

SPRING 2010

GreenScene



Your spring guide
to great places and
green living

www.oregonmetro.gov



quiver
warble
thaw
delight
unfold
scout
erupt



Metro | *People places. Open spaces.*

Taking a vacation in your own backyard



Salmon Creek Greenway, Vancouver

places you haven't visited since you first moved here or find a hidden gem you never thought to try. The adventure will remind you why you choose to live in the Pacific Northwest.

Consider Metro your tour guide. After all, as your regional government, Metro aims to make the region a fantastic place to play. Whether you want to explore the Oregon Zoo or paddle the Willamette River, take in a musical or take on an afternoon of natural gardening, Metro can help. Read on for hometown excursions to suit four profiles.

The family clan

Your kids have the week off school or simply have cabin fever on a drizzly weekend. Time to bundle up for an adventure that will satisfy the entire family.

Head to Cooper Mountain Nature Park at the southern edge of Beaverton, overlooking the Tualatin River Valley. Three-and-a-half miles of trails traverse forest, prairie and oak woodlands at this 231-acre park, a legacy of Metro's first natural areas bond measure. Cooper Mountain is managed by Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District, whose staff offers everything from nature play groups to guided walks.

www.thprd.org/parks/coopermountain.cfm

If you didn't get your fill of wildlife, stop at Metro's Oregon Zoo. As the state's most popular paid tourist attraction, the zoo hosts a steady stream of events including daily keeper talks and an annual spring break extravaganza. The new Predators of the Serengeti exhibit features lions, wild dogs and other African carnivores. And your little ones will love the zoo's most famous "little one," the hulking baby elephant Samudra.

www.oregonzoo.org

Friends or co-workers spending spring break on a tropical beach, slathering on sunscreen and sipping piña coladas? No need to be jealous. The Portland metropolitan area provides everything you could want for a fabulous getaway – with a lower price tag and zero time at the airport.

Plus, there's something magical about ditching your day-to-day routine to rediscover your hometown. Return to

Got energy left? Catch "The True Story of the 3 Little Pigs," playing through March 21 at Metro's Portland Center for the Performing Arts in downtown Portland. This rollicking musical, presented by Oregon Children's Theatre, invites the audience to get involved.

www.pcpa.com

The urbanites

Let's say you love the Portland metropolitan area for its vibrant neighborhoods, close-to-home outdoor activities and artsy vibe. You're in luck!

Download an expedition from Metro's Walk There! guide, which provides photos, maps and trivia to ponder while you stroll. You could start your journey in Portland's chic Pearl District and climb to the Pittock Mansion. Maybe the Kenton neighborhood and the Columbia River Slough are more your style. Or acquaint yourself with historic downtown Vancouver. Whatever your route, you'll find sustenance at neighborhood coffee shops and restaurants.

www.oregonmetro.gov/walkthere

Time for a history lesson. You've probably biked or bused past Lone Fir Cemetery at Southeast 20th Avenue and Morrison Street

without stopping to explore. One of Metro's 14 pioneer cemeteries, Lone Fir is the resting place of some famous Portland families (Do the names Hawthorne and Lovejoy ring a bell?) along with some less upstanding folks. If your visit sparks your imagination, check out Friends of Lone Fir. The group offers guided tours, a ghoulish Halloween event and a CD of songs composed by local musicians in homage to some of Lone Fir's colorful residents.

www.friendsoflonefircemetery.org

Finish the day with a show at the Portland Center for the Performing Arts – perhaps Andrew Lloyd Webber's "Cats" the week of March 23 or "Dreamgirls" the week of April 13. This Metro-owned arts venue hosts more than 900 performances per year so you'll have plenty of choices.

www.pcpa.com

The green beings

Sometimes it's nice to spend a vacation sprucing up your home, your community and your spirits. If you have a green streak, this itinerary is for you.

Visit the natural discovery garden at Metro's Blue Lake Regional Park, 20 minutes east of downtown Portland. You'll return home fired up about transforming your own backyard into an eco-wonderland. For more tips, turn to Metro's natural gardening web site.

www.oregonmetro.gov/garden

Mark your calendar for two upcoming events at the Portland Expo Center, another Metro facility. At the Better Living Show March 26-28, check out vegan cooking demonstrations, eco-friendly fashion and dozens of sustainable living exhibits, including a Metro booth. On April 17, the People Helping People Garage Sale encourages you to reuse rather than buy new and donates half the proceeds to the Portland Rescue Mission.

www.betterlivingshow.org

www.portlandgsale.com

Good thing the Expo Center is reachable by MAX because this is the week you try going car-free. You'll find inspiration, tips and news on the Drive Less/Save More web site. You'll also want a copy of Metro's popular Bike There! map.

www.drivelessavemore.com

www.oregonmetro.gov/bikethere

Spring cleaning? Visit Metro's web site to find out how to save money and protect your family and the environment by using safe, simple ingredients to clean your home.
www.oregonmetro.gov/greencleaners

If your new healthy lifestyle inspires you to give back, sign up to volunteer at Metro's parks and natural areas. You can pull weeds, nurture native plants or lead nature walks.
www.oregonmetro.gov/volunteer

The consummate hosts

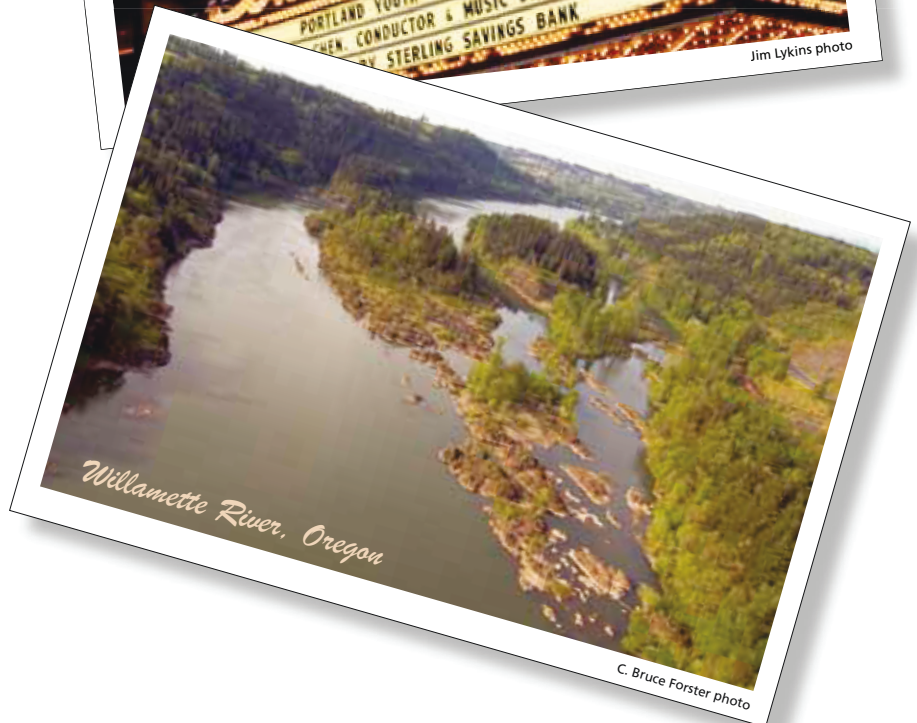
Company's coming and it's your job to show off the Portland metropolitan area. Take a break from the typical tourist attractions and give your visitors an insider's look at our region.

