

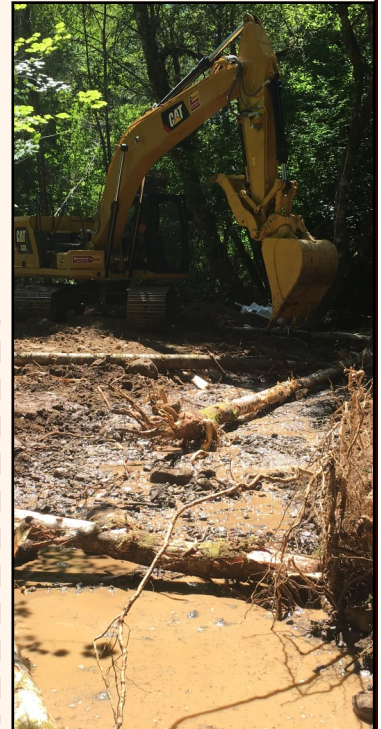
FALL
2018

Native Plant Spotlight:

The Columbia SWCD presents: “The Dirt”

From a Dribble to a Flow

In July 2018 the Columbia SWCD oversaw implementation of a project along Dribble Creek, a small tributary of the Clatskanie River. SWCD staff applied for and received funding from the OR Watershed Enhancement Board for this project earlier this spring. The property is owned by Hancock Forest Management, an industrial timber company. The culvert in question was beneath a decommissioned logging road providing an opportunity to remove the roadgrade and completely open up the creek for fish passage, improved hydrology, and enhanced habitat. Partners on this project included Hancock Forest Management, the OR Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, and the Columbia River Youth Corps.



FACTS ABOUT THE PROJECT AT DRIBBLE CREEK:

Scope of Project: Removed undersized and perched culvert. Decommissioned old logging road to allow for unimpeded creek passage. Placed felled trees in and around creek for habitat enhancement and to mimic natural processes. Will install native plants around project site this fall/winter.

Expected Benefits : 1) Allow fish passage to the upper reaches of Dribble Creek; 2) Restore watershed processes and reconnect creek with its floodplain for a more natural hydrologic regime; and 3) Improve habitat for local fish and wildlife.

Area of impact: Opened up approximately 1 mile of upstream habitat.



Black—Eyed Susan
(*Rudbeckia Hirta*)

Flower season June to September
A great plant for pollinators!
More info: www.gardenia.net

“This project was lucky enough to have a great group of people behind it. Hancock Forest Management Group, the landowners of the site, were super supportive and came to the site ready to partner on getting this culvert out. Aquatic Contracting did a great job of executing the vision with great detail and a quality final product. This culvert was initially brought to the landowner as a potential project just last September, so under a year from start to finish. We had to have a lot of support to make this happen that quickly!”

- Monica Blanchard, Columbia SWCD Project Manager

CONTENTS

Schedules/ Staff Directory/ Up-Coming Events	2
What in the Weeds/ Garden Gab	3
Do You Know..	4
Partnering for Success: OSU Extension Service	5
ID Your Weed	6



Before: A small, perched culvert conveyed Dribble Creek under the logging road creating a year round fish passage barrier.

After: Dribble Creek unobstructed. The arrow shows the previous location of the culvert. Downed trees were left in and around the creek to simulate natural processes.

GET INVOLVED

Local Board Meetings:

Columbia Soil and Water Conservation District:
 3rd Wed. of the month at 7:00 p.m. at their office in Saint Helens

Scappoose Bay Watershed Council:
 1st Tue. of the month at 7:00 p.m. at their office in Scappoose

Lower Columbia River Watershed Council:
 2nd Tue. of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the Clatskanie PUD office

Upper Nehalem Watershed Council:
 4th Thur. of the month at 7:00 p.m. at Vernonia High School

CSWCD STAFF

District Manager
 Kari Hollander

Assistant District Manager
 Malysa Legg

Senior Resource Conservationist
 Nathan Herr

Resource Conservationist
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UPCOMING EVENTS

09/10/18 7:00 am: 32nd Annual Barbara Bullis

Memorial Golf Tournament to benefit the Columbia Pacific Food Bank

Shotgun format tournament with team prizes along with hole-in-one, long drive, shortest drive and closest to the pin. Mulligans and raffle tickets available for purchase prior to or at the tournament. Limited to 120 golfers. For more information please visit: <http://cpfoodbank.org/events/golf-tournament/>

