

Fall
2024

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

Britton Castor, *Treasurer*
Pedee

Scott Youngblood, *Secretary*
American Bottom/Buena Vista

Dave Ehlers
Kings Valley/Hoskins

Nick Hazelton
Kings Valley/Hoskins

Jackson Stalley
Dallas

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

A Message from the Director



Photo by Kent Fields

By Jordan Perez, LWC Executive Director

The first two months of my tenure as the LWC's Executive Director have been enlightening. I've walked the stream beds and side channels of past and current projects, toured small woodland association farms and listened to the aspirations and concerns of community members that call the watershed home.

As I explore the valley roads and winding forest lanes, I've noticed the shadows beginning to stretch out and it is clear that autumn is coming. With the cooling weather and golden light comes the return of salmon leaving behind the large channels of the Willamette and seeking the gravel beds and upper reaches of the Luckiamute and its tributaries.

The ambition of these tenacious fish inspires me as I look ahead to the next chapter in our story.

An ambitious slate of projects lies ahead aiming to restore fish passage to far flung reaches of the watershed, and righting the unintended consequences of aging infrastructure. Partnerships are strengthening and knowledge is being shared about how to return beaver and their abundance-bringing engineering to the watershed.

In a time of year that brings about considerations of thankfulness, I can't help but to be thankful for our partnerships with the Mid-Valley River Connections with whom we have collaborated to obtain grant funding from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). With these recently acquired funds, a critical barrier will be removed, opening access to cold waters of Harris Creek and furthering the potential of steelhead, coho and lamprey.

My vision for the future is to expand upon this work, utilizing the knowledge gained to overhaul remaining stream impediments, enhance the health of our stream and riparian corridors and bring about a wider span of opportunities to engage more of the watershed community in stewardship and education events.

I am fortunate to have inherited an amazing team at the LWC office: Suzanne Teller, Aubrey Cloud, and Jonah Nicholas. Together, we move forward towards a healthier and more diverse and abundant watershed. I hope to meet more of you as time goes on and explore the many ways that we can work together to enrich the quality of the watershed for both humans and wildlife.

Discover a Hidden Gem: Luckiamute State Natural Area's South Unit



The Luckiamute State Natural Area (LSNA) North Unit is a popular destination, known for its dog-friendly loop trail that winds around wetland and riparian forest habitat, and a side trail leading to the confluence of the Luckiamute, Santiam, and Willamette Rivers. However, just a little further south, you'll find the often-overlooked South Unit, an equally worthy spot to explore. With the North Unit currently closed due to bridge repairs, now is the perfect time to discover the South Unit's unique ecosystems, including oak savannah, grassland prairies, and pond habitats not found in the North Unit.

The South Unit is a hidden gem, ideal for peaceful walks along oak-lined paths, a picnic under spreading oak branches, or bass fishing in the West Pond. The area teems with wildlife, including deer, elk, coyote, fox, and a variety of bird species.* It's also home to the Western Pond Turtle, a species currently on Oregon's Sensitive Species List. Along with its abundant wildlife, the South Unit boasts a diverse range of plant life, from towering Oregon white oaks to delicate spring wildflowers.

Next time you're planning an outdoor excursion, why not explore LSNA South? You may just discover a new favorite spot! Get directions to LSNA on our website at <https://www.luckiamutelwc.org/visiting-lsna.html>

*If you are interested in the bird life found here, make sure to view the September 29 report from our Fall Bird Walk at LSNA South at <https://www.luckiamutelwc.org/sep-29-2024-bird-walk-report.html>

**Also, make sure to check out KGW8's recent news segment on LSNA South at <https://tinyurl.com/KGW8-LSNA>, which features the history of this area and the importance of outdoor exploration towards building a stronger connection to your watershed!

It's Time to Plan for Planting Season!



Polk SWCD Native Plant Sale

When: Friday, Oct. 11, 9am-4pm & Saturday, Oct. 12, 9am-12:00pm
Where: Hamblin's Nursery (4550 Kings Valley Hwy, Dallas OR 97338)

Choose from 74 species of native seeds, grasses, perennials, bulbs, shrubs and trees. You can pre-order online now and pick up in-person on October 11th or 12th. Or you can come then to purchase your plants in-person. There will be 1,600 plants available at the nursery. Volunteer to receive a discount. Find out more at <https://www.polkswcd.com/plant-sale-299799.html>



Miller Woods Native Plant Sale & Seed Swap (Yamhill SWCD)

When: Saturday, October 12, 10am - 2pm
Where: Miller Woods (15580 Orchard View Rd, McMinnville)

