

# Conservation Notes

*Providing Natural Resource Leadership*

## Oregon Loses a Conservation Leader

Stan Christensen, a leading figure in Yamhill Soil and Water Conservation District for nearly 60 years, died August 9<sup>th</sup>, he was 84. One of the original founders of Yamhill SWCD, Stan served as District Chair for over 50 years. He officially stepped down from the Board of Directors in 2004 but faithfully attended meetings and served on committees as a Director Emeritus until his death.

Stan was the third generation Christensen to farm his families farm outside McMinnville. It is there that he developed his deep appreciation for natural resources and land. When the Yamhill SWCD was formed in 1953 he served as a director and became Chair the next year. He and others from the county served as directors of the organization for over 30 years with limited budget and staff. Stan and others sold annual report advertisements in addition to other fundraising until 1984 when the District, with Stan’s leadership, obtained a modest tax base to fund SWCD programs.

Stan was part of the committee that hired Larry Ojua and Dean O’Reilly as the District’s first staff. Stan had a knack for selecting good people. These two employees served for a combined 36 years and helped establish Yamhill SWCD as one of the best SWCD’s in



Oregon. When Stan stepped down from the board in 2004, he had built a District with a full staff and a budget of over \$800,000. He was named a “Legend in Conservation” by the Oregon Association of Conservation Districts that year. The legend award capped a lifetime of service to agriculture and community, which included the local watershed council, Mid-Willamette Valley Council of Governments, the county and state fair boards, Ag Fest – and more. Stan contributed tens of thousands of hours as a volunteer to these organizations. He once claimed to have volunteered over 12,000 hrs just to Yamhill SWCD! Stan is missed by his family and by his community.



**STAN CHRISTENSEN**

### MEMORIAL TO BE ESTABLISHED

The Stan Christensen Natural Resources Forum, established in 2010, is a tribute to Stanley R. Christensen whose founding influence is inseparable from Yamhill SWCD. The fund supports natural resource forums and public informational events designed to involve and educate the public, elected officials, and agencies about current issues.

Contributions can be made to Yamhill SWCD in Stan’s honor and will be dedicated to supporting the forum. In most cases contributions are tax deductible.

Conservation Notes – 2

The Annual Report & Conservation Notes are published by Yamhill Soil and Water Conservation District 2200 SW 2nd Street McMinnville, OR 97128 Tel.: (503) 472-1474 x102

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- Kim Hudnall,                    *District Conservationist*
- Leo Preston,                    *Basin Team Leader*
- Sergio Villasenor,              *Natural Resource Spec.*
- Rachel Russell,                *Program Assistant*

**You're Invited!**

Yamhill SWCD conducts their regular Board meetings the 2nd Wednesday of each month, beginning at 7:30 AM. Board meetings are open to the public. Citizen attendance and input is encouraged. The Board meetings are held at the Miller Woods conference room, 15580 Orchard View Rd NW, McMinnville, Oregon. Please refer to the News-Register Government Calendar section for more information or call the District @ 503-472-1474 x102



*A Note From Kim...*

It has been a busy summer for NRCS! We have been working with new Farm Bill Programs and new tools to assist us in our efforts to conserve natural resources. We were also very fortunate in having a new team member join NRCS in the McMinnville field office!



Sergio Villasenor

It is with great pleasure that I introduce Sergio Villasenor, Natural Resource Specialist for NRCS. Sergio joined NRCS in July and will be working with me to assist clients with conserving natural resources on their ground. Some of you may recognize him from the time he spent with Farm Service Agency here in the McMinnville Service Center, so he comes to NRCS with knowledge of our producers and their operations. Sergio is a Willamette Valley native and grew up in Dayton where he has been operating a small cherry orchard for his family. Sergio graduated from University of Oregon with a Bachelor's of Arts Degree in Environmental Studies (when asked about his time at U of O, Sergio merely smiled and replied with a hearty "Go Ducks!"). He looks forward to working with producers and being able to get his boots dirty in the field!

*Kim Hudnall,*  
District Conservationist

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## District hires NEW Conservation Planner

Marie was hired to work on conservation plans with interested landowners following the approved USDA NRCS planning process. She also meets with interested landowners to provide technical assistance in the implementation of conservation practices and evaluates potential eligibility for USDA programs. She is the primary contact for complaints related to natural resource concerns and works on noxious weed control and removal.



