

SUMMER
2021

Native Plant Spotlight:



More info: www.nwplants.com

White Brodiaea

(Hyacinthin Brodiaea)

Flowers appear May-August
A great plant for pollinators!

Native Plant

Gardening/Wildlife Habitat:

Formerly known as *Triteleia hyacinthina*, this lily grows in a well-drained sunny spot in USDA zones 4-9. The paper white flowers and green veins are thought to resemble the allium family and is why this lily's common name is Fool's Onion.

This perennial herb can grow up to two feet tall and one foot wide.

It is a west coast native, frequently found from southern British Columbia to northern California west of the Cascade Mountains. It is not uncommon to find it growing among grasses or sagebrush.

The Columbia SWCD Presents:

THE DIRT

CONTINUING TO RESTORE WITH RCPP

Since 2018, the Columbia SWCD has been working to restore habitat within the Clatskanie Watershed as part of the collaboration of the Lower Columbia River Partnership. This partnership, which is comprised of the Columbia SWCD, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and other federal (US Fish & Wildlife Services), state (Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife), and local partners (Columbia County and Lower Columbia River Watershed Council), was developed through a Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) with the goal of addressing major concerns in the region, such as water quality degradation and inadequate fish and wildlife habitat. The following RCPP projects highlighted below align with the identified targeted restoration activities and are expected to begin this year.

Perkins Creek

Landowner: Private landowners, Columbia County

Partners: Property owners, Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS), Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW)

Location: At the intersection of Perkins Creek and Olson Road in Clatskanie, OR

Scope of Project: The project is a culvert replacement on Perkins Creek, a tributary stream of the Clatskanie River. The current culvert is significantly undersized and turns at a right angle to meet the road. During low flows the culvert acts as a barrier to fish migration and floods the public road at high flows. This project will remove the culvert and replace it with a larger structure to open up about 2.8 miles of Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) for ESA listed Coho Salmon as well as Steelhead for high quality spawning and rearing grounds.

Potential benefits: Perkins Creek is a tributary feeding the Clatskanie River. Replacing the undersized culverts will help increase aquatic species passage to approximately 5 miles of stream, primarily targeting Coho, Steelhead and Cutthroat.



Clatskanie PUD

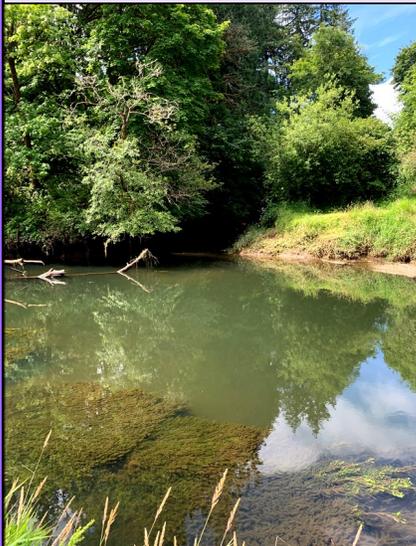
Landowner: Clatskanie People's Utility District

Partners: Clatskanie PUD, NRCS

Location: Along the Clatskanie River and Conyers Creek in Clatskanie, OR

Scope of Project: The overall focus of this bank stabilization project is to improve the degraded riparian habitat by densely revegetating with native plants and enhancing aquatic habitat that supports the Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed salmonids and other significant species.

Potential benefits: The project aims to increase in-channel habitat complexity and cover, establish a dense riparian corridor to increase bank stabilization and limit sediment and pollutants into aquatic habitat, and improve overall water quality.



