

ENHS Field Trip to Green Island



Monica Farris

On 19 September, our September speaker Brooke Penaluna led a trip to the McKenzie River Trust property of Green Island to look for native and nonnative fishes in a side channel of the Willamette River. Twenty water lovers (including two middle school students) gathered to meet the challenge of identifying the contents of the nets and seines being dipped and dragged through the quiet water. Although the sky was overcast, we got wet only from our feet up; the rain held off.



Monica Farris

We had set out minnow traps in a quiet eddy the day before, and these yielded various fishes and other river dwellers, such as our native signal crayfish and several snails.



Signal crayfish, *Pacifastacus leniusculus*. Rachel Glaeser



Acute bladder snail, *Physella acuta*. Dat Doris (CC BY-SA 4.0)

Brooke let us puzzle over whether the fishes we were looking at in the viewing tank were northern pikeminnows (usually have a dark spot on the tail) or peamouths (usually with bright red lips). The largescale sucker was easier to spot, with its mouth directed downward ... for sucking! Sculpins and three-spine stickleback were more common. Catfish and baby salmonids also showed up.



Monica Farris



Northern pikeminnow, peamouth, sculpin. *Rachel Glaeser*

All that fishing and puzzling helped us work up an appetite, so a subset of us made the short drive to Coburg to the Coburg Pizza Company. The hot cocoa, cold beer, and unique pizza possibilities were most welcome.

You are welcome, too, to join us on our next outing. Stay tuned to *Nature Trails* and our website for more information!