

Fall
2018

LWC Meanderings

Watershed News & Reflections



LWC MISSION:

To engage and assist land-owners 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 or work within the Luckiamute and Ash Creek watersheds.

WHO WE ARE:

Patrick Melendy, *President Independence*

Dan Farnworth, *Treasurer Monmouth*

Kathy Farnworth, *Secretary Monmouth*

Gail Oberst
Independence

Karin Stutzman
Monmouth

Dave Ehlers
Kings Valley/Hoskins

Mark Hazelton
Kings Valley/Hoskins

Wendy Hudson
Monmouth

COUNCIL MEETINGS:

Held the second Thursday of every month from 7 to 9 pm. Visit our website at: www.LuckiamuteLWC.org for location and details.

Luckiamute Confluence Tour Showcases Partnership



Left: ODFW's Brian Bangs shows off an Oregon chub, one of the many species thriving in Jont Creek. Right: Juan Franco, D. Franco restoration crew leader, talks about restoration work at LSNA.

— by Suzanne Teller, Outreach Coordinator

Last month, a total of 42 community members came out to get a first-hand look at three restoration projects around the confluence of the Luckiamute and Willamette Rivers. While each of the three projects focused on unique conservation goals within their site, one thing tied them all together — their reliance on strong partnerships.

One thing that watershed councils do really well is bring together diverse groups — including local conservation groups, private landowners and government agencies — and turn their combined vision and resources into successful, on-the-ground conservation work.

But how to celebrate the behind-the-scenes efforts that make these achievements possible?

The answer for Greenbelt Land Trust (GLT), Polk Soil & Water Conservation District (Polk SWCD) and Luckiamute Watershed Council (LWC) was to put together a tour of three restoration project sites along the lower Luckiamute River that would demonstrate the power of partnership, and the conservation success stories that result.

On September 23, our Luckiamute Confluence Tour began with a visit to a restoration site along Jont Creek, a tributary to the lower Luckiamute River.

Luckiamute Confluence Tour, continued from page 1

The Auer family owns this land, and are working with Polk SWCD, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) and US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to remove a culvert that is preventing salmon and steelhead from accessing upstream habitat. Another part of the Jont Creek project focuses on creating wetland habitat that will benefit many species — including migratory birds, reptiles, amphibians and native fish.

During the tour of his property, John Auer took us to a marshy section of Jont Creek that had been created by a downstream beaver dam. Gazing into the murky water, it was hard to tell what sorts of creatures made their home in this slow-moving section of the creek. Thankfully, ODFW fish biologist Brian Bangs was there to demonstrate the amazing abundance of life that can be found in this unassuming backwater habitat. A highlight of Brian's presentation was the chance to meet the Oregon chub, a small minnow found only in the Willamette Valley and which recently achieved fame as the first fish to ever be de-listed from the Endangered Species Act.

Our second stop sent us to the Willamette Bluffs, a protected conservation easement owned by the Rust family and managed by Greenbelt Land Trust. A hike to the edge of the property brought us to an incredible view of the confluence of the Willamette, Luckiamute and Santiam Rivers. On the way, we learned how 120 acres of native wetlands, woodlands and oak prairies are being protected and restored here — both for its ecological value and the cultural significance of this area to local tribes.

Luckiamute State Natural Area (LSNA) was our final destination, and was the only one of the three project sites that is accessible to the public. With restoration work at this site now in its 9th year, tour participants were able to witness a mature restoration project that has its roots in a strong partnership. Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) representatives Scott Youngblood and Matt Huerter started off by introducing everyone to the unique landscapes of LSNA. Scott and Matt also touched on the importance of the area to local tribes, which relied on its rich floodplain habitat for harvesting camas and wapato; hunting deer, elk and waterfowl; and catching salmon and trout. The backdrop to this beautiful natural area is a mature cottonwood-maple-ash forest that rises up alongside the Luckiamute-Willamette confluence and is the largest intact gallery forest left in the Willamette Valley. The incredible progress made towards expanding this gallery forest was described by LWC Project Manager Jean-Paul Zagarola and restoration crew leader Juan Franco. Juan's 12-plus years of experience as part of his family's D. Franco Consulting restoration crew has given him the unique perspective of being able to walk through a restored Willamette Valley forest and know that he and his family had a direct role in creating the landscape around him.

