



# Marys River Watershed Council

P.O. Box 1041 Corvallis, OR 97339-1041 [www.mrwc.net](http://www.mrwc.net)

December 1, 2005

## Cardwell Hills Project

Understanding the Local Ecology and Hydrology

Neighbors Working Together to Improve the Marys River Watershed

### What's New...

**The November 16th Cardwell Hills Project Meeting** was attended by 40 people, including:

- 21 land-owner/managers (of 14 properties) who have been previously involved in the project
- 7 watershed council members from outside Cardwell Hills area
- 10 Cardwell Hills area land-owner/managers (of 7 properties) who have not been involved previously
- 2 staff

The theme of the meeting: ***“Never Underestimate the Value of Local Knowledge”*** brought neighbors together to share knowledge about the local ecology and hydrology of our watershed.

**Kathleen Dean Moore**, a Wren landowner and writer, shared readings from her book *Riverwalking* and “Blowing the Dam” from *Pine Island Paradox* (about removing the little dam under their bridge on the Marys).

**Bill Percy**, a founding member of the Marys River Watershed Council and resident of Cardwell Hills, talked about water quality and quantity in the Marys River.

**Frank & Karen Morton** presented a slideshow of their photography and *“Observations of Our Local Prairie”*. Frank & Karen live in Wren and own and operate Wild Garden Seed.

**Steve Smith**, US Fish & Wildlife Private Lands Biologist answered questions about the recent proposed critical habitat for Fenders blue butterfly and Kincaid’s lupine that several Cardwell Hills landowners received notice of in the mail.

**Andy Brower**, Wren resident and OSU Entomologist, needed to postpone his presentation about *“Local Butterflies and Moths”* for a future meeting.

A summary of these presentations is available in the Watershed Council minutes of the November 16th meeting, available at [www.mrwc.net](http://www.mrwc.net)

### Landowner Survey:

Interested Landowners were asked to complete a survey questionnaire to help identify habitat resources and management practices on their land and describe their management objectives and desires.

Landowners of three new properties expressed interest in being involved in the project and requested surveys for their lands.

The information gathered in this survey will be incorporated into the data used by the Project consultant for site analysis and project recommendations.

## **What's Next...**

We will **not** be scheduling a landowner meeting in December due to holiday conflicts and delays in compiling data.

The next meeting will be **Tuesday, January 24th – 7pm** at the Wren Community Hall.

The January **agenda** will include:

**Principles of Landscape Ecology...**a presentation about the overall project approach, connecting habitat corridors, and other ecology concepts.

### **The Landscape Speaks...**

- Watershed Council Consultant, Josh Cerra, will share:
  - regional conservation trends and conditions
  - habitat conditions for the Cardwell Hills area (oak, prairie, wetland and aquatic habitats) based on GIS data analysis, site visits, and landowner survey data
  - an analysis of restoration opportunities, based on principles of landscape ecology, for these habitats
- Watershed Council staff, Sandra Coveny will present Council priorities for watershed enhancement projects.

**The Landowners Speak...**Presentation of overall results of landowner surveys, followed by a discussion about the material presented to date, and how it informs the overall goal of reaching a group consensus on a community-wide plan for improvements.

**What to look forward to...** A working regional conservation plan, development of Phase I management plans and implementation of these plans, followed by future project phases

*We hope you have a wonderful, relaxing holiday and we'll see you at the January meeting.*

**Check out the Marys River Watershed Council website at [www.mrwc.net](http://www.mrwc.net) for posting of information about the Cardwell Hills Project.**