



Horizons

Volume 16 Issue #1



WINTER 2006 - 2007 ~ SERVING BENTON COUNTY OREGON SINCE 1956

2007

Native Tree and Shrub Sale



The 2007 scholarship criteria and applications will be available in mid-February on our website <http://www.bentonswcd.org>.



Thanks to the generosity of native plant photographers you can view most plants we sell at <http://www.bentonswcd.org/projects/treesale>



New OSU Extension pamphlet: *Selecting Native Plant Materials for Restoration Projects* - 10 pages. Available only online at <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/pdf/EM/EM8885-E.pdf>



We send a heartfelt thanks to Mary and Wally Eichler for their continued support. They have hosted this event in their barn since the early 1990's!

Since 1993, the District's most far-reaching and effective program has involved the sale of native trees and shrubs for plantings to control erosion, create windbreaks, restore wildlife habitat and enhance riparian areas. For years, this sale provided the financial means that sustained a now-thriving Education and Outreach program.

Thanks to the conservation savvy of **Benton County voters of 2004**, the proceeds from this event now support natural resource education as **scholarships** for Benton County citizens pursuing higher education (see sidebar notes).

Additional District activities that encourage the use of native vegetation include co-sponsoring **Naturescaping** courses, offering discounted plant materials for **school projects**, and providing **technical services** that promote the protection and use of native plants.

Inserted in this issue you will find the 2007 plant descriptions and sale order form, offering **59 species** from the following categories: conifer, broadleaf, large shrub/small tree, small shrub/groundcover, and flowers/grasses/groundcover. **Alice Fairfield**, our dedicated and conscientious sale coordina-

tor, will TRY to fill every order to the best of her highly-skilled ability. Considering that past annual sales have exceeded 20,000 plants - that is a huge undertaking.

Please note: All plants must be **pre-ordered no later than January 6, 2007**. Full payment must be submitted with all pre-orders. **Order pick-up is ONE DAY ONLY - Saturday, February 3** at Eichler Hay Company, 3079 NE Garden Avenue, Corvallis.

To reduce traffic congestion, please try to adhere to these **designated pick-up times** based on last name initial:

A - G 8:00-11:30 AM
H - N 11:30 AM - 2:30 PM
O - Z 2:30 - 6:00 PM

Please call Alice at (541) 766-8083 to make other pick-up arrangements.

A diligent force of **volunteers** contribute to the success of this annual event. Call Teresa at (541) 753-7208 or email tmatteson@bentonswcd.org to learn how you can help during this year's event. **Volunteer tasks** include: transporting plant materials from nurseries, event set-up and take-down, and assisting customers with orders on Feb 3rd.



by Gordon Cumming

Eric Horning - A View from the Farm

Eric Horning, current BSWCD Vice Chair, chose not to stand for Zone 5 Director this past election. A number of factors undoubtedly drove that decision as Eric has become the principal operator of Horning Farms in south Benton County and wants to spend more time with his family.

During his eight years on the BSWCD Board, Eric has faithfully represented the Benton County agricultural constituency. He always considered the possible effects of decisions on the farming community, supported the preservation of private property rights, and worked to keep onerous regulations reasonable. *continued page 2*

Inside this issue...	page
<i>Eric's View continued</i>	2
<i>Annual Meeting reviewed</i>	2
<i>Online Organic Fertilizer Calculator</i>	2
<i>Poster Contest Update</i>	2
<i>Living on the Land Workshop</i>	3
<i>Small Farms Conference</i>	3
<i>Kudos for Karen S.</i>	3
<i>Animal & Crop and Soil Science Celebration</i>	3
<i>Conservation Grants and Scholarships</i>	4
<i>Mission, Directors, Staff</i>	4
<i>Native Shade Garden Design by Beth Young</i>	Insert
<i>Native Sale Plant Descriptions</i>	Insert
<i>Native Sale Order Form BLUE</i>	Insert

Eric Horning - continued from page 1

Eric's practical experience in his farming operation, where cost cutting practices must always be on the table, gave him insight into the fiscal concerns of the District which benefited from his careful scrutiny of expenditures. His technical understanding of conservation practices helped the BSWCD Board make astute decisions on conservation plans and on-the-ground issues.

Eric has represented our Board on the Mid Willamette Agricultural Water Quality Plan and Rules Local Advisory Committee (LAC) since 2001. During LAC planning and administrative rule development phase, he sought to ensure that rules would be fair and impartially implemented. Eric also has served on the Board of Directors of the Cascade Pacific Resource and Conservation Development Council.

