



Walama Restoration Project

**Community Supported Rehabilitation
& Native Re-Vegetation of our Watersheds**

Issue #28

Spring 2019

Students Head for the Forest

Friends of Hendricks Park & Walama Restoration Partner for Field Trips



Education Director, Nicole, leads students on a field trip.

Every spring, students participating in the From Seed to Habitat (FSH) environmental education program travel to public lands for a field trip to enjoy, play and work in some of the habitats they have learned about with FSH.

The field trip is a culmination of the yearlong program propagating native plants and learning about local species and ecosystems. Locations are typically in City of Eugene parks for 4j district schools and on Army Corps of Engineers managed lands for the Junction City School district.

In spring 2019, Walama will be taking fourth and fifth graders to Hendricks Park to participate in a native species scavenger hunt. Don't worry, this is a leave no trace (and take no trace) sort of activity!

Students will also be taking a hike through the mixed conifer forests of Hendricks all the way up to the oak knoll, where forest

canopy gives way to an oak savanna filled with wildflowers like camas. The transition between forest types is an amazing way for students to experience the ecological diversity that Oregon has to offer.

The Friends of Hendricks Park is generously sponsoring these spring field trips as a way to engage more youth in the park. For the ninth year, field trips will be led by Walama's Education Director and Ecologist Nicole Smedegaard.

In this issue -

- **Bikes to Blooms** Wildflower Event: Saturday May 11th, 8 – 3
- **Open House & Plant Sale at Walama Restoration Project Nursery** ~ Sunday May 19th, 11 – 5
- Come help observe our native bees ~ **Bee Survey**, Sunday June 9th, 10 – 12, Whilamut Natural Area with the **Bee City Celebration**
- Join the survey team at Monarch Camp ~ **Citizen Science Monarch Monitoring Project**
Training: Tuesday June 11th, 5 – 7 at WildCraft Cider Works



Do you know me?

**A Special Thank You
to the following:**

Wes Messenger, US Army
Corps of Engineers
Lauri Holts, City of Eugene
Chad Hoffman, Lane County
Public Works
Billy Hughes &
Network Charter School
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The Village School
UO Duck Corps
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Friends of Hendrick Park
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Sequential Biofuels
Sarah Ruggiero &
Churchill High School
New Day Bakery
Toby's
Bread Stop
Sizzle Pie
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Mazamas
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SLO Farm
WildCraft Ciderworks
Plank Town Brewing
Oakshire Public House
National Forest Foundation
Mt. Hood National Forest
Nancy's Yogurt
Toby's Family Foods
De Casa Fine Foods
REI

**Plus, the Many
Volunteers who help in
the restoration of our
Local Open
Spaces!**

Come visit our new native plant nursery!

**Open House & Plant Sale at
Walama Restoration Project Nursery
Sunday May 19, 11 - 5**

We are inviting members and partners to come visit our new nursery space at 34141 Seavey Loop. On Sunday May 19th we will be giving tours on our nursery production and overviews of our different projects.

We are currently growing out plants for a pollinator seed garden in the Mt. Hood National Forest that will produce seed for projects across the western zone of the Mt. Hood National Forest. We are also growing out an array of southern Willamette Valley wildflowers to increase nectar resources for monarch butterflies and other rare and at-risk native pollinators.

Stop by and visit us earlier in the day at the **Mt. Pisgah Wildflower Festival**. Renew your Walama Restoration Project membership and get a voucher for plants to redeem when you stop by our nursery on your way home. We will have plants for sale that are suitable for the Willamette Valley ecoregion including 4-inch pots of Gumweed, Blue-eyed Grass, Large-leaved Avens, and gallon pots of Checker-mallow.

Our nursery will be open from 11 am to 5 pm. And, if you are interested in getting some plants but can not make it out on the 19th, email us at info@walamarestoration.org to place on order for pick up at another time.



At the Walama Restoration Project's nursery: 4 inch pots of *Potentilla gracilis*.

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!



Join the survey team at Monarch Camp ~

Citizen Science Monarch Monitoring Project Training: June 11, 5-7 at WildCraft Cider Works

by Maya Goklany



Flower of Heartleaf milkweed (*Asclepias cordifolia*)

In partnership with the Southern Willamette Forest Collaborative and the National Forest Service, Walama Restoration Project is continuing to spearhead efforts to identify, preserve, and restore monarch breeding sites in the Rigdon Unit of Willamette National Forest.

Rigdon is a unique area in the western Cascades that is home to dry, mixed conifer forest, or the “pinegrass” vegetation-type. This habitat is characterized by an open tree canopy dominated by ponderosa pine, oregon white oak, sugar pine, douglas fir, and incense cedar, with an understory of native bunchgrasses and wildflowers.

These sunny open areas are strikingly different from the deeply shaded Douglas fir forest that is typical of the west Cascades. Historically, Native Americans maintained these areas with managed burns to aid in hunting, but fire suppression has led to Douglas fir encroachment which has drastically reduced the extent of this habitat.

Heartleaf milkweed (*Asclepias cordifolia*) occurs in this dry, mixed conifer forest - attracting monarchs along their western migration route. Rigdon is the northernmost extent of dry, mixed conifer forest and heartleaf milkweed on the west coast, potentially offering important refugia for plants and wildlife from the impact of climate change. Forest-wide efforts to restore and maintain this vegetation type include reducing conifer encroachment, decreasing the habitat’s vulnerability to stand replacing fires, and increasing nectar resources for pollinators by establishing native vegetation.

