
Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2004-2005

Cooperators of the Year

Diana Gardener and Judson Parsons

By Glenn Dolphin, Resource Conservationist

When I first met Diana and Judson during the summer of 2004, I had no idea how enjoyable it would be to work with them as we planned and implemented soil conservation practices on their land. Diana and Judson bought 165 acres in East Salem in 1989 and made it their permanent residence in 1995. In 1999 they decided that the land should permanently remain farmland, forest, and wildlife habitat, so they donated the development rights to the American Farmland Trust (AFT), which now holds the property in a conservation easement. The basic provisions of the easement are that no land divisions will be allowed, no additional housing will be built, and no commercial activity will be permitted on the designated riparian area. The special riparian area has been set aside to shelter wildlife and protect the water quality of the Pudding River.



Straw waddles placed across the Christmas tree field.

The current acreage on the property is split into several different land uses; 72 acres are leased out for perennial ryegrass seed, 22 acres are leased for Christmas trees, 12 acres of Christmas trees are managed by Judson, and the rest is either in timber, wetlands, or uplands for wildlife habitat.

Diana and Judson are being recognized as Cooperators of the

Year for the numerous soil erosion conservation practices they installed on the 22 acres of leased Christmas trees. Soil erosion became a big concern to Diana four years ago when the field was taken out of permanent grass cover and planted with Christmas trees. After several failed attempts with the lessee to fix the erosion problems, Diana decided that she would address them herself and asked the Marion SWCD for technical assistance.

The projects designed and implemented on the field were:

- Installing straw waddles along the contours of the field slopes to intercept the overland water flow that was creating erosion rills between almost every row of trees
- Planting cover crops (wheat & perennial grasses) in areas that were bare of vegetation because either the soil was too wet for tree growth or grasses had been sprayed out (the most sensitive area being that along the seasonal waterway that cut right through the middle of the field)
- Establishing grass along the waterway to create a filter strip which helps remove transported sediments
- Installing silt fences along the upper waterway to enhance water quality protection
- Building a sediment basin to trap and settle out suspended sediments in storm runoff
- Laying erosion control fiber blankets to protect disturbed soil
- Constructing rock check dams within the waterway to help slow water velocity and to settle even more sediments

The 22 acres has now become a demonstration site showcasing the erosion control practices. We anticipate hosting grower tours in the future and detailing our field experiences at education/outreach events and in publications. We are also hoping other Christmas tree growers will recognize the importance of erosion control and implement similar projects on their own fields.

Diana and Judson also practice other best management tech-

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niques. They withdrew steep portions of the perennial ryegrass field from production and planted the areas with black walnut (timber crop), and they kept permanent grass strips planted between the tree rows. They planted thousands of trees all over the forested sections of the property, installed large (approx. 4' tall) tree tube protectors to protect naturally occurring native hardwood seedlings from deer browse and rodent damage, and continue an ongoing noxious weed eradication program (i.e. Himalayan blackberry, English ivy, and Canada thistle).

Diana and Judson also hired professionals to top trees and create large conifer snags which provide foraging and nesting opportunities and increase the amount of large diameter downed wood. They maintain about 50 bird houses for swallows and bluebirds, 10 houses for wrens, chickedees and other small cavity nesters, 3 houses for Kestrels (small falcon) and have installed 8 bat houses that became inhabited almost immediately upon set up!

In July, they hosted a field tour for the International Youth Environmental Summit (YES '05) on their erosion control site. And their property is available for other landowner and educational tours such as The Oregon Walnut Council and an Oregon Oak interest group made up of members from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and OSU Extension Service.

On a last final note, Judson served as a board director with the Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District from 1979 until their move to Salem in 1995.



Inspecting the new sediment basin.



Sediment fencing and installed grass filter strip.

Congratulations and keep up the good work, Diana and Judson!

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A Brand New Employee!

Marcie Hagen began working with the Marion SWCD on July 5th as Conservation Technician.

Born and raised in Washington, Marcie has lived in the Pacific Northwest her entire life. Her early interest in the outdoors was spurred by a childhood of camping, hunting, and fishing with her family. Curiosity and a little fate landed her in Salem where she attended Willamette University for schooling and softball. While there she received her B.A. and Departmental Honors in Environmental Science. She was also a four-time All-Conference and All-Region softball athlete and currently holds

11 individual career records at Willamette.

After graduation, Marcie worked for the City of Salem as a stream cleaning intern. With the City she gained experience in creating a balance between conveyance and conservation issues within urban waterways. Intent on continuing work in natural resources, Marcie comes to the District to help with field and technical assistance.

Besides work, Marcie enjoys horseshoes, ping pong, and poker. She is always up for a good story, joke, or laugh. Drop by and meet her if you find yourself in the area!

