

News from the Conservation District

Time to stay warm and plan for spring!



WMSWCD ELSEWHERE



F O L L O W on F A C E B O O K



District Manager's Message *by Jim Cathcart*

The year-end holiday season is over, winter has settled in and by now most New Year's resolutions have gone by the wayside. Except, of course, those involving conservation! Rest assured the West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District is busy putting conservation in action. In this edition of our e-newsletter we feature articles ranging from monarch butterflies and milkweed to sharing the results of how private forest landowners in our District use forestry assistance. The reason we provide technical assistance to private landowners is because when private landowners are engaged with the management of their properties and understand their needs, goals and responsibilities, everyone wins in terms of healthy soil, clean water and diverse habitats.

Another aspect of conservation is protecting natural resources from threats, such as

invasive pests, which sometimes come in the plant form, but other times have legs, wings and voracious appetites. Read below about the Oregon Department of Agriculture's five year Japanese beetle eradication project in the Cedar Mills and Bonny Slope portions of the Tualatin Mountain foothills in Washington County. The Oregon Department of Agriculture, along with community partners and the full cooperation of the thousands of properties impacted, is fighting the good fight to rid Oregon of this pest. Our newsletter also features articles on the importance of riparian (aka streamside) vegetation in curbing erosion and one New Year's resolution that would still be easy to commit to ridding your property of English holly seedlings and saplings.

Are you lacking knowledge about the region's rich natural history, especially when it comes to the importance of our native flora and fauna? Then seek out some traditional ecological knowledge acquired by indigenous and local peoples over hundreds of thousands of years of direct contact with the environment. In this newsletter, we give you a taste of how we are seeking this type of knowledge. We also talk about the many challenges southwest Portland faces with stormwater runoff during the winter months due to a legacy of poor stormwater management infrastructure. Our role is to be part of the solution to this vexing problem by assisting residents with simple practices that keep stormwater from running off their property to begin with.

Winter also marks the beginning of our budget season. In this e-newsletter, we provide you the highlights of our budget and budget development process and invite those of you interested in being a part of our budget development to apply to join our Budget Committee.

Lastly, mark your calendars for some fantastic training opportunities featured; namely Soil School (Saturday, April 7th) and our design and build Stormwater Stars workshops through the Southwest Watershed Resource Center that will begin in February and run through April.

Tis' the conservation season indeed!

Japanese Beetle Update

by Jim Cathcart, District Manager

The Japanese beetle is a major invasive insect pest that over the last 100 years has become established throughout the eastern half of the United States, causing serious and costly



damage to nurseries, seedbeds, orchards, field crops, landscape plants, and garden plants – over 200 plant species in all. The adults devour fruits and chew up leaves, flowers and foliage, turning trees and shrubs brown and ugly. Grubs feed on roots of turf and ornamentals as well as crops such as corn, beans, tomatoes, and strawberries. The beetle also destroys turf grass in parks, golf courses, and cemeteries.

Oregon has so far escaped establishment of the Japanese

beetle within its boundaries due to successful eradication after the pest was detected in the late 1980s and again in 2000. But, in 2016, a new, unprecedented high number of beetles were discovered - the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) found 369 adult Japanese beetles in traps in the unincorporated Cedar Mill and Bonny Slope areas of Washington County. An aggressive quarantine and eradication treatment plan was developed and implemented in 2017. In the spring of 2017, with the voluntary consent of nearly every one of the 2,300 properties in the 1.56 square mile treatment area, licensed contractors applied one ground application of the granular pesticide Acelepryn®, which is a low-risk insecticide targeting the larval stage of the beetle. It was applied to lawns and irrigated landscapes using hand-held and mechanical push spreaders. The goal was to ensure the larvicide was present in the soil for consumption by newly hatched larva in late summer/early fall 2017. Another key measure was the initiation of a quarantine area for controlling the disposal and treatment of yard debris and grass clippings sourced from within the quarantine area.

