



Trinity County Resident Named Volunteer of the Year by California Association of Resource Conservation Districts

Kenneth Baldwin of Trinity County was named Volunteer of the Year by the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts (CARCD) during its recent annual meeting. Baldwin, a Registered Professional Forester and a long-time resident of Trinity County, was recognized for generously volunteering his expertise on behalf of numerous conservation projects, including the Weaverville Community Forest. Presenting the award is CARCD president Pat Quist.

Baldwin has resided in Trinity County since early 1972. He is a partner in Baldwin, Blomstrom, Wilkinson and Associates, a forestry and environmental consulting firm based in Arcata with a satellite office in Trinity County. Among the projects Baldwin has helped with in recent years are development of the Trinity County Community Wild-fire Protection Plan, and fire management plans for the downriver communities of Salyer, Hawkins Bar, Grays Flat and part of Willow Creek. Other projects include the fire management plans for the Grass Valley Creek Watershed and for the communities of Covington Mill, Long Canyon and Lake Forest Estates. Baldwin and his associates also shaped the Programmatic Timberland Environmental Impact Report for 4800 acres in the Weaver Basin which will reduce costs for forest health and fuels reduction projects on private lands.

Baldwin has provided the District with much help and expertise in managing Weaver-ville Community Forest. He laid out the first forest health project for the Forest and also delineated 90 permanent plots of trees that will continue to be monitored for volume, growth and health far into the future.



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Burn Days, Burn Permits and Air Quality Incentive Grants: It's All for the Public's Health

The North Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD), based in Eureka, works to protect the health of Trinity County residents through a variety of programs. This regional government agency is committed to protecting public health and maintaining air quality, and has jurisdiction covering Humboldt, Del Norte and Trinity Counties. AQMD is governed by a board of directors comprised of county supervisors from each of the three counties, plus a representative from the incorporated cities within the jurisdiction. There are 35 such districts in California, all affiliated with the state Air Resources Control Board.

The many diverse climates, microclimates and rural communities within the tri-county area provide an array of challenges and require unique solutions in dealing with pollution from industrial and commercial facilities, potential wildfires, defensible space requirements and fuels reduction projects. The AQMD strives to work with the public and industry to achieve fuels reduction goals and industry standards to help ensure public health. Its programs include incentive grants to help reduce exhaust emissions from on-road and off-road vehicles, reduce diesel pollution, and to replace older, non-certified wood stoves with cleaner, more fuel-efficient wood heating devices or other less polluting heating appliances. The agency also monitors weather and other factors to determine when conditions allow for burn days that will have the least impact on public health.

There are state and federal air quality standards for certain pollutants that must be met within each Air Quality Management District. Each district adopts its own rules and regulations to combat the particular air quality problems within its region. The types of pollution sources regulated vary from district to district, depending on the particular problems of a region. Air quality in Humboldt, Del Norte and Trinity County does not fully meet health based standards. The pollutant of greatest concern here is particulate matter, essentially smoke and dust particles in the air. Major contributors to this are all types of vegetation burning, woodsmoke from fire places, diesel emissions from vehicles and dust from sand and gravel operations. Our region's geography and microclimates create pollution-trapping situations that often compound the problem.

For health reasons, AQMD is most concerned with particulate matter less than 25 microns in diameter (PM_{2.5}). Particles of this size and smaller can permanently lodge in the deepest, most sensitive areas of the lungs and cause serious respiratory and other health problems. The California Air Resources Board recently concluded PM_{2.5} is far more hazardous than previously estimated. More information on PM_{2.5} is available on the state agency's website at www.arb.ca.gov.

According to AQMD, burning without a valid burn permit can result in fines of \$10,000 or more. Its complaint hotline is (707) 444-2233. For further information regarding burning within the AQMD, or to learn about incentive programs, call (707) 443-3093 or visit its website at www.ncuaqmd.org. Recorded information on burn day status is available at 1-866-287-6329.

New Watershed Stewards Member Joins District for 2010

Mandy Monroe is the newest member of AmeriCorps Watershed Stewards (WSP) to join the District for a year of service. This is Mandy's first year with WSP and she will be working in tandem with Bo Kimball, who is serving her second year of AmeriCorps volunteer work with WSP and the District.