2004-05: A Year of Change for the District

The Marion Soil and Water Conservation District (MSWCD) has seen a tremendous amount of change, growth, and opportunity during the past fiscal year, including particularly significant adjustments in staff, directors, and programs. The board and staff members have learned to be flexible and proactive in our decision making and daily work. Even with a shift in staffing, we have been able to accomplish more of our goals and expand our various programs. A few of the year's alterations and achievements are listed below.

by Jane Keppinger and Robin Straughan, Managers

July 2004 – 23 Landowner Assistance Program (LAP) applications were received in the program's second year. The team representing Oregon (Newberg High School) at Canon Envirothon received the top score on the wildlife portion of the competition.

August 2004 – 17 LAP applications were funded, including projects for manure storage, conversion to drip irrigation, heavy use area protection, and pasture fencing. Doug Kramher, Zone 1 director, was appointed to serve on the Soil and Water Conservation Commission. MSWCD assisted the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) with nearly \$1,000,000 worth of contracts for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program projects.

September 2004 – The first year of our Knotweed Program was successful. Kristin Anderson oversaw the program and conducted outreach, completed inventories, and gave treatment assistance.

October 2004 – Fisher Family Farms received the Cooperator of the Year Award at our Annual Meeting. MSWCD highlighted the LAP at the Annual Meeting and also held our first Silent Auction to raise funds for our education programs.

November 2004 – Two new directors were elected to serve on our board: Tim Bielenberg in Zone 4 and Diane Syverson as an At-Large director. MSWCD received the Outstanding Education Program Award and Doug Krahmer received the Director of the Year Award at the annual Oregon Association of Conservation Districts convention. Monte Graham, District Manager, resigned after 6 years with MSWCD.

December 2004 – Jane Keppinger, Administrative Coordinator, and Robin Straughan, Watershed Technical Specialist, were appointed as acting managers for the District. The process for hiring a new District Manager began.

January 2005 – A workload analysis was conducted to determine whether current staffing levels were appropriate and to define work priorities. MSWCD technical staff decided to adjust some of their focus in order to accomplish all of their tasks with a limited number of staff. The Watershed Technical Specialists officially changed their title to Resource Conservationists.

February 2005 – The Business Plan underwent a major revision to incorporate more ideas and changes from staff and board members. Peer evaluations and salary surveys were conducted for the first time by all staff in order to assess workplace effectiveness and relative compensation. We solicited an architectural firm to design a potential building and determine the costs associated with constructing a new Service Center facility.

March 2005 – Jane and Robin were promoted to new management positions (Business Manager and Technical Manager) after an unsuccessful attempt to fill the single manager position. Ralph Fisher stepped down as Chair of the Board. Doug Kramer was elected as Chair and Laura Tesler (At-Large) was elected as Vice Chair for the District. The Annual Work Plan format was restructured to make tracking easier.

April 2005 – MSWCD attempted to purchase an office building but due to Salem's tight real estate market, was out-bid. The District's annual budget was approved with Jane serving as Budget Officer.

May 2005 – Ralph Fisher, Zone 5 director for 6 years, resigned from the board after taking a new job. Bob Roth, part-time MSWCD Administrative Coordinator and Salem-Keizer Watershed Councils Coordinator, resigned to take a new position.

June 2005 – Diane Syverson, At-Large director, announced her resignation following the August board meeting due to other family commitments. Marcie Hagen was hired in a new position for MSWCD: Conservation Technician. Scott Eden was hired as a full-time Resource Conservationist after working part-time for MSWCD and the Pudding River Watershed Council. The 2005 Poster contest entries were displayed at the Capitol Rotunda.

Follow-up notes – In September 2005, we filled both director position openings: Mary Baker was appointed to the Zone 5 vacancy and Stan Vistica was appointed to the At-Large position. MSWCD continues to look for a facility to own, lease, or build.

Picture Page



Oregon Envirothon Champions:
L-R: Camille Spain, Dustin Hollabaugh, Clint Niehus, Josh Hollabaugh, Ben Wells



2005 Native Plant and Tree Sale stock



Fish sculptures from Salmon in the City



Earth Day at The Oregon Garden, April 17



ODA Riparian Tour



January board meeting with the County Commissioners



Clean-up at Fairview Industrial Site



Marion SWCD Technical Staff: L-R: Glenn Dolphin, Kristin Anderson, Jeremy Baker, Scott Eden, Marcie Hagen



Gardening with Native Plants speaker: Liz Francis



Board Members: Front L-R: Stan Vistica, Laura Tesler, Mary Baker, Back L-R: Doug Krahrmer, Tim Bielenberg, Dan Goffin, Myron Harper



New irrigation system at Annen Farms



Marion SWCD Administrative Staff: L-R: Jane Keppinger, Robin Straughan (Not pictured: Diane Cheyne, Alex Salinas)



2005 Native Plant and Tree Sale



Associate Board Members: L-R: Quentin Bowman and Lee Hardy (Not pictured: Bob Baum, Ryan Bishop, Robert Dyk, Ralph Fisher, and Judy McClaughry)

2005-2006 Straub Environmental Learning Center Lecture Series

Lecture Descriptions

October 27, 2005 CHRIS MASER

Our Forest Legacy:

Today's Decision, Tomorrow's Consequences

Forest ecologist, author, and lecturer **Chris Maser** will argue that we must account for the intrinsic, ecological value of all natural resources, and that we must view long-term ecological wholeness and biological richness of the environment as the measure of long-term economic health. **Masers'** talk will stress that we can begin caring for public forests as a biological living trust.

