

**SUMMER
2018**

Native Plant Spotlight:



Fawn Lily

(Erythronium Oregonum)

Flower season March to August

A great plant for pollinators!

Photo By/More info: www.nwplants.com

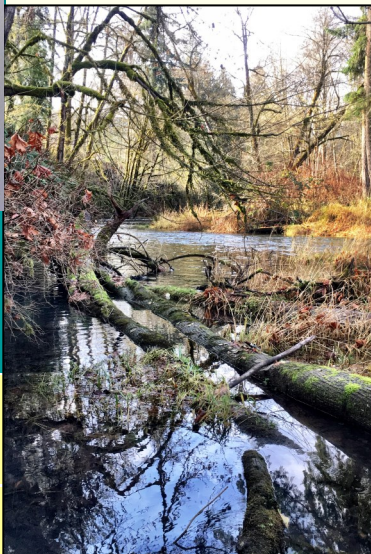
CONTENTS

Schedules/ Staff Directory/ Up-Coming Events	2
What in the Weeds/ Farmer's Markets/ Garden Gab	3
Do You Know../ Manure Compost	4
Partnering for Success: NRCS	5
ID Your Weed	6

The Columbia SWCD presents: “The Dirt”

Developing the Vision

The Columbia SWCD was recently awarded funding by the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board to pursue designs and surveys on several potential restoration projects. The following two projects, as well as two of the three projects listed in our last newsletter (Dribble Creek and Apiary Road Crossing), all fall within the SWCD’s Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCP) area and are part of the greater Clatskanie Watershed. The RCP is focused on addressing two major concerns in the region: 1) Water Quality Degradation; and 2) Inadequate Fish and Wildlife Habitat. Projects undertaken in this area will focus on making improvements to these priority concerns while also providing important secondary benefits such as road protection, streambank stabilization, floodplain reconnection, and noxious weed control. We are very excited about all the good restoration work that will be accomplished over the coming years through this program.



Clatskanie River Reach 10 Habitat Restoration

Landowner: Private landowners
Partners: Property owners, OWEB & ODFW
Location: Middle Reach of Clatskanie River; Clatskanie, OR
Scope of Project: The first phase of this project will be a design of the riparian and in-channel habitat enhancement or restoration in the reach and will include habitat and topographical surveying; and a Hydrology & Hydraulics study. Ultimately this project seeks to improve aquatic habitat, restore off- channel habitat, and enhance floodplain connectivity.
Potential benefits: A better functioning floodplain that supports a native plant community, improved in-channel, side-channel and riparian habitat for fish and other wildlife. This project will enhance habitat for Coho, Chinook, and Steelhead in addition to other species potentially in the area like lamprey.
Area of impact: Approximately 5 acres of riparian habitat and .25 miles of in-channel habitat.

Stewart Creek Fish Passage Improvement

Landowner: Private landowner
Partners: Columbia County Roads Dept.
Location: Where Rutters Rd. crosses Stewart Creek, Clatskanie OR
Scope of Project: Implementation is still a ways down the road, but plans are in the works for an initial design of the new crossing. This includes topographical surveying, a geotechnical analysis, and a Hydrology and Hydraulics study.
Potential benefits: Increased fish passage and access to quality spawning and rearing habitat. Restoring a more natural flow, sediment transport patterns, and overall hydrology to the area. The main target species for this project is Chum as this area is one of the designated locations for Chum reintroduction. This project will also enhance habitat for rearing Coho and Steelhead.
Area of impact: Opens up access to approximately 1.5 miles of Stewart Creek (south fork) and .75 miles of N. Fork Stewart Creek for spawning and rearing habitat.



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

District Manager
Kari Hollander

Assistant District Manager
Malysa Legg

Senior Resource Conservationist
Nathan Herr

CSWCD BOARD

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UPCOMING EVENTS

06/17/18 1:00 am - 3:00 pm: Tour of Roses in the Gardens of Joy Creek Nursery

Join Mike Smith, co-owner at Joy Creek Nursery in his enthusiasm for roses, an old garden favorite that when selected carefully can enhance even the most contemporary garden space. He has collected many species and old-fashioned favorites, most of which bloom in the gardens at Joy Creek Nursery. Free and open to the public.

