CELEBRATING YAMHILL COUNTY’S ABUNDANCE!

Yamhill SWCD Annual Dinner · October 12
McMinnville Grand Ballroom · 5:30 - 8:30 pm

Please join us for the 58th Annual Meeting of the Yamhill Soil & Water Conservation District & hear Michelle Ratcliffe speak to the need for introducing more locally produced foods into school cafeterias.

Michelle will share the mantra of Oregon Department of Agriculture’s National Farm to School Program. The program is intended to create:

- Local on the lunch line

“Oregon has scored some big wins in the national movement known as farm to school, whose goal is getting more locally produced foods in school cafeterias.”

-- Oregonian March 2, 2010

- Promotion & education in school
- Connection to food production and preparation
- Promotion in the community

Join us as we celebrate conservation through local sustainable food and conservation practices which contribute to the abundance of fresh and locally grown products in Yamhill County.

Dinner will include NW cuisine by local participating restaurants with a menu intended to delight and tempt your palate!

As part of the event, the district traditionally honors and pays tribute to local conservationists through our annual award program.

A silent auction will precede the event so please arrive early. All proceeds will benefit the

Stan R. Christensen Fund which was established to memorialize Stan as one of Oregon’s and Yamhill County’s leaders in conservation.

Join the fun, bring your friends, and come celebrate with us on October 12.

Make your Reservations Today!
Call 503-472-6403
or email julie.lorenzen@or.nacdnet.net

Local on the Lunchline!
NRCS LOCAL WORK GROUP MEETING SCHEDULED

Be a part of the Locally Led Process!

It was recognized very early on, following the formation of the Soil Conservation Service (now the Natural Resources Conservation Service, NRCS) that there was a need for local leadership in the management of natural resources. Local conservation districts formed to fill this vacuum and have been the link that unites agricultural producers with USDA assistance ever since.

To address the natural resource needs of the local community, conservation districts utilize the “locally led process” to ensure that USDA conservation assistance is prioritized according to local needs. The “locally led process” brings together a broad range of stakeholders from the county including government agencies, non-profit organizations, businesses and individuals to identify and prioritize local natural resource concerns and needs.

As a local conservation leader in Yamhill County, the Yamhill Soil and Water Conservation District (YSWCD) will be hosting a Local Work Group meeting to facilitate the USDA portion of the process in order to gauge what the natural resource concerns are in Yamhill County and to formulate a plan of addressing those concerns by prioritizing and establishing goals to meet current conservation needs. The YSWCD will then provide recommendations and advice to the NRCS in regards to the 2012 implementation of USDA programs using the information from the Local Work Group Meeting.

Through these annual Local Work Group meetings the NRCS and the YSWCD will establish conservation priorities and if necessary establish priority areas that need USDA assistance. Please join us at our next Local Work Group Meeting which is scheduled for September 8, at the Public Works Auditorium, 2050 NE Lafayette Ave, McMinnville. Two separate meeting times are scheduled: 10am - Noon and 6:30 - 8 pm. Refreshments will be served.

AG-WATER QUALITY PLAN

By Marie Vicksta

The Agricultural Water Quality Management Area Plan provides guidance for addressing ag-water quality issues in the Yamhill River sub-basin. In 1998 a local advisory committee was formed to review and assist the development of the ag-water quality plan. We will be holding the biennial review of the plan this year.

The intent of the Ag-Water Quality Plan is to:

- Enhance and protect water quality, addressing state and federal water quality standards
- Encourage voluntary conservation efforts by landowners
- Conduct an education program to inform operators of water quality issues and conservation solutions
- Allow farmers and rural landowners the flexibility to choose appropriate methods to meet water quality goals
- Provide an avenue to address ag-water complaints
Have a fun morning biking around McMinnville visiting local vegetable gardens. Speak with local urban vegetable gardeners about conservation and gardening strategies. This is an “at your own pace” open house (garden) event, so feel free to start at whichever location is most convenient for you and have a great time biking from garden to garden!

The event is free! Donations for YCAP Food Bank will be accepted.

