



Luckiamute Watershed Council

www.luckiamutelwc.org

LWC Mission:

Working together to help people help their watersheds.

What we are:

The Luckiamute Watershed Council is a volunteer, non-governmental, advisory group composed of stakeholders living or working in the Luckiamute and Ash Creek watersheds.

Council meetings:

held the second Thursday of the month at 7 p.m., often at Volunteer Hall in Monmouth at 144 S. Warren St. Meetings are open to the public. Please join us!

Events:

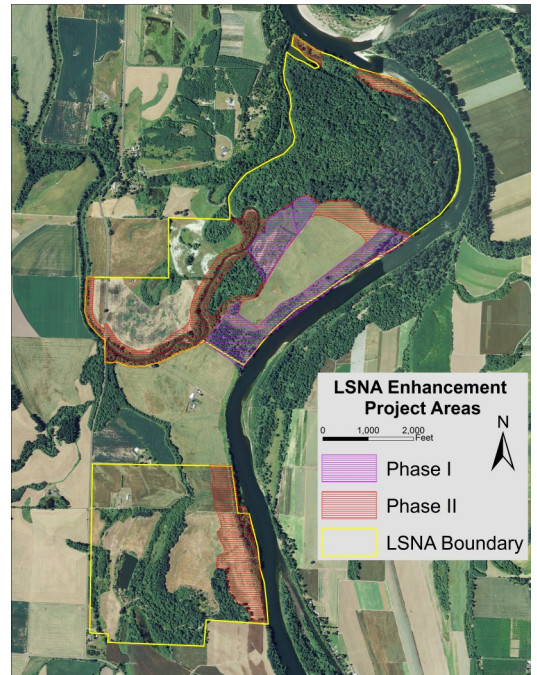
America's State Parks First Day Hikes: Luckiamute State Natural Area (North Parking Lot) **January 1st—9:30 a.m.** Bring water bottle, snacks, rain boots/water proof boots, rain jacket.

Luckiamute State Natural Area Restoration Enters Second Phase

The Luckiamute Watershed Council (LWC) has secured funding to enter into the second phase of restoration and enhancement work at the Luckiamute State Natural Area (LSNA) on Buena Vista Road (see map, right). Phase II will include maintenance on the 80 acres of riparian and floodplain habitat planted with native trees and shrubs in early 2012. An additional 137 acres is already undergoing site preparation and control of invasive species and will be planted in early 2013.

This large-scale project is made possible through partnership with the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) and funding from the Meyer Memorial Trust (MMT) Foundation, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB), Oregon Community Foundation, Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and volunteer "boots-in-the-mud" efforts. A volunteer group continues to work on a demonstration prairie plot, with weekly work parties in the summer and planting party in November. Work will continue next spring!

Join us on at 9:30 a.m. on January 1st as OPRD leads a hike for [America's State Parks First Day Hikes](#). If water levels permit, we'll



meet in the North Parking Lot (south of the bridge crossing over the Luckiamute River) and hike a three-mile loop past much of the restoration work done so far. If not, we'll hike the South Tract and see areas that will be planted in 2013. Contact LSNA Ranger Steve DeGoe for more details, 971-239-8331.



Phase I results: Invasive Reed Canary Grass (left) before restoration, native shrubs (right) after planting.

Willamette River Initiative Wins Thiess International Riverprize

In October, representatives from the [Willamette River Initiative](#) (WRI) traveled to Australia to compete for the Thiess International Riverprize—and won! The WRI is implemented by Meyer Memorial Trust (MMT) and involves many partners, stakeholders and grantees working together. Efforts focus on the Willamette River and its tributaries.

As part of the MMT’s Model Watershed program, managed by Bonneville Environmental Foundation, work in the Luckiamute Watershed is a part of this large scale effort to improve watershed health in our basin and the Willamette Valley.

The Luckiamute Watershed Council has been working with landowners to do restoration work such as riparian plantings, large wood placement, removing fish passage barriers, and Japanese knotweed control through the Model Watershed program since 2010. This work in the upper parts of the watershed and our work with Oregon State Parks at the Luckiamute State Natural Area (see page 1) are a part of this initiative. The salmon, steelhead and migratory cutthroat fish must make the journey from the ocean up the



Columbia River, through the Willamette and finally into the Luckiamute to spawn and the next generation return to sea. Our work is focused on improving the health of the Luckiamute and Ash Creek watersheds, but we also remember that we are part of a larger system that is connected through fish, wildlife and the people that value them. This International Riverprize is an excellent opportunity to reflect on the good work that has been done, while keeping an eye on the work ahead still to do. Thank you to everyone involved.

**Luckiamute
Watershed
Council
Officer Elections**

Annual officer elections were held at the monthly December meeting. The Luckiamute Watershed Council is greatly appreciative of the leadership and commitment of outgoing Council Chair, Suzanne de Szoeka (formerly Moellendorf). Her dedication is greatly appreciated. Thank you to all the officers and members for their work and dedication.

Officers for 2013:

Chair: George Grosch,
At Large

Vice Chair: Gail Oberst,
At Large

Secretary: Karin Nembach,
Education

Treasurer: Dan Farnworth,
Water Control

Volunteer board members are the driving force of the Council and guide the direction of our work. Through Oregon statute and the local spirit of watershed councils, we seek to represent local stakeholders’ interests and perspectives. Anyone with an interest in the watershed is welcome to participate. See below for information about becoming a member.