GET INVOLVED

Local Board Meetings:

Columbia Soil and Water Conservation District:

3rd Wed. of the month at 4:00 p.m. at our office in Saint Helens

Scappoose Bay Watershed Council:

2nd Tue. of the month at 7:00 p.m. at their office in Warren

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

District Manager
Nathan Herr

Financial Manager
Malysa Legg

Senior Resource Conservationist
Selene Keeney

Resource Conservationist
Crystalyn Bush

Riparian Specialist
Amber Kester

Outreach Coordinator
Jennifer Chavez

NRCS STAFF

District Conservationist
Hannah Isaacs

Program Support Tech
Dee Robinson

Organic & Small Farm Specialist
Stacey Cooper

CSWCD BOARD

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Bill Eagle

Director:

Sonia Reagan

Director:

Dave Freytag

Director (Zone 5):

Absent

UPCOMING EVENTS

06/12/21 Household Hazardous Waste Collections; Columbia County Transfer Station

Dispose of assorted hazardous waste items for free at the Columbia County Transfer Station. For questions or a list of accepted items, please contact Kathy, Solid Waste Program Coordinator for Columbia County, at 503-397-7259 or by email at Kathleen.Boutin-Pasterz@co.columbia.or.us

06/22/21 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm Beneficial Insects Webinar; Tualatin SWCD

"From plagues of locusts to murder hornets, the idea that "bugs are bad" can be a hard to overcome! In this webinar experts from Bee & Bloom will take a closer look at the insects and other invertebrates that provide balance to functioning urban and rural ecosystems. We will discuss methods of attracting and supporting these "beneficials", identifying pest species, and other best practices for pest control." Register for the webinar here: <https://tualatinswcd.org/event/beneficial-insects/>

07/14/21–07/18/21: 2021 Columbia County Fair and Rodeo; Columbia County Fairgrounds

The Columbia County Fair Board is excited to announce that there will be a fair 2021! This year's theme is "From Wagon Wheels to Ferris Wheels". More details to be announced on their website when available:

www.columbiacountyfairgrounds.com.

Please call the fair office with any questions or to register to be a vendor: (503) 397-4231

08/13-15/21 10:00 am - 8:00 am 1st Annual Sand Castle Contest; Sand Island campground

Limited due to shuttle restrictions so get your tickets now! Plan your staycation on the island or at the event's host hotel, Best Western Oak Meadows Inn. Participate in the contest, the island scavenger hunt, or sand carving lessons! Learn more about this event here:

<https://discovercolumbiacounty.com/events/1st-annual-sand-island-campground-sand-castle-competition-august-14-15-2020/>

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

@Columbiaswcd



Life on the Farm

We would love to see what's living on your farm for an upcoming publication! Examples include sheep, horses, chickens, pigs, cows, etc. (Especially the babies!)

Photos can be shared on our Facebook page or emailed to information@columbiaswcd.com



What in the Weeds?!

In 2019, the Columbia SWCD was awarded funding from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board for a two-year grant to perform treatment of Garlic Mustard in selected areas within Columbia County. Garlic mustard is a biennial plant that was originally introduced to North America for culinary uses, but quickly became a very serious invader. This groundcover can resemble many natives but when crushed between your fingers, the plant gives off a distinct garlic smell that distinguishes it from its look-alikes. This aggressive invasive species can exude a chemical that impedes native plants and hinders natural forest regeneration.



Patch of first year Garlic Mustard plants



Blooming corydalis after 2 years of Garlic Mustard treatment

So far, the District has seen great success in the areas that have been previously treated. Native vegetation appears to be thriving in place of its noxious competitor.

In March of 2021, crews helped cut back blackberries from a native oak forest understory to clear access for the hired treatment crew from Ash Creek Forest Management to perform treatment on first year garlic mustard plants. The District plans to plant native seeds in some of the treated properties and hopes to continue



Blackberry brush cleared to uncover Garlic Mustard

surveying garlic mustard after the planned treatments are complete. For more information on garlic mustard or to report sightings, please contact us at

Garden Gab

The Oregon State University Extension Office recently released *“Enhancing Urban and Suburban Landscapes to Protect Pollinators”*. This guide offers detailed plant lists, garden designs and advice on creating pollinator habitat, as well as how to keep the plants healthy without exposing the pollinators to pesticides. This guide will help homeowners, gardeners, landscape professionals and volunteers work together to attract a wide range of pollinators to the Northwest.

Download your copy here: beav.es/forthebees

Feel like sharing? Post photos of your garden greatness on our Facebook page and share tips with other growers!

