



# The Kingfisher

Newsletter of the Yamhill Basin Council      **Fall 2006**  
*working to improve our watersheds*  
Volume 4, Issue 1



## How can I buy a print?

Support the YBC! Purchase a limited edition Kingfisher print (above), painted by local artist Terry Peasley. Matted 11x14 costs only \$30; 16x20 costs \$50. Framed prints available as well. Visit Hidden Treasures Gallery in McMinnville or call the YBC at (503) 434-7447 to order yours today!

## Yamhill Basin Council

**Officers**  
Steve Covey      *Chair*  
Jim Kreutzbender      *Vice-Chair*

**Staff**  
Jamie Sheahan      *Watershed Coordinator*  
Denise Schmit      *Monitoring Technician*

**Stakeholder Groups**  
Agriculture  
Bureau of Land Management  
Business  
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

*The summer has been a great time for me to leave my coordinator desk and visit with landowners around the watershed. There are a lot of dedicated folks in our watershed and many who are doing enhancements on their own dime and effort. During my field visits I, myself, have learned to identify red-legged frogs, watch western pond turtles, observe salmonid fingerlings in Mill Creek, collect native wet prairie seed, and hack away at blackberries with kids from the Carlton. Our water quality monitoring field season is wrapping up shortly. Thank you to the hard work of all the volunteers who gave a hand and foot helping collect samples this summer. Were not done yet . . . So, if you haven't yet, NOW is the time to give Denise a jingle or an email to sign up to get down and dirty in your streams!*

*So what is going on this fall? Volunteer work parties in Carlton's lower Wennerberg Park move along our restoration effort of the **North Yamhill River**-Please Join us! (see pg 3). Volunteers from the YBC and YWSF are planning away for the second annual event: **A Celebration of Our Watersheds** (see pg 3). The fall we also have grant writing, fundraising, community events & much more!*

*Oh, I almost forgot to mention the most exciting of news! The **Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board** has awarded the YBC a restoration grant in the amount of **\$35,784 to restore the valuable native upland and wet prairies at Deer Creek Park**. More information on this project should be up on our website shortly ([www.co.yamhill.or.us/ybc](http://www.co.yamhill.or.us/ybc)). YBC was also awarded a grant from **ESRI GIS**, for GIS mapping software and training, valued at over **\$3,000**-made possible by a new computer from the **Yamhill Watershed Stewardship Fund**. It will be used for project ID & development, data analysis, and creating maps for education and outreach. Please enjoy this fall issue of the Kingfisher! ~ Jamie*



The Yamhill Basin Council is currently seeking new members to represent the following stakeholder groups:

**Watershed Resident      Agriculture/Vineyards**  
**Business      Utilities      Small Cities**

Interested persons should have an interest in working to improve the Chehalem and Yamhill watersheds through a collaborative consensus based group. Member responsibilities include attending monthly YBC meetings and committee participation. Individuals with experience in fundraising, non-profit development, restoration, education/outreach or time to volunteer are especially desired but ALL are encouraged to apply. Interested individuals are encouraged to attend the next YBC meeting on **October 12** and contact Jamie Sheahan at (503) 434-7447 or [sheahanj@co.yamhill.or.us](mailto:sheahanj@co.yamhill.or.us) for more info.

# Seeding Your Roadside Ditch this Fall:

Why & How to do it by Cari Kimball, Watershed Education Intern

## “Why should I seed my road side ditch?”

- ★ The **root system** of an aggressive, native grass will prevent road side soil from eroding into waterways.
- ★ The grass will also help **filter the sediments** and pollutants from the road that would otherwise be washed into our streams.
- ★ One established, the grass can block weeds from growing, and improves roadside **appearance** in general.
- ★ By **reducing erosion**, grass cover can reduce the need for reshaping of roadsides, a project that costs the county an average of \$140,000 a year.

## “How do I go about seeding my roadside?”

1. **Contact the county road department** to sign up for the **Owner-Controlled Vegetation Program** that your newly planted grass is not mistakenly sprayed with herbicides. They will provide you the official “No Spray” signs, when you sign up for the landowner controlled vegetation program. *Margaret Legard, owner of Valley Feed & Supply in McMinnville, seeds her own roadside ditch and advises that other landowners make sure to follow the County process to avoid the unfortunate circumstance of your newly vegetated ditch being sprayed out next summer.*

*Note: Yamhill County Landowners must pay a one-time fee of \$80 to have official “No Spray” signs installed on your roadside ditch.*

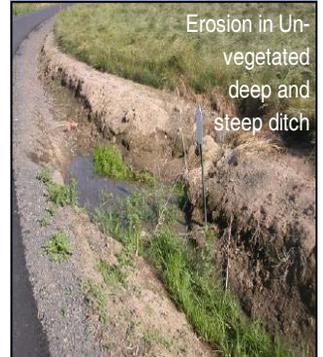
2. In the fall, broadcast the grass seed along your roadside ditch. The area can be harrowed 1/2” deep and seeded in mid September with any lawn grass seed (Native grass seed, **Creeping Red Fescue** or a bentgrass variety is suggested). Grass seed can be purchased at Valley Feed & Supply and other local farm stores. A small amount of nitrogen 20# can be used as fertilizer if necessary, but be careful when applying so it isn’t washed into our streams before your grasses are established.
3. If weeds become problematic, they can be spot sprayed early in the spring.

