

NEWS & NOTES

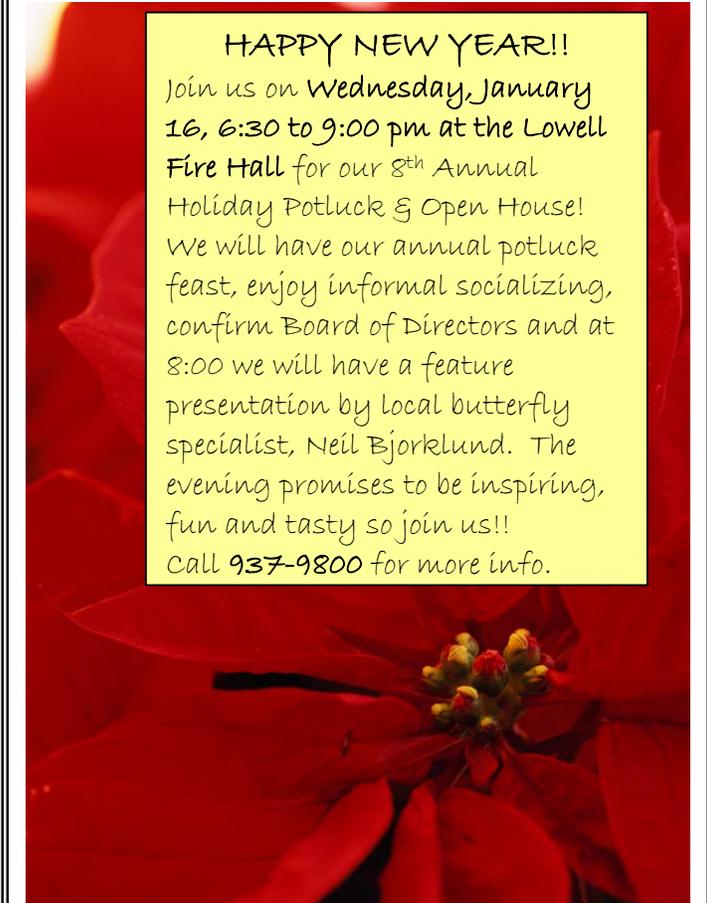


P.O. Box 27 • LOWELL, OR 97452 • PHONE 937-9800 • FAX 937-9811 • MFWWC@EFN.ORG • WWW.MFWWC.ORG

Members & Friends of the Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council,

Happy New Year to you!!

The Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council invites you to join us on Wednesday, January 16, to celebrate our 8th Annual Potluck & Open House. This year we will continue our tradition of sharing our favorite dishes for a potluck dinner while we mingle with friends, neighbors and fellow council members for informal socializing. We will feature accomplishments from 2007 followed by an election of MFWWC Board of Directors (please see biographies below). Neil Bjorklund, a local butterfly expert and author of *Finding Lane County Butterflies* and coordinating editor of *Butterflies of Lane County* will give a special feature presentation on butterflies in Lane County and the watershed. Mark your calendar and come have a fun, inspiring and tasty evening with other watershed council members and friends! Beverages will be provided, so please bring a snack or entrée to share. We look forward to seeing you for this fun community event!



HAPPY NEW YEAR!!
Join us on Wednesday, January 16, 6:30 to 9:00 pm at the Lowell Fire Hall for our 8th Annual Holiday Potluck & Open House! We will have our annual potluck feast, enjoy informal socializing, confirm Board of Directors and at 8:00 we will have a feature presentation by local butterfly specialist, Neil Bjorklund. The evening promises to be inspiring, fun and tasty so join us!! Call 937-9800 for more info.

Fly into the New Year with the MFWWC:

I hope to see you at our Annual potluck on the 16th of January. I know many of you look forward to this event all year and admittedly, the potluck is one of my favorite council events. It is a time to celebrate accomplishments, enjoy community and look ahead to the upcoming year. The council has seen a lot of positive change this past year and we are excited for 2008 activities. In the upcoming year, we will launch a landowner outreach false-brome project, increase the reach of our Watershed Education program to 400 elementary students, manage our funds in house, plant over 6500 at the confluence of Lost Creek and the Middle Fork Willamette and much, much more. Join us on the 16th for a great evening and to learn more! Best, Eve



Satyr Comma is one species that inhabits the Middle Fork Willamette Watershed.