Marie Vicksta

Before coming to work with Yamhill SWCD, Marie worked with the Wisconsin Bureau of Endangered Resources in the Wolf Depredation Payment Program working with stakeholders and outreach. She has also worked on research projects in Costa Rica and Ecuador. She graduated with her Master of Science in Conservation Biology and Sustainable Development from the University of Wisconsin in 2009.

## Conservation Award Winners



In 2010, Yamhill Soil and Water Conservation District (YSWCD) sponsored three awards recognizing extraordinary achievement in voluntary conservation practices and education. This award program seeks to recognize the contribution of the award winners and inspire other landowners and the general public to engage in conservation activities. Presentations on the award winners will be made October 13<sup>th</sup> at Annual Meeting.

Award winners include Zach Christensen of Christensen Farms, LLC for the **George E. Otte Conservation Landowner Award**, which recognizes excellence in private land stewardship. Christensen Farms operates on close to 3500 acres growing wheat, barley, grass and vegetable seed, filberts, and other crops. The farm has adopted no-till planting on most of its acres and manages residues to reduce soil erosion. Zach has been heavily involved with agriculture through farming, the Farm Bureau, The Oregon Ryegrass Growers Association, and was the past Chair of Yamhill Farm Services Agency County Committee.

The **Urban Conservationist Award** for innovation and implementation of conservation practices in an urban land setting will be awarded to Judge John L. Collins of McMinnville. Judge Collins worked to secure funding to make the county Court House more energy efficient. He is an ardent recycler, having graduated from Marion Counties Master Recycler program a few years ago. He commutes via bicycle daily and has made extensive home improvements to save water and energy.

The **Frieda L. Miller Conservation Educator Award** recognizing the dedication and contribution of educators to the future of conservation, will be awarded to Jared Larson of McMinnville High School. Jared is the High School Science Department Chair and is the lead for the Natural Resources Management and Environmental Science career pathway program. Jared's programs have impacted over 1000 students this past year in his own classes. Where students have conducted fish population counts, measured timber, and surveyed wildlife.





September 2010

Newsletter of the Greater Yamhill Watershed Council:  
 “Working to improve our watersheds”

**Mission Statement**

The Yamhill Basin Council works to improve watershed conditions and promote awareness and understanding of watershed issues to achieve healthy forest, farm, urban, and riparian communities in the Yamhill Basin.

**Greater Yamhill Watershed Council**

**Officers**

Annette W. Frank *Chair*  
 Dave Hanson *Chair Elect*

**Staff**

Bernadette Hansen *Council Administrator*  
 Jeff Sanders *Watershed Coordinator*  
 Denise Schmit *Monitoring Technician*  
 Corissa Kunze *Monitoring Assistant*

**Stakeholder Groups**

Agriculture  
 Bureau of Land Management  
 City/County Government  
 Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde  
 Environmental Groups  
 Forestry  
 Students  
 Utilities  
 Small Woodlands Assoc.  
 Watershed Residents



**Lycaena helloides**

Photo by Jennifer Sanders

P.O. Box 1517  
 800 NE 2nd Street  
 McMinnville, OR 97128-1517  
 Phone: 503.474.1047

# The Kingfisher



## “The times they are a-changing...”

To quote an old Bob Dylan song, “*The times they are a-changing...*” and it couldn’t be more true for the Yamhill Basin Council. The summer of 2010 finds us with changes in leadership, staff, organizational structure, expanded boundaries, and even a name change to boot. Following is a summary of those changes:

- 1) At the July 8<sup>th</sup> monthly Council meeting, the members voted to change the legal structure of the Yamhill Basin Council. That is, the Council approved a motion to become a nonprofit organization. Our goal is to be established and running as a nonprofit organization by July 1, 2011.
- 2) As part of this transition process, the Council also voted to change the name of the organization to more accurately describe the watersheds currently within our purview (i.e., Yamhill River & Chehalem Creek watersheds). We are now the “**Greater Yamhill Watershed Council.**”
- 3) We’ve also expanded our geographic boundaries in order to serve folks who are currently not covered by a watershed council. The geographic boundary change adds all areas south of Dayton to the Polk County border and east to the Willamette River. This will include Grand Island, which is actually in the river.
- 4) To lead us in all these changes, the Greater Yamhill Watershed Council has elected a new chair – **Annette W. Frank**. Annette comes to us with a strong background in public service and volunteerism, and a large dose of energy and enthusiasm. She is finishing her senior thesis at Linfield College and hopes to have her Bachelors of Science in Environmental Policy by Fall 2010. She lives with her husband and son in Dayton, where she is actively involved in the community. Annette can be reached at [gywc\\_chair@co.yamhill.or.us](mailto:gywc_chair@co.yamhill.or.us).
- 5) And finally, we have a new Watershed Coordinator – **Jeffery (Jeff) Sanders**. Jeff has a Bachelors of Science in Geology. He comes to us with many years of experience in project management, environmental geology, hydrogeology, and soil and ground water characterization. He has managed several reclamation and restoration projects in New Mexico and most recently restored an old coffee farm in Costa Rica to improve water quality, slope stability, and wildlife habitat. Jeff can be reached at 503.474.1047 or [gywc\\_coordinator@co.yamhill.or.us](mailto:gywc_coordinator@co.yamhill.or.us).

