



Horizons

Volume 17 Issue 1

SERVING BENTON COUNTY OREGON SINCE 1956

A Call to Awareness

What is common to the greatest number gets the least amount of care.

~ Aristotle



The future is not some place we are going to but one we are creating. The paths are not to be found, but made, and the activity of making them changes both the maker and the destination.

~John Schaar



When we no longer know what to do we come to our real work and when we no longer know which way to go we have begun our journey. The mind that is not baffled is not employed. The impeded stream is the one that sings.

~Wendell Berry



Dr. Lal is quoted with permission from CSA News, an American Society of Agronomy Publication.

In the October issue of CSA (Crops, Soils, Agronomy) News, Soil Science Society of America President, Dr. Rattan Lal, states that although "the importance of soil, water and air quality has been recognized for millennia... these three vital components of the environment have been taken for granted; misused, abused, and exploited for short-term material gains..." He refers to the mismanagement of soil, water and air as the Tragedy of the Global Commons.

Dr. Lal lists factors that have influenced the catastrophic or successful outcome of environmental impact in the past century as: (a) governance, political will, and visionary leadership; (b) public awareness about land stewardship and land ethics; (c) use of modern technology; and (d) attitude towards management of the global commons.

In November you will be challenged to vote on complex land use issues. Measures 37 and 49 are mixed into a soup of hot topics like population growth, landowners' rights and the allocation of finite resources which sustain our forests, farms, wetlands, prairies, savannahs and urban areas. These ecosystems impact myriad unbeknownst services directly tied to Oregonians' quality of life.

The Benton SWCD encourages your involvement as the place we call future is created. YOU are invited to our **2007 annual meeting October 23**. We will host a panel discussion to raise public awareness about land use impacts on water and showcase local stewardship. Our intention is **Making Ripples: community building for sustainable water resources**.

We urge voters to arm themselves for the fact-based decision making these issues deserve and to interact with the citizens, agencies and non-profit organizations working toward successful management of the commons.

The OSU Extension Well Water Program will provide free nitrate screening of well water during the annual meeting. Please bring a cup of well water in a clean container.

Land Use and Water

a panel discussion with

Audrey Eldridge

Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
Southern Willamette Valley Groundwater Management Area Coordinator

Dr. Todd Jarvis

OSU Institute for Water and Watersheds
"Duelling Experts, the Hydro-hydra and Measure 37/49"

Greg Verret

Benton County
Interim Community Development Director

Tuesday, October 23

Doors open 6 PM

Awards 6:30 PM

Panel 7:00 PM

Marys River Grange
24707 Grange Hall
Road, Philomath

For a map to the Grange see page 8

During the meeting the OSU Extension Well Water Program will provide free nitrate screening on a one-cup sample of your well water collected in a clean container.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

Chair's Perspective	2
2008 Native Plant Sale	2
Fall Food Series	2
Conservation Calendar	3
Annual Report	4 - 7
Kids Day for Conservation	6
Protect Drinking Water Resources	7
Annual Meeting Invitation	8
Mission Statement	8
District Board & Staff	8



The Chair's Perspective

by Tom Bedell

We are pleased to send you this report of activities for the July 2006-June 2007 period. Each month the Board of

Directors receives reports of work of the staff. In all the years I have been on the Board (soon to complete my eleventh), each year shows more accomplishments. I trust as you read this report you will share my pride in our work.

Summer is over, most crops are in and fall is in the air reminding us to prepare for winter. There should be time to continue conservation efforts on the ground before wet conditions set in. Even if you do not have an on-going project, you may be contemplating some. Don't hesitate to call us; we are here to help you identify and address your conservation concerns.

Besides the large OWEB-type competitively funded projects, monies are available for sound projects through OWEB small grants and the District's own Conservation Incentive Program. Act now to lay the groundwork for your conservation activities next spring.

We are recruiting to fill our vacant At Large Director position. The main criterion is that an At Large Director must reside in the District (Benton County). This appointment, until the November 2008 election, is a unique opportunity to get actively involved in SWCD work. If you or someone you know may have interest, please call the office or submit a resumé to the office address: 305 SW C Avenue, Corvallis 97333.

