

Oregon Water Resources Congress

1201 Court St NE, Suite 303 * Salem, OR 97301 * Phone: (503) 363-0121 * Fax: (503) 371-4926 * Website: www.owrc.org

WATERWORKS



ISSUE #23

The mission of the Oregon Water Resources Congress is to promote the protection and use of water rights and the wise stewardship of water resources.

A NOTE FROM PRESIDENT TROSI

They say the holiday season is fun, and I always look forward to the kids coming home and everyone sitting around the table, talking and eating the great food Marnie has prepared. This year however, I don't think any of our kids are coming home. They are all, for some reason, going to their in-laws--Dorian, Erin and George, none of them will be here.

I don't think it's because of their mothers cooking, so maybe it's because my retirement is gone and the stock market is down so we can't afford to buy any food or presents. It could be that one of them may not want to be seen with someone who didn't vote for Obama (maybe that's why she isn't coming home). Or maybe, it's because this is the first year we limited the amount of money we can spend on gifts. You know that seems to be the fastest way to not have kids show—just tell them—"we're not buying the gifts you have become accustomed to." Gosh, I should've figured this out long ago.

You know, it is tough to share, but if you have anything left, I believe that it's the right time of year to do that just that. I hope everyone is able to share the holidays with friends and family, because you never really miss them until they're gone.

And thank you for all that you have shared with OWRC this year. Your time and participation in OWRC events, committees, and other activities throughout the year are greatly appreciated.

Happy holidays!!!

- *Larry Trosi*,
OWRC President



TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>Topic</u>	<u>Page</u>
Note from President Trosi	1
Welcome Wagon	1
Executive Director's Report	2
Committee Reports	
Membership Services.....	3
Funding Announcements	3
Event Updates	
2008 Annual Conference	4
Wrap-up: 2008 Technology Seminar & Hydro Workshop.....	4
Wrap-up: USCID Post-conference Hood River Basin Tour.....	5
Wrap-up: Agpac Educational Services Natural Resources Tour	5
Federal Affairs Program	
Fall News from Washington DC.....	6
Oregon Water News Tidbits	
Oregon Water Supply and Conservation Initiative.....	7
Upcoming Events	8

WELCOME WAGON

Please extend a warm welcome to our newest affiliate members who have joined since the last newsletter edition:

- **Black Rock Consulting, Inc.**
Bend, Oregon
Black Rock Consulting staff has over 23 years of experience with water resources engineering in the West and have been working with the irrigation districts in Central Oregon for over 12 years.
- **Cygnnet Enterprises Northwest, Inc.**
Coeur D'Alene, Idaho
Cygnnet Enterprises provides sonar as canal dry ground advice and chemicals for aquatic weed control.



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

If I were to take a full look back at the last year in this column, it would take a couple of pages of the newsletter as it has been a full year for OWRC and our members. So I will focus on some of the highlights which means I will not be able to thank everyone that has contributed their time and experience to OWRC. Without the help our members give so generously, none of our programs would have the kind of success we have enjoyed this year.

February found us in the first "annual" session of the state Legislature – an experiment that may lead to a proposal to amend the state constitution to provide for annual sessions. The leadership held the session to a month as promised. The major water bill that came out of the session, SB 1069, provided grant funding for feasibility studies of water conservation, storage, and reuse projects thanks to the work of a coalition of water user groups. The Governor added the Umatilla basin groundwater project to the bill. As I write this article, I expect the first grants under this program to be awarded in the next couple of weeks.

By February OWRC's legal team was involved in writing its *amicus* brief for the Ft. Vannoy Irrigation District case involving the transfer of water rights served by a district. The Oregon Supreme Court issued its decision in July ruling in favor of the district. The Court used some of the arguments presented by OWRC in its decision.

This was the third year for what has become the John Keys Partnership Program with the Bureau of Reclamation. This year North Unit Irrigation District hosted 7 Reclamation staff for 4 days that included an in-depth tour of the district facilities; meetings with farmers who talked about their water management practices; discussion with board members; and tales of a "day in the life" of several district employees. This continues to be a hugely successful program for all involved.

