



WATERSHED STEWARDS OF CLARK COUNTY

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 2

A NEWSLETTER FOR COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS

SPRING/SUMMER 2007

WATERSHED STEWARDSHIP AND LIVING ON THE RIVER

A Watershed Steward in the Making as told by Terry Schulz:

As a young boy growing up on the Russian River in Sonoma County, California, the fish were numerous and the water was clean. I spent hours fishing for Bass in the summers, Steelhead in the winters and Shad in the spring. Swimming and canoeing were other activities that drew me to the river. I've seen the Russian River as slow, meandering and peaceful most of the time with occasional raging, high water floods that carried summer cabins and other flotsam downstream.

All my life I have been attracted to rivers and streams to fish or raft on. There is something spiritual about being on a river listening to its extemporaneous music and feeling its cool, moist breeze. On a river, one experiences an ambiance unmatched anywhere else. I have rafted many of the great rivers of the west including the Stanislaus, Tuolumne, American, Middle Fork of the Salmon, Rogue, and the Colorado through the Grand Canyon. Each river had its own spiritual magic and tranquility and each left an indelible imprint in my memory.

When my wife's career brought us to the Pacific Northwest, it was no

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Native Plant	2
Steward Spotlight	3
WS in the News	4
Living on the E. Fork	6
Storm Drain Stenciling	7

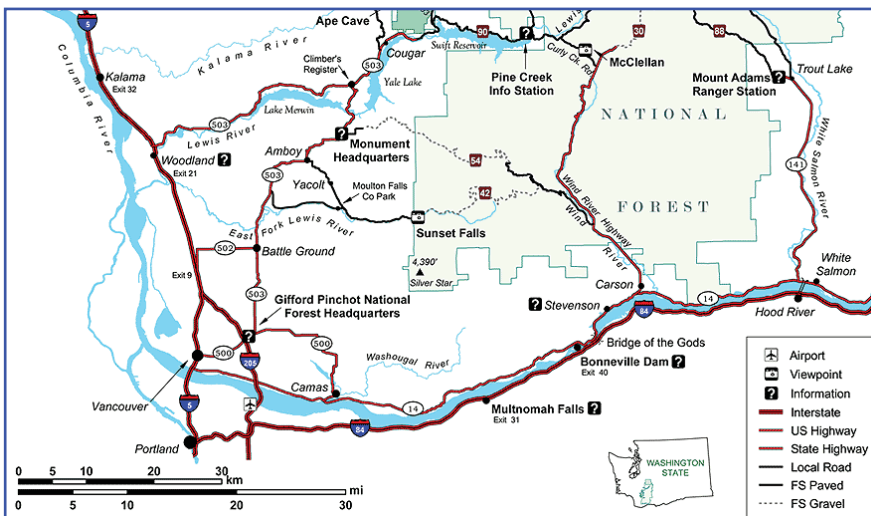
All Things Are Connected"
... Chief Seattle

accident that we found a home on a river. As it turns out, the river that we live next to is a very special river that many people appreciate for different reasons.

The East Fork of the Lewis River:

This gem of a river begins high in the Gifford Pinchot National Forest and is fed by several small tributaries as it cuts through the rocky substrate. It is one of the few remaining wild and un-dammed rivers in the Pacific Northwest and has been highly rated for its Steelhead fishery. Along the 25 mile course to the confluence of the North

..... [Continued on Page 6](#)



http://www.fs.fed.us/gpnf/04maps/documents/GP_Vicinity_05.pdf

The Watershed Stewards Program is sponsored by WSU Clark County Extension and the Clean Water Program of Clark County Water Resources, Department of Public Works.

FEATURED NATIVE PLANT

OREGON GRAPE, MAHONIA AQUIFOLIUM

Mahonia aquifolium, commonly known as Oregon Grape, is native to the Pacific Northwest. The plant is an upright, evergreen shrub that grows 3-10 feet tall and prefers sun to partial shade. It is drought tolerant, fire resistant and well adapted to dry, more open, rocky habitats and prefers moist, well drained acid soil. It spreads from underground roots, or rhizomes.

The tall Oregon Grape has 5-9 pinnate leaflets in contrast to its cousin, low growing Oregon Grape (*Mahonia nervosa*), which has 9-19 pinnate compound leaflets. The leaves resemble English Holly, *Ilex aquifolium* and are waxy green. Oregon Grape flowers grow in small yellow clusters. Its fruit hangs in clusters, similar to grapes, but look like blueberries. The fruit is rich in vitamin C and edible, but sour, while the root has medicinal properties.

