

**SPRING  
2018**

Native Plant Spotlight:



**Camas**

(*Camassia leichtlinii caerulea* Maybelle)  
Produces flowers from April to June  
Photo By: fourthcornernurseries.com

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# The Columbia SWCD presents: “The Dirt”

## More Than Just “Pipe” Dreams

With field season once again approaching, staff has been working hard to identify, plan, and prioritize restoration projects. Here is a sneak peek at a few potential projects.

### Dribble Creek Culvert Removal

**Landowner:** Hancock Forest Management Inc.

**Potential Partners:** ODFW, OWEB, NRCS.

**Location:** Headwater tributary of the Clatskanie River, off Schaffer Road, “Middle of nowhere”

**Scope of Project:** Removal of an undersized and perched culvert that is located on an abandoned logging road and decommission road to open up the stream. The culvert blocks downstream passage of adult and juvenile fish at certain flow levels and causes scour and sediment accretion.

**Potential benefits:** 1) Allow fish passage to the upper reaches of Dribble Creek; 2) Restore watershed processes by allowing increased water and sediment movement past the culvert site; and 3) Eliminate sediment buildup at the mouth of the culvert.

**Area of impact:** Open up approx. 1 mile of upstream habitat.



### Apiary Road Fish Passage Improvement

**Landowner:** Columbia County

**Potential Partners:** LCRWC, County Roads Dept., ODFW, Weyerhaeuser.

**Location:** Confluence of the Little Clatskanie River and mainstem Clatskanie River where Apiary Rd. crosses the Little Clatskanie.

**Scope of Project:** In their current condition these culverts are a total barrier to flow and fish passage. Project will include replacement of the culverts, which will allow for complete passage of juvenile and adult salmonids. The new culvert or bridge will meet ODFW fish passage criteria, establishes and maintains the natural stream morphology, and meets Columbia County Road Standards.

**Potential benefits:** 1) Increased fish passage; 2) Floodplain reconnection; 3) Improved upstream habitat; 4) Decreased risk of flooding; and 5) Restore natural flow and sediment transport.

**Area of impact:** Open up approx. 6.5 miles of the Little Clatskanie. In that 6.5 miles, there has been considerable work with partners, specifically ODFW and Weyerhaeuser, to restore sections of the stream with large wood.

### Fishhawk Creek Habitat Restoration

**Landowner:** Johnson Family

**Partners:** OR Dept. of Agriculture

**Location:** Near Fishhawk Lake, tributary of the Nehalem River.

**Scope of Project:** Improve the riparian condition along the creek and add large wood structures in-stream. A steep cut bank will be sloped to allow vegetation to grow and re-establish root structures, reducing further erosion. Livestock fences will be set back to keep animals out of riparian area.

**Potential benefits:** 1) Restore overall ecological and environmental health of system; 2) Improve water quality through the establishment of plants and trees that provide shade and filtration of surface runoff; 3) Reduce erosion of streambank through installment of large wood structures in-stream and the development of plant communities along the riparian corridor; and 4) Provide fish habitat (including high flow and predator refuge) and enhance stream complexity with in-stream wood structures.

**Area of impact:** Roughly 500 feet of stream and streambank.



# 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  
**Monica Blanchard**

Resource Conservationist  
**Selene Keeney**

Riparian Specialist  
**Crystalyn Bush**

Office and Outreach Coordinator  
**Jennifer Steinke**

Field Restoration Ecologist  
**Jenny Dezso**

## NRCS STAFF

District Conservationist  
**Don Mehlhoff**

Program Support Tech  
**Dee Robinson**

Civil Engineer  
**Davis Hernandez-Alvarez**

## CSWCD BOARD

Chair:  
**Lona Pierce**

Vice Chair:  
**Bill Eagle**

Treasurer:  
**Kay C. VanNatta**

Secretary:  
**Randy Bergman**

Director:  
**Dave Freytag**

Director:  
**Craig Ellis**

Director:  
**Jason Busch**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**03/10/18 8:30 am - 1:30 pm: Columbia County Small Woodlands Association Tree Seedling Sale**  
 Still looking for a few seedlings for the upcoming planting season? Douglas-fir and Western Redcedar are available and many other native ornamental trees! Sale will be located at Lawrence Oil/Pacific Pride off Hwy. 30 in St. Helens.

**04/07/18 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm: Friends of Nob Hill Work Party, Nob Hill Park, St. Helens**  
 Help keep Nob Hill beautiful by volunteering a few hours of your time to pull weeds and maintain trails at one of St. Helens' few nature parks. Meet at the front entrance of the park. Parking available at 451 Plymouth Street. Dress appropriately; bring gloves and water.