Together, we share in the benefits of some of the safest drinking water in the world, and it is incumbent upon us all to protect this valuable natural resource for future generations. By making simple changes in our daily routines, we can feel confident that we are doing our part.

**Thank you to Sam Sweeney and Yamhill County for providing valuable information.**



Un-vegetated deep and steep ditch



Erosion in Un-vegetated deep and steep ditch



This ditch could be considered a seasonal stream!



Another grassy gentle-sloped ditch



Grassy gentle-sloped ditch

To place your AD in the next issue of The Kingfisher, contact the YBC for advertising rates.

**VALLEY FEED & SUPPLY**



Margaret Legard

855 NE 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
McMinnville, OR 97128  
503-472-2610  
800-668-2610  
fax 503-472-0310



**LEONARD A. RYDELL, P.E., P.L.S., W.R.E.**

601 PINEHURST DRIVE, NEWBERG, OREGON 97132-1625  
(503) 538-5700  
FAX (503) 538-9167  
Mobile (503) 781-4138  
larydell@teleport.com

Consulting Civil Engineer - Land Surveyor - Water Rights Examiner

## Volunteer Opportunities

# Volunteer!!!

We will be installing  
**EROSION CONTROL**  
netting and willows  
along the river banks!



**BRING:** sturdy foot-  
wear (Boots or hip wad-  
ers, if you have them),  
dress appropriate for

## North Yamhill River Restoration Work Party

Sat., Oct 28<sup>th</sup> & Sat., Nov 4<sup>th</sup>

10:00am-1:00pm

Meet at Lower Wennerberg Park

Picnic Shelter

Snacks and Juice provided

Learn more about the  
North Yamhill River!

Family Friendly Event!

**JOIN** fellow community members from Carlton and the North Yamhill subwatershed and the Yamhill Basin Council in restoring fish and wildlife habitat.

Contact Jamie Sheahan, Yamhill Basin Council Watershed Coordinator for more information at 503.434.7447 or sheahanj@co.yamhill.or.us

## A Celebration of Our Watersheds

Saturday, November 18, 2006

McMinnville Grand Ballroom

*Live Music by Swingin' Amiss, Silent Auction, local wine and flavor*

**Mark Your Calendars NOW and Get Involved!**

### How can I help?

Donate cash as an event SPONSOR

Donate ART, Crafts, goods or Services for silent auction

Donate TIME as an event volunteer

INVITE your friends, neighbors, co-workers and family!

If you are interested in helping out, please join us on July 5th or contact: Jamie Sheahan at (503)-434-7447 or email sheahanj@co.yamhill.or.us for more information or visit our BLOG online at <http://ybcwatershedcelebration.blogspot.com/>

## Water Quality Monitoring

We are still recruiting volunteers to help collect stream data in October 2006. Monitoring will be conducted on the North Yamhill River, Baker Creek, & Panther Creek in the surrounding areas of McMinnville, Carlton and Yamhill. Contact Denise directly for scheduling for monthly suite and macro-invertebrate sampling.

To sign up or for more information, contact Denise at or 503.434.7447 [schmitd@co.yamhill.or.us](mailto:schmitd@co.yamhill.or.us).

*Note: Volunteers should be physically able and prepared for walking on uneven and steep terrain, wading in moving water and exposure to weather and other hazards associated with monitoring field work.*



Hi, my name is Cari Kimball, and I recently lucked out and became the Yamhill Basin Council's new Watershed Education Intern. When I'm not fulfilling my internship duties, I spend most

of my time at Linfield College where I am a senior majoring in Environmental Policy with minors in Political Science and Sociology. After school I hope to join the Peace Corps for a couple of years and then work for non-profit organizations in the field of environmental education or human rights. In my free time I enjoy reading, hiking, yoga and riding my bicycle thither and yon. Hopefully I'll get to know and work with quite a few of you in the upcoming months!

## Yamhill Basin Council to participate in local Community Night

Yamhill Basin Council will share information on and plans for **Chehalem Watershed Restoration** efforts at Community Night, an annual event sponsored by Chehalem Valley area governments. Community Night is an opportunity to connect with decision makers and resource people from eight different local governments at one time, in one place to inform and involve local citizens.

An election forum will feature candidates vying for Newberg and Dundee mayor and city council, House District 24 and 25 and Senate District 13

Community Night is scheduled for **Tuesday, October 17, 2006 from 5:00 – 8:30 p.m.** in the student commons at

**Newberg High School, 2400 Douglas Avenue.** There is no charge for admission. Childcare will be provided!



The city of Newberg, Newberg School District, Chehalem Park and Recreation District, Yamhill County, ODOT, Chehalem Valley Chamber of Commerce/Visitors Center and Yamhill Basin Council are participating. Resource people from each organization will be available to provide information on current or future projects tips or solicit feedback. The Yamhill Basin Council is seeking landowners and volunteers interested in helping improve our watershed streams, wetlands and other valuable habitats. Find out more about the work we do and how you can get involved!

A complete list of workshops and participants will be online at [www.ci.newberg.or.us](http://www.ci.newberg.or.us) on September 1. For further information, contact Jamie Sheahan, Watershed Coordinator at 503.434.7447.



**Yamhill  
Basin  
Council**

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Comments, questions, submissions?

Wish to be added to or removed from the mailing list? Contact Jamie at (503) 434-7447 or [sheahanj@co.yamhill.or.us](mailto:sheahanj@co.yamhill.or.us).