This fall we held our first Technology Seminar designed to bring new technologies to district staff. It was well attended and the feedback has been positive. We will likely continue to offer this program. The next day was the Small Hydro Workshop presented in conjunction with the Northwest Hydroelectric Association. We were turning away registrants as we left our offices on Wednesday and again at the door. The feedback for this workshop has been some of the most positive feedback we have had about any event since I have been with OWRC.

This fall finds us with a Congress and state Legislature that will be controlled by Democrats. We said goodbye to our good friend, U.S. Senator Gordon Smith. We will miss his help and his commitment to Oregon's agricultural community. With the change in makeup and leadership at both the state and federal level, we have the opportunity to tell our stories to our new legislators in Salem and Washington, D.C. Much of our success has been and will continue to be your individual contacts with your representatives and senators, both state and federal. You are our best voice for irrigation water delivery systems. Your voices are far stronger than those of OWRC staff and lobbyists, as you are the voters, and you are the ones that are directly affected by action of the Legislature and Congress. I cannot encourage you enough to take time to talk with your elected representatives. We will continue to advocate on your behalf as well, but your contact with these public servants can be the key to our success.

The Governor's budget for the 2009-2011 biennium will be published on December 1. I have served on the advisory committee working with the Governor's office on revisions to the Headwater to Ocean (H2O) Initiative, and along with the rest of that committee had high hopes for a strong, far reaching water initiative as part of that budget, but the recent economic forecasts most likely precludes that. We won't know the impact of the economic downturn on the Initiative until the budget is made public.

The OWRC Board of Directors made some very difficult budget decisions for the 2009 budget year in order to balance the budget without a dues increase. We will be losing a staff position in 2009 and we will be reducing some other services, mostly ones that will not be readily apparent to our members.

The wrap up for this year is our Annual Conference. Once again we are at capacity and it is looking like the largest registration we have ever had. The program this year has a slightly different flavor with fewer speakers who will have more time for their presentations and your questions, and a broader mix of policy and operations topics. We look forward to your feedback as that helps us plan future conferences.

Again this year, the members of the Membership Services Committee, Federal Affairs Committee, Legislative Committee, and Annual Conference Planning Committee have been invaluable in their participation. Periodically I ask for help with specific topics and I appreciate those who volunteer. The most recent of these has been the task force working on the revisions to DSL's Removal-Fill Rules. It's the time of year when we all stop to think about those around us that contribute to our lives. In that vein, I want to thank all of you for your contributions to OWRC. Without you my job would not be possible.

And finally, a thank you to Lea and April. I do try to remember to often thank them personally, but I doubt I manage to do that often enough. And I seldom get a chance to thank them publicly. So thanks to both of them for the successes of the past year. *I look forward to a challenging 2009 and to working with our members to meet those challenges.*

– Anita Winkler, OWRC Executive Director



COMMITTEE UPDATES

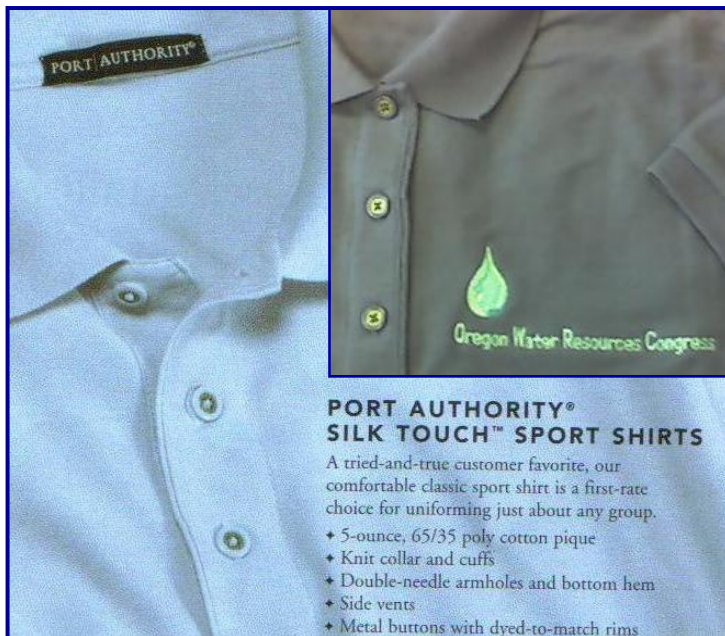
MEMBERSHIP SERVICES

The Membership Services Committee has launched an OWRC apparel line so that members can look stylish and keep warm while helping OWRC. After creating some prototypes that you may have seen, we now have several clothing items and colors for you to choose from. The clothing items include short and long sleeve polo shirts, fleece vests, and a micro-fleece jacket. The OWRC logo is embroidered on the front left chest by a local custom embroidery business. Contact the OWRC office for more information about how you can order OWRC clothing.

