

# Behind the Scenes

November 2021



Dear Friend,

This weekend, it will be time to turn back the clocks, which - along with the cool, rainy weather - really drives home the feeling of being immersed in Fall! As we march ever closer to the end of 2021, we ask you to take a moment to consider renewing your support as a Friend of the LWC. We value the dollars and valuable time you have contributed to the LWC, and hope that we will continue to be able to count on your involvement through 2022 and beyond! As you get ready for the upcoming holidays, family visits and community activities, I would like to bring to your attention a wonderful (and easy) way to support the Luckiamute Watershed Council - a recurring monthly donation! With a minimum of just \$3 a month, setting up this feature means that you will become a part of the LWC's Bedrock Society and you will not need to renew your commitment to being a Friend of the LWC on an annual basis.

Whether you prefer a one-time annual contribution, a recurring monthly donation, or pledging your time as a volunteer, I hope that you will continue your partnership with the LWC and consider renewing as a Friend of the LWC for 2022! Visit <https://www.luckiamutelwc.org/friends.html> for more information about renewing your membership.

Take care, stay safe, and happy reading!

--Suzanne Teller, LWC Outreach Coordinator ([Outreach@LuckiamuteLWC.org](mailto:Outreach@LuckiamuteLWC.org) or leave a voicemail at 503-837-0237)

## **Love Your Watershed: Upcoming virtual Sips 'n' Science pub talks**



### **Forest Management at Starker Forests: How science & research inform our silvicultural decisions**

Date: Tuesday, November 16, 2021  
Time: 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.  
Place: via Zoom (*registration required*)

Cozy up with your favorite "sip" while participating in this evening science-focused pub talk from the comfort of your own living room! Jennifer Beathe, forester and outreach manager at Starker Forests, will give an overview of Starker Forests and explain how they work with researchers to learn more about how to grow trees, protect resources and provide for wildlife habitat. **Details and registration information at <https://www.luckiamutelwc.org/sips-n-science-starker-forests.html>**



### **Black Settlement History in Oregon**

Date: Wednesday, December 1, 2021  
Time: 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.  
Place: via Zoom (*registration required*)

We are excited to welcome Troy Tate of Oregon Black Pioneers for our December Sips 'n' Science pub talk! The history and contributions of Black, Latino, Indigenous and other People of Color are integral to the wider story of Oregon and the Luckiamute watershed, yet their stories are often left untold, ignored or erased from our history books and curricula. The stories shared this evening represent the determination and strength of Black pioneers as they fought unimaginable challenges. Troy will take you on a journey to the time of westward migration by those seeking to manifest destiny. Blacks came along primarily as slaves during this time, and the stories Troy will share this evening will be about those who were enslaved and gained their freedom. **Details at <https://www.luckiamutelwc.org/sips-n-science-black-settlement-history.html>**

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

# Watershed Notes

## 2020 Annual Report now on our website!

We are happy to announce that our Annual Report for 2020 is now available to view and to download at [www.LuckiamuteLWC.org/lwc-annual-reports](http://www.LuckiamuteLWC.org/lwc-annual-reports). Take a look and see some of the impact that your donations are having towards achieving our mission. Thank you so much for helping to make the LWC's work possible! Whether you are a member of our Bedrock Society, an annual donor, or have volunteered your precious time, we are so grateful for everything you do to support *a healthy watershed for all!*



Credit: Atlas of Oregon (2nd Ed.) University of Oregon Press, 2001

## Native American Heritage: Honoring the Past, Present and Future

For many cultures around the world and within the USA, this is the season for celebrating the bounty of harvest-time, family togetherness, gratitude and the spirit of generosity. With Thanksgiving around the corner, we may also see symbolism and marketing that evokes the story of the Pilgrims and Native Americans sitting down to a shared feast. While this innocuous imagery may seem to portray the spirit of the season and all of the qualities we celebrate at this time of year, it can also obscure the true history and experiences for all First Peoples of North America and give the false impression that honoring Native Americans is just about acknowledging the contributions of the past.

Since 1990, the month of November has been formally recognized as National Native American Heritage Month. In a prior Behind the Scenes article, we featured a history of the Luckiamute Kalapuya who inhabited the lands of our watershed for 9,000 years before Europeans first settled here. When we engage our watershed community through our restoration efforts, during our events, and in our outreach materials, the LWC strives to honor and respect not only this important history, but also the current and active contributions of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde (CTGR) and the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians (CTSI), each of which include over 30 bands and tribes from western Oregon, northern California and southwest Washington. These are the first residents and caretakers of our local lands and waters.

In a few weeks time, you will see an announcement about the release of a two-part video series about Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) that was produced as a partnership among CTGR, Polk Soil & Water Conservation District, and the LWC. This video series features enrolled CTGR Tribal member and Cultural Policy Analyst Greg Archuleta, CTGR Native Plant Nursery Manager Jeremy Ojua and CTGR Restoration Ecologist Lindsay McClary, who is an enrolled member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of the Chippewa Indians. The series begins by defining TEK and its importance to landscape restoration, and describing the cultural significance of many native plant species. The second part of this series explains how landowners can incorporate the principles of TEK into their own land management strategies; features some of the plants available for purchase directly from the Grand Ronde Native Plant Nursery; and highlights one landowner's story of how she is managing her cattle ranch to protect Oregon white oak and other native plants important to the Tribes.



Large camas (*Camassia leichtlinii*) in bloom



Videographer *Grahame*  
Bywater films Greg Archuleta describing the cultural significance of several native plants.

These stories are important for several reasons. They give us a chance to learn from others and highlight ways we can all be better stewards of our land and its communities of people, wildlife and plants. But perhaps more importantly, they emphasize that the impact of Native American management of our landscapes is not just rooted in history—it is also a very important part of our present land management strategies. Honoring the contributions and perspectives of local Tribes involves much more than reciting land acknowledgements and fostering awareness of an inclusive history. In order to truly honor Native American heritage, it is necessary to also incorporate the wisdom and knowledge that continues to be practiced by the present day inheritors of knowledge and techniques honed by those who lived within, worked with, adapted to and developed relationships with the landscapes, waterways, plantlife and wildlife communities of the Luckiamute and Ash Creek watersheds.

There are so many lessons to be learned from embracing the ebb and flow of rivers and seasonal changes in our landscapes. There is wisdom in respecting and understanding fire as one of many tools in landscape restoration. There are good reasons to take a fresh look at the sometimes contentious relationships we have with members of our local wildlife community. Let's start by learning about and embracing the diversity of perspectives we use to manage the land and waters that we all care so deeply about.