

Columbia Slough Watershed Council

2009 Event & Program Descriptions

To register for a program or for more event information:

Please contact Melissa at 503-281-1132 or email: melissa.sandoz@columbiaslough.org

10th Annual Slough Celebration & Silent Auction - Friday, February 6

6:00-9:00pm

Join us to celebrate the activities, programs and projects that improve the Columbia Slough Watershed and to recognize the Leadership and Achievement Award Winners of 2008! Dinner, a silent auction, beer & wine bar and an inspiring awards program will be enjoyed by all. Tickets are now available.

Location: The Acadian Ballroom ♦ 1829 NE Alberta St, Portland, OR 97211

Cost: \$40 per person

Slough 101 - Saturday, March 7

8:45am - 1:00pm

This free workshop explores the unique character, challenges and opportunities of the Columbia Slough and its watershed. Learn about water quality, neighborhood history, vegetation, and urban development challenges. Whether you're interested in fish, wildlife, communities, or businesses, this workshop has something for you.

Hands-on activities include:

- A group "Build the Columbia Slough Watershed" game
- Macroinvertebrate identification activity
- Slough levee and pump station tour

Slough 101 is designed for adults interested in learning more about the Columbia Slough watershed. Materials and refreshments will be provided. Pre-registration is required and space is limited, so please register early.

Location: Multnomah County Drainage District ♦ 1880 NE Elrod Drive, Portland, OR 97211

Cost: FREE. Donations are welcome.

Birdsongs at Whitaker Ponds – April 24, May 1, June 12

7:00am – 9:00am

Join David Helzer, with City of Portland Environmental Services, for an early-morning birding hike around Whitaker Ponds. Learn about the birds that utilize the Slough and work on your birdsong ID skills. Bring your binoculars! Trip meets at 7am and last 1-2 hours. Pre-registration is required.

Location: Whitaker Ponds Natural Area ♦ 7040 NE 47th Ave, Portland, OR 97218

Cost: FREE

Brunch with the Birds - Friday, May 8

11:30am-1:00pm

Join the Columbia Slough Watershed Council for brunch and a birding tour of Whitaker Ponds, the junkyard-turned-environmental education center. You'll meet Slough neighbors & local business people and learn about watershed activities & events sponsored by the Council and its partners. Bring your binoculars! Pre-registration is required and space is limited, so please register early.

Location: Whitaker Ponds Natural Area ♦ 7040 NE 47th Ave, Portland, OR 97218

Cost: FREE. Donations are welcome.

Rain Gardens 101 – Monday, May 11

6:00pm – 9:00pm

Rain gardens are a great way to add beautiful landscaping to your yard and protect our overloaded urban streams at the same time! Join us to learn how to build a rain garden on your property to keep our streams clean and healthy!

Participants will learn:

- How rain gardens improve urban watershed hydrology
- How to do a site assessment to determine where to safely install a rain garden
- Impervious surface calculation, rain garden sizing and plant selection
- Rain garden construction and maintenance

Location: East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District ♦ 5211 N. Williams Ave, Portland, OR

Cost: FREE

Wetlands 101 - Saturday, May 16

8:45am - 1:00pm

Curious about water quality and wildlife habitat in your area? Join us for a free workshop that will contrast natural and constructed wetlands in Gresham. A tour of these sites will highlight threatened amphibians & reptiles, stormwater management, and mitigation history. We'll talk about wetland functions and values, what makes up a wetland, and recreational and stewardship opportunities. Pre-registration is required and space is limited, so please register early!

Location: Gresham City Hall ♦ 1333 NW Eastman Parkway, Gresham OR 97030

Cost: FREE. Donations are welcome.

Evening Canoe the Slough - Wednesday, May 27

6:00pm & 7:00pm

Join the Columbia Slough Watershed Council, City of Portland's Environmental Services and Northwest Discoveries for a guided paddling tour to explore the tree-lined Whitaker Slough. During this special evening trip, guides will travel with participants in canoe bimarans (two canoes lashed together). A 6:00 and a 7:00 trip will take place. Pre-registration is required and space is very limited, so please register early!

Location: Whitaker Ponds Natural Area ♦ 7040 NE 47th Ave, Portland, OR 97218

Cost: FREE. Donations are welcome.

Cycle the Well Field - Saturday, June 13

9:00am - 1:30pm

Join the Columbia Slough Watershed Council and the Portland Water Bureau for a 16 mile bicycle tour through the Groundwater Protection Area and discover the mysteries of groundwater! Bring your bike, helmet, water, snacks, and dress for the weather. Ages 12 and up are welcome. Pre-registration is required and space is limited, so please register early!

