

The late poet William Stafford best captured the spirit of Great Blue Heron Week in his "Spirit of Place"

Spirit of Place

Out of their loneliness for each other
two reeds, or maybe two shadows, lurch
forward and become suddenly a life
lifted from the dawn to the rain. It is
the wilderness come back again, a lagoon
with our city reflected in its eye.
We live by faith in such presences.

It is a test for us, that thin
but real, undulating figure that promises,
'if you keep the faith I will exist
at the edge, where your vision joins
the sunlight and the rain: heads in the light,
feet that go down in the mud where the truth is.'

— WILLIAM STAFFORD, OREGON POET LAUREATE
GREAT BLUE HERON WEEK, 1987

May 28— June 8, 2008

22nd Annual GREAT BLUE HERON WEEK



Connecting Green Celebrating Parks, Trails and Natural Areas

Each year since the Portland City Council adopted the Great Blue Heron as the official city bird in 1986 the City of Portland and the metropolitan region has celebrated the heron as an icon for access to nature in the heart of the city. Creation of Portland Parks and Recreation's City Nature Program, Passage of Metro's \$227.4 million bond measure, adoption of progressive watershed and urban forest management plans for the City of Portland, the city's Grey to Green initiative, and launching of the Connecting Green Alliance all represent successes toward integrating the built and natural environments and creating a more ecologically sustainable metropolitan region. During Great Blue Heron Week we celebrate these successes as well as future challenges. Climb into a kayak, hop on a bike, or take walk to enjoy the region's greenspace heritage.



GREAT BLUE HERON WEEK

Trips and Events

For more information go to www.audubonportland.org where full trip descriptions are available. All trips are free unless otherwise noted.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 28

Portland City Council Great Blue Heron Week Proclamation
9:30 AM City Council Chambers, City Hall, 1220 SW Fourth Avenue

Evening Canoe the Slough 6 PM AND 7 PM DEPARTURES
Join the Columbia Slough Watershed Council, City of Portland's Environmental Services and Northwest Discoveries for a 45 minute paddling tour exploring the tree-lined Whitaker Slough. Pre-register by calling Katie at (503) 281-1132 or email katie.meckes@columbiaslough.org. Meet at Whitaker Ponds Natural Area, 7040 NE 47th Ave, Portland, OR 97218.

Lunch With The Birds at Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve
NOON TO 1 PM Jackson Bottom staff will provide spotting scopes, binoculars, field guides and naturalists to help you identify the waterfowl and other birds that show up at Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve. Meet at the north viewing shelter, next to treatment plant on Highway 219. Contact Sarah Pinnock at 503-681-6278 for information.

THURSDAY, MAY 29

Metro Council Proclamation 2 PM
Metro Council Chambers, 600 NE Grand

Willamette Cove Paddle 7 AM TO 9 AM Jim Labbe, leads this paddle to Willamette Cove through the North Portland Harbor. A Connecting Green, Wild in the City trip. Registration required: www.audubonportland.org or 503-292-6855 x 116.

FRIDAY, MAY 30

Heron Lakes Golf Course Heron Nesting Colony 6 PM TO 7 PM
Join Sunnyside Environmental School and Heron Lakes manager, Jesse Goodling for a walk to the Great Blue Heron nesting colony at Heron Lakes Golf course. Please pre-register at: ginnymys@yahoo.com. Subject line: Heron trip.

3 Creeks Natural Area 9 AM TO 1 PM Tour America's favorite wetland and upland oak forest, with the all-volunteer Tsunami Crew! A stroll through 89 acres of 400 year old White Oaks, soggy bottoms, grasslands, duck ponds, heron hideaways and years worth of serious habitat restoration. Meet: North Clackamas Aquatic Park at 7300 SE Harmony Road. Contact Chris Runyard, crunyard@msn.com, 503-239-5844.