09/21/18 10:00 am: Stella-Jones Pole Mill Tour

Washington and Yamhill County Small Woodlands Associations are organizing a tour of the pole mill in Sheridan. The tour will focus on the log yard, grading, peeler, with explanation of the treating facility. Starts at the mill office at 22125 Rock Creek Rd, Sheridan, OR 97378. Registration required, call (503)703-6573 or email: washcosmallwoodlandsassoc@gmail.com by Sep. 17. More info. available here: <http://new.wcswa.com/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/FF-2018-08.pdf> (pg. 7)

10/07/18 1:00—3:00pm: Low Water Gardening;

Joy Creek Nursery

This workshop will explain in detail various methods for amending soils, appropriate plant choices and ways for combining plants to maintain long-term interest in the garden. \$15 fee due the day of. More information: <http://www.joycreek.com/education.htm>

10/13/18—10/14/18: Wilderness First Aid with

NOLS and REI; Vernonia Springs

REI is partnering with NOLS to offer a comprehensive 16hr, two day course that will teach you the wilderness medicine skills you need to recreate with confidence in the backcountry. In just two days, you will learn the knowledge, skills and ability to make sound decisions in emergency situations. Learn more here: <https://www.facebook.com/events/175361519773451/>

Connect with us to see what we're up to by following us on Facebook and Instagram!

@Columbiaswcd



Do you have questions regarding wetlands?

Call our office or email me at:

selene.keeney@columbiaswcd.com

What in the Weeds?!

In early June 2018, the Columbia SWCD and the Columbia River Youth Corps. manually removed Policemen's helmet (a noxious weed) along a stretch of historic Hwy. 30 that runs into Jack Falls. The site was reported by a concerned citizen in late 2017 and is the first site known to the SWCD in the eastern part of the county. Infestations of Policemen's helmet are known in the Nehalem area and it is prevalent in Clatsop County. The source of this population was



Above: Immature Policemen's helmet plants. Look for red stems and veins; stems are extremely delicate and filled with water.



Right: Policemen's helmet in bloom. Flowers appear in mid-summer. Seeds form in later summer/early fall. Plants can grow up to 8' tall. Policemen's helmet is a threat to riparian and wetland areas.

from a property on the bluff above the old Hwy. where it had been planted as a garden ornamental. Conditions are ideal for Policemen's helmet here as the site stays very wet year round from runoff over the bluff, soils are very shallow, and the impervious asphalt surface leads to poor drainage resulting in a marshy condition even during the peak of summer. Thanks to private landowners in the area for their cooperation, our concerned citizen, and the CRYC for their help, we expect to be able to eradicate Policemen's helmet from this site.

What You Can Do:

* Choose natives over ornamentals for your garden and pond. * Never dump yard waste in natural areas or along streams. * Report sightings to our Invasive Species Hotline at [1-800-741-6105](tel:1-800-741-6105) or weeds@columbiaswcd.com.



Left: CRYC students pulled and piled plants. Students also performed other noxious weed control at this site.

Below: Pulled plants were piled and left to dry out. This is important as re-rooting is likely if plants are just pulled and left on the ground to decompose.



All photos by Columbia SWCD

Garden Gab: Let it Rain

Mother Nature is about to give you a break from all that relentless summer watering— so take advantage! Fall offers a great time to grow with minimal effort. See below for some suggestions on what to plant next.

Gardening tip from the SWCD: "Slow the Bolt": In my garden, bolting is easily one of my top 5 frustrations— just below aphids, gophers, bitter cucumbers, and ants that eat kale roots! For plants that are prone to bolting like lettuce, spinach, basil, and cilantro—when and where you plant can make a big difference. Try planting them towards the end of the summer so they are growing during shorter and cooler days or planting them in an area that is not in full sun. I plant these guys under my cucumber trellises in the summer so that as the cucumbers grow and climb they provide more and more shade as the weather gets warmer and sunnier. This seems to keep bolting a little more in check—although, sadly, it did not save my early summer cilantro.

-Crystalyn Bush, Riparian Specialist.

