



**Soil & Water
Conservation District**

UMPQUA

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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Small Grants...Big Results

By Laura Smith, Assistant Conservation Technician

Over the last two years Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District Staff have written Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) Small Grant applications and the funds have been used to get some outstanding projects on the ground.

Amongst this year's recipients of the OWEB Small Grant funds is Darryl Ray. On his Kellogg area ranch, Ray has been implementing conservation projects as part of a larger farm plan for at least eight years. In the past he has received both technical assistance and funding from the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Roseburg field office. His farm plan has allowed him to identify resource concerns, prioritize, and address these concerns in phases over a number of years. "It's allowed me to plan ahead" says Ray.



This photo shows the perennial seep that has recently been fenced off. In the middle ground is evidence of erosion caused by cattle drinking out of the seep during wet winter months.

Recently funding from NRCS has been difficult to come by. Without cost assistance, Darryl Ray would not be able to accomplish all of the conservation work he had planned. Ray worked with Umpqua SWCD to put together an OWEB Small Grant application that was funded in March 2011.

The grant funds allowed Ray to fence cattle out of a perennially wet seep in his field which involved moving his cattle-guard further up the road and developing an off-stream watering facility (pipeline and trough placed on a compacted gravel pad). "(The) pads help control erosion and mud" says Ray "It was really a lot of benefit". This project was a win-win for the rancher and natural resources as it allows the cattle easily accessible drinking water, meanwhile keeping cattle from contaminating surface water with mud and manure.

"In the case of spring development,



This is the trough cattle now drink from. The compacted gravel pad under the trough prevents excessive mud and erosion problems during wet winter months.

I can manage my livestock better, and I have improved my pastures for better production" Ray says of his farm plan conservation work. When asked if he would recommend similar projects to local ranchers Ray said "Definitely, I want to do another one, too."

Congratulations to Elkton Charter School Envirothon Team and their teacher, Randy Harper.

Rookies of the Year

**At the Oregon Envirothon
held April 15, 2011**

The event tests student's knowledge of natural resources including: soils, forestry, water quality, and animals. Students came from all over Oregon to participate in the event which was held at the Oregon Gardens in Silverton, Oregon.



Elkton Envirothon Team gathered around one of the testing stations.

It's Not too Late to Vaccinate

Rhonda Black, Conservation Technician/District Manager

If you don't already have your cattle on a regular vaccination program, now is a good time to begin a regular regimen. One thing to remember with your vaccination program is the worming of your cattle and depending where your cattle graze you might want to consider treating your cattle for liver flukes.

Cattle tend to pick areas of the pasture where they want to graze rather than where their owners want them to graze and the pasture is always greener on the other side of the fence! If you have pastures where the cattle munch on vegetation near streams and water run off areas or where the cattle are turned out onto low-lying pastures your cattle have a good chance of picking up the microscopic cysts containing the young liver flukes. These cysts are usually attached to blades of grass which the cattle eat. Upon ingestion, the flukes tunnel into the liver for more than six weeks until the flukes enter the bile ducts where they lay their eggs. The eggs are then passed by the animal through the feces and the fluke life cycle begins once again. The eggs hatch, invade their first host, the common mud snail, go through several stages of development, leave their snail host and again attach to a blade of grass or a leaf where they are once again eaten by the cattle.

The damage caused by liver flukes can increase a malady of risk to your cattle such as infertility, jaundice, diarrhea, weight loss and even death. Another risk is the disease Redwater which is caused by bacteria that grow in the liver. The liver flukes aid the ability for these bacteria to grow and cause the disease to progress at a rapid pace.

According to John Maas, Extension Veterinarian for the School of Veterinary Medicine at the University of California, "there are only two drugs available that are effective against liver flukes in cattle. Both work best against the adult flukes, but there is some effect on the migrating juvenile flukes. Clorsulon is effective only against liver flukes and it is sold alone as Curatrem® or in combination with ivermectin as Ivomec® Plus. Thus, Curatrem® can be used to kill the flukes or Ivomec® Plus can be used to kill the flukes plus the internal parasites (worms) and external parasites (sucking lice). Additionally, albendazole (Valbazen®) has activity against flukes and internal parasites. All the drugs and combinations of drugs have advantages and disadvantages in terms of cost, ease



Photo Courtesy of Rhonda Black

of administration, withdrawal times, and effectiveness. Consult with your veterinarian to be certain which product will work best for your operation. Also, review with your veterinarian the time of year that will be most cost-effective for administration of drugs to kill flukes."

