



The Green Heron Herald

The Quarterly Newsletter of the TUALATIN RIVERKEEPERS®

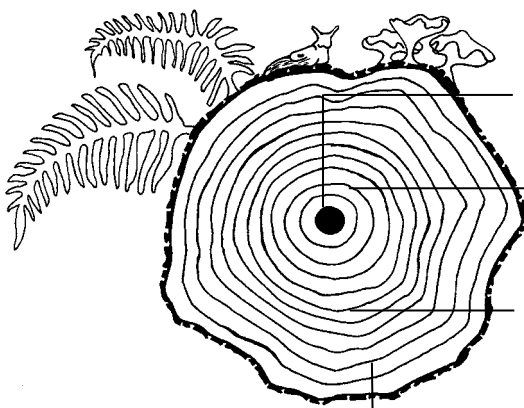
Volume 17, Issue 2, Spring 2010

Tualatin Riverkeepers' Green Heron Gala

April 24, 2010 5 to 9pm

Glenn & Viola Walters Cultural Arts Center, Hillsboro

Join us to celebrate the accomplishments of the Green Heron Award Winner, Sue Marshall



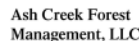
5 Silent Auction & St. Cupcake Raffle
enter to win a hand-built wooden kayak

7 Dinner is Served
local produce & fare by Forest Grove favorite Maggie's Buns

7:30 Live Auction
sea kayaking trip in BC, paintings by Carol Grigg, chanterelle hunting on Mt Hood

8 Award Presentation
Sue Marshall wins for grassroots empowerment

Tickets \$50 at www.tualatinriverkeepers.org



Sue Marshall is the Green Heron Award Winner



The Board of Tualatin

Riverkeepers selected dedicated volunteer and member Sue Marshall as the

recipient of the annual Green Heron Award for her commitment to the organization and communities in the Tualatin Basin.

During 2009, Sue represented the Riverkeepers' legislative interests and aided in passing Senate bills that eliminated toxins from the river. In addition, she worked on House Bill 2945 that requires DEQ to develop and implement procedures to analyze water samples collected and submitted for presence of cyanotoxins, and develop a program to raise awareness and improve response to public health concerns regarding outbreaks of blue-green algae and associated toxins.

"Sue is well known and highly respected for her strong sense of integrity in working with people. She listens and respects all points of view, is open to new ideas, gives honest and clear feedback, and seeks collaboration and agreement to move things forward, as her basic working tenets. And she does this while working with the legislature in Salem- talk about a salmon swimming upstream," notes TRK Board Member Ron Garst.

Sue leads the Tualatin River Canoe Trail committee to establish new public boat launch sites. She serves as a Citizen Action Committee advisor, represents TRK interests through the Urban and Rural Reserves land use designation process, and continues to support and mentor Tualatin Riverkeepers' staff. She has served as TRK's President of the Board of Directors and as Executive Director.

Sue lives her beliefs, stating "for someone who still wants to change the world, TRK provides a great outlet. It is a wonderful community asset to have an organization that empowers folks to take action on issues and projects that are important to them."

TRK Unites with Farmers to Protect Natural Resources

Metro and Washington, Clackamas, and Multnomah counties recently adopted a map designating areas where urban expansion could occur in the next 50 years if there was a need for additional land to be added to the urban growth boundary (UGB). Metro has the authority to expand the UGB through a periodic process that occurs every five years. This process is underway with potential UGB expansion occurring as early as next year.

TRK Unites with Farmers continued on page 5.

In This Issue:

TRK News	2	Watershed Watch.....	5
Nature Awareness	3	Trips & Tours.....	6
Volunteering.....	4	Membership.....	7

Visit our website at www.tualatinriverkeepers.org.

OUR MISSION

Tualatin Riverkeepers (TRK) is a community-based organization working to protect and restore Oregon's Tualatin River system. TRK builds watershed stewardship through education, public access to nature, restoration and advocacy.

The Tualatin Riverkeepers became a nonprofit in 1992 and is tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Please join us by completing and mailing the membership application in this newsletter or by contacting us.

