

MAY 14, 2008

# NEWS & NOTES

P.O. Box 27 • LOWELL, OR 97452 • PHONE 937-9800 • FAX 937-2936 • INFO@MFWWC.ORG • WWW.MFWWC.ORG



## *Members & Friends of the Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council,*

Please join us on Wednesday, May 21, for a special tour of the Haws Oregon chub enhancement project. Landowners Erik and Gail Haws will lead us on a tour of the most recent restoration project implemented together with the MFWWC and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. The Haws' property is located at the confluence of Gray Creek and the Middle Fork Willamette River and provides high-quality habitat for birds, Oregon chub and possibly the western pond turtle. The Haws have an interest in protecting and enhancing this habitat whether it be for native plants, birds and or animals and together with the MFWWC and partners, the Haws have done significant work toward improving aquatic and terrestrial conditions in the upper MFW watershed!!! The restoration site is situated among a healthy riparian corridor that supports hundreds of birds, and bird song is what you will hear when you visit this site. Come and enjoy a beautiful evening and learn how the Haws have made a nature sanctuary at their home in Westfir. Please see the Watershed Health & Habitat Restoration section below for more information on the Oregon chub enhancement project.

May Council Meeting  
Wednesday, May 21  
Haws Property  
(47008 LaDuke Road, Westfir)  
6:00 – 8:00 pm

## Water Quality in the Middle Fork Willamette Watershed!!!

Our watershed assessment and Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) Implementation Plans state the need to identify non-point sources of pollution and to work with cities and watershed residents to improve water quality through the restoration of riparian corridors, education and outreach. Together with partners, we recently received grant funding from the Department of Environmental Quality to conduct a two-year monitoring study to identify non-point sources of pollution in our basin and others. Additionally, the MFWWC is working with our local municipalities and residents of the watershed to plan activities for maintaining the good water quality of the Mid Fork basin and for addressing challenges, such as high temperatures. As a community, we recognize the importance of taking action to protect the good quality of

our river systems and drinking water. On the 21st, we will share with you a draft TMDL plan for the City of Oakridge, the plan for monitoring WQ in the entire Middle Fork basin and a few activities accomplished for improving riparian vegetation in the Oakridge area. Join us in Oakridge for a short informative meeting and a tour of the Haws Oregon chub enhancement project!!! If birding appeals to you, be sure to bring your binoculars!!