WSP members are involved in watershed restoration, assessment and conservation projects, teach watershed and fisheries-based curriculum to K-12 students, and participate in community outreach events. They receive high quality training in natural resources and professional development topics during their tenure.



WSP members Bo Kimball and Mandy Monroe

Fresh from receiving a Bachelor's degree from Warren Wilson College, Mandy's thirst to learn cannot be quenched. She majored in Biology and Environmental Studies with a minor in Latin American Studies, and will likely pursue graduate studies in the future. She is currently taking advantage of volunteer experiences and libraries to continue her personal education.

Mandy has worked as an assistant in various biological research projects. One of her favorite assignments involved collecting, identifying, preserving and cataloguing vascular plants on her college campus in the southern Appalachian Mountains. Just when it seemed that plants and botany were her preferred direction, Mandy engaged in sea turtle conservation projects in South Carolina and Costa Rica. As a result, reptiles moved high on her list of interests. Now she is thrilled to join the Watershed Stewards Project and learn about the fishy side of life, since no aspect of biology has yet disappointed her.

Trinity has struck Mandy as an incredibly engaging and welcoming region of a beautiful state -- one she has only just begun to know. Her new WSP position with the District is especially appealing because of its focus on environmental education and community outreach. Mandy is eager to make connections with members of the Trinity County community through her instruction of the Real Science program in schools, coordinating summer day camp at the Young Family Ranch, and working with the Watershed Exploration and Monitoring Program through the Trinity County Office of Education's after-school program.

Mandy and Bo will be visiting Trinity County schools to provide classroom and after school science instruction and environmental learning activities. They will also be leading the Weaverville Summer Day Camp in July.

Mandy is in quest of the honest, simple life: "Keep me carefree, let me raise hens, work me directly and physically for food, publish my dabbling of writings, engage me in community conservation projects, teach me to sustain simply, nourish my fledgling creativity, then consider me content!"

The mission of WSP is to conserve, restore, and enhance anadromous watersheds for future generations by linking education with high-quality scientific practices. WSP is a special project of the California Conservation Corps (CCC) administered by California Volunteers and sponsored by the Corporation for National and Community Service.

River Day at Coffee Creek



Coffee Creek teacher Bill Loucks organized the special environmental science day.



Bird identification using binoculars and books was part of studying creek habitat.



USFS Forester Tim Lovitt explained instruments and techniques used by foresters to monitor the health of trees and forests. He explained how tree species are identified and the importance of trees to watershed health.





Watershed Stewards Project member Bo Kimball showed students how to use a simple chemical analysis to determine the amount of dissolved oxygen in stream water available for living organisms. Dissolved oxygen is one factor in determining stream health and water quality.



Students learned how to calculate stream flow from average speed and average cross-section measurements.



Students examine collected macroinvertebrates and learn how certain stream bugs indicate the health of a stream.



Wet Winter Helps Planting Efforts Along River

As most readers know, the District is involved in many projects and types of work. Among these is revegetation work along the Trinity River where efforts have been underway for several years to restore a more natural channel conducive to native fish spawning and rearing.

The Trinity River Restoration Program (TRRP) has applied scientific knowledge to recreate properly functioning conditions along the river, conditions that were impaired by low flows following the construction of the dam. TRRP plans and conducts mechanical channel rehabilitation and sediment management activities at several locations, including work to create additional fish and wildlife habitat.



Portion of Sawmill site viewed from Goose Ranch Road.

An important part of restoration is replacing native vegetation in areas where mechanical work has taken place. This winter the District revegetation crew has been busy planting locally collected native trees at the Sawmill Restoration Site in Lewiston for TRRP and this season's rainfall is expected to help the plants get a good start.

Before planting could begin, appropriate sources for certain willow and cottonwood species had to be identified and then cuttings collected. District crews spent six weeks last autumn collecting material from selected sites and have become expert at identifying arroyo willow, red willow, shining willow and black cottonwood (*Salix lasiolepis*, *S. laevigata*, *S. lucida* ssp. *lasiandra*, and *Populus balsamifera* ssp. *tricarpa*, respectively). Each source tree was given an identification number so cuttings from it could be associated with the host tree for monitoring purposes. Each group of cuttings was also labeled with the number of its host tree. Precise location coordinates of source trees and each new plant are recorded for later monitoring.

