MILLER WOODS TRAIL RACE FUN FOR ALL AGES

The First Annual Miller Woods Trail Race on June 28th was a huge success despite the uncooperative weather. The rain didn’t dampen the enthusiasm for the 60 runners and no one really minded getting a little muddy on the newly constructed trails. Thirteen of the runners were kids with 8 year old Jack Linder and Sam King coming in first and second respectively. Runners ranged from 6 to 69 years with Josh Zielinski having the best time and Ryan Marquardt placing second. The race was hosted by the district and Natural Connections, the non-profit organization that supports Miller Woods. Thank you to committee chair John Spencer, volunteer coordinator Brad Smith and committee members Larry Ojua, James Riedman, Julie Lorenzen and Sonja Wilkerson for organizing an incredible event. And a special thank you is due to Sonja for hand crafting the “stamped wooden medals” from fallen tree limbs at Miller Woods and to Catherine O’Brien for the race day banner.

See more photos and race placements on pages 6 & 7

NEW YAMHILL SWCD WEBSITE UNVEILED!

Have you had a chance to check out the district’s new website at www.yamhillswed.org? It is full of great information, photos, articles and a calendar of events. Information includes:

- Who We Are
- How We Help
- Information about Miller Woods
- How to Get Involved
- How to Contact Us

You’ll also find archived Newsletters, Board Meeting minutes and a helpful FAQ section. Thank you to Amanda Greene for designing and maintaining the site.
The district hosted an open house at Miller Woods for several neighboring conservation districts and other conservation partners on May 23rd. Conservation districts from Benton, Polk, Columbia, and Multnomah counties joined us for a tour of the property and the district’s native plant nursery. Other partners from the Oregon Department of Agriculture, Oregon Association of Conservation Districts, Network of Oregon Watershed Councils, Greater Yamhill Watershed Council, St. Helens School District, and Trout Mountain Forestry were also able to attend.

The district continues to expand its nursery operation at Miller Woods to provide native plants for various conservation projects. The open house provided an opportunity to highlight the nursery and demonstrate how the district grows native plants in small cone-tainers. The cone-tainers produce plants with well-developed root systems that can be planted in the fall before regular bare-root seedlings become available. The district is now in its fourth year of growing these types of plants for fish and wildlife agencies, private forestry consultants, conservation districts and others.

Clay Wesson, Miller Woods Nursery Manager, and Mike Crabtree, Conservation Technician, discussed the nursery operation and provided a planting demonstration for the group. The open house also included a lunch and tour of Miller Woods facilities and trails. Judging by the smiles and lively conversation, a good time was had by all!

As a reminder, the district is always looking for volunteers to help with projects at Miller Woods. If you are interested in helping with trails, the native plant nursery, or other projects, we want to hear from you! Contact us at 503-472-6403 or email admin@yamhillswcd.org.

Many Thanks to First Federal

Thanks to First Federal’s Internship Program we were able to utilize the time and talents of Kaitlyn Webb at Miller Woods during the Spring. Kaitlyn was tasked with researching the necessary steps of installing a restroom at Miller Woods. Her research and interviews provided the great beginnings of a portfolio that can now be utilized when the time comes to move forward.
MILLER WOODS FOREST MANAGEMENT PROJECT AND TEMPORARY CLOSURE

The district will conduct a Forest Management Project at Miller Woods in September and October 2014. The purpose of the project is to enhance forest health by removing lower quality trees and thinning the stands to create proper spacing that will promote healthy tree growth. This is part of the district’s long-range plan to create a mature and diverse forest at Miller Woods.

The district is contracting with Miller Timber Services of Philomath, Oregon. The contractor will use state-of-the-art technology, equipment and techniques to harvest and process the trees to keep soil compaction and other disturbances at a minimum. District staff will be on site and oversee the operation to ensure the work is completed in a manner that protects Miller Woods, and minimizes disturbance to the forest and important habitats.

The anticipated start date for the operation is mid-September. The project is expected to take a 4 to 6 weeks, with an estimated ending date in late October.

The district will provide more details and updates about the closure dates and anticipated reopening on the website at www.yamhillswcd.org.

Additional information on the Miller Woods Forest Management Project is available from:
James Riedman, Miller Woods Property Manager: 503-857-6140 or yswcd.millerwoods@gmail.com
Mike Crabtree, Conservation Technician: 503-472-6403 or Michael@yamhillswcd.org.

Pasture and Grazing Management Workshop
October 23, 2014
9:30 am–2:00 pm

Mark your calendars for this hands-on farm workshop regarding pasture and grazing management with OSU Extension agent, Gene Pirelli. This half-day workshop will have both a classroom and field component and will focus on practical management tips to improve pasture health.