We are excited about the possibilities that lie ahead. “*Change happens!*” – It is our challenge to respond to it and exploit it as an opportunity. We encourage you to join us in this new opportunity and to become part of a great team working to make the greater Yamhill watershed the crown jewel in this wonderful place we call home – Oregon! Thank you very much for your continued support!

## LANDOWNER/CITIZEN REPRESENTATIVES NEEDED

The Greater Yamhill Watershed Council (GYWC) is seeking local representatives to participate in an ongoing culvert survey and prioritization project. We are looking for individuals interested in participating in a watershed stakeholder process to help develop watershed specific criteria for prioritizing fish passage issues in the North Yamhill, Willamina Creek and Mill Creek Watersheds.

The GYWC is working cooperatively with the Bureau of Land Management and the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde on a project to identify potential fish barriers (culverts, bridges, etc) located in the North Yamhill, Willamina Creek and Mill Creek Watersheds with grant funds received from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. The goal of this project is to eventually replace or remove fish passage barriers throughout these watersheds to increase the available spawning and rearing habitat for multiple fish species including the threatened Upper Willamette Steelhead and Chinook Salmon. This summer concludes the last phase of survey data collection which should be completed by late September. The next phase will consist of gathering a group of stakeholders to discuss what factors should be considered and the how barriers should be prioritized in these watersheds. This stakeholder group will likely be comprised of the project partners, Federal, Tribal, State and Local government agencies, private industry (i.e. timber, agriculture, etc), private landowners and or interested citizens. This stakeholder group may meet up to 5 times or more over a 6-9 month period, likely starting in late September or early October. There is no mandatory commitment, however if you would like to participate it is hoped that you could make it to as many of the meetings as possible.

If you are a landowner in one of these three watersheds or just interested in helping fish and would like to be involved in the decision-making process of this very important project, please contact Jeff Sanders (watershed coordinator) at the GYWC at (503) 474-1047 or [GYWC\\_Coordinator@co.yamhill.or.us](mailto:GYWC_Coordinator@co.yamhill.or.us).

## Project Updates

### Wolf Tree Creek Riparian Restoration

Restoration activities are ongoing as nearly all of the invasive plants along the east bank of Wolf Tree Creek (unofficial name) have been removed. Previously, one could not even see the creek because of a massive patch of Himalayan Blackberry. Property owner Patricia Lesch and her neighbor Bruce Sigloh (a GYWC council member) have spent many tireless hours clearing nearly ½ mile of invasive plants. This month the project site will be sprayed for invasive species and then seeded with native grasses. Tree planting is scheduled to begin in February.

### Gooseneck Creek Confluence Restoration Project

There are now visible results from stream restoration activities that occurred late last summer in Gooseneck Creek, southwest of Sheridan. The GYWC along with project partners the Bureau of Land Management, US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife installed a series of large wood structures (log weirs) along a portion of Gooseneck Creek that had been scoured down to bedrock. Over the past year the weirs have helped to reduce stream velocity and allow the streambed to naturally accumulate cobble and sediment. The structures have also created pools which provide for much-needed fish sanctuary along this stretch of creek. Volunteers also planted native trees which will eventually shade and cool the water. This month additional boulders will be installed to provide additional habitat and erosion protection.

### Deer Creek Park - Wet Prairie Restoration

Wet prairie restoration activities at Deer Creek Park are ongoing. The 23 acre site is located adjacent to Deer Creek Park, northeast of Sheridan. The land was donated to Yamhill County Parks and had historically been used for hay production. The GYWC along with project partners Yamhill County, Institute for Applied Ecology, US Fish and Wildlife Service, the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service have teamed up with a goal of reestablishing a habitat for the Nelson's checkermallow, a threatened plant species. This summer the site was mowed and tilled in an effort to remove a thick blanket of native weeds that had taken residence. Additional mowing of an upland portion will occur this fall along with the planting of a native grass seed mix. A final seeding of native grasses and forbs along with native plants (including Nelson's checkermallow) is scheduled to occur in 2012.