We have moved the District office to the southwest corner of Pioneer Plaza. The new space provides the staff with improved privacy and additional room for storage and meetings. We have a new District Administrator, Jennifer Ayotte. Jenny currently is with us one-half time on a temporary basis. We hope to continue that position at regular half time in a few months. Jenny spent a number of years as Cascade Pacific Resource Conservation and Development Area's Director of Operations. Jenny also served as an Associate Director with the District several years ago. She has a great deal of experience she is successfully applying to our needs.

Stop by and say hello to Jenny and the rest of the gang!



Place your order now for the Benton SWCD **2008 Native Plant Sale**

For more than 15 years, each February we distribute tree and shrub seedlings, flowers and grasses at low cost to encourage the use of native vegetation for erosion control, windbreaks, restoration projects, naturescaping and wildlife habitat enhancement.

The Sale order form is inserted in this issue

To get another copy call 541-753-7208

email office@bentonswcd.org

or visit www.bentonswcd.org/treesale

Plant Order Pick UP

Saturday, February 2, 2008

Eichler's Hay Company

Please note: the 2008 order pick-up times will be by appointment. We will contact you.

*This is a great volunteer opportunity!
Call us if you'd like to help!!!*

2007 Fall Food Series

*Films, Forums and Conversations
about Local Food and Farming*

Corvallis Library Main Meeting Room

7:00 - 9:00 PM

Friday October 12 - KING CORN

film and discussion

two guys, one acre, and a year of farming corn in Iowa - a story of the crop that reigns over America's farmland and diet

Friday November 9 - Gary Holthaus

guest speaker and discussion

Gary's new book, *From the Farm to the Table*, explores farmers' experiences to offer a deeper understanding of how we can create sustainable and vibrant land-based communities by cultivating agrarian values. *Made possible by the Spring Creek Project.*

Monday December 3 - 100 Mile Diet

panel discussion

Join a panel of "Locavores" to learn about their experiences eating within our region. Share your experiences and ideas.

