

# SIOUSLAW WATERSHED COUNCIL NEWS

October 2009

www.siuslaw.org  
watershed@siuslaw.org

P.O. Box 422 • Mapleton, Oregon 97453 • 541-268-3044

• Community • Economy • Environment

## Message from the Coordinator...

Golden big leaf maples and red vine maples color the forest these days. Rain and cooler temperatures are becoming more frequent visitors. Chinook and coho are starting to make their way up the river. As autumn rolls in we are taking time to reflect on a 'laundry list' of items relating to the Council's mission, bylaws, decision making process, and funding sources.

### Mission, bylaws, and consensus

As has been noted in the past three Siuslaw Watershed Council (SWC) monthly mailings and on our website, a proposal to expand the geographical area of the SWC to include the near shore ocean was made at the August Executive Committee meeting. This would be accomplished through a change to the SWC bylaws. The existing and proposed language are posted at [www.siuslaw.org/bylaws](http://www.siuslaw.org/bylaws). We completed the first of the three discussions at General Council Meetings in September. This proposal reminds us to refresh our understanding of our consensus decision making process.

At the start of the September meeting, we reviewed the mission statement and portions of the bylaws, including the goals and stakeholders. I encourage anyone who was not at the September meeting to revisit the mission and bylaws. One of the questions that was posed during the discussion and a very common question—asked if the SWC was only focused on saving salmon. The council takes a "total watershed" approach, as articulated in Section II of the bylaws. Our approach does not single out a single species, scale, management technique, or stakeholder group. Another question that has been raised is if the proposed bylaws change would eliminate any of our funding



sources, specifically, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) Council Support. I checked with our OWEB Regional Representative and it would not affect our OWEB funding. If a specific project was proposed in the ocean OWEB may or may not be best funding source for that individual project. New funding sources may be open for those specific projects.

As we all work together with multiple stakeholder groups and members on evaluating the proposed bylaw changes we need to remember the consensus process. Consensus is an inclusive decision making method, striving not to leave the minority alienate or without a voice. Consensus is also participatory. Members who want to make statements of support, ask questions, or voice concerns need to bring those to the larger group and participate in a discussion on the issues. In consensus an attempt is made to address or resolve concerns, sometimes altering the proposed action in response. All members are obligated to make an effort to share their perspective and work with the various stakeholders to reach consensus. For example, one concern voiced about the originally proposed language was that the bounds of western Lane County were not the same as the watershed council service area. As part of the discussion at the September meeting the proposed language was changed to reflect the concern. Other

*Continued on Page 2*



**Siuslaw Watershed  
Council**

Tel: 541-268-3044

Fax 268-3045

**Staff**

**Coordinator**

*Liz Vollmer-Buhl*

coordinator@siuslaw.org

**Projects Manager**

*Mike Sovinski*

monitoring@siuslaw.org

**Office and Program  
Assistant**

*Ginger Cloutier*

watershed@siuslaw.org

nativeplants@siuslaw.org

**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

concerns from stakeholders not in attendance were relayed, but in order for consensus to work and for the actual process to occur those with concerns, questions, or support must be there to participate in the discussion.

With the importance of active participation clear, I encourage everyone to take part in the discussions at the upcoming meetings. We will skip the issue at the October meeting in Lorane, but we will return to the discussion and decision making process in December and January. Both the December (combined November/December) and January meetings are at the Mapleton Grange. As the bylaws state, all members are allowed to participate in the decision making process for potential changes to the bylaws. Please check with the treasurer to make sure that your membership is current for 2009 and consider renewing your membership for 2010.

**Funding sources**

Another common question that was asked again during this recent process is, who funds the SWC and its projects? We receive the majority funding for our staffing and operating costs through our OWEB Council Support grant, donations, memberships, and administrative fees cover the remaining. The staffing and operating costs allow us to develop restoration, education, and monitoring projects, provide outreach in the community (General Meetings/ Forums, the newsletter, and other events), administer grants, and more. Individual project costs are funded by OWEB, the United States Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, other agencies and foundations, and individual donations. Our project partners, stakeholders, and private landowners provide in-kind support for projects.

