

# Behind the Scenes "Lite"

June & July 2022



Dear Friend,

I was walking through my gardens yesterday making notes for our house-sitter in preparation for being gone for a month (family road trip adventure!) and discovered that the soil was completely saturated – even to the point of standing water in some low spots! This got me reminiscing about what it was like exactly one year ago. While we did have a significant amount of rain on June 11 - 13 last year, this was an anomaly for an otherwise very dry month and not the steady cascade of rainfall we've been experiencing throughout May and June this year. Although we may be longing for some sunshine to break through those clouds, there are so many reasons to be grateful for this wet weather. Yesterday's biweekly Water Conditions Report from the Water Resources Department showed that streamflows throughout western and northern Oregon are well above average and, for the first time in quite a long time, a large swath of western and northern Oregon - including Polk, Marion, Yamhill, and most of Benton and Linn counties are no longer experiencing drought.

Though that is excellent news, it is worth remembering that summer is right around the corner and local weather is sure to heat up and dry out significantly in the coming weeks. With that in mind, the attached summer issue of Meanderings features some important tips for protecting your home and yard from wildfire.

Have a fantastic start to your summer, and you'll hear from me again when I return to the office towards the end of July!  
--Suzanne Teller, LWC Outreach Coordinator (contact me at [Outreach@LuckiamuteLWC.org](mailto:Outreach@LuckiamuteLWC.org) or 503-837-0237)



## **Love Your Watershed: Upcoming Events**

### **Butterfly and Moth Walk at J<sub>2</sub>E Tree Farm**

**When: Saturday, July 30 & Sunday, July 31 (choose one day to attend)**

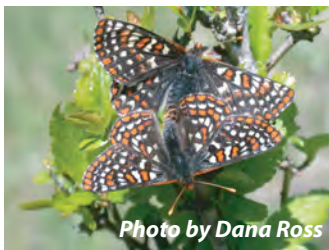


Photo by Dana Ross

Join the Luckiamute Watershed Council and Lepidoptera specialist Dana Ross at J<sub>2</sub>E Tree Farm for a closer look at the butterflies and moths of our region, and learn about their importance to ecosystem health.

This three-hour event will start with a brief overview of the butterflies and moths of the area, as well as question-and-answer session in a shaded location. A table with specimen displays and several guide books will also be available to browse through.

Then, we'll take a stroll in the open areas of the tree farm, where we will net some butterflies "on the wing" and have a chance to observe them up close. You will also see a display of moth species caught in an overnight moth trap.

We'll end this event with a picnic lunch by the J<sub>2</sub>E South Pond, so please bring a bag lunch, camp chair or picnic blanket, and water for everyone in your group!

This event is open to adults and children who are at least 8 years old, and there is a limit of 15 participants each day. Please register for just ONE day, since we would like to have as many people as possible get a chance to participate! Tickets and more details are available at <https://www.luckiamutelwc.org/butterfly-and-moth-walk.html>

Please note that this early-bird invitation was sent to you as a thank you for supporting the Luckiamute Watershed Council as a Friend of the LWC or Business Circle member. Any remaining spots will be open for general registration in a few weeks.

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

Summer  
2022

# 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:

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

Karin Stutzman, *Secretary*  
Monmouth

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

## COUNCIL MEETINGS:

Typically held the second Thursday of every month from 6 — 8 pm.

Details and links will be posted at:  
[www.LuckiamuteLWC.org](http://www.LuckiamuteLWC.org)

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.

## Protecting Your Home & Yard From Wildfire



From left to right: A well-maintained home ignition zone (John O'Conner, © Oregon Department of Forestry); Maintain a noncombustible area around the base of your home. (Stephen Fitzgerald, © Oregon State University); Home ignition zone maintenance practices include use of a rock terrace as a fuel break, pruning the conifer trees on the right, and thinning between trees and clumps of shrubs. (Photo: Stephen Fitzgerald, © Oregon State University)

With the unprecedented amount of rainfall we've received so far this Spring, the threat of wildfire may seem far away. However, the time is coming when the rain will stop, the landscape will begin to dry out, and wildfire risk will be back on the forefront of our minds.

One way you can start preparing for wildfire season right now is to take the steps to fully protect your *home ignition zone*, which is the area of land that extends 200 feet from your foundation.

