



ELC heads community c

by Scott Morris
Staff Writer

On Sat., Oct. 19, over 300 local volunteers helped collect 14 cubic yards of garbage and planted over 5000 native trees and plants as part of the "Willamette River of Life" clean-up project.

The event was sponsored by Lever Brothers, the makers of Wisk power scoop detergent, and the John Inskeep Environmental Learning Center. Also helping sponsor the event were KGW-TV, Safeway and KMXI radio.

"Keeping the Willamette River area clean and environmentally healthy is the responsibility of all of us," said Jerry Herrmann, executive director of the ELC. "Thanks to the efforts of hundreds of volunteers and the commitment and generosity of corporations such as Lever Brothers, we will help to protect the river and wildlife for generations to come."

"We are proud to have been the major corporate sponsor of the cleanup and are delighted with the number of volunteers who turned out today to be part of the program," said George Yuen, Wisk power scoop product manager.

Volunteers started at 10 a.m. and spent the morning picking up garbage and planting seedlings on 10 beaches between West Linn and Portland.

Each volunteer received a free "River of Life" tee shirt and was invited to an authentic Northwest Indian-style salmon bake at Tom McCall Waterfront Park for helping with the event.

While volunteers cleaned the beaches, elected officials, policymakers from cities along the river, and sponsors of the event were invited aboard a 57 ft. charter vessel running from Oregon City to Portland to learn about the history and development of the river and discuss what can be done to save it.

Everyone who participated in this year's cleanup felt that this was a positive step in saving the river but agreed that we still have a great deal more to do.

"We do a good job, but we need to do a better job," said Bob Liddell, mayor of West Linn. "It's not the responsibility of any one city, state or county government to save the river, it's the responsibility of any or all governments that have the influence to get things done at any level."

Ruth McFarland, metro councilor for district 7, agreed with this and added, "We're not trying to force any government or group to do things they don't want to do, we're just trying to get them to work together."

Although this was one positive step towards saving our local environment, Mart A. Hughes, from the Wetlands Conservancy, may have summed it up the best when he said "There's a lot of work to be done."

