

SIUSLAW WATERSHED COUNCIL NEWS

NOVEMBER 2005

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• Community • Economy • Environment

Message from the Coordinator



The cool, dark days of late autumn are upon us in the Siuslaw River basin. Fog has blanketed stands of fir and hemlock, tucking them comfortably in for the winter among nestled cedars, while the maples burst forth their final golden hurrah, and alders decorate stream banks with fallen leaves in honor of the rushing whirls of cool water now flowing bank to bank. Flashes of silver pulse upstream as large Chinook salmon elicit whoops from drift boats gliding downriver. Perhaps I cannot help waxing poetic at this time of year. Nature paints a beautiful backdrop to distract us from the loss of the long, warm days of summer. And perhaps it is this couplet of dark and dreamy that makes winter the perfect time to sit next to the fire with a good book.

For those interested in being good stewards of the Siuslaw and in becoming ever better informed in their decision making, there are many good books to accompany us in our fireside chairs this winter. Below, I suggest three such books for your winter reading list. Before describing my recommendations, I must add that I recently attended three conferences that reminded me of the range of topics, disciplines, and approaches that we encounter in watershed stewardship. These variations in how we address and learn about landscape issues tie in to the reading of a few good books.

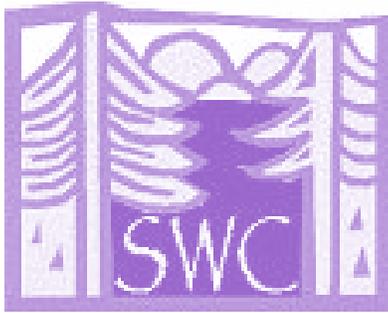
First, in late October, I participated the *Federal Forest Management Contracting Workshop*. The workshop coupled the economic and federal policy frameworks that enable the application of natural resource commodity values (timber) toward nature resource watershed values (restoration). The workshop included a tour of a property on which the landowner had stream restoration work completed through various funding opportunities, but most importantly, through engaging in community dialogs about restoration issues and networking with the appropriate dedicated individuals.

In early November, I attended the *Statewide Gathering of the Network of Oregon Watershed Councils*, where the assembly of councils discussed and approved organizational strategies to enable a representative body pursue mutual benefits for watershed councils across the state. The keynote speaker was Kathleen Dean Moore, author of several books about Oregon rivers, including *Riverwalking: Reflections on Moving Water*. While not everyone in attendance embraced her personal observations, others were energized and the thesis of the evening was clear: "Share your story". Everyone in the watershed has a story to tell. While we all may not agree, our stories all merit being told and listened to.

Finally, in mid-November I attended the *Science and Management of Headwater Streams in the Pacific Northwest*. This was an excellent symposium of high relevance to watershed management in the Siuslaw basin. The event could also have easily been titled the Conference of Charts & Graphs. The information provided was deeply rooted in empirical results of strict methodologies. It would be easy to walk away feeling either incredible enlightened and erudite or dismayed that we have transformed our understanding of the landscape into a series of complex algorithms and multivariate scatter plots.

I share these experiences with you because I recognize the connection of the various disciplinary approaches covered by these conferences to my recommended winter reading list. For the

Continued on Page 2...



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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

Message from the Coordinator ...continued from page 1

more casual watershed steward for whom land management is a matter of citizenship, not livelihood or profession, these books provide excellent backgrounds and information about watershed issues while offering relaxing respites at the end of a cold, wet day. For others of us rooted in natural resource management, science, or policy, books can cross boundaries for us that help enhance our senses and perspectives.

Book Suggestions for the Winter:

King of Fish: the Thousand Year Run of Salmon by David R. Montgomery (2003; 256 pages, nonfiction). This book was especially appealing to me because it was written by a geomorphologist who, like me, became intrigued with Pacific salmon. Most fascinating is his tracing of the history of salmon fishing and river use from Europe to the Northeast to the Pacific Northwest. This book is an excellent basis for how we got to where we are today with our salmon issues. School-teachers and ranchers alike have been passing around dog-eared copies of this book to each other.

