



# The Kingfisher

Newsletter of the Yamhill Basin Council  
Volume 1, Issue 3

July 2003

## Monitoring Madness Strikes! See article on page 2

### LOGS, LOGS, LOGS

Last October, the YBC received an offer from John Miller of Wildwood Mahonia Nursery in Salem of logs for use in stream restoration projects. On June 13th, YBC Coordinator Jeff Bash worked with contractor Bob Bateman (photo at right) to move the logs to two locations in the Yamhill Basin, near Gooseneck and Agency Creeks. The move was made possible by a grant from the Oregon Wildlife Heritage Foundation.

The YBC is planning to use some of the logs for a project on Gooseneck Creek, with the remainder targeted for use by the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde on Agency and Coast Creeks. The logs, over 40' in length, include cedar, fir, & redwood.

Rather have this newsletter e-mailed?  
E-mail us at [jeff-bash@or.nacdnet.org](mailto:jeff-bash@or.nacdnet.org).



Stakeholders Represented on the Yamhill Basin Council

- Agriculture
- BLM
- Chambers of Commerce
- City Government
- Confederated 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

## Weyerhaeuser joins YBC

The YBC voted to add another industrial forestry slot to the Council at the June 12th meeting. Steve Keniston, Manager of the Trask Mountain Tree Farm will represent Weyerhaeuser on the YBC and serve on the Project Team. Mike Heath of Stimson Lumber currently serves on the Council. Welcome aboard, Steve!

## We Need Stuff!

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!

Contact Jeanine Ishii at [jeanine-ishii@or.nacdnet.org](mailto:jeanine-ishii@or.nacdnet.org) 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
- Storage space

### 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

### Macroinvertebrate Sampling

- Rubbing alcohol (95% isopropanol)

## YBC Wildlife Corner



Curious snails on rocks in Gooseneck Creek

## Volunteers Clean Up North Yamhill River—Story, Page 3

Scouts from Yamhill Boy Scout Troop #270 with tire pulled from the woods by the North Yamhill River.



# Monitoring Madness Strikes!!

On a sunny day in mid-June, when the weather wasn't quite "soggy spring" but not yet "sticky summer", YBC staff members Jeff Bash and Jeanine Ishii ventured outside of the office and into the creeks of the watershed to begin the 2003 water quality monitoring season. Council members Art Thurber and Darey Shell and volunteer Terry Peasley provided much needed support.



Recording data on Turner Creek

Back in May, the YBC water quality technician, six council members and three volunteers had the opportunity to attend a free training provided by Oregon Department of Environmental Quality staff Steve Hanson and Aaron Borisenko. The group braved rainy skies at Ed Grenfell Park (Baker Creek) to learn how to collect and test samples for a variety of water quality parameters (see chart below). The group also used D-frame kick

nets to collect benthic macro-invertebrates, or aquatic insects, which are a good indicator of water quality. Unfortunately the tech forgot to bring a camera, so you'll have to believe her when she says that everyone was excited to be there and that many interesting and weird looking insects were caught and released ... this time!

## Water Quality Monitoring Project

Parameter	Frequency
• Benthic macroinvertebrates	once in Sept.
• Conductivity	monthly
• Dissolved oxygen	monthly
• E.coli	5 times in Aug.-Sept.
• pH	monthly
• Temperature	continuous & monthly
• Turbidity	monthly



Jeanine Ishii titrating a water sample to determine concentration of dissolved oxygen

Since 1998 the YBC has conducted temperature monitoring every summer throughout the Yamhill River and Chehalem Creek watersheds. This year, Jeff and Jeanine deployed temperature monitors in late June when the



Terry Peasley, Volunteer, fixes a dissolved oxygen sample in the field

mini heat wave hit. These loggers record the temperature of the water every 30 minutes. Knowing if streams are cool or warm is only one part of the equation. The new grant from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board allows the YBC to do baseline monitoring of water temperature and other parameters. Data will be collected at 25 sites this year and 14 of those sites next year. Each fall you can learn more about the monitoring project by attending presentations, studying the report or reading press releases in your local paper. Monitoring results will help the YBC to determine which streams should be prioritized for restoration activities in the basin. So far, nine council members, nine adults and four students have volunteered to donate time to the project. If you haven't already, go online to the YBC website at [www.co.yamhill.or.us/ybc/](http://www.co.yamhill.or.us/ybc/) to view data and pictures we have collected so far!

