TUALATIN RIVERKEEPERS®

HeronNow! Newsletter

AUGUST 2024

About
Advocacy
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Bright Minds, Big Impact: Zoo Zaps Help Restore Turtle Habitat

A huge thanks to our friends from the Oregon Zoo for introducing us to the incredible students from the Zoo Apprenticeship Program. Zoo Zaps are a cohort of diverse high school students from across the Portland metro area who spend a portion of the summer

Upcoming Events

Aug 16, 7pm
Paddle Under the Stars

Aug 17, 7pm
Paddle Under the Stars

Aug 18, 9am
Native Plant Sale Begins

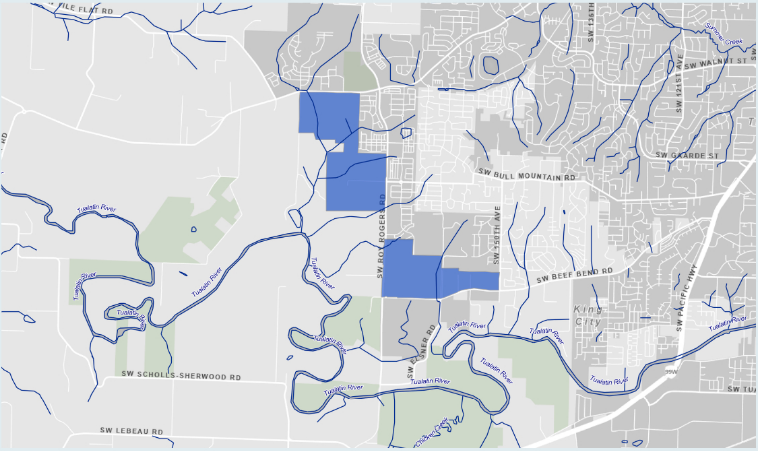
Oct 5, 4:30pm
Annual Green Heron Fundraiser

Sept 21, 10am
Tualatin River Clean Up

working in the community and learning about conservation efforts. This year's group joined us at Tigard's Summerlake Park on a project to remove invasive teasel from an island and improve habitat for the native western pond turtle before returning the following week for a paddle on the Tualatin River. The impacts from our changing climate will place a disproportionate burden on this generation of young people, and we're encouraged to be able to work with bright, passionate future leaders like the Zoo Zaps.

Oct 12, 9am
Jackson Bottom
Wetland Planting

LUBA Delivers a Victory to Washington County Residents



The proposed Tile Flat Road expansion would have serious impacts on a wetland and tributary to the Tualatin River (Image: City of Tigard)

Tualatin Riverkeepers was founded in 1993 by a group of Washington County residents who fought to oppose a planned Westside Bypass. These residents were successful in their efforts, yet development pressures have continued over the decades. Last week, LUBA (the Land Use Board of

Appeals) delivered a huge victory to Washington County residents by rejecting the County's Ordinance 882, which would have led to the expansion of Tile Flat Road. We've been engaged with residents - including a number of farm owners - and our friends at 1,000 Friends of Oregon over the past few years, and we're thrilled with LUBA's decision. Washington County residents continue to face development decisions that are detrimental to watershed health, and we're more determined than ever to protect these critical resources.

Read More

This Friday + Saturday: Paddle Under the Stars

TUALATIN
RIVERKEEPERS®
Protect
Restore
Enjoy
PADDLE UNDER
THE STARS

Friday, Aug 16 - 17, 7:00 PM @ Cook Park

Join us this weekend for an enchanting nighttime paddle on the Tualatin River. Tualatin Riverkeepers and the City of Tigard are partnering to offer an evening kayak tour from Cook Park, where you can explore and learn about the river's vibrant nocturnal and crepuscular wildlife. During this guided tour, you'll gaze up at the stars and down at the river, discovering the diverse creatures that come to life after dark.

Purchase Tickets

Interested in becoming a paddle trip guide? Email mark@tualatinriverkeepers.org to learn more.

Community Corner:
39 Years of Crawfishing

"The Tualatin River is a nice little river in our backyard. My favorite stretch of the Tualatin is from Hwy 219 – down to Weir Road. It's just peaceful. I see more wildlife and fewer people and lots of turtles up that way."

In the August issue of Community Corner, we're excited to chat with Randy Morlock, a local Tualatin craw fisherman and Oregon native. Morlock has been setting his traps along the Tualatin River for 39 years. During his time on the river, he's witnessed many changes to our watershed—some positive, some less so. Yet, his love for being on the water has kept him coming back to the Tualatin and fishing year after year.

Q: How did you get started crawfishing the Tualatin River?

A: I needed a way to pay for my daughter's school tuition, so I taught myself how to crawfish. I fish the entire Tualatin, from Roy Rogers up to mile post 48 (just above Highway 219). I move around a lot, typically setting out around 100 traps, which usually yield about one pound per trap. My season starts around June 1 and ends around August 15, when the water gets too warm. Besides the Tualatin, I also fish the Willamette and Columbia Rivers, catching between 500-600 pounds a week from all three rivers. There aren't many of us craw fisher-people left because it's not very profitable anymore.

Q: What do you do with the crawfish?

A: I sell them to a biological house where they're preserved and dissected for educational purposes. Most of my buyers are schools that use them for science dissections.

