SPRING 2012

GreenScene

Your spring guide to great places and green living

www.oregon**metro.gov**

emerge

explore

revisit

reconnect

sow

seek

serve

Metro | *Making a great place*

Jerome Hart photo

This spring Metro naturalists introduce two new educational programs. The first, It's Our Nature, is a yearlong class for adults that meets once each month in Metro natural areas from April 2012 to March 2013. The second, Family Nature Explorers, is a series of spring-through-fall field trips that are suitable for families with children ages four and older.

New! It's Our Nature: A year of explorations in natural areas

Some people never stop learning. They ask questions, they investigate new places, they seek out experts who can answer their questions or introduce them to topics they never even thought to ask about. If you're one of those people, It's Our Nature is for you. It's a yearlong class that explores the rocks, plants, animals, peoples and historic uses of the region's natural areas. Inspired by the Close to Home program that investigates natural areas in San Francisco's East Bay, It's Our Nature will be taught by a team of veteran Metro naturalists.

Tony Carlson photo

The class is for adults ages 18 and older who want to learn more of the stories and science of their place on the planet. From bedrock to canopy, It's Our Nature will explore some of Metro's 14,000 acres of wetlands, oak savannas and woodlands, Douglas fir forests and prairies. Sites may include Smith and Bybee Wetlands, Clear Creek Natural Area, Oxbow Regional Park, Canemah Bluff, Mount Talbert, Tonquin Geologic Area or Cooper Mountain. By sharing their expertise about the region, naturalists hope to create a community of learners whose new knowledge and skills inspire them to be careful stewards of the land and its wild inhabitants.

Instructors possess more than 75 years of field naturalist experience

Dan Daly is a certified Level III tracker with a background in geology, bird language and wilderness skills.

James Davis is an expert birder and the author of "The Northwest Nature Guide." Davis was the first education director at the Audubon Society of Portland and has been an outdoor teacher for 35 years.

Deb Scrivens is a certified tracker and has been a naturalist for 32 years, working for Metro and the National Park Service. Her specialties include forest ecology, salmon, bird language, tracking and botany, particularly ethnobotany.

Registration and information

It's Our Nature is limited to 17 adults who can commit to attend at least 10 of the 12 outings, and who can learn outdoors – in all weather conditions and in a variety of terrain. Interested? Complete a brief application at www.oregonmetro.gov/natureimmersion or call 503-797-1650, option 2. No deposit is required for the initial application. Applications are assessed for the applicant's level of interest and ability to commit to the class. Tuition of $300 is due upon acceptance; it covers all field instruction, handouts and a bibliography of resources. Transportation to sites is not provided; carpooling is encouraged, as many sites are not on transit lines.

Class schedule

Except for the orientation, classes begin at 9:30 a.m. on Saturdays or Sundays and end in the early afternoon. Locations will be provided to class members.

Orientation
6 to 8 p.m. Monday, April 16

This first of the 12 meetings brings class members together at a local restaurant to meet, learn about the coming year's outings, and plan carpool logistics.

Spring migration birding
Saturday, April 21

The peak of spring bird migration is generally mid-April to mid-May. Smith and Bybee Wetlands is a major attraction to migrants passing through and the nesting destination of 16 species of neotropical migrants. Work on bird songs and bird identification, and investigate mammal tracks, turtles and garter snakes. *Davis*

Bird language and botany
Sunday, May 6

Learn the distinctly different movements and sounds birds use to announce the presence of different predators such as Cooper's hawks, gopher snakes or bobcats. Also: dissect flowers, consult books used by professional botanists and learn why plant families are a key for wildflower identification. *Scrivens*

Fundamentals of animal tracking
Saturday, June 16
Tracking is the written language of the natural world. Animals' life histories are written on the landscape as they search for food, shelter and mates, and communicate territorial boundaries. Even beginners can start to read the ground's stories. *Daly, Terry Kem*

Bug bonanza
Saturday, July 28
Since all arthropods (bugs) are ectotherms (cold-blooded), July is a peak of arthropod activity and diversity. Search for, catch, identify and examine insects and spiders in a variety of habitats. Catching and handling respects the safety of class members and bugs. All specimens are released after observation. *Davis*

Ethnobotany
Sunday, Sept. 16
Ethnobotany is the study of how humans use plants. Learn the ethics and safety protocols of plant harvest and which plants have traditionally been used for food, medicine or baskets. Create cordage and tea from stinging nettles, take a plant identification walk and bring home a resource list for further study. *Scrivens*

Salmon homecoming
Sunday, Oct. 28
At Oxbow Regional Park, witness the return of wild salmon to the glacier-fed Sandy River. Scrivens shares what she has learned from many autumns with the salmon of the Sandy River. *Scrivens*

Fungus foray
Saturday, Nov. 10
Autumn rains elicit the most astonishing "bloom" of the diverse fungi of the Northwest. Mushroom identification is a challenge. Learn the steps to determine if a mushroom is edible. *Davis*

Applied tracking skills
Sunday, Dec. 2
Following fresh footprints is one of tracking's most challenging skill sets. Interpreting an animal's trail brings insights into its story and its connection to the landscape. Go beyond the basics to enter the realms of trailing and interpretation, learning core skills needed to practice alone in the field or with friends. *Daly, Terry Kem*

Geology in Oregon
Sunday, Jan. 27, 2013
Four hundred million years ago, the landscape now known as Oregon was open ocean. Oregon has been forged by earthquakes and floods, volcanoes and ancient island chains. Journey through geologic time to discover the epic events that make life in the Cascadia Subduction Zone what it is today. *Daly*

Winter waterfowl and raptors
Saturday, Feb. 9, 2013
In winter, about 21 species of waterfowl (ducks, geese and swans) are found in the Portland area, many more than nest here in spring and summer. At Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge, see a huge variety of raptors and waterfowl. *Davis*

End of class celebration: Habitat restoration work and potluck party
Sunday, March 17, 2013

New! Family Nature Explorers: Field trips for kids and adults

Family Nature Explorers brings kids and adults together for field explorations in Metro natural areas. In past years, Metro naturalist James Davis noticed that many families attended multiple field classes and began to form friendships with each other. This series builds on that perfect blend of nature, learning and community. Families meet other families with the same interests in the outdoors. Kids meet other kids who love to touch, smell and study all things natural.

Davis leads Family Nature Explorers with help from Metro's volunteer naturalists. As an instructor at Marylhurst University, he helped launch its Head Start Summer Science Institute. He has been teaching kids and adults about nature for 35 years.

Field trips are one Saturday per month, spring through fall. Each covers one or two topics plus any nature experience that presents itself. Many are to Metro-owned areas that are not yet open to the public. Families can sign up for one or all of them. Children four and older are welcome with their parents, grandparents or guardians. Some walking is off-trail. Metro supplies nets, magnifiers and binoculars, plus first aid supplies. $11 per family, with advance registration required for each outing.

Spring outings are listed in this issue's calendar.

Michael D. Barton photos

The Tonquin Trail winds by wetlands and through emerging oak woodlands in Graham Oaks Nature Park.

