

Siuslaw WATERSHED COUNCIL NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2006

www.siuslaw.org
watershed@siuslaw.org

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

• Community • Economy • Environment

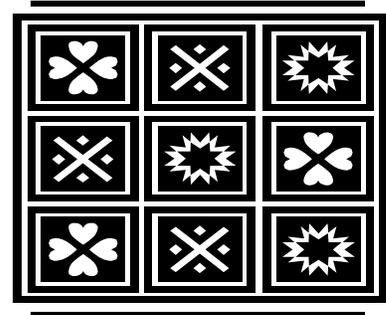
Message from the Coordinator...

The Siuslaw Watershed Council is celebrating 10 years of service to the community. The 10th anniversary of our official recognition by Lane County will occur next spring; the Council formed and functioned prior to that 1997 date for some time since at least 1996. We will be reflecting on these past 10 years and are looking forward to the directions for the next 10 years.

Another anniversary on our minds occurred this September. The 11th of this month ushered in the solemn 5th anniversary of 9-11. Separating out the memories of loss and trauma, the event conjures up the recurrent themes that have galvanized the nation over the past five years: unity, democracy, patriotism, and homeland security. The concurrence of these anniversary dates has made me reflect on how those themes are espoused and projected in watershed councils.

Unity: Watershed councils explicitly seek all voices in the community through the notion of stakeholder groups. Councils strive to ensure participation of stakeholder representatives and welcome all voices in the council on a level playing field. Everyone committed to the stewardship and productivity of their watershed is given the respect and opportunity to weigh in on the community goals for watershed health. Consensus is the model and mode of council function and decision making. We are all in this together and we will all figure it out together. United we stand.

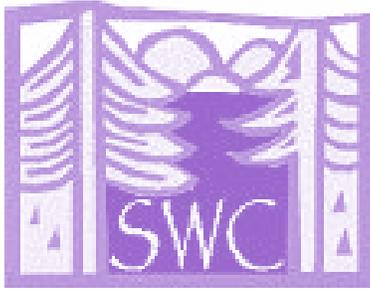
Democracy: Watershed councils epitomize Lincoln's ideal "of the people, by the people, for the people" in their approach to community issues. Rather than have decisions made by and directives handed down from far off policy makers, councils give local control and planning and decision-making directly to the people in the communities affected by those decisions. Direct participation, the purest form of democracy, is readily available via watershed councils, and



elected stakeholder group board members ensure representation of community members. Perhaps the most empowering democratic process of all is the combination of bottom-up and top-down approaches that yields a boomerang effect of local power: our elected officials and legislators are tasked with developing the goals, programs, and policies to address watershed issues (bottom-up); in turn, how to apply the tools to meet the goals are handed back down to us (top-down) at the local level. Watershed councils are valued to give local empowerment to resolving our issues and meeting our goals by putting the decisions back in the hands of those who know their communities the best – the actual community members. This local empowerment is becoming more embraced in the nation, particularly at the federal level.

Patriotism: Watershed councils kindle devotion to our country and land by giving us all a chance to gain ever closer familiarity with our rivers and landscapes, to celebrate all they provide us, and to become good stewards of the land that sustains us and our communities. Council members participate with love for and devotion to their watershed and are willing to put time, energy, and additional sacrifices into doing right by their land and water. The volunteerism harnessed by watershed councils reflects the patriotic ideals of participants. Members put heart and soul into watershed projects and endeavors because of their firm belief that it is the right thing to do.

Continued on page 5



**Siuslaw Watershed
Council**

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Staff

Coordinator: *Todd Miller*

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2006 Executive Committee

Chair: Paula Crowder

Vice Chair: Steve Elliot

Secretary: William Fleenor

Treasurer: Nancy Nichols

Representatives:

Barbara Beers

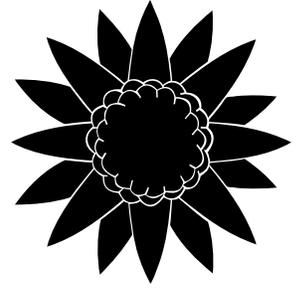
Dave Eisler

Jim Grano

Noland Huntington

Farewell Johan Hogervorst!

