



The Kingfisher

Newsletter of the Yamhill Basin Council
working to improve our watersheds
 Volume 4, Issue 1

Spring 2006



How can 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!

Yamhill Basin Council

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Steve Covey Chair
 Jim Kreutzbender Vice-Chair

Staff

Jamie Sheahan Watershed Coordinator
 Denise Schmit Monitoring Technician
 Corrin Cunningham Outreach Coordinator
 (AmeriCorps Volunteer)

Stakeholder Groups

Agriculture
 Bureau of Land Management
 Business
 City Government
 Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde
 Environmental Groups
 Industrial Forestry
 Natural Areas Parks & Recreation
 Students
 Small & Large Utilities
 Small Woodlands Assoc.
 Watershed Residents
 Yamhill & Polk Counties
 Yamhill SWCD

Seeking New Council Members

Are you interested in improving our watersheds? Do you value working as a team player? Do you represent one of the groups below? The Yamhill Basin Council is currently seeking new members to represent the following stakeholder groups:

Agriculture/Vineyards
Business
Utilities

Interested persons should have an interest in working to improve the Chehalis and Yamhill watersheds through a collaborative consensus based group. Member responsibilities include attending monthly YBC meetings and committee participation. Individuals with experience in fundraising, non-profit development, restoration, education/outreach or time to volunteer are especially desired. Non-voting associate member positions are also open to all who wish to participate on committees. Interested individuals are encouraged to attend the next YBC meeting and contact Jamie Sheahan at sheahanj@co.yamhill.or.us for more info.

Art for the Watershed: *The Kingfisher*

Local artist and YBC Volunteer, Terry Peasley has been again so gracious to the Yamhill Basin Council by donating watercolor art pieces. Terry painted the 1st *Kingfisher* in 2003 (pictured in upper left corner of newsletter), in which proceeds from sales have gone directly to the Yamhill Basin Council. The 2nd *Kingfisher* was released at the YBC's 10th Anniversary Celebration Silent Auction, where the 8"x10" unframed print sold at a winning bid of \$60.

Size	Framed price	Unframed price
16"x20"	\$95.00	\$50.00
11"x14"	\$65.00	\$30.00
	<i>Includes matting</i>	<i>Includes backing</i>

(right) *The Kingfisher*, by local Artist Terry Peasley. All proceeds from sales will go directly to the Yamhill Basin Council.



How can I purchase one?

You can, too, now have a new one of ten limited edition *Kingfisher prints* hanging in your living room, office, etc. Look for the Kingfisher at the Hidden Treasure Gallery and upcoming Art Walks or contact Jamie Sheahan at (503) 434-7447 or sheahanj@co.yamhill.or.us to purchase a print. We still have a few remaining 8"x10" matted prints of the 1st *Kingfisher* for sale for \$16. Framed prints are also available.

Restoration Review: *A YBC Projects Update*

Gooseneck Creek Fish Habitat Enhancement: Project Completed! Perrydale High School Students helped wrap up the final stage of this project on March 13, by planting 100 Western Red Cedars along this tributary to Mill Creek. Three large wood structures were installed last summer. The project was funded by the OWEB small grants program with partnering support from ODFW, Hampton Tree Farms, Mahonia Tree Farms, Oregon Wildlife Heritage Program and dedicated landowners.

Carlton Riparian Restoration: The City of Carlton and the YBC were recently awarded an OWEB small grant for \$9,347 to begin the first phase of riparian restoration along the North Yamhill River in Wennerberg Park. Work will begin in June with clearing of blackberries and reed canary grass.

Deer Creek Park Prairie Restoration Design: OWEB recently awarded a Technical Assistance Grant to the YBC in the amount of \$7,918 for coordinating design of the restoration of valuable wetland and upland prairie habitat at Deer Creek County Park. A team of dedicated council members and partners have been hard at work developing a restoration plan.

Jackass Creek Fish Habitat Enhancement: Remember all that wind this winter? Well, the result has been several blown-down Douglas Fir trees at Maud Williamson State Park. The park is donating these logs with root wads attached to the YBC to be placed in streams for fish habitat.

YBC Calendar

April 13th: YBC Meeting & Presentation of Summer 2005 Water Quality Monitoring Results. McMinnville Water Reclamation Facility. 6:00-8:30pm

April 22nd: EARTH DAY!