*Comments, questions, submissions? Wish to be added to or removed from the mailing list?*

Contact Bernadette Hansen at (503) 474-1047 or [gywc\\_administrator@co.yamhill.or.us](mailto:gywc_administrator@co.yamhill.or.us).

# Grand Island Controversy

*By Tim Stieber and Sam Sweeney, Yamhill SWCD*

Grand Island is a special place that has many natural resources that benefit the county. Productive flood enriched soils, abundant irrigation water, and a unique micro climate that encourages fast and earlier plant growth than on surrounding land. Grand Island also has a history of providing produce for Oregon that dates back to the original settlers. The recent proposal to expand gravel mining on Grand Island has created a contentious divide between mine developers and Grand Island residents. Mine developers developing the proposed site will lead to more jobs so it should be allowed – and others feel strongly that Grand Island should be protected from mining and dedicated to agriculture. The purpose of this article is to outline why Yamhill SWCD opposes development of gravel mines on Grand Island. More information can be obtained from the local newspaper articles recently published and a headline story in the Oregonian in which opposing views are represented. Grand Island residents have even formed their own web site [www.protectgrandisland.com](http://www.protectgrandisland.com) and you can visit that site to learn more or attend one of their island tours.

## High Value Soils

It is easy to see why there is conflict between farming and mining. The mining process completely removes the soils that are the productivity base for agriculture. Development of gravel mines on Grand Island will directly remove class 1 & II soils. Greater than 95% of the soils of Grand Island are Class I or II compared to 14% for the rest of the Willamette Basin. Fertile silt and sandy loams are found there that are easy to work and well drained. The potential loss of these high value soils is significant. Over 20% of land area (750 acres) in adjacent Lambert Bend has either been lost to mining or to river capture erosion. A 400+ acre rezoning on the northern portion of Grand Island was approved a few years ago and a 224 acre project is currently under consideration. These two sites will total more than 15% of Grand Island’s area.

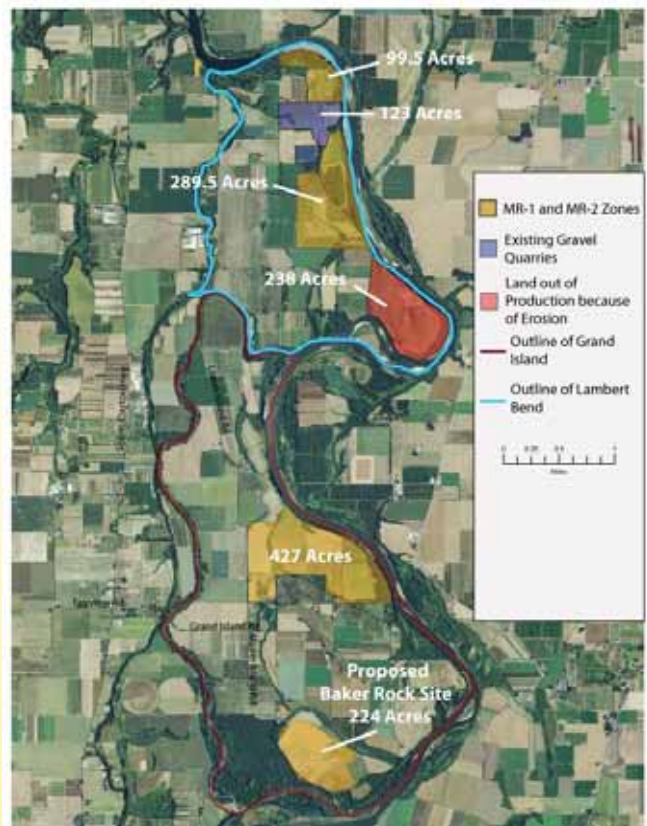
## Economics

One argument for mine development is that the mine will stimulate jobs for about 30 or so years as the mine is being Excavated. However, there are existing opportunities for this kind of economic growth elsewhere in the area. There are several other mines to the north and south in operation and 400 acres of land nearby zoned for gravel extraction that has not yet begun operations. If people want to build, there is rock available. Furthermore, jobs created through mining are at the expense of current farming related jobs. Also, the future potential to farm the land is lost when a pit 40+ feet deep is created and fertile top soil is removed. Grand Island is conducive to intensive horticulture that employs many more people per unit land area than conventional fields of wheat and corn. Several people have compared Grand Island to Sauvie Island which is beloved by Portland and an economic engine to boot.

