



The Green Heron Herald

The Quarterly Newsletter of the TUALATIN RIVERKEEPERS®

Volume 19, Issue 4, Summer 2013

Spend the Summer Outside with Tualatin Riverkeepers

Do you hear the call of the water as the gentle whoosh of a canoe paddle? Do your “deer ears” perk up at the call of a red-tailed hawk? Are you looking for a way to get your tween outside before another summer passes us by? TRK is offering a variety of outdoor activities to answer the call!

PADDLE!

Joining us for a guided paddle or being your own guide on a rented boat from our Cook Park Boat Rentals is a calm and relaxing way to experience the outdoors. Paddling provides a unique intimate connection with nature.

On those hot summer days when it seems like there is no relief from the scorching rays of the sun, take a paddle. There are few things more refreshing in the summer months than feeling the cool waters of the Tualatin while paddling in a canoe or kayak. See page 5 for trip schedule.

HIKE!

Whatever your age or ability, the Tualatin watershed offers the perfect trail for everyone. Many hikes highlighted in TRK’s *Exploring the Tualatin River Basin* are paved and ADA accessible. Read about our Hiking Challenge and schedule on page 5.



What will you see on *your* Tualatin River adventure? © Susan Dupere

CAMP!

Constructing their own forts, catching crawdads in the creek, tracking wildlife, or paddling on the Tualatin —our Nature Day Camps will give the child in your life an experience they’ll remember for a lifetime. See page 5 for camp schedule.

Whether you want to explore the river or trails on your own, or feel more comfortable paddling or hiking with our trained guides, let Tualatin Riverkeepers take you on a nature experience you won’t soon forget.



Removing trees for development on hills exacerbates stormwater runoff.

Urbanization Threatens Cooper Mountain Creeks

Urbanization is coming to Cooper Mountain and it could threaten streams, forests and other natural resources. Polluted and erosive urban stormwater runoff is a huge problem for urban creeks and the Tualatin River. While a Douglas fir forest does a great job of capturing rain and eliminating virtually all runoff, urban areas typically convert 30-50% of rainfall into erosive, polluted runoff.

Tualatin Riverkeepers is concerned about additional runoff coming from new development on Cooper Mountain. Soils on Cooper Mountain are shallow and slow draining. Deforestation and increased rooftops and pavement will come with development.

Cooper Mountain continued on page 6.

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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.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Lynn Carver, *President*
- Stephanie Puhl, *Vice President*
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- Ed Casuga
- Jeff Douglas
- John Driscoll
- Cathy Filgas
- Carl Hostica
- Rich Lorimor
- Sue Manning

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- Monica Smiley, *Executive Director*
- Brian Wegener, *Riverkeeper*
- Isabel LaCourse, *Environmental Education Coordinator*
- Margot Fervia-Neamtzu, *Membership and Outreach Coordinator*

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.

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From the Director



Dear Riverkeepers,

In the 1940's private "picnic parks" like Roamer's Rest were regional destinations where swimming, boating and dance halls were swinging. Booming development in the valley brought pollution to unsafe levels which ended these uses, until now. Land use regulations, improvements to waste water treatment, and clean water advocates improved water quality dramatically.

When Tualatin Riverkeepers began leading guided paddle trips over twenty years ago, ours were the only boats you would see on the river. A summer weekend now brings boaters, hikers, wildlife watchers and fisherpersons back to the Tualatin.

Through partnerships, shared values and inclusion, we're becoming a community connected and committed to a healthy Tualatin River, its creeks and its land. Please join us to continue this vision.

Please join us as member, consider increasing your annual donation or become a RiverBanker. RiverBankers give membership donations on a monthly basis. Your \$5, \$10 or \$25 donations make a real difference and help create a stable source of support for Tualatin Riverkeepers. We want to be here to take every call to the pollution response HOTLINE or help a new paddler plan their river outing. Make your pledge today online or by mail. There is a membership form on the backside of this publication or you can easily donate through our website.

We have put together a fun selection of summer activities to help you get outside including paddling, hiking, kids camps and more. We hope you'll join us in exploring nature close to home.

Sincerely,

Monica Smiley, Executive Director

Seeing Double: Employers are matching your donation through EarthShare

Wouldn't you love it if you made a \$100 donation to Tualatin Riverkeepers and it suddenly became \$150 or \$200? That is what happens when employees of a slew of local companies donate through EarthShare Oregon giving campaigns.

