

SUMMER  
2016

# The Columbia SWCD presents: “The Dirt”

## December **Flooding** Results in Busy Summer for the Columbia SWCD



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This summer the Columbia SWCD will have its hands full with emergency projects. Flooding in December last year resulted in all sorts of problems for residents of Columbia County. Levees washed out, roads were damaged, streambanks eroded, culverts blew out, sinkholes formed, and one resident even woke up to a landslide in her backyard. In response to this natural disaster the state legislature earmarked funds for emergency projects in the state to repair certain public and private infrastructures. These monies are managed by the NRCS under a program called Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP). The SWCD has been busy fielding calls from affected landowners, touring potential projects, meeting with regulators, getting bids, and obtaining funding and permits to begin work on these projects this summer.



Clatskanie River extreme streambank erosion at 4th Street in Clatskanie.

In addition to funding from the state, the SWCD is also in the process of pursuing funding from FEMA for work that is not covered by EWP. The SWCD was recently informed that the money from EWP has been approved and committed. The funds come with an expiration date of 180 days for completion of the projects. This means that before the end of the year all of the emergency projects under EWP must be 100% completed, no small task to be sure. Despite the heavy workload, the SWCD is ready and excited to be a part of these projects and to be fulfilling its mission of helping local residents.



Archibald crossing on Apiary Road during flood event on December 11, 2015.

# Get Involved

## Local Board Meetings:

### Columbia Soil and Water Conservation District:

3rd Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at their office in Saint Helens

### Scappoose Bay Watershed Council:

1st Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at their office in Scappoose

### Lower Columbia River Watershed Council:

2nd Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the Columbia SWCD office

### Upper Nehalem Watershed Council:

4th Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at Vernonia High School

### CSWCD STAFF

#### District Manager

Kari Olsen-Hollander

#### Assistant District Manager

Malysa Legg

#### Resource Conservationist

Nathan Herr

#### Outreach Coordinator/ Field Technician

Crystalyn Bush

#### Office Assistant

Jennifer Steinke

#### LCEP Field Restoration Ecologist

Jenny Dezso

### NRCS STAFF

#### District Conservationist

Don Mehlhoff

#### Program Support Tech

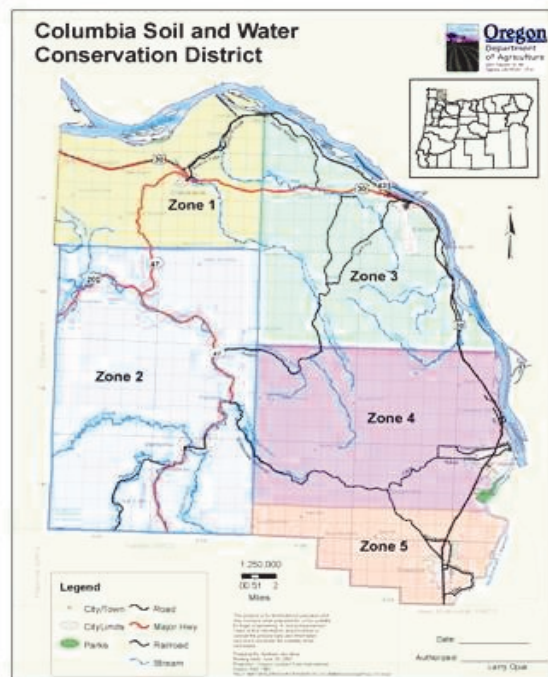
Dee Robinson

#### Soil Conservationist

Angela Reseland

## BOARD ELECTIONS:

The following positions with the Columbia SWCD are up for election in November of this year: Zone 2, Zone 4, Zone 5, and 1 At Large Position. The map below shows the delineations of the 5 zones. Board members serve a 4 year term and are integral in guiding the District's work. If you or someone you know is interested in being a part of our board, please visit our website at <http://www.columbiaswcd.com/about/becoming-cswcd-director/> or call our office for more information .



### CSWCD BOARD

#### Chair:

Bill Eagle

#### Vice Chair:

Jason Busch

#### Treasurer:

Kay C. VanNatta

#### Secretary:

Lona Pierce

#### Director:

Dave Freytag

#### Director:

Randy Bergman

#### Interim Director:

Craig Ellis

# Thoughts from the Staff

## Favorite Easy Summer Recipes



### Sour Cream Cucumbers:

1/2 cup sour cream; 3 Tbsp. white vinegar; 1 Tbsp. sugar; pepper to taste; 4 medium cucumbers thinly sliced; 1 small sweet onion thinly sliced and in rings

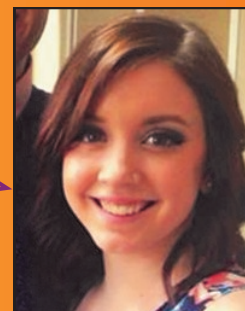
In a large bowl whisk sour cream, vinegar, sugar, and pepper until blended. Add cucumbers and onion; toss to coat.

Refrigerate covered for at least 4 hours.

### Broccoli Salad with Bacon:

2 large heads of broccoli chopped; 8 slices bacon, cooked and crumbled; 1 small red onion, finely chopped; 1/2 c. shredded carrots; 1/2 c. sunflower seeds; 1/2 c. Craisins; 1 c. mayonnaise; 4 Tbsp. honey; 1 Tbsp. fresh lemon juice

Stir mayo, honey, and lemon juice together. Set aside. Combine broccoli, onion, carrots, sunflower seeds, and craisins. Add the sauce mixture and toss. Serve cold.



