

Behind the Scenes

September 2022



Dear Friend,

This week heralds the beginning of the school year for many local schools, which makes many of us feel as if fall has officially arrived. In addition, harvest season is in full swing and farmers' markets are at their most colorful with heaps of ripe fruits and vegetables of all kinds. This is also the perfect time of year to start planning for the upcoming planting season, so make sure to check out your local Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) native plant sales! Both Polk and Benton SWCDs have plant sales going on this month, so be sure to check out the details posted on our website at <https://www.luckiamutelwc.org/fall-native-plant-sales.html>.

As summer winds down, the LWC is anticipating the start of knotweed control season and another round of treatments to continue our efforts to prevent the spread of invasive knotweed along local waterways. Additionally, we are gearing up for an exciting four-part series of Sips 'n' Science pub talks, which are all related to this year's Love Your Watershed theme: "Exploring the History of Our Watershed." Learning about and honoring our watershed history is not just a chance to journey back in time, it is essential if we want to understand and effectively steward the rivers, landscapes and communities that make up our watershed today. Although we do anticipate a return to in-person Sips 'n' Science this year (yay!), the first talk in the series - Kalapuyans of the Central Valley, with Dr. David Lewis - will take place October 18 via Zoom webinar, making it accessible to many more attendees across a wider area. I'll be looking forward to seeing many of you for this event, and hopefully for some of our in-person talks as well in the near future!

Thank you once again, Friends, for your ongoing commitment to clean water and healthy watersheds for all.

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

Upcoming Sips 'n' Science Events:

Kalapuyans of the Central Willamette Valley, History and Culture (Zoom webinar)

October 18 @ 6:30 - 8:00pm

Dr. David Lewis, member of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, OSU Assistant Professor and Tribal historian, will discuss the various Kalapuyan tribes and bands of the central valley, looking at their original culture, how they stewarded their lands, and the impacts of the arrival of settlers. RSVP at <https://www.luckiamutelwc.org/kalapuya-history.html>.

The History and Contributions of Migrant Labor in the Willamette Valley

When: November 2022 - date info coming soon!

Dr. Mario Sifuentes, author of *Of Forests and Fields: Mexican Labor in the Pacific Northwest*, will share the history of Mexican immigrants, who were instrumental in the management of both agriculture and forestry in the Willamette Valley.

The History of Fire in the Luckiamute Watershed

When: December 2022 - date info coming soon!

Pleistocene Paleoecology of the mid-Willamette Valley - A Ghost Story

January/February 2023 - date info coming soon!

Discover the lost world beneath our own feet. Join us for a tour of a land both familiar and surprisingly wild. Hear about exciting fossil discoveries in our watershed and its neighbors. Learn about local Pleistocene paleoecology; the mammoth-sized hole it has left in our modern world, and the lessons it holds for our future. You are invited to reimagine how you think of the land; to engage with it on its own time scale instead of our own.

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

Watershed Notes

We are hiring a Project Manager!

The Luckiamute Watershed Council is now accepting applications for a Restoration Project Manager! The position summary is below, and if you are interested in applying (or know someone who would be), **you can download the full job description and application instructions at <https://www.luckiamutelwc.org/employment.html>**

Summary: The Luckiamute Watershed Council (LWC) is accepting applications for a full-time Restoration Project Manager. Successful candidates will bring project management experience, an interdisciplinary background, and interpersonal and communication skills. The Restoration Project Manager will lead development and implementation of restoration projects, primarily revegetation and instream activities such as large wood placement, floodplain reconnection, and resolving fish passage barriers. This position will work with landowners, community members, project partners, technical advisors, contractors, funders, and LWC staff, Board, and committee members to advance the LWC's mission and restoration portfolio.

Position Posted: August 29, 2022

Review of Applications: First review begins September 19, 2022, position open until filled

Status: At-will, exempt, full-time (1.0 FTE, 40 hours / week)

Compensation: \$54,000 / year

Benefits: The LWC offers a competitive package of medical, vision, and dental insurance, 11 floating paid holidays per year, paid time off, and up to 3% retirement matching in a SIMPLE IRA.

Knotweed Project Update

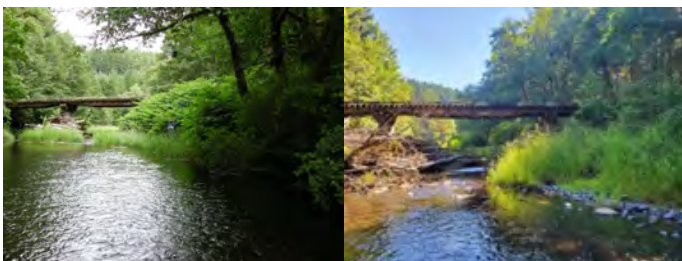


It may take several years of regular herbicide treatments to completely kill the knotweed plant.

Like many invasive plants, knotweed was first introduced to the U.S. as an ornamental plant – admired for its beauty, and its ability to grow fast with minimal effort. Unfortunately, these last two qualities contributed to its aggressive takeover of adjacent areas where it was not planted, particularly along stream channels where it can spread at an alarming rate. Today, invasive knotweeds (including Japanese, Bohemian and giant knotweeds) are found in 42 states coast to coast, and pose a huge threat for many river systems throughout the country.

Few invasive species in the Luckiamute watershed cause as much ecological damage as knotweed. Its extensive root system not only outcompetes native species and prevents plants from becoming established along our streambanks, it also damages roads and infrastructure. Fragments of knotweed stems as small as 1 inch can easily establish new roots when carried downstream, which makes complete eradication very difficult once it is established.

For over a decade, the LWC has been working to halt the spread of knotweed along the Luckiamute and Little Luckiamute Rivers and their tributaries through a community partnership called the Knotweed Control Program. Thanks to funding from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB), Meyer Memorial Trust (MMT) and Bonneville Environmental Foundation (BEF) through the Model Watershed Special Investment Partnership, the LWC was able to complete three full seasons of knotweed control along the upper Luckiamute River starting in 2010. In 2013, additional OWEB funds allowed us to expand and continue our efforts to engage with landowners and work towards knotweed eradication along the Luckiamute and Little Luckiamute Rivers for another six years.



(Left) This 2011 photo shows a monoculture of knotweed next to the bridge. (Right) This 2021 photo shows nearly 100 percent control of knotweed along this reach.

Although funding support from OWEB officially ended in 2019, we have continued to seek funding to continue and expand knotweed control efforts and keep this devastating noxious weed from regaining a foothold in the watershed. This year, short-term funding will support knotweed treatments along the mainstem Luckiamute River, Little Luckiamute River, and Teal Creek. Thanks to our partners, knotweed control crewmembers, and 145 participating landowners, we are continuing our efforts to control knotweed along its entire extent in the watershed! *Learn more at <https://www.luckiamutelwc.org/knotweed.html>*