Of all water on Earth, 97% is salt water. Only 3% is fresh water, and most of that is frozen in the polar ice caps. Less than 1% of the planet’s water is available for our use. Decreased precipitation levels suggest a dry summer ahead. According to Water Saver Home, http://www.h2ouse.org, here are the Top 5 Actions that you can take to conserve precious water resources at home.

**1. Stop Those Leaks!** Studies have shown that homes can waste more than 10% due to leaking, which costs both you and the environment. Indoors, check water-using appliances and devices for leaks. Visit Leak Detection and Repair to find out how. To help detect unseen leaks go to Read Your Meter. Outside, inspect your sprinklers and drip sprayers regularly, fix irrigation leaks quickly, and check for leak indicators, such as water in the gutters or mud puddles. Learn more about irrigation systems...

**2. Replace your old Toilet, the largest water user inside your home.** If your home was built before 1992 and the toilet has never been replaced, then it is very likely that you do not have a water efficient 1.6 gallon per flush toilet. Learn more about toilets... Save more water; turn off the water while you brush your teeth!

**3. Replace your Clothes Washer, the second largest water user in your home.** Energy Star™ rated washers that also have a Water Factor at or lower than 9.5, use 35-50% less water and 50% less energy per load. Visit clothes washers...

**4. Plant the Right Plants with Proper Landscape Design & Irrigation.** Select plants that are appropriate for your local climate conditions. Consider replacing a thirsty lawn with a drought tolerant landscape, Xeriscape™, or native plants. Learn more about landscaping...

**5. Water Only What Your Plants Need.** Most water is wasted in your garden by watering when your plants do not need the water or by not maintaining the irrigation system. Most water is wasted in months prior to or just after the rainy season when intermittent rains occur. When using a manual sprinkler, set a timer or other reminder to check the watering process. “Water less often, but water deep” are wise words from BSWCD’s Associate Director, Mark Taratoot, Water Resource Specialist for the City of Corvallis Public Works Dept. Corvallis Public Works provides a water conservation hotline, at 766-6733, then dial 1. You will hear a recorded message of how much water your lawn or garden needs for the week and other local water conservation tips. Do your part - conserve water!
Except for pretty spring blooms, we have had spring for most of the winter. It has been nice weather for lambing, and calving, and most herbaceous plant growth. But, what it means for plant growth the rest of the growing season may not bode well. With respect to irrigated soils, it would seem prudent to try to start the growing season with a profile full of moisture. Early irrigation may well be necessary and desirable as water supplies could be limited later this year.

The District Native Tree and Shrub sale in early February resulted in over 25,000 plants being distributed to more than 280 customers. There are several species remaining if any of you have need for them. See page 6 for a list of remaining inventory and Tips for Successful Seedlings. It is not too late to plant. Call our office if you are interested (541) 753-7208 in details on purchasing remaining stock.

Money is STILL available through OWEB for Small grant$ to do a number of on-the-ground conservation projects, for up to $10,000 per landowner. Allocations run out soon and there is no guarantee monies will be available after July. Once a project agreement is prepared by the landowner, it takes about six weeks to get it reviewed and approved. There is still TIME! Call the SWCD office if you are interested. $mall grant money can assist your riparian or wildlife habitat restoration effort$.

The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) has been expanded to include most stream segments. Formerly, only those streams where threatened or endangered fish resided were eligible. Now, any area where an Agricultural Water Quality Management Plan exists is eligible. This includes all of the Benton District. Also, several new practices and payment rates are available through CREP to enhance or rehabilitate streamside areas. Again, contact us at the District office for more information, 753-7208.

Last November, voters approved the five cents per $1000 of assessed property value permanent tax rate. Thank you very much!! This will give Benton SWCD the financial stability to provide expanded services. We are currently developing the next fiscal year’s budget. We are excited about the opportunity to enhance our technical and educational programs to better serve Benton County citizens in the conservation of soil and water resources.

Avery House Nature Center
Spring 2005 Events

Ages 5-7
April 13 – Bees, Butterflies, and Flowers Field Trip – Spring is the busiest time of year for lots of insects and plants! Learn how to dance like a bee and metamorphose like a butterfly. We’ll also explore Jackson-Frazier wetland and look for signs of spring.

Ages 8-11
April 14 – Fierce Floods and Other Water Wonders – See the awesome power of water to change our landscape through experiments and a field trip to Hesthaven natural area.

April 15 - Into the Forest - Rain or shine, spend the day exploring the 586-acre Beazell Memorial Forest in King’s Valley. We’ll go off the trail to look for wildlife signs and other forest creatures “Springing” into action.

