

Conservation Notes

Volume 18, Issue 1

SPRING/SUMMER 2011

Special points of interest:

- Chegwyn Farms Park Celebration
- HCP Update
- Upcoming Events
- Miller Woods Summer Saturdays

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Chegwyn Farms Park Celebration!

Ribbon Cutting - Please Join us on July 6 at 7 PM



The McMinnville Parks and Recreation Department, the Chegwyn Family, and Yamhill Soil & Water Conservation District will come together to celebrate the Chegwyn Farm Park and 100 Years of History for Chegwyn Farms on Wednesday, July 6, 2011.

Siblings, **Charlie and Agnes Chegwyn**, live on the property and Charlie maintains farming of the land, but the gift of **Chegwyn Farms** 170 acres to **Yamhill Soil & Water Conservation District** in 2009 became a gift that keeps on giving.

Aware that the parks department was seeking land to build a community park in the Grandhaven neighborhood, the SWCD and the Chegwyns made an offer that became a win-win for everyone. The **McMinnville Parks and Recreation Department** have supported the desires

Chegwyn Farms Park



3210 NE Hembree Street

Acknowledging the farm land donation and a desired park theme, designers felt the barnyard and farm design lent itself to a quality park which is unique but supports the needs of the community.

of families in the community very well by developing many neighborhood parks and offering recreational activities for all ages. Filling the need for a park in the Grandhaven area was met with enthusiasm by the community and the McMinnville Parks Department as they accepted the favorable offer for a long term lease of 4 acres to develop a neighborhood park. Today the 4-acre parcel hosts the **Chegwyn Farms Park**.

You're invited to celebrate with the Chegwyns, 100 years of farming, and the

opening of the Chegwyn Farms Park. This will be a great time to thank the Chegwyns for their generous gift to the community and honor their farming history in McMinnville.



Charlie Chegwyn Maintains Operation of the Farm

Yamhill SWCD Directory

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Secretary, Zone 3

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Marie Vicksta
Conservation Planner
Joshua Togstad
Riparian Planner
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Noxious Weeds

By Vern Holm

You may not realize it, but there are thieves robbing even as you read this. Often they rely on camouflage to escape detection, and it seems like they appear as if by magic, yet they are all around you all the time.

These thieves are not human, however – they are weeds. There are hundreds of definitions for these pests, but basically, weeds are non-native invasive plants that are serious pests because they cause economic loss and/or harm humans, animals or the environment.

These non-native plants invade lakes, rivers, wildlife habitat, gardens, pastures and woodlots. Weeds aggressively occupy space and exclude native plants changing the value and desirability of that space. They are also robbing you of time and money as you work to control them.

It doesn't matter whether you own land in the country or rent an apartment in town, weeds affect the way you live. As a consumer you pay more for groceries because farmers and ranchers have to pay for weed control. If you are a hunter, fisher or outdoors enthusiast, weeds affect your leisure time. If you are a tax payer, you are funding state, federal and local weed control efforts.

If you are a tourist or recreationalist, weeds affect scenery and ecosystems and often are fuels for wild fires.

Tough as it is though, if we don't make an effort to control invasive weeds the problem only gets worse, as evidenced by patches of blackberries smothering everything in their path, or Scotch broom wiping out hundreds of acres of wildlife habitat.

So, where do these pests come from and what can we do about them?



Scotch Broom

In short, they come from other parts of the state, nation or the world, and succeed so well because they have no natural enemies in their new home. Without enemies like insects, diseases, or soil pathogens, invasive weeds can run rampant.

Controlling weeds can range from simple hand pulling to the use of herbicides, but the path chosen depends on the setting and the type of weed needing control. **The Yamhill Soil and Water Conservation District is able to provide landowners with fact sheets that will offer plenty of guidance, but believes**

that an approach called Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is best.

IPM relies on using several methods of control, starting with the one that is cheapest and least harmful to the environment first, such as pulling or hoeing. If that doesn't work, then other methods are used, such as releasing biocontrols (critters that feed on invasive weeds). Finally, if that doesn't work, then the safe and judicious use of herbicides may be the final step.

In coming newsletters we will feature articles about invasive weeds that are problematic during that season and let readers know what can be done to control these species. In the meantime, feel free to check out our web site or give us a call. Our office also has plenty of fact sheets for identifying and controlling weeds, so stop in anytime.

In the meantime, please stop the spread of weeds by following these simple steps:

- Clean recreation gear such as ATVs, trucks, and boats.
- After hiking or hunting, clean your clothing and boots and brush your dog!
- Drive only on established roads.
- Tell family and friends about the evils of weeds.



