

Summer 2015

### LWC Mission:

To engage 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 volunteer, nongovernmental, advisory group composed of stakeholders living or working in the Luckiamute and Ash Creek watersheds.

### Council meetings:

Held the second Thursday of every month at 7 p.m., Visit our website at: [www.LuckiamuteLWC.org](http://www.LuckiamuteLWC.org) for location and details. Meetings are open to the public. Please join us!



### Events:

Volunteer with us on July 4th, and be a part of the annual Rotary Club Grand Parade! This is a great opportunity to help keep our rivers clean and have fun at the same time. All ages are welcome! Details on page 3.

## Luckiamute Watershed Council

[www.LuckiamuteLWC.org](http://www.LuckiamuteLWC.org)



## Rockin' the River for Ash Creek Restoration

By Suzanne Teller



Proceeds from this silent auction are going towards planting native trees and shrubs along Ash Creek.

Just eight miles south of Independence, neatly tucked into a picturesque bend in the Willamette River, is a refuge from the cares and concerns of daily routines. With its dedication to supporting local charities and practicing sustainable agriculture, Rogue Farms just happened to be the perfect venue for a celebration of what makes our waterways and our communities so special. On June 17, the Luckiamute Watershed Council teamed up with Rogue Farms to host **Rockin' the River 2015** — a tribute to our watershed and our community, as well as a fundraiser to raise money for the Ash Creek Restoration Project.

Plenty of toe-tapping tunes by local folk, country and rock group *The Morgans* helped attract a crowd of more than a hundred revelers, who spent the evening sipping pints, playing life-sized lawn games, and bidding on local goods and services at our silent auction table. Though Rogue Farms Oregon-grown hops, barley and rye certainly makes their beer a regional attrac-

tion on its own, the real focus of the event was on the restoration of Ash Creek — a little waterway that runs through the heart of Independence and Monmouth.

What's the big deal about Ash Creek, anyway?

Like many urban and suburban waterways, Ash Creek provides services that are often hidden from our day-to-day lives. The small creeks, streams and rivers that flow through our communities protect our properties from floodwaters; beautify and nourish our community landscapes; and provide habitat for birds, fish and other wildlife. Ash Creek itself regularly attracts deer, beaver and porcupine, and harbors a number of regionally threatened species.

What's more, for many kids that live in the communities of Monmouth and Independence, Ash Creek is one of the few nearby places that they can get introduced to 'wildness.' Whether on a hunt for tadpoles or watching the swooping dance of a kingfisher, this little waterway can draw suburban kids away from their screens and out into nature.

However, human activities have had some harmful effects on Ash Creek over the past several decades. Dredging, ditching, dumping and development have impacted the water quality of Ash Creek and in many cases, stripped away the streamside plant communities that are crucial to its

*Continued on page 2*

## Supporting Ash Creek, continued

overall health. Parts of Ash Creek have been straightened and scoured out, causing faster flows that wash away the soil and plants growing alongside the creek. This has allowed invasive non-native weeds like blackberry, English ivy and poison hemlock to take over the streambanks. These kinds of plants do not provide the same benefits as native vegetation, and can often crowd out existing native plant communities. This is where our restoration efforts are focused.

On the ground work for the Ash Creek Restoration Project started last fall and winter, when professional crews targeted the invasive weeds with a combination of chemical and mechanical control techniques. In February, revegetation contractors returned and planted native trees and shrubs along the more barren streambanks, which will provide better natural protection against flood damage and bank erosion, trap sediment that would otherwise wash into the waterway, and provide needed shade. We also hosted a volunteer ivy pull event at Riverview Park in April to

help rid the new campground area of dense ivy cover, which can cause significant damage to trees and prevent the establishment of native plants.

Though the primary goal of the Ash Creek Restoration Project has been to improve the health of the waterway and its streambanks, the project is also succeeding in bringing together neighbors, city leaders and local businesses to support the well-being of each other and the community. We here at the Luckiamute Watershed Council are proud to be a part of this community-wide effort, and look forward to sharing more progress reports as the project moves forward!

If you missed *Rockin' the River* and still would like to support the restoration of Ash Creek, head on over to <http://igg.me/at/ashcreek> and donate today!



The Morgans kept Rogue Farms rockin' to some great music!



At Rockin' the River, lots of fun was had by everyone — young and old.



Our planting crew (D. Franco Contracting) behind Talmadge Middle School.

### Save the Date!

**Too hot to cook? Join the LWC at Burgerville on July 14!**

Come out and support local agriculture, a home-grown Oregon business, and your watershed all at once! On July 14, 2015, join the us at the **Monmouth Burgerville** from **5:00 to 8:00 p.m.** for some delicious and locally-sourced fare. Burgerville will donate 10% of all sales to support the work of the Luckiamute Watershed Council. Plus you will have an opportunity to participate in a raffle for fun prizes!

