



**Soil & Water
Conservation District**

UMPQUA

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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www.umpquasoilandwater.com

Volume 12, Issue 2

Summer 2012

Wine & Agriculture Tour 2012

By Umpqua Soil & Water Conservation District Manager/Conservation Technician Rhonda Black

This year's Wine and Agriculture Tour was a huge success. The day started with coffee and donuts at the Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District office followed by a scenic bus trip along the Umpqua River to Elkton where we met up with the rest of the tour attendees at the Elkton Community Education Center. We then traveled a short distance to Angler's Acres just west of Elkton to Gregory and Trudy Flick's property along the Umpqua River. Gregory took us to his willow wattle and willow wall structures that he and Trudy constructed with the help of the Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District. The project was funded through the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board Small Grants Program through the local Umpqua Small Grant Team.

The willow wattle and wall structures help reduce soil erosion and sedimentation along the Umpqua River at the Flick's property while at the same time providing



Willow structure construction.



Gregory describing willow structures.

shade along the river bank which helps cool the water for aquatic wildlife. The structures have held during heavy storm events over the past two years and the willows have grown much over that time. Gregory guided tour attendees to the area next to the willow wattles and walls where willow structures were not yet in place and this area was clearly displaying signs of erosion. After showing the group the willow structures, Gregory provided information on the solar panels and solar water heater on the roof of his home describing cost, maintenance and a savings comparison break down.

Gregory then showed us his organic orchard and garden with over 200 varieties of fruits, berries and grapes. Gregory uses espalier (the practice of pruning and tying branches to a frame so that tree limbs grow into a flat plane) and semi-dwarfing rootstocks to control tree size within his orchard.

The Flick's orchard also contains rare fruit varieties such as the Pendragon apple tree, an original wild apple tree from Kazakhstan, a Persimmon tree donated to the United States from Nikita Khrushchev, and Pawpaw trees. We were also allowed to freely graze Trudy and Gregory's raspberry patch which was a delightful treat.

Our next visit was to Gillirose Vineyard across State Highway 38 from the Elkton Community Education Center where vineyard owner Gillian Sietz started our tour by walking us through her beautiful rose garden where the intoxicating scent of her many varieties of aromatic roses fragrances the air. Gillian then took us to her vineyard where she provided us a wealth of information regarding the history of her vineyard and answered all kinds of questions regarding viticulture which is the growing of grapes for wine production.

Lunch was at Tomaselli's Pastry Mill where Marty Tomaselli provided us with a grand luncheon which included fresh salad made from a variety of greens and many different kinds of artisan pizzas cooked in the restaurant's new wood fired pizza oven.

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Trudy giving a demonstration of the "Sun Oven"



Gillian in her vineyard.

We've Moved!

Stop on by and visit us at our new office located in the Port of Umpqua Building just off of Highway 101 next to the Reedsport Natural Foods Store in Reedsport. The coffee is always on and we keep a variety of periodicals on hand including the Capital Press Agriculture Weekly, The Umpqua Post, Agriculture Quarterly and others. So stop in,

grab a cup of coffee or tea, sit down at our big farm table, and enjoy our beautiful new location. Our new office is easy to find. If you are coming from the south going north turn left at the second stoplight in Reedsport onto 19th Street and then immediately take a right into the parking lot behind the building. If using the rear entrance we are the first office inside on the right. If you are coming from the north going south you will need to turn right at the third stoplight coming through Reedsport onto 19th Street. Our new address is 1877 Winchester Avenue, Suite 100 in Reedsport. Our mailing address and the rest of our contact information remains the same as always.



... Wine & Ag Tour 2012

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After lunch we walked a few paces down the road to Brandborg Winery where winery owners Terry and Sue Brandborg took us on a tour of the wine making facility. Upon entering the building the enchanting smell of grapes filled the air. Terry and Sue described the wine making process showing us the tools of the trade including the oak barrels imported from France stacked high against the walls which are used to age the wine in.

Terry and Sue provided us insight into their background and how they got into the wine making business in Elkton. After the tour we were invited to the tasting room where we sampled many kinds of different wines produced by the winery out of



Sue and Terry showing soil samples.



Rudy (on right) taking questions from the audience.

grapes from the Brandborg's vineyard near Elkton. Terry gave an informative and interesting talk describing how different kinds of soils affect the taste of the grapes and therefore affect the taste of the wines being produced. Terry's talk included showing us soil samples he had gathered from the coast to the inland volcanic areas. This was a great treat.

