Another forest collaborative has begun in western Oregon at the Middle Fork Ranger District (MFRD) of the Willamette National Forest. The Southern Willamette Forest Collaborative (SWFC) started last year on the heals of the Outlook Landscape Project. The Collaborative involves multiple stakeholders such as Oregon Wild, Sierra Club, Back Country horseman, Greater Oakridge Area Trail Stewards (GOATS), Walama Restoration Project, and multiple other parties that are involved with the National forest. The stakeholders are given opportunities to give input and feedback to the National Forest personnel on forest management activities as those decisions are being made. This proactive and cooperative approach to forest management helps the Forest Service to identify areas of public concern in management areas and provides stakeholders the chance to participate on the foreground to ensure successful projects that benefit all visitors of the National Forest. The collaborative will also participate in Stewardship contracting for restoration projects and to build and maintain local skilled forestry workers. The Outlook Landscape Project is on Forest service land Between Lowell and Westfir and has sold its first Stewardship contract. Currently the Forest Service and the SWFC are working on the Rigdon Collaborative Landscape Restoration Project. This will be the first project that the collaborative has participated from the beginning. This area holds outlying flora populations from surrounding ecoregions that are uncharacteristic of the rest of the Willamette National Forest. 20 Miles South of Oakridge along the hillsides adjacent to the headwaters of the Mid-Fork Willamette River lie East-side Ponderosa Pine and Purple Milkweed more commonly known to be in the Siskiyou National Forest. The mid and lower elevations of this area was historically known to be a drier and open canopy mix conifer and Oregon White Oak habitat with a fire frequency of every ten years. Areas in the past have been clear cut and planted with monoculture Douglas fir tree farms. While over half the area in this part of the MFRD has not been logged; fire suppression has had it owns negative effects. Oak habitat and the historic grass understory has been reduced greatly which directly impacts Elk, pollinators, and hundreds of other species dependent on this habitat type. Project such as Jim’s Creek, and Pinegrass Plantation have addressed these issues on portions of the landscape. The emphasis in the Rigdon project now is to spend more time understanding and surveying this area to come to an agreement on future management of the area to steward healthy functioning forest processes. Surveys that began this summer discovered multiple new sites with Purple Milkweed. Not only were new plant sites discovered but also Monarchs were sighted for the first time ever in the area. The populations were noticed by citizen scientist and confirmed by Forest Service Staff. The Monarch’s used the Milkweed for nectar and as a host plant. The caterpillars were noticed eating the Milkweed leaves which provide nourishment and a toxicity that deters predators. Stay tuned to our website and Facebook page for more information on the Collaborative or educational opportunities about the Rigdon area or visit http://southwillamette.wixsite.com/swfc .
Mt. Hood Pollinator Garden at Podunk Seed Orchard

By Kris Elsbree

The Walama Restoration Project collaborated with the Mount Hood National Forest to install a pollinator seed garden. The project is in the Clackamas watershed and will feature over 40 species of native flora. The seed produced at the garden will be used on forest health improvement projects for forage and host benefits of pollinators. This project will provide opportunities to involve and educate students and the public on native flora and their interacting and codependence with wildlife. Establishing the seed garden will allow the forest Service to have a continuous and diverse seed bank to use for soil productivity, habitat for wildlife and fisheries, or other resource values, the control of noxious and exotic weeds and reestablishment of native plant species. Others uses also include road and trail maintenance or closure to limit erosion and restore native plant cover and healthy forest processes.

This summer the Walama crew placed shade fabric in the Podunk Seed Orchard to prepare an area for the garden. While in the forest Walama also collected seed to grow out to start the garden. Next summer we will be back out collecting more seed and beginning starts for the garden. There will also be some work to do maintaining the perimeter fence and gate as well as installing a water tank. If you would like to help with the project in any way, please contact Pollinatorgarden@walamarestoration.org. Stay tuned to our website and Facebook page for updates, events, and volunteer opportunities.

Every Nickel Counts: Mention WRP at Sequential Biofuels!

