



OREGON STEWARDSHIP

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Fall, 2023

OREGON STEWARDSHIP COASTAL OUTREACH

This spring the Board and Program Manager made the difficult decision to cut back Jim's activities at the coast. During the summer we circulated a job description with the hope of finding a part time person to step in. We knew it would be difficult to find a good fit, and we didn't.

We are currently exploring a relationship with the Curry Watersheds Partnership to see how we can help accomplish one another's goals. We are still hopeful that our program will return to Gold Beach High School.

Meanwhile, ten years after the fish hatchery at Coquille High School was closed, the STEP Program and Coquille Indians have re-opened the hatchery. We have raised some money for a new hatchery roof. Students are excited to work in the hatchery, checking on eggs and later feeding small salmon fry.



Coquille High School Hatchery

Panther Pride Trail

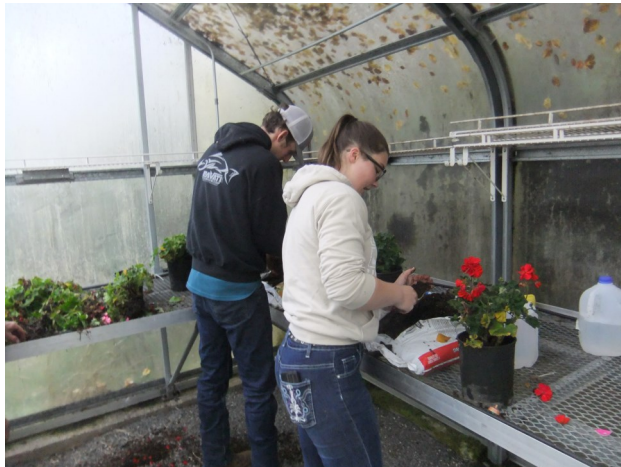
Two South Medford High School students are working every Saturday this fall to make sure the trail is clear, spread bark, and add native plants. They are joined by board members Samuel Timmons and Sarah Villarreal. Rogue Community College students also joined them to earn community service. In October Oregon Stewardship and Jacksonville Garden Club members hiked the trail to see spawning salmon. Below the SMHS students are sawing a log that fell across the trail. To the right they are planting native plants.



Coquille High School

Lots is happening on Cunningham Creek which runs below the high school. A bridge is being repaired. The hatchery is reopened, and the greenhouse is being used.

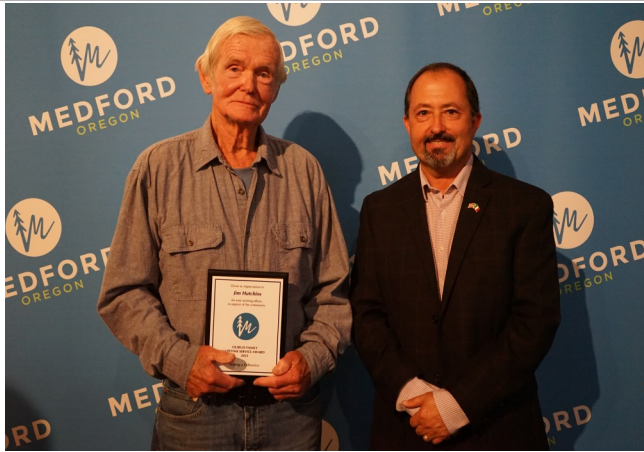
The students at Coquille are very energized. So far this year they have cut all the grass around the hatchery and green houses, cleaned out both greenhouses, and transplanted geraniums from their front garden to overwinter them in their greenhouse. Students will also be checking salmon eggs frequently.



Rogue Community College

Students in Erika Giesen's Environment and Society class are tasked with participating in an environmental project for community service. This term three students joined our South Medford students and learned about native plants and wildlife on Bear Creek. They were also shown how to start willows, snowberries, and osier dogwood from cuttings. They planted and mulched some plants and spread bark on part of the trail. Sarah Villarreal, an Oregon State graduate in biology, led the project with Jim.





