

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

Judy Beebe, Treasurer
West Salem

Scott Youngblood, Secretary
American Bottom/Buena Vista

Britton Castor
Pedee

Dave Ehlers
Kings Valley/Hoskins

Nick Hazelton
Kings Valley/Hoskins

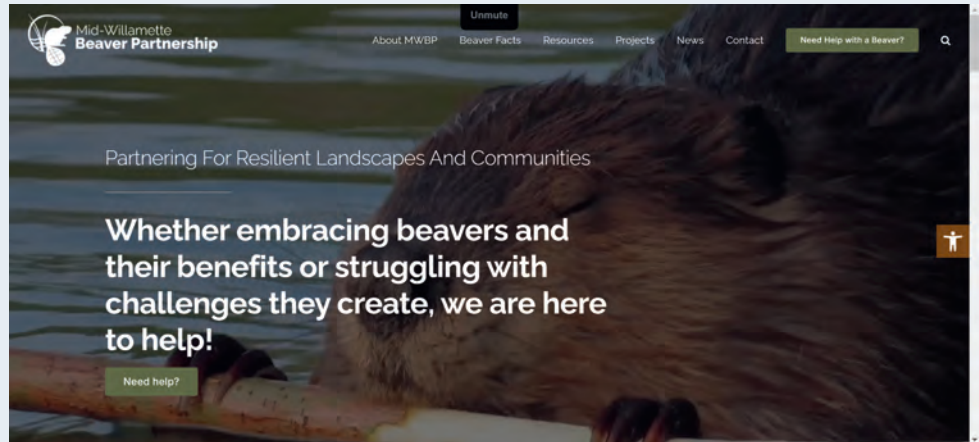
Jackson Stalley
Dallas

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, agenda and directions posted at: www.LuckiamuteLWC.org

Beaver Partnership Launches New Website on International Beaver Day



In celebration of International Beaver Day on April 7, the Mid-Willamette Beaver Partnership proudly announces the launch of its new website!

Did you know that the average beaver dam can store 1.1 million gallons of water per pond, with as much as 6.7 million *additional* gallons stored underground? These remarkable rodents are vital allies for water conservation and climate resilience—and now there's a comprehensive resource to help local landowners turn potential beaver challenges into opportunities to boost wildfire and drought resilience

The Mid-Willamette Beaver Partnership (MWBP) is excited to announce the launch of a new website at mwbeaverpartnership.org. This interactive hub offers practical solutions for coexisting with the Mid-Willamette Valley's most industrious residents—beavers.

Two years ago, the MWBP embarked on an extensive community outreach campaign, gathering insights from over 450 local landowners, managers and local experts through focus groups, interviews, and surveys. These firsthand experiences with beaver-related challenges and successes formed the foundation of this new "one-stop-shop" web resource.

As one of the MWBP partners, the LWC has recently fielded a few calls and emails seeking advice on beaver-related topics that ranged from an interest in attracting beaver to streamside areas, to preventing flooded backyards and chewed fruit trees. MWBP's website provides step-by-step solutions to these and other common beaver challenges—with proven strategies, funding connections and contractor referrals for:

(continued on page 3)

Upcoming LWC Events

From Data to Action: How Science Shapes Restoration in the Luckiamute

Date: Wednesday, April 9

Time: 6:00 - 8:00pm

Place: West Valley Taphouse (957 Main St., Dallas)



Join us at West Valley Taphouse for an inside look at how the Luckiamute Watershed Council's Monitoring Program guides restoration in our watershed. LWC Monitoring Coordinator Jonah Nicholas will share insights from a decade of stream temperature data, revealing trends in watershed health and how this information shapes restoration decisions. Learn why long-term monitoring matters, how we're expanding the program, and what exciting new tools—like eDNA—mean for the future.

Learn more and register at <https://www.luckiamutelwc.org/lwc-monitoring-sips.html>

Earth Day: Pull Together for Ash Creek Oaks

Date: Saturday, April 19

Time: 9:00am - 12:00pm

Place: South Fork Ash Creek (S. 11th St., Independence)



Calling all volunteers! Celebrate Earth Day with the LWC by helping us protect a beautiful grove of century-old oaks along South Fork Ash Creek. We'll be removing invasive English ivy and bird cherry trees to give native plants and these majestic oaks room to thrive. Your efforts will help maintain healthy wildlife habitat and shade for Ash Creek's waters.

Learn more and register at <https://www.luckiamutelwc.org/earth-day-ash-creek.html>

Spring Bird Walk at J2E Tree Farm

Date: Saturday, May 4 (Star Wars Day)

Time: 8:00am - 12:00pm

Place: J2E Tree Farm (37766 Alexander Rd, Philomath)



Jedi bird masters will lead the way as we explore the pond, forests and prairies in search of feathered friends. Learn how to identify birds by sight and sound, and discover how J2E tree farm owners are managing their land for both conservation and income.

Learn more and register at <https://www.luckiamutelwc.org/spring-bird-walk.html>



LWC Events in Spanish Only / Eventos de LWC Solo en Español

The following event will be held solely in Spanish. Both Spanish speakers and Spanish learners are welcome!

El siguiente evento será solamente en español. ¡Todos son bienvenidos, ya sea que hablen español como primer idioma o no!