Phone: 503-620-7507

Fax: 503-620-7645

info@tualatinriverkeepers.org

www.tualatinriverkeepers.org

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- Brian Wegener, *Riverkeeper*
- Lori Kruse, *Environmental Education Coordinator*

The *Green Heron Herald* is a quarterly publication of the Tualatin Riverkeepers. We welcome your comments and suggestions. Please let us know if we have misspelled your name or if we mis-addressed the newsletter or sent you a duplicate copy.

Design: BeBop Graphics



Tualatin Riverkeepers is proud to be a Waterkeeper Alliance Member.



From the Director



Dear Riverkeepers,

Oscar will spend hours climbing in a hollow log, pretending to fish in the river or digging on the beach. He's using focused attention. He's using many of his senses at once to explore the natural world. Being

in nature and letting nature be the guide is a highly valuable experience.

I'm excited that this summer my four-year-old son Oscar will have the opportunity to continue to explore nature at the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge with a gifted guide, TRK's Education Coordinator, Lori Kruse. At the Birds, Bugs and Butterflies session of TRK's **Nature Day Camp**, Oscar will learn wildlife observation skills of nature awareness that Tualatin Riverkeepers teaches through our school field trip programs. Developing nature awareness skills can enrich both our understanding and love of nature.

The children attending **Nature Day Camp** will eavesdrop on birds; learn to identify them visually and by their calls – the language they use to communicate danger, territory and attraction. They will learn about the lives of mammals like deer, coyote, raccoon and river otter by following their tracks and signs.

The Birds, Bugs and Butterflies session of TRK's **Nature Day Camp** runs June 21-25, 9am – 12pm at the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge in Sherwood. Additional camp dates will be offered for various ages at the Refuge, at Cook Park in Tigard and at Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve in Hillsboro. Older children will have the opportunity to learn to canoe, kayak and fish the Tualatin River.

Please join me in offering this unique opportunity for growth to a special child in your life. Consider sponsoring a low-income child in honor of Earth Day, because giving children a deep understanding of nature is a gift to the Earth.

Sincerely,

Monica Smiley

Gala Live Auction Preview

BC Kayaking Tour

Six-day, five-night sea kayaking tour in Clayquot or Barkley Sound in British Columbia, Canada with Pacific Rim Paddling Company. Leave city life behind and see Orcas, Bald Eagles and sea otters up-close. This is a guided, catered, wilderness camping experience. All gear is included.

Mt. Hood Chanterelle Hike

Learn to harvest Oregon's edible mushrooms. Sue and Jerry Manning will lead a field trip from their destination cabin in Mt. Hood National Forest. Outing includes forest brunch with mushroom entree and mushroom guidebook.

Mixed Media Paintings by Carol Grigg

Four original, framed paintings featuring the Oregon wildlife from which Grigg draws her inspiration including: an Acorn Woodpecker, a Yellow-headed Blackbird, a Raven and a butterfly.



Nature Awareness Education

2010 Nature Day Camps

Camps foster an appreciation and love of nature through hands-on experiential learning. Before-care and after-care is available from 8am - 5pm. For registration materials, visit www.tualatinriverkeepers.org.

Session 1: Bugs, Birds, and Butterflies

Ages 4 - 6

June 21 - 25, 9am - 12pm

Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge, Sherwood

Join us for a week-long adventure discovering the wonders of the natural world. Observe our buzzing, hopping, weaving friends, and learn what they need to live. Learn and discover through outdoor exploration, sensory activities, songs, games and crafts. (No before-care and after-care available.)

Session 2: Where are the Wild Things?

Ages 8 - 10

June 28 - July 2, 9am - 3:30pm

Cook Park, Tigard

They are all around us! The Peregrine falcon, the fastest animal on earth, lives right here. Red fox, mink, and river otter are our neighbors. Heighten your observation skills to identify and track animals that live along our river, in our parks and backyards.

Session 3: Snakes, Tracks, Tails, and Trails

Ages 8 - 10

July 12 - 16, 9am - 3:30pm

Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve, Hillsboro

Even snakes leave tracks. Those tracks tell a story about their life – where they live, what they eat. Follow the trail and let nature tell you a story. Help share the stories of the animals through creative writing and art.

Session 4: Wild Life!

Ages 11 - 13

July 19 - 23, 9am - 3:30pm

Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge, Sherwood

What does it take to survive in the wild? Find food; build shelter! Experience relationships between predators and prey. Be the predator and the prey. Learn how animals adapt to their surroundings and we adapt to ours.

