



FRIENDS of  
BALTIMORE WOODS

### Upcoming Events:

#### FoBW Annual Book Sale

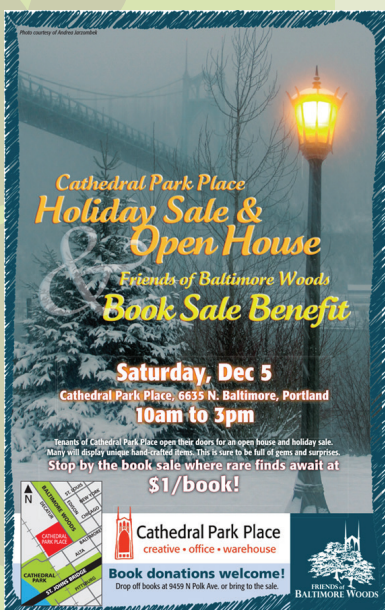
Sat., Dec. 5

10:00am to 3:00pm

In conjunction with the  
Cathedral Park Place  
holiday sale  
and open house.

#### Book donation:

Leave on the porch at  
9459 N Polk Ave.  
or bring them in on  
the day of the sale.



## THE BALTIMORE WOODS-WORKER

Welcome to the winter 2015 edition of the Friends of Baltimore Woods e-newsletter. It's time again to share news of our ongoing work to bring a native oak woodland to the riverbank in St. Johns. We invite your feedback and participation.



### FoBW Book Sale December 5!

Friends of Baltimore Woods is holding its annual book sale on Saturday, December 5, from 10:00am to 3:00pm, in conjunction with the Cathedral Park Place holiday sale and open house. Our book sale will be in the atrium in the center of the building. In a historic warehouse under the St Johns Bridge, the tenants of Cathedral Park Place throw open their doors for the public to come shop for unique, hand-crafted wares. After checking out the book sale, grab a map and explore open studios that include graphic artists, painters, ceramicists, photographers, designers, outdoor gear makers and more! Hungry? Cathedral Park Kitchen will be open serving up their tasty food and cocktails. Thirsty? Occidental Brewing will be open.

We are ready to receive any books you want to clear out and pass on. Leave book

donations on the porch at 9459 N Polk Ave. or bring them in on the day of the sale.

### Hey, There's an Oak Tree! Mapping an Imperiled Oregon Species

By Lori Hennings, June 3 2015

*Reprinted from The Intertwine blog*

*Lori Henning's article about oak mapping was very interesting to us and relevant to our work in FoBW, so we chose to reprint it for you.*

If you have Oregon white oak trees in your yard, you know they are the last trees to get their spring leaves and the last to lose them in the fall. They make a mess after you've raked everything else up, and drop noisy acorns (often squirrel-assisted) on your roof. They sprinkle your yard with mossy little twigs. So why do you keep them?

That's easy. They are simply gorgeous. Just looking at a big, old, mushroom-shaped oak makes me feel happy and kind of puts me in my



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place in the universe. They are also awesome to sit under, swing from, and climb.

Here are some things you may not know about our native Oregon white oak. Its range is limited, and it often co-occurs with native prairie habitat. Native Americans have profound cultural ties to these habitats, and historically have managed them by setting fires to burn away encroaching Douglas fir and other trees that grow faster and eventually shade out the oak trees. Turns out oak trees are conveniently fire-resistant.

More than 95% of our oak-prairie habitats have disappeared from the Willamette Valley, mostly due to farming, urbanization and fire suppression. Nearly 400 plant species live pretty much only in these habitats, and wildlife species like white-breasted nuthatches and Western gray squirrels have declined in tandem with habitat loss.

Alas, we don't have a good handle on where to find the remaining habitat. In fact, creating an oak map is one of the highest priorities identified in the Portland-Vancouver Regional Conservation Strategy. We need to identify the most important remnants to protect, restore, and acquire from willing sellers, in order to create a system of key habitat areas connected by biodiversity corridors.

