



**WEST MULTNOMAH**  
SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT



# ***Stories of Stewardship***

**West Multnomah Soil & Water  
Conservation District**



***2011-2012 Annual Report***

## Our impact on the land...

- 💧 **14,134 Native plants installed**
- 💧 **806+ Acres in agriculture/water quality projects**
- 💧 **229 Acres surveyed for spurge laurel infestations**



## Collecting hazardous materials...



Over 14,000 pounds of hazardous chemicals were dropped off during our Chemical Collection Day in April at Sauvie Island Fire Station. That's a lot of hazardous materials that will not have any chance of reaching soil, groundwater supplies, and wildlife. Materials turned in included 2, 4-D (herbicide) and malathion (pesticide). We applaud participating landowners who are concerned with ridding their barns and sheds of old bottles, drums and unsafe containers full of expired or unused hazardous products.

## Forest conservation plans...

Five conservation plans were completed and signed this fiscal year, bringing the total number of plans to seven, for a total of 176 acres of forest land in the District. At press time, 3 more plans await the landowner's signature! This means that Forest Conservationist Michael Ahr has worked with landowners to take inventory of what types of vegetation and soil conditions they have, determine what their land needs and what kinds of improvements they'd like to accomplish. All of this is then translated into a Conservation Plan, which will help guide future activities and care of the land.

## Invasive weeds...

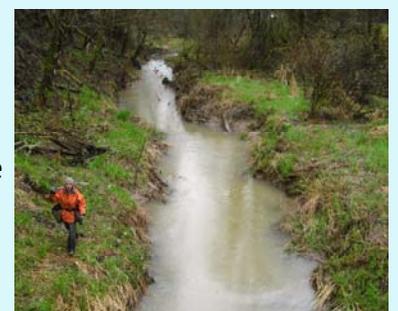


Garlic mustard

We successfully treated 75 acres of highly invasive garlic mustard, surpassing last year by 63 acres. Much of the success was due to our outreach to 725 homeowners in the West Hills and Riverview areas with information about the garlic mustard control program; 30% of the homeowners responded to the mailing. We found 57 new infestations this year, but the good news is that we didn't find any plants on 37 additional sites we surveyed. The Conservation District works closely with the City of Portland, Clean Water Services, and volunteer groups to identify and control garlic mustard in the District.

## Healthy streams...

McCarthy Creek has been a focus this year for Conservation District staff, landowners, and local businesses. Staff was joined by volunteers from Native American Rehabilitation Association NW and employees of *Gunderson Marine* and *Vigor Industrial* for a watershed restoration day near the mouth of McCarthy Creek. Invasive weeds and garbage were removed from in and around the creek to make way for a District planting of native species in February to stabilize and restore the creek banks and help prevent the resurgence of invasive species.



- 💧 **58+ Forested acres treated for invasive weeds**
- 💧 **48 Agriculture sites assessed**
- 💧 **28+ Acres of forest thinned**
- 💧 **20 Truckloads of spurge laurel destroyed**
- 💧 **12 Conservation plans guiding 916 acres**



*"It's important for us to check in with landowners to make sure these chemicals are not eroding on their land potentially harming water supplies and soil health as well as impacting agricultural production."*

*Rural Conservationist Scott Gall*

A short list of the chemicals collected by Clean Harbor Environmental Services include 2, 4-D, Diazinon, tar, malathion, hydrochloric acid, sulfuric acid, potassium and sodium hydroxide, paint, aluminum phosphate, and para-dichlorobenzene.

The event was paid for by West Multnomah Conservation District and the Oregon Governor's Fund for the Environment, administered by the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation.



*In forestry alone...*

- ☼ **Over 2 acres of wildlife habitat planted**
- ☼ **28.5 acres of forest thinned**
- ☼ **58.8 acres of invasive weeds treated**
- ☼ **Over 4,000 native trees & shrubs planted**

This control program was supported by an Oregon State Weed Board grant from the Oregon Department of Agriculture and Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board.

Close to 100% of the landowners in the Palatine Hill area adjacent to Tryon Creek Park participated in our Riverview spurge laurel removal program! As a result, nearly all known patches of spurge laurel have been removed. More than 20 truck loads of the weed was disposed of. In total, 229 acres were surveyed; 72 acres were affected and total vegetative mass removed this year exceeded ten acres.



During fish sampling in McCarthy Creek, District and ODFW staff were pleased to find Coho salmon and cutthroat trout, both of which historically have been found in the creek but are rare in the middle and upper reaches of the waterway. The District wants to find out why, particularly after discovering lots of great fish habitat in these reaches. The information will help the District's work with private landowners along the creek who are interested in restoration projects to improve fish passage, water quality, and riparian areas. Other partners include the Native American Rehabilitation Association, Metro, the Natural Resource Conservation Service, Gunderson, LLC, Willamette Riverkeeper, and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.



## Next generation of leaders...

How do you create more environmental leaders given limited manpower and resources? That was the question before Urban Conservationist Mary Logalbo and colleagues at the Tryon Creek Watershed Council, Southwest Watershed Resource Center, Tualatin River Watershed council and the West Willamette Watershed Partnership. Their solution? The *Urban Watershed Mentors Program*, which pairs experienced leaders with new volunteers to create the next generation of watershed leaders.

