

# SIOUSLAW WATERSHED COUNCIL NEWS

August 2009

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• Community • Economy • Environment

## Message from the Coordinator...

We are in the middle of a busy summer here in the Siuslaw. Read on to learn about several projects and programs.

Our camp program, a major focus for many weeks of planning and implementation was successfully wrapped up in early August. Mike Sovinski, the SWC Projects Manager, recognizes the 2009 camp donors, and volunteers on page 4. The Chickahominy Riparian Planting Site Preparation Project, funded through the OWEB Small Grant Program, is underway. Volunteers are working diligently on promoting the Siuslaw Water Trail by updating the printed materials and seeking additional funding. The Fisher Crew and a contracted crew continue to work on releasing and protecting native riparian vegetation throughout the Siuslaw Watershed and Coastal Lakes on private and public lands. OWEB and USFS funds enable the crews to increase the success of the riparian plantings.

Earlier in the summer the SWC entered into a formal agreement with the Port of Coos Bay to address fish passage and infrastructure issues on stream crossings in the SWC service area. ODFW interns on loan to the SWC collected basic data on all documented fish stream crossings on the Coos Bay Rail Link as it passes through the Siuslaw Watershed and Coastal Lakes. The culverts identified as fish passage barriers were prioritized at the July/August SWC Technical Team meeting. Our next step is to develop preliminary designs and grant proposals for the replacements.

USFS, SWC, and Blachly-Lane Electric Co-op staff are meeting in the field this week to continue the planning for the upcoming power line burial along Misery and West Fork Deadwood Creeks.



We are in the second phase of the OWEB funded Lower Deadwood Aquatic Restoration Project. You may recall from Paul Burns' (USFS) presentation at the July General Meeting that the first phase was helicopter large wood placement in 2008. This summer's power line burial moves the lines from the streamside where they restrict the growth of riparian vegetation and can be difficult to repair in winter's stormy weather. Complementing the line burial, conifers are planted in the riparian area for future large wood recruitment.

Other projects hitting full speed in late summer or early fall are the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation funded Miller Creek Stream Enhancement Project and the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) USFS Coho Habitat Improvement Project. Both projects have extensive large wood placements, with an excavator in Miller and with a helicopter in Knowles and other streams. Invitations to bid have already been posted to our website for the Miller Creek project. Visit the website in the coming weeks for opportunities from the Coho Habitat Improvement Project.

### Education and Japan

Watershed educators, Jim Grano (Siuslaw Schools) and Brian Vollmer-Buhl (Mapleton Schools), have been participating in a program with RiverWebs, a

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Council**

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**Executive Committee**

**Chair:** Steve Elliot

**Vice Chair:** Dave Eisler

**Secretary:** Wesley Voth

**Treasurer:** Nancy Nichols

**Representatives:**

Barbara Beers

Cindy Chambers

Jim Grano

Noland Huntington

Gus Gates

documentary about Japanese and US river ecologists. The program brought science educators from the Siuslaw and Mid-Coast over to Japan for an exchange with Japanese educators and researchers. Jim, Brian, and I presented about education and restoration activities in the Siuslaw Basin. It was a great opportunity to learn about other approaches to interacting with rivers, fisheries, science and watershed education.

**Council Self-Evaluation**

Thank you to everyone who took the time to participate in the 2009 Council Self-Evaluation. At the May 27, 2009 General Meeting John Moriarty from the Network of Oregon Watershed Councils facilitated the Executive Committee, staff, and a few volunteers in identifying priorities, areas for improvement, what we do well, and how we do what we do well.

The vast majority of the responses to the “how are we doing” question were positive, very few areas were noted as in need of any improvement. One item, from the Participation section, was identified “to do better” at, it is to engage the timber industry in more areas of the council. Greater involvement might include a presentation at a General Meeting from industry representatives and other roles beyond the Leadership Board and Tech Team. Another item, this one under Watershed Planning, is about engaging the membership in planning and review. Members felt that sometimes it was difficult to engage a greater number of people in non-controversial planning and review tasks. One suggestion was to divide up the planning and review into smaller items which could be more easily addressed as part of other meetings.

Council members were very positive in their feedback during the Self Evaluation process. Members stated that they thought that Fiscal and Project Management was the area of highest priority and something that they thought the SWC did well. They felt that there was communication between the staff, Executive Committee, Tech Team, and the members about projects and financial matters. Members stated that they appreciated the thorough financial and project management, as it allowed for good work to be accomplished. In the second priority area of Citizen Participation, members also thought that the SWC was doing well. Participants mentioned the articles in the Siuslaw News and local radio and television as good outreach. Members also highly valued the annual Native Plant Distribution and the educational forums.

