



The Green Heron Herald

The Biannual Newsletter of the TUALATIN RIVERKEEPERS®

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Photo by Katharine Kimball Photography



Green Jobs Training

Building a broader and more inclusive watershed movement

This summer we kicked off our Urban Forestry Training program by inviting partners Unite Oregon, Central Cultural, and Muslim Educational Trust for a paddle on the river to build enthusiasm for the upcoming work of connecting immigrants in Washington County to environmental jobs. We talked of participants' relationship to water from their home countries of such as Chile, Yemen and Somalia. We then brought home the message of water and trees in our local watershed, and discussed opportunities for initiating environmental careers.

A primary goal of this jobs training program is fostering new leadership within the world of urban forestry through exposing job seekers to critical skill sets such as tree planting, pruning, risk assessment, site design, computer literacy and GIS, and business incubation.

This program will provide paid internships where students will shadow leaders in urban forestry to learn more of the higher level skill sets professionals use to lead real projects for cities, counties and businesses. Another goal is to allow students to earn college credit for participating in this program. TRK has already secured eight employers for students with a tremendous amount of jobs exposure built in to the work including GIS and tree inventory, liaising with home owners on site restoration, and working with government agencies to assist with community outreach on large scale restoration of protected parks and greenspaces.

We've received a number of inspiring applications from community members. A refugee from Syria who witnessed destruction in her home country sees forest restoration in

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Become a Volunteer Naturalist!

Do you have a desire to help connect others to nature? Interested in sharing your passion for our watershed and the natural world with students? Consider becoming a TRK Volunteer Naturalist. **See page 5** for more information about our upcoming trainings.

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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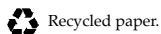
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The *Green Heron Herald* is a publication of the Tualatin Riverkeepers. We welcome your comments and suggestions. Please let us know if we have misspelled your name or if we mis-addressed the newsletter or sent you a duplicate copy.
503-218-2580
www.tualatinriverkeepers.org



Tualatin Riverkeepers is proud to be a Waterkeeper Alliance Member.



FROM THE DIRECTOR



Dear Riverkeepers,

We are full of momentum and enthusiasm coming off a strong summer of outdoor camps and guided river tours. We helped many young people brave their first trip on the river. We connected businesses, groups and organizations to the waters through river cleanups. We hosted guided trips where tourism professionals photographed the Tualatin, city agencies explored the

river's bird abundance, and persons with disabilities found new ways to enjoy being outdoors. On top of this, we had River Professors events that educated the public on everything from turtles of the Tualatin to landslides. Now we are looking to keep this momentum going strong as we head into the winter months.

We have a variety of upcoming events where you can get your hands dirty restoring the lands critical to our river and streams this fall and winter as well as training events with partners to help you increase your restoration IQ and become an environmental leader in your community. This fall we'll also be asking you to support clean water, good soil, healthy food and a strong economy on a variety of ballot measures, so read on for more information.

During our 2017 Annual Meeting in January, we'll be screening a film that discusses the critical role of honey in the Tualatin watershed and how bees are affected by the use of pesticides. We'll also be highlighting our newest projects for the coming year. I hope you can join us at an upcoming event.

Sincerely,

Mike Skuja, Executive Director

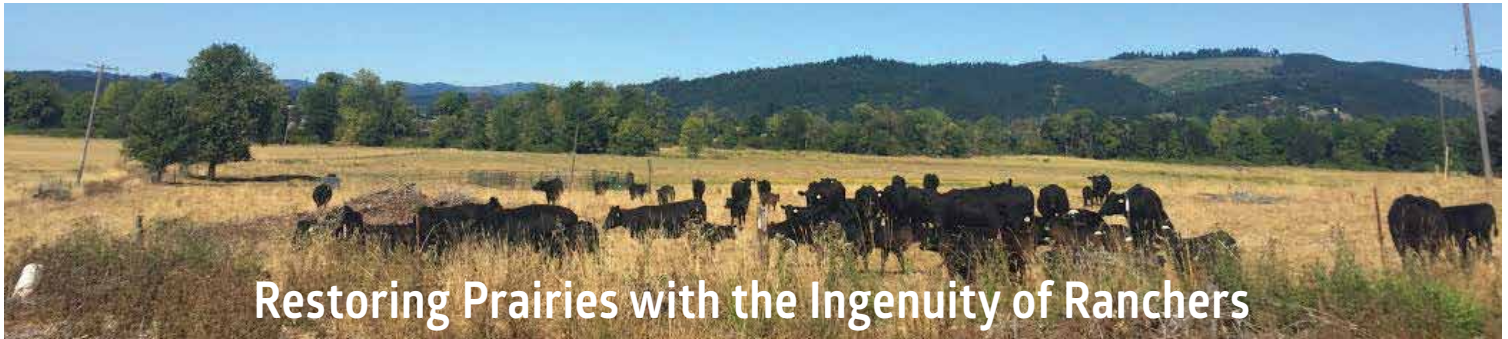
Welcome New Board Member!