When you ask Oregonians why they choose to live here, many rave about having nature so close to home. That's why Metro is part of a new movement called The Intertwine, meant to stitch the region's parks, trails and natural areas into the best outdoor recreation system in the world. Log on to the web site to zero in on a special expedition, from kayaking the Columbia River to taking a peaceful hike in Forest Park.
www.theintertwine.org

Who says your guests won't work for dinner? Enlist them to help with that painting project you've been putting off and use low-cost, high-quality MetroPaint. Metro's recycled latex paint line, which is making a splash at Miller Paint stores, shows off Portland's green ethic.
www.oregonmetro.gov/metropaint

The region prides itself on lively neighborhoods studded with parks and bike parking, historic homes and innovative new architecture, local restaurants and shops. But many people have no idea how these places come to be. So before your guests arrive, read up on the Metro's Making the Greatest Place initiative. At the risk of sounding slightly geeky, offer some perspective when you lead a tour of your favorite neighborhood – complete with great exercise, great food and great souvenirs.
www.oregonmetro.gov/greatestplace

Having fun...



Wish you were here!

SPRING
2010

Desperately seeking spring

A naturalist's guide to spring in the region

by former Metro naturalist Elisabeth Neely and Metro naturalist James Davis

Cabin fever got you down? Grab some boots, a sandwich, a water bottle and your raincoat (just in case) and head out the door to one of the region's parks and natural areas to experience the signs of spring. Although nature does not always follow a calendar, this naturalist's list should provide some good bets for your very own spring treasure hunt. Remember to always keep a good distance from nesting birds and other animals with young and leave wildflowers growing for everyone to enjoy.



Western trillium

C. Bruce Forster photo

March

Spring officially begins on March 20 with the vernal equinox, but in our mild climate there are earlier signs of its arrival at these parks and natural areas.

The first flowers you'll see blooming are the greenish-yellow catkins of the California hazelnut (also known as the wild filbert) hanging down from the otherwise bare branches of this tree-like shrub. Soon after, if you look at the tops of the red alders you can see their catkins give a fuzzy, reddish look to the tops of the trees. Catkins (the male flowers) are not what most people think of when you say "wildflower" so the first big, colorful flowers many people notice are the flamboyant yellow flowers of skunk cabbage in wet fields and swampy spots. *Oxbow Regional Park*

Scan the skies over wetlands and you will see some of the first returning swallows catching

the early flying insects. *Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area, Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve*

Starting on St. Patrick's Day, look for osprey returning from their wintering grounds in Mexico. Turkey vultures arrive at the same time, soaring with their wings held up in their distinctive manner. The classic "ribbit, ribbit" of tiny Pacific chorus frogs seems much too loud for their small size, but they gather in large groups to call for their mates. *Oxbow and Blue Lake regional parks, Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area, Hagg Lake, Barton Park*

The usually wet and warmer weather of March not only brings out the frogs but also slugs and snails. The banana slug, the world's largest land slug, is an icon of the Pacific Northwest. In forests, look for the beautiful banded forest snail with its multicolored shell that varies from snail to snail. In the spring you can sometimes see them about

head-height in trees. *Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area, Tryon Creek State Park and Oxbow Regional Park*

By the end of this month the trilliums, often considered the ultimate sign of spring, are in bloom along forest trails. Tryon Creek State Natural Area holds its annual Trillium Festival in early April. *Tryon Creek, Oxbow Regional Park, Audubon Sanctuaries, Forest Park*

April

By now the Western painted turtles are out of hibernation and trying to warm up as much as they can. On any clear, sunny morning you can find them basking on the logs at "Turtle Turnout" at Smith and Bybee Wetlands. Approach the fence at the turnout quietly and don't point at them and you should be able to get a good look with binoculars or a spotting scope.

Don't miss the heavenly sweet scent of the buds of the black cottonwood trees. You can catch this fragrance in the air as early as March but it's best on a still April day when the sun warms the trees. Cottonwoods are the tallest deciduous trees in the Pacific Northwest and are found along waterways all over the region. *Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area, Oxbow Regional Park, Chinook Landing Marine Park, and any park along the rivers*

In the conifer forest, the tiny brown winter wrens are singing their loud, many-trilled song from perches among the sword ferns. They sound like they are singing on fast forward. *Oxbow Regional Park, Tryon Creek State Park, Forest Park*

May

This month everything seems to be buzzing with new life. Singing, courting birds and blooming wildflowers are abundant and obvious. This is the peak month of bird song so be sure to stop and listen. The American robin leads the dawn chorus with his "cheer up, cheerily" starting in the wee hours. *All locations, including right outside your bedroom window*

A multitude of migrating songbirds, especially warblers, come through the area in waves. Each week brings new ones. *Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area, Tualatin Hills Nature Park, Mount Tabor, Cooper Mountain Nature Park*

The abundant cyanide millipede – flat and dark with light spots along its sides – can sometimes be seen in large numbers as they crawl through the forest looking for mates. Where they cross trails, you may see dozens at a time. Carefully pick one up and smell it. You can smell the cyanide gas they emit to deter predators. Don't worry; it's not enough to hurt a big mammal like you. *Tryon Creek State Park, Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area*

In the garden: Get your green on!



Springtime in the garden. Ready to dig in? From clearing out the chemicals to picking native plants, growing green brings big benefits to people, pets and the planet. Get started today with these five tips from Metro.

Shake out the shed

Got pesticides? Round them up from the shed and drop them off at one of Metro's household hazardous waste facilities or periodic collection events. Replacing toxic chemicals with compost, organic fertilizers, hand tools and other nonhazardous garden helpers makes for a safer yard and healthier waterways.

Prep the soil with compost

Time to harvest that soil-like stuff from the bottom of your compost bin. It's compost indeed so scoop or shovel it out, spread it and fork it into your planting beds. Only work the soil when it's a bit moist, however, (not dripping wet) to protect its structure and ensure drainage. If growing typical edibles, roses or annual flowers consider adding a little organic fertilizer to the soil. Avoid over-fertilizing which can increase pest or disease problems.

Plant a few native plants

Brilliant red-flowering currants, gorgeous Oregon grapes and delicate trilliums hint at the amazing array of great garden natives. Match them with the sun, soil and moisture conditions they like and you'll gain a low-maintenance oasis that brings birds, bees and butterflies to the yard. Many nonnative plants get a thumbs up too, but steer clear of invasive species such as ivy and butterfly bush.

Grow some organic food

Don't miss the simple satisfaction of picking tomatoes, strawberries or lettuce from your own yard. A wood-edged raised bed in a sunny spot can pump out the produce – with just a little love and care. Add a few Mediterranean herbs, berry bushes and bean plants to your border beds and enjoy the colorful, edible bounty.



Jim Cruce photo

Add just a little water

Don't let stray sprinklers, damaged drip lines and forgotten timers blast your water bill. Check for leaks, adjust your timers to the weather and avoid overwatering to conserve water, save money and protect the health of your plants. Butterflies, bees and birds need water, too. Make a bug bath by filling a tray with pebbles or sand and water.

