

Behind the Scenes

November 2020



Dear Friend,

As we step into the final month of this unprecedented year, I'd like to take the time to **thank you** for your support this year. Whether you have donated your dollars or your time, you exemplify the concept of community-based conservation. Your contributions do more than support our restoration projects and our outreach efforts, they also help offset the costs of the critical "behind the scenes" work that is needed to put these programs in place. We are proud to be able to put your contributions to work in our local community, and share with you all of the progress we are making towards a **healthy watershed for all!**

You may have already received a letter from us in the mail asking for your continued support through 2021. If you have not yet done so, please consider renewing your membership as a **Friend of the LWC** by contributing a minimum of \$25 annually (or \$3 monthly), or by pledging at least 5 hours of your time in 2021 as a volunteer. Our donation page at www.LuckiamuteLWC.org/donate makes it easy to set up a recurring monthly donation, make a one-time contribution, or give a gift in honor of a loved one. To make a volunteer pledge, go to www.LuckiamuteLWC.org/volunteerpledge.

Thank you so much, and have a wonderful holiday season!

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

Our NEW Online Store is Officially Open!



You can now show your love for your watershed and your support of your watershed council in style! Purchase our all-new LWC t-shirts, hooded zip-up sweatshirts, baseball caps and visors, plus beautiful hand-sewn face masks on our website at www.LuckiamuteLWC.org/LWC-store. Plus, as a Friend of the LWC, you will get a 10% discount on all of our inventory! Look for a special discount code included in this month's *Behind the Scenes* email or inside the mailing envelope.



Happy Shopping!

Upcoming Love Your Watershed Events: More details coming soon at www.LuckiamuteLWC.org/events!



Sips 'n' Science: Twenty years of Restoration with the LWC

January 28 @ 6:30 - 8:30pm
Zoom registration link coming soon!

During this interactive evening pub talk, LWC Executive Director Kristen Larson and Project Manager Jean-Paul Zagarola will talk about how the LWC and its partners have approached restoration planning over the past two decades. You will also see and hear about some examples of the many projects implemented over the years!



Virtual Native Plant Workshop

February 9 @ 2:00 - 4:00pm
Zoom registration link coming soon!

In this virtual workshop, you will learn how to identify your soil types and pick the best native plants for your yard and garden! You'll also hear about some of our favorite natives, why they are important, and where to plant them. *Workshop partners include North Santiam Watershed Council and Marion, Benton and Yamhill Soil & Water Conservation Districts*

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

Watershed Notes

LWC Launches New Online Visualization App to Improve Public Access to Monitoring Data

by Caleb Price, LWC Monitoring Coordinator

In my opinion, fall is the finest season of the year—the warm days and cool nights, the colors of the forest as it hunkers down for the winter, and the festivities and traditions of the Autumn holidays. These are a few of my favorite things, and lift my spirits as I steel myself against the multitude of short, rainy, droopy days just around the corner.

This is also the time of year when staff at the LWC shift gears from the busy summer field season and focus our efforts on indoor tasks like writing grant proposals, preparing for planting season, and processing data collected over the summer. This fall, I am happy to announce the culmination of an exciting data visualization project that was initiated about two years ago.



Screenshot of new LWC data visualization app, showing stream temperature monitoring sites and temperature detail at one of our Maxfield Creek sites. <https://data.luckiamute.net>

In October of 2018, Kristen and I were hard at work collaborating on a grant proposal to the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) to fund the next two years of the LWC's monitoring program. With our heads deep in the nuts and bolts of planning the future of water quality monitoring at the LWC, a powerful realization began to sink in: at the end of the day, all the time and effort that goes into monitoring results in one seemingly simple product: data.

While those data – primarily stream temperature data collected during summer months - had already proved to be incredibly valuable for planning and prioritizing restoration projects, we reasoned there must also be a way to derive additional value beyond internal uses at the LWC. After all, much of this data belongs to the public, and frankly it wouldn't even exist without the partnership and support of so many of our watershed community members.

With that question burning in our minds, and with the help of a data scientist at the River Network, we decided to ask OWEB to also support the development of a public web-based tool that would make it easy for any interested party to access and explore our water quality dataset through informative, transparent, and interactive data visualizations.

Now fast forward two years, and we are at the other end of the process. As you may have guessed, OWEB said yes to our proposal and supported the idea of developing a visualization tool to improve access to the LWC's water quality data. Today, we are very pleased to announce the official public launch of the data visualization tool, which we encourage you to experience for yourself by opening your favorite web browser and navigating to <https://data.luckiamute.net>

Once you land at the website, you can explore water quality data in several different ways by clicking on the different tabs at the top of the screen. The user can compare data from different monitoring sites by year or view multiple years of data from a single site. You can also compare stream temperature data to USGS weather data from the watershed for any given point in time. For those who like maps, you can view the monitoring sites by location in the watershed on an interactive map that plots data from stations the user selects. There is also a time slider feature that shows color-mapped temperature values at each site over time.

If the tool seems confusing at first, don't despair! We want the experience to be as user-friendly as possible, and so we created a series of short videos that demonstrate the various features of the data viz application and how to use them. If you still have questions after viewing those how-to videos (which are linked on the home page of the site), please feel free to reach out to me at Monitoring@LuckiamuteLWC.org.

There are some monitoring sites where the landowner has granted permission to collect data but has opted to not release the data publicly. We are grateful for this access and to other funding from partners such as Hancock Forest Management to support monitoring at sites that cannot be funded by the OWEB grant. These data are not included in the public website.

This site is a work-in-progress, and we will continue to add data to the site while improving the functionality of the tools as needs arise. We welcome your feedback and if you discover any bugs or issues when using the site, please let us know how we can improve!