

## **Education and Outreach Update**

With summer creeping out of yet another wet Oregon spring, I'd like to reflect on some of the exciting projects I have been involved in this past year during my Americorps placement as the Education and Outreach Specialist for the Siuslaw Watershed Council. I would, especially like to highlight those efforts related to upper watershed education and outreach. With the Council office being in Mapleton and much of our work seeming to be centered in the lower parts of the watershed, it has often been challenging to reach out to our upper watershed neighbors.

In the past, many Lake Creek landowners have participated in council activities but because of limited council resources and geographical separation, this has mostly been limited to participation in our native plant giveaway and a few dedicated volunteers collecting water quality data in Lake Creek. Working for the council this year, I have been able to focus my time on efforts to reach out to Lake Creek landowners and community members. Specifically, I have worked to bring the June General Council Meeting to the Lake Creek area and have helped create a Triangle Lake Schools Natural Resource Education Program.

For quite some time the idea of having a Council meeting in Triangle has been tossed around by council members. This year, we are fortunate to have a dedicated Leadership Board Representative from Lake Creek in Tony Humphreys, thank you Tony. Building on council discussions

and the enthusiastic support of Tony we are excited for the opportunity to meet landowners and community members from Triangle Lake and surrounding areas. The meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 29th at 6:30 PM at the Triangle Lake Grange Hall in Blachly (see events calendar on page 5 for directions). The meeting this month will be a potluck and will feature a presentation on the history and goals of the Watershed Council followed by a discussion and our regular monthly business meeting. We urge all of you living in the Lake Creek area to take this unique opportunity to get involved in the ongoing voluntary efforts to restore and protect the natural resources that are central to our community and economy. Additionally, regular attendees are encouraged to attend. In true collaborative fashion we urge you to seek out carpool opportunities with your fellow council members.

Part of my job for this year was to expand existing natural resource education efforts to other schools in the Siuslaw Watershed; building on the success of the Stream Team Program at Siuslaw Middle School and the Mapleton Schools' Natural Resource Education Program. In early spring, I contacted the Triangle Lake Middle and High School science teacher, Val Frolov, who enthusiastically supported the idea of integrating watershed education into his curriculum. As is the case with many of the water-



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Council**

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**2005 Executive Committee**

**Chair:** Paula Crowder

**Vice Chair:** Steve Elliot

**Secretary:** William Fleenor

**Treasurer:** Nancy Nichols

**Representatives:**

Barbara Beers

Howard Crombie

Dave Eisler

Jim Grano

Noland Huntington

## May Council Speaker Highlights

**Lauri Segal, 1000 Friends of Oregon: The Coastal Futures Project.** Ms. Segal was granted an opportunity to speak on request to present information relevant to coastal residents. She asked to meet with the Council because we are a community-based organization with interest in coastal natural resources and we may have valuable input for their project. The Coastal Futures Project is a partnership with the Oregon Downtown Development Association and the Oregon Shores Conservation Coalition. The project aims to identify issues of concern regarding Oregon coastal communities. The project team will select one problem issue shared amongst coastal communities and develop a potential solution for it. Ms. Segal distributed questionnaires for interested participants to complete. More information can be found on the Web at <http://www.coastalfutures.org/aboutproject.html>

**Gary Arnold, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality: TMDL Temperatures and the Heatsource Model.** Mr. Arnold was invited to speak upon request by council members at the April meeting who were interested in learning more about the temperature study the council is participating in this summer. Mr. Arnold gave a presentation that gave a brief history of the water-quality-limited listings, the threshold for temperature, and the objective to model opportunities to reduce water temperatures throughout the Siuslaw Watershed.

## Need Help Clearing Brush?

If you have riparian plantings, the brush needs to be cleared from around the new trees for several years. Grass, salmonberry and blackberry can easily out-compete small trees. If your back or your schedule is limiting your ability to clear brush from all your plantings, the Council may be able to help. We will have a brush crew available early this summer. For more information or to ask for help, call Nancy at 485-6471 or 964-3020 or the Council office at 268-3044.