Want more green gardening ideas? Metro now offers more than 60 public seminars at home gardens, retail nurseries and demonstration gardens across the region. For the complete schedule, call Metro Recycling Information at 503-234-3000 or visit Metro's web site.

More help for the garden

Pesky slugs? Leaf blight? Weeds? Time to take 'em on without toxic chemicals. Metro's newly updated "Grow Smart, Grow Safe" consumer guide ranks 600 pesticides, fertilizers and soil amendments, helping home gardeners and landscape professionals find products least hazardous to people, pets, wildlife and waterways. Call Metro Recycling Information at 503-234-3000 for a free copy or download the PDF on Metro's web site.



www.oregonmetro.gov/garden



Time to spring back on your bike!

Gray skies are now giving way to periwinkle blue and temperatures are warming up. It's time to dust off that bike in the garage and hop back on for another season of warm-weather biking. Follow these tips for a safe, smooth ride:

- ✓ **Bike tires** Squeeze the tire's sidewalls (side edges) toward each other as hard as you can. If the sidewalls squeeze together easily, the air pressure is low and the tires definitely need to be inflated. You may need to replace your tire if you notice cracks in the sides or worn spots that bulge.
- ✓ **Brakes** Squeeze the brakes and rock your bike forward. Both brakes should grip the rims smoothly and evenly. When braking, the levers should be at least one finger's width from the handlebars.
- ✓ **Bike chain** Grab the pedal and rotate the wheel backwards to ensure your bike is running smoothly. Lube it up with bike-specific lubricant and clean off the excess with a rag.
- ✓ **Gears and bolts** Tighten all the bolts on the bike where needed – nothing should be loose.

Visit the Drive Less/Save More web site for how-to tips, videos and more.

www.driveless.savemore.com



Introducing Chehalem Ridge Natural Area

Imagine standing on top of Chehalem Ridge, looking out over Tualatin Valley farmland and five Cascade Mountain peaks: Rainier, St. Helens, Adams, Hood and Jefferson.

You might spot deer tracks, beaver carvings or an uncommon oak-madrone woodland. Or discover the starting point for a network of streams flowing to the Tualatin River, nestled in a landscape of young Douglas fir trees. With generations of careful management, they'll mature into old-growth forests that support diverse wildlife and clean water.

Now you have an inkling of what it's like to experience Metro's newest natural area: a 1,143-acre expanse of forestland south of Forest Grove. Metro began the new year by purchasing Chehalem Ridge Natural Area, the largest acquisition in the history of the Portland metropolitan area's two voter-approved bond measures.

Approximately the size of Oxbow Regional Park, the new natural area is one of the region's largest remaining swaths of undeveloped forest. The land will help protect water quality and provide wildlife habitat in the Tualatin River Basin and serve as a scenic and recreational resource for the region.

"This acquisition nearly doubles the amount of land the Metro Council has protected with the latest bond measure, but Chehalem Ridge is much more than a number," Metro Council President David Bragdon said. "It's also a milestone in terms of scenery, restoration potential and partnerships."



Protecting Chehalem Ridge was a team effort. The Trust for Public Land negotiated a \$6.1 million purchase from Stimson Lumber Company and immediately sold the property to Metro for the same price.

Because of its scale, Chehalem Ridge Natural Area can have a big impact on the Metro Council's goals for land acquisition in this area: enhancing wildlife habitat and water quality. Restoration work on the property has the potential to improve the health of the Tualatin River.

"It's home to my drinking water and that of 200,000 of my friends here in western Washington County," Metro Councilor Kathryn Harrington told the Hillsboro Argus, one of many media outlets that featured news about Chehalem Ridge.

The acquisition could also provide greater public access to nature. An existing gravel and dirt road network at Chehalem Ridge Natural Area has the potential to serve as the basis for a future trail system.

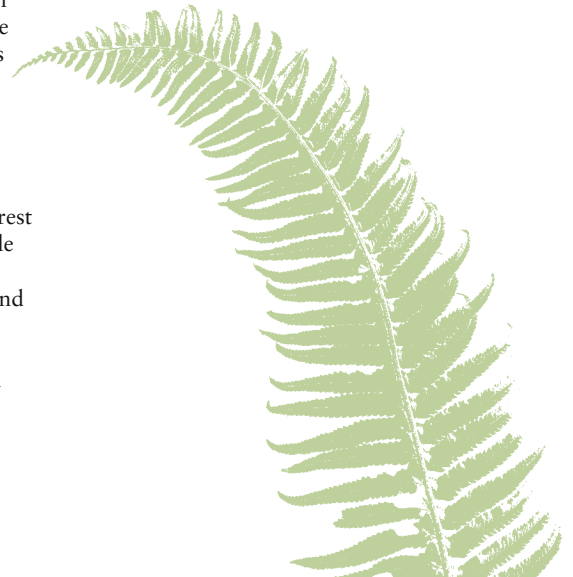
Metro's science staff will spend a year or so getting to know the property before making long-term decisions about public access. They'll develop a plan to guide forest management and habitat restoration while organizing guided hikes and other short-term opportunities for the public to see and experience Chehalem Ridge.

Follow the evolution of this regional gem through photos, videos, maps and tour announcements on Metro's web site.



Metro Council President David Bragdon tours Chehalem Ridge Natural Area.

www.oregonmetro.gov/chehalemridge



Quick facts about Chehalem Ridge

- At 1,143 acres – roughly two square miles – Chehalem Ridge is four times the size of the next largest property acquired by Metro's Natural Areas Program.
- To picture Chehalem Ridge, imagine more than 1,000 football fields (each a bit larger than an acre) or 9,000 urban home lots.
- Chehalem Ridge is approximately the same size as Oxbow Regional Park or the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge.
- The property was formerly owned by Stimson Lumber Company. Before that, substantial areas were farms or orchards.
- Chehalem Ridge contains 28 mapped drainages and three year-round streams that flow to the Tualatin River – the source of drinking water for 200,000 people.
- Though dominated by young Douglas fir plantations, the site has significant wildlife values: white oak, madrone, Pacific yew and Western red cedar trees; native shrubs that provide excellent foraging habitat for migratory birds; and several riparian areas and seasonal wetlands with beaver activity.
- Metro's partner in the acquisition, The Trust for Public Land, is contributing \$90,000 toward land management and stewardship.

Volunteer opportunities bloom at the Native Plant Center

Indian plum blossoms in Douglas fir forests and Western saxifrage blooms dotting the rocky meadows of an oak prairie are sure signs of spring's arrival. Interested in enhancing your knowledge about the diversity of local native plants in the Portland metropolitan area while exploring less traveled places on Metro's properties? Consider becoming a volunteer Native Plant Center seed scout, seed collector and steward.

Seed scout

Fieldwork starts with training followed by scouting sites to gain familiarity with the area. Volunteers collect phenology (the relation of climate to plant flowering) data for the plant center's Bloomtime Project and participate in targeted seed collection. Trained seed scouts are expected to visit their assigned sites for a minimum of six visits throughout the season. Seed collection sites focus on wet prairie, upland prairie, oak woodland and coniferous forest habitats. This year's comprehensive training will take place over two Saturdays on April 3 and June 5. To apply, download and submit a completed application to marsha.holt-kingsley@oregonmetro.gov. For an application, visit www.oregonmetro.gov/nativeplantcenter.