To encourage rooting, cuttings were first kept in water, then cold storage, followed by a final soak just before planting. A total of 7,122 willow and cottonwood cuttings were planted at the Sawmill site between November and January. More than 7,500 herbaceous riparian plants such as mugwort (*Artemisia douglasiana*), baltic rush (*Juncus balticus*), common rush (*Juncus effusus*), grey rush (*Juncus patens*), and naked sedge (*Carex nudata*) were hand planted along the water's edge and in low lying areas. A large amount of plant material salvaged during the mechanical channel rehabilitation was also replanted. After channel work and planting monitoring is done to determine the success of the restoration effort.



Thousands of stakes mark plantings.

In addition to this work, District crews planted 1,100 conifers for the Oregon Burn Restoration Project and worked with private landowners in Junction City and on Oregon Mountain to plant a total of 1,700 conifers. Recent rains will help these trees become established.



District crew member Doug Crislip watering-in cuttings.



Cuttings ready for mechanical cluster planting to ensure they reach the water table.



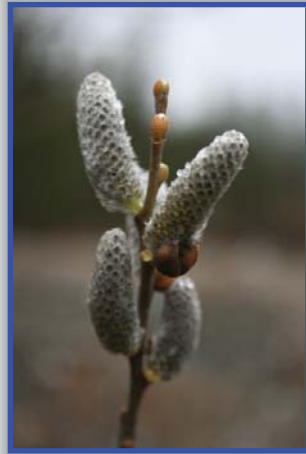
Two year old beaked hazelnut (*Corylus cornuta*) at District's nursery.



Common Rush, (*Juncus effusus*), trimmed and ready for planting.



Grass plugs in the greenhouse at District's native plant nursery.



Premature male (staminate) flower of arroyo willow (*Salix lasiolepis*) cutting planted at Sawmill Site.

CWPP UPDATE



Community meetings have been held throughout Trinity County in recent months by the District and the Watershed Research and Training Center to update the county's Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). This plan acts as a guide for the implementation of projects intended to help to control wildland fires. The current CWPP was developed by the Trinity County Fire Safe Council during similar community meetings between 2000 and 2005, and has led to many fuels reduction projects being implemented in Trinity County over the past five years.

This year's efforts focus on obtaining community input on the projects originally identified as needed for fire safety, and on updating their status. The process will also identify the need for new projects due to land-use changes and new knowledge about fire behavior. This update will place strong emphasis on using Geographic Information Systems

(GIS) to map all the projects and fire infrastructure such as water sources, fire stations and heliports in the county.

Community involvement has been consistent and very positive. Participants are joining with their neighbors as well as fire officials from their local volunteer fire department, CalFire, BLM and the US Forest Service to discuss projects in their neighborhoods as well as projects on public lands that will affect private residences in the communities. Local volunteer fire departments have been very helpful. Their members provide an abundance of local expertise and have helped arrange meeting locations and refreshments. There has been great cooperation as this update moves forward, including strong collaboration between Trinity County Fire Safe Council, Willow Creek Fire Safe Council and Humboldt County, as all are working to update their CWPPs. Collaboration is focused around the idea that a wildfire won't stop at the Humboldt-Trinity county line so projects need to be developed on a larger, landscape scale.

This year's efforts are being funded with a grant through Trinity County from Title III of the federal Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act.



After School Monitoring

The Trinity County AfterSchool Program has created a program in which students will provide a community service while they get hands-on learning about water quality and caring for their environment.

The Trinity County Watershed Exploration and Monitoring Project (Trinity WEMP) resulted from a grant obtained by the Trinity County Office of Education that funds instruction and guidance for students to be involved in a community service project related to water quality monitoring. The After School Program turned to other agencies and entities in the area to provide experts to help develop the project, plus provide specialized training for school site coordinators. They, in turn, guide students in watershed learning activities.

The goal is to have students learn about the importance of water quality and protecting their watersheds, gain experience in using scientific methods to monitor their environment, collect data that can help residents and researchers know more about the health of Trinity County watersheds, and be introduced to environmental careers and high quality service learning.

