

Behind the Scenes "Lite"

October 2023



Dear Friend,

It is hard to believe that we have now entered the final three months of 2023! That realization, along with the changes happening on the landscape this time of year, can sometimes add a heightened sense of urgency to all the to-do's on our lists. Yet it is important for our physical and mental health to take some time out of our busy schedules to calm the mind, take note of the beauty of autumn, and observe the quiet preparations for winter that are happening all around us. For those of you who have not yet explored the science of phenology (seasonal changes in plants and animals), this is a perfect time to start! You can learn more about a nation-wide effort to track these seasonal changes and find out how to start recording your observations at https://www.usanpn.org/natures_notebook

Below you will read about a unique and inspiring local effort to connect people to place using the creative power of literature and art. I hope you will enjoy diving into the beautiful imagery and poetry featured on the Write Place website.

This month's BTS Lite is also a prelude to the terrific array of events and announcements featured in the Fall issue of Meanderings, which follows this page. Be sure to grab your planner or open your online calendar, because there are quite a few great virtual and in-person events coming up over the next several weeks that you won't want to miss!

Happy Reading, and THANK YOU for your continued support of the LWC! --Suzanne Teller, LWC Outreach Coordinator



Write Place: Literature, Arts & the Environment



Write Place is a nonprofit organization dedicated to creating and supporting literary and artistic projects that examine and inspire appreciation for humanity's intimate relationship with the natural environment. Founded in 2013 by John Purdy, a professor of literature at Western Washington University, Write Place moved to Western Oregon University in 2023, under the directorship of local poet and author, Henry Hughes.

In addition to two documentary films, *Writing Oregon* (2019), and *Bearheart: the Gerald Vizenor Chronicles* (2020), Write Place has founded the online literary magazine, *Traverse*. Featured inside the current issue of *Traverse* is the poem, "In the Great Basin," written by Donna Henderson. Donna lived for many years in the Monmouth area and has done a lot of writing about the Luckiamute and Ash Creek watersheds. She and her husband now live in Maupin, and have both continued being active supporters of watershed conservation in the Deschutes basin.

In addition to forging stronger connections between art, science and the natural world, Write Place supports national and local conservation organizations, including the Luckiamute Watershed Council. We are grateful to Henry and the staff and contributors of Write Place, and look forward to opportunities to partner with them in the future! Learn more about Write Place and read the latest issue of *Traverse* magazine at <https://writeplace.org/>

Stay tuned for a more in-depth article about Write Place coming in the Winter issue of Meanderings!

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

Fall
2023

LWC Meanderings

Watershed News & Reflections



LWC MISSION:

To engage and assist landowners and communities in the voluntary protection, restoration and enhancement of the Luckiamute and Ash Creek watersheds.

WHAT WE ARE:

The Luckiamute Watershed Council is a 501(c)3 non-profit comprised of stakeholders who live, work or recreate within the Luckiamute and Ash Creek watersheds.

WHO WE ARE:

Karin Stutzman, *President*
Monmouth

George Grosch, *Treasurer/Secretary*
Kings Valley/Hoskins

Britton Castor
Pedee

Dave Ehlers
Kings Valley/Hoskins

Nick Hazelton
Kings Valley/Hoskins

Jackson Stalley
Dallas

Jay Tappen
Kings Valley/Hoskins

Scott Youngblood
American Bottom/Buena Vista

The Luckiamute and Ash Creek watersheds are part of the ancestral lands of the Kalapuya Indians, who are represented today by the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde and the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians.

COUNCIL MEETINGS:

Typically held the second Thursday of even-numbered months from 6 to 8 pm. Details and links posted at: www.LuckiamuteLWC.org

Re-Kindling a Relationship With Fire: Video Released!



Left: Greg Archuleta, Grand Ronde Cultural Policy Analyst, ignites a fire pitch stick to be carried to another burn pile among the oaks. (Photo by Dustin Hawk) Right: Siletz Tribal member and TEIP Director Joe Scott demonstrates how different plant materials respond to and interact with fire. (Photo by Marc Bell)

On June 29, the LWC participated in a cultural burn that was both a training opportunity for Tribal youth and a first step towards returning indigenous stewardship practices to Smithfield Oaks, a 188-acre property owned by Polk Soil & Water Conservation District. Although this event was open only to Tribal members and their families, the LWC received funding from Roundhouse Foundation to create a video that would highlight this project and the ecological and cultural significance of fire in the Willamette Valley. That video is now ready to share, and can be viewed on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/IPUoH9w501c>

Opening with drone footage of the beautiful oaks located at the project site, the video begins with a description of cultural burn by Joe Scott, who is a member of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians and Director of the Traditional Ecological Inquiry Program (TEIP). Throughout the video, we hear voices from several project partners – both

indigenous and non-indigenous – who all outline various reasons for the importance of re-kindling a relationship between fire, Willamette Valley oaks, and the Tribes who have managed these landscapes since time immemorial.

