



THE BALTIMORE WOODS-WORKER

Welcome to the Summer 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.



Volunteer at the 2016 FoBW plant sale

Upcoming Events:

**FoBW's Annual
(Big) Meeting
& Potluck**

**Saturday,
July 23rd
1-5 pm**

**BES Water Lab
6543 N. Burlington Ave**

Come to the FoBW Annual Meeting!

by Mark Hill

They say, "Time flies when you're having fun!" Well, it's hard to believe that nearly a year has passed since we all convened and agreed to try out a new model for working together as Friends of Baltimore Woods. Soon, we will re-convene to evaluate our experience with that model, cheer our successes, and make decisions for the coming year. Please join us for FoBW's Annual Meeting, Saturday, July 23rd, at 1 pm.

Last July, we came together and established four standing workgroups, each focusing on a specific priority (goal) of FoBW. We gave each workgroup decision-making and spending powers. We members then joined one or more of the workgroups, according to our own judgment and interests. The idea was to empower members by entrusting decision-making to those who are working together on

the front line. FoBW has been functioning under this organizational model ever since.

On July 23, FoBW members will meet up again. This time we will evaluate our organizational model, drawing lessons from our experience with it over the previous year. Each workgroup will report on its progress, and then lay out its work plan for the coming year. For the first time, workgroups will also present cost estimates for their proposed work plans and request the membership's approval of those expenditures. The approved plans and expenditures will then be incorporated into FoBW's combined annual plan and budget.

FoBW invites all interested persons to join us in our discussions and celebrations. At the time of decision-making, however, only active members will have a say in the final, consensus-based process. An active member, by FoBW's current definition, is anyone who has attended at least one



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of the previous two general meetings. General meetings take place on the third Tuesday of each month.

Our Annual Meeting has a big agenda. A fact- and fun-filled time is in store. We've reserved the BES meeting room for 1– 5 pm to allow time for deliberations and celebrations. This is a potluck, so if possible, bring snacks and refreshments to share. To make the most of our time together, workgroups will be meeting in advance to prepare their reports, budgets and proposals.

Native Plant Sale – Planting for a Healthy Future

by Caroline Skinner

Putting on a native plant sale of this magnitude is a big job. It involves making a poster and posting it, sending the event info around by email, putting together plant orders and working with suppliers to fill the orders, getting help to pick up and deliver plants, setting up tables and canopies, selling plants, and cleaning up. But many hands make light work, so co-chair Mark Hill and I would like to sincerely thank all of the many, many people who helped with these and other tasks to hold another successful native plant sale on March 26 at the St Johns Plaza.

Special thanks go to Amira El Cherbini for coordinating the master list of volunteers, and to Dianne Harrington for serving as much-needed volunteer coordinator on the day of the sale.

We'd like to sincerely thank the all the people who helped with the sale, including head cashiers Martha Shelley and Sylvia Allen, plant pick-up team of Jim Barnas, Mark Hill, Tom Bouillion,

Howard Harrington, Tom Seeman, and Howard Blumenthal, Joan Rainey for so much help with pre-sale prep and pricing, and Wade Hockett for once again lending us his big truck for the weekend. Thanks to Bon Hill, Susan Gere, Jennifer Dimsho, Todd, Leslie Smith and family, and many others who helped on the day of the sale.

It was great to have Nikkie West and co-volunteers Anya Pickard and Bob Shaw from Backyard Habitat, and to have Willow Elliott from the Native Plant Society available to offer native plant information. In terms of community engagement, we added some new, interested folks to our group, and we distributed almost 100 flyers listing our upcoming restoration events. We managed to get through the sale with a good turnout and no rain. And we helped find new

homes for about one thousand native plants!

The sale netted about \$3,500 (better than last year) to go toward restoration at Baltimore Woods. One of the biggest benefits of the sale, in addition to the fellowship and general fun, is to know we are placing so many new native plants in the environment.

