

# Behind the Scenes

April 2021



Dear Friend,

The arrival of April means that we are finding more opportunities to spend time outdoors, enjoying the bright sunshine and exuberant display of trees and wildflowers in full bloom. This is also the time of year to pay attention to the new notes in your backyard dawn chorus as our migratory birds arrive from their winter sanctuaries down south. With our natural areas at the peak of their beauty, it may come as no surprise that many of the notable dates this month have to do with environmental awareness — including Fish Migration Day (April 21), Earth Day (April 22) and Arbor Day (April 26)! Speaking of Earth Day, I'd like to remind you that although we are unable to offer an Earth Day volunteer activity this year, we have a great menu of activities you can do at home or in your community to honor and celebrate our home planet! To learn more, visit [www.LuckiamuteLWC.org/lyw-at-home](http://www.LuckiamuteLWC.org/lyw-at-home).

Although COVID-19 restrictions are still in place for indoor gatherings, we are excited about once again being able to offer some of our most favorite in-person outdoor events — including our Spring Bird Walk (see below for more information)! Throughout the next few months, we will continue to look for safe ways to offer more outings and volunteer opportunities to you and the rest of our watershed community. In the meantime, don't forget to show us what you LOVE about your watershed by entering our Photo Contest. Look for details on page 3 of this issue of our Meanderings newsletter!

Happy Reading!

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

## Upcoming **Love Your Watershed** Events:

### Spring Bird Walk @ J2E Tree Farm



**May 8 @ 8:00 - 12:00pm**

We are thrilled to announce that we are able to offer our bi-annual bird walks once again starting this Spring! Join local bird experts Tim Johnson and Jim Kapitski for a stroll through the many different habitat types of this working tree farm. Along the way we will be learning from Tim and Jim how to look and listen for the resident woodland birds and returning migrants we discover along the way. Weather permitting, you are invited to bring a lawn chair and a bag lunch to enjoy a socially-distanced picnic by the pond located on the property. A big thank you goes to Willamette Habitat Restoration Fund for providing the funding that allows us to make this event free of charge! **This event is limited to 16 participants, so make sure to register soon at [www.LuckiamuteLWC.org/spring-bird-walk-j2e](http://www.LuckiamuteLWC.org/spring-bird-walk-j2e) to guarantee your spot!**

### Traditional Ecological Knowledge video series

**Coming this summer!**

Stay tuned for news about this 2-part video series we are producing in partnership with the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde (CTGR) and Polk Soil & Water Conservation District. The first video will feature Greg Archuleta, Grand Ronde Tribal Elder and CTGR Cultural Education Program instructor, introducing Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) and its importance to landscape restoration goals. Part 2 of the video series will focus on the ways in which landowners can incorporate principles of TEK as they manage their own land.

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

Spring  
2021

# 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:

Wendy Hudson, *President Monmouth*

Karin Stutzman, *Secretary Monmouth*

George Grosch, *Treasurer Kings Valley/Hoskins*

Britton Castor  
*Pedee*

Dave Ehlers  
*Kings Valley/Hoskins*

Jackson Stalley  
*Dallas*

Scott Youngblood  
*American Bottom/Buena Vista*

## COUNCIL MEETINGS:

Typically held the second Thursday of every month from 6 — 8 pm. **\*\*Due to COVID-19, we are now conducting all our meetings over Zoom. Details and links will be posted at:**  
[www.LuckiamuteLWC.org](http://www.LuckiamuteLWC.org)

## Restoring a Watershed... and a Relationship



From left to right: Volunteer Kelly Wiggins plants a western hemlock seedling near Maxfield Creek; Juan de Dios Franco finishes placing one of the 57,760 trees and shrubs that he and his crewmembers will be planting at Luckiamute State Natural Area this year; a Rotary Interact volunteer packs the soil around a newly planted sapling along Ash Creek in Monmouth; This newly planted western hemlock will provide food, shelter and shade for resident wildlife throughout its life—and its death.

### By Suzanne Teller, LWC Outreach Coordinator

Reaching into the soft, dark humus of the forest floor, my fingers deftly navigate the network of existing roots as I make sure the hole is deep enough for the western red cedar sapling I'm about to plant. As it grows and adapts to its new home, this young cedar will benefit from the nutrient-rich soil, spring rain showers, and dappled sunlight that filters through the still-bare branches of the surrounding alder trees. In return, it will provide a steady and long-term source of food, shelter and shade to benefit other residents of this forest and neighboring Maxfield Creek.

This little tree was one of 95 western red cedars and hemlocks that were recently planted on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) property within the Upper Maxfield Creek Restoration Project site in Benton County. Thanks to the efforts of a small planting task force made up of three LWC staff members, a BLM employee and a volunteer, these conifers will grow to balance out the species diversity of this

patch of forest that is currently made up of mostly alders. Because they are long-lived, tend to grow large and produce durable wood, conifers contribute a uniquely valuable service to riparian (streamside) ecosystems. When they drop their branches or topple over into a waterway, the woody debris provides essential habitat for a diverse array of aquatic life.

