

Hello OSWCS Membership,

As the calendar shifted to September the shorter, cooler days of autumn arrived with relief from the scorching summer of 2015! As I look back on this past summer I realize just how much I was like melted putty; the intense heat was immobilizing. I took to the mountains to seek relief from the summer heat. I was dismayed to see the deep, cold lake levels well below their shore's rim. Even high-elevation mountain streams were already at base flow in mid-June.

The Oregon Chapter of the SWCS held the stream classification workshop August 19th. Our field portion of the class was taught on Abiqua Creek just outside of Silverton, OR. Abiqua Creek is notable for its fishing and fresh cool white waters. The day before the class I helped the instructor, Dr. Barry Southerland, scout the field site to locate a stream reach where he could demonstrate basic survey techniques. As we accessed the stream I quickly recognized that Abiqua Creek was well below the average summer base flow and the stream corridor was speckled with ankle to hip-high pools and long open stretches of cobbles and exposed stream bottom.



Oregon Chapter President, Brenda Sanchez, digs life along Mill Creek in Salem.



Britta Orwick and Sherry Vick record stream survey data. © C. Fasano

My chest waders were overkill. Knee-high mud boots were all I needed. We walked the center of the stream until we came around a bend where Barry slipped into a chest-high pool. At last, his reference site! As we left the area and walked up the streambank toward the covered Gallon House Bridge I noticed an abandoned rope swing tied to a thick sturdy branch of an Oregon ash tree, high above the murky pool. The rope hung motionless and still, its knotted end appearing dejected and impractical, singeing into my memory a perfect symbol of the 2015 drought.

The workshop was held on the next day in 98°F heat. Once we left the air-conditioned classroom portion of the workshop and arrived streamside, the shade of the riparian trees kept us cool. The workshop attendees seemingly never noticed or complained about the heat as they took in the instruction of Dr. Southerland with willingness and enthusiasm. I welcome the fall weather and hope El Niño, churning deep off the Pacific Coast, whips up a nice winter-long batch of fresh rain to help bring Oregon's famous water resources back to magnificence again.

Brenda Sanchez, President

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Hands-on Stream Classification

August 19, 2015—18 natural resource professionals donned thinking caps, waders and boots to absorb a full dose of stream classification education laced with the humor and enthusiasm of Barry Southerland, NRCS geomorphologist extraordinaire.



Marie Vicksta performs a Wolman pebble count aided by a stable hand from Kammy Kern Korot. © C. Fasano

Take-home messages

Participants shared the three most valuable concepts they learned from the workshop:

"Physics precedes Biology. Bankfull discharge is way more important than flood stage when thinking about stream formation. Restoring streams using just vegetation as a tool is difficult but possible if confronted with a Stream I or Stream IV channel type. Other stages will most likely need structural work."



Zoe Ash and Issac Kentta look on as Barry Southerland describes survey techniques. © C. Fasano

"The importance of stream classification is determining what sort of stream restoration work is likely to be successful."

" 'Bankfull stage' -at which most work is done by the river. 'Floodplain' is not determined by vegetation. 'Flood return interval' in the Willamette Valley is about 1-2 years. 'Wolman pebble count'- to get overall size of particles being moved."

"You will need a least one meander wave length if you are going to distribute the energy properly (for a restoration project). The goal is a 'stable channel', not a rigid one. Reference materials for further

reading: [A View of the River](#) by Luna B Leopold, [Water in Environmental Planning](#); by Thomas Dunne, [NRCS Tech Note RM 245: Guidance for Stream Restoration](#) ."

Describe one stream classification topic that you would like to spend an entire field day on, physically measuring and learning the concept:

"Appropriate treatments for streams at different stages. Stream cross section; how to apply measurements."



Barry Southerland measures as Issac Kentta records. © C. Fasano

"More detail on how the specific stream type affects what type of restoration work is likely to be successful. Spending a day looking at restoration projects where the stream has been classified and discussing what works and what doesn't would be invaluable."

"Since the river environments where I live are so 'un-natural' and not likely to ever be in a 'natural' state again, I would like to know if there are tools (like Rosgen) for studying a human-altered river and projecting how to reach stability in a river system that is not in its natural state."

"Bank erosion processes and mechanics."



Barry and Russ Hatz battery handoff. ©S. Vick



The group attempts an introduction to "Floodplain analysis, and using a laser level to take a cross section." © C. Fasano

Please provide a brief recap of your favorite workshop lesson or activity:

"All of it was great. Very informative. I specially liked being able to look through slides with the different characteristics and then being able to apply those identifiers once in the field."

"'The river is the carpenter of its own edifice' was a concept that gave me much food for thought and also, I really liked the in-field portion though I would have liked to have had more time to do some individual hands-on measuring. Overall it was THE best and most informative training I have been to so far in my two years with the District, bar none (and I try to make as many trainings/workshops as I can get to), so
Good Job Guys!

"Getting into the stream doing hands-on. Good follow up to class lessons."

"Getting out into the field with new topics we discussed in lecture was crucial for me. I really appreciated the patience mixed with passion that Dr. Southerland brought to the table. Overall, the most helpful aspect for me was



In the post-workshop survey, participants repeatedly expressed their gratitude for taking class lessons into the field. © C. Fasano

reviewing images of streams and then working as a group to determine what stage channel we were observing. I have done a similar exercise at a River Restoration NW short course and all I can say is repetition, repetition, repetition."

"My favorite part of the workshop was learning about how important stream classification is when determining what sort of stream restoration work is likely to be successful."



Stream Classification group wrap-up. © S. Vick

Thank you,
Barry Southerland!!!



Healthy Land
Clean Water
For Life

"My Sediments"

Oregon Chapter Newsletter

Fall 2015 - page 5

Volume 3, Issue 3

My Sediments - The Chapter News

Help tell Oregon's conservation story by submitting an article to *My Sediments* about a newsworthy project, work-in-progress, upcoming event, or recognize a valued cohort.

Formula for an easy article: Write 75 to 200 words and include a graphic to add visual interest to your story.

Please include the following components:

- Title
- Author
- Contact for more information
- Indicate if article includes time sensitive material and the deadline date.
- Graphics - for each article include at least one and up to three graphics.
 - Photos: include caption (important!) and photographer name and year.
 - Graph/Chart: brief data description and legible units.

Submission Schedule

Submit articles, questions or comments to:

Teresa Matteson, Tmatt0@rtdata.com

541-840-3616.

Deadline for articles	Distribution date
February 15	March 1
May 15	June 1
August 15	September 1
November 15	December 1



Please join us for the

2015 Annual Meeting!

Friday, October 30, 2015 - 4 PM

NRCS Plant Materials Center

3415 NE Granger Ave, Corvallis, OR 97330

RSVP to:

Teresa Matteson

tmatt0@rtdata.com

541-840-3616

Board Vacancies!

We are recruiting three Board members. Members serve 3-year terms. Ideally, board members represent the following areas:

Zone 1	Central OR	1 member
Zone 2	Eastern OR	1 member
Zone 3	SW OR	1 member
Zone 4	NW OR	2 members
At-Large		2 members

Attend SWCS Board meetings in person or via teleconference. If you have questions or comments, contact any of us.

SWCS Oregon Chapter Board Members

Brenda Sanchez, President

Brenda.Sanchez@marionswcd.net

Teresa Matteson, Secretary/Treasurer

tmatt0@rtdata.com

Russ Hatz, Past President

russ.hatz@frontier.com

Annie Young-Mathews—Zone 4

anna.young-mathews@or.usda.gov