



THE BALTIMORE WOODS-WORKER

Welcome to the Summer 2017 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:

Weekly work parties
every Thursday
in June, July and
August, 7-8pm
Meet at the
tool box in Baltimore
Woods Meadow.



Shoppers at the 2017 FoBW native plant sale

FoBW Native Plant Sale Helps Our Environment

By Caroline Skinner

What if a local group held a native plant sale early in spring and it happened to be on the first day of nice weather in nearly six months? You'd be describing the FoBW sale held on March 25 at the St. Johns Plaza. We are so grateful to the many people who helped make the sale successful and fun too.

For starters, we need to thank Nikkie West and Majida Nelson of Backyard Habitat and Willow Elliott of the Native Plant Society of Oregon for being available for questions throughout the sale. Plant sale shoppers had expert help onsite

to find out which plants to purchase for specific garden conditions.

Holding this annual event is a big job. In addition to careful planning behind the scenes, it requires a very large group of volunteers to pick up the plants in advance, and to get the plants out on display quickly on sale day. Marking the plant

prices on wooden sticks is a crucial job. There is nothing worse than being outdoors, at a plant nursery, to mark and pick up an order, and run out of markers. Leslie Smith made sure that did not happen this year.

Howard Blumenthal helped co-chair Mark Hill and me pick up our plant order from Scappoose Bay Watershed Council (SBWC). Joan Rainey and SBWC nursery manager Amber Kester put our order together so it was ready for us when we





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A young plant sale shopper

arrived. On Friday, our plant order at Bosky Dell Nursery was also ready and waiting. We priced the plants and loaded them into trucks provided by Wade Hockett, Tom Seeman and Norbert Painter, all capably wrangled and organized by Howard Harrington. Both Tom and Howard B. added special shelving to their vehicles for extra capacity.

The tables and canopies were set up, and plants were set out on tables, thanks to Mark's amazing set up crew. We had quite a crowd of shoppers. Plants seemed to fly off the tables, so our next thank-you must go to cashiers Martha Shelley, Sylvia Allen, Brett, and Reggie. In addition to the many volunteers recruited by Laura Jean Largent, others dropped in during the day to help, including Chris Friet of Citizen's Rare Plant Watch.

While we appeared to be running low on

plants after lunch, that was by design. We wanted to bring excellent, healthy plants to our community while also being mindful of our volunteer capacity. This year, our net total came to \$3,634 after expenses, all funds to be used for restoration. We had the smallest amount of plant returns ever this year, while still slightly passing last year's net of \$3,548.



A happy plant sale shopper

Mark and I thoroughly enjoyed co-chairing the sale. We've made many organizational advances, over the years, in finding new ways to get things done more easily. We'd like to step back next year, and so we are hoping to find two new event co-chairs. We'll be happy to share our knowledge and lend a hand as well. If you are interested in helping next year, please come forward no later than our July FoBW meeting, when we make firm plans for the following year.

Thanks again to everyone who helped and everyone who bought plants. We can all feel great about putting more native plants into our environment, while also supporting FoBW.

FoBW Plant Sale Set-up a Breeze This Year

By Mark Hill

Those of us who've participated in previous FoBW plant sale set-up crews will immediately recognize the significance of this development. Never before in the history of FoBW has a set-up crew actually managed to complete its mission *on time*. Furthermore, it accomplished this feat without a single scuffle, injury, or insurrection!

With no small measure of sympathy and gratitude, I stop now to remember the bedlam, chaos, and moments of alternating panic and abject defeat that characterized our experience of past plant



A volunteer and shoppers at the plant sale



Native plants ready for the sale



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sale set-ups. It is, in fact, those very hard lessons, seared into our collective memories, which made possible the success we can celebrate now.

High-fives all around to the 2017 plant sale set-up crew for a job well done. Sympathetic consolation hugs for the set-up crews that went before. And for the set-up crew of 2018? Best of luck! Hope it goes as well as this year.