Since the primary treatment - ground application of the granular pesticide Acelepryn® - would only control larva destined to mature as adults in 2018, officials knew that the 2017



trapping season would yield a continued high number of adults. The impact of the 2017 treatment plan would only be known when trapping results from the 2018 season showed a marked drop in adult beetle counts. However, officials were still taken aback by the large adult beetles found in the 2017 traps - over

23,000! Such a large number of beetles affirmed that the eradication effort would indeed take a 5 year commitment.

"The threat to Oregon is more imminent now because of the numbers of beetles we are seeing and the fact that we have seen damage to plants within the epicenter of the insect's population," says ODA's Clinton Burfitt, a veteran of successful Japanese beetle eradication projects in Utah. "I'm still optimistic about eradicating our current infestations. With the community's continued support of the 5-year project, I know we will get this done."

The 2018 eradication treatment plan is similar to last year's (a single ground application of

the larvicide, Acelepryn®) but at an expanded scale. The 2018 treatment will cover 7,300 properties within a 3.13 square mile <u>treatment area</u>. The 2018 treatment area consists of an expansion of the 2017 treatment area plus additional satellite treatment areas - including 3 new isolated areas to be treated south of US Highway 26 in Beaverton. Intensive trapping will also be conducted when adult beetles emerge and take flight in the summer and fall of 2018. Those trapping results will guide the 2019 treatment plan. The 2018 treatment plan also expands the <u>quarantine area</u> that controls the disposal and treatment of yard debris and grass clippings sourced from within the quarantine area.

The Oregon Department of Agriculture and supporting agencies and local community organizations will hold two open houses on the 2018 Japanese beetle treatment plan:

- <u>Tuesday evening, February 6th from 5:30 pm–7:00 pm</u> at Sunset High School, 13840 NW Cornell Road, Portland, Oregon 97229
- <u>Tuesday morning</u>, February 13th from 9:30 am–12:30 pm at the Leedy Grange, 835 NW Saltzman Road, Portland, Oregon 97229

Should I Plant Milkweed?

by Mary Logalbo, Urban Conservationist

Once the dramatic decline of the charismatic monarch butterfly was understood,

conservationists throughout the country responded with vigorous planting efforts focused primarily on installing milkweed plants, which are the required host plants for monarch caterpillars. This seemed to be a simple and effective way to support monarch conservation. However, the Xerces Society, an international nonprofit organization that protects wildlife

through the conservation of invertebrates and their habitats, warns that milkweed may not be appropriate in every landscape. For example, they do not recommend planting milkweed in areas where the plant did not historically occur, such as a section of Northwest Oregon that includes the West Multnomah SWCD service area, as shown here.

The Xerces Society makes its milkweed recommendations "in order to best support the natural cycle and migration of monarchs through an area" but the debate as to whether or not showy milkweed (*Asclepias speciosa*) is native to Portland is far from final. However,



Urbanizing Flora of Portland and prominent botanical authorities have found documented native populations to only exist, both historically and currently, <u>outside</u> of the West Multnomah SWCD service area. In response to this, if you want to "Save the Monarchs" and other beautiful butterflies (such as the swallowtail shown on the showy milkweed at left), bees and other pollinators within our service area, we recommend

you plant an abundance of diverse native wildflowers, shrubs and trees that provide nectar and pollen throughout the growing season. You might be surprised to learn that planting and protecting our native thistle species is now recommended, as their pollen and nectar resources are incredibly valuable food sources to bees, butterflies and other pollinators. Some information on these native thistles can be found at <u>Clackamas SWCD's</u> <u>website</u> and on <u>Xerces' website</u>.

Sturgeon Lake Restoration Project Update

by Carolyn Lindberg, Communications Coordinator

Sturgeon Lake, a cultural, historic and environmental gem of Sauvie Island, is no longer connected to the tidal flow of the Columbia River and is filling with sediment and debris. Spring runoff flows from the Columbia River need to be reconnected to the upper lake to allow flushing and deepening of the lake so it's maintained as a critical habitat to juvenile salmon and lamprey, as well as to thousands of over-wintering birds and waterfowl. The Sturgeon Lake Restoration Project, for which the West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District serves as the non-federal sponsor, aims to restore the Columbia River's high and low flow connection to upper Sturgeon Lake by restoring the Dairy Creek channel that connects them.

