



September 2009

Newsletter of the Yamhill Basin Council: *Working to improve our watersheds.* **Volume 7, Issue 1**

New Art to Support the YBC

Purchase a limited edition "Kingfishers Courtship" print (right), painted by local artist Terry Peasley, and support the YBC. See the YBC website (www.co.yamhill.or.us/ybc) for prices and ordering information.



Yamhill Basin Council

Officers

Stan Christensen *Chair*

Staff

Jean Reiher *Watershed Coordinator*
Denise Schmit *Monitoring Technician*
Corissa Kunze *Monitoring Assistant*

Stakeholder Groups

Agriculture
Bureau of Land Management
Business/Community Development Assoc.
City Government
Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde
Environmental Groups
Industrial Forestry
Natural Areas Parks & Recreation
Students
Small & Large Utilities
Small Woodlands Assoc.
Watershed Residents
Yamhill & Polk Counties
Yamhill SWCD

Fundraising News

The Yamhill Basin Council is proud to announce that the **Yamhill Watershed Stewardship Fund**, the non-profit 501-c-3 group that the YBC created in 2005, has now become an independent organization. We wish them well with their own programs for open space, education, and environmental advocacy.

Since the YWSF is now independent from us, they are **no longer** the fundraising entity for the Yamhill Basin Council. Donations can be made directly to the YBC. Please make checks payable to the Yamhill Basin Council at PO Box 1517, McMinnville, OR 97128-1517.

As you know, state funding is down this biennium, so we rely on **your** financial support to fund some of our programs. Please watch your mail/email and our website for information about our fall fundraising and volunteer appreciation event. Until then, the first 20 people who donate \$30 or more to the YBC will receive a free African violet house plant. Thank you for your past and continued support of the Yamhill Basin Council!

Restoration Project Updates

Gooseneck Creek: Construction is finally underway for this long-awaited project to restore a section of the creek! Reopening a historic side channel will help slow high water flows. Log and boulder structures will help decrease erosion, and will provide pool-riffle habitat for salmon. Root wad logs will provide habitat for native fish, western pond turtles, red-legged frogs, and Pacific lamprey. Watch our website for photos as the project progresses.

Deer Creek Prairie: We have eradicated many invasive plants from the site, and will soon be using a no-till drill to plant native seeds. We hope to have many native wildflowers blooming next spring, hosting native pollinators and birds. We will continue to remove invasive plants as they re-emerge.

Muddy Creek: A riparian site on Muddy Creek has fewer invasive plants now thanks to the tireless work of a landowner and a contractor. We will plant native trees and shrubs in the spring to restore the natural landscape.

Site Tour: We will be hosting a site tour in the spring. Watch the next newsletter for more details.

It's "No Bull" When it Comes to the Bullfrog

By: Annette Frank, YBC Council Member

What is in a name? If your name is *Rana catesbeiana*, commonly known as the bullfrog, there is a lot in the name, and that is no bull. In fact, the bullfrog is not native to the Northwest. They are native in North America only east of the Rocky Mountains, and were brought here in the 1920's to be raised for food. It was an accepted practice in those days to introduce non-native species thought to provide auxiliary value. The bullfrog has thrived here in Oregon, and was classified as a game fish requiring a fishing license up until 2000.

Bullfrogs love warm water such as in year-round still-water ponds, and lakes with many water plants. This typifies the farm pond, backyard water feature, or backwater slough. Are you unknowingly enabling this silent invasion? Why should you be concerned?

As these glutinous bullfrogs move into an area they eat anything and everything they can catch, causing some local populations of native frogs and snakes to the brink of extinction, resulting in altered local habitats. The altered habitat, often already in a weakened state, becomes weaker making it difficult for ecosystems to return to their healthiest state. This can have devastating effects on sport fishing, economics, and aesthetics. Because the bullfrogs prey on native fish, amphibians, reptiles, mammals, and birds, and there are no natural predators of the bullfrogs here in the Northwest, there is nothing to control their population. In short, they are more than just a nuisance; they are a threat to the health of the entire northwest ecosystem.

What can you do to help eradicate this threat? Take time to educate yourself and others. If you have a backyard pond, farm pond, or backwater slough near you, take the necessary steps to make these waters less inviting to the bullfrog.

For more information about the bullfrog, please see the on-line resources:

Oregon Field Guide: Bullfrog Research at OSU
<http://www.opb.org/programs/ofg/videos/view/95-Bullfrogs>

Alien Species in Cahoots
http://www.usgs.gov/newsroom/article_pf.asp?ID=197

OPB: The Silent Invasion
<http://www.opb.org/programs/invasives/index.php>

Invading Bullfrogs Appear Nearly Unstoppable
http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2004/09/0928_040928_bullfrog.html

Identification Guide
<http://www.npwrc.usgs.gov/resource/herps/amphibid/species/bullfrog.htm>



YBC Membership and Volunteers

Welcome new Council Members Annette Frank and Sonja Johnson.

We are currently taking applications for new Council Members representing Agriculture, and Business or Community Associations. 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!



Bill Leonard, USGS

Mailing List Update:

We are in the process of updating our mail/email/volunteer list. Right now it's all one big list. We want to make a database that will allow to you to receive only the information from us that you are interested in. If you want this newsletter or other information only by mail, or only by email, we can that. If you only want notices of volunteer opportunities, we can do that, too. Well, it will be possible as soon as we get a volunteer to help me fix our current database. So, if you are a database wizard and you would like to help the YBC, please call Jean at the YBC Office. Thank you!



**Yamhill
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.