

FALL  
2019

Native Plant Spotlight:



Photo By/More info: [www.nwplants.com](http://www.nwplants.com)

### Oceanspray, Creambush

(*Holodiscus discolor*)

Form in early summer and persist through fall and winter

*A great plant for pollinators!*

#### Native Plant Gardening/Wildlife Habitat:

The larvae of many native moths and butterflies feed on the foliage of this shrub. Oceanspray is also the home of choice for nesting bushtits.

Because each cluster of flowers is made up of hundreds of tiny blooms, this plant produces a vast amount of pollen. It is therefore very useful in attracting pollinating insects.

If you are a vegetable gardener or have fruit trees in your yard, consider planting several Oceanspray bushes to attract pollinators and ensure a bountiful harvest.

The Columbia SWCD Presents:

# THE DIRT

## ON THE GROUND AND IN THE WATER

Currently, the SWCD is working on a project located off a tributary on the Clatskanie River. Most around the county don't realize that the Clatskanie River starts about 20 minutes up Pittsburg Road in St. Helens, while it enters the Columbia in the downtown metropolis of Clatskanie. While at the mouth the Clatskanie is large and mighty, having the ability to fish, boat, and kayak; the upper watershed couldn't be more different. Most places you can walk across the creek in about 10 steps, with an average depth of about mid-thigh during the summer, with lots of spots having the ability to simply walk across ankle deep. While the lower Clatskanie is better set up for more fun recreation activities, the upper provides much needed habitat for several different species, but specifically provides spawning habitat for all of our salmonid species we appreciate here in Columbia County.

Access to these spawning habitats have been restricted to the salmon, mostly due to barriers like small culverts and dams. The District has diligently been working with the county roads department, local engineers and contractors, and industrial timber owners to remove these barriers and open up miles of habitat. One of the final barriers in this upper watershed is on John Hancock Forest Management property. The SWCD wrote a grant to the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) to replace a fish barrier, a 3-foot undersized culvert, to a 55-foot bridge. By doing this replacement, fish will have about two stream miles of more habitat for spawning and rearing of juveniles before they make their trek to the ocean.

Projects like this can be fun simply because of their complexity. Right next to this road there is a large wetland that is providing a place to filter runoff before it reaches the stream. Because of that, one of the main focuses has been to make sure this wetland is retained and not drained due to putting in this new bridge. This makes the project complex because there are so many variables that could affect the wetland. To make sure the wetland is retained, the road and bridge is being built further away from it, preventing any accidental popping of the berm that is keeping the wetland intact.

Projects like these are critical to the continued development of the recovery of salmon in our streams. They immediately open up usable habitat in these upper watersheds which salmon need to be able to spawn and rear in while they are young before they move into the ocean. If you have any questions about this project, feel free to give the office a call and talk to Nathan or Selene about it!



# GET INVOLVED

## Local Board Meetings:

**Columbia Soil and Water Conservation District:**  
 3rd Wed. of the month at 7:00 p.m. at their office in Saint Helens

**Scappoose Bay Watershed Council:**  
 1st Tue. of the month at 7:00 p.m. at their office in Scappoose

**Lower Columbia River Watershed Council:**  
 2nd Tue. of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the Clatskanie PUD office

**Upper Nehalem Watershed Council:**  
 4th Thur. of the month at 7:00 p.m. at Vernonia High School

## CSWCD STAFF

**Interim District Manager**  
 Nathan Herr

**Financial Manager**  
 Malysa Legg

**Resource Conservationist**  
 Selene Keeney

**Riparian Specialist**  
 Crystalyn Bush

**Office and Outreach Coordinator**  
 Jennifer Steinke

## CSWCD BOARD

**Chair:**  
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## UPCOMING EVENTS

**10/12/19 9:00 am - 12:00 pm SBWC Native Plant Sale; Behind Scappoose High School**

Scappoose Bay Watershed Council is holding its fall native plant sale. Offering a large and diverse selection of native plants, there is something for every type of property. For more information contact Amber at (503) 397-7904.

**10/13/19 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm: Mason Bee Harvest Class; Joy Creek Nursery**

It's harvest time! Come and learn how to harvest mason bees and meet local gardener Michelle Berg of Fat Dog Farms. If you have your own nest, please bring them for a hands-on demonstration of how to extract the cocoons for a healthier and successful nest next year. Come and learn more about the super-efficient blue orchard mason bees and how they can benefit your garden. Michelle will have bees and supplies ready to sell at this class which is free and open to the public. For more information: (503) 543-7474

