



The Green Heron Herald

The Quarterly Newsletter of the TUALATIN RIVERKEEPERS®

Volume 16, Issue 1, Winter 2009

Annual Members Meeting is January 25th

Oregon State University plant pathologist **Allen Milligan** will be the keynote speaker at Tualatin Riverkeepers Annual Meeting on **Sunday, January 25, 2009, at the Tigard Public Library**, 13500 SW Hall Blvd. Dr. Milligan will be talking about the impact of microcystin, a toxin produced by blue-green algae, on crops and human health. He will also reveal results of crop and soil tests from fields irrigated with contaminated water from Wapato Improvement District. See article on page 4.

The meeting will also feature the winners of our **Street-to-Stream Student Video Contest**. The high school students produced short public service announcements that raise awareness about urban stormwater runoff and the impact it has on our neighborhood streams.

There will be plenty of time to socialize with your fellow Riverkeepers. Get the low-down on our 2009 paddle trips, summer camp and restoration efforts. Pick up a copy of the **Connect the Drops** tour map and hear about all that we have planned for the next year.

Parking for the event is available at Tigard City Hall, one block north of the Library. Refreshments provided.

Green Heron Gala

Saturday, April 25, 2009
Walter's Cultural Art Center
in Hillsboro
(New Location)

Save the Date!

Board Elections

The following Board of Directors candidates are slated for approval at the Annual Members Meeting.



Tarri Christopher

In 2008, Tarri served an 11-month term of service with Tualatin Riverkeepers as the Education Coordinator through the AmeriCorps National

Service program. She is a graduate of Oregon State University with a major in Natural Resources and a minor in Fish and Wildlife Conservation. Tarri is employed with Tualatin Hills Parks and Recreation District as a Natural Resource technician and is a member of the Tualatin River Watershed Council. She is a long-time resident of Hillsboro and an explorer of natural areas.



Nickie Harber

Nickie has helped Tualatin Riverkeepers coordinate media efforts for both the Discovery Day and the Fall Fest events. Nickie

is a freelance marketing professional with special skills in strategic communications for non-profit organizations. Nickie, originally from Ohio, is a graduate of the Ohio State University in Columbus. She holds degrees in both English and Psychology. An avid college football fan, Nickie can be found cheering on her Buckeyes most Saturdays.



Stephanie Puhl

In 2004, Stephanie coordinated TRK's first *Rumba al Rio* event as an intern. Each year nearly 100 Latinas and their children get in

a canoe for the first time and paddle the Tualatin. Stephanie grew up in Tualatin and her love of rivers brings her to serve on the board. She graduated from Pacific Lutheran University with degrees in Environmental Studies and Spanish Literature. She recently returned from working in Nicaragua for the Foundation for Sustainable Development and is currently employed as a medical interpreter.

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Save Trees & \$\$ for TRK

Memberships are now available at www.tualatinriverkeepers.org. You will be able to set up a one-time membership donation, annual recurring renewal, give a gift or dedication or join the River Bank program. River Bankers make quarterly or monthly contributions to TRK in any amount. Auto renewal is the most efficient way for TRK to process your contribution, so your dollars go directly to important programs that protect the watershed.

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

- Jean Sandwick, *President*
- Bob Fuquay, *Vice President*
- Bruce DeBolt, *Treasurer*
- John Driscoll, *Secretary*
- Ron Garst
- Sue Manning
- Dave Summers
- Ramsay Weit

STAFF

- Monica Smiley, *Executive Director*
- Vicki Julis, *Program Manager*
- Brian Wegener, *Riverkeeper*
- Lori Kruse, *Environmental Education Coordinator/AmeriCorps Member*

The Green Heron Herald is a quarterly publication of the Tualatin Riverkeepers.

We welcome your comments and suggestions. Please let us know if we have misspelled your name or if we mis-addressed the newsletter or sent you a duplicate copy.

Design: BeBop Graphics



Tualatin Riverkeepers is proud to be a Waterkeeper Alliance Member.

Recycled paper.

From the Director



Dear Riverkeepers,

As we come together at the Annual Meeting on January 25th and begin a new year of Riverkeeping, let's celebrate our tremendous successes and renew our commitment to a clean and healthy Tualatin River watershed.

In 2008, we completed the Gotter Prairie restoration project that began in 2002. The 120-acre wet prairie hosts threatened species like the red legged frog, whose return to the site has been prolific. Next year, TRK will complete the 77-acre restoration project at Metro's property in Scholls. To date, TRK has leveraged nearly \$1 million in restoration funding for public property in the Tualatin watershed.

