innovative TRK's history with restoration is and how our work has gained the respect of not only environmentalists, but also state agencies and the general public. This is a legacy I'd like to continue and grow. I've toured potential restoration sites recently and there are ample opportunities for long-term stewardship of lands adjacent to the river. Often one-time weed pulls and native plantings help galvanize public support for the need of restoration, but long-term management of sites is critical to watershed health and this is often a challenge for site management. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have an interest in restoration events. I know TRK volunteers will continue being active in re-shaping the Tualatin floodplain to be more reflective of its historical ecology.

— Mike Skuja



## Watershed Land Steward

Farm lands play a critical role in not only water health, but as potential biodiversity safe-havens on the land. Besides on-the-ground work, TRK also works to raise awareness of innovative ecological practices being implemented by farmers in the Tualatin basin. **Alfred**

**Dinsdale**, owner of McKay Creek Farm and Dinsdale Landscape & Nursery, is a prime example of how farmers can serve as progressive watershed land stewards. On his North Plains farm, Alfred grows blueberries off McKay Creek. He is planting a crucial riparian forest buffer, has seeded perennial cover (including some natives) between the rows of blueberries, uses drip irrigation, and has an Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife-approved fish screen. He also has a variable frequency drive water pump which helps in energy conservation, has installed various wildlife habitat boxes, uses advanced irrigation water management techniques, and hires an independent consultant to help with pest management decisions. If more farmers can adopt similar practices, no doubt the river and its biodiversity would benefit from such choices.



Oregon Iris,  
*Iris tenax*

## Green Heron Gala

May 3, 2014

5:30 - 9pm

Tualatin Country Club

Will it be a weekend exploring Seattle or a week visiting the Oregon Coast? Two Alaskan Airlines plane tickets or a dinner cruise on the Willamette River? Bottles of Willamette Valley's finest Pinot Noirs or a Microbrew Bonanza?

Join us at our Green Heron Gala and see what enticing decisions you'll get to make!

Tickets available at [www.tualatinriverkeepers.org](http://www.tualatinriverkeepers.org).

## Tualatin Riverkeepers' Membership Benefits

### \$35 Crawdad

- One FREE boat rental at Cook Park Boat Rentals
- \$10 off additional boat rentals at Cook Park Boat Rentals

### \$50 Painted Turtle

- Crawdad benefits plus
- FREE guided paddle trip (\$50 max value)

### \$100 Steelhead

- Crawdad benefits plus
- Two FREE guided paddle trips (\$100 max value)

### \$250 River Otter

- Crawdad benefits plus
- Unlimited guided paddle trips (\$100 max value per trip)
- *Exploring the Tualatin River Basin*

### \$500 Green Heron

- River Otter benefits plus
- Two tickets to the Green Heron Gala

### \$1,000 Protector

- River Otter benefits plus
- Four tickets to the Green Heron Gala
- Private guided hiking or paddle trip for 12

# Youth Education

## Nature Day Camp 2014 Sessions

Register at [www.tualatinriverkeepers.org](http://www.tualatinriverkeepers.org).

### **Camp for 4-6 year olds**

9am to noon, Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge, \$140 per camper

### **Refuge Adventure, June 23—27**

Explore the Refuge from a bug's eye view, and gain an appreciation for all living things, big and small. Learn about different bugs, mollusks, insects, and arthropods. On Bee Day dance the bee dance, gather pollen, meet a beekeeper, and taste fresh honey.

### **Camps for 7-10 year olds**

9am to 4pm, Dirksen Nature Park, \$255 per camper

### **Creeks, July 7—11**

Hop into Summer Creek, search for freshwater mussels, grab a crawdad, learn where the water goes after it flows by you, and spend a full day of camp canoeing on the Tualatin River with experienced river guides.

### **Shelters, August 11—15**

Discover the homes of wildlife living at Dirksen Nature Park and learn how they can protect this special urban habitat. Build a natural shelter, explore aquatic homes in Summer Creek, and create your own bird nest. Spend a day canoeing on the Tualatin River with experienced river guides.

### **Camps for 11-13 year olds**

9am to 4pm, Dirksen Nature Park, \$255 per camper

### **Wildlife Trackers, July 28—August 1**

Identify tracks and signs left by wildlife to better understand their world. Set crawdad traps in Summer Creek and spend a day kayaking on the Tualatin River with experienced river guides.

### **Living Water, August 18—22**

Search for what's living just below the surface of the river and creek. Spend a day kayaking on the Tualatin River with experienced river guides. Learn to fish from an expert angler, then put your knowledge to action with a full day of fishing.

