



Summer 2016

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THE CONSERVATION VOICE

POLK SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

580 MAIN STREET, SUITE A, DALLAS, OR 97338
503-623-9680 OR POLKSWCD@POLKSWCD.COM

Promoting voluntary conservation and the wise use of natural resources in
Polk County, Oregon since 1966!

Manager's Message



Karin Stutzman

Protecting Surface Water Quality in Livestock Grazing Pastures

One of the goals of the Polk SWCD is to control erosion of soils and protect water quality. Minimizing bare soils and managing surface water runoff from drainage infrastructures down to roadside drainage ditches, or other channels of drainage across property, fits into this goal. In grazing pasture, water can flow over the surface, through the grass, down a slope, and concentrate into small channels as it is exiting the property towards these drainage passages. This can sometimes create numerous trouble spots across the pasture that can become muddy, trampled messes of stirred up sediment, which in turn adds to cumulative sediment buildup that feeds into larger stream systems, further reducing overall water quality.

Some simple yet effective ways to minimize trampling of these small drainage channels are to take a T-post and some smooth wire and make a barrier to keep animals out and then place fallen tree branches or small logs in the drainage channel, horizontally or vertically. This effectively keeps livestock from stepping into the channel and creating a mucky mess, and still allows draining surface water to flow through and exit cleanly off the property.

You don't have to spend a lot of time or money to create this simple yet effective fix and you'll be preventing soil erosion and protecting water quality at the same time.

If you have some simple yet effective ways to help prevent soil erosion and protect water quality, please send an email to manager@polkswcd.com or mail it in with a picture of your unique fix to:



POLK SWCD
580 Main Street, Suite A,
Dallas, OR 97338

Polk SWCD is an equal opportunity provider and employer and prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information should contact the district office at 503-623-9680.

Technical Assistant Grants

The Polk SWCD has offered landowners funding opportunities to improve amenities for pasturing animals and manure storage, along with habitat restoration practices and other less costly projects through grant funds available via the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board's (OWEB) Small Grant Program for many years. For exceptional opportunities, larger restoration grants are available from OWEB as well.



However, an often overlooked OWEB offering is the technical assistance grants program. Mainly these funds are used to supply SWCDs and other organizations with backing for positions to offer CREP programs (Conservation Reserve Enhancement Programs) or other often temporary task-focused positions, but also are utilized for engineering solutions to technical problems landowners face. For example - this program can be tapped for landowners who own property with stream crossings with fish blocking culverts. Older culverts are often not up to fish passage standards for a variety of potential reasons, blocking native fish species from using abundant upstream miles and smaller tributaries as spawning or rearing habitat. Of course landowners often can't simply remove these culverts or they'd face loss of production land, unwanted changes in drainage, loss of habitat for other wildlife species, or simply basic access to a portion of their property. Facing these challenges, landowners are often forced to make the least costly decision and accept these fish blocking culverts. Even with readily available personal funds to address the passage issue, without an experienced project manager, the venture may become lost in permits and paperwork from the various state and federal agencies.



Before



After

With the help of the Polk SWCD, landowners can help secure outside funding to employ an engineering team to design a fish passage friendly solution that allows for continued access across the waterway and navigate paperwork necessary for in stream construction. Once secured, the landowner and SWCD can detail a restoration grant that will further leverage OWEB funds to complete the work and restore a more natural, fish friendly crossing without the loss of access or heavily frontloaded investments from the landowner. If you feel like your property might be a candidate for this kind of opportunity, **please give the SWCD a call at 503-623-9680.**

Bio-Control Workshop and Tour

JUMP ON THE BIOCONTROL BUS:
INTRODUCTORY BIOLOGICAL PEST MANAGEMENT FOR
NURSERIES AND GREENHOUSES



Photo: Suzanne Wainwright-Evans

For more information visit http://www.pesticide.org/biological_pest_mgmt_for_nurseries_2016

A Workshop and Educational Tour/Demonstration
Wednesday June 15, 2016 . 8:00 am – 5:00 pm
OSU North Willamette Research & Extension Center (NWREC)
15210 NE Miley Rd, Aurora, OR 97002



Pollinator Habitat: The Benefits for Land and Landowner

From backyards to stream banks and cover crops to field borders, pollinator habitat benefits more than just the bees. Over the past decade the decline in bee populations has spurred a new focus on the establishment of flower-rich habitat to increase the availability of pollen and nectar resources. Regardless of an individual's affinity for bees, installing flowering cover crops as well as native flowering annuals, perennials and shrubs, benefit both land and landowner.



Brown Belted Bumblebee



Fritillary Butterfly

Pollinators are to thank for around 75% of the crops grown worldwide, which include a wide array of legumes, fruits, vegetables, herbs, and grains (for a more complete list of crops dependent upon or benefited by insect pollination go to: http://www.plants.usda.gov/pollinators/Native_Pollinators.pdf). Not only are the pollinators themselves advantageous, so too is their habitat; installing pollinator habitat not only augments the native pollinator populations, but it also can help reduce erosion in and around fields, filter runoff along streams, provide food and cover for wildlife, serve as a windbreak or noise barrier, and provide a vibrant view for landowners to appreciate.

