



The Kingfisher



Newsletter of the Yamhill Basin Council
Working to improve our watersheds
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Support the YBC!

Purchase a limited edition Kingfisher print (above), painted by local artist Terry Peasley.

Matted 11x14 cost \$30; 16x20 cost \$50. Framed prints available as well. Visit Hidden Treasures Gallery in McMinnville or call the YBC at (503) 474-1047 to order yours today!

Yamhill Basin Council

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Denise Schmit *Monitoring Technician*
Corissa Kunze *Monitoring Assistant*

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Volunteers Needed for Water Quality Monitoring

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We just received two grants to conduct Water Quality Monitoring! From now through October we need Volunteers to assist Denise, our Water Quality Monitoring Technician, to collect water samples from selected sites all around Yamhill and Polk County.

Your commitment is only for **one day**, typically about 4 hrs in the morning to early afternoon. If you could do 2 days in a row, or multiple weekends, we would be very happy! Minimum age is 16 (with permission from a parent or guardian for those under 18). No maximum age. The job requires some physical ability to walk over rough terrain and carry sampling equipment, but it's not overly strenuous. It's work, but its fun! Check out the details below.

If you can commit to certain dates in advance, we would appreciate it. If you are willing to volunteer, but you don't know what days you will be available yet, please just let us know you are interested and we will contact you again at a later date. Once you are scheduled to volunteer, Denise will arrange to meet you at a convenient location. If you are able to volunteer to drive as well, that is welcomed and appreciated, but not necessary. Denise will drive if you can't donate the use of your vehicle for sampling. Some cargo room is needed to carry the equipment.

Project 1: Pesticide Monitoring (we need volunteers ASAP!!!)

Dates: April 13th – June 16th, Every Weekend, Sundays and Mondays

Hours: 9am – Noon (typically)

This project is almost done for the season, but we still need volunteers for June. The field work is pretty easy, but you will need to wear rubber knee boots and be able to carry some sampling equipment while walking over sometimes slippery or rough terrain, and help out with some water quality science on site. You will be trained in the field.

Project 2: Water Quality Monitoring

Dates: Early June – Late October, monthly, Fridays-Mondays (schedule with specific dates to be announced soon)

Hours: 9am – 2pm (typically)

This project focuses on bacteria and other indicators to determine the health of the streams in the Yamhill watershed. This field work is more physically demanding. Some of the data is collected in the streams, and may require chest waders and wading boots. (We have some available for loan, depending on your size.)

If you wish to volunteer for either of these projects, please contact Corissa Kunze, Water Quality Assistant at ybc_monitoring@co.yamhill.or.us or call (503) 474-1047.

Help Stop the Invasion!

I hope you all watched the recent special program on Oregon Public Broadcasting concerning invasive species. "The Silent Invasion" told stories of several plant and animal species that people have brought to Oregon from other places, intentionally or unintentionally. These invasive species are now taking over the landscape in some areas. The invaders have no natural predators in Oregon, so they are able to out-compete native species. Many of the volunteer events we sponsor focus on removing invasive plants such as Himalayan blackberry. It's a constant effort of cutting and spraying to keep them from spreading. Despite all the work, the resulting natural landscape is worth the effort. The YBC encourages gardeners and landowners to plant native species and remove the invasives. In case you missed the show on OPB, we have a copy available for viewing. Please contact Jean at the YBC office at 503-474-1047 for more information.

YBC FROM THE GROUND UP-DATES

Carlton Riparian Restoration Project:

The grant funding this project at Wennerberg Park on the North Yamhill River in Carlton has ended, but we continue to hold volunteer events to help us trim the blackberries away from the trees and shrubs we planted last year. You may have seen the photo of volunteers Nelda and Ron Skidmore in the News-Register on April 1st as they bravely worked in the freezing rain in late March. In April, Kent Harrop, Georgine Benner, Maria and Gerald Blankenship, Andy and Bryce White, and Council Member Dave Riedman showed plenty of enthusiasm despite the freezing temperatures in the morning. Thank you volunteers! We also thank Lyn Carl, Carlton Parks staff, who helped us by spraying herbicide on the vines to kill the roots and retard further growth. Even with all this work, it's a constant battle to control the invasive species until the native plants grow large enough to out-compete them. We hope for no rain or snow during the next volunteer event!

Deer Creek County Park Wet Prairie Restoration Project:

We are gearing up for a big year at Deer Creek Park! We are receiving bids from contractors to do the disking, re-grading, and check dam installation late this summer. We will re-seed or plant the site with native wet prairie species this fall. This project is made possible by Oregon Lottery funds administered by the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB).

Gooseneck Creek Restoration Technical Assistance:

This grant from OWEB allowed the YBC to contract an engineering firm, Swanson Hydrology + Geomorphology, to develop design plans for the restoration of a site above Mill Creek to improve fish habitat and floodplain connectivity. This section of the creek has eroded down to bedrock and has no good habitat for native fish. We have applied for another OWEB grant to implement the restoration plans which include adding boulders and large wood to the creek to capture cobble and gravel which will protect the stream bottom from further erosion and provide pools and riffles for fish habitat. A side-channel will also be restored to provide protected back-water habitat for juvenile fish rearing during low flows, and to help slow flow velocities during high water events.

Riedman Riparian Restoration, Phase 3:

We just received a new Small Grant from OWEB to continue habitat restoration efforts along Muddy Creek. This phase of the project involves removing invasive plant species from the understory of the riparian forest. Work will begin this summer. Later phases will involve planting native species. Small Grants funding is locally administered and is available to assist landowners with seed money to do small habitat improvement projects.

Upcoming Projects:

We are also developing other restoration projects to improve stream health, fish habitat, and floodplain connectivity at various sites in the watershed. We also hope to continue culvert fish passage surveys next summer. Please check our website for the most recent information on projects and volunteer events.



YBC Membership and Volunteers

Welcome new Council Members Skye Landauer, Terry Anthony, and Steve Wegner.

We currently have openings for new Council Members representing Small Cities, Utilities, Students, Agriculture, and Watershed Residents. If you are interested in working to improve the Chehalem and Yamhill watersheds through a collaborative, consensus based group, please attend a Council meeting on the second Thursday of each month from 7-8:30pm at the McMinnville Water Reclamation Facility at 3500 NE Clearwater Drive, McMinnville. New Council Member Application forms are available at the YBC office or on our website.

We are also looking for volunteers to help with water quality monitoring, removing invasive plants, planting native species, mulching and watering plants, cleaning up streams, or doing event planning, fundraising, and office work. Please contact our office at 503.474.1047 and tell us your areas of interest. Thank you!



Camas (*Camassia quamash*)



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

Contact Jean at (503) 474-1047 or ybc_coordinator@co.yamhill.or.us.