

# Behind the Scenes

March 2019



Dear Friend,

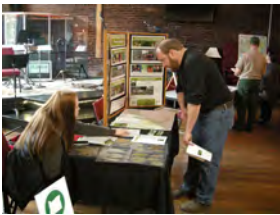
Have you taken a moment to look at all the Love Your Watershed events coming up in the next few months? Now that Spring has officially arrived, we are really kicking into high gear with lots of outdoor and indoor activities that will introduce to many different ways you can 'love your watershed!' As a Friend of the LWC, you will have the opportunity to register early for all of our events that have a limited number of participants, and a discount on all events that require a fee. That's just part of how we like to show our appreciation for YOU, our donors and volunteers who help make these events possible! In addition to checking out our upcoming events, make sure to read through our just-released Strategic Plan for 2019 - 2022. Your input through an online survey, a forum and our conversations helped us craft this plan, and we are excited to be able to share with you our results!

Happy reading,

--Suzanne Teller, LWC Outreach Coordinator



## LOVE YOUR WATERSHED: Watershed Recreation Fair



Last year on St. Patrick's Day, we held our first Watershed Recreation Fair at The Grove Coffeehouse on Main Street in Independence. Although the weather that day included the typical late winter rains, we had a terrific turnout of folks eager to see and hear more about all the ways to enjoy the great outdoors in our watershed. From birdwatching and fishing to agriforestry and kayaking, there are so many opportunities to get better acquainted with our local rivers and landscapes — many of which are located just minutes away!

This year, the Watershed Recreation Fair will take place on April 13, which will coincide with both the Original Independence Farmers Market and the Independence Riverview Market. Still at The Grove Coffeehouse, the Rec Fair will be going on from 10am to 2pm and feature recreation representatives from many different agencies, organizations, clubs and community groups. Kids are welcome too, so make sure to bring the whole family! Visit our website at [www.LuckiamuteLWC.org/recfair](http://www.LuckiamuteLWC.org/recfair) to get more details and view a list of all the organizations that will be represented. Hope to see you there!

And here are some more events coming up in April you won't want to miss:

### **Earth Day Mulching and Deer Fencing on Ash Creek**



April 20 @ 1:00 - 4:00pm  
Polk County Fire District #1  
1800 Monmouth St., Independence

RSVP at [www.LuckiamuteLWC.org/earthday2019](http://www.LuckiamuteLWC.org/earthday2019)

### **Native American Ethnobotany Hike**



April 28 @ 12:00 - 3:00pm  
Peavy Arboretum  
NW Peavy Arboretum Rd., Corvallis

*Early registration for **Friends of the LWC** has begun!  
Make sure to check your inbox for a link to our  
Ethnobotany Hike RSVP page!*

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

# Watershed Notes

A big THANK YOU goes to all who were able to attend our LWC Social & Celebration at Gentle House on March 3. We thoroughly enjoyed seeing you there, chatting with you, and trying all of the delicious entries to our *Like Chocolate for Water* competition! Congratulations to Sarah Ehlers, for her winning triple chocolate mousse pie, and also to our second place winner, Linda Hillesum, for her delicious chocolate-covered figs. For third place, we had a tie between Dan Farnworth's amazing Mexican hot chocolate and Karin Stutzman's scrumptious raspberry-topped brownies - congratulations to you both! To everyone who entered our contest this year, thank you so much for participating and 'treating' us to your outstanding kitchen talents! Yum. We are already looking forward to judging next year's competition! A big round of applause also goes to our award winners for Watershed Champion (Ron and Ingrid Cooper), Collaborator Extraordinaire (Douglass Fitting), Volunteer Superstar (Sharon Safina) and Spectacular Student (Mandy Abel). Thanks for all you do towards helping us achieve our goal of a *healthy watershed for all!*



## South Fork Pedee Project to begin in April!



The South Fork Pedee Creek Enhancement Project will help restore salmon and trout habitat within a tributary to the Luckiamute River.

We are happy to report that our South Fork Pedee Creek Enhancement project is recommended for funding by the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)! This is great news for the entire watershed community, and especially for steelhead and cutthroat trout, since this project area was ranked #1 for salmonid habitat through our watershed based modeling tool (NetMap).

Like many upper Luckiamute streams, Pedee Creek was significantly impacted by historical practices such as logging to the water's edge, log removal, and log drives. Although these methods are no longer used, the legacy of these practices has resulted in a streambed that is scoured to bedrock in many areas, a loss of logjam habitat in the stream channel, eroded streambanks, and an absence of conifers in the riparian (streamside) area. In addition, a portion of the riparian forest is dominated by invasive species and not providing adequate shade. Two undersized culverts impact the ability of fish to move through the stream and the upper culvert is holding back valuable gravels that fish need for spawning. The South Fork Pedee Enhancement project includes several activities meant to address these issues:

- **Install 319 logs in 22 log structures:** Built log structures are designed to mimic naturally-occurring log jams, which occur when streamside trees fall into the water or when beavers build dams. These log piles help slow the flow of a river, allowing spawning gravels to accumulate and providing habitat and nutrients for many aquatic species.
- **Replace two undersized culverts with bridges:** Project partners will be replacing these culverts with bridges, which will allow spawning gravels to be transported downstream and remove a barrier to young salmon and trout trying access upstream habitat.
- **Improve streamside forests:** Plant 1,200 conifers to begin growing the large wood of the future, control invasive species where needed on about 5 acres, and replant native trees and shrubs to establish healthy streamside forest.
- **Community Outreach:** Project tours, volunteer plantings and regular project updates will provide community members opportunities to stay informed about project activities and the long-term benefits to the watershed.
- **Monitoring:** Data collection including changes in the stream channel, stream temperature, and macroinvertebrate (aquatic insect) populations.

To accomplish these project goals, we will be working in partnership with several organizations — including Starker Forests, Inc., Hancock Forest Management, Forests Forever, Inc., Western Oregon University, and the Bureau of Land Management. We also hope to incorporate local students in volunteer and job-training activities in partnership with Oregon State University Extension Service.

**Stay tuned for more exciting news about South Fork Pedee Creek!**