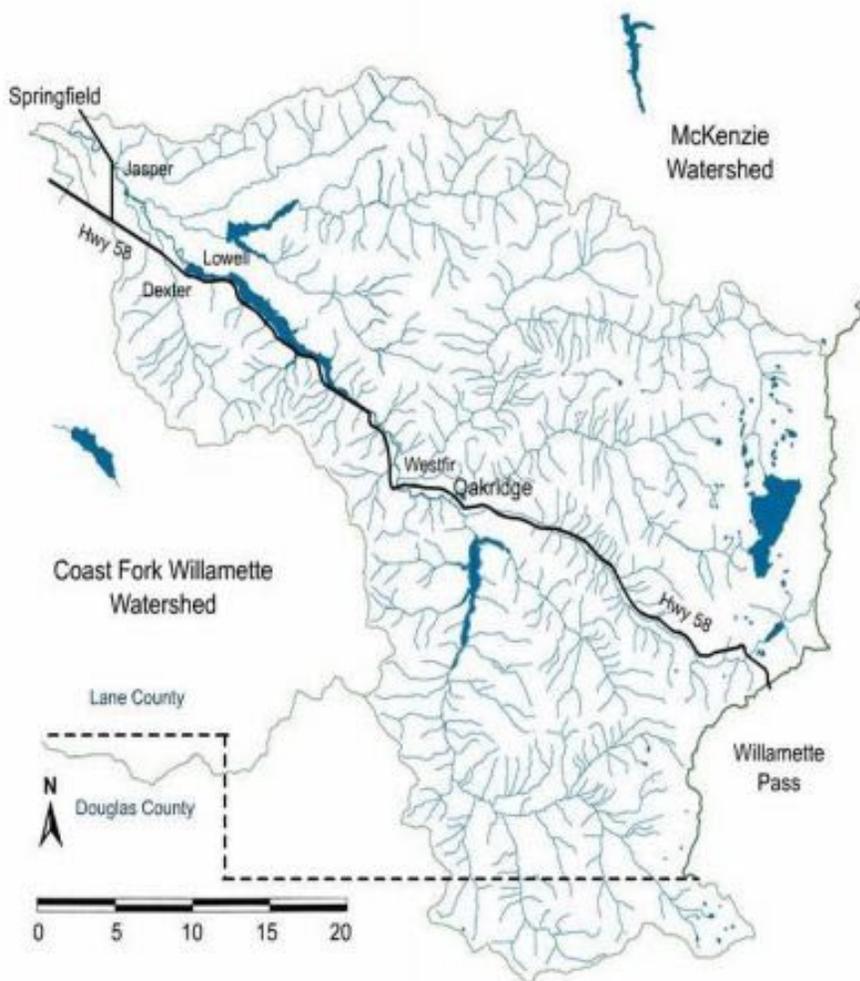
### May General Council Meeting

- 6:00 Introductions
- 6:05 Review Meeting Agenda & Approve Meeting Minutes: Council Members
- 6:10 Council Member Announcements: All
- 6:20 Board of Directors Update: President
- 6:25 TMDL plan and Water Quality efforts: Montanaro
- 6:45 Restoration Tour

*Happy spring and have a great month of May!!!  
Best, Eve*

# Know Your Watershed

## USGS Map of the Middle Fork Willamette Watershed



### WATERSHED FACTOIDS:

**Size:** 865,920 acres

**Population:** approx. 24,000

**Land Use:** 94.65% forest (72% public, 28% private)

1.91 % water

1.32% non-range agricultural

1.3% urban & rural residential

0.53% wetlands

### Endangered Species:

Chinook salmon (Upper Willamette River ESU, spring run); Oncorhynchus tshawytscha pop. 23, Northern spotted owl; Oregon chub; Bald eagle; Bradshaw's lomatium; Bull trout (Columbia River population); Salvelinus confluentus pop. 2, Gray wolf; and Willamette Valley daisy.

**Encompasses:** Oakridge, Westfir, Dexter, Lowell, Little and Fall Creek, Lost Creek, Jasper, Pleasant Hill and south Springfield

## Would You Like to Support Your Watershed?

See the letter from Eve Montanaro, Executive Director on page 9 for information about how to support the Council. You can also find out about volunteer opportunities by subscribing to our email list. Just send an email to [subscribe@mfwwc.org](mailto:subscribe@mfwwc.org) to be notified of news and announcements including tree planting parties and a full-color electronic copy of News & Notes.



## MFWWC News & Volunteer Corner...

Community of Oakridge Comes Together to Improve Riparian Habitat and Water Quality!

### Oakridge Household Hazardous Waste Round Up Results

**Customer Count: 78\*\*** Oakridge Sani-Haul brought in waste from approximately 20 households that they had collected over last 2 years.

#### Waste Collected Summary:

Oil Base Paint	2,580 lb
Latex Paint-Waste	1,600 lb
A-Fuel-Waste Solvents	269 lb
Poison Flammable	363 lb
Latex Paint-Recycled	1,220 lb
Acids/Bases	144 lb
Flammable Aerosols	149 lb
Oxidizers	15 lb
Batteries	35 lb
Used Oil/Anti Freeze	37 lb
Reactives	8
Flourescent Tubes	21

Total weight for Hazardous  
Waste collected: 6,438 lbs

Thank you for making our watershed a  
healthy place to live, work and recreate!!



We thank the City of Oakridge, Oakridge Watershed Rangers, their families, Dead Mountain Echo, Tree Planting Princesses and Oakridge residents for planting over 100 native shrubs and trees along a bare section of the Middle Fork Willamette River at Greenwaters Park. MFWWC Watershed Education Coordinator, Holly LeMasurier, and Executive Director, Eve Montanaro, worked together to plan an event that combined goals of the Oakridge TMDL Plan, restoration priorities of the MFWWC and community service learning needs for our Watershed Education Program. Approximately 25 Watershed Rangers and their families joined the community for a Tree Planting Festival on a warm Sunday afternoon. Native plants including red-oiser dogwood, Bigleaf Maple, Oregon Ash, Carex, Pacific willow, red alder and cedars were placed along a cleared bank of the Middle Fork Willamette River in Oakridge. The planting will provide habitat for wildlife species and shade to lower stream temperatures of the Middle Fork. We are thankful for the contribution of this watershed community and together we will make the watershed a better place to live, work and recreate!! Support for this project was received by the Lane Council of Governments, City of Oakridge, Oakridge Kiwanis Club, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board and the MFWWC!!! Thank You! Contact Eve at 937-9800 for more information



## Watershed Education...

# WATERSHED RANGERS OUTDOOR SCHOOL

The Watershed Education Program Coordinator collaborated with Mary Ritter, Pleasant Hill Middle School Principal; Joan Hladky, Outdoor School Coordinator; Judy Ferrari, 6th grade teacher; Mike Nelson, 6th grade teacher; and USFS Biologist D'Lynn Williams to coordinate and prepare Outdoor School activities and curriculum. Joan Hladky also coordinates Pleasant Hill High School students who serve as Outdoor School counselors and small group/cabin leaders.