Tonquin Trail recommended route

Tonquin Trail begins to blossom

Coming soon: 22 more miles of reasons to leave the car in the driveway. When it's complete, the multi-use Tonquin Trail in Washington and Clackamas counties will enable more people to live a low-car life, as it connects residents with jobs, schools, natural areas and town centers. Parts of the trail through Tualatin, Sherwood and Wilsonville are open. A full master plan, expected to be completed in 2012, will guide construction of remaining sections.

A flood-carved landscape

The Tonquin Trail is named for its route through the Tonquin Geologic Area, 17 square miles of valley bottomland sculpted by the ice-age Missoula Floods of 13,000 to 15,000 years ago. The geologic area runs south from Tualatin and Sherwood at the Tualatin River to the Willamette River in Wilsonville. Within it are landforms created by the floods: basalt hummocks and knolls, and kolk ponds and channels. (Kolks are depressions scoured out of the bedrock by floodwaters.) The geologic area is also a wildlife corridor, with oak and madrone woodlands and ash and oak wetlands that support migratory birds and native wildlife and plants.

The trail will run south from three northern terminuses: one in the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge, the second on the west edge of Tualatin at the Tualatin River, and the third in Tualatin where the river adjoins Tualatin Community Park. With its proximity to schools, jobs, shopping and neighborhoods, every walk to school or bike ride to work on the Tonquin Trail can come with a little nature on the side.

Planning for the trail began in 2009; after input from landowners, survey respondents and residents at public meetings, a route was recommended in 2011 by the three towns through which the trail passes and by Metro, Washington and Clackamas counties.

A kolk pond

Funding for land purchases to create the trail was made possible by two voter-approved bond measures.

Access the trail in Tualatin at Tualatin Community Park, in Wilsonville at Graham Oaks Nature Park and the Villebois neighborhood, and in Sherwood at Stella Olsen Community Park.

Connections to other regional trails

As part of the Portland metropolitan area's growing regional trail network, the Tonquin Trail will eventually connect with the Westside Trail, which will run from the Tualatin River in Tigard north through Beaverton to Forest Park and the Willamette River in Northwest Portland. The Tonquin Trail already connects with the Fanno Creek Trail via the Ki-a-Kuts bridge across the Tualatin River. When the Fanno Creek trail is complete, it will run north from Tualatin to the Willamette River in Southwest Portland. Southward, a proposed bridge over the Willamette in Wilsonville at the site of the former Boone's Ferry could extend the regional trail network even further, to the bikeable roads and paths in and around Champoeg State Heritage Area in St. Paul.

Learn more and see a detailed map at **www.oregonmetro.gov/tonquintrail.**

Explore the Tonquin Trail

A completed section of the Tonquin Trail passes through Metro's Graham Oaks Nature Park near Wilsonville. Once land managed by the Atfalati people by burning, it later came into cultivation. Today its wetlands are restored, its oak savannas are regenerating and its 250 acres offer beautiful four-season walks. Here's how to get started:

- A 3-mile walking route or 6-mile bike route through and beyond Graham Oaks. An audio walking tour is also available.

  Download them at **www.oregonmetro.gov/grahamoaks.**

- Metro and Kaiser Permanente's free Walk There! app. The Tonquin Trail in Graham Oaks is featured.

  Visit **www.oregonmetro.gov/walkthere** for download instructions.

Planting seeds for future Orenco Woods nature park

A former golf course in Hillsboro began a new life this winter, when Metro and the City of Hillsboro teamed up to protect it as a future nature park – and a community celebration marked the occasion. Rock Creek snakes through the 42-acre Orenco Woods property, which is nestled within the historic Orenco neighborhood, next to the MAX Blue Line and Orenco Elementary School. Someday, the Rock Creek Trail is expected to extend south and traverse its rolling hills. Most of the funding to buy the land came from Metro's voter-approved 2006 natural areas bond measure. A small parcel will be sold for development, with proceeds going toward a nature park on the rest of the property.

Thanks to voters, Metro's Natural Areas Program is protecting clean water, clean air and healthy habitats for animals – and curious humans. Over the course of 17 years and two bond measures, the region has preserved 12,000 acres of natural areas, protected 100 miles of river and stream banks, opened three major nature parks, planted nearly 2 million trees and shrubs and supported hundreds of community projects.

To learn more or get involved, visit **www.oregonmetro.gov/naturalareas.**

Rediscovering the outdoors

By Roísín Henry

This summer, I learned how to go outside.

Every day we go outside, but are we really there? We step out the door to walk to our car. We walk to school. We walk down the driveway to get the mail. Before I was given the opportunity to work with Wolftree and Metro, I never really went outside. I never really paid attention to the birds singing, to the unusual flowers or to the insects on the ground. But when I began working as a naturalist, my eyes were opened to how amazing nature is, how everything has a purpose and how when we step outside, we are not just walking to our car, we are walking through a delicate ecosystem more complex than we can ever imagine.

Biking, rafting and running through the forest are fun, but in order to see nature you need to be quiet, soft and patient. Once a week, I sat in the woods in Oxbow Park, alone. Quiet and relaxed, I became in tune with the forest. So many things that would go unnoticed, things you would never have seen while hiking become more visible and beautiful when you sit still.

The staff at Oxbow made me realize how important it is to conserve our parks and educate the public. Their hard work and dedication to nature make a beautiful habitat available to all who are willing to pay only a $5 entrance fee. The naturalists at Oxbow were always willing to teach me something new. Everyone had a story, whether about the time they encountered a cougar or rescued stranded hikers. My collection of stories grew the longer I spent at Oxbow. I love being able to tell visitors these stories and hopefully inspire them to collect their own.

I knew I was on my way to becoming a naturalist when I began looking forward to my Tuesdays in the park. When I hiked, I walked slowly and observantly, looking for the slightest trace of an animal. I knew the answers to more and more visitor questions, and I loved being able to tell them something new. But most importantly, I took the first big step to becoming an experienced naturalist when I learned how to go outside. Not just walking to the car without even realizing where I was, but stepping out the door, feeling the breeze, hearing the birds, tasting the fresh air and enjoying it. Oxbow and Wolftree helped me rediscover an invaluable gift: the outdoors.

In summer 2011, high school student Roísín Henry from Corbett volunteered at Oxbow Regional Park in a self-directed internship via Wolftree, a science education program.

Dave Feldberg, course designer, teaching a young player

New top-level disc golf course to open later this year at Blue Lake

Blue Lake Regional Park is the site for a broad variety of sports – soccer, softball, volleyball, basketball, archery, horseshoes, swimming, Olympic-qualifier triathlons – as well as quiet strolls along the wetlands nature trail with binoculars in hand. One popular sport has been missing, however, and a group of avid players has partnered with Metro to bring disc golf to the popular East County park. According to Dan Kromer, Metro parks and visitor services manager, Metro staff and a crew of volunteers from Stumptown Disc Golf plan to break ground for an 18-hole, 70-acre world-class disc golf course in late March.

