



WEST EUGENE WETLANDS

THE WETLAND WORD

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ISSUE 3

Sandpiper and Grimes Ponds: Dragonfly Hotspots

Visit Sandpiper and Grimes Ponds between Bertelsen Road and Wallis Street, and you can observe pond life during the adults' peak periods throughout July and August. Sandpiper Pond was created in 1997 with funding from the Oregon Department of Transportation. Its shallow banks and rich vegetation along the shores make it an attractive habitat for many dragonfly and damselfly species. Access the ponds by parking at 5th Ave and Wallis Street and following the Bertelsen Walking Trail.

DRAGONFLIES AND DAMSELFLIES REIGN OVER WEST EUGENE PONDS FOR THE SUMMER

Written by local naturalist Steve Gordon

Attention insect enthusiasts: thirty-seven species of dragonflies and damselflies (Order Odonata, aka Odonates) have been recorded in West Eugene. This number represents about 60 percent of Lane County's 62 species and about 40 percent of Oregon's 87 species.

The Odonates are relatively large insects that live most of their lives underwater in a nymph phase. As aquatic insects, the adults dominate life over the water. Under water, the carnivorous nymphs lurk, seeking prey. The adults span the spectrum of colors, have excellent eyesight, and display magnificent flying prowess as they eat other flying insects and defend mating territories.

Even if you don't want to learn to tell the beautiful Blue-eyed Darner, Flame Skimmer or the Cardinal Meadowhawk apart, just watch and enjoy the busy activity along shores or among the floating and emergent plants where the damselflies

are more abundant. You will see males patrolling and defending territories, couples linked in mating positions, and females laying eggs directly into the water or into submerged plants and woody debris.



Local dragonfly and damselfly experts Steve Gordon (left) and Cary Kerst (right) point out the characteristics of a Western Meadowhawk dragonfly at Sandpiper Pond July 10. This walk was one of WREN's informal education programs in the West Eugene Wetlands. Photo: WREN

New illustrated book set for publication in the fall of 2005 will highlight Dragonflies and Damselflies of the Willamette Valley



Widow Skimmer
Photo: Cary Kerst

This fall, WREN will sponsor the publication of "Dragonflies and Damselflies of the Willamette Valley, Oregon: A Beginner's Guide" by Steve Gordon and Cary Kerst. In about 100 pages, this guide book will spotlight the 51 species of Odonates found or suspected to be present in the Valley ecoregion. It will present general information on the life cycle and anatomy of dragonflies and damselflies, as well as information on where to look and how to observe them. There will be a description of each species with information on field marks, adult flight periods, habitat preferences, and the Willamette Valley distribution. There will also be excellent color photographs of each species presented with illustrations pointing out key field marks. CraneDance Publications will publish the book, due for release in November. All proceeds will benefit WREN, supporting the organization's dedication to expanding knowledge of our wetlands and the human and natural history of the Willamette region.

We're on the Web!
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West Eugene Wetlands in the News!

Eugene was among 20 communities in the U.S. recently spotlighted in the book "Nature Friendly Communities: Habitat Protection and Land Use Planning" by Christopher Duerksen and Cara Snyder, published by Island Press. Eugene is referred to as a "shining star of wetlands preservation" because of community, business and government cooperation in restoration of the West Eugene Wetlands

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 Steve Gordon, Cary Kerst, and UO professor Dr. Mark Horney. Editor: Windy Hovey. Comments? Questions? Email windy@wewetlands.org

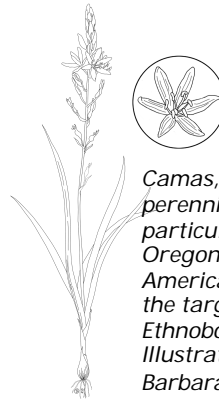
WREN MOVES FORWARD ON AN ETHNOBOTANICAL RESOURCE AREA IN THE WEST EUGENE WETLANDS

In September 2004, WREN received a grant from the BLM to create an Ethnobotanical Resource Area for the Southern Willamette Valley. Ethnobotany is the study of how people of a particular culture and region make use of indigenous plants.