Session 5: Water World

Ages 8 - 10

August 2 - 6, 9am - 3:30pm

Cook Park, Tigard

The drain is not the end of the water cycle – it's the beginning! Where does the water go when it leaves our house? What's in the water we drink and fish swim in? Let's explore the water cycle and sustainability through a new lens.

Session 6: The Way Things Are

Ages 11-13

August 9 - 13, 9am - 3:30pm

Cook Park, Tigard

If snakes live in holes, then how do they dig them? They don't have hands...

Do fish sleep? Are their eyes open or closed?

You ask the questions and find the answers through nature observation.



Volunteering / Restoration



Stephanie Puhl pictured with fellow Board Member John Driscoll at the TRK Annual Meeting and Blue Ribbon Pie Walk

Who's Who

Stephanie Puhl

Stephanie Puhl was Selected Vice President of Tualatin Riverkeepers' Board of Directors in January. She first volunteered in 2004 when she coordinated the *Rumba al Rio* event with *Adelante Mujeres* as a college intern.

"I am a proud volunteer for Tualatin Riverkeepers. My passion for waterways is why I started; I continue because protecting the watershed where I grew up is an important stepping stone to a bright future. It is like building my own little bridge from a great childhood in Tualatin, to one for the

children that come after me. Learning from veteran volunteers and staff, and meeting new people in this community is a fun way to give back and feel connected. The biggest rewards are jumping into a canoe or observing the Tualatin from afar and feeling the calm. When I look at the Tualatin, I can see first-hand what we are working for—a whole basin of wildlife living among people who either enjoy this slow moving, peaceful and humble river or have yet to experience its timid tranquility. As a volunteer with Tualatin Riverkeepers I can connect people with a local stress reducer, while protecting our drinking water and habitats that originally drew people to this beautiful basin. It just feels good."

Stephanie is employed at the Freshwater Trust, and can be found astride her 10-speed bike commuting.



TRK is working to protect and restore natural areas in the Tualatin watershed for clean drinking water and habitat for wildlife.

Volunteers of all ages turned out to participate in restoration projects this winter.

You can help, too, by rallying your co-workers, church groups or scout troops to plant trees with TRK.

TRK Volunteer Classifieds Experts and Novices Needed!

Experts and novices needed to make a difference! Contact Monica Smiley to volunteer at 503-620-7507 or monica@tualatinriverkeepers.org.

Green Heron Gala Event Volunteers:

The Gala is on Saturday, April 24, at the Walter's Cultural Arts Center in Hillsboro. Volunteers are needed to help with set up from 12pm – 5pm.

Discovery Day Event Volunteers:

Discovery Day is Saturday, June 19, from Cook Park in Tigard to Brown's Ferry Park in Tualatin. Strong volunteers are needed to launch and dock boats. Lighter duty positions like watermelon cutter are also available.

Office Volunteers:

Your office skills are needed once a week for reception, filing, labeling or data entry.

Field Trip Leader:

Share your knowledge of the natural world with students. Enthusiasm is a must! The field trips will take place at Gotter Prairie in Scholls and Cook Park in Tigard.

Nature Day Camp Counselors:

Share your knowledge and passion for the natural world with children at summer day camps in Hillsboro, Sherwood and Tigard. \$1,000 education award available through AmeriCorps for 300 hours of service. Award can be used at any college that accepts federal financial student aid. Must be 18 years or older. AmeriCorps is our national Peace Corps. Active retirees encouraged.

Citizen Action Committee:

Researchers, scientists, policy analysts, engineers, writers, organizers needed to help TRK develop public policy positions and advocate for the Tualatin River. Meetings 4th Wednesday of each month at 7pm at Max's Fanno Creek Brew Pub on Main Street in Tigard.

Watershed Watch / Citizen Action

Legislative Update

Sue Marshall represented TRK in Salem for the February special session. Updates on priority legislation:

Cyanotoxin

Cyanotoxin is a toxin that is produced by blue-green algae. Outbreaks in Oregon waterways threaten public health and water quality. TRK organized a presentation at an informational hearing before Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee. As a result, Chair Dingfelder directed DEQ and other agencies to work with TRK and others to develop a work plan addressing the issues of prevention, testing and health advisories and report back to her committee. TRK will continue to work on this issue during the interim. Lead advocate: Tualatin Riverkeepers.

