



## OREGON STEWARDSHIP

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Fall, 2021

### Oregon Stewardship Continues Strong

We are grateful for the continuing support we receive from our members, businesses, and agencies. We have weathered the uncertainties of the last 2 years both in terms of the program and financially. There have been some hiccups. On one coastal trip this fall, two of the four schools had closed because of a COVID outbreak. We are disappointed that our high school students have not been able to mentor elementary students on field trips to study river ecology or view salmon. However, since we operate primarily outside, we have been able to continue our high school outreach.

The continuity of Oregon Stewardship is something our board is very concerned about since our program manager has recently celebrated his 86th birthday. Currently, college students always join him on his coastal trips and his work on Bear Creek. (Because of the virus, their classes are primarily online.)

### Adventures Along the Coast

The beautiful drive starts early in the morning. With lots of gorgeous views to see. My eyes never leave the window. Along the way there are rustic farms that grow many different crops such as corn, grapes, squash, sunflowers, and just about anything else the farmers can grow. As soon as we arrive to the California border, we approach the Smith River. This gorgeous river appears to be crystal clear with a green tint. The green tint is from the serpentine rocks. Once in Gold Beach, work is to be done on the high school's garden beds. Then off to a delicious lunch. A challenging task awaits, cementing in four posts along the trail. A running start and a little extra muscle power were all it took to push the wheelbarrow with a 60-pound cement bag over a corrugated drainage pipe. With all the work we had done, it was time for some relaxing fishing. Even through all the wind some casts were made. Check-in late, check-out early. The adventures of the day begin with scrumptious marionberry crepes. Throughout the day we have many stops at different schools, and work on the trails. There's always time to stop and chat with the funny character, Sam at Coquille Gardens. We're still trying to get him back for tricking us with his \$2000 bill. The biggest adventure has yet to come. Dry grass almost as tall as me along the river walk was the last adventure of the day. By the time the grass was cut down to nothing, we noticed the grass was everywhere! The dry grass even went straight through our clothes. Lots of work was done, and there was also plenty of fun along the way. ~Taylor Montgomery, Summer of 2021

## **BELIEVE YOU CAN ACHIEVE HIGH SCHOOL PROJECTS**

All high school participants are offered a scholarship for college or vocational training. Thank you to the Dubs Foundation and Jacksonville Garden Club for supporting our scholarship program. Because of these generous grants, this year's students are eligible for a \$1000 award after they provide proof of enrollment. In addition, we are able to support some former students as they pursue their educational goals.

### ***Coquille High School***



Students removed summer geraniums from the garden in front of the school, which they overwinter in their greenhouse. They added bark mulch and top soil and planted tulips and daffodil bulbs.

Later the students will remove invasive ivy from trees on campus along Cunningham Creek. They also plant native plants along the creek below their school.

### ***Gold Beach High School***

Last year Gold Beach High School students reworked Panther Trail on the Rogue River across from Indian Creek Café. They wrote a brochure. Over the summer Oregon Stewardship workers planted numbered posts. Students are pictured cutting back berries and willows blocking the entrance to the trail

They also do trail maintenance on Panther Trail and Elephant Bar Trail. They help maintain the garden in front of their school which was planted by former students 3 years ago.



### ***Myrtle Point High School***



Students at Myrtle Point High School replanted a garden in downtown Myrtle Point. They first removed weeds and brush, planted, and covered it with bark mulch. They also maintain a rose and rock garden at Myrtle Crest School. They placed wood duck nesting boxes on Myrtle Trees Marsh, which supports vast numbers of birds and mammals.

### ***Pacific High School***

Students at Pacific High School continue to maintain Crooked Fir Trail on the Sixes River. The students plan to revise the trail guide box, encouraging walkers to take one on the trail walk. Here they are removing invasive ivy from trees. They also help clean up trash at Ironhead Boat Ramp and monitor plants at the Elk River Fish Hatchery.



### ***South Medford High School***



Five seniors along with two college students have worked on Panther Pride Trail all fall. Several plan to continue into the winter. They extended the trail another 800 feet, installed a new 15 foot bridge, and re-barked the entire length of Panther Pride Trail. They have also planted several hundred native species plants including black cottonwood, snowberry, red osier dogwood, incense cedar, spirea, and tall Oregon grape. They continue to trim and pull Himalayan blackberries to make room for the new plants.

