

Behind the Scenes "Lite"

April 2023



Dear Friend,

While we are waiting for winter to loosen its grip on the landscape and finally let spring take over, we are looking ahead to an exciting line-up of outdoor and indoor events. Note that our upcoming Spring Bird Walk at J₂E Tree Farm on May 6 has limited spots available, so make sure to take advantage of this early-bird registration invitation that is exclusively offered to our Friends of the LWC!

Then, in the issue of Meanderings newsletter that follows this "lite" version of Behind the Scenes, the feature article will give you a deeper look into the LWC's journey towards a more equitable, diverse and inclusive watershed council. We hope you will engage with us to let us know how you think we can do a better job of representing, reaching and engaging with all of our watershed community towards a more healthy and resilient watershed!

--Suzanne Teller, LWC Outreach Coordinator

Spring Bird Walk at J₂E Tree Farm

When: Saturday, May 6 @ 8:00 am - 12:00 pm



Spring has sprung and many migratory birds have returned for the season! Please join long time local birder Joel Geier and ornithologist Josée Rousseau as they lead us on a guided walk to look for and listen to the many species of birds on the J₂E Tree Farm. The walk will be just over a mile on fairly flat mowed paths and gravel roads and will explore a variety of habitats including ponds, riparian areas with mixed hardwood & conifer forests, oak woodlands, upland prairie and coniferous forests. We hope you can join us and see what we can discover this year!

Early-bird registration is now open for Friends only at <https://www.luckiamutelwc.org/spring-bird-walk.html>

Creekside Social at Pedee Creek Barn

When: Saturday, May 20 @ 1:00 - 4:00 pm



Join us for a Meet & Greet at Pedee Creek Barn! Chat with other local landowners, land stewards and experts about opportunities to work together. Learn about land management resources and funding opportunities available to you. We're here to listen to your concerns about natural resources and to answer any questions. Service providers attending include Polk Soil & Water Conservation District, Natural Resources Conservation Service, OSU Small Farms, the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde and the LWC! Please enjoy complimentary food and beverages while mingling alongside Pedee Creek.

RSVP at <https://www.polkswcd.com/creekside-social.html>



Like Chocolate for Water recipes - now on our website!

This year, our Like Chocolate for Water contest attained an unprecedented level of deliciousness! Which is why we are extra grateful for an excellent suggestion from one of the attendees to put all of the contest entry recipes on the LWC website. Now you can recreate all of these amazing desserts at home! You can find the "Like Chocolate for Water" recipe page at <https://www.luckiamutelwc.org/like-chocolate-for-water-recipes.html>.

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

Spring
2023

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:

Karin Stutzman, *President*
Monmouth

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

Britton Castor
Pedee

Dave Ehlers
Kings Valley/Hoskins

Nick Hazelton
Kings Valley/Hoskins

Jackson Stalley
Dallas

Jay Tappen
Kings Valley/Hoskins

Scott Youngblood
American Bottom/Buena Vista

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.

COUNCIL MEETINGS:

Typically held the second Thursday of every month from 6 — 8 pm.
Details and links will be posted at:
www.LuckiamuteLWC.org

Healthy Rivers, Lands and Communities

By Suzanne Teller, *Outreach Coordinator*



In any ecological system, diversity is key to long-term health. For example, in a riparian (streamside) forest, biodiversity plays an important role in ensuring that the whole ecosystem continues to thrive and stay productive in the long term – even in the face of unpredictable and dramatic change.

But what about human communities?

In addition to the biological and ecological processes that we depend upon for survival, we also have social and economic processes that structure our lives and have an impact on our well-being. It is easy to see why having several different methods of generating revenue is important for a strong and healthy economy, but it is also true that a society that embraces diverse cultures, beliefs and ethnicities is stronger and more resilient than one which does not. For a watershed council, engaging with *all members* of our community is not only a valuable way to learn and apply different forms of knowledge to solving complex ecological issues, it is also imperative if we are to protect and improve watershed health in the long term.

Traditionally, the USA has been referred to as a "melting pot" that welcomes people from many different countries, races, and religions to pursue new opportunities and a better life. Although it had been meant as a mostly positive way of describing our country's multicultural make-up, this metaphor has also been apt in the way it describes how individuals have been forced to assimilate and conform to the dominant culture. Federal and state policymakers and their agents used mandatory Indian boarding schools to strip Indigenous children of their language and culture, and whole communities were forcibly removed from their homelands to make way for Euro-American settlers. Black and brown individuals who were visibly different from the dominant cultural norm were treated as second class citizens, while those who could "pass" as white were allowed to do so as long as they gave up their own traditions and adopted the accepted cultural norms. Oregon's Black exclusion laws prohibited specific groups of people from entering the state and trying to build a life here.

