



# THE WEST EUGENE WETLANDS WETLAND WORD

VOLUME 1

SPRING 2005

ISSUE 2

Many American Wetlands Month 2005 activities will begin at the West Eugene Wetlands Yurt, located behind the BLM's West Eugene Wetlands Office, 751 S. Danebo, Eugene. From downtown, travel west on West 11th Ave., or on the Fern Ridge Bike Trail. Turn north on S. Danebo. For more detailed information about American Wetlands Month 2005 activities, please call Environmental Education Specialist Holly McRae at 683-6494 or visit [www.wewetlands.org](http://www.wewetlands.org)

We're on the Web!

**[wewetlands.org](http://www.wewetlands.org)**

Phone: 541-683-6494

Fax: 541-683-6998

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[wew@wewetlands.org](mailto:wew@wewetlands.org)

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WREN

751 S. Danebo

Eugene, OR 97402

## CELEBRATE AMERICAN WETLANDS MONTH 2005 IN THE WEST EUGENE WETLANDS

**E**very May, Eugene residents are able to celebrate American Wetlands Month by experiencing the ecological wonders and beauty of wetlands first hand. Best of all, our West Eugene Wetlands are only a short 15 minute bike ride from downtown! The Willamette Resources and Educational Network (WREN), a member of the WEW Partnership, is planning a month full of activities to celebrate American Wetlands Month and invites community members to come out and enjoy and learning about their backyard.



Photo: WREN

Outside of the Florida Everglades, the West Eugene Wetlands are one of America's biggest wetlands restoration projects. Many would say that there is no better time to visit and learn about the wetlands than in the spring. In just one afternoon, strolling along the Fern Ridge Bike Trail, a visitor could observe bikers, joggers, and bird enthusiasts, holding binoculars in one hand and pointing in the distance with the other. There are many first time trail users, stopping to read the educational interpretive signs along the way, and at dusk, photographers catch the sun as it sinks below the coastal hills.

Spring in the wetlands delivers waves of heavy, cumulous puffs. They release rain into vernal pools and ponds, home to many nesting birds, amphibians and dragonflies. Activities planned throughout May will explore these wetland creatures and their unique ecosystem.

To read about national American Wetlands Month activities, visit the Izaak Walton League American Wetlands Campaign page: [www.iwla.org/sos/awm/](http://www.iwla.org/sos/awm/) For more detailed information on local Wetlands Month activities, visit [www.wewetlands.org](http://www.wewetlands.org) or contact Environmental Education Specialist Holly McRae at 683-6494 or [wew@wewetlands.org](mailto:wew@wewetlands.org). Events will be free thanks to private donations and support from the WEW Partnership, OWEB and the EPA.

Saturday, April 23rd, noon-4 p.m. Photo submission deadline for "Show me the West Eugene Wetlands" photography exhibit at Café Paradiso

Tuesday, May 3rd, 7 p.m.  
"Dragonflies in Our Wetlands"

Saturday May 7th, 10 a.m. -noon  
Wild Wetland Walk in honor of Native Plant Appreciation Week

Wednesday, May 11th, 7 p.m.  
"Raptors of the Wetlands"

Saturday, May 14th, 7-9 a.m. Bird Walk through Willow Creek Natural Area

Saturday, May 14th, 1-2:30 p.m.  
"Wild Wings across the Wetlands"

Wednesday, May 18th, 7-8 p.m.  
"Western Pond Turtles"

Saturday, May 21st, 1-4 p.m.  
"Spring Butterflies of the West Eugene Wetlands"

Monday, May 23rd, 6-7:30 p.m. Tour of Hynix Semiconductor wetland site

Wednesday, May 25th, 6:30-7:30 p.m.  
"Discover Dragonflies!"

Saturday, May 28th, noon-4 p.m.  
Wetlands Nature Photography Workshop



Tell your friends they can pick up a *Wetland Word* at boxes outside the front door of the Euphoria Chocolate Company West Eugene Store, on the bike trail next to Elmira Automotive, and at Redwood Northwest, corner of West 11th Ave. and Terry St.