Plastic Bag Ban

Senator Mark Hass (Beaverton) introduced SB 1009 to ban single-use plastic shopping bags. Plastic bags are a litter problem along Oregon's waterways, harm fish and wildlife, and create a costly problem for recyclers' sorting equipment. Although the bill did not advance beyond a public hearing, it generated positive interest and TRK hopes Senator Hass will continue to champion a plastic bag ban in the 2011 session. Lead advocate: Surfrider Foundation and Willamette Riverkeeper.

Bisphenol A (BPA) Ban

Bisphenol A (BPA) was developed as a synthetic sex hormone in the 1930s but is now used to make water bottles, baby bottles, reusable food containers and the lining of canned goods. Studies show that young children are most vulnerable to BPA health effects. The bill would have banned BPA's use in products for children under age three including baby bottles and sippy cups, but failed in the Senate on at 15-15 vote. Lead advocate: Oregon Environmental Council.

Fast Action Averts Repeat of Wapato Lake Incident

Wapato Lake near Gaston is a historic lake bed of roughly 1000 acres that has been diked and drained for farming for the past 80 years. Prior to that, the Atfalati (Tualatin) people harvested wapato, a tuberous plant which was an important part of their diet.

In the summer of 2008, the Wapato Improvement District (WID) pumped the water from the lake into the Tualatin River. This discharge was identified as the source of a major toxic cyanobacteria (aka blue-green algae) outbreak. Oregon Department of Human Services issued a health advisory for the lower Tualatin River that summer. The Wapato Lake discharge was also blamed for a "taste and odor event" caused by the chemical geosmin that is produced by cyanobacteria that made the tap water in Hillsboro and surrounding communities taste like dirt. The Joint Water Commission required extra activated charcoal filtration to the water that cost ratepayers almost \$300,000.

DEQ worked with the district and other partners to develop a water quality management plan that requires dewatering of the lake be completed before May 1. Thanks to a call by an alert TRK member, TRK became aware that the large pump at Wapato Lake was not working, delaying dewatering. TRK sent a letter to WID and DEQ reminding them of their obligations under the Water Quality Management Plan. TRK also notified partners Clean Water Services (CWS), U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the Joint Water Commission.

DEQ responded that they intend to enforce the plan, but the WID has minimal resources and could not easily replace their pump. In response to TRK's notification, CWS stepped up to help avert a repeat of the 2008 cyanobacteria outbreak. CWS brought in a pump and recruited three more pumps donated by the Army Corps of Engineers.

TRK thanks an alert TRK member, Clean Water Services, Army Corps of Engineers, and all of the partners who stepped up to prevent a significant pollution incident.

TRK Unites with Farmers continued from page 1.

Metro and the counties also set aside areas called Rural Reserves, where the UGB may not expand over the next 50 years. Rural reserves are supposed to protect the best farming soils and significant landscape features. Tualatin Riverkeepers joined forces with a coalition of environmental and farming advocacy groups including Oregon Association of Nurseries, Washington County Farm Bureau, 1000 Friends of Oregon, Audubon Society of Portland and the Urban Greenspaces Institute to promote protection of wetlands, floodplains, stream confluences, and special habitats through Rural Reserves designation.

Specific areas that Tualatin Riverkeepers advocated for protection with Rural Reserves designation include: Weibel Creek north of Hillsboro, south Cornelius floodplain, Dairy-McKay-Council creeks confluences, Cooper Mountain, Tonquin Geologic Area, and the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge. While significant portions of these areas were included in urban reserves despite our recommendations, our efforts were successful in protecting significant wetland and floodplain areas of the Tualatin River and Dairy and McKay creeks, and the Clackamas County portion of the Tonquin Geologic area.

The next step in the process is approval by Oregon's Land Conservation and Development Commission (LCDC). Tualatin Riverkeepers will submit testimony to LCDC showing how the designation of Urban Reserves where there are significant natural resources does not comply with the factors specified in the Oregon Administrative Rules. LCDC's final decision on the Urban & Rural Reserves is expected in October.

