

THE BALTIMORE WOODS-WORKER

Welcome to the Spring 2016 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.



Upcoming Events: FoBW Annual Native Plant Sale Saturday, March 26 10am to 3pm St. Johns Plaza

FoBW Native Plant Sale!

The Friends of Baltimore Woods Native Plant Sale once again offers a generous selection of Pacific Northwest native plants at reasonable prices, all supplied by Bosky Dell Nursery and Scappoose Bay Watershed Council. The sale includes plants from the native oak community and hummingbird, butterfly, and bee favorites. The Backyard Habitat Program will have an information table with plant experts onsite. Join us on March 26th in the St. Johns Plaza.

Volunteers are welcome!

For information about volunteering at the plant sale, please email Amira El-Cherbini at pamira_2002@yahoo.com or call Caroline Skinner at 503-248-9719.

Capacity Building Project Continues

By Howard Harrington

We are now six months into implementation of the capacity building plan developed in a series of member and partner meetings during year one (July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015) of our capacity building grant from Metro.

Three work groups are pursuing and modifying work plans carried forward from the year of planning. Work groups are intended to operate semi-independently on plans previously ratified by the membership. This new structure empowers work groups to make and execute decisions without needing discussion by the membership at monthly meetings.

Current active work groups are:

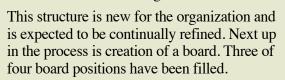
• **Restore**—habitat restoration activities, liaison

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with Portland Parks & Recreation and Bureau of Environmental Services

- **Inspire**—educational programs about Baltimore Woods and related topics for children and adults
- Engage—volunteer and membership recruitment, partner relations

As of February 2016, Inspire and Engage are temporarily combined to address overlap and focus efforts. A Funding work group is planned. The Organize work group is a temporary one, charged with continuing to develop the details of the new organizational model. The Organize group will be disbanded when the grant period ends and the new model is working.



A big part of strengthening the Friends organization is reviewing and retooling management

of our finances. Filling this purpose is a new work group, the Funding group. Funding will convene its first meeting during the first quarter of 2016. The final board member will come from this group.

It will take several more months for a permanent version of Friends of Baltimore Woods to emerge. Metro, funder of our capacity building grant,

recently extended the grant six months, until January 1, 2017. All people interested in continuing protection and restoration of Baltimore Woods are invited to join us in the new version of the Friends. To get involved in this important process, please come to a meeting or get in touch through our website.

FoBW Book Sale—A Tradition Continues

By Caroline Skinner

On Saturday, December 5, FoBW filled the Cathedral Park Place (CPP) atrium with thousands of books for our annual book sale, held in conjunction with CPP's holiday open house, once

> again providing a delightful destination for affordable holiday shopping. It was a good opportunity for Baltimore Woods education and outreach and for meeting our neighbors. The book sale is one of our two major fund-raising events every year.



Thousands of Books at the FoBW Book Sale

The sale offered all kinds of previously read books at only one dollar per book. According to our FoBW head cashier, Martha Shelley, we took in a total of \$1,391 in gross receipts this year.

Thank you to all who contributed books for the sale. We collect and store books throughout the

year, so let us know if you find you have some available to donate and we'll arrange to get them from you and store them until next December.

generously donated the cost of table rentals for the 2015

Jeff Bissonnette Volunteers at the FoBW Book Sale book sale. Erin

Brown donated her time and materials to make the beautiful new Baltimore Woods posters. We appreciate the generosity of CPP in allowing use of their atrium space. CPP is conveniently located across the street from a Baltimore Woods portal, and the atrium is a beautiful, historic space that works well for the sale.



Willamette Bluffs, Watercolor by Joan Rainey

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Sylvia Allen and Mark Hill managed the event and kept the book sale running smoothly to its successful finish. Getting the books rounded up, put out for display, and then sorted and

stored or donated afterward is a big job that needs many hands. We could not have done it without our army of volunteers. Thank you to all who donated their time.



Introducing Isabel LaCourse, Portland Parks Liaison

Helping people connect with the world around them and reap the benefits of nature-based education has been Isabel's passion and life work for over 16 years. Isabel has played roles in diverse formal and informal educational settings, including experience as the garden educator at Sabin School in NE Portland, as a para-educator working with students with special needs, and as a trainer for Multnomah County

Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue. For the past three years she has been working as Tualatin Riverkeepers' environmental education coordinator. Isabel began her career as a volunteer with the Portland Public Schools Title VII Indian Education Program, where she helped kindergarten through fifth graders connect with Native culture through land- and plant-based learning. The common thread of her work is to give students of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds the opportunity to discover the value of nature

through handson experiences. Isabel is excited to be working with Parks to create opportunities for diverse and underrepresented communities to engage in watershed health.