Our last stop was at Rudy and Rhonda Zimmer's hay farm and cattle ranch a short distance east of Elkton where Rudy produces high quality horse and cattle hay. Rudy described the hay making process from beginning to end and took us on a tour of his large red hay barn where the sweet smell of freshly cut hay surrounded us and where we looked out upon emerald green alfalfa fields.

While inside of the hay barn Rudy showed us how he tests for moisture content



Rudy taking questions at his alfalfa field.

within the hay bales using a moisture meter and probe making sure that his hay has just the right amount of moisture, not too little, not too much. Rudy then started up his tractor and showed us how his hay rake works by giving us a real life demonstration. After the demonstration Rudy showed us his hay mower, conditioner, and square baler while describing how each piece of equipment works. A few of the tour attendees received a special treat and were able to tour Rhonda's horse barn where they visited with Rhonda's gorgeous Arabian horses.

If you are interested in joining us for next summer's tour please contact the Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District office by telephone at (541) 662-1341, by email at rhonda@umpquasoilandwater.com or on the web at www.umpquasoilandwater.com.

Siuslaw Watershed Exploration Camp 2012

Early this summer the Siuslaw Watershed Council invited our staff to teach native vegetation at their Watershed Exploration Camps which were held at the Fivemile-Bell location just north of Gardiner, Oregon. This was a perfect fit for our District as the Elkton Community Education Center has been propagating native



Photo Courtesy of Deborah Yates, Umpqua Soil & Water Director

plants for us to use on restoration sites just a short distance from the Fivemile-Bell location and we had live native plants on hand for demonstrations at the camps. Umpqua Soil & Water Director Deb Yates, who is also a school teacher during the school year, instructed four days of camp while Conservation Technician/District Manager Rhonda Black instructed one day of camp. This was a great event. Our District taught information about native plants that would have historically been found at the Fivemile-Bell site to students ranging from grades third through twelve. The Siuslaw Watershed Exploration Camps are funded through an education grant from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, a grant from the Western Lane Community Foundation and many in-kind and private donations.

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
Bob Sharp – Vice Chair
Tom Black – Secretary/Treasurer
George Black Rod Brandon
Lincoln Russell Deborah Yates

Meetings are held the second Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m. The public is welcome and encouraged to attend meetings, which are generally held at the Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District office, located at the Port of Umpqua Building, 1877 Winchester Avenue, Suite 100 in Reedsport.

SWCD Staff

Rhonda Black – Conservation Technician/
District Manager
Jason Hayes – Seasonal Summer Intern

Umpqua Soil & Water Conservation District Website:

At the Umpqua Soil & Water Conservation District website you can find information about meetings, projects, directors, staff, newsletters, fact sheets, brochures, links to other useful sites and more as well a link to the Umpqua Soil & Water Conservation District Facebook page. Become a fan of Umpqua Soil & Water today! Take a look at our new website: www.umpquasoilandwater.com. You may even want to make it your home page!



"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."

Spring Native Planting Days

By Rhonda Black, Umpqua Soil & Water Conservation Technician/District Manager

In March and again in May the Umpqua Soil & Water Conservation District staff and Directors as well as Elkton High Charter School staff took students to the North Sister of the Upper Smith River for Native Plant Field Days where students learned about

native plants that were historically found in the area and how to plant these native trees and shrubs which will provide diversity to the watershed by providing food and shelter for wildlife.



Students getting directions from staff



Plants placed in log & boulder placement access roads



Dan Jenkins explaining how log & boulder placements work



A log and boulder placement near a planting site

The native plants were grown by Elkton Charter School students at the Elkton Community Education Center (ECEC) as part of a grant through the Bureau of Land Management Rural Advisory Committee where the students learned propagation methods from ECEC staff and cared for the plants for over a year at the ECEC Native Plant Nursery. Students kept records each planting day including information such as plant species and condition, plant location, and planting site conditions.

During our second planting day in May, students were treated to a surprise visit from Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife Fish Biologist Dan Jenkins who thanked the students for the work they were doing in the watershed and explained how the native plants they were planting help aquatic life including salmon. As time goes on and the different plant species grow these native plants will stabilize the stream bank, provide shade to cool the water for aquatic wildlife and provide for a healthy watershed for many years into the future.