Strong winter east winds from the Columbia River Gorge make Blue Lake Regional Park's location particularly attractive to disc golfers. The course was designed by disc golf champion and University of Oregon coach Dave Feldberg. Although other courses exist in the Portland area, Blue Lake will be the region's first world-class, gold-level course. Gold designation is the highest level a course can obtain from the international Professional Disc Golf Association. Kromer says that Blue Lake Regional Park's course gained this designation due to its length, difficulty, high level equipment and design approach. It's expected to draw top competitors from all over the world. But Feldberg is reassuring: "Blue Lake's course is designed to entertain all levels of players from first timers to the world's top professionals."

Stumptown Disc Golf president Jeff Hagerty is excited to see another disc golf course in the metropolitan area. "Blue Lake Regional Park's gold course is going to be great. It will be a world-class, gold-level course really close to Portland. Pier Park in North Portland is always packed. A course at Blue Lake will provide more play room."

Blue Lake Regional Park's range of recreational activities is a draw for Todd Andrews, past president of Oregon Disc Golf. He notes that some people in a group can play golf at Blue Lake while others can swim, boat or fish in the lake, learn about natural gardening, or gather for a family picnic or community event.

Disc golf also offers an inexpensive way to get outside for a fun upper- and lower-body workout, and it improves hand-eye coordination and mental acuity. Feldberg loves the sport because "the more you put in, the higher your personal reward."

Andrews adds, "It's a challenge to develop the skills, be creative enough to avoid hazards and get the disc in the basket. There is also the camaraderie of having fun with a group of friends and family or meeting someone new while playing a sport you both enjoy."

Follow the construction process of Blue Lake Regional Park's disc golf course at **www.oregonmetro.gov/discgolf.** The course is due to be completed later in 2012.

Left to right: Todd Andrews, past president of Oregon Disc Golf; Brian Gram, Professional Disc Golf Association president; and Bryan Knudsen, co-owner of Next Adventure

Building the course together

Blue Lake Regional Park's new world-class gold-level, 18-hole disc golf course will be created through a public-private partnership of Stumptown Disc Golf, Next Adventure and Metro. Stumptown's 370 members assist communities in the installation and maintenance of disc golf courses, promote the growth of the sport by hosting events at area courses, and provide clinics and events for youth groups. Stumptown Disc Golf president Jeff Hagerty notes that members built courses at Milo McIver State Park in Estacada and Pier Park in North Portland. They've also helped restore and maintain courses at L.L. Stub Stewart State Park in Buxton and Lunchtime Park, on private land in Southwest Portland's Hillsdale neighborhood.

Bryan Knudsen, co-owner of locally owned Next Adventure, says, "Our goal is giving back to those who support the sport. Whatever Next Adventure can do to make that happen we will. We sponsor six to eight events during the summer. We also sponsor the Flight Crew, professional disc golfers with local ties."

How to play disc golf

Disc golf is similar to regular golf: courses are generally in natural settings and contain either nine or 18 holes. The primary difference is that in disc golf, players fling a flying disc into a large, above-ground basket to complete a hole instead of swinging a golf club to drive a ball into an underground cup. The goal is to land your disc into each hole's basket with the fewest tosses. The player with the lowest number of tosses for all holes wins. Like golf, disc golf uses the par system to rate the difficulty of each hole. Stumptown Disc Golf president Jeff Hagerty says that course etiquette is generally similar to traditional golf. Yelling "Fore!" is just as true in disc golf as in the traditional game.

Resources

- Stumptown Disc Golf offers memberships, training clinics and tournaments. Check its blog for updates on course completeness. www.stumptowndiscgolf.org
- Disc Golf Scene offers tracking for league play. www.discgolfscene.com
- Professional Disc Golf Association offers rules and information about professional and recreational play. www.pdga.com/rules
- Blue Lake Regional Park is north of Fairview in east Multnomah County. For general park information and private picnic reservations, visit www.oregonmetro.gov/bluelake.
- Learn more about Dave Feldberg at www.davefeldberg.com.

- Next Adventure sells equipment online and at its store at 426 SE Grand Ave., Portland. It offers a 15 percent discount to Stumptown Disc Golf members. http://nextadventure.net
- Oregon Disc Golf offers an interactive online map that contains information about Oregon and southern Washington courses. www.oregondiscgolf.com

Your first trip to the park? Here's what you need to know:

Equipment: Bring your own. Bryan Knudsen, co-owner of course sponsor Next Adventure, points out the relatively small amount of gear actually needed to get started: "All a first time player needs is a putter, a driver and a midrange disc."

Location: The course will be on the east side of Blue Lake Road just east of the main park entrance.

Cost: Play is free with a paid park entrance fee of $5 per car or $7 for vehicles with 12 or more passengers. Annual park passes, good at all Metro parks, are available online and at the park office for $40.

Blue Lake Regional Park is a beautiful outdoor playground for the whole family, but it does have a few important rules:

- No pets. To protect wildlife habitat and for their own safety, pets are not permitted at any Metro park, natural area or facility.
- Amplified sound is not allowed. Bring headphones if you want to listen to tunes on the course.
- Alcohol is not allowed.

Penstemon hesperius

Ginny Maffitt photo

At one Metro natural area, sleuthing and science go hand-in-hand

Thick with shrubs and grasses, a low-lying swale near Gaston hardly looks like Metro's most majestic natural area. But, nestled among a rural byway, farm fields and the Tualatin River, it has revealed some of the rarest and most spectacular treasures – thanks to a bit of scientific sleuthing.

"We've had some special moments out there," says Elaine Stewart, the Metro scientist who oversees efforts to restore the site's wetlands. Shortly after Metro purchased the longtime farmland in 1999, a tractor was ripping up pasture grasses when a flock of rare, streaked horned larks began following overhead. Later, the science team discovered Nelson's checkermallow, an uncommon plant with bursts of pinkish-purple flowers.

Last summer, Stewart made the winding drive toward Gaston to see how the checkermallow fared through the soggy spring. She inspected one plant and started to move on to the next – but suddenly, something caught her eye. In all her years helping restore Metro's 12,000 acres of voter-protected natural areas, Stewart had never seen this: distinctive, statuesque stems with clusters of blueish-purple flowers. She plucked a sample to investigate.

Back at the office, Stewart navigated her plant key, a sort of decision-tree that helps identify species. Her excitement built when she landed on penstemon, commonly known as beardtongue.

Just a week earlier, Portland State University had asked Metro to help hunt for an extremely rare variety once called Penstemon hesperius. It had been collected historically in the Tualatin River basin and along the shore of the Columbia River in Washington, but had not been seen in the wild since 1934. It was later lumped with another penstemon that is widespread east of the Cascade Range.

In 2008, the discovery of Penstemon hesperius at the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge launched an effort to find more of this wildflower, trace its history and, maybe, reinstate it as a species. Working together, refuge volunteer Ginny Maffitt and Portland State wetland ecologist John Christy secured grants. They enlisted a molecular specialist to study the genetics of their penstemon samples. Armed with soil maps and aerial photos, they also continued their on-the-ground search for the plant, which seems to grow in areas plagued by invasive reed canary grass.