Seed Outdoors

September: Arugula*, Asian greens*, Beets, Cabbage (for spring), Endive, Fava beans*, Garlic (cloves)*, Lettuce*, Kale, Onions (sets)*, Radish*, Salad greens*, Shallots (bulb)* Cover Crops*

October: Fava beans*, Garlic (cloves)*, Onion (sets)*, Shallots (bulbs)* Cover Crops*

November: Fava beans, Garlic (cloves), Onion (sets), Shallot (bulbs)

Starts

September: Kale, Lettuce, Salad greens, Sorrel

October: Bok Choi, Cabbage (over wintering), Lettuce, Salad greens

November-December: Time to give it a rest. You can cover up raised beds with a dark material like weed-block or a tarp to prevent soil loss, keep soils warmer for next year's planting, and keep weeds out for the winter.



(Information obtained from Portland Nursery's veggie calendar at <http://portlandnursery.com>. View their veggie calendar for more detailed information about best planting times and methods.)

* Indicates best times and methods of planting

Do You Know...

The Guidelines for Streambank maintenance?

Heading into the rainy season can have many landowners anxious about high flows, mud, and drainage issues. The Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) has developed Oregon's Administrative Agricultural Water Quality Area Rules as guidelines for agricultural producers to manage waterways on their lands and be in compliance with local water quality rules, but these tips can be helpful to anyone with surface flows or water flowing through their property.

To be in compliance with "Area Rules", maintenance activities must:

- Allow for the ongoing growth and establishment of streamside vegetation.
- Minimize sediment from entering or accumulating in streams or ditches.
- Prevent soil and gully erosion on stream and ditch banks.

"Area Rules apply to all year-round and seasonal streams (rivers, creeks), including channelized streams that may appear to be ditches. Removal of vegetation from a streambank or excavating accumulated sediment from a stream channel could lead to issues with water quality and put your operation out of compliance with Area Rules. Additionally, there could be areas along and near streams that are considered wetlands. Wetlands and streams are regulated, and certain aspects of your maintenance activities such as the amount of soil and material that is excavated could require a Removal-Fill permit from the Oregon Department of State Lands (DSL). Before beginning any maintenance activities, take the time to be fully informed about what kind of waterway you are working with and have a good understanding of where the surface water drains. It is important in choosing what practices and guidelines to use. The objective should be to implement maintenance activities along or within streams in a manner that (1) supports your agricultural operation (2) promotes the ongoing growth and establishment of streamside vegetation, (3) is in compliance with Area Rules and other state and local regulations, and (4) has applicable permits." (ODA) Consult with the Columbia SWCD or ODA for added assistance.

Did you Know? What appears to be a ditch can actually sometimes be a highly channelized natural stream. Despite appearance or condition, natural streams are never considered ditches and management practices must adhere to "Area Rules." Contact ODA or the Columbia SWCD if you need assistance to determine whether you are working with a ditch or a natural stream.

Recommendations for Streams

RECOMMENDED PRACTICES

- Brush management
- Riparian forest buffer
- Tree and shrub establishment
- Vegetated filter strips

CONDITIONS TO MANAGE FOR

- Woody vegetation is established and growing along year-round and seasonal streams.
- Streamside vegetation is composed of trees and shrubs at a density and width necessary to stabilize the streambank during high streamflows, shade the stream, and filter pollutants.
- Trees and shrubs are planted in areas of damaged and cleared vegetation.
- Streambanks are free of gullies and rills.

For More Information About Stream and Ditch Maintenance

Visit this link: <https://www.oregon.gov/ODA/shared/Documents/Publications/NaturalResources/GuidelinesStreamDitchMaintenance.pdf>

For questions about agricultural water quality regulations contact: OR Dept. of Agriculture

For assistance implementing these guidelines contact: Columbia SWCD at (503) 433-3205 or information@columbiaswcd.com

Tips to Consider



Photo from En.Wikipedia.org

- Limit maintenance to areas near drainage outlets and perform maintenance frequently enough to control overgrowth for access to inspect and repair.
- When maintaining vegetation use techniques such as pruning, mowing, or girdling, that allow the root system to remain intact and in the soil.
- Following ground disturbance and when conditions allow, plant native or non-invasive trees and shrubs into areas where vegetation was removed. Follow up plantings may be needed to achieve establishment.
- When planting, select a diverse mix of tree and shrub species that provide multiple benefits and are adapted to the duration of soil saturation of the site.
- If you are planning to remove woody vegetation along streams, such as large trees and shrubs, Oregon Department of Forestry regulations may also apply in addition to Area Rules.

