



The Kingfisher

Newsletter of the Yamhill Basin Council
working to improve our watersheds
Volume 3, Issue 1

Spring 2005



How do I buy a print?

Support the YBC! Purchase a Kingfisher print (above), painted by local artist Terry Peasley. An unframed matted 8x10 costs only \$15. Framed prints available as well. Call the YBC at (503) 434-7447 to order yours today!

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Melissa Herzberg Water Quality Monitoring Technician

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Students
Small & Large Utilities
Small Woodlands Assoc.
Watershed Residents
Yamhill & Polk Counties
Yamhill SWCD

YBC New Members

David Riedman: Watershed Resident

Richard Howard: Small Utilities
City of Yamhill Public Works

Steve Wendell: Utilities, Mac Water & Light

Rich Blaha: Agriculture

Mitch Coleman, Small Cities, Dayton
Associate Members: **Laura McMasters** and **Tina Paddock**

Are you interested in joining the YBC? We currently have openings for business, agriculture and non-voting associate members. Come to a YBC meeting to learn more about the YBC and how you can participate! Meetings are open to the public and held the 2nd Thursday each month from 6:00-8:30 PM at the McMinnville Water Reclamation Facility 3500 NE Clearwater.

Upcoming Meetings: May 12 and June 9.

A river is the report card for its watershed.

- Alan Levere

Watershed Watch:

New Trout Sighting on Baker Creek Tributary

By Jim and Nancy Hemming

On February 18th, as I was about to place my foot onto a stepping stone to cross our creek, a trout about 8 inches long spooked and raced to a small pool a few feet away. It was most likely a native cutthroat trout. This is only the second time we have seen salmonids in our creek since we purchased the property in 1988. My wife Nancy, a fisheries biologist, saw two small fingerlings in 1991 that could have been either cutthroat trout or steelhead.

Now you may ask, why have trout now returned to this tributary? Last summer we completed a stream improvement project on our creek with major funding support from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board and the Yamhill Basin Council.

Logs and large boulders were placed at six locations in the stream to help build up gravel in and trap woody debris. This should improve trout food production and shelter and create pools deep enough for trout to survive in the summer.

Prior to the project the stream consisted of nearly continuous shallow riffles with only an occasional shallow pool. We also planted shrubs provided by the Council to stabilize the stream bank and widen and enhance the riparian zone.



Above: Cutthroat trout
Below: Steelhead



Yamhill Watershed Stewardship Fund Established

By Darey Shell, YWSF President, YBC Vice Chair

At the end last year the Yamhill Basin Council approved the establishment of a non-profit fundraising arm to be called the Yamhill Watershed Stewardship Fund (YWSF). This new organization has been charged with the tasks of acquiring 501(c)(3) status and providing financial support for the Yamhill Basin Council through individual contributions, grants and fundraising activities. The YBC elected three council members as the first board of directors.

Funding from OWEB for YBC council support has been decreasing over the years since the Council was first formed and it has become apparent to the YBC that we need to diversify our forms of financial support. The Council is currently a consensus decision making body of 27 members focusing on watershed issues and solutions. After much discussion it was determined that in order to maintain this focus a new 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, connected to but with a separate name and status, should be set up to deal with monetary support. Thus the YWSF was created.

Remember that donations given to the Yamhill Watershed Stewardship Fund will be used entirely to support Yamhill Basin Council efforts and are tax deductible. To make a donation, please make the check out to the Yamhill Watershed Stewardship Fund.

Comments, questions, submissions? Wish to be added or removed from the mailing list? Contact Jamie at (503) 434-7447 or sheahanj@co.yamhill.or.us.

Welcome to the YBC, Melissa



Above: Melissa Herzberg, New YBC Water Quality Monitoring Technician

Hi! My name is Melissa Herzberg. I'm the new Water Quality Monitoring Tech. for YBC. I grew up in Astoria, and attended Oregon Institute of Technology in Klamath Falls, graduating with a BS in Applied Environmental Sciences and focus in water quality. I come with experience in conducting monitoring with the Ochoco National Forest and Klamath Public Works. I moved to Willamina in January 2004 when I married my husband, Josh. I am excited about this opportunity to work for YBC. I look forward to meeting those of you who have been, and I hope will continue to be, involved in the YBC water quality monitoring program.

