



NEWS & NOTES

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Dear Members & Friends of the Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council,

We welcome you into spring season and we invite you to join us on for two special presentations this month on Wednesday, March 19th, at the Oregon Department of

Forestry in Springfield. The meeting this month will feature local well-accomplished specialists and practitioners within the fields of Ecology and Botany. Tom Kaye of the *Institute for Applied Ecology* will share with us his research on the pervasive invasive plant infestation threatening native habitats across the state and our watershed. False-brome (*Brachypodium Sylvaticum*) is a non-native Eurasian grass that seems to thrive in almost any condition. It has the ability to take over meadow and understory environments and can quickly out compete native plant species, diminishing biodiversity at a rapid rate. Tom has been working as one of the lead researchers of false-brome to determine information on the genetic composition and production of this species and the most effective treatment methods, which he will share with us on March 19. Together with many partners who own or manage land, the MFWWC has just launched a coordinated effort to identify, quantify, contain and treat false-brome in the entire lower watershed. We hope to keep false-brome from spreading beyond its current

range within the watershed and we want to protect and restore native habitats by removing this invasive and replanting with native plant species. Many of you have received a letter this past week that includes a brochure on false-brome and an invitation to participate in this project. Join us in this effort to protect and restore our watershed!

How to Create Native Plant Habitat at Home

On March 19, Sheila Klest of Trillium Gardens will speak about the importance of planting native species along your riverside and in your garden. Sheila has over 20 years of experience as a botanist and local native plant vendor. Together with our riparian restoration project manager, we rely on Sheila to provide expertise on the most suitable native plants for our restoration projects and for high-quality plant stock. Sheila will share with you which native plants do well given our climate and dominate soil type in the southern Willamette Valley. What better time of year to plan for your native riparian and garden habitat!!

March General Council Meeting

- 6:30 Introductions.
- 6:33 Review Meeting Agenda.
- 6:35 Approve January Meeting Minutes;
Council Members
- 6:37 Council Member Announcements: *All*
- 6:50 Executive Director Update: *Montanaro*
- 7:00 Research Summary of False-brome and
Why We Care: *Tom Kaye; Institute for
Applied Ecology (Corvallis)*
- 7:40 Break; *Light Refreshments Served*
- 7:55 How to Create a Native Plant Habitat:
Sheila Klest; Trillium Gardens
- 8:30 Adjourn

March Council Meeting

Wednesday, March 19

Oregon Department of Forestry
(3150 East Main Street, Springfield)

6:30 – 8:30 pm



MFWWC News and Volunteer Corner.....

8th Annual Open House and Potluck Celebration

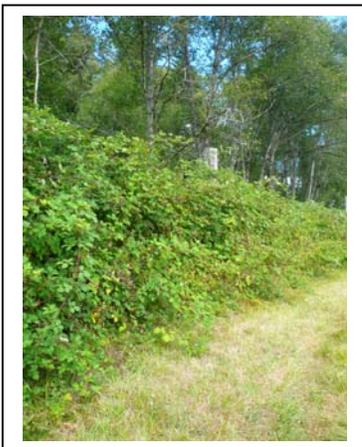
Thank you for another wonderful annual event when we come together as a community to share our stories, interests in the watershed and culinary talents!! This annual event was particularly special for many reasons; we had excellent food as usual, our first election of the MFWWC Board of Directors, an introduction of MFWWC staff/service providers and our youngest council members present for the fun. Some highlights of the evening:



Nelson Creek Riparian Restoration Project!

The MFWWC worked with landowner, Jean Denis, and several project partners to restore 1100 feet along Nelson Creek. Nelson Creek is a tributary to Winberry Creek and provides refuge for juvenile spring Chinook during winter flows. Nelson Creek is believed to also support Western pond turtles and many species of migratory and song birds. Himalayan blackberries (8 feet tall) were cleared from 1100 feet along Nelson Creek and replanted with 275 native tree and shrub species such as big leaf maple, red alder, incense cedar, Oregon ash, black cottonwood, vine maple, tall Oregon grape and dogwood. We thank Jean Denis, Dave Bontrager, NWYC, volunteers and staff who have all dedicated time/resources and contributed to improving habitat along Nelson Creek.

Thank You!!!



Infestation of Himalayan Blackberry along Nelson Ck. Pre-treatment



NWYC removes 1100 feet of blackberry along Nelson Creek.



MFWWC Staff & Service Providers volunteer their time to complete the planting at Nelson Creek. Go Team!!!!



Watershed Health & Habitat Restoration

Thank You for Another Successful Planting at the Lost Creek Confluence Project!!