06/23/18 8:00 am - 12:00 pm: Household Hazardous Waste Collections; St. Helens

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 Boutin-Pasterz, Solid Waste Program Coordinator for Columbia County, at 503-397-7259 or by email at Kathleen.Boutin-Pasterz@co.columbia.or.us

07/06/18–07/08/18: Rainier Days in the Park

Voted Best Fireworks on the Columbia River 2011-2017, come enjoy a carnival, vendors, food and crafts! More information can be found here: <http://www.rainierdaysinthepark.com>

07/09/18–07/13/18: Barnyard Palooza Camp; Creekside Junior Academy (503) 397-5900

Spend a week learning about the care and keep of chickens, bunnies, goats, and more through hands-on learning experiences, art projects, and scientific exploration and discovery. Call today to reserve your spot at camp!

Age 3-6; 9am-12pm, Age 7-10; 1:30-4:30pm \$99

07/18/18–07/22/18: Columbia County Fair, St. Helens Fairgrounds

Come out to the 103rd Columbia County Fair & Rodeo where there's "Fun For The Whole Herd"! The Fair includes a two day NPRA Rodeo, Jr. Rodeo, Stock Car Races, Monster Truck Show, Entertainment Stage, Vendor Booths, Carnival, Exhibits and other misc. entertainment.

Resource Conservationist
Monica Blanchard

Resource Conservationist
Selene Keeney

Riparian Specialist
Crystalyn Bush

Office and Outreach Coordinator
Jennifer Steinke

NRCS STAFF

District Conservationist
Don Mehlhoff

Program Support Tech
Dee Robinson

Civil Engineer
Davis Hernandez-Alvarez

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

@Columbiaswcd



Do you have agriculture questions? I can help! Call our office or email me at:

nathan.herr@columbiaswcd.com

What in the Weeds?!

All you boaters, anglers, kayakers, and water recreationists —

please read on! Water primrose (*Ludwigia hexapetala/peploides*) is a fast spreading and destructive plant that has escaped from private ponds and gardens and is wreaking havoc on our aquatic ecosystems. Large infestations of it exist in the Willamette River and are expanding at alarming rates. Water primrose occurs in sloughs, ponds, marshes and other still water areas. It forms dense



G. Lovell, AL Department of Conservation & Natural Resources. Bugwood.org

floating mats up to 3 feet tall, excluding native vegetation, clogging waterways, inhibiting recreation, and killing fish and other wildlife.

What You Can Do:

- * Always clean your boat after use.
- * Be observant while recreating.
- * Report sightings to our Invasive Species Hotline at **1-800-741-6105** or weeds@columbiaswcd.com.
- * If safe, take photos or collect a sample for identification.
- * Choose natives over ornamentals for your garden and pond.
- * Never dump yard or aquarium waste or fish in natural areas.



R. Videki, Doronicum Kft., Bugwood.org

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

33568 E Columbia Ave, Scappoose, OR
Every Saturday through September 29
9:00 am—2:00 pm most weekends.

Goble Community Market

Goble Tavern: 70255 Columbia River Hwy, Rainier OR
Every Saturday through September 29
9:00 am—2:00 pm

Clatskanie Farmer's Market

Corner of Conyers & Lillich Street @ Cope's Park Clatskanie, OR
Every Saturday through September 29
10:00 am—2:00 pm

Vernonia Open Air Market

510 Bridge St. Vernonia, OR
Every Saturday through September 29
10:00 am—2:00 pm

Garden Gab: Feel the Heat

Summer is almost here and gardens are bursting back to life. It is the best time of year for those of us who love to prune, pick and pickle. Like our Facebook page and get entered for a chance to win an awesome gardening gift!

Gardening tip from the SWCD: "Natural Slug Control": Water your garden in the morning so the ground is dry by night when slugs become active. Sprinkle Diatomaceous Earth on dry soil around plants or apply a DE spray to plants —it acts as a natural barrier for slugs. Be sure to buy "Food Grade" DE. Reapply if it gets washed away. Check out this website for more natural ideas on how to deal with slugs. <https://learn.eartheasy.com/guides/natural-slug-control/>

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

Starts

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



(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.)

* Indicates best times and methods of planting
** Indicates plant may be seeded outdoors during any of the three months listed.

DO YOU KNOW... How to Compost?

Composting is a way to turn organic waste material into a product that can be safely stored, re-used and given back to the environment. Composting is a great way to keep things out of landfills and save some money on your garbage bill. Check out these tips on how to get started!