In other membership services news, we now have a fabulous new map showing OWRC district members around the state. The new map has the actual locations of district offices overlaid on a satellite image of Oregon. This map was developed by Winzler and Kelly and is a vast improvement from the drawn on locations of previous maps. The map is mounted on a new display and is complimented by pictures of districts from several of the basins. You can check out the new OWRC map and display at the upcoming Annual Conference and at future events.

– April Snell

OWRC Assistant Director



Silk-Touch Polo Shirt - \$22

FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENT:

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION WATER FOR AMERICA CHALLENGE GRANTS



The Bureau of Reclamation is accepting applications for two challenge grants as part of the Water for America Initiative. The Water for America Initiative is focused on addressing 21st century water challenges, including decreasing water supplies caused by climate change and population growth, and securing water resources for future generations. Water Marketing and Efficiency Grants and System Optimization Review Grants are incorporated from the Water 2025 program and are part of Reclamation's efforts on two of the Initiative's three strategies: "Plan for Our Nation's Water Future" and "Expand, Protect, and Conserve Our Nation's Water Resources." The U.S. Geological Survey will take on the third strategy to "Enhance Our Nation's Water Knowledge." For more information on Water for America visit: www.usbr.gov/wfa.

\$ Water Marketing and Efficiency Grants: This challenge grant provides cost-shared funding on a competitive basis for on-the-ground construction projects that will create water markets and make more efficient use of existing water supplies. Applications proposing water banking or marketing elements will be given priority in the selection process as well as projects that can be completed within 24 months. Applications and instructions are available online under Funding Announcement #09SF811468. Applications are due **January 14, 2009**.

\$ System Optimization Review Grants (SORs): This grant program helps irrigation districts and other local entities with water delivery authority to assess the potential for improving efficiency and operations of a water delivery system, water district, or water basin. The SOR will include the development of a plan of action with specific recommendations and performance measures for projects with significant potential to improve water management. The recommendations can include physical improvements, such as modernization of a water delivery system, or operational changes to improve efficiency or facilitate water transfers or water marketing, for example. Applications are available online under Funding Announcement #09SF811471 and are due **January 28, 2009**.

For more information about these grants and other federal funding opportunities, visit www.grants.gov

EVENT UPDATES

2008 ANNUAL CONFERENCE



Registration for the 2008 Annual Conference is underway. As always, this year's program is chocked full of interesting topics and great speakers. Topics include: Partnerships and Funding Opportunities for Water Supply and Conservation Projects; Tackling the Problem of Invasive Quagga and Zebra Mussels; Addressing the Impacts of Urbanization; Dam Busters vs. Best Available Science; and much more.

Highlights include Congressman Greg Walden as our keynote speaker on Thursday, December 4; Acting Assistant Secretary for Water and Science Kameran Onley from the US Department of Interior as the luncheon speaker on December 4; Oregon Water Resources Department Director Phil Ward on Wednesday, December 3; an informal panel discussion with Commissioners from 4 different natural resources commissions; and presentations from the Army Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation, Oregon Water Resources Department, and the Department of Environmental Quality.

Other highlights include a special breakout luncheon for district board members on Wednesday, December 3 and the Annual Membership Meeting on Thursday, December 4.

Preceding the Annual Conference, on the afternoon of Tuesday, December 2, there will be a Bureau of Reclamation Financial Overview Workshop, followed by a members-only workshop on the Steelhead Draft Recovery Plan by Rich Carmichael with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. Both workshops are included in the cost of registration for OWRC members.

Following the Annual Conference, on Friday, December 5, Special Districts Association of Oregon (SDAO) will provide training on best management practices, which is also included in the conference registration fees.

As always, we will also have a lively dinner program on Thursday, December 4th, an exhibitor drawing, and the OWRC raffle.

See you in Hood River!!!

