

Behind the Scenes "Lite"

April 2022



Dear Friend,

This "lite" issue of Behind the Scenes is a prelude to our quarterly Meanderings newsletter, which starts on the next page and contains more information about our May 14 20th Anniversary celebration and other upcoming events. Speaking of upcoming events, make sure to register for the Spring Bird Walk (more details below) if you'd like to attend. This early access to registration for our space-limited events is just one way we like to thank our ongoing supporters and volunteers! Also below is an Ash Creek Restoration Project update from Assistant Project Manager, Aubrey Cloud.

Once again, thank you so much for helping us achieve a healthy watershed for all!

--Suzanne Teller, LWC Outreach Coordinator (contact me at Outreach@LuckiamuteLWC.org or 503-837-0237)



Love Your Watershed: Upcoming Events

Earth Day Volunteer Activity at LSNA

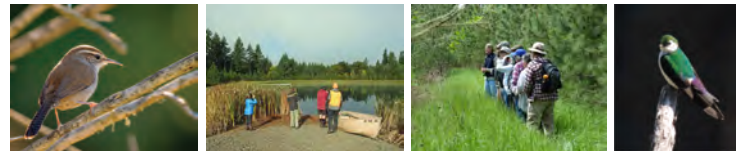
When: Friday, April 22 @ 1pm - 4pm



Come celebrate Earth Day by helping us spread mulch around newly planted native trees and shrubs at Luckiamute State Natural Area! *More details and RSVP at <https://www.luckiamutelwc.org/earthday2022.html>*

Spring Bird Walk at J₂E Tree Farm

When: Saturday, May 21 @ 8am - 12pm



Join Salem Audubon members, Tim Johnson and Mike Unger, for a stroll through the many different habitat types of this working tree farm. *Early RSVP is now open for Friends at <https://www.luckiamutelwc.org/spring-bird-walk-j2e.html>*

Project Update: Ash Creek Restoration

by LWC Assistant Project Manager, Aubrey Cloud



The Valley is coming out of hibernation, and the first heralds of spring have arrived in a pageant of vivid color! Verdant osoberreries, brilliant Oregon grapes and resplendent red flowering currants are blooming like fireworks everywhere you look! The photo from the trail beside Talmadge Middle School (left) is just one example of what greeted us along Ash Creek in Monmouth and Independence as we got our spring projects underway. Contractors are making the rounds at our restoration sites now after a productive planting season, treating invasive weeds that compete with our native plantings. At Ash Creek though, the plantings have to contend not just with weeds, but deer! While we love that these animals are using the habitat we're enhancing, their browse pressure has been a management challenge. To combat this, contractors are not just treating weeds, but applying deer repellent to the tasty vegetation. Now they're *deer-resistible!*

In addition, 25 volunteers helped us plant 173 new trees and shrubs along Ash Creek during three separate planting events last fall, and they also installed cages around the tastiest ones to protect them from marauding ungulates. We had the opportunity to check in on these new plantings while the crews were working, and they are looking great! Thanks to everyone who's helping to make a healthier, more resilient community with us!

Your Land. Your Rivers. Your Community. Your Watershed.

Spring
2022

LWC Meanderings

Watershed News & Reflections



LWC MISSION:

To engage and assist landowners and communities in the voluntary protection, restoration and enhancement of the Luckiamute and Ash Creek watersheds.

WHAT WE ARE:

The Luckiamute Watershed Council is a 501(c)3 non-profit comprised of stakeholders who live, work or recreate within the Luckiamute and Ash Creek watersheds.

WHO WE ARE:

George Grosch, *President/Treasurer Kings Valley/Hoskins*

Karin Stutzman, *Secretary Monmouth*

Britton Castor
Pedee

Dave Ehlers
Kings Valley/Hoskins

Jackson Stalley
Dallas

Scott Youngblood
American Bottom/Buena Vista

COUNCIL MEETINGS:

Typically held the second Thursday of every month from 6 — 8 pm.

Details and links will be posted at:
www.LuckiamuteLWC.org

The Luckiamute and Ash Creek watersheds are part of the ancestral lands of the Kalapuya Indians, who are represented today by the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde and the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians.

Exploring the Watershed



From left to right: 1. View of the Willamette River at Luckiamute State Natural Area; 2. Plunkett Creek flows through temperate rainforest at Bezell Memorial Forest; 3. Officers Quarters building at Fort Hoskins State Park; 4. Formerly part of a U.S. Army cantonment named Camp Adair, E.E. Wilson Wildlife Area is now an excellent spot for bird-watching, fishing and family hikes.

A month ago, a walk outside would reveal a subtle change from winter to spring taking place. Keen eyes and ears would pick up a few hints of seasonal change – green crocus shoots pushing up from the soil, swelling buds on trees, and a perhaps a few more notes in the dawn chorus of birdsong.

