



# Horizons

Summer 2009

Volume 18 Issue 3

SERVING BENTON COUNTY OREGON SINCE 1956

## 2008-09 Annual Report

### District Operations

#### Action Planning

Over the last year, Benton SWCD staff and board members took part in a planning process facilitated by Cynthia Solie of Cascade West Council of Governments. We identified the following priorities for our work throughout Benton County:

- Restore & protect instream habitat.
- Reduce negative impacts to ground and surface water.
- Develop and implement a strategy to improve soil quality.
- Activate citizens to manage invasive plant species on their own land.
- Restore & protect upland and wetland habitat.

#### Action Plans

We then developed action plans for the following areas of work:

- Outreach to rural residents to improve land use practices
- Efforts to target streambank and riparian restoration (emphasis on Oak Creek and Luckiamaute River)
- Roadside No Spray program
- Fish passage assessment and improvement
- Promotion of native plants and annual native plant sale
- Develop and implement soil quality program
- Train "Weed Spotters" and develop weed education/management program
- Urban Creek Restoration and Outreach Program (UCROP)

#### Accomplishments and Benefits

Throughout this report you will notice that many of our accomplishments reflect our planning efforts. Other benefits include improved communication among our staff and Board members and increased collaboration between our technical and educational programs. In the year ahead, we will be exploring ways to enhance our various partnerships with agencies, non-profits, landowners and volunteers.

#### Additional Funding

Two-thirds of Benton SWCD's budget comes from grants that we secure for our projects and programs. Our planning process has helped us focus our fundraising efforts and has resulted in several successful grants, including an Oregon NRCS Conservation Innovation Grant to begin our new Soil Quality Program. See page 9 for the District's financial report.

#### Team Work

At Benton SWCD, we are fortunate to have skilled and productive staff members. In the year ahead, we look forward to generating new ideas, increasing the effectiveness of our programs, broadening our partnerships, and being responsive to the conservation needs of our community.

#### 08-09 Highlights

**Strategic Planning**  
*identify priorities & guide action*

**DEQ 319 Grant**  
*protect water quality*

**Benton Fish Passage Improvement Program**  
*survey culverts*

**Weed Spotters Program**  
*battle invasive species*

**2nd Urban Creek Tour and Water Fair**  
*inform citizens*

**Educator Workshops**  
*share lessons and resources*

**K-12 Education**  
*teach future generations*

**Soil Quality Program**  
*define and fund project*

**Board Recruitment**  
*expand District's expertise*

**New Office Location**  
*We have moved!!!*

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Please contact us with your conservation concerns and suggestions  
541-753-7208 office@bentonswcd.org

## Board of Directors - INTRODUCING OUR TWO NEWEST DIRECTORS

For the full list of BSWCD Directors, please see page 12 under our mission statement..

### Become a Benton SWCD Associate Director

Help the District expand our reach and contribute your unique perspectives, experiences and skills to a variety of conservation projects, such as creek restoration, wildlife habitat enhancement, invasive weed control, soil quality, volunteer coordination, strategic planning, technical assistance, community education and public outreach.

Associate Directors should attend some or all Board meetings and strategic planning sessions, participate on a committee and attend assorted events. Annual commitment is a minimum of 34 hours.



Jeni was elected during the 2008 general election. She replaced Tim Dehne, who continues to support the Board as an Associate Director.

The success of our District depends on cooperative board members who are committed to running a solvent, progressive organization. We maintain and recruit active board members and associate directors who understand local conservation issues and are willing to dedicate time for the good of their neighbors and Benton County citizens.

In addition to attending monthly board meetings and serving on committees, directors are encouraged to represent the District at events, participate in trainings and attend conferences.

A board member commits a minimum of 50 hours per year to the District and some volunteer more than 100 hours. District Board members are elected officials.

### Jeni Richardson - At-Large Director

"I believe that education and outreach are the keys to protecting our natural resources. I support the District's conservation programs that provide technical and financial assistance to landowners and schools. I enjoy promoting conservation education by volunteering and I especially get a kick out of helping elementary and middle school students create a schoolyard habitat for birds and wildlife while they learn about native plants and our precious soil and water resources.

There have been many times that the District's staff and programs have directly supported these school projects or my family's riparian restoration project and I just hope to give back what I can to support staff and to ensure these programs continue to be available to the community. I have a background in forest and civil engineering and have volunteered for several years as a 4-H wildlife steward leader."

### Henry Storch - Associate Director

"I first got interested in being involved to help identify new invasive plants and get new infestations eradicated before they become a threat to agriculture and native ecosystems. As a farrier I drive all over Benton County and see a lot of new weeds before they are widespread. Now I have a place to go when I find something new to the area.