November 22, 2005 BILL RIPPLE

The Wolves of Yellowstone: An Ecological Success Story

Bill Ripple, professor in Forestry at Oregon State University, will give an illustrated talk on the ecological effects the reintroduction of wolves is having on the Greater Yellowstone ecosystem. He will show, with image maps, the losses of species' ranges since the time of Lewis and Clark. He will talk about how the ecology of fear with the presence of wolves works toward changes in elk foraging behavior. He will discuss the benefits to reintroducing the gray wolf and demonstrate how the wolf is connected *via* the food web to elk, aspen, willow, cottonwood, beaver, birds, and more. With time-series photos, he will illustrate how wolves appear to be playing a major role in the resurgence of streamside trees and shrubs.

January 26, 2006 ALAN DURNING

Northwest Environmental Indicators -

Measuring What Matters: The Cascadia Scorecard

Focusing on seven trends critical to the future of the Northwest, Northwest Environment Watch's Cascadia Scorecard reveals how we are *really* doing at creating a way of life that can last. **Alan Durning** will review the latest "score" and discuss communities that are taking innovative approaches to problem solving. **Durning** is founder and executive director of Northwest Environment Watch, a research and communication center that promotes a sustainable economy.

February 23, 2006 CYLVIA HAYES

Sustainable Energy and the New Economy

The increasing scarcity and cost of oil and other natural resources continues to drive us to an economic turning point where the

efficient use of resources is a requirement not a luxury. Already approximately 140,000 U.S. companies are making their profits providing sustainable products and services. **Hayes** will stress that this "new economy" will be fueled by renewable energy sources. Because of its vast renewable energy resource base, Oregon has the opportunity to become a leader in this area. **Cylvia Hayes** is the founder and Executive Director of 3EStrategies, based in Bend, Oregon. Their focus is on green building and sustainable energy and economic development.

March 30, 2006 PETER DONALDSON

Stories from Salmon Nation

Storyteller and performer **Peter Donaldson** will present a one-act play that explores the multi-faceted connections between watersheds, salmon, and humans. **Donaldson's** production has received wide praise from scientists and teachers. **Donaldson** is an educational consultant and facilitator, with 25 years experience in supporting learning communities, managing non-profits, designing curriculum, building partnerships and promoting new forms of organizational learning.

April 27, 2006 DR. PETER WARD

Mass Extinctions

University of Washington Professor **Peter Ward** will talk about mass species extinctions of the past and the current loss of species worldwide. **Ward** is author of a dozen books, including *Rare Earth*, one of Discover Magazine's ten most influential books of 2001. **Ward** has appeared in many TV documentaries and is currently negotiating with PBS to host a thirteen part series on the science of "everyday choices."

May 25, 2006 DR. MARK HIXON

Protecting Our Ocean Resources

Dr. Hixon is the Helen Thompson Professor of Marine Conservation Biology at Oregon State University. An expert on the ecology of coastal marine fishes, he serves as Oregon's representative on the Marine Protected Areas Federal Advisory Committee as an executive appointee. **Dr. Hixon** will speak on the science of protecting areas of the ocean to promote conservation and sustainability. His illustrated talk will include photographs of Oregon's deep ocean environment and sea life.

MSWCD is the PREMIER SPONSOR of the Forest Legacy, Sustainable Energy, Stories from Salmon Nation, and Protecting Ocean Resources Lectures. The Lectures are free to attendees. Call 503-399-3241 for times and locations.

North Santiam Watershed Council Seeks Membership

The North Santiam Watershed Council is a volunteer citizen group formed locally to address the goal of sustaining natural resources and watershed protection and enhancement. The Council's mission is to "provide opportunities for stakeholders to cooperate in promoting and sustaining the health of the watershed and its communities." This is achieved through restoration projects that restore fish and wildlife habitat and water quality. The Council serves as a resource to landowners to help them address natural resource concerns on their properties. Furthermore, the Council provides educational opportunities for citizens to learn how they can take proactive steps in protecting and restoring the watershed resources around them.