"If you can establish that it is indeed a good species, it's going to be one of the rarest in the state – one of the rarest in the Northwest," says Christy, who works for the university's Oregon Biodiversity Information Center. "But part of it is just the challenge, finding the needle in the haystack. It's fun."

For science buffs who revel in this sort of mystery, Portland State's Herbarium is a must-see destination. An appointment with Christy, the volunteer manager, gives you access to hulking metal cabinets filled with manila folders. In each folder, hand-labeled, dried plants are carefully affixed to thick paper – each one a record of the Portland metropolitan area's natural habitats.

Contributing to this work is exciting, Stewart says. Her discovery underscores why Metro invests in restoring and monitoring land purchased over the course of two voter-approved bond measures during the last two decades. Metro's portfolio of natural areas includes some of the region's rarest plants and animals, and provides opportunities to improve water quality.

If Stewart hadn't checked the Gaston natural area for one rare plant, she says, she never would have found the other. Now, she plans to help both species grow by removing surrounding shrubs. Using seeds from the penstemons Stewart found, Metro's Native Plant Center is producing more plants for Metro natural areas. And, Stewart says, of course she'll help with the continuing hunt for penstemon when it's in bloom again this summer.

"It's a really important find," Stewart says. "It also reminds us that we've got a lot of sites out there that still have a lot of secrets we don't know about – which is really cool."

Marsha Holt-Kingsley, who manages Metro's Native Plant Center, collects a Penstemon hesperius specimen (left) so her team can produce more of the wildflower to grow at voter-protected natural areas. This sort of rare plant attracts science buffs to Portland State University's Herbarium (above), where wetland ecologist John Christy serves as volunteer manager and unofficial sleuth.

Jen Aron in her garden

Edible enigmas solved

Natural gardening expert Jen Aron takes the mystery out of growing vegetables

Eager gardeners may have already planted spring peas and spinach. But what are the next steps to sweet success in the veggie patch? Natural gardening expert Jen Aron answers common questions about growing organic. Aron is a certified Master Gardener™ and teaches free natural gardening workshops offered by Metro in partnership with the Oregon State University Extension Service.

Q: I planted peas in late February but they never came up. What happened?

A: Invest in a soil thermometer. This inexpensive garden tool is often overlooked. While regional month-to-month planting calendars are great, they don't always account for annual weather variations. Many seed companies include soil temperatures with their planting instructions. Using soil temperature to guide your planting not only increases the likelihood that seeds will germinate but also helps seedlings and transplants stay healthier and more resistant to disease.

Damping off is often the fungal culprit that impacts seeds that are planted too early. Patience is key. If your peas or spinach – or anything else – didn't come up, plant again!

Q: Which edibles can I plant in the spring for the most bang for my buck?

A: Veggies can be fussy. Start with varieties that are easiest to grow for rewards along the way, then expand. The easiest edibles to start from seed are peas, beets, radishes, potatoes and greens, including spinach, Swiss chard, kale, collards, mustard, arugula, mizuna and lettuce. Potatoes in particular are great for kids, especially at harvest time. And potatoes planted in spring won't need any water other than seasonal rain.

If you prefer, you can transplant kale, chard and heading lettuces.

Q: The plant starts I transplanted last year didn't do so well. What did I do wrong?

A: Focus on good quality starts. Purchase them at locally owned garden retailers rather than garden departments in large national chain stores. This ensures the plant varieties are suitable for our climate. Also, make sure the roots in the starts aren't bound inside the containers.

Q: My soil is still pretty wet. Is it OK to dig in anyway?

A: No. Turning soil when it's too wet (dripping or sticky) destroys its structure and compacts it. Let sandy soil rest a few days after a deeply soaking rain. Clay soil needs longer to dry out. Then, gently loosen the soil with a digging fork instead of tilling or turning it over with a shovel.

Q: What's the point of planting anything? The slugs just eat it all.

A: The most effective way to control slugs is to patrol daily and kill every slug you see. A pair of scissors does the trick. Look for slugs on the undersides of leaves, in the top two inches of soil and under rocks and boards. A persistent patrol pays off.

Q: Last year, my plants looked fine until May, and then were destroyed by bugs that ate thousands of holes in the leaves. How do I keep that from happening again?

A: Leaf miners and other insect pests come out as temperatures warm. They can be quite destructive. Try covering seedlings with row covers, which also warm the soil. In any case, monitor plants for damage, remove heavily affected leaves or plants, and dispose of them curbside rather than in your compost bin.

To help prevent pests throughout the growing season, grow plants in your yard that attract beneficial insects that eat pests. Top choices: cilantro and parsley (let them flower), buckwheat, calendula, mint family herbs like lavender and rosemary, and natives like Douglas spirea and aster.

For natural gardening advice call the OSU Extension Service Master Gardeners™.

Clackamas County
503-655-8631

Multnomah County
503-445-4608

Washington County
503-821-1150

For program information and pesticide disposal, call Metro Recycling Information at 503-234-3000.

Swiss chard Jerome Hart photo

Meet natural gardening instructors, learn about free workshops, get tips on gardening year-round, watch instructional videos, download a coupon and more at **www.oregonmetro.gov/garden.**

Spring calendar

After school nature club
3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Thursdays
Get outside after school into the natural world at Metro's Cooper Mountain Nature Park. Explore a new nature topic each week through hikes, games and crafts. Classes take place outside, weather permitting. Snacks provided. Suitable for ages 7 to 10. $13 per session; or attend all four spring sessions (April and May) for $49. Advance registration required; call 503-629-6350. *Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District*

March 1	Animal tracking
March 8	Creatures of the deep
April 19	Wild cats
April 26	Snakes
May 3	Wild about wildflowers
May 10	Incredible insects

Native Plant Center seed scouts and collectors

At Metro's Native Plant Center, seed scouts and seed collectors ensure that native plant species continue to thrive in the Northwest. Seed scouts commit to visit select natural areas bi-monthly from March through September. They monitor the phenology of targeted species and help lead seed collection efforts. Seed collectors learn seed and data collection protocol and commit to collect seed three times during the season. And the best part: you get to work in one of Metro's beautiful natural areas.

Field crews collect fragrant popcorn flower seeds at Gotter Prairie.