Q: Do you ever eat the crawfish? Is there a favorite way to prepare them?

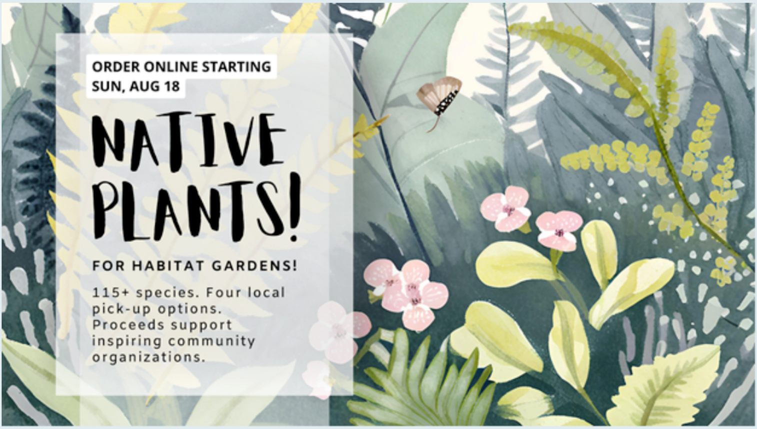
A: No, I've never eaten a single crawfish in my entire life. I've just never been interested in eating them. It's a lot of work for very little food, but I've heard they're quite tasty.

Q: What do you enjoy most about the Tualatin River?

A: I love the wildlife. There used to be more eagles, ospreys, and deer. I see more animals during winter, but as more people visit the river, I encounter fewer animals and birds. I particularly enjoy seeing the eagles.

Do you have a Community Corner recommendation?
Email us—we love talking to people doing interesting things on the Tualatin!

Native Plants for the Planet + Proceeds for Tualatin Riverkeepers!


ORDER ONLINE STARTING
SUN, AUG 18
NATIVE PLANTS!
FOR HABITAT GARDENS!
115+ species. Four local pick-up options. Proceeds support inspiring community organizations.

Tualatin Riverkeepers is teaming up with Sparrowhawk Native Plants to bring a fall native plant sale to our community! Together, we're offering more than 115 species of habitat-friendly native plants while raising money to support our programs and protect the beautiful Tualatin watershed.

Online ordering begins this Sunday, Aug 18! Many species often sell out early, so we encourage you to browse early at on the Sparrowhawk website and be ready to make your purchase. Plants will be available for pick-up in Tigard (Rise Church, 10445 SW Canterbury Ln, Tigard) on Friday, Oct 25 and Saturday, Oct 26–perfectly timed for your fall planting.

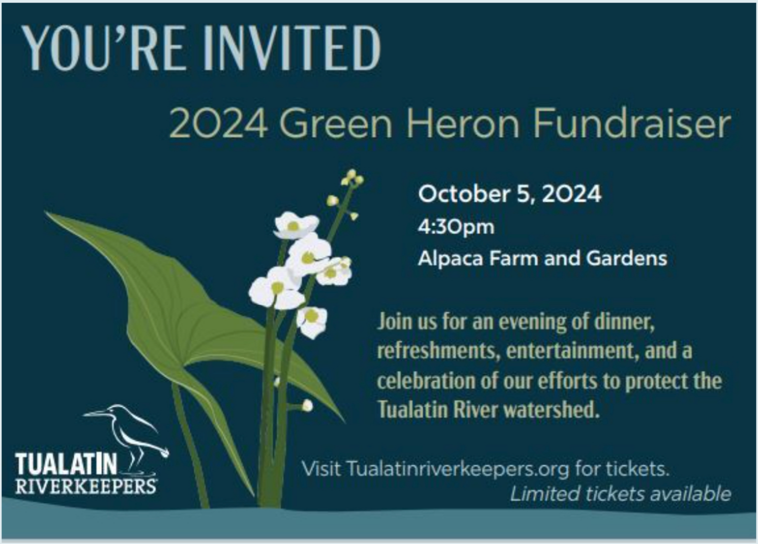
Your purchase will support our work while building more resilient habitats throughout our community.

Learn More

Interested in volunteering for this fun event? Contact Erik Horngren:

erik@tualatinriverkeepers.org

Tickets On Sale Now - Annual Green Heron Fundraiser



YOU'RE INVITED

2024 Green Heron Fundraiser

October 5, 2024
4:30pm
Alpaca Farm and Gardens

Join us for an evening of dinner, refreshments, entertainment, and a celebration of our efforts to protect the Tualatin River watershed.

Visit Tualatinriverkeepers.org for tickets.
Limited tickets available

Join Us for the Annual Green Heron Fundraiser!

Saturday, October 5, 4:30PM
Alpaca Farm & Gardens
Hillsboro Oregon

Let's come together to celebrate our progress and support our vital initiatives in stewardship, advocacy, and river experiences.

This year we are hoping to raise $60,000 to continue fueling our efforts in watershed stewardship. Your donations directly impact our work in:

- Advocacy & Education

- Equitable Access
- Restoration Projects
- Paddle Experiences

Raise a glass (and a paddle) with us as we honor the Tualatin River Watershed and the community that loves and cares for it.

Get Your Tickets Now

If you are interested in volunteering or have items to donate for our silent or live auction, please email Emily: emily@tualatinriverkeepers.org.

WATERKEEPER® ALLIANCE