



# Coos Soil & Water Conservation District



Winter Newsletter February 2009

### COOS SWCD GOALS:

*Promote wise use of renewable resources through locally led voluntary conservation. Conserve, protect and develop natural resources for the economic benefit of the people of Coos County. Encourage measures for the protection of waters of Coos County. Assist local landowners in the developing and utilizing their resources to reduce soil erosion and improve water quality and support the Coos County economy.*

## OUTSTANDING COOPERATOR OF THE YEAR 2008

### Chuck Schrader



**John Francis Munford Ranch**  
(est. 1870's)- Hall Creek

Chuck explained that there was no replanting done, but the logging was selectively harvested in low volumes therefore the landscape was allowed to regenerate naturally and family members were able to make a profitable living off the land.

Chuck Schrader was approached by the Coquille Watershed Association (CWA) and was personally asked about having the CWA do some riparian fencing in 2006. Chuck said that at first a lot of his neighbor's and friends told him not to let the CWA on his property and told him things like, he would lose his water rights if he was to fence off his creek. He was also told that it would be harder to manage his place and that he would have to pay a lot to supply his cows with water. After considering everything he decided to let the CWA fence off Hall Creek on both sides, put in a new bridge, plant the fenced off area, put logs and boulders in the creek to help fish habitat, and build a water system.

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Chuck Schrader's Great Grandfather homesteaded the 360 acres on Hall Creek in the 1870's. The land was passed down to Chuck's Grandfather and then his mother. His mother had six children and the property was divided into ~ 40 acre parcels. Chuck Schrader now manages his 37 acres and his sister's 40 acres. The houses on his property are historic; over 100 years old. Most of his family has either been born at home or died in the same house. His brother and his Dad are still living on Hall Creek Road. Chuck's Great Grandfather managed the ranch by raising cattle and harvesting timber.

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## 2008 COOS SOIL & WATER ANNUAL MEETING:

There was a total of 28 people at this year's annual meeting held at the OSU extension in Myrtle Point, December 5, 2008. The meeting had a Christmas theme and there were plenty of pies and other wonderful deserts. It was a fun time had by all!



### WAYNE KRIEGER'S: LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



This year we were all privileged to hear a 30 minute legislative update by our State Representative Wayne Krieger. It was very interesting because he touched on many different topics and issues that we will all face in 2009. He first talked about last year and how the state over spent, mainly because of the hiring of too many state employees. He mentioned the new proposed gas tax and said that it will really affect our seniors, because they do not drive as much. He also mentioned that the Pesticide Use Reporting System

(PURS) will most likely be cut in the near future. Mr. Krieger used most of his time to talk about our local salmon and steelhead numbers. He made a point of expressing his personal view that hatcheries are very important, and the new results are showing that hatchery fish are not doing damage to wild stock but are most likely decreasing the loss of wild fish by predators. He closed by saying that the only way to get salmon numbers up is to change the agendas and points of view of the people at the top. He also stated that there has to be management of marine mammals and fish eating birds, (ex. cormorants). Mr. Krieger also mentioned that he is personally working on the southern streams in our state with all the major players to try to increase salmon numbers.

### GUEST SPEAKER- CINDY MYERS



(Curry SWCD)

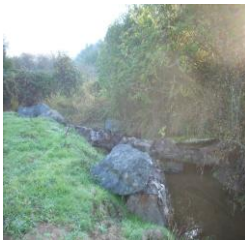
Cindy Myers did a great talk about Curry SWCD's bacteria & nutrient testing results on their local streams, lakes, and estuaries. She also

talked about the "Storm Chaser" results, which is a program where volunteers collect water samples during significant storm events and test the water to determine turbidity conditions. The goal is to see if turbid and silty water effects fish. The talk was very interesting and relevant to the streams in our county.

## Cooperator of the Year

(continued from page 1)

There were a lot of phases to this project and a lot of different organizations helped out. Along with the CWA, Jen Feola, *Restoration Biologist* from ODFW helped out with the restoration project design and oversaw the completion. The logs and boulders were placed in the creek by crew members of the CWA.