Workshop will be held in the field at FitzGerald Farms; 8490 NW Moore’s Valley Road, Yamhill, OR.

Cost is $20 and includes lunch. Space is limited; please RSVP before October 20th to 503-472-6403 or yamhillswcd@frontier.com

Visit Us at the Newberg Farmers Market

Yamhill SWCD will have a booth at the Farmers Market the following dates:
Wed. 1:30 - 6:00 pm
* August 27
* September 24

The Yamhill SWCD booth will sell birdhouses, plants, informational books, and Yamhill SWCD apparel while providing an onsite technician to answer questions and promote our mission.

The market location is on Howard and Sheridan Street at the newly renovated space in front of the Chehalem Cultural Center and behind the Newberg Library, in downtown Newberg.
YAMHILL COUNTY PESTICIDE STEWARDSHIP PARTNERSHIP

What is the Pesticide Stewardship Partnership?

Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA), Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), the Greater Yamhill Watershed Council (GYWC), and the district are collaborating to reduce the effects of pesticides in our local waterways. The Pesticide Stewardship Partnership (PSP) is a local, non-regulatory collaborative effort to improve water quality through voluntary changes in pesticide use and practices. The PSP is focusing on the Palmer Creek and Cozine Creek drainages to reach out to landowners and raise awareness about the pesticides being found in our waterways and ways people can help reduce this impact.

Starting in 2007, the Palmer and Cozine Creek waterways have been monitored for a broad spectrum of pesticides and chemicals. The results of this monitoring effort have identified several priority pesticides that are consistently found in those waterways. Many of the pesticides are commonly applied in the spring or early summer.

Through this partnership we will be offering increased educational programming and technical assistance to landowners. We are currently planning educational events on new agricultural sprayer technology and proper calibration, including the purchase of a demonstration recycling tunnel sprayer to be preliminarily trialed on different berry crops.

A “no questions asked” agricultural pesticide pick up event is also planned for December 6 at the Wilco Agronomy Center in Whiteson. Proper disposal of at least 20 tons of hazardous pesticides is anticipated and we are hoping to fundraise from local businesses and organizations to increase our collection capacity even more.

How Can I Help?

GYWC, ODA and DEQ are continuing the water quality monitoring efforts along Palmer Creek and Cozine Creek that were started in 2007. If you are interested in volunteering to help collect samples or would like to learn more about this project, please contact Luke Westphal, GYWC Coordinator at 503-474-1047. Volunteering to collect samples is a great opportunity to involve young adults in conservation efforts!

Sampling will occur on Mondays or Tuesdays during the weeks of: September 1 and September 15 at five locations near McMinnville. Sampling takes about 2-3 hours, generally from 10 am-1 pm. Carpooling is available for two volunteers. (503) 474-1047.

Priority Pesticides for Reduction
Lower Cozine Creek:
Carbaryl, Triclopyr, 2,4-D, Diuron, Simazine, and Atrazine

Priority Pesticides for Reduction
West Fork Palmer Creek:
Chlorpyrifos, Diuron, Simazine, Linuron, Diazinon, Metolachlor, Carbaryl and Endosulfan

Easy ways to reduce herbicide costs and usage:
Check individual nozzles for correct nozzle rate; change those that vary +/- 10%
Check coverage of spray pattern in the field
Match specific herbicides to specific weed problems
Differentiate between economic weed problems and cosmetic weed problems
Time herbicide applications for best results
Scout fields and map weeds

If you would like more information or would like to talk to someone about the PSP Program please contact Luke Westphal, (503)474-1047 or Marie Vicksta, (503)472-1474 ext. 108.
The district closed the 2013-2014 fiscal year on June 30, 2014. The district’s budget committee met on May 21, 2014 and approved the 2014-2015 budget, which was subsequently presented at the Budget Hearing on June 11, and approved by the district board. The district continues to utilize its permanent rate limit, grants, contracts, fundraisers, and donations to fund operations and programs. A financial summary for 2013-2014 is provided below (Table 1). The beginning fund balance for all funds on July 1, 2013 was $620,588. The ending fund balance on June 30, 2014 was $768,973. District financials are audited annually by an independent contractor qualified to conduct municipal audits.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fund</th>
<th>Beginning Balance July 1, 2013</th>
<th>Annual Revenues</th>
<th>Annual Expenditures</th>
<th>Ending Balance June 30, 2014</th>
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<td>Special Projects Fund</td>
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<td>Chegwyn Projects Fund</td>
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<td>Conservation Easement Fund</td>
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<td>167,960</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$620,588</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,015,211</strong></td>
<td><strong>$866,826</strong></td>
<td><strong>$768,973</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