Research has shown that embers and small flames are the main causes for homes being destroyed during a wildfire. Ultimately, there is no way to guarantee the safety of your property if a fire does occur, but there are techniques to minimize the risk of flames and embers reaching the surface of your home.

The websites listed below are a great source of information to help you prepare your home and yard for wildfire — including detailed steps for protecting your home ignition zone, and lists of what to plant (and what NOT to plant) close to your home.

Information and imagery for this article is from the National Fire Protection Association ([nfpa.org/Public-Education/Fire-causes-and-risks/Wildfire/Preparing-homes-for-wildfire](http://nfpa.org/Public-Education/Fire-causes-and-risks/Wildfire/Preparing-homes-for-wildfire)) and the Oregon State University Extension Service (<https://extension.oregonstate.edu/forests/fire/wildfire-strikes>)

## HOME IGNITION ZONE CHECKLIST

SIMPLE STEPS FROM ROOF TO FOUNDATION TO MAKE  
A HOME SAFER FROM EMBERS AND RADIANT HEAT

- Clean roofs and gutters of dead leaves, debris and pine needles that could catch embers
- Replace or repair any loose or missing shingles or roof tiles to prevent ember penetration
- Reduce embers that could pass through vents in the eaves by installing 1/8 inch metal mesh screening
- Clean debris from exterior attic vents and install 1/8 inch metal mesh screening to reduce embers
- Repair or replace damaged or loose window screens and any broken windows
- Screen or box in areas below patios and decks with wire mesh to prevent debris and combustible materials from accumulating
- Move any flammable material away from wall exteriors - mulch, flammable plants, leaves and needles, firewood piles - anything that can burn
- Remove anything stored underneath decks or porches

VISIT [FIREWISE.ORG](http://FIREWISE.ORG) FOR MORE DETAILS

Image by NFPA with funding from USDA Forest Service

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

## Welcome to LWC's New Operations Coordinator...



We are excited to introduce you to the newest staff member on the LWC team! On May 17, Maya Cook officially started her new role as the LWC's Operations Coordinator. If you attended the LWC's 20th Anniversary Celebration, you may have met Maya as she greeted arrivals to Emerson Vineyards and was introduced on stage. But well before she became part of the staff, Maya was donating her time and skills to the LWC as a volunteer for the temperature monitoring program as well as with the Governance and Education and Outreach Committees.

Maya grew up in Missouri, where she could identify flora and fauna before she could read, yet it never occurred to her to pursue a career in natural resources. Instead, she earned a bachelor's degree from Rutgers University in History. She finally had her "aha moment" in 2016, when she realized teaching wasn't for her and began pursuing a BS in Environmental Science part time through Oregon State University e-campus. Maya and her husband, Jim, moved across the country to Monmouth in spring of 2021. The first thing she did was identify the local watershed council, become a Friend of the LWC, and fill out a volunteer interest form. She fell for watershed restoration the minute she read about it in class and can't believe she's literally living the dream!

*"I have loved giving my time and energy to the LWC as a volunteer, and now I'm excited to continue serving the watershed community in this new role!"*

—Maya Cook

LWC Operations Coordinator

## ...and to our two newest Boardmembers!



Nick is a yak and hog rancher on the Luckiamute River. He is part of the 4th generation of a family that emigrated to the Luckiamute Watershed in the early 1900's, and has lived his whole life on the farm he manages now. Nick's main passion is connecting people with their food and the land we live on. Understanding the details of the local ecology and how it applies to managing livestock and food crops is very important to him. He grew up on the Luckiamute River that used to be hard to access through blackberry thickets and is now a diverse riparian forest. Nick is on the board to reciprocate the impact the Watershed Council has made on his land and life.



Jay is a relative newcomer to Oregon. Retiring from the planning profession in 2014, he and his wife Jane travelled in a small RV for three and a half years exploring Alaska and environs west of the Mississippi River. In May 2017 they arrived at the Luckiamute State Natural Area to volunteer as site hosts. Jay and Jane have lived midway between Airlie and Kings Valley since May 2019. Jay's varied background includes creating and managing a cooperative marketing association for recyclable materials in 21 Wisconsin counties and ten years as a founding board member for 1000 Friends of Wisconsin Land Use Institute. Jay expects to apply his experience and energy in working with the watershed community to carry forth this organization's mission.