Eric, an ingenious and creative farm manager, recently coupled a used school bus diesel engine with new applicator guns to modify his worn out swamp buggy for increased power, fuel efficiency, and application precision at a considerable savings over purchasing a used or new sprayer. He does not consider biodiesel an affordable alternative on his farm, but may consider meeting future farm fuel needs with a wheat fueled ethanol production facility.

The Benton SWCD staff has also benefited from his practical farming background. Eric has welded a broken bucket auger and cut infiltration rings from irrigation pipe for Outdoor School. We all fondly remember the harvest season board meetings when he arrived, tired and sunburned, with a huge box of tasty Willamette Valley sweet corn.

The Benton SWCD will miss Eric's valuable insight and subtle sense of humor. The staff and Directors wish him well and thank him for his long time service to the citizens of the District and especially his dedication to the agricultural community.



2005 - 2006 Annual Meeting ~ Celebrating 50 Years

A dedicated group braved the November 28th weather to celebrate 50 Years of Conservation. The party attendees represented a wide swath of the District's history. Past Board members who reunited for the occasion included Don Hector, the 1956 Chair (pictured right) and his daughter Karen, Gracen "Bud" Bush, John Caputo, Travis Hill, George Ice and his wife Becky (the District's first paid employee) Avery Jones, Dave Schmedding, Steve Smith, and Mark Taratoot.



Benno Warkentin, OSU Emeritus Professor of Soil Science and author, shared a crowd-pleasing presentation titled "Development of Soil Knowledge: Ideas and People". Benno's historical overview, spiced with his personal charm and humor, told of humankind's relationship with soil, surveyed the development and use of soil management tools, and touched on trends in soil study.

Annual recognition was given to the following folks:

Making Ripples Award	Dick Powell - Starker Forests
Conservation Teacher	Gail O'Malley - Cheldelin MS
Director of the Year	Tim Dehne
Volutneer of the Year	Jason Hotchkiss
Golden Dirt Award	Mary Eichler
District Appreciation	Eric Horning
Staff Appreciation	Tom Bedell

Online Organic Fertilizer Calculator

If you practice or are pondering organic production check out this nifty tool!

Nick Andrews (Oregon State University) and John Foster (Oregon Tilth) have teamed up to create an online organic fertilizer calculator to help you fine tune applications, minimize spending, maximize yield and protect water resources from leaching nutrients.

To access the calculator, visit either the OSU Extension or Oregon Tilth web page at
<http://smallfarms.oregonstate.edu/fertcalc.php>
 or <http://www.tilth.org/Resources/index.html>

This Excel format calculator includes five worksheets with instructions for plugging in the percent dry matter, "as-is" nutrient analysis, crop nutrient requirements, suggested fertilizer application rates and the price/pound for fertilizers that you use.

The calculator estimates plant-available nitrogen from organic fertilizers, and includes instructions that explain how to use it, how it works, and what limitations it has.



Congratulations!!!

to Molly Whitney, CHS junior and
 Mikayla Crystal,
 Wilson Elementary 5th grader.

Their 2006 Water Wise Conservation Posters won

FIRST PLACE

at the Oregon Association of Conservation Districts
 Annual Meeting.

Next their posters will compete at the
 National Annual Meeting in Los Angeles - February 2007



Living on the Land

Workshop series for small acreage landowners

Taught by agency & industry professionals and local landowners. Learn management practices that neighbors are implementing on their land.

Date	Topic
February 6	Pasture and Grazing Management
February 13	Managing Soil to Keep it Productive
February 20	Understanding Your Water Rights, Wells and Septic Systems
February 27	What to do About Weeds
March 3	Field tour - Farm Visits in Benton Co.

Location: Mary's River Grange Hall,
24707 Grange Hall Rd, Philomath

Cost: \$20/person; \$30 couple from same house

Time: 6:00 – 9:00 P.M.

Register NOW!!! call 541-766-3556 or visit <http://smallfarms.oregonstate.edu/LOL%20Registration%20Benton.pdf>

Sponsored by OSU Extension Service Small Farms Program, Benton SWCD and Oregon Governor's Fund.

Small Farms and Farm Direct Marketing Conference

Saturday, February 17, 2007
LaSells Stewart Center, Oregon State University

Keynote Speaker - Marion Nestles,
author of *Food Politics* and *What to Eat*

Cost: \$30/person; \$50 couple from same house

Check <http://smallfarms.oregonstate> for registration form and details on workshops

Karen Strohmeyer - An Outstanding Performer

Karen Strohmeyer, *pictured right*, has been awarded the 2006 Outstanding Performance by a Coordinator from the Pac Rim Regional Association of Resource Conservation & Development Councils. Next, she will compete at the national level with the other regional association winners.



