



The Green Heron Herald

The Quarterly Newsletter of the TUALATIN RIVERKEEPERS®

Volume 18, Issue 1, Winter 2011



Tigard Parks Bond a Boon for Wildlife, Water and Kids!

In November the citizens of Tigard passed a \$17 million bond measure for parks, trails and natural areas. Tualatin Riverkeepers supported the measure because of its potential for protecting the last best natural areas in the city, including large forested groves.

The first acquisition will be Summer Creek Natural Area, 42 acres located at the confluence of Fanno Creek and Summer Creek. The site features towering Willamette Valley pines, forested wetlands and camas meadows.

Metro, The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, Washington County and Clean Water Services all contributed significant funds to the purchase. The Trust for Public Lands served as chief negotiator and champion for site acquisition.

TRK to Open Nature Education Center at Summer Creek

Summer Creek Natural Area will serve as home base for TRK Nature Awareness school field trips and summer nature day camps. "The site has a lot to teach the children," says TRK's Environmental Education Coordinator Lori Kruse, "The diverse habitats will allow us to investigate the lives of many different animals." The City of Tigard will provide TRK with a portable classroom facility where children can start and end their day. TRK anticipates serving 500 children at the new Nature Education Center in the first year.

For more information on Tigard parks, trails and the bond measure, go to www.tigard-or.gov/community/parks.

TRK Annual Members Meeting Saturday, January 22, 1 to 4pm Kinton Grange Hall

19015 SW Scholls Ferry Road, Beaverton

TRK, in partnership with Metro Parks and Greenspaces, has begun planning the first of the new Tualatin River Water Trail access locations. Join us for this special project launch at our Annual Members Meeting. You'll also hear about our new boat rental facility in Tigard and the opening of our nature education center.

Just for fun, TRK will be serving up floats of all sorts including root beer and vanilla cream! Please help us make this a sustainable event by bringing your own mug.

Launching the Tualatin River Water Trail

Since the first Riverkeepers' Discovery Day, time spent on the Tualatin River has transformed many ordinary citizens into advocates and activists for river protection.

Annual Meeting, continued on page 6.



Future Tualatin River Trail access site.

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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.

Phone: 503-620-7507
Fax: 503-620-7645

www.tualatinriverkeepers.org

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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.



Tualatin Riverkeepers is proud to be a Waterkeeper Alliance Member.



From the Director



Dear Riverkeepers,

This is a vibrant time for Tualatin Riverkeepers (TRK). Projects like the Tualatin River Water Trail, the opening of our new boat rental facility at Cook Park in June and the opening of our new nature education center on Fanno Creek are keeping us busy and excited about the work.

In 2011, TRK is entering a dynamic project for organizational equity with the Center for Diversity and the Environment (CDE), an Oregon non-profit whose mission is to diversify the environmental movement in America. Through the equity project, TRK will develop capacity to serve our changing watershed demographics. In 1990, when TRK was getting started, 5% of the population of Washington County was Latino. Today our community has grown to include 82,500 Latinos, that's 15% of the population.

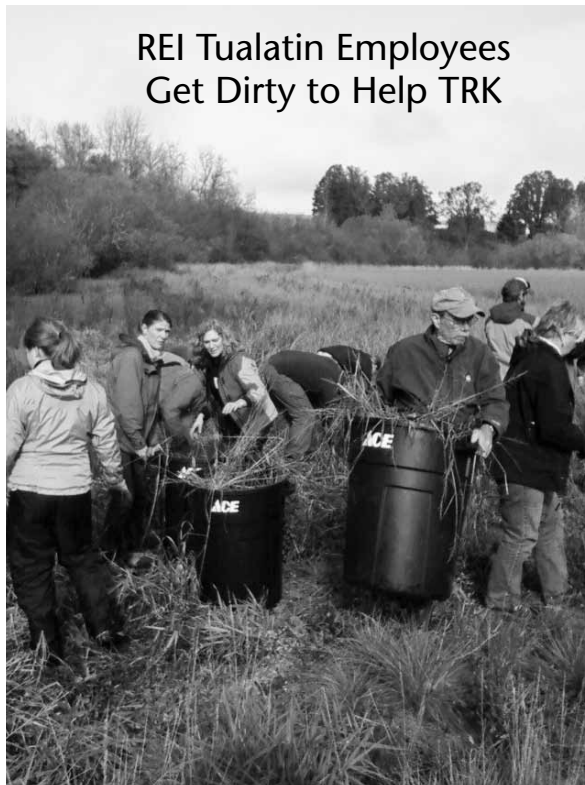
CDE will guide TRK to create programs that make sense to people culturally and that are distributed equitably. We will build and strengthen partnerships with organizations that serve communities of color and individuals to create programs to access nature that serve everyone in our watershed.

