

# Behind the Scenes

December 2018



Dear Friend,

On behalf of all of us at the LWC, **I want to express our deep gratitude** - not only for your support but also for spreading the word to your friends, family and neighbors about our watershed conservation efforts. Thank you! So far, we've had 26 new individuals join our **Friends of the LWC** network! The dollars and volunteer time you've contributed over the past year have helped us move closer to our vision of **a healthy watershed for all**. If you have not yet renewed your membership in the **Friends of the LWC** network, please consider doing so now in order to keep enjoying all the benefits of being a Friend. For a minimum of \$25 a year, or a volunteer commitment of at least 5 hours a year, you will continue to receive our monthly "Behind the Scenes" bulletins, discounts on event fees, early access to event registration, invitations to our annual LWC social, and the knowledge that you are helping improve the health of your watershed. Our newly updated donation page at [www.LuckiamuteLWC.org/donate.html](http://www.LuckiamuteLWC.org/donate.html) makes it even easier to set up a recurring monthly donation, or give a gift in honor of a loved one.

Thank you so much, and we wish you a very happy New Year!

--Suzanne Teller, LWC Outreach Coordinator

[Outreach@LuckiamuteLWC.org](mailto:Outreach@LuckiamuteLWC.org)



## LOVE YOUR WATERSHED: Upcoming Sips 'n' Science schedule

visit [www.LuckiamuteLWC.org/LoveYourWatershed.html](http://www.LuckiamuteLWC.org/LoveYourWatershed.html) for RSVP info and details!



### Sips 'n' Science: Bringing Back the Pacific Lamprey

Date: Wednesday, January 9

Time: 6:30 - 8:00 pm

Place: Brew Coffee & Taphouse (211 S. Main St, Independence)\*\*

Cost: Suggested donation of \$5

Kelly Dirkson, manager of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde's Fish and Wildlife Program, explains how this 650-million year old eel-like fish is making a comeback thanks to the efforts of Tribes across the region. **RSVP at [www.LuckiamuteLWC.org/lamprey-talk.html](http://www.LuckiamuteLWC.org/lamprey-talk.html)**.

**\*\*Come sip some suds for the watershed! Brew will donate \$1 for every pint purchase!**



### Sips 'n' Science: The Mighty Mason Bee

Date: Thursday, February 21

Time: 6:30 - 8:00 pm

Place: The Valkyrie Wine Tavern (301 S. Main St, Independence)

Cost: Suggested donation of \$5

Jerry Paul, a board member of the Benton Soil & Water Conservation District, will introduce you to the amazing world of the mason bee, and share some fascinating facts and tips on how to encourage and care for mason bees in your own yards and gardens. **Please note that this venue is restricted to those 21 and over. No RSVP necessary.**

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

# Watershed Notes

## A Focus on Native Pollinators

When most folks think of pollinator protection, the non-native western honey bee is what first comes to mind. Yet Oregon's roughly 500 species of non-native bees have been pollinating our native flowering plants since long before the introduction of the honey bee to our state. Native bees and other types of native insects also play a critical role in pollinating our crops. And because native bees are typically seeking pollen instead of nectar, research suggests that our native bees are even *more* efficient at pollination than honey bees!

In our 2018 - 2019 Winter Newsletter, we will have a feature article on the importance of native pollinators from OSU entomologist Betsey Miller, including ten ways you can protect pollinator habitat in your own yards and gardens. Look for our newsletter next week in your inbox!



## Pollinator-friendly Yard & Garden Tour coming this spring!

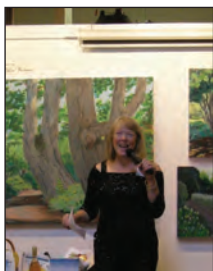
This spring, we are partnering with Benton County Soil & Water Conservation District and Oregon State University Extension to bring you an opportunity to see first-hand how landowners can protect native pollinator habitat on their own land. Aaron Anderson, a graduate student in OSU's Horticulture Department, will be leading this interactive tour and highlighting his research on which native plants are the best candidates for native pollinator habitat within home gardens, parks, roadsides and agricultural areas.

Aaron is currently running a large field trial at OSU's North Willamette Research Center studying 23 native Willamette Valley wildflower species. Aaron monitors the floral bloom, performs timed pollinator observations, and samples the insect community on each plot. Additionally, he has asked gardeners to rank the aesthetics of these flowers via an online survey. From this research, Aaron plans on developing pollinator-friendly planting lists of PNW native wildflowers that are also attractive to home gardeners. You can read more about Aaron's research and view photos on his blog at [pollinatorblog.weebly.com](http://pollinatorblog.weebly.com).

More information about the Pollinator-friendly Yard & Garden Tour will be posted soon, and - as a **Friend of the LWC** - you will get early-bird access to event registration and a discount on any event fees!

*Have you participated in a native pollinator project on your land? Would you be interested in being on the list for a possible tour destination? If so, contact Suzanne at [Outreach@LuckiamuteLWC.org](mailto:Outreach@LuckiamuteLWC.org) or call 503-837-0237.*

## A BIG Thank You for Their Service to the Watershed...



As we turn the page to a new year, our board will be going through some changes. Gail Oberst, who has served on the LWC Board for 17 years, is retiring and leaving some BIG shoes to fill. It has truly been an honor to work with Gail in every one of the roles that she has occupied -- which includes Board President, Vice President, and Education & Outreach Committee Chair, just to name a few! Although she is stepping down as an active board member, Gail assures us that she will continue to be involved in our upcoming events and activities. We are also looking forward to seeing the release of *Writing Our Watershed*, a highly popular collection of stories from watershed residents which she is currently working on getting re-published!



A big *thank you* also goes to Dan Farnworth, who has just retired as Board Treasurer after 6-plus years of crunching numbers for the LWC. The skill and hard work that Dan applied to his detailed financial reports impressed every single one of us during our monthly meetings, and his thoughtful advice and good old-fashioned common sense helped steer the LWC towards success on many an occasion. We are grateful that Dan will continue to serve on our board, and I'm sure he is looking forward to having a bit more free time to spend enjoying some watershed activities that are not budget-related!

*Are you passionate about making a difference in your watershed? Do you have experience on nonprofit boards, fundraising, event planning, or just want to roll up your sleeves on behalf of watershed health? We NEED you! Find out how you can join the LWC Board or one of our committees at [www.LuckiamuteLWC.org/member.html](http://www.LuckiamuteLWC.org/member.html).*