**Update** *continued from page 1*

shed projects taking place throughout the Siuslaw Watershed, the highly successful natural resource education programs at both Siuslaw Middle School and the Mapleton Schools are a product of successful collaborations between various organizations and agencies including the Watershed Council, U.S. Forest Service, Siuslaw Soil and Water Conservation District, Salmon Trout Enhancement Program (STEP), and the Siuslaw Institute. With the Triangle Lake Education Program we tried to emulate these successful partnerships by involving multiple parties.

Working with our Council Chair, Cricket Crowder, who is also the Education Coordinator for the Siuslaw Institute, and Val Frolov, the three of us put together a series of lessons for Val's 6th and 7th grade science class covering such topics as the water cycle, ecology and diversity, watersheds, and salmon. Further, we contacted Leo Poole, Fish Biologist for the Eugene District of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), which manages most of the federal lands in the Lake Creek basin, to put together a class field trip to the Lake Creek Fish Ladder. Additionally, we asked our Council Coordinator, Todd Miller, to use his geomorphology expertise to give the kids an idea of the geologic forces that created Triangle Lake and shaped our watershed over time. Together, Leo and Todd provided the students with a practical experience to complement their in class learning.

What came about from all of this concerted effort was the beginning of what looks to be a lasting natural resource education partnership at the Triangle Lake Schools. I'm sure most, if not all of the students and others involved would agree that this was a fun and valuable learning experience for all. Val Frolov and the Triangle Lake School Superintendent, Bob DeLaVergne, continue to be in discussions with the BLM and the Watershed Council about future projects. Specifically, with the support of the BLM and the Triangle Lake Schools we have

applied for funds to conduct a riparian planting and invasive species removal project along Lake Creek. Most of this project, which will take place on school property will be carried out by T-lake students, giving them the opportunity to gain valuable skills and learn about the value of restoration and habitat enhancement to our community.

It is my hope that the combination of these outreach and education efforts in the Lake Creek sub-basin will further make possible the "total watershed approach" we strive for in our efforts to support sound economic, social, and environmental uses of natural and human resources throughout the Siuslaw Watershed. I urge all of you to attend this month's meeting and to get your neighbors involved in our work. Thank you.

*- Shiloh Sundstrom, of Deadwood, is currently Education and Outreach Specialist for the Siuslaw Watershed Council through a placement from the Americorps Program.*

## **Salmon Run and Celebration**

**Saturday, August 13**

**5K Fun Run and Walk**

**In Mapleton**

**Music, Resource Info Booths, Boat Rides**

As a part of his requirements for the Americorps program, Shiloh will be coordinating a community event. Combining his long-time commitment to running with his spirit of community and affection for the beauty and resources of his home, he has chosen to create a Salmon Run and Celebration to take place in Mapleton. Save the date. Interested in volunteering? or would like to have an informational booth? Please contact Shiloh Sundstrom at 541-268-3044 or outreach@siuslaw.org. Watch the website [www.siuslaw.org](http://www.siuslaw.org) and July newsletter for more information.

# Action Plan Development in Process

by Todd Miller, Council Coordinator

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The Siuslaw Watershed Council is following up 2004's Strategic Plan by developing an Action Plan in 2005. While the council operates under a biennial Work Plan that identifies short-term goals and strategies, a formal Action Plan will clearly outline restoration priorities, operating strategies, and community partnership goals for the next five years. Much of the project work being conducted in 2005 is helping to collect information, produce refined assessments, and compile sophisticated knowledge that will contribute to a well-developed Action Plan.

A primary objective for the council is to identify the most efficient strategies toward whole-basin health and function. This does not necessarily mean identifying the most inexpensive options, which is done on a project-by-project basis, but instead identifying the best opportunities for watershed council projects and partnerships with property owners and land managers.