Landowners in both urban and rural locations can increase pollinator habitat can add pollinator habitat to their property. Whether installing a single shrub (although planting in groups increases pollination efficiency) or designing and installing an expansive pollinator hedgerow, successful plantings take the following into consideration:

- Space and labor requirements, it may seem obvious but that cute twiggy shrub at the nursery is not going to stay that size forever. Make sure the space available suits the mature size of the plants. For hedgerows, spacing between plants makes a huge impact on how the competing weeds can be controlled. Native plants require less pest and moisture control in the long run, which means less time and energy for the landowner.
- Even Polk County native plant species have varying precipitation, soil and light requirements; when plants are well suited to the site they will require less landowner time and energy to thrive.
- Bloom period: planting early and late bloomers (and everything in between) supplies native pollinators continuous access to their food source, so they're more likely to stick around. Native osoberry blooms before spring has sprung, and native oceanspray blooms into fall. For hedgerow plantings at least three different species per bloom time is recommended to maximize the benefits.
- Coordinate with crop pollination needs. Selecting a variety of plants to attract a variety of pollinators is great when the planting area is significant. But, when trying to attract pollinators for the benefit of a particular crop with limited space, getting to know the specific pollinators, when they're in need of additional nectar source, and their preference of flower colors and shapes can tailor the planting to meet the specific needs of the site.
- Landowner aesthetic and function preferences; pollinator habitat can take on many forms and serve a variety of secondary functions as determined by the landowner. For example, flowering evergreens provide the best year round noise barrier; short statured plants won't obstruct a beautiful view and are practical near intersections and power lines.

Before buying chemicals to control pests on your property, check the labels and consult the following publication to minimize the risk to pollinators:

<http://www.xerces.org/wp-content/uploads/2009/12/xerces-organic-approved-pesticides-factsheet.pdf>.

To learn more about local pollinators and how to identify read the following guide:

<https://www.oregon.gov/ODA/shared/Documents/Publications/IPPM/NativeBeeGuide.pdf>.

If you have additional questions or would like more resources, call the Polk SWCD Office at 503-623-9680 or email polkswcd@polkswcd.com.



Pollinator Strip

Voluntary Conservation Practices for Water Quality

As the days get longer, folks are spending more time outdoors. Whether you're a farmer or a rural landowner, there's an opportunity to identify room for improvement as you explore your property this summer. One thing to consider is how your management actions impact water quality.

In Oregon, voluntary and regulatory programs have been designed to prevent agricultural-area activities from polluting water. In recognition of Oregon's geographic diversity, the state's water basins were divided into separate Management Areas. Local Advisory Committees were formed to develop specific rules, plans, and recommendations for the different Management Areas. Polk County includes two Management Areas, the Yamhill Basin (green) and the Middle Willamette Basin (blue).



For both the Yamhill and Middle Willamette areas, Prevention and Control Measures (PCMs) have been identified as ways to improve water quality. Some examples of potential water pollution issues and PCMs to address these issues are included below. As you inspect your land for areas that need improvement, please also look for opportunities to protect water quality.

For more information on the Agricultural Water Quality Plans, PCMs, and financial assistance opportunities, contact:

**Stacey Garrison: 503-623-9680 ext. 101
or email rci@polkswcd.com**

To see the complete Ag Water Quality Area Management Plans visit: <http://www.polkswcd.com/agriculture.html>



Description of issue	Example images		Prevention & Control Measure
	Needs improvement	Looking good	
Bare field with rills and gullies; pollutants can be transported to waterways			Plant cover crops to slow water, hold soil and prevent weed establishment
Bare areas in pastures; soil compaction, pollutants can be transported to waterways			Rotational grazing and heavy-use area when soil is saturated with water. Allows grass to recover from grazing and trampling
Bare ground or insufficient vegetation along ditches and streams; pollutants can be transported to waterways			Plant vegetation to provide shade, bank stability, and filter runoff

Volunteers needed – Polk County Fair “Boots, Chaps & Cowboy Hats”

Historically, Polk SWCD has run the entrance tent to the [Polk County Fair](#). This has been done with three goals in mind:

- Promotion of the districts programs and projects to help local people learn about the services we provide.
- Providing educational activities and information to all ages.
- Helping to promote the local groups and events at the fair that receive less traffic such as the animal barns; this is done through our passport program.

In the past we have recruited volunteers to help us with the fair booth, doing activities such as running the passport or manning the simpler interactive pieces of our booth. This year however we are upping our volunteer needs by adding more interactive activities than ever before, as well as partnering with the NRCS to have a mascot at the fair. Yes that’s right, a mascot. We are looking for any and all volunteers who would be willing to assist at the fair booth or wear our mascot costume for us. It is Sammy Soil, a ped (or soil particle).



Sammy

Please contact Sawyer Finegan (sawyer.finegan@polkswcd.com) if you are interested in volunteering or would like to be added to our volunteer list for future events. The dates are August 11-13, 10am-10pm. Volunteers of all ages are invited to join us, any help we can get we will take from a half hour to a full day.

Boots, chaps and cowboy hats not provided, but feel free to bring your own!

OSU Extension Tree Topics: Douglas Fir “Flare Out”*



By Brad Withrow-Robinson, Forestry & Natural Resources Extension Agent, Benton, Linn and Polk Counties

Young Douglas-fir trees with dying branches or tops turning brown, then red have become a common sight all around the Willamette Valley this spring. What is going on?

This “flare out” of branches and tops are classic drought symptoms in Douglas-fir, which we are linking to last year’s weather when we had a particularly long, dry and very hot period late in the summer. Late season drought injuries to the stem and leader do not always show up when they occur, but often express themselves the following spring as trees start to grow. We have these drought damage events from time to time here in the valley, [most recently in 2013](#) and again before that around 2000. Older trees typically have milder symptoms, but the many older, flat-topped Douglas-fir trees you see are a reflection of past droughts and non-fatal damage.



