CELEBRATING 63 YEARS OF CONSERVATION!

YAMHILL SWCD ANNUAL DINNER - NOVEMBER 16, 2016
MCMINNVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER - 5:30 PM - 8:30 PM

The Yamhill Soil & Water Conservation District (district) was established on April 2, 1953 under the leadership of several conservation pioneers. Over the years the district has adapted to the community’s changing needs, developed new approaches and methods to deliver technical assistance and education and pursued new opportunities in areas such as conservation technology, engaged species management and conservation easements.

The district invites you to attend the 2016 annual dinner to celebrate another year of conservation. Larry Ojua, Executive Director, will highlight past achievements and share plans as the district moves forward into its 63rd year of natural resource leadership in Yamhill County.

The evening will begin with a social hour and silent auction followed by a delicious buffet dinner of fresh, local cuisine prepared by The Rogue Gourmet Catering Company. The program also includes presentations of awards to local conservation contributors in three categories: Education, Urban and Conservation Landowner.

The cost is $15 per person if you register by November 7 and $20 at the door.

LEO KRICK FEATURED IN NRCS CONSERVATION SHOWCASE

Leo Krick and Cherry Hill Ranch were featured in a Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) story highlighting his commitment to restoring Oregon white oak on his property in Sheridan. Leo and his wife Mary own and operate the 209-acre ranch and have partnered with other landowners committed to restoring oak habitat through a new project called the North Willamette Valley Upland Oak Restoration Partnership which is funded through the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP). “I didn’t understand how important oak was when I started ranching 30 years ago” he says. “I didn’t realize how unique our oaks were until people came out here to see them and took notice of what we were doing.” He and Mary are committed to preserving oak habitats, making a small difference for wildlife and being good stewards of the land.
CONSIDERING LONG-TERM CONSERVATION GOALS

BY LARRY OJUA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This newsletter highlights the good work being accomplished by landowners to protect, enhance and restore native oak habitats in Yamhill County. These conservation efforts are gaining local and national attention, and are proving to be complementary to other district programs such as long-term land protection. Over the last 20 years, the district has seen increased interest in long-term land protection by landowners who want to protect working farms and forests, limit development and partitioning, and protect oak and other wildlife habitat. The district continues to increase its involvement in this program area, and has assisted several landowners with establishing conservation easements on their properties.

In 2002 the district worked with Crown Hill Farms to hold its first conservation easement. The easement restricted development, and provided assurances the 720-acre farm would be protected for future farm, forestry purposes, and watershed protection. Today, the district holds four conservation easements, providing long-term protection of lands and natural resources on over 1100 acres.

As work in long-term land protection evolved, the district discovered some landowners desired to provide direct donations of land to the district to meet their long-term conservation goals. For example, in 2004, Frieda Miller bequeathed Miller Woods, a 130-acre property located six miles from McMinnville, to the district for purposes of sustainable forestry management and outdoor education. Through the ongoing support and work of volunteers, and with resources generated by the district’s annual plant sale, Miller Woods provides a wonderful outdoor and educational venue enjoyed annually by hundreds of students and other community members. The property also provides the facilities for the district’s native plant nursery and a conference room for district board meetings and various conservation meetings.

In 2008, Charles Chegwyn donated his 170-acre farm to the district for the purposes of keeping the land permanently protected for future agricultural and conservation uses. The district is excited to see this Century Farm remain in agricultural production.

Grant programs such as the Willamette Wildlife Mitigation Program (WWMP), can provide potential resources for funding long-term land protection. WWMP is funded by Bonneville Power Administration for the purpose of protecting important and valuable wildlife habitats in the Willamette Valley. This is a very competitive grant program, but the district has been fortunate to secure three grant awards through this program over the past six years. The grant awards were used to protect important oak and prairie habitats through the purchase of conservation easements and fee-title acquisitions.

As you consider your conservation goals, feel free to contact Larry Ojua at (503) 472-6403 to discuss opportunities for partnerships and strategies for long-term land protection.
YAMHILL & POLK COUNTIES GARNER NATIONAL ATTENTION

Oak restoration in Yamhill and Polk counties is gaining national attention as a model for success under USDA’s new Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP).

RCPP is a highly-competitive partnership program administered by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The program leverages federal investments with contributions from public and private partner organizations to achieve landscape-scale conservation results. Members of the national RCPP review team toured oak restoration sites in Yamhill and Polk counties June 13 to see how RCPP funding is put into action by partners and landowners. Each year the RCPP review team evaluates and ranks RCPP proposals from across the country and decides which proposals to fund.

For more information on this program, contact Amie at (503) 472-1474 ext. 113 or email amie@yamhillswcd.org.

