

# ACTIVIST ! LERT

Kim Nelson, Oregon State University, will talk about the **ecology of marbled murrelets** (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*) and the effect of forest landscape patterns and predators on their survival. Her presentation, "Marbled Murrelets, Landscapes and Predators" is 7-9 pm Thursday, June 23, in room 184 at the UO School of Law. Nelson discusses the marbled murrelet, "a secretive seabird" that breeds in older-aged forests along the west coast of North America, including Oregon. "Marbled murrelet populations have declined over much of their range due primarily to current and historic loss and fragmentation of their breeding habitat."

On a related note, conservation groups including Cascadia Wildlands, Oregon Wild and Coast Range Forest Watch submitted petitions June 21 asking the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) and the Oregon Board of Forestry to take new measures to better identify and protect important forest areas for protected marbled murrelets. According to a press release, the petition to ODFW requests that the agency "uplist" the marbled murrelet to "endangered" status under the Oregon Endangered Species Act (OESA). The petition to the Board of Forestry asks the agency to identify and protect important forest sites critical to the species' survival. The agencies are required to work together to recover murrelets. The groups say, "While murrelets have been listed as a 'threatened' species for nearly 30 years, Oregon has never developed a plan to recover them or protect the old-growth forests where they live."

## POLLUTION UPDATE

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is accepting comments through 5 pm on June 28 on the proposed issuance of Clean Water Act permit coverage to Portland-based **Stratus Real Estate Developers, LLC** for construction stormwater discharges from a new **Yogi Tea** facility to be located at W. 11th Avenue and Renne St. According to the permit application, the project is anticipated to disturb 13.3 acres of land, with discharges flowing to Amazon Creek. DEQ is also accepting comments through 5 pm on June 30 on the proposed issuance of Clean Water Act permit coverage to **Land Whisperers LLC** for construction stormwater discharges from **Willow Run Subdivision**, a 43 lot subdivision to be located at Irvington Drive and Golf Course Way. According to the permit application, the project is anticipated to disturb 8 acres of land, with discharges flowing to the A-1 Channel of the Amazon Creek System. Visit [goo.gl/Yp4iAK](http://goo.gl/Yp4iAK) for more info on commenting.

Doug Quirke/Oregon Clean Water Action Project

## LANE COUNTY AREA SPRAY SCHEDULE

Oregon Department of Transportation is spraying roadsides. Call 503-986-3010 to talk with a vegetation management coordinator or call 1-888-996-8080 for recent herbicide application information. Hwy. 36 was recently sprayed.

Weyerhaeuser Company, 746-2511, plans to hire Northwest Reforestation Services LLC, 554-0489, to backpack foliar spray and hack and squirt 932.1 acres west of Marcola Road with aminopyralid, metsulfuron methyl, sulfometuron methyl, glyphosate, imazapyr, Hi-Light Blue and/or MSO Concentrate. See ODF notification 2016-771-07490, call Brian Dally at 541-726-3588 with questions.

Compiled by Gary Hale, *Forestland Dwellers*: 541-342-8332, [forestlanddwellers.org](http://forestlanddwellers.org)

# THE RIVER IS ALIVE, COME CHECK IT OUT

The McKenzie River is more than just a line on the map. It is a living river, constantly shifting and forming the surrounding land, creating a dynamic habitat for hundreds of native species. Sitting atop this vibrant river is Green Island, home to one of the most diverse ecosystems in the Willamette Valley.

The McKenzie River Trust is hosting its 8th annual Living River Celebration from 7 am to 5 pm Saturday, June 25, on Green Island.

McKenzie River Trust (MRT) is a nonprofit land trust that works to protect and conserve thousands of acres of land in Western Oregon.

This Saturday's Living River Celebration is a rare opportunity to visit Green Island, which is usually closed to the public for restoration and conservation. Green Island is home to hundreds of species of fish, birds and other wildlife, some of which are threatened or endangered, such as the Western pond turtle and Oregon chub.

Attendees can explore the site by themselves or participate in guided tours throughout the day. Tours range from bird watching hikes in the morning to a reptiles and amphibians walk at the end of the day.

"The amazing natural resources that we have in our backyard are part of what make Eugene and Springfield

such an incredible place to live," MRT Associate Director Liz Lawrence says. "We're really lucky here to have forward-looking people who want to support projects like this."

Local companies including Ninkasi Brewing Company, Oakshire Brewing, Hot Mama's Wings and others will provide complementary food and drinks over the course of the event.

There will be activities throughout the day at The Hub, the event's main base located in the middle of the property, including tree climbing with the city of Eugene River House and kayaking with Oregon Paddle Sports. There will be live music from 11 am to 3 pm featuring a quartet presented by The Jazz Station as well as other local artists.

"Come to the river with different sets of lenses," MRT Executive Director Joe Moll tells *EW*. "Come here as a kid, come here as an adult, look at it through different points of view."

Green Island is located at 31668 Green Island Road, Eugene. The event is free and open for all ages. Registration is voluntary, but registered attendees are entered into a raffle for a \$100 gift card to REI. For more information, visit [mckenzie-river.org](http://mckenzie-river.org). ■

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— JOE MOLL, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

# CELEBRATE SOCIAL JUSTICE!

MRG Foundation, once known as the McKenzie River Gathering, began on the banks of the river for which the foundation was named, says the group's communications manager Alison Wandschneider.

Founders Leslie Brocklebank and her husband Charles Gray came into an inheritance of about \$500,000, Wandschneider says, and brought a group of activists and philanthropists together to figure out how the money could have the deepest impact on the root causes of social inequity and environmental degradation.

Forty years later, MRG Foundation has "rethought the way foundations could be built and act, and allows those most affected to figure out how to best solve the tricky problems of the day," she says.

While MRG now makes grants all over Oregon, it originally had a Eugene focus, Wandschneider says, and on Sunday, June 26, the group will host its annual Social Justice Summer Party here in Eugene at the Campbell Senior Center.

The gathering brings together grantees, folks on the ground, donors and more, Wandschneider tells *EW*. It's open to the public and leads to community building as people can come and connect to others in the social justice movement. MRG has gained board members and key

volunteers from people coming to the summer party, she says.

MRG still has an activist-led grant-making model, Wandschneider says, former grantees and activists on the ground work to decide who should get grants — "people who understand the movement and stay rooted," she says.

Locally, groups such as Beyond Toxics, Eugene-Springfield NAACP and CALC (Community Alliance of Lane County) have received funding from MRG, and Wandschneider says that CALC was one of the original 1976 grants.

Statewide, MRG has funded empowering LGBTQ youth, the Rural Organizing Project and Lakota Oyate Ki, which engages incarcerated Native Americans in traditional cultural and spiritual practices inside the Oregon State Penitentiary, to name a few.

The foundation has two grant cycles a year giving out a total 17 of general fund grants per cycle with a total of \$225,000 awarded per cycle.

The Social Justice Summer Party celebrates the MRG's 40 years of work and the work of its grantees. ■

The MRG Social Justice Summer Party is 1 to 4 pm Sunday, June 26, at the Campbell Senior Center, 155 High Street in Eugene. The cost is a sliding scale of \$5-\$20 with children under 5 free. Call 541-682-5318 or go to [mrgfoundation.org](http://mrgfoundation.org) for more info.