Besides being on the lookout for new weeds, I'm also interested in rare native plant species. I'm a firm believer in the stewardship of families that make their living off the land. It's no coincidence that most of the healthiest native prairies in Benton County are on private land. Grazing, farming, logging and other disturbance factors that are a way of life for rural residents have "preserved" the habitat for many species that have become rare on unmanaged public lands. We should take the concerns of private land owners and those who make their living on natural resources into consideration when working to conserve or expand these habitats. Incentives that reward good stewardship should take precedence over

arbitrary regulations that infringe on land management decisions.

I live outside Philomath and grow produce and plants for the Corvallis Farmers Market. I enjoy collecting native wildflower seed and sharing it with neighbors.

I'm motivated to protect the quality of life in rural Benton County for my two year old son and daughter on the way."



As Henry travels around the county, he is on the lookout for invasive weeds. "If I find the next meadow knapweed or false brome on my horseshoeing rounds hopefully we can get rid of it before it becomes a problem."

# Board of Directors & NRCS

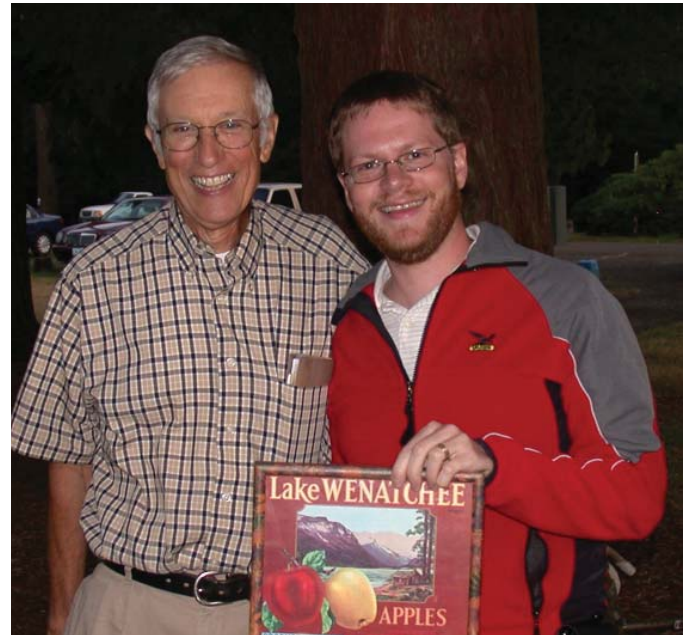
Farewell Nick! Best Wishes!

We bid farewell to Nick Chambers, At-Large Director, as he moves with his family to Wenatchee, Washington.

Nick brought to the Board the Oregon Department of Agriculture's insight and a blast of youthful enthusiasm that helped broaden the District's knowledge base and enriched our vision. We will hold dear Nick's dream to locate the District headquarters on a demonstration site complete with all things conservation and energy efficient.

Three cheers of good luck to Ute, Nick's wife, as she pursues her career as a Washington State Extension entomologist in Apple Country, USA. She loves bugs as much as Nick loves energy.

Keep an eye on Nick. He is the author of *Gas 2.0*, a green power blog - visit <http://greenoptions.com/author/nmaximus>



Director Cliff Hall shares a fairwell party smile with Nick.

## Natural Resources Conservation Service and Farm Bill Programs

NRCS District Conservationist, Thomas Snyder works with Benton SWCD to promote Federal Farm Bill Program opportunities for landowners who manage agricultural land. The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) provided funding to implement the conservation practices listed in the table to the right.

### The Contract Process

A concerned landowner will contact NRCS to set up a meeting with Tom. He schedules a site visit to discuss conservation concerns and encourages the landowner to submit an application for Farm Bill funding. Submitted applications are ranked and contracts are written according to available funding. The Benton SWCD Board of Directors review and advise on each contract. During fiscal year 2008-09, Tom wrote 15 EQIP Contracts for a about \$933,000 and 2 WHIP contracts for about \$19,000.

To learn more about the Farm Bill Program visit the Oregon NRCS website at <http://www.or.nrcs.usda.gov/> or contact Tom Snyder by phone 541-967-5925 or email [thomas.snyder@or.usda.gov](mailto:thomas.snyder@or.usda.gov)

2008-09 EQIP / WHIP Conservation Practices	Number of contracts
Pest Management	10
Nutrient Management	9
Irrigation Water Management	5
Residue and Tillage Management, Mulch Till	5
Cover Crop	4
Heavy Use Area Protection	4
Irrigation System, Sprinkler	4
Conservation Crop Rotation	3
Irrigation Water Conveyance, Pipeline, High-Pressure, Underground, Plastic	3
Access Road	2
Fence	2
Grassed Waterway	2
Underground Outlet	2
Waste Storage Facility	2
Brush Management	2
Forest Stand Improvement	1
Grade Stabilization Structure	1
Hedgerow Planting	1
Manure Transfer	1
Pasture and Hay Planting	1
Pipeline	1
Pumping Plant	1
Roof Runoff Structure	1
Structure for Water Control	1
Watering Facility	1
Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment	1