“SUPER NATURAL” WATER EFFICIENCY UPGRADE

Super Natural Farm is a 9-acre organic vegetable farm whose business is dependent on irrigation water from the Willamina Creek. This creek is listed as essential salmon habitat and is also the primary source of drinking water for the residents of Willamina. For local farmers like Mathew Willis and Sarah Lynch, it provides critical irrigation water for the many agricultural uses in the area including their own Super Natural Farm business.

Mathew and Sarah contacted the Yamhill Soil & Water Conservation District (district) to discuss their farm conservation priorities; water security and efficiency was at the top of their list. They worked with the district to obtain an Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) small grant which helped offset the cost of upgrading from portable mainline pipe and hand lines to an underground mainline and fixed solid set irrigation. The solid set system remains in place, with the mainline pipe and laterals underground. This system will have the flexibility to switch to drip when appropriate. Overhead watering will be done with new high efficiency sprinkler heads, which includes a rebate offer from the Energy Trust of Oregon. According to the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) irrigation efficiency calculator, the upgrade is estimated to result in over 30% water savings, which amounts to approximately 5.9 acre feet. That is over 1.9 million gallons of water annually that will stay in Willamina Creek.

In addition to the efficiency upgrade, Mathew and Sarah worked with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to install a fish screen for their pump site. This will prevent fish from getting into the uptake when they are pumping.

For Mathew and Sarah, investing in these efficiency upgrades allows them peace of mind when planning for the future of their farm. It is also in line with their farming principles which are to reduce their impact on natural resources and to farm as sustainably as possible. They extend thanks to the district, OWEB, Energy Trust of Oregon and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife for their support on this project!
In Oregon, during the early 1960’s, weeklong overnight outdoor schools were introduced as part of public school’s science curriculum for 6th grade students. In 1961, OSU Extension Agent Hugh Hickerson, Yamhill Soil & Water Conservation District (district) Director Rex Brown, and local tree farm owner, Ross Cruickshank, decided “A Woodland Tour” would be good for 5th grade students in Yamhill County in preparation for their 6th grade outdoor school experience. Ross Cruickshank provided the site on his farm which would come to be known as Cruickshank Woodland School. Hugh and Rex set up the sites and arranged with volunteer instructors to teach the students various aspects of forestry. The rest is history with the Cruickshank family hosting thousands of students over the years. Ross’s son, Dave, and his wife, Doris Cruickshank own and operate the farm and now 55 years later, continue to provide the site for this long-standing tradition.

This year approximately 400 Yamhill County fifth grade students attended the 55th Annual Woodland Tour in early May. The forested property of groomed trails and stations was bustling with local area fifth grade students. They were eager to learn and discover facts relevant to the trees surrounding them, the soil under their feet, behavior and survival, and outdoor safety.

In addition to the Cruickshank property donation, many volunteer instructors and leaders donated their time to support the Woodland Tour. Participation is free to all public and private schools, and the Talk About Trees Program offers bus funding.

As we look forward to 2017, we are considering moving the tour ahead one week to work around county schools testing schedules which may allow more schools to participate. The district will be contacting local schools and fifth grade teachers to encourage participation.

If you have questions or volunteer interest, please contact Mary at mary@yamhillswcd.org. Schools regarding participation, please contact Julie at julie@yamhillswcd.org. Mary or Julie may also be reached by calling (503) 472-6403.

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**Agricultural Waste & Pesticide Collection Event**

**Save the Date!**
Saturday, November 19

Pre-registration is required by November 5 for pesticide disposal. Forms will be available by October 1 at local Wilco stores, Yamhill & Polk district offices and online at gywc.org and yamhillswcd.org.

* Registration is not required for recycling triple rinsed empty containers

Wilco Agronomy Center in Whiteson
1400 S HWY 99W
McMinnville, OR 97128

For immediate questions contact: Nicole Anderson at OSU Extension: (503) 553-9922 or nicole.anderson@oregonstate.edu
UPDATE ON NEW CREP
CONSERVATION RESERVE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM SERVES POLK, MARION & YAMHILL COUNTIES

The Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) recently awarded the district $177,000 in grant funds to help install and maintain a riparian buffer along a 2.3 mile section of the North Yamhill River. The funds were made available through ODA’s Strategic Implementation Area (SIA) process. ODA budgeted up to $1,000,000 through a competitive granting process in seven designated watersheds across the state. Grant awards are used to assist landowners address water quality concerns.

These funds will be matched with the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) to
• provide additional financial incentive to participating landowners,
• install a high density tree and shrub planting and
• provide five years of maintenance treatments.

This project is modeled after Washington County’s Enhanced CREP Program and will provide long-term protection of the riparian corridor by providing shade, wildlife habitat, erosion control, and filtering run-off. The district will be providing more exciting details in the coming months.