Two undersized, failing culverts under Reeder Road will be replaced with a single-span



bridge. The debris boom at the mouth of Dairy Creek, which was lost in 1996, will be replaced with a new one designed to remain in place even during major floods. A large sand plug which prevents most flow through the Dairy Creek channel will be removed. The channel will be designed to move as much water during high water events like floods but also allow the positive effects of daily tides even when the Columbia River is near its annual low.

Finally, the District will restore about 7 acres of riparian habitat along the creek between the Columbia River and Sturgeon Lake.

Federal, state and county permits have been submitted, and with approval, will ensure

project construction begins this summer, as expected. Through work led by the Columbia River Estuary Study Task Force (CREST), come July, crews will begin removing two failing culverts in Dairy Creek at NW Reeder Road, the site of the planned bridge. To alert island residents and visitors to traffic delays during bridge construction next spring and summer, signs have been posted at the site and on island bulletin boards. A bypass road is planned around the construction area (Reeder Road at Dairy Creek), but traffic will likely be slow during peak weekend travel times during the summer.

Already, West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District crews have removed thickets of non-native blackberry and false indigo bush along the banks of Dairy Creek, to be replaced with native trees and shrubs in the winter of 2018-2019.

Funding for the project is through the US Army Corps of Engineers, Bonneville Power Administration, and several cooperating agencies and partners, including private and corporate donations secured through the Oregon Wildlife Foundation.

The District has secured a dedicated email address and web page for information about the project. Please visit www.sturgeonlake.org or email sturgeonlake@wmswcd.org with any questions.

Why Riparian Vegetation Matters

by Kammy Kern-Korot, Senior Conservationist

This is the time of year when you might see streambanks eroding during or after heavy rainfall. Rainwater can collect rapidly and run off in sheets across the surface of the ground, ultimately flowing over streambanks and filling streams to capacity. Water flowing downhill from upper watershed areas can add to the problem, as can logging and home development activities.

Riparian vegetation - trees, shrubs and other plants that grow near streambanks - filters runoff and sediment and slows the floodwater so that the sediment can settle and plant



roots can hold the soil in place. Excess nutrients draining from nearby pastures, fertilized fields and yards can be absorbed by riparian plants, which may reduce the potential for harmful algal blooms and excessive aquatic plant growth in the stream or canal. Healthy riparian trees and other vegetation act like a sponge to absorb excess water during flood periods, some of which enters the groundwater and is released later, helping to

increase low late summer and fall stream flow.

Beyond the erosion benefits, healthy riparian areas provide vital habitat for both aquatic

and terrestrial wildlife. They give cover and shade to keep both stream and ambient temperatures cool for fish and other wildlife, provide food to the aquatic and terrestrial insects at the bottom of the food chain, and provide important food, shelter, nest sites and migration corridors for birds and other animals. A wide variety of species, such as hummingbirds, bald eagles, beaver, otter, mink, deer and elk, use riparian areas. Multilayer riparian zones also provide aesthetic benefits, privacy and noise buffering, wildlife viewing, biodiversity, and carbon sequestration.

While natural processes definitely play a role, one study found that most of the estimated 10 million tons of sediment eroded from streambanks in Oregon and Washington was caused by people. In addition to maintaining healthy riparian vegetation, landowners can minimize pervious surface (paved), plant more trees and shrubs, direct stormwater runoff to vegetated areas (instead of to driveways and culverts), and keep livestock away from streambanks to minimize erosion.

For more information, see our resources <u>here</u>.