TRK Volunteer Naturalists served 1,000 children on Nature Awareness field trips in 2008. By adding NEW summer Day Camps planned for 2009, even more children in our community will have the opportunity to learn from nature.

Important issues were brought to our attention in a dramatic way with the bloom of the blue green algae last summer. I was impressed by the competence of TRK staff to respond to this important health emergency. TRK continues to lead the way by ensuring resolution to these health and regulatory issues.

Together, we are the leading voice for clean water in the Tualatin River watershed. Thank you for your critical involvement through membership and volunteerism. Happy New Year!

Sincerely, *Monica Smiley*



Are you taking advantage of your workplace giving program?

a member of Earth Share OF OREGON

You may have a chance to give to Tualatin Riverkeepers easily and conveniently but don't even know it. Workplaces all over Oregon operate giving programs for employees, and 100 of them directly include Earth Share of Oregon, of which Tualatin Riverkeepers is a proud member.

What does this mean to you? You can choose to have a regular contribution sent automatically to your favorite Oregon conservation groups, including Tualatin Riverkeepers. Since your donation is spread out over the course of a year, the amount deducted from each paycheck is minimal, and all gifts are tax-deductible. Many companies even match their employees' donations!

If your workplace is not currently involved in an ESOR giving campaign, establishing one is easy. ESOR 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 ESOR, you can share in the responsibility for protecting these gifts. For more information, please contact Monica Smiley at monica@tualatinriverkeepers.org or 503-620-7507 or visit www.earthshare-oregon.org. Companies that already have Earth Share Campaigns:

- | | | |
|--|----------------------------------|--|
| Allstate Insurance | Bullivant Houser Bailey PC | Hewlett Packard - Vancouver |
| American Airlines | Clean Water Services | High Desert Museum |
| American Express | Combined Federal Campaign | Home Depot |
| Ankrom Moisan Architects | Corvallis, City of | Housing Authority of Portland |
| Anthro Corporation | Datalogic | Iberdrola Renewables (formerly PPM Energy) |
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| Axiom | Emerald Peoples Utility District | Kaiser Permanente - Washington |
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| Beaverton, City of | Entercom | Lane Council of Governments |
| Bend Metro Parks & Recreation District | Eugene Water & Electric Board | Lane County Legal Aid and Advocacy Center |
| Bend, City of | Eugene, City of | Leupold & Stevens |
| Bend-La Pine Public Schools | First Alternative Co-op | Lewis & Clark College |
| Benton County | Gales Creek Insurance Services | MIG Consulting |
| Best Care Treatment Services | Green Mountain Energy | McKenzie River Broadcasting |
| Brooks Resources Corporation | Hanna Andersson | |
| | Hewlett Packard - Corvallis | |

Continued on page 7.

Volunteering

TRK Volunteer Classifieds Everyone Can Help!

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

Gala Committee Members:

2009 Gala is April 25th at the Walter's Cultural Art Center in Hillsboro. Media, Logistics and Donations Coordinators needed to help make the event a success. Your organizational skills are needed. Evening meetings January – April.

Discovery Day Event Coordinators:

How do people first learn about the Tualatin River and its Keepers? At Discovery Day! Help plan our signature event: FREE community paddle trip for 250 participants. Evening meetings April–June.

Nature Day Camp Assistant:

Enrich the lives of youth in grades 4-6 by sharing your excitement and knowledge of the natural world at summer Day Camps at Rood Bridge Park, Hillsboro, Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve, and Cook Park, Tigard, June-August.

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 the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30pm at Max's Fanno Creek Brew Pub on Main Street in Tigard.

Native Plant Gardener:

Help maintain the small native plant garden at TRK's office in Tigard. 1-2 visits per month will keep our garden looking its best.

Membership Committee Members:

Share your passion for Riverkeepers with others by joining the membership committee. Committee meets the second Wednesday of each month at 4pm at TRK office in Tigard to develop member recruitment and retention strategies

Office Volunteers:

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

Volunteer Spotlight – Sue Marshall



“For someone who still wants to change the world, TRK provides a great outlet. It is a wonderful community asset to have an organization that empowers folks to take action on issues and projects that are important to them,” says Sue Marshall.

Sue Marshall has been the President of the Board of Directors and Executive Director for Tualatin Riverkeepers. Today she leads our effort to expand access on the river by chairing the Tualatin River Canoe Trail committee.

“Increasing access to the river, I think, is one of the Riverkeepers important accomplishments and why I want to see the Tualatin River Water Trail become a reality.”