### Bruschetta:

1 loaf of fresh French bread cut into 1/2" slices; olive oil; home-grown tomatoes cut into 1/4" slices; mozzarella cheese cut into 1/4" or less slices; fresh basil

Lay out bread on baking sheet. Lightly coat with olive oil. Bake at 250 degrees for about 10 minutes or until crispy on the outside. Top each with 1 slice tomato, mozzarella, and basil leaf.



### Super Easy Blueberry Pie:

6 c. fresh blueberries; 2 tsp. lemon juice; 3 Tbsp. cornstarch; 1 c. sugar; 1 tsp. allspice; pinch of nutmeg; 1 box Pillsbury pie crust

Mix ingredients. Pour into pie shell in 9" pie plate. Add pats of butter. Cover with remaining pie crust, crimp edges together. Sprinkle with sugar. Bake at 425 for 20 minutes and then at 350 for 45-60 minutes (until golden brown).



**Summer is no time to be stuck inside a grocery store. Turn shopping into a fun family activity by heading to a local farmers market or get out in the field with the kids at a U-pick farm.**

## **FARMERS MARKETS:**

**Scappoose Community Cubs Farmers Market: Takes place every Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. until October 1. Located off of Hwy. 30 in Scappoose near the VFW Memorial and Public Library.**

**Rainier Farmers Market: Takes place every Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. until September 1st. Located at the Riverfront Park.**

## **U-PICK FARMS:**

**Columbia Farms U-Pick: A berry farm that offers U-Pick strawberries and a variety of other berries. Open Tuesday through Sunday 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Located on Sauvie Island.**

**Sauvie Island Farms: Grows a variety of U-Pick fruits and veggies. Open Monday through Saturday 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Located on Sauvie Island.**

**Crawford Berries 'n' Cream: A strawberry farm in Rainier open for U-Pick daily from 1:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m.**

**Thorneberry Farm: A certified organic blueberry farm in Rainier.**

## **UP-COMING EVENTS**

**6/22/16 6:30 p.m.—8:30 p.m.: Introduction to Beekeeping Class; OSU Extension office in Saint Helens**

Free class for people interested in learning how to raise bees. Call (503) 397-3462 for more information.

**6/25/16 8:00 a.m. — 12:00 p.m.: Free Household Hazardous Waste Collection; The Columbia County Transfer Station**

Bring hazardous waste to the transfer station for free disposal. For a list of accepted items check out the flyer posted on the City of St. Helens' website, <http://www.ci.st-helens.or.us/>.

**7/20/16—7/24/16 10:00 a.m. — Close: Columbia County Fair and Rodeo**

The county fair is fun for all ages! Kids love the rides, games, and animal exhibits. Adults will appreciate the lively atmosphere, concerts, and rodeos. And don't forget about the food! This year the Columbia SWCD is proud to be a sponsor of the Columbia County Fair. Be sure to look for our signs!

# Taming Your Tomatoes

By: Crystalyn Bush, SWCD Field Technician/Outreach Coordinator

If you are like me you are probably looking for a better way to support your tomato plants. Those puny little tomato cages I bought at the garden store definitely did not cut it last year. Here is a brief summary of what I have learned. Basically it seems like with a little ingenuity a tomato support can be built from almost anything:

## Wooden Tomato Cages:

You can build a really sturdy tomato cage out of leftover wooden scraps. As best I can tell, there are no specific building specs for these. Just build them with enough space around the tomato for it to be able to continue to grow vertically and with enough space in between the horizontal pieces to easily be able to reach in and grab fruit.



## Trellising:

There are a number of materials that can be good for trellising. Livestock panels, old fencing, lattices, or even archways can make a good trellis for tomatoes. Keep in mind if you use metal materials you will probably need bolt cutters or some other type of tool strong enough to cut them. If you are using an upright trellis you will need to attach it to steel posts or rebar for support.



## Staking:

Staking your tomatoes is another fairly easy and cost effective method. You just need something fairly sturdy and about 6-8' tall to tie your plant off to. Use ties that won't cut into your plant like natural fiber twine. This method requires a lot pruning, but it is cost and space efficient. If you have the time to devote to tying and pruning this is a good option.



Columbia SWCD

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[www.columbiaswcd.com](http://www.columbiaswcd.com)

## Poster Contest

Flyers about the annual NACD Poster Contest were delivered to local schools at the end of May. This year's theme is "We All Need Trees". The contest spans all grades (K -12) with 5 different judging categories (K-1, 2-3, 4-6, 7-9, 10-12). Posters must be submitted to the Columbia SWCD by no later than September 9, 2016. Rules and further instructions can be found on our website at <http://www.columbiaswcd.com/kid-zone> or at <http://www.nacdnet.org/education/contests/poster/we-all-need-trees-poster-contest>. The prizes for the local competition are: 1st Prize: \$25, 2nd Prize: \$15, 3rd Prize: \$10. Local winning entries will be sent on for judging at the state level. State winners will then be forwarded on for judging in a national contest. National prizes are: 1st Prize: \$200, 2nd Prize: \$150, 3rd Prize: \$100. Plus the winning poster will be used in local and state marketing and promotional materials. Only posters that are submitted to the Columbia SWCD are eligible for state and national judging. Keep your kids occupied this summer with a fun project that puts both their knowledge and creativity to use. We can't wait to see what they come up with!