Not surprisingly, the tour ended up going an hour longer than scheduled. Yet nobody was in a hurry to leave. In fact, time no longer seemed to matter to many participants as they wandered along LSNA's loop trail, admiring the view of the gallery forest and stopping to gaze across the Willamette River.

You can learn more about our Luckiamute State Natural Area Enhancement Project and view some of the beautiful landscapes found there, at <http://www.luckiamutelwc.org/luckiamute-state-natural-area-enhancement.html>

If you would like to learn more about upcoming LWC events, head to <http://www.luckiamutelwc.org/events.html>.



The view from the top of the Willamette Bluffs is spectacular!



A great shot of all 42 tour participants before we headed into Luckiamute State Natural Area.



LOVE YOUR WATERSHED

Upcoming Events

Oct. 21: Bird Walk at Baskett Slough NWR

****Bilingual in Spanish & English****

Come for a walk along the Rich Guadagno Memorial Loop, where we'll keep an eye out for several kinds of wintering and resident birds in the native oak savanna, oak forest, prairie and wetland areas of Baskett Slough.

Nov. 15: Sips 'n' Science: Beaver-Inspired Stream Restoration

Join us and NOAA conservation biologist, Dr. Chris Jordan, at The Valkyrie Wine Tavern for some local wine, excellent food and a fascinating look at how beavers can be an integral part of stream restoration.

Jan. 9: Sips 'n' Science: Bringing Back the Pacific Lamprey

Torey Wakeland, an Aquatic Biologist for the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde, will introduce you to the Pacific Lamprey - a truly incredible eel-like fish that has lived in our rivers for 450 million years.



Register today at LuckiamuteLWC.org/LoveYourWatershed or call 503-837-0237

Become a FRIEND OF THE LWC!

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

- ◆ Regular "Behind the Scenes" Bulletins
- ◆ Early access to event registration
- ◆ Discounts on workshops
- ◆ Knowing that you are helping improve the health of your watershed!

Ready to Join?

Find out how at

LuckiamuteLWC.org/Friends

We also 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 Council Monthly Meetings, held the second Thursday of each month from 7 — 9 p.m. Our meetings are always open to the public and discussion topics include local watershed issues and actions. For details, please visit our web site at www.LuckiamuteLWC.org.

Oct. 9, 2018 (7-9pm): WOU Hamersly Library

Nov. 8, 2018 (8-9pm): Monmouth Volunteer Hall

Dec. 13, 2018 (7-9pm): Monmouth Volunteer Hall

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 2019, following your donation.

THANK YOU TO OUR RECENT DONORS AND VOLUNTEERS!

We are grateful to the following donors and volunteers who have contributed their hard-earned dollars and their time and energy to our conservation goals over the past three months. *THANK YOU!* Our supporters are at the heart of what we do and why, and we cannot achieve results without their contributions and hard work!

July — September 2018 Donors

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 Pat & Andrea Melendy*
 Gail Oberst & Michael Cairns*
 Hollis & Charles Holstine*
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July — September 2018 Volunteers

Pat Melendy*	Rob & Erin Burns*
Gail Oberst*	Terri & Lee Croft*
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Dave & Sarah Ehlers*	Linda Hillesum*
Dan & Kathy Farnworth*	Cheryl Wolhar*
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Marc Bell	Willamette U. International
Karen Haberman	Students
Heidi Christensen	

**Friends of the LWC*



Wow! We had a total of 55 of our friends, neighbors and supporters come out to celebrate with us at our September 5 Open House! During the course of the evening, we received a few comments to the fill-in-the-blank statements posted on our whiteboard: “When I think about beaver in the watershed, I think about...” and “My experience with beavers has been...” We’d love to collect more impressions about beaver, whether they are positive, negative, mixed or neutral. Would you take a moment to participate in our beaver survey at www.LuckiamuteLWC.org/beaver-survey.html? If you prefer, you can email your responses to the questions above to Outreach@LuckiamuteLWC.org. Help us put the finishing touches on our Strategic Plan!



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

Luckiamute Watershed Council

165 D Street

Independence, Oregon 97351

Phone: 503-837-0237

www.LuckiamuteLWC.org

Executive Director: [Kristen Larson](#)

Outreach Coordinator: [Suzanne Teller](#)

Monitoring Coordinator: [Caleb Price](#)

Project Manager: [Jean-Paul Zagarola](#)