Healthy Rivers, Lands and Communities, continued

Although these ways of treating our fellow human beings are no longer officially sanctioned, it takes a long time for a society to fully divest from practices that have been so deeply embedded into our institutions—and to transform its ingrained ways of thinking.

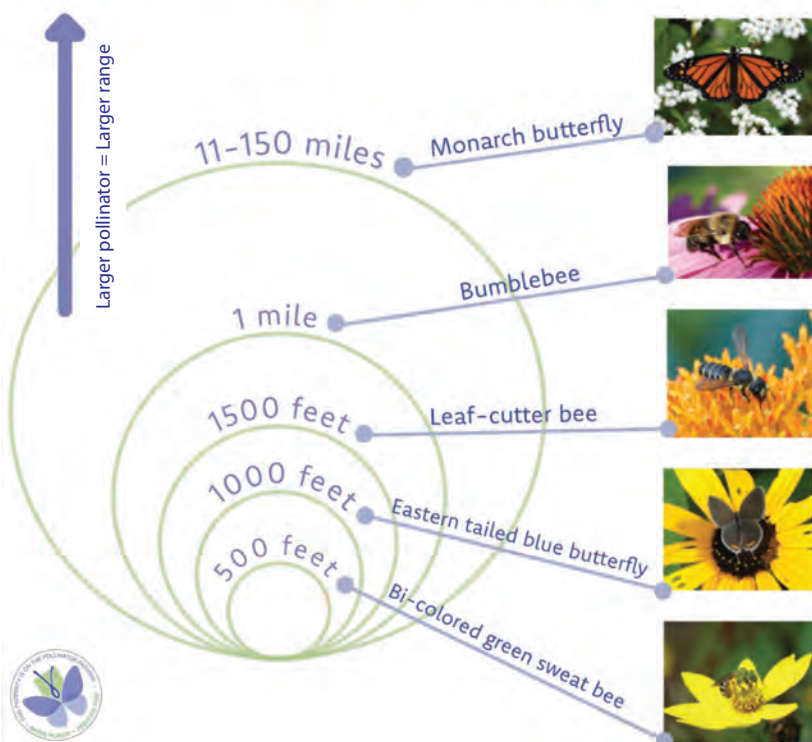
Over the past 3 years, the Luckiamute Watershed Council has taken a deeper look into our own internal culture and structure, and determined that we need to do better. In fact, we are only at the very beginning of an ongoing journey towards truly working towards watershed health, which by its very definition must include the health of our human communities. There are many ways a watershed council can incorporate a more socially-oriented lens alongside its more obvious ecological focus – such as involving more diverse watershed community members in project-planning, making our meetings and events more inclusive and accessible, and offering resources and information in both Spanish and English. One of the very first actions we've taken in service of this goal is to develop an Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) statement, which the LWC Board adopted on March 9. You can read this statement on our website at <https://www.luckiamutelwc.org/lwc-edi.html>, where you'll also find some resources that outline the history of exclusion and cultural assimilation that has played a role in shaping the way our watershed looks, feels and functions today.

Also known as the LWC's "Why" statement, our EDI statement reflects the values of our organization and outlines why we think it is important for the LWC to promote equity, improve diversity and embrace inclusion. The final statement was shaped by multiple trainings and conversations among LWC board and staff, with the guidance of EDI consultant Maria Chavez-Haroldson and suggestions by several external reviewers. Throughout these trainings and conversations, the feeling that things aren't happening fast enough sometimes cropped up. *But what actions can we take right now? We should be doing more!* Yet, we were reminded that the kind of shift that we are aiming towards is a long-term process that is not intuitive and which involves examining not only the way we view ourselves as an organization, but also the way we view ourselves as individuals in our communities. This is an early step along a winding road; we expect this statement and our thinking to change and evolve as we go forward. In this endeavor, the way we make our journey is just as important as the outcomes.

We look forward to sharing our journey towards a more equitable, diverse and inclusive watershed – and watershed council – with you. We will not be perfect at this, and will sometimes stumble as we make our way down this path. However, we are committed to learning as we go, and we look forward to hearing from you and the rest of our watershed community when you have suggestions for how we can do better!

Even Small Spaces Can Have a BIG Impact!

How far can a pollinator fly to find food?



You don't need a big yard or garden to help out our native pollinators. In fact, some of our smallest pollinators, like sweat bees, have a range of only 500 feet! Even a tiny garden or flower-filled parking strip can provide enough food for these smaller bees to thrive and prepare for the next generation.

In order to create an inviting space for a variety of pollinators and other beneficial insects, here are a few key considerations, no matter what size your garden space:

- 1) **Plant clumps of the same species.** Groupings of single flower species help pollinators spot the plant quickly and forage more efficiently.
- 2) **Plant diverse.** Even just 8 - 10 different species can greatly increase the number of pollinator species that your garden will be able to support.
- 3) **Include early and late bloomers.** Flowers that bloom in the very early spring are a critical resource for early emerging bees such as bumble bee queens, mining bees, and mason bees. Late blooming flowers help queen bumble bees build up strength before going into winter hibernation.