By keeping with a regular vaccination and worming program your reward will be added dollars in your pocket at sale time since your cattle have a better chance to gain weight and stay healthy than they would without a vaccination program.

Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District

ANNUAL MEETING

This year has been a great year for the Umpqua Soil & Water Conservation District and our District finished the year with a fun and relaxing annual meeting on November 3, 2011 at the Elkton Community Education Center complete with a Polynesian Stir-Fry dinner prepared by District Director Lincoln Russell and Polynesian appetizers prepared by Stones Coffeehouse & Bistro.

After enjoying a wonderful meal, David Chain, District Conservationist from the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Roseburg presented an informational slide show about NRCS programs available to District residents showing current projects within the District and surrounding areas.

Rhonda Black and Laura Smith from the Umpqua Soil & Water Conservation District presented a slide show giving general history about Conservation Districts, providing information on current and past projects as well as information on invasive species within the District.

Some of the events Umpqua Soil & Water participated in this year were:

- Tsalila Field Trips to Charlotte Creek teaching Reedsport 6-8th grade students about benthic macro invertebrates in the stream.
- Fourth Grade Foresters Program where we provided Douglas Fir seedlings to fourth grade students at both Elkton and Highland Elementary Schools as part of Oregon's Arbor Day celebration.
- Douglas Weed Day where we had an informational booth.
- Oregon Envirothon where we assisted the Elkton Charter School Envirothon Team in preparation for the Envirothon competition and at the actual event.
- Reedsport Charter School Naturalist Walk in partnership with the Smith River Watershed Council where we lead a group of students along a nature trail in Bi-Centennial Park helping the students learn about native and invasive plants as well as wildlife.
- Smith River Country Fair in partnership

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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
- Lincoln Russell
- Bob Sharp
- Deborah Yates

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

"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."

Greener Pastures: Improving Forage Production

By Shelby Filley, OSU Extension
Regional Livestock Forages Specialist

Every summer we see many of our fields dry up and turn brown. We think about the previous season's forage and wonder if we could have done better. The anticipation of fall rains brings thoughts of improving on what we have. What should we do?

If we have a new field, we may get in a hurry to improve the farm ground and rush into a course of action that actually hinders the process. The tendency is to want to completely renovate the pasture without giving it a chance (a little TLC) to express what is already there.

Whether we are working with a familiar field or a new prospect, plowing and tilling right away may cause us to overlook preliminary steps that are important to success further down the line or overlook the potential that already exists. We should slow down and take care of some basic duties that will actually put us ahead of the improvement process compared to rushing into things.

Pertinent questions to ask ourselves include: What is the intended use of the forage? What is the current and potential yield of the field? What is needed to reach that potential? And how much will it cost to get there? For more information and help in answering these questions please join us for the Forage Production & Pasture Management Workshop on Thursday, January 19, 2012 from 6-9 PM at the Elkton Community Education Center Library. Cost for the class is \$10 (for materials) and registration can be completed either by contacting Shelby at Shelby.filley@oregonstate.edu, or Mary at mary.hoffman@oregonstate.edu or by going on-line and using the following link: <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/douglas/jan192012lf>.

Umpqua Soil & Water Conservation District

~ANNOUNCES~

OSU FORAGE PRODUCTION & PASTURE MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

Thursday, January 19, 2012 from 6:00—9:00 PM
Elkton Community Education Center Library, 15850 Highway 38 W, Elkton, Oregon

OSU Extension Regional Livestock Forages Specialist Shelby Filley will be presenting information on soil fertility, proper fertilization of pastures and hay land, soil sampling and testing, forage management, pasture grazing, hay harvesting, potential and current yield, plant identification and growth, livestock behavior and controlled grazing. If you want to improve pastures for your cattle, sheep, horse, or other livestock, or improve hay production, you don't want to miss this class.



To register call Shelby Filley at (541) 672-4461 or by email at shelby.filley@oregonstate.edu
For more information call Rhonda Black at (541) 662-1341 or by email at rhonda@umpquasoilandwater.com

Disinfecting Spray Cleaner

- 2 Tbsp. Vinegar
- 1 Tsp. Borax
- 1 ¾ Cup Hot Tap Water
- ½ Tsp. Washing Soda
- ¼ Cup Liquid Castile Soap
- 5 Drops Lemon Essential Oil
- 10 Drops Eucalyptus Essential Oil



Mix vinegar and borax with hot water in a spray bottle until dissolved. Add washing soda, liquid castile soap and essential oils. Use like any other spray cleaner on countertops, appliances, floors, sinks and more.