Fifty-six 6th grade students received over ten hours of outdoor, field-based watershed studies utilizing hands-on, inquiry-based principals of environmental education. The Pleasant Hill Outdoor School is a long-standing tradition, and the MFWWC WEP had the privilege of coordinating activities and curriculum this year for the first time. Overall coordination was handled by seasoned mentor Joan



Hladky, who has overseen the Outdoor School for over a decade. Her expertise and experience were an invaluable model for possible duplication in future WEP program Outdoor School programming.

The Outdoor School program included GPS orientation, art, and nature walk on the first day arrival, April 22. April 23 was described as 'Terrestrial Day' and activities were lead by USFS staff under the direction of D'Lynn Williams. The day's lessons included heritage studies, botany, fire ecology, wildlife and habitat studies. 'Aquatics Day', April 24, was lead by WEP Coordinator, Holly LeMasurier and MFWWC staff member Jenny Getty and volunteer Cody

Evers. Activities included creating a Middle Fork Willamette River watershed model and map, local stream sampling and survey, and macroinvertebrate studies. In addition to daily instruction, evening activities include an evening entertainment program and campfire.

Students eat, sleep, share experiences, enjoy the outdoors, and most of all, learn important new competencies, in the beautiful Row River setting at Grove Christian Camp. Accommodations, outdoor classrooms, and food provided by Grove Camp are absolutely comfortable and outstanding. Over the course of the three days' activities, students increase group work, communication, cooperation, and collaboration skills beyond what a classroom setting can offer.

The MFWWC WEP program benefits by having various contexts and opportunities to utilize its place-based natural resources curriculum, Watershed Rangers, and encourage students to explore, restore, and appreciate their local environment. The Pleasant Hill 6th Grade Outdoor School is an appropriate and excellent audience and venue for future collaboration.

*Submitted for MFWWC Newsletter by Holly LeMasurier*

# Landowner Stewardship News and Opportunities...



## **MFWWC FALSE-BROME PROJECT ENTERING THE 2008 FIELD SEASON!**

In March we hosted three workshops in Dexter, Jasper, and Pleasant Hill in order to raise awareness of False-brome and other invasive plants in the watershed. Local botanists and watershed professionals gave presentations about landowner-watershed council restoration projects and discussed ways to recognize and treat invasive species. Thank you for your attendance at these meetings and your interest and support of the project!

We are continuing to conduct surveys for False-brome in the lower MFWW. This spring and early summer we are concentrating mainly on the Wallace Creek, Hill's Creek, Fall Creek, and Little Fall Creek drainages; however we are also visiting properties in the Rattlesnake Creek/Lost Creek area and the lower Middle Fork drainage between Jasper, Dexter, Pleasant Hill, and southeast Springfield. So far we have surveyed over thirty properties and have found false-brome on at least 2/3 of the sites.

**WHAT TO LOOK FOR:** a bright green, clumpy grass with soft droopy leaf blades and, in our area, a strong tendency to establish in the shade, usually in wooded areas or around the edges. Once established, it reproduces rapidly by seed and clumps grow together to form a dense thatch layer which represses native plant growth. At this time of year you can still see the light brown seed stalks from last year, perhaps lying on the ground.



If you think you may have this grass on your property, or are interested in finding out for sure whether you do or not, please call Jenny Getty (by phone: 541-510-4373 or by email: [outreach@mfwwc.org](mailto:outreach@mfwwc.org)).

*Submitted for MFWWC Newsletter by Jenny Getty*



## Watershed Health & Habitat Restoration

# Don't Flush It, Take It Back: *Developing a Drug Take-Back Program for Oregon*

How do you dispose of unused and expired medications? The traditionally accepted method has been to flush them down the toilet to keep them out of reach of children and pets. However, recent investigations into the presence of pharmaceuticals and personal care products (PPCPs) in our nation's waterways have caused many to question that conventional wisdom.

