

# CONSERVATION CONNECTION

News from the Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District

Fall 2011

## SIXTH ANNUAL CONSERVATION TOUR AND BARBEQUE

By Judy Marsh



Saturday, July 23, 2011 brought not only the first really nice warm day of summer but the District's annual event. As the sun started to rise in the east, the hustle and bustle of the day's event started. It was our Sixth Annual Conservation Tour and Barbeque. This year we were fortunate to partner with the Washington County Small Woodlands Association (WCSWA) and their Washington County Tree Farm of the Year event.

Howell Tree Farm, in Gales Creek, was the place to be! It has an ECREP project planted in 2011. The project covers 17.1 acres along Gales Creek. Autumn Bryant, the District's Restoration Program Manager, was at one of the stations to explain the benefits of stream restoration.



Lacey Townsend, District Manager, was also there to explain TSWCD services and programs. There were a total of seven stations for people to visit. Other stations included NRCS conservation programs and various forestry demonstrations.



During our steak lunch, TSWCD and WCSWA presented their awards. TSWCD presented the Cooperator of the Year award to Loren Behrman from Behrman Farms, Inc. The Max M. Reeher award to Bobby Cochran from Willamette Partnership. (Details are on page 2.) Certificates of Appreciation and Special Thanks were also given out. (Details are on page 3.) The WCSWA awarded Terry, Jan and Michael Howell the 2011 Washington County Tree Farm of the Year Award.

Approximately 175 people attended this year's event. If you missed our Conservation Tour and Barbeque this year, make a mental note to watch for date, time and place for next year's event!

Thank you to the Howells for hosting this year's outstanding event.



### Inside this issue:

Sixth Annual Conservation Tour and BBQ	1
Conservation Award Winners	2
Conservation Tidbits	3
Hillsboro Envirothon Team	4
Did You Know?	4
Tualatin Basin Penstemon	5
Water Quality News in the Tualatin River Watershed	5
Weed Wise - Tidbits	6
Conservation Calendar	7

## TSWCD Conservation Awards



Loren Behrman accepting the Cooperation of the Year award from Dean Moberg, NRCS.

### 2011 Cooperator of the Year Award

*Nominations for this award are based on NRCS and SWCD staff recommendations of farmers, cooperators, and landowners who are leaders in the agriculture community for soil and water stewardship. Their conservation plans and demonstrated results exemplify the ideal outcome of the District's goals to improve water quality in the Tualatin River Basin.*

Wes and Russ Behrman formed Behrman, Inc. in 1996. In 1999, Loren (Wes's son) became an integral part of the Behrman Farms organization.

Currently Behrman Farms is growing tall Fescue, Red Clover, Crimson Clover, Wheat, Oats, and other specialty seed crops. Their rotations are flexible depending on weather, markets, and tillage requirements.

Behrman Farms has a conservation goal to leave an overall smaller footprint on the environment by incorporating a no-till program, adding filter strips, managing storm water runoff, and integrating in a nutrient and pest management plan.

Over the last several years, the Behrman's have enrolled in the Environmental Quality Incentives Program to reduce erosion, manage nutrients and pests, and plant vegetative buffers. Recently, Behrman's planted an area along the Tualatin River with native trees, shrubs, and grasses to shade the stream, improve wildlife habitat, and reduce the risk of stream bank erosion.

Loren, Wes, and Russ also have been very willing to host field trips to allow people to see the conservation practices on their place. Recently Behrman Farms and the Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District were able to educate a local Cub Scout pack on the benefits of planting trees. Congratulations for excellent conservation work – we look forward to many more years of collaborative projects.



John McDonald, Chairman of TSWCD, presenting the Max M. Reeher Award to Bobby Cochran.

### Max M. Reeher Award

*This award is presented in memory of Max M. Reeher. This memorial trophy was first presented in 1971. Max M. Reeher dedicated 20 years of service to the Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District and was one of the founding board members. The District presents this award annually to a citizen supporting our community who provides outstanding assistance to the Tualatin River Basin in meeting the District's goals to improve water quality.*

Early pioneers had no maps, signposts, or paved roads to make their journeys west. If they were lucky, they had a guide who knew the country and, most importantly, knew where the dangers were and how to avoid them. When the TSWCD was negotiating with Clean Water Services, the Farm Service Agency, and other partners to develop the ECREP program, Bobby Cochran was our trail guide.

We were pioneers blazing new trails with our ecosystem services market project (credit trading). Such projects had been talked about, but no actual on-the-ground project had been built anywhere in the U.S.