Long-time leadership board member Johan Hogervorst, a hydrologist with the Siuslaw National Forest and Dunes City resident, is leaving the Siuslaw area in October. Although his new position with the Willamette National Forest will ensure that we have the opportunity to meet with Johan on future occasions, he will be sorely missed at all council functions. As Federal Agency representative, and most recently as South Coastal Lakes community representative, Johan regularly provided great input, local news, and technical information to the rest of the council. He was a member on many of the project teams and local partnerships that the council was involved with. Among his notable achievements are direction of creek channel restoration on the Karnowsky Creek project, representation of the Siuslaw Partnership at the winning of the Thiess International Riverprize in Australia, and countless hours leading field tours for restoration groups and students. Thanks, Johan! Best wishes in your new location!



Proposal Deadlines Drawing Near

The following SWC projects and programs will have proposals submitted to the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board for the October 16 deadline:

- ★ **Restoration Materials Acquisition**
- ★ **Siuslaw Summer Camp and Family Education Programs**
- ★ **Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Program**
- ★ **Conger Creek Culvert Replacement**
- ★ **Macroinvertebrate Survey and Nutrient Study**

A proposal for the **Riparian Restoration Tree Distribution** will be submitted to the Siuslaw Stewardship Group for the October 20 deadline.

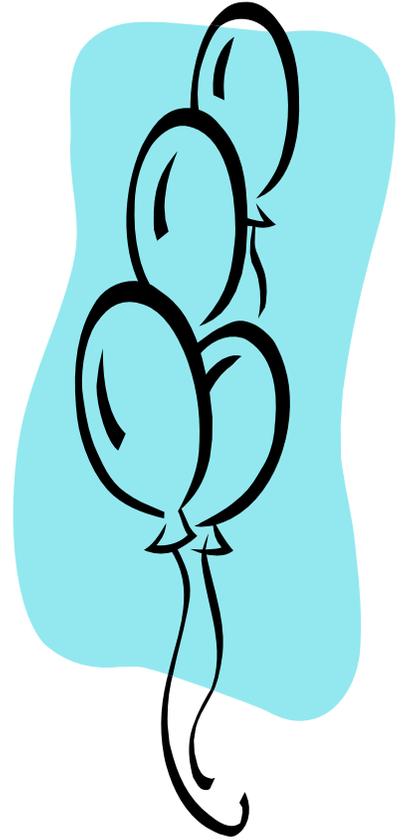
Interested in Becoming an Office Volunteer?

The Siuslaw Watershed Council has many opportunities for organization project assistance and office maintenance. Please contact us to register your skills and interest in helping with photo cataloging, supply inventory, equipment management, and other office tasks. Currently we are seeking some dedicated individuals to see a few short-term tasks through to completion. These individuals will work under the direction of Administrative Assistant, Liz Vollmer-Buhl, or Coordinator, Todd Miller.

Awesome August Volunteer Picnic

Over 57 SWC members, campers, and their families joined in celebrating our volunteers, camp participants, and grantors at the August Picnic. Everyone shared food and fun and had a chance to win some excellent locally made/donated prizes. Volunteers from all of the SWC programs, including the Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Program (VWQMP), Executive Committee, Native Plant Distribution, education programs, and more, were recognized for the time that they dedicate to watershed enhancement.

SWC members and families heard a summary of the Siuslaw Summer Watershed Exploration Camps and honored campers. Picnickers learned more about the camp program, the VWQMP, the watershed boundary sign, and the education programs, and their grantors, through the displays inside the SWC office. Long-time SWC members and new campers and their families shared many compliments about the success of the evening—it was fun, informative, and an excellent way to recognize the many great people who build and participate in SWC programs.



Thank you to our generous donors of volunteer prizes and food:

- ★ ***Lazy Lizard Designs/Maureen Huntington, North Fork/Florence***
 - ★ ***Old Towne Books and Country Gifts, Florence***
 - ★ ***Funky Monkey Toys, Florence***
 - ★ ***Abby's Legendary Pizza, Florence***
 - ★ ***Mo's, Florence***
 - ★ ***Terra Tech, Eugene***

Please let the donors know how much you appreciate their generosity. Thanks!

Volunteers...