# Technical Resources

## Addressing Conservation Concerns

During the 2008-09 fiscal year, our Technical Resources Team helped 95 Benton County residents address numerous resource concerns through 48 on-site evaluations and numerous daily conversations. The conservation topics (**bold**) and the resource concerns (**bulleted**) that we helped folks address are listed below:

### Understand, comply with and benefit from government programs

- Agricultural Water Quality Management Plan
- Confined Animal Feeding Operations
- Groundwater Management Area
- Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program planning and implementation
- Division of State Lands Removal/Fill Permit
- Army Corps of Engineers work in wetlands and streams permits

### Land Use

- Horse/mud management
- Pasture management/renovation
- Wildlife habitat management
- Soil erosion
- Grassed waterways
- Forestry issues

### Unique natural habitats

- Oak woodland management
- Prairie/oak savannah restoration
- Wetland management/restoration
- Riparian restorations
- Stream restoration and streambank erosion

### Water resources

- Water quality
- Drainage problems
- Culvert replacements
- Irrigation water management

### Vegetation

- Native plant species recommendations
- Noxious weed control

### Tools, guidance and financial support

- Soils maps and information
- Conservation planning
- Funding opportunities
- Project management

*For information on how the Benton SWCD can help address your conservation concerns, call Donna Schmitz or Sarah Dyrdaahl at 541-753-7208.*

## Water Quality Projects

**Seven water quality projects** were implemented during this year. They included three riparian plantings, one with fencing to exclude livestock, one heavy use area for horse paddock, two irrigation efficiency projects, and one wildlife corridor.



*As shown above, paddock sacrifice areas keep horses out of the mud, reduce erosion and protect water quality.*

## The OSU CREP Project

The Technical Resources Team assisted the USDA Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) by providing conservation planning and facilitated project implementation to help Oregon State University restore riparian buffers along Oak Creek.

Partners in this project included:

- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Farm Services Agency
- Oregon Department of Forestry
- Oregon State University
- 

The CREP project encompasses parts of OSU's sheep, horse, dairy and poultry centers and protects almost 153 acres by installing new fences or mending current ones (~7 miles). Eleven watering facilities will be installed to provide off-channel water for the animals. Fences and water facilities will keep animals out of the creek, reducing erosion and improving water quality.

# Technical Resources

Our Technical Resources Team provides a spectrum services. During the past fiscal year they managed over \$265,000 to address the conservation concerns of Benton County citizens. The table below highlights funding source, amount, description and partners for various projects.

Source	Total	Project Description	Partners
Benton SWCD Conservation Incentive Program	\$15,126	Technical assistance, engineering, surveying, design, analysis and implementation on 5 projects	50% cost share with landowners
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) Small Grant Program	\$25,855	Fiscal administration and technical assistance, grant writing/project development to fund 4 projects	OWEB, 50% cost share with landowners
Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) 319 grant	\$34,306	Water quality projects in priority Total Maximum Daily Load watersheds and the Southern Willamette Valley Groundwater Management Area	DEQ, Oregon Department of Agriculture
Oregon Trout	\$31,500	Large woody debris and engineered log jam	Landowner
OWEB Large Grant	\$109,830	Blair Creek and Gellatly Creek culvert replacement. BSWCD was fiscal agent.	Benton County Public Works, Marys River Watershed Council
ODA Technical Assistance Grant	\$24,000	Half time BSWCD position to implement the Roadside "No-Spray" and Stormwater Education programs.	Benton County Public Works
OWEB Technical Assistance Grant, Title II funding	\$52,449	Benton Fish Passage Improvement Program includes full time coordinator and project implementation. Coordinator is housed at Benton County Public Works.	Benton County Public Works, Bureau of Land Management, Marys River Watershed Council, Luckiamute Watershed Council



The Federal Farm Bill CREP Program funded fencing to keep OSU livestock out of Oak Creek. Livestock in your creek? Give us a call! 541-753-7208

## Partnerships

In addition to facilitating funding opportunities for conservation, the Technical Resources staff collaborates with partners on the planning and development level. We served as technical advisors for these Natural Resources committees:

- Benton County Habitat Conservation Plan
- Benton County National Pollution Discharge Elimination System
- Benton County Water Plan
- Marys River Watershed Council Fish Passage
- Marys Peak Interpretive Center Management Plan
- Cardwell Hills Project
- OWEB Small Grant Review Teams
- Natural Resources Conservation Service Local Working Groups (EQIP and WRP)
- Corvallis Sustainability Water Action Plan

# Education & Outreach

*We've got a good thing going with our natural resources education partners, called collaboration. This wonderful group of professionals pool resources, expertise and energy to offer a wide range of Youth and Adult Education events and programs. The next few pages summarize our 2008-09 Education & Outreach activities.*

Educator Support: Teaching educators and funding educational activities broadens the impact of our staffs' knowledge, skills and resources.