I have personally experienced the drought-hardiness of native plants, after last summer's long dry spell. Things that looked dried up and dead last summer bounced back to life this spring. Certainly new plants need support watering, especially to become established in their first year, and mulch helps a lot too. If you've ever visited the upper meadow at Baltimore Woods, on one of our weekly work parties, for example, you can see how well things are doing there, thanks to good mulching. Native plants also provide good food and shelter for wildlife. There's a lot to love about them.

If you are still in need of more native plants (and really, can you ever have too many?), Bosky Dell Natives in West Linn is open to the public seven days a week, and Scappoose Bay Watershed Council will have its next half-day plant sale this October. Both of them supplied plants for our sale.

Thanks again to all who helped and shopped at the FoBW sale.



*Shopping at the
plant sale*



*Shopping at the 2016
FoBW plant sale*



The 2016 FoBW plant sale

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A Note About Bosky Dell Natives in West Linn

by Lory Duralia, Owner

The goal of Bosky Dell Natives and its website is to assist children, teachers, and stewards of the earth with valuable information, enabling us all to participate in the preservation of our native flora and re-establish habitat for our precious wildlife.

We are all stewards of the earth. This stewardship needs to be passed from the old to the young. The relationship between earth and humans needs to be a healthy balance of give and take. My hope is that our website will inspire and assist with the healing of the earth and the spirit of humankind. The song of a bird can nurture your heart, soul, and mind. Connect yourself with earth.

Much of our native flora and fauna are threatened due to habitat loss. As we build and develop, we must replenish what has been destroyed or removed. Be conscientious when you

are building, because wildlife, displaced from where your future house will stand, will need your assistance in finding a new home.

Create a backyard sanctuary for yourself and your backyard neighbors. Butterflies, birds, beneficial insects, and all other forms of life depend on us. Naturescaping can take place anywhere. Your backyard, a school courtyard, the entrance to an office building, open meadows, freeway entrance ramps, etc. -- every little pocket makes a difference. We must take care of the earth so that the earth can continue to take care of us!

We have over 300 species of native plants for sale. For more information, visit www.boskydellnatives.com.

A Note About Scappoose Bay Watershed Council

From www.scappoosebay-wc.org

The Scappoose Bay Watershed Council educates, advises, and assists landowners in the watershed to improve the quality of the

community's creeks and natural areas. It has actively involved more than 3,300 local students and volunteers in Water Quality Monitoring, Macro-invertebrate Monitoring, Native Plant Nursery, and Salmon Habitat Assessment programs. These programs help to foster an appreciation for our natural resources while promoting stewardship and gaining hands-on experience. The group is always looking for additional volunteers!



SBWC holds its next native plant sale on Saturday, October 15. The SBWC native plant nursery is located in the greenhouse behind Scappoose High School, just off of Hwy 30.



The crew from the Earth Day work party April 23

Messages From Our Earth Day Event

On Saturday, April 23, we had 19 extremely happy and productive people at the FoBW/ SOLVE Earth Day volunteer work party. Amazing how much work was done. —email from Howard Harrington

My sister and I enjoyed volunteering for the Earth Day restoration event. The Friends are organized, friendly and helpful which made it a pleasure to work alongside them. Thanks for your dedication, Friends. —Posted on our FoBW Facebook page by Monica Donley

Columbia Slough helps Baltimore Woods on March 12

by Caroline Skinner

Despite the cold, wet weather, the Columbia Slough Watershed Council turned out for an event

Bosky Dell Natives

23311 SW Bosky Dell Lane
West Linn, OR 97068
503-638-5945
boskydellnatives.com



Columbia Slough Watershed Council work party on March 12



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they organized at Baltimore Woods on Saturday, March 12. Portland Parks & Recreation (PP&R) lead the work party, and a total of 11 people worked on restoration in Baltimore Woods, including Howard Harrington and Kelly Derr from FoBW. We put in around 250 plants, including at least 60 oaks, several cascara, some flowering red currants, other shrubs, and some milkweeds. The weather wasn't ideal for volunteers, but was great for the new plants.