Photo Courtesy: Neil Bjorklund



MFWWC News and Volunteer Corner.....

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Participate in good land stewardship and join the Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council this month to improve riparian habitat and water quality at several locations throughout the Watershed! We will plant up to 6500 trees and shrubs at Lost Creek and we invite all of our neighbors, council members and the general public to once again help to plant at the Lost Creek Confluence Restoration Site at Elijah Bristow State Park near Dexter. This project was designed to recreate 27 acres of valuable riparian forest habitat at the confluence of Lost Creek and the Middle Fork of the Willamette River. The planting of trees and shrubs in this area will help improve water quality by controlling runoff, and providing shade and woody debris for increased fish habitat in these waterways over the coming years.

On Saturday, January 26th, 2008 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm we are hosting a volunteer work party. This is your chance to visit the Lost Creek Confluence Restoration Site and learn first hand about all of our great plans for this site. Please meet at 9:00 am at the second parking lot on the left after you have entered the park. We will walk together about 1/3 mile to the planting site. Bring lots of layers of warm clothes and work boots for cold, wet weather and work gloves and shovels if you have them. We will provide some tools, light refreshments and drinking water.

DIRECTIONS TO THE PARK: Elijah Bristow State Park is off of Oregon Highway 58, approximately 16 miles southeast of Eugene. From Highway 58, follow the signs to "Elijah Bristow State Park" and turn onto Wheeler Road. The entrance to the park is on Wheeler Road. Please RSVP to Aryana by email at mfwwclostcreek@comcast.net or by phone at 541-729-8339. Thanks and see you there!

Meet our New Operations Manager



The Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council welcomes Marty Wilder to our team! Marty is the new Operations Manager and he brings a lot of experience working with non-profit organizations. He also

brings to our team a good knowledge of accounting practices and software, web design and facilitation.

Marty has ten years of experience in office management, accounting and holding things together resulting in a smoothly-operating system and organization. He is a resident of the watershed and lives in an intentional community close to the Council office. Marty is looking forward to bicycling to the Lowell office from his home at Lost Valley Educational Center in Dexter. Lost Valley Center teaches about wildlife and habitat restoration, organic gardening and regenerative living. Marty got his feet wet participating in a riparian restoration project along Anthony Creek while earning his Permaculture Design Certificate at Lost Valley. He has served as the Finance Manager and Water Systems Operator at Lost Valley Center for the past three years. He has two kids ages 7 and 8. Marty enjoys hiking, painting the beautiful landscape, and silly theater games.

Marty will focus on developing the MFWWC accounting system in QuickBooks Pro and updating and managing our webpage. Marty will also provide assistance to the Executive Director as needed. Welcome to our team, Marty! Please help us welcome Marty to the community at our Annual Potluck and Open House, Wednesday, January 16, at the Lowell Fire Hall (389 North Pioneer Street).



Watershed Education & News and Opportunities...

MFWWC Watershed Education Program Provides Teacher Training

Nine teachers in the Middle Fork Willamette Watershed invest in science and natural resources education for their students in support of the MFWWC Watershed Education Program. On December 5, the Watershed Education Program conducted a seven-hour workshop at lovely Lost Valley Education Center. Lost Valley Education Center is located along Anthony Creek, a tributary to Lost Creek, and the facilities include classrooms, labeled interpretive trails, garden and orchard demonstrations, healthy, delicious meals and snacks. The facility and community of Lost Valley is truly an asset to our watershed. Lost Valley Education Guild generously donated the classroom space for the day for the teacher-training workshop. Thanks LVEC!



