JOIN US APRIL 27 FOR EARTH DAY AT MILLER WOODS

If you are looking for a special way to celebrate Earth Day with your family, join us at Miller Woods on Saturday, April 27 for a FREE day of activities!

The fun is from 10 am until 2 pm, with festivities meant to build appreciation for our environment:

- Come face to face with live birds of prey during a special program by Perch Wildlife Education.
- Learn firsthand the art of paper making and make your own paper.
- Enjoy family guided nature trail hikes or kick it up a notch with the faster paced 4-mile hike.
- Grab a net and microscope for some hands-on adventures at the wildlife center and pond.
- In addition to native plants, retail sales include books, t-shirts, and hats.
- Build a bird box to take home.

We cannot wait to see you there!
See the EARTH DAY flyer on page 7 for additional details.

2019 NATIVE PLANT SALE: ANOTHER EXCITING YEAR!

Although the air was still crisp from a recent snowfall, it truly felt like spring during the 2019 Native Plant Sale. The sun was shining brightly for the 900+ customers who attended, making it another successful year of fundraising for Miller Woods. This year was a record breaking year for pre-orders, which rose 35% from 2018! Customers left smiling and excited to get planting, their carts filled with plants and bird boxes for our fine-feathered friends.

It is always inspiring to see the team of dedicated volunteers and staff going above and beyond to make the sale possible. Thank YOU to the many partners, volunteers, and donors who continually support the sale, including: Yamhill Valley Heritage Center, Pat FitzGerald & FitzGerald Farms, Tim & Susie Kreder Farms, and many more.

“Excellent selection of plants, great prices, and the sale itself is run very professionally. Thank you!”
-2019 NPS Customer

See the complete list of donors & volunteers on page 3
DISTRICT CELEBRATES COMPLETION OF LAND TRANSFER!

BY LARRY OJUA | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Yamhill Soil and Water Conservation District (district) is pleased to announce the completion of a land transfer of two important conservation properties in Yamhill County, donated by The Nature Conservancy (TNC). The Yamhill Oaks Reserve at Gopher Valley is a 318-acre property which was acquired by TNC in 2008. The parcel contains critical habitat for Fender’s blue butterfly, oak and prairie habitats, riparian area along Deer Creek, and a variety of mixed forest habitats.

“The district is very appreciative of TNC’s support and contribution to local conservation in Yamhill County. The protected lands will benefit wildlife and watersheds for years to come.”

The Masonville Conservation Reserve is a 310-acre property acquired by TNC in 2010 and contains a mix of wetland habitat, riparian area, oak habitat and mixed forest. TNC has conducted significant restoration projects on the property over the last four years in partnership with the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, USDA, and other partners. The property is located adjacent to the 540-acre Muddy Valley Habitat Reserve, acquired by the district in 2016 through the Willamette Wildlife Mitigation Program.

The district has been working closely with TNC for 18 months to plan the transfer and transition of management for the two properties. TNC stated, “The district is an excellent candidate to own and manage the two properties, as it has been active in helping landowners protect working lands, oak and prairie habitats, and other conservation lands for over 15 years. The district has capable technical staff, a committed local board of directors, and experience managing and stewarding conservation properties.” To support long-term stewardship and lessen the economic impact to the district, TNC agreed to transfer the properties at no-cost and establish a stewardship endowment to support care and maintenance of the properties.

The district will continue to manage the conservation lands for wildlife habitat, water quality protection, and watershed enhancement as outlined in the conservation easements and management plans associated with the two parcels.

The district is very appreciative of TNC’s support and contribution to local conservation in Yamhill County. The protected lands will benefit wildlife and watersheds for years to come.

For information on long-term land protection, conservation planning, programs, services and partnership opportunities, please contact the district.
We would like to thank each volunteer and donors who made the sale a huge success!