Partnering for Success

Oregon State University Extension Service — Columbia County

The OSU Extension Service is an invaluable local resource for all sorts of natural resource and agriculture issues. If you have a question about what is eating your fruit tree's leaves, how to preserve your garden veggies safely, or whether your forest needs to be thinned...they can probably help. Being attached to one of the world's top research universities means they have access to the most current scientifically sound information available and they share this knowledge widely through their numerous programs and free technical assistance.

The Columbia SWCD has a long-standing partnership with the OSU Extension Service. We share knowledge and resources, promote and support each other's programs, collaborate on things like data collection and workshops, serve on local workgroups together, and share our facilities. Over the years the Columbia SWCD and OSU have conducted joint workshops on topics including pasture health, noxious weed identification and control, and native plants.

This summer the OSU Experimental Forest in Birkenfeld donated 2 logs with rootwads and 5 large logs to a streambank restoration project overseen by the Columbia SWCD on Fishhawk Creek. This donation greatly enhanced the restoration value of the project and value to the landowners through increased streambank stabilization, erosion control, and habitat creation.

Food safety and preservation resources and classes are provided through the OSU Extension Family and Community Health Program. These classes are often held at the Columbia SWCD in the Meeting Room and Kitchen. For upcoming classes, please call the Columbia County OSU Extension Service office or visit <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/columbia>

Programs Offered:



4-H Youth
Development



Family &
Community Health
& Nutrition



Master Gardener &
Home Gardening



Forestry & Natural
Resources



Agriculture &
Small Farms



Photo of large wood donated for Fishhawk Creek project



Oregon State University
Extension Service
Columbia County

Got Canning Questions? Call the
Food Safety and Preservation Hotline
(July 16 - October 12 M-F 9am-4pm):
1-800-354-7319 (toll-free)

Staff: Wiley Thompson, Regional Director; Chip Bubl, Agriculture; Woody Davis, 4-H Youth; Amy Grotta, Forestry & Natural Resources; Lily Joslin, SNAP Edu Program Asst.; Jenny Rudolph, Family & Community Health; Julie Scism, SNAP-Edu/Family & Community Health Edu Program Asst.; Kara Orr, 4-H Office Specialist; Sonia Reagan, Office Specialist/Business Operations

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If you would prefer to receive our newsletter electronically, please send a request to jennifer.steinke@columbiaswcd.com.

Contact us:

Address: 35285 Millard Rd., St. Helens, OR 97051
Phone: 503-433-3205 **Email:** information@columbiaswcd.com
www.columbiaswcd.com



IDENTIFY YOUR WEED



Left: J. Miller, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org;
Right: C. Evans, Univ. of Illinois, Bugwood.org

ENGLISH/IRISH/ATLANTIC IVY

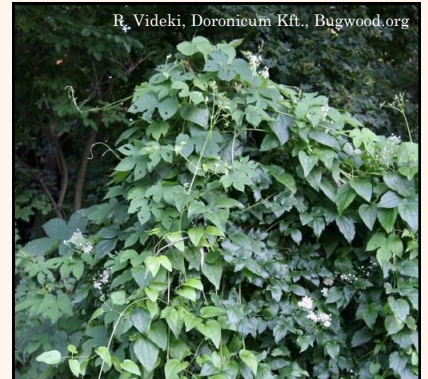
Perennial evergreen vine. Immature leaves are pointed and lobed; mature leaves are heart shaped. Matures and flowers after climbing and when in direct sun. Damages trees with added weight and by eventually starving it of light. Crowds and shades out other plants—harms forest ecosystems.



S. Dewey, Utah State Univ., Bugwood.org

FIELD BINDWEED

Stems grow up to 4 feet and spread along the ground in a vine-like fashion. Scales fences and shrubs and forms dense tangled mats. Flowers are white to pink, trumpet shaped. Major problem in agricultural crops including cereal, vegetables, and mint. Hampers crop harvesting in orchards and vineyards. Highly pervasive.



R. Videki, Doronicum Kft., Bugwood.org

OLD MAN'S BEARD

Perennial, woody, deciduous vine that grows up to 30 yards. Leaves are opposite and usually with 5 leaflets. Vines climb up structures as well as other plants and trees, causing similar damage to ivy and weakening forest ecosystems.

* Before performing weed control it's a good idea to always: 1) Check with local experts to ensure accurate plant identification; 2) Research effective and appropriate control methods; 3) Wear protective clothing like long sleeves and gloves; and 4) Seek advice before using herbicides.*