YBC Wish List

- ◆ Backpacks or canvas shoulder bags for Storm Drain Marking Kits
 - ◆ Color Photocopying service
 - ◆ Folding display board
 - ◆ Postage stamps
 - ◆ Lamps
 - ◆ Hard hats
 - ◆ Pruning shears
 - ◆ Trowels
 - ◆ Cash donation
 - ◆ Storage space
 - ◆ Volunteer support (see volunteer opportunities column)
- Please contact Jamie at (503) 434-7447 if you can donate any of these

Workshop Re-cap: Livable Communities & Water Quality

By Patricia Farrell, YBC Chair

More than 40 people, including city planners from Newberg, a City Councilor from Dundee, and the Public Works director from Yamhill attended this all day Saturday workshop. The topics lead to some lively discussion and provoked all of us to look at our "normal" way of doing things and how it could be done better, with attention and respect for water quality.

Sam Sweeney, local Dayton area farmer, talked about his approach to roadside maintenance. Rather than spraying or digging out all vegetation, Sam has left a short grass "swale" that slows and filters runoff and only requires occasional mowing. Sam pointed out that many ditches drain directly to creeks and runoff from bare ditches carries sediment and pesticides.

Leonard Rydell, a local engineer talked about how current local design standards for roads, parking, and site drainage are leading to huge increases in impervious surfaces. At the proposed rates of growth for Newberg and McMinnville, impervious areas will add up to square miles. Rather than letting water infiltrate back into the ground, impervious surfaces drain faster and usually go to a "point of discharge", thus



Above: Audience listening to Barry Beyeler's "Cowboy Logic"

concentrating flows. Pipes from these areas often drain directly to the nearest creek, causing rapid "pulses" of stormwater that can then cause erosion in the creek. Leonard asked the audience if we are creating *People Habitat or Automobile Habitat?* He suggested allowing sidewalks to drain into the lawn where it is naturally filtered, rather than into the street and using pervious surfaces such as gravel, "grass-crete" or pervious concrete. *Vegetate, vegetate, vegetate!* (Continued on page 4)

\$\$ Money Matters: Thank You to our Funders

Jane Claire Dirks Edmunds bequest for \$1000 to fund forest conservation efforts.

OWEB for matching the \$1000 bequest to fund forest conservation efforts (this will be used in partnership with the Yamhill SWCD to develop an honorary trailhead building for educational programs at Miller Woods).

OWEB for funding the YBC with a \$32,655 grant to monitor water quality and stream flow in the North Yamhill Watershed during the summers of 2005 and 2006.

Yamhill SWCD for \$1025 for YBC's efforts in coordinating volunteers for the Native Plant Sale.

Tillamook Native Plant Co-op for 489 native plants.

We may plant a lot of trees, but unfortunately money doesn't grow on them! The YBC operates entirely off the support of grants, local government and partners, as well as private donations from individuals and organizations. As state funding for operational support is expected to decrease in the coming years, local and private financial support will be vital in continuing the operations of the YBC. Your support is appreciated.

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Do You Own Streamside Property?



The YBC is interested in speaking to you about restoration projects such as planting natives trees and shrubs along the stream bank, placing logs in the creek and removing invasive species such as blackberry and ivy.

OWEB offers small grants to fund such projects. Did you know the YBC can help you apply for them? To help the YBC work to improve our watersheds, call (503) 434-7447.

Muddy Creek Restoration Continues

On February 15th, the YBC, Perrydale FFA, Yamhill SWCD and other volunteers accomplished record breaking tree planting work. The day started off frosty cold



Above: Perrydale FFA Student planting a tree.

as volunteers (Dave Hanson, Jim Kreutzbender, Rob Tracey, Art Thurber, Rich Blaha, Jeffrey Gottfried, Dean O'Reilly, Tim Stieber, and David's son and friend) showed up bright and early to help set up. Soon after 35 students from Perrydale FFA rolled in on a school bus with FFA Advisor Kirk Hutchinson, a.k.a. "Hutch" cold and eager to warm up by planting trees. Students were treated to donuts, fruit and grilled hot dogs and beans, courtesy of the Donut Kettle, Harvest Fresh and David Riedman.

All together we worked much faster than I have ever seen (in the past of coordinating and participating in more than 2 dozen tree plantings in the Portland area), resulting in the planting of more than **2,154** trees, shrubs, and stakes along the banks and floodplain of Muddy Creek!



Above: FFA students watching willow staking demonstration by Dean O'Reilly of the Yamhill SWCD.

Newberg Biology Students Plant Trees at Legacy Alpaca Farms



Above: Newberg H.S. Biology Student planting a nice red-osier dogwood from the Tillamook Native Plant Co-op.

