



Volunteer Jana Dorway plants a tree with help from local high school students at Goat Island, a natural area on the Clackamas River in Gladstone that's being restored to create better habitat for salmon and other wildlife.



SAVING THE LAST GREAT PLACES ON EARTH

Fisheries experts have identified the lower Clackamas as essential habitat for salmon and a priority for ecological restoration. Fish relying on the Clackamas River include endangered and at-risk species including Chinook and coho salmon, steelhead, cutthroat and rainbow trout and Pacific lamprey.

Community organizations, citizen volunteers and government agency partners plan to rehabilitate 22 acres of the island and allow more water flows into the side channels. Their efforts will reduce erosion, halt weeds and foster the return of native plants that provide fish and wildlife with food and shelter.

A grant of \$20,000 from PGE's Healthy Habitat customers is helping to make the restoration of Goat Island possible. Healthy Habitat funds are administered by The Nature Conservancy.

Turns out neighbors next to the island are as enthusiastic about the project as the volunteers, often allowing the groups to access the worksite through their yards.

"We've gotten to know some of the neighbors, and they are very happy about the work we are doing down here," said Steve Kennett, coordinator for SOLV's Team Up for Watershed Health program.

Once the initial restoration work is completed, project managers will continue to monitor the natural area to make sure habitat improvements are working and to determine next steps. They expect that once the major work is done, up to 500 volunteers will have lent their hands to the effort.

"The only reason we have been successful with this project is with the elbow grease from a lot of different people," said Kennett. "We've stuck with it, and we've gotten a lot done."

A makeover for Goat Island

On a foggy October morning along the Clackamas River in Gladstone, "Green Team" volunteers from Clackamas and West Linn high schools planted trees and removed invasive weeds from a natural area called Goat Island.

Brought together by SOLV, a group that organizes volunteers for outdoor projects, they were doing their part to make the island and river habitats more hospitable to salmon, steelhead, trout and other wild creatures.

Goat Island has been overgrown with non-native plants such as English ivy and Himalayan blackberry that have choked off native vegetation. In addition, development around the island has altered water flows so that its side channels run only sporadically.

Volunteer Connection

Resources for sustainable events and volunteer opportunities

The organizations listed to the right offer educational events and volunteer opportunities, ranging from tree planting and habitat restoration to educational events.

The City Repair Project – www.cityrepair.org

Oregon Natural Step Network – www.ortns.org/events.asp

Friends of Trees – www.friendsoftrees.org

Friends of Tryon Creek State Park – www.tryonfriends.org

Three Rivers Land Conservancy – www.trlc.org

Johnson Creek Watershed Council – www.jcwc.org

Energy Trust of Oregon – www.energytrust.org

SOLV – www.solv.org

The Nature Conservancy – www.nature.org/oregon



www.allanbrucephoto.com

Customer profile: Portland Japanese Garden

Nestled in the scenic west hills of Portland at Washington Park, the Japanese Garden has been proclaimed one of the most authentic Japanese gardens outside of Japan. Encompassing five and one-half acres, the Garden includes an authentic Japanese Tea House, meandering streams, intimate walkways, and an unsurpassed view of Mt. Hood. Kerry Cobb from the Japanese Garden spoke with *Renewable Report* about their sustainable business practices, including purchasing 100 percent renewable energy from PGE.

Why did the Portland Japanese Garden decide to purchase renewable energy?

"Like all gardens, the Japanese Garden is completely dependent on clean air and clean water. Recently we rolled out our new Strategic Plan, and one of its major components is an increased commitment to sustainability. With this in mind, one of our staff members brought their copy of *Renewable Report* to the attention of the Marketing Department and recommended we look into upgrading our Clean WindSM participation to the 100 percent level. It was such an easy and inexpensive way to do something positive – and it fits so well with our values regarding the environment."

What are some of your other "green" initiatives?

"As part of our Strategic Plan, the Garden is reviewing and improving all our current gardening practices – including those inherent in Japanese gardening. First, we are overhauling our water management practices in order to make the Garden self-sustaining. The creation of an environmental officer position (as part of a gardener job) will happen within the next two years, and we are expanding our environmental education program as well." For more information, including hours of operation, visit www.japanesegarden.com. Look for the coupon for the Japanese Garden in this issue.



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