– April Snell

OWRC Assistant Director

WRAP-UP: 2008 TECHNOLOGY SEMINAR AND HYDRO WORKSHOP

The first ever Technology Seminar was successfully held at Sunriver Resort on October 23. Attendees learned about a variety of technologies and strategies to aid in water management, including GIS and GPS tools, fish screens, piping, and recycled water. We hope to offer this Seminar in the future, alternating with the Water Law Seminar every two years. We greatly appreciate the time and efforts of the affiliate members that presented at the 2008 Technology Seminar.

The Small Hydro Workshop, co-sponsored by the Northwest Hydroelectric Association (NWhA), on October 24 was actually a little too popular as we had so many late registrants we filled our space to capacity and had to turn a few folks away. The lucky participants received insights from a variety of agencies and organizations about every aspect of the small hydroelectric process and step-by-step guidebook developed by NWhA.

The OWRC Golf Tournament on October 22 was also a success for the dozen golfers that were treated—or tortured depending on your perspective, to a gorgeous day of scramble format golf at Sunriver's Crosswater Course. The winning team was Marc Thalacker of Three Sisters Irrigation District, Shane McDonald of Enterprise Irrigation District, and Mark Theetge with ISCO Pipe. The long drive winner was Mark Theetge and the closest to the pin winner was JL Eldred from Owyhee Irrigation District.

– April Snell

OWRC Assistant Director



WRAP-UP: USCID POST-CONFERENCE HOOD RIVER BASIN TOUR



USCID, the U.S. society for irrigation and drainage professionals, and OWRC co-sponsored a post-conference tour of the Hood River Basin on September 20 for over 30 attendees from around the nation. The tour included visits to the Farmers Irrigation District innovative horizontal fish screen and East Fork Irrigation District's sand trap and headworks. The tour also had a presentation about the impacts of climate change on water resources by OSU Professor Anne Nolin; and a viewing of footage of the November 2006 water and debris flow off of Mt. Hood narrated by Dave Compton. On the bus ride between Portland and Hood River, a

local photographer Peter Marbach, gave a historical overview of the Columbia Gorge's major features and provided each attendee with a signed picture of the Gorge. The attendees were also treated to a drive through tour of the debris field to see the destruction that remains and had a delicious lunch at the Eliot Glacier Public House in Parkdale. **Special thanks to former Middle Fork District Manager Dave Compton, Farmers Irrigation District Manager Mike Kleinsmith, and East Fork District Manager John Buckley—we couldn't have done it without your time and efforts.**

WRAP-UP: AG-PAC EDUCATIONAL SERVICES NATURAL RESOURCES TOUR

The Agpac Educational Services Association hosted the 2008 Natural Resources Tour on September 22. This year's fact-finding tour highlighted several innovative agricultural operations in the Willamette Valley. The tour included Kraemer's Nursery in Mt. Angel, an 800-acre wholesale nursery that uses cutting edge water conservation and reuse technologies; the Oregon Garden in Silverton, where the City of Silverton's treated effluent is reused to irrigate landscaping and supply wetlands; lunch at Taylor Farms, and an overview of grass seed farming management practices; East Valley Water District's potential water storage site in Silverton; and a tour and tasting of the Oregon Cherry Growers Cooperative in Salem.



Pond at Kraemer's Nursery in Mt. Angel, Oregon where reused water is stored.

– April Snell

OWRC Assistant Director



SAVE TIME AND HELP OWRC BY SHOPPING ONLINE WITH GOODSHOP

As the holiday shopping season is upon us, if you shop online, please consider using GoodShop to make your purchases, which is a part of GoodSearch. You can access over 700 businesses through the GoodShop website and make your purchase as you would normally, except that by accessing the store through the GoodShop website link you can support OWRC.

For every eligible purchase you make, OWRC will receive a percentage of the sale, which varies based on the particular business, but can be up to 37%. To start shopping, or for more information about GoodSearch or GoodShop, visit www.goodsearch.com/goodshop.aspx or click on the GoodSearch icon the right side of the OWRC website.

Happy Shopping and Happy Holidays!!!



NEW!

Shop at your favorite stores and we'll donate up to 37% of every purchase to your favorite charity!

SHOP NOW!

