

# THE CONSERVATIONIST

## JACKSON SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2008

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 3

### “Woodlawn Creek” – Homeowners’ Backyard Conservation

By Craig Harper — Medford Homeowner

After moving to southern Oregon in 1999, we bought a 1950’s era house in an old neighborhood on the east side of Medford on Woodlawn Drive. Our house is on a large lot with several big trees including oak, ash, sycamores, and maples. Woodlawn Drive is a relatively quiet street. We thought we had found the perfect little house for our lifestyle, but we didn’t realize that we would be plagued with minor flooding problems every winter.

It never failed! Every time it rained an inch or more in a 24-hour period our garage, which is separated from our house, flooded with an inch or two of standing water. Rainwater would run off our driveway, the neighbor’s driveway, and even the runoff from our street made its way into our garage.



photo 2-covered drain

(see photo 1) It soaked the boxes on the floor and left us with a musty, moldy smell all winter long. After the third or fourth time it flooded, we decided we had better do something about the problem besides storing our boxes up off the floor.



photo 1-runoff from the street and driveway into the garage

Even though the previous homeowners had installed a covered drain in front of the garage (see photo 2) in which the runoff would collect, the flow of water into a sump (reservoir) and then into an underground pipe leading to the backyard did not solve the problem. Our property, along with much of the east side of Medford, has soil with high clay content – the infamous “black sticky”. This soil is fertile, but it doesn’t allow for rapid percolation, so after the first few rains in the fall the groundwater

risers to a few inches below the surface. Additional rainfall collecting on the surface has nowhere to go but downhill. So, I dug a deep trench at the back of the yard, filled it with gravel and connected another perforated underground pipe and French drain to divert the rainwater, allowing it to sink into the ground. But, that didn’t solve the problem either, for similar reasons – there just wasn’t (continued on page 4)

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Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District is your gateway to natural resource assistance. Board members and staff work with the Natural Resource Conservation Service to ensure educational and on-the-ground technical assistance opportunities take place which help the landowners of Jackson County.



## Director Profile

Allan Campbell 3rd —  
Director at Large

*Editors Note: This is the third in a series introducing Jackson SWCD Board of Directors.*

Allen grew up in Boston, Massachusetts and received his B.S. Degree in Forest Management from the University of Massachusetts. After graduating from college he worked for the U.S. Forest Service in various forestry positions and was also on active duty and in the reserves with the U. S. Army with the rank of Captain. His forestry work brought him to the West Coast, working in the Willamette National Forest out of Eugene, then on to the Sierra National Forest in Fresno, California and the Forestry Science Laboratory in Corvallis.

In 1972, Allan was a part-time instructor in Forest Management (Silviculture) at Mt. Hood Community College while attending Oregon State University graduate school. He completed his Masters Degree in 1973 in Forest

Management--Genetics. He then joined the O.S.U. Extension Service, a part of the O.S.U. College of Forestry as an Associate Professor. Allan was the Extension Forester for the Jackson County Extension Office for twenty-three years until his retirement.

His involvement in community activities keeps him engaged in local issues and is presently on the Jackson County Natural Resources Advisory Committee as a member. He is the forester for the Southern Oregon Resource Conservation and Development Council working on the Sardine Creek Neighborhood Fuels Reduction Project.

Allan believes the sustainability of our renewable natural resources (e.g. trees, wildlife), the production of agricultural crops (both animal and plants), and the health of their diverse environments, ultimately depend on our stewardship of soil and water. Because of his background and personal enjoyment of working in forest management and forest management education, Allan visualized an opportunity to help Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District foster promotion and implementation of stewardship (wise use) practices in Southwest Oregon. He believes Jackson SWCD has a clear mandate to do that for future generations of Oregonians.