**Tour Locations**

**McMinnville Community Garden • 1950 NW 2nd St.**

The Community Garden was started in 2002 as a joint project between McMinnville Salvation Army and a group of community volunteers. The vision was to help families in need grow their own food, to provide fresh produce for the food pantry boxes and to help families learn new self-sufficiency skills. Over the years the garden has evolved into a partnered venture with the Yamhill County Master Gardeners Association to further enhance the learning opportunities for all garden volunteers. It has also become self-supporting by selling herbs, flowers and other plants grown at the garden.

**Sesame St. CSA • 2075 SW Sesame St.**

Sesame Street CSA was founded in 2009 by Paul Adams. Paul took his front lawn and transformed it into 900 square feet of raised beds, which now produce fruit and vegetables using organic practices for several shareholders (and his own family) every 20-week season. An automated soaker hose irrigation system minimizes water use, garden maintenance, and weeds. Sesame Street CSA is on Facebook, and you can also contact Paul at paulcurtisadams@gmail.com.

**Mark Davis and Ellie Gunn’s • 652 SE Washington St.**

Mark and Ellie's garden is on a south facing slope above the Cozine Creek between the Ford dip and the railroad trestle. They have three terraces with drip irrigation installed behind the walls. The garden is year round with rotating crops, including in August, peppers, melons, greens and tomatoes. One section of the garden is an orchard with espaliered fruit trees.

**Vine St. Garden • 850 SE Vine St.**

Creating an edible landscape using annual and perennial plants that can be harvested on a year round basis. We are currently studying Permaculture design to minimize our environmental impact and at the same time create surplus to be able to distribute throughout the McMinnville community with a zero carbon footprint.
The Armenian Blackberry (Himalayan) is the most widespread and economically disruptive of all the noxious weeds in western Oregon.

-- ODA Plant Division, Noxious Weed Control

FALL IS THE TIME TO CONTROL HIMALAYAN BLACKBERRIES

By Vern Holm, Coordinator, NW Weed Management Partnership

If you have Himalayan blackberries and want to get rid of them, now is the time to mow and spray.

One of the most effective times to control blackberries with herbicides is in early autumn when the plants are beginning to move carbohydrates from the leaves back to the roots for winter. This process allows herbicides to travel into the root system maximizing the chances of killing the entire plant. Cooler temperatures in the fall also minimize the chances of herbicides volatilizing and damaging neighboring plants.

Always think safety when you mix herbicides, both for you and the environment. Mix in an open area where you can control spills and wear protective clothing and eye protection.

Also, keep in mind that many herbicides are non-selective and will kill beneficial species so do not spray when it’s windy, and select a day when there is no chance of rain for a twenty-four hour period. It is best to pick a day when it is cool and damp to avoid evaporation or volatilization of the chemical. Also, avoid spraying when it is windy to minimize drift. Be especially careful near vineyards, as grapes are very susceptible to herbicide drift.

When mixing herbicides carefully read and follow label directions, as too strong of a mix merely burns the leaves, and too weak of a mix doesn’t work. If you wish to minimize spraying, cutting the canes and squirting or using a paint brush to apply herbicide into the open wound works well. This minimizes the risk of any damage to surrounding flora and since it uses less herbicide this method will save you money.

Crossbow is a commonly used herbicide for killing Himalayan blackberry plants, as it will not kill adjacent grasses. It will kill broadleaf plants, trees and shrubs, however, so use it wisely. Other herbicides that can be used to control Himalayan blackberries include glyphosate and triclopyr. Whenever you are considering the use of herbicides read and follow the label instructions. Using the product according to the label is the law and damage to adjacent properties associated with chemical drift is the applicator’s liability.

Shading blackberries will be the best long term solution for control. Try planting trees that grow quickly after mowing or spraying blackberries that will eventually shade out competing blackberries. If you plant trees in or near a blackberry briar, keep in mind that they will need to be managed closely for the first few years, until they have become established, to ensure blackberries do not over take the young trees.

If you have any questions about Himalayan blackberry or other noxious weed control please call the Yamhill Soil and Water Conservation District at (503) 472-6403.
The district fiscal year starts July 1st 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 priorities and actions that are designed to make progress toward some element of the district’s strategic plan which is posted on our web site (www.yamhillswcd.org). A review of progress toward our strategic plan was completed this year which showed that the district will reach or exceed nearly all the goals set forth in the strategic plan back in 2007.