FEDERAL AFFAIRS

FALL NEWS FROM WASHINGTON DC



CHANGE...AND ITS MANY MEANINGS

Growing up I was always excited to hear talk of CHANGE – it usually meant the opportunity to take a walk to the neighborhood grocery store and purchase some penny candy (back when a penny could buy something). The only other time I heard CHANGE talked about had to do with the weather and the

seasons. Now it seems when CHANGE is brought up all that is talked about is the subject of politics. Maybe it has something to do with living in Washington, D.C.

Obvious to most, the elections this month will bring a new political agenda to the White House in January, as well as the 111th Congress. And maybe at some point the Supreme Court and the Judicial Branch. But before we get there, some unfinished business for all three branches of government remain.

The Executive Branch is still busy rolling rulemakings out the door for public comment and implementation. In the water resources area we've had the Bureau of Reclamation effort on the Rural Water Supply Act Loan Guarantee Program, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers effort on revising the Principles and Guidelines and countless efforts by the Environmental Protection Agency.

The Legislative Branch still has the opportunity during the Lame Duck session of Congress, that time after and the election and before the new Congress is sworn into office, to act on a 150 title Omnibus authorization bill for public lands, energy and water resource issues in the West. In addition they continue to consider the possibility of increasing funding for the Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the Environmental Protection Agency water resources programs through an Economic Stimulus package. They are looking at \$100's of millions and possibly billions for these efforts. And they still have to resolve how they are going to fund those agencies and the rest of the Federal government through the yet-to-be-completed FY09 Appropriation bills--not minor details.

Looming over all of this CHANGE is the dark cloud of the economy. Not only does this have an effect on the funding picture, but it also has an effect on the staffing decisions for a new Administration and the Congress. With the expectation of even greater transparency in government and tighter restrictions to attempt to reign in the role of lobbying and campaign financing, many are giving thought to what role they want to play in this CHANGE. Elections always bring about a shuffling of the house of cards for running government. People retire, lose elections, decide to have family changes, feel the tug of going to the private sector, move elsewhere in the Federal system, go from working on the House side to the Senate side, or want to feel the warmth of public service and join the new Administration for at least a four year period with a hope of eight years. But it is often reflected in the decision to make a bigger CHANGE.

We know that big issues such as climate CHANGE and how to address it will be on the plate for next year. Will the issues and agencies that OWRC has historically been involved in now have to be viewed in the context of climate change? Will they be viewed in the context of more local money and more Federal oversight? And what does the old and new Oregon Congressional delegation want to accomplish for the state? Opportunity abounds for those who want to engage and continue to be forward looking. But sometimes winning not only takes a good offense but a defense as well.

So if you want to hear more about CHANGE, I would encourage you to attend the OWRC Annual Conference in December and find out what CHANGE can do for you. It may cost more than a penny but without your voice and thoughtfulness that CHANGE can become more than less than you need. And if you can't attend, you can always follow along at Change.gov.

Thank you again for your continued interest and involvement in OWRC's Federal Affairs Program.

Hope to see you in Hood River!

– **Peter Carlson, Will and Carlson,**
OWRC Washington DC lobbyist



OREGON WATER NEWS TIDBITS

UPDATE: OREGON WATER SUPPLY AND CONSERVATION INITIATIVE



The Oregon Water Supply and Conservation Initiative (OWSCI) is nearing completion. An update was provided to the Oregon Water Resources Commission at their November 20th meeting in Salem. Additionally, the last stakeholder meeting, related to the Water Demand Assessment and Conservation Inventory components of the Initiative, was held on September 18th. An update on each of Initiative components is provided below.

The data collection portion of the Water Demand Forecast and Conservation Project components have been completed by project consultants HDR Engineering and Cogan Owens and Cogan, and are being developed into a “user-friendly” online format by Department staff. The Water Demand Forecast is a combination of existing data about water use and demand projects and new data collected from surveys of large water users (irrigation districts, municipalities, etc.). This information was used to generate scenarios about future water demand at the county, basin, and state level. There are three out-of-stream water demand scenarios; a base scenario that calculates a range of water demands in 2050 for different sectors of water use (primarily agricultural and municipal); a climate change scenario based on estimates of how changes in temperature and precipitation might effect water demand; and a conservation scenario based on an “aggressive” program of conservation that could reduce water demand by 25%. These scenarios will eventually be available online for users to download as Excel spreadsheets and use in making broad assumptions about projected water use at a county, basin, or state-wide level.