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS

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| Audubon Society of Portland | Johnson Creek Watershed Council |
| Bike Gallery | npGREENWAY |
| Columbia Land Trust | Norm Thompson |
| Columbia Slough Watershed Council | Northwest Discoveries |
| City of Portland, Bureau of Environmental Services | RiversWest |
| City of Portland, River Renaissance Program | Sauvie Island Conservancy |
| City of Portland Parks and Recreation, Heron Lakes Golf Course | Sunnyside Environmental School |
| Hillsboro Public Library | Urban Greenspaces Institute |
| Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve | Willamette Riverkeeper |
| | 3 Creeks Natural Area |

Production and printing of this flyer was made possible through the financial support of:

- City of Portland Parks and Recreation
- City of Portland Bureau of Environmental Services
- City of Portland River Renaissance Program
- Metro Regional Parks and Greenspaces
- Audubon Society of Portland
- Urban Greenspaces Institute

Connecting Green: Celebrating Parks, Trails and Natural Areas

Great Blue Heron Week

SATURDAY, MAY 31

Big Four Corners Natural Area Paddle 9 AM TO NOON

Join Ry Thompson, Bob Sallinger and Jim Labbe for a Columbia Slough paddle through Big Four Corners, the City of Portland's fourth-largest natural area. A Connecting Green, Wild in the City trip. Pre-registration is required: www.audubonportland.org or 503-292-6855 x 116.

Wetlands 101 Workshop, Smith and Bybee Lakes

8:45 AM TO 1:30 PM Get to know your local urban wetland! Join us to explore the dynamic Smith & Bybee Wetlands Natural Area. A walking tour will highlight local wetland history. Contact Katie, 503-281-1132 or katie.meckes@columbiaslough.org.

Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge 1 PM TO 4 PM Join Mike Houck for a two-mile stroll around the 160-acre Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge. A Connecting Green, Wild in the City trip. Pre-registration at www.audubonportland.org or 503-292-6855 x 116.

Great Blue Heron Walk At Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve 9 AM TO 11 AM Join Sarah Pinnock for a one-mile walk through Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve to see Great Blue Herons in their nests. \$4 fee and pre-registration is required, 503-681-6278.

Crepuscular Walk at Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve 7 PM TO 9 PM Things look different here when the sun goes down! That wonderful time at twilight is the best part of the day for many wild creatures. We'll go for a walk out to the east side of the Preserve, using our senses to help us discover what is leading the crepuscular life at Jackson Bottom Wetlands. \$4 fee and pre-registration. Call 503-681-6278.

SUNDAY, JUNE 1

Sternwheeler The Rose, Ross Island Cruise 4 PM TO 6 PM

A family-oriented two hour cruise around Ross Island. If you don't paddle and canoe or kayak this is time for you and your family to see great blue herons, osprey and bald eagles nests. Leaders: Bob Sallinger, Audubon Society of Portland and Mike Houck, Urban Greenspaces Institute, Rick Bastasch and Michael Montgomery, Portland River Renaissance, Mary Wahl, Bureau of Environmental Services. \$20 fee (children 5 and under free). A Connecting Green, Wild in the City trip, pre-registration required at www.audubonportland.org or 503-292-6855 x 116.

Hillsboro Public Library Heron Watch 8 AM TO 10 AM Join naturalist Max Smith for a great view of a heron colony and other birds near to the new Hillsboro Public Library. Call Max Smith, 503-720-9730 or oregonmax@gmail.com. Meet at the library parking lot, 2850 NE Brookwood Parkway, Hillsboro.

3 Creeks Natural Area 9 AM TO 1 PM
(See May 30 for information)



MONDAY, JUNE 2

Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge 8 AM TO 10 AM
(See May 31st for details)

Watch The Herons On Their Nests, South Waterfront 5 PM TO 7 PM Join Mike Houck, Director of the Urban Greenspaces Institute and Bob Sallinger, Audubon Society of Portland's Conservation Director, who will have spotting scopes on hand for close-up views of herons in their nests. The viewing area is on the east side of the Meriwether Condominiums, just east of the OHSU Tram station at the end of SW Curry. Served by Portland Streetcar and TriMet buses.

TUESDAY, JUNE 3

Working River and Wildlife 6 PM TO 8 PM Walk along the future North Portland Willamette Greenway Trail. Join leaders of npGREENWAY on a walk along the future North Portland Willamette Greenway Trail envisioned by this non-profit grass roots organization. Meet at 6543 N Burlington, the City of Portland Water at Pollution Control Laboratory. For information call 503.823.4524, Option #6 or email info@npGreenway.org.