Sometimes a Great Notion by Ken Kesey (1965; 640 pages, fiction). Written by one of Lane County's colorful characters, Kesey reportedly created this story about a logging family while spending time in Florence and is rumored to have used a ramshackle house on Cox Island as his inspiration for the setting. Although the book denotes scores of pages at a time to description and creating character depth, the result is a cherished monument to Oregon's coastal rivers. I have yet to meet a person who does not relish Kesey's descriptions of coastal streams, the rain, and of crawling through blackberry thickets.

Not Just Trees: the Legacy of a Douglas-Fir Forest by Jane Claire Dirks-Edmund (1999; 332 pages, nonfiction). Ms. Dirks-Edmunds was a professor of forest ecology at Linfield College and a lifelong devotee and student of Oregon's coastal forests. She passed away recently and left a generous estate gift to organizations working on issues involving Oregon's Douglas-fir forests. The SWC received a \$1000 gift from her estate that we used to initiate a donor fund named in her honor. In *Not Just Trees*, the author describes her sixty-year relationship with a forest on Saddleback Mountain in Lincoln County from her time as a college undergraduate to late in her career as a forest ecologist.

Happy holidays and happy reading,

Todd



Council News and Updates

By Todd Miller SWC Coordinator



October Council Meeting Summary

Action Plan Work Session: Todd reintroduced the concepts behind developing an Action Plan for the SWC (slated for finalization in 2006). Using templates that framed the individual goals and objectives of the SWC Strategic Plan (2004), the Leadership Board and other attendees broke into small groups to suggest Actions – defined tasks – that will help the SWC achieve the objectives listed under each of the Strategic Areas of: Economic Development, Outreach & Education, and Organization Structure. The fourth Strategic Area, Environment, will be worked on during the upcoming Technical Team meeting on December 1st. The Leadership Board will review the proposed Actions for all four Strategic Areas upon posting to the SWC Web site (by the end of the year). The Board will be invited to work on the proposed Actions again in early 2006.

Air Photos of the Siuslaw Basin: Todd presented a brief slideshow of some of the photos of the Siuslaw watershed he took during a recreational flight in August of this year. Of particular interest were the views of massive rotational slump landslide scars in the upper basin, Mapleton in the context of the surrounding landscape, an offset fault block transecting the Karnowsky Creek valley, and a spectacular view of Triangle Lake with Little Lake in the foreground.

Bylaws: Todd briefly discussed the proposed revisions to the Council Bylaws that are to be endorsed by the Leadership Board at the November 30th meeting. The bylaws have been available via the council Web site since September and paper copies were available at the October meeting.

November Meeting Upcoming Highlights

Besides the annual end of the year potluck that is enjoyed by all at this time of year, we will also have two presentations. The first will be a brief summary of the Estuarine Wetland Prioritization Project that comes to a close this month (see Project Wrap Up, below). Todd will present this information on behalf of project lead Laura Brophy and will display a poster of wetland characterizations and priorities. The second presentation will be by Siuslaw National Forest's Ralph Lampman. Ralph will present a more in-depth overview of the coastal coho salmon status. This presentation comes at the request of council members who wanted to know more after Ralph gave a brief presentation on coho status this past spring.

Project Wrap Up:

Estuarine Wetland Prioritization Project final report due out by November 30th

The SWC facilitated the completion of this Department of Environmental Quality funded project undertaken by Green Point Consulting of Corvallis, led by principal investigator Laura Brophy. The project commenced in June of 2004. A report and series of maps presenting the findings and recommendations for tidal wetlands along the Siuslaw estuary will be available in December. The project undertook the painstaking task of analyzing the Siuslaw's historical and current tidal wetland conditions. The project also included several public meetings to share the project scope and gather community input into the prioritization process. Ultimately, the purpose of the project was to recommend where the best opportunities to regain critical wetland functions through conservation and restoration may exist. Actual identification of wetland conservation projects with willing landowners is not within the scope of the project; rather, the final report will serve as a guide toward achieving the most meaningful, cost-effective, estuary enhancements. **A large map of the wetland findings will be on display starting a 6:00 pm at the November 30th general council meeting** at the Mapleton Grange Hall (i.e. a half-hour prior to the meeting start). Due to the expense of printing such maps, only this one map will be available in print. However, the electronic version will be available for download upon publication.