## Words From the Woods



Fort building at Dirksen Nature Park

Thanks to the support of eight new Volunteer Naturalists and the continued support of our veteran volunteers, this spring several hundred students will visit Dirksen Nature Park in Tigard, home of TRK's Nature Education Center. Students and campers splash, explore and discover their way to a meaningful outdoor experience while having fun and learning about the many habitats, plants and animals sharing their world.

## Spotted in Dirksen Nature Park:



### **Pileated Woodpecker**

Evidence of these forest engineers is all over Dirksen Nature Park. Large rectangular holes are carved in the wood of damaged trees and snags, as the woodpecker pursues carpenter ants, its favorite meal. The cavities that are left behind become habitat to a variety of tree dwelling animals including bats and other birds. During a tour of the park with staff from the City of Tigard, Metro, and TRK, we spotted a pileated woodpecker on a cedar tree near the west entrance of the park.

### **Indian Plum/Oso Berry Flowers**

The small white hanging clustered flowers of the Indian Plum are the first solid evidence that spring is just around the corner. Usually emerging in mid-February these early blooms are an important nectar and pollen source for a variety of native pollinators including moths, hummingbirds, butterflies, and bees. As its name suggests, after being pollinated the plant produces small, yet edible, plum-like purple fruits.





## Trips & Tours

### 2014 Guided Paddle Trips

TRK guided paddle trips are open to all members and the general public. Space is limited – reserve your canoe or kayak today! Reservations can be made at [tualatinriverkeepers.org](http://tualatinriverkeepers.org).

#### Bird Fest Paddle

Saturday, May 17  
9am – 12pm  
99W Bridge Boat Launch,  
Tualatin

#### 25th Annual Discovery Day!

Saturday, June 28  
9am – 3pm  
Tualatin Community Park to  
Wanker's Corner

#### Midsummer Night Paddle

Saturday, July 19  
5pm & 6pm  
Tualatin Community Park

#### Family Day Paddle

Saturday, August 9  
9am – 11am & 12pm – 2pm  
Cook Park, Tigard

#### Family-Friendly Paddle

Sunday, August 24  
1pm – 4pm  
99W Bridge Boat Launch,  
Tualatin

#### River Clean-up

Saturday, Sept 20  
9am – 12pm  
99W Bridge Boat Launch &  
Tualatin Community Park

#### Fall Colors Paddle

Saturday, October 4  
10am – 1pm  
Browns Ferry Park, Tualatin



### *Celebrating a Quarter-Century of Discovery Days!*

Through partnerships, shared values and inclusion, TRK has succeeded in becoming a community connected and committed to a healthy Tualatin River, its creeks and its land. We are achieving what we aspired to do 25 years ago by preserving lands, educating kids, and expanding access, while changing perceptions and engaging the community as volunteers and advocates.

A summer weekend now brings boaters, hikers, wildlife watchers and fisherpersons back to the Tualatin, thriving like it was in the 1940s and 1950s. Our Discovery Day event helps introduce new families to all the Tualatin River has to offer.

Celebrate the renewed river with us at our **25th Annual Tualatin River Discovery Day** on **Saturday, June 28**. Explore the wonders and tranquility of the river as you paddle a gorgeous three mile stretch starting from Tualatin Community Park. We'll provide a shuttle back to the launch site, making this a near hassle-free excursion. Reserve your launch time at [www.tualatinriverkeepers.org](http://www.tualatinriverkeepers.org)!

**Want to Help?** There's a role for everyone! Registration volunteers, shuttle vans and drivers, traffic control teams, safety boats, dock builders, and watermelon servers are all needed to make the 25th Discovery Day one to remember. For more information, contact Margot at 503-218-2580 or [margot@tualatinriverkeepers.org](mailto:margot@tualatinriverkeepers.org).



### Cook Park Boat Rentals open July 4th!

Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays through September  
9am to 7pm

Canoes, single kayaks, and double kayaks are \$30 per boat for up to 4 hours and \$10 per additional hour.

TRK members receive one free rental and \$10 off each additional rental.

# Watershed Watch

Continued from page 1.



