

# Behind the Scenes

January 2020



Dear Friend,

I hope you've had a terrific start to the new year! At the LWC office, we just mailed out the 2019 tax receipts, which makes us feel grateful all over again for all of our supporters. Thanks to the contributions of our Friends of the LWC, Business Circle and other individual donors, we raised a total of \$42,921 towards clean water, healthy habitat and connecting communities to their watershed! One of the ways we like to thank our Friends and Business Circle donors is to invite you to our annual **LWC Social & Celebration**, which will take place on March 1 this year, at the Historic Gentle House in Monmouth from 2 to 4pm. Keep an eye on your mailbox for an invitation, and come raise a toast with us to celebrate those who help us achieve our vision of a healthy watershed for all! And if you want to get all the details and RSVP now, you can head to our website at <http://www.LuckiamuteLWC.org/lwc-social.html> and fill out your RSVP on the bottom of the page. We hope to see you there!

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

## Willamette Habitat Restoration Fund supports **Love Your Watershed Program!**

A big thank you goes to Willamette Habitat Restoration Fund for their generous contribution to our Love Your Watershed program this year! The WHR Fund was created in March 2004 by Tremaine Arkley and Anne Steele in order to help support habitat restoration and education projects in the Willamette Valley. Their support is enabling us to purchase a portable PA system for our events and offer our upcoming bird and plant ID walks for free! Stay tuned for more information about the history of WHR in a future *Behind the Scenes*, and in the meantime, check out the great line-up of events we have coming up over the next few months:

### Sips 'n' Science: Protecting Salmon Strongholds



**February 12 @ 6:30 - 8:00 pm**  
The Valkyrie Wine Tavern

Dr. Matthew Sloat, Science Director at Wild Salmon Center, will draw on far flung experiences in Kamchatka and the Russian Far East as well as work in our home watersheds on the Oregon Coast to explore the ideals and realities of safeguarding a future for Pacific salmon. **Details and RSVP info at [www.LuckiamuteLWC.org/salmon](http://www.LuckiamuteLWC.org/salmon)**

### Stream Temperature Monitoring in the Luckiamute



**March 12 @ 6:00 - 8 pm & April 1 @ 6 - 7:30 pm**  
Monmouth Volunteer Hall & Pedee Women's Club

Join us on March 12 during our board meeting or on April 1 at a public forum for an in-depth look at the LWC's Temperature Monitoring Program! Caleb Price, LWC's Monitoring Coordinator, will be presenting the highlights of our 2019 monitoring results, and answer your questions about stream temperature in our watershed. More details and **RSVP at [www.LuckiamuteLWC.org/temppmonitoring](http://www.LuckiamuteLWC.org/temppmonitoring)**.

### Watershed Recreation Fair

**April 18 @ 10:00 am - 2:00 pm**  
The Grove Coffeehouse

### Earth Day Ivy Pull

**April 25 @ 10:00 am - 1:00 pm**  
The Grove Coffeehouse

### Spring Bird Walk

**May 9 @ 8:00 am - 12:00 pm**  
J2E Tree Farm

### Native Plant Identification Walk

**May 20 @ 6:30 - 8:00 pm**  
Sarah Helmick State Park

### Planting for Pollinators Tour

**June 7 @ 1:00 - 3:00 pm**  
Illahe Vineyards

Stay tuned for news about more upcoming events — including our Fall Bird Walks, Sips 'n' Science pub talks, and project tours!

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

# Watershed Notes

## **Worm Bin Composting and Community Drinking Water Events a Success!**

A total of 40 people attended our first Love Your Watershed event of the new year at Pressed Coffee Roaster's Cafe in Dallas, on January 22. This Sips 'n' Science pub talk featured OSU soil scientist Linda Brewer, who explained how to get started with worm bin composting and how to maximize the soil health benefits that earthworms can bring to your yard and garden. Three days later on January 25, 52 people showed up for our Community Drinking Water Forum at Monmouth Senior Center. This public forum featured a panel of six drinking water providers and a well water safety expert from OSU Extension, each of whom answered questions and cleared up some misconceptions about drinking water sources and safety in Polk County. Look for a special Q & A feature with our drinking water providers in the next *Behind the Scenes!*



## **Falls City High School students help with South Fork Pedee Creek restoration efforts**

"Hey look what I found!" exclaimed Katie, kneeling down to push aside pieces of a decaying log. A light brown salamander with orange legs scampered across the uneven ground and was scooped up by her teacher, Sean Burgett. While trying to identify what species they had found, two 10th graders from Falls City High School's Career Technical Education (CTE) Natural Resources/Forestry program took a break from the hard work of digging a hole in the wet clay soil. Though the students were here to learn about the LWC's South Fork Pedee Creek restoration project and help transplant native plants in a disturbed streamside area, finding this salamander turned out to be a great opportunity to illustrate how a stream restoration project does more than just help fish.



Standing alongside the creek, LWC Project Manager Jean-Paul Zagarola explained how the South Fork Pedee project will help improve habitat not only for salmon and steelhead, but also many other native species found in and around this ecosystem - including the salamander (which turned out to be a type of lungless salamander called an *Oregon ensatina*). He also talked about how the project has brought together many partners - including two timber companies, Starker Forests and Hancock Forest Management; a non-profit, Forests Forever; the Bureau of Land Management; and a private landowner. In addition, this project has employed five family-owned businesses and is also engaging Falls City High School students in the unique opportunity to go "behind the scenes" of a stream restoration project. Katie and her classmate Katelyn ended up being the only students that could make it to this planting activity, which is helping to re-establish native vegetation in an area that was disturbed by heavy machinery used to transport the enormous logs that will slow down in-stream flow and improve both aquatic and riparian habitat.

When asked why they chose to enroll in the CTE program, both Katie and Katelyn immediately said they "just love spending time outdoors." The girls talked about their experiences working with livestock on their family farms, their hobbies, and what they've been doing as part of the CTE program. In fact, the students are not strangers to this spot. As part of their CTE curriculum, they visit this Forest Forever-owned site quite regularly to learn about forest ecology and practice data collection and management. They also get to see how the landscape changes and the creek transforms throughout the year. With all the rainfall over the past couple of weeks, the creek is moving fast and has spilled over into its floodplain in several areas. "It's amazing to see the difference in the creek over the seasons," said Sean. When we were here in the fall, all we saw was a trickle. Seeing South Fork Pedee Creek like this is pretty awesome!"

Katie and Katelyn work hard to dig holes that are deep and wide enough for the rootballs of the ferns and saplings they've carefully uprooted from the surrounding riparian forest. Over the next few weeks, the girls will return to this site with the rest of their class to plant more native shrubs — this time by propagating them from live cuttings harvested near the project site. "That sounds like a lot more fun than digging holes!" remarked Katelyn with a big smile.



-by Suzanne Teller, Outreach Coordinator