The wood and boulders were placed in the creek to provide fish habitat by scouring deeper pools and creating places for fish of all species to find shelter from predators. Even after only one winter there has been very positive changes to the creek, with noticeable visual changes that Chuck agrees are very beneficial. The segment of Hall Creek on Chuck Schrader's place before this project had very few trees, a lot of Himalian Blackberry bushes and some signs of erosion. From a water quality perspective not just a fish perspective Chuck would admit that his place needed some work.

Chuck Schrader said that working with the CWA was great and with the OWEB grant that was written for this project he got a well built fence for little cost to himself and felt that overall it was a win-win for both himself and the landscape. He said that he was treated well

and that he has no problem letting the CWA and other organizations monitor and visit his project. Chuck said that even the renters are happy with the riparian fencing. They feel better that the calves will not hurt themselves by falling into the creek. Chuck admits that it will be a few years before he truly reaps the rewards from this project, but with the CWA promising to make sure that if the desired amount of trees do not survive for whatever reason, they will be back to replant. Chuck also said that his property is actually easier to manage now that the creek is fenced off. He has been able to easily divide his pastures and continues to rotate his cows to the areas with the best forage. He said that this was a blessing to have all this work done for a low cost to himself and done by friendly professionals.

Chuck Schrader has let a lot more than just the CWA crew and myself be part of this project he has allowed permission for the CWA inmate crew from Shutter Creek to do maintenance for the trees. By them cutting the grass around each individual tree this allows the trees their best chance for maximum growth and survival. The inmate crew also helped clean up and burn the black berry piles that were collected during the project.

The planting and the entire project were finished on Feb. 28, 2008 with

the help of the Forestry class and Native Species Group from Powers High School. A total of 1,005 trees were planted as well as 140 elderberries. Even though a high number of trees have either been browsed heavily by deer and elk or died for unknown reasons, with the number of trees planted and the size of the area to plant insure that the riparian area should look very healthy in the years to come. Chuck mentioned to me that Krewson's place located only a few miles upstream on Hall Creek is having better success with tree survival, because the trees were tubed and staked to better protect the young trees from damage until they get established.

Chuck values his property for many reasons and how he manages it now will better conserve this historic land well into the future. My name is Eric Himmelreich and I am the Watershed Technical Specialist for the Coos Soil and Water Conservation (SWCD) and I have had a chance to work on Chuck's place from 2006 through 2008 when I was the Monitoring Specialist for the Coquille Watershed Association, and I would have to say I am very pleased how the project has turned out. Chuck has been very cooperative with everyone and he speaks well of everyone involved. I feel privileged that I have been able to continue my relationship with Chuck Schrader through the Coos SWCD and look forward to seeing his place continue to improve.

## 2008 GUERIN MEMORIAL ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS



Skyler Waterman-Woody (left)-3<sup>rd</sup> Place, Chase Allen Berry (center)-2<sup>nd</sup> Place, Laurel Avery (right)-1<sup>st</sup> Place

The Guerin Memorial Essay Contest was re-instated this year with great results. The turn out this year was excellent. There were a total of 121 applicants from the age of thirteen to eighteen from the following schools: North Bend Middle School, Bandon Middle School, North Bend High School, and Myrtle Point High School. The topic for the contest was a choice of a conservation issue related to soil, water, energy, wildlife, forestry and fisheries. The winners were chosen by a committee and the winners received their cash rewards at the Coos Soil and Water Conservation District's Annual meeting held in Myrtle Point on December 5, 2008.

Laurel Avery, who is fourteen years old and is home schooled in Bandon wrote the winning essay titled "*Small Steps Towards a Sensible Solution*". Laurel won \$100.00 and had her name engraved on the travel plaque, which is visible in the picture.



She will display the plaque at Bandon Middle School until September 2009. I personally enjoyed her essay because not only did she define the current energy problem but she listed ways that her and her family try and succeed in reducing their personal energy use. Congratulations Avery and keep up the good work.

Chase Allen Berry was the second place winner of \$75.00 from Myrtle Point High School for his essay titled "Endangered Species Act & Habitat Conservation."



Chase's essay was a great example of his knowledge of the subject matter and his positive outlook on the future of wildlife conservation.

Skyler Waterman-Woody won third place and \$50.00 for his essay titled "Water."