**Hope to see you there!**

## Be a Part of the Transformation of Ash Creek

Visit

<http://igg.me/at/ashcreek>

**And learn how you can help!**



## Be a part of the Monmouth-Independence Grand Parade!



Help keep trash out of our waterways by volunteering to be a part of the "rear detachment" during the annual Rotary Club Grand Parade. Your mission will include riding or walking beside our truck as part of the Fourth of July parade, holding up signs, and helping to collect trash along the parade route.

Don't miss this unique opportunity to keep our waterways clean, and interact with the cheering public as part of a well-loved Fourth of July tradition!

Visit [www.LuckiamuteLWC.org/grand-parade-volunteer.html](http://www.LuckiamuteLWC.org/grand-parade-volunteer.html) for details.

### About the LWC

The Luckiamute Watershed Council is comprised of volunteer watershed residents who care about the health of the watershed. Current members represent interests ranging from farming and forestry to education and water resources.

The Council is recruiting new board members and seeks individuals who work, live, or play in the watershed—you are a watershed stakeholder.

We also 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.

To donate, go to [www.LuckiamuteLWC.org/donate](http://www.LuckiamuteLWC.org/donate) or you can send a check to: **226 S. Main St. Suite L, Independence, OR 97351**

Thank you to our supporters!

### Upcoming Council Meetings

Join us for Council Monthly Meetings, held the second Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. Our meetings are always open to the public and discussion topics include local watershed issues and actions. For details, please visit our web site at [www.LuckiamuteLWC.org](http://www.LuckiamuteLWC.org).

**July 9, 2015:** Luckiamute State Natural Area, Buena Vista Road

**August 13, 2015:** Volunteer Hall, Monmouth

**September 10, 2015:** Volunteer Hall, Monmouth

*\*Your contribution may be tax-deductible. The Marys River Watershed Council will provide a letter of documentation early next year, following your donation.*

*\*\*As our fiscal sponsor, the Marys River Watershed Council maintains the right to redirect funds if the LWC does not comply with our agreement or applicable laws.*

## *Coordinator's Corner: Why Community Support Matters*

Thank you so very much to all the individuals and organizations who helped make Rockin' the River 2015 a success! We had a lot of fun and got a great start to our fundraising campaign to support restoration on Ash Creek. Support comes in many forms: donated auction items, volunteers giving of their time to help plan and implement the event, people making a special trip out on a Wednesday night to be present and show support at the event, and financial support through buying auction items or making donations. All of these forms of support are important.

Watershed councils rely on community support. We receive grants from various funders to implement projects, but community support, in all its different forms, demonstrates to funders that projects and organizations are worth investing in—because the community is supportive of who we are and what we do. Community support such as volunteer time and financial contributions also fill important gaps in the funding jigsaw puzzle we struggle to fit together.

The boards that oversee watershed councils are designed to represent the diversity of interests in their watersheds. The Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds was built on a foundational concept of voluntary actions with support from citizens, local governments and organizations, and businesses. With engaged citizenry and local organizations, we can make decisions and focus on areas that the community feels are worthwhile investments.

The Ash Creek Restoration Project is an example where community support is strong and helping tremendously. The Cities of Monmouth and Independence, Central School District 13J, Ash Creek Water Control District, and private landowners have committed financial and in-kind support to the project. Their generous support is one of the major reasons the grant proposal was competitive and recommended for funding from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB). Our current fundraiser further demonstrates that community members support the LWC and the efforts to restore Ash Creek in our community.

Please consider supporting your local watershed council or another community organization. At the Luckiamute Watershed Council you can volunteer with our float in the [4th of July parade](#)—your presence shows support and helps remind people that we all have a role to play in protecting our waterways. You can [volunteer](#) in the office, on a project, on a committee, or serving on the Board. Drop by a monthly meeting or our next Burgerville fundraiser on July 14 to say hi. You can support our Ash Creek Restoration project by clicking [here and making a contribution today](#). Each piece helps—it's not just how large or small a donation is, but also how many people donate—100 people donating \$10 is still \$1,000. I'd be thrilled to see hundreds of people supporting Ash Creek in whatever amount works for them—demonstrating that our efforts are important to many members of our community.

**Burgerville Fundraiser a Success!**

Thank you to all who came by the Monmouth Burgerville for our April 22 Fundraiser. Thanks to you, we raised over \$280 to help us achieve our goals for the upcoming year. If you missed us, don't worry—we will be back at Burgerville for another fundraiser on July 14, from 5 to 8 pm. Sign up to receive our email alerts at [www.LuckiamuteLWC.org](http://www.LuckiamuteLWC.org), or connect with us on Facebook to keep up to date with all the latest LWC events!



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

[www.LuckiamuteLWC.org](http://www.LuckiamuteLWC.org)

**Luckiamute Watershed Council**

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