A variety of native plants will be available for sale at beautiful Miller Woods. If you have seeds to share, please bring them in a labeled container to trade with friends, old and new, at the seed swap! Native plant seeds and edible plant seeds are welcome (no invasive species please!) More information at <https://yamhillswcd.org/event/miller-woods-fall-plant-sale-and-seed-swap/>

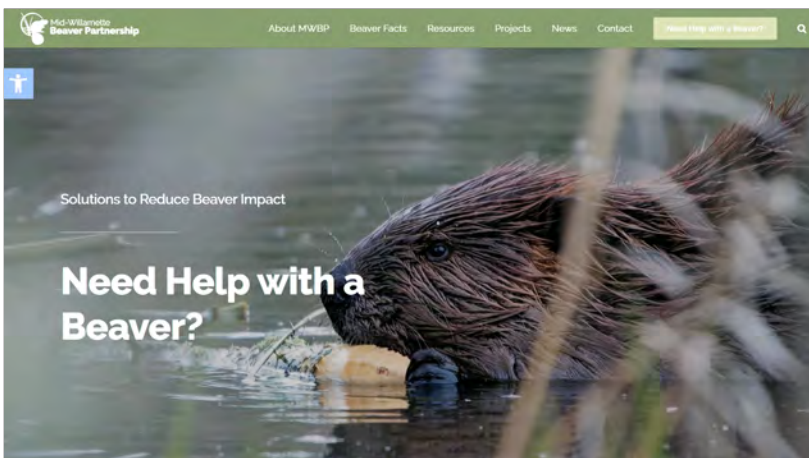


Marion SWCD Native Bulb & Seed Sale

When: Order online now - October 14, then pick-up October 19, 9am - 1pm
Where: Salem Scottish Rite Center (4090 Commercial St SE, Salem)

Just in time for fall planting, Marion SWCD has native bulbs and seeds available. Choose from lots of great options for your Little Habitat or restoration project. Some of these beauties are deer resistant and most support pollinators! Check out the gardeners' favorites including Pink Fawn-Lily and Glacier Lily. Learn more about the species available and order from the native bulb and seed catalog at <https://www.marionswcd.net/shop/>

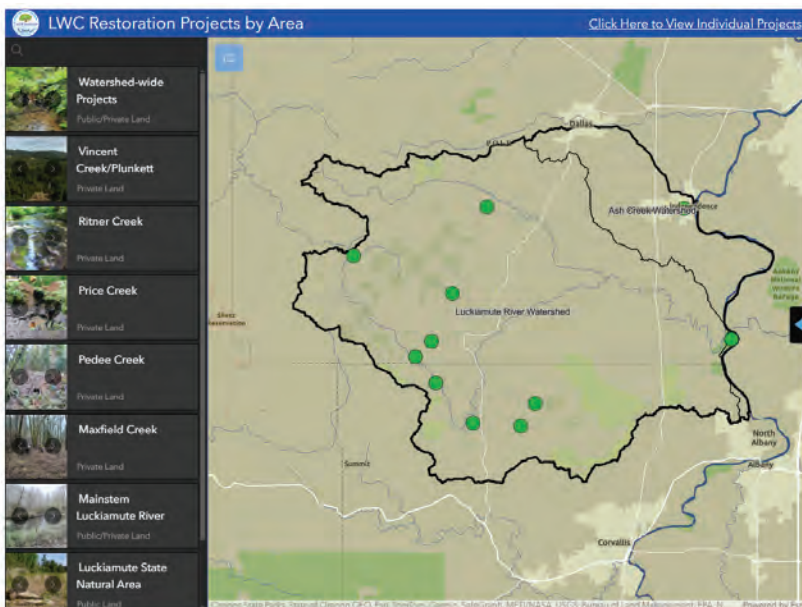
Get Ready to Beaver-y Excited!



The Mid-Willamette Beaver Partnership website will include beaver facts, local resources, and a user-friendly decision tree to help you find the best solutions to any beaver-related issues on your property.

The Mid-Willamette Beaver Partnership is excited to announce the upcoming launch of a new website dedicated to sharing valuable information about beavers and the ways we can successfully coexist with these remarkable ecosystem engineers. This website is a direct result of an extensive engagement effort, where landholders shared their preferences for accessing information on beaver coexistence techniques and expressed their specific needs for resources. The comprehensive site will offer facts about beavers, explain how they contribute to biodiversity and water quality, and provide practical solutions for beaver-related challenges, such as tree damage, culvert plugging, and localized flooding. A user-friendly decision tree will help guide you to the right tools and strategies for managing any beaver-related issues. Stay tuned for the official launch date, coming soon!