Walk on the Wild Side, Exploring the 40-Mile Loop from South Waterfront to OHSU NOON TO 4 PM Mike Houck will lead a five-mile walking tour along the Willamette River Greenway to Willamette Park and up through George Himes Park and Terwilliger Parkway to OHSU. A Connecting Green, Wild in the City trip. Registration required: www.audubonportland.org or 503-292-6855 x 116.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4

Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge 5 PM TO 8 PM
(See May 31 for details)

Lunch With the Birds at Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve NOON TO 1 PM (See May 28 for details)

Two Rivers and a Slough Hike 6 PM TO 8:30 PM Join Susan Barthel, Columbia Slough watershed program coordinator for Bureau of Environmental Services, and Gregg Everhart, Portland Parks and Recreation for a hike along three trails and through cottonwood forests at the northwest side of the 40-Mile Loop. Contact: Susan Barthel 503-823-7268. Meet at the last (turnaround) parking lot within Kelley Point Park, N Marine Drive and North Lombard, about one mile northwest of Smith and Bybee Lakes.

THURSDAY, JUNE 5

Rock Creek Herons and Norm Thompson Campus 8 AM TO 10 AM Join Mike Houck, on a hike along Hillsboro's Rock Creek Greenway and explore the wetlands and riparian habitat at the Norm Thompson corporate headquarters on Rock Creek. We will also get close up views of two Great Blue Heron nesting colonies at Rock Creek. A Connecting Green, Wild in the City trip. Registration required: www.audubonportland.org or 503-292-6855 x 116.

Willamette Restoration Paddle 6 PM TO 8 PM Join Willamette Riverkeeper for an evening paddle focused on efforts underway to restore riverside habitat along the Willamette River in Portland, including Ross Island and the Eastbank. Bring your own boat or reserve a free canoe and gear. Previous paddling experience and registration are required. Contact Amy at 503-223-6418 or amy@willamette-riverkeeper.org. Meet at the Portland Boathouse 1515 SE Water Ave.

FRIDAY, JUNE 6

Friday June 6, Morning Birding Bike Ride along the Columbia Slough 7 AM TO 9 AM Join Jim Labbe Urban Conservationist Audubon Society of Portland and Barb Grover Events Planner with the Bike Gallery for an easy, morning ride along the Columbia Slough Trail. A Connecting Green, Wild in the City trip. Pre-registration required: www.audubonportland.org or 503-292-6855 x 116.

Explore Tideman Johnson Park 4 PM TO 5:30 PM Bring your kids and cameras to Johnson Creek. Join Daniela Cargill and Chad Smith of City of Portland Environmental Services and Matt Koozer of Johnson Creek Watershed Council. For kids and their parents. Leaders will share information on making your trip to natural areas safe and enjoyable. Fun fish facts and identification tips for Pacific Northwest plants. Meet at SE 37th and Tenino. Call Daniela, 503-886-9870 for information and pre-registration.

SATURDAY, JUNE 7

Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge 8 AM TO 11 AM
(See May 31 for details)

Watch The Herons On Their Nests, South Waterfront NOON TO 3 PM (See June 2 for details)

Legacy Lands III: Waterfalls and Wilderness, Lewis River Greenway & Cascade Forestlands 8:30 AM TO 4:00 PM The largest protected greenway in Clark County, WA is along the East Fork Lewis River, originating near I-5 and continuing nearly halfway to Mt. Adams. Meet at Columbia Land Trust, 1351 Officer's Row, Vancouver, WA. RSVP to Tammy at (360) 213-1201 or tbjorkman@columbialandtrust.org.

SUNDAY, JUNE 8

Friends of Ross Island Ross Island and Holgate Channel Regatta 8 AM TO 11 AM Participate in a colorful flotilla of canoes and kayaks on this three-hour paddle around Ross Island to view Great Blue Herons, Osprey and Bald Eagles on their nests. Young herons are large and raucous this time of year. We will see and hear numerous summer birds as we ply the shallow waters between Hardtack and East Islands. Leaders: Bob Sallinger, Audubon Society of Portland, Travis Williams, Willamette Riverkeeper; Mike Houck, Urban Greenspaces Institute; Donna Matrazzo, Sauvie Island Conservancy and Captain Peter Wilcox of RiversWest. A Connecting Green, Wild in the City trip. Pre-registration at www.audubonportland.org or 503-292-6855 x 116.