Sue is an extraordinary leader to whom Tualatin Riverkeepers owes many successes. Her commitment to TRK through volunteerism is a wonderful example of how each of us can, in the words of Ghandi, “be the change we wish to see in the world.”

Learn to Lead TRK Canoe & Kayak Trips

March 14, 2009
11:00 am - 6:00 pm
Tigard, OR

Trip Leaders will learn
water safety and rescue techniques.

Looking for experienced paddlers
who:

- own their own boat
- are responsible
- enjoy working with the public

(Ability to haul canoe trailer)
desirable but not required.

Contact

Vicki Julis at 503.620.7507 or
vicki@tualatinriverkeepers.org



Watershed Watch / Citizen Action

Wapato Lake Implicated in Crop & Health Risks

Dr. Allen J. Milligan, a plant pathologist from OSU, documented crop damage consistent with damage caused by microcystin on a farm irrigated last summer with water from Wapato Lake.

Microcystin, a toxin produced by cyanobacteria (blue-green algae), lowers crop yields and poses a health risk from exposure via consumption of affected crops. Overhead irrigation of crops with water containing cyanotoxins also poses an inhalation risk to field workers. Exposure symptoms include facial rashes, asthmatic signs and dry sporadic cough with vomiting.

After pressure from TRK and others, Oregon's Departments of Environmental Quality and Human Services are preparing a memorandum of agreement that specifies DEQ's role in testing water, soil and crops for microcystin when blue-green algae outbreaks occur.

Dr. Milligan will speak on the threat of blue-green algae toxins to Oregon's water, public health, and agricultural industry at TRK's Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 25. We hope you can join us for his fascinating presentation.

Sewage Overflows Expected in Fanno Creek

Portland Bureau of Environmental Services (BES) is replacing a line that takes raw sewage from the Fanno Creek pump station over the West Hills to their wastewater treatment plant. I met with Charles Logue of Clean Water Services (CWS) to discuss the implications.

We can expect several overflows of sewage into Fanno Creek each winter over the next 2-3 years. The overflows will come from one point (rather than from randomly popping manholes) and be screened to keep telltale toilet paper out of the blackberry bushes along the creek. CWS has notification procedures in place and all downstream property owners that are likely to be affected were contacted.

The Fanno Creek pressurized sewage line has been controversial since it was built. Over considerable objection, BES chose to pump sewage over the hills to their own facility rather than send the sewage via gravity line to CWS Durham plant because water quality standards on the Tualatin were stricter at the time than on the Willamette. The contractor convinced BES to use a new plastic pipe that cost \$97,000 less than the steel pipes. The pipe couldn't handle the pressure and has been the source of numerous sewage spills over the years. The fix will cost millions.

CWS will handle the sewage from the BES Fanno line at the Durham Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant during construction. Because Portland does not have a separate storm sewer system in the area, there is a huge inflow of runoff to the

system during larger rain storms. CWS has adequate capacity to handle the sewage, but cannot handle the vast amount of runoff during a large storm event. Thus there will be overflows into Fanno Creek.

Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Permits

Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) started outreach for the next round of Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Permit renewals. DEQ's new stormwater coordinator, Benjamin Benninghoff, presented the draft permit template to the Citizen Action Committee in October. The permits are up for renewal next year in Portland, Eugene, Clackamas County, Gresham and Salem. The permit for Clean Water Services (CWS) is integrated in the Tualatin Watershed Permit which will be renewed in 2010.

TRK submitted comments on the draft permit template and signed on to joint comments from Northwest Environmental Defense Center, Willamette Riverkeeper, Columbia Riverkeeper and others. The primary issues of concern are:

1. Enforceable numeric limits on pollutants consistent with TMDLs. Our appeal with the other Riverkeeper groups for limits is pending before the Oregon Court of Appeals and will likely be heard in 2009.
2. Statistically valid sampling and monitoring. CWS's statistical power analysis shows that DEQ's minimum sampling requirements are insufficient to support the annual adaptive management required by the permit. The National Research Council recommends continuous sampling instead of grab sampling.
3. Reduction of flow through Low Impact Development (LID). DEQ and CWS are both favorable to LID and flow management. It is uncertain how substantial permit requirements for LID will be, but the draft permit template called for code review to remove barriers to LID.
4. Inspection and maintenance of parking lots and private stormwater facilities. This problem is largely unaddressed in previous permits. According to CWS Healthy Streams Plan, the urban part of the Tualatin basin has over 5,000 acres of parking lots.