Fire has shaped and nurtured not only the unique plant and animal communities that characterize the local landscape, but also the human communities that continue to live with and steward this land. We hope that by providing an opportunity to watch and listen to Tribal fire practitioners demonstrate the importance of fire as a management tool, we can help shape a future where fire is seen as a potential ally for oak restoration and forest health.

The video was produced by KLCC Reporter and Producer Brian Bull, who is an enrolled member of the Nez Perce Tribe and whose son, Sam, is involved in this project as a TEIP intern.

You can read more about this Cultural Burn experience and watch the video on our website at <https://www.luckiamutelwc.org/smithfield-oaks-cultural-burn.html>



Love Your Watershed

Sips 'n' Science Pub Talks



With the arrival of the rains and cooler weather, we are gearing up for the return of our Fall Sips 'n' Science Pub Talks! This year, we will kick off the series with a virtual presentation on November 28. Check out the preview below and keep an eye on your inbox for more information about this and other virtual and in-person pub talks coming soon!



Virtual Sips 'n' Science: Beavers and Wildfire Resilience (Nov. 28)

When beavers build dams in stream channels, the broad wetland areas they create keep plants green and lush, even during periods of drought. Because moisture-laden green vegetation does not easily burn, the presence of beaver-built wetlands can offer protection for plants and animal life during wildfire, and create a barrier for wildfire spread. In this virtual Sips 'n' Science presentation, Dr. Emily Fairfax will explain how beavers and their dam-building activity can play an important role in a fire-resilient landscape.

Mark your calendars, and stay tuned for more information and RSVP info coming soon!

Upcoming Partner Events

Champinefu Lecture Series

This is the seventh year of the popular Champinefu Lecture Series! This year the series will include two webinars and one in-person program. Content for the series is planned and presented in partnership with the Grand Ronde Cultural Resources Department. Event logistics are organized by the Marys Peak Group, Sierra Club. The webinars are hosted by the Corvallis-Benton County Public Library. Additional co-sponsors include the Spring Creek Project, Corvallis Sustainability Coalition and OSU School of Language, Culture & Society. The three-part series is free and open to the public.

Willamette River: Ancestral Highway

Thursday, October 12th @ 7 pm – Webinar registration at <https://bit.ly/2023champinefuseries1>

Fire is Life: Living in Relation with Indigenous Fire Practices of Western Oregon

Thursday, November 9th @ 7 pm – Webinar registration at <https://bit.ly/2023champinefuseries2>

Winter Storytelling: Indigenous Stories of Place

Tuesday, December 12th @, 7 pm – No registration required or requested.

In Person at the OSU Alumni Center, 725 SW 26th Street



Polk Soil and Water Conservation District Fall Native Plant Sale

When: October 13 & 14

Where: Delbert Hunter Arboretum (631 SW Park St., Dallas)

Your plant purchases will not only help support native habitat in your own yard, the proceeds will go toward oak woodland and prairie restoration at Polk SWCD properties! This year, there are a wide variety of wildflower bulbs, plants in pots, and bare-root options available, as well as a custom pollinator seed packet. Get more information about the schedule and pre-order your plants at <https://www.polkswcd.com/plant-sale.html> (If your favorites are already sold out, don't worry - a selection has been set aside for in-person sales at the Arboretum!)



Rickreall Creek Symposium

When: Saturday, November 4th @ 10am-11:30am

Where: Dallas Aquatic Center's meeting room (1005 SE Lacreole Dr #1683, Dallas)

Calling all creek enthusiasts, environmental stewards, wildlife supporters, conservationists, and invested community members! We invite you to the Rickreall Creek Symposium. Join Polk Soil & Water Conservation District and partners to learn about healthy stream practices, invasive species control current and future projects along the creek, and ways you can be an advocate for clean, healthy streams and local wildlife. Learn more at <https://www.polkswcd.com/rickreall-creek-symposium.html>

Benton Agriculture & Wildlife Protection Program - Application period open!



The Benton County Agriculture and Wildlife Protection Program (AWPP) funds educational outreach, expert consultation services, and a grant program for farmers. The program encourages farmers to use non-lethal methods to protect their livestock, crops, and properties from predatory wildlife and beavers. The program also offers information on non-lethal wildlife deterrence and helps in making effective deterrent plans.