Dan explained to the students how the log and boulder placements in the stream slow the water down as well as creating pools and places for the fish to hide and spawn.

Log and boulder placements were done by the Smith River Watershed Council and funded through the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board.

Thank you Elkton Charter School students and staff for all of your hard work!



Got Nutria? Get the Facts Regarding Non-Native Nutria!

Provided by Guest Writer Kerry Johnson

Nutria are aquatic rodents native to South America. They have been widely introduced to countries outside their native range including North America. In Oregon, nutria have been reported from every county west of the Cascade Mountains and from several counties in eastern Oregon.

Nutria can be found along streams, rivers, and the shorelines of lakes, ponds and marshes. In agricultural areas nutria utilize waterways such as ditches, canals and ponds. Nutria can travel effectively on land and in the water, so they have the potential for long distance dispersal. Adult males can reach a weight of 24 pounds and females up to 16 pounds.

Nutria have become a nuisance species because their feeding activities destroy marsh vegetation, their burrows undermine water control structures, and they feed on agricultural crops. Nutria have also been associated with parasites and disease that affect humans and livestock and adversely affect wildlife. They consume 25% of their body weight in vegetation every day.

They have large claws which they use to dig out the roots of marsh vegetation for food, killing the plants. Damage has been documented on nearly every crop grown in the area including alfalfa, grass seed, wheat, barley, oats, field corn, sweet corn, carrots, table beets, cauliflower, cucumbers, melons and sugar beets. Nutria also girdle fruit trees, nut trees, deciduous forest trees, and occasionally conifer trees.

Nutria burrow into the banks of dikes, ditches, streams, ponds, creek banks and the shorelines of lakes. This can cause dikes to fail and ponds to leak. They push all the dirt into the waterway filling it with sediment and increasing turbidity. Their burrows can cause damage to water control structures and they can create burrows up to a half mile from a waterway. If the burrows occur under houses and structures, the bank can collapse under the load and cause the structure to fall into the waterway.

If you see Nutria on your property and would like to reduce Nutria population on your land please contact Kerry at (541) 217-1989 or by email at angler@hotmail.com. Kerry provides his nutria management service to residents for FREE!

"Those who contemplate the beauty of the earth find reserves of strength that will endure as long as life lasts. There is something infinitely healing in the repeated refrains of nature—the assurance that dawn comes after night, and spring after winter."

—Rachel Carson
Naturalist Writer &
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Editor-in-Chief

Get Involved — Join Our Team at the Umpqua Soil & Water Conservation District!

By Rhonda Black, Conservation Technician/District Manager

Would you like to be more involved with agriculture? Are you interested in soil and water, fish habitat and stream bank restoration? If so, we need your volunteer services as a Director of the Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District.

The Umpqua Soil & Water Conservation District is seeking anyone who is interested in filing as a candidate to run for one of five Director positions during the November 6, 2012 General Election. All applicants must be residents of the Umpqua Soil & Water Conservation District which encompasses northwestern Douglas County taking in the areas of Winchester Bay, Reedsport, Gardiner, Smith River, Tahkenitch Lake, Ash Valley, Scottsburg, Elkton and Kellogg. Candidates must be registered voters. Four of the five open positions require the candidates own or manage at least ten acres within the zone they are running for. The one other position is an At-Large position which means the position is open to all residents living within the Umpqua Soil & Water Conservation District boundaries and does not have an acreage or zone requirement. Directors serve as volunteers and each term lasts for four years. The new term begins January 1, 2013 after the newly elected Directors are officially sworn in as Directors during the January 2013 board meeting.

Umpqua Soil & Water Conservation District
(General Zone Landmarks)

Zone 1:
Reedsport, Winchester Bay, & Gardiner. Tahkenitch, Lower Siltcoos, Clear, Upper Eel, & Marie Lake. Scholfield, Providence, Blacks, Oar, Miller, Wind & Silver Creeks...

Zone 2:
Smith River & Otter Slough. Wasson, Vincent, Spencer, Johnson, Beaver, Gold, & Cabin Creeks...

Zone 3:
Ash Valley, Loon Lake & Scottsburg. Lutsinger, Lower Weatherly, Footlog, Camp, Mill, Otter, Charlotte, Hound, Little Mill & Deans Creeks...

Zone 4:
Elkton. Paradise, South Sister, Yellow, Elk, Sawyer, & Little Tom Folley Creeks...