Miller Woods

*A Unique Place To Learn About
Natural Resources*

We Want Your Input

Years ago when the district acquired Miller Woods a plan was developed. Today a beautiful conservation boasting the natural resources of the area exists. In order to continue providing or meeting the needs of the public (at Miller Woods), Yamhill SWCD invites your participation through a quick survey.

Our goal is to obtain 100 surveys. You can complete the survey on line at www.surveymonkey.com/s/millerwoods or stop by the district office for a hard copy.

Thank you and we'll keep you posted on the outcome!

We are always seeking dedicated volunteers to help us care for and improve Miller Woods or help Natural Connections deliver educational programs.

Contact Yamhill SWCD for more information.

Miller Woods Mission: Provide a place to experience, study, and enjoy the dynamic wonders of nature. Strive to instill knowledge, skills, and awareness through education and demonstration. Inspire responsible community and caring stewards of natural resources.

Summer Intern Hired For Miller Woods

Sam Dussel has accepted a summer internship position with Yamhill SWCD for a trail management position at Miller Woods. The work objective is to complete a trail management plan for the Miller Woods Trail System.

Much of the work will improve



Membership Information

Natural Connections is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization established by the SWCD District to support Miller Woods & Chegwyn Farms.

All efforts of the non-profit will be used to facilitate and improve public and educational use of Miller Woods and Chegwyn Farms.

Donations start at just \$35 for an individual membership and are tax deductible. In addition to helping support and maintain these valuable natural resources your membership allows trail access at Miller woods and special invitations to events. For an application or more information please visit www.yamhillswcd.org.

the use and opportunities for Miller Woods Trails including public walks or small events, organizing public volunteer work days, and postings on the web to include written descriptions of several trail sections.

Sam's extensive background in ground maintenance, outdoor recreation, and leadership experience together with his current education at OSU where he is studying Recreation Resource Management made him an excellent candidate for this position. Welcome Sam!



Sam Dussel

Summer Saturdays at Miller Woods

A Nature Appreciation Program

Saturdays at 10 a.m. All ages are welcome and sessions are absolutely FREE! See **Saturday Schedule** below for session related topics.

Participants are encouraged to bring sturdy shoes, weather appropriate clothing, water, and a light snack. You may want to bring your camera too!

Meet at Miller Woods located at *15580 Orchard View Rd. near McMinnville.*

Saturday Schedule:

- 6/11 Water and Mud Insect Life
- 6/18 Managing the Forest for the Trees
- 6/25 Native Plants
- 7/2 Trail Hiking
- 7/9 Yamhill County Fish
- 7/16 Weather and Sky Observations
- 7/23 Native Plants
- 7/30 Managing the Forest for the Trees
- 8/6 Weather and Sky Observations
- 8/13 Water and Mud Insect Life
- 8/20 Native Plants
- 8/27 Yamhill County Fish

Update on Habitat Conservation Plan work

By Amie Loop-Frison



surveying more than 6500 acres!

Surveys are being conducted by myself, Dean O'Reilly (retired SWCD technician) and Josh Togstad (SWCD Riparian Planner). We are not actually surveying all 6500+ acres, but rather those areas most likely to harbor the target species. These include natural areas as well as edges of timber stands and cropped fields and pasture ground. We are also recording native forb species which are associated with prairie sites such as Oregon iris, slender cinquefoil, wild strawberry, etc. These inventories will give us a feeling for the quality and type of habitat which is present. If funds become available for prairie restoration, we will then have a list of potential properties these funds could be used on.

areas. This will help determine what activities need to be addressed within the HCP and will lead to "take" calculations for both lupine and butterfly. The activities may include grazing, vineyard development or timber harvest although there are only a few sites which are on the edge of forests. We will need to anticipate what will happen across the county during the next 50 years which is a daunting task to say the least. Once the HCP has been approved, landowners will be able to apply for an Incidental Take Permit to move forward with their intended land uses. So far, we have located several new Kincaid's lupine populations which have been exciting for us as well as the landowners who own the parcels. It will be even more exciting if these sites support the Fender's blue butterfly. Finding these new sites, along with implementing appropriate management practices, will get us closer to the big goal of stabilizing both populations and delisting or at least downlisting.

It's thrilling to me that Yamhill County private landowners could be the key to saving not only one, but two species from extinction! **If you are a landowner with potential for these species, invite me out to your place** and you can be a part of this exciting chapter in our county's history. *For questions or a site visit contact Amie at 503-472-1474 ext. 113*



KINCAID'S LUPINE

As readers of this newsletter may remember, we announced last fall that we were embarking upon an effort to develop a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) for private landowners within Yamhill County. The HCP will focus on upland prairie habitats and specifically on Kincaid's lupine and Fender's blue butterfly.