Currently, the Council is seeking both general and steering committee members. General membership is open to anyone with an interest in the North Santiam Watershed. General members can participate in various restoration and education activities to improve the watershed. The Council also seeks representatives to serve in the following steering committee positions: environment, economic (can represent timber, agriculture, aggregate, recreation and tourism or other business) and upper basin (represents are above Detroit Dam). To qualify for these positions, individuals must live in or derive economic benefit from the North Santiam Watershed and support the Council's mission. Minimum

time commitment to serve on the steering committee is 2-3 hrs/month for meetings or more depending on the individual's interest to participate in natural resource related projects.

Serving on the North Santiam Watershed Council steering committee provides citizens an opportunity to represent said interest group in watershed management decisions that guide council projects, education, and organizational direction. Participation as a general or steering committee member gives citizens a voice in natural resource management that can significantly influence local watershed management decisions. Furthermore, members can participate in identifying, planning, and implementing projects that protect, enhance, and restore the North Santiam Watershed.

Anyone interested in filling a Steering Committee position or joining the General Membership is encouraged to attend a council meeting on the second Thursday of every month in the Stayton Community Center at 7 pm. Meetings offer a great opportunity to learn more about Council activities and how the organization can help you with natural resource related projects. Contact the Council Coordinator, Liz Redon at 503-930-8202 or redon@peak.org for more information about meetings or joining the Council.

Oregon's Native Conifers

Tuesday, October 18th: 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Most of us are familiar with the Douglas-Fir, but how many of us can name the nearly 30 species of conifers native to our state? Wilbur Bluhm, professor emeritus of the OSU Extension Service and noted horticulture expert, will discuss and show slides of various native trees nurtured by Oregon's diverse topography and climate.

The program, sponsored by the Willamette Valley Chapter of the Native Plant Society, will be held at the Straub Environmental Learning Center. The Center is located at 1320 "A" Street NE in Salem (right next to Olinger Pool, near North Salem High School). The program is free and open to the public.

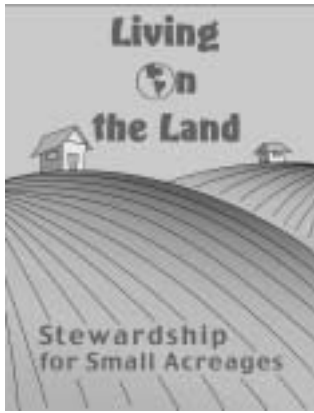
For more information, please call 503-399-8615.

Natural Resource Scholarship Awarded

At the July 6th, 2005 regular board meeting, the directors of the Marion SWCD awarded a \$1,000 scholarship to Jessica Huie, 2005 graduate of Stayton Union High School. Jessica will use the scholarship to attend Oregon State University and study Animal Science. Jessica hopes to become a veterinarian in the near future.

Next year Jessica is eligible to earn a \$500 continuance scholarship and a new recipient will be chosen for the \$1,000 scholarship.

CONGRATULATIONS AND GOOD LUCK AT OSU,
JESSICA!



Small Acreage Education Series Hosted by OSU Extension Service and the Marion SWCD

Living on the Land

A short-course for small acreage management

**Having problems with weeds in your pasture?
Want to know more about your soil?
Is your well water safe to drink?**

Find the answers and more by attending a series of workshops for small acreage landowners interested in **pasture and pond management, weed control, soil management, stream bank stabilization, well water health and septic tank maintenance.**

Participants will learn a variety of methods to improve their properties through hands-on exercises in an informal environment that will create an enjoyable learning experience. You will leave the program with a better ability to plan, monitor, and evaluate your property; and you will know who to go to for help. There will also be an opportunity to meet and interact with other landowners, farmers and agriculture experts.

Topics, Dates and Times

WHAT TO DO ABOUT WEEDS AND PASTURE MANAGEMENT:
Monday, October 17th, 1:30-4:30 pm

THE BASICS OF WELL WATER AND SEPTIC TANKS:
Thursday, October 20th, 1:30-4:30 pm **or** 6:00-9:00 pm at the Salem Public Library, Loucks Lecture Hall located at 585 Liberty Street SE in Salem

WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT YOUR POND AND PROPERTY:
Monday, October 24th, 1:30-4:30 pm

YOUR LIVING SOIL – KEEPING IT PRODUCTIVE:
Wednesday, October 26th, 1:30-4:30 pm

CREATING STREAMSIDE AREAS THAT WORK FOR YOU:
Tuesday, November 8th, 1:30-4:30 pm

TOUR OF SMALL ACREAGE PROJECT:
(tentatively planned, date to be determined)

Cost

\$30 for the entire program, which includes curriculum materials and binder, handouts and light refreshments. Two people from the same household can attend for the price of one if they share the curriculum and handouts.

For those not attending the entire program, the cost is \$10 for individual workshops.

THE BASICS OF WELL WATER AND SEPTIC TANKS is **free** and will be held on Thursday, October 20th at Salem Public Library, Loucks Lecture Hall located at 585 Liberty Street SE in Salem. Two sessions will be offered, 1:30-4:30pm in the afternoon and 6:00-9:00pm in the evening.