Hopefully this information helps everyone better understand how the Siuslaw Watershed Council operates. Please always feel free to contact me with any questions. Thank you for your interest and participation in the SWC.

Respectfully,  
Liz Vollmer-Buhl  
SWC Coordinator/Executive Director



**Spirit of Siuslaw Award Winners**

We will be presenting the 2009 Spirit of Siuslaw Awards during the End of the Year Celebration Potluck in December. Who do you think deserves to be honored this year? The awards are given in recognition of those volunteers/ landowners who put an exceptional effort into the fulfillment of the SWC Mission. The Spirit of Siuslaw Award criteria is modeled after the Spirit of the Oregon Plan Awards given by OWEB. 2008 Spirit of Siuslaw Winners were Dave Eisler, Nancy Nichols, and George and Alice Uriona. We recognized Jeff Jones as Contractor of the Year in 2008. Please email or mail (post) Liz with your nominations for 2009.

## Siuslaw Water Quality Monitoring Sites



The SWC first began a water quality monitoring program in 2002. We have since expanded, but the original program only monitored at locations in the Siuslaw estuary. The four original sites are the Florence Boat Basin, South Slough, North Fork at Bender Landing and the Mapleton Dock. These sites were chosen because they represent three tiers of estuarine brackish water dilution, are above confluences of major estuary tributaries, and have public access. In 2003, we added an estuary site on Karnowsky Creek to serve as long-term monitoring for the restoration work that took place here. Each of these sites now has multiple years of water quality data, the conditions of each location can be reasonably characterized and these sites can now be

used to track long-term trends. To view the water quality data at these sites and our freshwater sites; please visit [www.siuslaw.org/monitoring](http://www.siuslaw.org/monitoring).

---

## Siuslaw Education Programs



In the last few newsletters we have discussed our summer Watershed Exploration Camp program. Here I would like to give a brief summary of the educational programs going on in the watershed during the school year. The Siuslaw Schools Stream Team and the Stream Team Extension program combine in-class instruction with field trips to provide students from grade 3 through 8 with hands-on educational experiences.

Natural resource professionals lead field trip stations on topics including habitat requirements and life stages of fish and macroinvertebrates, forest management, native and non-native plants and water quality issues. The Stream Team field trips take place at locations including Knowles Creek, Whitaker Creek, and Duncan Island Ranch. Mapleton Schools Watershed Fridays program was developed to provide fun and educational field trips for Mapleton students, who no longer have school on Fridays. The Siuslaw Institute and other partners have organized 12 free field trips for this school year. This month students explored the Siuslaw estuary and Water Trail on an interpretive paddle from Florence to Bender Landing. Other trips will include the South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve in Charleston, Karnowsky Creek, and WinterGreen Organic Farm in Noti. The SWC will again take part in the Mapleton after school program LEAF in December and May, offering watershed education programs to students from first grade through high school. Through these programs nearly every student at Mapleton and Siuslaw Schools is exposed to watershed education.

## Start planning for the 2010 Native Plant Distribution

The SWC Native Plant Distribution (NPD) will be marking its tenth year this winter. As the plants grow over the years salmon, amphibians, and insects will reap the benefits. The native trees, shrubs, and ground cover will provide food, habitat, and cooling shade for riparian and aquatic organisms. Native riparian plantings can also increase property value for landowners.

We are getting an early start on taking requests for the free riparian trees and plants which will be distributed February 13, 2010. A mailing went out last week containing the list of plants that we plan to have available. Start scoping out your land for new or additional planting sites. Look at what native plants are already growing along the river, creek, or lake on your property. Knowing what is already successful can give you a hint of what more to add. For example, some plants such as Western red cedar, willow, or Oregon ash can tolerate wetter soils than Douglas fir. If you have already planted many conifers in your riparian zone consider adding shrubs or shade tolerant under story plants. Some



plants do better on the Coast, such as Sitka spruce, while others, such as the black cottonwood do better inland. The book *Plants of the Pacific Northwest* provides detailed plant descriptions of common native plants, which can help you to make the best selection for your land. Check with SWC staff for site specific recommendations.