Understory Seeding Project Seeks Woodland Owners

by Michael Ahr, West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District

Part of having a healthy woodland is having a healthy understory, which refers to the ferns, flowers, grasses, and shrubs growing on the forest floor. This area provides critical habitat for many species of wildlife. I find 3 common scenarios in our local woodlands:

- Healthy forest floors with plenty of ferns and flowers
- Desolate understory where nothing is growing due to intense shade (this is common in dense Douglas-fir plantations)
- Invasive Species Unfortunately ivy and blackberry can take over and fill the understory with unwanted guests

The desolate understory situation along with the unhealthy, invasive weed-filled forests have led us to develop an understory seeding project in partnership with Clean Water Services, funded by a Natural Resources Conservation Service Conservation Innovation Grant.

Our District has a great record of killing blackberry, ivy and other invasive weeds.



However, especially on ivy sites, it can be tough to regenerate a healthy understory after the weed control is done. Ivy forms a thick mat of ground cover that smothers other plants. When ivy is removed, native plants are often slow to come back, especially if the ivy has been prevalent for many years. We usually can find larger shrubs from local nurseries to plant in these sites, but it's more difficult to find affordable plant stock, such as

trillium, inside-out flower and fringecup, that will offer cover closer to the ground surface. With this in mind, we're working to develop seed mixes that can be spread on restored sites where native forbs and grasses can fill the void left by the weeds. On sites with dense canopy where little is growing on the forest floor, we plan to spread these seed mixes and perform some forest thinning to create more patches of sunlight that will help understory plants establish.

Clean Water Services, Metro, and Portland Bureau of Environmental Services have started identifying seed sources to create these mixes and we're very thankful for their help in the project. In the early stages, we're looking for sites with just a few square meters of ground on which to try this seed. We're targeting landowners with woodland property in the Tualatin Watershed (landowners who tend to live on roads heading west from Skyline Boulevard). Please contact me, michael(at)wmswcd.org if you're interested in participating in some understory seeding on your property.

Want to Plant or Improve Oregon White Oak?

by Kammy Kern-Korot, Senior Conservationist

If you have 10 or more acres of rural land in the West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District (WMSWCD) that have or could support rare Oregon white oaks trees - read on!

WMSWCD has funding, in the form of an Oak "Conservation Implementation Strategy" (CIS), to help landowners do the following:

- Free Oregon white oak trees in woodland settings from competing trees that shade them out, such as Douglas-fir
- Create or enhance oak savanna and woodlands by planting new oak trees, managing invasive weeds and/or adding native plants that naturally occur in those habitats

Invasive plants that need control range from aggressive herbaceous weeds like shiny geranium to woody weeds such as blackberry, English hawthorn and Scotch broom. Additional conservation practices may include the creation of brush and rock piles for wildlife and nest boxes for bluebirds. The geographic target area for this work is Sauvie Island, the bottomlands and East-facing slope of the West Hills (across from Sauvie Island), and rural West Multnomah county land along the stair-step boundary with Washington County (up to the headwaters of Abbey Creek).



Oregon white oak woodlands, savanna and associated prairie exist at less than 10 percent of their prior range in the Willamette Valley. They historically occurred in the target areas for this program, where the soils were either rocky or shallow and not optimal for conifer forest. Other areas include landscapes actively managed by Native Americans to maintain a more open habitat occupied by oaks, wildflowers, and other preferred food sources. Oak-associated habitats support hundreds of wildlife species, including many that are imperiled, such as the slender-billed nuthatch and the western gray squirrel. They are also part of our cultural heritage and are a beautiful feature on the landscape.