March 10	Deadline to apply to be a seed scout
March 24	Seed scout training at the Native Plant Center
May 19	Deadline to apply to be a seed collector
June 2	Seed collector training

For information, send email to
nativeplantcenter.volunteers@oregonmetro.gov

or download an application from the Native Plant Center page at **www.oregonmetro.gov.**

Fernhill Wetlands bird walk
8 to 10 a.m. Saturday, March 3
Join wildlife expert Elaine Murphy at this birding hotspot. Viewing stands and trails are ideal for watching migratory and wintering birds. All ages welcome, but walks are focused for adults. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Carpool from the Beaverton Backyard Bird Shop. Free. Advance registration required; call 503-626-0949. *Backyard Bird Shop*

Native Plant Center Volunteer Ventures
9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays, March 10 and 31, April 14 and 21, and May 5 and 19
Celebrate spring at Metro's Native Plant Center in Tualatin: help propagate native species to support plant conservation and regional biodiversity. Volunteers help sow seeds, plant bulbs and seedlings grown from seed collected on Metro's natural areas, or maintain seed grow-out beds. Gloves, tools, water and snack provided. Suitable for all ages; prior gardening experience not required. Advance registration required; call 503-797-1653. *Metro* by arrangement

Painted turtle walks
1 to 2:30 p.m. Saturdays, March 10, April 7 and June 9
Smith and Bybee Wetlands are home to one of Oregon's largest populations of Western painted turtles. See these shy reptiles with the help of Metro naturalist James Davis and learn about their natural history and why they are so rare. Telescopes provided. Suitable for ages 5 and older. Meet in the parking lot on North Marine Drive. Free. Advance registration required; see page 15 for instructions. *Metro*

Spring bird walks
9 to 11:30 a.m. Saturdays, March 10, April 7 and 14, and June 9
Springtime at Smith and Bybee Wetlands brings about 30 species of birds migrating through or joining resident birds for nesting. April and May are peak migration months; May and June are when nesting is in high gear. Learn to identify birds by sight and song with Metro naturalist James Davis or Metro volunteer naturalists and Audubon master birders Patty Newland and Candace Larson. Bring binoculars or borrow a pair on site. Suitable for ages 10 and older. Meet in the parking lot on North Marine Drive. Free. Advance registration required; see page 15 for instructions. *Metro*

Bird watching basics
7 to 9:30 p.m. Thursday, March 15
Metro naturalist James Davis teaches basics of bird identification, talks about the best field guides and binoculars and shows slides of the top 20 birds of the Portland metropolitan area. This class at Metro prepares you for Saturday bird watching trips and other bird classes. Suitable for adults and teens. Meet at Metro, room 370. $11. Advance registration required; see page 15 for instructions. *Metro*

Graham Oaks Nature Park bird walk
8 to 10 a.m. Saturday, March 17
Oak savanna, fir forests, creeks and canyons offer wildlife-watching opportunities on this expert-guided walk. All ages welcome,

volunteering · sustainable living · wildlife watching · nature discoveries · paddling · natural gardening · bicycling · wheelchair accessible

but walks are focused for adults. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Carpool from the Lower Boones Ferry Road Backyard Bird Shop. Free. Advance registration required; call 503-620-7454. *Backyard Bird Shop*

Beginning bird watching

7 to 9:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 20

Curious about local birds but don't know where to begin? At Cooper Mountain Nature Park, Metro naturalist James Davis teaches basics of bird identification, talks about the best field guides and binoculars and shows slides of the top 25 birds of Cooper Mountain and the Beaverton/Portland area. This class prepares you for bird watching and other classes. Suitable for adults and teens. Meeting location provided with registration. $10. Advance registration required; call 503-629-6350 or visit www.thprd.org. *Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District and Metro*

Mammals of Portland

7 to 9:30 p.m. Thursday, March 22

Mink, beaver and river otter at Smith and Bybee Wetlands? Elk and bear at Oxbow Regional Park? Can you tell beaver, muskrat, and nutria apart? With pelts, skulls, slides, stuffed specimens and scat, Metro naturalist James Davis shows how to identify the mammals that live in your neighborhood and in Metro parks and natural areas. Suitable for ages 10 and older. Meet at Metro, room 370. Registration and payment of $11 per person required in advance; see page 15 for instructions. *Metro*

Kids' Nature Nights Out

6 to 9 p.m. Fridays, March 23 and May 25

Parents: enjoy an evening out while the kids experience nightfall at Metro's Cooper Mountain Nature Park. In two events (see below), kids gather in the Interpretive Center, have dinner (pizza and veggies), then head into the park after dark to explore and look for wildlife. Suitable for ages 6 to 12. $25 per session in-district fee; additional fee for out-of-district patrons. Advance registration required; call 503-629-6350. *Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District*

March 23 | Volcanoes are all around us. Learn how they shaped local landscapes.

May 25 | Search for reptiles and amphibians; leave no rock unturned. Learn how to create habitats that encourage them to stay.

Better Living Home and Garden Show

Noon to 9 p.m. Friday, March 23
11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday, March 24
11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, March 25

Vegan Village, Electric Avenue (electric cars), Recycling Plaza, Energy Trust's Good Energy Pavilion: all and more await you. Conserve energy, live healthfully and save money. Learn, be inspired and take it into your daily life. Portland Expo Center on the Yellow MAX line. Free. Parking $8 per car. For information, visit www.betterlivingshow.org. *Portland Expo Center*

PDX Bicycle Show

10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, March 24
10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, March 25

Gear deals, a ride demo area, Oregon handmade bikes, seminars and workshops: it's everything you ever wanted to know about biking. Stop by the Drive Less/Save More booth for cycling resources including free maps. Portland Expo Center, on the Yellow MAX line. Admission charged; kids free with adults. Parking $8 per car. For information, visit http://pedalnationevents.com. *Drive Less/Save More*

Camp Wild Things

9 a.m. to noon Monday, March 26 through Friday, March 30

It's spring break! Become a park ranger for a week and earn your junior ranger badge. Follow animal trails and search for footprints, chew marks and other clues. Identify wildlife and learn what a ranger does. Includes games, songs, crafts and adventures. Bring a daily snack and bottle of water. Suitable for ages 4 to 6. $86 for the week. Advance registration required; call 503-629-6350. *Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District*

Gardens of Eatin'

1 to 2:30 p.m. Saturday, March 31

Want to grow organic food but not sure how? Learn to choose edibles for the right location and season, prep the soil, water waste-free, weed and manage pests – all without toxic chemicals. Also, learn where to find plants, seeds and more tips for organic gardening. Meet at Cooper Mountain Nature Park. Free. Call 503-629-6350 for more information. *Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District*

Identifying spring birds

7 to 9:30 p.m. Thursday, April 5

Spring brings thousands of migrating birds to the region. Some stay to nest; others pass through. In this crash course in identifying spring migrants and summer breeders, Metro naturalist James Davis shows slides, plays easy bird songs and simplifies for beginners what seems like a confusing variety of birds. Afterwards, you'll be ready for spring bird walks. Suitable for adults and teens. Meet at Metro Regional Center, room 370. $11. Advance registration required; see page 15 for instructions. *Metro*

Bunny Bonanza

10 a.m. to noon, Saturday, April 7

Bring the family to Blue Lake Regional Park for a candy egg hunt. Rain or shine, kids ages 4 years and younger begin searching at 10:30 a.m. Ages 5 to 10 years join them at 10:45 a.m. Face painting and coloring activities under covered shelters. Free with an annual pass, or park entry fee of $5 per car or $7 per bus. Registration not required. For more information, call 503-665-4995 option 0. *Metro*