If you have a stream running through or bordering your property and are interested in riparian restoration, contact Riparian Specialist, Josh Togstad by phone (503) 472-1474 x104 or email josh@yamhillswcd.org. He can set up a time to give you a personal tour of an existing riparian project and talk about possible options and programs available to help with riparian restoration on your property.

MOVING FORWARD WITH THE NEW CONSERVATION IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

The district hosted a very successful Local Work Group (LWG) meeting, and from that meeting, a Conservation Implementation Strategy (CIS) was born. The NRCS has a limited budget, and our goal is to work with local farmers and ranchers to address real problems, and affect real change. Essentially the CIS is how the NRCS prioritizes how Farm Bill monies will be spent in the county.

The consensus among participants at the LWG was that the Yamhill River is polluted, and does not have enough flow. Subsequently, NRCS will be focusing their funding on four smaller tributaries within the Yamhill River watershed. These small watersheds were selected because they have the most irrigated acres, and they all contribute to the water quality problems found in the Yamhill River. The water quality in this portion of the river is degraded mainly due to large amounts of sediment, and a lack of oxygen in the summer months. The objective of this CIS is to keep as much soil on the farm, and to improve the efficiency of existing irrigation systems.

Sergio Villaseñor, NRCS Natural Resource Specialist, and I have set a goal to assist local landowners in planting 4-miles of trees along the banks of the Yamhill River to help cool the river. We hope to assist landowners adopt cover crops in their crop rotation on 1700 acres. The cover crops will reduce erosion from the cropland during the winter months, and keep that soil on the property. We are hoping to find land owners willing to install more efficient irrigation systems on 125 ac/year. Other cost-share programs include; grassed field borders, fencing, and reduced tillage/no till practices.

Our goal is to improve the Yamhill River, but we cannot do it alone. We need partners to work with and farms to affect. We encourage you to apply for programs and feel free to contact us if you are interested in doing some type of conservation work, even if it is not covered on this list. If you would like to make changes to the CIS or the targeted watershed, we encourage you to attend the next Local Work Group meeting being held January 4, 2017.

NRCS is an equal opportunity provider and employer.
The district board of directors is pleased to announce the appointment of Ken Nygren to the position of associate director. Ken is an active Dayton community member who owns a consulting forestry company and is a Society of American Foresters Certified Forester®. He works part-time with the Yamhill County Emergency Management as the Assistant Emergency Manager and is active in the Yamhill County Small Woodlands Association. Ken assists with the Sunday Supper program, and is an Outdoor Skills adult leader for 4-H. After retiring from 26 years on active military duty, he is sharing and pursuing his passion for land management, both as a volunteer and as a landowner on his family properties. Ken lives on a farm with his wife Karen and enjoys reading, hunting and visiting his grown kids in his leisure.

**Land Stewardship Workshop Series**

Have you recently purchased a rural property or are looking to purchase rural property? This survey workshop series is meant to introduce relevant issues regarding land ownership and provide answers and tips from local experts for new property owners to be successful land managers!

*Pick and Choose Which Classes You Want to Attend or Attend them All!*

- **October 18th, 6-8pm : Visioning and Conservation Planning for Your Rural Property**
  Presented by: Heather Stoven, OSU Extension and Marie Vicksta, Yamhill SWCD

- **October 25th, 6-8pm : Introduction to Oregon Water Rights and Small Woodland Management**
  Presented by: Joel Plahn, District 16 Watermaster and Brent O’Nion, ODF Stewardship Forester

- **November 1st, 6-8pm : Web Soil Survey, Farm Bill Programs for Beginning Farmer/Rancher, Year Round Pasture Management**
  Presented by: Thomas Hoskins, NRCS & Gene Pirelli, OSU Extension

- **November 8th, 6-8pm : Tax Assessments for Rural Properties and Noxious Weed Management**
  Presented by: Scott Maytubby and Derrick Wharff, Current & Incumbent Yamhill County Tax Assessor & Michael Crabtree, Yamhill SWCD

**Cost:** $15/class  **Cost includes dinner**

**Location:** Chemeketa Community College
McMinnville Campus, ROOM 105
288 NE Norton Ln, McMinnville, OR 97128

Register Online
[www.yamhillswcd.org/lswsregistration](http://www.yamhillswcd.org/lswsregistration)
DISTRICT BEGINS NEW FISCAL YEAR

The district completed the 2015-2016 fiscal year on June 30, 2016, and began the new 2016-2017 fiscal year on July 1, 2016 under the new budget approved by the local budget committee and district board. The ending balance of all district funds as of June 30, 2016 was $1,105,590.