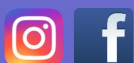
**04/14/18 9:00 am - 3:00 pm: SBWC Native Plant Sale; Scappoose High School**  
 Want to add some beautiful and beneficial native plants to your garden? Come by and check out Scappoose Bay Watershed Council's native plant sale located at the nursery behind SHS. Call or email Amber for more information at [amber@scappoosebay-wc.org](mailto:amber@scappoosebay-wc.org) or 503-397-7904.

**04/21/18 8:00 am - 12:00 pm: Household Hazardous Waste Collections; Vernonia**  
 Located near city park off 377 Bridge Street. Dispose of assorted hazardous waste items for free. For questions or a list of accepted items, please Contact Kathy Boutin-Pasterz, Solid Waste Program Coordinator for Columbia County at 503-397-7259 or by email at [Kathleen.Boutin-Pasterz@co.columbia.or.us](mailto:Kathleen.Boutin-Pasterz@co.columbia.or.us)

**04/28/18 9:00 am - 3:00 pm: OSU Extension Master Gardener's Spring Fair**  
 The Columbia County Master Gardener's will be having their spring fair and tomato plant sale at the St. Helens High School. Local vendors and general garden information provided.

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

@Columbiaswcd





# What in the Weeds?!

Italian arum is an extremely invasive ornamental groundcover that quickly develops into a weedy nightmare. It has distinctive, deep, white veins running along its long, arrow-shaped leaves. It produces flowers in April to June with a pale hood-like leaf growing around a white-yellow spadix that gives off an unpleasant odor. Berries form after the flower dies off turning from green to bright orange. It spreads by underground tubers in contaminated soil and by seeds, which can be widely dispersed by birds. It is toxic to humans



West Multnomah SWCD



Crystalyn Bush, Columbia SWCD

and animals. Italian arum prefers moist, shady areas and is a threat to our forestlands. The Columbia SWCD recently made its first discovery of this plant in our county at a commercial site in St. Helens. Please report sightings of this plant to our Invasive Species Hotline at 1-800-741-6105 or [weeds@columbiaswcd.com](mailto:weeds@columbiaswcd.com) and please do not buy or plant it.

# Let's Bag Hunger!

The Columbia SWCD will be giving away this Premium Emergency Survival Bag, equipped with 72 hours of Disaster Preparedness Supplies for 2 people. (Nearly a \$200 value!)



To enter the drawing, bring at least 2 items into our office at 35285 Millard Road in St. Helens during our business hours. All donations will go to the Columbia Pacific Food Bank. This Giveaway will end March 19, 2018!

A list of Most Wanted Foods can be found on the Food Bank's website at: <http://cpfoodbank.org/most-wanted-foods/>



# Garden Gab: Bundle Up and Dig Down

Though there is still a chill in the air, now is the time to give your garden a head start. The danger of frost is not in the past so, if you are seeding outdoors, be sure to choose plants that are frost hardy and cool season crops.

**Gardening tip from the SWCD:** Make a mason bee house to hang near your garden. Mason bees are excellent pollinators and less likely to sting than other bees. Come by our office for information on how to build one ... it's a great project for the whole family and you'll be doing something good for your garden and the environment!

(Feel like sharing? Post photos of your garden greatness on our Facebook page and share tips with other growers.)

## Seed Outdoors

- March:** Arugula\*, Asian greens\*\*, Asparagus\* (crown), Chard\*, Fava Beans, Garlic (cloves), Kale, Mustard greens\*, Peas\*, Scallions\*\*, Spinach\*\*
- April:** Beets\*, Broccoli\*, Cabbage (early types)\*, Carrots\*, Cauliflower\*, Celeriac\*, Celery\*, Chard\*, Choi\*, Cilantro\*, Dill, Endive\*, Fennel (bulbing), Jerusalem Artichoke\* (tuber), Kohlrabi\*, Lettuce\*, Radicchio, Radish, Sorrel, Turnips\*
- May:** Basil, Beans\*, Bruss. sprouts\*, Cabbage, Collards\*, Dill, Fennel (bulbing), Leeks (over wintering), Parsnips\*, Potatoes\* (tubers), Pumpkin, Radicchio, Radish, Rutabaga, Salad greens, Squash (summer), Squash (winter)

## Seed Indoor

- March:** Broccoli, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Celeriac, Celery, Eggplant\*, Leeks, Lettuce, Peppers\*, Scallions, Tomatoes\*, Tomatillos\*
- April:** LATE APRIL- Basil, Cucumber, Melon, Pumpkin, Squash (summer), Squash (winter)
- May:** Basil, Cucumber, Melon



\* Indicates best times and methods of planting  
 \*\* Indicates plant may be seeded outdoors during any of the three months listed.