There were only slight changes in leadership this past year with three district director seats up for vote this past November. Long time director Jim LeTourneux stepped off the board and Mike Green was elected into his at-large position. Jim remains active with the SWCD as a Director Emeritus. Mike was an associate director for several years and now serves as the district’s treasurer. Barbara Boyer continues to serve as Chair and Dave Cruickshank as Vice Chair.

After the sudden passing of Director Emeritus Stan Christensen in the fall of 2010, several presentations were given at local and statewide venues which highlighted Stan’s dedication to SWCDs in Oregon. His contributions were many and widely recognized throughout the state. A fund was created to honor Stan and will be used to support education and outreach activities.

New staff hired this year included Julie Lorenzen, Office Administrator, and Josh Togstad, Riparian Specialist.

**Restoration Highlights**

Amie Loop-Frison has been working to complete a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) for private lands within the county that have Kinkaid’s Lupine and Fender’s Blue Butterfly. She conducted extensive outreach and received permission from 130 landowners to complete surveys on their land which totaled over 6500 acres. Her goal is to work toward stabilizing existing populations of Kinkaid’s and Fender’s Blue and move toward population recovery and down listing of these species.

Josh Togstad was hired as Riparian Specialist this year and established eight riparian buffer plans with landowners and has been assisting some of the 59 landowners that have previously signed up for the program. If you have questions related to riparian areas or the Conservation Reserve and Enhancement Program contact Josh. He has also been completing status reviews of past projects and managing out-year maintenance of the Brey riparian project completed last year.

Marie Vicksta acquired funding for several projects this year including a livestock heavy use area and for a stream corridor restoration project along Cozine Creek in McMinnville. She has also prepared and submitted a grant proposal to repair a collapsed culvert that is causing erosion on a tributary to the North Yamhill River. Marie administers the Agricultural Water Quality Management program for the district and worked on 17 different complaints this year. She worked with other staff on the floating island wetland project and continues to monitor water quality on several sites.

Michael Crabtree, Conservation Technician, is the district’s only certified conservation planner. In this capacity Mike completed seven conservation plans this year that were eligible for funding through USDA’s Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). He also prepared plans suited for funding under USDA’s Organic EQIP program. Mike is the office lead for ongoing oak and prairie restoration projects, and forestry and water related projects. He has assisted dozens of landowners during the year in these areas. Mike also conducts some noxious weed control and has been working on spurge laurel and knotweed.

**Education and Outreach Activities**

District staff increased outreach activities this last year largely thanks to an Oregon Department of Agriculture grant. Funds supported seven tours reaching 273 landowners, a conservation movie series, printing costs for several publications, and delivery of a water conservation education program in Dayton and Lafayette. In addition, over 2250 people visited Miller Woods for events and trail hiking this past year. Miller Woods Saturday programs were held all summer. Fifteen presentations were prepared and delivered to 670 individuals on a variety of conservation topics this past year. 800 fifth-graders from Yamhill County schools visited Dave & Doris Cruickshank’s Three Oaks Farm in May, marking the 50th anniversary of the annual Cruickshank Woodland Tour.
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, 2011. 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@yamhillswcd.org).

The beginning fund balance on July 1, 2010 was $628,222.43 and ending fund balance on June 30, 2011 $664,713.40. All district funds ended the 2010-2011 fiscal year with positive ending fund balances (Table 1).

Total annual revenues were $1,448,321.69 including carry forward funds (32%) grants (24%) tax base income (16%), sale of materials (4%), and reserve funds (12%). 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 $783,608.29 with 55% expensed for personnel costs, 11% for contract services, and 18% for project supplies.

Table 1. Revenue and expenditures for Yamhill SWCD, 2010 – 2011 fiscal year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fund</th>
<th>Beginning Balance July 1, 2010</th>
<th>Annual Revenues</th>
<th>Annual Expenditures</th>
<th>Ending Balance 6/30/2011</th>
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<tr>
<td>General Fund</td>
<td>203,867.16</td>
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<td>Miller Woods Fund</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>29,569.27</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>628,222.43</strong></td>
<td><strong>820,099.26</strong></td>
<td><strong>783,608.29</strong></td>
<td><strong>664,713.40</strong></td>
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WILLOW STAKES - A RIPARIAN RESTORATION TOOL

By Josh Togstad, Riparian Specialist

So, what good is a willow?