It is important to keep in mind that the Willamette Valley can be a challenging environment for trees. Summers are significantly hotter and drier in the Valley than in the mountains, and we have many poorly drained or shallow soils that are not well-suited to many kinds of trees. So, we tend to see most drought stress damage on more marginal sites, where wet or shallow soils limit tree root growth, water availability, or both. It is also often more common in younger trees (20 years and younger) whose root system may be having trouble keeping up with rapid expansion of their crowns.

Heat and drought can kill trees outright, or often just put the trees under stress. Stress can then lead to problems with secondary pests (including insects such as the twig weevil and diseases such as stem cankers) which take advantage of a stressed tree’s weakened condition. Right now we are mostly seeing the effects of drought in Douglas-fir, but can probably expect to see problems emerge among some other conifers as the year progresses, especially if we stay as dry as we are now.



Here are two good articles from the ODF Forest Health team. They are a few years old but very relevant, explaining [Dead tops and Branches](#) (with good pictures) and about [Drought and Mortality](#).

*<http://blogs.oregonstate.edu/treetopics/2015/05/05/many-douglas-fir-with-dead-tops-and-branches-in-the-willamette-valley-this-year/>

Little Brown Bat Hit With Deadly ‘White Nose’ Syndrome

By Jes Burns OPB/EarthFix | March 31,

A devastating disease that has killed millions of bats in the eastern United States has now been confirmed in the Pacific Northwest. For the first time **white nose syndrome** has been found west of the Rocky Mountains.

In mid-March, a hiker on a mountain trail east of Seattle found an ailing bat and brought it into a local animal hospital. Two days later, the bat was dead. A government lab confirmed it had an advanced case of white nose syndrome.



Photo Credit: Progressive Animal Welfare Society

The disease is caused by a fungus (*Pseudogymnoascus destructan*) that leaves a characteristic white coating on a bat's nose. The fungus attacks the wings and disrupts hibernation cycles. It can spread from bat to bat, or by other means, like by humans who visit infected areas. With a mortality rate of up to 100 percent, it's wiped out bat populations in the Eastern United States, killing more than 6 million total of seven different species.

The loss of millions of bats — and the possible extinction of some species — has big implications for the ecosystem.

Bats consume insects, saving farmers in the U.S. alone over \$3 billion annually in pest control services, according to the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. Many species of bats are also valuable for the pollination of plants and dispersal of plant seeds.

The level of infection in the little brown bat found near North Bend, Washington, is telling, says Jeremy Coleman, National White Nose Syndrome Coordinator for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

“That does suggest that the fungus has probably been present,” he said. “Based on our experience in Eastern North America, that bats don't succumb to that level of disease until the fungus has been present for multiple years.”

Combine this with the broad range of the little brown bat in Washington (and the surrounding states), and biologists believe it likely this isn't an isolated case. “It's certainly a strong possibility it would be affecting a larger area,” says Biologist Greg Falxa with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.

But the scientists stress that with a sample size of one, they still don't know if and how far the disease has spread in the Northwest.

In the eastern U.S., white nose syndrome has led to closures of caves to the public. And managers of those that remain open are taking precautions to limit spread of the fungus spores — like requiring visitors to walk across decontamination mats when entering and exiting the caves.

Officials say it's too early to make any kind of similar decision in the Northwest.

“We really don't know where these bats are spending their time. We don't know where the white nose is,” says WDFW's Penny Becker.

In addition little brown bats in Washington behave differently than the cave-dwelling bats back East. The bats in the Northwest live in rock crevices, trees and buildings as well.

“So this is not as simple as closing a couple caves as far as limiting where these bats are,” Becker says.

WDFW is working with federal agencies to answer these broader questions now. They're looking for other infected bats and examining the fungus to see if it's the same strain that has infected other bats in the country.

State officials are asking members of the public to report sick, dead or erratically behaving bats by calling:

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Division Main Line: 866-968-2600

or online at http://www.dfw.state.or.us/wildlife/health_program/WNS/reporting.asp



Call to Report: 1-866-INVADER

“B” Rated Weeds

A weed of economic importance which is regionally abundant, but may have limited distribution in some counties

Garlic mustard
Alliaria petiolata

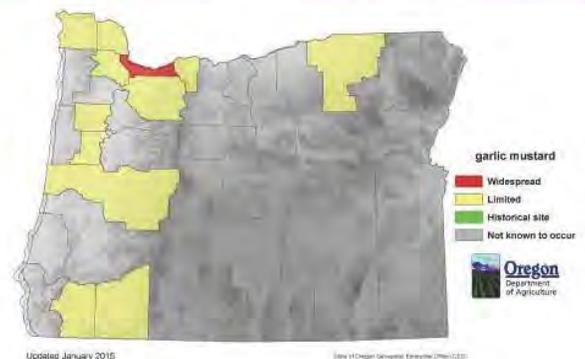
Other common names: Hedge garlic, sauce-alone, jack-by-the-hedge, poor man's mustard, garlic root, garliwort, mustard root

USDA symbol: ALPE4
ODA rating: B and T



Introduction: This European native was first planted in North America in the 1800s. It was cultivated for food and medicine by pioneers who valued its garlic flavor. It is predominantly a weedy species of deciduous woodlands in the east and Midwest and is now well established in Oregon. Its an early bloomer and easy to identify in our woodland environment.

Distribution in Oregon: Garlic mustard was first documented in Oregon in 1959 in Multnomah County. An additional garlic mustard introduction occurred in the upper Umatilla River in the early part of the 20th century. The north Willamette Valley is the epicenter of garlic mustard in Oregon. Another infestation occurs along the Rogue River.