Cozine Creek Clean-up & Blackberry removal. Volunteers Needed! Meet at Linfield College. 9am-1pm @ Linfield's Riley Hall. Email tgordon@linfield.edu or call YBC for info.

River Awareness Art Contest Awards Reception Anne Amie Vineyards, Lafayette. 7:00pm. Contact Marlena Bertram for more information at marlenab@comcast.net

April 29th: Weed out the Invaders: *Learn to identify and control invasives on your land.* 9:00am-2:30pm (includes classroom and field sessions) in Corvallis. Cost is \$10/household. To register contact outreach@mrwc.net or (541) 758-7597.

April 29th: Plant sale: The Master Gardeners plant fair and sale will be held Saturday, April 29. For more information, contact the OSU Extension service in Yamhill County at yamhill@orst.edu

May 6th: Wildflower Show and Native Plant Sale, hosted by The Cheamhill Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Oregon. Hundreds of fresh wildflowers will be displayed and identified at the Carnegie Room at the McMinnville Public Library, 225 N.W. Adams St. Admission is free. For more information, contact Susan Williams at 1-503-538-1865 or helgesusan@comcast.net.

May 11th: YBC Meeting & Presentation on Water Quality Trading in the Willamette, by David Primozych of the Willamette Partnership. McMinnville Water Reclamation Facility. 6:00-8:30pm

May 20th: Small Acreage Weed Mgmt Workshop: 9-11:30am at the Chehalem Senior Center, sponsored by YBC, Yamhill SWCD, OSU Extension Service & the Mid Willamette Cooperative Weed Management Area. For more information contact: sheahanj@co.yamhill.or.us or (503) 434-7447.

**Ongoing (sign up): Water Quality Monitoring

June 8th: YBC Meeting & Presentation on Lambert Bend, by Frank Schnitzer of the Oregon Department of Gravel Mining & Industries (DOGAMI). McMinnville Water Reclamation Facility. 6:00-8:30pm

June 31st: OWEB Small Grant Applications Due

**Ongoing (sign up): Water Quality Monitoring

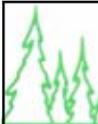
From the Coordinator

One of the parts of my job I love most is getting to work with such a diverse group of people, whether that's volunteers, like the Grawl family, landowners, council members, or partners. I recently was reading through the News Register and came upon the obituary of McMinnville Resident John Grawl. I had the fortune of knowing John and his family through my YBC work.

John had suffered a battle with lung cancer and wanted an activity he could do in the summer to contribute to the community & spend time with his wife and son. The Grawls signed up as volunteers for the YBC's Water Quality monitoring, received training, and donated 12 hours of volunteer service collecting water quality data on sites in Baker Creek. John volunteered until he was no longer physically able when his battle began again. His service with the YBC was only a tiny fraction of his life, but that he chose to spend the last part of his days giving back to his environment and community is a honorable. I thank the Grawls for their contribution to the YBC and for reminding us of one of the greater values of having volunteer opportunities to engage our residents.

In addition to the valuable work performed by our water quality monitoring volunteers, a lot of the council's work is performed by volunteer council members. YBC council members represent various stakeholder groups throughout the basin and donate upwards of 1000 hours/year! I would like to introduce a few other the faces behind the council to all of you.

In January 2005, Steve Covey was elected as the new Council Chair. Steve is a Senior Laboratory Technician at the McMinnville Water Reclamation Facility. Jim Kreutzbender, watershed resident and long-time council member, was elected as the Vice-chair. The YBC also welcomes 2 new council members: Mark Vroman of Hampton Affiliates, representing Forest Industry, and Les Zettergren, watershed resident. Corrisa Kunze, a Linfield College student and technician at the McMinnville Water Reclamation Facility, was also accepted as an Associate Member.

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To place your AD in the next issue of The Kingfisher, contact the YBC for advertising rates.

The Western Pond Turtle in Your Backyard

BY MICHELLE ADLONG, NEWBERG HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT AND YBC MEMBER

We've all seen turtles in the pet store: small box turtles standing on a rock, necks outstretched, behind a terrarium of glass. However, few of us have glimpsed a native wild turtle such as the Western pond turtle, and people who want to must travel to a natural waterway without scaring the shy reptiles away. Like bronzed, 8-inch beachgoers tanning in the sun, these turtles are most often seen perched on a log above the water, basking in the sun's warmth. The rare, elusive Western pond turtle is one of only two freshwater turtle species native to this part of Oregon.