Students enrolled in the after school programs at seven sites are learning how to monitor water quality in streams and rivers near their elementary schools. So far the program is active at Burnt Ranch, Junction City, Weaverville, Douglas City, Van Duzen, Lewiston and Hayfork elementary schools. Participants will monitor several factors affecting water quality and stream health. These are water temperature, pH (the measurement of how acid or alkaline the water is), turbidity (how much sediment or particulate matter is held in the water), dissolved oxygen (the amount of oxygen available in the water for fish, plants and other life forms) and stream flow (the volume of water moving past a certain point in a second). Students will also get to learn to identify various water insects, as these are among the best indicators of stream health. Some insects only live in the best water conditions while others will thrive in poor water.

Students will record information from their water sampling and observations and discuss their findings. They will be citizen scientists whose data will be recorded for researchers and the general public to reference and study. Plans are to compile the information and make it available online through the Trinity County Resource Conservation District (TCRCD).



Stonefly larvae is one of the most pollution-sensitive water insects and its presence indicates a clean, cool stream with much dissolved oxygen (great salmonid habitat).



After-School site coordinators observe and learn how presence of certain stream insects can indicate good stream health and quality habitat.

Ginny Allen and Arianna Reiter are coordinating the program for the Trinity County Office of Education. Mandy Monroe and Bo Kimball, two volunteers with AmeriCorps Watershed Stewards Project (WSP) who are assigned to the TCRCD, have been providing environmental education to county schools and the after school program. They, along with individuals from the Trinity River Restoration Program, the Watershed Research and Training Center and the TCRCD, provided specialized water quality training to the after school program coordinators from each school who will be working with students. Each site will receive follow-up visits so students receive additional guidance and are taught a range of fun watershed learning activities. One of the benefits of this project is that the natural world encourages curiosity and discovery, and these activities offer learning opportunities for students who do not particularly flourish inside the walls of a classroom.

Towards the end of the year, students will discuss their findings and consider ways to protect and conserve the water bodies they have been monitoring. They will be asked to prepare and deliver a public presentation in a community forum on their findings along with any public policy or action they feel is needed.

Monthly Group Hikes Scheduled

The Lewiston Trails Group and the Weaverville Basin Trail Committee lead a number of hikes around Trinity County throughout the year. These are great opportunities to share the out-of-doors with others and to explore new places to observe nature. Hikes are walked at a moderate pace and are typically two to four hours in length, including stops to smell the flowers and let the dogs make water. Please note that dogs owners' are welcome on these outings.

Following is a list of hikes planned for April, May and June. For further information on starting times, directions to trailheads and carpooling, please send your email address to JudyCarter@rcdnet.net or call 623-2009.

To receive the Trails Newsletter, send your postal service address to Judy Carter at P. O. Box 2183, Weaverville, CA 96093. The newsletter is published as volunteer time permits and is sometimes rather late in arriving. Email is best for last minute changes due to weather, etc.

Spring 2010 Hiking Dates and Locations

April 3, Saturday:	North Shore Trail -- Lewiston Lake
April 24, Saturday:	South Fork NRT -- Forest Glen
May 1, Saturday:	Jackass Ridge Trail -- Weaverville
May 15, Saturday:	Natural Bridge -- Wildwood
June 19, Saturday:	Lake Eleanor -- Trinity Center
June 26, Saturday:	Trinity River -- Douglas City

Census Count Will Help Trinity Residents

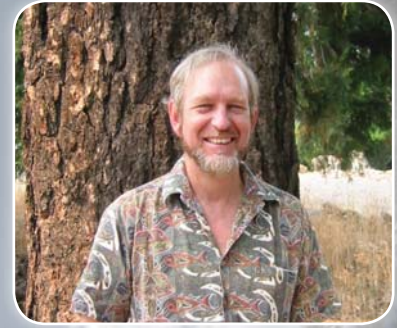
Trinity County residents are urged to fill out and mail in the 2010 Census form when they receive it in order to ensure this rural area gets its fair share of federal and state aid and representation. The data collected determines how much money local communities will get for such things as health care, children's and seniors' services, roads, transit services and education.

The California Center for Rural Policy (CCRP) is urging everyone to take part in the national head count since federal aid and legislative representation are based upon how many people live in an area. Failure to count everyone living here means this area will receive less federal money and state services than it should during the next 10 or more years. Importantly, the number of Congressional seats a state receives is also based on census data.