### Jackson

#### Soil and Water Conservation District

**Staff:** Randy White, NRS/District Manager  
Angie Boudro, Natural Resources Specialist  
Markie Germer, Bookkeeper/Office Assistant  
Margaret Meierhenry, Newsletter Editor

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Bob Lozano  
Martha Straube  
Margaret Meierhenry

### USDA

#### Natural Resource Conservation Service

**Staff:** Nicola Giardina, District Conservationist  
Peter Winnick, Soil Conservationist  
Bill Cronin, Irrigation Engineer

#### USDA, Farm Service Agency

**Staff:** Pam Davis, County Executive Director  
Diane Rabbe, Program Technician  
Donna Finch, Program Technician

#### County Committee members:

**LAA1** - Suzanne Ginet,  
Chairperson  
**LAA3** - Lori Mefford,  
Vice-chair  
**LAA2** - Mel Morris,  
Member

**Tax Deductibility for Donations / Contributions**

Please think of Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District (JSWCD) if you are interested in donating, gifting, granting, and/or bequeathing items, real or personal property, or monetary contributions for soil and water conservation efforts. Conservation Districts are political subdivisions of state government. IRS Code, **Section 17 0(c) (1)** states: Contributions or gifts to a state or any of its political subdivisions, i.e., conservation districts, are "charitable" contributions for tax purposes, and are, therefore, **tax deductible**. (See IRS Publication 526: Charitable Contributions). Your help is greatly appreciated.  
**Contact: Markie Germer (541) 734-3143 markie.germer@or.nacdnet.net**

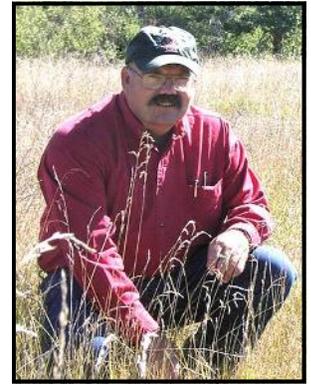
## Manager's Message

Randy White — District Manager

It has been six months since the last Manager's Message and a lot of good things have happened with Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District. The following is a short list of what we have accomplished:

- Since the District's tax rate limit was successful, we started receiving funding in November. Angie Boudro, our new Natural Resource Conservationist has been an enormous asset to the District and the landowners in Jackson County. Angie initiated a horse owner certification program, worked with several landowners to develop Natural Resource Stewardship Plans, started a manure exchange program (this program will be on our website: [www.jswcd.org](http://www.jswcd.org)), and started working with urban landowners. Plan to get in touch with her if you would like to start the planning process on your property.
- We have moved! We are still in the same building, but in a larger office where the entrance to Suite 102 now faces Parson Drive. The move took place in December and we are still organizing and settling. Stop by for a visit.
- Our 10-week Forage Resource Management Class is under way with new participants. Starting on February 28<sup>th</sup>, eighteen participants representing fourteen operations will take classes that included: soils and fertilization, knowing your responsibilities as a rural landowner, plant growth and plant response to grazing and plant identification, plant ecology and grazing effects on pastures, management intensive grazing, nutritional requirements of grazing animals, fencing and watering facilities, forage budgeting, and monitoring. Class participants go on three tours and will have their own property plans started or completed by the end of the course.
- Markie Germer has been with the District since last April. She is fantastic at keeping the office running, keeping all of us on task, and doing it all with a smile. We are currently interviewing for an outreach/education and grant writer position and hope to have it filled by April 1<sup>st</sup>.
- The District's Farm And Ranch Resource Management (FARRM) group elected officers in January. The new and/or returning officers are: President – Randy White, Vice-president – Ern Russell, Secretary – Martha Straube, and Treasurer – Marsha MacCormack. The group is planning 4 local tours and 1 annual tour. The summer annual tour is set for the Hopland Research and Extension Center and the Sierra Foothill Research and Extension Center in Northern California, with other possible stops. More information will be available

within the next month. Please call if you are interested in going on the tour. If you are interested in joining FARRM please call Margaret Meierhenry at (541) 826-6649.