Meet Your Neighborhood Green Street Planter

By Svetlana Pell and Lea Wilson,
Stormwater Stewards Team,
Portland Bureau of Environmental Services

As a Friend of Baltimore Woods, you likely appreciate and value nature in the city. You probably also know that nature in the city is more than just decoration. It provides real benefits for people and the environment. Because of these benefits, we call things like street trees, green street planters, and natural areas “green infrastructure.”



A green street steward in action

Green street planters are one type of green infrastructure you may have noticed popping up around town. Green street planters are especially common with new development because they help developers meet regulatory requirements for stormwater management. They are small rain gardens in the right-of-way that manage stormwater runoff from

streets. Without them, when it rains, pollutants are washed into the stormwater system, including our rivers and streams. The plants and soil in green street planters filter those pollutants out of the water, and allow stormwater to soak back into the ground instead of draining into the combined sewer system or making its way to the river untreated.



Kinnikinnick is well suited to the tough conditions of green street planters

Life in a stormwater planter can be tough.

Since facilities are designed to drain relatively quickly, plants have to be able to withstand periods of flooding in the winter followed by periods of drought in the summer.

Some common plants used in the planters include: Bulbs: Camassia spp, Narcissus spp and Iris douglasii. Grasses: Carex obnupta, Juncus patens and Liriope muscari. Shrubs: Cornus kelseyi, Mahonia repens, Spiraea spp and Lavandula “Hidcote Blue.” Ground covers: Fragaria chiloensis, Arctostaphylos uva-ursi and Rubus calycinoides. Native plants like kinnikinnick (Arctostaphylos uva-ursi) and Oregon grape (Mahonia repens) are well-suited to the tough conditions of green street planters.

Even when it’s not raining, planters are still providing services. They help slow automobile traffic, creating greater safety for pedestrians, and seasonal flowers provide food for pollinators.

These little gardens have a big job, and they benefit from a little care during the dry season. Trash like wrappers, bags, and coffee cups can collect in the planters, smothering vegetation and reducing the planters’ readiness for that first big autumn storm. We rely on volunteer green street stewards to help us keep the planters attractive and functional, removing trash and clearings openings of leaves and debris so water can flow in as intended. Some green street stewards do light weeding as well. (Our website



Oregon grape is well suited to the tough conditions of green street planters



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has a full color weed identification guide.) If you are interested in becoming a green street steward, visit our website to learn more and view a map of green street planters ready for adoption. You can also call 503-823-8764 to talk to the green street steward coordinator.

area. We also worked on cutting back teasel crowns from the meadow.”

New native plant starts include vine maple, big leaf maple, alder, hazelnut, Oregon grape, sword fern, common chokecherry, red flowering currant, blue elderberry, and snowberry. We also planted osoberry and elderberry from seed. We hope to see a complete transformation of the area from a weed patch to a woody glen.

We are grateful to Portland Parks for providing us with new native plants, and to CSWC for its successful volunteer recruitment efforts for this event. Be sure to come visit over the next couple of years to check out our handiwork and see how the new plants are coming along.



CSWC volunteers at the March 4 work party

Volunteers March Fourth to Help FoBW

By Caroline Skinner

Many thanks to the Columbia Slough Watershed Council (CSWC) for holding a splendid work party in Baltimore Woods on Saturday, March 4. We had a great turnout for the planting day in the shady gully near the FoBW tool box. We had already held several preparatory work parties there to clear out the invasive weeds to make the site ready, like a blank canvas, for new plants. On March 4 the new plants went in, and had a chance to get settled before the hot and dry days of summer.