That's all kind of depressing. What can we do about it? Here's where The Intertwine Alliance's Oak Mapping Work Group (OMWG) comes in. Twenty-seven partner organizations are working together to produce a high-quality Oregon white oak map for the Portland region. OakQuest is funded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Oregon Wildlife Heritage Program, the Oregon Department of Forestry / U.S. Forest Service, and Metro. The Urban Greenspaces Institute serves as fiscal sponsor on several of these grants.



Although funding is critical, we couldn't have made much progress without a major volunteer effort. Last year the OMWG partnered with the Native American Youth and Family Center (NAYA) to hire two college-age Native Americans to help lead a major citizen science project. Savannah Jackson and Sequoia Breck helped lead nearly 100 volunteer scientists to find oak trees on the ground, in order to support a computer-based oak distribution model. After that, 15 biologists went out to find non-oak trees to help figure out what species are confusing the model.

Now we are using the information from last year's field work to refine the oak model. We sent out another cadre of OakQuest volunteers this summer, this time with three team leaders hosted by Portland State's Indigenous Nations Studies program. The team leaders became eligible to receive four college credits and, in addition to helping lead the project, spent numerous days with our partners learning about conservation work and building a professional network.

We'll need your help to re-create a functional system of oak-prairie habitat. Because most of the habitat is gone, every single oak tree really matters, so please consider keeping what you have and even planting new oak trees. The OMWG is initiating a series of "oak-scaping" workshops to help urban and suburban landowners enhance their existing oak-prairie habitat or create new habitat. We'd like to tie in with Audubon Society of Portland / Columbia Land



*Native Oregon White  
Oak In Meadow*



*Native Oregon White Oak*

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Trust's Backyard Habitat Certification program. And we will need more citizen scientists for this year's work.

Please consider talking to your friends and neighbors about why oak-prairie habitat matters, so that, together, we can create passionate stewards of these unique and culturally important habitats. I hope all of my future relatives will get to enjoy a picnic lunch under a majestic oak tree.



The Baltimore Woods  
Parke Diem Team

We expect to finish up the oak map by the end of this year, and we'll make it freely available to everyone. An oak page on The Intertwine Alliance web site is under development and will tell you about volunteer opportunities, give progress reports, and provide links to the final oak map and data.

*Lori Hennings is a senior natural resource scientist at Metro, the regional government in Portland. She holds a master's degree in wildlife science from Oregon State University. Her work includes conducting bird surveys and working on larger-scale issues including wildlife corridors, oak conservation, and regional water quality. Lori loves her job and wishes she could get out in the field more.*



Volunteer at  
Parke Diem in  
Baltimore Woods

## Parke Diem: Much to be Thankful For

By Caroline Skinner

Our thanks to Laura Guderyahn, Natural Resource Ecologist for Portland Parks & Recreation (PP&R), for including a Parke Diem site at Baltimore Woods on October 10th. We had 20 volunteers, including ten from the University of Portland, come out and work at the Old Oak Tree site. This marks a full year of work being done there to remove trash and invasive plants including ivy, arum, blackberry, and locust trees. The exciting news is that the site is ready, at long last, for planting new things, including oak seedlings, later this winter.

Portland Parks Foundation's citywide volunteer event, Parke Diem, is an annual event, and we hope to see you there next year. Currently in its third year, Parke Diem mobilizes over 1,500 volunteers to get in and give back at more than 50 citywide park projects. We had fun and managed to finish up just before serious rain blew in on a warm day.

Thanks to all who volunteered, and major thanks also to the event's sponsors, including REI and Columbia Sportswear for the t-shirts, and KIND for snack bars to keep us going strong. The site looks amazing; it's very different from one year ago. Watch for updates about our planting day coming up on January 30, 2016.

## Let Us Gather Together Under the Old Oak Tree

By Laura Guderyahn, Natural Resources Ecologist  
Portland Parks & Recreation

If you happened to walk by a small perfectly square plot of land in the northeast corner of Cathedral park, at N. Alta Ave and N. Decatur St, on Oct 10th, you would have seen 20 people hard at work pulling ivy, picking up trash, and removing non-native tree sprouts. What were they up to? This clean-up was part of Parke Diem, an annual event sponsored by the Portland Parks Foundation and only the latest in a series of cleanups at this site.

