



MARYS RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL NEWS

APRIL 2007

Note: Change of location for May 2nd Council Meeting - see below

Highlights of Muddy Creek Landowner Meeting

Visit www.mrwc.net for full minutes.

On April 4th, the Watershed Council hosted a community meeting at Alpine Community Center, asking local landowners to help guide conservation activities in the Muddy Creek watershed. About 100 people attended the meeting, which included a discussion of current local resource concerns and recent efforts and new opportunities to conserve the unique ecological values of the Muddy Creek watershed. Guest speaker, Steve Smith, Biologist for the Willamette Valley National Wildlife Refuge Complex, presented "Conservation Strategies in Muddy Creek Watershed".

Landowners were asked to share their concerns and interests in voluntary conservation efforts. In brief, comments indicated an interest in a sub-basin, community approach to conservation planning that recognizes the conservation value of farmland and beneficial farming practices. There is concern for Oregon white oak habitat, connectivity between habitat areas, stream flow and floodplain function, and the potential burden of conservation on agriculture and forestry. There was recognition of the importance of land use planning and farmland conservation in maintaining rural character and an interest in finding ways for local residents to communicate their alliance with farmers. There was a concern expressed that landowners shy away from incentive programs because of cumbersome requirements.

A local tour of farms in the Muddy Creek sub-basin and of Finley Wildlife Refuge was suggested.

Cardwell Hill Highlights

In May, **Washington State University** will begin following the flight paths of Fenders blue butterflies to determine whether they behave differently in hilly, partially forested landscapes than in open lands.

In July, **USFWS Partners for Fish & Wildlife Program** and **Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife** will partner with the Council to implement the pond enhancement grant received by OWEB - enhancing a pond that is home to 20 Western pond turtles and developing additional ponds.

Newton Creek Riparian Planting by Philomath High School Ecology Students



Many thanks to the 16 Philomath High School Ecology students and teacher, Jeff Mitchell, for their many days of hard work and care, planting over 1000 native trees and shrubs along the riparian area of Newton Creek, including 14 different species. Their contribution to the watershed will benefit the community, the river, the fish and wildlife for many years to come.

...May the beaver be kind...

May 2nd Watershed Council Meeting *cosponsored by City of Corvallis Public Works*

7-9 pm - Walnut Community Room - Corvallis Fire Station #5 -
4950 NW Fair Oaks Drive - off 53rd St. next to M.L.King Park

Guest Speaker: Travis Williams, Executive Director for Willamette Riverkeeper (WRK). After a brief introduction to the organization, Travis will discuss WRK's efforts with watershed councils and other groups throughout the Willamette Valley to identify, link and help obtain funding for common restoration opportunities.

Preview of June 23rd Willamette River Paddle Trip - Peoria to Corvallis - sponsored by Marys River Watershed Council, City of Corvallis Public Works, & Willamette Riverkeeper.