Farming has produced economic gain from Grand Island for over 100 years. It has also contributed to county-wide economic stability. Regional economist Pat O’Conner stated in a recent News Register column that counties with a high prevalence of jobs in agriculture have been more stable than counties relying on industry or forestry. When people stop building they still need to eat. Conservative estimates of the economic magnitude of the loss of 575 acres of Grand Island Class I and II soils exceeds \$1.5 million per year lost to the local economy if both mine sites are fully developed.

## What Else?

The proposed mine development site is in a precarious location along the Willamette River. The area floods, sometimes violently, causing damage to roads and other infrastructure. Visiting the site - it is easy to see why a 40+ foot deep hole



Aerial View of Lambert Bend & Grand Island Areas

(Continued from page 6)

next to the Willamette River might not be a good idea. Take a tour – draw your own conclusion. Certainly mine development will result in impacts to adjacent landowners due to road traffic, Congestion at the Islands one bridge, noxious weeds, noise, and in other ways as expressed by residents at recent hearings.

Certainly society needs rock resources but these should not be obtained at the expense of Class I and II soils nor by damaging the natural river bank structure that currently protects Grand Island from erosion during winter Willamette River flooding.

The same parcel of land can not produce food and gravel!



## Who will Care for Our Farms When we are Gone?

By Hank Wyman, Associate Director, Yamhill SWCD

Few challenges faced by family farm and forest owners are more important than the issue of passing the business and its land base on to the following generation. To help landowners plan ahead for this transition, the Yamhill SWCD is co-sponsoring a two-part workshop called *Ties to the Land*.

The McMinnville workshop dates are October 22 (for part 1) and January 26 (part 2). Registrants must attend each of the sessions, which will be conducted at the Extension auditorium, 2050 Lafayette Avenue. The presentations are two of 10 identical workshops scheduled in those same weeks around Oregon.

A \$30 fee covers attendance by one or two family members at the two McMinnville workshops. Additional immediate family may participate for \$10 each. Refreshments and materials, including one \$45 workbook and companion DVD, will be provided for each family.

Registration information will be available soon at Extension and Yamhill SWCD offices and websites. Check these locations to get signed up.

*Ties to the Land* is a facilitated program to help guide family farm and forest owners through a smooth transition of their land from one generation to the next. The workshops explore succession planning--the human side of estate planning that focuses on ways to maintain family ties to the land from generation to generation, building awareness of key challenges facing family businesses and motivating families to address those challenges.

Workshop participants will learn about the succession planning process, including legal and business considerations. They also will gain understanding of resources available to get started, including tools to determine heirs' interests.

*Ties to the Land* workshops consist of a mix of presentations and practical exercises to help families develop techniques needed to address these tough issues. Originally developed by Oregon State University to help forest owners deal with succession's financial, legal and emotional dimensions, the program has broadened to assist other farmers and ranchers as well.

More information, including a list of workshops scheduled in Oregon is online at: <http://www.tiestotheland.org>.

Workshops also will be presented next year in Washington, Idaho and California, so family members living in those states also could attend. "The idea is to make it possible for whole families to participate, even if they live in different places," according to Brad Withrow-Robinson, of McMinnville's OSU Extension Service office. "This round of workshops also is a good chance for Yamhill SWCD cooperators to get in ahead of the crowds," he said. "Next year we'll push to build awareness of the issue and advertise more widely to new audiences before scheduling more workshops."



## Habitat Conservation Plan for Prairie Habitats

By Amie Loop-Frison

Prairie and savannahs once occupied over 1,700,000 acres in the western interior valleys of Oregon, Washington and British Columbia. Today, less than one percent of these remain making them one of the most endangered ecosystems in North America. This habitat is not only rare, but highly fragmented making it difficult for many species that depend on it to maintain viable populations. Former grassland habitats are now cities, subdivisions, agricultural fields, forests and managed grazing lands. However, through District efforts over the past several years 24 patches of intact native prairie habitat have been located and conserved by conscientious private landowners.