Seed collector

Volunteers interested in less of a time commitment are encouraged to participate in group seed collection events led

by experienced seed collectors or in seed harvest days at the Native Plant Center scheduled throughout the season. For more information, send e-mail with your name, e-mail address and phone number to nativeplantcenter.volunteer@oregonmetro.gov.

Steward

The life of a seed from its collection in the wild through its stages of development and growth at the plant center is a compelling story. This spring seventh graders from Athey Creek School will visit the plant center to get their hands dirty and experience growing native plants from seed, planting out seedlings and connecting to the natural world through a series of field trips. To learn more about exciting ways to get involved with the budding conservation education program at the plant center, send e-mail to nativeplantcenter.volunteer@oregonmetro.gov.

Native Plant Center volunteer ventures

9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Saturdays, March 13 and 27, April 10 and 17, May 1 and 15

Come celebrate spring at Metro's Native Plant Center in Tualatin and discover the joy of propagating sensitive native species to support regional restoration projects. Volunteers help plant bulbs into pots and field beds, plant seedlings from seed collected at Metro's natural areas or maintain native seed grow-out beds. Learn propagation and composting skills and work with local herbaceous species found in wetland, forest and prairie habitats. Enjoy a special SOLV IT work day at the plant center on April 17. This is a family-friendly venture; prior gardening experience not required. Gloves, tools, water and a snack provided. Advance registration required; call 503-638-7240 or send e-mail to nativeplantcenter.volunteer@oregonmetro.gov. Metro by arrangement



www.oregonmetro.gov/naturalareas



With the addition of Chehalem Ridge, Metro brought its total to 2,400 acres of protected natural areas for approximately \$53 million. The \$227.4 million bond measure, approved by voters in 2006, funds land acquisition and capital improvements that protect water quality and fish and wildlife habitat, enhance trails and wildlife corridors, and provide greater connections to nature in urban areas throughout the Portland metropolitan area. Visit Metro's web site for acquisition updates, information about grant opportunities and new projects near you.

Spring calendar

Cooper Mountain nature play time

10 a.m. to noon Mondays, March 1, 15 and 29, April 5, 12, 19 and 26, May 3 and 17
Make new friends while playing in nature at Cooper Mountain. During this time the nature house and patio are transformed into a safe environment just right for games, learning and exploration. Parent participation required. Suitable for ages 1 1/2 to 4. Registration and payment of \$4 per child required in advance; call 503-629-6350. *Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District*

Tadpole tales

10 to 11:30 a.m.
Wednesdays, March 3 through May 26
Children ages 3 to 5 and their parents are invited to explore nature at natural areas along the Columbia Slough. Enjoy a story and nature walk with different themes each week such as frogs, birds or bugs. Registration and payment of \$3 per child required in advance; call 503-281-1132. *Columbia Slough Watershed Council*

Wild about Cooper Mountain

1 to 3 p.m. Wednesdays, March 3, 10 and 31, April 14 and 28, May 5 and 12
Preschoolers and kindergartners learn about Cooper Mountain by exploring a new topic each week through walks, stories, hands-on activities, games and crafts. Suitable for ages 4 to 6. Registration and payment of \$13 required in advance; call 503-629-6350. *Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District*

Comprehensive organic gardener

program
6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Thursdays and Saturdays, March 4 through 25

This multi-session organic vegetable gardening program blends scientific and functional approaches while emphasizing hands-on practice. Students learn the basic concepts involved in organic food gardening and by the end of class, should be ready to install and plant a veggie garden. Classes are held on Thursdays from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. from March 4 through March 25. Registration and payment of \$260 or \$234 for Oregon Tilth members and Lake Oswego residents required in advance; call 503-675-2549. *Oregon Tilth*

Green space planting: Interstate 205 corridor

9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays, March 6 and 20
Join the Friends of Trees and help plant trees to beautify the Interstate 205 multi-use path as part of a three-year project in partnership with ODOT and Metro. Tools, work gloves, coffee and snacks provided. On March 6, meet at Southeast 92nd Avenue and Flavel Street; on March 20, meet at Southeast Hawthorne Boulevard and 95th Avenue. For more information, call 503-282-8846 ext. 24. *Friends of Trees*

Johnson Creek watershed wide event

9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, March 6
Help remove invasive species and plant native trees and shrubs at one of 12 priority restoration sites in the Johnson

Creek watershed at this 12th annual event. Bring families, coworkers, scout troops, clubs or friends together for a morning of rewarding work along Johnson Creek. A volunteer appreciation lunch follows work parties. Location provided with registration. Advance registration required; call 503-652-7477. *Johnson Creek Watershed Council*

Owl fest

4 to 7 p.m. Saturday, March 6
Portland is teeming with owl activity in the springtime months. If you love owls, come out to Tryon Creek State Natural Area for an evening of owl celebration. Activities for the entire family include owl pellet dissection, book reading and signing by local authors, snacks, guided hikes and up close encounters with the Audubon education owls – Hazel and Julio. Appropriate for all ages. Free. Advance registration not required but guided hikes are on a first come, first served basis. Sign up when you check in. *Friends of Tryon Creek State Park*

Saturday guided nature hikes

10 to 11:30 a.m. Saturdays, March 6 through May 29
Join a park naturalist for a free guided nature hike to explore the forest and stream ecosystems and natural history at Tryon Creek State Natural Area. Topics vary but are appropriate for all ages. Parents must accompany children on all hikes. Free. For more information or if attending in a group of more than 10 people, call 503-636-9886 ext. 222. *Friends of Tryon Creek State Park*

Wildlife refuge tree planting

9 a.m. to noon Saturdays, March 6 and 13
Help plant trees and shrubs along Gibbons Creek at the Steigerwald Lake National Wildlife Refuge. Afterwards, enjoy a hike on the friendly and accessible trails. The refuge is located at the mouth of the Columbia River Gorge in Washougal, Wash., and is easily accessible from Portland and Vancouver. Advance registration required; call 503-226-1565 ext. 221. *Lower Columbia River Estuary Partnership*

Rain gardens 101

1 to 5 p.m. Sunday, March 7
Be a partner for clean rivers by learning about rain gardens and how to build one. Rain gardens are a great way to add beautiful landscaping to yards while protecting rivers and streams. Free. Advance registration required; call 503-935-5383. *East Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District and Portland Bureau of Environmental Services*

Mammals of Portland

7 to 9:30 p.m. Thursday, March 11
Did you know you can see mink, beaver and river otter at Oxbow Regional Park and Smith and Bybee Wetlands? What kind of squirrels are those running around your neighborhood? Are there really mountain lions and bears in Forest Park? Metro naturalist James Davis shows you how to identify the mammals that live in your neighborhood and in Metro's parks and natural areas. There will be pelts, skulls, slides, stuffed specimens and even some scat to help you become familiar with local furry critters. You'll be surprised at who some of the wilder residents



wildlife watching



sustainable living



volunteering



nature discoveries



paddling



natural gardening



wheelchair accessible



Wildflowers at Gotter Prairie

C. Bruce Forster photo

are. Suitable for adults and teens. Meet in room 370 at Metro Regional Center. Registration and payment of \$10 per person required in advance; call 503-797-1650 option 2. *Metro* ♿