The teacher training was conducted in conjunction with Oregon Forestry Education Program (OFEP). By collaborating with OFEP, participating teachers and their schools received reimbursement for substitute teachers as well as Project Learning Tree and Project Wild Aquatic curriculum manuals. Thanks OFEP! Facilitators of the workshop included our own Lowell High School Science teacher Amanda Sader, long-time Oregon environmental educator Pam Wilson, and MFWWC Watershed Educator Holly LeMasurier. Nine area teachers, MFWWC Executive Director and three members of the MFWWC Education and Outreach Committee attended. Teachers from Oakridge Elementary, Lowell Elementary, Pleasant Hill Middle School and Trent Elementary represented fourth, fifth and sixth grades participating in the MFWWC Watershed Rangers project. The workshop featured environmental education curriculum and activities focused on watersheds and water quality.

Teachers experienced some of the signature activities of a 'stream survey and water quality sampling' field trip offered by the Watershed Rangers project to all participating classes. Teachers practiced water quality testing for pH, dissolved oxygen, and macroinvertebrates and a basic stream survey of temperature, depth, and stream character. Teachers also calculated how much water a given area collects and contributes to a watershed by calculating area and rainfall, and sampled various soils and surfaces for runoff and percolation.

New curriculum written for stream simulators was also piloted and discussed with the teachers. River Processes, Aquatic Habitats and Resource Management are topics covered in six lessons in the new stream simulator K-12 curriculum *Streams of Thought*. Teachers participating in the Watershed Rangers project will have the opportunity to house stream simulators in their classrooms and at their schools and complete the *Streams of Thought* curriculum. *Streams of Thought* reflects another OWEB grant-funded project undertaken by the MFWWC Watershed Education Program. The spring teacher training will focus on experiences of the Plants, Trees and Forests field trip: plant and tree identification, native and invasive plant species, forest ecology, wildlife habitat, and restoration goals and replanting projects in the watershed. Please contact Holly LeMasurier, MFWWC Watershed Educator, at mfwwcedu@efn.org if you would like to volunteer with the Watershed Education Program, teacher training, or student field trips in the future.

The MFWWC thanks the Eugene BLM, Springfield Utility Board and Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board for funding the Program and curriculum of the MFWWC Watershed Education Program.



Landowner Stewardship News & Opportunities

MFWWC Launches a False Brome Outreach & Restoration Effort

The Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council will begin the outreach for the false-brome control project. False-brome is considered by the Oregon Department of Agriculture to be a noxious weed and natural resource specialists around the state are now focusing on eradication and control of this highly invasive non-native. The Jasper/Fall Creek area is the epicenter of one of the main false-brome infestations in the state of Oregon; there are significant populations on both public and private lands in the Fall Creek, Little Fall Creek, Winberry Creek, Lost Creek, and lower Middle Fork subbasins. The grass is a native to Eurasia and North Africa with the ability to aggressively invade a wide variety of habitats from forest floor to open prairie and pasture, ranging in elevation up to 3500 feet. It loves disturbed areas (roadsides, trails, clear-cuts, riparian zones, etc.) and once established can colonize non-disturbed areas at a rapid rate. Unpalatable for grazing, it quickly reduces the productivity of rangeland and eliminates wildlife forage. Even tree plantings are harmed by infestations of false brome, which can out-compete seedlings for moisture.



Photo Courtesy: Tom Kaye

The first portion of the project will be to formally survey for false-brome on private properties around the lower watershed in order to map the extent of the infestation in this area and to give educational workshops on identifying the plant. The workshops will include a discussion of available methods of control for false-brome. While the false-brome inventory will be ongoing throughout the 2008 field season, we hope to identify priority sites and begin to treat a subset of populations this spring and summer. In January, we will be sending out a letter to landowners with more details on the survey and workshop.

The second phase of the project will involve securing grant funds to treat false-brome populations on private and public properties in the lower watershed (communities of Fall Creek, Little Fall Creek, Jasper, Dexter, Lost Creek, Hills Creek, Pleasant Hill and the confluence of Coast and Middle Fork Willamette Rivers. We look forward to working with you on this exciting project!

For more information and or to find out about false-brome surveys in your area, please contact the MFWWC Landowner Outreach and Restoration Specialist, Jenny Getty, at 510-4373 or by email at mfwwcoutreach@efn.org.