Recipe from Glory Bee Foods

NOTICE TO HISPANIC AND/OR WOMEN FARMERS OR RANCHERS

If you are a woman or Hispanic farmer and believe you were improperly denied farm loan benefits by USDA between 1981 and 2000. You may be eligible for compensation.

To register your name to receive a claims packet, call the Farmer and Rancher Call Center at 1-888-508-4429 or visit: www.farmerclaims.gov



USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer

Conservation

Conservation is a state of harmony between men and land. By land is meant all of the things on, over, or in the earth. Harmony with land is like harmony with a friend; you cannot cherish his right hand and chop off his left. That is to say, you cannot love game and hate predators; you cannot conserve the waters and waste the ranges; you cannot build the forest and mine the farm. The land is one organism. Its parts, like our own parts, compete with each other and co-operate with each other. The competitions are as much a part of the inner workings as the co-operations. You can regulate them—cautiously—but not abolish them.

The outstanding scientific discovery of the twentieth century is not television, or radio, but rather the complexity of the land organism. Only those who know the most about it can appreciate how little we know about it. The last word in ignorance is the man who says of an animal or plant: "What good is it?" If the land mechanism as a whole is good, then every part is good, whether we understand it or not. If the biota, in the course of aeons, has built something we like but do not understand, then who but a fool would discard seemingly useless parts? To keep every cog and wheel is the first precaution of intelligent tinkering.

Leopold, Aldo: Round River, Oxford University Press, New York, 1993, pp. 145-146.

Producer's Questionnaire

Recently, I have had a lot of requests from community members for a list of local producers who grow produce and/or raise beef, poultry, pork, and dairy products. Producers, would you be interested in selling your farm and ranch products at a local Farmer's Market? Would you be interested in a small advertising space in the quarterly newsletter and/or advertising on the District website for a small fee? Would you be interested in being included as part of a list of producers for the community to choose to buy from? If so, please fill out the form below:

Name: _____

Business Name: _____

Mailing & Street Address: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Farm/Ranch Products: _____

Please circle which or all you would like: *Farmer's Market* *Advertising Newsletter* *Advertising Website* *List*

Would you be interested in becoming a member of a local **Livestock Association** if one were formed? Please circle your choice(s): *Yes No Maybe*

If so, where would you be willing to attend meetings? Please circle your preferred choice(s): *Reedsport Elkton Other: _____*

What time of day works best for you for meetings? Please circle your preferred choice(s): *Morning Afternoon Evening Other: _____*

Would you be interested in becoming a member of a local **Bee Keeper's Association** if one were formed? Please circle your choice(s): *Yes No Maybe*

If so, where would you be willing to attend meetings? Please circle your preferred choice(s): *Reedsport Elkton Other: _____*

What time of day works best for you for meetings? Please circle your preferred choice(s): *Morning Afternoon Evening Other: _____*

Please either send this form to: **Producer's Questionnaire, Umpqua SWCD, P.O. Box 415, Reedsport, OR 97467** or email to rhonda@umpquasoilandwater.com
Thank You!

Soil & Water Conservation District's are local units of government that manage and direct natural resource management programs at the local level. Districts work in both urban and rural settings with landowners and with other units of government to carry out programs for the conservation, use, and development of soil, water, and related resources.

Moss Control for Western Oregon Climate

By *Laura Smith*,
Assistant Conservation Technician

The cool damp climate of Western Oregon is the ideal growing condition for moss. While some enjoy the aesthetic of moss in their gardens, others consider it unsightly. Not only does moss grow in the garden, but it can grow on any number of surfaces from sidewalks to roofs, this is where it becomes a real pest.

Many Oregonians are using chemicals pesticides to control moss. In a 2008 survey by the Oregon Department of Agriculture 33% of all pesticides used in Oregon were used in the control of moss. Unfortunately, using large quantities of pesticide can cause other problems for Oregonians, by contaminating our waterways. It is important to find ways to minimize moss and moss-related damages without contaminating surface or ground water.