Spring bird walks at Smith and Bybee Wetlands

9 to 11:30 a.m. Saturdays, March 13, April 3 and 17, May 22

Spring brings more than 25 different songbirds to join the resident birds at Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area. April and May are the peak of migration with nesting in high gear during May and June. The birding action will be lively and noisy with singing birds everywhere. Learn to identify birds by sight and song. Walks are led by Metro naturalist James Davis or Patty Newland, volunteer naturalist and Audubon master birder. Meet in the Smith and Bybee parking lot on North Marine Drive. Bring binoculars or borrow a pair on site. Suitable for adults and children age 10 and older. Free. Advance registration required; call 503-797-1650 option 2. *Metro* ♿

Slough 101 8:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, March 13

Join experts for a hands-on workshop all about the Columbia Slough, a slow-moving channel of water that flows through Fairview, Gresham and

North Portland. Learn about local hydrology, history and geology that affects your neighborhood. Suitable for adults and teens. Free. Advance registration required; call 503-281-1132. *Columbia Slough Watershed Council*

Women in science day

9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Saturday, March 13

Girls ages 12 to 18 team up with women working in science fields to plant native trees as part of a river restoration project along a Beaverton Creek tributary in Aloha. Students have the opportunity to learn from women mentors about their careers in science both during the planting event and over lunch. Event takes place rain or shine; appropriate clothing and shoes recommended. Tools and lunch provided. Free. For more information, call 503-844-9571 ext. 329. *SOLV*

Lone Fir Pioneer Cemetery historical tours

10 a.m. to noon Saturdays, March 13 and April 10

Enjoy the beauty and tranquility of Metro's Lone Fir Pioneer Cemetery. The tour highlights Portland's founders, early pioneers and nationally renowned figures as well as some beautiful and unusual monument art. Explore 30 acres of mature trees and a very special rose garden. Suitable for all ages.

Enter at Southeast 21st Avenue and Morrison Street. Suggested donation of \$10. Registration not required. For more information, call 503-775-6278. *Friends of Lone Fir Cemetery* ♿ by arrangement

Refuge volunteer training

5:30 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, March 16

Come discover the hidden treasure in Ridgefield, Wash., just 30 minutes north of Portland off Interstate 5. Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge, a 5,300-acre refuge nestled in a small community, caters to volunteers of all interests, skills and abilities. Learn about the refuge and volunteer opportunities in cultural education, environmental education, habitat restoration and visitor's services. Take an optional refuge tour starting at 5:30 p.m.; orientation from 7 to 8 p.m. *Friends of the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge*

Forest Park Day of Stewardship

9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, March 20

Help remove non-native invasive species and plant native trees and shrubs at four different sites in Forest Park. No experience required; all tools and instruction provided. A volunteer appreciation party will follow the event. Advance registration required; call 503-223-5449. *Forest Park Conservancy*

TogetherGreen volunteer days

10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays, March 20 and April 24

Help spruce up Audubon's 150-acre nature sanctuary. Your day begins with a continental breakfast and short program followed by trail maintenance projects that restore and maintain the beautiful Audubon sanctuary. Tools and lunch provided. Suitable for age 15 and older with a volunteering adult. For more information, call 503-292-6855 ext. 108. *Audubon Society of Portland*

Green cleaning 6 to 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 23 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 27

Detoxify your home and save money by making non-toxic cleaners for kitchen and bath. Participants will leave with tips and techniques and their own laundry detergent, all-purpose cleaner and creamy soft scrub. Meet at Oregon Center for Environmental Health, 4819 NE Fremont St. Free for members and \$5 for the public. For more information, call 503-233-1510 ext. 201. *Oregon Center for Environmental Health*

Spring break day camps

8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday and Friday, March 24 and 26

Be there when spring breaks at Cooper Mountain Nature Park. On March 24, learn about Western gray squirrels and their habitat. On March 26, explore the park for signs of spring. Suitable for ages 6 to 10. Registration and payment of \$49 required in advance; call 503-629-6350. *Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District*

Smith and Bybee Wetlands paddles

Traveling by canoe or kayak is the best way to explore Smith and Bybee Wetlands. Watch for bald eagles, great blue herons and beaver lodges. Bring a canoe or kayak, binoculars, water bottle and snacks. All boats over 10 feet in length must be registered with the State of Oregon. Personal flotation devices required. Meet at the canoe/kayak launch at the natural area off North Marine Drive. Free. Advance registration required. *Friends of Smith and Bybee Wetlands*

noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, March 27

To register, call Dale Svart at 503-285-3084.

1 to 4 p.m. Sunday, April 18

To register, call Emily Roth at 503-235-6272.

10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, May 29

To register, call Troy Clark at 503-249-0482.

Dirt cheap gardening


10 a.m. to noon

Saturday, March 27

Learn how to start a vegetable garden for less money than you might think. Master gardeners will talk about organic soils and compost and other speakers discuss what to grow for your space. Free. Advance registration required; call 503-238-4775 ext. 103. *West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District*

Green roofs and living walls for wildlife

7 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 30

Join Dusty Gedge, world-renowned expert on creating urban rooftop habitats, and learn how to convert rooftops of any size into living landscapes. Lecture offered as part of the Wildlife Conservation Lecture Series. Meet at Oregon Zoo's banquet center. Registration and payment of \$10 or \$8 for members required in advance; call 503-226-1561. *Oregon Zoo, Audubon Society of Portland and World Forestry Center* 

Native trees of Forest Park

9:30 a.m. to noon Thursday, April 1

Join the Forest Park Conservancy's stewardship director for a springtime hike through the remote northern end of Forest Park. In honor of Oregon's Arbor Week, learn about the native trees of Forest Park and how to identify them. Suitable for age 10 and older. Free. Advance registration required; call 503-223-5449. *Forest Park Conservancy*

Clackamas River salmon refuge project

12:30 to 2:30 p.m. Saturday, April 3

Where do young salmon rest, feed, grow and hide from predators? Come see for yourself! Completed in 2005, this project is one of the largest side channel restorations in Oregon's history. The side channels were built on Metro land purchased with funds from the natural areas bond measure approved

by voters in 1995. Because this area is closed to the public, Metro offers tours so interested people can see this project in action. Join Metro parks naturalist Dan Daly to learn more about this exciting win for salmon in the region. Suitable for adults and children age 10 and older able to walk on rocky, uneven terrain. Registration and payment of \$5 required in advance; call 503-797-1650 option 2. *Metro*

Spring bird walks at Cooper Mountain

8:30 to 11 a.m. Saturdays, April 3 and May 8

Spring is the easiest time to see and identify the birds of Cooper Mountain since they are in their best breeding plumage and singing up a storm. Join Metro naturalist and expert birder James Davis for this bird walk for beginner and intermediate birdwatchers. Bring your binoculars or borrow a pair on site and be sure to dress for standing outside in the cold wind. Meet at the nature house. Registration and payment of \$8 required in advance; call 503-629-6350. *Metro and Tualatin Hills Parks & Recreation District*

Blue Lake Bunny Bonanza Egg Hunt


10 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 3

Bring the family to Blue Lake Regional Park for a fun-filled candy egg hunt rain or shine. Children age 4 years and younger will begin their search at 10:30 a.m. Children ages 5 to 10 years will seek their treats beginning at 11 a.m. Enjoy a hoppin' good time with free face painting and coloring activities under covered shelters. Free with your annual pass or park entry fee of \$5 per car or \$7 per bus. Registration not required. For more information, call Sue at 503-665-4995. *Metro*