Isabel LaCourse of PP&R



Work Party at Old Oak Site

January 30 Work Party at Old Oak Site

By Caroline Skinner

Fifteen volunteers came out on January 30th to the Baltimore Woods Old Oak site on the edge of Cathedral Park. Thank you to Isabel LaCourse of Portland Parks & Recreation (PP&R) for leading the work party and providing 250 native plants for us to put in. We've now been working at this site for a full year. We've battled ivy, holly, blackberries, arum, Spanish bluebells, and clematis. At long last we can see, instead, sword ferns, snowberry, vine maple, and baby oaks.

Thank you to the volunteers game enough to come to an outdoor work party in the depths of winter. The weather was not bad at all. Our new plants are mostly asleep now, as they should be in winter, but with luck, they will burst forth with new life in spring to fill the site.

Intertwine Alliance Hosts Pollinator Workshop

By Amira El-Cherbini, FoBW Volunteer Coordinator

On January 21 a group of professional ecologists and restoration experts hosted a workshop

focused on creating more pollinator habitat in the Portland area. Led by Mary Logalbo of the West Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District (WMSWCD), Janelle St. Pierre of PP&R, and Elaine Stewart from Metro, about 50 people gathered to share information, resources, and future plans around increasing habitat for bees and butterflies.

Welcome to Baltimore Woods, Isabel!

Contact information:
Isabel LaCourse

Stewardship Coordinator

Willamette City Nature East

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Isabel.LaCourse@ portlandoregon.gov

portlandparks.org

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There are 700 species of native bees in the United States, with over 100 in the Willamette Valley. 70% of our local native bees are solitary, making their nests in bare ground, and most of the

remaining natives use beetle galleries in trees or the pith of plants for egg laying. Only the native bumble bees are social colony dwellers. The needs of these important pollinators are food sources, egg-laying sites, and over-wintering protection.

With such a vast number of species we still know relatively little about the life histories and feeding habits of many of our native bees. Studies are needed to identify which plants they prefer as food sources and how far they fly when foraging. Fortunately, we do have more knowledge about butterflies and their particular plant needs.

In April WMSWCD will be publishing their new Meadowscaping Handbook, a useful guide to creating good pollinator habitat, including information on plants that support three-season flowering. They will pilot a new community science project to monitor pollinators on restoration sites, training a dozen people to identify native bees. PPR has developed signage to alert the public when pollinator projects are underway, as the areas often look denuded and barren in the beginning stages.

Baltimore Woods includes a meadow that has been seeded with native forbs and some milkweed plants for Monarch butterflies. We look forward to increasing habitat for all native pollinators.



WMSWCD is pleased to announce that their new Meadowscaping Handbook will be available soon. Meadowscaping is the practice of designing, planting, and managing an urban meadow to provide ecological functions and benefits such as pollinator habitat and stormwater improvement. It is an alternative to managing a lawn, which is a monoculture of grass. Meadowscaping, with a diversity of native prairie plants, is a practice adapted to the local climate and soil conditions as well as

to the needs of native wildlife.

Meadowscaping uses native plant species that are deep rooted and drought resistant. It offers habitat and forage for birds, pollinators, and beneficial insects, improves water infiltration and filters, and stores carbon. The Meadowscaping Handbook offers guidelines for planning, design, site prep, planting, and maintaining meadows on small urban plots, using plants native to the Willamette Valley. Check the WMSWCD website mid-April for this new resource: http://www.wmswcd.org/programs/pacific-northwest-urban-meadowscaping/.

St. Johns Prairie Blossoms at Former Landfill

adapted from an article by Yuxing Zheng for Metro, first printed in *Our Big Backyard*, Summer 2015 issue

Dozens of different types of native wildflowers and plants are blooming at the St. Johns Prairie in North Portland as part of efforts to transform the former landfill into a community asset.



