



# The Kingfisher

Newsletter of the Yamhill Basin Council  
working to improve our watersheds  
Volume 5, Issue 3

Fall 2007



## 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!

## Deer Creek Habitat Restoration Project

The council's most ambitious project is underway at Deer Creek County Park in Gopher Valley near Sheridan. This park contains a 13-acre wet prairie habitat that once was extensive in the Willamette Valley, but is now almost gone.

First settled in the 1850's, this parcel had been farmed for years and was plowed to facilitate runoff. It was finally abandoned in the 1950's because of the wet conditions. Over the next forty years a remarkable recovery of native species took place, and it became recognized as having the largest population of tufted hairgrass (a wet prairie indicator species) in the northern Willamette Valley. Unfortunately, the drier areas of the property also harbored a number of weedy non-native invasive species-- primarily teasel and velvet grass.

With a grant from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, the YBC brought in a team of wetland restoration specialists to determine how to reduce the non-native species. Then the YBC developed a plan for restoration. Another grant will allow us to start the on-the-ground restoration work this fall. First the site will be prepared by closely mowing and then shallow disking. A large portion of the site will be re-graded to eliminate the ditches, and small check dams will be constructed in some of the swales to intercept groundwater flow. Then the site will be sprayed with an aquatic-approved herbicide to remove unwanted vegetation. This fall we will re-seed the site with a winter cover crop, and continue treating weeds for another year. The final step will be re-seeding or planting of native wet prairie species in Fall of 2008 and 2009.

## Yamhill Basin Council

### Officers

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

### Staff

Jean Reiher *Watershed Coordinator*  
Laura McMasters *Outreach 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



## YBC Welcomes Jean Reiher, our new Watershed Coordinator!

Jean started working for the YBC in August. She has a B.S. in Biology / Wildlife Ecology from the University of Illinois. She has worked in Oregon for 10+ years for state and federal agencies, private groups, consulting firms, and non-profit organizations doing

field research and writing reports on birds, mammals, fish, amphibians, and reptiles. Jean's hobbies include birding, hiking, reading, beadwork, and ballroom dancing. Jean is moving here from Corvallis, and is looking forward to getting to know Yamhill County.

## Yamhill Watershed Stewardship Fund

The Yamhill Watershed Stewardship Fund (YWSF) received their 501(c)3 tax exempt status this year. The YWSF is a non-profit with the primary purpose of supporting activities and organizations that promote watershed health for the Yamhill and Chehalem basins. Donations to the YWSF are tax deductible and are currently used to support the YBC in their operations and programs. The YWSF Board meets each month and is looking to add new members.

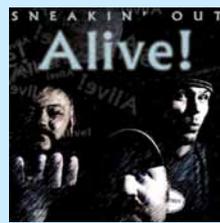


### YBC Membership and Volunteers

The YBC welcomes our newest member Larry Fain representing the City of Newberg!

We currently have openings for new members representing for 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 Water Reclamation Facility at 3500 NE Clearwater Drive, McMinnville.

We are also looking for volunteers to help with removing invasive plants, planting native species, mulching and watering plants, cleaning up streams, doing event planning, fundraising, and office work. Please contact our office at 503.474.1047 to add your name to our list of volunteers. Thank you!



### Save the Date!

**Saturday, November 10th,  
Mac Grand Ballroom, 7-11pm**

On Saturday, November 10<sup>th</sup>, the Yamhill Watershed Stewardship Fund (YWSF), a recently formed environmental non-profit group, is holding a Fundraising party at the Grand Ballroom in McMinnville from 7-11pm. The popular band "Sneakin' Out" will perform from 8-10pm. Wine, beer, soft drinks, and appetizers will be available. A silent auction and a raffle will be held with many wonderful items donated by local merchants. Tickets are \$10-20 at the door. The event will support the Yamhill Basin Council in our educational outreach and watershed improvement projects in the Yamhill and Chehalem watersheds. Contact the YBC office at 503.474.1047 for more information.

## YBC FROM THE GROUND UP-DATES

With the Yamhill Basin Council now in our twelfth year, we have implemented a variety of on-the-ground projects throughout the watershed including stream cleanups, native tree and shrub plantings, and fish habitat enhancement through placement of large log structures in streams.

Currently, we are monitoring a very successful riparian re-vegetation project with landowner David Riedman on Muddy Creek. We are also implementing a multi-phase riparian re-vegetation project in Wennerberg Park on the North Yamhill River in Carlton. We are in the design and development stages of fish habitat and floodplain connection projects with landowners Barb and Tom Rupers on Gooseneck Creek, and Dorothy Lloyd on Deer Creek.

The Fish Passage Inventory continues as our survey crews move into the Baker and Panther Creek sub-watersheds of the North Yamhill River. The crews recently completed surveys in the Willamina watershed. Thank you to the landowners who allowed us to inventory the culverts on their property. This project will prioritize culverts for fish passage project opportunities along contiguous stream reaches—ultimately to be used in helping landowners seek financial and technical assistance for voluntary fish passage improvement projects. This project is funded by a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation awarded to the Bureau of Land Management, with the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, and the YBC as partners.

Water quality monitoring was completed in 2006 on the North Yamhill River, Panther Creek, and Baker Creek. We collected baseline water quality data such as temperature, dissolved oxygen, turbidity, conductivity, and *E. coli* to support Agricultural Water Quality Management Planning (SB 1010) in the basin. We also collected data on benthic macroinvertebrates, stream flow, and in-stream fish habitat. A report and results will be posted on our website soon. Currently, 24 temperature loggers are in place basin-wide to collect stream temperature data daily. Pesticide monitoring was also conducted in the Yamhill Basin this spring. More samples will be collected during winter/spring run-off.



**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](mailto:ybc_coordinator@co.yamhill.or.us).