The U.S. Census Bureau conducts this count every 10 years. All households will be given a short 10-question form to fill out and mail back in a postagepaid envelope. By law, the information residents submit is completely confidential and is not shared with any other agency.

State and federal funding and services are allocated to counties based on each county's population. Uncounted means unfunded. County services, schools and local non-profits all rely on the accuracy and completeness of the census to maximize funding to serve local residents and maintain local roads, libraries, schools and services.

District Manager's Corner



The District has been working closely with other members of the Trinity County Fire Safe Council on an update of the county's Community Wildfire Protection Plan. We have had about a dozen meetings sponsored by your volunteer fire departments this winter. This has given me the opportunity to get out of the office and into many communities around Trinity County – from Ruth Lake to Coffee Creek and all along the Highway 299 corridor. The meetings have underscored many things about Trinity County. I think Mandy Monroe, our newest AmeriCorps Watershed Stewards member put it best “I am impressed how people here come together and get things done.” It's true. The volunteer fire departments are an incredible example of people willing to give up their own time to help their neighbors — literally on a moment's notice — and through their dedication they inspire others.

A community wildfire plan is only as good as the information in it and nothing is more important than the knowledge that comes from local residents willing to sit down together around a map to share what they know about the forests, mountains and streams around their own communities with the resource and fire professionals. This local knowledge was the strength of our original plan and it will be the strength of the updated plan. That same local information has been a big reason that we have been able to set project priorities and been so successful in getting funding from a wide variety of sources to implement so many fire safe projects in Trinity County.

Another key ingredient has been the staff working on the update. I want to take this opportunity to thank them, especially Nadya Novak and Ryen Rourke at the Watershed Research and Training Center and Alex Cousins and Kelly Sheen here at the RCD. They are dedicated and skilled professionals joined by many others working on this project.

And one final thing that has made these meetings memorable — scrumptious home-baked goods!

Pat Frost



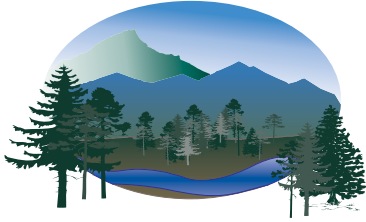
WEAVERVILLE SUMMER DAY CAMP SET FOR JULY

The Weaverville Summer Day Camp for students entering 1st through 6th grades will be returning to the Young Family Ranch for July 2010!

Four one-week sessions focusing on the environment and our connection to the land will be provided during July. The popular Nature Exploration Field Trips for 4th to 6th graders will be offered again.

In April the TCRCD will begin accepting applications and interviewing for enthusiastic and responsible camp counselors. Applications are available from the TCRCD or at Trinity High School. Interested high school and college applicants can email mdowdle@tcrd.net or call Mark at 623-6004 for more information.

Trinity County



Resource Conservation District

Trinity County Resource Conservation District
P.O. Box 1450
Weaverville, CA 96093



Established 1956

District Board Meetings

Third Wednesday
5:30 PM
Open to the Public

TCRCD Office

Number One
Horseshoe Lane
PO Box 1450
Weaverville, CA 96093

Telephone

(530) 623-6004
FAX 623-6006

E-mail: info@tcrd.net
Internet: www.tcrd.net

The Trinity County Resource Conservation District (TCRCD) is a special district set up under state law to carry out conservation work and education. It is a not-for-profit, self-governing district whose board of directors volunteer their time.

The TCRCD Vision

TCRCD envisions a balance between utilization and conservation of our natural resources. Through economic diversity and ecosystem management our communities will achieve and sustain a quality environment and healthy economy.

The TCRCD Mission

To assist people in protecting, managing, conserving and restoring the natural resources of Trinity County through information, education, technical assistance and project implementation programs.

**TCRCD Board of Directors are
Mike Rourke, Rose Owens, Patrick Truman,
Colleen O'Sullivan, and Greg Lowden.**

The RCD is landowners assisting landowners with conservation work. The RCD can guide the private landowner in dealings with state and federal agencies. The RCD provides information on the following topics:

- **Forest Land Productivity**
- **Watershed Improvement**
- **Water Supply and Storage**
- **Educational Programs**
- **Erosion/Sediment Control**
- **Wildlife Habitat**
- **Soil and Plant Types**
- **Fuels Reduction**

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