



# Tillamook County

# SWCD NEWSLETTER

Tillamook County Soil and Water Conservation District Newsletter

August 2017

## Clean Water Festival Exhibit



Weed Program Coordinator/Technician Brad Mead staffed Tillamook County SWCD's exhibit at the Clean Water Festival in March 2017 along with Tom McDermott.

Groups of 4th grade students participated in an educational activity about characteristics of native versus invasive species of plants, and enjoyed the live "weed monster" display showcasing several local invasive plants such as English ivy.

Tom McDermott, TEP Backyard Planting Program Coordinator provided hands-on samples of native tree and shrub species that live in healthy riparian areas and talked about how these plants can influence water quality indicators such as stream temperature, sedimentation, and bacteria.

Upon arriving at the Festival, each 4th grade class was greeted by a friendly volunteer guide who lead them through a series of rotating exhibits about water. It all added up to a day rich in tangible learning, enhanced by good clean fun.

But, the day doesn't stand alone. During the months prior to the festival, the Festival Coordinator Dean Bones, visited each classroom preparing the 4th graders for this day. The presentations were geared to supplement Oregon Science Standards and the program is financially supported, in part, by Oregon Department of Environmental Quality 319 funds.



Find us on the web at:  
[tillamookcountyswcd.org](http://tillamookcountyswcd.org)

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# Scholarship Program Established

The Tillamook County Soil and Water Conservation District has established an annual scholarship program. And we are off to a GREAT start. For our first year, we were pleased in May of 2017 to award two \$1,000 scholarships for the 2017-18 school year!

There were six candidates who applied for the scholarships, The two 2017-18 recipients are **Katie Sherer** and **Benjamin Springs**.

Katie Sherer attended the May 18 SWCD Board Meeting to accept her award.



Pictured L-R: Gus Meyer, Daren Filosi, Bub Boquist, Katie Sherer, Rudy Fenk, Bill Hagerty

**Katie Sherer**, a Tillamook High School graduate, plans to attend Oregon State University in the fall, and major in Biological and Ecological Engineering.

**Benjamin Springs**, also a Tillamook High School graduate, plans to attend Tillamook Bay Community College in the fall, and major in Agriculture and Natural Resource Sciences.

Each year, two \$1000 scholarships will be offered to graduating high school seniors or residents of Tillamook County to be enrolled at any University, College, Junior College or Trade School, working toward an associate, bachelor, graduate degree or trade certification. We actively encourage students to apply.

Tillamook County Soil and Water Conservation District is committed to supporting local students who care about our natural resources and wish to promote conservation, impacting future natural resource decisions. Our goal is to assist college students majoring in the fields of agriculture, natural resource science, or a related discipline. ♿

## Board of Directors

Zone 1  
**Walter Porter**  
*Term Ends 2018*  
Zone 2

**Daren Filosi**  
*Term Ends 2018*

Zone 3  
**Clarence (Bub) Boquist**  
*Term Ends 2020*

Zone 4  
**Bryan Measor**  
*Term Ends 2020*

Zone 5  
**Bill Hagerty**  
*Term Ends 2020*

At Large 1  
**Larry Zweifel**  
*Term Ends 2020*

At Large 2  
**Rudy Fenk**  
*Term Ends 2018*



Chair Rudy Fenk

Visit us at the  
**Tillamook County Fair**  
**August 9-12, 2017.**  
You will find us at our  
booth downstairs in the  
main Exhibit Hall.

# DRIVE TO REVIVE ARBOR DAY

Arbor Day was celebrated on the First week of April, 2017 this year and more than 325 Fourth Graders in Tillamook County rolled up their sleeves and plant a tree. The kids became members of Fourth Grade Foresters. The project's goal was to help revitalize a remarkable idea, the observation of Arbor Day in America's schools. Fourth graders at East Elementary, Garibaldi Elementary 4th and 5th grade, Neskowin Valley 3rd & 4th grade, Nestucca Valley, 4th & 5th grade, and Tillamook Adventist School in Tillamook County received trees to take home and plant.

Ray Monroe of the Tillamook County Soil and Water Conservation District said, "we are helping these students become stewards of their community by showing them that they can make a difference by simply planting and caring for a tree".



*Rudy Fenk, Tillamook County Soil and Water Conservation District Board Chair, handing out Shore Pine Seedlings to the East Middle School 4th Grade Class.*



*Jim Nelson's Fourth Grade class at East Middle school after receiving their trees.*



*Here is Mrs. Kelley's 5th grade class holding their trees, and two 4th grade boys from Mrs. Stelson's 4/5 grade class.*



"This project was made possible because community business people like the Tillamook County Soil and Water Conservation District covered the cost of each of the individually packaged evergreen trees, so that there was no cost to the students, the teachers, or the school" Debra Ersch, Cofounder of the Fourth Grade Foresters Project stated. "It's a wonderful way to show support for the community, education and the environment."

Fourth Grade Foresters USA was created to provide a simple and inexpensive way for any individual, business or organization to send the 4th Grade students at an elementary school home with a tree of their own to plant and care for. Each fourth grader receives an individually packaged 12" to 18" evergreen tree seedling packaged by workers with disabilities.

Now tree planting is even more important than ever. Trees take carbon dioxide (CO<sup>2</sup>) out of the atmosphere and clean the air we breathe. Planting trees is a simple, inexpensive and easy way to improve the community.

