#### LWC Board

- Ash Creek: Gail Oberst (President)
- Agriculture:
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- SWCD (Local Org.): Karin Stutzman
- Environment, Wildlife, Conservation: Gail Arkley
- Luckiamute Watershed:
  David Ehlers
- Education:
  Mark Hazelton
- These and other volunteers dedicated hundreds of hours to the Council and community!



Volunteers help spread mulch to protect young plants along Ash Creek.



Karen Hans presents at "Suds & Science" at the Three-Legged Dog as attendees look at fish identification guides.

# Luckiamute Watershed Council Fiscal Year 2016 Annual Report

July 1, 2015 — June 30, 2016



### **Featured Project: Community Science Series**

The Luckiamute Watershed Council's (LWC) mission is to engage and assist landowners and communities in the voluntary protection, restoration and enhancement of our watersheds. One way the LWC works to achieve its mission is to bring resources from grants and partners to implement restoration projects on private and public lands. Another way is by providing opportunities for people to learn about all things watershed.

Enter the Community Science Series. In fiscal year 2016, the LWC organized or partnered on a series of events focused on bringing learning opportunities to our communities. The first of these was a showing of the documentary film UPRIVER, filmed and produced by the nonprofit Freshwaters Illustrated. Hosted by Western Oregon University's Environmental Club, the event drew over 50 people to learn about challenges facing our rivers and the restoration occurring up and down the Willamette watershed. Filmmaker Jeremy Monroe was available for a post-viewing question and answer session.

A local Independence pub, Three-Legged Dog, let the LWC take over for a night and offer "Suds and Science: Fishing the Luckiamute." Karen Hans, a fish biologist with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, presented a lesson for experienced and amateur anglers alike, sharing information about seasons, regulations, and resources for fishing in our watershed.

In partnership with local Soil and Water Conservations Districts from Polk, Marion, and Yamhill Counties, the LWC assisted in offering a Native Plant Propagation Workshop. Over 80 attendees learned how to identify native shrubs and tricks and tips for propagating through cuttings and seed collection.

The Community Science Series, along with tours and volunteer opportunities offered throughout the year, is one example of how the LWC is engaging watershed residents to better understand and steward the land and rivers they care so deeply about. To learn more about upcoming opportunities, see: http://www.luckiamutelwc.org/calendar.html

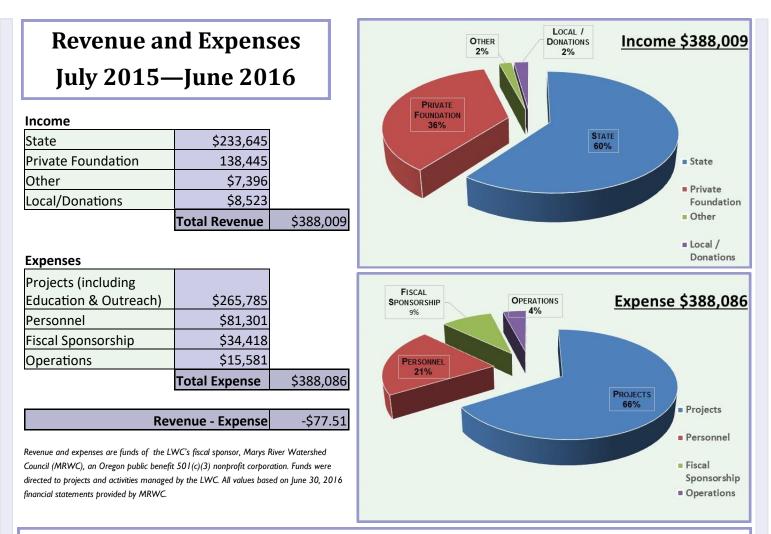




Participants in the Native Plant Propagation Workshop put their plant identification knowledge to the test (*left*). Birders search the trees at Luckiamute State Natural Area as Joel Geier leads a bird walk in April 2016 (*right*).

## Fiscal Year 2016 Accomplishments at a Glance

- Launched site preparation and project implementation on an additional 10.5 acres of riparian restoration along 0.8 miles of the Luckiamute River.
- Continued stewardship of 429 acres of restored riparian and floodplain forests
  in our watershed, including newly planted acreage.
- Secured funding and partnerships for fish passage and in-stream restoration projects to be implemented in summer 2016.
- Initiated a stream temperature monitoring program with placement of temperature loggers in 8 locations on the Luckiamute River and its tributaries.
- Continued on-the-ground activities for the Main Stem Ash Creek Restoration Project by inter-planting 15,750 native trees and shrubs on 12 acres.
- Worked in partnership with 161 landowners as part of the knotweed control program on over 50 miles of river and conducted two landowner workshops.
- Completed migration of 5 years of fish survey "rapid bio-assessment" data into Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping system.
- Organized 13 volunteer events including tree plantings, 4th of July Parade clean-up, Polk County Adopt-a-Road days, and weed pulls.



State Funding Sources: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

<u>Private Foundations and Other Grant Funding Sources</u>: Meyer Memorial Trust, Pacific Power Blue Sky Habitat Funds/The Freshwater Trust, Western Oregon University, The Ford Family Foundation, Jubitz Family Foundation, Oregon Wildlife Heritage Foundation – Willamette Habitat Restoration Fund

Local Partners: City of Monmouth, Burgerville Monmouth, McMenamins Corvallis Pub, Central Lions Club, The Nature Conservancy, SOLVE

Donations: Anonymous Donors, Ron and Ingrid Cooper, Dan and Kathy Farnworth, Maureen Auer, Donald and Frances Brostrom, Blue Heron Farm, LLC, Wendy Hudson, Hollis and Charles Holstine, Pat and Ken Simila, Stephen and Anne Scheck, John and Sandra Potter, Luckiamute Acres Farm, Mike Moon, Ruth and Karen Versteeg, and The Scheck Family LLC

#### Thank you very much to all our donors, funders, volunteers, and partners. We could not achieve our goals without you.



Students from Central High School explored several topics in an after-school Environmental Club. With support from the Jubitz Family Foundation and Willamette Habitat Restoration Fund, students participated in hands-on activities to enhance Ash Creek such as planting native willow stakes (left), environmental journaling, monitoring and data collection, and building and installing bird nesting boxes (right). Photos: S. Teller





uckiamute Watershed Council

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