SeQuential Biofuels Station on McVay Highway in Eugene will donate 5 cents for every gallon you pump into your vehicle and 5% of store purchases to Walama Restoration Project. You must mention WRP when you make your purchase!
Thanks to an unusually sunny and pleasant fall this year, the 2017 planting field trips have been spectacular! School children participating in the From Seed to Habitat (FSH) program have the opportunity to go on two field trips per year as part of WRP’s free environmental education program which is focused on propagating native wildflowers and teaching kids about the habitats historically found in the Willamette Valley. This year’s students are planting the seedlings grown last school year with their FSH predecessors; we have copious amounts of Oregon sunshine (Eriophyllum lanatum), Yarrow (Achillea millefolium), Gumweed (Grindelia integrifolia) and Self-heal (Prunella vulgaris) this season that the students are diligently putting into the ground at CILOS between now and winter break.

Native forbs are best installed in the fall so that they have a chance to develop a robust root system all winter long while it’s raining, which will help them survive the dry summer months during which many species go dormant. Although the students have not gotten the chance to become outrageously muddy as in previous wetter years, we have had the good fortune to come across several reptile species at CILOS due to the sunshine. Of course, there have been mixed reactions to these critters! (Chaperones tend to be the most squeamish.) Here at Walama, we are excited to see that northern alligator lizards, western (blue tail) skinks and Pacific gopher snakes are making a home in the Whilamut Passage. Undoubtedly, the prolific quantities of grasshoppers on site have bolstered the base of the food web this year. When told that the Kalapuya utilized the grasshoppers for food, FSH students’ reactions are invariably a wrinkled nose and a vehement “yuck!” But then there’s always that one kids who says “can I try one?”

This will be the last school year that the From Seed to Habitat program is funded in its majority by a grant from ODOT which is administered through the City of Eugene for the Community Involvement and Longterm Ownership Strategy (CILOS). The three and a half acres of prairie adjacent to the Knickerbocker Bridge over the Willamette River will be receiving its largest onslaught of young environmental stewards ever this year to finish up the primary planting of the site. We love it when students get excited to bring their families back to the park and show them the work we did! The CILOS restoration site will continue to be maintained in the coming years by volunteer and student forces in order to prevent exotic species from taking over before our starts can become established. Since CILOS will represent the largest scale implementation of FSH students’ work ever, we want to give a big thank you too all of the schools involved in the last couple years and of course another thank you to our partners at the City of Eugene who made it possible. Thank you: Academy of Arts and Academics, Adams Elementary, Agnes Stewart Middle, Cal Young Middle, Cesar Chavez Elementary, Churchill Rachel Carson School, Early College and Career Options (ECCO) High, Edgewood Elementary, Eugene Waldorf School, Hamlin Middle, Looking Glass Center Point School, Network Charter School, Ridgeline Montessori Public Charter, South Eugene High, The Village School and Wellsprings Friends School.

Become a Walama Board Member!

WRP is currently seeking members of our community to join the Board of Directors. We encourage interested individuals sit in on a board meeting or contact us at info@walamarestoration.org. Serving on the board is a great way to resume build and contribute to your community! Our next board meeting is Dec 13th at 6:00 in the upstairs meeting room of the Growers Market. See you there.
Our Mission:
*Walama Restoration Project is a Non-Profit Organization Dedicated to Environmental Stewardship & Biological Diversity through Education & Habitat Restoration.*

2017 Support for the Walama Restoration Project

By Nicole Smedegaard

**Horne Family**

WRP is grateful to announce financial support from the Horne Family Foundation (HFF) this year in the amount of $10,000 from a nationally competitive grant which will go toward the From Seed to Habitat environmental education program and the restoration of our imperiled Willamette Valley prairies. The mission of HFF is:

First, to preserve and maintain the legacy of the Horne Family in Massachusetts’ Greater Merrimack Valley and southern New Hampshire regions by supporting various community efforts that specifically relate to Human Services, Environment and Wildlife. Secondly, the Foundation seeks to broaden its impact by supporting national initiatives aimed at the Environment, Wildlife Preservation and Animal Welfare.

Thank you Horne Family, WRP looks forward to this partnership!