# Salmon Superhwy Project—Seeking Interested Farmers, Ranchers and Woodland Owners

This project represents an unprecedented effort to reinstate access to 180 miles of blocked habitat in all six major salmon and steelhead rivers in the Tillamook-Nestucca sub-basin—watersheds that represent some of the richest salmon and steelhead recovery potential anywhere in the lower 48 states.

This three-year project aims to restore and improve habitat for endangered Coho salmon and other migratory fish and wildlife species, protect water quality, improve forest health, increase infrastructure resiliency, reduce fire risk, and support local communities through economic development.

The project area encompasses the Nestucca and Tillamook Bay watersheds, which lie in the northern Oregon coast range in central and south Tillamook County. The project builds on the existing Salmon Superhwy initiative that aims to fully address fish passage needs throughout the North Oregon Coast salmon sub-basin. Historic habitat will be reconnected, chronic flooding reduced, riparian corridors replanted, and recreation opportunities improved, all while stimulating the local economy. .

Project funding comes from the Joint Chiefs Landscape Restoration Initiative—a partnership between the chiefs of two USDA agencies, the NRCS and the Forest Service, to improve forest health and resiliency on public and private lands.

The USDA-NRCS funding for this project will help private farmers, ranchers and woodland owners perform forest health conservation practices that will benefit water quality and riparian habitat.

A new NRCS Conservation Liaison has been placed in the Tillamook USDA Service Center beginning July 1 to assist interested private, non-industrial woodland and agriculture landowners to participate. The Liaison is also available to discuss best management practices or land-use planning needs you may have.

Call (503) 842-2848 if you are interested in exploring this opportunity for funding to help implement conservation projects on your place.



**Before: Culvert with fish passage barrier**



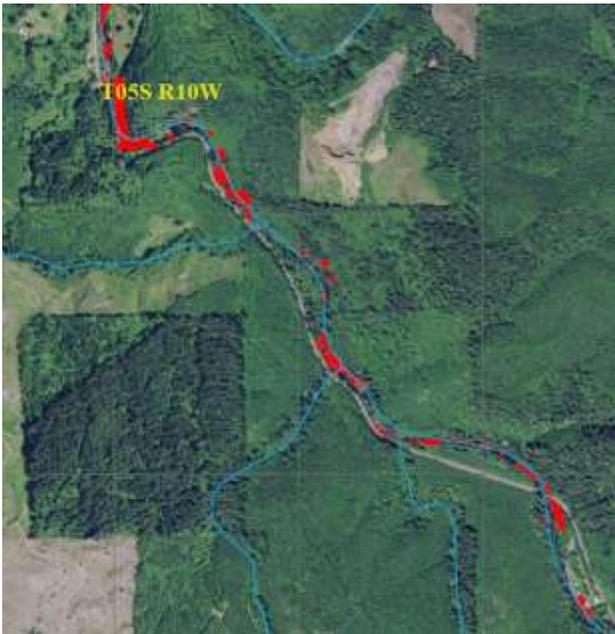
**After: New, properly-sized arch-culvert**

# Invasive Weed Survey and Knotweed Program Active in South Tillamook County Streams

Three years ago, in 2014, Tillamook County SWCD started a knotweed control project in South County. In three short years, thanks to so many cooperating landowners, the district has been able to survey many of the major streams in the Nestucca and Neskowin watersheds for 24 invasive weeds, and was able to obtain funding to start control measures on those properties infested with knotweed.

Knotweed is an invasive plant, also sometimes known as fleece flower or bamboo. There are three varieties we have discovered in our local surveys, they are, Japanese Knotweed, Giant Knotweed, and Himalayan Knotweed.

Knotweed is a tenacious weed, often taking three to four years of treatment before it finally dies. We usually obtain about 60% control after the first year, as illustrated below.



**Before: 2016 Little Nestucca River Knotweed Distribution shown in Red Ink**



**After 1 Year of Treatment: 2017 Little Nestucca River showing 60% reduction of knotweed in Red Ink**

Tillamook County SWCD, as a member of the Tillamook County Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (TC-PRISM), is taking the survey lead with BLM funding.

The knotweed control funding has been provided by the US Forest Service Stewardship Program and Title II Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act (also known as Payments to Counties).

After the knotweed is under control we work with the landowners and the Nestucca-Neskowin Sandlake Watershed Council to replant native vegetation which helps to stop a return of knotweed and restores the riparian area to a more natural condition. 🌱

# SAVE THE DATE

## Join Us as We Celebrate 77 Years

of Continuous Service  
to the People of Tillamook County

The Board of Directors & Staff of the Tillamook County Soil & Water Conservation District Invite you to Join them at their Annual Meeting, Dinner & Silent Auction

**Saturday,**  
**September 23, 2017**  
**3:00 - 5:00 p.m.**

**Please RSVP to: Soil & Water Office**  
**at (503) 842-2848 ext. 110**

***We look forward to seeing you then!***



## 2017 District Activities

This year is shaping up to be another busy one for the Tillamook County SWCD.

- Participate in the Children's Clean Water Festival & 4th Grade Foresters
- Create and update Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans as required
- Continuing our Inventory invasive weeds in the Nestucca Basin
- Attack invasive Knotweed infestations in the Nestucca and Trask basins.
- Install livestock exclusion fences & off-stream water along riparian areas
- Respond to noxious weed complaints in a confidential manner.
- Prepare and staff a display for County Fair booth.
- Plant trees and shrubs along the riparian areas fenced above.
- Provide conservation technical assistance as requested

## Contact Us

Give us a call for more information about our services.

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