Description: Garlic mustard is a biennial. The rosettes form by midsummer the first year, overwinter, then bloom April through June the second year. It grows an average height of one to three feet tall. Basal leaves are dark green, kidney shaped, scalloped and two to four inches in diameter. Stem leaves are alternate, sharply toothed, triangular, and get smaller towards the top of the stem. Garlic mustard produces a distinct garlic odor when crushed. Flower stalks are usually single, branched or not branched. Flowers are ¼ inch wide with four white petals that are narrow at base. The plant is quite showy.

Impacts: Garlic mustard displaces native forest understory species, reducing diversity and decreasing forage availability for deer. Invaded habitat types include forest openings, forest edges, roadsides, streamside, trails, and pasture land. It thrives in the partial shade of oak woodlands. This plant is difficult to control once established due to seed longevity.

Biological controls: No approved biological control agents are available at this time.



Look out for these INVASIVE INVADERS!

“B” Rated Weeds

A weed of economic importance which is regionally abundant, but may have limited distribution in some counties

Scotch broom
Cytisus scoparius

Other common names: English broom, scot's broom

USDA symbol: CYSC4
ODA rating: B



Introduction: Scotch broom is one of Western Oregon's most widespread and costliest weeds. Scotch broom was widely planted in Western Oregon for dune stabilization and as an ornamental along highway corridors. It is now the most extensive forest weed species and a significant source of pollen effecting allergy sufferers.

Distribution in Oregon: Scotch broom is endemic throughout Western Oregon with the occasional isolated population appearing in the pine forests of eastern Oregon.

Description: Scotch broom is an attractive evergreen shrub with many slender, erect, dark-green branches. It can grow up to 8 feet tall. In May it is adorned with a profusion of yellow flowers maturing to flattened pods with up to a dozen seeds each. Mature dried pods will crackle and pop in mid summer ejecting the seeds a short distance. It can be confused with the less common Spanish broom, Spanish broom has fewer round stems, very few leaves, and larger yellow flowers.

Impacts: Scotch broom is a pioneer species known to displace native plants and smother tree transplants increasing tree death or slowing growth in the early years. It readily invades disturbed sites, natural areas, dunes, and forestlands. Broom control costs on right-of-ways, public facilities, parkland and private property are in the millions of dollars each year due to its rapid growth and persistent nature. Scotch broom is a prolific seed producer of long-lived (10 years plus) seeds. Broom stands establish persistent soil-seed banks requiring long-term commitment to exhaust. The costs attributed to Scotch broom come from labor and chemical inputs needed to control infestations (\$47 million annually) in timberlands and from lost productivity. Pollen production during bloom time also can be quite an allergen source for allergy sufferers.

Biological controls: Three biological control agents, a beetle, a seed weevil and a twig miner are approved for release and have been established in Oregon: *Bruchidius villosus*, *Exapion fuscirostre*, *Leucoptera spartifoliella*. They can significantly reduce seed production and can shorten a broom's life span.



Call to Report: 1-866-INVADER

“B” Rated Weeds

**A weed of economic importance which is regionally abundant,
but may have limited distribution in some counties**

Puncturevine
Tribulus terrestris

Other common names: Goat’s head, bullhead,
Mexican sandbur, Texas sandbur

USDA symbol: TRTE
ODA rating: B



Introduction: Native of the Mediterranean region. Puncturevine was first documented in the Pacific Northwest in 1924 and is suspected to have been a contaminant in wool from Europe. The heavily armored seeds comprise a nuisance in gravel parking lots, along roadways, in irrigated vegetable crops and especially at county fair locations where livestock introduce the seeds attached to their hooves.

Distribution in Oregon: Puncturevine is widely distributed in eastern, southeastern and central Oregon and is increasing in many counties in the Willamette Valley.

Description: Puncturevine is a warm-season annual growing completely prostrate to the ground. Single plants form dense mats four to six feet across. Leaves are opposite, hairy, divided into 4 to 8 pairs of leaflets, each about 1/2 inch long. Flowers are small, yellow, 1/2 inch wide with five petals, borne in the leaf axil. Fruits, consist of a woody bur divided into 5 sections, breaking apart when mature into tack-like structures sporting sharp, rigid spines. A single plant can produce around 400 fruit each containing two or three seeds.

Impacts: Puncturevine infests the edges of fields, ditches, and roadsides where it forms dense mats. Animals, humans, and vehicles easily spread the heavily spined seeds. Puncturevine seeds are very painful to step on and easily puncture bicycle tires or light summer footwear. Even though it is not readily grazed, it is toxic to animals. If growing in orchards or vineyards, it is a problem to the fruit packers. Puncturevine is tolerant of drought conditions and survives well in sandy or gravelly soils.

Biological controls: Two biocontrol agents, a seed weevil and a stem weevil, are established in Oregon.



Look out for these INVASIVE INVADERS!

“B” Rated Weeds

A weed of economic importance which is regionally abundant, but may have limited distribution in some counties

Meadow knapweed
Centaurea pratensis

Other common names: hybrid knapweed

USDA symbol: CEDE5
ODA rating: B



Introduction: Meadow knapweed is a hybrid species with its parentage in Europe. Initially introduced in the Northwest for livestock forage, it is now well established in Western Oregon counties where it is considered invasive. It does produce an abundance of nectar late in the season for honeybees.

Distribution in Oregon: Meadow knapweed is widely distributed in the western part of Oregon with limited but increasing distribution in the northeast and central areas.

