

## The Big Float 2011



By Jennifer Pope



## River News Digest August 12, 2011

*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*

### Don't Miss ...



### August 19-21!

Celebrate the Willamette with a concert in the park, kayak lessons, bridge tours, harbor tours, tons of kids' activities (Mad Science, a River Mural, Spin Art and more), OMSI activities, and a SOLV riverbank clean-up! [Click here](#) for all the details!

**AND [sign-up NOW](#) for a special RiverFest sight-seeing cruise on the Portland Spirit—see the Willamette close-up and in comfort.**



### 1. News In Our River Neighborhood...

**Big Float a Big Success!** Well over 1,000 souls sampled the Willamette on Sunday, July 31<sup>st</sup>, in a wild variety of floating craft. To read multiple accounts of this inaugural celebration of the river—and see some cool shots—[click here](#).

[Sixteen swimmers cover 11 Portland bridges -- Sellwood to St. Johns -- and 11 miles.](#)

*OregonLive.com, July 24.* In the words of [Portland Bridge Swim](#): "it's not necessary to travel to the ends of the earth to find an event that pushes you to new levels of accomplishment, even in familiar settings. Get to know the river we all take for granted- you'll never look at it the same way again."

[2011 Portland Oyster Adventure Race slated for August 20.](#) "This Amazing Race-meets wilderness eco challenge has something for everyone. The open course is top secret and racers use clues to

find destinations which may be reached by foot, bike, paddle or climb.” [OregonLive.com, August 10](#)

[Floating ideas for the Willamette:](#) “The Willamette River – much abused by sewer discharges and much maligned as dangerously polluted – is poised to occupy a more central role in the life of our area.” [Clackamas Review, Pamplin Media Group, Jul 27](#)

[Portland Park Series: Elk Rock Island:](#) Elk Rock Island, given to City of Portland to be preserved in its natural state, now hosts enthusiastic Youth Conservation Corp crews working on habitat restoration. [KATU.com, July 29](#)

[Oregon Officials Give Ross Island Clean Bill Of Health.](#) [OPB.org, July 26](#)

[New Salmon Habitat Coming to Johnson Creek Confluence:](#)



“The Johnson Creek Watershed Council (JCWC) will soon begin constructing salmon habitat enhancements at the confluence of Johnson Creek and the Willamette River, a little more than a mile upstream (south) of the Sellwood Bridge and just north of Milwaukie Riverfront Park in downtown Milwaukie. ... The confluence project will entail the placement of 150 logs and more than 300 boulders ...[which] will slow the water, creating shallow pools, riffles, and slight meanders, which are all habitat for migrating salmon. The habitat provides a place for fish to rest on their journey further up the Willamette River as well as into Johnson Creek.... JCWC has planned a project tour and ribbon cutting event, starting at 5:30pm on Friday, Oct. 7, to celebrate the completion of the project.” [Johnson Creek Watershed Council, August 12](#)

[Riverside dumps still in play for Portland Harbor Superfund cleanup.](#) [OregonLive.com, July 18](#)

[Sampling of riverbed signals the start of Sellwood Bridge rebuild.](#) [The Bee, Aug 2](#)

[Transient boaters throw party on Willamette, neighbors not pleased.](#) [KOINlocal6.com, August 5](#)

River economy:

[Evrax announces expansion.](#) [OregonLive.com, August 4.](#)

[New railcar order for Greenbrier.](#) [OregonLive.com, August 4.](#)

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

[Oregon AG Takes to Canoe on the Deschutes, wants more people in the Willamette, too.](#) Oregon’s Attorney General John Kroger said that “right now in Oregon, every major river is out of compliance for at least one pollutant, under federal standards. ...Kroger says one thing he has seen in Portland is a very large increase in people’s water and sewer bills because of the need to get in compliance with the Clean Water Act...But on the other hand, one thing he would still like to see in Portland is more people actually getting into the Willamette River. ‘If you go to Portland, there are very few people in the Willamette, and that’s because historically the Willamette really wasn’t taken care of,’ Kroger said. ‘What we want is someday people in Portland to use the Willamette just as there are thousands of people on the Deschutes River today.’ “ [KTVZ.com; August 3](#)

[Salem’s Pringle Creek to be day-lighted.](#) [StatesmanJournal.com, July 20.](#)

[Do you remember Salem’s ‘Great Willamette River Raft Race’?](#) The Exchange Club of Salem/Keizer and a local TV broadcaster will revive a fun summer activity on the Willamette River called The Great Willamette River Raft Race on August 13<sup>th</sup>. [Salem-News.com, August 3](#)

[Human-powered kinetic sculptures hit the river in Corvallis.](#)[gazettetimes.com, July 18](#)

[Riverbank Pathway Extends to Eugene’s Santa Clara Neighborhood.](#) Eugene is extending the

western Riverbank Path to the Santa Clara neighborhood, so users of the pathway can safely bypass the often dangerous crossings on River Road. *Eugene Daily News, August 2*

[U.S. tribes work to save primitive fish from becoming endangered](#). “As long as American Indians have lived in the Pacific Northwest, they have looked to a jawless, eel-like fish for food. ...Today, the tribes in the Northwest have just one place to go for them: a 12-metre waterfall on the Willamette River, flanked by an abandoned paper mill and a power plant, and located about a dozen kilometres upstream from a Superfund site – a hazardous waste dump.” *The Globe and Mail, from Associated Press, August 3*

[Willamette Watershed progress report released](#). “The Willamette Model Watershed Program is part of a long-term approach to redefine how watershed restoration efforts are created, funded, implemented, and monitored. Launched in 2009 as part of Meyer Memorial Trust’s Willamette River Initiative and Bonneville Environmental Foundation’s Model Watershed Program, the Willamette Program’s goal is to quicken the pace, expand the scope, and increase the effectiveness of actions to restore stream health and land stewardship in local watersheds.”

[Feds Plan For Climate Change In Columbia Basin: Earlier Runoff, Lower Flows In Late Summer](#). *Columbia Basin Bulletin, August 5*

[Columbia River Estuary's Salmon-Eating Tern Colony Produces No Chicks This Year](#). “The East Sand nesting site, enabled by human manipulations intended to reduce the birds’ consumption of migrating juvenile salmon, has been besieged this spring and early summer by other avian predators, most commonly eagles and gulls.” *Columbia Basin Bulletin, August 5*

**Salmon, Science and the Urban Challenge:** The Rivers Office has now posted the fascinating presentations given in July by Dr.’s Carl Schreck and Alan Yeakley, of Oregon’s Independent Multidisciplinary Science Team, on the recent “urban report.” [Click here to view](#).

**For more river-related news and information, visit [www.portlandonline.com/river](http://www.portlandonline.com/river) 503.823.0275, or [email us](#).**