

Spring 2018



THE BALTIMORE WOODS-WORKER

Welcome to the Spring 2018 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.

Native Plant Sale

Benefit for



Saturday March 31
10am–3pm • St. Johns Plaza

Upcoming Events:

FoBW's annual native plant sale and benefit fundraiser is coming to the St. Johns Plaza on March 31!

FoBW Annual Native Plant Sale 2018

The sale will offer a wide variety of affordable native plants suitable for white oak woodland and oak meadows, because those are the ecosystems in the Baltimore Woods corridor. These areas are particularly threatened in the growing metro area. There will be sun and shade plants, and hummingbird, butterfly, and bee favorites. By spreading these native plants out into people's yards, we hope

to encourage a broader urban restoration effort beyond Baltimore Woods itself, and promote the expansion of wildlife habitat in St. Johns.

The Backyard Habitat Program and Native Plant Society of Oregon will have information tables and plant experts on site for plant advice. We hope you'll stop in!

Should I Plant Milkweed?

By Mary Logalbo
Urban Conservationist
WMSWCD

Once the dramatic decline



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THE BALTIMORE WOODS-WORKER

of the charismatic monarch butterfly was understood, conservationists throughout the country responded with vigorous planting efforts focused primarily on installing milkweed plants, which are the required host plants for monarch caterpillars. This seemed to be a simple and effective way to support monarch conservation. However, the Xerces Society, an international nonprofit organization that protects wildlife through the conservation of invertebrates and their habitats, warns that milkweed may not be appropriate in every landscape. For example, they do not recommend planting milkweed in areas where the plant did not historically occur, such as a section of Northwest Oregon that includes the West Multnomah SWCD service area.

The Xerces Society makes its milkweed recommendations "in order to best support

the natural cycle and migration of monarchs through an area." The debate as to whether or not showy milkweed (*Asclepias speciosa*) is native to Portland is far from final. However, Urbanizing Flora of Portland and prominent botanical authorities have found documented native populations to exist, both historically and currently, only outside of the West Multnomah SWCD service area.

In response to this, if you want to "Save the Monarchs" and other beautiful butterflies, bees, and other pollinators within our service area, we recommend that you plant an abundance of diverse native wildflowers, shrubs, and trees that provide nectar and pollen throughout the growing season. You might be surprised to learn that planting and protecting our native thistle species is now recommended, as their pollen and nectar resources are valuable food sources to bees, butterflies and other pollinators. Some information on these native thistles can be found at Clackamas SWCD's website and on Xerces' website.

November Planting Party

By Caroline Skinner and
Sylvia Allen

We are grateful to all those who came to help at our planting party in Baltimore Woods Meadow



Sprinkling "Tough and Tenacious" seed mix



"Tough and Tenacious" native seed mix



THE BALTIMORE WOODS-WORKER



A volunteer at the November planting party



Planting seedlings in Baltimore Woods Meadow

on November 18. We had a good turnout, thanks to reasonable weather. We planted starts and cast “tough and tenacious” native plant seed mix in Baltimore Woods Meadow.

What was planted at our planting party?

Ameranchier alnifolia /	
Western serviceberry	25
Corylus cornuta / hazlenut	25
Crataegus douglasii / Douglas hawthorne	25
Holodiscus discolor / oceanspray	25
Lonicera involucrate / twinberry	25
Mahonia aquifolium / tall Oregon grape	25
Polystichum munitum / sword fern	50
Quercus garryana / Oregon white oak	25
Rhamnus purshiana / cascara	25
Ribes divaricatum oro	
spreading gooseberry	25
Ribes sanguineum / red flowering currant	25
Rosa gymnocarpa /	
wood rose/baldhip rose	25
Sambucus cerula / blue elderberry	25
TOTAL	350

Sometimes January is Not So Bad

By Caroline Skinner

Over the years we’ve had some good work parties in the month of January, and this year was no exception. We had a mix of clouds and blue sky, with some rain and some very welcome sunshine. With a good turnout of about 16 people, thanks to recruitment help from SOLVE, Facebook, and Nextdoor, we had volunteers from all over Portland come out to help weed the Baltimore Woods gateway at the corner of N Baltimore and Decatur. By the end of the morning, we had an army of tired volunteers who left behind big piles of pulled English ivy, clematis, and blackberry vines, with some Italian arum in the mix too.

While talking with Isabel LaCourse, event leader and Portland Parks and Recreation stewardship member, I said the work almost seems like a



THE BALTIMORE WOODS-WORKER



*A volunteer at the
SOLVE work party*



SOLVE work party in January



*Congratulations to FoBW's volunteer of theyear,
Mark Hill, spotlighted at the Expo*

fool's errand, since it's never done. But better words to describe the work might be a difficult struggle. She said it is true that while we hope it will get better in time, as our native plants grow larger and stronger, the work of weeding out invasive plants is never done. So I decided instead to call it a noble cause, and to give thanks to all who helped with it.

FoBW at the St. Johns Community Expo

Once again this year, FoBW had an information table at the annual Community Expo on February 15, held at the Los Prados Event Hall and hosted by the St. Johns Center for Opportunity. The event brought together local nonprofits and grassroots groups to share resources and connect with residents in the neighborhood. The event was lively and high-spirited, and featured snacks and beverages, a live DJ, kid's activities, a VIP volunteer area, and a raffle drawing. It was a good opportunity for FoBW to meet potential volunteers and community partners.