Some local companies that match employee charitable gifts to EarthShare:

Allstate, Ankrom Moisan Associated Architects, Anthro Inc., Costco, Hewlett Packard, JPMorgan Chase, Kaiser Permanente, Nike, Norm Thompson Outfitters, NW Natural, ODS Health Plans, Portland General Electric, Toyota, United Health Group

If you work at one of these companies and donate to Tualatin Riverkeepers through EarthShare – your donation will be increased up to 100% without any extra effort from you. By giving through payroll contribution, you can give a larger gift by spreading the payment out over a year's time. No personal checks to write or credit card numbers to give out...the money is automatically donated from your regular paycheck.

You can still designate your dollars to come to us – and, when they reach us, there will be many MORE dollars supporting the programs you love! To learn more about EarthShare Oregon and its workplace giving campaigns, visit earthshare-oregon.org.

TRK Welcomes New Board Members



Rich Lorimor

Rich Lorimor knows that serving on TRK's board will likely enhanced both his life and the lives of others. He expects volunteering with TRK to expand his own environmental education and in-turn help impact people in his community that don't realize just exactly what they have right outside their back door. "I want to be someone who has played a part in my children inheriting a better world, and I want to be able to say that I am doing something about it."

Rich is passionate about clean water. He enjoys spending time outdoors near or in water – swimming, kayaking, hiking on the beach, and exploring and camping near clear mountain rivers.

After graduating at the top of his class with a BFA in Advertising and Design from Iowa State University, Rich joined Norm Thompson Outfitters as an Art Director and is currently their Sr. Creative Director.

Rich adopted his two children, Tassew and Yetnayet, from Ethiopia 5 years ago. He wants them to "inherit a much more sustainable world than I currently live in." An avid recycler, he is not only passionate towards clean water, but sustainability as a whole. Sharing these passions with his children, Rich gains a deep satisfaction from walking the banks and shores of waterways, teaching them where that water comes from and watching them try to take it all in.



Carl Hosticka

Carl Hosticka recently served as a Metro Councilor for 12 years where he worked to protect the quality of life and natural heritage that defines Oregon. While at Metro, Carl helped to create habitat protection and restoration programs. His efforts led to the opening of Tualatin River public access points and the creation of the Nature in Neighborhoods Program.

As a state representative from 1983 to 1994, Carl Hosticka was associated with passing groundbreaking legislation including school funding, transportation, natural resources and government efficiency. He chaired the House Committee on Water Policy, and wrote legislation to protect river recreation and anadromous fish from small scale hydro development.

Carl earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Brown University and a Ph.D. from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. After graduating, he spent five years in as a Peace Corps volunteer in Nepal and a Peace Corps staff member in India. A retired professor at the University of Oregon, Carl continues to teach courses on planning and public policy.

When Carl is not volunteering for TRK, you'll find him racing his sailboat. An avid boater, he possesses a Coast Guard license to operate vessels up to 100 tons on inland and near coastal waters.

Welcome, Rich and Carl, and thank you for adding your Voices for Clean Water to our Board!

TRK Volunteer Classifieds

There's a role for everyone!

Contact Monica Smiley to volunteer at 503-218-2580 or monica@tualatinriverkeepers.org.

Event Assistants:

Strong volunteers are needed to move boats, put up tents and other physical duties.

Office Volunteers:

Volunteers are needed for data entry and office mailings – weekly, monthly or on-call.

Advocates:

Grassroot activists are needed to submit testimony, give presentations, and contact their local and state representative about watershed issues.

Naturalists:

Naturalists are needed to assist with environmental education camps and field trips. Training provided.

THANK YOU FUNDERS

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Dicks Sporting Goods \$2,000
Anthro Corporation \$1,000
Backyard Bird Shop \$1,000

OUTREACH

Tektronics \$250

WATERSHED WATCH

Bullitt Foundation \$25,000

YOUTH EDUCATION

City of Tigard \$15,000
Gray Family Foundation \$12,500

Youth Education

**TRK welcomes
our new
Environmental
Education
Coordinator,
Isabel
LaCourse**



Helping students connect with the world around them and reap the benefits of environmental education has been Isabel's passion and work for 13 years. She began her career as a volunteer with Title VII Indian Education, where she helped kindergarten through fifth graders connect with native culture through land and plant based learning. Since then, she has been working with students of all ages and abilities, to discover the value of nature through hands on experiences.

