

Don't weep for these willows

Thursday morning, more than a dozen volunteers assisted the Swaner Nature Preserve with the harvesting of dormant willows. Later this spring, the willows will be planted along East Canyon Creek to help preserve water quality and fish habitat. The willows will shade and cool the stream, help prevent erosion, provide leaf litter for insects and supply bird-nesting habitat.

Volunteers are still needed on Saturday, March 26, from 9 a.m. to noon. No experience is necessary; all equipment is provided. For more information, email swaner.sean.meyer@gmail.com or call (435) 649.1767, ext. 103.

In the photos, clockwise from top right:

Arborist Larry Fagot strips a freshly harvested willow branch near the Swaner Nature Preserve

A bundle of multicolored willows

Allison Mermont trims a willow branch

Patrick Newman, a volunteer from Red Butte Garden, carries a bundle of harvested willows.