Free nitrate screening will be available. To have your home well water tested for nitrate, bring about a cup of water from your cold water tap in a clean jar. Jars must be accessible by a small syringe. Drinking water bottles are not appropriate. It is not necessary to sterilize the jar. Only one sample per household please.

Location

OSU Extension Service, Marion County
3180 Center Street NE
Conference Rooms 1A – 1C
Salem, Oregon



Pre-registration Is Required for All Sessions
Call Karen Buell, OSU Extension Service in Salem 503-566-2906
or e-mail Karen.Buell@oregonstate.edu

Early Fall Grazing Workshop

by Kristin Anderson, Resource Conservationist

The Marion Soil and Water Conservation District sponsored a free Grazing Workshop for the public on September 11, 2004 from 9 AM to 2 PM. Sar-Ben Farms, Inc., hosted the event at their facilities, providing space for presentations in the morning and a tour of their dairy farm in the afternoon.



Marlin Rasmussen talks about his grazing schedule.

Speakers included Gene Pirelli of OSU Extension Service, Scott Robbins of the NRCS, Dwight Worley of Gallagher Fencing, and Glenn Dolphin of the Marion SWCD. Pirelli spoke about managing the grazing of animals through the year to maximize pasture growth and animal nutrition. Robbins talked about grazing systems, discussing several types of rotational grazing management possibilities. He also discussed sacrifice areas, or paddocks, for animals, mud and manure management, and early spring forage production in Western Oregon pastures. Worley shared typical fencing needs, types of fencing, and costs. Dolphin presented information on the Marion SWCD, including the conservation planning services and financial assistance we offer to landowners.

Following a barbecue lunch, Marlin Rasmussen, owner of Sar-Ben Farms, Inc., led a tour of his pastures. Mr. Rasmussen spoke about his use of fencing systems, grazing management, and non-chemical weed control techniques on his dairy farm that is undergoing the USDA Organic Certification process.

Conservation At Work!

by Jeremy Baker, Resource Conservationist

Natural resource conservation is sometimes a large and ominous task. The multiplicity of challenges in soil and water conservation is so great that it's important to have partners when trying to tackle it. As such, the Marion SWCD works with the NRCS to develop voluntary conservation plans for Marion County landowners who are applying for federal funding. These plans suggest conservation practices which help improve soil condition along with water quality and quantity. Here's a little background on how this process works.

The real treasure in this story is the amount of water that was saved from installing these systems: Approximately 5,000 acre-feet of water was saved during the 2005 irrigation season alone!

Once a year a group of landowners and agency staff convene with personnel from NRCS and MSWCD to discuss and direct where funds are needed in the county and which practices should receive priority funding for the USDA Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). For the year 2004-2005, priority was placed on conservation practices that focused on irrigation system efficiency and irrigation water management improvements in areas that have limited ground water supplies. Eight EQIP conservation plans were written with 19 irrigation system improvements and/or installations. MSWCD assisted in planning and ap-

plying five of the aforementioned plans which included installing seven linear irrigation systems and two drip systems, treating approximately 936 acres of land.

Savings in water consumption means that more water is available for plants, birds, other wildlife, salmon, trout, steelhead, your lawn, and ground water recharge. It's also important to remember that the agricultural community is our most important partner. This water savings shows that farmers are committed and willing to voluntarily take steps in helping conserve the

natural resources in Marion County.

As 2005 ends, it's important to look back on our achievements in order to reflect on the successes our partnerships created. As we look forward to 2006, MSWCD is excited about assisting landowners as they create, restore, and maintain landscapes and ensure that the best land management practices are applied which help maintain soil and water health and continue to produce fresh fruits, vegetables, meat, dairy goods, and other agricultural products for the residents of Marion County.

Knotweed Control Project

by Kristin Anderson, Resource Conservationist

The 2004-2005 fiscal year marked the completion of Marion Soil and Water Conservation District's first Knotweed Control Project. The project was carried out in coordination with Polk and Yamhill SWCDs, also part of the Mid Willamette Cooperative Weed Management Area. Drift Creek, Brush Creek, and Croisan Creek watersheds were defined as the target areas for the project within Marion County.

Over 300 mailings were sent to landowners in the early part of the summer. The mailing, other weed outreach activities such as a weed tour and presentations on urban weed management, as well as word of mouth, brought in cooperation from landowners in the watersheds. In addition, a small number of landowners were contacted via phone to alert them of knotweed on their land and invite them to participate in the program. Surveys were conducted on the property of participating landowners from June to September of 2004 with a total of 17 completed. Of these, 10 properties were found to contain knotweed within the designated watersheds.