The issues were complex and, if handled incorrectly, could have substantial negative consequences to the partners. On many occasions the planning committee consulted with Mr. Cochran (a CWS employee at the time) for advice on which path to take to our destination.

For his exemplary guidance to the district and the other partners in the ECREP Program for the last seven years, we are honored to award Mr. Cochran the Max M. Reeher award for his outstanding contribution to the work of the district and conservation in Washington County.

Mr. Cochran has an amazing resume of education and work in policy and the environment. His position as Environmental Marketplace Analyst for Clean Water Services from 2006 to 2011 allowed him to study and advise on critical tools and protocols for ecosystem services: conservation easements; and the institutions, policies and processes to support ecosystem services markets.

Conservation Tidbits

**TSWCD AWARD CERTIFICATES**

TSWCD presented appreciation and special thanks certificates during the luncheon on July 23 to those who supported the District. Receiving the Appreciation Certificates were Denis Meeves, Brenda Allison, Dick Kover, Anthony Mills, Hillsboro Envirothon Team, Leo Preston, and Media Loftsgaarden. Receiving the Special Thanks Certificates were Elizabeth Ruther, Elaine Stewart, Curt Zonick, Fritz Paulus, Rich Hunter, Anil Devnani, Nicole Anderson, and Bob App.



**MEET THE NEW PERSON ON STAFF**

Nicole Ahr was born and raised outside of Corvallis. She has a B.S. in Environmental Science from the University of Oregon and her Masters in Wildlife Science from Oregon State University. She has worked with the U.S. Forest Service throughout the Pacific Northwest, and also for Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and Oregon State University. More recently she has been working as a contractor with the Gifford Pinchot and Olympic National Forests and as a Natural Resources Technician with Tualatin Hills Park and Recreation District. She has experience with a variety of wildlife monitoring and habitat management projects in forested, riparian, wetland, and agricultural lands throughout western Oregon and Washington. She is excited to join the SWCD world and share some of her own SWCD experiences with her husband, Michael Ahr, who works with West Multnomah SWCD. Nicole's job title is Project Coordinator and she will be working closely with Autumn and Dean.



Welcome to Manure Link, version 2.0!  
By Jennifer Nelson, Small Acreage Outreach Intern

A few years ago, Tualatin SWCD introduced a new opportunity to connect gardeners or growers seeking fresh or composted manure with landowners who found themselves knee deep in... ahem, well, you get the idea.

As part of the District's new website design, Manure Link received a much-needed facelift. Follow the web link on the District's front page (look for the Manure Link logo pictured above along the right-hand side of the website), or simply visit <http://www.swcd.net/manure-ads/>.

Got manure? No problem. You can now answer a few brief questions, provide an email address, and post your own ad. If your information changes or you no longer have manure to offer, you can now alter or remove your ad as well.

Need manure? Great! You can post an ad for that too. All ads are now searchable, making it easy to locate available manure by location, accessibility, age, and bedding or manure type.

We will work to expand the Manure Link program in coming months to attract more growers and livestock managers. As the program grows, the potential benefits to soil and water quality grow as well. You can help us spread the word by telling your friends and neighbors about this unique opportunity and sharing the website with them.

Remember, manure happens. It's what you make of it that matters!

**Have You checked out our NEW website?**

We launched our brand new website a couple months ago. Have you had a chance to look at it yet? The new site is easier to use and includes lots of useful conservation information. Don't wait any longer, check it out and let us know what you think! While you are on the site, sign up to receive your Conservation Connection newsletter electronically. We are also on Facebook! There is a link to our Facebook page on our website.



Check us out!!!!

[www.swcd.net](http://www.swcd.net)

## Hillsboro Envirothon Team

By Brenda Allison, Earth Team Volunteer



In early May, over 200 students and advisors descended upon the Oregon Garden in Silverton, OR, to compete in the hands-on environmental problem-solving competition known as Oregon Envirothon. The District was very fortunate to have our very first team from Hillsboro High School compete. Under the guidance of their Team Advisor, John Stables, the team consisting of Greg Vanderhof, Shelby Johnson, Cody Parks and Morgan Clark, (pictured above) successfully navigated the competition and placed 15<sup>th</sup> in a field of 33 teams. The team was actually one team member short due to a medical emergency that day.

Each year, over 500,000 young people across North America are positively influenced and taught about environmental issue through Envirothon. Envirothon is an exciting,

fun way for high school-aged students to learn about the environment through hands-on field experiences that demonstrate knowledge of natural resources. Participating teams complete training and testing in five natural resource categories: aquatic ecology, forest ecology, soils and land use, wildlife ecology, and one current environmental issue. Each team consist of five high school-aged students and an advisor.

