You are invited to our Annual Meeting

**WHEN:**
Thursday, Sept. 18, 2014
5:00-8:00 PM

**WHERE:**
Tyee Wine Cellars
26335 Greenberry Road
Corvallis

Celebrate Benton County Terroir

*A farm to fork showcase of local food producers and their soils*

**RSVP by 9/11/2014**
tmatteson@bentonswcd.org • 541-753-7208
This event is free and open to the public.

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**The Role of Leadership in Our Mission**

Holly Crosson, District Manager

I once heard someone say, “If your actions create a legacy that inspires others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, then, you are an excellent leader.” I’d like to share a few ways we’ve embraced this role over the last year.

- **Our Invasives Program Coordinator, Heath Keirstead, facilitates the Benton County Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA).** This group, with over 80 members and friends, coordinates invasive species outreach and control efforts. The CWMA was awarded an Oregon Department of Agriculture grant to control water primrose and yellow floating heart, two invasive aquatic weeds that significantly impact waterways.

- **Benton SWCD’s Soil Conservationist, Teresa Matteson, received a USDA Risk Management grant that brings together partners from six SWCDs, two universities, NRCS, and many farmers in the region to improve soil health.**

- **Crystal Durbeq coordinates the District’s Willamette Mainstem Cooperative (WMC), a collaborative effort between more than a dozen organizations and private landowners to improve stewardship along the river from Corvallis to Albany.** A successful year culminated in the award of a two-year Meyer Memorial Trust grant to reduce the impacts of aquatic and riparian invasive plants.

- **BWSWCD’s Resource Conservationist, Donna Schmitz, is partnering with EPA, DEQ, and others in the Southern Willamette Valley Groundwater Management Area to address nitrate in groundwater in Benton, Linn, and Lane Counties.**

These examples illustrate Benton SWCD’s success as a conservation leader: building partnerships that enable all of us to accomplish more, together! Read on to learn other ways we have inspired action in our community during the past year.
Technical Assistance to Over 100 Landowners in FY 2013-14

Donna Schmitz, Resource Conservationist

ODA Jackson-Frazier Focus Area

High resolution orthophotography was used to characterize vegetation types within a 70’ riparian buffer. The data, see table below, will focus outreach efforts in the Jackson-Frazier Watershed and encourage landowners to increase vegetation along the streams. Work included:

- One 15-acre wetland/riparian restoration plan for Mountain View Creek was developed by OSU Ecology students.
- Co-hosted a riparian restoration tour with OSU Forestry Extension at Half-Moon Bend.
- A presentation on Wildlife Habitats and Conservation Funding opportunities inspired residents to improve wildlife habitat on their property as part of an effort that certified Benton County as Oregon’s FIRST Community Wildlife Habitat. More information at www.bentonswcd.org.

Conservation Incentive Program (CIP)

CIP funds projects for Benton County residents to implement conservation practices on their land. CIP provided:

- Four landowners with funds to pay for riparian trees and shrubs.
- One high rod area and improved drainage around a barn.

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

Along with regional partners, BSWCD received an OWEB grant to plan riparian forest buffers for acres enrolled in this USDA Federal Farm Program. This collaborative work:

- Completed three conservation plans and installed 13.7 acres of riparian forest buffer.
- Enrolled four land management units into the CREP program.
- Developed a CREP outreach brochure.

Groundwater Management Area (GWMA)

- Thanks to an Oregon Department of Agriculture Fertilizer Research Grant we continued to study nitrate leaching under several different management practices, soils and crops.
- This work relies on strong partnerships with EPA, DEQ, ODA, NRCS, Linn SWCD and Upper Willamette SWCD.
- We hosted an Irrigation Water Management and Soil Health Workshop attended by 29 participants.
- Intern Susanna Pearlstein conducts water quality sampling and works with participating landowners to document fertilizer use and cropping history.

Native Plant Sale 2014

Alice Fairfield, Coordinator

- 374 customers.
- Distributed 17,000 native plants.
- 62 volunteers worked 230 hours.
- Best selling plant: Douglas Fir (1350).


Jen Fioro, Office Manager

The majority of our expenditures, 88%, directly support our programs and community conservation grants.
The Willamette Mainstem Cooperative

Key Partners

Funders:
Meyer Memorial Trust
Oregon Department of Agriculture
Oregon State Weed Board
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

Mission

The Willamette Mainstem Cooperative (WMC) is a group of landowners, organizations, and volunteers working together to improve stewardship across all landownerships along the mainstem of the Willamette River. The mission of the WMC is to promote, facilitate, and share long-term stewardship of natural resources along the river, through the collaborative efforts of individual landowners and interested organizations. The focus of the WMC is the Corvallis to Albany river reach.

Accomplishments

From 2012 to present the WMC has accomplished the following:

- Brought in over $250,000 for funding of restoration, invasive plant control, outreach efforts, and assessment of river habitat.
- Invasive plant survey and habitat assessment for over 2,550 acres on the Willamette River from Corvallis to Albany.
- Generated over 50 maps and reports for landowners who participated in the survey and assessment.
- Held several workshops and meetings attended by over 100 stakeholders to educate on invasive species issues and plan future endeavors.

Conservation in Benton County!

Benton SWCD Board of Directors—Thank you for your service!

Pat Malone—Zone 1; Marvin Gilmour—Zone 2; Cliff Hall, Chair—Zone 3; Bobby Bewley—Zone 4; Frank Nusbaum—Zone 5; Jerry Paul, Treasurer—At Large; Henry Storch, Vice Chair—At Large.
Making Strides for Conservation

8 BSWCD Outreach Events
- Annual Meeting
- Volunteer Celebration
- Stakeholder meeting
- OSU Non-profit Career Fair
- Sustainability Town Hall

6 Conservation Education Grants funded. Average Grant: $875 for projects including:
- Wetland field trips
- Educator workshop
- Raised garden beds
- Native arboratum signs
- Bird habitat construction
- Garden education

6 Volunteer Events
82 Volunteers
- Weed pulls
- Native Plant Sale
- Willow stake planting
- Native seed processing

23 Youth Education Events
1008 Students Reached
- Forest Camp
- Salmon Watch
- Get Outdoors Day
- Monroe Teen Weed Spotters
- Other field days

48 Adult Education Events
1498 adults reached
- Irrigation & Soil Health workshops
- Willamette River boat trips
- Conservation site visits
- SWCD staff trainings
- Native plant lecture
- Weed talks & walks
- Volunteer trainings
- Field tours

354 Email announcements
9,000 Website visits
64 Facebook posts
33 Blog posts
5 Maps for WMC
5 E-news mailings
2 Printed newsletters
1 Water Weed Guide

Download our water weed guide, based on a King County publication.

Social Media & Publications

3 Maps for WMC
5 E-news mailings
2 Printed newsletters
1 Water Weed Guide

Scholarships & Internships
- 1 Invasives intern
- 1 Mapping intern
- 2 Outreach interns
- 5 Soil Quality Project interns
- 1 Summer Ag Institute scholarship

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1498 adults reached

Irrigation & Soil Health workshops
Willamette River boat trips
Conservation site visits
SWCD staff trainings
Native plant lecture
Weed talks & walks
 Volunteer trainings
Field tours

Volunteers planted willow stakes at Benton County’s Dunawi Creek wetland restoration site.

The Secret Life of a Bio-control Agent:
Sign up to receive our e-newsletter, distributed every other month.

6 Volunteer Events
52 Volunteers
- Weed pulls
- Native Plant Sale
- Willow stake planting
- Native seed processing

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