Isabel's passion for the natural environment extends beyond education. She has been an active member of, and leader within, Multnomah County Search and Rescue for 10 years. "The skills I've gained as an emergency responder influence the way I structure my programs," says Isabel. "Parents, guardians, and teachers can rest assured that all TRK programs will not only be fun, but safe as well."

We asked Isabel to reflect on the connections between our communities and our natural environment. "I believe that awareness of space, place, and the intrinsic value of land and water is essential to our collective survival. Working with young people and providing environmental education is my preferred way of sharing this ethic and building connections between people and place. In addition to providing high quality environmental education to our young people, I look forward to getting to know this community better as we work together to further the mission of Tualatin Riverkeepers."

"Nothing makes me happier than being outside learning about the world around me, and when I get to share that experience with kids...you've created my perfect day."

Welcome, Isabel!



Words From the Woods

I'm excited to be part of this amazing TRK team. The past three months has been a whirlwind, but the Volunteer Education Team and I have hit the ground running. My first day was in February and since then I've had the opportunity to work with 340 students! The summer day camp season is upon us. (See camp schedule on page 5.) I'm excited to continue exploring, learning, and having fun with students, staff, and volunteers. Thank you to all of you who have welcomed me with open arms and hearts.

Spotted in Dirksen Nature Park:



Great Horned Owl

First Spotted by: Bonny Chown, Volunteer Naturalist
Two owls were spotted in April in the cedar grove; one hung out with us for about 15 minutes before taking off. Since then we've discovered plenty of evidence that they are spending quite a bit of time in the area, including several dropped feathers and tons of owl pellets.



Sessile Trillium

First Spotted by: Scott Bowler, Volunteer Naturalist
This wetland loving variety of trillium is identified by its small non-stalked flower that comes out right above its mottled leaves. Like other trilliums, it predominantly reproduces through rhizomes, and the slow-to-grow seeds are dispersed by ants.

—Isabel LaCourse,

Environmental Education Coordinator

Great Horned Owl © Don Baccus
Sessile Trillium © Scott Bowler

Trips & Tours

Nature Day Camp 2013 Sessions

Register at www.tualatinriverkeepers.org.

River Adventures

Dirksen Nature Park, Tigard

9am – 4pm (before-care and after-care available)
\$220 Member / \$250 Non-member

River Adventure 1: July 8 – 12 Ages 7 - 10
Shelter! Discover wildlife and their homes. Build your own fort. Includes one full day of canoeing on the Tualatin River, leaving from Cook Park in Tualatin.

River Adventure 2: July 29 – August 2 Ages 11 - 13
Maps! Identify characteristics of northwest habitats. Use your landscape maps to play capture the flag. Includes one full day of kayaking on the Tualatin River, leaving from Cook Park in Tigard.

River Adventure 3: August 12 – 16 Ages 7 - 10
Creeks! Explore Summer Creek. Dip nets to capture aquatic insects. Catch a crawdad. Includes one full day of canoeing on the Tualatin River, leaving from Cook Park in Tigard.

River Adventure 4: August 19 – 24 Ages 11 - 13
Wildlife Trackers! Discover tracks and signs left by wildlife. Set crawdad traps and fish for bass in the Tualatin. Includes one full day of a kayaking, leaving from Cook Park in Tigard.

Hiking Challenge!

You still have time to explore five trails from our *Exploring the Tualatin River Basin* guidebook and post your “proof” via email or Facebook with a journal entry or photograph. Complete the challenge and receive a copy of our nature guidebook for free!

July: Willow Creek Greenway, Beaverton
Self-guided

August: Tualatin Hills Nature Park, Beaverton
Self-guided

September: Stella Olsen Memorial Park, Sherwood
Guided by Chris Neamztu who will share updates on the future Tonquin Trail that will connect the Willamette River to the Tualatin.
Saturday, September 21 at 10am, Meet at the picnic shelter

October: Bryant Woods Nature Park, Lake Oswego
Self-guided

November: Fern Hill Wetlands, Forest Grove
Guided by Doug Robberson, local bird guide. Waterfowl populations are in the thousands during this time of year at this 243-acre site.
Saturday, November 2 at 10am, Meet in the parking lot

December: Fanno Creek Park, Beaverton
Self-guided

2013 Paddle Trip Schedule

TRK trips are open to all members and the general public. Canoes and double kayaks are available for use on our trips for \$50 and single kayaks are \$40. *Members receive a free boat rental!* Space is limited and reservations are required online at tualatinriverkeepers.org.

