



# The Kingfisher



Newsletter of the Yamhill Basin Council  
*working to improve our watersheds*  
Volume 2, Issue 3

Fall 2004

↑ **Can I get one? YES!!**

Support the YBC by purchasing a Kingfisher print (above), painted by local artist Terry Peasley. 60% of the proceeds go to the YBC. An unframed matted 8x10 costs only \$15. Framed prints available as well. Call the YBC at (503) 434-7447 to order yours today!

## YBC Calendar

### Sept-Oct

Water Quality Monitoring

**Oct 14th, Nov 11th, Dec 9th**

Yamhill Basin Council

Monthly Meeting

6:00-8:30 PM

McMinnville Water Rec. Facility

### Board

Patricia Farrell      Chair  
Darey Shell          Vice-Chair

### Staff

Jeanine Ishii          Program Coordinator

### Stakeholder Groups

Agriculture  
Bureau of Land Management  
Chambers of Commerce  
City Government  
Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde  
Environmental Groups  
Industrial Forestry  
Land Trusts  
Students  
Small & Large Utilities  
Small Woodlands Assoc.  
Watershed Residents  
Yamhill & Polk Counties  
Yamhill SWCD

Comments, questions, submissions?  
Wish to be added or removed from the mailing list? Contact Jeanine at (503) 434-7447 or ishijj@co.yamhill.or.us.

## Hemming Stream Restoration

Submitted by Dave Hanson, YBC Project Committee Chair



*Above: Dave Hanson, YBC, and Joe Sheahan of ODF&W watch Eric place logs in the stream.*

Jim Hemming wanted to help the fish. A retired fish biologist, he owns a piece of property off Baker Creek Road with a small tributary of Baker Creek running through it. Jim recognized that the stream was in a very degraded condition--deeply incised with undercut and eroding banks--that was not providing much habitat for native cutthroat trout.

He maintains a small vineyard on the hill above the creek that pays for improvements to the site, like the wildlife pond he put in a few years ago. He had also been planting native trees, but knew that the creek needed help to recover its

lost functions.

Jim gave a presentation to the YBC in September of 2002 with a proposal to improve fish habitat in the stream. The Council endorsed the project and visited the site with Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODF&W) biologists. The Council applied for and was awarded a grant from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) Small Grants Program, which grants up to \$10,000 for conservation projects.

YBC Member Michael Joy and Watershed Coordinator Jeff Bash obtained a permit from the Department of State Lands which required Joy to create computer drawings of the site - both cross-sections and aerial views. This project was implemented using ODF&W's Restoration & Enhancement Guidelines and met the criteria of the Regional General Permit for Stream Restoration issued by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Joy arranged for two contractors, Eddy Trucking and All Terrain Excavating, to move logs to the site and place logs & boulders into the stream.

In August the YBC completed its first in-stream project. We improved a quarter-mile of habitat for cutthroat trout. The addition of large wood and large boulders into the stream channel increases channel complexity. By dissipating



*Above: These logs and boulders were placed in a tributary of Baker Creek. This was the first YBC in-stream restoration project.*

## UPDATE: Ed Grenfell

Submitted by Becky Blanchard, Yamhill County Parks Coordinator

Have you visited Ed Grenfell County Park lately? It is looking great thanks to volunteers who weeded & mulched with newspapers and compost donated by NW Greenlands and throughout summer watered the native beds to nurse them through the heat.

Indian plum's white blossoms and a showy bloom of red-flowering currant greeted spring visitors. As trees and shrubs mature, they will create private, shaded picnic bays along the creek. Boulders from a local quarry will be placed along a park roadway this fall to keep vehicles off the creek's south bank and prevent further soil compaction. The YBC's work to restore native riparian vegetation in our county parks will have a lasting impact in the basin and build a legacy for all who enjoy our parks, year-round.

Many thanks to all of the partners and volunteers, including Cheahmill chapter of the Native Plant Society of Oregon, Harvest Fresh, NW Greenlands, OWEB, Yamhill SWCD and Yamhill County Parks.



Above: YBC Member Dave Hanson and Yamhill County Parks Board Member Susan Ruggles mulching the native planting at Ed Grenfell.



Left: Jeff Bash relaxes with YBC Chair Patricia Farrell after his last YBC meeting.

## Changes in YBC Staff

Jeff Bash's last day was in mid-July. Bash, who was YBC Watershed Coordinator for three years, moved to Seattle and is now the Executive Director of the Seattle Urban Nature Project. Their mission is to "document, improve, expand, and connect natural environments in Seattle." Jeff says feel free to contact him at [jeff@seattleurbannature.org](mailto:jeff@seattleurbannature.org).

Jeanine Ishii, YBC Program Coordinator, is working hard in the quiet office until a new Watershed Coordinator is hired. She welcomes volunteers interested in helping out in the office or field. Contact Jeanine by phone at (503) 434-7447 or by e-mail at [ishij@co.yamhill.or.us](mailto:ishij@co.yamhill.or.us).

## What Wonders at the Water Reclamation Facility!

Submitted by Lora Lyons, City of McMinnville WRF Lab Technician

The Idexx Colilert Quantitray system analyzes for total and *Escherichia coli* form bacteria. Total coliform bacteria are all of the *Enterobacteriaceae* family and are facultative anaerobic, gram-negative. *E. coli* are part of the fecal coliform group and their presence in water compromises its suitability for human use and consumption.