Location: aloft hotel at Cascade Station ♦ 9920 NE Cascades Parkway, Portland OR 97220

Cost: FREE.

Explorando el Columbia Slough - Saturday, June 20

1:00 - 5:00pm

Explorando el Columbia Slough is an afternoon of festivities celebrating the nature and history of the Columbia Slough. Tailored to the Latino community, events and activities offered in both Spanish and English. Highlights of the event include guided canoe trips, live entertainment, bird watching, displays, games, refreshments and much more!

Location: Whitaker Ponds Natural Area ♦ 7040 NE 47th Ave, Portland, OR 97218

Cost: FREE.

3rd Annual Great Slough Clean Up – Saturday, July 11

9:00am – 12:00pm

Join our team of trash haulers for our annual Great Slough Clean Up! Bring your own boat or borrow one of ours as we scour the banks of the Slough for garbage large and small. Remove car batteries, shopping carts, TVs, chairs, tires, and more from this gem of a local waterway. We promise you'll go home muddy, tired, and happy! Prizes will be given for the most unique items of trash.

Location: Whitaker Ponds Natural Area ♦ 7040 NE 47th Ave, Portland, OR 97218

Cost: FREE. Donations are welcome.

15th Annual Columbia Slough Small Craft Regatta - Sunday, July 26

9:00am - 1:00pm

This annual celebration of the slough is the largest one-day paddle in Oregon. The Regatta offers views of riparian habitat that is home to over 175 species of birds, 25 species of fish, and a wide variety of mammals. Bring your own watercraft or make a reservation for a free canoe or kayak rental. Enjoy hands-on activities, live music and visit with local environmental and water-based organizations. *Free canoe & kayak rentals require advanced registration and fill quickly, please call early to reserve a rental!*

Location: Former St Johns Landfill ♦ 9363 N Columbia Blvd, Portland OR 97203

Requested Donation: \$7.00

Subs on the Slough - Friday, August 14

11:30am-1:00pm

Come enjoy the Slough in summer with lunch at a hidden gem of a canoe launch. This event is a fun way to meet Slough neighbors & friends, have a great lunch and learn more about our local groundwater resource and the Groundwater Protection Program that is underway in the Columbia Slough watershed. RSVP please.

Location: Portland Water Bureau Canoe Launch ♦ 16650 NE Airport Way, Portland, OR 97230

Cost: FREE.

Aquifer Adventure - Saturday, September 12th

12:00 - 4:00pm

Join the Portland Water Bureau and the Columbia Slough Watershed Council for the Sixth Annual Aquifer Adventure, a pirate-themed day of canoe rides, treasure hunting, music and games. This event focuses on groundwater, water conservation, and groundwater protection actions that you can do at home. Hands-on activities teach kids and adults how to protect this important groundwater resource that serves as a supplemental and emergency drinking water supply to 700,000 people in the Portland Metropolitan area.

Location: Portland Water Bureau Canoe Launch ♦ 16650 NE Airport Way, Portland, OR 97230

Cost: FREE

Evening Canoe the Slough - Wednesday, October 7

6:00 - 8:30pm

Join the Columbia Slough Watershed Council and City of Portland's Environmental Services on an evening paddle of the Columbia Slough. The Slough's quiet waters and surrounding wetlands and riparian areas are home to more than 140 species of birds and other wildlife. Bring your own watercraft, paddles and personal flotation device (required). Or, you can make a reservation for a free CSWC canoe rental. Pre-registration is required and space is limited, so please register early!

Location: Whitaker Ponds Natural Area ♦ 7040 NE 47th Ave, Portland, OR 97218

Cost: FREE. Donations are welcome.

Brew on the Slough - Thursday, October 22

6:00 - 7:30pm

Join the Columbia Slough Watershed Council for a special evening of good beer, appetizers, and Slough discoveries. This event is a fun way to meet Slough neighbors and learn more about the Columbia Slough Watershed Council's programs and events. You'll also discover great recreation opportunities in the Columbia Slough watershed, including paddling, biking, and hiking! Refreshments are provided, and beverages will be available for purchase. RSVP please.

Location: TBA

Cost: FREE. Donations are welcome.

Groundwater 101 - Saturday, November 14

9:00am-1:30pm

Join the Portland Water Bureau and the Columbia Slough Watershed Council for Groundwater 101 – a FREE educational workshop that will teach you groundwater basics including some local geology and hydrology, what role groundwater plays in our drinking water system, and what needs to be done to protect this important resource. This workshop is casual, in a classroom-style setting, taught by groundwater experts. Light refreshments will be provided. Pre-registration is required and space is limited, so please register early!

Location: NECA-IBEW Electrical Training Center ♦ 16021 NE Airport Way, Portland, OR 97230

Cost: FREE