The surveyed knotweed was treated in early October 2004, with a mixed method. Most stems that were fairly thick were injected

with herbicide while smaller stems were treated with foliar spray. MSWCD contracted the treatment work to a licensed pesticide applicator/operator and an SWCD staff person was on site during all treatment.

Knotweed patches at the sites were monitored in the month following treatment. It appeared as though the treatment had been successful at most sites. Monitoring of these same sites in the summer of 2005 has shown a greatly reduced amount of knotweed. As long as funds continue to be available, the Knotweed Control Project will provide at least three years of treatment, the typical length necessary to ensure eradication.

All the known occurrences of knotweed within both Brush and Drift Creek were treated in 2004. With continued treatment in future years, we hope the Knotweed Control Project will help to eradicate Japanese knotweed from these watersheds. While Croisan Creek has a larger knotweed infestation than was addressed, the program helped to increase awareness of the problem and treat some large patches of knotweed right along the creek. We were pleased with the cooperation among landowners and look forward to continuing the project.



Example knotweed patch prior to treatment



Same patch in summer of 2005

2005 Poster Contest Winners

Kindergarten-First Grade:

Tarsis Jimenez, Highland Elem.; Caden and Kailyn, Washington Elem.; Alexa H., Forest Ridge Elem.; Olivia McBride, Swegle Elem.; Nicole Berg, Auburn Elem.

Second-Third Grade:

Sydnee Johnson, Wright Elem.; Maddie Morrell, Vivian Lu, and Cody K., Morningside Elem.; Maria Padilla, Weddle Elem.; Nekoll Fulfer, Mary Eyre Elem.; Zacary Liner, Auburn Elem.; Emily Loyd, Forest Ridge Elem.; Jasmine, Michael Dethlefsen, and Anabell Mendoza, Swegle Elem.; Katlyn Rappe, Kennedy Elem.; Cathryn Hentz, Lee Elem.; Ava Galbraith, Candalaria Elem.; Zachary Dicks, Keizer Elem.

Fourth-Fifth Grade:

Cecilia Santana, Kennedy Elem.; Micaela Edelson and Carly Robertson, Candalaria Elem.; Lauren Wagner, Lauren White, and Patricia Peter, Weddle Elem.; Raina Reece, Scott Elem.; Claribel Nunez and Cindy Truong, Swegle Elem.; Cole Gammello, Lamb Elem.; Rosalie Lingo, Sumpter Elem.; Sarita Guitierrez, Hoover Elem.; Stefani Plate, Miller Elem.

1st place winners in each category will be selected at our Annual Meeting on October 7th.

Water Quality Monitoring

by Scott Eden, Resource Conservationist

There have been a number of improvements in our general knowledge of water quality in Marion County, particularly in the Pudding River basin. In addition to the volunteer baseline data that has been collected since mid-2002 by the Pudding River Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring program, the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has conducted and compiled additional temperature, bacteria, and toxin testing under their program to create Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) standards for the Pudding River basin. DEQ conducted an infrared photo flight in mid-August 2004 on the mainstem of the Molalla and Pudding Rivers. Surface waters are at their warmest during this period and were found to be near 78.9°F all along the Pudding mainstem and at major tributary junctions, exceeding the state standard of 64°F established for rearing salmonid habitat.

While the DEQ has been busy collaborating with us to capture more data points in the basin and assemble a TMDL technical review team, the Pudding River Watershed Council has worked with a hydrologist, Chip Andrus, to assemble the available water quality and flow data for the Pudding basin. Base recommendations for restoration and further testing needs are based on these results. Many of the results of our baseline studies were used to create the Water Quality Chapter of the Pudding River Watershed Assessment (Chapter 2 available online at www.wou.edu/pudding).

The DEQ, MSWCD, and partners have also begun a project that will quantify current pollutants by type in the Pudding River basin. By determining what pollutants are of concern, the Pudding River Pesticide Stewardship Network will voluntarily work with associated land users (who could be contributing to higher levels) and try to reduce impacts through scientific approaches such as implementing Best Management Practices.

About 17 dedicated volunteers and staff collect monthly or quarterly samples for dissolved oxygen (DO), temperature, conduc-

tivity, turbidity, pH, and bacteria. The goal of the program is to work to determine sources of pollutants from observed land users and stormwater runoff sources and engage those landowners or stakeholders in voluntary projects designed to reduce stream impacts.

Another related project that occurred this summer on Abiqua Creek was the collection of aquatic invertebrates following rigorous sampling protocols. Jeff Adams, Xerces Society, is working with MSWCD and OSU Extension Service to collect these samples. The collection results will tell us about the relative health of the watershed's aquatic invertebrate communities and how much they are impacted by human activities by comparing results to indices being developed by the Environmental Protection Agency and the Xerces Society.