Warblers of Oregon

7 to 9:30 p.m. Thursday, April 12

Warblers are one of the most colorful and musical birds to arrive in spring. Their many species can confuse beginning and experienced birders alike. Metro naturalist and expert birder James Davis makes warbler identification easier. This class happens near the peak of warbler migration so you can get out right away to practice your new skills. Suitable for adults and teens. Meet at Metro, room 370. $11. Advance registration required; see page 15 for instructions. *Metro*

Family Nature Explorers

10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday, April 14

This first Family Nature Explorers field trip (see page 3) is to a lava butte near, of all things, Clackamas Town Center! Though close to a shopping mall, Mount Talbert Nature Park's forest habitats are spectacular with wildflowers like fawn lilies and blue iris. Join Metro naturalist James Davis at this beautiful island of nature at a time when bird activity hits a peak. Mount Talbert also offers good animal tracking sites. Suitable for ages 4 and older. $11 per family. Advance registration required; see page 15 for instructions. Meeting location provided after registration. *Metro*

White fawn lily

The language of birds
10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Sunday, April 15

Start seeing what you've been missing. Songbirds are in constant dialogue about the whereabouts of predators such as minks, foxes and owls. By learning their language along with awareness skills, you can see more in natural areas. Naturalists Dan Daly, Deb Scrivens and Patty Newland show how to combine the art and science of interpreting bird songs and calls with awareness skills known to native peoples worldwide. Suitable for adults and teens. Meet at Clear Creek Natural Area. $11. Advance registration required; see page 15 for instructions. Directions provided with registration. *Metro*

It's Our Nature
6 to 8 p.m. Monday, April 16

The first of 12 meetings in the yearlong It's Our Nature class held in Metro natural areas. See page 2 for a description of It's Our Nature. *Metro*

SOLV-IT at Metro's Native Plant Center
9 a.m. to noon, Saturday, April 21

It's the day when Oregonians volunteer to improve the environment and continue a legacy of stewardship. Help maintain the center's conservation pollinator hedgerow (a flower-rich border to attract bees) and prepare beds for increasing native seed stocks. Call 503-797-1653 for information and to register. *Metro*

Spring migration birding
9:30 a.m. to early afternoon, Saturday, April 21

The second of 12 meetings in the yearlong It's Our Nature class held in Metro natural areas. See page 2 for a description. *Metro*

Beyond-Forest Park nature hike
9 to 11 a.m. Saturday, April 21

If you like sweeping views of forested landscapes, you're in for a treat. Join Metro's natural areas team for a walking tour of a recently protected 400-acre forest along McCarthy Creek. Nestled northwest of Forest Park, this new natural area is making important connections for plants and animals. A natural resource scientist will fill you in on its history – and plans for the future. Be prepared to walk about two miles at a moderate pace, including some uneven terrain. Free. Advance registration is required; call 503-797-1545 or send email to naturalareas@oregonmetro.gov. Directions sent to registered participants. *Metro*

OMSI Science Pub | Penguins of Oregon
7 to 9 p.m. Tuesday, April 17

Tufted puffin

You're right: there aren't penguins in Oregon. But at this OMSI Science Pub event, Metro naturalist and author James Davis finds a connection to penguins in the state's alcids – nesting seabirds also called auks. Most common are the tufted puffin, common murre and pigeon guillemot. Though alcids look and act a lot like penguins, they are not related. Alcids can fly and live in the Northern Hemisphere. Penguins are flightless and live exclusively in the Southern Hemisphere. Davis explores the puzzle of how these unrelated but similar birds evolved so that they have essentially divided the earth in half. He appears in bird costume, to aid in identification, and shows old-school slides of the "penguins of Oregon." McMenamins Mission Theater & Pub. $5 suggested cover charge. Doors open at 5 p.m. Minors are welcome when accompanied by an adult. *OMSI*

Looking for larkspur
11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Sunday, April 22

Explore Cooper Mountain Nature Park with Metro naturalist Deb Scrivens. Controlled burns have encouraged a proliferation of native wildflowers, including a rare larkspur. On this wildflower walk, we may also spot elusive birds such as a lazuli bunting or Western bluebird. Limited to 15 participants. Suitable for ages 12 and older. Children must be registered and accompanied by a registered adult. Meet at Nature House for a walk that includes steep terrain. $10. To register, call 503-629-6350. *Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District and Metro*

Wild foods of the old growth forest
1 to 5 p.m., Sunday, April 22

Join wild food expert and author John Kallas at Oxbow Regional Park. Discover edible wild plants including fiddlehead fern, elderberry, Solomon's seal, fairly bells, nettle and red huckleberry. Suitable for ages 8 and older. $25-40, sliding scale. Children pay their age. Advance registration required; visit the workshops page at www.wildfoodadventures.com. Call 503-775-3828 for more information. *Wild Food Adventures*

Bring-your-own-boat paddle
5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 25

Canoe or kayak at Metro's Smith and Bybee Wetlands in a tour led by the Columbia Slough Watershed Council. Enjoy the spring activity of osprey, otters and turtles. Suitable for paddlers with experience and ages 8 and older. $5 donation requested. Advance registration required; call 503-281-1132. *Columbia Slough Watershed Council*

Smith and Bybee Wetlands bird walk
8 to 10 a.m. Saturday, April 28

Join a birding expert and meander the trails and boardwalks of the largest protected urban wetland in an American city. All ages welcome, but walks are focused for adults. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Carpool from the Northeast Portland Backyard Bird Shop. Free. Advance registration required; call 503-445-2699. *Backyard Bird Shop*

Cooper Mountain bird walk
8:30 to 11:30 a.m. Saturdays, April 28, May 19 and June 9 (ends at 11 a.m.)

Spring is the easiest time to see and identify birds here, since they are in their best breeding plumage and singing up a storm. Join Metro naturalist James Davis on this walk for beginner and intermediate birdwatchers. Bring binoculars or borrow a pair on site; dress for standing outside on an often cold and windy hilltop. Suitable for ages 10 and older. Meet at Nature House. $10. Advance registration required; call 503-629-6350. *Metro and Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District*

Wetlands kayak tour
8:30 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday, May 5

No boat? No problem. In this three-hour paddle at Smith and Bybee Wetlands, boats and gear are provided by NW Discoveries. Learn about wildlife and wetlands natural history from Metro naturalist James Davis. Participants have solo kayaks. A few tandem kayaks are available upon request. Some kayaking experience recommended. Suitable for ages 14 and older; teens 14 to 17 must be with an adult. Meet in the North Marine Drive parking lot. $25. Two-week advance registration required; see page 15 for instructions. More information provided after registration. *Metro and NW Discoveries*

Sandy River float
9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Saturday, May 5
Raft or kayak the lower Sandy River. No rapids, just riffles as you paddle four hours along the ancient forests of Oxbow Regional Park, by ghostly remains of a buried forest and into prime animal tracking areas. Northwest River Guides provides equipment, instruction and shuttle. Inflatable kayaks available on request. Bring a sack lunch. Suitable for ages 8 and older. Minors must be with an adult. Meet at Dabney State Park. $55 per adult; $40 ages 12 and younger. Advance registration required; call 503-772-1122. For information visit http://northwestriverguides.com. *Metro and Northwest River Guides*

