

# Behind the Scenes

August 2023



Dear Friend,

Happy August! On behalf of all of us at the LWC, I want to thank you again for your ongoing support of our Love Your Watershed program. Thanks to so many of our Friends, Business Circle members, and other donors, we not only reached last month's fundraising campaign goal of \$10,000, we over-topped it by over \$2,000 for a final tally of \$12,085 – all of which will go to support our 2023 and early 2024 education and outreach events!

Behind the scenes at the LWC, Monitoring Coordinator Jonah Nicholas has started a mid-season status check of 29 stream temperature monitoring locations, and is conducting streambed elevation monitoring at several project sites. Restoration Project Managers Aubrey Cloud and Ross Hiatt are steeped in plant establishment work within several restoration sites around the watershed, and are in the process of planning and submitting grant proposals for several new projects as well. The LWC and its partners in the Mid-Willamette Beaver Partnership are working with Nimbl Visual Design on a website focused on beaver information and coexistence techniques for our region, which we are looking forward to launching in the coming months! In addition to habitat restoration work, we are also continuing our journey towards incorporating more equitable and inclusive strategies to enhance watershed health and resiliency within our communities.

We would not be able to accomplish any of this without you, so THANK YOU for keeping us moving forward towards a healthy and more connected watershed for all! --Suzanne Teller (Outreach@LuckiamuteLWC.org or 503-837-0237)

## Upcoming Community Events:

Mid-August is Powwow season! The LWC encourages you to join one or both of these upcoming pow-wows, which welcome Native and Non-Native people to attend and experience Native dancing, drumming and singing from all over Indigenous America and beyond. Click on the links below to find out more details from each of the Tribes' websites.

### Annual Nesika Illahee Pow-Wow

When: August 11 - 13

Where: Pauline Ricks Memorial Pow-Wow Grounds, Siletz

Learn more at <https://www.ctsi.nsn.us/heritage/pow-wow/>

### Grand Ronde Contest Powwow

When: August 18 - 20

Uyxat Powwow Grounds, Grande Ronde

Get the details at <https://www.smokesignals.org/articles/2023/07/31/contest-powwow-slated-for-aug-18-20/>

### Bird Banding and Restoration Tour at LSNA

When: September, Luckiamute State Natural Area (look for an email with the date coming soon!)



Join LWC Restoration Project Manager Aubrey Cloud for an in-depth look at the progress being made within LSNA's North Tract thanks to ten years of restoration work by the LWC and its partners. You'll also see how the newest native trees and shrubs are faring at the most recently planted project area located within the 60-acre field that had formerly been leased as agricultural land. During the tour, we'll be visiting a bird-banding station operated by researchers from the US Geological Survey and volunteers, and learning more about their research while getting a close-up view of some of the local birdlife! Watch a Salem Audubon Society presentation by Josée Rousseau that gives an overview of this research at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-rOyHsNp1cM&t=1s>

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

# Watershed Notes

## **You are Invited to a Pre-Meeting BBQ and Social Hour this Thursday!**



The LWC's bi-monthly board meeting is happening this **Thursday, August 10** at the Happy Workers Club (39328 Luckiamute Rd., Philomath). But before our meeting begins at 6:00, you are invited to join us for a pre-meeting BBQ and social hour starting at 4:30pm! For the BBQ, we will be grilling up some yak burgers (yes, yak!) courtesy of Hazelton Farms, beef burgers from Western Skies Ranch, and veggie burgers too. If you are willing and able, you are welcome to bring a side dish or dessert to add to the spread, but this is completely optional! You are welcome to come just for the BBQ or stay for the meeting too! Details at <https://www.luckiamutelwc.org/monthly-meeting-details.html>

## **South Fork Pedee Creek video now on YouTube!**

*By Suzanne Teller, LWC Outreach Coordinator*

Thanks to Western Oregon University's WouTV Producer, Deborah Rezell, you can now view a five-minute video that explains the rationale behind the South Fork Pedee Creek Enhancement Project, and showcases the successful outcomes we've seen at this site so far! A BIG round of applause goes to the landowners, Manulife (formerly Hancock), Starker Forests, Forests Forever, Inc. and Bureau of Land Management (BLM), as well as the many additional project partners, funders and volunteers that helped make this project successful. The highlight of this project was the replacement of an undersized, perched culvert that prevented fish from traveling to high quality habitat further upstream. Other completed project activities include large wood placement within the stream channel, invasive species control, native tree and shrub plantings, and the replacement of another culvert with a bridge further downstream. Thanks to this work, a wide variety of species are already benefitting from improved water quality and habitat conditions within the creek and along its banks. In addition to improved conditions for local plants and wildlife, this project is also causing a cascade of positive outcomes for local human populations too — both in terms of ecological conditions and economic benefits. The South Fork Pedee Enhancement project involved several small businesses and local contractors, each of whom were hired to complete various aspects of culvert design, construction, log placement and revegetation work throughout the course of the project. Starker Forester and Outreach Manager Jennifer Beathe remarked, "The day we set the beams for the bridge we had four family owned businesses working on the project. Our work sustains these companies too!" Projects like this one are a prime example of one of the LWC's most valued objectives — to bring together many stakeholders towards achieving the common goal of long-term watershed health.

View the South Fork Pedee Project video on our YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vLjvUEdlu98>

For more information about the project, check out our project webpage at <https://www.luckiamutelwc.org/sfpedee.html>



Left: Upper culvert outlet, pre-project (2019)



Right: Upper culvert outlet, post-project (2022)