Skyler was also a student from Myrtle Point High School who is currently in one Julie Harris' science classes. Skyler's essay had a lot of information about the fact that there is only a very small portion of usable fresh water on the earth and that it is all that we have available for generations to come, and how important it is for our health to conserve and protect our drinking water.

All of the essays received were very interesting, relevant, personal, and important. It was very positive and inspiring to learn how many young people understand so much about conservation and the decisions that we will all have to face in the future. Well done and thank you to all who participated!

## **Coos County Small Grant Team Recently Reformed**

The small grant team was reformed in May of 2008 with new members. John Herbst of the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua & Siuslaw Indians became the new Small Grants Team Coordinator. Other representatives include the Coos SWCD, Coquille Watershed Association, Tenmile lakes Basin Partnership, and the Coquille Tribe. The Coos County Small Grants team was awarded \$100,000 through June 30, 2009. The Labrousse culvert replacement project was the first funds award for this biennium and there is currently \$60,000 still available for future projects! Applications and funding for the Grants Program are available to implement on-the-ground projects for water quality, improvements of fish passage and habitat restoration. Landowners are encouraged to apply and should contact the Coos SWCD for additional information.



### **2008 GUERIN MEMORIAL ESSAY CONTEST WINNER:** **"SMALL STEPS TOWARD A SENSIBLE SOLUTION"**

By: Laura Avery, Age 14

Our Country is using way too much energy and natural resources. Unfortunately, many other countries are rapidly following our example. This issue was not created by government laws and mandates and it cannot be fixed by government laws and mandates. It is created by individuals making self-centered and thoughtless decisions. Therefore, our squandering of energy must be solved by responsible Americans making intelligent decisions. Here are a few of these small and convenient changes that our family has chosen to make.

One very efficient way that requires sun and wind, but no electricity, is to hang our clothes outside to dry whenever possible. As an added benefit, instead of touching the static electrical feel and smelling the

chemical scent of a clothes dryer, we can sense and wear the fresh morning air.

Another good way we conserve energy is to warm our home using our antique wood cook stove, by burning mill ends and wood from trees that fell in the winter winds. With no fire overnight, we sleep in a cool room with extra cozy thick blankets. That saves more energy and also helps reduce dust mites, a common cause of asthma. The wood stove assists us to save electricity in other ways, as well as heating the house. We dry wet shoes on a rack over the stove, and often have a pot of savory stew simmering on it. On rainy days we can even roast hot dogs in the fire-box. We do have an electrical cook stove, but often we prefer raw fresh food which is more healthful,

and reduces the use of the electrical stove.

The main consumer of domestic energy is the production of heat for various purposes. For example, a water heater uses a lot of energy. So, if we take a long, luxurious shower, it will take a lot of energy to heat the water back up again. That is why we take "navy showers." In these, we turn off the water while soaping and scrubbing.

This simple changes made by our one family seem tiny and insignificant. However, if many people make the same effort, together we can create a growing wave of conservation, preserving our non-replaceable coal for future generations. The government cannot do this for us. It has to be done by individuals who care.

## **NEW AND FAMILIAR FACES FOR COOS SWCD DIRECTOR'S**



Top to bottom: Dan Varoujean (Chairman), Jim Maitland (Vice-Chairman), Fred Wiebe (Treasurer), Ron Petock (New Zone 1) director



Charlie Waterman (re-elected Zone 3 director)-left  
Joe Cortez (new Zone 4 director)-right  
Missing: Sharon Waterman (Secretary)

**Chairman-** Dan Varoujean, is a small woodlot owner elected to the Board in January 2003 serving as a Member At Large. Formerly an adjunct professor at the University of Oregon Institute of Marine Biology, Dan conducted research work on the ecology of coastal avian species, and marine flora and fauna; and continued this work as a private contractor adding water quality and sediment monitoring projects as well as avian mortality investigation for shippers during oil spills for the past 20 years. He is one of the founding members of FONSI, a local economic development group and has served as Chair of the South Slough NERR Technical Advisory Group.

