



River News Digest: September 9, 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

Coming Right Up!...

SEPTEMBER 10th—A Skiff is born! The [Wind and Oar Boat School](#) proudly announces the launch of its first vessel, an all-women-built St Ayles Skiff. The public is invited: Saturday, September 10th; at 10 a.m.; Willamette Sailing Club, 6336 SW Beaver Avenue.

Portland Dragon Boats Races—Sept. 10-11: A record number of 74 teams compete in the seventh annual Willamette River dragon boat races. 8 a.m. Saturday-Sunday (finals 3 p.m. Sunday); between Marquam and Hawthorne bridges. *DragonSports USA*

Saturday, September 17th SOLV Beach and Riverside Cleanup: This annual event attracts thousands who will clean-up trash and enhance watershed health at 150 sites across Oregon. Most projects run from 10 am to 1 pm. To volunteer, register online at http://www.solv.org/programs/fall_beach_cleanup.asp or contact Brett Lyon, brett@solv.org or 503-844-9571 x 332.

September 20th—River In Focus brownbag: Beyond the Spill! This 30-minute documentary takes a penetrating look at impacts of the 2010 Gulf oil spill, examining the devastated environment and economy of the Gulf Coast; the personal choices leading to this catastrophe; and actions to take to move beyond the spill.



3rd Annual Great Willamette Cleanup: October 8th (in most River Cities; 9th in Eugene), 9 am to noon: Willamette Riverkeeper invites volunteers to help clean up trash along the Willamette from Eugene to Portland. Select sites will have canoes or kayaks available for registered volunteers; at others, volunteers should bring their own. A few sites will be land-based, by foot or bike. All volunteers get the limited edition Great Willamette River Cleanup t-shirt. Portland and Eugene will host volunteer appreciation celebrations right after the cleanup. Stay current with event details by checking the [Riverkeeper website](#).

1. News In Our River Neighborhood...

[Sound wave video to be projected on Morrison Bridge as part of art project](#): “The engineers and workers who are intimately familiar with Portland’s bridges will be given a new voice during a temporary public art installation that premieres Thursday. Artists **Ed Purver** and **Tim DuRoche** collaborated with the Multnomah County Bridge Section to reveal the inner workings of the bridges that span the Willamette. ...“[The Hidden Life of Bridges](#),” sponsored by the Regional Arts & Culture Council..., will use large-scale video projections on the piers of the Morrison Bridge. It will be visible from the north side of the Hawthorne Bridge, Waterfront Park and the Eastbank Esplanade between 9 p.m. and 11 p.m. until Sept. 10”. *DJCOregon.com, Sept. 7*



[In downtown Portland, city plans art show to benefit river stewardship program](#): “Portland Parks & Recreation seeks local artists and artwork for an art show and fundraiser. The “Nature in our City (Parks!)” art show will open Thursday, Nov. 3 from 5:30 p.m.-9 p.m. in Portland City Hall and will run until November 30th. Artists who enter the show will be asked to donate at least 30 percent of sales to the [Willamette River Stewardship](#) program.” *OregonLive.com, August 31*



[Peter Crim, Wind and Oar Boat School's founder, aims to tap Portland's creative and civic spirit](#): “Peter Crim, a Connecticut native who grew up among boat builders and designers, has fused his joy of sailing with his product development and teaching experience to form the [Wind and Oar Boat School](#).” *OregonLive.com August 26, 2011*

[Zidell offers At-A-Glance Cleanup website](#): “ZRZ Realty Company has proposed one of the largest privately funded cleanup efforts of industrial land along the Willamette River....Zidell, owns a 30-acre parcel on the west side of the river, stretching from just south of the Marquam Bridge to south of the Ross Island Bridge ... The land has been home to continuous industrial use — including shipbuilding, ship dismantling and now barge building — for nearly 100 years. Now, in preparation for an eventual transition of this land from industrial to mixed use/commercial use, the family-owned company estimates a \$20-million investment to remediate the property, which includes nearly 3,000 feet of land along the Willamette.”

[Zidell cleanup begins waterfront area renewal](#): “...Paul Fishman has enjoyed a long career at the intersection of the built environment and the natural world. His biggest projects have involved elaborate cleanups that balance the needs of industrial clients facing regulatory pressure and endangered fish in the Willamette River. None has been larger or more complex than his latest, the long-awaited cleanup of the Zidell property along the river between downtown and South Waterfront. ...” *OregonBusiness, August 2011*

[DEQ to hold hearing in Linnton about restoring habitat at former Sauvie Island mill site](#): The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality has scheduled a Sept. 22 hearing at the Linnton Community Center regarding a proposal to restore a habitat at a former mill site. According to a [Department press release](#), a proposed agreement between the department and Portland Harbor Holdings would create riparian, channel, tidal marsh and mud flat habitats at the 32 acre Alder Creek Lumber Company, at the southern end of Sauvie Island. *OregonLive.com, September 8*

[Johnson Creek Days shines light on waterway's challenges and charms](#):
OregonLive.com, September 7

[Johnson Creek: Much more than just a ditch—Watershed focus of events starting Aug.](#)

[27: The Gresham Outlook, Aug 22](#)

[Lowly mussels bond with salmon—Oft-neglected species may help clean rivers, bolster fish runs:](#) “It’s no coincidence that freshwater mussel beds often are found where there are healthy salmon runs, says Scott Black, Xerces Society executive director, while wading out to Johnson Creek one July morning to document the number of western pearlshell mussels...” *Pamplin Media Group, Aug 18*