Turtles are long-lived creatures: the Western pond turtle can live 30-40 years. However, many factors threaten the pond turtle's survival. Their habitat consists of wetlands and streams surrounded by woods or open fields. This habitat continues to shrink as development in our area continues, as more roads are built, and as wetlands are drained. Unfortunately, Western pond turtle numbers have dwindled along with the decline in habitat.

Non-native plants and animals also threaten the turtle's survival. The invasive Himalayan blackberry prevents native plants from providing habitat. Bullfrogs prey on baby turtles, and other non-native turtles released from captivity compete for food. In addition, some humans illegally catch Western pond turtles to sell.

Though Western pond turtles are not classified as endangered, they are considered a "sensitive species" in Oregon. They are even rarer in Washington and California, the other two states in which they live. To make sure the Western pond turtle survives, we need to protect and restore its habitat of wetlands and streams while keeping out invasive species. The Western pond turtle is, in a sense, symbolic of the health of our watersheds. This shy little reptile is just one more link in the chain of life that we all belong to.



Above: Western Pond Turtle basking on log in pond

Below: Baby Western Pond Turtle emerging from egg. (photos from Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife)



Western Pond Turtle FACTS

POPULATION STATUS

- One of two native turtle species in Oregon.
- Declining because of habitat loss and introduction of non-native predators.
- Can be helped by private landowners who provide suitable habitat.

HABITAT NEEDS

- Use both land and water throughout the year.
- Key habitat needs to include permanent slow-moving water with both deep and shallow areas, hiding and basking sites, nearby undisturbed nesting habitat, minimal impacts from non-native predators, and travel corridors.

(from ODFW website)

ACTIONS LANDOWNERS CAN TAKE TO IMPROVE HABITAT

(from ODFW website)

- Managing water bodies to provide forage, basking and hiding sites;
- Maintaining shallow wetlands for hatchlings;
- Managing uplands to provide nesting habitat; and
- Controlling non-native predators, especially bullfrogs and bass.

If you find a nest on your property, call ODFW for a free nest cage and instructions at 541-757-4186 or 503-657-2000. For more specific information on how you can implement these landowner actions visit www.dfw.state.or.us/ODFW/html/InfoCntrWild/turtles.pdf or contact the Yamhill Basin Council or ODFW.

Interested in improving your Yamhill County streamside area? The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program is for you!



Do you have a stream running through your property that is being overtaken with blackberries, has eroding banks or is a muddy mess during the winter?

Are you interested in providing long term sustainability for your farmland while aiding in improvement of water quality and wildlife habitat?

If the answer to any of these questions is yes, then there is assistance available for you!

The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) helps landowners restore streamside areas by providing technical and financial support. Hundreds of Oregonians have already taken advantage of this program which focuses on converting marginal pasture and cropland into riparian forest. Healthy riparian buffers cool water temperatures, trap sediment and filter potential chemical contaminants, and provide wildlife habitat.

Voluntary Enrollment, Flexible Buffer Size

The CREP program recognizes that every farm and landowner situation is different, so the program allows each landowner to specify the size of buffer they wish to establish. To receive cost share the minimum size is 35 feet and the maximum 180 feet. Contract length can range from 10 to 15 years. Eligible land must be along a stream and be currently farmed or marginal pastureland. (Lands classified as forest or woodland DO NOT qualify.)

Incentives and Compensation

Upon enrollment in the program, you receive access to cost-share at a rate of 75%. Reimbursement is paid for planting, installing fences and animal watering facilities, and removing blackberries or other invasive species. There is also an annual rental payment based on the cropping history and soil type, a signing incentive payment for enrollment in CREP, and a practice incentive payment after planting has been completed.

No Obligation Site Visit

Landowners work with the local soil and water conservation district to enroll, plant, and maintain the buffer. A program specialist is here to answer questions and will even walk the property with you to determine eligibility for the program.

For more information contact Amie Loop-Frison, Riparian Specialist, (503) 472-1474 ext.113, amie.loop-frison@or.nacdnet.net, or stop by the Yamhill Soil & Water Conservation District office at 2200 SW Second Street, McMinnville, OR 97128.

TMDL's: *What are they & Why should we care?*

BY STEVE COVEY, CITY OF McMINNVILLE WATER RESOURCE TECHNICIAN AND YBC CHAIR

This is the first in a series of newsletter articles to inform residents and stakeholders on the background, importance of, development process, timelines, impacts, updates and opportunities for involvement regarding to the Yamhill TMDL process.