Now that we are in April, however, spring has switched gears and is now moving forward at top speed! Blossoms of every color are aswarm with buzzing bees; bright green foliage is filling in the gaps between trees; and animals of all kinds are busy attracting mates and preparing for breeding season. All these signs of an awakening landscape tend to beckon us outside to explore some of our beautiful local natural areas.

Our watershed is home to a wide range of outdoor recreation opportunities – some quite popular and others that are not as well known. In years past, April would be when the LWC would hold a Recreation Fair that highlighted many local recreation spots and ways to enjoy the scenic rivers and lands just beyond our doorstep. Though there is no Recreation Fair this year, we are featuring several of the beautiful watershed locations where you can enjoy the sights and sound of Spring.

Luckiamute State Natural Area (LSNA): Whether you enjoy hiking, biking, bird-watching, kayaking or hunting, LSNA should be one of the top local destinations on your bucket list. Located just 15 minutes south from Independence.

Bezell Memorial Forest - This Benton County Park is located in the Kings Valley area. It is a preserve of temperate rain forest and offers some terrific trail options for hiking and bird watching.

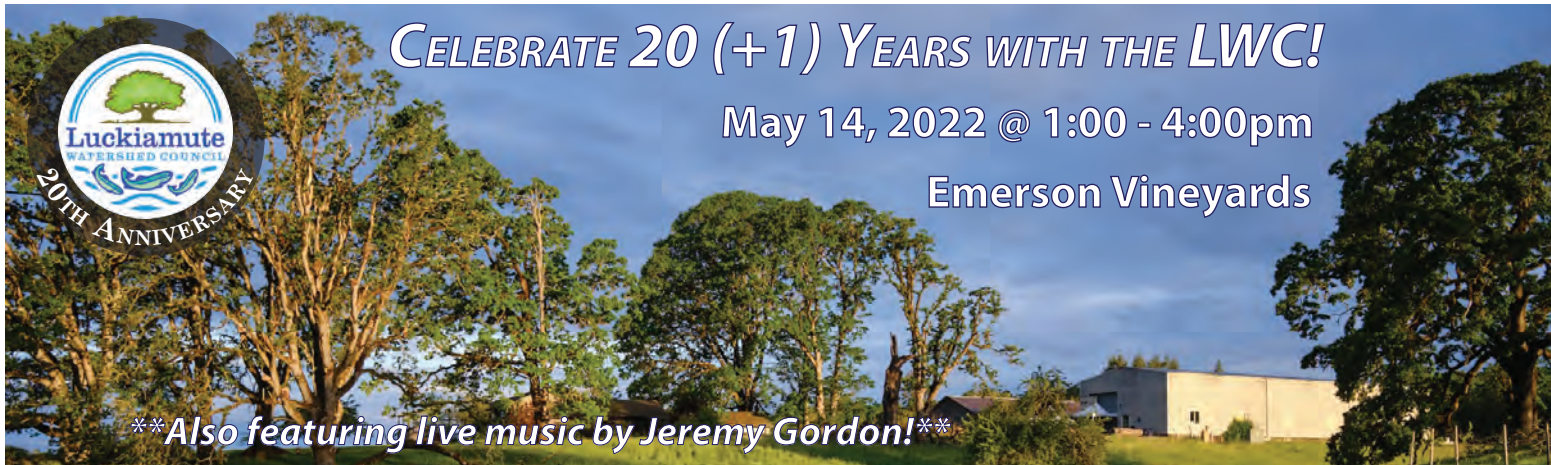
Fort Hoskins Historic County Park: This 130-acre Benton County historic park encompasses the site of Fort Hoskins, which was built in 1855. It offers picnicking, interpretive displays, self-guided trails, and gorgeous views of the Luckiamute Valley.

E.E. Wilson Wildlife Area: This 1,700-acre wildlife area, managed by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, occupies a section of Camp Adair, a decommissioned U.S. Army cantonment. Great for hikes and fishing, and located just 11 miles south of Monmouth.

Little Luckiamute Falls: Cascading down a series of rock ledges, Little Luckiamute Falls makes a beautiful and dramatic centerpiece for Falls City and is well worth a visit!

See more favorite outdoor recreation spots at LuckiamuteLWC.org/outdoor-recreation

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CELEBRATE 20 (+1) YEARS WITH THE LWC!

May 14, 2022 @ 1:00 - 4:00pm

Emerson Vineyards

Also featuring live music by Jeremy Gordon!