St. Johns Prairie

Can a landfill ever become a natural attraction? Metro is hoping to find out in North Portland. For more than 50 years, garbage from the Portland area arrived at the St. Johns Landfill. The landfill closed in 1991 after receiving about 14 million tons of trash. Now, the landfill—technically part of the Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area—is finding new life as the St. Johns Prairie. A years-long effort is underway to transform the 240-acre site into a prairie full of native



Ferns Ready for Planting at Old Oak Site



WMSWCD Announces New Meadowscaping Handbook



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plants to attract Western meadowlarks, streaked horned larks, Western painted turtles and other wildlife.

The overall plan for the site includes building a public trail with views of

Mount Hood along the eastern and northern edges of the prairie to connect Chimney Park in the south to Bybee and Smith lakes in the north. For now, the landfill remains closed to the public and continues to be actively monitored. One of the first steps in the prairie's restoration began last November with the seeding of 17 acres. This spring, sedges, camas, yarrow, daisies, different types of buttercups, and dozens of other types of native plants blossomed.

"I chose a list of plants so that something will be blooming from spring to early fall," said Elaine Stewart, a Metro senior natural resources scientist who is leading restoration efforts at the prairie. "There will be lots of nectar and pollen, and the flowers will emerge at different times of year." The wildflowers attract insects and pollinators and, in turn, birds and wildlife that feed on them. In particular, Stewart hopes to attract Western

meadowlarks and streaked horned larks. "The Western meadowlark is the state bird, and it's almost gone from this part of the valley," she said. "Hopefully, with the new and improved habitat, we'll see them."

Restoration work at a former landfill

Proposed Control Budge (unfunded)



Map of the North Portland Greenway

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comes with unique challenges. For instance, a network of pipes that allows for the safe control of methane and other landfill gases crisscrosses the prairie. A protective plastic cap covering the landfill sits about a foot and a half below the surface, meaning trees and tall plants with extensive roots are largely out of the picture. On top of the plastic cover sits a layer of sand and a layer of topsoil. This helps

to ensure that water drains quickly, to minimize the chances of water interacting with the garbage and causing contamination. But those features also cause the soil to dry out quickly, which can make it more difficult for plants to grow.

The challenges, however, are easily outweighed by the benefits. Restoring the St. Johns Prairie continues the transformation of the landfill from a public liability to a community asset, said Paul Vandenberg, principal planner for the landfill. "We're continuing to reclaim the landscape through environmental monitoring, habitat restoration, and the construction of trails that will allow the public to experience the site again," he said.

For more information see oregonmetro.gov/parksandnaturenews.

Regional Trail Update

By Shamus Lynsky

Metro, in partnership with the city of Portland, will design and build a trail through Chimney Park in North Portland and a bike/pedestrian bridge over N Columbia Blvd that will connect to the St. Johns Prairie, the former landfill. The trail will be part of the North Portland Greenway and 40-Mile Loop trails. While Metro will serve as project manager, this new trail and bridge will be owned and maintained by Portland Parks & Recreation (PP&R). Metro will be the owner and operator of the future trail and viewpoint on the St. Johns Prairie.

The project has been discussed by the community for many years and is listed in all the local and regional trail plans. Funding comes from an Oregon Department of Transportation Enhance grant, Metro Natural Areas Bond Investment funds, and system development charges (SDCs) from PP&R.

In spring 2014, Metro and PP&R opened a trail bridge over the railroad tracks between Pier Park and Chimney Park. This is a direct trail connection to the adjacent neighborhoods.

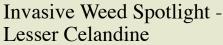
It is anticipated that the planning, engineering and design for the new trail and bridge will start this summer or early fall. Future permitting and engineering work will determine the construction date. For more information, send email to rod.wojtanik@oregonmetro.gov or mel.huie@oregonmetro.gov.

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Another trail connection, over the North Slough to Kelley Point Park, is in the early planning stages. This would include a new trail bridge over the North Slough and restoration of

the existing deteriorated trail to Kelley Point Park. This trail connection is not yet funded. Discussions among Metro, Portland Parks & Recreation, the Port of Portland, Smith Bybee Advisory Committee (SBAC), the 40-Mile Loop Land Trust, nearby businesses, and the public will be needed. Extensive community engagement will be conducted and public input sought from stakeholders, property owners, residents, businesses and the general public in the area. Metro is leading this effort, in

partnership with Portland Parks. For details on public engagement efforts and to receive future project information, send email to Ellen.wyoming@oregonmetro.gov.



By Nikkie West, Backyard Habitat Program Manager, Audubon Society of Portland

Have you seen this unruly invasive poking its head up around the neighborhood?