Description: Meadow knapweed is a hybrid of black and brown knapweeds. It blooms in midsummer to fall growing from robust root crown. Plant height generally reaches 3'. The lower leaves are long-stalked, upper leaves having no stalk. Stems are many-branched and tipped by a solitary flower head up to one inch wide. Flower heads are pink to reddish purple, oval or almost globe-shaped. A key-identifying feature is the brown brushy-fringed bracts on the flower head. Meadow knapweed's tough perennial root system makes manual control methods very difficult.

Impacts: Meadow knapweed out-competes grasses and other pasture species, reducing grass productivity for forage though sheep find it quite edible. It is susceptible to herbicide treatments, but control efforts must persist for the long-term to decrease soil-seed stocks. It will invade native prairie, oak savannah even clearcuts. Meadow knapweed favors roadsides, sand or gravel bars, riverbanks, irrigated pastures, moist meadows, and forest openings. It also invades industrial sites, tree farms, and grasslands.

Biological controls: Some approved biological control agents released for other knapweeds have become established on meadow knapweed including a seed-head fly, a seed-head moth, and two seed-head weevils. This plant is currently being tested as a host for other approved knapweed biocontrol agents.



Oregon Department of Agriculture • Noxious Weed Control Program
635 Capitol Street NE • Salem, OR 97301 • 503-986-4621
www.oregon.gov/ODA/programs/Weeds/Pages/Default.aspx

Photos by Eric Coombs and Tom Farney, ODA

Help stop the spread of invasive species in Oregon!

oregoninvasiveshotline.org

In their efforts to detect new outbreaks, invasive species experts in Oregon face the daunting challenge of tracking hundreds of potential new invaders across millions of acres of farms, forests, and waterways. They can't do it alone. **They need the help of all Oregonians to be their eyes in the field.**

Have you seen something suspicious in your backyard or neighborhood? Are you having trouble identifying something you've found? Report potential invasive species you've found to the Online Hotline. Your submission will provide vital early detection information to the experts working to stop the next invasion before it starts!

To protect Oregon from invasive species, it is important to stop new outbreaks before they start. By the time an invader is easily noticeable and begins to cause damage, it is often too late. It can be difficult and expensive to remove an established invader. However, by detecting new outbreaks early and acting quickly to control them, we can avoid many of the environmental and economic losses caused by invasive species

The **Oregon Invasive Species Online Hotline** is designed to help you become involved in this effort. By using the Online Hotline to report suspected invasive species in your area, you'll be contributing vital early detection information to the experts best able to stop the spread of invasives. The Online Hotline also lets you connect directly with an expert to get positive identifications and answers to your questions. Please note that the information you provide in your report may become viewable by the public. Private comments can be added after you submit your report.

- **Learn** - Familiarize yourself with the potential invasive species in the areas where you live or visit.
- **Look** - Wherever you are - hiking in the forest, on a fishing trip or digging in your garden - keep your eye out for unusual animals or plants that you have never seen before and be prepared to take a picture and document your find.
- **Report** - Use the Online Hotline to report your find.



Director Spotlight - Frank Pender



Frank Pender is the owner of Tanglewood Timber Products. He has been an At-Large Polk SWCD Board Director since 2011. He is active in the community and serves on several other boards as well (SW Polk Rural Fire District, Willamette Education Service District). **In his own words:**

"I reckon it all began when I was just a very young whippersnapper. My father was in the retail lumber business. At one time he purchased the total output of twenty three sawmills in the East Multnomah and Clackamas County area! As a boy of 6-7 years old, I would often get to ride with my father to many of the mills in his 1949 forest green Studebaker pickup. No seatbelts or car seat requirements in those days!

I recall one mill in particular, the Koch Mill in Sandy, Oregon. What a thrilling place for a little tike! One of the reasons for the remembrance of this particular mill was the straddle carrier rides. This was a special piece of mill equipment that was designed to straddle a unit of timber approximately 36" wide and four or five feet tall. As soon as the drivers of these units would see my father's pickup, they would race to see who would be able to take me for a ride in their straddle carrier. What a blast!

From these sorts of experiences I suppose the sawdust became part of my brain and bloodstream. Jumping ahead twenty years with four years of college behind me, I began a teaching career of 30 years (English, Literature, Social Studies). These years were marked by summers and weekends working the woods, cutting and processing about a hundred cords of firewood a year. Some of those summers were also marked by small logging jobs to help friends.

As the years past I met a young lady that had a 70 acre timber/tree farm near the community in which I taught. As time would have it, I asked her to marry me on our first date, after visiting the tree farm! It worked! We continued providing firewood during summers and weekends until about 1983, when I got the urge to produce lumber rather than firewood. I looked around for a year or two at different mill designs and decided on a Mobile Dimension Sawmill. I discovered they were manufactured in a town just East of Portland Oregon, Troutdale. After visiting the factory, I wrote out a check for a down payment and ordered my first mill. Some would say 'the rest is history' and that is just about correct".



THANK YOU FRANK FOR ALL YOU DO FOR THE DISTRICT and COMMUNITY.

Yamhill Oak Field Day: Restoration and Maintenance

Wednesday, June 29th, 2016

Oregon white oak habitat has been disappearing at an alarming rate over the past couple decades in the Willamette Valley. The Polk and Yamhill Soil & Water Conservation Districts and local landowners have been working hard to reverse this trend.

Join us for a fun day in the field to learn how we can restore and manage this special habitat. We will visit two sites; one under private ownership and the other recently acquired by the district. We will not only get to hang out with magnificent oak trees, but will also learn how to restore and maintain these sites in a real world setting. Limitations such as finances, time, tax deferrals, desired uses, etc. should be factored into conserving these areas. We will also discuss practical ecological goals and how to get there.