Upper Luckiamute River
(Photo: Kristen Larson)

The Luckiamute Watershed Council is comprised of volunteer watershed residents who care about the health of the watershed. Current members represent interests ranging from farming and forestry to education and water resources.

The Council is recruiting new board members and seeks representatives across the watershed from the following:

- Education
- Commerce and Industry
- Agriculture
- Environment
- Water Resources
- Recreation
- Local Government

If you are interested please join us at the Council meetings held the 2nd Thursday of the month or call 503-837-0237. Visit our web site: www.luckiamutelwc.org

We also welcome donations to support the work of the council, an Oregon non-profit organization. Send checks to: [226 S. Main St. , Suite L Independence, OR 97351](#)
Thank you!

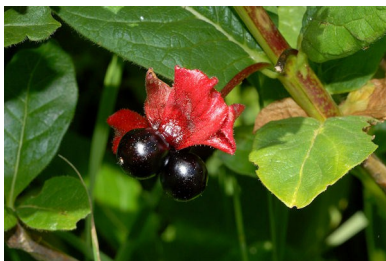
Polk and Benton Soil and Water Conservation Districts to Hold Annual Native Plant Sales

Native plants are an excellent addition to any property and now is the time to think about adding some to your landscape. Native plants are better suited to the local climate and can withstand our seasons with less maintenance. In turn, native insects and wildlife are better adapted to these plants than exotic plants. Contact your appropriate SWCD to pre-order plants—visit their web site or call for more

information. The Luckiamute Watershed Council is happy to assist in planning for enhancing vegetation on your land.



Sea pink, *Armeria maritime*
(Photo: polkswcd.org)



Twinberry, *Lonicera involucrata*
(Photo: paulnoll.com)

Key Dates	Polk SWCD www.polkswcd.org	Benton SWCD www.bentonswcd.org
Pre-order deadline	February 8, 2013	January 31, 2013
Plant Sale	February 15 & 16, 2013 (pre-orders and on-site sales)	February 16, 2013 (for pre-ordered plants only)
Overstock Sale	N/A	February 17, 2013
For more info.	503-623-9680	541-753-7208

Upcoming Council Meetings and Speakers

Join us in 2013 for Council Monthly Meetings, held the second Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. Meetings are often at Volunteer Hall, 144 S. Warren St., Monmouth. See our web site for details.

January 10, 2013, Volunteer Hall, Monmouth: Speaker Liz Graham from Polk SWCD will speak about their recently developed Ash Creek Action Plan to improve water quality.

February 14, 2013, Volunteer Hall, Monmouth: Mary Sisock from the Ties to the Land Initiative will speak.

March 14, 2013, Location TBD: No speaker is planned, but a regular monthly meeting will be held.

Calling All Birders (and aspiring birders)!

The Oregon Birding Association will be conducting its annual Christmas Bird Count for the Airlie / Albany area on Saturday, January 5. There are 2 ways you can participate:

- 1) Join the count! Birding skills are helpful but not required. A group will meet at 7 a.m. near the E.E. Wilson Wildlife Refuge, call the contact below for directions to the exact meeting site.
- 2) Provide access to your property to counters. One to two people will count birds on your property for about one hour on that day.

Contact Paul Adamus, compiler, for more information, to participate and get directions. 541-745-7092.

For more information, see: <http://www.oregonbirds.org/ofocbc.html>
Happy counting!

Looking Ahead to 2013

The Luckiamute Watershed Council welcomed its new council coordinator, Kristen Larson, in September. Kristen recently completed her Master's in Environmental Science at Oregon State University and prior to that had worked in science communication with the National Pesticide Information Center at OSU, in management and education. Her unique combination of science, business, and communication will help Kristen manage the diversity of responsibilities as coordinator. Peter Guillozet continues to manage the LWC's projects.

Feel free to contact us (see below) or drop by the office. It's best to call ahead to make sure we're not out in the field or at a meeting.



Kristen Larson (left), LWC Council Coordinator, and Steve De Goey, LSNA Ranger, look on as Peter Guillozet describes LWC restoration work at the LSNA (see page 1).

(Photo: Gail Oberst)

Some of the projects we plan (secured funding) or hope (pending funding) to work on in 2013 include:

- ◆ Reconnecting an old side channel on the upper main stem Luckiamute River on private lands by removing a section of the old Siletz Railroad Berm.
- ◆ Continued treatment of Japanese knotweed upstream of Pedee.
- ◆ Expand control efforts of Japanese knotweed to the middle and lower Luckiamute and Little Luckiamute Rivers.
- ◆ Revegetation and maintenance of restoration efforts at the Luckiamute State Natural Area.
- ◆ Tours at the LSNA, science speakers, and neighborhood meetings to discuss current and future Luckiamute Watershed Council activities.
- ◆ Large wood placement in upper Maxfield Creek in partnership with the BLM.



Japanese knotweed (pictured) is a noxious species that grows in dense thickets, takes over stream banks and outcompetes native vegetation. Contact the LWC to for more information and to participate in our knotweed control program. Help us knock out knotweed!



Helping people help their watershed

www.luckiamutelwc.org

Luckiamute Watershed Council

226 South Main St., Suite L

Independence, Oregon 97351

Phone: 503-837-0237

Email: info@luckiamutelwc.org

Coordinator: Kristen Larson

Project Manager: Peter Guillozet

Email: p.guillozet@gmail.com