

# Behind the Scenes

May 2021



Dear Friend,

With one-third of the year (!) already behind us, we are excited to finally be able to enjoy our beautiful watershed landscapes together in small groups once again. How appropriate that our first in-person Love Your Watershed events that we are able to offer again are our bird walks! Back in 2016, the very first event we held as part of our Love Your Watershed program was a Spring Bird Walk at Luckiamute State Natural Area. Since then, these 4-hour guided journeys through the forests, fields and wetlands of our watershed have consistently been some of our most popular activities. If you haven't yet joined us for one of these excursions, I encourage you to sign up for one of our upcoming bird walk dates before they fill up (more info below)!

In other news, LWC Assistant Project Manager Aubrey Cloud and I have been meeting monthly with staff and board members of the Marys, North Santiam and South Santiam watershed councils as part of an Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) planning team. Together, we are working with consultant Maria Chavez-Haroldson of EDI Consulting, LLC to prepare for a series of EDI training workshops aimed at helping our councils better serve ALL of our watershed community members.

Finally, we are gearing up for our 2021 stream temperature monitoring season! With the air temperature already hitting some pretty high numbers this past month, we are working as fast as possible to get those sensors prepared and deployed at 20 sites in the Luckiamute River and some of its tributaries.

Enjoy your May, and happy reading! - Suzanne Teller, LWC Outreach Coordinator

P.S. If you missed the story about board member Dave Ehler's J2E Tree Farm and the Ridge to River Restoration project that aired on KGW8 last Friday, here is the YouTube link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cWTrFDvATGE>



## Love Your Watershed News & Updates:

### Spring Bird Walk @ Luckiamute State Natural Area



**May 23 @ 8:00 - 12:00pm**

Due to the HUGE level of interest in our May 8 bird walk, we are adding another date to our Bird Walk series this spring! Join Tim Johnson and Harry Fuller for a stroll along at LSNA's North Unit loop trail. **This event is limited to 16 participants, so make sure to**

**register soon at [www.LuckiamuteLWC.org/spring-bird-walk-lsna](http://www.LuckiamuteLWC.org/spring-bird-walk-lsna) to guarantee your spot!**

### 2021 Love Your Watershed Fundraising Campaign



**Coming in June!**

It's almost time for our annual Love Your Watershed fundraising campaign! Keep an eye on your email inbox (or your mailbox) in the next few weeks for campaign progress reports and previews of the events and activities you can expect in the coming months. Your support will help get Pedee the steelhead trout all the way to our final goal!

### Bilingual Bird Walk / Paseo de pájaros bilingüe



**June 5 @ 8:00 - 12:00pm**

Join us for a bilingual bird walk in Spanish and English at Ankeny National Wildlife Refuge, where we will look for several kinds of resident and migratory birds in the wetlands and woodlands.

Bring a bag lunch and join us for an optional picnic afterwards. **Look for registration information coming soon to your inbox!**

Únase a nosotros para una caminata bilingüe de pájaros en español e inglés en el Refugio Nacional de Ankeny, donde buscaremos varios tipos de pájaros residentes y migratorios en los humedales y bosques. Traiga una bolsa de almuerzo y únase a nosotros para un picnic opcional después. **¡Busque la información de registro próximamente en su buzón!**

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

# Watershed Notes

## **Don't forget to enter the LWC Photo Contest!**

***You have until May 31 to enter your photography for a chance to win \$100!***

Submit up to two photos in each of five different themed categories (water, plants, wildlife, people and landscapes), plus a Youth category for photographers aged 12 and under. Then, during the month of June, you can head to our photo contest website to vote for your favorite photo in each category! Following the public voting phase, the LWC Education and Outreach Committee will select a category winner from the three photos in each category that attract the most votes. The Education and Outreach Committee will then select a Grand Prize winner from all of the category winners. Will yours be chosen? There is only one way to find out, so make sure to get those cameras out and start snapping photos of what you LOVE about your watershed! Contest details and photo upload instructions can be found at <https://www.luckiamutelwc.org/lwc-photo-contest.html>

Below are some of the fantastic entries we've received so far. View the rest on our Photo Gallery page at <https://www.luckiamutelwc.org/lwc-photo-contest-gallery.html>



***"Funnel Spider Web"***  
Julianna Burke



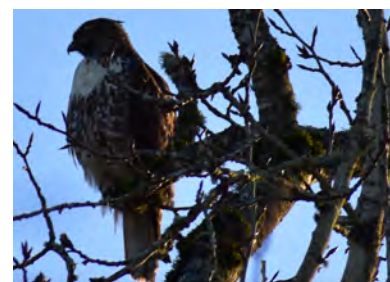
***"Trillium"***  
Jean Douglas Yunker



***"Stack of Rocks"***  
Katie Pickthorne



***"Spring Bee"***  
Ellen Burgess



***"Red Tailed Hawk"***  
Emily Plec

## **Funder Spotlight: One Tree Planted**

On April 28, Matt Hill and his One Tree Planted team toured the west coast in their OTP adventure van, making a stop at the Luckiamute State Natural Area (LSNA) project site to take a look at the progress of some of the trees they've helped us put in the ground.



**ONETREEPLANTED**



Founded by Matt in 2014, One Tree Planted is a 501(c)(3) non-profit dedicated to helping businesses and individuals around the world to combat climate change, protect biodiversity and promote reforestation efforts by planting as many trees as possible. Despite the challenges of 2020, One Tree Planted still managed to get more than *10 million trees* in the ground - nearly triple the amount of trees planted the year before!

When the OTP van arrived at LSNA, we first took them on a tour of the 4-month old tree and shrub plantings at the floodplain reconnection site, where young willows, dogwood, red currant and spirea were bursting forth in spring color, nourished by the Luckiamute floodwaters that had inundated this area several times over the winter. Afterwards, we visited the gallery forest at LSNA's North Unit, where 9-year old understory trees and shrubs stood thriving and incredibly tall — though still dwarfed by towering cottonwood and big-leaf maple.

Over the past five years, One Tree Planted has contributed close to \$100,000 in support of purchasing and planting 129,000 native trees and shrubs throughout the Luckiamute and Ash Creek watersheds, as well as a generous donation to meet our Love Your Watershed fundraising campaign goal in 2019.

Seeing one of our newest and one of the more mature planting projects together that day really demonstrated how putting trees in the ground can make a real difference — not just for habitat and water quality, but also for the wellbeing of our human communities. These landscapes are a cherished part of our watershed home. Healing them is healing all of us, *one tree at a time*.



We are proud to be working with One Tree Planted to protect and restore the health of our watershed, and look forward to continuing our partnership with them for many years to come! Learn more about One Tree Planted and how you can support their efforts around the world at <https://onetreepanted.org/>