

Behind the Scenes

May 2022



Dear Friend,

With the abundant April showers we experienced, I'm thinking that we must be in for a gorgeous display of May flowers! This welcome infusion of spring moisture broke records in Portland (5.73 inches total for the month of April!) and is welcome news as we get closer to summer. However, we do hope for a break in the clouds on May 14, which is when we will celebrate the LWC's 20th Anniversary with you and the rest of our watershed community at Emerson Vineyards! If you haven't RSVPed yet and would like to attend, make sure you let us know you'll be there (along with any family and friends you'd like to bring) at <https://www.luckiamutelwc.org/20th-anniversary-celebration.html>. Also, make sure to check out the description below and RSVP for our first bird walk of the year! If you have yet to experience one of these walks, I can tell you that these 4-hour excursions are well worth getting up early for. Our Salem Audubon volunteer bird walk leaders, Tim Johnson and Mike Unger, will give you a whole new appreciation for the hidden lives of birds, introduce you to fascinating bird behavior, and teach you how to indentify those hard-to-see birds by their songs and calls.

Also, be on the lookout for the official launch of our annual Love Your Watershed campaign later this month! Every year, we ask for dedicated donations to support events like our bird walks, Sips 'n' Science pub talks, and the many other activities that make up the Love Your Watershed program. Through these events, our goal is to inspire and engage individuals to develop and strengthen their relationship to the lands, rivers, wildlife and human communities that make up our watershed, and give them the tools to take action for watershed health. We are looking forward to another great program line-up this year. Read on for a sneak preview of what's coming up in the next few months!

Finally, I wanted to let you know that there will be some changes in the Behind the Scenes and Meanderings schedule coming this summer, due to my family and I taking a month to go on a cross-country road trip adventure! You will receive a combined June/July Behind the Scenes issue with your Meanderings newsletter in mid-June, and no publications will be released in July. The LWC's regular publication schedule will continue in August.

Once again, thank you so much for your commitment to watershed health and support of the LWC. Happy reading!

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



Spring Bird Walk at J₂E Tree Farm

When: May 21 @ 8am - 12pm



Spring has sprung and many migratory birds have returned for the season! Please join Salem Audubon members Tim Johnson and Mike Unger as they lead us on a guided walk to look for and listen to the many species of birds on the J₂E Tree Farm. No prior birding experience is required, and extra binoculars will be available if you need to borrow a pair.

The J₂E is a privately owned property located along the Luckiamute River and south along Vincent Creek across the valley from Fort Hoskins. The walk will be just over a mile on fairly flat mowed paths and gravel roads and will explore a variety of habitats including ponds, riparian areas with mixed hardwood & conifer forests, oak woodlands, upland prairie and coniferous forests. We hope you can join us and see what we can discover this year! Weather permitting, you are invited to bring a lawn chair and a bag lunch to enjoy a picnic by the pond located on the property.

Space is limited, so make sure to RSVP today at <https://www.luckiamutelwc.org/spring-bird-walk-j2e.html>

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

Watershed Notes

Thank You, Earth Day Volunteers!

by Kendra Callahan, Outreach Assistant



A BIG THANK YOU goes to all the hard-working volunteers who came out to help spread mulch at Luckiamute State Natural Area (LSNA) on Earth Day, April 22! After weeks of very cold and wet weather, the sun decided to make an appearance and shine its lovely glow on us as we started out. The crew of 14 got right to work, wheelbarrowing and spreading mulch, swapping stories with one another, and enjoying being in a beautiful spot outdoors together. Signs of spring were everywhere — trees sprouting new leaves, flowers blooming, puffy clouds and blue sky, and green grass underfoot. Perhaps this accounts for the sunny attitudes of our volunteers as well! The smiles didn't even fade when we were interrupted by a brief

hailstorm and one of our trucks getting temporarily stuck. We had to quit a bit early, but we still managed to spread mulch around hundreds of newly planted trees and shrubs — giving them an even better chance of survival during their first summer in the ground. This work is part of the LSNA Phase 5 restoration project, which aims to expand the gallery forest, a unique type of forested floodplain habitat that has been significantly reduced in the Willamette Valley since the 1850's. We really appreciate the efforts of the volunteers who joined us, and we hope to see you soon at another event, and at our 20th Anniversary Celebration! *View more photos from Earth Day at <https://www.luckiamutelwc.org/earth-day-thank-you.html>*

Love Your Watershed and Upcoming Events Line-Up



Oregon State Parks Centennial Celebration

When: June 4 @ 10am - 2pm

Where: Sarah Helmick State Park

On June 4, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) will celebrate the [100th anniversary of our state park system](#) at Sarah Helmick State Park, our very first Oregon state park! There will be a classic car show, giveaways, free birthday cake and food, and interactive exhibits and displays led by OPRD representatives and partners - including the LWC!



LSNA Self-Guided Walking Tour (with three hosted stations!)

When: June 4 @ 11am - 3pm

Where: Luckiamute State Natural Area (North Unit)

After checking out OPRD's Centennial celebration, head to Luckiamute State Natural Area (LSNA) for an interactive walking tour around the North Unit loop trail. The tour will include both hosted and self-guided learning stations, where you will get an overview of the restoration work at LSNA, and learn more about the native plants and birds that can be found here.



Ahsney Regional Conservation Partnership Program Tour

When: June 15 @ 10am - 12pm

Where: Ahsney Conservation Easement (8 miles west of Salem)

In partnership with the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde and LWC, Polk SWCD is organizing a tour to highlight oak restoration work at the Tribe's Ahsney conservation easement. Guides from the Tribe will be Lindsay McClary and Greg Archuleta. This tour is targeted to those interested in applying for Polk SWCD's [Regional Conservation Partnership Program \(RCPP\)](#).



Grand Ronde Native Plant Nursery Tour

When: June 15 @ 1 - 3pm

Where: Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Native Plant Nursery

This is a unique opportunity to visit the native plant nursery managed by the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Natural Resources Department. Nursery manager Jeremy Ojua will lead a tour of the nursery grounds and the plants growing there, and explain their ecology and cultural significance. Some of the plants may be available for sale during the tour.



Butterfly and Moth ID Event at J₂E Tree Farm

When: July 30 & 31 @ 11am - 2pm

Where: J₂E Tree Farm

Join lepidoptera specialist Dana Ross for a fascinating look at some of the many butterfly and moth species found in our watershed. This will be a family-friendly event, and nets will be available for a fun and interactive butterfly catching experience! Moths that have been collected and placed in jars the night before will also be available for viewing and identifying.