We will be integrating the findings of the Council Self-Evaluation into our activities in the coming months and year. Thank you again to everyone who participated and if you have questions, please contact me.

**Upcoming Meeting**

Please join us on Wednesday, August 26 at the Mapleton Dock/Gazebo for the Annual Volunteer Appreciation Picnic. Details on the picnic are on page 6. All volunteers, project and agency partners, and camp participants are invited to the picnic.

Thank You,  
Liz Vollmer-Buhl  
Council Coordinator/Executive Director



Photo Credit: www.nps.gov

## Watershed's Most Un-Wanted

**Name:** New Zealand Mudsnail (*Potamopyrgus antipodarum*)

**Habitat:** Rivers, estuaries, and lakes. The snails live on rocks, gravel, and hard structures in the water.

**Appearance:** Very small. Brown shell, ~ ¼" or less long, 5-6 whorls (turns of the shell).

**Impacts:** Can take over areas that they invade, outcompeting native macro-invertebrates and thus disrupting the food chain.

**What you can do:** Prevent its spread by cleaning your boots, waders, and boat between bodies of water. Cleaning recommendations available at <http://www.clr.pdx.edu/projects/ans/nzms.php>. Report New Zealand Mudsnail presence to 1-866-INVADER.

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## Native Trees in the Spotlight: Black Cottonwood

Black cottonwood (*Populus balsamifera ssp. trichocarpa*) are found in and along streams throughout the watershed. Commonly found on gravel bars, islands, and in the floodplain these fast growing hardwoods can reach 100-165 feet in height. The leaves are thick, round at the base than tapering, and fine toothed along the edges. Black cottonwood are pioneer species (among the first plants in after a disturbance) and are flood tolerant. They can be good options for bank stabilization. Black cottonwood also provide wildlife benefits including food for stream dwelling macroinvertebrates and bees are reported to use their resin in their hives. This fall as you are thinking ahead to the 2010 Native Plant Distribution consider black cottonwoods.

For more information about black cottonwoods:

[http://plants.usda.gov/plantguide/pdf/cs\\_pobat.pdf](http://plants.usda.gov/plantguide/pdf/cs_pobat.pdf)

[http://www.calflora.org/cgi-bin/species\\_query.cgi?where-calrecnum=6797](http://www.calflora.org/cgi-bin/species_query.cgi?where-calrecnum=6797)

**Help for Native Plants:** We have two trained crews available to provide release (brush clearing/control) assistance for native riparian plantings this summer. Please contact the SWC office for information about signing-up for the release list.



Photo Credit: Susan McDougall @ USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database

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## Wetland Preserve Program

Wetlands provide habitat for fish and wildlife, including threatened and endangered species; improve water quality by filtering sediments and chemicals; reduce flooding; recharge groundwater; protect biological diversity; and provide opportunities for educational, scientific, and recreational activities.

The Wetlands Reserve Program is a voluntary program administered through the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service that provides technical and financial assistance to private landowners and Tribes to restore, protect, and enhance wetlands in exchange for retiring eligible land from agriculture. Over 1.9 million acres are currently enrolled in the program nationwide. In western Lane County there are three easements on approximately 350 acres.

The program offers three enrollment options, including a *Permanent Easement* (a conservation easement in perpetuity), a *30-Year Easement* (an easement that expires after 30 years) and a *Restoration Cost-Share Agreement* which is an agreement to restore or enhance the wetland functions and values without placing an easement on the enrolled acres.

USDA pays part or all of the restoration costs, depending on the type of enrollment. Additionally, for the easements, USDA pays the landowner for the easement, and all costs associated with recording the easement

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**Thank YOU!**  
**Much Appreciation**  
**to All Who Helped Make**  
**the Camps Possible!**



Volunteers, Agency Presenters,  
 & Donors

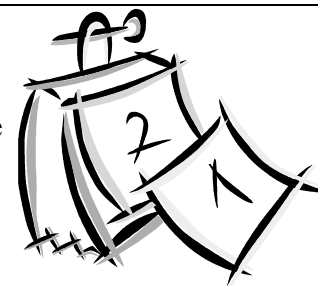
- BLM
- Oregon DEQ
- Gus Gates
- Denny Sydow
- Morning Glory Farm
- Central Coast Watersports
- City of Florence
- Campers' Families
- Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
- Siuslaw Watershed Council
- SWC Staff and Camp Staff
- Noland Huntington
- Dave Rankin
- Jackie Fern, DEQ
- Sharron Corrigan, SWCD

