



## ***River News Digest: December 30, 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!...**



**January 17—Maritime Heritage Coalition: River in Focus brownbag** (noon to 1 pm, Portland Building Auditorium). **Chris Finks** describes this newly-formed coalition of local organizations whose aim is to celebrate, promote, and preserve the maritime heritage of Portland through education, exploration, and discovery—including by establishing a Maritime Heritage Center on Portland's waterfront.

### **January 18—Building Liberty in Portland: Kaiser Shipyards of World War II**

The Oregon Maritime Museum hosts the 3rd lecture in their winter lecture series, a talk on the fascinating origins of Liberty Ships and the Kaiser Shipyards. \$5 suggested donation.

*Sunday, January 8, 3 pm*

*On-board the Steamer Portland*

*on the Willamette at the foot of SW Pine and Naito*

For more information, call 503.224.0054; or [click here](#).



**January 18—What s the Nature of Your City?**  
**A Free Presentation on Biophilic Cities with Dr. Timothy Beatley**  
*January 18th, 6 to 8 pm*

Portland Northwest College of Art - Swigert Commons  
1241 NW Johnson, Portland, 97209

Across the world, cities are bringing back nature to help address urban challenges. We are healthier when we are closer to nature. We have a greater respect for the environment that sustains us. Dr. Timothy Beatley, a renowned expert in sustainable city planning and author of *Biophilic Cities*, is the Teresa Heinz Professor of Sustainable Communities, in the Department of Urban and Environmental Planning, School of Architecture at the University of Virginia. *Free and open to the public. Sponsored by the City of Portland's Environmental Services and Office of Healthy Working Rivers, Illahee, The Intertwine Alliance, & The Urban Greenspaces Institute*

### **January 21—Willamette Riverkeeper River Discovery: Scappoose Bay**

Saturday, January 21st, 10am - 2pm

Explore where Multnomah Channel spills into the low, tidal estuary of Scappoose Bay. Visit the bay's back channels and remains of old wooden ships. Bring binoculars, water, lunch, and a hot drink. Dress for the cold. Canoes available upon request, though you must recruit your own paddling partner. To register [click here](#); or call 503-223-6418.

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



[Big Pipe, Big Float make Tribune's year-end That's So Portland list.](#)

[Portland's newest bridge takes shape on the Willamette River.](#) "A 75-ft section of reinforced steel cage is lowered into place Thursday morning as construction on the Portland-Milwaukie Light Rail Bridge continues." *OregonLive.com, December 23*



[Construction begins on new Sellwood Bridge.](#) KATU.com, December 16

[Owners of nearby condos still not happy with Sellwood Bridge project.](#) "...Condo owners who will be impacted by [Sellwood Bridge] construction are still fighting over compensation for use of their space." *DJCOregon.com, December 19*



[Wind and Oar slates new boat building classes.](#) Portland's Wind and Oar Boat School is offering [new classes](#) this January, including Woodworking for Boat Builders, Kayak Paddle Making, and Boat Repair and Restoration. In February, classes will include Building the St Ayles Skiff (youth); Building the St Ayles Skiff (community). [Wind and Oar](#), a new educational enterprise dedicated to "building communities through building boats," made a splash last summer when its students built and launched the first St. Ayles-style skiff on the West Coast.

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

[Willamette sturgeon season \(for keepers\) will be postponed due to fewer catchable fish.](#) "For a second straight year, the traditional Jan. 1 opener for white sturgeon retention on

the lower Willamette River, including Multnomah Channel and the Gilbert River, will be delayed because of an anticipated cut in the harvest quota in 2012." *OregonLive.com, December 20*

[Salem's Illuminata Regatta brings Christmas glow to Willamette River.](#) "About 20 canoes, kayaks and two dragon boats meandered up and down the Willamette River during the seventh annual Illuminata Regatta this evening." *StatesmanJournal.com, Dec. 17*

[Corps estimates at least \\$3.5 million needed to repair parts of Willamette Falls Locks, but other problems could prevent reopening.](#) "The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers estimates it will cost \$3.5 million to \$5 million to repair the heavily corroded anchors that have contributed to the indefinite closure of the Willamette Falls Locks." *OregonLive.com, December 21*

[Willamette River Conservation Easement Paves Way For Long-Term Fish & Wildlife Conservation.](#) "Greenbelt Land Trust announced today the acquisition of conservation easements on more than 300 acres of Willamette River frontage property in Benton County that will benefit a number of species including chinook salmon, cutthroat trout, Oregon chub, Pacific lampreys, western pond turtles and red-legged frogs." *AmmoLand.com, Dec. 23*

[Forecasting the Impacts of Climate Change in the Columbia River Basin—Implications for Fish Habitat Connectivity.](#) "In the Methow River Basin (MRB), an arid east-central part of Washington State, the USGS and partners have been examining climate change effects on the connectivity of fish habitats and the resultant effects on populations of fish listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA)." *Great Northern Landscape Conservation Cooperative, undated*

[Tribes propose plan to preserve Pacific lamprey.](#) "Northwest tribes are trying to preserve the longest-surviving fish in the Columbia River basin, the Pacific lamprey. The Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission's four member tribes – the Umatilla, Warm Springs, Yakama and Nez Perce – adopted a comprehensive restoration plan for Pacific lamprey on Dec. 19." *Portland Tribune, December 19*

[Studies look at effects of stormwater on salmon.](#) "A new series of studies by federal researchers is delving into the question of which pollutants in urban streams are killing coho salmon. As ... describe[d] in a story in [today's Kitsap Sun](#), the new studies involve coho returning to the Suquamish Tribe's Grovers Creek Hatchery in North Kitsap. ... The new studies continue an investigation that began more than a decade ago with the involvement of numerous agencies. By now, most of us have heard about the effects of copper on salmon, but the latest round of studies will look at the collection of pollutants found in stormwater to see how they work together." *Kitsap Sun, December 5*

[Davy Crockett, the Sleeping Giant.](#) "On January 27th, 2011, authorities responded to an oil sheen extending 14 miles on the Columbia River, quickly tracing it to an illegal scrap metal salvage near Camas, ... the disaster required immediate management and response. ... [Ultimately] Approximately 3.5 million pounds of steel were removed. Additionally, more than 38,397 gallons of bunker fuel, 4,850 pounds of asbestos and more than 1.6 million gallons of oily water were removed. It was an eight month pollution removal effort. ... The project was completed when the cofferdam was removed on December 8th, with a final cost of approximately \$22 million." *Military.com, December 20*

[Poet walks away with major international prize.](#) "The landscapes of Mark Tredinnick's poems are usually Australian - the Blue Mountains, or the Southern Highlands, where he lives. But it is Walking Underwater, a poem he wrote in Portland, Oregon, that has won the inaugural Montreal International Poetry Prize, which at \$50,000 is the world's richest prize for a single poem. ... Tredinnick conceived Walking Underwater (which is on the Montreal Prize website) soon after the tsunami that hit Fukushima in Japan, while walking along a tributary of the **Columbia River** in the US north-west." *Sydney Morning Herald, December 19.* Walking Underwater can be read, or heard, [here](#).

**To view past River News Digests, [click here](#).**

**To submit news, [email Rick Bastasch](#), or call 503.823.0275**

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