Envirothon works in partnership with local conservation districts, forestry associations, educators, and cooperating natural resource agencies to organize and conduct competitions on the local, regional, state, and/or provincial level. Winning teams from each state and province advance to the National Canon Envirothon for the opportunity to receive recognition, scholarships, and prizes.



Welcome sign for Oregon's Envirothon Competition at the Oregon Gardens in Silverton.

### *Did You Know:*

There's a lot more to water than meets the eye. Here are a few interesting, and often amazing, facts about water. You might be surprised by what you learn!

These statistics are offered as an illustration of the importance of water. Every effort has been made to ensure accuracy, but errors may have occurred. OPB, "The Oregon Story" series.

#### **Oregon Water:**

- Oregon has had four significant droughts since 1920.
- Annual precipitation in western Oregon is between 40 and 140 inches a year.
- Annual precipitation in eastern Oregon ranges from 10 to 20 inches a year.
- Average annual precipitation for the entire state is 28 inches – about the same as Texas.
- In the past, hydroelectric dams have supplied up to 90% of Oregon's electricity; this is now down to about 50%.

#### **Oregon has:**

- 1,200 large dams and 30,000 small dams.

- Over 6,000 lakes, ponds, marshes, sloughs and reservoirs.
- Over 1,400 named lakes, including 13 "Lost" lakes, 11 "Blue" lakes, 10 "Clear" Lakes and 10 "Fish" Lakes.
- At least 200,000 wells, and possibly as many as 300,000.
- 111,619 stream miles -- enough to encircle the Earth 4.5 times.
- The fourth-largest U.S. river (based on volume), the Columbia is 1,243-miles long, with an average flow of 265,000 cubic feet every second.

#### **Fish and Wildlife:**

- Of the 1,200 species listed as threatened or endangered, half depend on rivers and streams for survival.
- At least 123 freshwater species became extinct during the 20<sup>th</sup> century.
- Freshwater animals are disappearing 5 times faster than land animals.
- In the Pacific Northwest, over 100 stocks and sub-species of salmon and trout have gone extinct. Another 200 are at risk.

## Tualatin Basin Penstemon

By Ginny Maffitt

A penstemon species, thought to have become extinct, has been re-found on the Tualatin River National Wildlife refuge in 2008. Found in various locations from Gaston to Tigard between 1895 and 1935, it was named **Penstemon hesperius** by Morton Peck (Willamette University). Later, this label was rolled into the umbrella of Penstemon rydbergii. When it went to the New York Botanic Garden for ID, it was tentatively called this, but odd hairs and the shape of calyx were questioned. Further DNA work shows it is a **new variety or possibly a new species!**

I believe it arrived here on the Missoula floods as *P. rydbergii* over 10-15,000 years, evolving into something new. The major differences are that it is twice as tall as Rydberg's penstemon, grows easily here in Washington County and has a mouse-tailed calyx with hairs, like no rydbergii! I haven't been able to grow *P. rydbergii* here, but as the repository caretaker of two plants rescued along Herman Road in Tualatin, it is easy to grow, giving up lots of seeds. I've regrown more plants which have been put out into Wetland Conservancy areas.

My appeal to you is to hunt along any lands you have in private ownership where it hasn't been plowed. Land may have been logged or had livestock on it and the plant survives. Look near the Tualatin river or it's tributaries where the plant could have come on floods in wetland or barely oak savannah. It likes sandy loam.



It will have 3 foot tall bloom stalks from mid-June to about mid-July (with our cool summer). The flowers are small, about 1 centimeter (1/3"-1/2" inch) long, but with many, covering the stem in bright-blue clusters. This blue is like no other flower blooming now and will catch your eye. The leaves are mostly at the base, elliptic, smooth-edged and about 3" long, but will come up the stem and **always** appear opposite each other. They turn maroon in cold weather, but are green now. If you see it, you might send a photo or just email me at [vmaffitt@gmail.com](mailto:vmaffitt@gmail.com) or call at 503-625-6384. A GPS number would really be great. We have bands of volunteers scouring public lands now, but it would be very helpful to have others looking at private holdings.

## Water Quality News in the Tualatin River Watershed

In response to the Federal Clean Water Act (CWA) of 1972, the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) listed the Tualatin River and its tributaries as "water quality limited." Once a river has been designated as water quality limited, the CWA requires that Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) be developed for that water body.