**Vice-Chairman-** Jim Maitland, was elected to the Board in January of 2007 and represents Zone 5 of the Coos District and has been a cattle rancher on the South Fork Coquille for over 34 years. Jim organized and was a sitting member of the Rider Summit Board, a cooperative student incentive program in conjunction with Powers High School where students trained and rode assigned horses as an incentive to maintain a high grade-point average. He has served as Sergeant in the Police Reserves for a number of years, also volunteering as Chief of Police in Powers.

**Secretary-** Sharon Waterman, a cattle, sheep and timber rancher in the Bandon area was elected to the Board in 2003 and is the current Zone 2 director. Sharon graduated from OSU and taught school for 4 years and remained a substitute for around 10 years. Sharon is a member of the Coos County Livestock Association, OFBF Fill and removal committee, serves on the State Board of the Oregon Farm Bureau and is Regional Director for the Coos County Farm Bureau.

**Treasurer-** Fred Wiebe was elected to the Board of Directors in 2007 serving as a Member At Large. Fred has been living with his wife in Myrtle Point since 1972 where he raises beef and manages his timberlands. Fred has been a member of the Oregon Farm Bureau for 18 years, serving as Chairman for 10 years. He is also a member of the Coos County Livestock Association.

**Zone 1 Director-** Ron Petock was recently elected to the board in January 2009. He has been a sheep and beef farmer near Sumner for 9 years. He has worked as a forester for BLM, BIA, and the forest service and is currently a member of the Coos County Weed Board.

**Zone 3 Director-** Charlie Waterman was recently re-elected in January 2009 but was first elected to the board in January 2001. With his wife Sharon they own and operate a sheep and timber ranch in Coos County. A community leader Charlie has served as a Chairman for the Coos SWCD, Oregon Sheep

Commission, Coos Forest Protective Association, Coquille Watershed Association, Coaledo Drainage District, and the ASCS. Graduating from OSU with a degree in Agricultural Engineering, Charlie worked for Farm Credits and continues to sit on the Farm Credit Local Advisory Committee for the Roseburg Branch.

**Zone 4 Director**- Joe Cortez was recently appointed to the Board in January 2009 at the Coos SWCD monthly meeting. Joe has lived Coos County for the last 20 years and is currently raising sheep in Echo Valley just outside of Myrtle Point. Joe is currently the President of the Livestock Association, a member of the Weed Board, and also on the Myrtle Point Health District Board.

**Associate Director**- Jennifer Himmelreich, Eric's wife was recently appointed to this position in recognition of her recent involvement with the district. Jen Himmelreich, was born and raised in Coos County and has been a Registered Nurse for 7 years and is currently a home health nurse for Bay Area Hospital. She brings a lot of local knowledge of Coos County and has a love for people in this Community. Her creative side has already been an asset to her husband, who has been the Coos SWCD's Watershed Technical Specialist/Office Manager for the past eight months.

**Director Emeritus**- Ken Messerle served as an advisor to the SWCD Board from 1979 to 1981, and then became a SWCD Director serving 15 years on the Board.

**Director Emeritus**- Don Gray, was a SWCD Member At Large on the Board for 25 years from 1973 through 1998. A farmer and logger most of his life, Don continues to farm on Willanch Slough, where he was a founding Director of the Coos County Weed Board and has continued to serve on the Weed Advisory Board for the past 8 years.

**Director Emeritus**- Gordon Ross served on the Board of Directors from 1972 until 1986. A retired dairyman, Gordon also served as County Commissioner and has served Coos County as an active leader on multiple boards.

## OFF-STREAM WATERING SYSTEMS

By: Eric Nusbaum ODA *Water Quality Specialist*



Water pumped to holding trough



Nose pump



Fenced-off riparian

It is difficult to pay for infrastructure and management changes on most livestock operations. There never seems to be any surplus cash to pay for the improvements that should be made. You have to carefully weigh the benefits of every dollar you spend, and only invest in changes that make the ranch more efficient or profitable. For this reason, it can be tough to put water quality improvement projects high on the priority list.

There are some water quality improvement expenses, however, that can provide significant payoffs, both to your operation and to the beef industry. These investments improve water quality, protect and enhance fish and wildlife habitat, enhance the public's image of the beef industry, and even increase beef production. One area on the ranch operation that is both highly visible and sensitive to management changes is riparian areas.