Sponsored by

Spring Creek Project for Ideas, Nature, and the Written Word

Benton County Healthy Weight and Lifestyle Coalition

Corvallis Environmental Center

Ten Rivers Food Web

Call 753-9211 for more information

Conservation Calendar *for* Fall 2007

Date & Time Location	Event Speaker	For more information contact:
Saturday, October 13 10 AM <i>Beazell Memorial Forest</i> <i>Kings Valley</i>	Greenbelt Fall Hike <i>Hike the Plunkett Creek Trail through a conservation forest. Enjoy the canopy of new and old growth trees. Discover why this habitat is crucial to the Taylor's Checkerspot Butterfly. See recent Benton County Natural Areas and Parks conservation at work.</i>	<i>Bring you own water, comfortable hiking shoes and rain gear, snacks and field guides. Carpooling encouraged. RSVP to Steve Lilly at steve@greenbeltlandtrust.org or call 541-760-9055 (cell) or the Greenbelt office 541-752-9609</i>
Thursday, October 18 7 - 9 PM <i>Central Coast Ranger District</i> <i>Waldport</i>	Alsea Watershed Council October meeting <i>Charley Dewberry, restoration ecologist, will share Lessons from Knowles Creek; our 20 years experience with restoration.</i>	<i>For more information conatct</i> <i>Linda Johnston</i> <i>5rivers@pioneer.net</i>
Friday October 19 6:15 PM <i>First Alternative Co-op</i> <i>meeting room</i>	<i>Neighborhood Naturalist presents</i> Nature on a Human Scale <i>This film features a dazzling and colorful array of more than 170 local species in a journey through the seasons.</i>	This event is free and open to the public <i>For more information contact 541-753-7689</i> <i>information@neighborhood-naturalist.com</i>
Saturday, October 20 10 AM - 4 PM <i>Benton County</i> <i>Fairgrounds</i> Arena Building	5th Annual Kids Day for Conservation <i>Build a bug, set a choker, create a birdhouse, and learn to identify native plants and animals, plus much more. Over 40 local agencies collaborate for this year's event! 2007 theme "What's in Your Watershed?"</i>	This event is free and open to the public Children must be accompanied by an adult <i>http://extension.oregonstate.edu/benton/yf/kidsday.htm</i> Volunteers are needed! Contact Benton County OSU Extension 766-6750
Saturday, October 20 1- 4 pm <i>Avery House Nature Cen.</i>	It's Acorn Season <i>Workshop: gather and leach acorns and taste-test recipes. Ages 10 years plus.</i> 	\$10 to register Corvallis Environmental Center <i>Contact 541.753-9211, email: ecenter@peak.org</i> <i>www.corvallisenvironmentalcenter.org</i>
Sunday October 21 1-4 PM <i>Avery House Nature Cen.</i>	Mushroom Workshop <i>followed by a trip to Woods Creek to hunt for mushrooms and observe other forest inhabitants.</i>	\$10 to register Corvallis Environmental Center <i>Contact 541.753-9211, email: ecenter@peak.org</i> <i>www.corvallisenvironmentalcenter.org</i>
Sunday, October 21 1 - 4 PM <i>Owens Farm</i>	Greenbelt Land Trust presents Owens Farm Fall Celebration <i>6 miles north of Corvallis on Hwy 99 W</i> <i>turn left on a gravel road north of the hospital and look for festive balloons at the entrance</i>	This event is free and open to the public!! <i>For more information:</i> <i>contact Steve Lilly at 541-760-9055</i> <i>steve@greenbeltlandtrust.org</i> <i>Join GLT for cider, cookies and information about restoration work</i>
Tuesday, October 23 6 - 8:30 PM <i>Marys River Grange</i> <i>see map page 8</i>	The Benton SWCD Annual Meeting Land Use and Water - a panel discussion <i>Audrey Eldridge - Oregon Department of Environmental Quality</i> <i>Dr. Todd Jarvis - OSU Institute for Water and Watersheds</i> <i>Greg Verret, Benton Co. Community Development Director</i>	This event is free and open to the public. Please join us to celebrate our service to Benton County citizens. <i>For more information call 541-753-7208</i> <i>or email office@bentonswcd.org</i>
Friday, November 9 7 pm <i>Corvallis-Benton County Public</i> <i>Library, Main Meeting Room</i>	From the Farm to the Table: Modern Agriculture in Community Gary Holthaus, author Free, open to all <i>Gary Holthaus is the author of several highly regarded books, including From the Farm to the Table which explores farmers' experiences to create sustainable and vibrant land-based communities by cultivating agrarian values.</i>	This event is free and open to the public. Sponsored by the Spring Creek Project for Ideas, Nature, and the Written Word <i>http://springcreek.oregonstate.edu</i> Ten Rivers Food Web <i>http://www.tenriversfoodweb.org</i>
Saturday, December 8 8:30 AM - 3:30 PM <i>Benton County location</i> TBA	4-H Wildlife Stewards & PLT Hybrid Training <i>Local 8-hour training focuses on working with youth in the habitat education site, science inquiry, education stations, and sample projects to use with students. Qualifies for Wildlife Stewards introductory or continuing ed training.</i>	To register contact Benton County OSU Extension Service at 541-766-6750 <i>www.wildlifestewards.4h.oregonstate.edu</i>

2006 - 2007 Annual Report

To fulfill the Benton SWCD mission, the Board of Directors and Budget Committee guide the District staff to function under three departments: Operations, Technical Resources and Education & Outreach. Our work supports the economic, social and ecological fabric of the Benton County community. We diligently develop and maintain an extensive network of partnerships with citizens, non-profit organizations, businesses, institutions, watershed councils, and local, state and federal agencies to maximize our efforts and efficiency.

The following report summarizes Benton SWCD's service to you during the 2006-07 fiscal year.

Benton SWCD managed more than \$270,000 in tax payers' contributions:

We convened a Budget Committee which approved the 2007-2008 budget.

Each fiscal year Jen Floro works with a Certified Public Accountant as the Benton SWCD financial records undergo an extensive audit.

