



# THE WETLAND WORD

**We're on the Web!**  
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WREN is spreading the Wetland Word to increase our support base for education programs in the West Eugene Wetlands. The *Wetland Word* can be delivered to your door or e-mailed to you each season. If you do not wish to receive another *Wetland Word*, contact WREN: [wew@wewetlands.org](mailto:wew@wewetlands.org)

Please join WREN's growing membership, or become a sponsor! Printable forms and online donations through Network for Good and PayPal are available at [www.wewetlands.org/growing.htm](http://www.wewetlands.org/growing.htm)

## SEEDS OF RESTORATION

ANOTHER SEASON OF SEED COLLECTION IN THE WEST EUGENE WETLANDS PASSES

The seed procurement team, including the BLM, City of Eugene and The Nature Conservancy staff, completed another year of seed collection and wetland restoration. The West Eugene Wetlands Partnership's Seed Procurement Program ensures healthy ecosystems for both native plants and animals by planting native wetland plant species from abundant areas in or within 20 miles of the West Eugene Wetlands in restoration sites.

In addition to seed collection, many seeds, bulbs and bare roots are sent to private and government nurseries in western Oregon to increase the species through field grow out, relieving pressure on the local stock. There are four main habitats identified for restoration: upland prairie, vernal Pools, emergent wetlands and wetland prairie. A mixture of these habitats are found in this year's restoration and improvement sites that include Stewart Pond, Turtle Swale, Dragonfly Bend and Checkermallow Access. This year, the team focused on nectar species, essential for both butterfly larvae and adults; lily and camas bulbs; strawberries and saxifrage.

Many wetland species that have proved difficult in reproduction, such as the small forget-me-not that favors vernal pools, and phlox gracillis found in moist meadows are grown at

## CONTROLLED FALL BURNS AT WILLOW CREEK



Photos: Top (City of Eugene Wetlands Program) a fire crew member monitors flames during a controlled burn at Willow Creek Natural Area in September

Bottom (WREN) Burned underbrush at Willow Creek promotes healthy growth for spring

In September, The Nature Conservancy conducted prescribed burns at Willow Creek Natural Preserve in Southwest Eugene. Fires control underbrush that would otherwise quickly overshadow native vegetation. In nature, many native plants struggle where fire has been eliminated from the natural ecosystem, especially in urban settings.

The Kalapuya people of the Willamette Valley used to set fires to much of the valley to keep the prairie open. These early inhabitants depended on native wild plants that grew in open prairie, such as camas, tarweed, and yampah.

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Do you know of a business that should be featured in the *Wetland Word*? Contact us! windy@wewetlands.org

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 the City of Eugene and WREN Volunteer Coordinator Liz Myers. Editor: Windy Hovey. Comments? Questions? Email windy@wewetlands.org

\*Correction: WREN is *not* the publisher of *Dragonflies and Damselflies of the Willamette Valley: A Beginner's Guide* as stated in the Summer 2005 issue. CraneDance Publications (www.cranedance.com) is the book's publisher.

## LOCAL REI CONTINUES TO SUPPORT WETLAND ACTIVITIES WITH A \$4,000 COMMUNITY GRANT

**R**EI, a long time supporter of WREN, recently awarded WREN with a \$4,000 community grant. WREN will use the grant money to promote Wetlands Month 2006 activities. This gift is one of many ways REI has supported WREN and its mission to provide education in the West Eugene Wetlands. WREN was nominated by an employee with the Eugene REI, and submitted an application in the summer for the grant.

"REI is a great community partner in promoting educational and recreational opportunities in the West Eugene Wetlands," WREN Environmental Education Specialist Holly McRae said. "For the past two years, WREN has worked with local experts and other organizations to coordinate special events that celebrate American Wetlands Month in May. With this generous grant, we plan on expanding this popular event to include more community members and additional events."

The national outdoor retail cooperative has stores in 25 states, two online stores and an adventure travel company, REI Adventures. A portion of REI's profits is dedicated each year to support of environmental stewardship and outdoor

recreation causes. Eugene Store Manager Jen Cline said that on average, three to five local organizations are nominated each year. This year, three organizations, including WREN, received money from community based grants. REI typically awards between \$10,000-15,000 each year to local organizations.

In addition to grants, REI also contributes to the community through at least one service project each year. This year, they adopted Trail #2 at Mt. Pisgah for clean up and trail restoration. They offer several free in-store clinics throughout the year as well. In 2003, REI hosted a dragonfly presentation as part of Wetlands Month. In 2004, they donated children's outdoor pants for WREN to give to summer camp participants. The Eugene REI also often partners with local youth organizations to help educate kids on environmental responsibility and excite them about participating in outdoor activities.

REI has been in Eugene since 1991. The store's physical address is on Lawrence St, in the old Eugene Planing Mill Building, and its virtual address is <http://www.rei.com/stores/eugene/>.

### Seed Collection: continued from page 1

the Natural Resources Conservation Service Corvallis Plant Materials Center for seed increase. Another important element of the seed collection and restoration program is the maintenance, said outgoing BLM Botanist Dharmika Henshel. Without the regular maintenance and weeding in the restoration sites, the program would not be as successful.



Camas Bulbs  
Photo: City of Eugene



Seed Collectors in the West Eugene Wetlands  
Photo: City of Eugene

**For more information on the Seed Procurement Program, and to view annual reports, visit the Parks and Open Spaces, Natural Resources page on the City of Eugene Web site [www.eugene-or.gov/](http://www.eugene-or.gov/).**



### MEET THE WREN BOARD

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JIM ANDERSON  
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 Ave.

