



River News Digest *June 17, 2011*

The River News Digest is a compilation of interesting items and announcements relating to rivers—with a focus on better understanding, enjoying, and caring for our local rivers, while touching on items from around the country and the world. Please note much of the information is from sources other than the City of Portland [like news media, non-profit organizations, and other government agencies]. The Rivers Office lists these items for information purposes only and is not responsible for their content



Coming up! SUNDAY, JULY 31ST—THE BIG FLOAT!
Grab a tube, air mattress, kayak, raft – or create your own custom, handmade watercraft and be part of the inaugural launching of THE BIG FLOAT. [Click here for details!](#)

17th Annual Columbia Slough Regatta slated for July 31!

Join the Columbia Slough Watershed Council for its annual celebration of the Columbia Slough and the largest one-day paddle in Oregon! Last year the Regatta attracted 418 paddlers and 178 boats to paddle on the Slough, the “hidden gem” of our local waterways. [Click here.](#)



1. In Our River Neighborhood...

This is a roof?!



Pollinators and Politicos flock to Gunderson’s greenroof pilot project: Here’s more detail on a previously-reported Digest item about a new ecoroof on the waterfront: “Gunderson LLC, a subsidiary of The Greenbrier Companies Inc., unveiled... a first for Portland: A 1,000 square-foot roof on an industrial area that’s meant to create a habitat for bugs and birds while providing a natural filter for stormwater.” Oregon Business Journal, June 2. *Photos courtesy Andrew Jansky.*

NEW! BridgeCams Up and Running: The Portland-Milwaukie Light Rail project now has two cameras providing live footage and time lapse coverage of the River and construction of the light rail bridge, set to begin July 1, 2011.

All-woman team builds first boat for New Wind and Oar Boat wooden-boat-building school

“In Portland, Oregon there is a new wooden boat building school. The Wind and Oar Boat School is not-for-profit and community oriented. At present the school is in the middle of it’s first build. The St

Ayles Skiff is the boat and it is being constructed by a team of women who have never built a boat before. Dory-Man blogspot, June 13

[Coalition Determined to Preserve Portland's Waterfront History Through Maritime Heritage Center](#) Fresh Water News, June 2011 (page 21)

[Portland transients creating boat 'skid row' on Willamette River](#) KGW.com, June 9

[Portland's "Great Patios" include river views](#): "...because there's no party like a maritime harbor bar party, especially not in the summer. ...Sextant Bar and Gallery, 4035 NE Marine Drive" Neighborhood Notes, June 9

[High water keeps Eastbank Esplanade closed](#); koinlocal6.com, June 16

[Esplanade closure update: 16-feet is the magic number](#): "...Esplanade between the Steel and Burnside bridges will remain closed until the river reaches the 16 foot mark. ... Beyond the heavy rainfall we got this year and lots of melting snow, NOAA says the main reason the Willamette is so high is because of high water on the Columbia...NOAA [indicates] 'The high levels on the Columbia are what is backing up into the lower Willamette, keeping the Willamette high from below the Oregon City Falls downstream to the confluence with the Columbia. ' " BikePortland.org, June 8th, 2011

[Sellwood Bridge design change could save \\$10M](#), DJC Oregon, June 16

[Metro Council approves Columbia River Crossing ordinance](#): "Portland's regional government, the Metro Council, ... gave the locally preferred alternative for the Columbia River Crossing a vote of confidence. ... While it's by no means the final word on the bridge, it pushes the \$3.6 billion project one step closer to construction." DJC Oregon, June 9

[Historic building to be razed for Columbia River Crossing](#): "The Totem Pole Marina building on North Marine Drive ... is considered historically and architecturally significant ... But the building, also known as Pier 99, is in the way of the Columbia River Crossing project, which recently was approved by Metro. Now, demolition is imminent." DJC Oregon, June 15

[OHSU dental school moving to river](#), Portland Business Journal, June 16

[Wooden Boat Show—July 10](#)

[Portland Dances on the World Scene—June 25 Global Water Dance at Cathedral Park](#)

More river-related events are listed on the Rivers Office calendar: [click here!](#)

2. Up the Willamette and Columbia...and more

[Love Your River: The Oregon Environmental Council's June challenge theme is "Craptastic!](#) Many of Oregon's most common river problems—from unsafe bacteria levels to wildlife-choking algae blooms—are caused in part by poorly managed pollution. Ducks and dogs can't help it, but you can." Next month's challenge will be about enjoying Oregon's rivers without leaving an impact. We'll discuss low-impact boating and camping, and leaving the place cleaner than you found it.

[Ice Age Flood Festival June 25-26, Dry Falls Visitor Center near Soap Lake, WA](#): A weekend celebrating one of the most remarkable geologic episodes in the history of planet Earth: The great Ice Age floods. Go back 18,000-13,000 years to when ice sheets covered much of North America. Glacial ice dams have broken, unleashing a titanic wall of water 600 feet high, sweeping away herds of mammoths and anything else in its path. The waters scour out a landscape not found anywhere else on earth and create the world's largest waterfall.

[Research on Clackamas indicates gravel augmentation to salmon streams may help create cool water refuges](#) Columbia Basin Bulletin: June 10, 2011

[Salmon-eating tern colonies decimated by eagles, gulls](#) Columbia Basin Bulletin: June 10, 2011

[Study: unprecedented snowpack losses in west last 50 years may signal fundamental shift](#) Columbia Basin Bulletin: June 10, 2011

For more river-related news and information, visit www.portlandonline.com/river