- STEP Volunteers
- Michelle Moore
- Linda Viera
- Vickie Carey
- USFS
- Cape Perpetua Visitor Center
- Kori Kunz
- Brian Vollmer-Buhl
- Cricket Crowder
- Jesse Beers, CTCLUSI
- Dr. Hayden Sears
- Dawn Sears
- Western Lane Community Foundation
- Paul Burns, USFS Fish Biologist
- USFS Fish Crew
- USFS Fire Crew
- Port of Siuslaw
- Paul's Bicycle Way of Life
- Gene Stevens, Rosboro Timber
- Calvin Lewis, Honeyman State Park
- Cindy Burns, USFS Wildlife Biologist
- Mapleton Schools
- Siuslaw Schools
- Bryan Moore
- REI



## Calendar of Events

- Wednesday, August 26: SWC General Meeting/Volunteer Appreciation Picnic. Starting at 6:30 PM, at the gazebo located on Riverview Ave, behind Randy's/The Alpha-bit. Please see page 6 for more info.
- Thursday, September 3: SWC Technical Team. 9:30—11:30 AM, Siuslaw Watershed Council office, Upper US Forest Service Compound, Mapleton.
- Thursday, September 3: Siuslaw Stewardship Group. 1—3 PM, Siuslaw Watershed Council office, Upper US Forest Service Compound, Mapleton.
- Wednesday, September 9: SWC Executive Committee meeting. 5:30 PM, Siuslaw Watershed Council office, Upper US Forest Service Compound, Mapleton.
- Monday, September 14: Siuslaw SWCD Board Meeting. 6:30 PM, Contact SWCD for information (541-997-1272). **Date change due to Labor Day.**
- Wednesday, September 30: SWC General Meeting 6:30—8:30 PM, Mapleton Grange, E. Mapleton Rd, Mapleton.
- Thursday, October 1: SWC Technical Team. 9:30—11:30 AM, Siuslaw Watershed Council office, Upper US Forest Service Compound, Mapleton.
- Thursday, October 1: Siuslaw Stewardship Group. 1—3 PM, Siuslaw Watershed Council office, Upper US Forest Service Compound, Mapleton.
- Monday, October 5: Siuslaw SWCD Board Meeting. 6:30 PM, Contact SWCD for information (541-997-1272).
- Wednesday, October 12: SWC Executive Committee meeting. 5:30 PM, Siuslaw Watershed Council office, Upper US Forest Service Compound, Mapleton.



### Other events to consider:

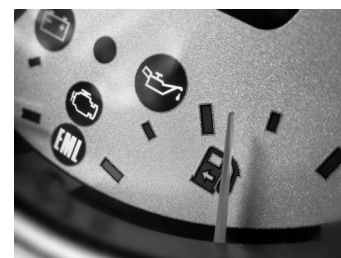
- Wednesday, September 16: Port of Siuslaw General Meeting. 7 PM, Port of Siuslaw office, 1499 Bay Street, Florence. Contact Port of Siuslaw for more information (541- 997-3426 )

## Announcements

- Water Quality Tech Team Sub-Committee is forming to explore all water quality issues in the Siuslaw Watershed and Coastal Lakes. Membership is open to all stakeholders. Please contact Liz to sign-up to participate.
- A proposal has been made to expand the geographic area that the council serves to include the near-shore ocean. This would be accomplished through a change to the bylaws. The current language under Section II, Geographic Area is:  
“The geographic covered by the Siuslaw Watershed Council includes all land drained by the Siuslaw River basin and adjoining coastal lakes.”  
The proposed language is:  
“The geographic area covered by the Siuslaw Watershed Council includes all land drained by the Siuslaw River basin and adjoining coastal lakes and out to 3 nautical miles offshore of Western Lane County.”

## Time and Mileage

Thank you to the many volunteers who dedicate their time and efforts to the SWC. Please remember to document the time and mileage that you donate to the SWC on the Volunteer Time Logs (available at SWC meetings). Your recorded volunteer time and mileage can be used to “match” or leverage grant funding. You can fill out and turn in your logs at the Volunteer Appreciation Picnic. Thank You!