In 18 years of service, Karen has been very busy! She implemented the Willamette Initiative with EPA, organized 10 still-active watershed councils, partnered with the US Forest Service to facilitate the internationally recognized Siuslaw Stewardship Program and provided direction for the Northwest Invasive Weed Management Partnership. She also implemented the Bylund Floodplain Restoration Project returning 1.2 miles of the Willamette River's forested riparian buffer and back sloughs to health, developed the upcoming Farmer-Fisher-Chef Connection and organized the Willamette Valley Birding Trail Project which will link rural businesses to a popular recreation activity that promotes resource conservation throughout 180 miles of the Willamette Valley. Karen applies unique organizational and leadership strategies to create strong partnerships, craft successful work plans, and secure solid project funding. Her sound reputation as a skilled leader channels a steady flow of resource conservation and development projects through the Cascade Pacific RC&D office.

Congratulations, Karen!



OSU Animal and Crop & Soil Science Departments

2007 Centennial Celebration

You are invited to attend 4 evening lectures held in Room 109 Withycombe Hall on the OSU campus between January and May, 2007 to celebrate the 100 year anniversary of two OSU Departments: Animal Science and Crop & Soil Science. A main event will be held on June 2 in the Austin Auditorium of OSU's LaSells Stewart Center.

See topic and speaker list at right!

Call 541-737-5854 or visit <http://cropandsoil.oregonstate.edu/alumni/centennial> for more information!

Date	Topic	Speaker
Tuesday February 6 7 PM	Genomics	Dr. Ronald L. Phillips Regents' Professor University of Minnesota
Tuesday March 6 7 PM	Animal - Human Interactions	Dr. John Hodges Professor Emeritus of Animal Genetics University of British Columbia, Canada
Tuesday April 3 7 PM	Public Lands	Dr. Thad Box Professor Emeritus, Wildland Resources Utah State University
Tuesday May 1 7 PM	Soils, Water and Man	Dr. Ron Amundson Professor University of California, Berkeley
Saturday June 2 10 AM	The Future of Agriculture and Land Grant Universities	Dr. Mike Martin President New Mexico State University



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



305 SW C Avenue, Suite 2
Corvallis, OR 97333
Phone: (541) 753-7208
E-mail: office@bentonswcd.org
Web: www.bentonswcd.org

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.

Thanks so very much!

2006 Conservation Grant and Scholarship Awards

Benton SWCD Conservation Grants support education projects that are long-term, possibly school-wide, district-wide, or county-wide, and/or collaborative. 2006 recipients, grant awards and (project titles) are listed below:

- Jeff Mitchell - \$4047.29 (Wildlife Blind)
- Jeff Picton - \$900 (Chintimini Wildlife Rehabilitation Center Field Study Program)
- Blodgett Elementary School/Julie Torkelson - \$224.09 (Weather Station)
- Lincoln School PTO - \$860 (Lincoln Nature Trail)
- Kings Valley Charter School/Courtney Moore - \$2373.30 (RARE Greenhouse Supplies)
- Benton County OSU Extention 4-H - \$1000 (Bezell Curriculum Kit Development)
- OSU Extension \$575 (Urban Soil Study Project)

For more information on Conservation Grant projects, watch for the upcoming Making Ripples page on our website at www.bentonswcd.org

Four 2006 Benton County high school graduates each received \$1000 **Benton SWCD Natural Resource Scholarships** to support their pursuit of higher education related to Natural Resources. Congratulations to **Emily Anderson, Tessa Marks, Hattie Olson and Jory Harding.**

2007 scholarship criteria and applications will be available in February. Check our web site www.bentonswcd.org. These scholarships are funded by Native Tree and Shrub Sale proceeds.

This newsletter is printed on 30% recycled paper. Please recycle it again, or better yet, pass it to a friend!



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 (ZONE) | ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS |
| Tom Bedell, Chair (3) | Rana Foster |
| Cliff Hall, Treasurer (1) | Mark Taratoot |
| Anne Rigor (2) | |
| Joe Hinds (4) | |
| Eric Horning (5) | |
| Andy Gallagher (At Large) | |
| Tim Dehne (At Large) | |

STAFF

- Gordon Cumming, District Manager
- Jennifer Floro, Office Manager
- Donna Schmitz, Resource Conservationist
- Chris Stebbins, Fish Passage Program Coordinator
- Teresa Matteson, Education and Outreach Director
- Heath Keirstead, Education Coordinator
- Alice Fairfield, Native Tree Sale Coordinator

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.