Adult Workshops:
Instructed by Neighborhood Naturalist, Don Boucher. These popular birding classes include two Wednesday evening classes at Avery House from 7-9 pm, and two Saturday morning field trips (times and locations TBA in class).

April 6, 9, 13, 16 Birding in the Willamette Valley: A study suitable for beginners and newcomers An easy and fun way to become familiar with local birds, identification techniques, how to choose field guides and binoculars, and good local birding sites.

April 20, 23, 27, 30 Birding by Ear: A study in the sounds of nature Become familiar with local bird songs and calls. Learn tips and techniques for listening and remembering bird sounds. Take “Birding in the Willamette Valley” first.

Family Nature Walks Join Avery House Nature Center for an easy, fun hike with activities for kids and their families. Call the Avery House Activity Line at 758-6198 ext. 2 for more info. Walks are free, but a $3 donation per family is suggested.

REGISTER TODAY!
Form available on-line at www.peak.org/~ecenter or stop by the Corvallis Environmental Center 214 SW Monroe
For more information contact Avery House 758-6198

Mark your calendar!
4-H Wildlife Stewards Volunteer Leader Training Workshop October 7, 8, 9 2005 Benton County Schools need 4-H Wildlife Stewards!!! Call 753-7208 for information.
Conservation Calendar of Events ~ Spring 2005

April 3—9  Oregon Arbor Week - celebrate the importance of trees in our lives - plant one!  For information about Oregon Arbor Week visit http://www.arborday.org/arborday/oregon.

Monday April 11  Native Plant Society of Oregon monthly meeting at Avery House, 7:30 PM.  In addition, two Avery House Garden work parties are planned for this spring.  For information email co_president@NPSOregon.org or visit the NPSO web site at http://www.npsoregon.org/chap/co.htm.

Sunday, April 17  Bicycle Birding with Don Boucher of the Audubon Society of Corvallis 9:00 - 12:00 p.m. For information: 541-753-7689, bouchdon@juno.com, or www.audubon.corvallis.or.us.

Monday, April 18 - Friday, April 22  2005 OSU Earth Week Celebration  Celebrate the 35th anniversary of Earth Day enjoying exhibits, speakers, music, food and more. Want to volunteer to help with planning; to set up an exhibit or table; give a presentation; or play music, etc. during Earth Week? Please contact Justin Fleming in OSU Campus Recycling at justin.fleming@orst.edu or call 737-7349.

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday April 19, 20 and 21  Ag Expo - 5th graders visit with conservation enthusiasts at Benton County Fairgrounds.  Volunteer opportunities - please contact Benton SWCD at 753-7208.

Saturday, April 23  Celebrate the 35th Anniversary of Earth Day with the Corvallis Environmental Center Procession of the Species Parade and Earth Faire 3:00 - 7:00 p.m. on Monroe Avenue between 1st and 2nd streets. The event will feature music and speakers at a main stage area, food vendors, demonstration and activities area, as well as exhibitor space.

April 24 to May 1  Celebrate NACD Soil and Water Stewardship Week  Participate in the Benton SWCD Conservation Poster Contest.  See page 4 for more details.

Sunday May 1  Corvallis Spring Garden Festival 11 am to 5 pm at the Art Center Plaza south of Central Park - Visit the Benton SWCD booth where we will spread the word on conservation, celebrate our rich volunteer resources, and sell native trees and shrubs.

Saturday, May 21  Bicycle Birding with Don Boucher of the Audubon Society of Corvallis 9:00 am - 12:00 p.m. Join Don for a bicycle tour of E.E.Wilson Wildlife Area north of Adair Village. For information call 541-753-7689, email bouchdon@juno.com, or visit www.audubon.corvallis.or.us.

Saturday, May 21  Down by the Riverside 9:00 am - 1:00 p.m.  SOLV sponsors this statewide watershed enhancement, cleanup, and appreciation day.  Volunteers from all over Oregon will come together to tackle projects like planting, bank-side cleanup, trail repair, brush/blackberry removal, illegal dumpsite cleanup, erosion control, creation of salmon spawning beds, birdhouse building and hanging, and outbuilding maintenance.  Corvallis Parks & Recreation Department has volunteer activities planned for Willamette & Crystal Lake Parks in addition to their linking trails. Tasks include: bed mulching, trail maintenance, litter patrol, invasive plant removal and tree pruning. For information contact Steve McGettigan at (541) 754-1739 or email Steve.McGettigan@ci.corvallis.or.us.  For more information about SOLV visit <http://www.solv.org/programs/spring_beach_cleanup.asp>.

