



Terry Peasley

The Kingfisher

Newsletter of the Yamhill Basin Council
Volume 2, Issue 1

February 2004

YBC Wins Two OWEB Small Grants for Landowners

The YBC secured two small grants from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board in December, for projects on Gooseneck Creek in Polk County and a tributary of Baker Creek in Yamhill County. These projects were developed with the cooperation of local landowners and natural resource agencies in the region. **Story on Page 2.**

New Leadership at the YBC

On January 15th, the YBC elected a new chair and vice-chair to serve in 2004. Patricia Farrell of the Native Plant Society of Oregon and Darcy Shell, North Yamhill resident will serve in these positions until January of 2005. Special thanks to Dave Hanson, Deer Creek resident and Rod Thompson of the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde for serving in these positions since January of 2003. During their leadership, the Council completed a number of stream clean-ups and riparian planting projects. We thank them for their work and commitment to the Council.



Dave Hanson, former chair works with Dean O'Reilly of the SWCD on the YBC Osprey Pole Project along the South Yamhill River, September 2002.

YBC Unveils New Logo



Rod Thompson, Council Member from the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde surveys Gooseneck Creek with Joe Sheahan of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.



Yamhill Basin Council

The YBC is pleased to unveil a new logo, designed *pro bono* by Jane Pelliciotto of Allegro Design in Portland. The logo captures the landscape of the Yamhill Basin, with a fish in the foreground and a river, mountain, and farms in the background. The new logo will be used on all Council materials, such as letterhead and stream crossing signs currently in development. Additional work of the artist can be viewed at www.allegro-design.com.

YBC Photo Gallery



Duckweed on the Schuylkill River, in Philadelphia, PA. Duckweed grows on Salt Creek (near Amity) during the summer. It is often an indicator of high nutrient loads.

YBC Wildlife Workshop on March 13! See Advertisement on Back Page

Rather have this newsletter e-mailed?
E-mail us at jeff-bash@or.nacdn.net.

YBC Wins Two Small Grants for Riparian Restoration

Gooseneck Creek originates in the coast range west of Dallas, running north and east into Mill Creek near Highway 22. Historical land use activities such as splash damming and gravel extraction have reduced fish habitat in this subwatershed. In the summer of 2002, ODOT removed a major fish passage barrier at the Gooseneck Creek Bridge on State Highway 22. For the first time in many years, adult salmonids were spotted above this bridge in the fall of 2002.

The YBC has been working with a local Mill Creek Watershed Group for over two years to look at activities that may help restore habitat in area creeks. Hence, the development of the Gooseneck Creek Fish Enhancement Project. With the cooperation of the Detsch and James families, the YBC wrote a small grant to OWEB that will allow for the creation of three small log jams. In a creek starved for wood, these structures will provide habitat for juvenile salmon, as well as habitat for the insects fish thrive on. These structures also help to trap gravels needed for spawning habitat.

The project is a cooperative effort between the YBC, the landowners, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Mill Creek Watershed Group and the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board. The Council hopes to have the project in place by the end of summer 2004.



Gooseneck Creek a few miles downstream of the project site. The creek has few wood structures and is downcutting.



Logs donated by Wildwood Mahonia Farms of Salem will be used in both projects. Forty foot long cedar and fir decay slowly and can be used to create habitat for juvenile fish.



Left: Lower portion of tributary to Baker Creek on the Hemming Property.

On a tributary to **Baker Creek**, the Council will work with the Hemming family to restore a section of an unnamed creek that is a known home of cutthroat trout. The creek is currently incised and disconnected from the floodplain. An OWEB small grant will help the landowner pay for installation of log and boulder structures that will raise the level of the creek and provide additional fish habitat.

The YBC needs your help! We need the following items for general operation and for our water quality monitoring project. If you can help by providing the item or funds to purchase the item, we would be grateful!

Please e-mail jeanine-ishii@or.nacdn.net if you can help.

YBC Wish List

General

- First aid kit or supplies
- Technu poison oak skin cleanser
- Insect repellent
- White shipping labels (1" x 2.63")
- Postage
- Color copying
- CD-R and CD-RW/Floppy disks
- Chest waders

Water Quality Monitoring

- Distilled water
- Lotion-free facial tissues
- Rite-in-the-Rain field notebooks
- Disposable non-latex gloves
- Backpack or fishers/cruisers vest
- 300 mL glass BOD Bottles
- Rubbing alcohol



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YBC Stakeholder Groups

- Agriculture
- BLM
- Chambers of Commerce
- City Government
- Confed. Tribes of the Grand Ronde
- Environmental Groups
- Industrial Forestry
- Land Trusts
- Students
- Small & Large Utilities
- Small Woodlands Association
- Watershed Residents
- Yamhill & Polk Counties
- Yamhill SWCD

2003 Water Quality Monitoring Completed

The 2003 field season is long gone, and Jeanine Ishii, YBC Water Quality Monitoring Technician has been holed up in the office analyzing the resulting data and drafting a report. Since 1998 the YBC has conducted temperature monitoring every summer in the Yamhill River and Chehalem Creek watersheds. Special thanks to the 25 private and public landowners who make water quality monitoring possible in our area.

With the help of Council members, volunteers, and staff from a variety of natural resource agencies in Oregon, The YBC is increasing local knowledge in our basin by collecting additional parameters such as dissolved oxygen, e coli, turbidity, conductivity, and benthic macroinvertebrates (aquatic insects). Collecting this information will help the YBC and its partners to best determine where to focus watershed restoration efforts in the basin. Results from our 2003 monitoring season will be presented in a report this spring. Special thanks to the McMinnville Water Reclamation Facility for supporting this effort.