No-Till Grower Panel in Cooperation with OSU Extension Field Tour

Yamhill Soil and Water Conservation District worked with Nicole Anderson, OSU Extension Crop Specialist, to host a no-till grower panel. Panel members shared firsthand personal successes and challenges they have encountered utilizing the no-till method of farming. Matt Crawford, Tim Pfeiffer and Bruce Ruddenklau all shared their experiences and fielded questions about no-till farming. No-till is a conservation practice where residue from the previous crop is left on the field and the ground is minimally disturbed. This is a proven practice to build soil biodiversity, increase water infiltration, and reduce erosion. The challenge with practicing no-till in the valley is slug pressure. Conventional tillage breaks up the ground and helps to kill slugs and their eggs, whereas no-till creates a perfect habitat for slugs to reproduce and feed on shoots of new plants. The panel expressed that in no-till farming growers need to modify their approach to a management system that tracks which crops do well following the previous planting.

We would like to thank Matt Crawford, Tim Pfeiffer and Bruce Ruddenklau for participating in our panel and sharing their knowledge with others in the industry!
ON YOUR MARK, GET SET, GO!
MILLER WOODS TRAIL RACE

Top 20 Race Times

Josh Zielinski
25:40

Ryan Marquardt
27:24

Devon Wilson
27:28

Phil Demontigny
27:34

Jonathan Muirhead
27:45

Tim Stieber
28:42

Scott Dumdi
30:06

Ann Ciaverella
30:59

Richard Rendon
31:08

Logan Shamblin
31.52

Chris Wolff
33.02

Keath Paolo
33.20

Ryan Sparks
33.29

Jim Insley
33.51

Michael Davies
33.56

Randi Paolo
34.29

John Linder
34.44

Rachit Gupta
35.04

Jason Moisman
35:40

Joel Kamph
37.08

Congratulations to all Racers & Participants
Thank you to the Chemeketa students organized by Elias Rademacher for all the work they did on the trails at Miller Woods on July 16. The group attacked the trails removing debris from recent trimming projects, hauling it away and making the trails safer for hikers and runners while protecting the environment at Miller Woods for all to enjoy. Thank you so much!

2014 Board Elections Coming Up

All Oregon Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) are governed by a board of directors who are elected by voters at the General Election. Yamhill SWCD is governed by a board of seven directors who serve four-year terms. Terms of the seven positions are staggered, which provides for elections of three or four positions every two years. Yamhill SWCD has three director positions available in the upcoming election on November 4, 2014: Zone 1 Director Position; At-Large 1 Position; At-Large 2 position. Individuals elected in November will begin their term of office on January 1, 2015.

All candidates must reside within the district and be registered voters. Zone positions must own or manage at least 10 acres within a required zone; At-Large positions are open to all residents living within the district’s boundaries – there are no acreage or zone requirements.

Zone boundaries, eligibility requirements, and copies of the required election forms may be obtained at the Yamhill SWCD office located at 2200 SW 2nd Street, McMinnville, OR 97128. Election forms and information may also be found at: http://oregon.gov/ODA/SWCD/services.shtml. For more information contact the district at 503-472-6403.
EARTH DAY AT MILLER WOODS

Miller Woods played host to a fun packed Earth Day on Saturday, April 23rd. The day began with a guided trail hike by naturalist Laura McMasters, a Tyke Hike led by Theresa Crain, and a 4-Mile Hike for those interested in a more physical walk led by Dave Hanson. The ever popular Birds of Prey presentation with Karen Hoyt was such a hit she generously provided a second talk. An Easter egg hunt with prizes for the golden egg was popular with the youngsters and the rain didn't stop the crowd who came to buy native plants.
THE SOIL BENEATH YOUR FEET

“A nation that destroys its soil destroys itself.” President Franklin D. Roosevelt

Tips to Maximize Soil Health and Minimize Erosion

✓ Manage more by disturbing less. All forms of disturbance, including tilling, diminishes habitat for soil microbes resulting in a diminished soil-food environment.

✓ Diversify soil biota by growing different plants. A variety of plant carbohydrates is required to support a greater diversity of soil microorganisms in the soil.

✓ Keep living roots growing throughout the year. Also leave dead plant roots and crop residues in the ground to feed soil microbes.

✓ Keep soil covered as much as possible. A cover provides moisture retention, lower soil temperatures, erosion prevention and weed suppression adding to the organic matter of the soil.

After the national crisis of the Dust Bowl in the 1930s, the conservation of soil and water resources became a national priority. The nation recognized the massive economic, environmental and cultural impacts that directly resulted from poor farming practices. This catastrophe spurred the creation of the Federal Soil Conservation Service, now the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) as well as local Soil and Water Conservation Districts. These agencies were charged with educating landowners on soil health and fertility, or tilth.