Elsewhere in the watershed, a similar effort is playing out on a much vaster scale. Crewmembers from D. Franco Contracting Inc. will be planting 90,000 trees and shrubs around the watershed this year, including project sites along Maxfield and South Fork Pedee Creeks, the upper Luckiamute River and at Luckiamute State Natural Area (LSNA). Like the conifers along the Upper Maxfield Creek site, these plants will grow to provide habitat to a diverse array of wildlife—both on land and in the water.

Large-scale habitat restoration efforts are only possible with the expertise and

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## Restoring a Watershed... continued

efficiency of professional planting crews like the one operated by Diego Franco. But while our small-scale volunteer planting efforts may not have the same dramatic impact that our largest plantings have, they too play an important role in restoration.

It took me several minutes to plant each cedar and hemlock seedling at the Maxfield site, but during that time I was given the opportunity to feel fully involved in a reciprocal act of restoration. For those of you who engage directly with the land while farming, gardening, landscaping, managing a forest or tending a pasture, I have no doubt that you have also experienced this sense of kinship with the land around you. Whether you are working with hundreds of acres or a small community garden plot, you are participating in a partnership that has existed for as many years as humans have been on this earth.

During this twentieth year of the LWC's existence as an organization and beyond, we will be highlighting the vast sources of knowledge and experience that exist within the indigenous communities who continue to manage the lands and rivers of our watershed. Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) is not just about the techniques used by past communities to interact with the land, it includes the acknowledgement and practice of an active, reciprocal relationship of living beings to one another and their environment.

In her book, "Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants," Robin Wall-Kimmerer writes, "We need acts of restoration, not only for polluted waters and degraded lands, but also for our relationship to the world. We need to restore honor to the way we live, so that when we walk through the world we don't have to avert our eyes with shame, so that we can hold our heads up high and receive the respectful acknowledgement of the rest of the earth's beings."

As we continue to take action towards improving the health of our rivers and lands, we are not only restoring our watershed, we are restoring *our relationship* to our watershed. Each tree we plant, seedling we mulch, flower we tend, or piece of litter we pick up becomes more than its direct impact on the landscape—it becomes a way for us to give back to the land which has never stopped nurturing and sustaining us.

*The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde (CTGR) and the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians are both active stewards of large portions of ceded lands in our watershed. The restoration and conservation goals for many current landowners, agencies and conservation organizations are not only shared with the Tribes, they often come directly from a Tribal land management perspective. A frequently cited example is the iconic Willamette Valley vista of wildflower-dotted grasslands and majestic oak savannas, which endured only because of the seasonal fires set by the Kalapuya that kept these landscapes from becoming densely treed forests. If you missed our March 31 Sips 'n' Science pub talk with Lindsay McClary, CTGR Restoration Ecologist, I encourage you to watch the recording available at <https://www.luckiamutelwc.org/tribal-lands-mgmt.html>.*



### Gardening for Pollinators

A recent study published in the British Ecological Society's *Journal of Ecology* showed that the diverse arrays of flowering plants found in small-scale gardens are critical for the food supply of pollinators in urban and suburban landscapes. Studies like this show that even the smallest garden can be a BIG help towards efforts to protect vulnerable populations of our native bees, butterflies and other pollinators. You can read more about this research at <https://tinyurl.com/6sds5f6a>

Whether you live in an urban or rural area (or somewhere in between), learn more about gardening and landscaping with native plants on our **Planning and Planting Your Native Garden** resources page at [www.LuckiamuteLWC.org/native-plant-resources!](http://www.LuckiamuteLWC.org/native-plant-resources!)



## Love Your Watershed Inside AND Outside!

We are already getting excited about being able to see you all again at our in-person **Love Your Watershed** events this year — starting with a Spring Bird Walk at J2E Tree Farm on May 8. Although our in-person opportunities will be limited to a small number of participants for now, we look forward to more in-person events later this year! In the meantime, one of the great benefits to our online events is that you can watch them whenever it is convenient, from the comfort of your own home. If you

didn't have a chance to watch the Sips 'n' Science virtual pub talks, the *Planning & Planting Your Native Garden* workshop, or the Plant ID Walk & Learn video, you can find all of these recordings at [www.LuckiamuteLWC.org/loveyourwatershed.html](http://www.LuckiamuteLWC.org/loveyourwatershed.html) or you can visit our YouTube channel (go to [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) and search for Luckiamute Watershed Council).