**Patagonia**

Patagonia has historically generously supported WRP with in-kind donations and last year we were pleased to receive financial support from the Patagonia Portland Store in the amount of $4,000 toward Volunteer Coordination in the Whilamut Natural Area of Alton Baker Park. In 2017, Patagonia helped fund 1,500 Community volunteers and school students to plant 14,000 pots of native wildflowers and sow 21,000,000 native grass, sedge and forb seeds. Community members volunteered a total of 2,500 hours of service towards restoring upland prairie, wet prairie, emergent wetlands and vernal pools along the Willamette River with Walama Restoration Project!

**The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Portland District is funding three rural classrooms to participate in the From Seed to Habitat program this year! Classes at Elmira Elementary School and Territorial Elementary School are learning about the historic Willamette Valley habitats right in their own backyards. Elmira Elementary students are able to literally walk across the street to the North Applegate Unit of the Fern Ridge Wildlife Area and yet many were unaware this resource existed! Students are able to participate in the full FSH program and to work toward preserving biological diversity on public lands thanks to Army Corps support.

**The Village School**

The Village School 5th graders of Matthew Bigongiari’s class have once again chosen to support WRP education programs and environmental restoration through donations from their annual Walk-A-Thon fundraiser which gives each class the opportunity to support an ecologically-minded non-profit organization of their choice. Thank you Village School for your 8th consecutive year of support!
Species Spotlight: Purple Milkweed; Asclepias cordifolia, and Monarch Butterfly; Danaus plexippus

By Kris Elsbree

A female monarch nectaring on one of the last flowering purple milkweeds at Grassy Glade in the Southern end of the Willamette National Forest. Photo and caption by Tanya Harvey Westerncascades.com

Membership Renewal

WRP wants to express our sincerest gratitude to our previous Field Representative, Doug Black, for his many years of dedication. Doug has recently retired and so you will sadly no longer be greeted by him at your doorstep during the giving season. However, WRP still relies on your membership donations to fund our environmental education program and volunteer coordination efforts in your local natural areas. Membership renewals happen in January! Your contribution will allow WRP to facilitate and continue important prairie, riparian zone and oak savannah restoration in our community. Members receive WRP newsletters, updates, event invites and the satisfaction of supporting habitat restoration and education! If you have any questions about donations feel free to contact us at (541) 484-3939. All contributions made to WRP are fully tax-deductible.

Purchase Native Plant Greeting Cards to Support WRP!

Walama Restoration Project has designed six native plant greeting cards that we are selling as a fundraiser for our organization. 100 percent of the proceeds goes directly towards WRP’s From Seed to Habitat education program and to the expansion of declining rare native plant species of the PNW. If you would like to purchase greeting cards, you can do so on our website at walamarestoration.org. You can also contact us at (541) 484-3939 or via email: info@walamarestoration.org.

Thank you, Members, for your continued support of Walama Restoration Project!
Walama Restoration Project relies on community support to facilitate our education programs. If you would like to make a tax deductible contribution or would like to volunteer with WRP, please fill out this form & send it to:

**Walama Restoration Project**
**PO Box 894**
**Eugene, OR 97440**

Yes! I would like to be a supporter!
___ Limited Income $15
___ Individual $35
___ Family $50
___ Sustaining Member $100
___ Sponsor $500
___ Other Amount _____

**You can also donate on our website**
www.walamarestoration.org

___ Yes! I am interested in volunteering!
My interests include _______________________

---

**Board of Directors**
President: Jesse McAlpine
Taylor Zeigler
Neil Langlois
Nicole Smedegaard
Michael Klinkebiel
Krystal Abrams

**Operational Director**
Yotokko Kilpatrick

**Restoration Director**
Kris Elsbree

**Field Crew**
Taylor Zeigler, Mike Clark
Liam Cislo, Nate France, Harbor Engel

**Education Coordinator**
Nicole Smedegaard

**Office Manager**
Alicia Robe

**Volunteer Coordinator**
Alexis Engelbrecht

**Editor/Contributors**
Nicole Smedegaard
Kris Elsbree

---