[Multnomah County, Morrison Bridge contractor strike a deal; work to resume:](#) Seven weeks after Multnomah County halted work on the Morrison Bridge and threatened to fire the contractor, a \$4.2 million project to replace the span's slippery steel grating is expected to resume next week. *OregonLive.com, September 06*

[Geologists study river bottom for Sellwood Bridge:](#) *The Bee, Sep 6*

[Watch behind-the-scenes videos about construction of the Portland-Milwaukie Light Rail Bridge:](#) Current episode: “Why a Cable-Stayed Bridge Design” *TriMet.org*

[Metro Council to vote Thursday on CRC environmental impact statement:](#) “The environmental impact statement for the ... Columbia River Crossing project was ... to be signed last month, but ... Metro decided to delay that vote. This Thursday, councilors will vote to authorize Metro President Tom Hughes to sign the statement, thus pushing the CRC project forward one more step.” *DJCOregon.com, September 6*

[3 firms interested in redevelopment of Centennial Mills:](#) “After ending years of negotiations with Lab Holdings in late June, the Portland Development Commission has identified three other firms interested in potentially redeveloping the Centennial Mills site in Northwest Portland.” *DJCOregon.com, September 7*

[The Towering arches—Cathedral Park offers space for picnicking and playing along the river in Portland.](#) *StatesmanJournal.com, September 2*

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



[WWII Liberty Ship Davy Crockett Demolition Completed--Oil Spill Averted from Derelict Vessel in Columbia River:](#) “The final section of a once proud WWII Liberty Ship was removed from the Columbia River ... by Ballard Diving & Salvage under the direction of the United States Coast Guard and unified command consisting of both Washington and Oregon Department of Ecologies. This concludes a massive and carefully engineered effort to prevent more than 32,000 gallons of bunker oil from escaping into the river...” *Ballard Diving & Salvage, Aug., 25 Press Release*

[Getting salmon past daunting Willamette Basin dams could have a big price tag -- and a big payoff:](#) “Detroit Dam's completion in 1953 cut off roughly 70 percent of wild spring chinook habitat along the North Santiam and Breitenbush rivers, much of it prime spawning grounds. All told, dams on the North Santiam, Middle Fork Willamette and McKenzie rivers block more than 400 miles of streams. “You really need to reintroduce the fish above these dams if your goal is to recover these populations to some level of sustainability,’ says Dave Jepsen, a conservation and recovery planner with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.” *OregonLive.com, September 7*

[Long-awaited recovery plan: Restoring salmon and steelhead in the Willamette:](#) “ ... in the late 1920s, fish in Oregon's ... Willamette River were having a tough time swimming at all. In fact, ... the Willamette was so polluted... that fish in the river were dying and Oregonians didn't dare swim there. Times have changed and the Willamette's a lot cleaner. But ... chinook salmon and steelhead, are still struggling. ...” *OregonLive.com, August 26, 2011*

[Feds, States, Tribes sign statement aimed at strengthening effort to reduce toxins in Columbia River:](#) Federal, tribal, state, and non-profit leaders gathered in Spokane to sign an “executive statement” strengthening commitment to reducing toxic contaminants in

the Columbia River basin. <i>Columbia Basin Bulletin, September 02</i>	
Oregon summer postcard—Kayaking the Willamette : “We slip into kayaks at Wilsonville's Hebb Park on a silken, 80-degree August day. Before long, the mosquito-buzz of speedboats near the park fades and we float on summer, Willamette River style.” <i>OregonLive.com, August 30</i>	
Effects of the Lake Missoula Floods in Our Backyard: How Tualatin and the greater Portland and Willamette Valley were impacted by the cataclysmic Missoula Floods Wednesday, September 14; 7 - 9 pm; Tualatin Public Library. A \$3 donation for adults is suggested. <i>Ice Age Floods Institute</i>	
Backyard Habitat Program expands to Lake Oswego : In partnership with the City of Lake Oswego and Friends of Tryon Creek, Portland Audubon and Columbia Land Trust are expanding their popular Backyard Habitat Program to Lake Oswego, while adding some new features to their menu of actions, including taking Metro's No Pesticide Pledge, having a snag or nurse log in the garden, or establishing a native meadow. <i>Backyard Habitat Certification Program, eNewsletter, September 2011.</i>	
Logjam in Willamette near Albany concerns state marine board : <i>democratherald.com, September 2</i>	
Bridge to Minto Brown would be asset for Salem : “...savvy visitors looking for a quick outdoor excursion ... quickly learn about the Salem treasure that spans nearly 900 acres along the Willamette. ... You'd be hard pressed to find a park that offers so much for so many while maintaining its natural Oregon beauty and tranquility. Yet, sometime in the future, Minto-Brown Island Park could become even a greater asset...” <i>StatesmanJournal.com, August 27</i>	
Bridge brings bonuses to the Eugene area : A lot of improvements will be done as part of the Willamette River I-5 project, including artistic additions. <i>The Register-Guard, Aug 30</i>	
Study: warming streams could mean California spring Chinook extinction by century's end : <i>Columbia Basin Bulletin, September 02</i>	
For more river-related news and information, visit www.portlandonline.com/river 503.823.0275, or email us.	

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