Trips & Tours



Volunteers Needed for Discovery Day Saturday, June 19

Cook Park, Tigard to Brown's Ferry Park, Tualatin
FREE

TRK will welcome over 200 paddlers at the 21st Annual Tualatin River Discovery Day on June 19. The short 3.2-mile paddle trip is ideal for new paddlers and families with young children. Volunteers are needed at Discovery Day to help greet and register participants, carry and launch boats, direct traffic and serve refreshments. Over 70 volunteers are needed to help make Discovery Day a success. Please lend a hand!

Parent-Child Hikes

TRK and the City of Tualatin team up to offer parent-child hikes along the Tualatin River. TRK Education Coordinator Lori Kruse will introduce nature awareness observation techniques to parents with young children. Learn about the lives of mammals by the tracks and signs they leave behind.

Thursday, April 22
9am - 10:30am, Cook Park, Tigard

Thursday, May 20
9am - 10:30am, Brown's Ferry Park, Tualatin

Cost is \$8 for Tualatin residents, \$10 for non-residents (price includes one adult and one child, ages 3-5)
To register, contact the City of Tualatin 503-691-3061.

2010 Paddle Trip Schedule

TRK trips are open to all members and the general public. Space is limited and reservations are required. *There is a trip charge of \$5 per person for TRK members and \$10 for nonmembers. Canoes are available to members free of charge by reservation. Nonmembers may rent canoes for our trips for \$30. Annual memberships start at \$35.*

Register ONLINE at: www.tualatinriverkeepers.org

May 1, Saturday
May Day Paddle
Tualatin Community Park, 1pm - 4pm

May 15, Saturday
Migratory Songbird Festival
Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge, 9am - 12pm

June 12, Saturday
Paddle & Hike with Metro Naturalist James Davis
Metro's Greenspace at Munger Lane, 10am - 2pm

FREE EVENT June 19, Saturday
21st Annual Tualatin River Discovery Day
New date - 3rd Saturday in June
Cook Park, Tigard to Brown's Ferry Park, Tualatin

July 10, Saturday
Paddle & Picnic
Brown's Ferry Park, 10am - 2pm

July 24, Saturday
Mid-Summer's Night Paddle Trip
Tualatin Community Park, 5pm - 8pm

August 14, Saturday
Family Paddle Day
Cook Park, 10am - 1pm

August 28, Saturday
Beginners Paddle
Brown's Ferry Park, 9am - 12pm

September 12, Sunday
Beginners Paddle
Cook Park, 10am - 1pm

September 25, Saturday
Members only Paddle
Eagle Landing to Scholls, 9am - 1pm
(recommended for intermediate paddlers)

October 16, Saturday
Autumn Colors Paddle
99W Bridge, 1pm - 4pm

Membership

Thank you to the Riverkeepers who joined or renewed their membership between December 1, 2009 and March 15, 2010.

PROTECTOR (\$1,000+)

Anthro Corporation
Stephen Larson*
John & Nancy Mallinson
Beth & Bruce Rose

GREEN HERON MEMBERS (\$500+)

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Sue Marshall**
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Elizabeth Petit**
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John Elrod**
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Jeff Tripp*
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Anonymous
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Ken Barker
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Tuality Healthcare
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The City of Tigard
ISIS Foundation
Leopold & Stevens Foundation
Meyer Memorial Trust
National Resource Conservation Service
Next Base Foundation
Oregon Department of State Lands
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
REI, Tualatin
Starseed Foundation
Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District
Washington County Visitors Association
Wessinger Foundation

* River Bank Members, a monthly donation program
** Members who also donated to our year-end appeal



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Your membership will help protect and restore the Tualatin River

Name _____ Email _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (h) _____ (w) _____

For a membership of \$35 or more, you will receive our quarterly Green Heron Herald newsletter, and discounts at events and classes, as well as use of canoes on our trips.

- \$35 Family/Individual \$50 Dragonfly \$100 Kingfisher \$250 Osprey \$_____ Other
- \$500 Green Heron \$1,000 Protector \$2,500 River Benefactor

Check enclosed for \$ _____ *Your contribution is tax-deductible as allowed by law.*

Please **charge** my: VISA MasterCard Discover

Signature _____ Card Number _____ Exp. Date _____

- I will donate on a monthly basis with the **River Bank Program**. Monthly amount \$ _____.
- Please deduct the indicated amount from my CHECKING ACCOUNT. Submit a voided check.
- Please charge my CREDIT CARD. Fill out the information above.

Join online at www.tualatinriverkeepers.org