

FALL
2016



CONTENTS

Board Meeting	2
Schedules/ Staff Directory	
Up-Coming Events	2
Meet the NewEST Staff	3
70th Anniversary Celebration	4
70th Anniversary Continued	5
Vernonia Outdoor School	6

The Columbia SWCD presents: “The Dirt”

Status on EWP: Summer is Gone, But the “Real” Work has Just Begun

This summer the District has been working hard to get emergency projects off the ground. Funds from the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) were received in early June. Since then it has been a mad dash to get all the pieces in place for actual on-site work to begin. The following is a general description of what we have been working on over the summer to make sure these emergency situations get addressed.

- Determining the scope of each project
- Obtaining signed forms and agreements from landowners
- Contracting cultural resource surveys and getting authorization from the State Historic Preservation Office
- Bidding and hiring engineers
- Assisting engineers with surveys
- Getting design approval from landowners, city planners, and NRCS
- Applying for state and federal permits
- Coordinating with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Drafting and submitting fish salvage plans
- Obtaining and assembling data to provide to the National Marine Fisheries Service
- Bidding and hiring contractors for each project
- Revising designs to satisfy permit restrictions

EWP Statistics:

Total Projects: 14

NRCS \$ Allocated: \$1,524,675

Cities Involved: 3

Private Landowners Involved: 20



Archaeologists survey for historical artifacts on a property in Scappoose with a landslide. Cultural resource surveys are just one part of the permitting process undertaken by the SWCD on 14 emergency projects this summer.



Extreme damage to Hills Haven Road in Deer Island during the December 2015 storm cut off several residents from their homes. Repairing the road, installing a new culvert, and stabilizing the streambank along Merrill Creek is one of the 14 emergency projects the District is overseeing this year.

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

Senior Resource
Conservationist

Nathan Herr

Resource Conservationist

Selene Keeney

Resource Conservationist

Monica Blanchard

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

CSWCD BOARD

Chair:

Bill Eagle

Vice Chair:

Jason Busch

Treasurer:

Kay C. VanNatta

Secretary:

Lona Pierce

Director:

Dave Freytag

Director:

Randy Bergman

Director:

Craig Ellis

UP-COMING EVENTS

**10/1/16 8:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.: River Clean Up/
Native Planting; Scappoose Bay WC**

The SBWC is hosting a river clean up and native planting day with free paddling and kayaking opportunities for volunteers. Call Amber at SBWC (503) 397-7904 or email amber@scappoosebay-wc.org for more information or to RSVP.

**10/8/16 5:00 p.m.—10:00 p.m.: SWCD 70th
Anniversary Celebration**

Tickets for sale on our website. (See pg. 4 of the newsletter for more information.)

**10/15/16 9:00 a.m. — 3:00 p.m.: Native Plant
Sale; Nursery Behind Scappoose High School**

SBWC is hosting a native plant sale at the Scappoose H.S. Find a great selection of native plants and knowledgeable staff. Go to www.scappoosebay-wc.org to see a plant list.

**10/15/16 5:30 p.m.: LCEP 17th Annual Dinner and
Art Gala; Columbia River Yacht Club**

Enjoy a sophisticated night on the river and help LCEP support getting kids outside. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit their website at <http://lcrep.ejoinme.org/2016gala>.



Meet the NewEST Staff!

WE HAVE ADDED A FEW MORE NEW FACES TO OUR CREW!



Jennifer Dezso, Field Restoration Ecologist, joined the Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership in May 2016. She works with the Columbia Soil and Water Conservation District as well as local watershed councils to identify, plan, and implement restoration projects. Prior to joining the Estuary Partnership, Jenny worked as Project Manager at the Clackamas River Basin Council. She has also worked for the U.S. Bureau of Land Management and served as an AmeriCorps member at The Nature Conservancy, where she coordinated riparian restoration projects in the Sandy River Basin. She holds a B.A. in Environmental Science and Geography from the University of South Florida.



