

Gold Ridge RCD wins collaborative award

By LEN RICHARDSON

THE Occidental-based Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District was honored by the National Association of Conservation Districts at the association's annual meeting in Reno, Nev.

Nominated by peers in the RCD community, Gold Ridge RCD has received the Collaborative Conservation Award for the Pacific Region of the NACD. The award recognizes conservation districts that exemplify innovative, collaborative conservation efforts; utilize diverse funding sources; and/or conduct a wide range of projects to address their communities' conservation needs.

"We're very proud of this award and very grateful to our partners and volunteers who have made it possible," says Gold Ridge RCD Executive Director Lisa Hulette. "This recognition is a clear indication that we're on the right path and an incentive to our small but dedicated staff to

Key Points

- Gold Ridge RCD wins award for collaborative conservation.
- Projects include restoration of the Salmon Creek watershed.
- Another is reducing sediment in Green Valley Creek.

keep working at the grassroots level to nurture and conserve natural resources and improve our environment."

Ongoing projects

Among Gold Ridge RCD's ongoing projects:

- developing a landowner-driven management and restoration plan for the Salmon Creek watershed
- working with dairy and livestock operators to improve water quality in the Estero Americano watershed
- removing gorse — an invasive weed that forms thorny, impenetrable and highly flammable stands that can cover many acres — in cooperation with the Marin-Sonoma Weed

Management Area

- reducing sediment in Green Valley Creek, one of only a handful of streams in the Russian River watershed where wild populations of coho salmon are known to exist
- staging workshops on erosion control, fire safety and fuels management, and sudden oak death

Protecting watersheds

"Protecting our natural resources benefits the economy as well as the environment, contributing to our quality of life now and in the future," says Don Petersen, Gold Ridge RCD board of directors president and a third-generation dairy operator in Sebastopol. "As someone once said, we all live in a watershed, so it's up to us to take an interest in them."

Other local RCDs include Santa Rosa-based Sotoyome RCD, Petaluma-based Southern Sonoma RCD and Point Reyes Station-based Marin RCD.

More about Gold Ridge is at www.goldridgercd.org.



PHOTOS BY LISA HULETTE



IMPROVED: The Gold Ridge RCD made significant improvements in the Estero Americano watershed with conservation construction.

IN NEED: Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District's Estero Americano Ranch Restoration Project is shown pre-construction.



"I'm really impressed with the pattern and efficiency of these Olson jets... in my opinion, they are second to none."

Phil Tilbury,
Tilbury Farms, Stockton, CA

Whether for irrigation, frost protection, dust control, fertigation, cover crop or simply to maximize the root zones of your trees...uniform sprinkler coverage is important!

But which micro spray, of the hundreds of models available, will give you the best uniformity? Take a tip from Phil Tilbury. Or, better yet, look at these recent tests from the Center for Irrigation Technology at Fresno State University and judge for yourself.

As you can see, not every micro spray is created equal. Your trees deserve the best. Next time, specify the ULTRA JET® from Olson Irrigation... "when water counts".

The Olson ULTRA JET



Popular "Hi-Lo" Model



10910 Wheatlands Ave.
Santee, CA 92071
619 562-3100, 800 770LSON
FAX: 619 562-2724
www.olsonirrigation.com



NOTHING COMPARES TO A DRIP IRRIGATION SYSTEM FROM NETAFIM

Nothing compares to the proven performance of Netafim's Thinwall Dripperline. Injection-molded drippers, welded into a wall of seamless tubing, supply the highest level of distribution uniformity. Seamless tubing is stronger and more durable than comparable "tape-type" dripperlines. Netafim's unique flap technology protects the dripper against suction of debris and root intrusion making it the most clog-resistant product available on the market today.

Only Netafim Can Offer Total System Solutions from a Single Source!

No other manufacturer offers the industry's most extensive line of irrigation products. One call to Netafim delivers the highest quality drip system available - backed with a 5-Year Warranty! Call us today.

See us at the Husker Harvest Days Show, lot # 1012



NETAFIM USA
5470 E. Home Ave. • Fresno, CA 93727
888.638.2346 • 559.453.6800
FAX 800.695.4753
www.netafimusa.com