Oregon Grape serves as a food source for native wildlife, rodents, birds, and caterpillars, while butterflies like the nectar. It is no small wonder that Oregon selected *Mahonia aquifolium* as its State Flower.



Oregon Grape (flowering in April - June)



Oregon Grape (fruit in November)



Oregon Grape (in March)

Pictures courtesy of Dr. Charles Brun,
WSU Clark County Extension Horticulture Advisor



STEWARD SPOTLIGHT

Kathy Lee started a childcare business 17 years ago as a way to stay home and spend time with her own children. While Kathy's two children are still at home, they are now far too old to require child care and Kathy's still in the business. In fact, her children now help take care of Kathy's charges. It's not uncommon for Kathy to host a dozen children aged 5 to 12 after school. She loves working at home, the kids, and the fact that she doesn't have commuting costs.

In February 2005, a Columbian article about free Watershed Stewards training caught Kathy's eye. She immediately called and filled out an application. Growing up in the 1960's and 1970's, she was aware of many environmental issues and characterized herself as an "armchair environmentalist". Watershed Stewards training changed all that. Kathy learned practical ways to incorporate environmental ethics into her daily life. Then she took it one step further and decided to make it part of her business.

The children she cares for each day are a part of her life and she decided they should be part of her transformation into a practical environmentalist. Kathy



Kathy's kids love this chore - mowing the lawn the old-fashioned, yet environmentally friendly way.

sold her power lawnmower and discovered that her new push lawnmower is one of the kids' favorite "toys". Each sunny day a small portion of the lawn gets mowed by a child who earns the reward of using the mower. Kathy also took a composting class and started a worm bin at her home. The kids enjoy feeding worms their leftover sandwiches and learning how the worms make high quality fertilizer out of food scraps. The kids even helped Kathy build a



Kathy's kids know why they wash the car on grassy areas

rain garden to collect stormwater from her roof.

Kathy also plans field trips for the kids. So far they visited the Center for Agriculture Science and Environmental Education, the Water Resources Center, Lacamas Lake, the Kalama River, and Battle Ground Lake. At each site, Kathy incorporates education about water quality and the environment into fun activities like skating or swimming. She helps the kids see how important water quality is to their daily lives.

Now the kids participate in outreach. At monthly skating parties, they display information about practical environmentalism. So far, they have designed a display on vermicomposting and another on native plants and weeds. They stenciled storm drains around Kathy's home in the Vancouver Heights and distributed flyers about why people shouldn't dump waste into storm drains. The kids can help Kathy clean the house because she uses exclusively non-toxic "green" products like baking soda and vinegar. By state law, commercial cleaning products must be kept locked away from children by licensed child care providers.

Kathy also makes time for Watershed Stewards work, participating in many outreach events like the Clark County Fair, Columbia River Watershed Festival and other public events. She particularly enjoys working alongside other Stewards and learning from them. Each person has different skills and takes home their own lessons from Watershed Stewards training. Kathy discovered a new way of life and decided to share it with everyone else in her life.

....STEWARDS IN THE NEWS.....



New Watershed Stewards work the Watershed Stewards booth at Home & Garden Idea Fair – Mindy Brooks (left rear) and Alex Mintz (right of rain barrel). Rain barrels, painted by Watershed Steward Geri Kromminga, are designed to catch roof water runoff.



Cary Armstrong, Clark County Water Resources, points out stormwater runoff at Watershed Stewards Training in spring, 2007.



Watershed Steward Nalini Uppaluri at the Water Resources Education Center Critter Count. She also does stream studies with her group of 4-H Jr. Watershed Stewards.

4-H Jr. Watershed Steward Karthik (left), looks for macro invertebrates at Round Lake.



.....STEWARDS IN THE NEWS.....

Watershed Steward Bev Walker (left) demonstrates outreach techniques with Jeanne Simon (right) at Watershed Stewards Training.



Watershed Steward Shelina Nelson (right) applies temporary tattoo to participant at Columbia Springs Environmental Education Special Needs Fishing Festival



Watershed Steward Dick Doi, was one of nine individuals to receive a SAMMY Award in 2007. The Endangered Species Act Program's Sammy Awards recognize individuals, groups, organizations, or projects for their outstanding contributions to salmon recovery in Clark County.