AGENDA

- 9:00 am Meet at the Yamhill SWCD office (2200 SW 2nd St. McMinnville, OR 97128)
- 9:15 am Welcome
- 9:20 am Load bus & depart
- 10:00 am Visit Cherry Hill Ranch (21605 SW Cherry Hill Rd., Sheridan)
- 11:30 am Depart
- 12:15 pm Visit Yamhela Oaks Conservation Overlook (16005 NW Rockyford Rd. Yamhill)
- 12:20 pm Lunch break
- 1:00 pm Tour YOCO
- 3:00 pm Wrap-up & Depart
- 3:30 pm Arrive back at the district office



REGISTRATION

There is no cost for attending the field day, but registration is required as we will cap the group at 40 people.

Either email with the title "oak field day" to info@yamhillswcd.org or call Julie or Mary @ (503) 472-6403 to register. **Deadline is June 22nd.**

PREPARATIONS

Please come prepared with a sack lunch, water, hiking shoes, long pants (for poison oak prevention), sunscreen and questions. We will have a bit of an uphill hike at our 2nd stop.

Save the Date: FREE Pesticide Collection



The Pesticide Stewardship Partnership (PSP) program was established by the Oregon Legislature to promote the protection of the state's water resources from the legal storage, handling, and application of pesticides.

The program, which began in 2007, is voluntary and is designed to engage citizens and agricultural, forestry, and industrial stakeholders in assessing the current condition of local water bodies (surface and ground) and cooperatively

developing measures that will reduce or eliminate future occurrences of detected pesticide residues.

The Waste Pesticide Collection Program, which collects unwanted/unusable pesticides, spray mixtures and rinsed pesticide containers from agricultural or commercial operations, has free events set for this year. **The events will not collect household pesticides; those can be disposed of through the Household Hazardous Waste Program.**



State of Oregon
Department of
Environmental
Quality

Watershed Councils' Update

Luckiamute: Volunteer Opportunity

Help keep trash out of our waterways by volunteering to be a part

of the "rear detachment" during the annual Monmouth-Independence Rotary Club Grand Parade. Your mission will include riding or walking beside our truck as part of the Fourth of July parade, holding up signs, and helping to collect trash along the parade route. Don't miss this unique opportunity to keep our waterways clean, and interact with the cheering public as part of a well-loved Fourth of July tradition!



The Rotary Club Grand Parade route is approximately 3.3 miles long, beginning at Western Oregon University in Monmouth and traveling through Monmouth and Independence on Main and Monmouth Streets to Riverview Park where it ends. **We've broken up the 3-mile route into three shorter sections. Volunteers can sign up to join in for just one or two segments, or the whole parade route.**

You can view more details about the parade on the Monmouth-Independence Rotary Club website: www.monmouthindependence.rotary-clubs.org and you can

Sign up here: www.luckiamutelwc.org/grand-parade-volunteer.html

You can also get parade information directly from Kristen Larson at 503- 837-0237 (info@luckiamutelwc.org) or Sawyer Finegan at 503-623-9680 (sawyer.finegan@polkswcd.com).



Greater Yamhill: Spring/Summer Programs

Watershed Education Adventures

Camps: Are you looking for a way to get your kids (Ages 6-12) outside exploring this

spring and summer? Look no further. We will be exploring a variety of parks and natural spaces in our watershed, playing games, getting dirty, and having lots of good old-fashioned fun. WEA Camps are \$55/child per day, Scholarships for reduced cost are available, as well as discounts when registering for the full event.

- **June Adventures** (ages 6-12): June 20th- 25th, 9:00am-3:00pm, Miller Woods Conservation Area
- **July Adventures** (ages 6-12): July 25th-29th, 9:00am-3:00pm, Location to be announced.
- **August Adventure** (ages 6-12): August 22nd-26th, 9:00am-3:00pm, Location to be announced.

For more information or to register for any of the following, go to www.gywc.org, email us at wea@gywc.org, or call 503-474-1047.



Save the Date & Celebrate: Polk SWCD Annual Meeting



CELEBRATING **50 YEARS** OF
INFORMATION AND EDUCATION
ON NATURAL RESOURCES AND
CONSERVATION IN POLK COUNTY,
OREGON

The Polk SWCD Annual Meeting will be on

Thursday, September 15, 2016 from 5:30-8:30 PM at Beckenridge Vineyard
300 Reuben Boise Rd, Dallas, OR 9733

We would like to invite all **past directors, associate directors, and partners** to come and share their memories of the Polk SWCD. If you or someone you know has been involved in the Polk SWCD, or has photos or stories they can share, please contact: clerk@polkswcd.com or call Tom at 503-623-9680.

2016 Director Elections

Notice is hereby given that on **November 8, 2016**, an election will be held for the purpose of electing board directors to the following positions for the Polk Soil and Water Conservation District:

Positions are **ALL 4 (four) year terms**: (see map on next page for zones)

- **At-Large I**
- **Zone 1** (Northern Polk County)
- **Zone 4** (Mid-Polk/Dallas)
- **Zone 5** (Southern Polk County)

Requirements: An individual may qualify for a zone position if the land ownership or land management requirements are met. For Option #1, a zone director must own or manage 10 or more acres of land in the district. Zone directors may either:

- Reside within the zone that is represented and own or manage 10 or more acres in the conservation district boundaries **OR** reside within the conservation district boundaries and own or manage 10 or more acres within the zone that is being represented.
- Be involved in the active management of the property.
- Be a registered voter.