The next deadlines for landowner applications to the "Clackanomah" Oak CIS funding pool (\$225,000 over 3 years for Multnomah and Clackamas County) are March 16 and in the Fall of 2018, but landowners are encouraged to express interest and start planning conservation practices early. You can get technical assistance to assess your property's potential and possible funding, focus your objectives and identify implementation strategies. Contact me, kammy(at)wmswcd.org, to find out more about this unique funding opportunity, made possible by the Natural Resources Conservation Service,

What to Do About Unimproved Roadways?

by Mary Logalbo, Urban Conservationist

There are over 50 miles of unimproved streets throughout the City of Portland, but most predominantly in southwest Portland (according to the Portland Bureau of Transportation, 2017). These streets, often unpaved, are not built to City standards and frequently lack amenities such as sidewalks, curbs and stormwater management systems. The City doesn't maintain these streets, meaning that nearby private landowners must shoulder the responsibility. Without functional stormwater infrastructure, livability and water quality are damaged as streets and homes become flooded and pollutant laden water rushes into nearby streams. While landowners can band together to form a "Local Improvement District" (LID) to shift maintenance and upkeep to the City of Portland, the process can be expensive and only provides spotty relief in sections of a larger problem roadway. Presumably, landowners not affected by flooding or impassable roads may be less motivated to participate in a LID process which not only has upfront costs to incorporate, but also results in higher property taxes in perpetuity.



Portland zoning and permitting rules require developers of new structures to manage stormwater in alignment with the Stormwater Management Manual (SWMM), discourages building in environmentally sensitive areas, and requires mitigation for removed vegetation. Despite all these important measures, there is often a limit to what can be done and overall stormwater functionality is decreased both onsite and downstream from new development. As Portland's population continues to grow and more housing is built within the urban growth boundary, we will see less land that historically provides wildlife habitat and natural stormwater functionality, including infiltration and transportation. It's expected that more severe storms caused by climate change will further

worsen the impacts of stormwater runoff in Portland's West Hills. A number of equity related issues come up regarding these challenges including the cost of road improvements and access, flood damage to older homes, and questions about which neighborhoods receive government services over others.

The West Multnomah SWCD works with private landowners, in partnership with the City of Portland, to develop innovative solutions that impact watershed health, wildlife and livability in neighborhoods with unimproved roadways. We've had success in certain areas by decreasing flooding, managing stormwater runoff and improving wildlife habitat. In an effort to address this issue, Portland's Bureau of Transportation created a Local Transportation Infrastructure Charge (LTIC) in April, 2016 (Ordinance No. 187681) to fund unimproved street upgrades. This ordinance recognizes the many issues impacting street improvements and has started to lay the framework for a holistic approach to correcting them.

â€~Tis the Season to Pull Holly

by Laura Taylor, Conservationist & Education Coordinator

With its bright red berries and evergreen foliage, English holly is celebrated as a beautiful decoration during the year-end holiday season. Yet while this small tree is a vital part of its native forest habitat in Western Europe and the British Isles, it can be invasive and ecologically destructive here in Western Oregon and other parts of the Pacific Northwest. Holly spreads readily through our local forests thanks to the many birds who eat the berries and then disperse the seeds below their favorite perches -like that nice big fir tree in your yard. Holly thrives in shady moist forest understory, and can form dense thickets, which shade out other native plants like trilliums and ferns, and diminish wildlife habitat.



The winter is a great time to scout your land for holly seedlings and pull them before they grow up and take over. Their evergreen foliage stands out more against the bare winter landscape, and small seedlings are easy to pull when the soil is moist. Once holly stems get bigger than a quarter- to a half-inch in diameter, their tenacious taproot makes them difficult to completely pull. Remaining root fragments can regrow into whole new trees. Cutting down holly can make matters worse since it's able to re-sprout from the stump and the above-ground portions of cut stems can form new roots if they're touching the soil. Removing large holly trees requires years of persistent re-cutting or treating freshly cut stumps with an herbicide. The

best way to avoid all this hard work is to nip them in the bud while they're small as you enjoy the fresh clear air on a fall or winter day. Make it a yearly tradition since new seedlings will come up every year.