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

# DID YOU KNOW... Your Water Rights

Under Oregon law, water resources are controlled by the State and are distributed to landowners as "water rights". Cities, irrigators, businesses, and other water users must obtain a permit or license from the Water Resources Department to use water from any source including designated irrigation wells, rivers, streams, or other bodies of water. Water rights determine whether your farm may access irrigation water, how much, at what times of year, and who has priority to use the water first. If your land does not already have a water right, you might not be able to get one. Check with your local watermaster about water rights attached to your particular taxlot or about the potential for the development of new water rights on your land.

**Did You Know?** Domestic wells may not be used to irrigate commercial agricultural crops. The chart to the right shows acceptable domestic well uses and exemptions.

## OREGON'S WATER CODE: 4 FUNDAMENTAL PROVISIONS

### · Beneficial purpose without waste

Surface or groundwater may be legally diverted for use only if it is used for a beneficial purpose without waste.

### · Priority

The water right priority date determines who gets water in a time of shortage. The more senior the water right, the longer water is available in a time of shortage.

### · Appurtenancy

Generally, a water right is attached to the land, as long as the water is used. If the land is sold, the water right transfers with the land to the new owner.

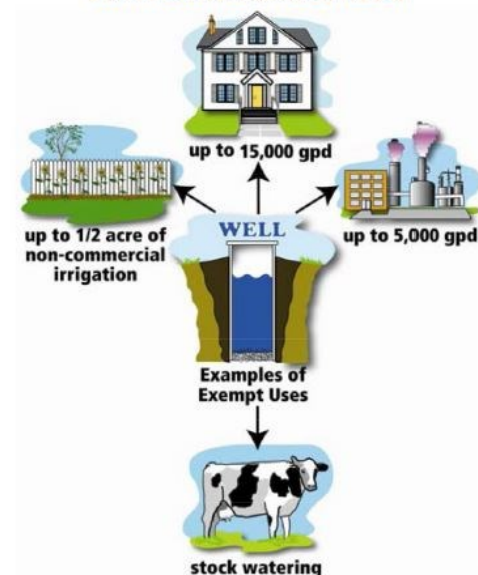
### · Must be used

Once established, a water right must be used as provided in the right at least once every five years. With some exceptions established in law, after five consecutive years of non-use, the right is considered forfeited and is subject to cancellation.

### Domestic well exemptions

Most rural properties have a domestic well, which is intended to supply up to 15,000 gallons per day for household use. A domestic well may also be used to irrigate up to ½ acre of lawn and noncommercial garden and provide drinking water for livestock.

#### Current statute (ORS 537.545)



Each use is a separate exemption. For example, irrigation of lawn and garden is not included in the 15,000-gallon-per-day exemption. One well could serve multiple exempt uses.

Illustration: Oregon Water Resources Department

## For Information About New Water Rights or a Water-Use Permit

Contact the State of Oregon Water Resources Department at (503) 986-0900 or visit their website: [www.wrd.state.or.us](http://www.wrd.state.or.us)

More information is available at: <http://www.oregon.gov/OWRD/Pages/index.aspx>

## No Water Rights? No Problem! Use the Rain!

When water touches the ground in Oregon it becomes property of the State and then you need a water right to use it. However, when rain hits the roof of your house, barn, shop, or shed and goes into a gutter, that's water you can use for agricultural or other purposes. A basic rainwater collection system includes a roof, gutters or roof drains, pipes, a pump, and a storage tank or cistern. Storage tanks can be inside or outside. However, water coming off a roof can contain organic debris, chemicals leached from roofing materials, and pathogens. Your desired use will determine the level of filtration you need. Knowing your water need and average monthly rainfalls will help you determine how much storage you should have, system design options, and the cost to install the system. Use this online calculator to see how much you could collect: [www.watercache.com/resources/rainwater-collection-calculator](http://www.watercache.com/resources/rainwater-collection-calculator). Collection systems can be super simple DIY projects or require the use of construction equipment and a professional installation crew.