For Option #2, a zone director must:

- Reside within the zone that is represented.
- Have served one year as a director or associate director of a conservation district.
- Have a conservation plan approved by the conservation district board.
- Be a registered voter.

At-Large Director Eligibility

There are no land ownership or management requirements for at-large positions. At-Large Directors must:

- Reside within the boundaries of the conservation district.
- Be a registered voter.

For more information contact Karin Stutzman at 503-623-9680 x 110 or manager@polkswcd.com.

Election forms and information may be found at: <http://www.oregon.gov/ODA/programs/NaturalResources/SWCD/Pages/Elections.aspx>



The Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) Natural Resources Program oversees the conservation district elections process.

Candidates and districts must follow specific guidelines to advertise the elections and to have candidates' applications processed and placed on the ballot.

Candidates and districts are responsible to submit the appropriate paperwork to the local county clerk and to ODA.

Upcoming Events

June 2016

- 8 - Polk SWCD Budget Hearing: 5:00 pm Polk County Fairgrounds (Arts and Crafts Building)
- 8 - Polk SWCD Board Meeting: 6pm Polk County Fairgrounds (Arts and Crafts Building)
- 9- Luckiamute WC Board Meeting: 7pm location TBD call 503-837-0237 for more info
- 15 - Bio-Control Workshop; 8am-5pm (see pg. 2 for more info)
- 16 - Glen Gibson WC Board Meeting: 5pm Salemtowne Breezeway Room call 503-623-9680
- 23- Rickreall WC Board Meeting: 1pm Delbert Hunter Arboretum, Dallas call 503-623-9680
- 20- 25 - GYWC Watershed Education Adventures Camps, 9:00am-3:00pm, Miller Woods Conservation Area.

June 2016 (cont.)

- 29 - Yamhill Oak Field Day; 9am-3:30pm (see pg. 12 for more info).

July 2016

- 4 - Holiday: Office Closed; COME JOIN THE PARADE (see pg. 13 for more info).
- 13 - Polk SWCD Board Meeting: 6pm NRCS Meeting Room, Dallas
- 14- Luckiamute WC Board Meeting: 7pm TBD call 503-837-0237 for more info
- 21 - Glen Gibson WC Board Meeting: 5pm Salemtowne Breezeway Room call 503-623-9680
- 28- Rickreall WC Board Meeting: 1pm Delbert Hunter Arboretum, Dallas call 503-623-9680
- 25-29 - GYWC Watershed Education Adventures Camps, 9:00am-3:00pm, Location to be announced.

August 2016

- 10 - Polk SWCD Board Meeting: 6pm NRCS Meeting Room, Dallas
- 11-13 - Polk County Fair
- 11 - Luckiamute WC Board Meeting: 7pm TBD call 503-837-0237 for more info
- 18 - Glen Gibson WC Board Meeting: 5pm Salemtowne Breezeway Room call 503-623-9680
- 25- Rickreall WC Board Meeting: 1pm Delbert Hunter Arboretum, Dallas call 503-623-9680
- 22-26 - GYWC Watershed Education Adventures Camps, 9:00am-3:00pm, Location to be announced

For more information on these events please contact Polk SWCD or the appropriate agency/council.

Acronyms:

PSWCD — Polk Soil & Water Conservation District: 503-623-9680

NRCS—Natural Resource Conservation Service 503-623-5534

GGWC — Glen-Gibson Watershed Council: 503-623-9680 x 104

LWC — Luckiamute Watershed Council: 503-837-0237

RWC — Rickreall Watershed Council: 503-623-9680 x 104

GYWC — Greater Yamhill Watershed Council: 503-474-1047

OWEB—Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

Polk SWCD Board of Directors



Directors (left to right): Woods, Gordon, McKibben, Simmons, Dalton, Crawford, and Pender

Matt Crawford
Zone 1
polkswcd.zone1director@gmail.com

David Simmons
Zone 2 / Chair
david.simmons@polkswcd.com

Chad Woods
At-Large / Vice Chair
chad.woods@polkswcd.com

Frank Pender
At-Large / Secretary
frank.pender@polkswcd.com

David McKibben
Zone 3
polkswcd.zone3director@gmail.com

Jock Dalton
Zone 4 / Treasurer
polkswcd4@gmail.com

Kelly Gordon
Zone 5
kgordonski@hotmail.com

Directors Emeriti
Tom Thomson
Jim Clawson
Brian Sparks
Terry Lamers
Lois Loop

Associate Directors
Rachel Walker
Judy Beebe
Mel Chase

Polk SWCD is an Oregon Special District administered by seven locally elected directors who serve without pay for four year terms. Five directors represent landowners from each of the 5 geographic zones outlined in the map of the county to the right, and two at large directors represent the entire district. Directors meet monthly to administer the business of the Polk SWCD. The Directors donate hundreds of hours on behalf of the residents of Polk County and its natural resources.

Contact Us

Polk SWCD

Phone: 503-623-9680
580 Main St. Suite A, Dallas, OR 97338

Karin Stutzman— District Manager
manager@polkswcd.com Ext. 110

Marc Bell—Resource Conservationist
marc.bell@polkswcd.com Ext. 103

Liz Graham—Resource Conservationist
liz.graham@polkswcd.com Ext. 107

Lucas Hunt — Stewardship Forester
lucas.hunt@polkswcd.com Ext. 104

Stacey Garrison—Resource Conservationist
rcl@polkswcd.com Ext. 101

Sawyer Finegan—Youth Outreach
sawyer.finegan@polkswcd.com Ext. 113

Tom Wilson — Office Administrator
clerk@polkswcd.com Ext. 108

NRCS

Please note new extensions!