Mindful use of materials and resources - In the spring of 2007, Benton SWCD received an energy audit from the Get SMART! Resource Efficiency Program, a non-profit organization operating through the Corvallis Environmental Center. Get SMART! helps people in Benton County reduce solid waste and conserve water and energy. Our report showed that BSWCD is already doing a good job of recycling. We use recycled paper in our printer, recycle paper and commingled, and take other items to the recycle center at First Alternative Co-op. The report also contained recommendations for reducing energy and water use. For example, a water bag was installed in the women's restroom toilet tank to reduce water use. Our new office has a programmable thermostat so the heat/air conditioning is not on when the office staff is out. Another energy saving feature of the new office is that each work space has its own light switch, allowing us to limit the number of lights that are on in the office. To learn how your business can benefit from the Get SMART! Resource Efficiency Program contact the Corvallis Environmental Center at 753-9211.

Heath Keirstead attended the Master Recycler Program and is the office authority on recycling. The next 8-week MRP course is scheduled for January 2008. Call Allied Waste at 541-754-0444 for information on the class.

Zero Waste Ware - Our reusable party ware debuted in August 06 during our first annual Natural Resources Volunteer Celebration. Now available for loan to the public, our cloth napkins and reusable plastic plates and utensils have been put to service for numerous meetings around Corvallis, a wedding weekend, a staff retreat, a teachers' workshop, the Riverfront Sustainability & Natural Resources Celebration and our daily office use.

We expanded staff potential through the recruitment and management of 106 volunteers who contributed over 730

hours to Corvallis Outdoor School, Native Tree and Shrub Sale and Benton Fish Passage Improvement Program service. A heartfelt THANKS to each and every volunteer!

Newsletter distribution: We in-sourced the printing and mailing of three issues of our newsletter, *Horizons*, with a savings of about ten cents per copy. Readers of electronic subscriptions helped us save an additional \$425 in printing, postage and time. Through the year *Horizons* was delivered to 4208 postal recipients and 654 email addresses. Over 450 printed copies were manually distributed.

We leveraged tax dollars in the acquisition and administration of grants:

- ☛ Heath Keirstead coordinated the distribution of over \$6000 from our Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board Education Grant - Making Ripples Program. These funds: (1) provided watershed curriculum materials and workshops to Benton County educators and volunteers, (2) supported K-12 service learning projects that build watershed knowledge, (3) co-sponsored Naturescaping courses, (4) produced the Keepers of the Creek Guide, and (5) published a Making Ripples newsletter. OWEB funds will continue to be available for these activities through December 2007.
- ☛ Heath received a \$5000 PLT GreenWorks! Grant to support a Dixon Creek restoration project with Corvallis High School students, Corvallis Public Works and local landowners. This project will merge hands-on restoration with skill-building opportunities to fulfill high school graduation requirements.
- ☛ We directed \$10,000 to Benton County Educators through our Conservation Education Grants. To learn more about these funding opportunities visit <http://www.bentonswcd.org/teachers>

The Benton SWCD Chairman, Tom Bedell, served on:

- ☛ the Oregon Soil and Water Conservation Commission
- ☛ on the Board of Districts for the Oregon Association of Conservation Districts.

Donna Schmitz lead the Technical Resource projects and tasks listed below by partner:

Landowners

- Assisted over 180 Benton Co. residents in various soil and water conservation issues such as drainage, wildlife habitat improvement, riparian/upland/wetland restoration, soil erosion, soils maps, invasive weed control, conservation planning, water quality and quantity.

Luckiamute Watershed Council

- Provided technical assistance for riparian restoration, fish passage issues, noxious weed control.
- Met with Polk SWCD to develop knotweed control grant.

Marys River Watershed Council

- Provided technical assistance for various projects, such as wetland and riparian restoration, permits, topo surveys. fish passage improvement, wildlife habitat restoration, streambank erosion, noxious weed control.
- Provided funds for stream bank erosion consultation.

Benton County

- Participated in Habitat Conservation Plan technical and stakeholder meetings.
- Assisted in developing OWEB grant award for Powell Creek culvert replacements of \$101,505 and \$109,830 for Blair and Gellatly Creek culverts.
- Provided funds for site assessment and design recommendations for Gellatly Creek culvert restoration.
- Successful application to Bureau of Land Management for Title II funding for collaborative Fish Passage Improvement Program (\$46,000)
- Technical assistance for flooding issue on private lands.