Check out the Pollinator Parkways webpage at <https://pollinatorparkways.weebly.com> for some great tips for creating small pollinator-friendly habitats!

Love Your Watershed

Sips 'n' Science Pub Talks on YouTube!



Whether you missed a past Sips 'n' Science pub talk or would like to re-experience a memorable event, we have some great news. You can now watch many of our past Sips 'n' Science events, virtual workshops and demos on our YouTube channel!

Our Virtual Events Library webpage is also a great place to view information for and watch recordings of many of our past events!

LWC YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@luckiamutewatershedcouncil>

Virtual Events Library: <https://www.luckiamutelwc.org/virtual-event-library.html>

Partner Events in the Watershed



Preparing for fire season?

Meet the Experts. Ask your questions.

Preparing for wildfire season? Meet the experts and ask your questions.

You are invited to join a webinar on fire preparedness and response in Benton County. You'll learn from local emergency planners, fire departments, the Oregon Department of Forestry, Oregon State University Extension Fire Program, the Office of State Fire Marshal, and Firewise leaders on planning for and responding to wildfires.

Bring your questions about fire preparedness and ask these local experts!

When: April 18, 2023 from 6:00 - 7:30 PM

Register here: Beav.es/Sfl



Earth Day Event with Greenbelt Land Trust

Join Greenbelt staff and fellow volunteers for an Earth Day work party removing un-needed fences at Courtney Creek on **Saturday, April 22nd, from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm**. We will work to remove old wire and posts, opening up wildlife corridors for the elk and other wildlife that call Courtney Creek home.

Courtney Creek is located south of Brownsville, about a 45 minute drive from Corvallis. Get the details and sign up for this Earth Day volunteer opportunity at <https://greenbeltlandtrust.org/event/earth-day-fence-removal-at-courtney-creek/>

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, driving directions, and/or Zoom links are posted at www.LuckiamuteLWC.org.

April 13 @ 6:00 - 8:00pm (via Zoom)

May 18* @ 6:00 - 8:00pm (in-person at Western Skies)

June 9 @ 6:00 - 8:00pm (in-person at J2E Tree Farm)

**Please note that the May Board Meeting date has been changed to the third Thursday of the month.*

To donate to the LWC, 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 early the following year.*

THANK YOU TO OUR MOST RECENT DONORS AND VOLUNTEERS!

We are so grateful to the following donors and volunteers who have contributed their dollars, in-kind donations, and their time and energy to our conservation goals from January 1 to March 31, 2023. 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 & Jim Cook
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Mike & Karen Lippsmeyer
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Erin Murphy
Terry Murphy
Eric Noel
Linda Samuels
Scott Youngblood

**THANK YOU,
Amazon Smile and
Fred Meyer Community
Rewards participants!**

Your purchases earned us **\$67.05** for the fourth quarter of 2022!

The Amazon Smile program has now ended, but if you shop at Fred Meyer, you can link your Community Rewards card to the LWC using these steps:

Sign in to your Rewards account at www.FredMeyer.com. Then click "Community Rewards" on the lefthand menu. Follow the steps to link your card to the LWC using our organization number: **Q1717**

January 1 - March 31 Donors

Anonymous Donors (5)

Kendra Callahan
Dara Durham
Carolyn Foland
Patrick & Andrea Melendy
William Percy
Phil Sollins
Jackson Stalley & Emily Plec
Starker Forests, Inc.
Sarah Willis
Spiritopia

January 1 - March 31 Volunteers

Brian Bangs
Judy Beebe
Marc Bell
Andrea Berkley
Britton Castor
Heidi Christensen
Jim Cook
Corinne Dexter
David Ehlers
Sarah Ehlers
Dan Farnworth

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Jane Tappen
Jay Tappen
Jay Teller
Roberto Toto
Sarah Willis
Tom Wilson
Scott Youngblood



Polk Soil & Water
Conservation District

Partner Spotlight

We'd like to give a shout-out to Polk Soil & Water Conservation District (PSWCD) for their continued support of the LWC's Love Your Watershed program! In addition to being a part of our Education and Outreach Committee, Polk SWCD staff have partnered with us to plan, coordinate and give support to so many of our most engaging and memorable events. Thank you, PSWCD, for helping us achieve a healthy watershed for all!

Luckiamute Watershed Council Staff



Executive Director: Kristen Larson
Operations Coordinator: Maya Cook
Outreach Coordinator: Suzanne Teller
Project Manager: Aubrey Cloud
Restoration Projects Manager: Ross Hiatt

THANK YOU, BUSINESS CIRCLE DONORS!



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