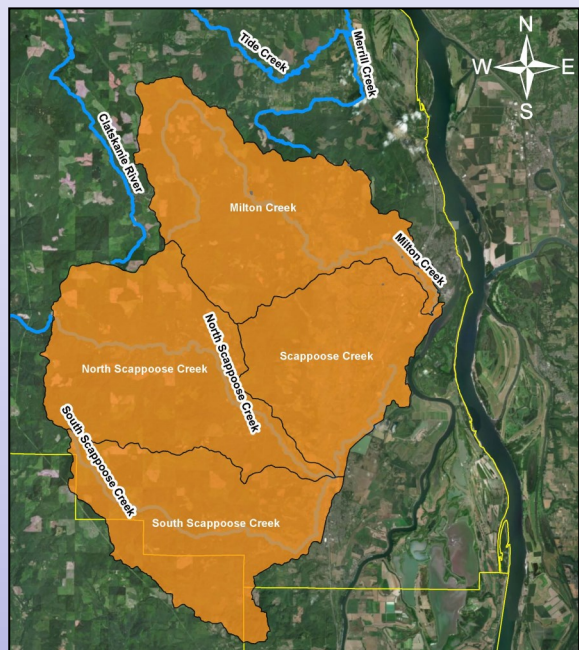


# Partnering for Success

## Q & A's with the Scappoose Bay Watershed Council Coordinator

- How big is the Scappoose Bay Watershed (SBW)?**

"The Watershed is 122,256 acres. It is a 5<sup>th</sup>-field HUC (hydrologic unit code) of the Lower Willamette Watershed. The SBW drains 191 square miles, primarily in southern Columbia County and contains five sub watersheds. Four of these: Milton Creek, North and South Scappoose Creeks, and Scappoose Creek flow into the Scappoose Bay. The Gilbert River sub watershed encompasses most of Sauvie Island plus smaller creeks running off the West Tualatin Hills, and flows into the Multnomah Channel."



- What are the major salmon bearing streams within the Watershed, and what salmonid species are present?**

"Milton Creek, North Scappoose Creek, South Scappoose Creek, and tributaries within those sub watersheds are our major salmon streams. McNulty and Honeyman Creek are also anadromous streams. Major salmonid species present include Lower Columbia River (LCR) Fall Chinook and Coho salmon, LCR Winter Steelhead, and Pacific lamprey. Upper Willamette River (UWR) spring Chinook also use Scappoose Bay."

- What is SBWC's mission, priorities or focus areas?**

"We promote and support a healthy watershed through projects that protect and restore native fish, wildlife, and plants, and by working with the community to educate and encourage participation in enhancing and enjoying their natural surroundings. Currently we are focusing on multiple instream projects in South and North Scappoose Creeks and upper Milton Creek. We are also doing Strategic Planning activities for the entire watershed and on Sauvie Island; and will be doing restoration activity planning in the lower portion of Milton Creek. Another major focus is in riparian native vegetation projects on the small scale level across the watershed, and with associated native vegetation education efforts."

- What are some upcoming projects or big updates the community should know about?**

"The largest project we are currently working on is restoration along a mile of the South Scappoose Creek through the City of Scappoose. We are in the final design phase and expect to do construction in 2018. Other projects include replacement of a culvert on Robinette Road over Dart Creek (2018 construction), and completion of our Strategic Action Plan this spring. These projects are described on our website: <http://www.scappoosebay-wc.org/projects/>"

- How does the Council Partner with the Columbia SWCD?**

"The Council partners with the CSWCD through supporting participation on grant projects, using expertise, and (sharing) resources where available and appropriate." The Columbia SWCD is currently assisting the SBWC on several large restoration projects; the SBWC in turn is providing support for weeds surveying, plantings, and outreach.



Staff: (left to right) Pat Welle, Council Coordinator; Amber Kester, Watershed Technician; Chris Vanderzanden, Communication Specialist  
 BOARD: (left to right) Barbara White, Lonny Welter, Jane Hartline, Greg Pettit, Maddy Sheehan, Steve Turo, Howard Blumenthal.  
 Not pictured: Jean Landers

**Columbia SWCD**  
**35285 Millard Road**  
**St. Helens, OR 97051**

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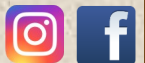
If you would prefer to receive our newsletter electronically, please send a request to [jennifer.steinke@columbiaswcd.com](mailto:jennifer.steinke@columbiaswcd.com).

## Contact us:

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

**Phone:** 503-433-3205 **Email:** [information@columbiaswcd.com](mailto:information@columbiaswcd.com)

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



## IDENTIFY YOUR WEED



**LESSER CELANDINE**

Perennial, herbaceous groundcover blooming March—April. Reproduces from seeds and tubers. Often moved in contaminated soils. Prefers full to partial shade. Deciduous forests are highly vulnerable to invasion. Creates dense stands excluding native wildflowers and forbs.



**GARLIC MUSTARD**

Biennial, herbaceous plant blooms April—June. Invades forestlands, riparian areas, and roadsides. Emits underground chemical that prevents establishment of other plants. Can form dense stands Report sightings of Garlic mustard and other noxious weeds to our Invasive Species Hotline: 1-800-741-6105 or [weeds@columbiaswcd.com](mailto:weeds@columbiaswcd.com).



**YELLOW ARCHANGEL**

Perennial, herbaceous groundcover blooming April—June. Easily identifiable silvery-grey markings on leaves. Reproduces by seed and stolons. Prefers partial shade, and moist, nutrient rich soil. Infestations spread quickly from disturbances like logging.

\* 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 when working with plants, and 4) Seek advice before using herbicides.\*