

Behind the Scenes

October 2020



Dear Friend,

We are quickly approaching the darkest days of the year, which may be particularly tough this year due to the continued need to stay socially distanced and fewer days left to comfortably gather outside. Since this winter may find us all feeling trapped indoors, I invite you to consider the Danish practice of **hygge** (HUE-guh) as a way to cope with the cold and dark of this time of year. Directly translated as "coziness" or "well-being," hygge encompasses a wide range of traditional coping mechanisms for the darkness and solitude of the long, cold Scandinavian winters. When you practice hygge, you are cultivating a sense of gratitude and joy in the simple pleasures of this time of year. Family togetherness, enjoying homemade foods, relaxing in warm flannel pajamas, curling up with a good book, drinking hot tea by a warm fire - these are all ways you can hygge. Although some of the more socially interactive traditions of hygge are not possible with COVID-19 concerns this year, the LWC would like to suggest our upcoming virtual Sips 'n' Science events as a way to have fun and interact with your watershed community during these coming months!

Also, I'd like to remind you that you will soon receive a letter or email inviting you to renew your support as a Friend of the LWC. One of the easiest ways to keep supporting the LWC is to set up a recurring monthly donation. With a minimum of just \$3 a month, setting up this feature means that your donation to the LWC will automatically be deducted from your bank account or credit card once per month, and your commitment to being a part of our Friends network will not need to be renewed on an annual basis. Whether you prefer a one-time annual contribution or a recurring monthly donation, the dollars and time you have already contributed to the LWC are so incredibly important and valuable to our goal of a healthy watershed for all. Our hope is that you will continue your partnership with the LWC and renew your involvement as a Friend of the LWC for 2021 and beyond! www.LuckiamuteLWC.org/Donate

Take care, stay safe, and happy reading!

--Suzanne Teller, LWC Outreach Coordinator (Outreach@LuckiamuteLWC.org or leave a voicemail at 503-837-0237)

Love Your Watershed: Upcoming virtual Sips 'n' Science pub talks



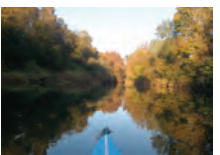
Climate Change & Assisted Migration - who's calling the shots?

Date: Wednesday, November 18, 2020

Time: 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Place: via Zoom (registration required)

Grab your favorite beverage and tune into this evening presentation by nursery manager and restoration forester, George Kral! **Details and registration information at www.LuckiamuteLWC.org/sips-and-science-plant-nurseries**



Luckiamute Watershed Council: Twenty years of Restoration

Date: January/February 2021

Time: 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Place: via Zoom (registration link coming soon!)

During this interactive evening pub talk, you will hear from LWC Executive Director Kristen Larson and Project Manager Jean-Paul Zagarola about how the LWC and its partners have made an impact on watershed health over the past 20 years!

More details will be posted soon at www.LuckiamuteLWC.org/events.

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

Watershed Notes

Introducing "Garry" the Oak, our Honorary 1,000,000th Planting in the Watershed!



LWC Board member Dave Ehlers poses with "Garry" the oak, our honorary millionth plant.

On October 22, a small group of Luckiamute Watershed Council staff, board members, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) staff, local journalists and a videographer gathered together to welcome a new watershed resident: "Garry" the Oregon white oak (*Quercus garryana*)! This up and coming watershed ambassador represents the one millionth plant planted in the Luckiamute and Ash Creek watersheds since 2001.

Luckiamute State Natural Area's (LSNA's) south unit is an appropriate home for this little oak, which will grow in the vicinity of several larger Oregon white oaks at this site that are well over 150 years old. The oak's placement at this location is also fitting because over half of the million plants it represents were planted by the LWC and its partners at LSNA's north and south units.

Restoration efforts at this State Park span more than ten years and aim to restore the health of this area's unique and important habitat types. With significant investments from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, Meyer Memorial Trust, and Bonneville Power

Administration, along with other funders and volunteers, the LWC and OPRD have overseen the planting of 275 acres within this natural area with another 80 acres planned or underway. Over time, these planted areas will enlarge the footprint of the largest remnant of "gallery forest" left in the Willamette Valley and improve habitat conditions for birds and wildlife as well as steelhead trout, Chinook salmon and other aquatic life.

LSNA's oak savannah habitat is one of few remnants of the oak savannah that used to blanket 7% of the rolling foothills and valleys of the Luckiamute and Ash Creek watersheds. Because of the diverse plant and animal communities it supports, oak habitat was important for the Native Americans that managed this area for thousands of years prior to European settlement. Kalapuya communities intentionally set fires in annual cycles in order to suppress dense understory growth and the growth of conifers, which would transform much of this habitat to Douglas fir-dominant stands or shrubby deciduous forest. This deliberate and carefully managed land stewardship routine ensured productive yields of camas-root and tarweed, rich crops of acorns, and plenty of deer, elk and other wildlife.

Although the LWC plants more native conifers than oaks along the streambanks where we do most of our restoration work, the Oregon white oak is the tree silhouette that was chosen for our logo. Not only does the oak's picturesque spreading limbs evoke the food, shelter and shade that native plant communities provide to all members of our watershed community, the oak is an apt symbol for the thousands of years of human stewardship of our local landscape.



Representing thousands of years of human stewardship of our watershed, a century-old Oregon white oak stands watch next to our oak sapling planting site.



LWC Board President Wendy Hudson pours champagne for a toast to this milestone and to our watershed community that helped make it happen!

In 2021, the LWC will highlight this long history of human stewardship of our local lands and rivers as part of its 20th anniversary celebration. Next year we also hope to be able to invite our Friends of the LWC and the entire watershed community to a ribbon-cutting ceremony for Garry the oak, where we'll unveil a plaque commemorating this year's milestone of one million plants planted in our watershed, and the role that each one of us - and you - have played in this accomplishment! In the meantime, we will be sharing videographer Grahame Bywater's fantastic 1,000,000 plants celebration video on our website and social media pages in early November. Look for it soon at www.LuckiamuteLWC.org/one-million-plants!

As we enter the final few weeks of 2020, we will continue to hope for progress against the COVID-19 pandemic, and will be sure keep you updated about Garry's growth and our 2021 celebration as we move into the new year!