**Educator Workshops** *The workshops shown in the table below provided over 4,000 contact hours with educators. Benton SWCD secured a Project Learning Tree GreenWorks grant and an OWEB mini-grant to help finance these workshops. Jackson Bottom funded the Project Webfoot Workshop.*

Workshop Title / Curriculum	Number attending	Partners
Soil Science for Educators / CSS599	11	Oregon State University Crop and Soil Science
RESTORE / Earth Partnership for Schools: Restoring schoolyard ecosystems to inspire the stewards of tomorrow	16	Institute for Applied Ecology Benton County 4-H Wildlife Stewards
Explore the Places We Live / Project Learning Tree: Investigate the environmental, social and economic issues in a community	29	Benton County 4-H Wildlife Stewards Corvallis High School Oregon Natural Resources Education Program
Project Webfoot: Water, Wetlands and Waterfowl / Project WET: Interdisciplinary activities about important water concepts	28	Ducks Unlimited; Project Webfoot; Jackson Bottom Wetland Preserve; Benton County 4-H Wildlife Stewards Corvallis High School Oregon Natural Resources Education Program
Flying WILD / Project Learning Tree: Engaging activities and celebrations about birds and migration	23	Benton County 4-H Wildlife Stewards Cheldelin Middle School Audubon Society of Corvallis Chintimini Wildlife Rehabilitation Center Oregon Natural Resources Education Program

## Conservation Education Grants

Benton SWCD allocated a total of \$13,629 to support educator's conservation education projects during the 2008-09 fiscal year.

Twenty-three educators at 17 locations in Benton County received support for watershed education, benefiting students in at least 3 towns. These grants supported a range of items and activities, from Ecology Field Cards and binoculars (see photo right) to buses for field trips.



## Means of Outreach

Benton SWCD distributed semi-annual Making Ripples education newsletters to about 130 educators.

We distributed 2520 hard copies of our general newsletter, *Horizons*, and 550 electronic copies.

Heath Keirstead designed an attractive display board to be used at tabling events.

The E&O Team members participated at various levels with the following groups: Benton County National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System, Benton County Water Project, Stormwater Solutions Advisory Council, Oregon Green Schools, Corvallis Sustainability Coalition, Luckiamute Watershed Council, Oregon Farm Bureau, School District 509J Sustainability Committee



# Education & Outreach

## Urban Creek Restoration & Outreach Program

Taylor Bortz worked with partners to coordinate the 2nd Annual Urban Creek Tour titled *Forest, Farms and Football*, featuring Oak Creek. Forty Benton County residents joined us to explore Oak Creek's watershed to learn about the issues facing urban waterways and what citizens can do to improve them. This tour focused on how land use practices impact the creek. Tour Presenters included:

- Pete Klingeman, OSU
- Amy Simmons, OSU
- Tom Nichols, OSU
- Sarah Dyrdaahl, Benton SWCD
- John Lambrinos, OSU
- Stan Gregory, OSU
- Brandon Trelstad, OSU
- Gwenn Kubeck, City of Corvallis Public Works

We added a Water Fair near the Tour's last stop at Reser Stadium. Designed to bring citizens, with an emphasis on families and children, together for a highly interactive and fun celebration of water, the Water Fair had 20 interactive booths that featured local organizations whose work is related to water and watersheds. Music by Wild Hog in the Woods, and the Earth Rising/Tofu America food booth contributed to the success of the event. UCROP support included Willamette Watershed Productions, Corvallis Public Works, Oregon Department of Agriculture No-Spray Grant, Benton SWCD general fund, Oregon State University and Best Pots Inc.

## Water Fair Interactive Booth sponsors:

- 4H Wildlife Stewards
- Avery House Nature Center
- Benton County
- Benton County Master Gardeners
- Corvallis Sustainability Coalition
- Da Vinci Days
- Freshwater Trust/Oregon Trout
- Fresh Waters Illustrated
- Kids Care
- Luckiamute Watershed Council
- Oregon Herpetological Society
- ODFW STEP Program
- OSU Organic Growers
- SEPS - Science Education Partnerships
- Willamette Riverkeeper
- Benton SWCD Weed Spotters
- Face Painting
- Water Play
- Faucet Fix-it Station

## Weed Spotters Program

Heath Keirstead was awarded an Audubon TogetherGreen Conservation Leadership Fellowship. After a week of training in West Virginia, Heath received a \$10,000 grant to develop a community service program. Based on an idea suggested by Patti Warner, 4-H Wildlife Steward volunteer, Heath launched the Weed Spotters Program. With the help of a cadre of professionals, volunteers were trained to recognize target invasive species. The purpose of the program is to increase awareness about invasive species and we do this by providing inventories on residents' properties.

To date, 32 volunteers completed the 6 week program and 28 volunteers remain active. Our goal is to complete 100 inventories by September 30, 2009. As of August 25, 2009, 40 inventories have been completed.