We have a few native species in our area that look similar to English holly. It's important to know the difference so you don't pull a native plant by mistake, or overlook a young holly plant thinking it's a native plant. Both tall Oregon grape (Mahonia aquifolium) and Cascade Oregon grape (also called dull Oregon grape; *Mahonia nervosa*) are similar to



spines along the margins. Holly leaves are usually a darker and glossier green with much stronger, sharper spines on young plants and the lower branches of mature trees. Another distinguishing trait is that holly has single leaves along its smooth green branches while both Oregon grape

species have many leaflets per leaf stalk and the leaf stalks come from a brown and sometimes shaggy stem. These two traits are most helpful for distinguishing the young plants that are easy to pull, but when plants are mature they can be further distinguished by holly becoming tree-sized (up to 40 ft tall) with bright red berries in winter, while both Oregon grapes remain shrubs (2 to 10 ft tall) with blueish fruits that ripen in early summer. If you have larger holly trees on your forest property or are unsure if what you have is holly, our Canopy Weeds program may be able to help you get started on controlling it.

Traditional Ecological Knowledge

by Mary Logalbo, Urban Conservationist

The California Landscape Conservation Cooperative defines Traditional Ecological Knowledge (or TEK) as "the evolving knowledge acquired by indigenous and local peoples over hundreds of thousands of years of direct contact with the environment." This knowledge is specific to a location and includes the relationships between plants, animals, natural phenomena, and the landscape used in traditional practices of hunting, fishing, trapping, agriculture, and forestry. TEK encompasses the world view of indigenous people which includes ecology, spirituality, human and animal relationships.



A growing interest in integrating traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) in various natural resource management organizations is emerging out of an understanding that the original peoples of the land and their unique knowledge have much to offer modern land management. The District is currently working with Wisdom of the Elders Workforce Development program on a number of projects involving invasive plant removal, native

plant installation, beaver caging, and wapato plant harvesting (as shown in the photo to the left). In addition, the District has collaborated with Wisdom of the Elders to update and amend watershed training materials to incorporate Native American knowledge. In the future, the District plans further collaboration with Wisdom of the Elders, West Willamette Restoration Partnership, and Pacific Northwest College of the Arts on educational signage that conveys Native American land management practices. Wisdom of the Elders provides a holistic approach to environmental habitat restoration using Native American traditional ecological knowledge.

What Local Woodland Owners Are Up To

by Michael Ahr, Forest Conservationist

In 2017 the WMSWCD Forestry Program collaborated on an education and outreach project with the Seattle based <u>Northwest Natural Resources Group</u>. The project featured 4 workshops in NW Oregon targeted at new woodland owners who've had their land for 10 years or less (which describes many landowners in our District). Along with the workshops, our forest conservationist Michael Ahr visited with about 40 of these new landowners on their properties to see what issues they're dealing with and discuss goals for their land. A survey was sent to find out what these woodland owners learned in the workshops and site visits, and we think you'll be interested in some of the results.

Woodland owners are implementing what they've learned!

Almost every respondent reported that they are implementing some aspect of what they learned (73%), or are planning to do so (22%). This is a great result! It's nice to know that the information we're trying to share is going to good use and local forests will benefit from these efforts. The survey also showed that available technical assistance, access to qualified contractors, and financial assistance from District or Federal programs is helping landowners implement good land practices.

What actions are be implemented and planned?

We learned a few things about what is important to our local landowners and what is happening on the ground. The most common reply was related to invasive weeds - 81% of



respondents are taking action to control plants like ivy, blackberry, scotch broom and others. About onequarter of respondents are participating in some level of non-commercial thinning which means that folks are doing some stand management to improve growth and forest health, but they're doing this in stands where trees are not being sold to mills. Only 8% of respondents say they're actively logging and selling

logs, which could be related to a couple things. First, some folks want a healthy forest, but they're just not interested in a heavy logging operation that impacts large amounts of their forest or they may not be interested in managing the operation. Second, many forests that we visited aren't quite ready for a heavier logging job. Many of our forests were planted in the 1990s after a large timber harvest and won't have more commercial products for another 5-10 years. Wildlife habitat enhancements, reducing erosion, and forest monitoring are other actions that landowners are interested in.

What are the barriers to taking action?