It all started in 2013 when PP&R acquired the Old Oak Tree property, and SOLV, FoBW, and PP&R joined forces to restore this small piece of



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land and honor the giant old oak tree that it is named for. A full year of hard work has converted this site from one infested with invasive vines, trash, and illegal camping to a blank slate ready for planting this winter.

On January 30th, 2016, 50 additional oak trees and 200 other native shrubs will be planted and mulched on this site, continuing its transformation from an overrun plot of land to a restored gathering place worthy of the historic oak tree that resides on it. If we get a lot of volunteers we can also continue working on ivy removal. Many years of hard work are still ahead of us, however, so come join us January 30th from 9am to noon as we continue the transformation!

who worked at an overlooked corner of the Woods, removing a ton of ivy and piles of junk. After fighting the ivy battle, the group also had the opportunity to join others from around the city at one of several celebration locations, including Forest Park Lower Macleay, Marshall Park, Terwilliger Park, and the Springwater Corridor trail. Volunteers from all over Portland gathered for food and to share ivy removal stories.

## More About No Ivy Day

By Mark Ross, Portland Parks & Rec

No Ivy Day Portland Project sites included Arnold Creek, Baltimore Woods, Butler Creek, Elk Rock Island, Forest Park, Gabriel Park, Hoyt Arboretum, James Abele Park, Marshall Park, Marquam Nature Park, Nadaka Nature Park, River View Natural Area, Springbrook Creek, Sylvania Nature Area Park, Rosemont Bluff, Springwater Corridor trail, Terwilliger Park, Tryon Creek State Natural Area, and Woods Park. We hope to see you next year to help stop this invasive plant.

PP&R's City Nature division, the No Ivy League, and volunteers across the region were proud to take part in the 12th annual No Ivy Day. Volunteers put their focus on removing this invasive species from Portland's treasured parks and natural areas on Saturday, October 24, 2015.

"I am very grateful to our volunteers, who are helping to care for our parks and natural areas," says Portland Parks Commissioner Amanda Fritz. "No Ivy Day is a grassroots effort of neighbors which has visible, positive effects on our green spaces, and I look forward to this partnership continuing even bigger and better."

During last year's No Ivy Day, more than 300 volunteers removed more than 65,000 square feet of ivy, blackberry, and clematis, planted and mulched nearly 400 trees and shrubs, and built 50 feet of trail.

After the citywide work parties, all volunteers were invited to a celebration featuring lunch, free T-shirts while they lasted, and a chance to meet fellow ivy pullers. You can contact



Ivy Strangling  
a Tree

## Community Steps Up for Successful No Ivy Day

By Susan Gere

It was a cool, dry day—perfect for raising arms against a sea of English ivy on October 24. In a forested area above our depaved meadow, we looked at the few volunteers gathered under a small blue tarp vs. the sea of green ivy we needed to remove. Then a small army of students from the Roosevelt Key club arrived and, eschewing the coffee, set to work. Much of the ivy had been spreading in the ground unopposed, and it was very satisfying to rip and shake thousands of ivy tendrils out of the dirt clods. Throwing them on improvised supports of downed wood to air-dry and mummify, we laughed at the huge mounds of vanquished vegetation. Knowing this was happening all over the city

on the same day, I loved the thought that I was improving my own special corner of Portland, while being part of a larger picture.

Baltimore Woods was one of many sites in the Portland area this year. We are especially grateful to students from Roosevelt HS for coming to help. We had 19 volunteers in all,



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PP&R to join the No Ivy League or host your own ivy removal work party, learn more about invasive English ivy, and become one of our valued sponsors.

"The efforts of volunteers and the No Ivy League are essential to the health of our beautiful parks and natural areas," says PP&R Director Mike Abbaté. "We appreciate the continued engagement of our PP&R staff and our valued community partners to remove this invasive plant."

The non-native English ivy (*Hedera hibernica* and *Hedera helix*) is a pervasive and



*English Ivy*

unwelcome guest in our parks and natural areas. The vines overcome native plant species, and mature ivy vines may threaten trees in many of our forests. PP&R City Nature experts say it is important to remove maturing ivy during the fall to reduce the amount of seed produced through the winter, slowing its spread to unaffected areas. PP&R's Terwilliger, Wildlands, Marquam Nature Park, and Forest Park have seen vast improvements in tree health in places where ivy was recently cleared.