Highlights of the program include:

- Creation of Benton SWCD Invasive Species Web Page [http://www.bentonswcd.org/invasive\\_species/index](http://www.bentonswcd.org/invasive_species/index)
- One part-time contracted position created to coordinate Weed Spotters tasks filled by energetic and hardworking Taylor Bortz
- First discovery of garlic mustard in Benton County by a trained Weed Spotter

*Get a weed inventory on your property!  
Contact Heath at [hkeirstead@bentonswcd.org](mailto:hkeirstead@bentonswcd.org)*



*Weed Spotter volunteers, Marjean Austin & Mike Albrecht, prepare a inventory report for property owner.*

Special Thanks to the following Weed Spotters Advisory Committee and Speakers who assisted with the success of this program:

- Andy Hulting, OSU Extension Weed Specialist
- Carol Mallory-Smith, OSU Crops professor
- Melody Rudenko, OSU Crops graduate student
- Linda McMahan, OSU Extension Service
- Karen Fleck Harding, Marys River Watershed Council
- Glenn Miller, Oregon Department of Agriculture
- Steve McGettigan, Corvallis Parks & Recreation
- Tania Siemens, The Nature Conservancy & OSU
- Henry Storch, Benton SWCD Associate Director
- Patti Warner, Benton SWCD volunteer
- Steve Lilly, Greenbelt Land Trust
- Sarah Dyrdaahl, Benton SWCD
- Donna Schmitz, Benton SWCD
- Debora Johnson, OSU
- Barb Fick, OSU Extension Master Gardeners

# Willamette Riverkeepers

Willamette Riverkeepers, headquartered in Portland, coordinates a monitoring program to engage local residents in collecting water quality, observational, and habitat data that can be used to better understand the health of the river system. Volunteer training and instrument calibration and quality control ensure high quality data for submission to the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality.

Benton SWCD stores and manages the Corvallis Willamette Riverkeepers kit and coordinates 11 volunteer monitors. Monthly, the monitors perform these water quality tests at six sites: dissolved oxygen, temperature, turbidity, pH, and conductivity. The six Corvallis monitoring sites include:  
 Dixon Creek at Circle Blvd. (Jefferson Elementary)  
 Avery Park Marys River Bridge  
 Long Tom River Bridge - Old River Road  
 Kiger Island Bridge  
 Stahlbush Island Bridge  
 Highway 34 - Van Buren Avenue Bridge

## Willamette Riverkeeper Volunteers

Zara Aurdahl  
 Alice Bailey  
 Jan Bottjer  
 Vivian Byers  
 Taylor Bortz  
 Joshua Geck

Ed Llewellyn  
 Paula Minear  
 Jim Sackinger  
 Tucker Selko  
 Chris Surfleet



*Chris Surfleet, Willamette Riverkeeper monitor, sets up equipment for water quality testing on the Long Tom River bridge.*

# Benton Fish Passage Improvement Program

The Benton Fish Passage Improvement Program (BFPIP), funded by the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board and Bureau of Land Management, demonstrates a successful cooperative effort between Benton SWCD, Benton County Public Works and GIS Departments, local watershed councils (Marys, Alsea, and Luckiamute), landowners and volunteers.

Currently, the program involves compiling all available fish passage barrier and fish habitat inventory data in Benton County into one GIS database with the goal of identifying, prioritizing and planning fish passage and stream restoration projects throughout Benton County. The fish passage program obtains pertinent information from cities, county, state, federal agencies, and private landowners.

This program is designed to benefit the survival of threatened and endangered fish species of steelhead trout, coho and Chinook salmon, as well as cutthroat trout that are found in the different watersheds of Benton County. These species are important to communities, commerce, and the interest of the public.

The Benton Fish Passage Improvement Program is not affiliated with any regulatory agencies nor does it enforce any regulations; it is simply a way to inventory barriers and work with landowners to help secure funding to remove fish passage barriers on their lands and to open up stream miles.

Our volunteers are a mainstay of this program with



*Blair Creek culvert after replacement.*

them donating over 75 hours of time to surveying. The landowners who participate are another important factor in the success of this program. With their support we are able to take the necessary measurements for assessments that aid project prioritization.

## EDUCATION/OUTREACH

For national Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Day we shared how GIS plays a role in the BFPIP. Sharing a time slot with Teresa Valentine with ODF we presented to 200 middle school students about the use of GIS and why it is important in how we plan our work.

*For more information about the BFPIP contact Taber Burton (541) 766-6821 x 4532 or see our website at <http://www.bentonswcd.org/fishpassage/index.html>*



# Native Plant Sale

Alice Fairfield continues to orchestrate and fine tune our major fundraiser and community outreach event, the Native Plant Sale. In 2009, we sold over 16,900 native trees, shrubs, forbs, and grasses. With the help of 65 volunteers, we filled 307 pre-paid orders. The Sale proceeds contribute to our Community Conservation Fund that funds scholarships, internships and our Conservation Incentive Program.