MFWWC Board of Directors Election Process and "Biographies"

In the past, general council members elected members to the MFWWC Steering Committee at an annual meeting. On January 16, 2008, we will hold our first annual election for the MFWWC Board of Directors for our recently formalized 501c3 non-profit organization. Be sure to participate in this annual event as a council member. Below you will find a brief description of the election process and biographies for prospective Board of Directors.

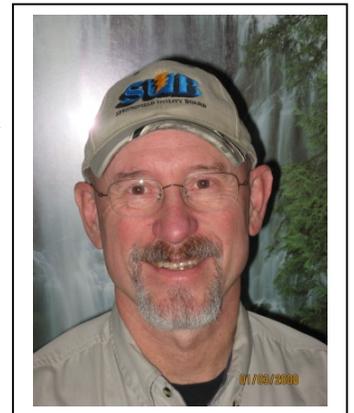
BOARD OF DIRECTORS ANNUAL MEETING ELECTION: There will be an annual meeting of the voting members, which will be held to elect members to the Board of Directors. It will be held during the first quarter of the calendar year at a time and location determined by resolution of the Voting Members or by the Board of Directors.

ELECTION PROCESS: Each member will have the right to vote only for as many persons as there are director positions open on the Board of Directors at the time of the election. The vote must be by a secret ballot if any person so requests. If there is no request to hold the election by secret ballot, 11 nominees for positions on the Board of Directors will be named and voting members will be asked to vote openly. Prospective Board members will be introduced and a short biography read before the voting will occur.

BOARD OF DIRECTOR TERMS: Positions on the Board of Directors will be 1 and 2-year terms and positions shall be staggered. To determine the term for each elected Director, they will select a folded paper with a 1 or 2 year term written on the paper.

PROSPECTIVE BOARD OF DIRECTOR BIOGRAPHIES:

Chuck Davis: Springfield Utility Board and BOD President: Chuck is one of the founding members of the Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council and has been on the Council Steering Committee since the council's inception in 1999. Chuck is the Water Quality Program Manager for the Springfield Utility Board and is involved in all aspects of protecting drinking water quality for Springfield's 60, 000 + residents. In addition to having been involved in most of the council's committees at one time or another, Chuck spends time horseback riding (member of Oregon Equestrian Trails), fishing, hiking and hunting in the watershed. "I am very committed to making sure the Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council is a success. I believe we are the most successful Council in the state because of the dedication of the Steering Committee Council Staff, and the multitude of truly motivated volunteers. What we do is fun."



Cary Hart: Timber Industry Representative and Vice President: Cary is the Chief Forester with Giustina Land & Timber Co. Giustina is a family-owned company managing timberlands in the Middle Fork watershed for over 80 years. Cary is a native Oregonian who enjoys outdoor activities such as fishing, backpacking, and hunting. He lives in Eugene with his wife and kids. The Middle Fork Watershed Council is important to Cary "because it brings a diverse group of people together to focus on the goal of having and maintaining a healthy watershed. I believe working together in this diverse group educates us all in a way that brings understanding to the management of our natural resources. Working with the Watershed Council is a great way to make a positive contribution to the overall health of our watershed-one issue at a time.

Barb Hazen; Member at Large and Secretary: Barb has been heavily involved with the Council since the Councils' early formation days. She has been the Councils' stalwart "recorder" for the past eight years, compiling nearly all of the meeting minutes during that time. She is a member of the Sierra Club, and is a long-time avid hiker who loves the trails that are found in the Middle Fork Willamette watershed.

MFWWC Board of Directors "Biographies"

Stephanie Schroeder; Environmental Representative: Stephanie has worked as a field biologist in the Willamette Valley for many years, and she moved to Eugene in December 2001. She is now working with Walama Restoration Project (WRP) as program development lead, grant writer, administrative lead, and Treasurer of the Board of Directors. WRP is a community organized non profit dedicated to mending landscapes and educating the public about native ecosystems from the Southern Willamette Basin to the High Central Cascade Mountains. Stephanie has a strong passion for studying, honoring, and enjoying the natural processes of native ecosystems as well as the role they have in contributing successional to the health of adjacent human-altered and/or imperiled areas within our bioregion. "As a Director, I seek to offer my perspective and expertise on issues concerning the future and immediate health of the diverse ecosystems within the Middle Fork watershed".