A work party volunteer holding osoberry seeds



A volunteer carrying mulch at the March 4 work party



CSWC volunteer Kelsie at the March 4 work party

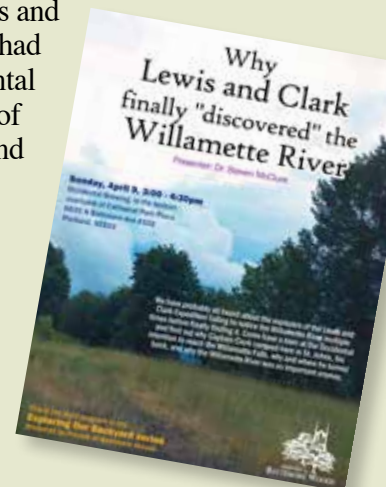
Event leader Isabel LaCourse of Portland Parks wrote, “I was excited to see you all! We installed just about 400 plants ... We had enough help to finish removing some ivy and blackberry from the planting

Exploring Our Backyard Program a Success

By Kelly Derr

I want to share my gratitude to everyone who made our recent Exploring our Backyard program about Lewis and Clark a success. We had 41 people at Occidental Brewing, and many of those folks were brand new to Baltimore Woods.

To the presenter, Steven, thanks for sharing your research with us. You did a great job! I know how





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much time and energy goes into preparing for a lecture like this. Laura Jean, graphics volunteer, the poster was fabulous and the slides looked professional and beautiful. Thank you also to Mark and Bon Hill. The outdoor signs pulled people into our talk that otherwise may not have known about it. Several people mentioned them. Also, thank you so much for bringing the FoBW fundraising merchandise and information, and for staffing the FoBW table. We sold \$70 in FoBW tees and tote bags that day.

Dianne, Howard, Leslie, Barney, and Susan, thank you for your help with the set-up and for chatting with prospective FoBW volunteers. I really think this event will bring some fresh faces into our FoBW community!

Treats for the Feet: Metro Trails Onward

By Steven McClure

The Metro Trails Forum that convened on February 22, 2017, presented the usual potpourri of delights arising in this neck of the woods.

We heard about the Access Trails Project, which offers information to orient and assist anyone new to a given trail. A report on the 40-Mile Loop followed with a speaker from the Port of Portland, and a discussion of the efforts to revive plans for a Lewis and Clark Discovery Trail connecting the Ridgefield and Steigerwald wildlife refuges along Vancouver's riverfront. Portland Parks reported that work is proceeding on a trail bridge over West Burnside Street in Forest Park. We also heard about development in April Hill

Park in Southwest Portland. Mike Wetter of the Intertwine Alliance told us that there are now about 160 member groups in the regional meta-metro trails group. They are seeking beta testers for their Daycation app, which shares personal favorite trip reports on mobile devices.

I hope you can tell just from this small sample that a lot of good projects are springing up around us. Please plan now to come to the free Trails Fair on June 21 (see the events listing on page 8) and visit information booths presenting many more delectable treats for the feet (and pedalers, too). I'll be wearing my FoBW t-shirt, so please say "hi" if you see me there.

Bill's Excellent Adventure on the Willamette, Part 10: The Crew

By Steven McClure

Captain William Clark's intention in April, 1806, was to investigate the Willamette River, while ours, in this article, is to look at the diversity of his crew—the first documented non-native visitors to present-day St. Johns. Having previously examined the considerable diversity of



Clark's expedition on the Willamette used a canoe like these



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some crew members, we next notice a marked degree of uniformity among the rest of the company.

Thomas Howard, John Potts, John Thompson, Peter Weiser, and Joseph Whitehouse came, respectively, from Massachusetts, Germany, Indiana Territory, Pennsylvania and Virginia (also by way of Kentucky). Most of these recruits, young men in their mid-twenties or early thirties, were not particularly skilled and were seldom mentioned in the journals of the expedition. The exception was Whitehouse, who was literate and wrote the only private's journal we have. He was also appreciated for his abilities as a tailor. The uniforms the privates wore were largely made of elk skin by Whitehouse, their regular clothes having mostly disintegrated before they'd reached the Pacific Ocean.

The Corps of Discovery used sometimes severe discipline early on. Several of the men had officiated at some of their comrades' court-martials for drinking and one case of mutiny. At one point Whitehouse was apparently expelled from the Corps for disorderly conduct but later readmitted minus his rank of corporal. Private Thomas Howard was the last to be court-martialed on the expedition. He had set "a pernicious example to the Savages" by sneaking over the wall back into Fort Mandan in North Dakota on the night of February 9, 1805. His court, however, had recommended mercy and Howard was spared his sentence of 50 lashes.