June 19 through 25  Oregon Weed Awareness Week  Perhaps the biggest recognition of the public's importance in weed control comes from a proclamation by Governor Kulongoski marking June 19-25 "Weed Awareness Week" in Oregon. Join the ODA, the Invasive Species Council, and other partners in the fight against noxious weeds that cause serious problems in Oregon. For a long list of weed related e-topics visit The Nature Conservancy’s Invasive Species Initiative web site at http://tncweeds.ucdavis.edu/listarch/listtopic.html

♥Many thanks to Linda Hunn, OSU Sustainability Group Coordinator, for her informative and up-to-date e-calendar. If you would like to subscribe to Linda’s e-calendar, e-mail: lhunn@coas.oregonstate.edu
**National Soil and Water Stewardship Week**

**April 24 to May 1, 2005**

Celebrating over 50 years of conservation in the U.S.A with quotes from R. Neil Sampson’s Celebrate Conservation Essay

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**Celebrate Change**

“Survival concerns have changed to environmental quality concerns.”

**Celebrate Challenge**

“Unless soil and water systems remain in working order, unless the environment itself is functional, unless the landscape retains the processes and structures that have marked its working order for millennia, few if any social or utilitarian goals can be realized or sustained.”

For more information on National Soil and Water Stewardship Week please visit [http://www.stewardshipweek.com](http://www.stewardshipweek.com)

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**Help Benton SWCD celebrate Stewardship Week**

by participating in our Conservation Poster Contest

for Benton County residents aged K-12th grade

Call 753-7208 or email teresa.matteson@oacd.org

**Important contest dates include:**

- **As soon as possible** Contact BSWCD to express your interest in participating
- **April 4, 2005** Educational materials available for participants
- **April 28, 2005** Deadline for finished posters

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**NRCS and Smithsonian Present Soils Display**

The Natural Resource Conservation Service and the Smithsonian Institution will showcase a soils display at the National Museum of Natural History in Washington, DC. This first-of-its-kind exhibit of soil monoliths, hands-on activities, demonstrations, and an underground view of the hidden world of soil, will help educate millions of children and adults about the nation’s soil resources and soils’ economic value to our productive and vibrant society. That’s right, the soil is our foundation! If you are not visiting the National Museum of Natural History but you would like to dig up some soil information, visit Helping People Understand Soils [http://soils.usda.gov](http://soils.usda.gov)

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**Watershed Councils’ News**

**Congratulations to Karen Fleck Harding and the Marys River Watershed Council.** They have been selected one of four pilot programs in the state to work with Oregon Trout’s Healthy Waters Institute (HWI). Karen’s proposal writing skills and dedication to implementing watershed curriculum in the Philomath School District earned this well-deserved opportunity. For information about HWI visit [http://www.ortrout.org/4education/healthywaters.html](http://www.ortrout.org/4education/healthywaters.html)

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**PUBLIC OPINION SURVEYS SENT TO BENTON LANDOWNERS**

All county landowners in the Luckiamute River watershed will soon receive a survey in the mail allowing them to have a say in future watershed projects. The Luckiamute Watershed Council, with help from Western Oregon University and the BLM, is seeking landowner opinions to help the council create a plan of action.

The returned surveys will be tallied and analyzed by WOU students under the guidance of a professor. The results will help the council decide which watershed projects residents prefer. The council hopes to understand those desires better after reviewing the results of the survey following the April 21 deadline to return them.

The results will determine how the council sets priorities for projects in the watershed including riparian plantings, reducing invasive weeds, restoring habitats, water quality monitoring, and increasing stream flow. Participants will be asked to prioritize various projects. The local council is one of 18 that promote conservation and restoration activities in the Willamette Valley. The Luckiamute Watershed Council next meets at 7 p.m. April 14 at Monmouth Volunteer Hall, 144 S. Warren St., in Monmouth.

Those who have questions may call the council chair, Michael Cairns, 503-838-4275 (evenings and weekends), or contact him by e-mail, gailo@fedweeknet.com
Free Landowner's Guide to Oregon White Oak

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), in partnership with several nonprofit organizations and natural resource agencies, has published an informative management document that is available free for the asking. A Landowner's Guide for Restoring and Managing Oregon White Oak Habitats, was written by David Vesely and Gabe Tucker and illustrated by Raven O'Keefe.

To view, or request a copy of this 65 page booklet online, go to www.or.blm.gov/salem. To request a free copy by mail, send your name and address to BLM Salem District Office, ATT: Hugh Snook, 1717 Fabry Rd, Salem, OR 97306

Stay tuned...A 25 minute video will be available June 2005 to accompany the guide. Watch for “A Landowner's Video Guide for Restoring and Managing Oregon White Oak Habitats”.