This fall we are set to begin sampling E. coli bacteria and turbidity during high water run-off periods, such as after heavy prolonged rains when more surface runoff occurs. Additional E. coli samples will also be collected in areas where past monthly readings have been consistently higher than at other sites. Summer continuous temperature recorders have been placed in higher elevation tributary stream sites to help determine the actual amount of available coldwater salmon and trout habitat in the basin (habitats where temperatures are cool enough to allow for summer rearing).

Values from volunteer pH data have shown remarkable consistency and are generally in the 6.6 to 8.0 range, which is good for aquatic life (7.0 is neutral). DO is now being tested in the early mornings at some sites which, in the past, had notably low values. This will help to determine if low levels of dissolved oxygen is a critical factor for aquatic life at these sites (DO is generally lowest in the early AM hours due to factors such as respiration and lack of photosynthesis). These refinements to the sampling program will allow for more detailed information about some of the trends that are emerging from the collected data.

Presenting the Watershed Issues Satellite Series:

Stormwater Management from a Watershed Perspective

OCTOBER 11, 2005

9:00 AM TO 11:30 AM

Salem BLM Office: 1717 Fabry Road SE, Salem

For more local information call
Marion SWCD: 503-399-5741 x 101
or OSU Extension Service, Marion County office:
503- 373-3754

Annual Report

2004-2005 Accomplishments

Education and Outreach

- ◆ 10 displays set up
- ◆ 9 new fact sheets/brochures developed
- ◆ 7 outreach/informative mailings completed
- ◆ 4 newsletter issues sent to over 1450 addresses
- ◆ 1731 phone calls received
- ◆ 20 presentations given
- ◆ 3 tours held, attended by 70 people
- ◆ 494 walk-ins assisted
- ◆ 9 workshops held, attended by 486 people
- ◆ 823 poster displayed at the Capitol Rotunda
- ◆ Oregon Envirothon 2005, 17 teams attended, 17 advisors, 40 volunteers
- ◆ 1 team attended Canon Envirothon 2004, Newberg High School
- ◆ 1 logo created for Oregon Envirothon 2005
- ◆ 1 Or. Dept. of Ag. board mtg attended to honor Or. Envirothon Champions
- ◆ 2 Canon Envirothon Committee meetings attended
- ◆ 67 meetings with partner agencies
- ◆ 27,962 visits to the website
- ◆ 17 press releases sent out
- ◆ 41 classroom presentations/interactions
- ◆ 1 mile of river/road cleaned, ½ ton of garbage collected
- ◆ 1 Detroit Lake Town Hall meeting attended
- ◆ 1 stakeholder meeting held

Technical Assistance

- ◆ 41 conservation plans completed or in progress
- ◆ \$1,010,208.00 total obligation for EQIP contracts in Marion County
- ◆ 20 field surveys completed
- ◆ \$59,396.57 in Landowner Assistance Program (LAP) funds dispersed
- ◆ 23 LAP applications received/17 approved
- ◆ 15 Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board small grants received/processed
- ◆ 255 site visits performed
- ◆ 31 water quality sampling sites, 197 samples taken
- ◆ 5 water quantity sampling sites (flow monitoring), levels recorded hourly
- ◆ 1 weather station installed
- ◆ 191 acres converted to micro-irrigation
- ◆ 9,099 ft. of fencing installed
- ◆ 14,371 square ft. of heavy use area protection installed
- ◆ 450 ft. of hedgerow planted
- ◆ 19 noxious weed removals/native plantings performed
- ◆ 6,760 ft. of riparian area planted
- ◆ 7 planting plans completed
- ◆ 1 Contribution Agreement completed with NRCS
- ◆ 4,350 ft. of grassed waterway planted
- ◆ 2,400 ft. of straw wattles installed
- ◆ 661 acres converted to linear irrigation
- ◆ 2 gutter projects completed
- ◆ 3 manure composting facilities completed
- ◆ 3,500 square ft. of critical area planted

Other Activities

- ◆ 38 conferences/trainings/tours attended by staff
- ◆ 3rd Annual Native Plant and Tree Sale/12,000 plants sold/500 customers served
- ◆ 37 Watershed Council meetings attended
- ◆ 65 volunteers/332 volunteer hours
- ◆ 1 food drive performed for the Marion-Polk Food Share/463 lbs. gathered

Administrative

- ◆ 16 regular board meetings held
- ◆ 24 committee meetings held
- ◆ 1 budget meeting held
- ◆ 7 policies adopted relating to personnel and operations
- ◆ 11 staff meetings held
- ◆ Grants received totaled \$82,113.00
- ◆ \$1,000 awarded for a college scholarship
- ◆ Work plan updated/approved
- ◆ Business plan updated/approved
- ◆ 2004-2005 budget completed/approved

Financial Report*

July 1, 2004 thru June 30, 2005

General Fund—Beginning Balance as of 07/01/04 \$454,753.90
Resources for General Fund (Revenue)