Alice is planning the addition of new species to the 2010 sale plant list. If you have special requests for you native plant projects email treesale@bentonswcd.org.

See page 12 for 2010 Native Plant Sale information.



Katrina Engberg, Danielle Klingman and Sandra Obremski run an organized conifer station at the Native Plant Sale.

# Volunteers

Volunteers provide a valuable surge of energy that makes conservation happen! The following volunteers dedicated their time to the Benton Fish Passage Program, 2009 Native Plant Sale, Outdoor School, Spring Field Day, Weed Spotters and the Oak Creek Tour and Water Fair.

Sorry for the small print - we are blessed with volunteers!

- |                  |                       |                 |
|------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Sean Adams       | Tiffany Fegel         | Thanh Phan      |
| Sean Adams       | Julie Gibson          | Jeff Picton     |
| Moises Aguilar   | Bobby Gomez           | Dave Pitot      |
| Kelly Albers     | Brenda Gomez          | Keith Powrie    |
| Mike Albrecht    | Cheryl Good           | Carol Prueitt   |
| Ralph Alig       | Lou Gordon            | Ian Ramfjord    |
| Natalie Allen    | Abby Gribskov         | Linda Ramsey    |
| Kristin Anderson | Diane H               | Randy Rasmussen |
| Lyla Anderson    | Cliff Hall            | Frances Reid    |
| Trygve Anderson  | Karen Hans            | Carson Renner   |
| Carly Anderson   | Jan Harris            | Jeni Richardson |
| Xan Augerot      | Karl Hartzell         | Anne Rigor      |
| Marjean Austin   | Sarah Hash            | Cyndee Ross     |
| Jeff Baker       | Robert Haury          | John Ross       |
| Matthew Barmann  | Calb Hawley           | Nina Schmitz    |
| Lyn Batchelor    | Dana Higgins          | Jana Seeliger   |
| Tom Bedell       | Kathleen Hill         | Tucker Selko    |
| Matt Borg        | Joe Hinds             | Devora Shamah   |
| Jon Boro         | Joellen Jarvi         | Sally Shaw      |
| Carson Bortz     | Tessa Jelten          | Josie Silver    |
| Taylor Bortz     | Jonathan Jensen       | Julie Skopal    |
| Jenny Brausch    | Miles Johnson         | Alana Smith     |
| Carly Brown      | Jesse Klain           | Lily Smith      |
| Devon Buckles    | Hank Keogh            | Sue Smith       |
| Gerri Buckles    | Oktar Khudayar        | John Snelling   |
| Jessica Bunnell  | Ashley Klees          | Lynn Snider     |
| Judy Burks       | Danielle Klingman     | Tom Snyder      |
| Corinne Butzin   | Chase Lamothe         | Kayla Staggs    |
| Linda Capel      | Craig Larson          | Camille Storch  |
| Tom Capel        | Calli Layton          | Henry Storch    |
| Kim Carson       | Jee Lee               | Diana Sutherin  |
| Dianne Cassidy   | Beth Lenker           | Brianna Texter  |
| Bryce Danner     | Travis Lewis          | Jean Townes     |
| Tim Dehne        | Wei Li                | Molly Traute    |
| Ronjon Datta     | Steve Lily            | Mayrah Udvardi  |
| Nicole DeCrappeo | Sirene-Rose Lipschutz | Mike Villwock   |
| Ed Dickey        | Tyler Loustalot       | Theresa Wagner  |
| Roan Dickey      | Curtis Matteson       | Ellen Watrous   |
| Tina Dreisbach   | John McEvoy           | Lee Welch       |
| Laurel Driskill  | Donna McGeenin        | Brain Wilson    |
| Carly Dyrdaahl   | Zac Miller            | Kristin Witte   |
| Dave Eckertl     | Susan Nicholas        | Sunia Yang      |
| Gwendolyn Ellen  | Sandra Obremski       | Robert          |
| Katrina Engberg  | Jessica Onstott       |                 |
| Peter Fahlman    | Susan Pachuta         |                 |

# Financial Report

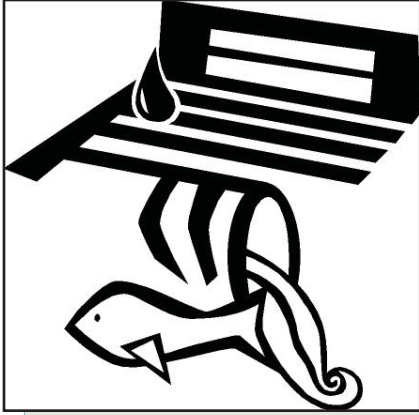
<b>Beginning Balance 07/01/08</b>	<b>235,408</b>
<b>Income</b>	
Benton County Property Taxes	300,515
Benton County Public Works	5,000
Grants	330,352
Interest	5,450
Other	8,760
Native Plant Sale	30,696
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>680,773</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Community Conservation Programs	39,976
Operations and insurance	77,246
Personnel and training	264,333
Project expenditures	260,654
Native Plant Sale	19,899
Capital outlay	1,173
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>663,281</b>
<b>Net Income 06/30/09</b>	<b>17,492</b>

**2009 Natural Resource Scholarships**  
 Benton SWCD awarded \$1000 to  
**Jennifer Swanson**  
 2009 Philomath High School graduate  
 and  
**Kelsey Ward**  
 2009 Crescent Valley High School graduate  
 to pursue studies in natural resources.