It's the right thing to do. It will help build a stronger Tualatin Riverkeepers and a stronger environmental movement. Learn more about the Center for Diversity and the Environment by visiting them online at www.environmentaldiversity.org. I hope you'll join us for our **Annual Members Meeting on January 22, from 1 to 4pm at the Kinton Grange in Scholls** to celebrate and learn more about what's in store for 2011.

Sincerely,

Monica Smiley, Executive Director

REI Tualatin Employees Get Dirty to Help TRK



Recreation Equipment Inc.'s, (REI) new employees helped out TRK at the Munger Farm restoration site this fall by removing reed canary grass. The invasive grass is a persistent weed at the 77-acre prairie on the Tualatin River near Scholls. Hand pulling is an effective technique for removal, but it's hard work. TRK knows who to call for a tough volunteer project—the staff from the REI Tualatin store!

Employees from the REI Tualatin store volunteer at least annually with TRK as a way to introduce new employees to their culture of stewardship of our local environment and to build camaraderie.

REI gives back to the communities where they have retail stores through employee driven granting program. This year REI employees chose TRK to receive a \$5,000 grant to support recreation on the river and habitat restoration. Thank you to the wonderful staff of REI for your ongoing involvement and support. Together, we are making a great difference!

Watershed Watch / Citizen Action

Tualatin Riverkeepers Set Priorities for 2011 Legislative Session



Sue Marshall

We have work to do in Salem and you can help. Lobbyist Sue Marshall will again be representing TRK in Salem this session. Sue will have plenty of opportunities for TRK members to get involved in promoting environmental priorities. To stay informed, sign up for our action alerts and Oregon Conservation Network's Salem Watch newsletter at www.tualatinriverkeepers.org/advocacy.

Bad News Budgets

Tight budgets will be the theme in Salem when the legislative session begins on February 1, 2011. Budget cuts over the past year have hit agencies charged with protecting natural resources very hard and TRK is working with the Oregon Conservation Network (OCN) to restore budgets for these agencies.

Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, the primary agency in charge of protecting Oregon's land, air and water from pollution has already been hit with over \$2 million in budget cuts in the current biennium. TRK will be urging the legislature and Governor Kitzhaber to look for alternative sources of revenue including user fees to balance the budget.

Blue-Green Algae Task Force

For the past two years Tualatin Riverkeepers has been working with DEQ, Department of Human Services, and various community stakeholders on the Harmful Algae Bloom Task Force. The task force was directed by Senator Jackie Dingfelder, Chair of the Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee, in response to TRK's concerns that state agencies response to toxic blue-green algae outbreaks was not protective of human health and natural resources. State agencies have stepped up their testing and notification of outbreaks thanks to a \$150,000/year federal grant, but that grant will run out in 3 years. In addition to finding stable funding for the Harmful Algae Bloom program, more research is needed on ways to prevent outbreaks and protect crops and farm workers.

Only 5% of plastic bags are recycled, the rest end up here.



Ban the Bag

TRK will be working with Senator Mark Hass, OCN, Environment Oregon, and Surfrider Foundation to reduce plastic pollution by lobbying for a ban on single-use plastic

shopping bags at retail outlets. Around 100 billion petroleum-based plastic checkout bags are used each year in the United States, requiring an estimated 12 million barrels of oil each year. Sadly, only 5% of these bags are recycled and recyclers complain that plastic bags get tangled in their machines. Single-use paper bags also have a significant environmental cost, so our bill will have a small charge on paper bags to encourage people to bring their own reusable shopping bags with them and to raise money for environmental protection programs.