During 1999 and 2000, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) collected and analyzed water samples from 139 streams in 30 states. Using newly-developed laboratory techniques, the USGS tested the samples for 95 different wastewater-related organic chemicals. "One or more chemicals were detected in 80 percent of the streams sampled, and 82 of the 95 chemicals were detected at least once. Generally, these chemicals were found at very low concentrations (in most cases, less than 1 part per billion)."<sup>1</sup> The most frequently detected chemical groups were steroids, non-prescription drugs, and insect repellent.

While the results of this study were not considered representative of all U.S. streams (because those selected were considered susceptible to wastewater contamination), they provided a wake-up call that "mixtures of pharmaceuticals, hormones, and other wastewater contaminants can occur at low concentrations in streams that are susceptible to various wastewater sources."<sup>2</sup> This seminal study drew increased attention to questions about the environmental fate of pharmaceuticals and their potential impact on watershed health.

So what can we do to keep pharmaceuticals out of our watersheds? While the majority of prescription and non-prescription drugs reach our waterways through human excretion, disposal of unused or unwanted medications—either by flushing them down the toilet or throwing them in the trash—is a key pathway.<sup>3</sup> In keeping with



the motto that prevention is the solution to pollution, Oregon's Drug Take-Back Stakeholder Group formed in October of 2006 to find an alternative method for disposing of unwanted medications. After careful evaluation of the problem and research into other take-back programs, the group developed recommendations for Oregon. Modeled after a successful program in British Columbia, Oregon's program would adopt a product stewardship approach:

(cont. on page 8)...



## More Watershed Health & Habitat Restoration ...

# HAWS CHUB ENHANCEMENT PROJECT AQUATIC & BANK VEGETATION

The Haws Chub Pond project is located at 47008 La Duke Road, Westfir, Oregon, which is located about 1 mile southeast of Oakridge, Oregon. The project was designed to create a pond for Oregon chub, who are endangered due to loss of habitat and predation of non-native species. In August 2007, the MFWWC hired Aryana Ferguson to conduct a pre-excitation vegetation survey and to establish native aquatic and bank vegetation. The pre-excitation survey would ensure that there were no rare or endangered vascular plant species on the site where the ground disturbance was to occur and the aquatic vegetation would provide habitat for the chub.

Aryana began working on the revegetation phase of the project in September 2007 and completed the work with the second planting of trees and shrubs and second spreading of aquatic seed on March 12, 2008. One of the first actions in establishing aquatic vegetation was to research the elements that contribute to the success of a chub pond. The research showed that chub prefer leafy aquatic vegetation as opposed to shrubby vegetation. They live on the bottom and like lots of vegetation in the water as cover and spawning substrate. Species such water plantain (*Alisma*), bur-reed (*Sparganium*) and pondweed (*Potamogeton*) are good in the water as they supply the necessary leafy vegetation but don't necessary take over with too much vegetation. Plants like slough sedge (*Carex obnupta*) and American sloughgrass (*Beckmannia syzigachne*) are better along the edges of the banks as opposed to more woody species such as willow (*Salix* sp.) or red osier dogwood (*Cornus sericea*). Also, *Scirpus* sp. is not good as the stems are not leafy and cattail (*Typha latifolia*) creates monocultures and is not the best substrate for the fish as it is bulky and dense. Overall variety is a good goal.



Although challenging, we were able to secure a good source of aquatic vegetation from Trillium Gardens and we planted the vegetation by wading around in the shallow areas of the pond and placing the plugs of aquatic species. Aquatic vegetation planted includes 10 plugs of water plantain (*Alisma triviale*), 72 plugs of slough sedge (*Carex obnupta*), 72 plugs of sawbeak sedge (*Carex stipata*), and 25 plugs of broadleaf arrowhead (*Sagittaria latifolia*).

Now it was time to establish vegetation on the banks of the pond. Landowner, Eric Haws, did a significant amount of work clearing all blackberries on the steep slopes and adjacent area of the pond. Following the removal of invasive plant species in the area, bank stabilization and vegetation planting began with the sowing of na-

tive blue wildrye (*Elymus glaucus*), which was covered by bales of native straw to prevent erosion of the bare soil. Aryana then developed a planting plan to provide the best benefits for chub, wildlife and site conditions. Chub need warm water to spawn so keeping the south side of the pond as free of over towering trees and shrubs was deemed a good idea, especially since this particular pond is narrow and any amount of shade-creating vegetation on the south side could impact a large portion of the pond. This consideration was also particularly important in this case as the south bank of the pond is a fairly steep bank approximately 10 to 20 feet high with existing trees and shrubs already on it.