Bird language and botany
9:30 a.m. to early afternoon, Sunday, May 6
The third of 12 meetings in the yearlong It's Our Nature class in Metro natural areas. See page 2 for a description. *Metro*

Animal tracking
10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Sunday, May 6
Oxbow Regional Park is a tracker's paradise in spring when beaver, otter, fox, mink, mouse and deer leave their stories in the sand. With practice, beginners can learn to read the ground like a book. Tracker Terry Kem introduces basics of track identification and interpretation along with awareness skills to watch wildlife at close range. Bring a snack. Suitable for adults and families. Meet at Oxbow's floodplain parking area. $11. Advance registration required; see page 15 for instructions. $5 park entry fee per car. *Metro*

Mother's Day birds and blooms
11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Sunday, May 13
Hike through the prairies and oak woodlands of Cooper Mountain Nature Park with Metro naturalist Deb Scrivens to see and learn about uncommon wildflowers. Enjoy the serenade of nesting song birds and views of the Tualatin River. Bring binoculars or borrow a pair on site. Terrain is steep in some places. Suitable for ages 12 and older. Children must be registered and accompanied by a registered adult. Meet at Nature House. $10. To register, call 503-629-6350. *Metro and Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District*

Native lupine
C. Bruce Forster photo

Mother's Day birds and blooms
1 to 3 p.m. Sunday, May 13
Stroll through Canemah Bluff Natural Area with Metro naturalist Dan Daly to see and learn about common wildflowers. Enjoy the serenade of nesting song birds and views of the Willamette River and historic Canemah Cemetery. Bring binoculars or borrow a pair on site. The walk covers two miles over uneven trails, mostly flat with some inclines. Suitable for ages 6 and older. $6. Advance registration required; see page 15 for instructions. Site directions sent upon registration. *Metro*

Sandy River Spey Clave
9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday to Sunday, May 18 to 20
Come to Oxbow Regional Park for the largest gathering of anglers devoted to two-hand fly rod fishing in the western hemisphere. Enroll in the free Spey casting college. View on-the-water demonstrations. Meet Northwest fly fishing legends. Free with a $5 per car park entrance fee. For information, call 503-622-4607 or visit www.flyfishusa.com. *Fly Fishing Shop and Metro*

Wetlands paddle-work party
9 a.m. to noon, Saturday, May 19
Paddle canoes and kayaks into Smith and Bybee Wetlands to cut flowering heads of yellowflag iris, an invasive species that has spread throughout the natural area. Call 503-771-1500 for meeting location and other information. *Friends of Smith and Bybee Lakes*

Family Nature Explorers
10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Saturday, May 26
This second Family Nature Explorers outing (see page 3) heads to Chehalem Ridge Natural Area. Before Metro acquired the land, the 1,200 acres had been managed for timber production. This means clear cuts and tree plantations but also a mix of other, more natural habitats. This rich blend is home to grouse, deer and beaver. Metro Naturalist James Davis helps families see and identify birds in the peak of nesting season, and insects as warm temperatures bring them out. Directions and meeting location provided after registration. Suitable for ages 4 and older. $11 per family. Advance registration required; see page 15 for instructions. *Metro*

Wetlands canoe and kayak tour
8:30 to 11:30 a.m., Saturday, June 2
Join Metro naturalist James Davis for a three-hour paddle in Smith and Bybee Wetlands. Canoes or kayaks, paddles and flotation devices are provided. $25 ages 14 and older, $5 ages 5 to 13 (accompanied by one paid adult). Two-week advance registration required; see page 15 for instructions. *Metro and Northwest Discoveries*

Wetlands bimaran tour
12:45 to 3:15 p.m., Saturday, June 2
Paddle with a partner at Smith and Bybee Wetlands. Bimarans are two canoes lashed together with boards, creating a stable boat – perfect for young children and inexperienced paddlers. Metro naturalist James Davis is your guide. Expect to see bald eagle, osprey, and great blue heron. Suitable for ages 5 and older. $10 ages 14 and older; $5 ages 5 to 13 (accompanied by one paid adult). Two-week advance registration required; see page 15 for instructions. *Metro*

Sunday Parkways

Join thousands of fellow bikers, walkers, skaters, wheelers and runners as you enjoy miles of car-free Portland streets.

Visit **www.portlandsundayparkways.org** for information on this year's routes, dates and highlights. *City of Portland and Metro*

Spring community calendar

There are so many great nature events taking place this spring they couldn't all fit in this issue. Visit these organizations' websites or Metro's online calendar for information on work parties, bike rides, gardening classes and more.

www.oregonmetro.gov/calendar

WEEKLY

Wednesdays
Honeybee hikes, Leach Botanical Garden

Fridays
Ladybug walks, Portland Parks & Recreation

Saturdays, March 3-31
Habitat restoration at Steigerwald Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Columbia Gorge Refuge Stewards

Tuesdays, April 3 to May 22
Kids in nature at Tryon Creek, Friends of Tryon Creek

Wednesdays, April 4 to May 30
Tadpole tales, Columbia Slough Watershed Council

MARCH

1 **Volunteer naturalist training**
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1 **Knee-high naturalists: Commonwealth Lake**
Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District
3 **First Saturday work party**
Clackamas River Basin Council
3 **Owl fest**
Tryon Creek State Natural Area
6 **Blacksmithing**
Portland Waldorf School
6 **Nature Kids preschool preview: musical mice**
Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District
9 **Day off nature camps: pond wanderings**
Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District
10 **Tree planting at Meldrum Bar Park**
Lower Columbia River Estuary Partnership
10 **Restoration work party**
Friends of the Tualatin Refuge
10 **Park after dark: sounds of the night**
Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District
10 **Boy Scout flying squirrel night**
Friends of Tryon Creek
10 **Slough 101**
Columbia Slough Watershed Council
10 and 24
Tree planting or potting
Clark Public Utilities StreamTeam
12 to 16
Free week: Transported After School Outdoors program
Trackers Earth
16 **Kid's nature night out: owls**
Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District
17 **Spring equinox night hikes: Hoyt Arboretum and Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge**
Portland Parks & Recreation
18 **Kids in nature Sundays: banana slugs**
Friends of Tryon Creek
18 **Landscaping for conservation workshop**
Friends of Tryon Creek
20 **Skilled birders needed**
Clark Public Utilities StreamTeam
20 **Nature Kids preschool preview: dinosaur tracks**
Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District
21 **Puddle stompers**
Friends of the Tualatin Refuge
25 **Edible wild plants**
Wild Food Adventures
25 **Bird walk at Steigerwald National Wildlife Refuge**
Vancouver Backyard Bird Shop
26 to 29
Spring nature day camps: new topics daily
Friends of Tryon Creek
26 to 30
Spring break camps: grossology or nature's superheroes
Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District
26 to 30
Spring Break outdoor camps: new topics daily
Trackers Earth
27 **Afternoons in the park: lifestyles of the wet and slimy**
Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District
31 **Introduction to wild foods**
Wild Food Adventures