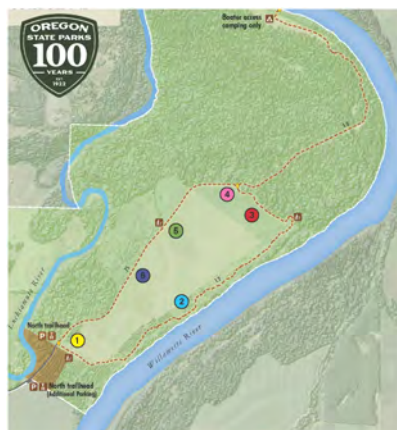
## 20TH ANNIVERSARY SLIDE SHOW



Photo by Jackson Stalley

THANK YOU to everyone who came out to celebrate the LWC's 20th Anniversary Celebration with us at Emerson Vineyards on May 14th! We had a wonderful time, and even managed to avoid getting rained on that day. If you didn't get a chance to attend, or if you did attend and would like to relive this fun event, check out our 20th Anniversary slideshow on our website at [LuckiamuteLWC.org/20th-anniversary-photos](http://LuckiamuteLWC.org/20th-anniversary-photos)

## LSNA SELF-GUIDED TOUR



Head to Luckiamute State Natural Area (LSNA) for a self-guided walking tour around the North loop trail. The tour includes six waypoints, where you are encouraged to stop and learn more about LSNA and its ecological and cultural importance. A brochure with a trail map and waypoint descriptions is available at [LuckiamuteLWC.org/lsna-self-guided-tour](http://LuckiamuteLWC.org/lsna-self-guided-tour), or you can call the LWC office and arrange to pick up a printed copy!

# THANK YOU, Love Your Watershed Campaign Supporters!

A big THANK YOU to all of our supporters!  
We raised a total of \$16,076!



Once again, we're overwhelmed with gratitude for the support of our watershed community for the annual *Love Your Watershed* fundraising campaign! This year, the total contributions to our education and outreach program totalled \$16,076, which will help us continue inspiring and empowering individuals to take action for watershed health.

If you missed the campaign but would still like to contribute, there is still time! You can make a donation in any amount at <https://donorbox.org/support-the-love-your-watershed-program-2022>

## Independence Day Parade Volunteers Needed!

### The Grand Parade -Volunteers needed-



The Fourth of July Monmouth-Independence Grand Parade is back! Since 2014, the Luckiamute Watershed Council (LWC) and Polk Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) have been teaming up to put together a grand finale for the annual Fourth of July parade. Aiming to inspire on-lookers to keep trash out of the streets and streams of our watershed, parade volunteers carry color-coded trash bags ready to receive any litter and recyclables along the 3.3 mile route. The stars of this particular parade feature, of course, is Claudia Chinook, Polk SWCD's 14-foot-tall clean water ambassador, and live banjo music by a local musician!

Those who live along the parade route are especially grateful for the help in keeping their yards and sidewalks a lot cleaner than in the years past. Volunteers, in turn, appreciate having a positive impact on stream health, and enjoying a couple of hours being a near-celebrity! The cheering crowds and the eagerness with which the littlest spectators rush up to offload their handfuls of empty candy wrappers never fails to put a smile on everyone's faces.

This year, due to several LWC staff being on vacation during July 4, Polk SWCD will be handling the parade planning and logistics and they are looking for some volunteers to help make this first post-COVID appearance of Claudia a success! You can check out the details and sign-up to be a parade volunteer at <https://www.polkswcd.com/volunteer.html>

## 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!](http://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. Location details and Zoom links are posted at [www.LuckiamuteLWC.org](http://www.LuckiamuteLWC.org).

July 28\* @ 6:00 - 8:00pm (TBD)

**No Board Meeting in August**

September 8 @ 6:00 - 8:00pm (In-Person at J2E Tree Farm)

\*Note that the July Board meeting takes place on the fourth Thursday (not the second). This meeting will take the place of our regularly scheduled July and August meetings.

To donate to the LWC, go to [www.LuckiamuteLWC.org/donate](http://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 2022, following your donation.

