

Behind the Scenes

April 2020



Dear Friend,

Happy May Day (tomorrow)! With the arrival of 70-degree days, it truly is beginning to feel like we are well on our way to summer! And, with COVID-19 restrictions on social gathering still in place, many of us are finding ourselves in our yards, around our neighborhoods, or in our community parks more often than ever before. What a great opportunity to deepen our knowledge and appreciation for the plant and animal communities that also call our watershed home! The LWC now has a webpage devoted to some of the many ways you can get to better know (and love) your watershed at home at www.LuckiamuteLWC.org/lyw-at-home.

The Luckiamute Watershed Council is continuing to work on our mission through these challenging times, and we are so grateful for your support. We look forward to being able to connect with you in-person once again at our events and project tours.

Take care, stay safe, and happy reading!

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

#FindAFish Contest

For the month of May, we will be launching a fun way to show that you love your watershed while staying safe at home. Head to our website at www.LuckiamuteLWC.org/FindAFish to download and color one of our fish coloring pages, or create your own fish art. Then, make sure to display it in your window for all to admire!



Share a picture on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram with the hashtag #FindAFish, or email your photo directly to Outreach@LuckiamuteLWC.org. Starting on May 8, we will be randomly drawing a winner from all submitted photographs to receive a \$25 gift certificate to a local Monmouth-Independence restaurant!

Don't forget to tell your friends and neighbors so that when out on your (socially distanced) walk, you and your family can #FindAFish in your neighborhood!

What's happening with our **Love Your Watershed** events?



Given the ongoing need to maintain social distancing, the Luckiamute Watershed Council has decided to cancel all of our May events. The events that are canceled include the Spring Bird Walk at J2E Tree Farm, the Native Plant ID walk, and a volunteer mulching event along Ash Creek. Additionally, Polk County canceled the Adopt-A-Road clean-up we had scheduled for May 2, and McMenamins is closed for the foreseeable future - meaning we will be rescheduling our Friends and Family Night fundraiser that was scheduled for May 18. We are still evaluating options for conducting at least some of these events virtually, so stay tuned for more updates!

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

Watershed Notes

A Tribute to a Watershed Champion...



The LWC's mission is to engage and assist landowners and communities in the voluntary protection, restoration and enhancement of the Luckiamute and Ash Creek watersheds. Our recently retired Board President, Pat Melendy, contributed to making this mission a reality in many ways, and has always embodied the understanding that our watersheds include our human communities as well as our rivers and lands. As an enrolled member of the Hupa Nation, Pat dedicated many years of advocating for the rights of tribal communities in California, as well as here in Oregon with the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde. Over the past five years, Pat and his wife Andrea have contributed countless hours to stewarding native plantings along Ash Creek as part of their commitment to the Ash Creek Riparian Restoration Project. As a Board member, Pat was willing to step in where help was needed. He joined the Fundraising Committee and spearheaded the effort to launch LWC's Business Circle. He proactively reached out to local businesses, helping business leaders understand how we are all connected to our watershed and their contributions can help make it a better place. He stepped up as Board President when there was a need, bringing his skills as an organizer and facilitator. Pat loves to make connections and he worked very hard to connect the LWC to new partners, landowners, donors, and volunteers. Thank you, Pat, for helping to further our mission in so many ways. *Ts'ehdiyah niwho:ng-xw wha 'a:wilaw!*

... And a BIG Welcome to our Newest Staff and Board Members!



Aubrey Cloud

Starting on May 5, we will have a new Assistant Project Manager! Aubrey Cloud has had over 3 years of experience as a revegetation contractor, crew lead, and project coordinator, and has already spent hundreds of hours working at several of our restoration sites in the Upper Luckiamute. In addition to his familiarity with many of our ongoing projects and commitment to ecological restoration, Aubrey has an impressive array of project coordination skills — including plant identification, project design, budgeting and implementation. Much of his training and orientation will be online in this age of COVID-19, but he will also be able to safely accompany our Project Manager, Jean-Paul Zagarola, on site visits and assist our Monitoring Coordinator, Caleb Price, with the deployment of our water temperature loggers in mid-May. We look forward to being able to introduce you to Aubrey in person!



Jackson Stalley

Although Jackson Stalley and Scott Youngblood officially joined the LWC Board on March 12, both have already been connected to the Council in many different ways. Jackson and his wife, Emily Plec have been involved with the LWC as Friends since 2018, and have contributed many hours of their time to promote watershed health. Scott has been an invaluable partner in our Luckiamute State Natural Area project as the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) Willamette Greenway ranger. Together, they will be contributing invaluable experience, insight and a passion for watershed conservation. Welcome to the Board, Jackson and Scott, and thank you for your volunteer service!



Scott Youngblood

Water Quality Monitoring News

by Caleb Price, LWC Monitoring Coordinator

The LWC is busy prepping for another season of water quality monitoring! This year, we will deploy data loggers at 38 sites in the Luckiamute watershed. Field work to deploy the data loggers will begin in the middle of May and will wrap up by June 1. Staff will practice recommended social-distancing precautions while in the field. The data we collect through our monitoring program is important to helping us understand the health of our streams and to gauge the effects of our restoration projects. The LWC is committed to make that data available and accessible to the watershed community, and we have been building an exciting new data visualization app that can be accessed online. We will be launching the website for the new data visualization app this summer, so stay tuned for more info in the next month or two!

March 2020 Behind the Scenes Project News Update:

We were so excited about two of our projects being recommended for funding by the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) last month, that we shared the great news with you right away in our March issue of Behind the Scenes. Well, due to COVID-19 and a projected decrease in lottery funding dollars, OWEB has delayed the final decision to release funding for our Upper Luckiamute Mainstem Anchor Habitat Enhancement Project and the J2E River to Ridge Diversity Project until mid-June. We are still hopeful that funding will go through for both of these projects, but we will keep you updated as soon as we get more news!