THE BALTIMORE WOODS-WORKER

Partner Spotlight: Columbia Slough Watershed Council

FoBW does work parties occasionally with the Columbia Slough Watershed Council (CSWC), one of our community partner groups. In February CSWC hosted a family planting day in Baltimore Woods. We love working



Sidalcea waiting for planting at the Columbia Slough WC work party in Baltimore Woods

with them! Here is a list of CSWC's 2017 accomplishments, as described in their year-end report:

Stewardship Program

The CSWC stewardship program has been growing and is now led by Stewardship Director Matt Lee. We surveyed and mapped existing restoration sites throughout the watershed to help ensure existing work is maintained and prioritize for the future. Our team restored 13 separate habitat sites and expanded our great slough cleanup to four locations throughout the Slough. We are setting the stage for more restoration work—building partnerships and opportunities for even healthier habitats in our watershed.

Education Program

CSWC provided place-based science education to the Native American Youth and Family

Center after school program and four school districts: Gresham Barlow, Reynolds, Parkrose, and Portland Public Schools. Fifteen 5th grade classes restored habitat at Kelley Point, Wilkes Headwaters, Nadaka, and Heron Pointe Wetlands. 527 students canoed the slough with us this year.

Outreach and Events

Explorando, Aquifer Adventure, and Regatta starred as our festivals this year and were complimented by 24 workshops, paddles, bicycle tours, and other events. Explorando was again led by a community-based coalition of culturally specific partner organizations and Latinx individuals. This year we improved the education component and held the festival at Colwood Golf while Whitaker Ponds Nature Park was renovated. Our Paddle team and staff hosted 10 canoeing events and a record number of private tours. Key partners included Verde, the Portland Water Bureau, Multnomah County Drainage district, and many others.

Additional Programs

Nadaka Nature Park manages 10 acres of forest, a community garden with Outgrowing Hunger, a picnic shelter, and a nature based play area. They provide environmental and garden education, stewardship opportunities, and community events for the Rockwood & Wilkes East neighborhoods. We also act as fiscal sponsor for the Resourceful Use program, which helps businesses in the Columbia Corridor exchange materials, diverting items from the waste stream.

Spring 2018 Event Information

March 31, Saturday, 10am-3pm

FoBW native plant sale in the St. Johns Plaza, at N. Lombard and Philadelphia, near the east end of the St. Johns Bridge. See page 1 for more information.

April 14, Saturday, 9am-3pm

Scappoose Bay Watershed Council native plant sale, in the greenhouse behind Scappoose High School.



THE BALTIMORE WOODS-WORKER

One from the Heart: For Nob Hill Nature Park and Oak Woodlands Everywhere

By Caroline Skinner

An easy six inches of the best soil is layered over dark basalt.
Oak trees stand tall, overlooking it all. Below is the point where a
Side channel glides into the river and flows onward toward the ocean.
Above it stand oak, camas and rock.
We love this land, as others certainly loved it before us.
Sparks from a campfire drift upward into a dark, spangled summer's
Night sky. Maybe people sprawled out on the ground right here,
In the midst of a dense wildflower meadow full of camas, wild
Buttercup, lupine, larkspur and shooting star, popcorn flower,
Monkey flower, fawn lilies, checker lilies and prairie star. Trails
Connected the thousands of acres of woodlands and meadows,
Now down to just a few acres of heaven, miraculously left alone,
Overlooked by development and not destroyed, paved or built. The
Profusion of wildflowers gives way to fall color, crunchy, dry and
Brown oak leaves in drifts and droves add another year's richness
To the soil. Poison oak leaves turn pink then flutter in the wind like
Snow. Grasses turn dry, golden brown, skies darken, trees are bare
Against the stormy sky. Wind and rain quicken and carry the day.
With the return of cold rain, licorice ferns burst out with fresh bright
Green, splashed all across the land in its most barren places. The cold
Clamps down. Plants sleep. Animals snuggle in their dens. Birds flit
About, seeking winter berries. Snow dusts the trails. All is quiet;
All is sleeping. Then the rain returns, making mud season bloom. Water
Flows in its courses,
Buds, seedlings and new plants emerge.
Spring's joy and summer's abundance are ahead again.



*Look for flowering red
currant in Baltimore Woods*

Contributors to This Issue

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April 21, Saturday, 9am-noon

Be good to your mother! Join FoBW and SOLVE for an Earth Day work party. Pre-register at www.solve-oregon.org. Meet at N Decatur and Baltimore to continue weed removal to support our native plantings along Decatur.

May 9, Saturday, 9am-noon

Work party in Baltimore Woods. Check the FoBW website for location and details.

May

The Native Plant Society of Oregon holds its annual Native Plant Appreciation Month—a month of walks, hikes, and ways to learn about

native plants. For more information on specific events, go to www.npmidx.org.

Thursday evenings in May

Meet us at the tool box in the Baltimore Woods Meadow for our one-hour work parties every Thursday evening. We work from 6:30 to 7:30pm in May, and then shift to 7-8pm in June. It's easy and so much fun. Join us!

Third Tuesday of each month

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!