A TMDL is the maximum amount of a pollutant that a body of water can receive and still meet Oregon water quality standards. For the Tualatin River Subbasin, TMDLs for pH, chlorophyll *a*, and dissolved oxygen were originally adopted in 1988. These were revised in 2001, and TMDLs for temperature and bacteria were adopted. DEQ is currently revising the TMDL. This includes a revision of the 2001 TMDL for Temperature in order to comply with the temperature standard adopted in 2005. The document also amends the 2001 TMDLs for pH and chlorophyll *a*, and dissolved oxygen to accommodate new summertime discharges. It will also include a revision of the 2001 Water Quality Management Plan, a document that describes how the TMDLs will be implemented.

A public comment period will be opened sometime this fall. Once opened, the comment period will be 60 days. A public hearing will be scheduled during that time period as well. The document can be found under Tualatin Subbasin at <http://www.deq.state.or.us/wq/tmdls/willamette.htm#t> when they are ready for public comment.

## Have you ever considered helping Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District (TSWCD) and Farm Service Agency (FSA) go **GREENER?**

We are hoping you will consider signing up to receive both the TSWCD Conservation Connection and the USDA-FSA Newsletter electronically. It will only take a few minutes. Just go to TSWCD's website at [www.swcd.net](http://www.swcd.net). Go to [www.fas.usda.gov](http://www.fas.usda.gov) to sign up for

FSA News. Help us go 100 percent green with this request by the end of **2011!**

## WEED WISE - TIDBITS

By Lacey Townsend

### Managing your Garden Weeds in the Fall

The fall season is a great time to prepare your garden beds to prevent weed germination in the spring. Cover your garden beds with a layer of mulch to suppress winter and spring annual weeds. For extra protection, cover the garden bed first with newspaper or cardboard, followed by the layer of mulch. Planting a cover crop in the fall is another way to prevent weed growth. A cover crop also prevents winter erosion and adds valuable organic matter and nutrients to the soil when tilled in the spring.

### Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA)

CWMAs are local organizations that bring together multiple partners to coordinate action and share expertise and resources to manage common weed species. In Washington County, we are part of the 4-County CWMA. The 4-County CWMA is comprised of Clackamas, Multnomah, Washington, and Clark Counties. It exists to create and support collaborative weed management among land managers and owners in and around the greater metropolitan area of Portland. Because noxious weeds know no boundaries, effective management can only be achieved through collaboration and partnerships. The CWMA promotes education, outreach, inventory, prevention, and control of weeds. For more information: <http://4countycwma.org/>.

### Look out for...Japanese Knotweed!!

Japanese Knotweed was introduced into the United States from Japan in the 1820s as an ornamental. Japanese Knotweed is most common in the eastern United States but is becoming more common in the Pacific Northwest. It is on the Oregon State Noxious weed "B" list. It is hard to control because it has no natural enemies. It grows faster than most plant species therefore suppressing them in the areas that it establishes. Japanese Knotweed establishes very easily and mainly reproduces by rhizomes and small fragments of the plants that are relocated.

Mechanical control such as mowing, cutting, pulling, or digging can be used in an attempt to get rid of the Japanese Knotweed but is very difficult and will most likely lead to failure. Control of Japanese Knotweed must take place on a patch-by-patch basis and will most likely require some form of herbicide application to eradicate the patch. Another issue is that any method that breaks up the roots encourages shoot growth.

Identifying Japanese Knotweed:

- Hollow bamboo-like stems that grow up to 10 feet in height.
- Leaves are alternate, heart shaped, and up to 10 inches in length.
- The stems are often red or reddish speckled.
- Young shoots look similar to red asparagus.
- Small white or green flower clusters that grow at the leaf joints in July and August.
- Mainly reproduces by rhizome fragments.

### Reporting Noxious Weeds

To report noxious weeds, please visit the Oregon Invasive Hotline at <http://oregoninvasiveshotline.org/>