A group consisting of six members, including two local native Americans, first met in January. They have been seeking support from the nine federally recognized Oregon Native Americans tribes. The intention of the project is to identify and establish a permanently designated area within the West Eugene Wetlands for the purpose of providing

plants traditionally used by Native Americans in the area.

The hope is that interested Native Americans will be involved in determining how the Ethnobotanical Resource area lands are to be maintained, managed and interpreted in the years to come. The bulbous perennial herb camas and the sunflower-relative tarweed are two plants that have particular importance as sacred cultural elements by Oregon Native Americans. The Willamette Valley was once the main center for harvest of these widely traded plants. These foods were the primary nutritional base for the diet of the Kalapuyan tribes that inhabited the Valley. Today they remain sacred to the Native People living in the area.



Camas, a bulbous perennial herb, is of particular importance to Oregon Native Americans and one of the target plants of the Ethnobotany project: Illustration: Barbara Gleason

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2005 WEST EUGENE WETLANDS APPRECIATION AWARDS RECIPIENTS!

At a ceremony in May, the Wetland Executive Team awarded three individuals and two businesses with the 2005 West Eugene Wetlands Appreciation Awards. Awards are given annually to those who show outstanding dedication to the restoration and future of the West Eugene Wetlands.

Sabine Dutoit is an active member of several local natural history and conservation organizations including the Nature Conservancy, the Native Plant Society of Oregon, and the North American Butterfly Association. She has been actively involved in the West Eugene Wetlands for almost three years, volunteering at Willow Creek Natural Area as one of The Nature Conservancy's most active volunteers during that time.

During her 12-year tenure on the Eugene City Council, **Nancy Nathanson** was a strong supporter of the West Eugene Wetlands Plan, the West Eugene Wetlands Partnership, and other city park projects. As a representative of Ward 8, which includes The Nature Conservancy's Willow Creek Preserve and many other West Eugene Wetlands sites, Nancy had the opportunity to demonstrate her support of the Wetlands Plan and Partnership on many occasions.

Mark V. Wilson is an Associate Professor of Botany and Plant Pathology at Oregon State University. Working with his colleagues, graduate students, and resource agencies over the past two decades, Mark has made significant contributions to the knowledge base of the ecology, conservation, and management of native prairies in the Willamette Valley. Through his research and study of Willamette Valley prairie species, Mark has provided invaluable advice and direction to public agencies working to restore and manage native prairies.

WBGS Architecture and Planning and **Satre Associates** have been instrumental as the West Eugene Wetlands Partnership has moved forward with its vision for an Education Center. Bill Seider, AIA and principal at WBGS, was an enthusiastic supporter from the start when he committed substantial resources in 2000 to get this project on paper. Rick Satre also showed considerable faith when he matched WBGS's commitment. The WEW Partnership wants to not only recognize the individual and collective commitments of WBGS Architecture and Satre Associates as the Education Center design team, but their patience, solid technical skills, creativity, and the true collaborative spirit they demonstrate as they work with the Partnership.



MEET THE WREN BOARD

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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 Ave.

Volunteer!

Contact

WREN Volunteer
Coordinator
Liz Myers at
Liz_Myers@blm.gov
or (541) 683-6483



Photo: WREN

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...

TEACHERS LEARN THE "WONDER OF THE WETLANDS" DURING WREN'S JULY 2005 TEACHER TRAINING

Written by Dr. Mark Horney, UO Senior Research Assistant

Combine a group of nine highly involved teachers with experts in botany, biology, geology and ecology excited to share their experience. The result is a valuable week "in the field" learning about the West Eugene Wetlands.

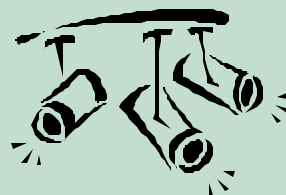
The "Wonder of Wetlands" teacher training week started with lessons from Kerm Horn on creating environmental journals combining sketches, specimens, photographs, and field notes including a clay process for printing impressions of bark beetle tunnels. A guided bike tour of the wetlands led by BLM Project Manager Pat Johnston was followed on Tuesday by a tour of the Delta Ponds. Lorna Baldwin from Eugene's Stream Team taught the group about this critical urban environment there.