**10/26/2019 9:00 am - 12:00 pm LCEP Volunteer Planting; Fox Creek, Rainier**

Join us for Make a Difference Day! We will be planting trees along Fox Creek to benefit the local habitat of the creek and the wildlife that call it home. A staff member will demonstrate planting techniques and discuss safety. Volunteers will be planting for approximately 2 1/2 hours. All ages and abilities welcome. Pre-registration is required and space is limited. Questions? Please contact Samantha Dumont at (503) 226-1565 x 245 or [sdumont@estuarypartnership.org](mailto:sdumont@estuarypartnership.org)

**11/02/19 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm Friends of Nob Hill Work Party; Nob Hill Nature Park, St. Helens**

Join the Friends of Nob Hill Nature Park for the biannual volunteer work party at Nob Hill in St Helens. Meet at the front entrance of the park. Parking available at 451 Plymouth Street. Dress appropriately; bring gloves and water. To RSVP or for more information, contact our non-profit partner group, Scappoose Bay Watershed Council at (503) 397-7904.

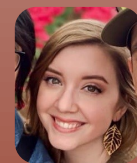
**11/09/19 9:00 am - 11:00 am Dalton Lake Nature Walk**

We will walk along the trails of Dalton Lake to observe and learn about the history, animals, and plants of Dalton Lake. Meet at the animal shelter and Columbia County Parks Department parking lot on Oregon St. For more information, please contact Bridges to Learning, LLC at (503) 369-8733

## NRCS STAFF

**District Conservationist**  
 Don Mehlhoff

**Program Support Tech**  
 Dee Robinson



Do you have questions about our meeting room, or want to join our electronic mailing list?

Call our office or email me at:

[jennifer.steinke@columbiaswcd.com](mailto:jennifer.steinke@columbiaswcd.com)

Connect with us to see what we're up to by following us on Facebook and Instagram!

@Columbiaswcd



# What in the Weeds?!

Often noxious weeds can be difficult to distinguish from other plants. In the case of Giant hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*) however, it sticks out like a sore thumb. Which you just might have if you touch it. Contact with its sap can result in severe skin burns and long term sensitivity to light.

Giant hogweed is an A list noxious weed, meaning the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) deems it a top priority for eradication. Recently several sites in Columbia County have been brought to the SWCD's attention. In June, an ODA employee came out and treated two sites: one along Milton Creek in St. Helens and another in a residential area of Clatskanie. A third site in Rainier was also identified and treated by OSU later in the summer.

In its early stages Giant hogweed can be easily confused with the native plant, Cow parsnip. Hogweed's leaves are jagged and deeply serrated while the leaves of Cow parsnip are smoother and more gently lobed. But the easiest way to tell them apart is when the plant bolts (grows a long stem and then flowers). Cow parsnip usually tops out around 6' while Giant hogweed easily reaches heights of 10-12' or more.

**What You Can Do:**

\* Report possible sightings to the Columbia SWCD's hotline at 1-800-741-6105 or [weeds@columbiaswcd.com](mailto:weeds@columbiaswcd.com).



In case there was any doubt, this is the Giant hogweed.

Beth from ODA treating Giant hogweed. The hogweed is about two Beths tall.

# Garden Gab

**Gardening tip from the SWCD: "Friends in the Garden":** Most of us are familiar with the idea of bad guests and good guests in the garden. Aphids - bad guest. Ladybugs - good guest. Slugs - bad guest. Bees - good guest. Here are a few others you might want to be hospitable to: 1) Garter snakes - eat snails, slugs, and small rodents. 2) Ground beetles - are nocturnal and hunt a variety of pests like slugs, snails, and cutworms. 3) Native birds including Chickadees, Nuthatches, and Titmice - might eat your berries but they also love to feast on pests like aphids, caterpillars, earwigs, whiteflies and more.

-Crystalyn Bush, Riparian Specialist

**Seed Outdoors**

**September:** Arugula\*, Asian greens\*, Beets, Cabbage (for spring), Endive, Fava beans\*, Garlic (cloves)\*, Lettuce\*, Kale, Onions (sets)\*, Radish\*, Salad greens\*, Shallots (bulb)\* Cover Crops\*

**October:** Fava beans\*, Garlic (cloves)\*, Onion (sets)\*, Shallots (bulbs)\* Cover Crops\*

**November:** Fava beans, Garlic (cloves), Onion (sets), Shallot (bulbs)

(Information obtained from Portland Nursery's veggie calendar at <http://portlandnursery.com>. View their veggie calendar for more detailed information about best planting times and methods.)

**Starts**



**September:** Kale, Lettuce, Salad greens, Sorrel

**October:** Bok Choi, Cabbage (over wintering), Lettuce, Salad greens

**November-December:** Time to give it a rest. You can cover up raised beds with a dark material like weed-block or a tarp to prevent soil loss, keep soils warmer for next year's planting, and keep weeds out for the winter.

\* Indicates best times and methods of planting