De La Salle School Helps Baltimore Woods on May 6th

by Mark Hill

On Friday, May 6th, 18 teenagers and two adult chaperones arrived by bus from De La Salle Catholic High School to work in the upper woodland (Edison Street and St



De La Salle students in Baltimore Woods on May 6

Johns Avenue) at Baltimore Woods as part of a SOLVE-sponsored event.

Every year at this time, De La Salle puts on a day of service, deploying its students and staff out into the community to

do good deeds. Last year, De La Salle sent a dozen or so our way, at the suggestion of SOLVE. Doug Bialo and I led the work party. We had a great time. The students are strong, ambitious, and fun to be around. I am grateful that we had the opportunity to host another De La Salle work party this year.

Before the work party, we re-tagged previously planted natives in the upper woodland to make them easier to see. In a recent walk-thru, we had found many plants without visible tags. The tags will continue help volunteers identify which plants need clearing and mulching. On work party day, we greeted, trained, deployed, and supervised the volunteers, who did a terrific job of clearing and mulching around the tagged native plants. It was good to have some FoBW members join the students to work alongside them.

Thank you to the students and staff of De La Salle for a productive work party. We hope you had another positive experience, and that De La Salle might make Baltimore Woods restoration a part of their annual Day of Service tradition. We appreciate your willingness to lend a hand, or many hands, to help with the continuing restoration. The need is large and so is our appreciation.

“Golden Hour” Weekly Work Parties

by Caroline Skinner

On Thursday evenings, we gather at Baltimore Woods after the heat of the day for easy, one-hour work parties. Called “Golden Hour” by some participants, they are a fun way to meet neighbors, make new friends, and help with restoration. For the rest of this summer, June through Labor Day, we'll meet at 7 pm at the FoBW toolbox in the meadow, and work until 8 pm. Hope to see you there! See page 8 for more details.

New Book on Meadowsclaping Now Available!

by Carolyn Myers Lindberg, Communications Coordinator, West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District

West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District is proud to announce the publication of *The Meadowsclaping Handbook: Designing, Planting and Managing an Urban Meadow*. The colorful handbook is a compilation of the knowledge and lessons learned by members of the Pacific Northwest Urban Meadowsclaping (PNUM) working group, regional ecologists, and landscape professionals. The handbook is designed as a how-to publication to help gardeners, landscape professionals, and ecologists in the Willamette Valley plan, design, plant, and maintain native plant meadows on small urban plots.

West Multnomah Urban Conservationist and Project Manager, Mary Logalbo, says, “We’re pleased to offer this publication to all who have expressed an interest in meadowsclaping. There is no other handbook focused on small-scale Willamette Valley urban meadow management, so we feel honored to be able to



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fill the gap with the latest knowledge on planning and designing these important habitat features.”

What is meadowscaping? It's the practice of designing, planting,

and managing an urban meadow to provide ecological functions and benefits such as pollinator habitat and stormwater improvements. Meadowscaping is an alternative to managing a turf grass lawn, which is a monoculture (single species). Meadowscaping uses a diversity of native prairie plants that are adapted to the local climate and soil conditions as well as to the needs of native wildlife. This landscaping practice uses native plant species that are deep rooted and drought resistant, offers habitat and forage for birds, pollinators, and beneficial insects, improves water infiltration, filters runoff, and stores carbon. Although the vast Willamette prairies are now diminished, the urbanizing Valley is still home to 50 native species of butterflies, several of which are at-risk. While the planting of an urban meadow cannot substantially increase the numbers of endangered butterflies, it can provide habitat for other pollinators, particularly bees.

Approximately 4,000 species of bees help pollinate our crops and flowers nationwide; 600-800 of them are native to Oregon. More than 150 species of native bees likely call the Willamette Valley home. While significant media attention has been devoted in recent years to the decline of introduced European honey bees, there is also evidence of native pollinator decline. Causes of decline are difficult to pinpoint, but loss of habitat due to increased urbanization, expansion of intensive agriculture, invasive species, introduced diseases and parasites, and the widespread use of pesticides all negatively impact pollinator populations. Protecting, enhancing, or providing new habitat is the best way to conserve native pollinators.