# THANK YOU TO OUR MOST RECENT DONORS AND VOLUNTEERS!

We are so grateful to the following donors and volunteers who have contributed their hard-earned dollars and their time and energy to our conservation goals from April 1 to June 15, 2022. 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  
Jeremy Gordon  
George Grosch & Ann Bowen  
Stephen & Ava Howard  
Danny & Renee Jaffer  
Becky Jay

Paige Jenkins  
*In Honor of LaDonna Brave Bull Allard*  
Deb Merchant  
Becca & Russell Meskridge  
Erin Murphy  
Terry Murphy  
Eric Noel  
Linda Samuels  
V Environmental LLC  
Scott Youngblood

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

You can participate in the Amazon Smile program by shopping at <https://smile.amazon.com> (same log-in as regular Amazon account) and choosing the Luckiamute Watershed Council as your designated charity!

For Fred Meyer, sign into your account at [www.FredMeyer.com](http://www.FredMeyer.com), and link your Community Rewards card using our nonprofit number: **Q1717**

*\*For another great way to contribute to the LWC, find out if your employer offers an Employee Matching Gift Program!*

### April 1 - June 15, 2022 Donors

**Anonymous Donors (2)**  
Albany Animal Hospital  
Robert & Laura Archer  
Clinton Begly - *In Honor of "The Resto" 16 Gauge Society*  
Jennifer Brandenburg  
Kendra Callahan  
David & Peggy Clyne Trust  
Maya & Jim Cook  
David & Sarah Ehlers  
Dan & Kathy Farnworth  
Adrienne Guy

Cliff & Gay Hall  
Mark Hazelton & Evelyn Hukari  
Linda & Joe Hillesum  
Hollis Fishelson-Holstine & Charles Holstine  
Melvin & Ashley Hortman-Cooper  
Wendy Hudson  
Kyle Jansson & Carol Harding  
Rebecca & Jon Jay - *In Memory of M. M. Jaffer*  
Kristen Larson & Tom Wilson  
Elizabeth Monticue

Pacific Power Foundation - *Employer Matching Gift Program\**  
Jerry & Judith Paul  
William Percy  
Jackson Stalley & Emily Plec  
Jay & Jane Tappen  
Rita Vinal  
Western Skies Cattle Ranch  
Ann Wichmann  
Nan Willis  
Richard Yerian  
Faye Yoshihara & Kevin Kenaga

### April 1 - June 15, 2022 Volunteers

Brian Bangs  
Julia Battle  
Judy Beebe  
Marc Bell  
Andrea Berkley  
Britton Castor  
Heidi Christensen  
Jim Cook  
Maya Cook  
David Ehlers  
Sarah Ehlers  
Dan Farnworth  
Douglass Fitting  
George Grosch

Jeremy Gordon  
Kathleen Guillozet  
Karen Hans  
Linda Hillesum  
Danny Jaffer  
Renee Jaffer  
Tim Johnson  
Phil Larsen  
Adam Logan  
Mallory Mead  
Bill Moncsko  
Terry Murphy  
Morgan Neil  
Kevin Noreen

Jerry Paul  
Judy Paul  
Amy Pinkley-Wernz  
Holly Purpura  
Joe Robertson  
Tori Robertson  
Chris Seal  
Jackson Stalley  
Karin Stutzman  
Jay Tappen  
Mike Unger  
Darrell Ward  
Scott Youngblood



## THANK YOU TO ALL OUR BUSINESS CIRCLE SUPPORTERS!

Croft Vineyards  
The Independence Hotel  
KWIP La Campeona 880 AM  
Manulife Investment Management

Les Schwab  
Spiritopia  
Starker Forests, Inc.  
Western Skies Cattle Ranch



### Partner Spotlight

We'd like to give a special note of thanks to Arbor Day Foundation for their ongoing support of restoration in the Willamette Valley, including the Luckiamute basin. In partnership with Bonneville Environmental Foundation, Arbor Day Foundation supported the purchase of 67,105 native trees and shrubs for various projects across the watershed in 2022 – which is 30% of all our restoration plantings for this year!



## Luckiamute Watershed Council

165 D Street  
Independence, Oregon 97351  
503-837-0237  
[director@LuckiamuteLWC.org](mailto:director@LuckiamuteLWC.org)

[www.LuckiamuteLWC.org](http://www.LuckiamuteLWC.org)

**Executive Director:** Kristen Larson  
**Operations Coordinator:** Maya Cook  
**Outreach Coordinator:** Suzanne Teller  
**Monitoring Coordinator:** Amanda Brackett  
**Project Manager:** Jean-Paul Zagarola  
**Assistant Project Manager:** Aubrey Cloud

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