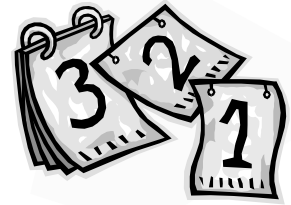
For landowners or residents who are new to the watershed or unfamiliar with the program, please contact Ginger Cloutier for more information at [nativeplants@siuslaw.org](mailto:nativeplants@siuslaw.org) or 541-268-3044. Past participants are also welcome to contact Ginger with any questions. Please send your plant requests to Ginger.

### Here is the List of Native Riparian Plants for 2010 The 2010 Distribution Day will be Saturday, February 13!

- Western red cedar (*Thuja plicata*)
- Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*),
- Western hemlock (*Tsuga heterophylla*),
- Sitka spruce (*Picea sitchensis*),
- Red Alder (*Alnus rubra*),
- Black cottonwood (*Populus balsamifera*),
- Douglas spiraea (*Spiraea douglasii*),
- Red osier dogwood (*Cornus stolonifera*),
- Lady fern (*Athyrium filix-femina*),
- Big leaf maple (*Acer macrophyllum*),
- Nootka rose (*Rosa nutkana*),
- Oregon ash (*Fraxinus latifolia*),
- Indian plum (*Oemleria cerasiformis*),
- Pacific ninebark (*Physocarpus capitatus*),
- Sitka willow (*Salix sitchensis*),
- Vine maple (*Acer circinatum*),
- Mock orange (*Phiadelphus lewisii*),
- Soft rush (*Juncus effusus*),
- Camus (*Camassia quamash*)

## Calendar of Events

- Wednesday, October 22: **SWC General Meeting/Lorane**. Starting at 7 PM, at the Lorane Grange.
- Monday, November 1: **Siuslaw SWCD Board Meeting**. 6:30 PM, Contact SWCD for information (541-997-1272).
- Thursday, November 5: **SWC Technical Team**. 9:30—11:30 AM, Siuslaw Watershed Council office, Upper US Forest Service Compound, Mapleton.
- Thursday, November 5: **Siuslaw Stewardship Group**. 1—3 PM, Siuslaw Watershed Council office, Upper US Forest Service Compound, Mapleton.
- Wednesday, November 11: **SWC Executive Committee meeting**. 5:30 PM, Siuslaw Watershed Council office, Upper US Forest Service Compound, Mapleton.
- Wednesday, December 2: **SWC General Meeting** 6:30—8:30 PM, Mapleton Grange, E. Mapleton Rd, Mapleton.
- Thursday, December 3: **SWC Technical Team**. 9:30—11:30 AM, Siuslaw Watershed Council office, Upper US Forest Service Compound, Mapleton.
- Thursday, December 3: **Siuslaw Stewardship Group**. 1—3 PM, Siuslaw Watershed Council office, Upper US Forest Service Compound, Mapleton.
- Monday, December 7: **Siuslaw SWCD Board Meeting**. 6:30 PM, Contact SWCD for information (541-997-1272).
- Wednesday, December 9: **SWC Executive Committee meeting**. 5:30 PM, Siuslaw Watershed Council office, Upper US Forest Service Compound, Mapleton.



### Other events to consider:

Wednesday, October 21, 7-9 PM - Public input opportunity  
Port Orford Public Library, 1421 Oregon Street, Port Orford

Thursday, October 22, 7-9 PM- Public input opportunity  
The Inn at Otter Crest, 301 Otter Crest Drive, Otter Rock

ODFW will hold a public meeting on their respective draft rules for a pilot marine reserve at Otter Rock, a pilot marine reserve and marine protected area at Redfish Rocks.