Paseo de Pájaros: Conociendo las Aves de Ash Creek

Fecha: sábado 10 de mayo

Hora: 9:30 am - 12:00 pm

Lugar: Salón comunitario Colonia Amistad (30 S. Gun Club Rd, Independence)



¡Únase a nosotros para celebrar el Día Internacional de las Aves Migratorias! Conozca las numerosas aves que viven en nuestra comunidad y únase a los expertos en una caminata para observar aves a lo largo de Ash Creek. Este evento gratuito está abierto a todas las edades y será completamente en español.

Obtenga más información en <https://www.luckiamutelwc.org/paseo-de-pajaros.html>

Beaver Partnership Website Launches, *continued*



Beaver dam is causing flooding on my property.



I want to support beavers living on my property and/or encourage them to move to my property.

The MWBP website allows you to explore a wide range of information and resources to help you solve specific types of beaver conflicts.

- **Protecting your trees** with simple wire mesh guards or sand paint to deter chewing, while still allowing beavers to maintain their dam-building activities.
- **Preventing flooding** with flow devices that maintain beaver ponds at acceptable levels.
- **Attracting beavers** to appropriate riparian areas with strategic planting guides
- **Discovering the benefits** of beaver-created wetlands, including:
 - 500% increase in biodiversity in areas with beaver activity
 - Natural refuges for plants and wildlife during wildfires
 - Critical drought resilience through groundwater recharge
 - Improved water quality through natural filtration

The website also features inspiring case studies throughout the Mid-Willamette region where landowners, land managers and city public works departments have adopted different techniques that allow them to successfully share urban creeks, farms and other working landscapes with beavers.

The website launch comes on the heels of a watershed moment for beaver conservation in Oregon. This past June, the passage of House Bill 3464—the "beaver bill"—reclassified beavers on private lands from "predators" to "fur-bearers." This critical legislative shift requires landowners to try non-lethal solutions and obtain a permit from Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) before considering trapping as a last resort.

Ready to maximize the ecological and economic benefits of beaver activity while minimizing conflicts on your property? Visit mwbeaverpartnership.org today and discover how these ecosystem engineers can help build a more resilient Mid-Willamette Valley—one dam at a time!

The Mid-Willamette Beaver Partnership (MWBP) is a collaborative effort between the Luckiamute, Marys River, Calapooia, North Santiam and South Santiam Watershed Councils, Bonneville Environmental Foundation, and the Natural Resources Departments of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde and the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians. The MWBP is dedicated to promoting beaver coexistence and beaver-based restoration throughout the Mid-Willamette Valley. The website was developed in partnership with Nimbl Visual Media & Design and Action Research, based on feedback from an extensive two-year community outreach effort.

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

April 10 @ 6:00 - 8:00pm (Kings Valley Community Center)

June 12 @ 6:00 - 8:00pm (J2E Tree Farm)

August 14 @ 6:00 - 8:00pm (Happy Worker’s Club)

Thank you to Our Most Recent Donors and Volunteers!

We are so grateful to the following donors and volunteers who have contributed their hard-earned dollars and their time and energy to our conservation goals from January 1 to March 31, 2025. Your support of the Luckiamute Watershed Council 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 note of thanks goes to our 19 donors who are opting to make automatic monthly contributions to the Luckiamute Watershed Council! Like the bedrock that underlies every stream of our watershed, recurring donations provides 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. Find out how you can set up a recurring monthly donation and become a part of our Bedrock Society at <https://www.luckiamutelwc.org/donate.html>

Anonymous Donor	Charlie & Hollis Holstine	Paige Jenkins	Amy & Martin Wernz
Judy Beebe		Deb Merchant	Linda Samuels
Maya & Jim Cook	Stephen & Ava Howard	Leanne & Nick Merrill	Scott & Vanessa Youngblood
Dale & Verna Curry		Erin Murphy	
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Jeremy Gordon	Becky & Jon Jay	Gail Oberst	



You can participate in the Fred Meyer Community Rewards Program by signing into your account at www.FredMeyer.com, and link your Community Rewards card using our nonprofit number: **Q1717**

January 1 - March 31 Donors

<i>Anonymous Donors (8)</i>	Rob LaGrone
Martha Aronin	Sharon Safina
<i>In Memory of Ron Cooper</i>	<i>In Memory of Michael Cairns</i>
Richard Bastasch	James & Roberta Saltvold
Jim Border	<i>In Memory of Ron Cooper</i>
Pamela & Jock Dalton	Pam Devereaux-Wilson & John Wilson
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Clifford and Gay Hall	
Sean & Shari Hathaway	
Mark Henkels & Marcella Dupler-Henkels	
Donna Horn	
Renee Jaffer	
Kris Kaul	



January 1 - March 31 Volunteers

Grant Adams	Abby Harrison	Ellen Osborn
Brian Bangs	Nick Hazelton	Misha Pierce
Mark Barbano	Mark Henkels	Michael Rhoades
Molly Barbano	Joe Hillesum	Bethany Roberts
Judy Beebe	Linda Hillesum	Nichole Rose
Marc Bell	Donna Horn	Irene Rolston
Jon Carey	Renee Jaffer	Chris Seal
Britton Castor	Eleanor Kenyon	Bruce Sigloh
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Kaitlin Hardwick	Morgan Neil	
Danielle Harris	David Olson	

Thank you, Business Circle Donors!



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Luckiamute Watershed Council Staff



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