



League of Women Voters of Corvallis

Serving Linn and Benton Counties

March 2008

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2007—2008

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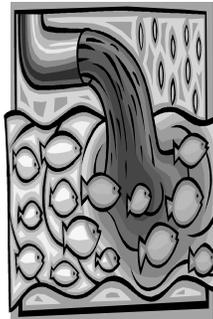
Mission

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

General Meeting: **Our Vanishing Waterways: Taking Action to Revitalize Our Local Streams**

Guest Speaker:

Dr. Stan Gregory, OSU Dept. of Fish and Wildlife



March 4, 2008

7:00 to 9:00 P.M.

Corvallis—Benton County Public Library

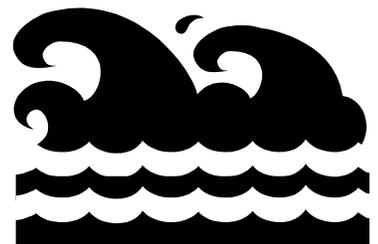
Co-sponsored by the Corvallis-Benton County Public Library

Our League's Water Resources Study Committee is pleased to present Professor Stan Gregory, acclaimed OSU scientist, in the first local program of this 30-month state study. Dr. Gregory will present his views on the current issues surrounding our urban streams, particularly Oak Creek, as well as policies and practices we can adopt to improve the water quality and the biological integrity of our local waterways. The presentation will be followed by discussion.

In addition, five local groups working on water issues have been invited to make short presentations, display information, and talk to individuals about how they can help revive our local streams. They are Benton County, City of Corvallis, Benton County Soil & Water Conservation District, Greenbelt Land Trust, and Marys River Watershed Council.

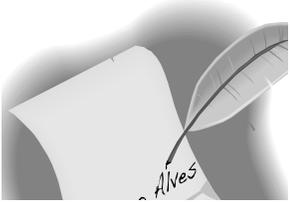
Don't miss this important program!

Corvallis will be hosting the LWVOR Council here on May 17 & 18. Volunteers are needed for this event, but the more volunteers, the easier for all. Please contact Dagmar Johnson and let her know what you would like to do (dagmar.johnson@linnbenton.edu or 752-4415). And plan on attending some of the sessions to learn more about state issues. Details will be available on our web site soon.



President's Corner

Barbara Ross



The Corvallis LWV continues to have exciting and fun stuff to do. We had a great birthday party in February, with an informative and sobering program about child abuse. Our first two water tours took us up close to some of the problems we have with our wet stuff.

Our radios, our newspapers and the TV are full of political news. While the League does not endorse or work for specific candidates, we do want all our citizens to participate in the upcoming elections. We are having a special voter registration drive to get voters ready for Oregon's May primary. We will be going door to door in high turnover neighborhoods to urge folks who have moved to update their registration. As well as getting more voters, this type of activity gives visibility to the Corvallis League. If you want to help, just call and leave a message on my phone, 752-3605. We are working with Kathy Conner's Voter Service Committee to make this a success.

As a member of the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition, the LWV of Corvallis will be participating in something they are calling the Corvallis Energy Challenge. Over the next six months the coalition and the Energy Trust of Oregon will be encouraging Corvallis homeowners to get a FREE home energy review. Their goal is to get at least 1000 homes reviewed. The organization that gets the most sign-ups for home energy reviews will get a \$1000 reward. I think we should work hard to win that prize! We get credit for a review if we have recruited that homeowner, even if they are not League members. For example, if we visit another organization that is not a member of the coalition and get people to request a home energy review, that would count toward our total. So, talk to your friends and neighbors and maybe we will hit the jackpot.

Another great event in our future is the meeting of the LWV of Oregon Council, which will be held in Corvallis in May. We have several hostess responsibilities like table decorations and registration and community tours to take care of. If you want to help, call Dagmar Johnson. She is coordinating this project and will need some volunteers who want a fun, easy, short-time activity.

Spring is coming. The flowers are poking their heads up and the sun is shining more often. Let's work to have more Corvallis voters than ever get out to the May primary. Our democracy is working!