An example of this objective in process is the current ODF Culvert Database project. The sophistication of the council's approach to fish passage issues has progressed over time, first with the identification of county culverts to be replaced after the 1996 storm that could be enhanced for fish passage, leading up to the 2004 prioritization of 19 culverts to be replaced to enhance fish passage and stream function in focal areas, and currently the comprehensive endeavor under way in partnership with ODF. The project will produce a standardized set of data for each culvert location developed in concert with statewide partners' objectives. This data set will allow fish passage to be assessed and high-priority sites identified rapidly depending on the demands of the watershed restoration goal. In contrast, the current data set lists culverts identified as "problems" in regard to fish passage but often lacks the information necessary to identify priorities based on cost, feasibility, and ecological payback.

## **Other 2005 projects that provide similar utility are:**

**Watershed Restoration Initiative:** Provides a staff geographic information systems analyst and monitoring data coordinator to compile existing data to answer questions and identify monitoring needs. The project also has a vast and comprehensive work plan related to monitoring and restoration throughout the watershed.

**Mid-Coast Temperature TMDL Study:** The council is assisting with the facilitation of temperature data collection this summer. Data will ultimately be used to derive a model to identify best opportunities to reduce stream temperatures via riparian planting projects.

**Siuslaw Nutrient Analysis:** This EPA-funded project was just recently announced. Project investigators will collect data on paired estuary tributaries to evaluate the role of nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorous) and the impact on algae communities throughout a stream system. Data will ultimately yield best management practices (and therefore potential restoration projects) to maintain healthy nutrient levels in streams.

**Estuarine Wetland Prioritization:** This DEQ-funded project is nearing completion after a series of landowner meetings held this spring. The product will be an assessment tool that identifies the best opportunities for restoring and enhancing tidal wetland function along the estuary through voluntary landowner projects. This tool will be essential as wetland function in the extremely-high ranked priority estuary region has been a long-standing objective.

The Action Plan will consider all of the project input listed above, along with the Watershed Assessment and Strategic Plan in tandem with a review of past restoration actions. We are looking forward to a 2006 publication of the Action Plan.

# Free Summer Watershed Exploration Camp for Local Students

The Siuslaw Watershed Council is hosting a five day Summer Camp for 6th-12th grade students from throughout the Siuslaw Watershed and Coastal Lakes areas. The camp will take place the week of July 25-29, 2005. Each day will cover different topics such as fish and wildlife, geology and ecology of the dunes and coastal lakes and upper and lower watershed areas, water quality, watershed history, forestry, and local hunting and fishing safety and laws. Students will have the opportunity to learn from local natural resource specialist about why our watershed is special and to help make a difference in our watershed. Students may sign up for individual days and are allowed to attend as many days as they would like; however space is limited.

Interested students and parents are encouraged to contact the Siuslaw Watershed Council by phone at (541) 268-3044 or email at outreach@siuslaw.org to reserve a space and get more information. If emailing, please write summer camp in the subject line and include your full mailing address in the message.

The camp is free for all participants, although donations are welcomed to help cover the cost of the camp.

## Schedule of Events

**June 29—Siuslaw Watershed Council General Meeting: 6:30 pm,  
Triangle Lake Grange, Blachly Grange Road (by T-Lake Schools, Off HWY  
36 between milepost markers 29 &30, follow the signs to the school, up  
the hill).**

**July 13— SWC Executive Committee Meeting: 5:30 pm., Upper Compound,  
Mapleton.**

**July 21—Siuslaw Stewardship Group Meeting: 1:00-3:00 pm, Upper Compound,  
Mapleton.**

**July 27—Siuslaw Watershed Council General Meeting: 6:30 pm, Mapleton  
Grange, E. Mapleton Road.**

**July 25-29—Siuslaw Watershed Exploration Camp**

**August 13—Salmon Run and Celebration**

***Please note that in July, there will not be meetings for the Siuslaw Soil  
and Water Conservation District or the Council Tech Team.***