Anyone can download *The Meadowscaping Handbook* from the West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District website free of charge by clicking on Native Plants on the home page or going directly to <https://>

wmswcd.org/types/native-plants/. Hard copies of the book will be available in a couple of weeks.

Citizen's Rare Plant Watch

by Kris Freitag of CRPW

Oregon plant people, join us to search for historical occurrences of rare species, describe their status and extent, and contribute to their conservation.

The Citizen's Rare Plant Watch is a project of the Rare and Endangered Plants Committee of the Native Plant Society of Oregon (NPSO). What you may not have heard is that the Seed Bank at PSU is taking on the program, in grateful partnership with the many wonderful folks at NPSO - and we're raring to go! The time is upon us to get started watching out for rare plants in Oregon.

What we do:

- Talk to public land managers and select historical, little-visited sites of rare plant populations to visit.
- Gather maps, site and plant information, and data collection documents.
- Publicize trip options—dates, species, destinations.
- Sign up volunteers—that's you!
- Coordinate and lead trips and give you on-the-job training.
- Return collected data to land managers, Oregon Biodiversity Information Center, and Oregon Flora Project.

If you are interested in leading an outing or participating in one, please contact us! We are very excited about the potential of this program to increase understanding of the extent of rare species and of ecosystems throughout Oregon. We are setting up trainings and will be sending out trip options soon. For more information, please contact Kris Freitag, kfreitag@pdx.edu, 503-725-2468.

Backyard Farewell

by Gaylen Beatty

(from *BYH Summer 2016 News*)

This year marks the 10-year anniversary of Backyard Habitat's start as a pilot program in



Lupine in Baltimore Woods Meadow



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the west hills of Portland. I clearly remember the moment I was asked if I was interested in developing a certification program. It was the beginning of something truly special.

It is with bittersweet feelings that I say goodbye to Backyard and embark on a new adventure as Metro's Parks & Natural Areas visitor engagement manager. It's been an incredible journey and I'm both humbled and inspired by the stories you all have shared with me over the years.

To currently have more than three thousand properties enrolled is a testament to the power of our gardens and the collective difference our individual efforts have and will have for the future. Thank you for the inspiration, friendship and memories.



OrangeHawkweed

Backyard Invasion— Orange Hawkweed

(From Columbia Land Trust Nov 2015)

A recent Backyard Habitat Certification Program site visit led to the discovery of orange hawkweed, an unusual, pretty, but invasive plant. Gaylen Beatty, Backyard Habitat Certification Program manager for Columbia Land

Trust, and Cindy Ellison of Friends of Tryon Creek were conducting a local site visit earlier this fall when they came across an attractive but unusual flower. A closer look at the plant's bright orange, showy flowers confirmed their suspicions: they'd found orange hawkweed (*Hieracium aurantiacum*), an A-list noxious weed invasive to the Portland area.

Orange hawkweed has been found in only five sites in Portland. This recent discovery was made in Multnomah County near Tryon Creek State Natural Area. It's an Early Detection, Rapid Response weed (EDRR), meaning all detected instances of the plant need to be treated as quickly as possible to prevent spreading. Fortunately, West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District was able to send staff out to treat the infestation.

Noxious weeds such as orange hawkweed are spread by gardeners who find the flowers attractive and who have so much of the plant

that they offer it to neighbors and friends. Pro tip: if someone offers you a plant that they have "lots of" in their garden, do your research before accepting it. According to the City of Portland's website, orange hawkweed is known to form dense patches that begin in open, disturbed areas. In eastern Oregon, orange hawkweed is known as a rangeland weed. In the greater Portland area, it seems to find a similar home in turf and lawns.