Limiting access to riparian areas and providing alternative watering sources can boost production. Research shows that cattle prefer drinking from a trough that provides a constant supply of clean water, over drinking from a creek, especially when the banks are steep or muddy. It's also clear that cows that drink more water produce more milk, graze more and raise larger calves.

Careful riparian management also allows the growth of riparian vegetation that provides some very important functions in the larger watershed context. These functions include the dissipation of stream energy and capture of sediment at high flows, which allow banks to stabilize and water to soak into the ground and become available for stream flow later in the year. These healthy riparian areas also filter sediment and nutrients from overland flows and provide shade and habitat for wildlife and fish.

Unlimited livestock access to streams creates a risk of damage to riparian vegetation and stream banks, and potential runoff of manure, bacteria, nutrients, and sediment to water that is used by your neighbors downstream. An off-stream water development that provides clean water away from the stream can be a wise investment to better animal health and increased production.

Depending on livestock numbers, season of use and length of use, streams do not always need to be fenced off to get the desired vegetation. Riparian areas can be carefully "flash-grazed" for a few hours or days at a time, providing some forage for animals while protecting the vegetation. Generally, if the animals use the area for more than a month at a time, some fencing will probably be needed.

Financial and technical assistance to develop water sources, both in upland areas and off-stream, is available through several sources. To get started on your off-stream watering project, contact the Coos Soil and Water Conservation District at 541-396-6879.



## **NOXIOUS WEED/PLANT ALERT**



**Tansy Ragwort** (*Senecio jacobaea*)

### **History and Impact**

An invader from Europe, tansy ragwort was first seen in the seaports in the early 1900's and is often spread in contaminated hay. When prevalent, tansy ragwort is one of the most common causes of poisoning of horses, caused by consumption of the weed found in pasture, hay or silage. Milk produced by affected cows and goats can contain toxins. Stock does not reject or avoid it in hay or silage; its poisonous alkaloids are unaffected by drying. Honey from tansy ragwort also contains the alkaloids.

### **Biology and Morphology**

The plant's stem is stout, erect or slightly spreading, and may be branched; often groups of stems arise from the plant crown. The plant is 1.5 feet to 6 feet tall, with dark green, deeply lobed leaves, with numerous seed heads, each with multiple, yellow, multi-rayed flowers. Tansy Ragwort is a biennial plant that usually germinates in fall or early winter and reproduces by seed only.

### **Biological Control**

The ragwort flea beetle (*Longitarsus jacobaeae*) is an effect way to help control tansy ragwort but is not recommended or prescribed for small infestations. The ragwort beetle's larvae mine the roots of the rosettes and kill plants in the spring when they start to bolt. Heavy feeding by adult flea beetles on the leaves can kill rosettes in the fall and winter. Flea beetles are most effective in sunny pastures that do not flood and are below 2400 feet in elevation.

### **Best Management Practices**

- Pull plants by hand if soil is wet and replace any divots created when removing the plants.
- Apply appropriate herbicide with wick wiper or by spot spray.
- Monitor site throughout growing season and remove any new plants.
- If using an herbicide in a grassy area, use a selective herbicide to avoid injury to the grass.
- Mowing is not effective for controlling tansy ragwort.
- A selective use of herbicide will greatly increase grass production, which in turn increases the suppression of the tansy ragwort.
- Promote healthy grassy areas by seeding and fertilizing.
- If pasture is used for grazing, the area should be managed to promote grass and clover vigor. Graze uniformly and move animals from area to area in a planned sequence.
- **In fields densely infested with tansy ragwort, remove all cattle and horses until the tansy ragwort is reduced to isolated plants.**



Coos Soil & Water Conservation District  
371 North Adams Street  
Coquille, OR 97423

### UPCOMING EVENTS & PROGRAMS

- **Regular Meetings:** 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of every month
- **Landowner Resource Guides available at office**
- **Conservation/Farm Planning**
- **Technical & Financial Assistance**
- **Weed wrenches:** for extracting noxious weeds on your property ex. gorse and scotch broom are available at the Coos SWCD (396-6879) and NRCS (396-2841) offices in Coquille.