I can relate to the lack of time being a huge barrier to getting things done in my own life, and local woodland owners are no different. The survey showed 22% of respondents said time pressure was a barrier to active management of their woodland. Lack of skills and finances are also noted as well as a sense of just being overwhelmed by all there is to do in their forests. If you feel overwhelmed, we recommend digging into one or more of the attainable tasks on your list. It's empowering to cross one thing off the list even if there are dozens of other items still to accomplish.

Thanks to all of you who participated in this project. We were very excited to hear appreciation for the work that the District has been doing in the area. We also offer a big thank you to Northwest Natural Resources Group and the US Department of Agriculture Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program which funded this work.

Budget Overview

by Michele Levis, Controller and Budget Officer

The District's budget is guided by its annual work plans, which are consistent with the District's mission, vision, and desired outcomes as detailed in our Long Range Business Plan, as well as with state law and cooperative agreements with the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA). Our work will only be successful if we are able to truly partner with all facets of the community, engage with respect, authentically listen, and have the courage to share decision making, control and resources with others. Our budget committee meetings

are always open to the public.

Our Current Budget

The District's budget revenues for the current year are \$3.1 million, of which 76% is attributable to property taxes. Supplementing the property tax revenues are grants or agreements from Metro Parks and Nature, Oregon State Weed Board, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, Oregon Department of Agriculture, Oregon Department of Forestry, and U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Services. These grants are an example of the collaboration required for successful conservation work. Also included in the revenues are funds raised to support the <u>Sturgeon Lake Restoration Project</u> on Sauvie Island. The project is designed to restore the tidal and flow influences of the Columbia River to upper Sturgeon Lake by removing debris and sediment from Dairy Creek and replacing the failing culverts under Reeder Road with a bridge. Upper Sturgeon Lake area is an essential habitat area for migratory birds using the Pacific Flyway. The project will also provide for the passage of juvenile salmon which use the wetland fringe habitats found in the 3,200 acre Sturgeon Lake system for rearing and foraging. More details on our current budget can be found <u>here</u>.

Search For Budget Committee Candidates

by Michele Levis, Controller and Budget Officer

We are seeking interested citizens for an open position on our fiscal year 2018-2019 Budget Committee. The District receives its funding primarily from property taxes and grants. Our classification as a public taxing entity requires compliance with Oregon Local Budget Law, including establishing a Budget Committee. All meetings of the Budget Committee are subject to Oregon's Public Meetings Law (ORS 192.610 through ORS 192.690). Our first meeting will be on April 11, 2018. See our full Budget Calendar <u>here</u>. The Budget Committee is composed of the governing board (7 elected members) and an equal number of citizens appointed by the governing body.

The Budget Committee appointed members:

- Must live and be registered voters within the District boundaries (the portion of Multnomah County west of the Willamette River and all of Sauvie Island);
- Cannot be officers, agents or employees of the District;
- Serve three-year terms; and
- May not receive compensation for services as a member of the Budget Committee.

The official duties of the Budget Committee are to:

• Meet publicly to review the proposed budget document and message;

- Provide an opportunity for public input and discussion on the proposed budget; and
- Approve the budget and the necessary property tax rate as proposed or as modified with all funds in balance.

Selection of public members of the Budget Committee is based on the ability of the applicants to:

- Consistently participate in the budget process;
- Reflect diverse public, landowner or community group interests in healthy soil, clean water and diverse habitats;
- Bring necessary skills and abilities to enhance the Committee's effectiveness; and
- Be committed to working as a team member with other members of the Committee.

To be considered for appointment to the Budget Committee, please see further information and an application <u>here</u>.

Stormwater Stars Workshops

by Mary Logalbo, Urban Conservationist



Anyone can be a stormwater star! Please join us for this year's Stormwater Stars workshops planned and coordinated by the Southwest Watershed Resource Center. Learn how to manage the rain that falls around your home, work with your fellow community members and improve your watershed's health! These design-build workshops provide hands-on experience and engage you in a supportive community to help get the job done alongside your neighbors. Workshops are scheduled in these neighborhoods from 9 am – 1 pm on the following dates:

February 24th, Maplewood Neighborhood
March 10th, Forest Park Neighborhood
March 18th, West Portland Park Neighborhood

• April 8th, Hayhurst Neighborhood

Sign up <u>here</u> for 2018 workshops!