You can help us pass the plastic bag ban legislation by signing our online petition at www.thepetitionsite.com/5/ban-the-bag-in-Oregon. We are working to get at least 1000 signatures from Tualatin Riverkeepers members before the start of the legislative session on February 1, 2011.

Copper Run Off

Research at the NOAA Science Center in Seattle has shown that copper in stormwater runoff is toxic to native salmon and interferes with their ability to navigate. A primary source of copper in runoff is dust from automobile brake linings. Our neighboring states, California and Washington, have passed legislation to phase out copper in brake linings. Similar legislation to remove copper from brake linings in Oregon will be a high priority for TRK in 2011.

Get involved. Oregon's citizen legislature is very accessible and your voice is important. For more information, contact Brian at brian@tualatinriverkeepers.org or 503-620-7507.



Watershed Watch / Citizen Action

We Need Your Help to Stop the Biggest Source of Water Pollution in Our River

What is the greatest source of water pollution in the Tualatin basin? Not an easy question, but based upon reports from the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and U.S. Geological Survey we conclude that it's urban stormwater. **In Washington County, stormwater runoff from our roofs, roads and parking lots are directed to the nearest creek via the street drain.**

Generally point sources like factories, wastewater treatment plants, and confined animal feeding operations are better regulated than stormwater runoff. Industrial discharges are strictly regulated by permits issued by DEQ under the federal Clean Water Act. Clean Water Services' wastewater treatment plants are a tremendous success story for removing bacteria and nutrients that historically caused large algae blooms in the river. Agricultural and forestry contribute pollutants, but impervious area in urban areas cause pollutants to move much more efficiently to streams and the river than runoff from land that is not paved.

In 2011, DEQ will renew stormwater permits for Oregon Department of Transportation and Clean Water Services which works with the cities within Washington County to control stormwater runoff. In the past, these permits have not included strict numeric limits on pollutants like the permits for industry and the wastewater treatment plants. Recent guidance from US Environmental Protection Agency urges states to include strict numeric limits that support state water quality standards and beneficial uses of our rivers and streams in the next renewal of the municipal stormwater permits.



We need your help to assure that these new urban stormwater permits are enforceable and truly protective of the Tualatin River and our neighborhood streams, just like the permits for industry and sewage plants. Here is how you can help:

- **Contribute** to our Campaign for Clean Water so we can hire expert witnesses to review permits and stormwater management plans.
- **Share** your "Stormwater Story." Tell us about pollution that you have witnessed or something you have done to reduce runoff and pollution.
- **Testify** at a public hearing asking DEQ to include enforceable standards in the renewal of the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Permits for ODOT and Clean Water Services, or e-mail your comments to DEQ at Benninghoff.Benjamin@DEQ.state.or.us

If you want to learn about other opportunities to get involved with advocating for clean water, go to TRK's website www.tualatinriverkeepers.org/advocacy and sign up for our action alerts, or e-mail Brian at brian@tualatinriverkeepers.org.

Learn more about the mix of water pollution sources in the Tualatin River basin at stormwaterstories.blogspot.com.

Pollutants Commonly Found in Urban Runoff

- Copper from brake pads - harmful to fish.
- Nutrients from fertilizer - promotes harmful algae growth.
- Bacteria from pet waste - potentially pathogenic.
- Sediments from construction & landscaping - consumes oxygen.
- Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons - toxics from auto exhaust.
- Oil, grease, gasoline, and tire dust from cars.
- Zinc from roofing materials - harmful to fish.
- Cadmium, cobalt, iron, nickel, and lead from vehicles.
- Pesticides, mercury, trash and other pollutants.

Volunteering / Restoration



Who's Who

**Linda Gipe,
TRK Office Volunteer**

Linda, a long-time member of TRK, volunteers four hours every other week in the TRK office helping with membership data entry and mailings. "Now that I am retired I have more free time. I was looking for organizations that we currently support where my office skills would be useful. I enjoy all the work and the folks here in the office," says Linda.