On March 12th, Patricia and Jamie coordinated a volunteer planting with Legacy Alpaca Farms to enhance a small tributary of Dopp Creek. Located outside of Newberg, Dopp Creek is in the Chehalem watershed and is a tributary of Chehalem Creek. Plants were donated by the Tillamook Native Plant Co-op and the Yamhill SWCD, including Oregon ash, cas cara, red-osier dogwood, Pacific dogwood, bigleaf maple, Indian plum, and Pacific ninebark.

Any fears about participation were banished when a convoy of cars and minivans arrived at 9:00 am, depositing 30 Newberg High School students, eager to earn extra credit in Mr. Siderius's demanding biology class. Other YBC members, friends, and the Newberg Boat Club also joined the fun. Approximately 300 plants were installed, watered and flagged!

After cleaning up on this beautiful sunny day, we all sat in the shade eating snacks and drinks provided by the Clagetts, listened to Deb Clagett talk about their alpaca biology and Jamie about the YBC and the significance of the day's efforts on watershed health.

Next year we hope to continue working with the Clagetts to stabilize and restore the stream banks of Dopp Creek, possibly in conjunction with the Yamhill SWCD and the OWEB Small Grant program.

Many thanks to Deb and Rick Clagett for restoring their creek; Mr. Siderius and all his students for giving extra credit and for being great workers; Michelle Adlong, YBC student representative, who got Newberg High School involved; and all the others who helped! Thanks also to the BLM and the Yamhill SWCD for the plants and all of those who did rain dances.

Volunteer Opportunities

Contact Jamie Sheahan (503)434-7447
or sheahanj@co.yamhill.or.us



Boy Scouts installing Storm drain markers in Dayton.

Marking Storm Drains

The YBC needs help in putting out our Storm Drain Markers and assembling kits. Storm drain markers need to go on curbs above drains in all the cities in our watershed. This is a great activity for

youth groups and families to do this summer, with adult supervision. It just needs a dry day, and not too hot so the glue will set. Contact us if you are interested or know of a group who would like to participate.



10th Anniversary Bash & Fundraiser

Anyone who would like to help us put on a 10th Anniversary Bash? Volunteers are needed to help plan food, music, etc. . .

Office Assistance

Tasks would include entering information into spreadsheets, keeping up the volunteer database, mailings and some filing.

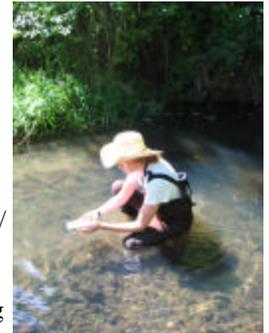
Summer Water Quality Monitoring

Enjoy working outside?

Learning and applying science?

Volunteers are needed to help measure stream flow, record pH, collect aquatic insects, and more using high standard DEQ methods. Volunteers should be able to attend a 1/2 day training in May and commit to at least 1 half or full day/month from June to October. This is a great way to get out in our streams and learn how and why water quality testing is done. Sites will be on Baker Creek and the North Yamhill River.

Contact Melissa at (503) 434-7447
or herzbergm@co.yamhill.or.us.



Carolina Hooper, YBC Member and Volunteer, measuring canopy cover over Panther Creek last summer.

Professional Services

The YBC needs specialized assistance with legal support, accounting, engineering, fundraising, event planning and database design.

(Workshop Re-Cap cont.)

Ken Hale of the NRCS spoke eloquently, describing the land as a huge sponge, with the soil serving as an underground reservoir. His advice for landowners is to “capture, store, release clean water”. By letting water infiltrate you replenish the groundwater system that provides well water and subterranean flows to creeks. Wetlands are critical landscape components that allow water to infiltrate slowly. Ken urged people to value the water that falls on their land, and not hasten to get rid of it by ditching or drain pipes.

A theme was beginning to develop when Barry Beyeler spoke about “**Cowboy Logic in the New Millennium**” for stormwater management. Mr. Beyeler is the Community Development Director for Boardman, Oregon where he uses this approach for stormwater to reduce the amount of discharge happening from new development. His motto is: “if it falls on your property, keep it”.

In the afternoon, Don Yon of Oregon Department of Environmental Quality talked about the impending water quality standards for temperature, mercury and bacteria in our local waterways. These Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) will have major implications for all towns and cities, as well as agriculture and residential development. Untreated runoff is a source of mercury and bacteria. Low summer flows combined with lack of vegetation along streams causes many of Yamhill County’s streams to exceed stream temperature standards. **Thank you** to OSU Extension Service, the speakers, and all the hard work of Leonard Rydell in putting this workshop together.

The YBC
2003-2004 Water Quality
Monitoring Report
is now available on our web-
site at:
www.co.yamhill.or.us/ycb



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