Identify a Location

- Choose whether you want to use an open pile or an enclosed bin.
- Find a convenient location with well drained soil. Be sure to avoid putting compost up against wooden structures (this will lead to wood rot).
- Pick your method of composting: slow/cold or fast/hot. Your method of and type of storage will determine what you should/shouldn't add.

Build and Maintain Pile

Add-As-You-Go/Slow Composting

- Start with a bottom layer of browns (or a bin full of dry leaves).
- Add kitchen/garden waste and keep the pile moist, not wet or dry.
- Occasionally turn and chop the materials in one inch pieces to aerate the pile.
- Try to keep a balance of browns and greens, with a layer of brown at the top.
- Cover the pile.

Make-It-Fast/Hot Composting

- Build a pile with at least 1 cubic yard of equal parts browns and greens to generate heat.
- Do not add to the pile. Keep it moist (like a wrung out sponge) and turn about once a week.
- When the material no longer heats up when turned, the process is complete. About 4-6 weeks.
- Allow the material to age an additional 4-6 weeks before using.

Finished Compost

The compost should be dark and crumbly and look like soil. Individual materials will not be recognizable. It should smell fresh and earthy.



Did You Know? Earthworms are great for the bin! They digest organic matter, recycle nutrients, and make the surface soil richer.

What to Compost

"Greens" Nitrogen-rich

- Aged Livestock Manure (from herbivores)
- Dried Dog Food
- Feathers
- Flowers
- Food Scraps:
 - Coffee Grounds/filter
 - Fruit & Vegetable Peel
 - Old jam/jelly
 - Spoiled Tomato Sauce
 - Tea bag/leaves
- Grass clippings
- Green Leaves
- Green Shrub Prunings
- Hair (Human & Animal)
- Leather
- Water from boiling vegetables

"Browns" Carbon-rich

- Cotton Balls
- Cardboard Egg Cartons
- Cardboard (non-waxy)
- Cornstalks/husks
- Dryer Lint
- Dried Grass
- Dry Leaves
- Dried flowers
- Hay
- Nut Shells
- Newspaper (non-shiny)
- Paper Towels
- Shredded paper
- Small Twigs
- Wood items:
 - Match sticks
 - Sawdust
 - Skewers

Neutrals

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| Bread | Rinsed Eggshells |
| Crackers | Rice |
| Pasta Cooking Water | Ground Stones/Shells |

What NOT to Compost

- Barbeque Charcoal
- Coal Ashes
- Dairy
- Fats
- Feces (Cat, dog, pig, human, etc)
- Invasive or Diseased Plants
- Meats
- Oils
- Plastics, metals, foils
- Treated Wood Products
- Wee

For More Information About Composting

Contact our office or the OSU Extension Service at (503) 397-3462 or visit <http://extension.oregonstate.edu>
We also offer free brochures in our office on Manure Composting!

Make the Most of that Manure!

Large animals such as horses produce about 50 pounds of manure per day, which equals 9 tons, or 11 cubic yards (cy) per year. That's a lot of manure to manage! Even the manure of small animals adds up over one year: 3 cy per pig, 1 cy per sheep, and 1/2 cy per chicken. But you can take advantage of the benefits of manure, which contains valuable organic matter and plant nutrients. However, if manure is not managed properly, bacteria, nitrogen, and phosphorus can create problems for people and fish by contaminating streams, irrigation water, and wells.* Fresh manure often contains parasites that threaten livestock health and pathogens that harm humans. Applying fresh manure directly to pastures and gardens



Photos taken by CSWCD staff during a site visit

can contaminate them. Fresh manure may also have strong odors and attract flies. Manure in animal pens can also contribute to foot problems by concentrating bacteria and increasing mud. Composting stabilizes manure to create an excellent soil amendment with many benefits. It is also a great way to improve pasture health and productivity.

Did you Know? Agricultural activities must **not** pollute water. Landowners must keep excess manure, fertilizers and soil out of streams and irrigation ditches.

Partnering for Success

Q & A's with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

• What is NRCS' Mission?

"The mission statement for NRCS hasn't changed for several years. It is 'Helping People Help The Land'. We are charged with the mission of assisting private landowners and operators with conservation of natural resources on their properties. Natural resources that include soil, water, animals (both domestic and wildlife), plants, air, humans and energy."