Watershed Steward Linnea LaRocque wields auger at the PUD Earthday tree planting.



Watershed Steward Brian Donovan at Stewards' Bird Walk at Ridgefield Refuge with Chickadee Peterson, a local bird expert and environmental education specialist.

LIVING ON THE EAST FORK OF THE LEWIS RIVER

Fork of the Lewis, the public can experience some spectacular falls with easy access. Because the river is not dammed, its levels change dramatically during heavy rains and drop to precarious levels during long periods without rain. Last year on November 7th, 2006 the river peaked at over 24 feet gauge height and nearly 17,000 cubic feet per second (cfs), causing flooding in some areas of the flood plain. In the summer, this river may drop to a height of only eight feet and below 50 cfs. Fortunately, the tremendous capacity for ground water to regularly recharge the system remains despite habitat loss due to development and some large areas of clear cut in the watershed.



Watershed Stewardship:

Living on the East Fork of the Lewis River has been a privilege which came with a responsibility to protect it. Becoming a Watershed Steward with WSU Clark County Extension was a natural progression motivated by my interest and concern for the river's health. It has reminded me that rivers are the arteries of the land and their health depends on the health of the land around them. As a Watershed Steward, I learned that several of the plants growing along the river are invasive species requiring different tactics to combat. Since then, I have spent hours pulling Meadow Knapweed, Reed Canary grass and English Ivy up by its roots which are often embedded in rocky soil. Japanese Knotweed requires a much different approach and entails the injection of each stem near the ground with a product called *Aquamaster*. Some of my neighbors were unaware that this plant was not easily removed. They chopped it down only to cause it to send out numerous new rhizomes and new

growth in all directions. I have learned that, if left unchecked, these invasive plants will eventually usurp native plants.

Volunteering as a Watershed Steward:

I have had the opportunity to work with several very dedicated people, each with their own reason for being involved, but all with the same purpose. Educating the public is one of our most important goals and, as a Watershed Steward, I enjoy meeting the public at local fairs and answering their questions, giving presentations to school children for Clark County's River Rangers Program and helping with other community outreach events like the Columbia Watershed Festival. One of the most enjoyable activities has been working with fellow Watershed Steward, Judy Bufford, teaching middle school kids about macro invertebrate monitoring in several of the local creeks and rivers. I also had an opportunity to work with local environmental organizations. Together with Stephanie Brock of the Washington State Department of Ecology and Richard Dyrland, Hydrologist for Fish First, we monitored stream flows, depth and width measurements in small tributaries of the East Fork of the Lewis and on Cedar Creek and also recorded the snorkel fish count. Other volunteers and I picked up over 20 cubic yards of trash at Gifford Pinchot Forest's annual river cleanup at Sunset Falls on the upper East Fork of the Lewis River. It is a worthwhile and well organized event for National Public Land's Day and something that I feel should expand, in the future, to the lower reaches of this gem of a stream.

Watershed Stewards can always look forward to fresh challenges and adventures which will bring them into contact with new and interesting people and a feeling of satisfaction for a job well done. With more people aware about their local environment and what they can do to protect their streams, lakes, wetlands and ultimately the quality of their water, there is hope for the younger generations to experience the magic of watersheds as I have, with lasting memories to cherish and pass on.

LINKS:

<http://lewisriver.com/eastfork/>
<http://www.fs.fed.us/gpnf/recreation/waterfalls/>
<http://www.clark.wa.gov/water-resources/stream.html>



STORM DRAIN STENCILING

STENCILING SEASON BEGINS BIG WITH 5TH GRADE CLASS EXIT PROJECT



York Elementary School fifth graders worked all year long on their class exit project where they successfully raised *salmon in the classroom* from eggs and released the small fry into a healthy local stream.

In order for their project to be successful, students monitored the conditions in their classroom aquarium¹ throughout the year. Students also monitored² water quality indicators monthly in three Clark County streams to determine which one met the criteria for the best salmon habitat. They tested the water and sampled for macro-invertebrates.

At the conclusion of their project, students presented their findings to the Student Watershed Congress held at WSU-Vancouver and hosted by the Water Resources Education Center.