Japanese Knotweed photographed by Glenn Miller, ODA



Japanese Knotweed photographed by Glenn Miller, ODA

**Conservation Calendar**

When	What
Saturday, October 1 - 9:00 am to 2:00 pm	<b>Rural Living Field Day.</b> Please check Tualatin SWCD's website at <a href="http://www.swcd.net">www.swcd.net</a> for more information.
Saturday, October 15—9:00am to 1:00pm Saturday, October 29—9:00am to 1:00pm Saturday, November 5—9:00am to 1:00pm Saturday, November 13—9:00am to 1:00pm Saturday, December 10—9:00am to 1:00pm	<b>Naturescaping Basics.</b> Please check East Multnomah SWCD'S website at <a href="http://www.emswcd.org">www.emswcd.org</a> for more information.
Saturday, October 1—10:00am to 2:00pm	<b>Native Plant Sale, Tualatin Hills Nature Park.</b> Please check THPRD's website at <a href="http://www.thprd.org/">http://www.thprd.org/</a> for more information.
Saturday, October 8—9:00am to 1:00pm Sunday, October 16—1:00pm to 5:00pm	<b>Site Planning 1</b> (extension of Naturescaping Basic). Please check East Multnomah SWCD's website at <a href="http://www.emswcd.org">www.emswcd.org</a> for more information.
Tuesday, October 11—6:30pm to 7:30pm	<b>Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District's Annual Meeting.</b> It will be held at the USDA Board Meeting room at 1080 SW Baseline, Hillsboro.
Wednesday, October 12—6:00pm to 8:30pm	<b>Forest Planning Shortcourse.</b> Please check West Multnomah SWCD's website at <a href="http://www.wmswcd.org">www.wmswcd.org</a> for more information.
Saturday, October 22—10:00am to 3:00pm	<b>Water! 2011</b> Please check East Multnomah SWCD's website at <a href="http://www.emswcd.org">www.emswcd.org</a> for more information.
Wednesday, November 16—4:00pm to 7:00pm	<b>Healthy Septic System.</b> Please check West Multnomah SWCD's website at <a href="http://www.wmswcd.org">www.wmswcd.org</a> for more information.
Saturday, October 1—9:00am to 1:00pm Sunday, October 16—1:00pm to 5:00pm Sunday, November 6—1:00pm to 5:00pm Saturday, November 19—9:00am to 1:00pm	<b>Rain Garden Workshops.</b> Please check East Multnomah SWCD's website at <a href="http://www.emswcd.org">www.emswcd.org</a> for more information.

- Monthly Board Meetings**
- Tualatin SWCD - second Tuesday of the month 7:30pm, USDA Conference Room. For more information, contact Judy at 503-648-3174 x117.
  - Washington County Farm Bureau—third Tuesday of the month, 7:30pm, Country Insurance and Financial Services Building, 885 SW Baseline St., Hillsboro.
  - Tualatin River Watershed Council - first Wednesday of the month, 7:00pm, Clean Water Services Administration Building, Tualatin Room. For more information, contact April Olbrich at 503-846-4810.
  - Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve - second Wednesday of the month, 4:00pm, Jackson Bottom Wetlands Education Center.

- To volunteer for restoration activities, contact the following organizations:**
- Tualatin Hills Park and Recreation District, Melissa Marcum at 503-629-6305 ext. 2953.
  - SOLV at <http://www.solv.org>.
  - Tualatin River Watershed Council at <http://www.trwc.org> or April Olbrich at 503-846-4810.

*Providing local solutions to local problems.*

## **TUALATIN SWCD**

1080 SW Baseline  
Suite B-2  
Hillsboro, OR 97123

Phone: 503-648-3174 ext. 5  
Fax: 503-681-9772  
Email: [judy.marsh@or.nacdnet.net](mailto:judy.marsh@or.nacdnet.net)

### **2010-2011 Annual Report**

The TSWCD 2010-2011 Annual Report will be available after October 14 on our website or as a hard copy you can pick up at the office.

**We're on the web!**

**[www.swcd.net](http://www.swcd.net)**

### *Our Mission*

In order to conserve, protect, and enhance the natural resources in the Tualatin Basin, the mission of the Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District is to:

- Assess watershed conditions, identify resource concerns, and select strategies to help natural resources meet standards and all beneficial uses;
- Provide technical assistance to help private landowners install conservation practices to meet natural resource goals and their own objectives;
- Increase the public's knowledge of and involvement in natural resource issues and solutions; and
- Deliver conservation programs and services to individuals, groups, and other governments.

#### **Board of Directors**

John McDonald, Chair  
Eldon Jossi, Vice Chair  
Judy Olsen, Secretary/Treasurer  
Thomas Dierickx  
George Marsh  
Matt Pihl  
Jerry Ward

#### **Directors Emeritus**

Kathy Clair  
Gary Clark  
Ralph Duyck  
Lyell Gardner  
Steve Huffman  
Dick Kover  
Dan Logan  
Terry Peters

#### **Associate Directors**

Sally Krahmer  
Anthony Mills

#### **Employees**

Lacey Townsend, District Manager  
Autumn Bryant, Restoration Program Manager  
Nicole Ahr, Project Coordinator  
Judy Marsh, Administrative Assistant

**[www.swcd.net](http://www.swcd.net)**

The Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District 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.