- We had a fantastic annual meeting and celebration. See more about the night's events on page 6-7 of this newsletter.
- We have a Landowner As-sistance Program (LAP), for landowners having completed a Natural Resource Stewardship Plan, that will help successful applicants receive partial funding for projects such as: irrigation water management, soil erosion, stream bank stabilization, pasture and grazing management, fencing, watering facilities, and seeding.
- The District website is continuing to grow with help from Ken Schiff of GuiGuy. Check out our website: [www.jswcd.org](http://www.jswcd.org).
- We work together with our Service Center partners, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and Farm Service Agency (FSA), and make on-site visits to help "Landowners Turn Natural Resource Concerns Into Opportunities".
- The Rural Living Handbook is still highly requested within the state and around the country. The mailings for the newsletter, *The Conservationist*, continues to grow and if you do not receive it now call the office or you can read the current and past issues on-line at [www.jswcd.org](http://www.jswcd.org). If you have any suggestions for future articles, please let us know.

Randy



### Urban Conservation Ideas

- Use permeable surfaces for driveways and walkways
- Use drip systems instead of sprinkler systems
- Don't feed the storm drain anything you wouldn't want to eat or drink
- Use rain barrels, and a rain garden or swale in your landscaping

For more ideas on Urban or Backyard Conservation, Call:

541-734-3143

or visit our website at:

[www.jswcd.org](http://www.jswcd.org)

## “Woodlawn Creek” - Homeowners’ Backyard Conservation

(Continued from page 1)

enough soil capacity to accept the extra water volume.

We have several other factors that compounded our problem. We share a long 100’ X 20’ driveway with our neighbors. The runoff from their garage rooftop and sump pump, our house and garage roofs, AND the runoff from the entire driveway pooled in front of (and in) our garage. To top it off, when it rains really hard the ditch on the other side of the street overflows the bank and flows across the lowest spot in the street – yes, you guessed it, conveniently located in front of our driveway. Small wonder that our garage became flooded! During a big



covered drain empties into sump

rain so much water would rush down the driveway we started calling it “Woodlawn Creek”. Finally I was fed up, so I dug an open ditch from the sump next to the garage across our backyard to allow the water to drain away from the garage. Although it solved our garage-flooding problem, my wife Theresa was less than pleased with the new landscape feature and said something on the order of, “Craig, we can’t have an ugly open ditch across our backyard!”

After many fruitless discussions about the wisdom of the ugly open ditch, we decided to convert the ditch into a “creek bed” with a small detention basin at the lowest point in our yard. Theresa and I designed the layout, but



open ditch converted to creek bed

left the dirty work to a contractor. Once the contractor had excavated the creek bed and installed the rocks and trees, Theresa developed a landscape design and selected additional plants for the banks of the creek and surrounding areas. With some exceptions, most of the plants she chose are native to southern Oregon, and have thrived.

So, after some innovative thinking

and a lot of hard work we not only solved our flooding problem, we have a beautiful, private backyard that, Theresa and I, and the birds enjoy much more than just



landscaped creek bed and holding pond

an old patch of scraggly grass. Dozens of bird species visit our yard, feed on the native berries, and drink from the pond. Different kinds of flowers bloom spring through fall, and the native trees and shrubs in the back planting bed serve as a dense visual barrier. Our raised-bed vegetable garden is small, but productive (if we can beat the slugs to the ripe strawberries and tomatoes). We use and enjoy our back yard much more now. It’s our sanctuary.

If you are interested in managing stormwater runoff on your property, your community may have resources to assist you. Many local communities throughout Jackson County are working together to help encourage the integration of stormwater into the landscape. Simply put, stormwater is much easier to manage at its source, rather than attempting to reduce flooding and remove pollution just before it flows into creeks and rivers. Stormwater can increase the effects of flooding and is one of the leading causes of water pollution. Pollution found in stormwater includes bacteria, nutrients, oil and grease, pesticides, and sediment. These pollutants are harmful to fish and other wildlife and, if ingested, can make people sick as well. Simple, common sense practices and inexpensive easy-to-install facilities can prevent most pollutants from entering our streams.