***Our summer outdoor picnic/meeting has been postponed until August 31.***



**Siuslaw Watershed Council  
General Meeting Agenda  
June 29, 2005  
Triangle Lake Grange Hall  
6:30 p.m.**

- 6:00-6:30**    **Open for set-up**
- 6:30– 6:35**    **Welcome and Introductions**
- 6:35-7:10**    **Presentation:** *Siuslaw Watershed Council at a Glimpse: Todd Miller ,Council Coordinator and Shiloh Sundstrom, Education and Outreach Specialist*
- 7:10-7:30**    **Presentation:** *Japanese Knotweed, an invasive species to the Siuslaw: Jeff Jones, Noxious Weed Program Coordinator, Siuslaw Soil and Water Conservation District*
- 7:30-7:55**    **Break and Potluck**
- 7:55-8:05**    **Coordinator Report  
Executive Committee Report  
Tech Team Report**
- 8:05-8:20**    **Open Mic**    *(3-5 speakers, 3-5 minutes each)*
- 8:20-8:30**    **Announcements and Raffle Drawing**
- 8:30**            **Adjourn**

**Monthly Raffle**

To help raise funds for the Council, we are holding a raffle of donated items at each General Council meeting. Tickets are a suggested donation of \$1 each or 6 for \$5. The winner will get to choose from available items.

**June Meeting in Blachly (Triangle Lake Grange)**

We will be holding our June General Council Meeting at the Triangle Lake Grange on June 29 at 6:30 pm. We are hoping to meet more of our upper watershed neighbors and hope that our regular attendees can make it too. Our evening presentation will feature the Siuslaw Watershed Council. Bring a potluck dish and a friend. We can also try to arrange carpooling if you are interested.

# Treasurer's Report

*Nancy Nichols, Council Treasurer*

May 2005

Beginning Cash	\$58,388.62*	MAY	YEAR TO DATE
<b>INCOME</b>			
Dues		\$90.00	\$910.00
Federal Grants			
State Grants		\$6,277.00	\$31,703.84
Private Grants			\$2,383.33
Interest		128.76	\$647.76
Donations & Misc.		\$35.00	\$1,576.00
Administrative Funds		\$600.00	\$14,004.75
Reimbursements			
Other			
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>\$7,130.76</b>	<b>\$51,225.68</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Grant Expenses		\$8,858.21	\$75,474.51
Other		\$1,270.42	\$7,264.15
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>		<b>\$10,128.63</b>	<b>\$82,738.66</b>
 <b>Ending Cash</b>		 <b>\$55,390.75</b>	

\*adjusted for April interest and bank fees

The Siuslaw Watershed Council is a non-profit , 501c3, organization .  
All donations are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

## Siuslaw Watershed Council Membership Form

**Type of Membership:**

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

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

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

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

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

Please choose any of the following:

- Tax-deductible membership enclosed(\$10 regular, \$0 students).
- Additional tax-deductible donation enclosed. Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- I am interested in volunteer opportunities with the Siuslaw Watershed Council

June 2005

## Finding the Perfect Plants

The Siuslaw Watershed Council will be distributing plants again this winter for riparian planting, but those plants may not be as well adapted to your site as ones you or your neighbors already have growing nearby. Consider transplanting wild plants from your neighborhood. They are adapted to the micro-climate and may do better than nursery stock. Summer is the best time to spot good candidates, especially ones that are crowded and could use some thinning. Mark them with survey tape so you can find them next winter. It can be hard to tell what is what when the leaves fall. Besides, it is fun to spend an afternoon seeing what plants are growing in your neighborhood. Make sure you are not transplanting an attractive invasive plant. A good book for identifying local plants is Plants of the Pacific Northwest Coast by Pojar and MacKinnon.

### 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.*



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*What's Happening In Your Watershed?*