### Volunteer!

Contact  
WREN Volunteer  
Coordinator  
Liz Myers at  
[liz@wewetlands.org](mailto:liz@wewetlands.org)  
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...*

## WREN ENTERS FALL 2005 PACKED WITH FIELD TRIPS AND OUTREACH PROGRAMS

*Written by WREN Volunteer  
Coordinator Liz Myers*

This fall WREN kicked off another exciting school year of educational programs! Registrations started rolling in from teachers by the beginning of September, quickly filling almost every day through mid November with field trips and outreach programs.

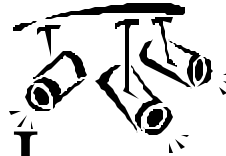
As in the past, WREN offers free field trips to 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade classes in Eugene 4J, Bethel and Springfield school districts, as well as other educational groups interested in participating in a wetland tour. In addition, WREN goes into local elementary school classrooms. Programs on general wetland ecology, bird migration and reptiles and amphibians of the wetlands are presented to classes by trained WREN staff or volunteers. This year, WREN is excited to have branched out to reach middle school classes, as well, with a new program on reptiles and amphibians of the wetlands. Students use a dichotomous key to identify 23 species of herps that can be found locally. Live animals, such as Pacific tree frogs, also accompany this program.

As the wetlands fill with water once more, WREN staff and volunteers are enthusiastic about educating students and parents alike in the unique and beautiful characteristics of this rare habitat. If you are interested in bringing a group on a field trip, or participating as a volunteer leader, please contact Liz Myers, WREN Volunteer Coordinator, at [liz@wewetlands.org](mailto:liz@wewetlands.org) or at (541) 683-6483, or visit [www.wewetlands.org/aboutwren.htm](http://www.wewetlands.org/aboutwren.htm).



*WREN Environmental Education Intern Elvira Muniz leads a fall field trip in the wetlands. Photo: WREN*

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT ON LUCY MURR



Lucy Murr began as a WREN volunteer in fall 2003, and has now contributed more than 450 hours to WREN! She created two programs: "Bird Migration in the West Eugene Wetlands" in the winter, 2004 and "Herps of the West Eugene Wetlands" in the winter, 2005. WREN currently uses her educational programs for both outreach presentations and field trips. In addition to creating programs, she often presents them to elementary and middle schools. She is fine tuning them so that WREN volunteers and staff can also successfully lead them.

"I love getting kids excited to learn about the natural world around them. I enjoy bringing the outdoors into the classroom, and also pulling kids out of their virtual worlds into the real world." —Lucy



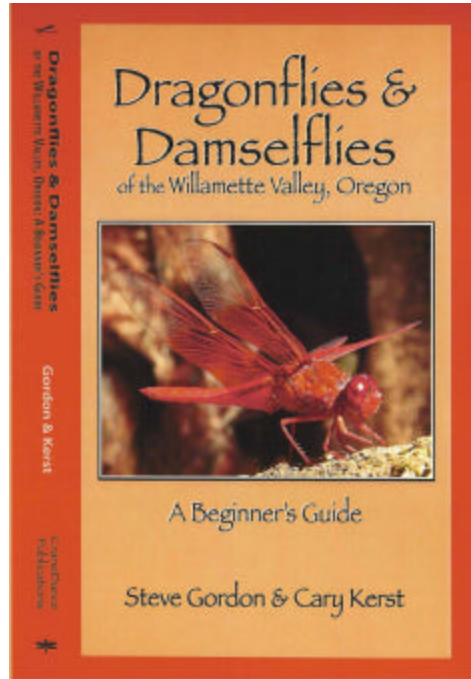
Lucy's goal is to leave a legacy in protecting the environment—especially the unique ecosystem of the wetlands—with children. She is a former science teacher and has a background in environmental education. She hopes to return to a formal teaching career in the near future. Her son and his friends have participated in many WREN programs.

*WREN would like to thank all who applied for the Environmental Education Intern position. Congratulations to **Elvira Muniz**! She assisted with field trips and in class presentations this fall. She moved to Eugene in 2004, and has volunteered with WREN for more than a year. She also works as a site coordinator for the City of Eugene's RecZone (after school) program at two middle schools. This past summer she worked with the City's Adventure Seekers camp for middle school students.*



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WREN is now pre-selling "Dragonflies and Damselflies of the Willamette Valley: A Beginner's Guide" by Steve Gordon and Cary Kerst online for \$15 at [www.wewetlands.org](http://www.wewetlands.org). Payment options include credit card through PayPal and printable order forms to mail a check with. The book is scheduled for release in late November, just in time for the holidays! Proceeds support WREN programs

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Wednesday, Nov. 16; 3:30-5:30 p.m.**  
**WREN Board Meeting**  
All board meetings are open to the public and held at the West Eugene BLM office, 751 S. Danebo Ave

**Friday, Dec. 2; 6:30-8 p.m.**  
**Café Perugino, 767 Willamette St.**  
Book Signing Party for *Dragonflies and Damselflies of the Willamette Valley: A Beginner's Guide* with the authors Steve Gordon and Cary Kerst

Please visit [www.wewetlands.org](http://www.wewetlands.org) for calendar updates

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