Lesser celandine (Ranunculus ficaria) is a small, smooth-leaved, perennial plant in the buttercup family. It is ephemeral, making itself visible above ground for only a short time in February and March. Its dark green, heart-shaped leaves and distinctive bright yellow flowers are often viewed as quite attractive, until you see what this plant is capable of! The plant is truly noxious and can colonize large areas very quickly, out-competing local species and negatively affecting local ecosystems.

Lesser celandine sets seed annually, than grows from small underground bulbils or corms. The corms grow more robust each year and are easily spread around by gardeners while they move other plants and soil. As if that weren't enough, it also spreads vegetatively, from small pieces of itself, so that accidentally mowing this plant can be a nightmare. Finally, the deceivingly cute flowers entice gardeners to share this plant with neighbors and friends. Last spring, two flats of this plant were

intercepted at a neighborhood plant exchange. Be discerning when accepting free gifts from other gardeners!

What should you do if you have lesser celandine in your yard or garden? Eradication is very challenging - but with persistence and ongoing monitoring, you can be successful. For small infestations, dig the plant when it's visible in February and March. Be sure to get as many of the corms as possible. Place the plant materials in a plastic bag, label it "invasive plant material," and put it in the trash. Do not compost it! Persistent monitoring and follow-up control work will be needed in subsequent years. Sheet mulching with wood chips can effectively smother rebounding plants, but only if the layer is thick, around six inches deep.

For larger infestations, where hand-digging is not an option, a systemic herbicide such as Glyphosate could be applied in late winter, just as the plant begins to flower. Always follow application instructions, and work within a dry weather window.

For more information on this and other invasive weed species, check out the many resources offered at https://backyardhabitats.org/resources/invasive-weeds. Also consider enrolling your yard in the Backyard Habitat Certification Program, and one of our Habitat Technicians will assess your yard and help you design a plan of action.

St Johns Trees Get Help

By Kyle Janus, Tree Hugger and Urban Forest Advocate

Twenty-plus neighborhood volunteers joined certified arborists from the PP&R Urban Forestry office to prune neighborhood trees at an event organized by the St. Johns Tree Team on Saturday, January 16. "I learned a lot, and had a lot of fun," said one neighborhood resident and event volunteer. "With the hands-on experience



St. Johns Tree Team Volunteers



Lesser Celandine

"I learned a lot, and had a lot of fun," — St. Johns Tree Team Volunteer

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supervised by certified arborists, I now have greater confidence when I'm ready to prune my own street trees."

After an hour-long training workshop at the St. Johns Community

Center, volunteer teams went out with certified arborists to prune young neighborhood street trees throughout central St. Johns. Four teams spread throughout 27 neighborhood blocks to encourage positive growth for street trees.

This is the first of four quarterly events the St. Johns Tree Team plans to host in 2016 in support of its mission to improve and protect the St. Johns urban forest for the benefit for all. "We are beyond pleased with the turnout today," said Gloria, a Tree Team founding member and neighborhood resident. "We love our St. Johns trees!"

The St. Johns Tree Team was originally formed in 2010 to help facilitate the city's 2011 Street Tree Inventory survey. In the St. Johns neighborhood, the survey identified that of the total 3,049 planting spaces suitable for street trees, only 48% had a planted tree present.

In 2015, the St.
Johns Tree Team
reassembled, thanks
to the efforts of a few
neighborhood residents
and tree advocates. The
new Tree Team continues the
previous efforts to maintain,

protect, and plant new neighborhood trees, and seeks to educate and connect neighborhood residents to the benefits and effective care of our St. Johns urban forest.

The Tree Team invites you to join them April 9 for a compelling lecture on our historic neighborhood trees, and to learn how to research the history of our community trees. The organization hopes to nominate five neighborhood trees to the Portland City Heritage Tree list this year.

For more information, like the St. Johns Tree Team on Facebook, email the Tree Team at sjtreeteam@gmail.com, and visit the website at http://sjtreeteam.myfreesites.net.

Asian Gypsy Moth Eradication Program

Information provided by Isabel LaCourse, PP&R

In 2015, the invasive Asian gypsy moth was discovered in Forest Park and the St Johns neighborhood as well as in Vancouver, WA. This is a dangerous find, as these insects have the capacity to defoliate our urban canopy and decimate the trees in our parks, natural areas, and neighborhoods if they were to establish.