*Euphoria Chocolate Company Store*

The *Wetland Word* is published quarterly by the Willamette Resources & Educational Network. Its purpose is to inform the community of upcoming events and restoration projects, and to increase understanding and appreciation of the West Eugene Wetlands. Stories and photos for this issue were contributed by Nathaline Shonk, WREN Fundraising Director, Liz Myers, WREN Volunteer Coordinator and Windy Hovey, Editor Comments? Questions? Email [Windy\\_Hovey@or.blm.gov](mailto:Windy_Hovey@or.blm.gov)

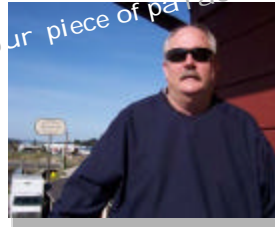
## FINDING EUPHORIA IN THE WEST EUGENE WETLANDS

Every year 150,000 pounds of chocolate is molded into chocolate bars of all shapes and those truffles famous throughout the Northwest right here in the West Eugene Wetlands at the Euphoria Chocolate Company factory. The West Eugene store and factory have been at S. Bertelsen and Stewart Roads since 1997, and now serve as a place of work for more than a dozen full time employees.

The remodeling of the store and factory inadvertently corresponded with the extension of the Fern Ridge Bike Trail. According to owner Bob Bury, the West Eugene store has seen a substantial increase in customers from the bike trail, as more members of the community discover and return to the wetlands. He adapted by selling bottles of water at the store for trail users who stop in.

His passion for chocolate began during childhood, passed on from family members who loved cooking. He likes to tell those who ask *the* inevitable question, that he entered the chocolate business to support his habit.

Bury plans to donate chocolate for a Wetlands Month 2005 event, and has supported many other community programs.



*Euphoria Chocolate Company owner Bob Bury turned his childhood passion for chocolate into a blooming business across the Northwest. Photo: WREN*

“Part of good business is being able to support local endeavors,” he said.

Whenever possible, the Euphoria Chocolate Company unites its chocolate with products made locally including: cream, filberts, wine (mixed into creamy centers) and mint oil.

Personally, Bury enjoys walking along the trail and the store’s quiet location across from Stewart Pond. With the help of more avid birders, he now recognizes some familiar winged species of the wetlands.

“I like the fact that the wetlands are seen as a resource, (by businesses, the community and WEW Partnership)” he said. The West Eugene Euphoria Chocolate Company store is open Mon.-Fri. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. and Sat. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Read more about Euphoria Chocolate: [www.euphoriachocolate.com](http://www.euphoriachocolate.com)

## ANNUAL FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN RUNS MARCH-MAY

A nine-year old girl walks quietly down the path into the West Eugene Wetlands, searching for a glimpse of the elusive dragonfly. Three other youngsters run to join her. She shushes them, letting them know that being quiet helps you to spot wildlife here in the wetlands. They find scat from a raccoon, and the girl gives them an on-the-spot lesson about how they can know the raccoon’s diet from the scat.

Every week children come to the West Eugene Wetlands to discover nature – just a few short miles from downtown! In 2000, WREN was created as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization to serve as the education provider for the wetlands. WREN’s library and classroom presentations give students the opportunity to explore wetlands through hands-on activities. WREN staff and volunteers also take students, through the wetland’s varied nature trails, including outings that highlight owls, dragonflies, butterflies or wildflowers.

Sponsorships and member donations will help fund these outstanding educational programs, busses for field trips and supplies for hands-on educational activities. Funds also allow scientists to speak to our community about different wetlands topics. You can begin to appreciate the wonder of wetlands with your visit to the West Eugene Wetlands. It isn’t far from your home, yet it is light years away from your backyard or deck. It is a place to learn how the fragile wetlands environment needs to be sustained, how native species must be protected and how everything is connected. Your gift will allow more youngsters to discover wildlife at the edge of the city. Inserted in this edition, are the levels and benefits of sponsorship, as well as forms that may be cut out or copied and sent to WREN. It is a simple request for an extraordinary place. We hope you will join us by making a gift today.

*Written by WREN Annual Fundraising Director Nathaline Shonk*



*Photo: WREN*



## MEET THE WREN BOARD

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MEMBER

WREN is a private, non-profit educational organization formed in 2000. Board meetings are open to the public and held at 3:30 p.m. every 3rd Wednesday at the BLM office, 751 S. Danebo

## Congratulations



**Liz Myers!**  
WREN hired a second employee Liz Myers on Feb. 16th 2005. She is the WREN Volunteer Coordinator. Liz can be contacted at [Liz\\_Myers@blm.gov](mailto:Liz_Myers@blm.gov) or (541) 683-6483

*Creating and supporting an education program and center that celebrates and encourages stewardship of the West Eugene Wetlands using resources and support from our community...*

## WREN PARTNERS WITH ADVENTURE SEEKERS FOR SUMMER CAMP, 2005

As the weather warms up, WREN is once more preparing for a busy summer. For the second year, WREN will be partnering with the City of Eugene Adventure Seekers summer camp.