Susan Aldrich-Markham
Catie Anderson
Jordan Anderson
Donna Anessi
The Barsotti Family
Lyne Breault
Tom Brewer
Donn Callaham
Nancy Carl
Joe Chaffin
Nick Chasuk
Charlie Coates
Theresa Crain
Ava Frison
Emily Gladhart
Dave Hanson
Julia Hemphill
Vern Holm
Jeremy Hurl
Norvella Koelling
Brian Kotch
Jim Kreutzbender
Leo Krick
Wendell Kringen
Rekha Loomba
Gloria Lutz
Ron Massey
McMinnville Wilco
Michael O’Loughlin
Mary Onstott
Outdoor Education Adventures
Terry Peasley
John Phillips
Alden Potter
Pam Quataert
Dave & Marilyn Riedman
James & Tessa Riedman
Steve Riedman
Margaret Rottle
Michelle Schryver
Brad Smith
Sam Sweeney
Jeanie Taylor
Rick Thomas
Rob Tracey
YC Master Gardeners
Claire Yount
Rachel Walker
Dennis Werth
Greg Wheelhouse

We made every effort to capture your name but if anyone was omitted please accept our apologies. We appreciate you and your help! If you would like to volunteer next year, call Jessica at 503-472-6403 or email jessica@yamhillswcd.org.
Attention all Yamhill farmers and forest landowners within the focus areas shown in the Associated Focus Area map: the EQIP application deadline has changed due to the passage of the USDA Farm Bill.

The application for Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) is due by April 19, 2019.

Now is the time to apply for the USDA Conservation Funding. Are you interested in converting your irrigation from sprinkler to drip? Perhaps you've always wanted to implement “Fire Safe” practices on your forest lands. Maybe you have considered trying cover crops to reduce your erosion in your hazelnut fields. We have programs that can assist!

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at 503-376-7617, stop by the McMinnville NRCS Office at 2200 SW 2nd Street, or see more information at www.yamhillswcd.org.

Miller Woods recently opened a new half-mile trail section named “Oak Summit.” The new trail section can be accessed from the outer loop on the South side of the property. It is marked by a green line on our trail map and green arrows on the property.

The trail travels past an open space with giant boulders and several large Oregon White Oak trees. Volunteers have planted Roemer’s fescue and a variety of flowering prairie plants, such as Oregon iris, Willamette Valley daisy, self heal, and rose checkermallow.

Continuing on, visitors can enjoy the beginning of our Variable Density Thinning Project. Two half-acre plots in this area were logged at different densities, along with a control plot. Coming this summer, we will be installing educational signs that will explain the project to visitors. Over time, visitors may see changes in the tree growth rates as well as a difference in the understory.

**VISIT “OAK SUMMIT” - NEW TRAIL SECTION AT MILLER WOODS**

**Thank you to the volunteers who made this project happen!**

As with most of the work at Miller Woods, volunteers were essential to completing this project. A HUGE thank you to:

- Eagle Scout candidate Winfield Hall
- Students from McMinnville High School & Duniway Middle School
- Our team of dedicated regular volunteers: Rick Thomas, James Riedman, Paul Spencer, Joe Chaffin, Wendell Kringen, Charlie Coates, Jim Culbert, Ron Massey, Brad Smith, and Lyne Breault.
Through a competitive grant process, the district has secured a $51,000 grant from the Oregon State Weed Board to continue invasive species control efforts through the first quarter of 2020. The district is implementing a county-wide noxious weed control program in cooperation with the Greater Yamhill Watershed Council, the Oregon State Weed Board, and Yamhill County Public Works.

We will be targeting high priority species including knotweed (Fallopia spp.) and garlic mustard (Alliaria petiolate). The district will control these weeds on public and private lands at no cost to the property owner. These control efforts would not be possible without the support provided by Yamhill County Public Works.

Garlic mustard and knotweed are highly invasive plants that take over riparian and terrestrial habitat, excluding native species and reducing the productivity of working lands.

**Knotweed** colonizes riparian areas, excluding native shrubs and preventing the establishment of trees.

**Garlic mustard** invades riparian and upland forests, forming monocultures that dominate the invaded forest’s understory.

**DO THESE WEEDS LOOK FAMILIAR?**

Please report any sightings to the YSWCD Invasive Species Program Coordinator, Justin Cooley: Justin@YamhillSWCD.org or 503-376-7620
PLASTIC BAGS
Thanks to the recent ban on single use plastic bags in our area, many of you may already be aware that they aren’t good for our environment.