# Partnerships: We are ALL the Solution to Water Pollution!

by Gwenn Kubeck

Corvallis Public Works, Stormwater Program



Most storm drains in Corvallis empty directly into streams! Rain washes pollution, such as fertilizers, street oils, and litter, off our lawns and streets and into waterways. Polluted water can impact the health of people and pets, harm fish and other aquatic life, and degrade the quality of our waterways. We are all responsible for keeping our streams clean and healthy!

Here are some easy ways that YOU can make a difference:

- Pick up and dispose of pet waste. Pet waste contaminates water with harmful bacterial and nutrient pollution.
- Don't use storm drains for disposal. Properly dispose of hazardous household waste, such as batteries, cleaners, and paints, by calling Allied Waste's collection program at (541) 754-0444.
- Wash cars at a commercial car wash. Or, if you are hosting a car wash fundraiser, call City of Corvallis Public Works to borrow a car wash kit that keeps detergents, oils, and grease out of waterways.
- Use fertilizer sparingly. We often use more than we need and excess nutrients can cause algal blooms, which can harm aquatic plants and animals.
- Learn about natural alternatives to chemical herbicides and pesticides. Natural alternatives can be very effective and safer for children, pets, and water.
- Keep compost away from streams and cover piles of dirt on driveways so it doesn't wash into storm drains.
- Plants native vegetation, which requires less water and fewer chemicals.

*For more information about how you can make a difference for clean and healthy water, contact the City of Corvallis Stormwater Program at (541) 766-6916.*

by Kristin Anderson

Benton County Land Use Planner

Benton County government is working hard to help protect your waterways! The County has adopted a Stormwater Management Program to help guide County operations as well as reduce the impact of development on local waterways. To avoid polluting streams and groundwater, the County avoids applying pesticides and fertilizers when rain is expected, acts to reduce soil erosion caused by building and road construction, and washes County vehicles over a wash rack that sends oil and sediment to the sanitary sewer.

The County helps the public understand that what you do matters, too! We are currently gluing medallions on the sidewalks or roads next to catch basins that say: "No Dumping – Drains to River." Please remember: even if there is no medallion, most catch basins, ditches, and inlets deliver untreated water directly to creeks and rivers.

Benton County worked with daVinci Days' Grand Kinetic Challenge coordinators to ensure that after leaving the mud bog, every machine was washed of mud before entering the Willamette River. Last year more than seven wheelbarrows of mud were diverted before kinetic sculptures plunged into the river! Why is it important to keep this mud out of the Willamette? Oregon's Department of Human Services has an advisory against eating bass and pike minnow from the Willamette because they contain too much mercury. Almost half, 48%, of the mercury in the Willamette River is from erosion of ordinary soils, according to the DEQ. Soil can naturally contain mercury, just like it contains nitrogen and carbon.

Stop by the Benton County building near Avery Park to peruse brochures on a variety of topics, from planting natives along streams to reducing air pollution by not topping off your gas tank.

In a month or two you'll be able to access weblinks for hundreds of environmental resources via the Benton County website.



Who washes a kinetic race hippo?  
daVinci Days volunteers!

Benton Soil and Water Conservation District collaborates with these valued partners to promote stormwater protection: City of Corvallis, Benton County, City of Philomath, Benton County OSU Extension, and local Watershed Councils..