Working with the City of Medford, they are excited to extend the trail to make a 2 mile loop for hikers. The city plans to provide signs for Panther Pride Trail. They will show color photos of the fish and animal and plants that are common to Bear Creek. Samples would be salmon in October, otters, beavers, and various ducks.



The students surprised Jim with a new wagon for hauling bark mulch and plants. The old 1990 Radio Flyer was falling apart.



## Bear Creek 2021 Salmon Counts

| Year | Totals |
|------|--------|
| 1994 | 10     |
| 1995 | 144    |
| 1996 | 27     |
| 1997 | 26     |
| 1998 | 17     |
| 1999 | 4      |
| 2000 | 146    |
| 2001 | 65     |
| 2002 | 158    |
| 2003 | 283    |
| 2004 | 59     |
| 2005 | 70     |
| 2006 | 162    |
| 2007 | 77     |
| 2008 | 17     |
| 2009 | 78     |
| 2010 | 101    |
| 2011 | 109    |
| 2012 | 115    |
| 2013 | 125    |
| 2014 | 404    |
| 2015 | 321    |
| 2016 | 187    |
| 2017 | 234    |
| 2018 | 231    |
| 2019 | 109    |
| 2020 | 197    |
| 2021 | 280    |



South Medford Students viewed spawning Chinook salmon each Saturday in October as they worked along Bear Creek. This year we had an excellent run of Chinook salmon. One day we counted 115 spawning salmon, in a half mile stretch. The total count was 280 for October.

The wood duck box installed by students was successful with a pair of wood ducks rearing several ducklings last spring.

### THANK YOU FOR THE SCHOLARSHIPS

*Thank you for choosing me to be the recipient for one of the \$1000 scholarships. This is an incredible opportunity you give the future generations that the community deeply appreciates. I have been lucky to be able to learn useful skills and life lessons while participating in this opportunity. Many of these life lessons will help me even more in the future than the scholarship and I thank you for both. This will greatly help me continue to work towards my dream. Seth*

*I just wanted to thank you for all your love and support throughout these many years! You were always there for me and supported me through a lot of hard times. I am currently enrolled in Concordia St. Paul University, working towards an RN nursing program and will graduate by December, 2022. Danielle*

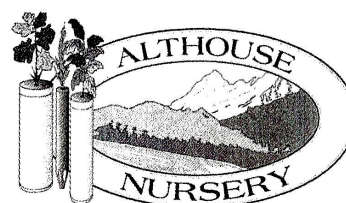
*Thank you so much for giving me this amazing opportunity. It was such an honor to work with you. I will definitely keep my new flower planting skills. Tayler*

*I just wanted to thank you for assistance. I had a wonderful time beautifying the town. In 4 years I will proudly communicate to you that I have received my zoology degree. C.J.*

## Thanks for our sustaining Corporate Sponsors



Butte Falls



Gold Beach

### Additional Businesses and Agencies Who Support Oregon Stewardship

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Jo Heim Real Estate  
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Medford Parks and Recreation  
Middle Rogue Steelheaders  
Oregon Fish and Wildlife  
Oregon Hunters Association  
Philboyd Origins  
Rogue Flyfishers  
Rogue Outdoor Store  
Southern Oregon Flyfishers

Private Citizens & Public Schools—Thank you

### Mission Statement and Vision Statement

It is our mission to offer education that encourages the community to provide stewardship for the land of Oregon.

We encourage students, adults, and all community members to participate in the grassroots stewardship of our environment. We will do this with integrity, responsibility, balance, and knowledge and with community commitment and stewardship.

## BOARD MEMBERS

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- 
- ◆ In Memoriam—Jo Williams

### ***Support Oregon Stewardship....***

We are sustained by membership contributions. We are a 501(c)(3) organization. Your contributions are tax deductible. Thank you.

Amount

\_\_\_\_\_ \$50      \_\_\_\_\_ \$100      \_\_\_\_\_ \$250      \_\_\_\_\_ \$500      \_\_\_\_\_ Other

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