Jackson SWCD is working with Rogue Valley Council of Governments (RVCOG), Rogue Valley Sewer Services (RVS), Medford and Ashland Public Works, and other local communities and organizations to manage stormwater more effectively, not only in urban areas, but also in the urban interface and rural areas of the county. Let’s all work together to Keep Our Streams and Rivers Clean!

### For more information contact:

RVCOG, Natural Resources Dept., 541-664-6674, Craig Harper –

[charper@rvcog.org](mailto:charper@rvcog.org)

or Greg Stabach – [gstabach@rvcog.org](mailto:gstabach@rvcog.org)

website – [http://www.rvcog.org/mn.asp?pg=natural\\_resources](http://www.rvcog.org/mn.asp?pg=natural_resources)

Jackson SWCD, 541-734-3143, Randy White –

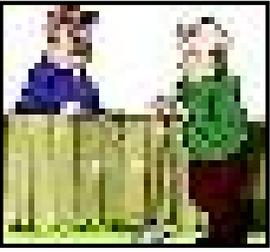
[randy.white@or.nacdnet.net](mailto:randy.white@or.nacdnet.net)

or Angie Boudro – [angie.boudro@or.nacdnet.net](mailto:angie.boudro@or.nacdnet.net)

website – <http://www.jswcd.org/>

RVS, Stormwater Engineer, Maynard Flohaug, 541-664-6300,

[mflohaug@rvss.us](http://www.mflohaug@rvss.us) website – [http://www.bcvsa.org/ter\\_quality.htm](http://www.bcvsa.org/ter_quality.htm)



## Across the City Fence

By Angie Boudro — Natural Resource Specialist

Editors Note: We usually think of Conservation issues occurring in rural areas, but as the county population increases urban pollution also increases. Jackson SWCD is joining with other organizations to increase awareness of how city dwellers can help the environment in the urban landscape. Watch for continuing articles on helpful conservation practices.

As Jackson County's population continues to grow and our farms and ranches continue to be fractioned into ranchettes, shopping centers, schools, and subdivisions, the importance of urban conservation grows. Individually, these small parcels of land may not have a great effect on our environment, but cumulatively the impact to our soil and water resources is significant. Too often, those owning larger tracts of land are singled out even when they are practicing responsible land management. However, even the best practices applied on agricultural lands cannot protect the water or soil in the urban landscape.

In *Across the City Fence*, we will discuss urban pollution and recommend solutions to the pollution. In future newsletters, we will outline practices that our city and small acreage friends can use to conserve water, protect water quality, prevent erosion, and much more. If you are a farmer or rancher, these conservation practices would be great to include on your place too!

When you picture an urban landscape, what do you see? Houses, schools, commercial buildings, streets, parking lots - all of these structures are impermeable surfaces which is the major concern for urban conservation. Impermeable surfaces are areas that do not allow rainwater to infiltrate the soil. In the urban settings, pollutants such as car oil, trash, pesticides, fertilizers, pet waste, leaves, and gasoline are carried off impermeable surfaces by rain, snowmelt, or sprinkler runoff and into the nearest storm drain, which then dumps the *untreated* water into our streams. These same streams provide drinking water, recreation, and wildlife habitat. This leads to an increased volume of unfiltered water moving through

every part of the system – stormwater drain-ages, ditches, and natural streams.