Chip Weber; US Forest Service Representative: Chip is currently the District Ranger for Middle Fork District of Willamette National Forest. He holds a BS in Forest Management from Oregon State University and a MS in Forest Ecology and Silviculture from University of Washington. He has worked as Forestry Consultant and Research Technician prior to joining the Forest Service in 1987. Has worked in the following jobs for the USFS - Forestry Technician, Botanist, Supervisory Forester, Silviculturist, Ecologist, Natural Resource Specialist, and District Ranger in Oregon, Indiana and Alaska. "The MFWWC is important to me because it brings together so many people around the common interest of having a healthy, functioning ecosystem in this watershed. Maintaining healthy ecosystems is an integral part of the Forest Service mission".

Bryan Von Bargaen; US Army Corps Representative: Bryan has worked as a Ranger and Natural Resource Specialist with the BLM and US Army Corps for over 20 years. He is currently with the Corps as the Natural Resources Manager for the Willamette Valley. "I am interested in working with the MFWWC because it is a proactive group of folks who are working hard to make a difference. I see that we are making things happen and making good progress and I want to be part of that progress in the Middle Fork Watershed".

Nancy Swatelle; BLM Representative: Nancy has worked in natural resources management for 26 years. She is currently working with the Eugene District Bureau of Land Management (BLM) as the Senior Staff Botanist/Plant Ecologist, where she has been since 1989. Prior to that she worked for the Salem BLM and the U.S. Forest Range and Experiment Station in Corvallis, Oregon. Most of her work has focused on rare plant, vegetation, and ecological issues. Nancy helps to coordinate the Sensitive Plant Program, Native Plant Materials Program and the Special Areas Program for the Eugene District. She has served on board positions for both the Native Plant Society of Oregon and nationally for the Natural Areas Association. Nancy is very interested in local issues and has just moved to Fall Creek. "Now that I am living in Fall Creek, it is a great opportunity to get involved with the MFWWC". Nancy has a particular interest in restoration and feels that partnerships and collaboration are the best way to see successful, long-term results.

Gregg Vollstedt; Member at Large: Gregg is a landowner and business operator within the Middle Fork Willamette watershed. The watershed is literally the lifeblood of his business, which is growing blueberry nursery stock. He is the fourth generation of his family to farm in Oregon and he has strong feelings about what he considers Oregon's most valuable resource, water. "As resource users, I feel it is our responsibility to use the resource wisely and protect the watershed that supplies it. The Middle-Fork Watershed is very important to me as it supplies the resource that supports my family along with the families of our 90 employees. What the watershed also supports is the opportunity for our customers to establish fruit industries in many parts of the world that are helping their local economies. For these reasons, I look forward to serving on the board of the MFWWC".

Chuck Spies; Member at Large: Chuck is the City Administrator for the City of Lowell and owns property along Lost Creek. Chuck grew up in the Middle Fork Watershed area on Wallace Creek Road and is a graduate of Pleasant Hill HS. He is also a graduate of Oregon State University with a degree in Business Administration and has a MBA in Management from Golden Gate University. Chuck is a retired Air Force Lieutenant Colonel, having served in the Air Force for 25 years as a navigator and in several operations management positions. He was the City Administrator in Turner, Oregon for eight years before coming to Lowell. While in Turner, he participated in efforts to get a Mill Creek Watershed Council established. He is a strong supporter of watershed councils as a way to get diverse stakeholders together to cooperate and collaborate on projects that benefit the watershed.

Don Hampton; Member at Large: Don is many things in this community and I cannot list them all cause there isn't enough room. Don is well known as a community volunteer and the Mayor for the City of Oakridge. He has been involved with the MFWWC since its beginning and currently sits on the E&O Committee and Board. "My community (Oakridge) and the surrounding area need information about what makes it unique and special. The council can provide that information and the community needs a group of like-minded citizens who wish to protect and preserve this special environment while using it and enjoying it at the same time. I would like to explore ways of improving council exposure to the community so that it is known for its purpose and work. I would like to see increased attendance and diversity at general meetings.

