



Terry Peasley

The Kingfisher



Newsletter of the Yamhill Basin Council
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Oregon Wildlife Workshop

Ed Grenfell County Park Improvements Continue in 2004

As part of a continuing project with Yamhill County Parks, the YBC planted over 250 trees and shrubs along Baker Creek at Ed Grenfell County Park. The small grant project, funded by the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB), will help improve riparian conditions in the park and improve amenities for parkgoers. **Story on Page 2.**



Cub Scouts from Willamina Pack 222 plant trees with the help of Linda Cobb. Scouts who participated included Jeff Brown, Jacob Ward, Eric Cutright, Jacob Bowers, Wyatt Woodward, and Thomas Cobb.



Far Left: Steve Smith, USFWS talks about upland wildlife habitat at Baskett Slough Refuge.

Left: Jeanine Ishii meets a king snake.

Over 30 people attended the Oregon Wildlife Workshop, hosted by the Yamhill Basin Council and Linfield College on March 13th. **Story on Page 2.**

Yamhill Basin Council Moving!

For over eight years, the YBC has been the grateful recipient of rent-free space and other in-kind services from the Yamhill SWCD, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Farm Service Agency (FSA). In March, the NRCS announced that it would be hiring two new employees, creating a need for space at the SWCD office. Because of this, the Council was asked to find a new location in order to make room for the new federal employees.

At the SWCD's suggestion, the YBC contacted Becky Blanchard, Yamhill County Parks Coordinator and asked if the YBC might be able to move into an empty space in their office in downtown McMinnville. With the enthusiastic support of the Parks Department, the YBC requested that the Yamhill County Commissioners consider this option. The Commissioners approved a proposal for one year of rent-free space on April 20th. Special thanks to Commissioners George, Stern, and Lewis for their support.

The YBC thanks the SWCD, NRCS and FSA for all of their help and will continue to work with these agencies to help landowners protect water quality and conserve natural resources. We look forward to continuing our strong relationships with the SWCD and County Parks, and to developing new ones with other County departments. The move will take place in early June. Our new address will be 636 NE 7th St., McMinnville, OR 97128. A new phone number will be announced shortly.

YBC Photo Gallery



Field erosion in Yamhill County. Loss of topsoil is a major problem in this region.

Osprey Pole Goes Up in Dundee

See Page 4

Rather have this newsletter e-mailed?

E-mail jeff-bash@or.nacdnet.org



YBC Completes 3rd Grenfell Planting

For the third year in a row, the Yamhill Basin Council brought volunteers together to help improve Ed Grenfell County Park, west of McMinnville. Over 25 volunteers planted over 250 trees and shrubs.



This project is a cooperative effort between the YBC and Yamhill County Parks and is designed to both protect the riparian area and improve park amenities for visitors. The project is supported by a small grant the YBC obtained from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board. In addition to maintaining the planting, this summer the YBC and Parks will be improving parking areas and using boulders to protect the riverbank from compaction by automobiles. Refreshments were provided by Harvest Fresh Grocery. Thanks to all of our sponsors and volunteers!



Top: Rob Tracey teaches Willamina Cub Scout Pack 222 the art of planting trees.

Left: Becky Blanchard, Yamhill County Parks Coordinator, plants trees with the YBC at Ed Grenfell County Park.

Storm Drain Markers Are Back!

In Spring and Summer of 2004, the YBC will provide youth groups with the opportunity to protect area streams by placing storm drain curb markers in their communities. Contact the YBC at (503) 472-6403 for additional information.



Storm drain markers project co-sponsored by the Yamhill Basin Council and the Spirit Mountain Community Fund



YBC Wildlife Workshop

On March 13th, the YBC held the Oregon Wildlife Workshop at Linfield College. Over 30 people enjoyed talks by Tom Love and Floyd Schrock of Linfield (birding), Al St. John (reptiles) and Paul Adamus (wildlife of the Willamette). The lectures were followed by lunch and a field trip at Baskett Slough Refuge near Dallas. A good time was had by all.



Birders at Baskett Slough



Counterclockwise: Ken Neithammer, Refuge Manager describing refuge operations and the lay of the land on an aerial photo to the group; Al St. John, speaker, holds a king snake at Linfield College.



Web Site to be Updated

Have you visited the YBC website lately? In June, you will be able to download YBC Watershed Assessments and the 2003 Interim Water Quality Monitoring Report! In addition, the YBC web site will feature photos and descriptions of YBC activities and their sponsors. Check it out at:

www.co.yamhill.or.us/ybc

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



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Legacy Farms Planting Project

March 6, 2004. YBC Chair Patricia Farrell and a crew of hearty volunteers from Linfield College and the Newberg FFA joined landowners Deb and Rick Claggett to plant 150 trees and shrubs along a tributary to Dopp Creek NW of Newberg. In this area, many of the streams are downcutting due to channelization. This is causing soil erosion and the subsequent addition of sediment to the Chehalem Creek system.