Prior to land development, rain and snow was able to permeate the soil or slowly flow across vegetated land where it was treated before entering the waterway. Due to the large amount of impermeable surfaces present in our urban areas, high volumes of water now enter urban storm drain systems at one time. The increased volume overloads natural systems and is often accompanied by an increased velocity, which causes soil erosion, which in turn increases turbidity and sedimentation in our streams and loss of valuable stream bank soil. Because this water rapidly moves across our streets and roofs, rainwater is not able to infiltrate the soil and groundwater sources aren't recharged. Many communities rely on groundwater for domestic use, but many are not being recharged and the groundwater is being depleted.

Soil is an excellent filter, but it also acts as a sponge. It fills to capacity during the rainy season, and during the dry season, slowly releases reserved water. In a properly functioning system, the result is a longer green season, more controlled stream flows in winter and more sustained flows during summer. Unfortunately, the balance in this system has been disrupted and it no longer functions properly. There are things you can do, whether you have a quarter of an acre or 100. We'll cover one of those next time!

March 8, 2008  
Horse Health Seminar

# Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District

Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District held their annual meeting and celebration on January 18, 2008 at the OSU Extension Auditorium. The room was filled to capacity with folks interested in conservation, as well as having a good time. Mel Morris prepared a delicious BBQ tri-tip dinner along with side dishes that everyone enjoyed.

The keynote speaker, Dan Daggett, presented a message that many have known for a long time: wise use of the land is the preferable alternative to leaving it in an unproductive state. Mr. Daggett's second book, *Beyond the Rangeland Conflict: Toward a West That Work* has been nominated for the Pulitzer Prize. The book has been hailed as one of the most important books recently written about rangeland management.



Keynote Speaker — Dan Daggett

The 2006-2007 District Awards and a slide show of Jackson SWCD Year in Review were presented. The Oregon Association of Conservation Districts (OACD) gave recognition to the State sponsored Poster, Essay, and Speech contest winners. 1<sup>st</sup> Place Poster winners received a \$50 savings bond, certificate, and art supplies as a County Award. The 1<sup>st</sup> Place Essay winner received a \$50 savings bond, certificate, including a pen and journal for the County Award.



Oral Auction called by C. W. Smith, recorded by Angie Boudro. Proceeds benefit the Fred Straube Memorial Scholarship.

A young man on his way to OIT will use Fred Straube Memorial Scholarship and will major in Mechanical and Electrical Engineering. Jarred Murphy, is a senior at Crater High School, participating in basketball, FAA, and has prepared himself by taking Ag Mechanics at the school. The auctions netted over \$3,000 to be added to the scholarship fund. Be sure to attend next time—it was great fun!

## Oregon Association of Conservation Districts — State Awards —



OACD State Poster Contest: Grades K-1, 1st Place David Gladman— 1st grader and is home-schooled. His poster went on to be judged at the National level.



OACD State Poster Contest: Grades 2-3, 1st Place Jimmy Schireman— 2nd grader attends Sacred Heart School. His poster went on to be judged at the National level.



OACD State Poster Contest: Grades 4-5-6 Janicca Bird— 5th grader at Mae Richards School



OACD State Essay Contest: Grades 7-9, 1st Place Alisha Shurr—Freshman at Crater High School- 4H and FFA

# Annual Meeting & Celebration — Year 2006 — 2007



Photos by Ralph McKechine

*Jackson SWCD Conservationist of the Year*  
Margaret Meierhenry



*Watershed Friendly Stewardship Award*  
Larry Martin, daughter Lillian receive award from Amy Wilson



*Fred Straube Memorial Scholarship*  
Martha Straube congratulates Jarred Murphy-Crater High School

Volunteers

of the Year



Special Recognition given to: Marsha MacCormack and Margaret Meierhenry.



Left to right back row: Allan Campbell 3rd, Cory Hamann, Keith Corp, Margaret Meierhenry, Charlie Boyer, Martha Straube, Barbara Niedermeyer, Brian Gebhard, Larry Martin, Jim Buck. Front row: Ern Russell, Martha MacCormack, Marilyn Rice, Lillian Martin., Jean Buck.

