



Photo: Jerry McCarthy, [Port of Portland](#).

## ***River News Digest: March 9, 2012***

*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!...**

### **The Zidell Remediation Project: It's All In The Process**



[March 20 River in Focus brownbag](#). Enjoy an in-depth panel discussion at a special 90 minute brownbag on the Zidell South Waterfront soil and sediment remediation project. Noon to 1:30 pm, Portland Building Auditorium, 1120 SW Fifth Ave.

**On the Waterfront** education series

**River City Confidential:  
The Willamette River's  
Pollution Story Revealed**

**March 21, 2012**  
**7:00–8:30 pm**  
**Billy Frank Jr. Conference**  
**Center at Ecotrust**  
721 NW 9th Ave., Portland

James Hillegas shares insights from his upcoming book on the original Willamette River pollution cleanup, from the 1920s to the 1970s. Co-hosted by the Portland Harbor Community Advisory Group and Oregon Historical Society.

**If the Willamette River  
could talk, what would  
it say?**

**April 11, 2012**  
**7:00–8:30 pm**  
**McMenamin's Kennedy**  
**School Gym**  
5736 NE 33rd Ave., Portland

Join Oregon experts as they lead you on a journey through the Willamette River, sharing stories of its ecological past and visions for its future. Introductory remarks by Congressman Blumenauer. Co-hosted by The Freshwater Trust. Moderated by Doug Stamm, Meyer Memorial Trust.

For more information: [Portland Harbor Partnership](#).

**Willamette Riverkeeper's 1st Science Pub night: April 3, 7pm**

[Lucky Lab Beer Hall](#), 1945 NW Quimby St. "[Environmental scientist Dr. Peter deFur](#), will help demystify the **Portland Harbor Superfund** site by explaining what pollutants are present, and how they can affect us. Peter is an Associate Professor and Graduate Coordinator in the Center for Environmental Studies at Virginia Commonwealth University, and President of Environmental Stewardship Concepts. He has extensive experience and expertise in the fields of ecological and human health risk assessment, toxicology, dioxin and PCB toxicity, contaminated site clean-up and related issues."

*Willamette Riverkeeper e-news March 2012*

# River Rally 2012

[River Rally Comes to Portland—May 4-7](#). The annual gathering of the international watershed conservation community comes to town, featuring over 95 educational workshops and intensive training sessions; keynotes by Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. and Alexandra Cousteau; and a special focus on the Clean Water Act at 40. Registration open!



**Paddle Oregon—August 13th - 17th.**  
Harrisburg to Newberg. Registration and details soon. [Click here](#).

**Check out more river events on the [Rivers Office calendar page](#)...**

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

[Keeping the Willamette River rollin'!](#)

"Wednesday's unveiling of Portland's Willamette River Recreation Strategy at Portland's City Council meeting received hardly any fanfare. It should have." *Portland Business Journal*, February 23



[Marine Board Seeks Public Comment for Sellwood Bridge and Holgate Channel Rules](#)—public meeting March 20, comments due March 30.



[Base Being Laid For New Willamette River Bridge.](#) "Looking at the site you can see cranes and a lot of barges, but there isn't much bridge. That's because so far, crews are drilling shafts, 140 feet down into the riverbed." *OPB.org, Feb. 23*

*Watch it happen live, from the [Bridge Cams!](#)*

[River of sewage flows from Sellwood to North Portland treatment plant each day.](#) "In the olden days, Portland's raw sewage sloshed down wooden troughs to the Willamette River. Since 1952, when the city built its wastewater treatment plant in North Portland, improvements have arrived every decade, even if raw sewage still ran into the river whenever it rained hard. The latest upgrade came Dec. 1, when the \$1.4 billion Big Pipe project went into operation, collecting sewage, stormwater, industrial wastewater and paved-over streams, and moving it all to the plant. ... The journey of Portland's wastewater from 614,000 customers begins in a pipe from your house to a sewer line that runs under the middle of your street. ..." *OregonLive.com, February 25*

[Rescuer dives into Willamette River to save drowning man.](#) "Kevin Pratt of Milwaukie spent the morning with his sick father, but because it was such a nice day, the 31-year-old first-year nursing student at Clackamas Community College took a bike ride down to the Eastbank Esplanade ..." *OregonLive.com, March 5*

[Call to Artists: Baltimore Woods Depave Temporary Land Art Installation--Help tell the story of a St. Johns-area parking lot](#) "Depave, Friends of Baltimore Woods, and the City of Portland are planning restoration of a 6.3-acre partially-wooded parcel in St Johns, which will ultimately form part of the [npGreenway](#) ... Depave and the Friends are soliciting proposals for ... temporary art installations...that tell the history of the site and its transformation over time, including the restoration ..." Application deadline is Friday March 16. *depave.org, February 15*

[Construction begins on new Fields park.](#) "... the city will begin construction this month on The Fields, a 3.2-acre park in the Pearl District...The Fields is the third of four parks outlined in a 2009 study of the urban renewal area ... Jamison Square opened in 2002, Tanner Springs opened in 2005, and there's potential for a Riverfront Park. ..." *Portland Tribune, February 23*



[Polar Plunge Oregon 2012 wildly successful.](#) Allison Ellermeier, VP of Development, Law Enforcement Torch Run with [Special Olympics Oregon](#), reports that "3150 people participated in 5 Plunges in 3 rivers (Columbia, Deschutes and Willamette) and a pool and collected \$460,000 in pledges for Special Olympics Oregon. They were supported by 30 law enforcement agencies, both in logistical planning and teams plunging. Polar Plunge Portland took place in the Columbia River at Broughton Beach on February 11th. Nearly 1550 people collected \$263K in pledges. Multnomah County Sheriff's Office, Portland Police Bureau and the Oregon Air National Guard were joined by nearly 15 area agencies in the plunge! Divers from MCSO provided incredible plunge support, including a team of divers that supported a team of 14 Super Plungers who plunged 24 times in 24 hours. Every time the plungers went into the water, the divers were right there making sure they were safe."