Explore Our Restoration Projects with a New, Interactive Project Map



We're excited to share a new way for you to explore the work we're doing at the Luckiamute Watershed Council! Thanks to our Monitoring Coordinator, Jonah Nicholas, we now have an interactive Project Map, built using ArcOnline, that showcases all of our projects across the watershed.

The map lets you dive into our work by area—whether it's a specific stream or region—or by individual project. Just click on any dot to learn more about the project, including its funders, goals, pictures, and a brief summary of what has been accomplished so far. There are even links for more detailed info if you want to dig deeper.

Whether you're curious about a nearby restoration site or just want to see the bigger picture of our efforts, this tool makes it easy and fun to engage with the projects that are shaping the health of the watershed. Check it out and see how we're working towards a healthier watershed for all!

Explore LWC's interactive Project Map at <https://www.luckiamutelwc.org/projects.html>

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!**

Find out how to join the Friends of the LWC at www.LuckiamuteLWC.org/Friends

Thank you to our supporters!

We welcome donations* of any amount at www.LuckiamuteLWC.org/Donate

If you prefer to donate offline, you can mail a check to: **165 D Street, Independence, OR 97351**

*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 news and issues, watershed council restoration activities and upcoming events. You can get the agenda, along with driving directions and/or Zoom links at www.LuckiamuteLWC.org

October 10 @ 6:00 - 8:00pm (at Pedee Women's Club)

December 12 @ 6:00 - 8:00pm (via Zoom)

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, 2024. 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 thank you goes to our donors who are making automatic monthly contributions to the Luckiamute Watershed Council! Like the bedrock that underlies every river, recurring donations provide 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. For the third quarter of 2024, the combined total of Bedrock Society donations was \$986.30! Find out how you can become a Bedrock Society member at <https://www.luckiamutelwc.org/donate.html>

Anonymous Donors (2)	Stephen & Ava Howard	Terry Murphy
Judy Beebe	Renee Jaffer	Eric Noel
Michael Cairns & Gail Oberst	Becky & Jon Jay	Amy & Martin Wernz
Maya & Jim Cook	Paige Jenkins	Caleb Price
Verna & Dale Curry	Deb Merchant	Linda Samuels
Whitney & Ron Francis	Leanne Merrill	Scott & Vanessa Youngblood
Jeremy Gordon	Becca Meskimen	
Charlie & Hollis Holstine	Erin Murphy	



Link your Fred Meyer Community Rewards card to the LWC using the following 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

Anonymous Donors (4)	Annette Patton
Robert Bjelland	Amy & Martin Wernz
Jenny Brausch	Josée Rousseau
Lorena Elliot	
Gary Gamer	
Julie & Nick Hawley	
Andrea Heidinger	
Mark Henkels & Marcella Dupler Henkels	
Linda & Joe Hillesum	
Donna Horn	
Evelyn Hukari	
Renee Jaffer	
Sally Morris	



July 1 - September 30 Volunteers

Michael Baltzley	Dan Farnworth	Terry Murphy	Mike Unger
Brian Bangs	Douglass Fitting	Morgan Neil	Brian Wolcott
Mark Barbano	Derek Godwin	David Olson	Scott Youngblood
Molly Barbano	Jasmine Goodman	Ellen Osborn	Lauren Zatkos
Judy Beebe	Karen Hans	Laura Ouellette	
Marc Bell	Nick Hazelton	Misha Pierce	
Carly Boyer	Mark Henkels	Anna Reyna	
M. Jane Bradley	Steve Hernandez	Kayla Richardson	
Robert Burrows	Donna Horn	Devan Rivera	
Britton Castor	Renee Jaffer	Chris Seal	
Heidi Christensen	Tim Johnson	Sarah Siefken	
Mallory Conway	James Jones	Jackson Stalley	
Maya Cook	Tess Kreofsky	Karin Stutzman	
John Cu	Phil Larsen	Beth Thiel	
David Ehlers	Todd McLeish	Gabi Torres	



Donor Spotlight

This quarter, we express our deepest gratitude to our 191 Friends of the LWC, whose support—through donations, monthly gifts, and volunteering—fuels our efforts to protect and restore watershed health. Your contributions are key to achieving a healthier, more connected watershed for all! Want to find out how you can become (or renew as) a Friend of the LWC? Visit <https://www.luckiamutelwc.org/friends.html>

Luckiamute Watershed Council Staff



Executive Director: Jordan Perez
Outreach Coordinator: Suzanne Teller
Project Manager: Aubrey Cloud
Monitoring Coordinator: Jonah Nicholas

THANK YOU, BUSINESS CIRCLE DONORS!



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