DEQ is currently reviewing the comments on the draft permit template. TRK urges you to get involved in this public process before the permits are issued. For more information on the MS4 permits and to review our comments online, go to www.tualatinriverkeepers.org/advocacy.html.



Special thanks to Pete Evans and Filterra for sponsoring Larry Coffman's visit for our "Connect the Drops" sustainable stormwater summit held on October 30th.

Trips & Tours

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.*

Alcohol is not permitted on trips and personal flotation devices must be worn. Trips may be canceled due to weather conditions. Trip leaders are volunteers, and are not compensated for the time and energy that they put in to making our Trips & Tours program successful. Trips may be canceled if we are unable to recruit sufficient volunteer support to lead a safe and enjoyable trip. For more information, please contact us at 503-620-7507 or info@tualatinriverkeepers.org.

May 16, Saturday Birds of the Tualatin Watershed
Where: 99W Bridge, Tualatin Time: 9 am to noon

June 6, Saturday Paddle & Hike with James Davis
Where: TBA Time: 10 am to 2 pm

FREE June 27, Saturday
20th Annual Tualatin River Discovery Day

July 11, Saturday Moonlight Evening Paddle
Where: Tualatin Community Park Time: 5 pm to 8 pm

July 26, Sunday Paddle & Picnic at the Oregon Grape Nursery
Where: Fields Bridge, West Linn Time: 10 am to 2 pm

August 8, Saturday Mid-Summer's Night Paddle Trip
Where: Cook Park, Tigard Time: 5 pm to 8 pm

August 22, Saturday Family Day Summer Paddle
Where: Tualatin Community Park Time: 10 am to 1 pm

September 6, Sunday River Clean Up
Where: Tualatin Community Park Time: 10 am to 1 pm

September 13, Saturday Members-Only Advanced Paddle
Where: Eagle Landing to Scholls Time: 9 am to 1 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.*



Ki-A-Kuts Falls

This past August and September, I put 100 miles on my old hiking boots, trekking through many different sites in the Pacific Northwest. One hike was to Ki-a-Kuts Falls on the Tualatin River. Located near the headwaters and Barney Reservoir, the falls is a spectacular cascade, pouring into a shaded canyon filled with mist. I hiked into the site with two of my children, Joshua and Kaci Rae, who were home from

college for the summer. Though the hike to the falls was not too long, there were a number of areas on the "trail" that were precarious, especially the last descent and returning ascent from the river. We then spent about an hour enjoying the area taking pictures, identifying plants, eating thimble berries, and sitting on a log over the river having a picnic in the cool shade.

After hiking out of the canyon, we decided to pursue the more elusive headwaters of the Tualatin, hoping to get a look at the magical spot where our river begins. What a challenge! Outside of loggers, this area has only been traveled by a few others, most notably back in 1999 when the 79.3 river mile marker was placed on a nearby tree. The only access road was washed out by a slide and the area is rugged with steep slopes and heavy vegetation. However, we took the plunge and headed toward the sound of running water. After we got down to the river, we followed it up over a steady incline of boulders and waterfalls. Some of the river was inaccessible (a few waterfalls were much too steep to climb!) and we traversed the sides of the canyon walls a number of times. After two hours of intense climbing we reached the 79.3 area but could not locate the original mile marker sign placed by TRK over a decade ago. Just further up, two small streams flowed into the Tualatin and we explored these to eliminate the chance that they may be the true route of the river. We headed up the last leg of the journey, the steepest incline as of yet, and finally reached the top of the river where it gurgled out of the ground as a spring. We bushwhacked our way down and then back up out of the canyon. What an adventure!

Next August, TRK will be offering an opportunity for staff and members to take the Ki-a-Kuts hike as a group. This will be for the waterfall only, not the headwaters. Space will be limited so be sure to watch for more information this spring.

Education Program

TRK is offering Nature Day Camps!

Summer camps will give students entering grades 4-6 an opportunity to have direct experiences in the natural world. Through tracking, ethnobotany, and wildlife exploration students will awaken and nourish their curiosities about nature. Fostering a sense of place and commitment toward the natural world, participants will be part of a restoration project to improve the health of the watershed.

Survivor

June 22-26 Rood Bridge Park, Hillsboro

It's Easy Being Green

July 6-10 Rood Bridge Park, Hillsboro

What's YOUR Niche?