On February 9, Oregon Parks and MFWWC volunteers, staff and board members broke ground on the planting for Phases II and III of the Lost Creek Confluence Project at Elijah Bristow State Park. The planting is an effort to restore 27 acres of habitat at the confluence of Lost Creek and the Middle Fork Willamette River. This confluence area is used by many species including Oregon chub, western pond turtles, spring Chinook, northern red-legged frogs and western songbirds. At the completion of this planting, we will have replaced non-native plants with over 7500 native shrubs and trees. Volunteer assistance on the 9th of February contributed approximately 150 hours of volunteer labor to plant 475 trees. We were happy to be joined by some of our youngest land stewards, board members (current and past) and participants from our Watershed Education Program known as *Watershed Rangers*. *Thank You!!!*



Board President, Chuck Davis, is all smiles!



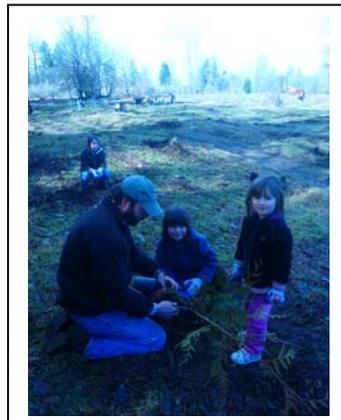
Lundy Elementary 4th grade teacher, Sid Rose, and a Watershed Ranger and family!



Our youngest land steward in training!



Project Manager, Aryana Ferguson, happy for the sunny weather and work being done!!



Watershed Rangers and Family



Work Accomplished; Great Job!!!



Watershed Education News & Opportunities...

MFWWC Watershed Rangers Learn about Watershed Health Inside and Outside the Classroom!!

The MFWWC Watershed Education Program, *Watershed Rangers*, continues its classroom and field-based studies of watershed topics in the communities of Oakridge, Lowell and Pleasant Hill. Currently, five classes are participating to reach 118 kids! Winter program activities focused on topics of the watershed such as, 'Weather and the Water Cycle', 'Ecosystems and Habitats', 'Wildlife' and 'Trees and Forests'. Guest speakers from the National Forest, Audubon Society, and US Army Corps of Engineers visited participating classrooms to talk about stream formation, local bird species and Western pond turtle habitats and restoration efforts.

In addition to classroom visits and field trips by council partners or volunteers, the MFWWC Watershed Education Program Coordinator spent time with 4 local schools to elaborate on each of the topics. The Coordinator shares that among all the activities, stories focused on Pacific Northwest habitats and species has become a favorite activity for the students. *Watershed Rangers* then develop creative and scientific stories of their own, drawing from the experiences of classroom lessons and field trips. The students also practice communication and cooperation through classroom simulations and group activities – important skills for future land and water stewards. One of the most recent field trips that allowed students to practice real-world skills as land stewards was the trip that Lundy Elementary's fourth grade took to Giustina Land and Timber Company Management area. MFWWC Board member, *Cary Hart*, hosted the students through an old growth forest discussing management strategies for forest specie, habitats, forest succession and forest character.

Schools received a total of eighteen instructional hours from the MFWWC Watershed Education Program achieving curriculum goals in science, social studies, art, and career-related learning. Thanks to all the wonderful teachers and partners who teach kids about their local environment and resources and make the Watershed Rangers such a success!



Senior Forester and Board Member, Cary Hart of Giustina Land and Timber Co. talks to Lundy Elementary students about timber resource management and industry 'best practices' to protect the environment.



Landowner Stewardship News & Opportunities...

The Middle Fork Willamette Watershed False-brome Project is Underway!

The MFWWC is conducting an invasive plant removal project in partnership with public and private organizations that own or manage land in a joint effort to control and or remove false-brome, an invasive grass, from the lower watershed (Fall Creek, Little Fall Creek, Lost Creek, and the lower Mid-Fork subbasins). The Middle Fork Willamette Invasive Species Working Group (MFWWIPSWG) was formed in May 2007 in order to work together to contain and treat false-brome and other invasive weed species in the watershed. Members of this partnership include: the Bureau of Land Management, the US Forest Service, US Army Corps of Engineers, Walama Restoration Project, Weyerhaeuser, Giustina Land and Timber, the Springfield Utility Board, the Oregon Department of Agriculture, Willamalane, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, Lane County, and the Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council.

Most residents of the lower watershed have already received a letter from the MFWWC along with a brochure that contains information about false-brome and methods used for treatment. The letter is an invitation to landowners and residents to participate in the False-brome Control Project by contacting us and giving us permission to survey for false-brome on your property. If false-brome is found on your property, we will map the extent of the infestation and work together with you on a plan to contain, treat and remove the species from the property. The MFWWC works with landowners to procure necessary funds to remove non-native species and replant with native plants. The landowner can contribute to the cost of the project in many ways including in-kind labor, equipment or cash.



Photo Courtesy: Tom Kaye

We will hold public meetings to discuss false-brome, its impact on native ecosystems, watershed health and how you can become involved in the effort to stop false-brome and therefore improve watershed health. Meetings will occur during three evenings in the last two weeks of March. These workshops will occur from **6pm to 8 or 8:30pm** at the **Dexter Fire House on March 17th**, at the **Jasper Grange on March 20th**, and at the **Pleasant Hill High School on March 25th**. Hope to see you there!

