

September 7, 2023

Dear CoosWA Supporter,

Last year, vital financial support from you and others bolstered our efforts to help our local watershed ecosystems, communities, and economies thrive. Specifically, community donations from 2022 helped fill in the gaps with our grant funding to pay for the following:

- **Tractor:** With your support, we were able to purchase a tractor! This pivotal piece of equipment is going to radically change our on-the-ground work by enabling us to more efficiently plant trees, build fences, and manage invasive species. This work is the foundation of improving water quality in our basin. Additionally, the tractor has transformed our native plant nursery operations.
- **Trailer:** We also purchased a trailer, which has increased the amount of restoration work we can achieve in a season by having two work crews working simultaneously. This is a game-changer!
- **Community visioning:** Your contributions allowed us to host multiple community visioning sessions for the future Matson Community Center. The feedback received at these sessions shaped the initial feasibility study and will continue to directly inform the design of this building. We need your financial contributions to move this design forward!

*Your financial support fills a critical need: special opportunities that don't have ready grant sources. **This year, we need your financial support for the following projects:***

- Funds for continuing the design phase of the **Matson Community Center** building. When constructed, this will be a place for the community to gather for watershed education and natural resource job training activities.
- Support for the annual **Mayfly Festival** that provides a fun and dynamic place for families to learn about watersheds and the connection between the community, environment, and water.
- Funding for the **Teddy Villers Scholarship**. This scholarship honors the life of Teddy Villers (Oct. 7, 2004 – Sept. 4, 2015), son of Mark and Adela Villers, who had a strong curiosity and deep passion for the natural world. We award it each year to a local individual who exemplifies the spirit of the award and is pursuing education in the field of natural resources. The 2023 scholarship was awarded to Paige Speakman. Applications for the 2024 scholarship will open in March of next year.

How you can help

You can make a tax deductible donation by **sending us a check** to the address on our letterhead or through the **donation button on our website** (www.cooswatershed.org; please type your mailing address and phone number into the notes field so we can send you a tax-deductible receipt). Or you can **donate in person at this year's fundraising event!**

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Please Join us for Our 29th Birthday Bash Fundraiser and After-Party: Saturday September 30, Eastside Boat Ramp, Coos Bay

For this year's fundraiser, we are hosting a service event at the Millicoma Marsh trail (behind Eastside and Millicoma Schools). In addition, we will be hosting an after-party at the Eastside Boat Ramp parking area with a raffle, live music from the South Fork Four, and food and beverages available for purchase from 7 Devils and Amigas Tacos 'N More food truck. We'll have CoosWA staff and board members at these fun events to chat with you about our valuable work and answer any questions you may have. *We hope you can join us!*

- **2-4pm:** Service Event (Millicoma Marsh Trail): please bring a water bottle, gloves, your favorite hand tool (if you'd like), and dress for the weather. Most importantly, encourage your friends and neighbors to participate, too!
- **4-6pm:** After-Party (Eastside Boat Ramp): All are welcome and encouraged to come celebrate (even if you did not attend the service event!)

Thank you so much for continuing to be such a valuable part of the Coos Watershed Association!



Jeff Messerle, President



Haley Lutz, Executive Director

We would like to extend a huge thank you to this year's Birthday Bash sponsors!



Left: Matson Creek Wetland Preserve nursery, barn, and future site of Community Education Center.

Right: Summer youth crew unloading mulch from newly purchased tractor.