It has persistent root systems, which do not respond to some herbicide treatments, making management of established populations difficult. Orange hawkweed infestations can lead to reduced plant and animal diversity as other species are choked out, as well as diminished agricultural value. Orange hawkweed is primarily spread by fluffy seeds, although new plants are often formed by difficult-to-see above-ground runners. Using these two strategies, orange hawkweed is able to quickly fill in open spaces and resist management.

Detecting extremely problematic noxious weeds before they have a chance to spread is just one way in which the Backyard Habitat Certification Program, which Columbia Land Trust runs in partnership with the Audubon Society of Portland, helps build healthier habitats for both people and wildlife. If you're curious about what might be hiding in your backyard, or you're just eager to create, beautiful, resilient, native habitat for area wildlife, visit backyardhabitats.org today!

On behalf of Columbia Land Trust and the Audubon Society of Portland, we'd like to thank our friends and partners at Friends of Tryon Creek for helping us deliver the Backyard Habitat Certification Program in Lake Oswego, and to West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District for addressing invasive weed issues, while also providing a host of educational opportunities for those looking to create backyard habitats.

Metro Quarterly Trails Forum

by Steven McClure

The Willamette Falls Riverwalk was a highlight among presentations at the Trails Forum held at Metro Regional Center on February 10. Dave Elkin of Metro, who is the planner and project manager of the Riverwalk, addressed the group. I suggest a visit to RediscoveringtheFalls.com

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to get a good idea of the development planned for the old paper mill site in Oregon City. We never get tired of pointing out that the Willamette Falls are the second most powerful falls in the United States after Niagara. (Plan your honeymoon now!)

Along with some reports on funding and grant programs, we heard about work being done on proposed regional trails guidelines at Metro. Then, two equestrian groups, the Valley Riders Club and Oregon Equestrian Trails, made presentations. Will we be seeing horses on Decatur as the North Portland Greenway (npGreenway) comes along?

To wrap up we heard an update from the Intertwine Alliance and were told about the sixth annual Barbara Walker Regional Trails Fair on June 22. This is a free and really entertaining way to learn about several dozen groups and trails in the area, and I highly recommend it. Friends of Baltimore Woods will be there with npGreenway, so please stop by our tent and table.

Bill's Excellent Adventure on the Willamette, Part Eight: "Bones in the River"

by Steven McClure

(Dr. McClure is submitting this article in response to the EPA's proposed plan for the Portland Harbor Superfund cleanup. He asks that you join him with your own response, before the looming deadline.)

In eighteen oh six

Clark saw a clean Willamette.

Now she's coming back.

My haiku was written several years ago, anticipating the time when we would remove toxic pollution from the Portland Harbor Superfund site. That site is, after all, the reach of Captain William Clark's risky and significant venture upriver to just past the St. Johns Bridge.

My research of the Corps of Discovery has revealed that Clark's retrograde maneuver up the Willamette was far more than a side trip of almost idle curiosity, as it's been commonly portrayed. Lewis and Clark's foretelling of the harbor-to-be conveys a little of the great vision the Willamette held for this nation's premiere intelligence officers.

"The Current of the Multnomar (Willamette) is as jentle as that of the Columbia glides Smoothly with an eavin surface, and appears to be Sufficiently deep for the largest Ship. I attempted



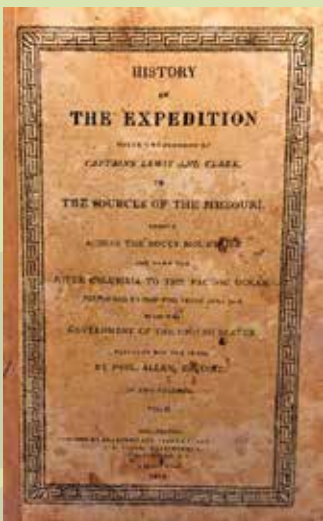
Medicines taken along on the Lewis and Clark expedition

fathom it with a Cord of 5 fathom which was the only Cord I had, could not find bottom 1/3 of the distance across. I proceeded up this river 10 miles from it's entrance into the Columbia to a large house on the N.E. Side and Encamped near the house. . . . at this place I think the wedth of the river may be Stated at 500 yards and Sufficiently deep for a Man of War or Ship of any burthen.