Starting October 1, farmers can apply for a grant of up to \$5,000 to buy deterrents like fencing, scare devices, protective animal housing, and guardian animals. For the 2023-2025 biennium, Benton County has set aside \$47,475 in its budget for the AWPP, including \$5,000 for educational outreach and consultation, \$35,000 for the regular grant program, and \$7,475 for emergency grants for farmers facing urgent wildlife-related problems.

The grant application process will be open until November 30, 2023. The winners will be announced in early January. They will have until April 30 to complete their projects and apply for reimbursement after a farm visit by Benton County staff. Since 2017, the AWPP has given 32 awards totaling \$84,680 to Benton County farmers to buy animal damage deterrents. Learn more at <https://www.co.benton.or.us/awpp>

October 12 Pre-Board Meeting Tour of Luckiamute River Project Site



These before-after series of photographs taken from the same spot almost a decade apart shows the remarkable transformation of this mainstem Luckiamute River project site. We hope you will be able to join us to see it in person!

On October 12, you are invited to join LWC staff for a short tour of a project site along the mainstem Luckiamute River to showcase the remarkable progress that has been made towards restoring a healthy riparian (streamside) corridor at this site. The meeting place for the tour will be at the **Pedee Women's Club**, located at **12491 Kings Valley Highway**. From there, it is a short trip to the project area. No reservation is required.

You are also invited to attend the LWC Board Meeting that will be held at the Pedee Women's Club immediately after the tour, but this is completely optional! Details at <https://www.luckiamutelwc.org/monthly-meeting-details.html>

Please note the schedule change for the LWC's monthly meetings below. If you are not getting meeting updates directly to your inbox and would like to start receiving them, you can subscribe by [clicking here](#) and updating your preferences!

Join the FRIENDS OF THE LWC!

What does it mean to be a **FRIEND OF THE LWC**?

- Monthly "Behind the Scenes" Bulletins
- Early access to event registration
- Discounts on workshops and our online store
- *Knowing that you are helping improve the health of your watershed!*

Ready to Join?

Find out how at

www.LuckiamuteLWC.org/Friends!

We welcome donations* to support the work of the Council. All charitable donations will be used towards building the organizational resources needed to address our goals of water quality enhancement, habitat restoration and community education.

**Your contribution may be tax-deductible. The LWC will provide a letter of documentation early the following year.*

Upcoming Council Meetings

Join us for our LWC Monthly Meetings, typically held the second Thursday of every even-numbered month. Our meetings are always open to the public and discussion topics include local watershed issues and actions. Details, driving directions, and/or Zoom links are posted at www.LuckiamuteLWC.org.

October 12 @ 6:00 - 8:00pm (at Pedee Women's Club)

December 14 @ 6:00 - 8:00pm (Zoom only)

February 8 @ 6:00 - 8:00pm (Zoom only)

To donate to the LWC, go to www.LuckiamuteLWC.org/donate or you can send a check to:

165 D Street, Independence, OR 97351

Thank you to our supporters!

THANK YOU TO OUR MOST RECENT DONORS AND VOLUNTEERS!

We are so grateful to the following donors and volunteers who have contributed their dollars, in-kind donations, and their time and energy to our conservation and community education goals from July 1 to September 30, 2023. Your support of the LWC makes a BIG difference, and helps us achieve our goal of *a healthy watershed for all*. **THANK YOU!**

Special Recognition to the LWC's Bedrock Society

A special note of thanks goes to our donors who are opting to make automatic monthly contributions to the Luckiamute Watershed Council! Like the bedrock that underlies every stream of our watershed, recurring donations provides a foundational layer of support for our organization with a steady stream of income that we can count on every month to advance our mission. Find out how you can set up a recurring monthly donation and become a part of our Bedrock Society at <https://www.luckiamutelwc.org/donate.html>

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If you shop at Fred Meyer, you can link your Community Rewards card to the LWC using these steps:

Sign in to your Rewards account at www.FredMeyer.com. Then click "Community Rewards" on the lefthand menu. Follow the steps to link your card to the LWC using our organization number: **Q1717**

July 1 - September 30 Donors

July 1 - September 30 Volunteers

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Partner Spotlight

This quarter we are expressing our appreciation to the Roundhouse Foundation for their support of the Cultural Burn at Smithfield Oaks. Roundhouse funds have made it possible to produce a video of this Tribe-led effort which is now available for viewing on our YouTube channel. We are grateful to the Roundhouse Foundation for their commitment to protecting and restoring both the cultural and ecological components of our watershed!

Luckiamute Watershed Council Staff



Executive Director: Kristen Larson
Operations Coordinator: Maya Cook
Outreach Coordinator: Suzanne Teller
Restoration Project Managers: Aubrey Cloud and Ross Hiatt
Monitoring Coordinator: Jonah Nicholas

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