So, where are we with it now? A fairly large survey effort is currently underway. Many of you may have received a brochure and postcard from me earlier this year. I invited myself out to about 3500 properties and waited to hear back for permission to come and look for Kincaid's lupine. These properties were selected based on aerial photographs which showed potential for upland prairie habitat and therefore potential for the lupine and/or butterfly. It should be noted that this year's effort focused on the mid slope areas west and north of McMinnville. Next year we'll be soliciting surveys from the Amity hills and more specific areas which weren't surveyed in the 2011 group. Over 130 landowners responded to this year's request and we are now

We hope to complete our Kincaid's lupine surveys by the middle of June. If we do confirm the lupine as Kincaid's, landowners will have the option of receiving a survey for Fender's blue butterfly to determine presence. These surveys will be conducted by butterfly experts who have been contracted to work through the US Fish & Wildlife Service.

We will be mapping all our results and speaking with landowners who do have occupied sites about their intended future use of these



FENDER'S BLUE BUTTERFLY

Upcoming Events

June, July, and August

- **Miller Woods Summer Saturdays**
(See page 3 for details and schedule)

June

- **June 18 - 10 AM - 4 PM**
Sheridan Days Booth
Riparian Technician Josh Togstad and board member Leo Krick will be at a booth to answer questions about riparian restoration, cost share programs available to private landowners, and the District's role in assisting private landowners in the county.
Contact Josh at 503-472-1474 ext. 104
- **June 23**
Farmer's Market Booth*
This month's booth will feature educational materials supporting the Yamhill SWCD and the role it plays in Yamhill County.

July

- **July 6 - 7 PM**
Chegwyn Farms Park
3210 N Hembree St. McMinnville
Bring the family and celebrate the grand opening of McMinnville Parks & Recreation Department's newest park.
- **July 28**
Farmer's Market Booth*
This month's booth will feature educational materials about wildlife conservation.



August

- **Aug 26**
Farmer's Market Booth*
This month's booth will feature educational materials about noxious weeds.

**Farmer's Market is located in downtown McMinnville on Cows Street between Second and Third Streets
Thursdays - 1:30 - 6:30 pm - through Mid-October*

August cont.

- **Aug 27 - 9AM**
Urban Garden Bike Tour
Meet at Yamhill SWCD office
World Kitchen Garden Day is August 27th which celebrates food production on a local human scale. Celebrate with us for a fun morning visiting local vegetable gardens around McMinnville! Conservation and gardening strategies will be discussed when we visit both public community gardens and private home gardens. *Contact Marie at 503-472-1474 ext. 108*



September

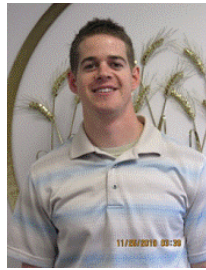
- **Sept. 22**
Farmer's Market Booth*
This month's booth will feature educational materials and handouts about soil and water conservation.
- **Sept 28 - 6:30 PM**
DSL General Authorization Rules and Riparian Restoration Workshop
Location: TBA
DSL has released their adjusted permit process for most of the wetland and riparian General Authorizations trying to make it easier and quicker to permit project that enhance conservation efforts. A representative of DSL will be presenting on what the changes are and explain the new permit process. *Contact Marie at 503-472-1474 ext. 108*

October

- **Date: TBA**
CREP Riparian Restoration Tour
CREP tour will visit three riparian restoration sites around Yamhill County. Riparian restoration techniques and challenges will be discussed. *Stay tuned for details. Contact Josh at 503-472-1474 ext. 104*
- **Date: Mid-October (TBA)**
Yamhill SWCD Annual Meeting
Location: McMinnville Grand Ballroom
The annual meeting features district accomplishments over the year as well as presentation of three conservation awards. *Contact Julie at 503-472-1474 ext. 102*

Simple Way to Save Salmon

By Josh Togstad



Chances are, if you grew up in rural Oregon, you have been fishing at least once in your life for salmon, trout or steelhead. Did you know these fish are present in Yamhill County?

The Yamhill River Basin, including the main stem, north and south forks and their tributaries, are home to winter steelhead, cutthroat trout, juvenile chinook salmon and a growing coho salmon run. **According to Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife biologist Tom Murtagh, last fall a near record 20,000 adult coho were counted at Willamette Falls. Many of these fish return to spawn in the Yamhill and Tualatin rivers.**

These coho are naturally spawning fish generated from hatchery releases that started in the 1950s and discontinued in 1997. Since the hatchery program was terminated, the run initially dropped,

but then began a steady climb to present record levels. Sections of the Yamhill River are open to coho fishing from Aug. 1 to Oct. 31, but you should always consult the regulations for specifics. So, the coho are doing well, but how are other native fish species doing? Winter steelhead and spring chinook are listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act, and cutthroat trout are listed as a species of concern. According to Murtagh, the Yamhill does not provide the type of habitat that adult spring chinook need to spawn and rear in, and historically it's believed that few, if any, spring chinook used the Yamhill Basin for spawning.