Bird watching basics for beginners

7 to 9:30 p.m. Thursday, April 8

Metro naturalist James Davis has been getting beginning bird watchers off to a good start for 25 years. Discuss the basics of

bird identification, talk about the best field guides and binoculars and watch a slide show of the top 20 birds of the Portland metropolitan area. This class is excellent preparation for the Saturday bird watching trips and other bird classes. Suitable for adults and teens. Meet in room 370 at Metro Regional Center. Registration and payment of \$10 required in advance; call 503-797-1650 option 2. *Metro* 

Introduction to Sauvie Island Center

10:30 a.m. to noon Friday, April 9

Join the Sauvie Island Center staff for an introduction to the center's educational programs. The SIC serves elementary school youth of Portland by providing hands-on field trips at the Sauvie Island Organics Farm located in Howell Territorial Park. The center seeks to increase the food, farm and environmental literacy of the next generation. Meet in the grassy parking lot of Howell Territorial Park; Sauvie Island Center located in the barn. Free. Advance registration required; call 503-341-8627. *Sauvie Island Center*

Smith and Bybee Wetlands kayak tour

8:30 to 11:30 a.m. Saturdays, April 10 and June 5

Have you always wanted to go paddling on Smith and Bybee wetlands but don't have a boat? Let NW Discoveries provide the boat, paddle and personal flotation device for this three-hour kayak adventure. Learn about local wildlife and the

natural history of the wetlands from Metro naturalist James Davis. Some kayaking experience recommended. Suitable for adults and youth age 14 and older. Participants ages 14 to 17 must be accompanied by an adult. All participants will have a solo kayak. A couple of tandem kayaks are available if requested by a pair of paddlers. Meet at the Smith and Bybee canoe launch. Registration and payment of \$25 per person required two weeks in advance; call 503-797-1650 option 2. *Metro*

Green gardening fair and native plant sale

10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 10

Attention all gardeners, this event is for you. Find out how you can go green by learning sustainable gardening techniques at workshops and information booths demonstrating composting, watering, low pesticide use, growing native plants and more. Choose from a wide variety of native trees, shrubs and perennials at the 10th annual plant sale. For more information, call 503-629-6350. *Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District*

Cooper Mountain wildflower walks

11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Sundays, April 11 and 18

Cooper Mountain is a great place to explore with Metro naturalist Deb Scrivens. Controlled burns have encouraged a proliferation of native wildflowers, including a rare larkspur. If we are very lucky, we will spot the elusive



lazuli bunting or perhaps a Western bluebird. Bring a snack and plenty of water for this stroll. Terrain is steep in some places. Registration and payment of \$8 required in advance; call 503-629-6350. *Metro and Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District*



Returning condors to Arizona

7 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 13

Learn about condor reintroduction efforts in Arizona as well as challenges faced by the condor population as a result of poisoning from lead ammunition. Lecture offered as part of the Wildlife Conservation Lecture Series. Meet at Oregon Zoo's banquet center. Registration and payment of \$10 or \$8 for members required in advance; call 503-226-1561. *Oregon Zoo, Audubon Society of Portland and World Forestry Center*



Celebrate Earth Day with the StreamTeam

9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 17

Since 1999, the StreamTeam has coordinated a large-scale community celebration for Earth Day. Each year hundreds of volunteers join the team to plant native trees along waterways, protecting local water quality and quantity. Join the team to save salmon! For more information, call 360-992-8585. *Clark Public Utilities*



Painted turtle walks

1 to 2:30 p.m. Saturdays, April 17 and May 22

Oregon's turtles are rare, shy and hard to find but Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area is home to one of the largest populations of Western painted turtles in Oregon. See these beautiful reptiles with the help of Metro naturalist James Davis, who will have small telescopes for a close look. Learn about the natural history of painted turtles and why they are so rare. Suitable for adults and children age 5 and



Experience wildlife from the water – boats provided

Ready to explore the natural wonders of the Smith and Bybee Wetlands but don't have a boat? We've got you covered! Let NW Discoveries provide the boat, paddle and personal flotation device while Metro naturalist James Davis provides a guided tour highlighting the local wildlife and natural history of the wetlands. Choose from three paddle options – canoe, canoe and kayak, or bimaran (two canoes lashed together with 2 x 6 boards) – and tour lengths from 2 to 3 hours. Ideal for families, couples or the solo paddler. For more information, see calendar listings for April 10, May 23 and June 5.

older. Meet in the parking area on North Marine Drive. Free. Advance registration required; call 503-797-1650 option 2.

Metro



Gresham bird survey training

9 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 17 or 5 to 9 p.m. Wednesday, April 21

Help with Gresham's annual bird survey. Birders with experience identifying birds by sight and sound are needed. Volunteers adopt a site and survey it four to seven times between May 15 and June 30. Protocol training is required; choose either the Saturday or Wednesday session. Advance registration required; call 503-618-2608. *City of Gresham*



Naturescaping basics: site planning

9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, April 17

Be a partner for clean rivers by learning about native gardening. Site planning is an extension of naturescaping basics program. This workshop gives participants experience with the steps involved in planning a landscape or project. Learn how to map property, assess garden style and needs, do some garden dreaming and work on a group design scenario. Participants required to attend naturescaping basics workshop prior to attending site planning class. Free. Advance registration required; call 503-935-5383. *East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District and Portland Bureau of Environmental Services*



SOLV IT

9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Saturday, April 17

Celebrate the 40th anniversary of Earth Day by joining your fellow community members at one of more than 100 Portland metropolitan area volunteer projects, including a special work day at Metro's Native Plant Center. Clean up litter and illegal dumpsites, remove non-native invasive plants, plant native trees and shrubs, or maintain watershed restoration sites. Advance registration required; call 503-844-9571 ext. 332. *SOLV*



Wildflower tour at Madrone Wall

10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, April 17

Spring is here and native wildflowers are in bloom at the Madrone Wall. Join the tour and explore the treasures of this spectacular geologic site in the lower Clackamas River Basin. Learn about the effort to preserve the site and establish a future public park. Bring your wildflower identification book if you have one. One and a half miles of rugged, steep and brushy trails. Suitable for age 10 and older. Meet at Still Meadow Conference and Retreat Center, 16561 SE Marna Road, Damascus, for an introductory presentation and then carpool to nearby site for tour. Free. Registration not required. For more information, visit www.savemadrone.org. *Madrone Wall Preservation Committee*



Introduction to the language of birds

10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Sunday, April 18

Would you like to understand what the birds are saying? Join naturalists Dan Daly, Elisabeth Neely and Patty Newland at Oxbow Regional Park for this introduction to the fascinating art of interpreting the meaning of bird songs and calls. Using methods learned from renowned tracker Jon Young, this popular class combines modern birding

continued

To register for Metro nature activities online, visit www.oregonmetro.gov/calendar

tools and techniques with ancient awareness skills known to native people worldwide. Class is held outdoors; bring a notepad, sack lunch and something to sit on in the woods. Suitable for adults and teens. Meeting location dependent on weather; ask at the park gate. Registration and program fee of \$10 per person required in advance. There also is a \$5 per vehicle entry fee to the park, payable at the gate. To register, call 503-797-1650 option 2. *Metro*