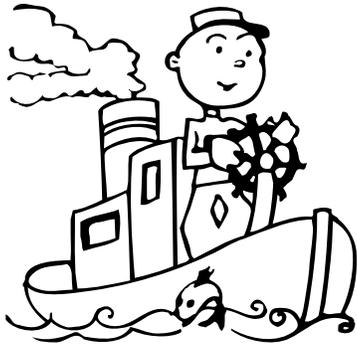
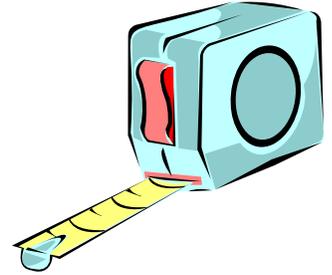
Have you been filling out your time & mileage logs?

Riparian Restoration/Native Plants: Evaluating the Past and Looking into the Future

While students and teachers are heading back to school, those of us in the restoration and monitoring fields in Oregon are heading to the computer to write grant and other funding proposals. In the coming weeks I will be working on the proposal for the 2007-08 Siuslaw Riparian Restoration/Native Plant Distribution program. In order to continually improve the program I would like your feedback. As participants who received and planted native plants and trees, what do you think the program does well, and what could we do better? Do you have other constructive criticism or thoughts about something that you think was so great that we should build on it? Please contact me, Liz Vollmer-Buhl, with your comments at monitoring@siuslaw.org, or call me at the SWC office at 541-268-3044, or at my home office at 541-683-8340.

We have some additional release (brush clearing and plant protection) assistance available. If you have a site that could benefit from some late season release, please contact me (contact information above).

Thanks again to all the landowner participants who are taking part in the project's monitoring with Wes Voth.



Water Quality Monitoring: Where are we Headed?

Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Program (VWQMP)

The VWQMP is “chugging” along. As many of you know, our volunteers are both adult community members and students at the local schools. Students from Mapleton Middle and High School collect samples and Mapleton High School students process the dissolved oxygen and turbidity samples at the school. A change for this year, is that instead of Chemistry students, Physics students will be processing the samples in the lab at the school. As we prepare and work with this year's lab students we'll focus on physics related aspects of water quality—the velocity of water, what it travels over/through, and more, have impacts on dissolved oxygen, temperature, turbidity, and more. Triangle Lake High School students will participate in monitoring later in the school year on Lake Creek. Our current adult volunteers plan to continue participating, though there is some shifting, as one is moving from the field to the office. We also have new SWC lab volunteers, who will work with staff and the current SWC lab volunteer. In regards to our monitoring sites, we plan to continue our current sites and hope to be able to add additional upper-watershed sites as funding allows.

Siuslaw Basin TMDL Development

We plan to finish the third and final field stage of the Lake Creek Temperature TMDL Development project in September or early October. The data analysis and model creation will take many months, and not likely be ready until late winter or early spring 2007.

We are partnering with Lincoln Soil and Water Conservation District on the Fecal Coliforms and Dissolved Oxygen TMDL Development for the Siuslaw. The initial stage of fieldwork may begin this fall or winter.

Nutrient Criteria Development

Tiles and periphytometers are being placed in tidally influenced tributaries this month and in October.

Siuslaw Watershed Council Calendar

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

October 2—Siuslaw Soil and Water Conservation District Meeting: 7:30 pm, SWCD office, Florence Business Center, 1525 12th Street, Florence (*Use main entrance, please call 997-1272 before coming so that the main door can be opened for you.*)

October 4—Coastal Coho Plan Public Town Hall Meeting: 6-8pm, Florence Event Center, 715 Quince Street in Florence. (*see www.oregon-plan.org for more info.*)

October 5—SWC Technical Team Meeting: 9:30 am, Upper Compound, Mapleton.

October 11—Siuslaw Stewardship Group Estuary and Coastal Lakes Field Tour: 9am-3pm meet at Council office (Upper Compound, Mapleton) at 9am.

October 11—SWC Exec. Committee Meeting: 5:30 pm, Upper Compound, Mapleton.

October 18—Monthly Siuslaw Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Day.

October 25—Siuslaw Watershed Council General Meeting: 6:30 pm, Mapleton Grange, E. Mapleton Road.