July 13-17 Rood Bridge Park, Hillsboro

Nature Detectives

July 20-24 Jackson Bottom Wetland Preserve

Go With the Flow

Aug. 3-7 Cook Park, Tigard

Walk on the Wild Side

Aug. 10-14 Cook Park, Tigard

Partners: Hillsboro Parks and Recreation, City of Tigard, Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve, REI, Metro, and Volunteer Naturalists.



This fall we reached 348 students from three schools in the Tualatin River watershed: McKay Elementary, Reedville Elementary, and Miller Education Center. Reedville Elementary was the first school that all students (K-6) participated in the Nature Awareness and Service Education program. Students are now more aware than ever of the local natural areas in the Tualatin River watershed. One student from McKay Elementary commented, "I have never been to a place that has no cement before."

Nature Day Camp Leaders Needed

Do you remember playing outside, building forts, catching frogs, and getting dirty all summer long? Relive those childhood memories and become a Nature Day Camp Leader! Great volunteer opportunity for adults and teens.

Contact Lori Kruse to volunteer at lori@tualatinriverkeepers.org or call 503-620-7507.



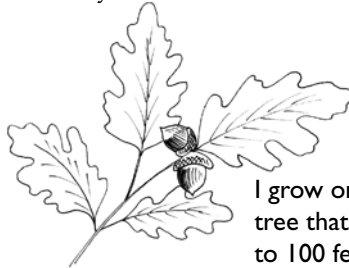
Coyote stalks her prey, the Oregon vole, at Gotter Prairie.

Match the Plant Game

The students at Reedville Elementary were very excited to report that they can now identify plants near their school and home. Below are plants and their characteristics students remembered and now keep an eye out for. See if you can match them!



I grow white berries that have been known to be called "corpse berry" because the Native Americans thought I was highly poisonous.



I grow on a deciduous tree that can reach up to 100 feet tall and have acorns as my fruit.

I am a shrub that is known for my peeling bark, that can be up to nine layers.



Garry Oak

(Quercus garryana)

Ninebark

(Physocarpus opulifolius)

Common Snowberry

(Symphoricarpos albus)

Membership

We thank those members who joined or renewed their membership between August 1 and November 30, 2008.

PROTECTOR (\$1,000+)
Stephen Larson*

GREEN HERON MEMBERS (\$500+)

Joe & LaVonne Blowers*
Karen & Gary DeStefano
Katherine Meads & Bill Iron*

OSPREY MEMBERS (\$250+)

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Ron & Karen Garst*
Marianne Kandel
Ronni LaCroute
William McCormick
Susan Murray & Jeff Tripp*
Ramsay Weit*

KINGFISHER MEMBERS (\$100+)

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Betty Stout
Wendy Sullivan-Weest
John Wadsworth
Judy & Jim Wallin
Dawn & J.L. Westphal
Jane Weissman
Suzanne Whisler

Special thanks to the following who generously contributed above and beyond their regular membership dues to support our Watershed Watch program.

(\$250+)
Rob Baur & Sue Marshall

(\$100+)
Anonymous
Linda McNulty & Matt Simpson
Peter & Emily Toll

(\$50+)
David Demmin
Richard Eyde
Pam & Jack Maher
Kenneth Marlow
Wilma & Joel McNulty
Paul & Jean Rose
Jennifer Yarman

(Other)
Merle & Tom Burgess
Bill & Frances Coffield
Cynthia Golledge
Charles & Darlene Hamar
Henry Hickox
Kurt & Eleanor Krause
Lois Martz
James & Cynthia Mooney
Catherine Myers
Ralph Robbins
Elisabeth Zeller

Continued from page 2.

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| Mercer Human Resource Consulting | Port of Portland |
| Metro | Portland Business Alliance |
| Milwaukie, City of | Portland General Electric |
| Molecular Probes / Invitrogen | Portland Public Schools |
| Morrison Child & Family Centers | Portland, City of REI |
| Multnomah County | Reed College |
| Multnomah Education S Dist. | SERA Architects, Inc. |
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| Pacific Power | University of Oregon |
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| | Zimmer Gunsul Frasca Partnership |

*River Bank Members, a monthly donation program



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Tigard, Oregon 97223

Return Service Requested

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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.

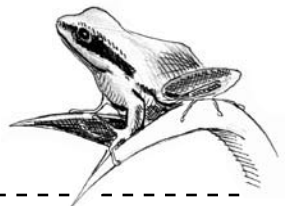
- \$35 Family / Individual \$50 Dragonfly \$100 Kingfisher \$250 Osprey \$_____ Other
- \$500 Green Heron \$1,000 Protector \$2,500 River Benefactor

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