The soil beneath your feet may appear static, but it’s actually dynamic, complex and full of life. Millions of species and billions of organisms make up complex, diverse soil primarily composed of microscopic life.

Creatures in the soil represent the greatest concentration of biomass anywhere on the planet. Altogether, their value has been estimated at $1.5 trillion a year worldwide.

The most important component of soil health is organic matter. Cover crops, green manure crops and perennial forage crops add organic matter, as do compost and manure. By practicing good land stewardship, managing land for soil health and continued education, catastrophes like the Dust Bowl should never be repeated.

We Will Miss You Glen

Glen Grauer, longtime resident of Yamhill County passed away July 31, 2014. Glen maintained a strong connection to the valley he loved where he faithfully served for many years on the Board of Directors for Yamhill SWCD.

Glenn and the love of his life, Darlene were married 62 years and were blessed with four sons. Glenn farmed aggressively up until 1985, when he retired and “the boys” took over farming.

We can’t thank Glen enough for the many hours he dedicated to the district. We will always treasure his devoted friendship and miss his many fishing stories.
KNOTWEED CONTROL PROGRAM CONTINUES

Japanese knotweed is a dense growing shrub reaching up to 10 feet in height. The semi-woody stem is hollow with enlarged nodes. It is recognized by its extremely dense growth form, often occurring in large monoculture thickets, and by large, alternate, dark-green leaves and panicles of minute white flowers. Japanese knotweed commonly invades disturbed areas with high light, such as road sides and stream banks. Reproduction occurs both by vegetative cuttings and seeds, making this plant extremely hard to eradicate. The dense patches shade and displace other plant life and reduce wildlife habitat. It is native to eastern Asia and was first introduced into America in the 19th Century.

In September the district will be continuing its effort to control Giant and Japanese knotweed throughout the county. This ongoing effort has resulted in Yamhill County having one of the smallest populations of knotweed in all of NW Oregon. It is our practice to spray knotweed after it is in full bloom. Bloom occurs from late August through September depending on the year. We are controlling knotweed with the low rates of Triclopyr and Aminopyralid applied by spot spraying.

I would again like to thank all the people who have reported knotweed sightings over the year. This program can only be successful if we have the support of many people around the county who are interested in reducing the impact of noxious weeds. If you would like to report sightings of knotweed, please give us call at (503) 472-6403 or email michael.crabtree@or.nacdnet.net.

WELCOME, MARY KING!

Mary joined the district in June and already enjoys her new role as office assistant where she is providing support with volunteer coordination, publications, communications, event planning and supporting the district in other tasks as needed.

She is an avid gardener and recently completed the Master Gardener Course at the Yamhill County Extension Office. Mary enjoys her 6 acres on Chehalem Mt. in Newberg where she is committed to creating a healthy environment for plants and wildlife. She and her late husband, Brian, have lived in Newberg for 32 years and have two grown sons and a grandson.

Her career background has been in marketing, event planning, public relations and training. Her part-time position at the district blends those skills perfectly with her passion for conservation and the opportunity to meet other people and staff who share her vision for Yamhill County.

We would like to thank, Jessica LaRue, for the fantastic job she did while working for the district! Jessica has decided to take some well-earned time off and enjoy her family as they prepare for their new little arrival due in the winter of 2015.

Best wishes Jessica and welcome Mary!
Providing Natural Resource Leadership

If you would like to be removed from the newsletter mailing list or prefer email only, please contact Julie at 503-472-6403 or email julie.lorenzen@or.nacdnet.net. Thank you. Note NEW Fax Line: 503-472-6407

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

Calendar of Events:

August
August 13: 7:30 am  Board Meeting
Miller Woods Conference Center
August 16 & 17: 10:00 am - 4:00 pm  Harvest Fest
Yamhill Valley Heritage Center
August 27: 1:30 pm - 6:00 pm  Newberg Farmers Market
Chehalem Cultural Center

September
September 10: 7:30 am  Board Meeting
Miller Woods Conference Room
September 24: 1:30 - 6:00 pm  Newberg Farmers Market
Chehalem Cultural Center

October
October 8: 7:30 am - Board Meeting
Miller Woods Conference Room
October 23: 9:30 am - 2:30 pm  Pasture & Grazing Management Workshop
FitzGerald Farm

For more details, go to Events at www.yamhillswcd.org

Yamhill Soil & Water Conservation District’s 61st Annual Meeting

Save the Date
November 5, 2014

The Time
5:30 — 8:00 PM

Social Hour and Silent Auction begins at 5:30 pm

The Location
The McMinnville Community Center
600 NE Evans Street, McMinnville, OR 97128

More Information to Follow
Call 503-472-6403 or email admin@yamhillswcd.org