In the final stages of establishing vegetation for the enhancement project, upland shrubs and trees were planted by the Northwest Youth Corps. Native species planted along the banks of the chub pond include osoberry (*Oemleria cerasiformis*), oceanspray (*Holodiscus discolor*), red elderberry (*Sambucus racemosa*), snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus*, vine maple (*Acer circinatum*), bigleaf maple (*Acer macrophyllum*), hazelnut (*Corylus cornuta* var. *californica*), mock orange (*Physocarpus capitatus*), serviceberry (*Amelanchier alnifolia*), tall Oregon grape (*Berberis aquifolium*), and red flowering currant (*Ribes sanguineum*), all purchased from Trillium Gardens in Dexter, OR and western red cedar (*Thuja plicata*), grand fir (*Abies grandis*), cascara (*Rhamnus purshiana*), willow (*Salix* sp) and red osier dogwood (*Cornus sericea*), which were supplied by the landowner. We used mycorrhizal inoculant in each hole and flagged each plant for easy visibility when mowing.

Next steps include irrigation by the landowner on the recommended schedule of 5 gallons of water per plant every two weeks starting in May or June when significant rainfall ceases and one fall mowing per year to keep the grasses and forbs at a non-competitive level with the planted trees and shrubs.

*Prepared by Aryana Ferguson & Eve Montanaro.*

## Don't Flush It (cont. from page 6)...

"Pharmaceutical manufacturers and over-the-counter drug companies would be requested to devise and implement a convenient and effective program for consumers to dispose of unwanted medicine. The industry can select the format -- mail-back, drop box, a combination of the two, or another concept that the industry may choose to pursue.... If the industry is unable to move forward with such a program, the Stakeholders propose that legislation requiring it be introduced in the 2009 Oregon Legislature."<sup>4</sup>

The Stakeholder group estimates that approximately 60,000 pounds of unwanted drugs would be returned annually. The potential benefits extend beyond water quality. The Stakeholder group emphasizes that Oregon needs the program for three reasons: (1) to reduce avoidable poisonings, (2) to prevent intentional misuse of drugs, especially by teenagers, and (3) to protect water quality.

Proper disposal of personal medications is yet another action that individuals can take to help protect the Middle Fork Willamette Watershed. Currently, the best method for disposing of unwanted drugs is to follow federal guidelines, which recommend removing the drugs from their original containers, mixing them with an undesirable substance, such as used

coffee grounds or kitty litter, putting them in impermeable, non-descript containers, such as empty cans or sealable bags, and throwing them in the trash. Though this method is preferable to simply flushing drugs down the toilet, it is just a temporary fix. The proposed Drug Take-Back Program would offer a much better solution and would provide all Oregonians with a new and much needed tool for protecting our watersheds.

The Oregon Pharmaceutical Take Back Stakeholder Group Executive Summary and full report are available at the Oregon Association of Clean Water Agencies web site: [www.oracwa.org](http://www.oracwa.org)

*Submitted for MFWWC newsletter by Amy Chinitz, Springfield Utility Board  
April 30, 2008*

### References

<sup>1</sup> Buxton, Herbert T. and Kolpin, Dana W. 2002. Pharmaceuticals, Hormones, and Other Contaminants in U.S. Streams. USGS Fact Sheet FS-027-02. U.S. Geological Survey.

<http://toxics.usgs.gov/pubs/FS-027-02/pdf/FS-027-02.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Ibid

<sup>3</sup> Oregon Pharmaceutical Take Back Stakeholder Group: Executive Summary. 2007.

[http://www.oracwa.org/downloads/drugtakeback-exec-sum\\_0907.pdf?PHPSESSID=da7142de0f6bdda3e99b5235b3802cf0](http://www.oracwa.org/downloads/drugtakeback-exec-sum_0907.pdf?PHPSESSID=da7142de0f6bdda3e99b5235b3802cf0)

<sup>4</sup> Ibid, p. 2.