**2005 Siuslaw Watershed Council
Leadership Board Representatives**

Interest Group Representatives:

Academic/Scientific:

Paul Burns/Tom Steinberg

Commercial Fishing: _____

Federal Land Management:

Karen Geary, BLM/Johan Hogervorst, USFS

City of Florence: (appointed) Dianne Burch

Lane Co. Government: (appointed) _____

Resource Recreation: Lynn Hood

Public Education:

Jim Grano/Cricket Crowder

Small Woodlot:

Vernon VanCurler

Tribes CTCLUS:

Howard Crombie/ JR Herbst

SWCD: Ray Kinney/Johnny Sundstrom

Agriculture/Ranching: Bill Cirino

Industrial Timber:

Paul Chapman, Campbell Group

Environmental: William Fleenor

Port of Siuslaw: (appointed) Ken Miller

State Government: John Spangler, ODF&W

Ecosystem Workforce: Lori Robertson

Elections

Elections are coming upon us rather quickly! If you hold a position on the Leadership Board or Executive Committee, and would like to stay on the ballot for your position, please contact Liz Vollmer-Buhl, watershed@siuslaw.org. If you would like to be placed on the ballot or nominate someone for a position, also contact the email address listed above.

We will be accepting nominations at the January 25 meeting. Elections will be held at the January General Council Meeting.

The current Executive Committee is listed on page 2; With the exception of Howard Crombie, all Exec. Committee members have expressed willingness to serve another term.

Area Representatives:

North Fork Siuslaw: Noland Huntington

Upper Siuslaw: Steve Elliot

Lower Siuslaw: David Rankin

Indian Creek: Barbara Beers/Dick Beers

Wildcat: David Eisler/Steve Kriegh & Linda Redmon

Deadwood: Nancy Nichols/Bill Cirino

Lake Creek: Tony Humphreys

Wolf Creek: _____

At Large: Andrew Morohl

In Memoriam of Ken Miller

Appointed SWC Leadership Board Representative from the Port of Siuslaw

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Ken's family

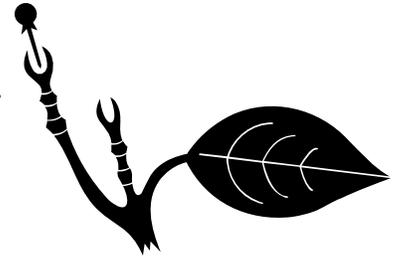
Make Your Riparian Planting Wish List

Once again this year we have a great list of plants will be *available through the free Native Plant Distribution in February. Four new plants or requested repeats from earlier years include: the Lady fern, Dewey's sedge, Pacific red willow, and Douglas spiraea. "Back by popular demand" from last year, we plan to have: Broadleaf cattail, Vine maple, Big leaf maple, Red-osier dogwood, Oregon ash, Black twin-berry, Pacific Crabapple, Mock Orange, Black cottonwood, Peafruit rose, cedar, hemlock, and Douglas fir.

If you studied the riparian areas on your land earlier this Fall, take your findings into consideration as you make your 'wish list' for native plants from the list. The book Plants of the Pacific Northwest can also help you better understand native plants in order to make the best selection for your land. If you have your list ready, you may go ahead and send it in.

Email or call Liz with any questions, monitoring@siuslaw.org, 541-268-3044. If you are a new landowner or you have not participated in past Native Plant Distributions, email or call Liz to be added to the list. Past participants are already on the mailing list.