Save Those Bottle Caps!

Allied Waste does not take plastic bottle caps of any type. The Co-op does take hard plastics, but here is another idea. A local group of home schoolers will be collecting the caps to use in making a mural. There should be a collection at the end of March. For more information, contact Jaci at jacimck@hotmail.com. Recycling questions? Ask Louise Marquering, 753-0012.

LWV of Corvallis

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The bulletin is the newsletter of the League of Women Voters of Corvallis and is produced 10 times a year. We welcome your comments, suggestions, story ideas and submissions. Contact Paula Krane or Louise Marquering. Submissions must be received no later than the Monday after the board meeting. Members subscribe through their dues. Membership is open to anyone 18 years or older



Sustainability Town Hall Meeting Set for March 31st at Alumni Center

Don't miss out on one of our community's most important events of 2008! Mark your calendar for Monday, March 31, and plan to attend the Community Sustainability Town Hall meeting from 6:00 to 9:00 pm at the CH2MHill Alumni Center on the OSU campus.

This event is the first in a series of three town hall meetings planned for this year by the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition. The March 31st gathering marks the launch of a 9-month public process that will result in a Community Sustainability Action Plan for Corvallis and Benton County. The goal is to have a plan completed by December 2008, with implementation to begin in January 2009.

This initiative will be democratic and highly participatory, involving as many people from the community as possible. In addition to the three town hall meetings, there will be interim work groups composed of volunteers from a

diverse cross section of our community. And there will be many other ways for people to be involved with this community-wide effort!

The League of Women Voters of Corvallis is a member of the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition – a network of 80 organizations in Corvallis and Benton County that are working together to accelerate the development of a sustainable community. The Coalition was formed in January 2007 and includes non-profits, businesses, government agencies, educational institutions, and faith-based organizations – all working on different aspects of sustainability.

Pre-registration for the March 31st Town Hall Meeting is encouraged! Please check the Sustainability Coalition website (www.sustainablecorvallis.org) for further details.

TOWN HALL

On

STATE OF OREGON LEGISLATIVE
SPECIAL SESSION

Saturday, March 1, 2008 10:00 AM—Noon

Corvallis-Benton County Public Library

Co-sponsor: Corvallis-Benton County Public Library



BYOM

This meeting is scheduled for the end of the Oregon Legislature's first Supplemental Session. The 2007 Legislature set this month-long session in the off-year as a trial for annual sessions.

A limited number of bills have been referred to committees. Some were bills vetted in the regular session too late to pass both chambers. Other bills are in response to the needs of governmental agencies or current law revisions.

The Joint Ways and Means Committee must work with current projected revenues and since the most recent forecast predicts a shortfall in 2007-2009, additional allocations are doubtful.

Come listen to Senator Frank Morse and Representative Sara Gelsler tell us about the outcome of the session. Senator Morse is Chair of the Senate Subcommittee on Health Care Reform, Vice Chair of Finance and Revenue, and sits on Education and General Government Committees.

Representative Gelsler is Vice Chair of the House Human Services and Women's Wellness Committees and sits on the Senior and People with Disabilities Subcommittee, and also Health Care and Revenue Committees.

The audience is invited to ask questions following the presentations.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

The LWV Corvallis 2007-2008 member count is 147. This includes 81 individual members, 23 households, 4 honorary members (50-year), and 16 from our area who have joined at the national level only. Last year our total member count was 139.

Of the 131 *local* members, 14 are new or have rejoined after a significant absence. A warm welcome to Eleen Baumann, Sheryl Bernard, Katherine Cleland, Patricia and Kent Daniels, Nancy Demchak, Bob Devine, David Eckert, Dagmar Johnson, Mary Mayfield, Katie McLellan, Keith Muckleson, Beth Thoennes, and Bill York. Karen Long, who has been a national member has now joined LWV Corvallis and we also welcome her to our league.



Welcome!

Please be sure to ask your friends to come to our meetings and to join the League!!