Greenbelt Land Trust

- Conservation plan development and practice implementation on various easements and property owned by Greenbelt. Assisted in acquiring funding for various practices.
- Assisted with GBLT conservation planning strategy and partner survey.

Oregon Department of Agriculture

- Successful grant application with ODA and two other districts to provide funding to Benton Co. residents to reduce nitrate contamination and TMDL's bacteria, mercury, temperature in the Willamette Valley.
- Provided assistance in implementation of the agricultural water quality rules.
- Developed scope of work for agricultural technical assistance.

Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

- Contributed and reviewed draft agricultural action plan for Groundwater Management Area.
- Attended meetings of the Groundwater Management Area and provided outreach articles.

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

- Participated in Landowner Incentive Program grant review panel.
- Participated in Wetland Restoration workshop at E.E. Wilson Wildlife Area sponsored by OSU Extension, Polk SWCD, Luckiamute Watershed Council.

Benton SWCD 2006 - 2007 Budget Report

Income Source	\$ Amount
Carryover from 06/30/2006	177,426.27
Contributions/donations	535.00
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board - Making Ripples Program	6,088.04
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board - Small Grants	43,731.20
Benton County Property Taxes	278,903.45
Oregon Department of Agriculture	48,777.00
Natural Resources Conservation Service Contribution Agreement	10,612.00
Fish Passage Projects	23,982.00
Benton County Public Works	5,000.00
Native Tree and Shrub Sale	37,645.70
Miscellaneous Income	513.25
Interest - Checking/Saving	9,682.99
Reimbursed Income	255.00
Total Income	643,153.90

Expense Source	\$ Amount
OWEB Small Grants	39,009.00
Conservation Assistance Program	2,500.00
Education Grants/Scholarships	13,404.68
Making Ripples Projects	15,472.34
Watershed Council Support	2,000.00
Education & Outreach	3,607.83
Insurance	1,512.51
Operations	58,697.47
Personnel	287,491.55
Native Tree & Shrub Sale	23,083.71
Fish Passage Program Overpayment	21,666.00
Miscellaneous Expenses	1,584.66
Total Expenses	470,029.75
Carryover to 2007-2008	173,124.15

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

- ☛ Assisted five landowners to apply for \$36,312 in OWEB small grant funds for projects.
- ☛ Participate in small grant review teams for OWEB

Oregon State University Extension Service

- ☛ Supported and participated in workshop for Living on the Land
- ☛ Supported two Rural Living Basics presentations
- ☛ Presented technical assistance available to Woodland Managers workshop
- ☛ Participated in Riparian Restoration workshop to develop planting and site prep methods for tree and shrub establishment.

Department of State Lands

- ☛ Served on Benton Co. mitigation bank review team

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and Farm Services agency

- ☛ Provided local input and support for federal farm programs.
- ☛ Assisted with site visits and conservation planning for four landowners through the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program.
- ☛ Assisted in an application for a Wetland Reserve Program participant.
- ☛ **Worked with Tom Snyder, NRCS District Conservationist**, to develop six Environmental Quality Incentives Program contracts which allocated over \$480,000 to implement conservation practices on cropland as shown in the table below:

Conservation Practice	amount
Residue Management (reduced tillage)	\$168,177
Pest Management	\$143,685
Irrigation Water Management	\$94,446
Nutrient Management	\$62,361
Buried Irrigation Main Line	\$9,350
Waste Utilization (manure application)	\$3,642
Total Value of EQIP Contracts	\$481,661

KIDS DAY FOR CONSERVATION

What's in Your Watershed?

Kids Day for Conservation is coming to the Benton County Fairgrounds on Saturday, October 20 from 10 am until 4 pm.

This **5th** annual event will be free, fun, and focused on hands-on natural resource education. Over 30 local and state-wide natural resource organizations and businesses will share a variety of activities to help kids of all ages discover

What's in Your Watershed?

There will be do-it-yourself nature art projects. You will see amphibians, insects, fish and other critters that live in our farms, forests and urban areas. You can build a bird house to take home, climb a rock wall, and shoot a bow and arrow. Discover how to conserve energy. Learn to protect your home from a spreading wildfire. Participate in the Great Western Oregon Forest Scavenger Hunt. Explore locally produced farm and forest products. Wonder over dirt babies and bubbling bazookas.



