

Behind the Scenes

March 2021



Dear Friend,

As we emerge from our homes to welcome the arrival of March, puddles of standing water may reflect our gaze and the waterlogged ground may squelch under our boots. But our attention is also sure to be drawn to some of the first flowers and unfurling leaves of spring! After the cold and hungry months of January and February, the birds and insects seem to be chirping and buzzing a bit more enthusiastically - especially during those glorious moments when the sun peeks out from behind the clouds. During your walks along the streets of your neighborhood, you may feel exhilarated by the sight of the buds bursting open on the earliest flowering trees. Those of us who manage farms and plant vegetable gardens are celebrating the planting of cool season crops like onions, garlic, kale and snap peas, while others are happily elbow-deep in the wet soil planting native trees and shrubs.

This 'spring fever' is not so different a feeling than in times long past. The Kalapuyan name for the March moon is atcha-uyu, or "women dig camas" moon (from "The Annual Calendar of The Atfa'lati Kalapuya Indians," by David Lewis, 2002). This is the month when the camas bulbs start to send up fresh shoots and, after a long winter, the first sightings of this important source of fresh, nutritious food must have been a cause for celebration!

No matter what your connection to the land may look like, the LWC is thrilled to be celebrating our love for the watershed together with you this year — our 20th Anniversary year! Because the stewardship of our lands and rivers has been happening for so much longer than a mere two decades, we will continue to feature events and stories that honor the First Peoples of our watershed who took care of the land for thousands of years before European immigrants arrived and continue to do so today (see below to sign up for our March 31 Virtual Sips 'n' Science pub talk, which will focus on the land management practices of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde). Keep an eye on your inbox (or on our website) in the coming months for more news about our upcoming events - including the return of our Spring bird walks!

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

Love Your Watershed News & Updates:

Sips 'n' Science: Tribal Lands Management

March 31 @ 6:30 - 8:00pm



Grab your favorite 'sip' and join us for an evening presentation by Lindsay McClary, Restoration Ecologist with the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde (CTGR)! Lindsay will talk about past, present, and future CTGR landscape management in the Willamette Valley and describe how traditional practices are not relics of the past, but are reflections of today's cultural values. *This presentation is free to attend, but registration is required!*

Register at www.LuckiamuteLWC.org/tribal-lands-mgmt

Spring Bird Walk - Save the Date!

Our guided bird walks are coming back! Stay tuned for more info and registration details about our next bird walk, scheduled for May 8 at J2E Tree Farm!



Website Update!

By the end of March, the LWC's website will be getting a brand new look and an updated menu bar! You will continue to be able to access our site using our www.LuckiamuteLWC.org address, but you will soon see a more user-friendly website with better navigation to our project, event and resources pages. And for those of you who like to use your cell phones to browse our site, we expect you'll appreciate the more mobile-friendly features!

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

Watershed Notes

LWC 20th Anniversary Photo Contest

We are getting excited for the launch of our 20th Anniversary Photo Contest next month! Show us what you love about your watershed by entering your favorite photographs of the landscapes, plants, animals, waterways or people you've encountered in the Luckiamute and Ash Creek watersheds.

Read on for more info, or head straight to our photo contest page at www.LuckiamuteLWC.org/lwc-photo-contest-guidelines for the details!



Submit your photos from April 1 - May 31!

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). Entries must be uploaded to the photo contest page at the link above or emailed to 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!

A Warm Welcome and a Fond Farewell...



We are happy to introduce Britton Castor, our newest Board Member! Britton was born and raised in the Willamette Valley, and has made her forever home with her family on 23 acres in the heart of the Luckiamute Watershed near Pedee. She started her career in pharmaceutical research but has now worked as a high school science teacher in the area for 10 years. Engaging students in stewardship activities and outdoor learning experiences has been the highlight of her career. Another passion is being involved in the Polk Community Emergency Response Team and teaching youth classes in preparedness. In her free time, Britton enjoys gardening, hiking, and spending time with her family, dogs, cats, chickens, and goats. Being surrounded by nature daily inspires her to advocate for, protect and restore our beautiful watershed so that it will be healthy and prosperous for future generations to come.



At the same time we welcome Britton, we say goodbye to Caleb Price, who is moving on to an exciting new Faculty Research Assistant position at Oregon State University's National Geoelectromagnetic Facility. In April 2018, Caleb started as our part-time Monitoring Coordinator, back when the LWC's stream temperature monitoring program was just beginning to take off. Since then, he has helped us further develop and expand the program to 37 monitoring sites across the watershed. He also used his skills with Javascript and Python to develop a state-of-the-art data visualization app (<https://data.luckiamute.net/viz>) that allows the public to view and interact with the monitoring data! Although we will miss Caleb's presence and his infectious enthusiasm for data management and fly-fishing, we wish him all the best in his role at OSU!