Other Ocean Related Meetings:

Friday, October 23, 9am-3:45pm – Public input opportunity OPAC meeting  
Florence Events Center, 715 Quince St, Florence, OR 97439

- For more information and a meeting agenda: <http://www.oregon.gov/LCD/OPAC/>

## Announcements

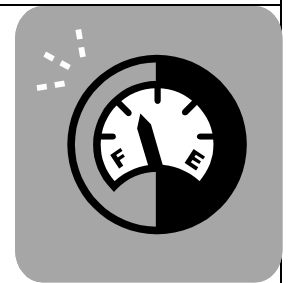


Thank you to everyone who participated in the discussion about the proposed changes to the bylaws at the September meeting. The next discussion will take place at the December 2, General Council Meeting in Mapleton. The final discussion and the final stage in the consensus decision making process on this specific proposal will take place at the January General Council Meeting which will also be in Mapleton.

Link to the current bylaws and the proposed changes: <http://www.siuslaw.org/bylaws/>

## Time and Mileage

Thank you to the many individuals who volunteer 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**

**October General Meeting**

**7 pm, Thursday, October 22, 2009**

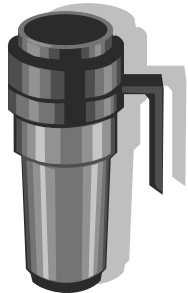
**Lorane Grange on Old Lorane Highway in Lorane**

Please note  
special date  
and location!

- 6:45pm — Doors open
- 7:00-7:10pm — Welcome and Introductions
- 7:10-7:30pm — New Invasive Species in the Upper Siuslaw, Molly Widmer,  
Eugene Resource Area Botanist, BLM
- 7:30-7:35pm — Q & A
- 7:35-7:55pm — SWC Aquatic and Riparian Restoration Projects, Liz Vollmer-Buhl,  
SWC Coordinator/Executive Director
- 7:55-8:00 — Q & A
- 8:00-8:10pm — Refreshments Break
- 8:10-8:20 — Reports
- 8:20-8:30 — Open Mic

## **BYOM**

To encourage reduction in waste, we are requesting that folks bring their own coffee mugs to the meeting.



Thanks!

Due to the Thanksgiving Holiday the next General Council Meeting, will be Wednesday, December 2, 2009 starting at 6:30pm at the Mapleton Grange.



## Watershed's Most Un-Wanted

**Name:** Ice Plant, Sea Fig (*Carpobrotus chilensis* (Molina) N.E. Br. )

**Habitat:** Beaches, dunes, sand

**Appearance:** Rounded leaves ending in points, succulent. Flowers are purple with yellow/white centers.

**Impacts:** Can take over areas that they invade, outcompeting native species. Prevents natural movement of sands, which native dunal species rely on. Can spread to cover entire beaches.

**What you can do:** Remove the whole plant, including the entire root system. Do not leave any pieces. Back plants in sealed plastic bag and dispose in garbage. Report the presence of Ice Plant, Sea Fig (*Carpobrotus chilensis* (Molina) N.E. Br.) to 1-866-INVADER.

G.A. Cooper @ USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database



Photo from a recent LWD project site.

### Reminder: Special Meeting Dates and Location

October brings our annual Upper Siuslaw focused meeting in Lorane. As noted on the Agenda, we will meet at 7pm on Thursday, October 22 at the Lorane Grange, on the Old Lorane Highway.

Since the November meeting would conflict with the Thanksgiving holiday, we will have our Annual End of Year Celebration Potluck on Wednesday, December 2, at 6:30pm at the Mapleton Grange on East Mapleton Road.