We expect that there are additional remaining intact prairie patches to be found on private lands. The District will be searching for these patches and landowners who will be willing to protect and manage them thanks to a grant awarded recently to the District from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). The District will be embarking upon a multi-year project to develop a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) for lands within Yamhill County which will focus on recovery efforts for species listed under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) inhabiting upland prairies.

Two of the main species we will be trying to locate within these prairie habitats are the Fender's blue butterfly (*Icaricia icarioides fenderi*) which is listed as endangered under the ESA and the Kincaid's lupine (*Lupinus sulphureus ssp. kincaidii*) which is a threatened species and is the butterfly's caterpillar stage host plant. We will also be looking for opportunities to conserve a variety of nectar plants that the butterfly uses. The hope and intention



Kincaid Lupine

is to locate several semi-large populations of these and then link them together through small patches or stepping stone habitats. This will allow biological exchange among sites and will allow for expansion of the stepping stones into larger habitats if the landowner so chooses. This effort will follow the newly published USFWS *Recovery Plan for the Prairie Species of Western Oregon and Southwestern Washington* which was signed in May of this year.

Another equally important goal of the HCP besides support of species recovery is to provide regulatory assurances to private landowners who own this type of habitat. The completed HCP will allow landowners within the county to comply with the ESA while engaging in land management activities. Specifically, landowners planning on undertaking a project that may adversely affect an ESA listed species will have the opportunity to obtain incidental take permit coverage through this HCP process. Restoration funding will also be easier to obtain for those landowners who wish to enhance their prairie habitats.



Fender's Blue Butterfly

Yamhill SWCD has the unique opportunity of serving as a model for other SWCD's and organizations by establishing an efficient way to incorporate species conservation into private lands management. However, we will need the cooperation of local landowners, stakeholders and public agencies to make this effort a reality. There are many ways that local citizens can become involved in this process;

**Locating prairie habitats** - is a key priority and will not happen without private landowner's help in identifying these.

If you think you have grassland habitat, even if it's less than an acre, give us a call so we can assess it for native species.

**Stakeholder Committee** - is composed of local representatives from regulatory agencies and public interest groups, as well as private landowners and other interested individuals or groups. They will provide the HCP Project Manager with comments and advice on preparation of the HCP.

**Technical Advisory Committee** - will serve as an advisory group to the HCP Project Manager on such issues as species biology, species habitat requirements, and habitat restoration.

The District is very excited to open a new chapter in conservation within the county. This all voluntary project will truly be a county wide effort, so please call Amie Loop-Frison, HCP Project Manager at (503) 472-1474 x113 or email at [amie.loop-frison@or.nacdnet.net](mailto:amie.loop-frison@or.nacdnet.net) if you can contribute some time or knowledge or would simply like more information.



Oaks -Upland Prairie



# Floating Islands

Miller Woods pond was built on what was cattle pasture land. This past historical land use has created current nutrient management challenges in the properties pond. This has lead to excessive weed growth in the summer months. The floating island is meant to augment natural wetland processes and functions by increasing the surface area of plants that are in contact with the system. We planted 392 sq. ft. of island area with 12 species of plants, 316 plants in total. These are species that have demonstrated proficiency to sequester nitrogen and phosphorus. The island will also add shade to the pond surface, cooling the pond temperature and promoting healthier natural processes. As the island plants grow and uptake nutrients they will also offer habitat for life above and below the surface. At the end of the growing season these plants will be cut and composted, thus removing excess nutrients from the pond system.



Floating Island

## Miller Woods Floating Island Plant List

Sawbeak sedge  
 Polk County willow  
 Field Mint  
 Small fruited bulrush  
 Multnomah sandbar willow  
 Hardstem bulrush

Field Mint  
 Douglas iris  
 Slough sedge  
 Plumas willow  
 Canada bluejoint  
 Common Cattail



The island material is made from recycled PET plastic drinking bottles which means it is non-toxic. The porous nature of this material creates an environment that allows more complex root systems to form and micro-organisms to thrive. These micro-organisms are also critical for the uptake of nutrients and carbon dioxide.

Carlton Plants nursery is also involved in this project. They launched 8 islands themselves in their propagation area's 2 acre irrigation pond. Their islands are made of Styrofoam and they hope the islands will combat the pond's nutrient loading from agricultural runoff. They are pleased with the improvement that they are already seeing in their pond.



The water at Miller Woods being tested throughout the year for monitoring purposes. We hope to see positive results that would encourage the inclusion of floating islands as a new NRCS conservation practice.