Jeanine Ishii  
Water Quality Monitoring Technician

## Monitoring sites are located on:

Chehalem Creek  
Coast Creek  
Cosper Creek  
Cozine Creek  
Deer Creek  
East Creek  
Gooseneck Creek  
Hawn Creek  
Hay Creek  
Mill Creek  
Muddy Creek  
North Yamhill River  
Panther Creek  
Salt Creek  
Springbrook Creek  
Turner Creek  
Wildwood Creek  
Willamina Creek



Art Thurber, Council member, measuring turbidity as Jeanine Ishii records results

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

**HARVEST FRESH**  
PRODUCE & GROCERY

251 N.E. Third Street  
McMinnville, OR 97128

Phone: (503) 472-5740  
[www.harvestfresh.com](http://www.harvestfresh.com)  
email: [health@harvestfresh.com](mailto:health@harvestfresh.com)

## YBC Volunteers Clean Up North Yamhill River!



*Anne Mullan, Dean Warren, and Jeanine Ishii work with Yamhill Boy Scout Troup #270 to remove trash from the historical dump site along the North Yamhill River during the April 26 clean-up.*

April 26, 2003—Over thirty volunteers gathered on a damp Saturday morning to clean up a site on the North Yamhill River. Volunteers included neighbors living on the North Yamhill River, Boy Scouts from Yamhill, citizens from around the basin, and YBC members.

The site, which is adjacent to the wooden bridge on Old Railroad Grade road has received abuse over the years, including dumping and more recently, damage by 4-wheel drive vehicles. The North Yamhill River is one of the most beautiful rivers in Yamhill County, and has a run of winter steelhead. Erosion caused by misuse of the site is resulting in sediment run-off to the river, which reduces water quality for fish.

Volunteers pulled out 3 and 1/2 truckloads of garbage and thirty-six tires. Types of garbage removed included white goods, such as a dryer and stove, as well as carpeting, glass bottles, shotgun shells, a computer hard drive, household garbage and a variety of other objects. Some of the heavier items were lifted out of the dump site with the help of neighbor Nate Morton's truck and winch.

The Yamhill Soil and Water Conservation District assisted the Council by providing grass seed to help re-vegetate the site. Straw bales donated by Sitton Brothers, Inc. were used for erosion control on areas damaged by misuse of 4-wheel drive vehicles. Other sponsors included Les Schwab Tires, Lumberman's Building Center, and Riverbend Landfill. Thanks to the sponsors and volunteers for making the project a success!

*Right: Silt trap set up to help prevent sediment from reaching the stream. A number of areas adjacent to the stream had been exposed by misuse of 4 wheel drive vehicles.*



*Volunteers gather in front of a truck with 36 tires from an area along the North Yamhill. The group pulled 3 and 1/2 truckloads of garbage from the area.*



## Healthy Wetlands Reduce Mosquito Populations

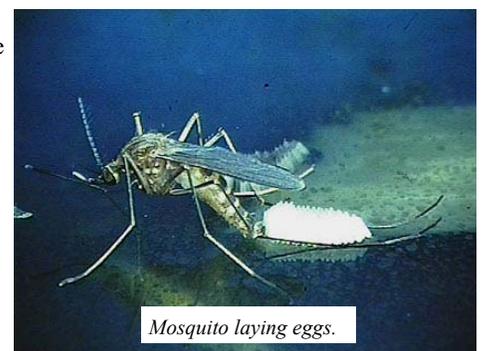
by Vern Holm, Yamhill SWCD Resource Conservationist