Soil School 2018!

by Carolyn Lindberg, Communications Coordinator

Soil School 2018 will be a day packed full of information for small acreage farmers, landscapers, gardeners, grounds managers and anyone else who wants to improve their soil. The health of your soil determines the health of everything growing in it-the food you eat and the plants you grow.

When: Saturday, April 7, from 8 AM to 4 PM (Check-in 8-8:30 am)
Where: PCC Rock Creek Event Center, 17705 NW Springville Road, PDX
Cost: \$30 per person or \$50 for two people (Breakfast snacks & lunch provided)
Register here!

Kick-off speaker: James (Dr. Soil) Cassidy, Oregon State University soil scientist **Keynote speaker:** Dr. Celeste Searles Mazzacano, *An obsession with Odonata: recognizing, understanding, and sustaining dragonflies and damselflies*



Attendees will learn about soil structure/composition and analysis as well as topics such as pollinator hedgerows, principals of soil health, landscaping with native plants, permaculture, pest management without pesticides, diagnosing plant problems and rebuilding urban soils.

A new feature this year will be the **Hands on Soil** session, repeating throughout the day, in the outside Learning Garden at PCC Rock Creek. Attendees will view the garden and get their hands dirty while learning about soil composition, compaction and density (While the garden itself is easily accessed, the ground may be muddy and uneven and is not wheelchair accessible).

Speakers/panelists:

- Dean Moberg, Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Weston Miller, OSU Extension Community & Urban Horticulturist
- Gail Langellotto, OSU
- Eileen Stark, Landscape designer/author
- Marisha Auerbach, Permaculture Rising
- Cory Owens, Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Claudia Groth, OSU Extension Master Gardener Educator
- Neil Bell, OSU Extension

Soil School 2018 has been approved for Oregon Landscape Contractors Board Continuing Education Hours (CEH) and certificates will be available for

registered landscape professionals. In addition, Master Gardeners may apply for continuing education credit through their local extension offices.

Soil School 2018 is sponsored by West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District (WMSWCD), Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District, and OSU Extension. For more information, please call Conservation District Communications Coordinator Carolyn Lindberg at 503/238-4775, ext. 101 or carolyn(at)wmswcd.org.

Spring and Summer Internship Opportunities!

West Multnomah SWCD is getting ready to hire 2 new Field and GIS interns. These are part-time positions lasting from spring to fall of 2018. Are you interested? Check out <u>our</u> <u>website</u> for the job announcements!

Calendar of events

February

Japanese Beetle Open House, Tuesday, Feb. 6, 5:30-7:00 pm, at Sunset High School, 13840 NW Cornell Road. Learn about this invasive beetle and the Oregon Department of Agriculture eradication program.

Stormwater Stars Workshop, Feb. 24, 9 am-1 pm, Maplewood Neighborhood

2nd Japanese Beetle Open House, Tuesday, Feb. 13, 9:30 am-12:30 pm, at Leedy Grange, 835 Saltzman Road. Another opportunity to learn about this invasive beetle and state eradication plan.

March

Stormwater Stars Workshop, March 10, 9 am-1 pm, Forest Park Neighborhood

Stormwater Stars Workshop, March 18, 9 am-1 pm, West Portland Park Neighborhood

Tree School, Saturday, March 24, all day workshop at Clackamas Community College in Oregon City, sponsored by OSU Extension. Over 70 classes covering topics for woodland managers and growers.

April

Soil School 2018, Saturday, April 7, 8:00 am-4:00 pm, Portland Community College Rock Creek Event Center, 17705 NW Springville Road, Portland. Register today to learn about all things soil!

Stormwater Stars Workshop, April 8, 9 am-1 pm, Hayhurst Neighborhood

Edited and compiled by Carolyn Lindberg, Communications Coordinator