Sharon Selvaggio, the Water & Wildlife Program Director for the NW Center for Alternatives to Pesticides, has joined the TRK board and she couldn't have joined at a better time. Her expertise in the field will be a real asset as we move forward with new projects focusing on pesticide alternatives in the Tualatin watershed. Previously Sharon worked 27 years with the US Fish and Wildlife Service and US Forest Service. Her experience as a Refuge manager, conservation planner, and wildlife biologist included work in pesticide use, oversight of farming programs, water quality monitoring, habitat management and restoration, environmental education, and biological surveys. A mother of two teenagers, she believes in the power of nature, partnerships and community involvement. Sharon holds an M.S. in Energy and Resources, and a B.A. in Biology, both from the University of California at Berkeley.

Welcome, Sharon!

RESTORATION



Restoring Prairies with the Ingenuity of Ranchers

TRK continues its climate change adaptation work supported by Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and the Wildlife Conservation Society. A major focus of recent activity was prairie restoration through adaptive management with cattle and a local Tualatin Valley rancher. In the late spring we brought out 12 yearling cattle to graze on approximately 10 acres of privately-owned wet prairie right on the banks of the Tualatin River at Butler Mitigation site, west of Beaverton. We set up baseline vegetation monitoring plots and monitored these plots throughout the month-long grazing period.

This helped us to understand what plant species the cattle preferred and when vegetation was reduced enough to remove the cattle. The cattle were effective in reducing thatch and biomass, and provided a needed disturbance to allow us to improve native prairie plant diversity through seeding more species this fall. We also teamed-up with a rancher with partners Joint Water Commission, Metro, and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service to discuss the option of piloting cattle in an additional site. All of these connections help to build bridges between the agriculture and environmental communities as well as increase TRK's impact in rural communities.



The past summer was an active one for corporate engagement on restoring Fanno Creek, a major tributary of the Tualatin River that flows through downtown Tigard. **Many thanks to Intel employees who hauled 25 bags of garbage out of the creek!**

Restoration Field Schedule

Volunteers can directly improve water quality with their own hands by engaging in these native plantings events. For more information, contact Mike at mike@tualatinriverkeepers.org.

November 12, 2016 & February 25, 2017: Join us as we plant trees and shrubs at **Sherwood's Woodhaven Park** from **9am to 12pm**. We tend to average 1,000 plants in the ground so come with your energy! We will have coffee and donuts for all volunteers.

January 28, 2017: Have you ever wanted to lead crews tree planting? Come join TRK and partner Friends of Trees in **Tualatin's Brown's Ferry Park** for a Crew Leader Training from **9am to 3pm**. The training will focus on native plant identification and installation techniques, safety, and guiding the public through the tree planting process.

February 11, 2017: Help us to meet our goal of the public putting 52,000 plants in the ground at **Tigard's Cook Park** from **9am to 12pm**. We will also listen to Professor Judy Bluehorse-Skelton of PSU Indigenous Studies talk of Native American peoples and their role in restoring and healing the land over some delicious Douglas Fir tea.

March 18, 2017: Join us on the newest site on the Tualatin River Water Trail, **Metro's Farmington Road Boat Launch** from **9am to 12pm**. Help to restore the landscape of this future boat launch.

WATERSHED WATCH

Continued from page 1...

Oregon as a way to rebuild something that has been destroyed. A Cornelius resident from Michoacan, Mexico hopes the program will improve his budding landscaping business. A Pakistani student who saw firsthand the connection of lack of trees to urban water pollution, drought and flooding back home looks forward to the challenge of making a difference here in their new home. Beginning such meaningful work with the talented partners above is an honor for TRK.



