



December 2009

Newsletter of the Yamhill Basin Council: *Working to improve our watersheds.* **Volume 7, Issue 2**

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

- Kris Bledsoe *Chair*
- Bernie Hansen *Watershed Administrator*
- Milli Chennell *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

U-Bottle Water



A recent study by Oregon Department of Environmental Quality found that drinking tap water in refillable bottles is the more environmentally friendly action when compared with 48 different scenarios. The life cycle assessment included extracting raw materials, producing energy, water treatment, bottling, transportation, consumer transport, dishwasher use and disposal/recycling/composting. Even compared with bio-plastics, recycling single-use bottles and buying locally bottled water, refillable bottles had one fiftieth the global warming potential. The study suggests users of refillable bottles can further reduce their impact by using energy-efficient appliances,

washing bottles less often and only running the dishwasher when full. When you're ready to make the switch to refillable bottles, get your Yamhill Basin Council water bottle free, with a donation to the council. Email Milli Chennell at ybc_coordinator@co.yamhill.or.us or stop by the YBC office at 800 NE Second Street in McMinnville for more information.

YBC Welcomes Two New Employees

Yamhill Basin Council is pleased to introduce interim watershed coordinator Milli Chennell. Milli was born and raised in McMinnville and has volunteered with both Yamhill Basin Council and Yamhill SWCD. Having earned her Master's Degree in Environmental Science and Water Resources Management from the Bren School of Environmental Science and Management in Santa Barbara, Milli comes to us with diverse experiences, a wealth of knowledge and a passion for watershed stewardship. Milli hopes to aide the Council in this transition period as it explores new aspects of watershed management and community outreach.

In addition, the Council is pleased to introduce interim watershed administrator Bernadette Hansen. Bernadette comes to us with a broad background in water policy and water resource management. Bernadette worked for the Oregon Water Resources Department for nearly 15 years, serving as the Water Rights Transfer Program Coordinator the last five years. Bernadette has also worked in the private sector as a Resource Management Consultant. Bernadette looks forward to working with the Council and community to help make the Yamhill Basin a model of watershed stewardship in Oregon.

If you would like to join the council, there are openings for council members representing agriculture, business associations, small city governments and watershed residents. If you would like to be a part of our efforts, attend a council meeting on the second Thursday of every month from 7-8:30pm at the McMinnville Water Reclamation Center at 3500 NE Clearwater Drive, McMinnville. New council member applications are available on our website.

Newberg Water Wise Garden



The Newberg Water Wise Garden highlights sustainable gardening and building practices.

If you've driven through Newberg on 99W toward Dundee recently, you may have noticed a little bit more green. In less than a year the City of Newberg transformed a barren parking lot into a demonstration garden including a rainwater harvesting system and low-water irrigation. Driving by the corner of 99 and Blaine Street the informational kiosk is hard to miss with its living green roof. The Newberg Public Works project was accomplished with support from Yamhill County Master Gardeners, OSU Extension, Newberg High School and various businesses involved in sustainable gardening.

Though it features four unique low-water irrigation zones (donated by Ewing Irrigation and Hunter Industries), the garden is not only a demonstration of green watering practices. The development and building process was also a learning experience.

Bryan Stewart, the city grounds keeper who spearheaded the job, emphasized the learn-to-build course as one of the most exciting aspects of the project. The class offered by AquaScape taught the design and installation of rainwater harvesting systems. Around 70 contractors, builders and other professionals came to Newberg for this one-of-a-kind day



This fountain features collected rainwater.

course with both classroom and demonstration learning. The completed rainwater harvesting system feeds an attractive stone fountain at the foot of the informational kiosk.

It may come as a surprise that the renovated parking lot, which still contained a reduced number of parking spaces, is listed as Certified Wildlife Habitat. Along with installed birdhouses and feeders, the diverse plantings and water features of the garden provide food sources, water sources, places for cover, places to raise young and sustainable gardening practices, the criteria for certification. The obvious additions of habitat are the 2500 square feet of islands and borders planted with over 60 varieties of water-wise, wildlife inviting plants. Another area of habitat is over most visitors' heads. Although there are many benefits to green roofs, this one is primarily for urban habitat, the reduction of storm water runoff and filtering of pollutants. Other green roofs may be designed to lower heating costs, increase the roof's lifespan, and help insulate a building for sound. In spring the finishing touch of an educational sign pointing out the unique aspects of the garden will be added to the kiosk.

The convenient location of Newberg's water wise garden is perfect for a quick self-guided tour. Look around and you may just wind up with some new ideas for projects in your own garden. In a very small space this spectacular garden demonstrates a wide array of sustainable gardening practices, storm water retention systems and water-wise ideas and each of them can be used in private homes and businesses. For information on how to incorporate any of the ideas used at the water wise garden into your plans, contact Bryan Stewart, Newberg City Grounds Keeper, by email at bryan.stewart@newbergoregon.gov or by phone at 503-969-8620.



In spring the finished kiosk will feature an educational sign.



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

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