Coastal Salmon Spawning Trip Saturday, November 4, 10:30am - 1pm

Join the McKenzie River Trust (MRT) for a tour of salmon spawning habitat in Deadwood Creek, an area critical for threatened Oregon coastal Coho salmon. MRT has protected two properties totaling over 100 acres along this important river. Please contact MRT at 345-2799 or mrt@mckenzieriver.org to reserve your spot.



...Coordinator's Message *Continued from page 1*

Homeland Security: Watershed councils are effective because they resonate with community ideals for a homeland free from threats. Council members care about the productivity of the land and the sustainability of the resources because a healthy, functioning natural resource base ensures intact, secure, livable communities. The natural and social landscapes are all part of the homeland we aim to protect through the efforts of watershed councils. Restoration efforts to revitalize our local ecosystems pays homage and respect to the natural heritage we inherited from our forefathers and underscores an unwillingness to let it degrade or be destroyed. Councils provide the opportunity for community members to get involved at the local level to ensure our natural resources continue to function and provide for us, for food, water, timber, recreation, and quality of life.

I wish you all pleasant journeys and safe arrivals at your destinations, and thank you for your roles in your local watershed councils.

Todd Miller



**Siuslaw Watershed Council
General Meeting Agenda
September 27, 2006
Mapleton Grange Hall
6:30 p.m.**



6:00-6:30 Open for set-up

6:30- 6:35 Welcome and Introductions

6:35-7:30 Presentation: Eddie Huckins from the Lincoln Soil and Water Conservation District will present information on web-based access to the Siuslaw and Mid-Coast regional databases for TMDL development. He will include an overview of the Clean Water Act, the TMDL process, Mid-Coast water quality monitoring activities, and the 2005 Siuslaw temperature monitoring database. Eddie has been a leader for local participation in developing the Mid-Coast TMDLs and is a key partner with the SWC in our TMDL projects. Eddie will be joined by Bobbi Lindberg and Gary Arnold from the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality to participate in the presentation.

7:30-7:45 Refreshment Break

7:45-8:00 Coordinator Report:

8:00-8:05 Executive Committee Report

8:05-8:20 Open Mic (3-5 speakers, 3-5 minutes each)

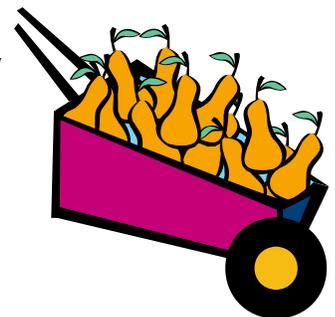
8:20-8:30 Announcements and Raffle Drawing

8:30 Adjourn

BYOM

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

We will not be holding our monthly meeting raffle for a few months. Save your dollar bills for the November Holiday Potluck/Meeting (November 29), we'll be having a big raffle that night!



August 2006

Treasurer's Report *Nancy Nichols, Council Treasurer*

Beginning Cash	\$29,658.23	corrected	
	AUGUST		YEAR TO DATE
INCOME			
Dues	\$220.00		\$870.00
Federal Grants	\$2,149.92		\$27,672.28
State Grants	\$16,500.00		\$58,656.73
Private Grants	\$5,995.88		\$12,713.99
Interest			\$722.37
Donations & Misc.	\$121.00		\$3,543.00
Administrative Funds			\$2,805.73
Project Management			
Other	\$132.80		\$212.94
TOTAL INCOME	\$8,619.60		\$112,185.88
EXPENSES			
Grant Expenses		\$17,766.79	\$106,164.34
Other		\$496.88	\$6,021.54
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$18,263.67	\$112,185.88
Ending Cash	\$20,014.16		

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

September 2006

Calling All Water Trail Enthusiasts!

The SWC is seeking all paddlers and Siuslaw Water Trail enthusiasts interested in helping to make the vision a reality. The council will help orient local enthusiasts to the planning process, the groups involved, and what they can do to help speed up the process toward an establish water trail. Ultimately, the council would like to see a self-directed water trail committee form to help spearhead some of the project endeavors with the council, the Port of Siuslaw, Lane County Parks, and others. Advise us of your interest by contacting us at watershed@siuslaw.org or calling (541) 268-3044.



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?