Moss in the Garden

Moss thrives in garden environments that are shady and wet. Moss thrives on soils that are acidic and compacted. While moss technically does not compete with desirable plants, it thrives in places where plants lack vigor. Basically, moss takes up space in the garden where other plants aren't thriving.

Prevent garden moss by:

- Pruning large trees to reduce shade,

- Improving soil drainage,
- Adding soil amendments such as lime,
- Aerating your lawn,
- Reseeding lawn as needed.

When prevention doesn't work, a number of chemicals are available to control moss. Commercial formulations which include Iron (Fe) are particularly effective at quickly killing moss and simultaneously greening up the lawn. The downside is that the Iron in these formulas will stain concrete or buildings, so be careful where you spray, and always follow the instructions on the bottle!

Moss on your House (Deck, sidewalk, etc)

Again, moss thrives in shaded areas, especially where there is a build up of organic matter, such pine needles, for it to grow on.

Ways to prevent moss growth on these surfaces is:

- Keep them clean. Do not allow pine needles or other debris to accumulate on your roof or deck
- Clean your roof or deck with a pressure washer
- Install zinc strips or galvanized "flashing" on your roof

If moss has already accumulated on these surfaces it can be removed a variety of ways:

- Clean surface using a diluted bleach mixture
- If you must use a pesticide, look for a zinc sulfate formula. Only apply in the spring, treatment will be ineffective if it gets washed away in heavy winter rain.

Do not apply Iron-based chemicals to your roof, deck, concrete etc. It will permanently stain these surfaces. Apply any pesticide safely; follow directions on the label carefully. Remember, the label is the law.

Always store pesticides in a safe place; preferably a locked cabinet that is not accessible by children.

Never dump excess pesticide down a storm sewer.

Buy appropriate amounts of pesticide so that you do not have an excess. The safest way to dispose of excess pesticide is to find an appropriate place to apply it. If it cannot be applied, it may be taken to a hazardous waste collection day. These are held periodically throughout the county. More information can be found at: <http://www.recyclepower.org/> or by calling (541)440-4350.

... Annual Meeting

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with Smith River Grange #585 and the Smith River Watershed Council.

- Tsaila Education Days in Reedsport where we taught third grade students from many areas of Oregon about benthic macro invertebrates and stream health.
- Farm Tour 2011 where we toured the BR Nursery, IFA Nursery, Fisher Prune Dryers & Orchards and Bradley Vineyards near Elkton.
- Blooms & Butterflies Celebration where we had an informational booth.
- OSU Manure & Mud Management Workshop which we hosted in partnership with Oregon State University.
- OSU Forage Production & Pasture Management Workshop which we hosted in partnership with Oregon State University.



Dragonfly photo courtesy of Tina Baysinger

This year Umpqua Soil & Water Conservation District celebrated 58 years of service to the local community!

Chocolate Covered Cherries

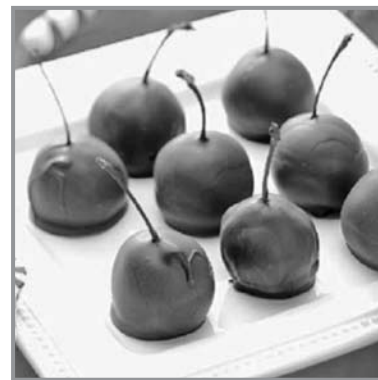
Contributed by Rhonda Black

Ingredients:

- 60 Maraschino Cherries with Stems
- 3 Tablespoons Softened Butter
- 3 Tablespoons Light Corn Syrup
- 2 Cups Powdered Sugar
- 1 Pound Milk Chocolate Pieces

Directions:

Drain Maraschino cherries on paper towels for several hours to dry.



In a medium bowl mix butter and corn syrup until smooth then mix in the powdered sugar and knead to form dough/candy mixture. If candy mixture is too soft, chill until manageable. Wrap each cherry in about 1 teaspoon of candy mixture. Chill until firm, approximately 1-hour. If you chill too long the candy mixture will begin to melt.

Melt milk chocolate pieces over simmering water in a double broiler until smooth. Hold each cherry by the stem and dip in milk chocolate until coated letting excess chocolate drip off. Place on waxed paper on a baking sheet. Chill dipped cherries until completely set. Store in an airtight container in the refrigerator for two weeks in order for the candy coating to become somewhat liquefied around the cherries.

Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District

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www.umpquasoilandwater.com

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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:

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 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 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."