Medford Parks and Recreation

Program Manager Jim Hutchins was honored this spring to be given the Olsrud Family Lifetime Service Award for his “untiring efforts in support of the community.” Jim was especially honored to receive this award because of his great respect for Sherm and Wanda Olsrud. Jim was presented the award by Richard Rosenthal, Parks and Recreation Director, and Mayor Randy Sparacino.

Bear Creek Wildlife

Salmon aren’t the only wildlife students from SMHS and RCC saw during a work party. Board Member Sarah Villarreal took this picture of a barred owl observing the work of the kids. Barred owls are originally a bird found in the East but during the twentieth century it has migrated to the Northwest and even into California.

Cornell Lab of Ornithology lists Bear Creek Park as a birding hot spot. Look for Canada geese, mallards, hooded and common mergansers, squirrels, beavers, muskrat, raccoons, mink, and deer.

Oregon Stewardship paid workers and volunteers work 30 hours each week on Panther Pride Trail and Willamette Ave.



Butte Falls Charter School

Butte Falls first grade students have learned about the salmon life cycle, viewed spawning salmon and created collages this fall. In December they will have a creative writing class, “Snowflake, Snowflake, What Do You See?”

2023 Salmon Counts in Bear Creek

Jim began counting salmon for the Rogue Valley Council of Governments in 1994. The procedure was to wade in three specified parts of Bear Creek and count carcasses. In 1994 he counted 10. The lowest count was 4 in 1999.

The best year was 404 in 2014. Since then the counts have been steady and sustainable at over 100. This year’s count was 144.

Much of Bear Creek’s stream bottom is bedrock, not suitable for spawning. The best spawning beds for Chinook salmon in the past few years have been downtown Medford and the area along Panther Pride Trail in Bear Creek Park because of abundance of spawning gravel.

Thanks from our students:

Thank you for supporting my college in such a fun way. That scholarship is the reason I was able to attend the first few years. ~Avi (currently working on her masters at the University of Wisconsin studying plant diversity and genetics for agriculture sustainability.)

Thank you for the opportunity to do community service on Panther Pride Trail. I enjoyed learning the native plants and bettering the park. ~Tucker (currently studying biological and chemical engineering at Colorado School of Mines.)

For believing in my dreams and aspirations, I want to thank you for awarding me the Believe You Can Achieve Scholarship. ~Tomas (attending Northwest Line School)

I can now continue as a full-time student and progress to achieving my academic goals. ~Samuel (currently studying Fire Science and hopes to go into the field of fire fighting.)

I appreciate the experience you provided me. It was nice to be able to help and keep the trails nice and tidy. ~Josh (currently apprenticing in construction.)

I enjoyed working with you to care for our plants and stream here at the school. ~Kim (currently studying to be a kindergarten teacher.)

Many of our scholarships are funded by the Jacksonville Garden Club. We are very grateful to their generosity.



Gentner's Fritillary—rare species found in the Jacksonville Woodland in the Spring

Solar Eclipse

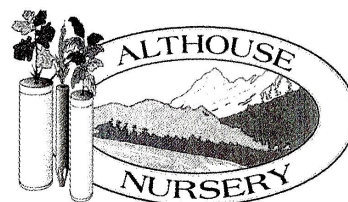
When a rare solar eclipse occurs during a scheduled work party, you provide safety glasses and observe it. Two South Medford students and Jim took a break from riparian work to view the phenomenon.



Thanks for our sustaining Corporate Sponsors



Butte Falls



Gold Beach

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Curry Watersheds Partnership
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Kids Unlimited
Medford Parks and Recreation
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Oregon Fish and Wildlife
Oregon Hunters Association
Pacific Northwest Guide Service
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.

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- ◆ Sarah Villarreal, Grange Co-op

- ◆ In Memoriam—Jo Williams

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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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