Some folks who are worried about West Nile Virus in Oregon are advocating for spraying programs. However, these practices may not be a practical solution to the problem, especially in the long run. If a wetland is sprayed for mosquitoes it also kills mosquito predators, such as dragonflies, damselflies, water striders, backswimmers, and predaceous diving beetles that don't repopulate as fast as mosquitoes. Also, not all species of mosquitoes are effective carriers. Mosquitoes that are the most dangerous are the species that breed in dirty stagnant water, such as mud puddles, old tires, gutters and other places around the home.

A balanced wetland that incorporates interconnected pools of shallow and deep water that promotes water flow will have mosquitoes, but it is not as likely that these species will carry the West Nile Virus. When Essex County, Massachusetts, restored a 1,500 acre wetland, the mosquito population dropped by 90 percent (*Audubon Magazine*, November-December 1996) and it cost only a fraction of what a spraying program would.

By far, the cheapest and best prevention for West Nile Virus is to use common sense and reduce breeding sites around your home and neighborhood. When outdoors, wear long sleeved shirts and long pants and use mosquito repellent. Avoid going outside when mosquitoes are most active. Get rid of containers that collect rainwater, and clean troughs and swimming pools once a week. Keep gutters free of debris and store old tires inside where they won't fill with rainwater. Fill in puddles and keep farmyards well drained.

Other low cost, yet effective practices that can be implemented include the installation of birdhouses that will attract purple martins, tree swallows, and other insectivores. The addition of bat boxes is also a good idea. A single little brown bat can consume 1,000 mosquito-sized insects in just one hour – imagine what a colony can do!



*Mosquito laying eggs.*

## YBC Calendar

### August 14

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

### September 18 (No Meeting in Sep.)

2nd Annual YBC Barbecue  
5:00 PM—8:00 PM  
Wortman Park, McMinnville

### October 4

3rd Annual Cozine Creek Clean-up  
9:00-12:00 Noon  
Meeting Place TBA

### October 9

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

### October 25

Workshop—Rural Living Basics:  
Wells and Septic Tanks Class  
10:00 AM—3:00 PM  
OSU Extension Auditorium  
See ad on this page.

### Yamhill Basin Council Mission

Improve watershed conditions and promote awareness and understanding of watershed issues to achieve healthy forest, farm, urban, and riparian communities in the Yamhill Basin.

Dave Hanson	Chair
Jeff Bash	Watershed Coordinator
Jeanine Ishii	Water Quality Technician

## Upcoming YBC Workshop!



### Rural Living Basics: Wells and Septic Tanks Class

This slide talk covers the basics on how to care for your drinking water well and septic system to protect your health, your investment, and safety of the groundwater. Fee includes water testing for nitrates.

Instruction by **Gail Andrews**, OSU Extension Water Quality Educator

### Saturday October 25th, 2003

10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Yamhill County Public Works/OSU  
Extension Auditorium

2050 Lafayette Street, McMinnville, Oregon

\$10 with lunch or \$5 without lunch

For more information  
contact Jeanine Ishii at  
(503) 472-6403 or  
[jeanine-ishii@or.nacdn.net](mailto:jeanine-ishii@or.nacdn.net)

Workshop co-sponsored by the Spirit Mountain  
Community Fund and OSU Extension of Yamhill County

## 2nd Annual YBC Barbecue

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18TH, 5:00-8:00 PM

Location: Wortman Park (west entrance)

Come learn about your watershed!

Suggested donation: \$2.00



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](mailto: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 and NRCS for use of computers, printers and copy machines.*



## Yamhill Basin Council

2200 SW 2nd Street  
McMinnville, OR 97128  
Phone: 503-472-6403  
[www.co.yamhill.or.us/ybc](http://www.co.yamhill.or.us/ybc)