In a follow-up to the salmon and monitoring activities, on a dry and sunny day in mid June, 87 students and 24 chaperones spent two hours stenciling 115 storm drains in the York Elementary School neighborhood. The students' reflections indicated they chose the Watershed Stewards "Dump No Waste, Drains to Stream" Stencil Project³ because they felt people should know that polluted water entering storm drains can kill fish and damage stream habitat.

One student remarked, "I felt empowered ..."

Clark County Clean Water Program/WSU Clark County Extension provided certificates recognizing the students for their efforts in helping to protect their local streams and lakes by stenciling storm drains. As one student commented, "This is something I'll remember for the rest of my life". It is quite possible that this entire project will have a lasting effect on many a student, some of whom might even grow up to be future biologists, community leaders, or teachers, themselves.

"The stenciling was a perfect end to our year long salmon habitat/water quality project. This is the first year the entire 5th grade class has stenciled storm drains and I definitely hope it is not the last!"



Mrs. Stephanie Land, 5th Grade Teacher, York Elementary School

¹ Provided by [Salmon in the Classroom](#).

² Clark County's Water Resources [Clean Water Program](#) partners with the [City of Vancouver Water Resources Education Center](#) to help mentor teachers and students in their efforts to monitor and learn more about local water quality. Field trips are lead by Watershed Steward Judy Bufford, assisted by other Watershed Stewards.

³ The [Storm Drain Stenciling](#) Project is open to any one in the community.



AWARD RECIPIENTS

~ 1000 + hrs of service ~

Mike Hutchins
Judy Bufford
[Steward bags]

~ 500+ Hours of Service ~

Ned McConnell
George Pollock
[Steward Vests]

~ 300+ Hours of Service ~

Janice Ferguson
Sidne Kneeland
Cindy Morgan
Alex Zimmerman
[Steward Polo Shirts]

~ 100+ hours of service ~

Patty Page
Jean Harrington
Kathy Lee
Gloria Sommer
Doug Malone
Eric Himelfarb
David Page
Nalini Uppaluri
Terry Schulz
Michael Eakin
Hanna Nowakowski
Madya Panfilio
David Duckett
David Olesen
[Steward Pins]

~ 45+ hours of service ~

Jac Arnal
Amy Young
Craig Smith
Jessica Dolan
Vicki Harris
Bill Ward
Melanie Schauble
Monte Multanen
Joel Caris
[Stewards T-shirts]

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION BANQUET WITH A VIEW

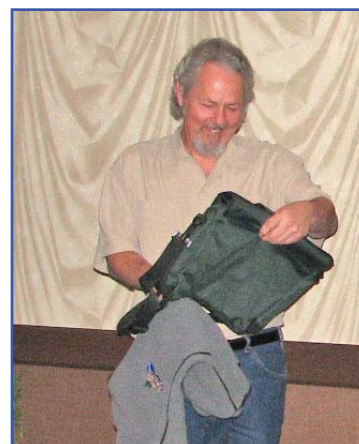
Looking out the window from the riverside banquet room, one could see Portland's city lights come on as the sun slowly set over calm waters of the Columbia River. Clark County's Clean Water Program and WSU Clark County Extension hosted a Volunteer Appreciation Awards Dinner on March 29, 2007 for 115 volunteers and their guests at the Red Lion at the Quay in Vancouver.

The ice broke quickly as folks mingled, playing "human bingo" in order to get acquainted with fellow stewards while hoping to double their chances of winning randomly drawn door prizes. Several local organizations and businesses donated attractive prizes, including a free kayak rental for two on Bachelor Island. To add to the merriment and entertainment, Mark Taylor from Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group performed his magic tricks with an environmental twist.

Guest speaker, Pete Capell, Clark County Public Works Director, expressed gratitude to all present while recognizing the critical importance of Watershed Stewards and the Clark County Volunteer Monitors who provided so many hours of support to local environmental programs and projects.