Less than 1% of the oak-dominated habitats are protected in parks or reserves. Private landowners hold the key to maintaining this important natural legacy.

A heartfelt thanks to Benton SWCD volunteers!!!

During October 2004, this group of Corvallis Outdoor School volunteers dedicated between 7 and 20 hours each to training and teaching, for a total contribution of over 220 hours of volunteer time to help School District 509J 6th-grade students learn about the fascinating world of soil!

Candace Banners Bob Griffiths
Tom Bedell Kimi Grzyb
Cathy Bouton Chinh Le
Stefani Breder-Albright Travis Lewis
Caroline Choquette Jennifer Parkes
Lesli Davidson Colin Robins
Dana Devin-Clarke Melody Roth
Elaine Filmore Mark Taratoot
Eric Gale

Masterfully orchestrated by BSWCD Associate Director, Tim Dehne, the 2005 Native Tree and Shrub sale fulfilled our mission of promoting native plants for wildlife habitat and riparian restoration efforts in Benton County, and beyond! The 48 volunteers listed below endured chilly barn temperatures to help bundle plants, fill orders, and assist plant purchasers.

Stephanie Breder-Albright
Kelly Albers
John Aldrich II
Kristin Andersen
Jennifer Ayotte
Candace Banners
Tom Bedell
Steve Bice
Laura Bolman
Emily Dana
Steve Dye
Natalie Eaz
Alice Fairfield
Paul Farrell
Marissa Fleming
Otie Floro
Andrea J. Foster
Rana Foster
Nikki Godwin
Pat Godwin
Laurie Goldstein
Kim Gossen
Kris Graves
Ruth Heninger
Cole Kingsberry
Kealakai Knoche
Jason Kratz
Jessica Ludgate
Alicia Leytem
Sabrina Litton
Don Matteson
Debra Meacham
Dan O'Mearn
Rob Pabst
Jim Paist
Lee Pilgrim
Shannon Pinion
Dan Pinson
Richard Pond
Henri Sanville
Dave Schmedding
Jeff Shatford
Julie Skopal
Aaron Speck
Anne Taleff
Nanette Upton
Brian Wilson
Brian Youker
Clay Youker
Carol Young

Colin Robins, Tom Bedell, Dana Devin-Clarke, Candace Banners and Travis Lewis take a break after a busy day of Outdoor School.

Shannon Pinion, right, moves western red cedar seedlings during the Native Tree & Shrub sale.
Native Tree & Shrub Overstock Sale!
Looking for a native plant to adorn your landscape? Our remaining plants have been potted and are in need of permanent planting sites.

Species (with number remaining)
Willamette Valley Ponderosa Pine (25)
Nootka rose (155)
Grand fir (40)

Bargain priced at
$1/plant OR
$100 donation to BSWCD OR
sign a conservation promise
Call 753-7208 TODAY for details!!!
The OSU Soil Science Club is open to all OSU students interested in soils. **They meet once a week** for discussions covering soil forming processes and taxonomy. The major focus of the club is to participate in regional and national collegiate soil judging competitions. During competitions, teams classify several soil pits and compare student score cards to that of professional soil scientists. OSU Soil Club members are anticipating in the National Soil Judging Competition in Auburn, Alabama, April 2nd - 8th. The geology of Alabama should prove for some interesting and unfamiliar soil properties. Oregon also offers an impressive geologic history making it enjoyable and educational for soil sight-seeing field trips. Whether a student is a soil science or a non-soil science major, this practical field experience is beneficial for many science careers, and **FUN**!

Help fund the Club! *Buy a cool SOIL t-shirt or sweatshirt. You dig?*

Visit the Soil Science Club web site for more information...

http://cropandsoil.oregonstate.edu/Student/soilclub/shirts.htm
Help us save valuable resources two ways...

1. Switch from snail mail to e-news…
   How? Send an email to teresa.matteson@oacd.org with “e-news” in the subject line.

2. If you don’t want to be on this mailing list, call us at (541) 753-7208 and we’ll take you off.

This newsletter is printed on 40% recycled paper. Please recycle it again, or better yet, pass this issue to a friend!

The Benton SWCD mission mission:

is to provide leadership to Benton County residents through education and technical assistance for conservation and responsible use of soil, water and related resources through a balanced, cooperative program that protects, restores, and improves these resources.

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Mark Taratoot

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Chris Stebbins, Fish Passage Program Coordinator
Teresa Matteson, Education and Outreach Director

Conservation Assistant
Scott White

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