

# Riverscape

A Publication of Willamette Riverkeeper - VOLUME 10 ISSUE 2 / SUMMER 2005



Harbor fisherman catches a sturgeon, a species not included in the fish advisory.

## WRK Completes Portland Harbor Fishing Survey

An important part of the Superfund cleanup process in the Portland Harbor section of the Willamette River is the cleanliness of resident fish. Because fish can collect contaminants in their fat and muscle tissue, there is a direct path through which people who eat these fish can be affected. This makes the issue of contaminated fish a public health concern.

Over the years, a number of parties have expressed various opinions on the demographics of fisherman that utilize the Portland Harbor. While there are a variety of opinions on this subject, there was no real data or evidence to support whether people fish and consume resident species and at what frequency. Willamette Riverkeeper felt it was important enough to implement a survey of those fishing in the harbor area.

~ FISH SURVEY continued on page 9.

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Paddlers at the Water Trail Launch event stop to get a look at the new Keizer Rapids Park, river mile 79.



## Water Trail Launches

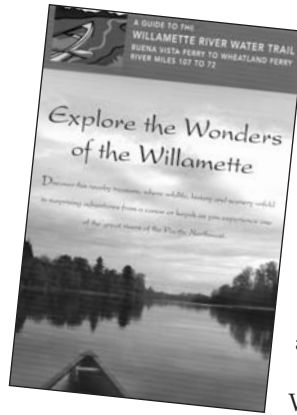
Willamette Riverkeeper, and its partners in the Mid-Willamette Connections Group (MWRC) helped launch the new Willamette River Water Trail in June. Governor Kulongoski, Congresswoman Darlene Hooley, and others spoke to a crowd of nearly one hundred eager paddlers, at the event that officially launched the first leg of the Willamette Water Trail from Buena Vista (just south of Salem) to Wheatland (just north of Salem).

WILLAMETTE RIVER



Water Trail

This pilot water trail flows 35 miles through scenic areas, cities, small towns and recreational stops including; American Bottom, Independence, Salem, Keizer, Windsor Island and Willamette Mission State Park. There are many opportunities for day paddles, wildlife viewing and camping on this stretch of river.



Along with the opening of the Trail, a new waterproof Water Trail Guide is available, and multiple sites along the River have new signage. Together, the signage and the maps provide information regarding camping locations and accommodations on the water trail. This new guide for the Willamette Valley and Oregon provides fantastic information to help you get out in your canoe, kayak, drift boat, or other craft and enjoy what the Willamette River has to offer.

Willamette Riverkeeper believes that as more people utilize and experience the river, they will develop a river conservation ethic that will aid in the long-term protection and restoration of the Willamette River.

~ WATER TRAIL continued on page 8.



*“Working to make the Willamette River Watershed healthy for fish and wildlife, and safe for fishing and swimming, forever and for all.”*

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**Water Quality Advocate:**

Brent Foster

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# Reflections

## From the Riverkeeper

Sometimes when I paddle my canoe along the river at dusk, I spot a beaver leaving the den for an evening of foraging on cottonwood bark. One can always see the tell-tale indicators of beavers in many stretches of the river.



One evening I was paddling down river, and out from the riparian area came the familiar triangularly shaped head of a beaver. This one came right toward me, so I stopped paddling to let (him/her) swim up to me.

It was unusual for this little furry rodent to not give a quick slap of the tail and head into the depths. This beaver continued toward me, then gently veered to the left to swim in front of me. I considered it an opportunity to see where this little guy was going, so after it had passed and was some distance ahead, as slowly, and quietly as I could, I paddled behind it.

It crossed the river and then swam along the river bank for about a mile. Occasionally it would pull itself over a log or other woody debris and then plop into the water and continue on its way.

It amazes me to think that these were the creatures that brought the Hudson's Bay Company to Oregon in the early 1800s, and that they have managed to recover and persist to this day.

This little animal provides a good example of why it is important to do all we can for clean water and healthy habitat. In addition to beaver, in almost every area of the river one can find river otter, mink, deer, many birds including bald eagle, osprey and more.

So, get out there and keep your eyes open. You never know what you may see.

Travis Williams, Riverkeeper

### Thank you volunteers!

**Jim Ballou** – highlighted in this issue for his handiwork and active participation in our events. (See page 4.)

**Denise Schmit** – for becoming a new water quality monitor and helping to reach out to local communities at the Locks Fest.

**Mackenzie & CREST** – for spending your Saturday with us and providing the great space at CREST to hold the Wilsonville River Guardian Training.

**Hannah Kapell, Bill Neumann, Suzanne Whisler** – for sharing your paddling skills to help get school kids out on the water for our Youth River Discovery Program.