Mark, the Watershed Wizard (top) and Watershed Steward Mike Hutchins



VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION BANQUET SUPPORTERS

Boise Cascade ~ Domino's Pizza ~ Images Northwest ~ Fish First ~ Artist Shawn Deya ~ Shorty's Nursery ~ Rain or Shine Landscape USA ~ Vanveen Bulbs ~ Five Star Nursery ~ NW Interpretive Association ~ Backyard Bird Shop ~ Lower Columbia River Estuary Partnership ~ USFS/Gifford Pinchot National Forest ~ Terry Schulz ~ Outback Steak House ~ Solterra Designs ~ US Army Corps of Engineers/Bonneville Lock and Dam ~ Alder Creek Kayak Rentals ~ Columbia Springs Environmental Education Center ~ Starbucks ~ Chinook Book ~ Ridgefield Kayak ~ Seven Seas Scuba ~ Rick LeBlanc ~ Presentations Home Staging

Clark County Water Quality Monitoring Program Awards

Tim Dean, Cesilie Cocks, Adrienne Hale, Anne Jackson, Bill Owen, George Pollock, Susan Tripp and Sherian Wright were recognized for their outstanding volunteer work at 10 or more monitoring events.



2007 AT A GLANCE

Watershed Stewards have not been idle in 2007. Volunteers have contributed many hours through a variety of service projects, all designed to help protect local streams, rivers, lakes, wetlands, wildlife habitat and ultimately the quality of our water. Below are some of the activities that Stewards reported in education and outreach, restoration and water quality monitoring projects.

- Clark County Home & Garden Show
- Volunteer Ideas Fair at Clark College
- Earth Day Community Events
- Earth Day Salmon Creek Greenway planting
- Home & Garden Idea Fair
- ESL Clark College at CASEE
- CSEEC Special Needs Fishing Festival
- Amphibian & Reptile Survey at Critter Count
- Sturgeon Festival at Water Resources Education Center
- SOLV Down by the Riverside
- Watershed Congress at WSU-V
- Cam Town Youth Festival
- Burnt Bridge, Lacamas & Tenny Creek restorations
- Breezee, Cedar & Mill Creek and Lewis River monitoring
- Vancouver Lake & Lacamas Lake monitoring
- Steigerwald and Ridgefield NWR projects
- Rain Barrel, Rain Garden & Green Cleaning workshops
- Storm Drain Stenciling workshop
- Felida Neighborhood - 4th July Outreach

CALENDAR DATES TO REMEMBER

Stewards are encouraged to make a note of upcoming events so as not to miss these exciting events:

- Home "Green" Remodeling workshop - July 19
- Clark County Fair - Aug. 3 -12
- Streamside Management workshop - Aug. 15
- Stewards BBQ - Aug. 25
- Vancouver Peace and Justice Fair - Sept. 8
- Rain Barrel workshop - Sept. 12
- Stewards Training begins Sept. 18
- Columbia River Watershed Festival - Sept. 19-21
- National Public Lands Day - Sept. 29
- Non Toxic "Green" Cleaning workshop - Oct. 4
- Bird Fest at Ridgefield NWR - Oct. 13-14
- America Recycles Day Oct - 20
- Non Toxic "Green" Cleaning - Oct 23
- Make a Difference Day - Oct 27

STEWARDS' EXTRACURRICULA ACTIVITY

Besides the Volunteer Appreciation Banquet in March and a summer BBQ in the Gorge, Stewards can look forward to activities especially organized for them like last year's GPS training. The line up for 2007 includes a guided birdwalk, plant walk, introduction to Bushcraft, winter twig ID and other fun opportunities for continuing education and networking.

WATERSHED STEWARDS PROGRAM

WSU Clark County Extension Office
11104 NE 149th Street, C-100
Brush Prairie, WA 98606-9565
<http://clark.wsu.edu>

Gary Bock
Program Coordinator
360-397-6060 x7703
gary.bock@clark.wa.gov

Luisa Eding
Program Assistant
360-397-6060 x7705
luisa.eding@clark.wa.gov

For questions regarding this newsletter, or to add or remove your name from the Watershed Stewards mailing list (including if you would like to receive this newsletter by email), please contact Luisa Eding.

The Watershed Stewards Program is jointly funded and sponsored by WSU Clark County Extension and the Clark County Clean Water Program.

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY



CLARK COUNTY EXTENSION

<http://clark.wsu.edu>



Clean Water Program

<http://www.clark.wa.gov/water-resources>

WSU Extension programs and policies are consistent with federal and state laws and regulations on nondiscrimination regarding race, sex, religion, age, color, creed, national or ethnic origin; physical, mental or sensory disability; marital status, sexual orientation, or status as a Vietnam-era or disabled veteran. Evidence of noncompliance may be reported through your local Extension office.