For more information about false-brome surveys in your area, please contact Jenny Getty (by phone: 510-4373 or by email: outreach@mfwwc.org)



Landowner Stewardship News & Opportunities...

Put Household Hazardous Waste in its place!

Some everyday items, when disposed of improperly, harm the quality of drinking water and cause other environmental damage. Keep your water supply safe and healthful – take a moment to gather your household hazardous waste and put it in its place.

Come to the **FREE** Household Hazardous Waste **ROUND-UP**

When: **Saturday, March 15**
9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Where: **Oakridge Fire Station**
47592 Highway 58

- Free Disposal:
- Cell phones, telephones, fax machines
 - VCRs, DVD players, stereos
 - Printers, typewriters
 - Video games

Here are a few examples of items that will be collected:

- Paint, paint thinner, turpentine
- Cleaners with acid or lye
- Pesticides or herbicides
- Household batteries
- Aerosol spray products
- Household cleaners and disinfectants

Electronics Recycling will be provided by NextStep Recycling. To cover the costs, recycling fees will be charged for television sets, computers, laptops, computer monitors and copy machines.

(See the reverse side for more information)

Put Household Hazardous Waste in its place!

Household Hazardous Waste **ROUND-UP**



Call 682-4120 for more information.

When gathering household waste to bring, look for items with words like flammable, corrosive, poison, caution, or danger on the label.

All items should be in their original containers and packed in sturdy cardboard boxes for transport. Please do not bring empty containers. There is a 25-gallon limit per vehicle.

Please **DO NOT** bring car batteries, motor oil or oil filters, explosives of any kind, ammunition, biological waste, radioactive materials, trash or tires. Also note that the Round-Up is for residential waste only – **NO commercial waste will be accepted.** Car batteries, motor oil and oil filters can be recycled at the Oakridge transfer site on Hills Creek Reservoir Road, east of Oakridge.



EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Spring Creek Project Proposal Invitation: We at the Spring Creek Project invite you to participate in the second annual* Trillium Project* during prime wildflower season -- April 20 to May 18, 2008 -- at the Cabin at Shotpouch Creek. We're inviting ideas from people from a wide variety of backgrounds and interests—artists, botanists, writers, biologists, musicians, philosophers, etc.—who would like to visit or stay at the cabin for an afternoon, a day and a night, or several days, to study and write (draw, photograph, compose songs, etc.) about the Shotpouch Creek place? For a full description of program and proposal submission, you can find information on our website: <http://springcreek.oregonstate.edu/> Best Wishes, Kathleen Dean Moore, Charles Goodrich, Vanessa Brown

Independent Multidisciplinary Science Team Meeting: March 11, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. USDA Forest Service Forestry Sciences Lab Rm 200; Oregon State University (32000 SW Jefferson Way, Corvallis). The IMST <www.fsl.orst.edu/imst> is a scientific review panel charged with advising the State of Oregon on matters of science related to the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds <http://www.oregon-plan.org/> These matters include fish recovery, water quality improvements, and enhancing watershed health.

Spring Bird Class by Dave Bontrager: Designed for beginners to those with moderate skill at bird identification and bird song recognition. A combination of classroom meetings and field trips designed to assist students in beginning to ID birds by their songs and calls. In the classroom, info will be presented using slide lectures, tapes, CDs, and DVDs. Classroom topics will include how birds sing, songs vs. calls, the development and function of song, and the ecology of song. In the field, students will learn how to listen to birds and how to describe vocalizations in ways designed to aid in recall and eventual identification. Classroom meetings April 16, 30 (6:30 to 9:00 PM) Field trips May 7, 14, 21, June 4 (8:00 to 11:00 AM) Course Fee is \$50.00. Contact Dave at 937-3970 or email at dbontra243@aol.com

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
Gregg Vollstedt: Agriculture; Little Fall Creek Resident

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



Mark Your Calendars...

March 11: Education & Outreach Meeting: 3:00-4:30 pm. Lowell City Hall (107 East 3rd Avenue).

March 15: Household Hazardous Waste Cleanup; Oakridge Fire Hall (9:00 am-2:00 pm, 47592 Highway 58, Oakridge).

March 17-25: MFWWC False Brome Workshops (6:00 to 8:00 pm, Dexter, Pleasant Hill, Jasper).

March 19: General Council Meeting; Topics: False Brome Impact on Native Ecosystems & Planting Native Species (3150 East Main Street, Springfield).

March 26: Board of Directors Meeting: 6:00 to 8:00 pm at Lowell City Hall (107 East 3rd Avenue).

April 3: MFWWC Invasive Plant Species Group: 1:00 to 4:00pm at Eugene BLM.

May: Down by the Riverside Clean up Events!!!

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