Interestingly, juvenile spring chinook produced in other Willamette River tributaries do use the Yamhill River as a refuge during high winter flows and have been found as far upstream as McMinnville and Amity. Winter steelhead also return to the Yamhill, but in very low numbers, based on fish trapping efforts in Agency Creek by the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde.

So, why aren't greater

numbers of trout and steelhead present in the Yamhill River basin? Many biologists believe it's due to water quality. According to the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, the majority of our streams are water-quality-limited by temperature, dissolved oxygen, bacteria and turbidity. No single environmental factor affects the development, growth and survival of salmon, trout and steelhead more than water temperature. The optimal temperature range for juvenile and adult salmonids is 41 to 61 degrees, with lethal temperatures ranging from 70 to 75 degrees. Many of our streams in Yamhill County, particularly the main stem reaches, rise to these lethal temperature ranges every summer. So what can you do to prevent this? Nearly one-third of Yamhill County streams have insufficient riparian buffers, meaning there are few or no trees or shrubs along stream banks.

That's right. **A solution could be as simple as planting native trees and shrubs along your stream.** Once trees are established, they provide shade for the stream to



Cutthroat trout, above, can be found in the Yamhill River and its tributaries.

See Salmon Cont. next page

Salmon Cont.

keep it cool and keep dissolved oxygen levels high for fish. Riparian buffers also intercept harmful pesticides, nutrients and other pollutants before they enter the stream. Add bank stabilization and reduced erosion to the list of benefits provided by buffers, and you have a manageable, fundamental solution to improving water quality in our streams.

Even small streams and ditches that contain water seasonally can use a riparian buffer. After all, water from these drainages eventually makes its way into smaller streams before entering the Yamhill and then the Willamette.

Wouldn't it be great if water from our area entered the Willamette River with lower water temperatures, less sediment and clear of pollutants? Yamhill

County landowners can help make this happen by expanding or planting new riparian buffers. Sustaining and growing trout and steelhead populations in our rivers for current and future generations relies, in part, on riparian buffers.

Programs are available that will compensate landowners for installing buffers. Streams that flow through agricultural lands qualify for the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program.

The program is a joint effort with the USDA's Farm Service Agency and the state of Oregon. It seeks to establish riparian forest buffers on agricultural land along streams to protect water quality and restore fish and wildlife habitat. The program provides a variety of payments in exchange for a 10-to-15 year commitment to keep streamside lands out of agricultural production. More than 50 landowners in the county have

already taken advantage of the program and enrolled more than 26 miles of stream bank.

You don't even have to do the work yourself. I do all the planning, and you can hire contractors to do all the work.

For more information and a no-obligation site visit, please contact me at the Soil and Water Conservation District at 503-472-1474, ext. 104.



Riparian buffers help improve conditions for native fish including cutthroat, featured above.

New Office Administrator

Julie is the new Office Administrator for the district. Her position is responsible for office management, including fulfilling bookkeeping requirements, board and committee reports, written communications and publications, and supports the Director's position with financial reporting, grant management, and event and activity production.

Before coming to work at the Yamhill SWCD Julie worked

with non-profit organizations in various capacities which included: volunteer coordinator; bookkeeping; office management; data base management; event planning and management; publication design and production; and most recently worked the past five years with Chehalem Youth & Family Services in Newberg.

"I look forward to working with you: reconnecting with past acquaintances and meeting new ones!"



Julie Lorenzen (standing!)

"I look forward to working with you: reconnecting with past acquaintances and meeting new ones!"



2200 SW 2nd Street
McMinnville, OR 97128

*Providing Natural
Resource Leadership*

If you would like to be removed from the newsletter mailing list or prefer email only, please contact Julie at 503-472-1474. Thank you.

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Red Fox Twins Romp at the Farm...

...Chegwyn Farm that is!



Miller Woods Property Manager, Jenny Brown, snapped these photos on one of her visits to Chegwyn Farms. This family of foxes have found a great home at the farm and don't seem to mind the camera and Jenny's photography!



Miller Woods
Summer Schedule
See page 3



Chegwyn Farms Park
Celebration slated July 6
See front cover

Your Business Card Size Ad could be here!

Conservation Notes is distributed to over 3500 locations including, homes, land owners, and businesses. If you are reading this possibly you're thinking, *this is advertising space that makes sense* which will help promote your business.

This is a unique opportunity for your business to be advertised in a newsletter which supports conserving natural resources, protecting our environment, agriculture diversity, and things that are important to you.

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