### 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:** \_\_\_\_\_

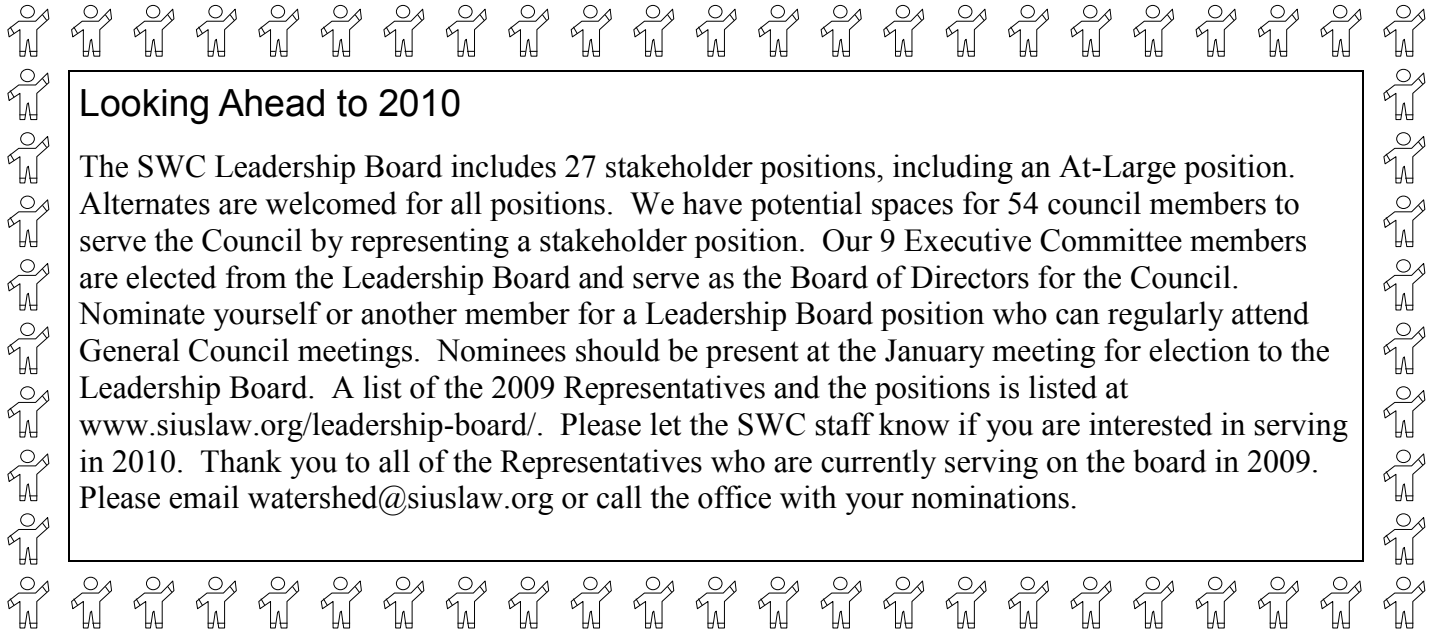
**E-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

**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
  - Siuslaw Water Trail
  - Summer Watershed Camp
  - Native Plant Distribution
  - Outreach Events & Road Signs
  - 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!**

October 2009



## Looking Ahead to 2010

The SWC Leadership Board includes 27 stakeholder positions, including an At-Large position. Alternates are welcomed for all positions. We have potential spaces for 54 council members to serve the Council by representing a stakeholder position. Our 9 Executive Committee members are elected from the Leadership Board and serve as the Board of Directors for the Council. Nominate yourself or another member for a Leadership Board position who can regularly attend General Council meetings. Nominees should be present at the January meeting for election to the Leadership Board. A list of the 2009 Representatives and the positions is listed at [www.siuslaw.org/leadership-board/](http://www.siuslaw.org/leadership-board/). Please let the SWC staff know if you are interested in serving in 2010. Thank you to all of the Representatives who are currently serving on the board in 2009. Please email [watershed@siuslaw.org](mailto:watershed@siuslaw.org) or call the office with your nominations.

### 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



P.O. Box 422 • Mapleton, Oregon 97453 • 541-268-3044

[www.siuslaw.org](http://www.siuslaw.org)

[watershed@siuslaw.org](mailto:watershed@siuslaw.org)

*What's Happening In Your Watershed?*