# Make a Donation to *Support Youth and Watershed Education*

Dear Council Members,

I would like to share with you a great success that we have had this past year and I would like to ask for your support in continuing this success into the next academic year! In late 2006, the MFWWC pulled together many partners and educators to develop the principal stages of a Watershed Education Program (WEP) for local elementary school students and teachers. The purpose of the WEP is to promote awareness and inquiry of the natural elements and function of the ecosystem and specifically the Middle Fork watershed through classroom-



based lessons and related outdoor field trips and hands-on activities. In 2007, we received funding for this Program from the Bureau of Land Management, Springfield Utility Board and the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board. We then contracted with an enthusiastic and talented education specialist to compile and compose a locally-based natural resources curriculum and to work with the MFWWC Director and E&O Committee to implement the Program throughout the entire watershed. The Program is now successfully running in all the elementary schools of the watershed including communities of Oakridge, Lowell and Pleasant Hill. Together with watershed stakeholders, we are helping our teachers, students and parents to understand the importance of a well-functioning watershed and in being responsible land stewards for now and future generations. Since the implementation of the Program, we have reached approximately 400 students and have covered topics such as the hydrologic cycle, old-growth and commercial forests, invasive plant species and native plants, salmon, groundwater, stream habitats and water quality. We organized and led activities for the students to conduct water quality monitoring, river clean-ups, removal of invasive plant species, salvaging of native plants and planting of native trees along our streams.

The MFWWC would like to continue to provide this great learning experience to our youth and their families and we need your help to make this happen in the upcoming year. The total program cost is approximately \$35,000.00 and at this time we have only \$7,000.00 secured. Please make a contribution to the MFWWC for the Watershed Education Program and provide an opportunity for youth and watershed health of the Middle Fork Willamette Watershed!!!!

You can make checks payable to **Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council**  
(for WEP) and mail to **PO Box 27, Lowell Oregon 97452.**

Thank You!!!

Eve Montanaro

# EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ❖ **Down by the Riverside Event:** Saturday, May 17 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. *Ferrin Day Use Area Weed Removal and Cleanup* : cleanup of miscellaneous invasive species; cleanup of yard debris dumping sites and litter pick up. Directions: Travel east on Hwy 58 from Eugene area; go past the Middle Fork District office approximately 2 miles. Cross the Middle Fork River, turn left onto Westfir Road, then make an immediate left into Ferrin Day Use Area. Meet on site at 9am recommended minimum age of 6 years because of proximity to Middle Fork River.
- ❖ **Natural Resource Specialist Program Representative Position with OWEB:** Open to May 20, 5:00 pm This position leads OWEB's field activities for the agency's new Mid-Columbia region. The position provides day-to-day oversight of grant project implementation and program representation with all watershed councils and other local conservation partners in the region. The position promotes cooperation, participation and funding from public agencies (federal, state and local), citizens and interest groups to assess watershed conditions, develop priority actions and implement projects to enhance watershed conditions throughout the region. This position is responsible for overseeing the implementation of funded projects and is responsible for the review of grant applications received from the region. The position is responsible for program representation and development of support materials for watershed councils and other local conservation groups. This position is responsible for coordinating public agency efforts with local conservation interests throughout the region. The position coordinates technical assistance with local watershed councils. For an application and more information visit <http://www.oregon.gov/OWEB/>

## 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;  
Chad Stuart, USACE representative;  
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 [info@mfwwc.org](mailto:info@mfwwc.org) or 541-937-9800



## Mark Your Calendars...

- May 16:** Down by the Riverside Events: Lundy and Thurston Elementary schools (9:00am to 1:00 pm)
- May 21:** General Council meeting & TOUR (6-8:00 pm: 47007 LaDuke Rd., Westfir)
- May 21:** Finance Committee Meeting: (8:00-9:00 pm: Oakridge Trialhead Café)
- May 28:** Board of Directors Meeting: Update on Lost Creek Confluence project and more (6:00-8:00; Lowell City Hall: 107 E. 3rd Avenue)
- May 16:** Down by the Riverside Events: Lundy and Thurston Elementary schools (9:00am to 1:00 pm)
- July 8:** Education/Outreach Meeting (3:00-4:30; Lowell City Hall: 107 E. 3rd Avenue)
- July 16:** TOUR of Lost Creek Confluence project (6:00 to 8:00 pm; Elijah Bristow State Park off of Highway 58 and Wheeler Road)

FOR A REGULARLY UPDATED CALENDAR OF EVENTS, GO TO [WWW.MFWWC.ORG](http://WWW.MFWWC.ORG)