



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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Yamhill & Polk Counties
Yamhill SWCD



Native Sedges growing at the BLM Horning Nursery ready for planting

Deer Creek County Park Wet Prairie Restoration

By: Patricia Farrell

This fall the YBC continued with our restoration of the largest remnant wet prairie in the northern Willamette Valley. The site is located in Deer Creek Park, owned and managed by Yamhill County Parks Department. The site is located approximately 8 miles north of Sheridan on Gopher Valley Road. The approximately 18-acre restoration site includes a sloped wetland that was farmed up until the 1950's, leaving a ridge and furrow system and a mass of invasive weeds after farming was discontinued at the site. The restoration is a 5-7 year project, beginning with a botanical inventory, seed collection from desirable native plants, topographic survey, wetland delineation, mowing of the weeds to reduce seed heads, spraying to further reduce weeds, and site grading to eliminate the ridge/furrow system and spread the water across the slope better. Seeds collected from the site have been propagated at the BLM Horning Nursery and will be re-established at the site once another round of weed control is completed in the spring of 2009. Then other native grasses, such as tufted hairgrass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*) and wet prairie forbs will be re-introduced to the site. The long term management of the site will include periodic burning, a critical element in the maintenance and preservation of prairies that keeps woody vegetation and weeds from becoming re-established.

The project is funded by the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board. Project partners include Yamhill County Parks, Yamhill SWCD, the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, and the Native Plant Society of Oregon. Grading was contracted by GVS Contracting and weed management by R-J Consulting Services.

In addition to the wet prairie, Deer Creek Park has a lovely ash and camas wetland, a large area of tufted hairgrass, a native wetland grass, and a small area of Kincaid's lupine, the host plant for the endangered Fenders Blue Butterfly. While the restoration area may not look like much now, we hope it will become the wet prairie of the past. Be sure to visit this gem of a park in western Yamhill County.

Deer Creek County Park Wet Prairie Restoration Photos



September 2007:

Native grasses, sedges, and rushes. Also notice the invasive plant species such as Himalayan blackberry and teasel that we will eliminate from the site.



September 2008:

The site was mowed and plowed several times to break up the soil.



September 2008: Most of the site was graded to hold water on the wet prairie and encourage the growth of native wet prairie plants.

In the future: We will plant some native plants and spread native seed that we collected from the site in 2006.



YBC Membership and Volunteers

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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Basin
Council**

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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.