**The results for Miller Woods we have had to date are as followed:**

| Test Date               | Potassium (ppm) | Ortho-phosphates (ppm) | Nitrates (ppm) | Total Dissolved Solids |
|-------------------------|-----------------|------------------------|----------------|------------------------|
| June, 7 2010 (baseline) | 0.68            | No-Detect              | 5.66           | 104                    |
| August, 3 2010          | No-Detect       | No-Detect              | No-Detect      | 150.5                  |

# 2009-2010 ANNUAL REPORT

By Tim Stieber, Executive Director

The District fiscal year starts July 1<sup>st</sup> and ends the following June. Creating an annual report with accomplishments and financial balances is a requirement for all special Districts in Oregon. The process begins with development of an annual work plan each spring that identifies projects and activities for staff and directors to focus on that year. Each action is designed to make progress toward some element of the Districts Strategic Plan which is posted on our web site ([www.yamhillswcd.org](http://www.yamhillswcd.org)). Some of the biggest “happenings” this past year relate to people. Dean O’Reilly retired after 24 years of service to the District. Michael Crabtree was promoted to fill Dean’s position as Conservation Technician, and Marie Vicksta was hired to fill Michael’s Resource Conservationist slot. One highlight this past year was receiving the “Tree Farmer of the Year” Award from the Yamhill Chapter of Oregon Small Woodlands Association. The award was for the District’s management of Miller Woods.

## Restoration Highlights

District Riparian Specialist Amie Loop-Frison completed buffer establishment projects along area streams using funding obtained from National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and from Oregon Department of Agriculture. Amie has been working on riparian buffer establishment for five years and has established fifty projects throughout the county. Amie will be changing her focus to native prairie restoration and protection by accepting the position as Project Manager with the District which started September 1<sup>st</sup>.

A technical design grant was completed for Baker Creek which detailed construction specifics for nine fish habitat and stream bank erosion control structures. The Districts first attempt to secure funding for this project from OWEB was unsuccessful.

Dean O’Reilly, Conservationist Technician now retired, continued progress on restoring multiple oak savannah and upland prairie sites throughout the county. Collectively, these sites are aimed at restoring a viable population of Fender’s Blue Butterfly. Dean also has been the primary technical lead for Miller Woods development and has spent many hours completing improvement projects there with our volunteers.

Two new projects initiated this past year were the floating island wetland and the nutrient trading tool projects. Both of these were funded through USDA’s Conservation Innovation Grant program. The floating island project was undertaken to seek solutions to pond nutrient buildup and subsequent weed growth. Floating mats of wetland plants have been established on several ponds and water samples are being collected. The nutrient trading tool grant funded development of a computer model that may allow nutrient credit trading to occur with area landowners in the future. More on these projects as they are fully developed and field tested.

## Land Protection

Michael Crabtree, Sr. Conservation Technician, completed design, funding, and field installation of two rainwater collection systems this past year. Mike worked with Leo Krick of Cherry Hill Ranch to install a rainwater harvesting system which supplies drinking water for the ranches cattle. Another collection system was constructed on Gaining Ground Farm to serve as a component of a gravity drip irrigation system for several acres of organic vegetables. These systems were constructed, in part, from funds obtained through OWEB’s small grant program.

The District has been actively participating in a newly formed group – Yamhill Partners For Soil and Water. The mission of this new group is “*Conserving and enhancing the lands and water of Yamhill County for its long term economic and environmental vitality and enjoyment*”. Currently group members are undergoing a strategic planning process being facilitated by The Nature Conservancy. Learn more about the group at [www.YamhillPartners.org](http://www.YamhillPartners.org). Noxious weed control activities this past year included herbicide application to knotweed, spurge laurel, and purple loosestrife and bio-control releases made to scotch broom.

*(Continued from page 10)*

## Education and Outreach Activities

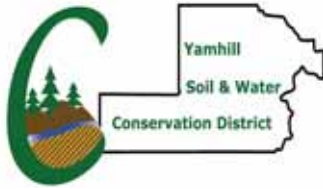
The District had an active education and outreach program again this year. Numerous presentations were delivered and 54 news articles included some mention of District activities. The Cruickshank tour and outdoor science programs at Miller Woods reached over 1850 school kids and also involved over 65 adults as volunteers. Over 6200 volunteer hours were reported this year with Miller Woods and the annual tree sale accounting for the greatest contribution of volunteer hours. Many thanks to our volunteers.