Membership lists have been emailed to members and they will be available at the upcoming meetings. If you did NOT get the electronic copy and want one, or if you would like a hard copy sent to you, please notify Shelly at 754-1184 or shellym@peak.org.



Volunteers needed for LWVUS convention in Portland June 13 to 17th—details in your February bulletin.

League Tours Corvallis's Taylor Water Plant

By Denise Nervik and Dave Eckert

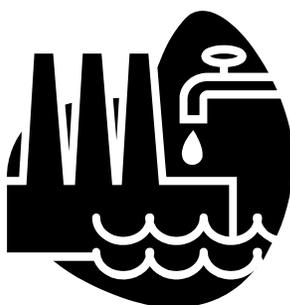
On January 25, the Corvallis LWV Water Study Committee and other Corvallis citizens toured the City's Taylor Water Treatment Plant in South Corvallis near Willamette Park.

Water use in Corvallis varies throughout the year. In the winter, when water is most plentiful, treated water usage is at its lowest – 5 to 6 million gallons per day (MGD). During our dry summers, water usage is at its peak, about 13 MGD. This increase is primarily from irrigation of yards. The Rock Creek Plant supplies over 2 MGD, while the majority is pumped from the Taylor Plant. To meet Corvallis's growing needs, the Taylor Plant has expanded every 10 years. The Taylor Plant has a water permit to draw up to 25 MGD from the Willamette River. One consistent customer of City's water throughout the year is the Hewlett-Packard plant which consumes about 1 MGD to clean the electronic wafers it produces.

Where you live influences what you drink. Rock Creek water flows by gravity directly into the Baldy Reservoir at Bald Hill on the west side of town or directly into the system. The Taylor plant pumps water directly into the system from the east or fills a reservoir at 13th and Walnut. The water from Rock Creek and Taylor are not mixed until they meet each other in the system. The system includes 400

miles of water pipes and pumps into water towers around the City for distribution by gravity. While water pressure varies throughout the City, chlorine residual in the treated water is exactly the same as it leaves both plants.

Every process at the Taylor Plant is monitored and controlled by computers in its Control Room. Taylor uses 4 pumps to pipe the river water up to the treatment plant. The intakes use a slitted pipe to prevent fish from being sucked into the system. The PH of water is checked and soda ash (like lime) is added to adjust the PH. Alum (aluminum sulfate) is added for the "flocculation process" to lower turbidity. Fluoride is added and the water is cleaned by 8 granulated active carbon water filters. The filtered water is circulated for one hour in underground serpentine channels. Chlorine is added and the water is ready for use by Corvallis citizens and businesses.



Costs must be reviewed regularly and are based upon increases in basic overhead, changes in regulatory requirements and needs for capital improvements. The last rate review was in October, 2007 and consumer rates increase in February, 2008 by 4.3%.

The League invites you to join in our April 9 tour of Rock Creek Treatment Plant. Space available – to register, contact Dave Eckert at deckert@willamettewatershed.com.

League Members' Generosity Appreciated—Thank you to Christie Connard and Miriam Miller for their recent Education Fund donations. Thank you also to people who have donated items to the OSU Thrift Shop to benefit the League. Thrift Shop donations have netted almost \$200 so far this fiscal year.



LWV Book Club - New book for March

It has been such a gloomy winter, that the Book Club selected a more upbeat book for March - *American Bloomsbury* by Susan Cheever. Did you know that Louisa May Alcott loved H.D. Thoreau and that R.W. Emerson helped support Nathaniel Hawthorne? According to one reviewer, the small village of Concord, MA, in the mid-19th century sounds like a

soap opera, inhabited by creative, eccentric and fascinating individuals. Join us 2:30 p.m., March 10th at Ruth Gallagher's apartment to talk about the book and reminisce about when we first read Alcott, Emerson, Hawthorne, and Thoreau (and what we still remember of them.)

To prepare for April, check out the classic F. Scott Fitzgerald, *Tender is the Night*.