This planting was the first of three projects at the Claggett property. In April, Farrell, Deb Claggett and Coordinator Jeff Bash planted 100 willows along the reach to help stabilize the banks. The third segment of the project was conducted on April 13 with the Yamhill SWCD. At four sites along the creek, large woody debris was placed at key points to raise the level of the water to the floodplain to stem erosion. Thanks to the Claggett family for their participation on this effort.



Deb Claggett, Owner of Legacy Farms and Patricia Farrell, Chair of the Yamhill Basin Council planting trees along creek on property. This project is a joint effort between the YBC and the Yamhill SWCD to assist a landowner with stream restoration needs. If you have a project idea, call the YBC or SWCD for advice at (503) 472-6403.



Left: Newberg FFA Student waters planting at Legacy Farms.

Right: Linfield Student Becky Hill plants shrubs near the bank. Alpacas look on with interest.



Linfield Students work with a two-man crew from Pacific and Willamette Railroad to clear scrap metal and other garbage from Cozine Creek by the trestle in between Davis and Ford Streets in McMinnville.

More Than a Workout

Submitted by Tyler Gordon, Linfield Student

Those that golf at Michelbook probably think of the stream that runs through the course as a feeder to the lake that swallows countless golf balls. People out for a walk in City Park probably know it as the little creek that floods during heavy rains. Drivers that pass by on 99W most likely may not realize that they are passing over a creek at all.

I, on the other hand, know Cozine creek as the creek with about a hundred fewer rail road spikes, fifty fewer plastic bags of garbage, fifteen fewer tires and four or so fewer junked bicycles. The railroad trestle downstream of Davis Street produced some large items including iron rings, iron rods, glass bottles, and a seemingly never-ending supply of spikes. In the past three years, people from the community have muddied their hands, soaked their shoes, (and almost soaked some waders too) for the YBC Cozine Creek Cleanup. They also helped to raise awareness for a body of water that is an important part of the community.

The feeling I received from this cleanup was very rewarding; not only in the sense that the stream was more aesthetically appealing due to our efforts, but also for the fact that the creek meant more to me after those cleanups than the trickle of water I had thought it before. Although it was satisfying to watch the pickups leave with those loads of garbage, it was a bit disheartening to think that people litter in the beautiful creek corridor. Fortunately, one of the main objectives of the clean-up effort was to raise awareness of Cozine Creek and its importance as a natural resource to the McMinnville community.

I am happy to have had such an enjoyable afternoon at the creek, but am also glad to have helped to contribute to the health of Cozine Creek. I would recommend to anyone that gets an opportunity such as this one with the Yamhill Basin Council, to check it out; whether it is a tree planting, or creek cleaning or a wildlife seminar, it's a pretty neat experience, and is certainly worth more than a workout.

YBC Calendar

May 5

Ed Grenfell Maintenance
Baker Creek Rd., McMinnville

May 13

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

June 10

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

Mid-June

Water Quality Monitoring

Spring/Summer 2004

Storm Drain Curb Marking
Contact the YBC for more information.
(503) 472-6403

Do you like what we do?

Consider a donation to the YBC. It's tax deductible.

A donation to the Yamhill Basin Council provides funds for water quality monitoring, stream clean-ups, streamside plantings, watershed restoration projects, and operation of the Council. A donation to the YBC will contribute to the quality of life in the Yamhill Basin.

Please mail your donation to:
Yamhill Basin Council
2200 SW 2nd St.
McMinnville, OR 97128

**WE THANK YOU FOR
YOUR SUPPORT!**

Osprey Pole Erected in Dundee!



On March 23rd, Bob Thorpe led a PGE crew in the building of an osprey nesting platform next to the Dundee Sewage Lagoons. The project was a cooperative effort between the City of Dundee, the YBC, and PGE. Earlier, the YBC was approached by Don Sundeen and Jeanette Adlong, City Councilors from Dundee about possible habitat enhancement projects for this area. Future projects will involve community youths pulling non-natives such as blackberries and replacing them with native trees and shrubs. Thanks to Dave Van Bossuyt of PGE for making this project possible.

Working to Improve Our Watersheds

Board

Patricia Farrell	Chair
Darey Shell	Vice-Chair

Staff

Jeff Bash	Watershed Coordinator
Jeanine Ishii	Water Quality Technician

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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