On Wednesday Michael James helped them augur down into the geological past of the wetlands, exposing soils now thought to come from Crater Lake. Thursday, Steve Gordon and Cary Kerst provided an up close and personal investigation of local dragonflies and damselflies. They identified five species while learning about life cycles and behaviors of these flighty and fascinating creatures. Friday, with the help of OSU graduate student Paul Severns, teachers searched for the rare- and previously thought extinct- Great Copper Butterfly.

WREN was able to offer the week long teacher training workshop to local educators for free with support from an EPA grant. Teachers had the option of earning one credit through the UO, with paid university fees. With the leadership of WREN Board Vice President Al Hughes and WREN's Environmental Education Specialist Holly McRae, the week provided a wonderful experience that will actively bring the Wetlands into classrooms in the coming year!



Paul Severns, an OSU graduate student who, last summer, had the first sighting of the rare Great Copper Butterfly in Lane County since 50 years ago, lead a program on Nature Conservancy property just north of the Willow Creek Natural Area. Participants experimented to see which types of plants the Great Copper prefers. Photo: Dr. Mark Horney



WREN VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

WREN would like to congratulate and thank former volunteer **Roxana Hernandez** for her dedication to ensuring WREN provides high quality education programs to the community. Roxana was awarded her masters degree in Community and Regional Planning from the University of

Oregon in May. For her thesis, she conducted a study with the Eugene Downtown Rotary Club to gauge environmental literacy among community leaders, with a particular focus on the West Eugene Wetlands. Her thesis is available in full at <http://www.wewetlands.org/links.htm>. She moved to San Francisco in June and is currently busy career searching.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

National Public Lands Day

In honor of National Public Lands Day, the Bureau of Land Management and WREN invite you to participate in a volunteer work project day in the West Eugene Wetlands 9 a.m.-noon on Saturday, **September 24th**. Projects will include improvements to the trail system near the West Eugene Wetlands Project office at 751 S. Danebo. No special skills are required, and all tools, supplies and refreshments will be provided. For more information contact Doug Huntington at 683-6415.

*For an updated calendar, please visit www.wewetlands.org/activities.htm

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Dragonflies and Damselflies in the Wetlands	1
Ethnobotany Project in the Wetlands	2
2005 Wetlands Awards Recipients	2
WREN's Teacher Training Workshop	3
WREN volunteer spotlight	3

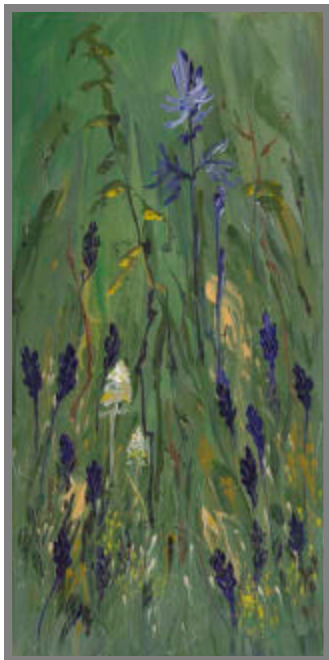
WREN would like to thank the volunteers and the following businesses, organizations and individuals who supported **American Wetlands Month 2005** activities. Approximately 270 people participated in 2005 Wetlands Month programs. In addition, 262 students either visited the wetlands or received classroom presentations.

Café Paradiso
 EPA (Environmental Protection Agency)
 QSL Print Communications, Inc.
 Custom Craftworks
 Raven Frameworks
 Hynix

BLM (Bureau of Land Management)
 Diantha Hull - coordinated photography exhibit
 Beverly Soasey – designed promotional poster
 Charlie Johnston - artwork for poster and print
 Nathaline Shonk - lead sponsorship drive

WE'RE ON THE WEB: WWW.WEWETLANDS.ORG

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



**WILLAMETTE RESOURCES &
 EDUCATIONAL NETWORK**
 751 S. DANEBO
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"Camas with Friends" by Charles Johnston.

Support WREN education programs by purchasing this
 2005 10" by 20" print online: www.wewetlands.org