Linda volunteers for TRK because she feels "that it is incumbent upon everyone to work to protect the natural environment, particularly something as vital as clean water. The river is the basis for all life in the basin, so it is critical to work toward restoring it to a more natural condition. I think it is also important to provide opportunities for people in the community to experience the river and wildlife so they will understand its importance."

TRK is an organization with big ambitions and a small staff. We rely on community members like Linda to bring their skills to work as volunteers. Everyone can help. Thank you, Linda. We couldn't do it without you!



Munger Farm Restoration Events

Saturday, March 5, 9am - Noon

Saturday, April 2, 9am - Noon

Help us restore Munger Farm Natural Area by planting trees and shrubs at the 77-acre prairie site on the Tualatin River in Scholls. After one year of intensive restoration, native bunch grasses and wetlands are returning to the site along with the threatened red-legged frog. Year two of restoration will focus on expanding species diversity. No experience necessary. Contact Monica Smiley at monica@tualatinriverkeepers.org to sign up.

TRK Volunteer Classifieds Experts and Novices Needed!

Contact Monica Smiley to volunteer at 503-620-7507 or monica@tualatinriverkeepers.org.

Party Planners Needed for Gala Committee:

Your excellent administrative and creative skills are needed to help plan the silent auction, decorations or invitations. At home, retired or working—all are a great fit for this fun group. Monthly meetings occur January through May at the TRK office in Tigard.

Paddle Trip Leader:

Paddlers are needed to lead TRK's guided paddle trips. If you like to paddle, this is a fun way to get on the water and help introduce others to the river. Paddle Trip Leader Training is Saturday, March 5, 2011. See page 6 for more details.

Field Trip Leader/Naturalist:

Share your knowledge of the natural world with children this spring. Enthusiasm is a must! Field trips will take place at Gotter Prairie in Scholls and Summer Creek Natural Area in Tigard.

Native Plant Gardener:

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



Talia Mae Julis was born Friday, December 3rd at 1:05pm to Vicki (TRK's Restoration and Finance Manager) and David Julis. She weighed in at 6lbs 12oz and was 20 inches long. Mother and baby are doing great. Please send your well wishes to vicki@tualatinriverkeepers.org.

Trips & Tours

TRK's TRIP LEADER TRAINING

March 5, 2011

11am to 6pm

Tigard, OR

YOU WILL LEARN

- How to help introduce people to the Tualatin River
- Skills needed to be a Volunteer Canoe & Kayak Paddle Trip Leader
- Water safety and rescue techniques for TRK paddle trips
- Answers to FAQs about the Tualatin River watershed

LOOKING FOR

- Paddlers who own their own canoe or kayak
- Responsible, outgoing paddlers
- Volunteers who enjoy working with the public

VOLUNTEERS WILL

- Complete TRK's Trip Leader Training (Saturday, March 5)
- Attend a CPR/First-Aid safety class (dates TBD)
- Volunteer for at least two paddle trips during the 2011 season

Ability to haul canoe/kayak trailers desired, but not required.
Contact Lori Kruse at 503-620-7507 or lori@tualatinriverkeepers.org.



Annual Meeting, continued from page 1.

In the early days there were only three developed public launch sites—Cook Park, Tualatin Community Park and River Grove Boat Ramp.

Due to our hard work the Tualatin River Water Trail now includes many more launch points—Browns Ferry Park, Jurgens Park, 99W Bridge, Rood Bridge Park and Eagle Landing—providing access to the River. However, more launch sites are still needed.

Our challenge today is to complete the Tualatin River Water Trail by developing a public launch point every five to ten miles so all residents have access to hidden areas.

Development of public launch sites is needed at:

- Farmington Bridge west of Beaverton
- Metro's Natural Area on Munger Lane in Scholls
- Schamburg Bridge off Roy Rogers Rd. in Sherwood
- Stafford Natural Area on Borland Rd. in West Linn

Join us at our Annual Members Meeting for a celebration on Saturday, January 22, 1 to 4pm at the Kinton Grange Hall. Contact Monica Smiley with questions at 503-620-7507 or monica@tualatinriverkeepers.org.