**Siuslaw Watershed Council  
Annual Volunteer Appreciation**



**6:30pm, Wednesday, August 26, 2009**

**Gazebo next to the Port of Siuslaw Dock in Mapleton**



**Calling all volunteers, project partners, members  
and camp participants!**

We appreciate all of the time that you put in for the SWC. Please join us as we celebrate!

The SWC, Randy's Riverview Market, and Frank's Place will provide burgers (meat or veggie) and the fixings, cake, and beverages. We will have a free raffle with great prizes for volunteers.

Please bring your own utensils, plates, and a side-dish to share. Bring your own chairs or a picnic blanket. The picnic will start around 6:30 pm with announcements and volunteer appreciation activities beginning around 7 PM. This years picnic takes place on Riverview Avenue at the Gazebo next to the Port of Siuslaw Dock in Mapleton (Behind Randy's/Franks/Alpha-Bit).

Call or email the SWC office with any questions.

***Come join us!*** 

Next month's General Council Meeting, will be at the Mapleton Grange, starting at 6:30pm on Wednesday, September 30, 2009.

in the local land records office (including recording fees, charges for abstracts, survey and appraisal fees, and title insurance).

The amount offered to the landowner from the USDA for the easement is determined by the lowest amount of the following methods:

- the fair market value of the land according to the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practices or an area-wide market analysis;
- the geographic area rate cap as determined by the Secretary of Agriculture; or
- the landowner’s offer.

Privately owned land and Tribal lands that were once wetland and had been altered for agricultural use are eligible. Land must have been owned by the applicant for at least seven years at the time of application.

More Information

For more information and updates about WRP, please refer to the U.S. Department of Agriculture Web site <http://www.usda.gov/farmland> or the Natural Resources Conservation Service Web site <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/wrp>

The local contacts for information about this and other USDA programs are:

Kate Danks  
 NRCS  
 23 North Coast Highway  
 Newport, Oregon 97365  
 (541)265-2631  
 kate.danks@or.usda.gov

Sharron Corrigan  
 Siuslaw SWCD  
 1525 12<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 10A  
 Florence, Oregon 97439  
 (541)997-1272  
 siuswcd@qwestoffice.net



**Siuslaw Watershed Council Membership Form**

**Type of Membership:**

Landowner \_\_\_\_\_ Community Member \_\_\_\_\_ Industry \_\_\_\_\_

Government Agency: \_\_\_\_\_ Tribal: \_\_\_\_\_

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Today’s Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mailing Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Town:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip Code:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Telephone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please choose and circle any of the following:**

- Tax-deductible membership enclosed (\$25 supporting, \$10 regular, \$0 students).
- Additional tax-deductible donation enclosed. Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Direct to:  General Fund  Endowment  Research  Program (name): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Water Quality Monitoring  Native Plant Distribution  
 Siuslaw Water Trail  Outreach Events & Road Signs  
 Summer Watershed Camp  Dirk-Edmunds Gift Fund
- We like to recognize our donors. Please check here if you do not wish to be acknowledged in our newsletter.
- I am interested in volunteer opportunities with the Siuslaw Watershed Council.
- If you are interested in planned giving (remembering the SWC in your will) please contact the SWC office for more information. The SWC Tax Id Number is 93-1234456.

**Thank You!**

August 2009

## Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Program

Upcoming Monitoring Dates:

September 15<sup>th</sup>

October 20<sup>th</sup>

November 17<sup>th</sup>

With the help of a new volunteer two more sites on Lake Creek, one above and one below Triangle Lake; have been added to our regular monthly sampling schedule. This brings the total number of monitoring sites to 11 in the rivers and streams of the Siuslaw and helps us get a better idea of the water quality situation in the watershed.

In June the SWC was approached to process bacteria samples for Honeyman State Park before and after the Fourth of July weekend. The results for the tests were 3.0 and 3.1 MPN/mL, which are well below the level that the EPA considers dangerous for human health (235 MPN/mL).



### Siuslaw Watershed Council Mission Statement

*The Siuslaw Watershed Council supports sound economic, social and environmental uses of natural and human resources in the Siuslaw River Basin. The Council encourages cooperation among public and private watershed entities to promote awareness and understanding of watershed functions by adopting and implementing a total watershed approach to natural resource management and production.*

• Community • Economy • Environment

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*What's Happening In Your Watershed?*