



Walama Restoration Project

Issue #8 PO Box 894 Eugene, OR 97440 541-484-3939 www.walamarestoration.org Spring 2008

A Healthy Spring along the Coast Fork Willamette River

On three perfect spring days, WRP was honored to work with a group of dedicated students from Al Kennedy Alternative School in Cottage Grove. Equipped with their own tools, gloves, and motivated instructors, 15 high school students grubbed away at blackberries, planted more than 250 shrubs and trees, and heavily mulched plants with buckets of donated mulch from the City of Cottage Grove. The same team even returned to the site and taught in-depth restoration ecology and tree planting workshops to more than 60 Latham Elementary students. **The Al Kennedy students helped make WRP's Coast Fork STREAM (Students Trained in River Enhancement, Awareness, and Monitoring) Program successful this spring.** There are now more than 15 different riparian species planted along steep banks, in the river bed, and throughout degraded areas that lack canopy cover adjacent to the Willamette River.



Al Kennedy Student Zack Fix plants a native elderberry

WRP has been truly impressed with the students and community members involved in the STREAM Program in Cottage Grove. **We have collaborated with multiple schools including Al Kennedy, Cottage Grove High School, and Lane Community College.** We have received strong support from the Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council, who donated all the plants for the site, aided in providing stipends to Al Kennedy students, and helped organize river clean-up events at the site. Additionally, the City of Cottage Grove donated more than 10 cubic yards of mulch, and a local merchant, Schweitzer's Casual Menswear, donated loads of cardboard for sheet mulching.

There is more than just on-the-ground restoration work happening at the STREAM site. **LCC students and two Oceanography classes have been collecting baseline habitat data since October to monitor site changes.** Students also have received trainings and conducted preliminary water quality testing along the Coast Fork Willamette River. As



Tara McKinnon plants native irises along the river.

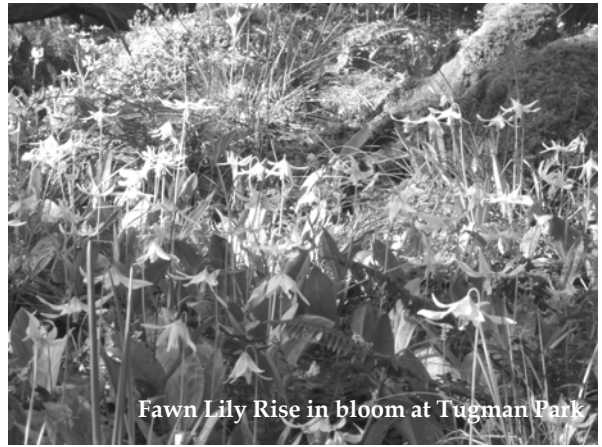
summer approaches, **WRP will be accepting applications from Al Kennedy and Cottage Grove HS students to participate in a year-round water and habitat monitoring team.** The team will assist the City of Cottage Grove and the Coast Fork Watershed Council in collecting water quality samples that will be sent to the state for analyzing and recording. We are excited about this new student program, and look forward to working along the river!

Don't Miss Out on Tuesdays in June at The Savoy Truffle!

Every Tuesday in June, The Savoy Truffle will donate 10% of total sales to the Walama Restoration Project! Located in the Lane Building at 460 Willamette, The Savoy Truffle offers lunch and dinner with a variety of scrumptious offerings, including a wide array of tapas, salads, and a full bar in a quaint, romantic atmosphere. They are open for lunch from 11-3 and dinner from 4:30-9pm.

Our Mission

Walama Restoration Project is a non-profit organization dedicated to environmental stewardship and biological diversity through education and habitat restoration.



Fawn Lily Rise in bloom at Tugman Park

Restoration News

The WRP workforce has been working extensively throughout the Coast Fork, Long Tom, and McKenzie Watersheds at various riparian and upland sites. The US Army Corps of Engineers contracted WRP to perform a myriad of tasks including sheet mulching of 2,000 trees in Pipers Creek and Bake Stewart State Park. **WRP also planted USACE property with nectar species, including 500 endangered Kincaid's lupines to encourage habitat for endangered Fenders Blue Butterflies near Fern Ridge Reservoir.**

WRP spent a large amount of time at Hendricks Park for the 6th season in a row. Thanks in part to **Friends of Hendricks Park**, who helped fund a portion of the project, the crew was able to successfully remove encroaching weeds such as wall lettuce, English hawthorn, and scotch broom in the Oak Knoll section of the park. The crew was also able to remove a large amount of English ivy in the Oak Knoll and re-treat more than 2 acres of former sites throughout the park.

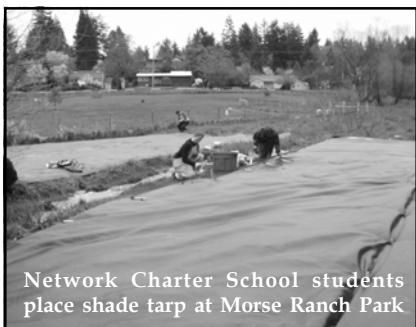
The crew spent time in three other public parks this winter and spring. Thanks to the **City of Eugene**, more than 4 acres of riparian forest at Whilamut Natural Area (formerly East Alton Baker Park) were revisited and re-treated for ivy and blackberries. **The Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council** relied on WRP this year to remove more than 8 acres of blackberries, scotch broom, and ivy at Garden Lake Park in Creswell. **Finally, the WRP crew performed ivy removal at Fawn Lily Rise, a unique remaining oak savanna understory ecosystem that is still completely intact with various native herbaceous plants. Check it out at Tugman Park in South Eugene.**

In the McKenzie Watershed, the crew performed invasives removal for the **McKenzie Watershed Council** in various riparian areas along the Mohawk River. Additionally, thanks to the **Eugene Water and Electric Board**, the crew worked extensively in the Leaburg Area removing invasive weeds.