Though our 20th Anniversary was actually in 2021, we are ready to celebrate 20 + 1 years of partnership with you in 2022! We hope you will join us for this fun, celebratory gathering at Emerson Vineyards, with wine, hors d'oeuvres, live music, a raffle and special recognition of our 20th Anniversary Photo Contest winners. Check out a sneak preview of our raffle prizes below! Details and RSVP at www.LuckiamuteLWC.org/20th-anniversary-celebration

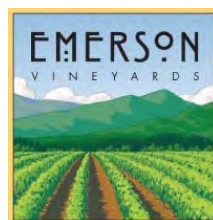
Framed Artwork by Paul Gentry (2 prizes)

(left) Paul Gentry, acrylic on paper, "Willamette River," (9" X 14") - Value: \$400
 (right) Paul Gentry, wood engraving, "Eagle's View" (6" X 9") - Value: \$225



Wine Tasting for 8 (1 prize)

Value \$150



Signed Books by Henry Hughes (1 prize)

Value \$45



Polk Soil & Water Conservation District Plant Sale \$30 Gift Certificate and Polk SWCD Hat (1 prize)

Value \$60



Benton Soil & Water Conservation District Plant Sale \$25 Gift Certificate and LWC hat (1 prize)

Value \$55



POLK SWCD BIRD TALK

POLK SWCD PRESENTS:

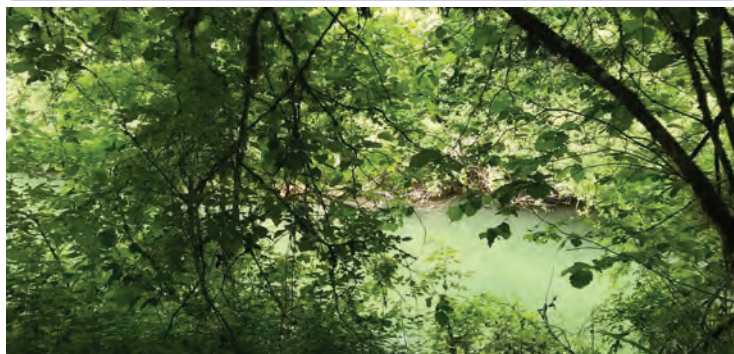
The Birds of Cornerstone

A FREE ZOOM PRESENTATION
 - APRIL 26 @ 6:30 - 7:30PM -

Learn about the birds that call Cornerstone home. Join Harry Fuller, author and member of the Salem Audubon Society, as he illuminates your mind on the animals that keep our ecosystem in balance.



June 4: OPRD Centennial Event



This year, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) is celebrating its 100th Anniversary at **Sarah Helmick State Park on Saturday, June 4, from 10am to 2pm!** Starting with what originally was a 5-acre land donation by Sarah Helmick in 1922, our state park system has expanded to 254 park properties and more than 100,000 acres today. This amazing legacy of public lands includes waterfalls, trails, historic landmarks, and so many of the places Oregonians hold dear. We hope you will stop by our table as you explore Sarah Helmick State Park and celebrate our incredible state park system!

Details at <https://www.polkswcd.com/district-and-community-events.html>

Support Efforts to Revive the Kalapuya Language



Printed copies of the Kalapuya to English dictionary. Photo: Leah Nash / Underscore News

The Kalapuya peoples are the original inhabitants of the Luckiamute watershed and beyond—their ceded lands encompassing nearly all of the Willamette Valley. Today, many Kalapuya are members of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde and the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians.

Decades of effort to document the Kalapuya language have resulted in the recent publication of the Kalapuya Dictionary. A first run of the 4 volume set was distributed to key individuals and institutions, including K-12 schools and universities. Now, organizers need help raising funds to print additional copies.

You can support their efforts directly by contributing to the GoFundMe campaign to print additional copies of the dictionary. The campaign URL is <https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-us-print-the-kalapuya-dictionary>.

To learn more about the work that has gone into this dictionary and Kalapuya history, you can read a recent OPB article at <https://www.opb.org/article/2022/03/06/linguists-oregon-family-work-together-preserve-indigenous-language/>.



Love Your Watershed

Upcoming Events

Earth Day Mulching Event @ LSNA

Friday, April 22 @ 1:00 - 4:00pm

RSVP at <https://www.luckiamutelwc.org/earthday2022.html>

Spring Bird Walk at J₂E

Saturday, May 21 @ 8:00 - 12:00pm

(Registration opens soon!)

Luckiamute State Natural Area Self-Guided Walk (with 3 Hosted Stations!)

Saturday, June 4 @ 11:00am - 3:00pm

Luckiamute State Natural Area North Unit Loop Trail

More details
coming soon at
LuckiamuteLWC.org

Join the FRIENDS OF THE LWC!

What does it mean to be a **FRIEND OF THE LWC?**

- Monthly “Behind the Scenes” Bulletins
- Early access to event registration
- Discounts on workshops and our online store
- *Knowing that you are helping improve the health of your watershed!*

Ready to Join?

Find out how at

www.LuckiamuteLWC.org/Friends!