Homeschool naturalist program

1 to 4 p.m. Wednesdays, April 21 and May 19

Created for home school families, these natural science classes incorporate hands-on discovery and first-hand outdoor experiences with Oregon state science benchmarks. To accommodate families with multiple children, two classes will run simultaneously each day for ages 6 to 9 and 9 to 12. Registration and payment of \$20 per student required in advance; call 503-629-6350. *Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District*



Earth Day at Cooper Mountain

10 to 11 a.m. Thursday, April 22

Take a walk in Cooper Mountain Nature Park on Earth Day. Learn about the spring wildflowers and signs of the return of the special resident bluebird. Suitable for ages 2 to 5; parent participation required. Registration and payment of \$8 per child required in advance; call 503-629-6350. *Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District*



Spring bird identification class

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

Spring brings thousands of migrating birds to our region; some stay to nest and others pass through. Get ready for great spring birding action with this crash course in identifying spring migrants and summer breeders. Metro naturalist James Davis will show slides, play recordings of bird songs and simplify

what may seem like a confusing variety of birds to beginners. This class is excellent preparation for bird walks at Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area. Suitable for adults and teens. Meet in room 370 at Metro Regional Center in Portland. Registration and payment of \$10 per person required in advance; call 503-797-1650 option 2. *Metro*



Brunch with the birds

10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday, April 23

Join the Columbia Slough Watershed Council and Metro naturalist James Davis for a lunchtime birding tour. Hone your bird watching skills while learning about your local watershed and a new stormwater management facility. Lunch provided. Free. Advance registration required; call 503-281-1132. *Metro and Columbia Slough Watershed Council*



Tryon Creek watershed wide event

9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 24

Join friends and neighbors for a day of hands-on restoration and celebration. There will be more than eight restoration sites located throughout the watershed from Tryon Creek Natural Area to the headwaters of the creek near Multnomah Village and out to Lake Oswego. Volunteers will be removing invasive species and planting native plants as part of continuing efforts to improve habitat for threatened steelhead and salmon. Bring work gloves and water. Tools and snacks provided. Lunch provided from 12:30 to 2 p.m. Free. Advance registration for work site preference and lunch required; call 503-636-4398 ext. 121. *Friends of Tryon Creek State Park*



In search of ... the wild Mount Talbert

10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Sunday, April 25

Explore the springtime beauty of this unique lava dome as you wander through a white oak woodland in search of wildlife, spring blooms and geologic stories in the stones of Mount

Talbert. One of the newest nature parks in the region, Mount Talbert is home to an incredible patchwork of habitats that provide welcome refuge for migrating songbirds such as warblers, tanagers, orioles and others. Learn new awareness skills and put them to the test as you search for the elusive Western gray squirrel, raptor nests and the beginnings of the spring wildflower emergence. Bring your own binoculars or borrow a pair on site. Suitable for ages 10 to adult. Trails are on the rough side and steep in places. Cost is \$5 for adults; under 18 free. Registration and payment required in advance; call North Clackamas Parks and Recreation District at 503-794-8092 at least two weeks before the program date. *Metro*



Birding Killin Wetlands

10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Sunday, April 25

Killin Wetlands in Banks, also known to birders as Cedar Canyon Marsh, is a great place to see (or at least hear) three very hard to find marsh birds: American bittern, sora and Virginia rail. Many other common wetland birds are also seen here this time of year. Join naturalist James Davis at this special place protected by Metro's Natural Areas Program. Suitable for adults and children age 10 and older. Directions provided with registration. Registration and payment of \$5 per person required in advance; call 503-797-1650 option 2. *Metro*



Children's Clean Water Festival

7:45 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday, April 27

Volunteers are needed for the 17th annual Children's Clean Water Festival. Held at Portland Community College, Sylvania campus, the festival brings more than 1,000 local fourth and fifth graders together to learn about water science and watershed ecology. No experience necessary; training and lunch provided. Advance registration required; call 503-665-4179. *Rockwood Water People's Utility District*



Urban coyotes

7 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 27

The howl of coyotes echoing across the urban landscape has become increasingly common in recent years. Gain valuable insights from wildlife specialist Stanley Gehrt from his study of 220 radio-collared coyotes in an urban setting over a six-year period. Meet at Oregon Zoo's banquet center. Registration and payment of \$10 or \$8 for members required in advance; call 503-226-1561. *Oregon Zoo, Audubon Society of Portland and World Forestry Center*



Wildflower identification at Oxbow

noon to 3 p.m. Sunday, May 2

Have you ever wondered about trailside wildflowers and wished you knew their names? Then this class is for you. Learn how to use plant family information and field guides to aid in identification. Half of the class is indoors and the other half is an outdoor exploration of a flower-rich trail. Suitable for adults and teens. Registration and payment of \$10 required in advance. There is a \$5 per vehicle entrance fee to the park. To register, call 503-797-1650 option 2. *Metro*



Warblers of Oregon

7 to 9:30 p.m. Thursday, May 6

One of the most colorful and musical groups of birds to arrive in spring is the warblers. The different species in the Portland area can be quite confusing to beginning and experienced birders alike. Let Metro naturalist and expert birder James Davis make warbler identification easier for you. This class takes place near the peak of warbler migration so you can get out right away and practice your new skills. Suitable for adults and teens. Meet in room 370 at Metro Regional Center. Registration and payment of \$10 per person required in advance; call 503-797-1650 option 2. *Metro*



Mother's Day birds and blooms of

Canemah Bluff

1 to 3 p.m. Sunday, May 9

Instead of taking flowers to mom this Mother's Day, why not take her to the wildflowers? Join Metro naturalist Dan Daly for a leisurely stroll through Canemah Bluff Natural Area near Oregon City 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 adults and children age 6 and older. Registration and payment of \$5 per adult required in advance; call 503-797-1650 option 2. Site directions sent upon registration. *Metro*

Multnomah Weed Watchers training

noon to 2 p.m. Saturday, May 15

Become a Multnomah Weed Watcher and help protect Oregon's landscape by preventing the spread of harmful invasive species that disrupt ecosystems, push out native plants and decrease the value of your land. Learn how to identify, pull and dispose of invasives in the proper way to prevent spreading. Volunteers become part of an Oregon Early Detection Network. Advance registration required; visit www.wmswcd.org. *West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District*

Songbird Festival

10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Saturday, May 15

Come celebrate migratory songbirds, wildlife and nature at the 14th annual Songbird Festival at Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge. Everyone is invited for a day of nature walks, hands-on activities, exhibits, wildlife watching, canoe paddles, nature artwork and more. Free. The winners of the Washington County nature and wildlife photo contest will be announced and their photographs displayed. *Friends of the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*

Songbirds of Mount Talbert

9:30 a.m. to noon Saturday, May 15

Join James Davis, Metro naturalist and expert birder, to catch the peak of spring migration on Mount Talbert, Clackamas County's newest regional park. Forested hills like Mount Talbert are hot spots for migrating songbirds such as warblers, tanagers, orioles and others. Trails can be muddy or steep in places. This birding adventure is suitable for beginning and experienced bird watchers from teens on up. Bring binoculars or borrow a pair on site. Directions provided upon registration. Registration and payment of \$5 required in advance; call North Clackamas Parks and Recreation District at 503-794-8092. *Metro and North Clackamas Parks and Recreation District*