Prairie Enhancement at Morse Ranch Park

If you and your dog are ever visiting the Crest Drive Dog Park, check out the shade tarp on the ground in the fenced riparian area. Thanks to community funds, WRP and the Network Charter School placed 8,000 square feet of shade tarp on top of invasive reed canary grass. We will monitor this project for the next two years before we replace the tarp with native plants. This project is in collaboration with the City of Eugene. We look forward to enhancing more of Morse Ranch Park in the years to come!

Contact WRP for more info.



Network Charter School students place shade tarp at Morse Ranch Park

WRP Wins West Eugene Wetlands Award!



The West Eugene Wetlands Partnership (WEWP) has nominated WRP a recipient of this year's West Eugene Wetlands Award. This is a prestigious award presented to individuals and organizations who have made significant positive contributions to wetland conservation in the West Eugene area. WEWP is a nationally recognized partnership that has collaborated since 1994 to achieve substantial wetlands protection. The partnership has implemented many collaborative projects related to enhancement and restoration of key habitats, environmental education and the scientific research. **WRP was selected as we've been a longstanding partner, and have played a key role in accomplishing on-the-ground restoration work as well as educating others about habitat conservation.** We are honored by this award and look forward to continuing our work in the West Eugene Wetlands.

Spring Monitoring and Enhancement Underway at Butterfly Meadow



LCC Botany students, including new intern Heather Whitney, collect pollinator data at the butterfly meadow in May

Wildflowers are blooming fiercely at the Butterfly Meadow this spring! Lane Community College's biology classes have been graciously collecting habitat data at the prairie since last fall. **This spring, LCC's Botany 213 class visited the site and collected additional pollinator data by monitoring insect visitations on populations of rosy plecritis, a prolific pollinator attractant as well as a downright pretty flower.** Checkermallows are about to spring open with colors and we are searching for signs of our newer species, scarlet gilia and common lomatium.

WRP is grateful to have a new intern on-board to collect pollinator data this spring and summer. Heather Whitney is an LCC student who's working towards a degree in biology, with an emphasis on botany. She is excited about plants and is motivated to collect detailed data for us this year!

Network Charter School students contributed a lot of time and perseverance at the Butterfly Meadow in March and April. **The NCS Permaculture class assisted in sheet mulching 1,500 square feet of ground in Phase III of the site.** This is the first time WRP has tried sheet mulching as a method at the Butterfly Meadow, and we're collaborating with the City of Eugene in finding further methods of low-impact mulching at the site.

WRP is excited to see the Butterfly Meadow in its third year in bloom! **Come visit the butterfly meadow on Friday, June 13th, where WRP Board and Staff will provide tours of the various wildflowers and native grasses.**

WRP would like to introduce one or long-time crew members. Randy Shadowwalker has been a community activist for several years. He says that he works with WRP because he likes to have what he does for a living to be as beneficial to the earth as possible, while causing as little negative impact as possible. When not wading through poison oak or ripping out English ivy and blackberries, he produced socially conscious documentaries. He facilitates a class called Film Skool, where he helps train Eugene-based Indy film makers. He also runs a video production business called Under Story Productions. Check out his website at www.understoryprod.net.



Job Announcement!!

WRP is seeking an Environmental Education and Outreach Coordinator, a new full-time AmeriCorps position, beginning in September 2008. **The Coordinator will play an important role in new programs that integrate on-the-ground land restoration, field monitoring, and education events that help build a sense of place for local youth and other community members.** Duties include strengthening community outreach and participation in watershed restoration, and expanding school-based environmental education programs. **This temporary position will run from September 2008 through June 2009.** To read the complete job description, please visit our website at www.walamarestoration.org.

Whilamut Work Party and Open House Events!!!!!!

Whilamut Natural Area Butterfly Meadow is located at the end of Day Island Road in Alton Baker Park. You can reach it by following the road through the park, past the community gardens. Make a right at the bollards, and you're there!

Join WRP on **Saturday, June 7th for a weeding work party at our Butterfly Meadow in Whilamut Natural Area.** Witness showy wildflowers while clearing ground for new plants to emerge! Meet us between 9:30 and noon. We'll serve refreshments and snacks.

WRP is proud to announce our **first Open House at the Butterfly Meadow on Friday, June 13th from 11-2pm.** Join us for tours of the meadow and nursery, meet the Board and Staff, learn about our project expansion and recent pollinator research, and see an amazing wildflower display, unlike any you've seen!



Walama Restoration Project

PO Box 894
Eugene, OR 97440

Mark Your Calendars! Open House at the Whilamut Natural Area Butterfly Meadow on Friday, June 13th!!!

Walama Restoration Project relies on community support to continue facilitating our educational programs. If you would like to become involved by volunteering at a work party or by making a tax-deductible contribution, please fill out this form and send 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 \$_____

Give a WRP Gift Membership!

The recipient will receive a card recognizing your gift, and a subscription to WRP newsletters for a year. A one year Gift Membership is \$30, but you can always donate in someone's honor for any amount.

Yes! I want to volunteer!

name _____
 address _____

 phone _____
 Interests _____



Al Kennedy students in Cottage Grove finish a tree planting project along the Willamette River.

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