• What are NRCS' main priorities and focus areas in Columbia County?

"The resource priorities of NRCS are unique for each county in the state. They are always changing. NRCS has a locally led process and that is why we have our Local Work Group meeting at least once each year. That process allows partners, agencies, groups and individuals to provide input as to where USDA-NRCS should be focusing our technical and financial assistance for the future. Currently, for NRCS in Columbia County we are focusing on Forest Health and Diversity, and Improvements to the endangered Columbian white-tailed deer habitat. In 2019 we are proposing to also address pasture and hayland health in the Nehalem Valley as well as Soil Health and Water Quality improvements for small market operations in the Columbia River Corridor."

• How long has NRCS partnered with the Columbia SWCD?

"NRCS (formerly Soil Conservation Service, SCS) has been the major partner with the SWCD since the formation of the SWCD, back in the 1940's."

• What are the benefits of partnering with the Columbia SWCD?

"There are many benefits to a strong SWCD/NRCS partnership. We share resources (space, some supplies, technical resources, etc.) that help strengthen each other. Take a program like EWP where NRCS provided financial and engineering assistance while the SWCD was the sponsoring agency providing on-the-ground assistance to landowners, working with permitting agencies, providing matching funds and more. Another big benefit is that NRCS, as a federal agency, is working hand in hand with a "local" branch of government such as the SWCD. Our ability to work well with customers is tied to that arrangement. Property owners respect that arrangement better than only one agency being involved. NRCS also offers a lot of the science and training opportunities behind conservation planning and makes that available whenever possible to SWCD employees."

Practices Implemented in 2017

- **Fence**— 3536 feet of fence for livestock management and wildlife friendly purposes.
- **Wildlife Structure**— 16 structures including cavity nesting boxes.
- **Upland Wildlife Habitat Management**— 555 acres of land improved for wildlife habitat.
- **Hedgerow**— 2250 feet
- **Herbaceous Weed Control**— 10 acres
- **Tree and Shrub Plantings**— 5 acres
- **Forest Stand Improvement**— 140 acres. Pre-commercial thinning and release projects
- **Forest Slash Treatment**— 140 acres
- **Early Successional Habitat Management**— 9 acres
- **Pasture Plantings**— 10.2 acres planting to improve grazing for Columbian white-tailed deer.
- **Forest Management Plans**— 5 plans
- **High Tunnel**— 1 (1@2160sq.ft)
- **Prescribed Grazing**— 38 acres
- Provided brief technical assistance to over 257 customers



Staff: Davis Hernandez-Alvarez, Civil Engineer;
Don Mehlhoff, District Resource Conservationist;
Dee Robinson, Program Support



Columbia SWCD
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Contact us:

Address: 35285 Millard Rd., St. Helens, OR 97051

Phone: 503-433-3205 **Email:** information@columbiaswcd.com

www.columbiaswcd.com



IDENTIFY YOUR WEED



Columbia SWCD

POISON HEMLOCK

Grows 3 to 7 feet tall. Leaves are alternate; appear delicate and lacy. Stems are hollow with purplish splotches. Flowers are white; in umbrella-shaped clusters. Found in wet pastures, roadsides, irrigation ditches, and streambanks. This plant is extremely toxic.



T. English, USDA APHIS, Bugwood.org

J. Samanek, Phytosanitary Admin., Bugwood.org

GIANT HOGWEED

Stem grow 10-15 feet tall with red to purplish blotches and pustules. Umbrella-like flowerheads bloom May—July. Leaves are huge, compound, and deeply incised. Sap is toxic to human skin. Reproduces by seed. Giant hogweed is an A-list weed. Report any sightings of this plant to the OR Invasive Species Hotline at 1-866-INVADER.



R. Routledge, Sault College, Bugwood.org

POLICEMEN'S HELMET

Annual, herbaceous succulent. Grows up to 8 feet tall. Smooth stemmed and hairless, red/purple hue. Three leaves per node; leaf edges are serrated. Flowers are white to all shades of pink. Please report sightings of this plant to our hotline at 1-800-741-6105.

* Before performing weed control it's a good idea to always: 1) Check with local experts to ensure accurate plant identification; 2) Research effective and appropriate control methods; 3) Wear protective clothing like long sleeves and gloves; and 4) Seek advice before using herbicides.*