Since 1994, The No Ivy League has worked tirelessly to empower youth, educate the public, and remove English ivy from Portland's parks. The mission is to restore the native habitat of Forest Park and other natural areas with efforts in removing invasive plants, youth development programs, environmental education, and community participation—promoting research, providing technical assistance, and seeking relevant societal changes.

## Why We Remove Ivy from Natural Areas

From the No Ivy League website

...Not only are humans changing the physical, chemical, and climatic structure of...ecosystems, but we are responsible for the introduction of organisms previously not present. In the Pacific Northwest (PNW) one such organisms is the plant English ivy.

Plants in the *Hedera* genus have long been admired by humans in their historic range throughout Eurasia and Northern Africa. The hardiness of these evergreen plants, their tightly-woven vines and intimate relationship with trees led them to become a symbol of vitality and fidelity in Western culture. It is because of this rich cultural significance that we humans have taken ivy, and many other organisms, with us to new lands. The prevalence of *Hedera* spp. in the PNW is thought to be primarily due to escape from horticultural uses.

... The characteristics that make ivy a successful part of its native ecosystems have also made it a successful transplant in the PNW, though its success may be at the cost of our own native species.

English ivy has been observed to dominate the understory of Pacific Northwest (PNW) forests, especially in disturbed areas and edge habitat. In these areas the juvenile phase of ivy forms a thick mat of vines and climbs any available surface. This thick mat of vines may prevent significant amounts of light from reaching the forest floor and thus alter the species composition in these areas. As the liana climbs it can reach below the crown of its host tree. A physiological change occurs when the juvenile form receives enough light and resources, transitioning to a mature form that spirals outward from the trunk of its host tree. Through this process ivy may further alter the composition of light reaching the forest below and in extreme cases from the host tree itself. The mature form of ivy is able to produce berries and distribute seeds, with the help of birds, expanding across a greater range than by vegetative growth alone.

The efforts of the No Ivy League focus primarily on removing mature English ivy from trees in Portland's natural areas, including Baltimore



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Woods, to reduce seed distribution and prevent possible damage to mature trees. In a number of areas the No Ivy League also removes substantial amounts of ground ivy in conjunction with non-native shrub removal and native plantings. This work aims to restore the plant community present before the introduction of species such as *Hedera L.*

For more information, visit <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/parks/47820>

## Tracking the Trails

By Steven McClure

The Quarterly Trails Forum convened on October 28 at Metro's Council Chamber (600 NE Grand Avenue, near the Convention Center). Speaking for Metro, Brian Kennerly reported that the Regional System Plan covers 12,000 acres managed primarily as natural areas, with more than 50 restoration areas. This includes 15 natural areas and parks. Approximately 95% of the Regional Trails System Plan (including the so-called 40-mile Loop), however, is owned by Metro partners, with nearly 250 trail gaps.

A further look was taken at the Salmonberry Corridor, which runs along an old railway line from Banks to Tillamook that was ruined by floods in recent years. The Salmonberry Trail is one of the "Trails of Statewide Significance" considered by presenter Rocky Houston of Oregon State Parks.

Rocky also discussed the Recreational Trails Program grants.

The highlight of the meeting for me came from representatives of the City of Tualatin on the Tualatin River Greenway Trail (TRGT). A fantastic segment of the TRGT nearing completion in early 2016 will run along the south side of the Tualatin River adjacent to and under the I-5 freeway. (I know you were going to ask: The total cost is nearly 4 million dollars.) There will be five new overlooks with timelines of the Ice Age floods displayed along the trail. Implanted into the concrete will be tracks of resident mastodons, ground sloths, and Paleo-Indians, along with large ice age erratics

(a term that will excite those who recall the FoBW history pub several years ago), which are authentic boulders, donated by area sources, that were deposited by ice blocks that carried them in floods from Montana 10,000 years ago.