## Education...

2011-12 is the first year the Conservation District has had a staff person dedicated to education. The position was created to help in the cultivation of future land stewards. The first round of classroom projects focused on conservation were undertaken with much success. Education Coordinator Erica Stokes worked with students and teachers at Chapman Elementary School and Sauvie Island Academy to install native wildlife habitats that are in the process of receiving Backyard Habitat Certification. Further lessons and future projects at these and other schools are planned for the coming year.

## A note from our manager...

Weed warriors . . . watershed restoration . . . wildlife habitat . . . water quality. What do all these have in the common?

YOU, your neighbors and community groups are all partners in the work and goals of the West Multnomah Conservation District. Property owners and taxpayers support our voluntary programs to eradicate invasive plants from streams, riparian areas, woodlands and pastures. City and rural land owners work with our conservation district staff to plant native plants along stream banks to prevent erosion and to filter sediment and chemicals.



## A message from our board...

If you look around West Multnomah County, especially in the rural areas like Sauvie Island, the outer roads of the West Hills, and the area around Tryon Creek, you'll see signs here and there with our logo.

If you look closely around those signs you'll see cleared land where there used to be tall weeds, native habitats where there used to be clearings, and clean salmon-bearing streams where there used to be weed-covered banks.

Thanks to motivated landowners, hard-working volunteers, and terrific partner agencies, we've finished a lot of great projects in the past year, and initiated even more.

*Jane Hartline, Board Chair*

### *Our Staff:*

District Manager, Dick Springer

Conservation Technician, Michelle Delepine

Senior Conservationist, Kammy Kern-Korot

Urban Conservationist, Mary Logalbo

Education Coordinator, Erica Stokes

Forest Conservationist, Michael Ahr

Rural Conservationist, Scott Gall

Operations Administrator, Michele Levis

Communications Coordinator, Carolyn Lindberg

NRCS District Conservationist, Steve Fedje

USDA Lower Willamette Basin Engineer, John Gillilan

Graduates are equipped to guide a conservation project from planning to implementation for their own property and that of other landowners with the assistance of community experts.

Participants are paired with an experienced watershed leader in a mentorship relationship to maximize restoration work throughout the District's urban western watersheds. Program training is held in direct partnership with the existing Tryon Creek Mentor Program. Classes are held once a month for six months and after training, mentors are asked to implement their own conservation projects and to mentor a new volunteer. This first program year was free to urban residents West Multnomah Conservation District. The program's first year trainees will complete the course in the fall.



The Conservation District's education program has strategically partnered with a large number of organizations, including Portland Public Schools, Backyard Habitat Certification Program, Friends of Tryon Creek, Outdoor School, and Portland State University's Center for Science Education. Partnerships are created to increase the use of school gardens as outdoor classrooms, help educate teachers, students, and the community at large about local ecology, and increase the District's visibility in the community.

Resources such as financial grants and experienced contractors are available for projects that prevent contaminated run-off from poorly-maintained pastures, roads and ditches.

From fencing to managing livestock and covered manure storage facilities to the planting of pollinator-friendly hedgerows for year-round food and shelter, the District's experienced & skilled technicians are ready, willing and able to help. We help willing landowners with site visits, workshops and conservation plans to enhance long-term property value, wildlife habitat and water quality, active recreation & human health and enjoyment .

Everyone can contribute in some way - and all will reap the benefits now and for future generations.

*Dick Springer, District Manager*

### *Our Board:*

Jane Hartline, Zone 2/Chair

Brian Lightcap, Zone 4/Chair Emeritus

Marshall Miller, Director at Large/  
Treasurer

David Patte, Director at Large/Secretary

Kim Peterson, Zone 1

Terri Preeg Riggsby, Zone 5/Vice Chair

George Sowder, Zone 3

Weston Miller, Associate Director



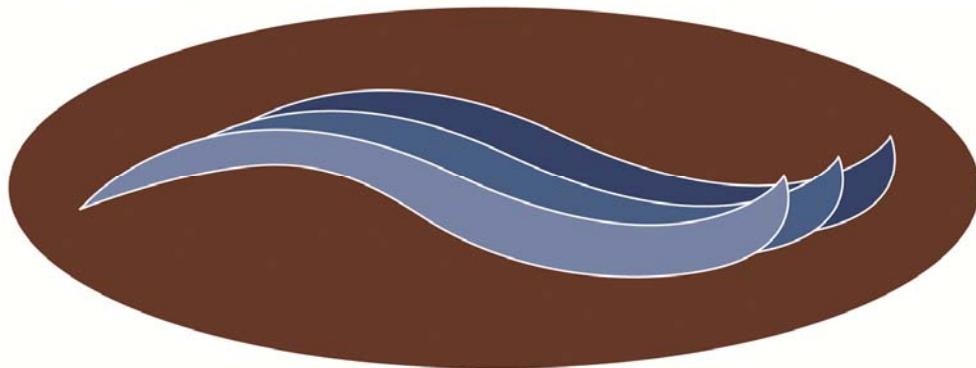
*Photo; Katie Rupp*

**Our mission: To conserve and protect soil and water resources for people, wildlife and the environment.**



Cover and back photos: Katherine Stember

# WEST MULTNOMAH



SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT



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