## Conservation Calendar Summer / Fall 2009

Date & Time Location	Event Speaker	For more information contact:
<b>Thursday, Sept 3</b> <b>5:30 - 7:30 PM</b> <i>Martin Luther King Park</i> <i>Corvallis</i>	<b>Benton SWCD Annual Meeting and Natural Resource Volunteer Celebration</b> <i>Potluck! Music! Fun!</i> <i>RSVP required</i>	Free and open to the public RSVP required Call 541-753-7208 or email hkeirstead@bentonswcd.org
<b>Friday, September 11</b> <b>10AM to 4 PM</b> <i>Dancing Roots Farm</i> <i>Troutdale</i>	<b>Beetle Banks, Beneficial Insects and Native Pollinators.</b> <i>Field Class for Small Farmers by Xerces and Farmscaping for Beneficials</i> Learn about insect predators, parasitoids and native pollinators and the on-farm habitat that support them. Help create a beetle bank. Interact with beneficial insects up close and personal.  BYOB (bring-your-own-bug) event so if there is an insect that has been bugging you this summer but you don't know who it is just plopp it in a jar, bring it with you and we'll help you figure it out!	Registration is required. Please contact Gwendolyn Ellen at 541-737-6272 or Gwendolyn@science.oregonstate.edu  <i>Delicious, local, organic lunch provided</i>  <i>This field class is sponsored by the USDA Western Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program.</i>
<b>Saturday, Sept. 12</b> <b>12:30 - 4:00 PM</b> <i>Polyrock Ranch, Coyote Creek</i> <i>84402 Territorial Hwy</i> <i>Eugene</i>	<b>Long Tom Watershed Council 12th Annual Meeting &amp; Celebration</b>  Potluck! Raffle! Music! Guest speakers! Awards! Tours!	Buy TICKETS before Sept. 1 \$10-20/ sliding scale; under 5 years old free POTLUCK - Bring a dish to share: A-M/ dessert; N-Z/ side or salad RSVP required! Call 683-6949 or email stewardship@longtom.org www.longtom.org.
<b>Thursday, Sept. 17</b> <b>10:30 AM - 1 PM</b> <i>Library Main Meeting Room</i> <i>Corvallis</i>	<b>Stormwater Management: One Backyard at a Time</b> Are you interested in raingardens, green roofs, and permeable pavers? Join us for an interactive event to explore innovative stormwater management in Corvallis and Benton County! <i>Video and panel discussion sponsored by City of Corvallis Public Works, Benton County, and Benton SWCD</i>	Free and open to the public! For more information contact: Adam Stebbins adam.stebbins@co.benton.or.us (541) 766-6085
<b>Saturday, Sept. 19</b> <b>10 AM - 2 PM</b> <i>Helmick State Park, Hwy 99W</i> <i>Group Area B</i> <i>S of Monmouth</i> <i>Ride registration: 8 to 10 a.m.</i> <i>BBQ and events: 12 to 5 p.m.</i>	<b>Luckiamute River Watershed Council Fundraiser</b> <b>Le Tour de Luckiamute 2009</b> <b>Bike and BBQ</b> <i>A day of fun for the whole family!</i>  <i>Bike ride, music, auction, raffle, BBQ, refreshments, awards</i> <i>Senic bicycle ride includes: Two 20-mile loops, rest stops &amp; sag wagon. Not a biker? Bring a folding chair and have fun.</i>	Sign up now! Call 503-838-8804 E-mail: lwc@wou.edu \$20 per rider - Tax deductible Register by Sept. 10 On site bike registration \$25
<b>Saturday, October 3</b> <b>10 AM - 4 PM</b> <i>Benton County Fairgrounds</i>	<b>7th Annual Kids Day for Conservation</b> Numerous organizations and businesses will provide hands-on natural resource activities for children of all ages. KDC is designed to educate and help kids make a difference for conservation in their community.  Discover reptiles, birds, fish and other critters living in our area. Build a bird house to take home, do a nature art project, explore a soil tunnel, or climb a rock wall. Learn how to conserve energy and water, see how wildfires spread. Explore alternative energy sources including wind turbines and solar cells. AND MORE!!!	FREE! and open to the public! call 541-929-2477.  Last year over 1500 youth and adults participated in KDC.
<b>Saturday, October 14</b> <b>7-9:00 PM</b> <i>Benton Extension office</i>	<b>New 4-H Wildlife Stewards Orientation</b> Required for all new 4-H Wildlife Stewards applicants	To Register call: OSU Extension Service, Benton County 541-766-6750 or visit our website at: <a href="http://extension.oregonstate.edu/benton/">http://extension.oregonstate.edu/benton/</a>





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 Phone: (541) 753-7208  
 E-mail: office@bentonswcd.org  
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Please recycle this newsletter  
 or better yet, pass it to a friend!



Don't be a Turkey

Order your Native Plants  
 before Thanksgiving

2010 Native Plant Sale!

- Four ways to get the order form in early November:
- hard copy of Winter Horizons in your mailbox
  - electronic form on our web site at <http://www.bentonswcd.org/projects/treesale>
  - phone 541-753-7208 and ask for a copy
  - email [treesale@bentonswcd.org](mailto:treesale@bentonswcd.org) and request a form

Order deadline will be January 22 , 2010.  
 Some plants have limited availability and will be sold on a  
 first-order first-filled basis  
 Plant pick-up date is Saturday, February 6, 2010

**We are looking for permanent office space!**

Where? Downtown Corvallis vicinity

What? 2000 square feet with space to accommodate 8  
 work stations, conference room, storage and break room  
 or kitchenette.

Call 541-753-7208

**THE BENTON SWCD MISSION**  
*is to provide leadership to Benton County residents  
 through education and technical assistance for  
 conservation and responsible use and management of  
 soil, water and related resources.*

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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 services to the public without regard to race, color, national origin,  
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