



BHCP Volunteer Training Schedule 2018

New Volunteer Orientation

Mon, April 16, 6:30 – 8:30pm

Who: This orientation is *required for all new volunteers*. Returning volunteers are welcome but not required to attend. **RSVP REQUIRED.**

What: This training will provide an overview of the Backyard Habitat Certification Program and the various roles and expectations for volunteers.

Where: Portland Audubon, Heron Hall

Volunteer Appreciation and Annual Kick-off Meeting

Thurs, April 26, 6:30-8:30pm

Who: All RETURNING Backyard Habitat Program volunteers and staff Technicians are strongly encouraged to attend. **RSVP REQUIRED** (so we know how much food to order).

What: We're kicking off another excellent garden season in style - with this fun-filled evening! We will socialize over salad/pizza, discuss program changes and updates, review the process for conducting certification visits, and recognize some of our stellar volunteers. Food will be provided - but please feel free to bring a beverage, side, or dessert to share.

Where: Portland Audubon, Heron Hall

Native Plants; Identification and Landscape Use

Week of May 7th Exact evening still TBD, 6:30-8:30pm

Who: Any and all Backyard Habitat Program volunteers that want to deepen their knowledge. This training is required if you hope to start certifying yards this year. **No RSVP required.**

What: This training will be hosted by our partners at EMSWCD. The training will include both an indoor portion with slides demonstrating common native plants for various landscape uses (raingardens, meadowscaping, hedgerows, etc) as well as a tour of EMSWCD's impressive platinum certified habitat garden.

Where: **EMSWCD Office, 5211 N Williams Ave, Portland**

Stormwater Management and Pesticides Reduction

Mon, May 21, 6:30 – 8:30pm

Who: Any and all Backyard Habitat Program volunteers that want to deepen their knowledge. This training is required if you hope to start certifying yards this year. **No RSVP required.**

What: First, guest speaker Danny Kapsch (City of Portland, BES) will orient us to basic principles of stormwater management that you will encounter during certification visits. We will discuss the city-wide stormwater system and how individual properties can take important actions to protect local

streams and help rain infiltrate safely on-site through downspout disconnection, raingardens, eco-roofs, and more. Second, Metro's Carl Grimm will lead us through an important pesticides presentation where we will learn which pesticides are considered to be the biggest threats to people and the natural environment, who is using them in our region, how much and what is Metro doing about it.

Where: Portland Audubon, Heron Hall

Identifying Invasive Weeds in Backyard Habitats

Thurs, June 7, 6:30 – 8:30pm

Who: Any and all Backyard Habitat Program volunteers that want to deepen their knowledge of invasive weed species. This training is required if you hope to start certifying yards this year. **No RSVP required.**

What: This training will be a jam-packed, weedy-wonderland of not-to-miss information. Michelle Delepine (West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District) will lead a dynamic workshop covering identification and eradication methods for invasive weeds listed within the Backyard Habitat Certification Criteria

Where: Portland Audubon, Heron Hall

Certification Visit Field Trainings - *Note: There are two dates offered. New volunteers that wish to certify yards are required to attend one, but are invited to attend both.*

Wed, June 20 – 9:30am – noon (North Portland)

Sat, June 23 – 9:30am – noon (SE Portland)

Who: Any and all Backyard Habitat Program volunteers that want experience certifying backyard habitats. This training is required if you are not currently trained to certify yards but would like to be! Returning volunteers are also welcome! **RSVP REQUIRED.**

What: Learn the steps for conducting a successful certification visit. We will “mock” certify two BHCP yards. The training will include in-depth discussion on the certification criteria, how to calculate “percent naturescaped”, and how to gather and submit other important site data. We will also have a change to see over more than 50 native plant species growing in backyard habitats.

Where: Please RSVP for training locations.

Backyard Habitat Open Gardens Project

Ongoing, April - Oct

Who: Any and all Backyard Habitat Program volunteers and participants.

What: We're thrilled to be extending and growing this exciting project for another year! Through the Open Gardens Project, Backyard Habitat Program volunteers have an opportunity to open their beautiful gardens for the rest of our community to enjoy and learn from them.

This amazing project is being coordinated by two program volunteers, Verleen Fletcher and Susan Dale. They will be communicating the details of this project with you directly in the weeks to come.

Where: Please fill out the [REGISTRATION FORM](#) to access the online calendar and yard descriptions

Partner Trainings and Events

Our region is rich with opportunities to grow your knowledge and experience in native plants, habitats and a plethora of additional ecological topics. Below is a sampling of the programs and projects are offered by our program partners that are excellent opportunities to expand your knowledge! **Here's a sampling of some of the best programs our region has to offer.**

- **East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District** has an amazing assortment of **FREE** workshops on Raingardens, Naturescaping, Site Planning and more. See the full listings and register here: <http://emswcd.org/workshops-and-events/upcoming-workshops/>
- **EMSWCD Naturescaped Yard and Garden Tour** – Saturday, May 12 - This self-guided is a unique opportunity to meet the do-it-yourself gardeners who have created low-maintenance landscapes that attract wildlife, conserve water, and have no need for synthetic fertilizers or pesticides. More info and registration can be found at: <http://emswcd.org/workshops-and-events/naturescaped-yard-tour/>
- **Leach Botanical Gardens** – What an amazing garden to explore, with or without official guidance! For more info about visiting Leach as well as their line-up of educational programming see: <http://www.leachgarden.org/classes-and-events/>
- **Native Plant Society of Oregon** – This impressive conglomerate of plant experts and enthusiasts plans year-round events and lectures. Learn more about their events and/or become a member today at: <http://www.npsoregon.org/>
- **Portland Underground Grad School**– Projects like this are why I love, and continue to live in, this city. The Portland Undergrad Grad School provides a diverse offering of incredible programs to deepen your botanical and habitat knowledge as well as feed every other aspect of your political soul. From Drawing Plants: Urban Flora in Midwinter, to Decoding Plants: Seeing Urban Flora with New Eyes, these offerings are phenomenal. Learn more and sign up today at: <https://www.pugspdx.com/>

Please direct volunteering questions, interest, and RSVPs to:
nwest@audubonportland.org or 503-292-6855 x126.

*The Backyard Habitat Certification Program is a collaborative effort of
the Audubon Society of Portland and the Columbia Land Trust*