LWVC Joins the Corvallis Energy Challenge

The first week of March, Energy Trust of Oregon and the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition will kick off a year-long campaign to promote energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy in Corvallis. Energy Trust selected Corvallis and the Sustainability Coalition last fall, after searching for an Oregon community that could take the lead by piloting a Community Energy Program. The program will test whether such an effort is effective at promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy in Oregon.

As a partner in the Coalition, the League of Women Voters of Corvallis will participate in the Corvallis Energy Challenge in two ways:

1. During kick-off week (March 3 – 8), representatives from over 50 Coalition partner organizations will have free home energy reviews. Barbara Ross will be representing the League. The media will report the results and interview some of the participants.
2. From March 3 through mid-April, Sustainability Coalition partner organizations will compete to sign up members, friends, and colleagues for free home energy reviews. **The organization with the most sign-ups will win \$1,000!** The goal is to have a total of 1,000 sign-ups by Earth Day (April 22, 2008).

Your home is eligible for a Home Energy Review if it meets the following requirements:

Your home is heated with electricity from Pacific

Power or gas from NW Natural.*

You own the home, and it is a free-standing, single-family home; or you rent your single-family home, and your landlord has agreed to request the Home Energy Review. (Condominium associations and apartment building owners may call 1-866-368-7878 or visit www.energytrust.org/residential/mf to request Energy Trust support.)

Your home was built before 1993.



During a Home Energy Review, an energy advisor from Energy Trust will meet with you for approximately 45 minutes. You'll learn how you can use less energy, save money and create a more comfortable living environment. The energy advisor will install FREE compact fluorescent light bulbs and FREE faucet aerators and efficient showerheads. You'll also get a preliminary sense of your home's suitability for solar.

Help the League of Women Voters of Corvallis win the prize!! Sign up for a free Home Energy Review through Energy Trust by giving your contact information to Shelly Murphy at shellym@peak.org or 754-1184.

* Consumers Power also offers its customers FREE home energy audits, and sells compact fluorescent light bulbs at a discount. You can also request a FREE efficient showerhead from Consumers Power at the time of your audit or any time through www.consumerspower.org.



Register Folks to Vote

If you would like to ring doorbells and inquire whether folks are registered to vote--and register them if not and willing--join us Thursday evening March 6th at five o'clock and/or Saturday morning March 8th. We plan to walk in pairs with voter registration cards in hand and League of Women Voters name tags on our shoulders. Before walking, details of registration will be reviewed and information concerning the (expected) content of the May 20th Primary ballot will be presented so you'll be prepared to answer questions.

Call Voter Service chair Kathy Conner at 753-4797 or email her at kathrynconner@comcast.net to volunteer or for more information.

May 20th, 2008 Primary Election dates of interest:

Deadline for candidates to be placed on ballot: March 11

Deadline for ballot measures: March 20

Last day to register to vote or change your address, your name or your political party: April 29

Save these dates for League's May 20th Primary Election Forums:

Tuesday April 22, 2008

Thursday April 29, 2008

Forums are from 7 to 9 pm at the Corvallis-Benton County Library and are co-sponsored by the Library.



LWV Corvallis
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Dates to Remember

March 1—Legislative Town Hall
March 4—General Meeting—Water
March 6 and 8—Voter Registration
March 10 - Book Club
March 21—Board Meeting
March 31—Sustainability Town Hall
April 9—Water Tour
May 17-18 –LWVOR Council
May 20—Oregon Primary Election
June 14-17 LWVUS Convention

Join LWV Corvallis

Name _____
Address _____
City, Zip+ 4 digits _____
Phone _____
E-mail _____

____ \$52 individual membership
____ \$78 household membership
____ \$26 student membership
____ Contribution*
____ I'm a new member! Please call.
____ I'm renewing my membership.
____ I'm interested in working with LWVC this year.
Please call.

Membership in LWV Corvallis is open to all citizens 18 years and over.

The membership year begins in October. Please make checks payable to the LWV Corvallis and mail to: LWV Corvallis, Attn: Membership, P.O. Box 1679, Corvallis, OR 97339-1679.

* Regular dues are not tax-deductible. However, contributions to the LWVOR or LWVUS Education Fund, paid with a separate check, are deductible.