Pat Burns; Member at Large and Treasurer: Biography not available at this time.

EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ❖ **Birds of the Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Part II: Natural History Course** by Dave Bontrager at Elijah Bristow State Park to begin late January. The course will focus on winter residents. The biggest difference between summer and winter bird populations is a decrease in the species of songbirds and near-songbirds and an increase in the species of waterbirds. Come learn about the natural history and behavior of these birds! Dave will offer 12 field trips to take place at a half-mile corridor of riparian habitat along the Middle Fork of the Willamette River. TO REGISTER or if you have questions: Call Dave at 937-3970 or e-mail him at dbontra243@aol.com
- ❖ **Northwest River Restoration Symposium:** The 7th Annual Northwest Stream Restoration Design Symposium will be held February 5th through 7th, 2008 at Skamania Lodge in Stevenson, Washington. The conference focuses on stream restoration questions of concern to project managers, designers, engineers, regulators, land managers or owners and community stewards throughout the Northwest. Visit <http://rrnw.org/skamaniam2008/> for information on this conference.
- ❖ **Improve Riparian Conditions in Your Watershed; Tree Planting Volunteer Work Parties:**
Saturday, January 19th, 9:30 am to noon. Meet at the Lowell covered bridge. Dress warmly and bring water, lunch, gloves and a shovel (if you have one). Light refreshments will be available.
Saturday, January 26th, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. Meet at the 2nd parking lot on the left after you have entered Elijah Bristow State Park, which is located off of Highway 58 and Wheeler Road. Dress warmly and bring water, lunch, gloves and a shovel (if you have one). Light refreshments will be available.
RSVP to Project Manager, Aryana Ferguson, at mfwwclostcreek@comcast.net or 541-729-8339

MFWWC Board of Directors

I am fortunate to work with a great team of watershed stakeholders known as the MFWWC Board of Directors! The Board is comprised of broad representation across diverse interests. They work together well and in turn working with them is a pleasure. Thank You!

MFWWC Board of Directors:

[Barbara Hazen](#), Watershed recreationist and Secretary;
[Chuck Davis](#), SUB Water Quality Specialist & President;
[Cary Hart](#), Timber Industry Representative & Vice Pres;
[Pat Burns](#), Oakridge resident & Treasurer;
[Don Hampton](#), City of Oakridge Mayor;
[Chuck Spies](#), City of Lowell Administrator;
[Nancy Sawtelle](#), BLM Senior Plant Ecologist;
[Bryan Von Bargaen](#), USACE Natural Resources Manager;
[Stephanie Shroeder](#), Environmental Representative;
[Chip Weber](#), USFS Middle Fork District Ranger; and
Open At large position: Greta Vollstedt Nominated

Questions or comments? Contact the MFWWC at mfwwc@efn.org or 541-937-9800



Mark Your Calendars...

- January 8:** Education/Outreach Meeting (3:00-4:30; Lowell City Hall: 107 E. 3rd Avenue).
- January 16:** **Annual Potluck** & Open House (6:00-9pm; Lowell Fire Hall; 389 North Pioneer St).
- January 19:** **Tree Planting** on Private Parcel in Fall Creek (9:00 am; meet at the Lowell covered bridge parking lot. Contact mfwwclostcreek@comcast.net)
- January 21:** Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday.
- January 26:** **Tree Planting** at Lost Creek Confluence Restoration Site (9 am; Elijah Bristow State Park off of Highway 58 and Wheeler Road).
- February 6:** Board of Directors Meeting.
Topics: Tax Exempt Status training with attorney David Atkin. Time & Location TBA
- February 13:** MFWW Invasive Weed Species Working Group Meeting (1:00-4:00 pm, Eugene BLM on Chad Drive)

FOR A REGULARLY UPDATED CALENDAR OF EVENTS, GO TO WWW.MFWWC.ORG