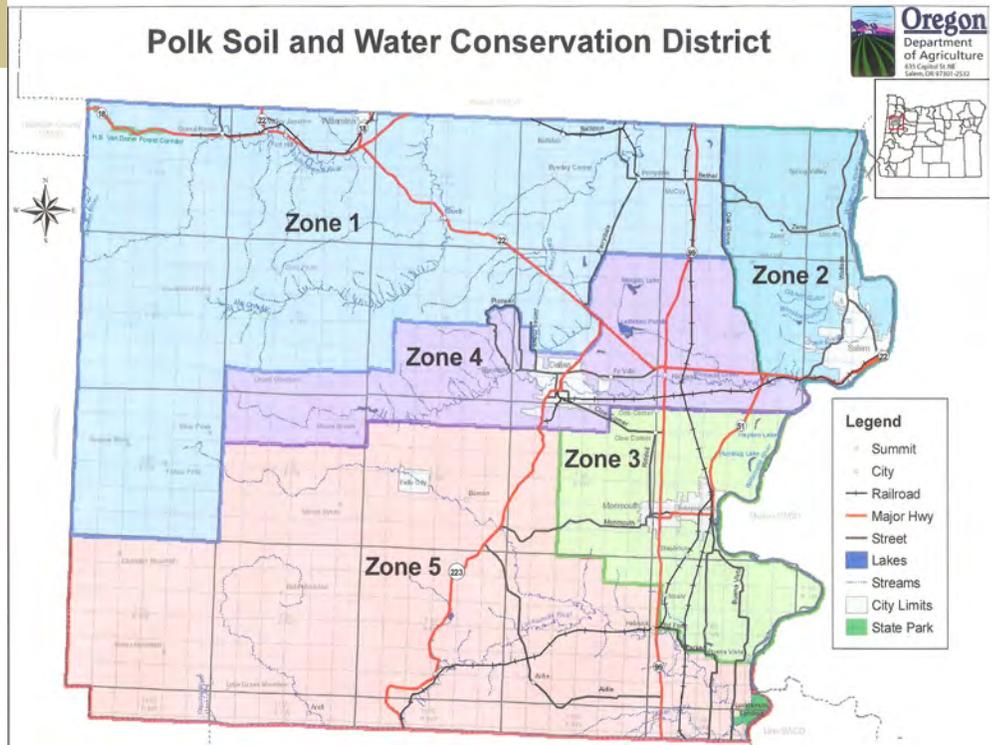
Phone: 503-623-5534 Fax: 1-855-651-8930
580 Main St. Suite A, Dallas, OR 97338

Tom Finegan — District Conservationist
tom.finegan@or.usda.gov Ext. 3689

Sue Reams — Soil Conservationist
sue.reams@or.usda.gov Ext. 3693

Billy Burr — Accounting Specialist
billy.burr@wdc.usda.gov Ext. 3691

Dannelle Aleshire — Wetlands Specialist
dannelle.aleshire@or.usda.gov Ext. 3694



Marion-Polk County FSA

Phone: 503-399-5741 Fax: 1-877-885-8382
650 Hawthorne Ave. SE, St 130,
Salem, OR, 97301

Janelle Huserik— County Executive Director
janelle.huserik@or.usda.gov Ext. 114

Debbie Pothetes — Program Technician
debbie.pothetes@or.usda.gov Ext. 111

Beverly Schmidt — Program Technician
beverly.schmidt@or.usda.gov Ext. 100

Scott Nieman — Farm Loan Manager
Scott.nieman@or.usda.gov Ext. 113

Stuart Butsch — Farm Loan Officer
Stuart.butsch@or.usda.gov Ext. 115

Lora Surmeyer — Farm Loan Program Tech.
Lora.surmeyer@or.usda.gov Ext. 116

Land Management Problems?

Do you own or manage a small farm, woodland, or wildlife acreage in Benton, Polk or Yamhill county that needs improved land management practices? An OWEB Small Grant might just be what you are looking for.

Small Grant Team Contact : Marc Bell
503-623-9680 x 103 or
marc.bell@polkswcd.com



OWEB small grants award up to \$10,000 for on the ground projects that work to improve the productivity and efficiency of grazing systems, animal waste management, erosion control, forest management practices, irrigation, streamside vegetation, rainwater collection, instream fish and wildlife habitat, culvert replacement, plant or animal pest management, noxious weed control and more!

Sponsored by: The Polk Soil and Water Conservation District, Benton SWCD, Yamhill SWCD, and the Luckiamute, Greater Yamhill, Glen-Gibson and Rickreall Watershed Councils.

Offered quarterly starting July 31, 2016

The Polk SWCD is a local public source of information and education on natural resources. We provide a number of free services to help with responsible land stewardship such as:

- **Technical Assistance** - Plant ID assistance, soil and water information, invasive species controls, improvements and protection of wildlife habitat and water quality, manure management, and conservation practices.
- **Land Management** - Assistance in developing forestry, range, farm, wildlife, wetland, and small acreage management plans.
- **Funding Opportunities** - Grants, government programs, and coordinated efforts with other agencies are available to assist with habitat restoration and other natural resource related projects. Cost share programs are available to provide assistance with irrigation system improvements, forest stand improvement, and small farm assistance.

580 MAIN STREET, SUITE A,
DALLAS, OR 97338
503-623-9680 X 5 OR
WWW.POLKSWCD.ORG

*Your local source of assistance in natural
resource management and conservation
education since 1966!*