--William Clark's journal entry, April 2, 1806

"The tides flow up the Columbia 183 miles, or within seven miles of the great rapids (Cascades), thus far large sloops might ascend in safety, and vessels of 300 tons burthen could with equal safety reach the entrance of the river Multnomah, a large Southern branch of the Columbia, which . . . discharges itself into the Columbia 125 miles from it's mouth." --Meriwether Lewis' report to Thomas Jefferson, September 23, 1806

The Lewis and Clark Expedition used some



Lewis and Clark expedition journal, 1814

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of the first firearms employing interchangeable parts, and the captains' return to the United States

was only a year before Robert Fulton's first demonstration of a commercially viable steamship, so they were truly on the cusp of modern industry. The nine men in Clark's canoe on the Willamette would have borne little besides their weapons, food, and bedding, probably a fiddle, gifts for diplomacy, two notebooks, and a compass. They'd have left little pollution, likely not even so much as a single lead shot, taking no pictures and leaving only paddle strokes. Although even then, their waste would have had traces of mercury from the medicine they were given for venereal complaints.

It's the bones in the river I think about. For centuries, perhaps millennia, the native Chinookan (Columbia canoe culture) people threw away something they considered trash. Modern writer Yvonne Hajda tells us, "When slaves became ill, they were neglected; when they died, the corpses were tossed in the water or the woods."

Lewis and Clark, members of a brutal slave society themselves, recognized little of the extensive slave culture among the prosperous Chinookan tribes along the Columbia. Sir George Simpson of the Hudson Bay Company would note a bit later that slaves did all the hard work and they "form the principal article of traffick on the whole of this Coast and constitute the greater part of their Riches."

We look back to history, however, not for the past but for the future. Modern technology would eventually allow us to exchange the poison of slavery for the toxins of machines and chemical products. We try to forget the slavery, forced labor, and human trafficking still with us today.

Those entities who have grown filthy rich along our tainted river hope to wash away our concern with promises of wages and taxes. Conceal, deny, postpone—we all do it.



Lewis and Clark expedition medals

There is a limit to how long the scarring, calcification, and deposits in our arteries can hide what we have consumed. We still strive to be free down to the marrow of our bones.

Is it worth it to clean up and detoxify the river? A slave may ask, is it worth it to live?

Thank You

Thank you to Dianne and Howard Harrington for donating a camera to FoBW. Many of the photos in this issue were taken with the new FoBW camera.

FoBW Quarterly Event Information

June through Labor Day, every Thursday, 7-8 pm
"Golden Hour" work parties in Baltimore Woods Meadow. Meet at the FoBW toolbox. From Lombard, take Catlin toward the river. Go downhill to the end of Catlin, pass through the gate, and bear right into the paved parking area. The meadow, and the toolbox, are where the pavement ends. Please wear long sleeves and pants and sturdy shoes. Bring your own water. FoBW supplies gloves and all tools and equipment needed.

June 21, Tuesday, 6:30-8pm
Friends of Baltimore Woods general meetings are on the third Tuesday of each month (except July! See entry for July 23 below) at the BES water lab at 6543 N Burlington Ave, Portland 97203. All are welcome!

June 22, Wednesday, noon-3pm
The Barbara Walker Regional Trails Fair, Apotheker Plaza in front of the Metro Regional Center, 600 NE Grand Avenue (near the Convention Center) in Portland.

July 23, Saturday, 1-5pm
FoBW Annual meeting @ BES lab. All are welcome to come and help plan the coming year.

August 16, Tuesday, 6:30-8pm
Friends of Baltimore Woods general meeting. See entry for June 21. More information is available at www.friendsofbaltimorewoods.org.

Newsletter Contributors Summer 2016

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