Visit the Benton SWCD activity to investigate how

SOIL WORKS!

Held under cover, rain or shine.
 We invite your family to attend for an hour or all day.
 Food and drink will be available for purchase.
 Free transportation will be provided by the Corvallis Transit System.
 For more information, call 541-929-2477.

US Fish and Wildlife Service

- ☛ Provided funding for design of pond for chub habitat improvement project.
- ☛ Provided technical assistance and additional funding for various Partners for Fish and Wildlife program participants.
- ☛ Continuing to assist in developing grazing best management practices for improving wildlife habitat and protecting Threatened and Endangered Species.

US Forest Service

- ☛ Participated in Alsea and Marys Peak Stewardship groups, which will provide funding for restoration projects on private lands through stewardship timber sales.

Our Education and Outreach Team participated in the following activities:

K-12 E&O - We shared soil and water science concepts, such as watershed processes, soil biology, soil physical properties, compaction and erosion, and the soil's services of water infiltration, storage and purification with over 3300

students during events such as: Kids Day for Conservation, Corvallis Outdoor School, Ag Expo, Spring Field Day, and Forest Camp. We provided energy curriculum materials, Conservation's Power, to students during the annual Conservation Poster Contest.

Adult E&O - We interacted with over 3700 adults during education and outreach activities, training sessions, or meetings where we promoted cost share programs, grants, Senate Bill 1010 program rules, our District mission, educational programs, and technical assistance.

We sold over 28,300 native trees, shrubs, forbs, and grasses to over 250 people during the 2007 Native Tree and Shrub Sale. The Sale proceeds provided **TEN \$1000** scholarships for Benton County residents pursuing higher education.

The BSWCD Fish Passage Improvement Program

survey team includes a dedicated group of community volunteers who performed the following tasks:

- ☛ surveyed 93 culverts in the Marys and Luckiamute major watersheds. Of these, one culvert was assessed as a full barrier to fish passage and eighteen were assessed as non-blocking. The remaining

assessments require prioritization by Benton County engineers. Twenty-three (23) bridges and eleven (11) stream miles were inventoried.

- ☛ worked closely with the Luckiamute Watershed Council to secure private access to conduct culvert surveys of 42 stream miles within the Luckiamute basin.
- ☛ continued its relationship with the OSU Digital Library, storing GIS inventory of in-stream structures, as well as streams and other support features, in an advanced GIS database through April 2007.
- ☛ participated in an effort to develop a statewide GIS inventory of in-stream structures and their support features with ODFW, OSU Library, the Institute for Natural Resources, and several watershed councils including the Luckiamute, Marys, Siuslaw, North and South Santiam, Alsea, Yamhill, and MidCoast.

The BFIIP Coordinator chaired the Marys River Fish Passage Committee, which is composed mainly of Marys River Watershed Council members.

Next year's programs are in full swing!



Rural Living: Protecting Your Drinking Water Resource by Melissa Fery, OSU Extension Small Farms

An important rural living responsibility is protecting the groundwater. Whether you operate a commercial farm, have a small acreage or enjoy a rural lifestyle, basic well maintenance will help provide good quality water for your family and animals.

In the southern Willamette Valley, nitrate contamination of the groundwater has been identified as a drinking water concern. Common land management practices, such as, fertilization of fields or lawns, overstocked livestock on pastures, or improperly constructed wells may be possible sources of contamination.



Excessive use of nitrogen fertilizers may contribute to nitrate contamination in drinking water. The Southern Willamette Valley Groundwater Management Area (GWMA) agricultural working group suggests the

following practices to protect water resources from nitrate contamination:

- ☛ Avoid fall nitrogen applications. Apply nitrogen when crops need it most, in the spring. For permanent pastures a light fertilizer application may be considered.
- ☛ Test your soil. Determine the current nitrogen levels in the soil so excess isn't added.
- ☛ Apply fertilizers that release nitrate over an extended period of time - like slow-release or forms other than nitrate that bind to the soil for less leaching to groundwater.