David Cohen gave a brief update on developments at the Intertwine Alliance. As you may have heard, the State recently donated some acres at the tip of Ross Island to the City of Portland for the restoration of that site. The Intertwine Alliance, which now has 145 partners including FoBW, is also focusing on developing the Daycation app.

Ashley Eaton of Metro wrapped up the feast of offerings with a report on her study of lighting on area trails. A highlight of her presentation was the revelation that information on the planning of lights can be hard to find. When Ms. Eaton inquires she often finds that no one knows who is responsible for a project's trail lighting. It's ironic that illumination is the area of planning that is kept in the dark.

## Bill's Excellent Adventure on the Willamette Part Six: William Clark

By Steven McClure



William Clark

Long before the empire was planted on the moon with the American flag, it was brought to the shores of what would be St. Johns by nine men in the spaceship of its day, a graceful Chinookan canoe. The first member of the canoe's crew to be considered in this article series was the Cushook pilot, an inhabitant of

several local Chinookan villages. Now we turn to the commander of the vessel, Captain William Clark. He knew Captain Meriwether Lewis' mission, received from President Thomas Jefferson, and he was a very capable leader of his men, with considerable experience with Native Americans. He had probably selected the crew without much need to consult Lewis. Above all, he was really good at drawing maps.



Hat Made by  
Chinookan Woman



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In fact, it's not one, but two very similar maps of the Willamette drawn by Captain Clark, along with several short but surprisingly detailed journal entries, that enable us to accurately locate Captain Clark's campsite on the Willamette River today. Clark's maps were composites of what he saw traveling upriver to Baltimore Woods and what the Cushman

pilot drew (twice also) of the river beyond. These original views of the Willamette were thus a creation of the interesting diversity in Clark's canoe.

Clark was born in Virginia but moved with his family to the frontier at Louisville, Kentucky, as a youth. He was of Scottish stock, while Captain Lewis was of Welsh extraction. In fact, one of Clark's grandfathers was quite literally fresh off the boat, having been born in Chesapeake Bay aboard

the ship that brought his family to Virginia.

A short while ago I attended a conference at the Grande Ronde reservation, which included a lecture that explained how cooperation and intermarriage between the Scots and Native Americans was facilitated by their similar clan structures. This may explain some of the affection Clark developed for Sacagawea and his later adoption and education of her baby, Jean Baptiste, when the boy was sent by his family to live with Clark in St. Louis. For this excursion, though, Clark mainly needed strong backs, and there was an elevated degree of risk, so "Janey" (Sacagawea's camp name) was not included in the canoe crew.

William Clark's personal history includes numerous siblings, with two older brothers who had become generals, including the revolutionary war hero George Rogers Clark. Later, in 1794, William himself had led a column of riflemen in the Battle of Fallen Timbers in Ohio.

This retrograde maneuver was not the first time Clark had led a crew on such a high-order military intelligence mission. This crew, though, was certainly a more unusual mix than those of a decade before. The diverse background and skills of those who accompanied Clark up the Willamette suggests a great deal about this underappreciated side trip.