DID YOU KNOW THAT A SINGLE PLASTIC BAG TAKES OVER 500 YEARS TO DEGRADE?

AROUND THE WORLD OVER 1 TRILLION PLASTIC BAG ARE USED EACH YEAR

JUST ONE PERSON USING REUSABLE SHOPPING BAGS KEEPS 1500 PLASTIC BAGS FROM ENTERING THE LANDFILL EACH YEAR

NOW YOU KNOW!

DISTRICT BEGINS NEW FISCAL YEAR 2019-2020

The Yamhill Soil & Water Conservation District (district) is preparing their 2019/20 fiscal year budget in preparation of the annual budget committee meeting. It will be held on Tuesday, May 21, 2019 at 6:30 pm at the district office. The budget committee is comprised of the district’s seven elected board members, and seven appointed citizen members. The budget committee is responsible for reviewing the budget, making changes if needed, and approving the budget in preparation of the final budget hearing. This is a public meeting, and the public is welcome to attend.

After the budget committee approves the budget, the district will publish a budget summary in the local newspaper and follow with a budget hearing. The hearing provides an additional opportunity for the public and district board to review the budget, ask questions, and provide public comment. This year the budget hearing will be held on June 12, 2019 at 7:30 am in conjunction with the district’s regular board meeting. The meeting is held at the Miller Woods Conference Room located at 15580 Orchard View Road NW, McMinnville.

Questions? Contact the district at 503-472-6403 or email admin@yamhillswcd.org.

No-Till Drill Rental Program

The Yamhill Soil and Water Conservation District purchased a 2016 Land Pride 606 No-Till Compact Drill. It is now available for rent to Yamhill County residents.

Rental Rates Schedule

**Weekday Rate** (24-hour period):

$250/day - Includes delivery/pick up to your property and brief orientation to the equipment

**Weekend Rate** (Friday afternoon – Monday morning):

$250/weekend - Includes delivery/pick up to your property and brief orientation to the equipment

Interested in renting the drill?
Call 503-472-6403 or visit www.yamhillswcd.org/equipment-rental
Yamhill SWCD and Friends of Miller Woods Presents

2019 Earth Day at Miller Woods

Saturday, April 27 | 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
15580 Orchard View Road  McMinnville

Sponsored by: Head Start of Yamhill County | Outdoor Education Adventures | Talk About Trees

Guided Tours and Hikes - 10:30 AM & 12:30 PM

“No Capes” Birds of Prey Presentation - 1 PM by Perch Wildlife Education. All their owls, hawks, and falcons have SuperpOWLers that would guarantee their entrance to the Justice League. Explore the Ninja skills of Orion, the Barn Owl, the bionic hearing of Willow, the Barred Owl, and the super-vision and extreme speeds of their hasty falcons, hawks and more. They will be on site during the morning for photos and visits.

Family Guided Nature Trail Hikes led by naturalist Laura McMaster, and Theresa Crain of Outdoor Education Adventures. 4-Mile Hike is for those interested in a more physical, faster paced hike.

Native Plant Sale offers plants, books, t-shirts & hats for sale.

Wildlife Center & Pond Exploration with Outdoor Education Adventures provides a hands-on experience where kids can examine their specimen under a microscope.

Paper Making is a very popular, hands-on experience. Educators from Talk About Trees teach the art of paper making and kids can make their own paper.

Build a Bird Box with Tom Brewster.

FREE EVENT & LUNCH! 
BRING THE FAMILY

Questions? Call 503-472-6403 or email info@yamhillswcd.org
Visit Miller Woods at www.facebook.com/enjoymillerwoods
Providing Natural Resource Leadership

If you prefer email or would like to be removed from the newsletter mailing list, please contact Julie at 503-472-6403 or email info@yamhill.org.

CALLED ALL VOLUNTEERS!

You can make a difference in local conservation efforts by becoming part of the district’s volunteer team! We have many rewarding volunteer opportunities available.

Currently, we are seeking volunteers for the upcoming Earth Day at Miller Woods and the Cruickshank Woodland Tour events.

Call or email Jessica to get involved:
503-472-6403 or jessica@yamhillswcd.org

For more details, visit www.yamhillswcd.org