Ethnobotany at Oxbow

12:30 to 4 p.m. Sunday, May 16

Ethnobotany is the study of how humans use plants. Learn the ethics and safety protocols of plant harvest and take a walk in the springtime woods of Oxbow Regional Park to get to know plants traditionally used for food, medicine, baskets and more. Take home a resource list for further study and create cordage and tea from stinging nettles. Meet at the naturalist office. Registration and payment of \$10 per person required in advance. There is a \$5 per vehicle entrance fee to the park. To register, call 503-797-1650 option 2. *Metro*

Tabor to the river: Cycling for clean rivers

6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, May 19

Want to be a partner for clean rivers and streams and enjoy a group bike ride? Learn about green streets, rain gardens and ecoroofs in the Tabor to the river basin. Bicycle helmets mandatory. Free. Registration not required. For more information, call 503-823-5729. *Portland Bureau of Environmental Services and Portland Bureau of Transportation*



Fly Fishing Shop photo

Sandy River Spey Clave

8 a.m. to 5 p.m. May 14, 15 and 16

Come to Oxbow Regional Park for the largest gathering of anglers devoted to two-hand fly rod fishing in the Western Hemisphere. Visit booths displaying the latest tackle or sign up for free casting lessons. View on-the-water casting demonstrations throughout the weekend. Attend Friday's women's day presentations by female instructors followed by a potluck dinner and presentations Friday night. Breakfast and lunch provided Saturday and Sunday. Overnight camping is available in the park on a first-come, first-served basis for \$20 per night (up to 6 people per site). Gates lock at official sunset. Pets are not allowed. Free with a \$5 entrance fee to the park. For more information, call the Fly Fishing Shop at 503-622-4607. *Fly Fishing Shop and Metro*

Connecting our children to the wild

10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Sunday, May 23

If you are a parent, mentor or teacher who understands how important a vibrant connection to the natural world is for the healthy development of young people, join Metro naturalist Dan Daly for this lively conversation. As school, work, consumer culture and the disappearance of wild areas continue to draw children's time and attention away from the natural world, spring is a great time to learn and remember how to bring nature alive in families, neighborhoods and schools once again. This program shares both resources and techniques that outdoor-oriented adults can draw from in order to support the young people they care about by unfolding the adventure of a lifetime. Childcare for children age 5 and older is available free of charge

during the program. This class is held at Oxbow Regional Park. Registration and \$8 per person required in advance. There is a \$5 per vehicle entry fee payable at the park. To register, call 503-797-1650 option 2. *Metro*

Smith and Bybee Wetlands canoe and kayak tour

8:30 to 11:30 a.m. Sunday, May 23

Join Metro naturalist James Davis and learn about local wildlife and the natural history of the area on a three-hour canoe and kayak tour of the wetlands. Boat, paddle and personal flotation device provided by NW Discoveries. Participants can select solo kayaks, a tandem kayak with a partner or a canoe with a partner. Two adults in a canoe can add one or two children to ride in the middle at reduced cost. Meet at the Smith and Bybee canoe launch.

continued

Registration and payment of \$25 per adult (age 14 and older) and \$5 per child (ages 5 to 13) accompanied by one paid adult required two weeks in advance; call 503-797-1650 option 2. *Metro*

Smith and Bybee Wetlands canoe bimiran tour

12:30 to 2:30 p.m. Sunday, May 23

Try out a canoe bimiran (two canoes lashed together with 2 x 6 boards) with your child for a two-hour paddle on the wetlands with Metro naturalist James Davis. Custom bimirans are very stable and ideal for first timers. Suitable for adults and children age 5 and older. Meet at the Smith and Bybee canoe launch. Registration and payment of \$10 per adult (age 14 and older) and

\$5 per child (ages 5 to 13) accompanied by one paid adult required two weeks in advance; call 503-797-1650 option 2. *Metro*

Evening canoe the slough

6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, May 26

Join the Columbia Slough Watershed Council for a special evening canoe tour. Explore Whitaker Slough and look for turtles, great blue herons and wood ducks. These guided trips using extra-sturdy canoe bimirans are ideal for families. All equipment provided. Participants have the choice of two starting times; indicate preference for 6 or 7 p.m. Free. Advance registration required; call 503-281-1132. *Columbia Slough Watershed Council*



City of Portland photo

Connect the drops

Something to see on a rainy day! Green features in your neighborhood are hard at work at this time of year. Gear up for a springtime stroll to check out plants and sculptures that clean water in innovative ways and improve the health of the region's rivers and streams. Use Metro's Connect the Drops regional map to find projects near you or join one of the stormwater tours offered by the City of Portland.

www.oregonmetro.gov/nature

www.portlandonline.com/bes



Spring calendar at a glance

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You're invited

There are so many great things to do in the Portland metropolitan area that they won't all fit on these pages. Check out Metro's online calendar for hundreds of nature activities, volunteer ventures, tours, pedals, walks, workshops, seminars and public meetings. Visit www.oregonmetro.gov/calendar.

Places to go

Metro's parks offer wildlife watching, hiking, boating, camping, fishing and more. Visit www.oregonmetro.gov/parks or call 503-797-1850 to get directions and park information, reserve a picnic shelter or plan a field trip.

Sustainable living

Make the region greener at home, in your garden and on the road. Visit www.oregonmetro.gov/sustainableliving for guides to biking, walking, reducing waste, green cleaning and gardening with nature.

Getting rid of stuff

Discover everything you need to know about recycling, composting and disposing of garbage and hazardous waste on Metro's web site. Find your hauler, become a recycling star and help keep your neighborhood clean. Call Metro Recycling Information at 503-234-3000.

Volunteer

As a Metro volunteer, you will be directly involved in improving and protecting the region's great places for people and wildlife now and in the future. Find volunteer stories and opportunities at www.oregonmetro.gov/volunteer.

Participate

Help shape the future of the region by contributing your ideas on land, transportation, recycling, parks, trails and how we grow. Visit www.oregonmetro.gov/participate for public comment opportunities, meeting schedules and more.

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

Oregon Zoo

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



Cooper Mountain Nature Park provides stunning views of the Tualatin Valley. The park's 3 1/2 miles of trails show off a dazzling variety of wildflowers in spring.

C. Bruce Forster photo

Metro | People places. Open spaces.

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

A regional approach simply makes sense when it comes to protecting open space, caring for parks, planning for the best use of land, managing garbage disposal and increasing recycling. Metro oversees world-class facilities such as the Oregon Zoo, which contributes to conservation and education, and the Oregon Convention Center, which benefits the region's economy.

www.oregonmetro.gov



Metro Council

From left: Carl Hosticka, district 3; Rod Park, district 1; Kathryn Harrington, district 4; David Bragdon, Council President; Carlotta Collette, district 2; Robert Liberty, district 6; Rex Burkholder, district 5

Auditor

Suzanne Flynn

On the cover

Flowering tree at Cooper Mountain, C. Bruce Forster photo; and child enjoying the discovery garden at Blue Lake Regional Park, Kent Derek photo.

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)

To be added to the GreenScene mailing list or to make any changes, call 503-797-1650 option 2.



Metro

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