



UMPQUA

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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www.umpquasoilandwater.com

Soil & Water
Conservation District

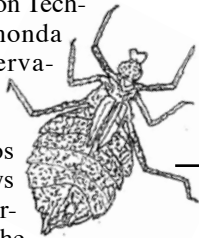
Volume 10, Issue 4

Fall 2010

Tsalila Education Days 2010

By Rhonda Black, Conservation Technician/District Manager

The Tsalila Education Days were a wonderful learning experience. The Umpqua Soil & Water Conservation District participated in the event by presenting “The Bug Zone” where Conservation Technician/District Manager Rhonda Black and Assistant Conservation Technician Laura Smith taught third grade students from nine Douglas and Coos county schools about the always interesting benthic macro invertebrates (insects that live on the bottom of a stream, which are large enough to be seen without a microscope and do not have a backbone) commonly called water bugs. We were fortunate to find good quality case-making caddisfly larvae, stonefly, dragonfly and mayfly nymphs, water beetles



Assistant Conservation Technician Laura Smith identifying the different kinds of bugs found by students.

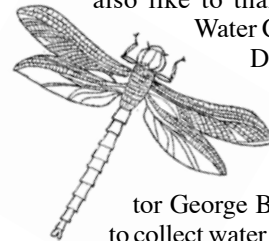


and snails, as well as the ever popular water strider which we stocked our “pools” with daily. The students were encouraged to catch the bugs with nets and with their hands, and then



to place the bugs in sorting trays at which time we helped the students identify what they had caught and explained about the lifecycle of the bug as well as explaining watershed health and how these bugs are food for the fish.

The Umpqua Soil & Water Conservation District would like to thank Mike Northrop from the Siuslaw National Forest for having the area ready for us, answering questions and for letting the Umpqua Soil & Water Conservation District borrow his giant water beetle for demonstration. The District would also like to thank Umpqua Soil & Water Conservation District Directors King Phelps and Rod Brandon for helping with the daily water bug collecting and Director George Black for allowing us to collect water bugs from the stream that runs through his property. The District would also like to thank all of the Reedsport High School student volunteers who helped assist us at the Bug Zone booth. You did a wonderful job and your work is greatly appreciated!



Students finding and collecting water bugs.



Knotweed

By Laura Smith, Assistant Conservation Technician

There are three varieties of Knotweed which are Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) listed noxious weed species found within the Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District boundaries. These are: Japanese, Giant, and Himalayan; although all three look similar and have similar growth-habit. Knotweed is very noticeable this time of year, as it blooms in September and October (unlike many native plants). You will recognize knotweed by large tufts

or plumes of white to cream colored flowers. This vigorous weed is also easily recognized by its heart shaped leaves which are bright lime green; and by its distinctively reddish stems which are thick and reminiscent of bamboo.

All three knotweed species are considered highly invasive. They spread quickly once introduced, and can form large clumps growing over six feet tall! Knotweed is often found in riparian areas, or areas that have been flooded during the winter. Knotweed spreads itself and reproduces by underground stems, called rhizomes. Knotweed spreads during high water when pieces of the rhizomes break off and are washed downstream, embedding themselves in the banks of rivers and streams.

Because of Knotweeds' rhizomatous nature, it is nearly impossible to eliminate it manually. Attempts to manually eliminate knotweed generally result in the spread of the rhizomes. Mowing knotweed will stimulate its growth. The only effective treatment found for Knotweed thus far has been herbicide treatment.



Photo By Glenn Miller, ODA



Photo By Glenn Miller, ODA

About the District

The Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District was formed in 1953. The District's boundaries encompass 600,000 acres of northwestern Douglas County and include the communities of Reedsport, Gardiner, Winchester Bay, Smith River, Tahkenitch Lake, Ash Valley, Scottsburg, Elkton and Kellogg.

A seven member Board of Directors elected in the general election serve without pay to administer District activities.

Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Directors

- King Phelps – Chair
- George Black – Vice Chair
- Tom Black – Secretary/Treasurer
- Rod Brandon
- Paul Dailey
- Bob Sharp

Meetings are held the second Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. during daylight savings time and 6:00 p.m. during standard time. The public is welcome and encouraged to attend meetings, which are generally held at the Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District office, located within the Reedsport Coffee House and Bistro, 2285 Longwood Drive in Reedsport.

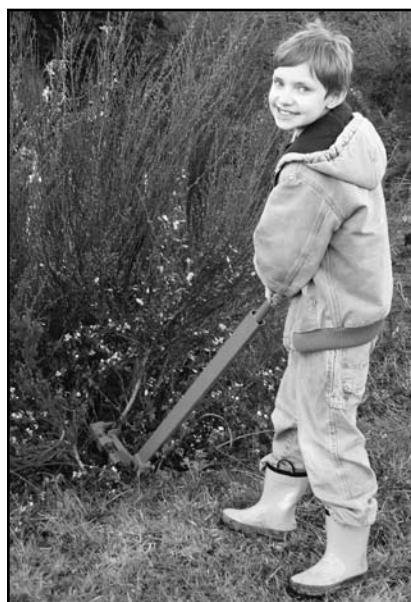
SWCD Staff

- Rhonda Black – Conservation Technician/
District Manager
- Laura Smith – Assistant Conservation
Technician

Weed Wrenches Available!