The media used is Idexx's patented Defined Substrate Technology. The nutrient-indicator ONPG (tangle your tongue around o-nitrophenyl-*B-D*-galactopyranoside) in water turns yellow when total coliforms metabolize it. A second nutrient-indicator MUG (stick with the initials for 4-methyl-umbelliferyl-*B-D*-glucuronide) metabolized by *E. coli* produces bright blue fluorescence under long-wavelength (6W) UV light. Thus, in one sample tray from a single 100mL sample two species can be defined. Other bacteria present are ignored.

The sample is taken in a sterile bottle and held on ice at 4°C until analysis. The media is in powder packet form and is mixed into 100ml in the sample bottle. Warming slightly hastens dissolution. After the powder dissolves the 100mL is poured into either a 97 or 51 well tray and is sealed. The tray is dry incubated at 35°C for 24-28 hours. The yellow and fluorescing cells are counted. A chart is supplied by Idexx to translate the number and size of the yellow cells into the most probable number (MPN) total coliform count and the number and size of the fluorescing cells into the MPN *E. coli* count.

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**Addicted to the Outdoors!**  
Submitted by Michelle Adlong, NHS Student and YBC Member

Ever since I was very young, I have been interested in animals and nature. I was about four years old when I first went camping with my family. There on Mt. Jefferson where we pitched our tent, I discovered that the bark of certain trees smelled distinctly like vanilla, went on my first horseback riding expedition, and learned how to roast s'mores. I was hooked! I was addicted to the outdoors.

Since then my family and I have explored many natural wonders. I was temporarily a member of brightly colored schools of tropical fish while snorkeling in Hawaii. In Yellowstone National Park I spotted a bull moose placidly resting in dappled shade. I backpacked in the wilderness near Bend and scrambled to the top of the South Sister to experience a breathtaking view. I dove into a stream of chilly Mt. Hood snowmelt, and then discovered a beaver's dam a few meters downstream. I try to take every opportunity to escape to the outdoors and leave my life's hectic schedule in the dust.

I have traveled far to experience the jewels of nature, but I have discovered that Yamhill County has much to offer. Here I can drive five minutes and be in the peaceful surroundings of the countryside. In my own backyard at dusk a mother deer and her tentative spotted fawn chew fallen apples. A swallow performs aerial acrobatics, a quail cries its distinctive call, and right here in my Dundee neighborhood a regal bald eagle occasionally perches atop a tree.

This plethora of life is sustained by that amazing element, water. It quenches our thirst, allows our flowers to bloom, and provides a home for fish to spawn. I am glad to be a member of the Yamhill Basin Council so that I can help to improve the watershed that is so vital to the world around us.



Above: Jeanine wears an unbleached cotton shirt while Becky models a white cotton shirt.

**Fabulous Fall Fashions**

Not sure what to wear the next time you volunteer with the YBC to plant trees or collect water samples? Do you like knowing that by buying new clothes you are actually helping your local watershed group?

Then we have a bargain for you! We have 100% cotton t-shirts sporting our logo and "Yamhill Basin Council" on the front and "working to improve our watersheds" on the back. Thanks to Jane at Allegro Designs for designing these truly trendy tees! The natural and white T-shirts come in M, L or XL. They are a steal at \$15!

Buying a shirt (or two, or three) will provide funds for water quality monitoring, education & outreach, watershed restoration projects and operation of the Council. So call (503) 434-7447 to order yours today!

**YBC Wish List**

- ◆ Filing cabinet
- ◆ Desk lamps
- ◆ Postage stamps
- ◆ Reams of 8.5"x11" paper
- ◆ Hard hats
- ◆ Pruning shears
- ◆ Trowels
- ◆ First aid supplies
- ◆ Color or black & white photocopying
- ◆ Bookshelves
- ◆ Volunteers

The YBC would like to welcome new members Michelle Adlong of Newberg High School and Lindsay Aney of Linfield College. Its great to have two enthusiastic students joining the Council!

Don't forget our new contact information!  
636 E 7th St., McMinnville (503) 434-7447  
ishij@co.yamhill.or.us www.co.yamhill.or.us/ybc

*Hemming Stream Restoration, continued from page 1*

The logs catch small debris which slows the water, dropping out gravels. As sediments build up in the channel water elevation increases and eventually will reconnect with the original floodplain beside the creek, which had been high and dry.

These stream channel changes will create habitat for many aquatic species. The logs offer protection from predators and also create calm pockets where trout can escape the current. Trapped gravels will be utilized for spawning and provide habitat for macro-invertebrates that in turn become food for trout. By reconnecting the floodplain with the stream, slow water refuges are available to fish during flood events.

This project was an outstanding example of collaboration, partnerships, and goodwill. Wildwood Mahonia Farms in Salem donated logs to the project. Oregon Wildlife Heritage Fund donated the funds to transport the logs from Salem to be stored on the Lux property on Mill Creek. Bob Eddy, owner of FC Eddy Trucking in Sheridan transported the logs from Buell to the project site and placed them in decks near the stream. Jim Hemming cleared Himalayan blackberries along his creek in preparation for the project and purchased 30 large basalt boulders from a landowner downstream on Baker Creek. Eric Mauck, owner of All-Terrain Excavating of Boring placed the logs and boulders at a discounted price with the direction of Joe Sheahan, fish biologist for ODF&W. A virtuoso operator on a Terex Spyder Hoe, Eric manipulated 40 foot-long incense cedar logs in between existing red alder and maple trees, creating complex log jams punctuated with large boulders.

If you have an idea for a watershed restoration project in your area, contact the YBC at (503) 434-7447!



## Support The Yamhill Basin Council

A donation to the YBC provides funds for stream clean-ups, riparian plantings, water quality monitoring, education & outreach and operation of the Council.

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