## Submit Your favorite Watershed Photos for a Chance to Win \$100!

It's finally here! Our 20th Anniversary Photo Contest has officially started this month, and we are looking forward to seeing what you love about your watershed! To participate in the contest and put your hat in the ring for one of our prizes (see below!), submit your favorite photographs of the landscapes, plants, animals, waterways or people you've encountered in the Luckiamute and Ash Creek watersheds **by the May 31 deadline!**



**Entries:** Each photographer may submit a maximum of two photos per category (listed below). All photographs must be taken within the Luckiamute Watershed Council service area ([www.luckiamutelwc.org/our-watershed](http://www.luckiamutelwc.org/our-watershed)). Entries must be uploaded to the photo contest page at the link above or emailed to [Outreach@LuckiamuteLWC.org](mailto:Outreach@LuckiamuteLWC.org). All photo entries will be posted on our website and will also be posted to our Facebook and Instagram accounts.

**Categories:** Water, Plants, Wildlife, People, Landscapes, Youth Entries

**Selection Process:** The public will be voting for their favorite photo within each category. The three photos with the most votes within each category will be considered photo contest finalists. A photo contest winner for each category will be selected by the LWC Education and Outreach committee from the finalists. A grand prize winner will be selected by the LWC Education and Outreach committee from all photo contest category winners.

**Prizes:** The Grand Prize Winner will receive a \$100 Prepaid Visa Card, and the six Category Winners will each receive a \$30 Gift Certificate to the LWC Store. Plus, all photo contest entrants are eligible to receive an exclusive LWC cloth tote bag!



You can get all the details on our photo contest page at [www.LuckiamuteLWC.org/lwc-photo-contest-guidelines](http://www.LuckiamuteLWC.org/lwc-photo-contest-guidelines)!

## Generosity Matters: We Asked, You Responded!

*Generosity truly matters, and we are so grateful to our Friends of the LWC, supporters, volunteers, partners, and our watershed community for supporting the LWC throughout the tumultuous times of 2020!*

In addition to offering financial relief to American families, two COVID-19 relief packages passed last year also encourages charitable giving to qualified organizations like the LWC. Check with your tax or financial advisor for more information on how these apply to your 2020 taxes and how to plan for 2021 now to maximize benefits for next year. For more information, head to our website at [www.LuckiamuteLWC.org/generosity-matters](http://www.LuckiamuteLWC.org/generosity-matters)

**THANK YOU** for all you do to make the Luckiamute and Ash Creek watersheds great places to live and recreate in!

## 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!](http://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.

## Upcoming Council Meetings

Join us for our LWC Monthly Meetings, typically held the second Thursday of each month. Our meetings are always open to the public and discussion topics include local watershed issues and actions. Details and Zoom links will be posted at [www.LuckiamuteLWC.org](http://www.LuckiamuteLWC.org).

**April 8 @ 6:00 - 8:00pm via Zoom**

**May 13 @ 6:00 - 8:00pm via Zoom**

**June 10 @ 6:00 - 8:00pm via Zoom**

To donate, go to [www.LuckiamuteLWC.org/donate](http://www.LuckiamuteLWC.org/donate) or you can send a check to:

165 D Street, Independence, OR 97351

**Thank you to our supporters!**

\*Your contribution may be tax-deductible. The LWC will provide a letter of documentation in January 2022, following your donation.

## THANK YOU TO OUR MOST RECENT DONORS AND VOLUNTEERS!

We are so grateful to the following donors and volunteers who have contributed their hard-earned dollars and their time and energy to our conservation goals from January to March 2021. With your support of our goal of *a healthy watershed for all*, you are a BIG part of why we are having such a great start to this new year. **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>!*

Judy Beebe  
Michael Cairns & Gail Oberst  
Jeremy Gordon  
George Grosch & Ann Bowen  
Hollis Fishelson-Holstine & Charles Holstine  
Stephen & Ava Howard  
Danny & Renee Jaffer  
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Paige Jenkins  
*In Honor of LaDonna Brave Bull Allard*  
Deb Merchant  
Becca & Russell Meskridge  
Erin Murphy  
Terry Murphy  
Linda Samuels  
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Scott Youngblood

#### January - March 2021 Donors

Julianna Burke  
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Henry Hughes  
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Jerry & Judith Paul  
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Pat & Ken Simila  
Jay & Jane Tappen  
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*Anonymous Donors (3)*

#### January - March 2021 Volunteers

Judy Beebe  
Marc Bell  
Andrea Berkley  
Britton Castor  
Heidi Christensen  
David Ehlers  
Dan Farnworth  
Kathy Farnworth  
Douglass Fitting  
George Grosch  
Karen Haberman  
Karen Hans  
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Phil Larsen  
Amy Pinkley-Wernz  
Chris Seal  
Jackson Stalley  
Karin Stutzman  
Kelly Wiggins  
Scott Youngblood



### THANK YOU TO OUR BUSINESS CIRCLE SUPPORTERS!

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### Luckiamute Watershed Council

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**Outreach Coordinator:** Suzanne Teller  
**Project Manager:** Jean-Paul Zagarola  
**Assistant Project Manager:** Aubrey Cloud