Urban Forestry Trainings Openings

TRK will be making a limited number of spaces open to the general public for the urban forestry trainings. If you would like to bone up on key topics straddling the fields of urban forestry, restoration, and arboriculture, please contact Mike at mike@tualatinriverkeepers.org to reserve your spot.

- October 4 & 5** Trees and Their Benefits: Explaining the Value-added to the Public
- October 11 & 12** Site Design
- October 18 & 19** Tree Planting 101
- October 25 & 26** Tree Maintenance: Pruning and Risk Assessment
- November 1 & 2** Computer Literacy and Trees
- November 8 & 9** Business Incubation for New Foresters and Green Enterprise
- November 15 & 16** Planning and Trees: The Washington County Context
- November 22 & 23** Participant Awards Ceremony

Many thanks to **Metro** for being a progressive funder and getting behind this unique opportunity where substantial funding is directed towards the students. More information about the program can be found at tualatinriverkeepers.org/urbanforestryjobtraining.

The November Ballot and the Environment

**PROTECT OUR
NATURAL AREAS**
YES on 26-178

You have a lot of power in your hands during this fall's ballot for natural resources and clean water. TRK urges you to vote 'yes' on **Measure 26-178**, Metro's operating levy for natural areas and parks, which connects people with nature across 17,000 acres of parks, trails and natural areas.



We also ask Tigard voters to support **Measure 34-255**, which allows for new light rail in Tigard that will take numerous vehicles off the highways in our already congested daily commute.

Lastly, the Tualatin Valley Soil and Water Conservation District is asking voters to approve a levy that will provide it with stable funding to work with rural and urban landowners on soil health, encourage good stewardship practices with pesticides, restore streamside forests and deepen environmental education efforts. More info can be found at www.swcd.net/levy.



Join the 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 to set-up your monthly donations through Network for Good. Contact Margot at 503-218-2580 or margot@tualatinriverkeepers.org for more information.

YOUTH EDUCATION

Nature Adventures



In the six months that I've been a part of the amazing team at TRK, I've had fun, crazy, and exciting adventures. I got lost in the woods at Dirksen Nature Park with a gaggle—yes, a gaggle—of kindergartners. I pretended to be a bird dive-bombing for insects. I tried—and failed—to climb a tree the “proper”

way. (I'm not really sure what that means, but I can point you to a few 11-year-olds who can explain it). And, I had a 7-year-old teach me how to paddle a canoe. I might have been slow, but at least I didn't tip over, so I'm chalking that up as a win! With the help of TRK's awesome Volunteer Naturalists, I've been able to hit the ground running. I'm excited to continue growing, learning, and having fun with students as the Field Trip Program starts up again. Thank you everyone for giving this tropical weather girl such a warm welcome!

Peace, love, and apple juice,
Charzy

Back to School!

TRK is excited to continue offering amazing hands-on outdoor field trips to elementary and middle schools. Striving to offer the best programming to teachers and their students, TRK's education program has updated our curricula to ensure alignment with the Next Generation Science Standards and the Oregon Environmental Literacy Plan.

Do you want to support TRK's School Field Trip Program? Here are two opportunities:

- Shout it from the rooftops! Has your child participated in a field trip with TRK? Would they like to? Share the following link with your child's teacher so they can get a glimpse into the program themselves: tualatinriverkeepers.org/environmental-education/field-trips.
- Share your knowledge! Do you enjoy exploring and talk about our natural environment? If you have a knack for engaging curious students and have a passion for the outdoors, become a TRK Volunteer Naturalist: tualatinriverkeepers.org/about-us/volunteer. (See box)

We hope to see you and your students at Dirksen Nature Park this school year!

Join Our Volunteer Naturalist Team

Tualatin Riverkeepers' Education Program is growing fast and we need your help. During the 2015-2016 school year we served 1,427 students! Amazingly, 100% of these students came from Title I schools in Washington County. Our Field Trip program offers a variety of educational experiences for kindergarten through 8th grade students and relies heavily on volunteers.

Do you have a desire to help connect others to nature? Enjoy teaching youth and adults about the flora and fauna of Oregon? **Consider becoming a TRK Volunteer Naturalist and attend our training in February 2017.** This program will orient you to Dirksen Nature Park and our education program, as well as give you tools to be a successful and positive leader. All ages, backgrounds, and experience levels are encouraged to attend.