*Please note that the list of available plants may unexpectedly change, due to reasons beyond our control.



Biodiesel on the Farm Workshops

December 1, Corvallis, CH2MHill Alumni Center, OSU

December 8, Pendleton, Pendleton Conference Center

Curious about using biodiesel on your farm or ranch, in your nursery operation or vineyard? Join us for a day-long workshop featuring experts from Idaho, Washington and Oregon. Learn about:

- Production and processing of oilseed feedstock for biodiesel (including what to do with the by-products),
- Small scale processing options for making biodiesel on-farm,
- Biodiesel use in agricultural equipment,
- Storage and handling of biodiesel, and
- Federal and state financial incentives for using biodiesel in your agricultural operation.

Workshops will run from **8 am to 4:30 pm**, and lunch will be provided

Admission is \$25, and pre-registration is required.

To register or if you have questions, contact Kathy Hyzy, at kathyh@oeconline.org or 503-222-1963 x105

The workshops are hosted by the Oregon Environmental Council and made possible through a generous grant from the Lamb Foundation.

Siuslaw Watershed Council
Holiday Potluck and General Meeting Agenda
November 30, 2005
Mapleton Grange Hall
6:30 p.m.

- 6:00-6:30** **Open for set-up**
- 6:30– 6:35** **Welcome and Introductions**
- 6:35-7:00** **Potluck Dinner and Presentation:** Todd will give a brief overview of the Estuarine Wetland Prioritization Project, completed by contractor, Laura Brophy.
- 7:00-7:10** **Stretch Break** (*seconds anyone? dessert?*)
- 7:10-7:45** **Presentation:** Siuslaw National Forest’s Ralph Lampman. Ralph will present a more in-depth overview of the coastal coho salmon status.
- 7:45-8:05** **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 \$1 each or 6 for \$5. The winner will get to choose from available items.

SWC Schedule of Events

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

December 1—SWC Technical Team Meeting: 9:30 am, Upper Compound, Mapleton.

December 1—Siuslaw Stewardship Meeting 1-3 pm, Upper Compound, Mapleton.

December 5—Siuslaw Soil and Water Conservation District Annual Meeting: 6:30 pm, Call Eric for details and reservations, 541-997-1272.

December 14— SWC Exec. Committee Meeting: 5:30 pm., Upper Compound, Mapleton.

Please note that there will NOT be a General Council Meeting at the end of December!

October 2005

Treasurer's Report *Nancy Nichols, Council Treasurer*

Beginning Cash	\$50,744.43	
	OCTOBER	YEAR TO DATE
INCOME		
Dues		\$950.00
Federal Grants		\$21,492.15
State Grants		\$54,141.76
Private Grants		\$2,383.33
Interest	\$110.10	\$1,283.81
Donations & Misc.		\$1,615.00
Administrative Funds		\$14,752.75
Project Management		\$346.50
Other		\$1,358.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$110.10	\$98,288.30
EXPENSES		
Grant Expenses	\$7,899.79	\$130,481.25
Other	\$919.86	\$12,645.90
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$8,819.65	\$143,127.15
Ending Cash	\$49,548.81	

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

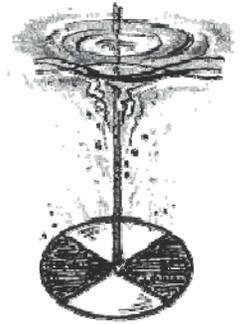
November 2005

Water Quality Monitoring Program News

Do you have a low two-shelf bookcase in good condition that you would like to get rid-of? Or plastic boxes with lids or plastic bins? We are trying to do some office and lab organization and we would appreciate your donation. Contact Liz at the SWC office if you can donate any of the items, 541-268-3044, watershed@siuslaw.org. Thank you!

Thank you, to Paul's Bicycle Way of Life, Eugene, for the use of the tarp for water quality education!

Graphs demonstrating the 2004-2005 data collected as part of the Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Program will be available for viewing at the Nov/Dec General Meeting.



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?