The day camp, which is based out of Wayne Morse Ranch, is designed for 10-13 year olds who want to spend the summer having outdoor adventures while at the same time learning about the natural world. Each week has a specific theme and the activities for the week center around that theme.

This year campers will make several visits to the West Eugene Wetlands, the coast, and Finley National Wildlife Refuge. Mountain biking and rafting on the McKenzie River are also part of the schedule!

The partnership benefits both parties. WREN staff will spend one

day training the city staff on the basics of outdoor and environmental education and will continue through the summer to bring more educational opportunities to the field trips. City staff are experienced in recreation and work well with campers in an informal environment.

Last summer was a great success and we are anticipating that this summer will be equally fun for all involved! To register for this camp contact the Amazon Community Center at 682-5373 between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. Scholarships are available.

*Written by WREN Volunteer Coordinator, Liz Myers*

## Thank you, WREN supporters!

Environmental Protection Agency

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

Custom Craftworks

Café Paradiso

Bureau of Land Management



## WREN VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT!

WREN volunteer **Emily Chong** is a Churchill High School Senior with a plan. Fortunately, her career plan and enjoyment for protecting natural resources has crossed paths with WREN through the Rachel Carson Natural Resources Program.

Emily decided to volunteer with WREN because she believes education is the key to protecting valuable resources such as the West Eugene Wetlands for the future. She was also curious how wetlands management worked.

Her upcoming goal after high school graduation is to attend basic classes at LCC for a year, then transfer to Oregon State University to study forest management. Recently, her main responsibilities for WREN have included updating the bulletin board, and posting fliers for activities around town.

The Rachel Carson Program is a high school education course that provides students with experience, knowledge, and skills that relate to the natural environment. The curriculum integrates science, social studies, and language arts using watersheds as the central theme. Read more about the Rachel Carson Natural Resources Program at <http://schools.4j.lane.edu/carson/>



WREN volunteer **Emily Chong**

**Wetlands Month 2005 Activities!**

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"Dragonflies in Our Wetlands"

Saturday May 7th, 10 a.m. -noon  
Wild Wetland Walk in honor of Native Plant  
Appreciation Week

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Bird Walk through Willow Creek Natural Area

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**WILLAMETTE RESOURCES &  
EDUCATIONAL NETWORK**  
751 S. DANEBO  
EUGENE, OR 97402

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**Deadline for "Show Me the West Eugene Wetlands" Photo Exhibit**—Saturday, April 23, noon-4 p.m. In honor of American Wetlands Month, WREN and the West Eugene Wetlands Partnership are sponsoring their third annual community photo exhibit. "Show Me the West Eugene Wetlands" will hang at Cafe Paradiso May 1 through May 28. Submit your personal photo of the West Eugene Wetlands Saturday, April 23rd for a community exhibit. Selected photos will be on display at Cafe Paradiso through May, 2005. THERE IS NO ENTRY FEE! There will be a reception for the artists and interested parties Friday, May 6 in conjunction with the scheduled May First Friday ArtWalk. Read about the guidelines for entries at [www.wewetlands.org/wetlandsMonth05.htm](http://www.wewetlands.org/wetlandsMonth05.htm)

**INSIDE THIS  
ISSUE:**

Wetlands Month 2005-events	1
Business Feature Euphoria Chocolate	2
Annual Fundraiser	2
Adventure Seekers Summer Camp	3
WREN volunteer Spotlight	3

**WREN and City of Eugene Adventure Seekers Summer Camp, 2005**—June 20th-Sept. 2

The day camp is based out of Wayne Morse Ranch and designed for 10-13 year olds who want to spend the summer having outdoor adventures while at the same time learning about the natural world. Each week has a specific theme and the activities for the week center around that theme. For more information and to register for this camp contact the Amazon Community Center at 682-5373 between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m.

**WEW Educators' Workshop Registration Deadline**—Thursday, June 30

WREN invites all elementary and middle school educators to the West Eugene Wetlands Educator Workshop July 11-15. This is a one week professional development opportunity to learn the natural and cultural history of the wetlands. Cost is free, with support from an EPA grant and one UO credit is available to participants. Read more about the workshop and fill out the form for registration online at [www.wewetlands.org/curriculum.htm](http://www.wewetlands.org/curriculum.htm)

WE'RE ON THE WEB: [WWW.WEWETLANDS.ORG](http://WWW.WEWETLANDS.ORG)

VISIT OUR WEB SITE TO LEARN ABOUT WREN AND EVENTS IN THE WEST EUGENE WETLANDS  
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