If you're interested in sharing your passion for our watershed and the natural world with students, please contact Charissa at 503-218-2580 or charissa@tualatinriverkeepers.org to find out more information on how to join our Volunteer Naturalist Team.



TRIPS & TOURS

National Water Trail Designation



TRK volunteers Bella and Cyrus Ungewitter show their support for the Tualatin River Water Trail.

Tualatin Riverkeepers (TRK) is seeking National Water Trail status for the **Tualatin River Water Trail** from the National Parks Service. Over the past 20 years, public access facilities on the Tualatin River have increased from just two developed sites to ten. Currently, the City of Hillsboro is planning a \$350,000 upgrade to the launch at Rood Bridge Park for next summer and Metro is currently constructing a new launch site at Farmington Road.

Support from voters who backed two Metro greenspaces bond measures and parks bond measures for Tualatin, Tigard, and Hillsboro have been instrumental in the growth of public access on the Tualatin River Water Trail. Support from Washington County Visitors Association has increased signage, mapping and online promotion for the water trail.

Increased access to the river has followed dramatic improvements in water quality. The Tualatin River was the first river in the nation to get enforceable water quality standards under the Federal Clean Water Act. The results of those standards have been some of the best sewage treatment plants in the world, such as Washington County's Clean Water Services, and a model program for streamside restoration.

The National Water Trail Application has been endorsed by all of the parks providers on the trail (Hillsboro, Tigard, Tualatin, West Linn, Washington County, and Metro) and the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department. The benefits of the National Water Trail designation include:

- national promotion and visibility
- positive economic impact from increased tourism
- mutual support and knowledge-sharing
- assistance with stewardship and sustainability projects
- opportunities to obtain technical assistance and funding

The application to the National Park Service will be submitted in September 2016. Stay tuned for more updates and an official announcement in 2017.



Paddle for the River

The passion of our Paddle Trip Leader Volunteers is what gives life to our Trips & Tours program. Volunteers not only make sure participants have an enjoyable and safe time on the river, but they serve as ambassadors for our mission—to protect, restore and enjoy the Tualatin River.

This past season we hosted 35 guided trips (and the season's not over yet!) with the help of over 30 paddle trip leaders. As the public becomes more and more aware of this jewel of a river and the amazing recreational opportunities it provides, our guided trips have increased.

You don't need to travel far when you can experience rich wildlife and urban adventures in your own backyard. **TRK is seeking Paddle Trip Leader Volunteers** to help people in our community and beyond discover the Tualatin River, Washington County's only river.

Let us give you an excuse to paddle more often while sharing your skills with others. Consider attending our **Trip Leader Training** during Winter 2017. The training includes a classroom session, a pool session, a CPR-FirstAid class and, best of all, a Kick-off Party in the spring to get the season started off right. Check our website for upcoming training dates and locations. For more information about the program, contact Margot at margot@tualatinriverkeepers.org or 503-218-2580.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



We would like to thank the following Riverkeepers who generously donated between March 1, 2016 and July 31, 2016. (* Indicates Monthly RiverBank donor.)

Benefactor (\$2,500+)

The Tareen Filgas Foundation

Protector (\$1,000+)

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Charles Walker
Dawn & J.L. Westphal
Brian Williams
Bill & Leslie Winton
Phyllis Wolfe
Stephen Young

Crawdad (\$35+)

We appreciate your contributions.



Patricia Iron was a native Oregonian who grew up and spent a large part of her life in the Tualatin River watershed. She spent her career working with a variety of non-profit organizations, as both a staff member and a volunteer, and had a deep respect for the stewardship of the earth and the arts. TRK would like to thank Patricia Iron for including our organization in her will. Her dedication continues to inspire us.

Thank You Funders:

Bullitt Foundation	City of Tigard	Juan Young Trust
Jubitz Family Foundation	Metro	NW Health Foundation
Oregon Parks Foundation Fund		
Wildlife Conservation Society and Doris Duke Charitable Foundation's Climate Adaptation Fund		



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- \$50 Painted Turtle
- \$100 Steelhead
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- Please deduct the indicated amount from my CHECKING ACCOUNT. Submit a voided check.
- Please charge my CREDIT CARD. Contact Margot at 503-218-2580 or join online.

Join online at www.tualatinriverkeepers.org