Zone 5:
Kellogg. Mehl, Williams, Martin, Waggoner, Fitzpatrick, Beshazzar, & Little Camp Creeks...

Helpful Zone Information:

- Zone 1: This position is currently held by Tom Black. A candidate running in the Zone 1 position needs to own or manage at least ten acres in Zone 1.
- Zone 2: This position is currently held by George Black. A candidate running in the Zone 2 position needs to own or manage at least ten acres in Zone 2.
- Zone 4: This position is currently held by Rod Brandon. A candidate running in the Zone 4 position needs to own or manage at least ten acres in Zone 4.
- Zone 5: This position is currently held by Lincoln Russell. A candidate running in the Zone 5 position needs to own or manage at least ten acres in Zone 5.
- At Large 1: This position is currently held by Deborah Yates. A candidate running in the At Large 1 position must live within the District.

Candidate Filing Information:

The filing deadline for the November 6, 2012 General Election is August 28, 2012. Information and application materials will be available after July 1, 2012 by calling the Umpqua Soil & Water Conservation District office at 541-662-1341, on the District website at <http://www.umpquasoilandwater.com> or by emailing the District at rhonda@umpquasoilandwater.com, or by visiting the District office at 1877 Winchester Avenue in Reedsport. Information is also available from the Oregon Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Division by calling 503-986-4775. Candidate application materials must be filed with the Oregon Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Division no later than five o'clock p.m. on August 28, 2012 in Salem.

Umpqua Soil & Water Conservation District board meetings are the second Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the District office located at 1877 Winchester Avenue in Reedsport.

How Rich is Your Soil?



By Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District Conservation Technician/District Manager Rhonda Black

Good soil nutrient content is necessary if you want strong, hearty plants. Correct pH, nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium are needed for healthy, sturdy plants and these nutrients must be applied in the correct amounts.

Nitrogen is necessary to generate healthy stalk, stem, leaf and grass growth, but too much nitrogen creates quick growth, slows seed and flower production while causing plant tissues to become weak. Too little nitrogen creates a sickly plant.

Phosphorous gives plants a good, quick start, intensifies the development of roots, speeds maturation, and helps with flowering and seed creation.

Potassium expedites root and tuber development, which is important for root vegetables and tuberous flowers. On the other hand, too much potassium weakens frost and drought resistance and retards ripening.

Finally, correct soil pH is necessary for plants to absorb nutrients. If the pH is incorrect the plant cannot absorb the nutrients and the plant will become weak and die off.

Over application of these nutrients creates run off causing pollution to groundwater. In order to prevent over or under application of nutrients and reduce nutrient run off soil testing is recommended. The Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District provides free soil testing for nitrogen, phosphorous, potassium, and pH to District residents providing application rates. Please call (541) 662-1341 or email rhonda@umpquasoilandwater.com for an appointment.

Are You Prepared For Fall? Do you know your soils pH?

Contact the Umpqua Soil & Water Conservation District Office today to schedule your soil test in preparation for those frequently needed fall lime applications! Soil tests are currently free to District residents and provide application rates for lime, nitrogen, phosphorous, potassium, and boron.

Happy Trails

Laura Smith
Assistant Conservation
Technician



Dear Friends,

It has been just over two years since I moved to Reedsport to work as an Assistant Conservation Technician at Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District. Since that time I have learned so much. I have become familiar with the southern Oregon coast; the tides, the rain, the smell of the mud, and the sound of frogs. The things that were foreign to me have become familiar, just as many of the faces around town and throughout the district have become familiar. It has been such a pleasure meeting all of you and working with you in various contexts.

I have greatly enjoyed hearing your stories, walking your fields, testing your soils, locating your tide gates, and identifying plants for you. I have enjoyed teaching your students about benthic macroinvertebrates and watershed health. I have enjoyed inventorying the weeds on the BLM road system. I have enjoyed helping plan conservation projects and writing grants to fund those projects. It has been so exciting to see some of the projects take off. There are still so many projects that I would like to help you with.

By the time you read this article I will no longer be the Assistant Conservation Technician for Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District. I will be moving to Eastern Oregon in the first half of March to live with my partner. I have accepted a job with the Eastern Oregon Agricultural Research Center and I am looking forward to this new adventure very much. It was a difficult decision to move away and I will definitely miss all the friendly folks that live in our district.