The district is completing its work with the financial auditing firm Grove, Mueller & Swank, P.C. The audited 2015-2016 annual financial report will be available at the annual dinner meeting November 16. It will also be included in the district’s 2015-16 annual report and the December Conservation Notes.

A copy of the approved and adopted district 2016-17 budget is available on the district’s website. Visit www.yamhillswcd.org/districtdocs.

Thank You for Sponsoring our 2016 Weed Watch Ad!

WEED WATCH

Japanese Knotweed

Weed Watch is part of the district’s effort to raise awareness about noxious weeds and their impact on natural resources and the local economy. For more information about knotweed and other invasive weeds visit www.yamhillswcd.org/weeds.

Description

Japanese knotweed is a dense growing shrub reaching up to 10 feet tall. The semi-woody stem is hollow with enlarged nodes. It is recognized by its dense growth form, often occurring in large monoculture thickets and by large, alternate, dark green leaves and panicles of minute white flowers. This invasive weed commonly disturbs 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.

Manual Controls

Control of knotweed relies on the death of the extensive rhizome system, which is an intensive project. Cut at least every 4-6 weeks through the summer until the plant loses its leaves in the fall. The multiple cuttings will reduce the plant’s ability to send reserves to its roots for the winter months.

The plant will initially re-sprout quickly after the first cutting. However, continued frequent cutting of all stems at ground level for several years will weaken the rhizomes and eventually kill the plant. Do not throw the stems into a waterway or a compost pile.

Mechanical Controls

Mowing alone is not an effective control for Japanese knotweed. Cutting only removes the aboveground portion and serves to stimulate the belowground rhizome.

Cultural

You can prevent establishment of new plants by maintaining a strong, competitive vegetative cover and eliminating potential seed sources. Be careful when using machinery or hand tools to minimize soil disturbance to avoid ‘planting’ a new stand of knotweed.

Chemical

Identifying new small stands and treating it both manually and with chemicals, before it has a chance to dominate an area, is the best method of control.

There are recommended herbicide applications for managing Japanese knotweed infestations. Foliar treatments and use of injection tools are effective in combination when using systemic herbicides. For specific recommendations visit “Weed Watch” at www.yamhillswcd.org.

When applying herbicides remember to follow label instructions. Use caution to avoid and prevent off-target drift and be aware of restrictions regarding livestock grazing. Find more information for herbicide products at http://pnwhandbooks.org/weed/.

Contact Information 503-472-6403 or www.yamhillswcd.org/weeds

New Tee Shirts Have Arrived!

The district now has Miller Woods tee shirts in both kelly green and forest green.

The popular “I Make Dirt Look Good” shirts are now offered in both short and long sleeves.

Shirts are available in youth and adult sizes, XS - XL.

Drop by the district office and pick up a shirt or two.

Fall Special! Regular $12 each, now buy 2 and save - 2/$20.

Ad Sponsored by

Thank You

for Sponsoring our 2016 Weed Watch Ad!
Providing Natural Resource Leadership

If you would like to be removed from the newsletter mailing list or prefer email only, please call 503-472-6403 or email admin@yamhillswcd.org. Thank you.

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

THE DISTRICT IS LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS!

If you are interested in helping with:
- Annual Meeting and Native Plant Sale
- Educational Events
- Volunteering at Miller Woods

Contact Mary at 503-472-6403 or email admin@yamhillswcd.org.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<td>September 22:</td>
<td>District Booth - McMinnville Farmer’s Market 1:00 pm - 6:00 pm</td>
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<td>October 12:</td>
<td>Board Meeting - 7:30 am Miller Woods Conference Room</td>
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<td>November 9:</td>
<td>Board Meeting - 7:30 am Miller Woods Conference Room</td>
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<td>November 16:</td>
<td>Annual Dinner - 5:30 pm - 8:30 pm McMinnville Community Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 14:</td>
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For more details, visit www.yamhillswcd.org/events

YAMHILL SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Celebrating 63 Years of Conservation

Join Us for Our Annual Dinner

Wednesday, November 16, 2016
5:30 - 8:30 PM
Social Hour and Silent Auction begin at 5:30 PM - Dinner at 6:30 PM
McMinnville Community Center
600 NE Evans Street - McMinnville, OR 97128

Fresh Local Cuisine from Rogue Gourmet Catering

Special Guest Speaker - TBA
Visit www.yamhillswcd.org for updates
Conservation Award Winners - Silent Auction

NEW Online Registration - Register Early & Save
www.yamhillswcd.org/2016adregistration

$15 Per Person with Reservations - $20 at the Door

RSVP by November 5 - Register online or call 503-472-6403
Yamhill SWCD - 2200 SW 2nd Street - McMinnville, OR 97128
www.yamhillswcd.org - admin@yamhillswcd.org