APRIL

7 **First Saturday work party**
Clackamas River Basin Council
7 **TogetherGreen volunteer day**
Audubon Society of Portland
7 **Wetlands 101**
Columbia Slough Watershed Council
7 **Kayak building apprenticeship**
Trackers Earth
8 **Bird walk at Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge**
Boones Ferry Backyard Bird Shop
12 **Wild foods presentation**
Wild Food Adventures
13 **No-school nature day camps**
Trackers Earth
14 **Leader training**
Clark Public Utilities StreamTeam
14 **Restoration work party**
Friends of the Tualatin Refuge
14 **Wild foods of Forest Park**
Wild Food Adventures
15 **Neighborhood foraging of spring greens and vegetables**
Wild Food Adventures
15 **Kids' nature walk at Mary S. Young State Park**
Boones Ferry Backyard Bird Shop
15 **Landscaping for conservation workshop**
Friends of Tryon Creek
18 **Wildflowers of Camassia**
Portland Parks & Recreation
21 **Earth Day celebration**
Clark Public Utilities StreamTeam
22 **Site planning workshop**
East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District
22 **A celebration of crows**
Friends of Tryon Creek
25 **Growing the most in your space**
Oregon Tilth
27 **Brunch with the birds**
Columbia Slough Watershed Council
28 **Muddy boots family trail day**
Friends of Tryon Creek
28 **Bird walk at Smith and Bybee Wetlands**
Northeast Portland Backyard Bird Shop
28 **Native plant sale**
Audubon Society of Portland
29 **Edible and medicinal plant basics**
Trackers Earth
29 **Native plant sale**
Audubon Society of Portland

MAY

5 **First Saturday work party**
Clackamas River Basin Council
5 **Tualatin River native plant sale**
Friends of the Tualatin Refuge
5 **Girl Scout Crow Trail day**
Friends of Tryon Creek
5 **Wilderness survival basics**
Trackers Earth
6 **Rain gardens 101 workshop**
Portland Bureau of Environmental Services
7 to 11
Free week: Transported After School Outdoors program
Trackers Earth
11 to 13
Tualatin River nature photography weekend
Friends of the Tualatin Refuge
12 **Restoration work party**
Friends of the Tualatin Refuge
12 **Festival of the Birds**
Portland Parks & Recreation
12 **Wild foods in self-reliant living**
Wild Food Adventures
13 **Wild foods of Jessup Bluff**
Wild Food Adventures
16 **Migrating songbirds at Pittock Mansion**
Portland Parks & Recreation
18 to 20
Tualatin River Bird Festival
Friends of the Tualatin Refuge
19 **Children's nature fair**
Leach Botanical Garden
20 **Kids in nature: singing birds**
Friends of Tryon Creek
23 **Canoe the slough evening trip**
Columbia Slough Watershed Council
28 **No-school nature day camps**
Trackers Earth

Together, we're making a great place

Metro works with communities in the Portland metropolitan area to create a vibrant, sustainable region for all.

Stay in touch with news, stories and things to do.

www.oregonmetro.gov/connect

Featured places

Blue Lake Regional Park
20500 NE Marine Drive, Fairview
503-665-4995

Oxbow Regional Park
3010 SE Oxbow Parkway, east of Gresham
503-663-4708

Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area
5300 N. Marine Drive, Portland
503-797-1650

Mount Talbert Nature Park
10695 SE Mather Road, Clackamas
503-742-4353

Cooper Mountain Nature Park
18892 SW Kemmer Road, Beaverton
503-629-6350

Metro's Natural Techniques Garden
6800 SE 57th Ave., Portland
503-234-3000

Graham Oaks Nature Park
11825 SW Wilsonville Road, Wilsonville
503-797-1545

Oregon Zoo
4001 SW Canyon Road, Portland
www.oregonzoo.org
503-226-1561

How to register for Metro nature activities

You can now register and pay online for Metro activities. Go to Metro's online calendar, find your event by searching or browsing, and follow the instructions.

www.oregonmetro.gov/calendar

For questions or to register by phone, call 503-797-1650 option 2.

Unless otherwise stated, Metro's family pricing is for two or more adults from the same household. Free for children under 18.

Cancellation policy

Metro's program fees are nonrefundable. If you must cancel a registration, you may transfer credit to another class upon request.

No dogs policy

Due to a conflict with wildlife, dogs are not allowed at Metro parks or natural areas.

About Metro

Clean air and clean water do not stop at city limits or county lines. Neither does the need for jobs, a thriving economy, and sustainable transportation and living choices for people and businesses in the region. Voters have asked Metro to help with the challenges and opportunities that affect the 25 cities and three counties in the Portland metropolitan area.

A regional approach simply makes sense when it comes to providing services, operating venues and making decisions about how the region grows. Metro works with communities to support a resilient economy, keep nature close by and respond to a changing climate. Together we're making a great place, now and for generations to come.

Stay in touch with news, stories and things to do.

www.oregonmetro.gov/connect

Metro Council President
Tom Hughes

Metro Council
Shirley Craddick, District 1
Carlotta Collette, District 2
Carl Hosticka, District 3
Kathryn Harrington, District 4
Rex Burkholder, District 5
Barbara Roberts, District 6

Auditor
Suzanne Flynn

Metro | *Making a great place*

On the cover
Douglas' meadowfoam
The first spring pea

If you have a disability and need accommodations, call 503-813-7565, or call Metro's TDD line at 503-797-1804. If you require a sign interpreter, call at least 48 hours in advance. Activities marked with this symbol are wheelchair accessible:

Bus and MAX information
503-238-RIDE (7433) or www.trimet.org

To be added to the GreenScene mailing list or to change your mailing information, call 503-797-1650 option 2.

Printed on FSC certified stock. Made from 100 percent eucalyptus pulp. 12146

Metro
600 NE Grand Ave.
Portland, OR 97232-2736

Presorted Standard
U.S. Postage
PAID
Portland, OR
Permit No. 1246

It's your mailbox. You don't have to let junk mail in. Here's how to stop it:

1. Contact businesses that maintain mailing lists. Direct Marketing Association is a good place to start: www.dmachoice.org. An online request to stop unwanted mail is free. Or, for a $1 fee you can download, print and mail in DMA's "Registration Form for Mailing Preference." Full results can take up to six months, but they will be noticeable.

2. Stop credit card offers for each family member in the household for five years by calling 888-567-8688 from your home phone or visiting www.optoutprescreen.com. (You will have to provide your Social Security number.) This stops offers generated from lists collected by four of the largest consumer credit reporting agencies.

3. Catalogs: stop them by calling the customer service number on the back; keep the mailing label handy for the call. A website, www.catalogchoice.org, can do this for you via some free and for-fee services.

4. Any time you give out your name and address, request that the business not sell, rent or exchange your information.

Spring clean your mailbox

Visit **www.oregonmetro.gov/junkmail** for tips on how to stop junk mail before it starts and information on more organizations that maintain mailing lists.

optin ONLINE PANEL
Join Metro's online opinion panel today.
www.oregonmetro.gov/connect