The Umpqua Soil & Water Conservation District has weed wrenches available for rent. A weed wrench can be rented from the District for a \$25 refundable deposit and can be used for up to two weeks at a time. The Umpqua Soil & Water Conservation District has small, medium and large weed wrenches available. Weed wrenches are an easy to use tool that uses clamping and leverage to literally pull woody plants such as scotch broom out of the ground, root and all.

Conservation Technician/District Manager Rhonda Black's son, Trevor Black using the weed wrench to remove scotch broom plants.



“The mission of the locally led Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District is to provide assistance to any individual, group, or agency in applying natural resource conservation practices for the wise use of their natural resources.”



The Sack Race: On your mark, get ready, get set....



The fun chicken scramble!

A Great Day at the Smith River Country Fair!

By Rhonda Black, Conservation Technician/District Manager

The Umpqua Soil & Water Conservation District partnered with Smith River Grange #585, Smith River Watershed Council, Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers, and the Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Siuslaw and Umpqua to help make the Smith River Country Fair a huge success this year. The Umpqua Soil & Water Conservation District had a booth where Conservation Technician Rhonda Black and Assistant Conservation Technician Laura Smith talked about water quality and the role water quality plays in District projects. We showed a presentation with pictures of combined water quality and agriculture projects including a manure storage shed, fencing, riparian planting and a hardened crossing for livestock among others. For all of those who participated and attended the fair the Umpqua Soil & Water Conservation District would like to say thank you and hope to see you all again at the Smith River Country Fair next year.



The famous pig scramble!



Crimson clover in bloom

Planting Winter Cover Crops

By Rhonda Black, Conservation Technician/District Manager

Fall is upon us and now is the time to get those gardens ready for the spring and one way to help your future garden is by planting a cover crop.

Many benefits are gained from planting cover crops such as annual ryegrass, crimson clover, fava beans or Austrian field peas in the fall. First, cover crops help to prevent soil erosion caused by wind and water as cover crop roots will hold soil in place. Second, cover crops reduce nutrient leaching as the cover crop will uptake the residual nitrogen. Third, cover crops add organic matter to the soil, often termed "green manure" when the crop is turned/tilled back into the soil. Last, legume crops such as crimson clover, fava beans and Austrian field peas add nitrogen to the soil.

These crops can also help to reduce insect pests as cover crops give beneficial insects a safe place to live and will promote larger populations sooner in the growing season. If a strip of the cover crop is left in place, the gardener can make good use of these of beneficial insects because as soon as the main crop is growing the beneficial insects will move onto the main crop helping to provide protection from insect pests.

Cover crops should be planted as soon as fall harvesting is completed and according to the Oregon State University Extension Service both late September and October are good times to plant cover crops while the heat from the sun is still warm enough to help with seed germination, plant and root growth.

Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District

P.O. Box 415

Reedsport, OR 97467

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www.umpquasoilandwater.com

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Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District Important Contact Information

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Fax: (888) 331-4348

Email: rhonda@umpquasoilandwater.com

Website: www.umpquasoilandwater.com

How to Find Us:

If going north on Highway 101 take the first right onto Longwood Drive just as you enter Reedsport. For reference, the Reedsport High School will be across the street. Then turn right into the Reedsport Coffee House and Bistro parking lot. Come on inside and visit us at the Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District office.

If going south on Highway 101 drive through the last stoplight in Reedsport. Turn into the last turning lane and turn left onto Longwood Drive. Then turn right into the Reedsport Coffee House and Bistro parking lot. Visit us upstairs at the Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District office.

MEETINGS IN THE AREA

Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District

Meets every 2nd Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM during daylight savings time and 6:00 PM during standard time. Generally held at the Reedsport Coffee House and Bistro, 2285 Longwood Drive in Reedsport and occasionally held at the Elkton Community Education Center, 15850 Highway 38 West in Elkton. Contact Rhonda Black for information at (541) 662-1341 or email rhonda@umpquasoilandwater.com.

Smith River Watershed Council

Meets the 4th Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM. Held at the Smith River Grange Hall, milepost #9 on Smith River Road. Contact Brian Swift for information at (541) 271-2223 or email swift@smithriverwatershed.org.

Gardiner/Reedsport/Winchester Bay Salmon Trout Enhancement Program

Meets every Wednesday at 8:00 AM. Held at the Gardiner hatchery at 76919 US Highway 101 North. Contact Dave Harris at (541) 271-4210.

The public is welcome and encouraged to attend.

OUR VISION STATEMENT

"To be a respected, valued community organization committed to managing the natural resources base for future generations. To ensure sustainable agricultural and forest production, supporting functioning human, wildlife, fish and forest habitat."

