

Natural Resources wins conservation award

Tribal department receives honor from Polk County Soil and Water Conservation District

By Dean Rhodes

Smoke Signals editor

The Tribe's Natural Resources Department is very good at conservation, according to the Polk Soil and Water Conservation District.

So conservation-oriented, in fact, that the department received the 2012 Polk County Large Conservationist of the Year award at the Aug. 23 "A Taste of Polk County" annual meeting held at the 4-H Club in West Salem.

"This award is for the Tribe's progress in applying conservation plans and practices based on soil and other resource capabilities," said Conservation District Manager Jackie Hastings in an Aug. 6 letter to Tribal Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy.

In another press release, the Conservation District praised the Natural Resources Department for implementing large-scale conservation work during the past three years that is building "on a history of dedication with smaller project."

"Partnering with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde has taken a leading role on their current projects, setting higher standards than NRCS plans require and making progress at an exceptional pace," the press release said.

"They have enlisted their own personnel to carry out timber stand inventory data collection and made the data available to the NRCS and Polk SWCD. During pre-commer-



Photos by Michelle Alaimo



The Tribe's Natural Resources Department received the 2012 Outstanding Large Conservationist of the Year award from the Polk Soil and Water Conservation District at the district's annual meeting at the 4-H Center in West Salem on Thursday, Aug. 23. Present from NRD to accept the award was from left, Lindsay Belonga, biological technician, Michele Volz, senior administrative assistant, Rebecca McCoun, biologist, Andrew Puerini, forester and Jeff Kuust, Timber and Roads Program manager.

cial stand thinning, they train fire response crews to be more prepared for sudden fire events.

"The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde have also begun large-scale restoration beyond forest and pasture management, which now includes oak savanna and wetland habitat while cultivating culturally significant plants.

They have worked with natural resource agencies for many years, contributing significantly to Outdoor School, and making a positive impact on a large scale."

The work was made possible through several Tribal Council resolutions approving Natural Resources to pursue cost-share grant funding from the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Tribal Environmental Resource Specialist Brandy Humphreys was cited for being chair of the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board's Small Grant Team for several years and Grand Ronde volunteers were complimented for providing assistance to the Conservation District's restoration projects.

"The level of success would not have been possible without the Tribal Council's board members support of Michael Wilson, Brandy Humphreys, Zach Haas and Jeff Kuust," the release said.

Wilson is Natural Resources Department manager, Haas is the department's senior forester and Kuust is the Timber & Roads Program manager.

The Polk Soil and Water Conservation District, based in Dallas, was formed in April 1966. It promotes the wise use of natural resources in Polk County by offering technical assistance and conservation planning to resources owners and communities and provides education and outreach related to natural resource issues in the county.

"The staff at the Tribe's Natural Resources office puts a lot of thought and effort into caring for the membership's land," Wilson said. "I am happy to see their hard work recognized." ■

Elders' garage sale seeking donations

Tribal Elders are regularly seeking donations for fundraising garage sales. To donate an item or items, contact Tribal Elders Linda Brandon at 971-267-0918 or Duane Wheeler at 541-992-3254. ■

Committee & Special Event Board meeting days and times

Below is the most current information on the meeting days and times for Tribal Committees and Special Event Boards:

- **Ceremonial Hunt Board** meets as needed. Chair: Shonn Leno.
- **Cultural Trust Board** meets at 4 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month in Modular No. 2. Chair: Perri McDaniel.
- **Culture Committee** meets at 1 p.m. the first Wednesday of the month in Modular No. 3. Chair: TBD.
- **Education Committee** meets at 5:15 p.m. on the first Monday of the month in the Adult Education Building. Chair: Jon George.
- **Elders' Committee** meets at 10 a.m. the third Wednesday of the month in the Elders' Activity Center. Chair: Gladys Hobbs.
- **Enrollment Committee** meets quarterly in Room 204 of the Governance Building. Acting Chair: Robert Schmid.
- **Fish & Wildlife Committee** meets at 5:30 p.m. the second Tuesday of the month at the Natural Resources Building. Chair: Harold Lyon.
- **Health Committee** meets at 10 a.m. the second Wednesday of the month in the Tribal Wellness Center. Acting Chair: Patti Tom-Martin.
- **Powwow Special Event Board** meets at 5 p.m. the first Thursday of the month at the Tribal Community Center. Chair: Dana Ainam.
- **Rodeo Special Event Board** meets at 6 p.m. the first Thursday of the month at the Tribal Rodeo Office. Chair: Harold Lyon.
- **Social Services Committee** meets at 4 p.m. the second Monday of the month in the Social Services Conference Room. Chair: Jenny Sanchez.
- **Timber Committee** meets at 5 p.m. the second Thursday of the month at the Natural Resources Building. Chair: Bob Mercier.
- **Veterans Special Event Board** meets at 4 p.m. the first and third Tuesday of the month in the Tribal Community Center. Chair: TBD.

Elders' Fishing Trip set for Sept. 27

The Fish & Wildlife Committee is inviting Tribal Elders to participate in an Elders' Fishing Trip from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 27, at Henry Haag Lake near Forest Grove.

The trip will occur rain or shine. Transportation, fishing gear and a meal will be provided. Vans will leave the Elders' Activity Center in Grand Ronde at 7 and 10 a.m. sharp and return by 5 p.m.

Lunch will include burgers, hot dogs and a picnic-style luncheon. The trip is open to Elders and their spouses only.

Although a state fishing license is not required, participants must have a Tribal fishing license, which can be obtained at the Natural Resources Department at 503-879-2424.

Those interested in attending should sign up at the Elders' Activity Center or call 503-879-2233. ■

Bernando teaches Wawa in Portland office

Tribal member Eric Bernando teaches Chinuk Wawa language classes from 5:30 to 8:20 p.m. Wednesday at the Portland office, 4445 S.W. Barbur Blvd., Suite 101.

For more information, contact Bernando at ChinukWawa@gmail.com or at 503-709-3017. ■

ATTENTION TRIBAL MEMBERS

COMMITTEE AND SPECIAL EVENT BOARD VACANCIES

The following Committees and Special Event Boards have vacant positions.

Social Services	3 Vacancies
Rodeo Special Event Board	1 Vacancy
Veterans Special Event Board	1 Vacancy

Please send completed applications to the Lauri Smith, 9615 Grand Ronde Road, Grand Ronde, OR 97347.