Just across Scholls Ferry Road into Tigard is the River Terrace planning area on the western slopes of Bull Mountain. While trees were falling on Cooper Mountain, the City of Tigard has avoided unnecessary swift clear-cutting by identifying significant tree groves. Then, they reached out to property owners with significant groves and offered incentives including relaxation of some planning requirements. Here are the key points of Tigard's effort:

1. Property owners are not "punished" for having trees on their property. All residential property new development is required to be designed to achieve 40% tree canopy coverage no matter what is growing on the property now.
2. Incentives are provided for protecting existing trees over cutting and planting new trees. When adding up the tree canopy on a site design, preservation of existing trees is given "double credit." A property owner with existing forests on a parcel could achieve the 40% canopy requirement by preserving tree canopy covering 20% of the land.
3. Flexibility in site design is allowed when tree groves are preserved. Housing density requirements are relaxed if a tree grove is protected to achieve canopy goals. In River Terrace, home developers feel they can be more profitable by building upscale homes on larger lots, and tree grove protection facilitates this. Similarly, height restrictions for commercial developments are relaxed if tree groves are protected on the site.

The City of Tigard has received significant recognition for their innovative urban forestry plan, including a National Planning Excellence Award from the American Planning Association. Their success in preventing clear cutting in River Terrace should gain the attention of other cities dealing with unintended consequences of tree protection regulation. ■

## Volunteers... Making It Happen

**T**RK volunteers help us achieve our mission every day—we simply could not do it without them. If you'd like to share your passion, expertise or time volunteering, please contact Mike Skuja at 503-218-2580 or [mike@tualatinriverkeepers.org](mailto:mike@tualatinriverkeepers.org).

### Administration

Assist with administrative duties on a one-time, weekly or monthly basis

### Advocacy

Stay on top of the issues and give testimony at local government meetings

### Outreach

Volunteer at our 25th Annual Discovery Day paddle trip (page 5)

### Restoration

Be a land steward at local restoration and clean-up events

### Youth Education

Help students explore our natural areas during school field trips and summer camps

## 2014 Legislative Wrap-up — Washington County Land Use Center Stage

**W**ashington County was at the center of land use bargaining in the final days of the 2014 legislative session. In an unprecedented move, the state legislature stepped in with HB 4078 to settle disputed urban and rural reserves designations and the expanded urban growth boundary (UGB) for Washington County, bringing in an additional 3,600 acres for urbanization.

Counter-balancing the sweeping UGB decision, the legislature reclassified thousands of acres of prime agricultural land as rural reserves, assuring greater long term protection that will stand for the next 50 to 60 years.  
(Link to a map of decision: <https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2014R1/Downloads/CommitteeMeetingDocument/36475> )

Throughout the long process to identify urban and rural reserves, TRK has been a consistent advocate for protection of wetlands, floodplains, headwaters and stream corridors. Many of the areas designated for urbanization have significant water resources and the current level of regulatory protection is failing to adequately protect water quality.

The challenge in the next two years of planning these new urban areas will be to put in place a regulatory framework to reduce the impacts of development. On the short list of needed improvements are storm water management, low impact development and regulating development on steep slopes.

Other highlights from the session include: SB 1516 - Directs Oregon's Parks and Forestry Departments to develop a plan for the proposed Salmonberry Trial which will run from Banks to Tillamook along a railroad line. A broad coalition of recreation interests are advocating for what could be an international recreation destination.

HB 4139 - Initiates greater efforts to protect pollinators through development of educational materials for pesticide applicators. This bill was in response to several dramatic incidents of mass bee kills. While it fell short of the intended ban on neonicotinoids, passage of the bill elevates the need to protect pollinators.

# Acknowledgements

We would like to thank the following Riverkeepers who generously donated between December 16, 2013 and March 15, 2014.

(\* Indicates Monthly RiverBank donor.)

## **PROTECTOR (\$1,000+)**

Nancy & Larry Church  
Cathy Filgas & Shoaib Tareen  
Stephen Larson

## **GREEN HERON (\$500+)**

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## Join the RiverBank Program

Is it time to renew your membership?  
Would you like to become an official Riverkeeper?  
Consider renewing or joining through our RiverBank program!

TRK's RiverBank program is an easy and convenient monthly donation program that will provide a predictable and stable source of funding all year long, ensuring an independent voice for the Tualatin River. Donations can be drawn from bank or credit card accounts.

Mail in the membership form on the back page or visit [www.tualatinriverkeepers.org](http://www.tualatinriverkeepers.org) and click on the Donate Now button to set up your monthly donations through Network for Good.

Contact Margot at [margot@tualatinriverkeepers.org](mailto:margot@tualatinriverkeepers.org) or 503-218-2580 for more information.





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  \$50 Painted Turtle     
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 \$500 Green Heron     
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 Please charge my CREDIT CARD. Contact Margot at 503-218-2580 or join online.

Join online at [www.tualatinriverkeepers.org](http://www.tualatinriverkeepers.org)