Left: Volunteer Terry Peasley checks dissolved oxygen levels in Salt Creek, a few miles from Perrydale.

Many thanks to OWEB, SWCD, DEQ, WRF, ODA, NRCS, Council members and volunteers for all of their support!

Attitude in a Small Package

Submitted by Vern Holm, Yamhill SWCD Resource Conservationist

equivalent of a Jack Russell Terrier -- smart, fast and feisty enough to take on all comers regardless of size. In short, a bird with some moxie going for it.

Kingfishers are very pretty, even though they are built a little differently than your run-of-the-mill songbird. Almost the size of a pigeon, the broad-shouldered belted kingfisher's stocky body is cloaked primarily in a dusky grayish blue outfit that is accented by a white collar and chest. However, the most telling feature to a kingfisher's appearance is a crested head that looks like it would be more at home on a bird twice its size.

As their name implies, kingfishers live near water and feed on small fish. Though the kingfisher's oversized head and large bill makes it look top-heavy, these are just the tools needed to bring home three squares a day. The kingfisher generally fishes by perching on a bare limb or snag that allows it a clear view of the water. When he spies a fish the kingfisher dives straight down into the water and grabs it with its pincer-like beak. Once he's caught its dinner the kingfisher flies back to its perch, whacks the fish against a handy branch a couple of times, deftly tosses it into the air, catches it head first and swallows it whole. If fish are scarce the kingfisher has been known to eat whatever comes along, including frogs, mollusks, small reptiles and insects. Humans need not worry about finding the kingfisher, as the word "subtlety" does not exist in the bird's vocabulary.



Belted Kingfisher



Blue-winged Kookaburra, an Australian kingfisher. Photo taken on 6/6/03 in the Serene Valley, south of Townsville, Queensland. © Ian Montgomery—www.birdway.com.au

Kingfishers are very territorial and using a loud rattling call, they are quick to let you and everyone else within earshot that you've invaded their turf. They generally will escort a canoe all the way through their territory, only quitting when they've convinced themselves that they've passed the burden of escort to the next kingfisher kingdom downstream.

Kingfishers have a very unique nesting program in that they dig a long tunnel into a wall of clay or mud, usually along a steep stream or riverbank. They use their bill to loosen the soil and kick the earth with their feet. The tunnels are three to six feet deep, and they slope upward so no rain will wash in. Once the tunnel is finished the female generally lays six or seven eggs, which hatch in 24 days or so. When the chicks are big enough to fly fairly well it is time to teach them how to fish. The adults do this by dropping a dead minnow in the water below the nest. Hunger is a great

motivator and the fledglings soon improve their flight and aim to the point that they can catch fish on their own.

YBC Calendar

February 21

Ed Grenfell/Huber Park Riparian Planting
Baker Creek Rd., McMinnville
Contact (503) 472-6403 to register and
for additional information.

March 6

Legacy Farms Riparian Planting
Northwest of Newberg
Contact (503) 472-6403 to register as a
volunteer and for additional information.

March 11

Yamhill Basin Council
Monthly Meeting
6:00—8:30 PM
McMinnville Water Rec. Facility

March 13

YBC Oregon Wildlife Workshop
9:00 AM—4:00 PM
105 Murdock Hall, Linfield University
Call (503) 472-6403 to register.
See ad on this page.

YBC Oregon Wildlife Workshop

Learn about the wildlife of Oregon.
Includes optional tour of Baskett Slough National Wildlife Refuge.

Saturday March 13th, 2004

9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (optional field trip 1:30—3:30)

105 Murdock Hall

Linfield College McMinnville, Oregon

Cost: \$5.00 Optional Lunch \$5.00



Great Horned
Owl, near the
South Yamhill
River.

Photo by
Terry Peasley

To register or for more information contact Jeff Bash at (503) 472-6403 or e-mail jeff-bash@or.nacdn.net

Tom Love Ph.D./Floyd Schrock, Linfield College
Basic Birding, Willamette Valley

Alan St. John, Author of *Reptiles of the Northwest*
Reptiles of Oregon

Paul Adamus, Ph.D., Wildlife Biologist
Western Pond Turtles, Mapping Wildlife Habitat in the Willamette Basin

Speakers



Workshop co-sponsored by the
Yamhill Basin Council and the
Spirit Mountain Community Fund



Working to Improve Our Watersheds

Board

Patricia Farrell	Chair
Darey Shell	Vice-Chair

Staff

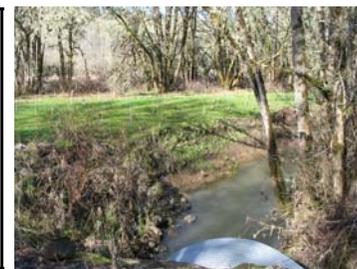
Jeff Bash	Watershed Coordinator
Jeanine Ishii	Water Quality Technician



Riedman Riparian
Planting Project, Feb 03

*Left: Bare bank on
Muddy Creek, prior to
planting.*

*Right: One year of
growth has helped to
stabilize the bank.*



Support the YBC by purchasing a Kingfisher print (on front page), painted by local artist Terry Peasley. 60% of the proceeds go to the YBC for projects. An unframed matted 8x10 costs only \$15. Framed prints available as well. Call the YBC at (503) 472-6403 to order.

Comments, questions, or submissions? Please contact Jeff Bash, Watershed Coordinator at (503) 472-6403 or via e-mail at jeff-bash@or.nacdn.net. If you would like to receive this newsletter via e-mail (as a pdf file) or would like to be removed from the mailing list, please let us know.

Thanks to the Yamhill SWCD, NRCS and FSA for use of computers, printers and copy machines.



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