We welcome donations* to support the work of the Council. All charitable donations will be used towards building the organizational resources needed to address our goals of water quality enhancement, habitat restoration and community education.

Upcoming Council Meetings

Join us for our LWC Monthly Meetings, typically held the second Thursday of each month. Our meetings are always open to the public and discussion topics include local watershed issues and actions. Details and Zoom links will be posted at www.LuckiamuteLWC.org.

April 14 @ 7:00* - 8:00pm (via Zoom)

May 12 @ 6:00 - 8:00pm (via Zoom)

June 9 @ 6:00 - 8:00pm (to be determined)

**Please note the different start time for this meeting. This change was made to accommodate a Board Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Training that is happening from 5 - 7pm.*

To donate, go to www.LuckiamuteLWC.org/donate or you can send a check to:

165 D Street, Independence, OR 97351

Thank you to our supporters!

*Your contribution may be tax-deductible. The LWC will provide a letter of documentation in January 2022, following your donation.

THANK YOU TO OUR MOST RECENT DONORS AND VOLUNTEERS!

We are so grateful to the following donors and volunteers who have contributed their hard-earned dollars and their time and energy to our conservation goals from January to March 2022. Your support of the Luckiamute Watershed Council makes a BIG difference, and helps us achieve our goal of *a healthy watershed for all*. **THANK YOU!**

Special Recognition to the LWC's Bedrock Society

A special note of thanks goes to our donors who are opting to make automatic monthly contributions to the Luckiamute Watershed Council! Like the bedrock that underlies every stream of our watershed, recurring donations provides a foundational layer of support for our organization with a steady stream of income that we can count on every month to advance our mission. Find out how you can set up a recurring monthly donation and become a part of our Bedrock Society at <https://www.luckiamutelwc.org/donate.html>

Anonymous Donor

Judy Beebe

Michael Cairns & Gail Oberst

Maya Cook

Jeremy Gordon

George Grosch & Ann Bowen

Hollis Fishelson-Holstine & Charles Holstine

Stephen & Ava Howard

Danny & Renee Jaffer

Becky Jay

Paige Jenkins

In Honor of LaDonna Brave Bull Allard

Deb Merchant

Becca & Russell Meskridge

Erin Murphy

Terry Murphy

Eric Noel

Linda Samuels

V Environmental LLC

Scott Youngblood

THANK YOU,
Amazon Smile and
Fred Meyer Community
Rewards participants!
Your purchases earned
us **\$45.16** for the fourth
quarter of 2021!

You can participate in the Amazon Smile program by shopping at <https://smile.amazon.com> (same log-in as regular Amazon account) and choosing the **Luckiamute Watershed Council** as your designated charity!

For Fred Meyer, sign into your account at www.FredMeyer.com, and link your Community Rewards card using our nonprofit number: **Q1717**

January - March 2022 Donors

Anonymous Donors (6)

Dannelle Aleshire

Tremaine & Gail Arkley

Auer Farms, LLC

Britton Castor

David & Peggy Clyne Trust

Miriam Forney

Teresa King

In Honor of Harriet Maganas/James Smith & In Memory of Jeffrey V. King

Karen & Mike Lippsmeyer

Peter Lutze

Judy Maule

Marge Popp

Sharon Safina

Pat & Ken Simila

Spiritopia

Jackson Stalley & Emily Plec

January - March 2022 Volunteers

Judy Beebe

Marc Bell

Andrea Berkley

Britton Castor

Heidi Christensen

Maya Cook

David Ehlers

Dan Farnworth

Douglass Fitting

George Grosch

Karen Hans

Phil Larsen

Terry Murphy

Amy Pinkley-Wernz

Chris Seal

Jackson Stalley

Karin Stutzman

Scott Youngblood



THANK YOU TO ALL OUR BUSINESS CIRCLE SUPPORTERS!

Croft Vineyards
Hancock Forest Management
KWIP La Campeona 880 AM

Les Schwab
Spiritopia
Starker Forests, Inc.



Partner Spotlight

We'd like to give a shout-out to Benton Soil & Water Conservation District (BSWCD) for their continued support of the LWC's Love Your Watershed program! In 2021, previously awarded funds from BSWCD helped support programming such as our Planning & Planting Your Native Garden webinar, Fall Bird walks, and a Traditional Ecological Knowledge video series. BSWCD has also awarded us \$1200 in funding to help support our 2022 line-up of Love Your Watershed events. Thank you, Benton Soil & Water Conservation District, for helping us achieve a healthy watershed for all!



Luckiamute Watershed Council

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director@LuckiamuteLWC.org

www.LuckiamuteLWC.org

Executive Director: Kristen Larson
Outreach Coordinator: Suzanne Teller
Project Manager: Jean-Paul Zagarola
Assistant Project Manager: Aubrey Cloud
Monitoring Coordinator: Amanda Brackett

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Community. Your Watershed.*