*Great job everyone!*

# Recognition & Appreciation

*We thank the following foundations for their valued support of our work:*

**Herbert A. Templeton Foundation  
Lamb Foundation  
Oregon Community Foundation**

**Willamette River Fund  
Ralph L. Smith Foundation**

*We thank the following businesses and organizations for their support:*

Interamerican University  
Studies Institute  
Wild Oats  
Tazo Teas

New Seasons  
Earth Share of Oregon  
Yahoo Earth Day Photo Contest  
Wilsonville Thriftway

*We thank the following individuals for their recent contributions:*

**Sea Lion (\$500+)**

Patricia Benner  
Leonard Cogan

**Sturgeon (\$100 - \$499)**

Dean Marriott  
Jim Rawls  
Lloyd & Teresa Rhoades  
Patrick & Victoria Smith

**Osprey (\$50 - 99)**

Bob & Dawn Adams  
Bonnie Berneck  
Anne Bonine  
Susan Campbell & David Brook  
Bob Cattoche  
Joe & Joan Cavan  
John & Cynthia Clague  
Logan Cravens  
Leslie Crehan  
Laure Dwyer  
Evan & Nedra Firestone

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Allan Grabinski  
Lizzie Grossman  
Bill Hawley  
Dorothy Hofferber  
Rich Phaigh & Connie Jaqua  
Robert Jensen  
Dennis & Karen Johnson

Robert Frank Johnston  
Chip Kiger  
Gayle Killam  
Barbara Kraler  
Bill Lauer  
Vincent & Virginia Lowe  
Michael Egelhoff &  
Nancy Mack  
James Marshall  
Michael McCarthy

John & Liane McIrvin  
Laura Mildren  
Donald Miller  
James & Sally Petersen  
Peter Pisani  
Grant Robinson  
Edward Schmitt  
Donn Schuch  
Fran Stevenson  
Mary Van Domelen  
Robert & Denise Yorke

**Chinook (\$25 - 49)**

Jeff Aiken  
Billy Aue  
Oriana & Edan Badajos  
Brent Carter  
David Chance  
Mike & Ellen Clarke  
Vicki Clay  
Mary Coats  
Karen Cook  
Ronald J. Cooper  
Tom & Leille DeSpain  
Angela Dreher  
John Freeburg  
Shirley Freeman  
Herb Goodman

Ted & Jacklyn Hallock  
Matt Harding  
Ashley Henry  
Jim Jordon  
Lee Kilbourn  
Jess Kimball  
Christie Holte & Gerard Lester  
Mike & Carolyn Lindberg  
Jeff Locke  
Lisa Malcy  
Anne McLaughlin  
Sara Pascoe & Dean Moberg  
Donna & William Neumann  
Oregon City High School Outdoor Club  
Walter & Carol Ottoson

Don & Claudia Parsons  
Jill & Frank Patten  
Jenny Pompillo  
Quinland Porter  
Saundra Stevens & Michael Pullen  
M. Margaret Rogers  
David Rowe  
Michael Virk & Lauren Rubin  
Del & Charla Scharffenberg  
Douglas Sponseller  
Lynn Thompson  
Charel Ann Walker  
Rebecca & Darryl Walters  
Gordon William  
Christine Wilson

# River Programs & Volunteering

## Volunteer Highlight Jim Ballou Thank you, Jim!

Willamette Riverkeeper has been lucky to cross paths with Jim Ballou. Since the Portland Boathouse open house in March, Jim has made quite a presence here at the office and on the river. Prior to our open house, Jim was one of a few volunteers that showed up to help with a trash clean up along the banks on the river by the Boathouse. He has joined us for two River Discovery paddles, a River Guardian Training and the Water Trail launch in June.

Jim has adopted rivermiles 18-20 as a River Guardian and began monitoring in his kayak in April. In addition to all this, we've seen a lot of Jim since he's become our unofficial helper here at the Boathouse, we don't want to blow his cover by naming which task he does. But I'm sure we aren't the only ones thankful for this job well done!



## Volunteers Needed

If interested please contact Art, Water Quality Coordinator/AmeriCorps Member, at 503-223-6418 or [art@willamette-riverkeeper.org](mailto:art@willamette-riverkeeper.org)

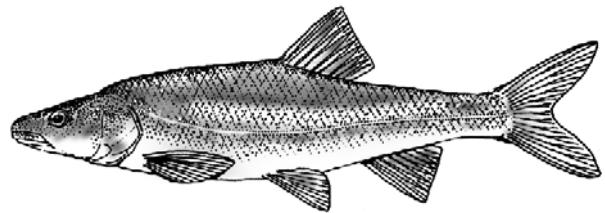


## Water Quality Monitors

Water Quality Monitors are needed for the following 5 sites: East end of Multnomah Channel, West end of Multnomah Channel, Willamette Narrows (near Oregon City), Fish Eddy Landing (South of Oregon City), and mouth of the Yamhill. All sites are accessible only by boat (human-powered or motor). Monitors are asked for a one-year commitment with monthly sampling. Training and equipment provided. This is a great opportunity to learn about the water quality of your favorite recreation area.

## Mercury Fish Sampling Volunteers

On July 21st, at the crack of dawn, volunteers and WRK staff will be hitting the Willamette Falls area in search of smallmouth bass and northern pikeminnow. We will be mailing 10 fish to the Waterkeeper's Alliance for mercury testing. We may spend Friday, the 22nd on the river if we do poorly on Thursday. The results will be available from WRK and may provide supplemental data for the DEQ's Mercury TMDL. Volunteers are needed for providing and driving boats, angling, fish handling, and photography. *Come find out what's in your fish!*



## Next Training Event

Find out how you can become a River Guardian or Water Quality Monitoring volunteer at our next training in Salem, Saturday August 6th from 10am-3pm.

Learn about observational and water quality monitoring techniques and how you can get involved with this growing volunteer program. Registration is required. Please call WRK for location and details.