The leniency extended to Howard is one of numerous indications of the group cohesion forming in the Corps of Discovery. A bit later in Montana, Sergeant Patrick Gass lost Captain Clark's tomahawk in thick brush, but Clark noted "I regret the loss of this useful implement, however accidents will happen in the best families." All five of the paddlers presented here had been in canoeing accidents on the expedition, but none were seriously

injured. They were a tight brotherhood with strong backs to give Clark the horsepower he needed for this important retrograde excursion back to and up the Willamette River. It is Clark who would interview the village elders they planned to encounter, but the crew's reconnaissance was, as always, a group effort—mixed, military, and mission-driven.

Japanese Beetle Detection

By WMSWCD District Manager Jim Cathcart

There is an old saying among Japanese beetles (*Popillia japonica*) – "Never be too busy that you don't stop to eat the roses." Yes, Portland's iconic City of Roses faces a new threat from an old invasive fiend. The Oregon Department of Agriculture found 369 beetles in traps in the NW Thompson and NW 143rd Avenue area in 2016. A smaller number were caught on Swan Island and near the Portland airport. These follow earlier detections in the late 1980s and in 2000, which were successfully controlled.

Unfortunately, the recent detections are unprecedented in the number of beetles caught, suggesting a breeding population has been established.

The adult Japanese beetle is large, one-half to two-thirds of an inch, and metallic brown in color, with a metallic dark green head. Its most distinctive marks are rows of five white spots along both edges of its abdomen as well as two larger white spots at the tip of the abdomen.



Japanese beetle

Adult beetles are active flyers and can hitchhike to new locations in plant shipments. Adults breed and lay eggs in late summer in moist conditions like gardens. The grubs overwinter and the adult beetles emerge in May and June. This insect can cause serious damage to over 200 plant species.

The Oregon Department of Agriculture proposes to eradicate the NW Thompson and NW 143rd population of beetles with one application in May of the granular pesticide Acelepryn (a low-risk insecticide targeting the beetle) and



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using biocontrol — introducing natural enemies of the beetle. The pesticide is applied to lawns and irrigated landscapes using hand-held spreaders in the spring so it is available for consumption when the larvae hatch in early fall 2017. Any reduction or elimination of adult beetles will not be seen until the summer of 2018. Adult beetle presence in 2017 does not indicate an ineffective treatment. The Oregon Department of Agriculture held affected community briefings in January and February and plan technical workshops in March.

You can join the force battling the Japanese beetle by keeping an eye out for adult beetles next summer and reporting to the Oregon Invasives Hotline -- either online or by calling 1-866-INVADER. For more information about the Japanese beetle and upcoming meetings visit the Portland Japanese Beetle website.

Weed Watch: *Impatiens balfourii*

By Michelle Delepine, Invasive Species Program Coordinator, West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District

Impatiens balfourii is an escaped herbaceous annual popping up in a few different places around our district, including Tryon Creek, the Riverview Area, and Skyline Blvd. This perennial herb was introduced as an ornamental and is now invading natural areas in Portland and California. Unlike other invasive *impatiens* species, which are primarily a problem in wet areas, *impatiens balfourii* appears to thrive in drier habitat as well. Here are its characteristics:

- **Flowers:** Showy blossoms are pink and white, with yellow dots and a straight spur
- **Height:** 1 ¾ to 4 feet tall
- **Leaves:** Oblong to egg-shaped; serrated margins
- **Seeds:** Pods are elongated and will propel seeds when touched
- **Best time to spot:** Right now! (Early to late summer)

Please report suspected sightings to oregoninvasiveshotline.org.