Selene Keeney, Resource Conservationist, joined the Columbia Soil and Water Conservation District in July 2016 and works on the technical assistance aspects of the District's mission, as well as project coordination and landowner outreach. She has a B.S. in Science and a minor in Botany from Portland State University. Prior to joining the District, Selene worked as an Ecologist/Project Manager for a private environmental consulting firm. She brings a strong background in permitting and environmental law to the District's team. When not working, Selene enjoys spending time with her family, and exploring Pacific Northwest rivers, streams and lakes.



Monica Blanchard, Resource Conservationist, joined the Columbia Soil and Water Conservation District in August 2016 where she focuses on technical assistance, landowner outreach, and project coordination. Since graduating from Western Washington University in 2008, she has worked in streams in Oregon, Alaska, Washington, and Utah. She followed her passion for streams to a graduate degree in Watershed Science/Fisheries at Utah State University. Monica's background in fisheries will be very useful in project identification, development, and implementation. When not working in streams she still loves walking along and paddling in them. She also enjoys backpacking, snowboarding, cooking, and traveling near and far with her friends and family.

70th Anniversary Celebration

YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS THIS!

SWCD staff has been working hard to organize a fabulous party/fundraiser to celebrate our 70th Anniversary. The event will be held at the Columbia County Fairgrounds Pavilion on Oct. 8, 2016 from 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Dinner and a cash bar will be hosted by Columbia County Brewing, featuring their mouthwatering local food sensations and signature beers. There will be live music (you just might be inspired to dance), tempting appetizers and desserts, and exciting silent and live auctions. All proceeds go to support natural resource technical education programs in our local school districts. We hope you will join us for a memorable evening of celebration and help us support the next generation of natural resource leaders.



*Food and Spirits By
Columbia County
Brewing*



BANK EROSION — SAND ISLAND

Sand Island, a City of St. Helens park, has been losing from 1/2 to 1 acre of land per year due to wave action from passing ships. The Soil Conservation Service donated 4200 willow cuttings to the City, and the SCS staff assisted City park crews in planting the trees along the eastern bank of the island. It is expected to help reduce erosion along the island's bank once the cuttings have become established.



Remembering Our Past

Celebrating Our Present



Growing Our Future

Tickets are available for purchase on our website at www.columbia.swcd.com or in person at our office, 35285 Millard Rd., St. Helens. Tickets are \$20/guest or \$500/table. Table sponsors receive seating for eight, complimentary wine, and assorted other gifts.

A special thank you to those who have donated to our event:

Columbia County
 Fairgrounds
 St. Helens Credit Union
 Mark Spencer Hotel
 Dyno Nobel
 Michael Curry Design Inc.
 Nancy Radcliffe
 Klondike
 Portland Winterhawks
 Flossie Olive Designs
 Oregon Symphony

OSU Athletics
 Ace Hardware
 Pittock Mansion
 Family Fun Center
 Glowing Greens
 Scappoose Sand & Gravel Co.
 Sky High Sports
 McMenamins Pub and Breweries
 Columbia River PUD
 CRYC/Rainier Schools

Cornerstone Cafe
 NW Plumbing Services
 A Better Way Massage
 Strange Birds Coffee House
 Beaverton Civic Theatre
 Craig Ellis
 Bertucci's Chocolates
 Quilter's Guild
 Scappoose Bay Paddling
 Lower Columbia Eng.
 And many more...



SILENT AUCTION



Columbia SWCD
35285 Millard Road
St. Helens, OR 97051

Non Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
St. Helens, OR
Permit # 128

Contact us:

Address: 35285 Millard Rd.; St. Helens, OR 97051

Phone: 503-397-4555 **email:** information@columbiaswcd.com

www.columbiaswcd.com

Vernonia Outdoor School

In September District staff taught at the annual Vernonia Outdoor School. Resource Conservationists Nathan Herr and Monica Blanchard gave presentations on mason bees and riparian plants. Students learned about the value of mason bees as pollinators and how to attract them by doing simple DIY projects to create shelter for the bees. Students created their own mason bee hives out of pieces of PVC pipe. They also learned about what a riparian area is, the importance of plants in riparian zones, what kinds of plants are suited to these areas, and how to identify some native riparian plants. Educating kids about our natural resources and getting them excited about conservation is an important part of the District's mission.