Marion County Taxes	\$646,687.69
Income from Other Agencies (Grants)	\$ 28,787.00
Prior Years' Taxes	\$ 19,015.06
Interest Income	\$ 19,124.50
Transfer In of Funds	\$ 48,000.00
Other Income:	
Reimbursements/Rental Income/Donations/Annual Mtg.	<u>\$ 11,727.58</u>

Total Resources – General Fund \$773,341.83

Requirements for General Fund (Expenses)

Personal Services	\$368,428.83
Materials & Services	\$128,559.24
Capital Outlay	\$ 11,142.60
Transfer to Special Funds	\$359,000.00
Contingencies	\$ 0.00

Total General Fund Requirements \$867,130.67

General Fund—Ending Balance as of 06/30/05 \$360,965.06

All Special Funds—Beginning Balance as of 07/01/04

\$285,636.74

Resources for Special Funds (Revenue)

ODA Grant Funds	\$ 48,346.00
Building Reserve Fund	\$330,000.00
Vehicle Reserve Fund	\$ 5,000.00
Special Education Projects—Board Sponsored	\$ 22,372.55
BPA Riparian Grant (Did not receive grant)	\$ 0.00
Greater Salem Watershed Coordinator/Council	\$ 67,300.00
Pudding River Watershed Coordinator/Council	\$ 52,000.00
Claggett Creek Watershed Coordinator/Council	\$ 0.00
319 Dairy Precision Agriculture	\$ 0.00
Pringle Creek Watershed Coordinator/Council	\$ 0.00
North Santiam Watershed Coordinator/Council	\$ 0.00

Total Special Fund Resources \$525,018.55

Requirements for All Special Funds (Expenses)

Personal Services	\$ 65,488.41
Materials and Services	\$ 93,680.33
Transfer Out of Funds	\$ 48,000.00

Total Requirements Special Funds \$207,168.74

All Special Funds—Ending Balance as of 06/30/05

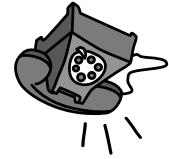
\$603,486.74

Beginning Balance—All Funds as of 07/01/04 \$740,390.64

Ending Balance—All Funds as of 06/30/05 \$964,451.61

***The Auditors have not yet completed a final audit of all District funds. The final audit report will be available after December 7, 2005 at the Marion SWCD Office in Salem.**

If you feel you have received this Annual Report in error, please call Diane at 503-399-5741 ext. 121 and she will remove your name from our mailing list. Thank You!



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Salem, OR 97305
Direct Phone Line : 503-391-9927
FAX: 503-399-5799

Marion Soil & Water
Conservation District

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2005 Marion Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Directors

Mary Baker Tim Bielenberg Dan Goffin Myron Harper Doug Kraemer Laura Tesler Stan Vistica

Monthly Calendar

- ◆ Claggett Creek Watershed Council- 6-8 pm, 4th Tues. each month, Keizer City Hall. 503-566-4034
- ◆ Friends of Mill Creek- 6-8 pm, 2nd Mon. each month, SELC, 1320 "A" St, Salem. 503-566-4034
- ◆ Friends of Straub Environmental Learning Center- 5-6pm, 2nd Mon. each month, SELC. 503-399-3241
- ◆ Marion SWCD Board Meeting- 7-10 pm, 1st Wed. each month, Marion SWCD Office, 3867 Wolverine St. NE #16, Salem- Public welcome to attend
- ◆ North Santiam Watershed Council- 7-9 pm, 2nd Thurs. each month, Stayton Community Center, 400 Virginia Ave. Contact Liz Redon 503-930-8202 for agenda items
- ◆ Pringle Creek Watershed Council- 6:30-8 pm, 2nd Tues. each month, Leslie Middle School Library, 3850 Pringle Rd. SE, Salem. 505-566-4034
- ◆ Salem-Keizer Urban Watershed Council Association- 5:30-7:30pm, 3rd Wed. each month, Marion SWCD Office. 503-566-4034

The Marion Soil and Water Conservation District Staff

503-399-5741

Kristin Anderson - Resource Conservationist - x.125
 Jeremy Baker - Resource Conservationist - x.128
 Diane Cheyne - Education Outreach Coord. - x.121
 Glenn Dolphin - Resource Conservationist - x.110
 Scott Eden - Resource Conservationist - x.118
 Marcie Hagen - Conservation Technician - x.126
 Jane Keppinger - Business Manager - x.126
 Alex Sallnas - Administrative Assistant - x.101
 Robin Straughan - Technical Manager - x.130

The Natural Resources Conservation Service Staff

503-399-5741

Les Bachelor - District Conservationist - x.122
 Sarah Galati - Financial Clerk - x.117
 Dave Johnson - Soil Scientist - x.120
 Jan Kem - Basin Engineer - x.131
 Michelle Wanner - Soil Conservationist - x.119

The Marion SWCD is an equal opportunity employer, providing services to the public without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status.