For this reason, the Oregon Department of Agriculture is proposing an eradication program to take place this spring. PP&R City Nature West staff have been involved in conversations with the Oregon Department of Agriculture, the Bureau of Environmental Services, the Oregon Invasive Species Council, and others about this effort. The proposed treatment area may include parks or natural areas in St. Johns.

This has been a fast-moving effort with many separate pieces so we can use help in making sure this information gets to all who may need it.

A new training module is being offered as part of the Oregon Forest Pest Detectors (OFPD) program, and includes a combined online and in-person training workshop.

The Invasive Asian Gypsy Moth

This new training module includes information on the biology and risks of the Asian gypsy moth, the current detections in North Portland/Vancouver, and how you can get involved to help with the survey and control program.

Visit the OFPD site to register and take the online training: http://us11.campaign-archive2.com/?u=-f6320af8fb0948468efa9f291&id=7fb157b-8f8#AGM . Then join us on March 4 for a workshop to reinforce and test your knowledge, from 10am-noon at the St Johns Community Center.

Additional information is at http://www.oregonin-vasivespeciescouncil.org/agm or http://www.oregon.gov/ODA/programs/IPPM/SuppressionEradication/Pages/SuppressionEradication.aspx .



Thank you,
Burgerville,
for supporting
FoBW with
a community
dining benefit
on Feb 11.



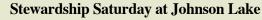
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Outdoor Adventures with Columbia Slough Watershed Council

By Karen Carrillo, Outreach & Events Director

We're reprinting this message from our neighbors at the Columbia Slough.

Here at the Columbia Slough, we've worked hard to plan a year of full of fun and educative events for you and your loved ones. This spring, activities range from classroom presentations, native plantings, volunteer trainings, and bird watching outings, to guided paddling events in search of bald eagles, otters, turtles, and osprey. Register now for the following events and visit our website for more information. We look forward to exploring with you!



Saturday April 02, 9am-noon Johnson Lake Property, NE 92nd Ave. and Glass Plant Rd.

This event runs rain or shine. Be sure to dress for the weather and bring water, rain gear and sturdy shoes. Snacks, tools, training and gloves will be provided.



Thursday April 14, 5:30-7:30pm Smith & Bybee Lakes, 5300 N Marine Dr, Portland, OR 97217

Load up your canoe or kayak for a springtime paddle!

Suitable for adults and teens 12+. Preregistration requested. \$5 suggested donation.

Brunch with the Birds

Friday April 22, 10am-1pm Whitaker Ponds, 7040 NE 47th Ave, Portland,

Celebrate Earth Day with us! We'll walk around the trails looking for birds before enjoying a delicious lunch from the Council. Space is limited to 20 people. Suitable for adults and children 12 & up. Advance registration required. \$5 suggested donation.

Columbia Slough Watershed Council

503.281.1132 www.columbiaslough.org



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FoBW Quarterly Event Information

March 12, Saturday, 9am-noon

Join Columbia Slough Watershed Council for a work party at Baltimore Woods at the meadow.

March 15, Tuesday, 6:30-8pm

Friends of Baltimore Woods general meetings are on the third Tuesday of each month. They're usually at the BES Water Pollution Control Lab, but this month only, they're in a different meeting place. Check the FoBW website for more information. All are welcome!

March 17, Thursday

FoBW Restore Work Group meets the third Thursday of each month. Watch for email announcing time and location.

March 26, Saturday, 10am to 3pm

FoBW native plant sale. See pg 1 for more info.

April 23, Saturday, 9am-noon

Earth Day work party in Baltimore Woods. Meet at N. Baltimore and N. Decatur. Snacks and water provided. Dress for the weather. Children welcome! but must be supervised by an adult.

April 30, Saturday, 1-4pm

The second program in FoBW's Exploring Our Backyard series: Historic Use of Fire in Land Management. BES Water Pollution Control Lab, 6543 N Burlington Ave, Portland, 97203. Free! Deliberate use of fire is a hot topic in discussions of management of our natural areas, both controversial and promising. Come find out what we know—and how we know it—about the use of fire in land management by Native Americans before European settlement.

May 5, Thursday, 6:30-7:30pm

Thursday evening work parties, re-starting for the season on May 5. Every Thursday, come and meet new friends and spend a little time working on Baltimore Woods projects. Watch for updates for location.

May 28, Saturday, 9am-noon

Work party at the Old Oak site in Baltimore Woods. Meet at N. Edison and N. Alta. Snacks and water provided. Dress for the weather. Children welcome! but must be supervised by an adult.