Tualatin River Guided Kayak Tours

TRK is now offering Group Tours for 10 or more participants. We host company picnics, conferences, school groups, scout troops and more. Customize a trip for your group today.

KAYAK: Basic

Learn basic kayak strokes and practice these new skills on a guided tour. Paddle through animal habitats. Observe basking turtles or signs of beaver sliding down muddy banks.

2 hours, \$45 per person

BIRDING: Basic

Bring your binoculars or use ours. Add green heron, kingfisher and spotted sand piper to your life list.

2 hours, \$50 per person

GEAR & GUIDES

All gear is included and delivered to trip location. TRK guides are trained in water rescue, CPR and first aid.

LOCATIONS: River Access

Easy river access at Tualatin and Tigard parks. Parks have picnic shelters, hiking trails and adjacent public restrooms.

LUNCH & SHUTTLE SERVICE

Available for additional fees.

Membership

We would like to thank the following Riverkeepers who generously donated between May 16 and September 30, 2010.

(* Indicates Monthly Riverbank donor; ** Indicates Spring/Summer Appeal donor)

PROTECTOR (\$1,000+)

Bruce & April DeBolt
Lamb Foundation
John & Nancy Mallinson

GREEN HERON (\$500+)

Nancy & Larry Church
Christine Fisher & Steve Mason

OSPREY (\$250+)

Rob Baur & Sue Marshall
Deane Blair & Janet Black
Tarri & Kent Christopher
Marianne Kandel**
Ronni Lacroute**
William McCormick
Paul & Audrey Oliver**
Karen Pazucha & Laurence Morandi
Susan & Joe Peter
Donald & Elizabeth Petit
Bill & Ruthie Shields
Jackson Smood
Brian & Karen Wegener**

KINGFISHER (\$100+)

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David Ball
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Agustin Caceres*
Anonymous
John Desmarais & Karen Garber**
Ali Elmi**
Richard Eyde*
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Paul Gorman
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Lisa Hansen
Ulrich Hardt & Karen Johnson
Jerry & Donna Heppell
Laura Hill
Jerry & Beth Hulsman
Jackson Bottom Wetlands
Joe & Elizabeth Kaliszewski
Bruce Kaufman & Judy Silverstein
Jeffrey & Jennifer Kohne
Eric Larke
Jill Leary & Brian Evans
Ronald & Aldene Leistra
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Marilyn Miller & Margaret Walker**
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Allan Solares
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William Young
Herb & Nancy Zachow**
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Rochelle Auran
Doris Beck
Clare Bronder
Dennis Brophy & Cathy Gwinn
Martha Brown & Stewart Purkey

Pat Budahl
John Callen
Leslie Carter
Rod & Cindy Chace
Carol Chesarek
Sandra Daniels
Roger & Patty David
Dave Delvallee & Kim Kurtz
Rurh Feiring
John & Lorraine Fervia**
Rupert & Margie Fixott**
John Frewing & Gayle Kauffman
Linda & Dan Gipe
Leslie Goodwin
Nancy Gronowski
John & Elizabeth Haide**
Greg & Kelly Hjelmel
Steve & Kristine Hudson
Mike Ivie**
Marcia & Bill Johnson
Steve Kessler & Alma Wong
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Jim Vigue
John Vitas & Pat Towle
Suzanne Whisler
Bill & Leslie Winton
Gary & Leslie Worthen**
David & Janice Yaden

INDIVIDUAL/FAMILY (\$35+)

Joe & Sally Ackley
Larry Adams
Thomas & Deborah Albers
Leslie Anderson & Victor Leach

Marc Anderson
Tim & Beckie Anderson
Karen & Bruce Andrus-Hughes
Warren Aney
Rick Banton
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Kathy Brock & Tim Ennis**
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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. Contact Vicki at 503-620-7507 or join online.

Join online at www.tualatinriverkeepers.org