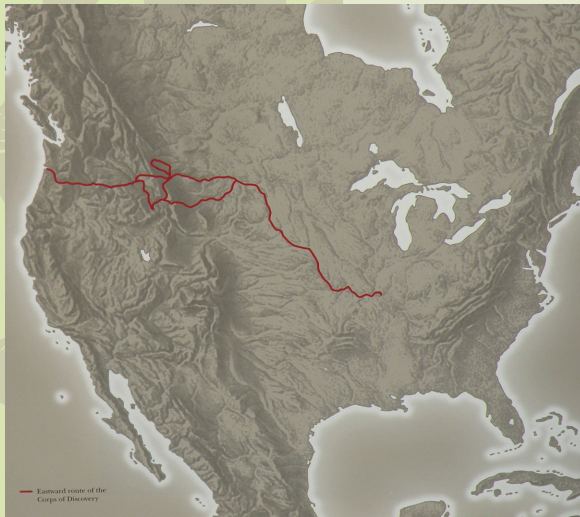
## The Prairie Keepers by Marcy Houle

Book Review by Caroline Skinner

Baltimore Woods includes a white oak prairie-to-be and is a natural area currently undergoing restoration. As we bring a renewed natural environment to St Johns between Cathedral Park and Pier Park, there is much we can learn from the study of other intact ecosystems. Oregon is a very large state with two super-ecosystems: west (rainy) and east of the Cascades (dry). I find that many of the native plants, shrubs, and wildflowers found here on the west side are also found in the eastern part of the state. Some of those include ninebark, Mahonia, red twig dogwood, ocean spray, columbine, larkspur, lupine, monkeyflower, Columbia lily and many others. So it was with great interest that I read Marcy Houle's book, *The Prairie Keepers*, about Zumwalt Prairie. Located at the far eastern edge of Oregon, it's not nearby, but it still holds lessons for Baltimore Woods.

Houle went to the Zumwalt to study raptors. She encountered a polarized human environment with strong opinions on both sides of the argument about the effects of cattle-grazing on the environment. To her surprise, she found an ecosystem in better health than expected there, and in better health than many other wild places, even though it was substantially held under private ownership. Many of the cattle-ranching families she encountered had been there for generations and had a deep connection to the land.

Houle took a wholistic view of the environment at Zumwalt. To find hawks and eagles, she understood that there must be a good food supply of rodents and small mammals. But to feed those, a good supply of tender grasses is needed. It seemed to her counter-intuitive to find that cattle, when properly managed, could play a vital role in maintaining the fresh and abundant plant life





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that serves as the foundation for many other life forms in the prairie. That, however, is exactly where her careful research took her.

In her epilogue, written about twenty years after the original book, she explains that in 2000, The Nature Conservancy purchased some 42 square miles of Zumwalt grassland. It was one of the largest purchases in the Conservancy's history. She writes, "It is the beginning of a new paradigm of resource protection and management in the West. One of the group's goals for stewardship is to allow cattle ranchers to play a role in the landscape. The Conservancy is encouraging sustainable cattle grazing on parts of the preserve, in recognition of its value as a management tool in caring for the prairie resource."

Seeing this vast and vulnerable part of the new American West protected and preserved is thrilling. While we don't and won't have cattle grazing at Baltimore Woods, it is inspiring to read of one person's close personal experience with a prairie ecosystem, and to learn how she found ways to bring together members of the community to help them protect, enjoy and appreciate their landscape. She says, "I realized the ranchers of the Zumwalt have an enormous responsibility ahead of them if they are to persist and the prairie is to endure. But I also realize that responsibility does not belong to them alone. It belongs to all of us."

I highly recommend this book for anyone interested in conservation.

## FoBW Quarterly Event Information

### **December 5, Saturday, 10am–3pm**

Friends of Baltimore Woods book sale (\$1/book!) and Cathedral Park Place holiday sale & open house. 6635 N. Baltimore, Portland, OR 97203. See pg 1 for more info.

### **December 15, Tuesday, 6:30–8pm**

Friends of Baltimore Woods meetings are on the third Tuesday of each month at the BES Water Pollution Control Lab, 6543 N Burlington Ave, Portland, 97203. All are welcome.

### **Early January 2016**

The East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District's annual online native plant sale. A great way to landscape your yard with inexpensive, bare-root native trees, shrubs, and ground covers. The sale typically opens for online pre-orders around the first weekend in January. The pre-order period remains open for about 3 weeks, and then plant pick-up day is generally the 3rd or 4th weekend in February. For more information, go to [www.emswcd.org](http://www.emswcd.org).

### **January 30, Saturday, 9am–noon**

Planting at the Old Oak Tree site. We've worked for more than a year to make the site, adjacent to Cathedral Park, ready for planting. Portland Parks has lined up 250 native plants for us to put

in, including oak trees. We need help to plant them during the winter so they can become well-established in time for summer's dry season. Join us and be prepared for muddy conditions. Tools, coffee, and snacks provided.

### **February 11, Thursday, 5–8pm**

FoBW fundraising night at Burgerville. Come to Burgerville in St. Johns for a good meal and help preserve our natural areas too. A percent of the evening's sales is donated to FoBW.

We'll have our information table there and FoBW volunteers will be ready to serve you.



*Snow in Baltimore Woods Meadow*