



Garden Lake

Restoration Blossoms into Larger Community Effort

Garden Lake Park was a gem in the rough in the eyes of former Creswell Mayor Ron Petitti. Now thanks to the efforts of community organizations and members, that gem is beginning to shine.

In 2005, the Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council joined a partnership with the City of Creswell and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), whose improvements to youth angling opportunities were led by Erik Moberly, ODFW fish biologist. The Council obtained funds for 11 acres of vegetation enhancement as a follow-up to the blackberry control work Mayor Petitti had been doing with youth and adult volunteers alike, especially Creswell High School Key Club mentor Anne O'Connell.

To date, the Council has planted and mulched over 1,000 trees in the park and another 500 along two sections of Hill Creek upstream, resulting in improved habitat function and more shade on this water body.

Recent work parties have been a huge success, thanks to Creswell High School and the University of Oregon Softball Team. ***A grand finale tree planting is being planned for February 21, so please plan to join us with your family or community organization!***

But tree planting is much more effective if it results in PEOPLE caring about the resource. So the



Volunteers and UO Softball Team members put their backs into restoration!

in this issue

- 1 ▪ Garden Lake Restoration Blossoms into Larger Community Effort
- 2 ▪ Coast Fork Coordinator Comments
▪ OWEB Conference
- 3 ▪ “The Silent Invasion” and Early Detection/Rapid Response Planning for Invasive Species
January 27th Meeting
▪ Volunteer Spotlight: Kent Koester
▪ Upcoming Events
- 4 ▪ Donations Help Plant Trees

Council is extremely honored that two different community efforts have emerged to honor the memory of Mayor Petitti and offer leadership in continued maintenance of the park as a community resource.

First, the Ford Family Leadership Class in Creswell decided to construct two bridges along the Peninsula section of the park where ivy and blackberry were removed from fabulous bird-nesting habitat, the shrub-scrub habitat along the North pond. Every winter, you can see the cormorants roosting in the largest cottonwood trees there, and each spring, ducks nesting in the shrub-scrub habitat.

Next, an amazing thing happened: Creswell and a host of community organizations, including the Council, successfully applied for a State Park Youth Legacy grant. Interpretive signage honoring the native habitat, the local fishery, and Native Americans will be installed at the park, along with a pavilion designed just for youth! What a legacy to honor Mayor Petitti, enhance Creswell community life, and improve fish and wildlife habitat in this park.

All those interested in the park are welcome to contribute ideas to this next step. Please join these community organizations for a meeting on Saturday, January 24, from 10 a.m. to Noon at the Creswell Community Center, 99 S. First St., Creswell. There will be refreshments and door prizes.

Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council

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Allen Martin—*Chair*
Brian Forge—*Vice Chair*
Larry Weaver—*Treasurer*
Alison Center
Dave Cunningham
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Education/Outreach Committee

Stefan Aumack
Eric Cullander
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Technical Committee

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Doug Garletts
Julie Knurowski
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"...the most improved
watershed council..."
in the State of Oregon
2007 OWEB
Support Grant Ranking

Coast Fork Coordinator Comments

By Pam Reber

Welcome to the first issue of *Restore*, the Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council newsletter! We have created *Restore* to inform you about our events, projects, and community involvement opportunities. We hope you will *share this newsletter* with others to *help get them involved* and give us feedback on how we can best serve the watershed and its residents. Also included in this issue of *Restore* is a copy of the Coast Fork 2007-08 Biennial Report.

Many thanks to our volunteers for identifying our need for this newsletter to help promote the Council and for supporting the recruitment of our new staff person, Jerina Page, to help provide outreach and administration! Please help me welcome her.

co-or-di-na-tion (kō-ōr'dn-ā'shən) Coordination is 'the work and activity of a number of persons who individually contribute toward the efficiency of the whole; teamwork.'

Our Council capacity could not have increased at a better time. We need teamwork now more than ever to make opportunities out of these challenges:

- Broad awareness of natural resource issues is emerging, but we're in a recession. The Council's mission of providing a *forum for diverse viewpoints* can serve a vital role during a time when our community is at greater risk of polarization.
- Expanded staff means better management of projects that put potentially scarce capital dollars into the local market.
- Critical cuts in school budgets are eviscerating field trips, textbook upgrades, and capacity relied upon by instructors working with the STREAM (Students Trained in River Enhancement, Awareness and Monitoring) Program. (To learn about STREAM, see http://www.walamarestoration.org/STREAM_program.htm.) Our Education/ Outreach Committee will continue to assist our partners in securing the grant funds they need to integrate watershed curriculum into the classroom.

If you are a local person, or representative of a local organization, who sees a connection to the water, land, and people of this watershed, consider joining others taking action. Everyone has something to contribute, and sometimes that smallest effort is what is needed to catalyze something great. Please join us.

You can also read about the Council on our website and blog at www.coastfork.org and in our monthly eNewsletter. To receive the eNewsletter, please email outreach@coastfork.org.