In 1972 public awareness and concern for controlling pollution from entering our nations surface waters prompted the enactment of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments. When amended in 1977, this law became know as the Clean Water Act (CWA). The United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) is authorized to "restore and maintain the physical, chemical and biological integrity of all waters of the nation". The USEPA does this in part by delegating authority to individual states and tribes through approval of water quality standards.

Section 303(d) of the federal **Clean Water Act** (CWA, 33 USC 1250, et seq., at 1313(d)), requires States to identify waters that do not meet water quality standards after applying certain required technology-based effluent limits ("impaired" water bodies). States are required to compile this information in a list and submit the list to USEPA for review and approval. Under the Section 303(d) list of impaired waters. As part of this listing process, States are required to prioritize waters/watersheds for future development of Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL). The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ) has ongoing efforts to monitor and assess water quality, to prepare the Section 303(d) list, and to subsequently develop TMDLs. To view the Oregon Threatened Streams 303d list for Oregon go to: <http://www.wcei.org/oregon/.%5Cor-list.html>

So, what is a TMDL? A TMDL is a quantitative assessment of water quality problems, contributing sources, and load reductions or control actions needed to restore and protect bodies of water. The TMDL approach does not replace existing water pollution control programs. It provides a framework for evaluating pollution control efforts and for coordination between federal, state and local efforts to meet water quality standards.

DEQ, YBC, the City of McMinnville, and other NPDES permit holders have been collecting water quality data for use in developing the TMDL. The Willamette TMDL is now being adopted and the Yamhill River TMDL is targeted for 2006. The Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) and Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) regulate agriculture and forestry and use Best Management Practices (BMP) to reduce affects to the ambient rivers and streams (these are considered Non-Point sources). The ambient river quality determines the regulations for point source dischargers (such as industries and wastewater facilities). *(Continued on back page)*

Watershed Snap Shots



(Right Miller Woods: The Yamhill SWCD was requested this 130 acre property in the Baker Creek Watershed. Last month, 5 Linfield students planted 230 Douglas firs here!

(Left) Gooseneck Creek: Perrydale students preparing tree cages for protection against hungry beavers.

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(TMDL's continued) Point source dischargers are issued a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit from ODEQ, which sets limits for all their discharge limits. In other words the ambient river background regulates the Point Source dischargers limits and this could have a direct impact on your sewage rates as regulations tighten. We as city rural residents are responsible for what we put into the ambient rivers and streams in our basin. From excess fertilizer that washes off the sidewalks and enters the streams and rivers via runoff or storm drains to outdated prescription drugs that we dispose of by flushing down the toilet. As our technology increases our instruments are able to detect pollutants that a few years back would have gone unnoticed. New studies are being conducted on pharmaceuticals (especially hormones), which may be affecting fish and other aquatic organisms. As of the present, treatment facilities are not designed to remove pharmaceuticals and the costs to do so would cause our rates to skyrocket. We need to come up with alternative means and habits, like adopting a program so outdated and unused prescription drugs could be returned to local pharmacies for proper disposal and being aware of the affects that occur when we fertilize our gardens and yards.

As the TMDL further develops for the Yamhill, the Yamhill Basin Council plans to bring together our cities, concerned residents and other stakeholders with DEQ for collaboration. Further information on the TMDL process can be found at: <http://www.deq.state.or.us/wq/TMDLs/TMDLs.htm> and <http://www.deq.state.or.us/wq/wqfact/TMDLFactSheet2003.pdf>.



YBC Volunteer Collecting water sample for measuring dissolved oxygen in Deer Creek (2004).

How you can help:

- **STAY TUNED** for further updates on the Yamhill TMDL.
- **VOLUNTEER** to help collect water quality data this coming summer. The YBC will need the help of dedicated volunteers to collect data in the North Yamhill subwatershed from May—October. *For more information on volunteering with the water quality monitoring program, contact:*

Denise Schmit,
YBC Monitoring Technician at
schmitd@co.yamhill.or.us

Come see the results from the

2005 North Yamhill Monitoring Project

at the YBC's Next Council Meeting, April 13th.

Presentation of results at 7:00 pm.

Comments, questions, submissions?

Wish to be added to or removed from the mailing list? Contact Jamie at (503) 434-7447