Please remember to contact Rhonda Black, our District Manager/Conservation Technician with any natural resource conservation concerns that you might have, keep the project ideas coming, and keep conserving your precious natural resources!

Sincerely,
Laura

Umpqua Soil & Water Welcomes College Intern this Summer!

The Umpqua Soil & Water Conservation District would like to introduce Jason Hayes who is our Intern for this summer. Jason is a student at Oregon State University in the Agriculture Sciences Program with a background in soils.



Jason Hayes

We've been putting Jason to good use and appreciate all he is doing for our District. Welcome, Jason!

You're Invited!

Please come join us as we celebrate the
Umpqua Soil & Water Conservation District's 59th Anniversary.

Our Annual Meeting will be held on Thursday, September 13, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.

This year we will be holding our celebration at the Elkton Community Education Center located at 15850 State Highway 38 West in Elkton, Oregon. While we are still making preparations for the event there's no doubt there will be plenty of good food to be had and interesting and informative presentations going on for entertainment. If you would like to attend, RSVP's are welcomed and appreciated. Please contact the Umpqua Soil & Water office at (541) 662-1341 or by email at rhonda@umpquasoilandwater.com. As the event draws near more information will be posted on the Umpqua Soil & Water Conservation District website which can be found on the internet at www.umpquasoilandwater.com and in the local newspapers.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Tell Your Neighbors Get Free News and Updates From USDA, Farm Service Agency: Get GovDelivery

USDA, Farm Service Agency, (FSA), is no longer sending out paper copies of newsletters. FSA, like many other organizations, is working smarter and more efficiently. Conversion to electronic notifications via email helps conserve resources and save taxpayer dollars.

USDA, FSA offices are adopting an instant delivery, electronic option called GovDelivery. Producers and anyone interested in receiving the latest news from FSA can now enroll in the new GovDelivery system which will provide newsletters and reminders via email, instead of paper copies delivered through the mail.

To receive your free e-mail updates from FSA instantly you can subscribe by going to the USDA, FSA subscription site: www.fsa.usda.gov/subscribe, or by contact-

ing Roseanna Breeding, County Executive Director, at 541 673-6071 ext 104, or email to roseanna.breeding@or.usda.gov.

Your dedicated Douglas County Office employees are still available to answer questions and provide customer service for all FSA programs. We welcome your visits to your local FSA County Office at the Roseburg USDA Service Center, located at 2593 NW Kline St, in Roseburg.

FSA still operates on a producer-elected County Committee basis. The County Committee is made up of local Douglas County producers, farmers and ranchers nominated and elected by fellow FSA producers. County Committee ballots will continue to be mailed to all eligible producers. Paper ballots will also continue to be available in the FSA County Office.

The Sun is out and the Time is Right for Barbequing!

Double the goodness of summertime BBQ with this dry rub followed by a sweet and tangy honey BBQ grill sauce.

Barbeque Pork Ribs

Recipe from the Kitchen of Rhonda Black, Conservation Technician/District Manager

Dry Rub for Meat

2 Cups Dark Brown Sugar	1 Teaspoon Basil
2 Teaspoons Paprika	1 Teaspoon Garlic Powder
2 Teaspoons Chili Powder	1 Teaspoon Seasoning Salt
1 Teaspoon Thyme	1 Teaspoon Black Pepper

Mix in a bowl and rub into meat. Let sit for several hours covered in the refrigerator before cooking. Bake ribs in an uncovered shallow baking dish in a 350 degree oven for approximately 1.5 hours or until desired doneness. Remove from oven. Ribs are now ready for the BBQ grill. Prepare the grill.

Honey Barbeque Sauce

1 Cup Prepared Barbeque Sauce
1 Tablespoon Prepared Yellow Mustard
½ Cup Honey

Brush ribs with sauce while on the grill until desired coating is achieved.



Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District

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Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District Important Contact Information

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Telephone: (541) 662-1341

Fax: (888) 331-4348

Email: rhonda@umpquasoilandwater.com

Website: www.umpquasoilandwater.com

How to Find Us:

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If going south on Highway 101 turn right at the third stoplight coming through Reedsport onto 19th Street.

MEETINGS IN THE AREA

Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District

Meets every 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:30 PM. Meetings are generally held at the Umpqua Soil & Water office located at 1877 Winchester Avenue, Suite 100 in Reedsport, but are 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 last 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 a.m. 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."