These highlights are for the financial activities and financial position of Yamhill Soil and Water Conservation District (YSWCD) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2010. Yamhill SWCD is classified as a Special District by the State of Oregon and is officially a sub-division of state government. The District obtains funding through a District-wide tax base, grants, contracts, fundraisers, and donations. District funds are audited annually by an independent auditor. Questions related to District funds can be directed to Yamhill SWCD's Executive Director (tim.stieber@or.nacdnet.net).

The beginning fund balance on July 1, 2009 was \$657,242.86 and ending fund balance on June 30, 2010 \$628,305.26. All District funds ended the 2009-2010 fiscal year with positive ending fund balances except the Soil and Water Fund (Table 1). Grant fund requests for the Soil and Water Fund came in during July 2010 making that fund balance positive.

Total annual revenues were \$1,460,830.97 including carry forward funds (38%) grants (25%) tax base income (14%), sale of materials (11%), and reserve funds (6%). Grant funds were obtained from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB), the Oregon Department of Agriculture, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and other funding agencies. Expenditures for the year totaled \$832,525.71 with 44% expensed for personnel costs, 13% for contract services, and 12% for project supplies. Capitol acquisitions during the year included a Dodge truck, farm implements and computing equipment.

| <b>FUND</b>                       | <b>Beginning Balance 6/09</b> | <b>Annual Revenue</b> | <b>Annual Expenditures</b> | <b>Ending Balance 06/10</b> |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>General Fund</b>               | <b>211,864.71</b>             | <b>261,924.87</b>     | <b>269,839.59</b>          | <b>203,949.99</b>           |
| <b>Technical Assistance Fund</b>  | 58,610.36                     | 111,170.79            | 114,205.13                 | 55,576.02                   |
| <b>Weed Projects Fund</b>         | 343.25                        | 7,258.75              | 6,097.00                   | 1,505.00                    |
| <b>Soil &amp; Water Fund</b>      | 5,124.70                      | 41,878.14             | 55,409.45                  | (8,406.61)                  |
| <b>Wildlife Projects Fund</b>     | 7,726.37                      | 62,464.76             | 42,380.08                  | 27,811.05                   |
| <b>Watershed Council</b>          | 8,180.47                      | 209,177.82            | 203,898.37                 | 13,459.92                   |
| <b>Miller Woods Fund</b>          | 35,367.07                     | 55,708.80             | 62,916.27                  | 28,159.60                   |
| <b>Chegwyn Projects Fund</b>      | 204,302.24                    | -                     | 1,849.36                   | 202,452.88                  |
| <b>Tree Enterprise Fund</b>       | 37,670.29                     | 50,554.18             | 53,950.46                  | 34,274.01                   |
| <b>Equipment Reserve Fund</b>     | 29,789.88                     | 2,200.00              | 21,980.00                  | 10,009.88                   |
| <b>Building Reserve Fund</b>      | 29,944.25                     | -                     | -                          | 29,944.25                   |
| <b>Conservation Easement Fund</b> | 28,319.27                     | 1,250.00              | -                          | 29,569.27                   |
| <b>Total</b>                      | <b>657,242.86</b>             | <b>803,588.11</b>     | <b>832,525.71</b>          | <b>628,305.26</b>           |



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## Conservation Notes – 12

### *"Making a Difference through Conservation"*

The Yamhill Soil & Water Conservation District would like to invite you and your friends to our 58th Annual Meeting to recognize those who are making a difference through their efforts to implement Conservation practices in Big and Small ways! Come and meet those who are leading by example. A tribute will be made to the 2010 Conservation Award winners and those who have made significant contributions.

Where: McMinnville Grand Ballroom, 325 NE Third St. , McMinnville, OR.  
When: 5:30–8:30pm, October 13th , 2010  
Cost \$10 to be paid at the door.  
RSVP to Josie Reid by Oct. 6th, 2010 -  
503-472-6403 or [josiereid@yamhillswcd.org](mailto:josiereid@yamhillswcd.org)

### *Join us!*



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### **Native Plant Sale 2011**

Annual Native Plant Sale to Benefit Miller Woods  
is Scheduled for **February 10 – 12, 2011.**

Great Selection and Prices

Over 50 Species

Bare Root – Plugs – Containers

Watch our web site [www.yamhillswcd.org](http://www.yamhillswcd.org) for our  
preorder form or contact Josie to get on our  
preorder notification list.

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