The Conservation Project Inventory is a list of potential conservation projects that have not been implemented due to institutional, financial, or other barriers. The inventory is based on existing information (such as Water Management and Conservation Plans), and survey responses from a survey and workshops conducted during spring 2008. The responses were from 96 water users who identified a total of 135 projects, 36 agricultural and 96 municipal. Each project in the inventory has information about the type of project, current status, location, potential water savings and public benefits, estimated costs, and potential barriers to implementation, as available. The inventory of potential projects will also be available online in an interactive map that identifies the project at the county level.

The third component of the Initiative, Inventory of Potential Water Storage Sites, has been conducted internally by the Department. The inventory covers both above and below-ground sites with the goal of collecting as much information as possible about the feasibility of sites for storage. The results will eventually be available online in a map format to help communities investigate storage options and help the state identify and prioritize possible future projects. The Department has evaluated 52 aquifers for below-ground storage potential and is mapping the location of 1,228 potential above ground sites.

The fourth component of the Initiative, Community Planning Grants, is nearing completion of its first round of grant funded projects. The Department provided match-funding to 11 communities from around the state to assist them in their water supply planning efforts. The projects began in April and several are scheduled for completion in November. The results from these projects will hopefully lead to additional funding from the 2009 Legislature to continue the grant program.

There is also a fifth component of the Initiative, a basin-yield and peak flow analysis. This component was not funded by the 2007 Legislature but will be requested from the 2009 Legislature. The basin-yield analysis would build upon existing water availability studies to determine the volume of runoff from each basin each month and a peak-flow analysis would determine where, when, and in what magnitude peak flows occur. The Department believes that these analyses are crucial for providing a baseline for tracking the monthly availability of water, peak flows for fish and environmental needs, and the effects of climate change. The Department plans to build on the information generated from all components of the Initiative to create an “Integrated Water Resources Strategy.” Funding for this effort will be also be requested from the 2009 Legislature. For more information about the Oregon Water Supply and Conservation Initiative visit: <http://egov.oregon.gov/OWRD/LAW/owsci.shtml>

– **April Snell**
OWRC Assistant Director

Oregon Water Resources Congress

2008 BOARD ROSTER

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Larry Trosi, President
Chuck Wilcox, Vice-President
Jay Chamberlin, Treasurer
Shawn Gerdes, Secretary
Jim Pendleton, Past President
Doug MacDougal, At Large
Elmer McDaniels, At Large

2008 REGIONAL DIRECTORS

Region 1: Bob Koenig
Joe Rutledge
Region 2: Herman Baertschiger
Blair Nash
Region 3: Jason Chapman
Dave Solem
Region 4: Russ Rhoden
Marc Thalacker
Region 5: John Buckley
Mike Richardson
Region 6: Bev Bridgewater
Ray Kopacz
Region 7: Vacant
Region 8: Ron Keister
Scott Ward

AFFILIATES

Steve Bruce, EnviroLogic Resources
David Filippi, Stoel Rives
Douglas MacDougal, Schwabe Williamson Wyatt
David Newton, Newton Consultants

AT LARGE

Terry Buchholz, David Evans and Associates
Elmer McDaniels, Tumalo Irrigation District
Brian Nakamura, East Fork Irrigation District
Steve Shropshire, Jordan Schrader Ramis

OWRC STAFF

Executive Director

Anita Winkler

Assistant Director/Editor

April Snell

Office Administrator

Lea Rasura



UPCOMING EVENTS

Bureau of Reclamation Financial Overview Workshop

December 2, 2008

*Best Western Hood River Inn,
Hood River, Oregon*

Oregon's Middle Columbia River Steelhead Draft Recovery Plan

Workshop - Members only

December 2, 2008

*Best Western Hood River Inn,
Hood River, Oregon*

OWRC Annual Conference

December 3-4, 2008

*Best Western Hood River Inn,
Hood River, Oregon*

SDAO Best Practices Workshop

December 5, 2008

*Best Western Hood River Inn,
Hood River, Oregon*

Tri-State Meeting

February 6, 2009

Location TBA

Portland, Oregon

*For more information about these events,
visit www.owrc.org*

