



WESTWIND

Greetings Westwind Community!

We have bittersweet news: Matthew Taylor, at Westwind for the past eight years, is leaving his post as Executive Director. "Westwind has been an incredible journey for me and my family, a truly inspiring place and community of people. But I am only leaving the professional service of Westwind - I will hereafter join the ranks of Westwind alumni, and look forward to days ahead as a volunteer and participant!"

Matt (or "Tarzan," as he is known at Camp), has led Westwind through some of its biggest changes in decades, including the transition of the YWCA Camp Westwind program to the Westwind Stewardship Group in 2013.

Other highlights of Matt's tenure include:

- Bringing new focus and resources to Salmon River waterfront, including adding voyageur canoes, kayaks, SUPs and a new River Shed. Youth camp now crosses regularly by canoe, and canoe and kayak trips explore many reaches of the estuary.
- Creating a year-round food service at Westwind, providing meals three times a day for Outdoor School, Camp programs, and over half the rental groups. Program now has five full-time staff.
- Creating an annual, conservation-focused community event, "Welcome the Salmon Home," which connects Westwind to the local community and celebrates the conservation work done in the Salmon River estuary and surrounding landscape.
- Creating Mushroom and Artisan Camp, stand-alone workshop weekends geared towards adults.
- Updating Westwind's Conservation Plan, which serves as the approved management plan for the Conservation Easement owned by the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board..
- Expanding volunteer opportunities through Stewardship Weekends, building and trail projects, Site Hosting, committee service and student service learning programs.
- Overseeing over \$500,000 in capital improvements, including a rebuild of the Wilson Lodge deck, installing a 32 kilowatt solar generating station on a former horse barn, and fixing/building over a dozen structures to facilitate both programming and operations.
- Created a robust Development & Outreach Department, funded by a capacity building grant and now self-sustaining.

While 'Tarzan' is not set on his next adventure, he will remain in Portland and focus more time on his five amazing kids and three dogs.

While Westwind leadership works through this transition, Emily Gilliland has been appointed Interim Executive Director, and we will follow up with more details soon. If you have any immediate needs, she can be reached at emily@westwind.org.

If you would like to thank Matt in person for his time and service at Westwind, please join us tomorrow, Wednesday February 26 from 4-6PM at Altabira City Tavern for happy hour. Please feel welcome to stop by!

Sincerely,

Westwind Board & Staff