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



[ODFW Will Stock Coast Fork with Chinook](#). “The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife says, in March, they will stock the Coast Fork of the Willamette River with Chinook salmon smolts. They hope to create a recreational Chinook fishery between Cottage Grove and Springfield.” *KLCC.org*, February 26. To see ODFW press release, [click here](#).

[Restoring Rivers by Restoring Flooding](#). “The Army Corps of Engineers is making floods. ... And it’s a very good thing for fish, frogs, mussels, wetlands, and local communities that depend on the bounty of healthy river systems.... As part of a decade-long partnership called the [Sustainable Rivers Project](#), the Corps and The Nature Conservancy are collaborating in eight river basins across the U.S. to modify dam operations for the benefit of downstream river and estuary health. In five of those basins – the Savannah River in Georgia and South Carolina, the Green River of Kentucky, the Bill Williams River of Arizona, the Big Cypress Bayou of Texas, and the Willamette River in Oregon – the Corps is releasing ‘designer floods’ from their dams.” *National Geographic Water Currents*, Feb. 23



photo: Bonneville Power Administration

[Ceremonial Fisheries Culturally Important to NW Tribes](#). “Tribal fishermen will soon begin to prepare for the [First Salmon Feast](#) a few weeks down the road. It’s one of the most culturally significant ceremonies for Pacific Northwest Tribes. ... The First Salmon Feast must take place before any fishing can begin. During the religious service, drummers play prayer songs. Before eating the meal, tribal members must drink water because of its importance to life. ... These ceremonies have taken place “since the beginning of time,” surviving the arrival of the white settlers, dams and decline of salmon runs. Prior to dam construction, as many as 16 million salmon swam in their native runs. Now, that number is 4 million.” [Listen to Wilbur Slockish, Jr.](#), hereditary chief of the Klickitat Tribe, share his natural resource thoughts and memories. *Northwest Public Radio*, March 5

[USFWS Seeking Information In Evaluation Whether To ESA-List Oregon Spotted Frog](#). “The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is initiating an evaluation to determine whether or not to list the Oregon spotted frog as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act. .. The Oregon spotted frog is the most aquatic native frog in the Pacific Northwest.” *Columbia Basin Bulletin*, February 24

[Court Orders New Biological Opinion, Jeopardy Analysis On Oregon’s Water Temperature Standards](#). “A federal court in Portland this week sent three federal agencies back to the drawing board on their review of how Oregon regulates the temperatures of its rivers and streams to protect salmon, steelhead, and bull trout.” *Columbia Basin Bulletin*, March 2

[Rising Temps In Northwest May Impact Hydro, California](#). “The need for more electricity in future summers doesn’t blend well with the prediction that Washington and Oregon rivers will actually yield less power at the same time. In the end, those states may still be able to meet their own needs, but it will come at the expense of neighboring states, like California, that are used to importing clean electricity from the Pacific Northwest.” *OPB.org*, March 2

[New Fish Consumption Standards Could Benefit Oregon Water Quality—Public invited to](#)

[comment on state's toxic reduction strategy](#). "...an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure ... seems to be the thinking behind revisions of environmental toxic standards underway throughout the Northwest. These revisions include broad policy approaches, like a toxics reduction strategy currently out for public comment in Oregon, and more targeted initiatives, such as standards adopted late last year that make the state a model when it comes to water quality and human health. 'The absolute only way we're going to get toxics out of the environment is to prevent toxics from going into the environment,'[said] Mary Lou Soscia,...the Columbia River Coordinator for the Environmental Protection Agency." *The Lund Report, March 5*

[With Declining Columbia River Sturgeon Numbers, Structuring Suitable Fisheries Proves Challenging](#). "...in just two days, anglers caught... almost 90 percent of the 1,768 allowed for the Willamette -- in large part due to the number of anglers. ... "Based on the number of anglers and catch last year, we hoped there would be enough fish for four days of fishing," [Steve Williams, deputy administrator for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's Fish Division] said. "Obviously we did not count on such a huge increase in effort." ... This year's harvest allocation for the Willamette was down 30 percent from last year, due to continued declines in the abundance of legal-sized sturgeon." *Columbia Basin Bulletin, Feb. 24*



photo: Oregon Dept. Fish & Wildlife

[Idaho Intercepts At I-90 Station Two Mussel-Infested Boats From Great Lakes Region](#). *Columbia Basin Bulletin, March 2*

[New Digital Tools Preserve Northwest Maritime History](#). "Steve Hubbard has seen old fishing boats lying around as long as he can remember. He never realized how important they were until a few years ago. So he drove to Astoria from Lebam, Washington to learn how to make three-dimensional images of vessels." *OPB.org, February 28*

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