- ☛ Establish realistic yield goals. If yield goals are overly optimistic, recommended application rates of nitrogen will be too high, resulting in excess nitrogen in the soil.
- ☛ Improve irrigation management. Over-watering can wash nitrate below the rooting zone where it is no longer available to the lawn, crop or pasture. Adjust irrigation water application to meet the varying plants demands at different growth stages.



Manure from livestock and horses contain nitrogen and bacteria that may contaminate drinking water, if not managed properly. Animal manure should be applied to crops or pasture as a plant nutrient source. Manure that is stockpiled should always be covered, especially in the winter to avoid run-off and leaching of nutrients.

The South Willamette Valley GWMA asks residents to prevent contamination at the wellhead. Water on the land surface may contain contaminants that can move directly to groundwater down wells without an intact grout seal or adequate cap on top. Since grout seals fail with time, diverting surface runoff away from wells provides added protection. It is important to make sure the wellhead extends above the land surface, use proper backflow protection and ensure that all unused wells are properly decommissioned.

Melissa Fery, an Oregon State University Extension instructor, provides Rural Living Basics: Well Water and Septic Systems courses that are free and open to the public. For information call (541) 766-3556 or email wellwater@oregonstate.edu.



305 SW C Avenue, Suite 1
 Corvallis, OR 97333
 Phone: (541) 753-7208
 E-mail: office@bentonswcd.org
 Web: www.bentonswcd.org

NONPROFIT ORG
 U.S. POSTAGE
 PAID
 CORVALLIS, OR
 PERMIT NO 112



We've moved next door!
 Same building - Suite #1

Help us save valuable resources two ways...

1. Switch from snail mail to email by sending an email to tmatteson@bentonswcd.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 will remove you.

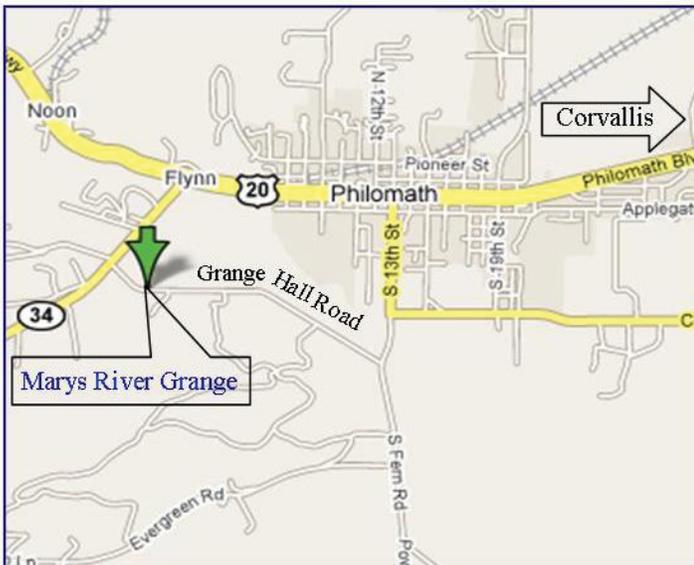
When possible, this newsletter is printed on recycled paper!
 Please recycle it or better yet, pass it to a friend!



Please join us for the
Benton SWCD 2006-07 Annual Meeting
Tuesday, October 23 - 6:00 PM
 at the Marys River Grange
 for awards, light refreshments and

Land Use and Water

a panel discussion
 see page 1 for more information!



THE BENTON SWCD 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.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DIRECTORS (ZONE)

- Cliff Hall, Treasurer (1)
- Anne Rigor (2)
- Tom Bedell, Chair (3)
- Joe Hinds (4)
- Frank Nusbaum (5)
- Tim Dehne, Vice Chair (At Large)

ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS

- Rana Foster
- Mark Taratoot

EMPLOYEES

- Jennifer Floro, Office Manager
- Jennifer Ayotte, District Administrator
- Donna Schmitz, Resource Conservationist
- Taber Burton, Fish Passage Program Coordinator
- Heath Keirstead, Education and Outreach Coordinator
- Alice Fairfield, Native Tree and Shrub Sale Coordinator
- Teresa Matteson, Education and Outreach Director & Horizons Editor

The Benton 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.