Impatiens balfourii

FoBW Works to Increase Active Membership

By Sylvia Allen

We're a happy group, here at FoBW. We work well together, we get a lot done, and we do a lot of laughing. There's nothing like the satisfaction of preserving another piece in the puzzle that is Baltimore Woods, and then getting it started on the road to restoration. Seeing wildflowers blooming in what was a parking lot, and baby white oaks planted that will be giant white oaks shading a whole ecosystem a couple of generations down the road. But in the last couple of years it just happens that several of the most active FoBW members have had family medical disasters and have needed to step back some. We're still getting a lot done, but we need more people to pick up the slack!

On April 8, the active group of FoBW met to talk about how to find the very special people we need to continue our group's work. We listed all the jobs that need doing, and identified three to focus on first. We created a full job description for each of these three people. We'll post the jobs on social media and print leaflets with the information to



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hand out at our events.

The three people we're looking for right now are:

- **A work-party setup coordinator.**
About six times a year, work parties for Baltimore Woods are scheduled through SOLVE or other outside organizations. This person will do things like place the temporary outdoor signs, make sure the tools and gloves are ready, do the little orientation speech and safety talk, set up the table, canopy, and coffee—that kind of thing—or arrange for someone else to do them.
- **A volunteer follow-up coordinator.** At each of our events, a few people sign up to volunteer with FoBW. We need someone who will get back with each of these people and chat them up. We have boilerplate emails to use for the purpose, or you can use an established script for a phone call. However you do it—get that person to a meeting, or get them to work on some project!
- **A volunteer scheduler for events.** We have about six events per year (other than work parties) that require volunteer participation, such as the FoBW plant sale or a farmers market table. This person will email or phone people who are already on our volunteering list and schedule them for shifts at whichever event is coming up.

If you are one of these three people, please talk to us! We also have a full list of other jobs that need doing. Call or email or come to a general meeting.

Spring 2017 Event Information

Every Thursday evening in June, July, and August, 7-8pm.

Join us for our one-hour weekly work parties. It's fun and easy! Meet us at the tool box in Baltimore Woods Meadow. Go to the bottom (river) end of N Catlin Ave and through the gate, and turn right.

June 7, Wednesday, 9am – 1pm

Tour a Heritage Seedlings farm just south of Salem, with 200 acres of habitat restored to its

former savanna glory. Bring your camera, field guide, binoculars, and lunch. Outhouses, drinking water, and fruit provided. There is no attendance limit but please RSVP to lboyer@heritageseedlings.com.

June 20, Tuesday, 6:30-8pm

Friends of Baltimore Woods general meetings are on the third Tuesday of each month at the BES water lab at 6543 N Burlington Ave, Portland 97203. All are welcome!

June 21, 2017, noon to 3pm

The 7th Annual Barbara Walker Trails Fair takes place at the Oregon Convention Center Plaza, 777 NE Martin Luther King Jr Blvd, Portland. Cost: Free! Information on trail projects throughout five counties, with short presentations, a walking tour, refreshments, and door prizes. Learn about commuter and recreational trails, bike and pedestrian projects, soft surface trails and mountain biking, how trails can be designed to protect habitat and wildlife, and many other topics.

June 29, Thursday, 1-4pm

Fourth annual "Service, Sports & Suds" community volunteer event. Teams from Timbers/Thorns, Trail Blazers, and Widmer Brothers Brewing will volunteer with SOLVE, FoBW, and Portland Parks & Recreation to care for native plants, remove invasive weeds, and improve Baltimore Woods and Cathedral Park. The Baltimore Woods plan is to continue weed removal and mulching along N. Decatur St.

Tuesday, July 18, 6-8pm

FoBW Annual Meeting, replacing July's general meeting, but still at the BES water lab. This is when we sit down together to make plans for the entire coming year. If you have an event you'd like to lead or participate in, this is your chance to bring it up. This is a very important part of our work so we hope to see as many friends as possible. New folks are welcome too.

August 15, Tuesday, 6:30-8pm

Friends of Baltimore Woods general meetings are on the third Tuesday of each month at the BES water lab at 6543 N Burlington Ave, Portland 97203. All are welcome!

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