OWEB Biennial Conference:

Climate Change and Watershed Resilience

Representatives of the more than 70 Oregon watershed councils met in Eugene for the 10th biennial conference of the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) in early November 2008. The Coast Fork Council was well represented by Gail Hemsoth, Dave Cunningham, Brian Forge, Allen Martin, Laurie Bernstein, Pamela Wright, Pam Reber, and Jerina Page. Members attended most of the 41 sessions that focused on how to keep Oregon watersheds resilient as they deal with the effects of climate change. Technical sessions were presented in the areas of building effective organizations, engaging the community, stopping the invasion, and making projects work. Pam Reber helped coordinate one invasive species panel.

OWEB is a state agency which promotes and provides funds for voluntary actions that strive to enhance Oregon's watersheds.



A silent invasion is taking over our native species. What are these invaders, where do they come from, and what can we do to stop them? Join us on **January 27th** to watch the OPB movie “The Silent Invasion” to learn more. Following will be a discussion of Early Detection/Rapid Response Planning to help fight invasive plant and animal species.

Although many well-known invasive species have a stranglehold on our habitat, some are just poised to take over, including **Knotweed, False Brome, and Meadow Knapweed.**

Knotweed is commonly called Japanese bamboo, elephant ear, and fleece flower. It stands up to 12 feet tall, with smooth-edged, heart-shaped leaves. It grows fast, invading river and creek banks to permanently displace native vegetation, destroy critical fish and wildlife habitat, and reduce recreational opportunities.

http://www.oregon.gov/ODA/PLANT/WEEDS/profile_giantknotweed.shtml

False brome grows in chartreuse-colored squatty bunches. It has hairy leaves with spikelets on short stalks and is found in coniferous and riparian forest understory, forest edges, and upland prairies. It displaces native understory plants, suppresses forest regeneration and increases fire risks.

http://www.oregon.gov/ODA/PLANT/WEEDS/profile_falsebrome.shtml

Meadow Knapweed has upright branched stems, up to 4 feet tall, with pink to reddish-purple flowering heads at the ends of branches. It is found along roadsides, river banks, and in pastures, moist meadows, and forest openings. It flowers July to September and out-competes grasses, reducing forage.

http://www.oregon.gov/ODA/PLANT/WEEDS/profile_meadowknapweed.shtml

See <http://www.appliedeco.org/invasive-species-resources> for a Field Guide to Weeds of the Willamette Valley. We also have printed copies in the Council office.

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Kent Koester is a retired engineer turned tree farmer who lives with his wife Mora Dewey in the Mosby Creek watershed near Kizer Creek. Kent has invited many neighbors and experts to visit his 40-acre tree farm to solicit different viewpoints on forest management techniques and watershed issues.

A co-instigator of the *Friends of Mosby Creek* effort, Kent created displays for the 2007 and 2008 summer picnics and loves talking to old-timers about the natural resource legacy that defines Oregon.

He willingly shares his insights, gained by applying his research background in engineering to his observations of the watershed, many made from a ‘bird’s eye view’ from his plane dubbed “orangey bird” by his daughter when she was young.



Participation in watershed Council activities comes in many forms. Kent’s is inspiring because he seeks out different perspectives, applies himself where he knows he can be helpful, and shares his love of Mosby Creek with anyone willing to listen! *Thanks to Kent and all our volunteers who take their concern and care for the watershed to the next level—action.*

Winter Events

**Saturday
January 24th
Future Planning for
the Creswell Garden
Lake Project**

Creswell Community Center
99 S. 1st St. Creswell
10 a.m. – Noon

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**Tuesday
January 27th
OPB Film
“The Silent Invasion”
Early Detection /
Rapid Response
Strategy for Invasive
Species**

Creswell Community Center
99 S. 1st St. Creswell
6:30 – 8 p.m.

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**Wednesday
February 25
Mosby Creek Update!**

Cottage Grove Community Center
700 E. Gibbs St., Cottage Grove
6:30 – 8 p.m.

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**Wednesday
March 25
Changing Nature of
the Willamette Valley
by Bruce Newhouse**

Lane Community College
Forum Bldg. Room 308
6:30 – 8 p.m.

Work Parties

**Saturday
February 21
Garden Lake Park
Tree Planting**

Garden Lake Park - Creswell
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Give the gift that keeps on growing and supports a healthy watershed!

Make a donation, and our volunteers will plant native trees and shrubs in your honor or in the honor of someone you choose. Plus you will receive an original, limited-edition print by Cottage Grove artist Tony Willey. Council volunteers will plant, mulch, and maintain cascara, vine maple, willow, big leaf maple, cottonwood, oak, and ninebark.

• Donate \$ 30 •

Receive your choice of block print
+ 5 trees planted

• Donate \$ 50 •

Receive your choice of block print + 1 tree
+ 10 trees planted

• Donate \$ 200 •

Receive your choice of block print + 2 trees +
50 larger trees planted

• Donate \$ 250 or more •

Receive both block prints + 5 trees +
75 larger trees planted

Majestic Cedar



*Receive an original,
limited-edition block
print by Cottage
Grove artist
Tony Willey*



*Western Pond Turtle,
at risk*

Donations made to
"Coast Fork Fund, McKenzie Watershed Alliance"
are tax deductible.

Mission The Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council serves to improve water quality and watershed condition in the Coast Fork Willamette river basin through education, coordination, consultation, and cooperation among all interests, using the collective wisdom and voluntary action of our community members.



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