24th Annual Discovery Day, Tualatin
Saturday, June 29 9am - 3pm

Mid-Summer Night's Paddle, Tualatin
Saturday, July 20 5pm & 6pm

Family Day Paddle, Tigard
Saturday, August 10 9am - 11am & 12pm - 2pm

Westside Family-Friendly Paddle, Hillsboro
Sunday, August 25 1pm - 4pm

Tualatin River Clean-up
Saturday, September 21 9am - 12pm

Fall Colors Paddle, Tualatin
Saturday, October 5 10am - 1pm



Cook Park Summer Boat Rentals open July 4th!
Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays through September
10am - 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/Citizen Action

Cooper Mountain continued from page 1.

As the south side of Bull Mountain developed in the 1980s, residents that were downslope from the development experienced increased runoff, flooding and erosion. The photo below shows just one example of the damage caused by rapid runoff. We don't want to see this kind of problem repeated with the development of Cooper Mountain.

In order to prevent increased runoff in new development, Clean Water Services has developed the Low Impact Development Handbook for the Tualatin Basin. Low Impact Development Approaches (LIDA) captures rain where it falls and prevents it from becoming runoff by infiltration into the ground, evaporation into the air, or collecting and storing the water for later use. The challenges at Cooper Mountain are shallow slow draining soils on slopes. The Natural Resources Conservation Service soil surveys for this area say that only 13% of the land is suitable for infiltration, which many LIDA techniques rely on.

Some Low Impact Approaches are suitable for these difficult conditions such as green roofs to slow down the flow of stormwater; storing water for later use in cisterns; and site designs that preserve trees, absorbent soils and native vegetation while reducing the footprint of buildings and pavement. The South Cooper Mountain Prospectus, published by the City of Beaverton, states that "LIDA's will be sized and designed per CWS Design and Construction Standards and create, in essence, a zero effective impervious area at discharge."



Rapid runoff from Bull Mountain development has caused severe erosion and local flooding.

Urban forestry should play a significant role in protecting Cooper Mountain creeks. Trees intercept rain. Retaining and restoring tree canopy to cover at least 60% of the land is feasible and needed. One residential community along the Tualatin River, the City of Durham, has already achieved 54% tree canopy cover.



Cooper Mountain today.

Protecting large areas of natural habitat can also protect streams from erosive runoff. Cooper Mountain Nature Park is a beautiful resource, but some of the best habitat areas lie just outside of the parks boundaries. You can urge Metro to expand the boundaries of the park as land becomes available.

Buffers with dense native vegetation protect streams from erosion and overheating. Clean Water Services has good vegetated corridor standards that protect streams, but there benefits are limited if excessive runoff from large developed areas are dumped into the creeks through storm drains. The goal for all of these approaches is to prevent runoff so stream flows operate as if there was no development. Here are specific recommendations that Tualatin Riverkeepers is making:

- Maintain and restore tree canopy to cover 60%-70% of the land.
- Hold new development to the "zero effective impervious" standard.
- Prohibit storm drains that dump directly into streams.
- Expand parks and natural areas to protect the best habitat.
- Design green streets that retain runoff.
- Use Low Impact Development Approaches like cisterns and green roof that don't depend on infiltration.

There will be additional opportunities for involvement, where you can urge the city to follow the above recommendations to protect Cooper Mountain streams. To learn more visit the Cooper Mountain Plan website at www.beavertonoregon.gov/index.aspx?nid=1210.

Please attend the Cooper Mountain Visioning Workshop
Saturday, July 13, 2013 9:00 am – Noon
Scholls Heights Elementary School Cafeteria
16400 SW Loon Drive, Beaverton
Sign up for Tualatin Riverkeepers Action Alerts at
www.tualatinriverkeepers.org/advocacy



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Your membership will help protect and restore the Tualatin River

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- \$35 Crawdad
- \$50 Painted Turtle
- \$100 Steelhead
- \$250 River Otter
- \$500 Green Heron
- \$1,000 Protector
- \$ _____ Other

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- I will donate on a monthly basis with the **RiverBank Program**. Monthly amount \$ _____.
- 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