Historically, Native Americans have used native willows to make ‘shingle baskets’ and as a source of fiber for rope. The bark was peeled off willow species in May or June to make baskets and the inner tissue was split into thin long strands that were then twisted into long ropes. This rope was used to make fishing lines and various types of nets, including gill-nets, bag-nets, and duck-nets. Willow bark contains salicylic acid, a precursor to aspirin, and therefore useful as a natural medicine.

What are they good for today?

Willows provide shade and cover for fish and wildlife and improve water quality by absorbing chemicals and nutrients in run-off. They also provide food for fish when insects fall off limbs that are overhanging the water. In addition, willows have a unique ability to withstand flooding, reduce erosion, stabilize soils, revegetate stream banks and grow in wet conditions when nothing else will.

Where do I get willows and how do I plant them?

The best place to get willows is from nearby established plants (2-5 years old). (You can also get them from your local nursery or Yamhill SWCD’s annual plant sale.) Willows have the ability to re-sprout which means branches and stems can be cut and then be planted where there is enough moisture for them to root and grow. This is called live staking.

To make willow stakes follow these steps:

• During the dormant season cut ½ - to 1-inch diameter plants or stems and remove all lateral branches to redirect the plant’s energy to root growth.
• Cut the stems into 18 - to 24-inch lengths.
• Make a horizontal cut on the end that will remain exposed and a 45° angle cut on the end to be planted. Make sure the buds are facing up when planting.
• Soak cuttings upright in water for 5-7 days prior to planting to increase survival and success.
• Push the cutting directly into the soil or tap it in with a rubber mallet. About 80% of the cutting should be in the ground.
• In areas where erosion is excessive cuttings should be planted every 3 feet.

Don’t we have enough willows along our streams?

The short answer is no. Nearly 1/3 of our streams have insufficient riparian buffers, meaning there are few to no trees and shrubs along our stream banks. Willows often serve as a pioneer species until other trees and shrubs become established. For more information about willows and a streamside buffer program that provides cost-share reimbursement and annual rental rates up to $174 per acre per year please contact me (Josh Togstad) at the Soil & Water Conservation District at 503-472-6403.

Willows (Salix) play an important role along the water’s edge.

Wood Pellet Gas

October 8 · 9am - Noon
CREP Riparian Restoration Tour
CREP tour will visit three riparian restoration sites around Yamhill County. Stay tuned for details.

Questions? Contact Josh at 503-472-6403.
If you would like to be removed from the newsletter mailing list or prefer email only, please contact Julie at 503-472-6403. Thank you.

YAMHILL SWCD CALENDAR OF EVENTS

August
- Aug 25 · 1:30 - 6 pm
  Farmer’s Market Booth *

September
- Sept 8 · 10 am & 6:30 pm
  NRCS Local Work Group meetings
- Sept 10 · 10 am - 6 pm
  Dayton Harvest Festival
  Courthouse Square Park in Dayton
- Sept 18 · 6 pm
  Bounty of the County
  Sokol Blosser Winery
- Sept 28 · 6:30 pm
  DSL General Authorization Rules and Riparian Restoration Workshop
  Location: TBA
  Presentation on wetland & riparian general authorizations: the new easier & quicker permit process. Contact Marie at 503-472-6403
- Sept 29 · 1:30 - 6 pm
  Farmer’s Market Booth *

Aug 27 · 9 am · 1 pm
Vegetable Garden Bike Tour
Have a fun morning visiting local vegetable gardens around McMinnville!
(See page 3 for details)

Garden Bike Tour
August 27

Please visit www.yamhillswcd.org for more information and event details

* Farmer’s Market is located in downtown McMinnville on Cowlis between Second and Third Streets. Thursdays · 1:30 - 6:00 pm through Mid-October

Celebrating Yamhill County’s Abundance
Yamhill SWCD
58th Annual Meeting

Join the Celebration
OCTOBER 12, 2011
The Time
5:30 - 8:30 PM
The Venue
Featuring Local, NW Cuisine
The Location
The McMinnville Grand Ballroom
325 NE Third Street, McMinnville, OR 97128
RSVP by October 10, 2011 - 503-472-6403