Seed Outdoors

June: Basil*, Beans*, Bruss. sprouts*, Cabbage*, Carrots*, Corn*, Cucumbers*, Dill, Endive, Kohlrabi*, Melons*, Parsnips, Pumpkins*, Rutabaga*, Scallions, Squash (all) *
July: Asian greens**, Beets**, Broccoli**, Carrots*, Cauliflower**, Cilantro**, Collards, Fennel (bulbing)*, Kale**, Parsnips, Peas, Radish, Scallions, Spinach, Turnips**
August: Arugula**, Broccoli raab, Cabbage (early)*, Chard**, Lettuce**, Mustard greens, Peas, Radish, Salad greens, Spinach*, Swiss chard

(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.)

Seed Indoor

June: Artichoke**, Basil**, Beans, Broccoli**, Brussels sprouts*, Celery, Corn*, Cucumbers, Eggplant*, Leeks**, Melons, Peppers*, Pumpkins, Squash (all) *, Swiss chard, Tomatoes*
July: Bruss. sprouts*, Cabbage*, Carrots*, Cauliflower**, Collards*, Cucumbers, Kale*, Lettuce,
August: Early August- Cabbage, Dill, Fennel (bulbing)
Through August- Asian greens, Cilantro, Kale*, Lettuce, Mustard greens*, Salad greens, Scallions, Spinach*

* Indicates best times and methods of planting

** Indicates plant may be seeded outdoors during any of the three months listed.

Local Farmer's Markets

Handcrafted goods and local flavors are back for the season!
Here's where you can find them:

Scappoose Farmer's Market

East Second Street, Scappoose, OR
Saturdays beginning May 1 through September 25
9:00 am—2:00 pm most weekends
<https://www.scappoosefarmermarket.com/>

St. Helens Farmer's Market

Yankton Grange, 33065 Pittsburg Rd. St. Helens, OR
Wednesdays
1:00 pm—5:00 pm
<https://www.facebook.com/atthemarketSH/>

Clatskanie Farmer's Market

Cope's Park, 11 Lillich Street, Clatskanie, OR
Saturdays beginning June 5 through September
10:00 am—2:00 pm
<https://clatskaniefarmersmarket.com/>

Vernonia Open Air Market

510 Bridge St. Vernonia, OR
Saturdays beginning May 15 through September 25
Midday
<https://www.facebook.com/VernoniaOpenAirMarket/>

**Please visit your local market's website for current information and updates

Take Part in Pollinator Week!

June 21—27, 2021

Pollinator Week is an annual event celebrated internationally in support of pollinator health. It's a time to celebrate pollinators and spread the word about what we can do to protect them. The great thing about Pollinator Week is that you can celebrate and get involved any way you like! Popular events include planting for pollinators, joining socially distant garden tours, participating in online bee and butterfly ID workshops, and so much more. However you choose to celebrate this year, share your story on social media using the hashtag **#PollinatorWeek**.

WHY ARE POLLINATORS IMPORTANT?:

Pollinators are often keystone species, meaning that they are critical to an ecosystem. The work of pollinators ensures full harvests of crops and contributes to healthy plants everywhere.

- Some scientists estimate that one out of every three bites of food we eat exists because of animal pollinators.
- In the U.S., pollination produces nearly \$20 billion worth of products annually.

POLLINATOR WEEK HISTORY:

Pollinator Week was initiated and is managed by Pollinator Partnership, and fourteen years ago the U.S. Senate's unanimous approval and designation of a week in June as "National Pollinator Week" marked a necessary step toward addressing the urgent issue of declining pollinator populations. Pollinator Week has now grown into an international celebration, promoting the valuable ecosystem services provided by bees, birds, butterflies, bats and beetles.

While this year might not be a typical Pollinator Week due to the COVID-19 pandemic, people across the planet have pledged to continue promoting pollinator health and well-being through socially distant and responsible events. Through the numerous virtual gatherings, webinars, responsible planting sessions, socially distant garden and farm walks, and monument lightings, Pollinator Week 2021 is geared to be the busiest and best one yet!

Discover events on the Pollinator Partnership website: <https://www.pollinator.org/pollinator-week>

More information available here: <https://www.pollinator.org/>