WRP is working with the Dorena Genetic Resource Center to propagate heartleaf milkweed for out-planting at sites. In winter of 2018, WRP launched a long term monitoring study to examine the success of direct seeding heartleaf milkweed in burned and unburned areas of the Jim’s Creek Prairie site in Rigdon. Germination, seedling survivorship, recruitment, and fitness will be tracked in future years to aid in developing planting protocols for heartleaf milkweed.

In addition to increasing the supply of native plant materials for restoration projects, WRP seeks to identify and map existing heartleaf milkweed populations and monarch breeding sites in Rigdon. In 2018, WRP and Forest Service staff, and many dedicated volunteers participated in this effort by surveying over 500 acres. We discovered 18 heartleaf milkweed populations and found evidence of monarchs breeding at 15 of those sites.

In 2019, we will return to survey and map in the Rigdon Unit. This is where YOU come in! Our **Citizen Science Monarch Monitoring Project** will engage and train volunteers to do this work.

No experience is necessary, and our staff will provide instruction on backcountry navigation, field mapping, and plant/pollinator identification. Our next training session will be held on **Tuesday, June 11th from 5-7pm** as part of our Science Pub series at WildCraft Cider Works, 232 Lincoln, in Eugene.

Monarchs are expected to visit the region from June to early August, so stay tuned for field trips scheduled during that time. Sign-ups and questions can be directed to me: our Stewardship & Volunteer Coordinator: at maya@walamarestoration.org



Walama Restoration Project at work: surveying butterflies and their habitat.

Our Mission:

Walama Restoration Project is a Non-Profit Organization Dedicated to Environmental Stewardship & Biological Diversity through Education & Habitat Restoration.

Meet the Community Outreach Team

by Steve Repicky

Starting with an annual visit from our long-time organizer, Doug Black, many of us learned for the first time what “Walama” is. Doug retired, but his 15-year commitment to go door-to-door has helped build a network of passionate people able to act locally while thinking globally.

Today, Walama Restoration Project has new faces, ready for a new age! The Community Outreach Team is now a trio of lovely young activists. Don't be surprised to have your door knocked on by any one of our Community Organizers.

Cynthia Smith is a local activist who came to WRP after the 2018 midterms. Her talent for conversation and love of community is infectious! She's regularly breaking records Walama hasn't seen in nearly 20 years of canvassing!

Melia Hill comes to the Emerald Valley from Sharon, Connecticut. An artist and entrepreneur, Melia began helping build up our canvass in January this year.

Finally myself, Steve Repicky, the Oregonizer. Since 2017, it is been my honor to take on the duties of canvassing. Meeting so many of you who take the time to support our work when we can make our annual housecalls inspires me to walk the talk every day!

Together with your help we broke a record for members recruited in 2018. This year, we've once again exceeded our annual record for supporters BEFORE MAY! There's no telling how far we can take the work of Walama Restoration Project. From your door, to the high climbing native plants on Mt. Hood, your time, contributions, and conversation drive our organization. When these three rebels with a cause come through your neighborhood, never hesitate to answer. We're sure it'd be nice to meet ya!



Team Walama! On the left, Cynthia Smith. In the middle, Melia Hill. On the right, Steve Repicky.

Species Spotlight: ***Polygonia satyrus***

Satyr Comma; *Polygonia satyrus*, is found in Lane County but is a rare sight. They are most abundant in April and May. This photo was taken this past April in the Willamette National Forest.



Come help observe our native bees ~

Bee Survey Sunday June 9, 10 - 12 Whilamut Natural Area

Walama Restoration Project, Xerces, Beyond Toxics, and the Oregon Bee Project are hosting the 3rd annual survey of native bees at the Whilamut Natural Area. Join us for a morning of observing our pollinators in their natural habitat and contributing to the Oregon Bee Atlas, organized by the Oregon Bee Project.

We will provide bug nets, identification guides, and naturalists to assist. All ages are welcome, no experience necessary, but we especially want to urge photographers to join us so we can upload images of our bees to the iNaturalist app.

We will be meeting along Pre's Trail, north of the Knickerbocker bridge ("Walama Restoration Project Site" in Google Maps). Please note this is walk/bike access only site.

The bee survey starts the celebration of Eugene as a "Bee City" – a city which protects native flora and fauna and develops resilience in a constantly changing climate.

The **Bee City Celebration** continues throughout the day with live music, food truck, and family-friendly activities to educate about Eugene's precious pollinators! Furthermore, people will also be invited to taste honey varieties from GloryBee Foods. Program is free and open to all. More at beecityeugene.org



**Bikes to Blooms
Wildflower Event**
Saturday, May 11
8 a.m. - 3 p.m.
**Bake Stewart Park
on Dorena Lake**
Free Guided Walks & Activities for All Ages

8 a.m. Bird Walk
10:30 a.m. Wildflower Walk
1 p.m. Pollinator Walk
Naturalists available to lead additional walks.

9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Educational Booths Open
All activities are accessible by car. Parking is limited. Bring water and a picnic lunch. Please leave dogs at home. Rain or shine.

Logos for Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon Department of Parks and Recreation, US Army Corps of Engineers, and others.

Coast Fork Willamette
For more information visit www.coastfork.org or call 541-767-9717.

Support WRP with Native Plant Greeting Cards



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. You may purchase greeting cards on our website at walamarestoration.org or contact us at (541) 484-3939 or info@walamarestoration.org



Walama Restoration Project

PO Box 894

Eugene, OR 97440

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

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Sustaining Member \$100

Sponsor \$500

Other Amount _____

Yes! I am interested in volunteering!

My interests include _____

You can also donate on our website ~

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Office: Barbara Bochnovic

Editor/Contributors:

Kris Elsbree

Maya Goklany

Steve Repicky

Nicole Smedegaard



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