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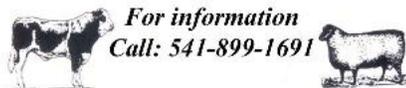
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## “Smart Horse” Stewardship Certification Program

*Healthy Pastures, Healthy Horses, Healthy Water*

Are you a horse lover that wants the best for you and your horse? Then please join us to learn more about responsible horse ownership, caring for your horse, and your role in protecting our water and soil. The Smart Horse Certification Program offers many benefits for horse owners, whether you are first time horse owner or have owned horses all your life. This program provides horse-owners a support network of professionals and scientists from a wide variety of backgrounds.

The Jackson Soil & Water Conservation District, in partnership with the Oregon Department of Agriculture and the Oregon State University Extension Service, are sponsoring this program to provide the following benefits to horse owners:

- Increased access to science-based knowledge
- Improved horse health and welfare
- Improved economics through improved pasture, land and natural resource management
- Reduced likelihood of complaints and fines
- Discounts and rebates on horse-related products
- Farm-gate plaque and trailer stickers or stall-signs

### Program Requirements:

- Complete a Natural Resource Stewardship Plan (similar to a farm plan)

- A minimum of 2 site visits by JSWCD staff to discuss farm management and natural resource concerns
- Attend Horses and Mud
- Attend at least one of the following
  - Horses and Wilderness Areas
  - Horse Cents
    - Facility Design, Fencing, Training and Gear
    - Horse Behavior and Welfare
    - Economics for stables, training and breeding, horse ownership
- Complete at least one of the following
  - Irrigation Water Management Plan
  - 10 week JSWCD Forage Resource Management Class
- Re-certification is required once a year for the first three years, and then once every five years after that. Re-certification includes a site visit by JSWCD staff and a review of the horse owners Natural Resource Stewardship Plan

This great program is now accepting applications! Enrollment costs \$45, and includes assistance with natural resource planning, site visits, and a farm gate and stall plaques. For more information, call Angie Boudro of the Jackson Soil & Water Conservation District at 734-3143, or by email at [angie.boudro@or.nacdnet.net](mailto:angie.boudro@or.nacdnet.net). Don't miss this great chance to improve your horses' health, your facilities and your peace of mind!

We are still looking for businesses to offer incentives for certification. Please call if you are interested in offering coupons, discounts, etc. towards this program.

**\*Please note that this is a completely non-regulatory program\***

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If your mailing address has changed,  
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e-mail [markie.germer@or.nacdnet.net](mailto:markie.germer@or.nacdnet.net)

Jackson SWCD prohibits discrimination in its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital of familial status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Jackson SWCD is an equal opportunity employer.



### Landowner Assistance Program (LAP)

Jackson SWCD's Landowner Assistance Program (LAP) is intended to help landowners that may otherwise not have the financial means to install conservation practices on their land. Priority is given to landowners addressing water quality, water quantity, and soil erosion issues in relation to land management activities, such as agricultural irrigation, nutrient management, riparian management, forest stand management, grazing and pasture management, and noxious weed control. The landowner or lessee must work with Jackson SWCD staff to develop a Natural Resource Stewardship Plan, agree to receive technical assistance on the proposed project and to follow specifications set forth by the Jackson SWCD. This is a 50% cost share program with a maximum of \$2500.00 per operation. For more information please contact Jackson SWCD at (541) 734-3143.



*Coming Soon!!!*

Jackson Soil and Water Conservation  
District's

### Manure Exchange



Please contact us for more  
information:  
734-3143 or  
[angie.boudro@or.nacdnet.net](mailto:angie.boudro@or.nacdnet.net)

### ◀— Mark Your Calendar —▶

March 8— Horse Health Seminar  
RSVP Required

March 17—Deadline for LAP

March 25— Stormwater Presentation and  
Round Table Discussion

April 18–19— Josephine County  
Agriculture Fair

June 28— CWMA “Let’s Pull Together”  
Weed Day