

Spring
2020

LWC Meanderings

Watershed News & Reflections



LWC MISSION:

To engage and assist land-owners 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 or work within the Luckiamute and Ash Creek watersheds.

WHO WE ARE:

Wendy Hudson, *President Monmouth*

Karin Stutzman, *Secretary Monmouth*

George Grosch, *Treasurer Kings Valley/Hoskins*

Dave Ehlers
Kings Valley/Hoskins

Dan Farnworth
Monmouth

Kathy Farnworth
Monmouth

Jackson Stalley
Dallas

Scott Youngblood
American Bottom/Buena Vista

COUNCIL MEETINGS:

Typically held the second Thursday of every month from 6 — 8 pm at locations around the watershed. For details, visit our website at: www.LuckiamuteLWC.org

Five ways to Love Your Watershed while 'social distancing'



Planting native plants, pulling invasive ivy and going on a nature hike (while keeping a distance from others) are just a few of the ways to stay connected with the natural environment, while showing your love for your watershed!

— by Suzanne Teller, LWC Outreach Coordinator

Staying inside and away from each other is not the way any of us had planned on spending our first weeks of Spring. Instead of the typical Spring Break travel plans, plant sales and playdates, we are being called to find creative ways to adapt to a “stay home” order and a state-wide closures of schools, businesses and parks meant to slow the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. Like all of you, the Luckiamute Watershed Council is also learning how to adjust to this new situation.

Last year at this time, we were busy preparing for our annual Watershed Recreation Fair, Earth Day volunteer events, and other Spring events. This year, we are facing the reality that most — if not all — of our Spring events will be canceled. While this is certainly disappointing, this is also an opportunity to focus on the many ways we can stay connected and engaged with our watershed while practicing social distancing. Read on to discover five safe and effective ways to *love your watershed* this Spring!

1. Weed out the Invasives

This spring is the perfect time to focus your energy on your own backyard. Start by determining if you have any invasive plants lurking in your property, like ivy (*Hedera helix*), Italian arum (*Arum italicum*), lesser celandine (*Ranunculus ficaria*) and periwinkle (*Vinca minor*) (see photos on the next page). Early detection and eradication is key to stopping an infestation, so act now if you find any of these plants on your land! If you have a large patch or several invasive species, make sure to pace yourself by setting a reasonable goal. Perhaps get rid of one species a week (or month or season, depending on the infestation). At the very least, cut stems off at the soil level well before they go to seed to prevent further spread.

Love Your Watershed, continued from page 1

2. Plant Native!

Whether you have several acres of land or a window box, choosing to plant native plants is a great way to show your love for your watershed. Our native trees, shrubs and wildflowers are the best choice for protecting streambanks, promoting healthy soils, providing wildlife habitat, and safeguarding our pollinator populations. Another benefit to planting natives is that they are adapted to our local climate and seasonal weather patterns, which means that once established they will not need watering or soil amendments. There are a lot of great online resources for researching and finding sources for native plants that would be best suited for your area. Try getting started at the Oregon State University Extension Office's native plant resources page at <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/gardening/techniques/native-plant-gardening>

3. Explore your neighborhood

Getting outside is a great way to relieve stress and take a break from all the extra screen time we're indulging in these days. Plus, you might be surprised at all the natural beauty that can be found simply by taking a walk around the block, especially if you go slowly, clear your mind, and open up your eyes and ears to the sights and sounds of Spring. What is blooming in your neighbors' yards? What kind of birds are visiting your feeders? If you live near a local park or natural area that is open, now is a great time to visit* — as long as you can keep at least six feet apart from any other visitors. If you aren't sure where to go, visit your city or county's webpage for a list of local parks, or try <https://www.hikingproject.com/> to find nearby hiking trail options.

**Every jurisdiction has different restrictions in place, so make sure to check first to see if your local parks are open!*

4. Become a Community Scientist

If you want to create even more of a positive impact with your neighborhood walks and backyard observations, consider joining and contributing to a community science (also called 'citizen science') program. Some conservation organizations are developing ways to use crowd-sourcing and technology to enlist the help of interested community members in gathering valuable data on fish and wildlife species and their habitats. If you enjoy learning about and exploring nature, or if you have a budding scientist who is fascinated by birds, insects, plants or the weather, this is a great way to contribute your time and passion towards conservation goals. Check out the LWC's Community Science webpage at <https://www.luckiamutelwc.org/community-science.html> to view a list of several ways to get involved, with links to more information about each.

5. Support your watershed community

Don't forget that your watershed also includes your neighbors, schools, businesses, and charitable organizations! We know that COVID-19 restrictions on eating out and social gatherings won't last forever, but the economic impacts of a month of lost income can have devastating long-term impacts on our local businesses and those who have lost their jobs. If it is within your means, plan to order from a local restaurant at least once a week. Many restaurants are now offering take-out and delivery options, as well as gift certificates. Do you have a neighbor in need of assistance? Offer to order them a meal from a local restaurant for doorstep delivery. Many types of small businesses like arcades, toy stores, florists, bowling alleys, hair and nail salons and gift shops are especially hard hit since they have no safe way to offer their goods and services. If your favorite local businesses are unable to open during the "stay-home" time period, plan on making a visit or buying gift certificates as soon as restrictions are lifted.

Though we have no way of knowing how long we will need to keep our distance from each other, we do know that we will reach the other side of this ordeal. In the meantime, let's keep ourselves and each other from feeling isolated and powerless by finding creative ways to stay connected to our communities and our watershed!

Examples of Common Invasive Species



Here are some web resources that can help get you started on some “stay home” nature projects and activities!

Oregon invasive species

- Pacific NW “Least Wanted” list: <https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/sites/catalog/files/project/pdf/ec1563.pdf>
- Willamette Valley weeds: <https://cascadiaprairieoak.org/documents/field-guide-to-weeds-of-the-willamette-valley>
- Noxious Weed Profiles: www.oregon.gov/ODA/programs/Weeds/OregonNoxiousWeeds/Pages/AboutOregonWeeds.aspx
- Nonnative Invasive Plants of Pacific Coast Forests (Field Guide): https://www.fs.fed.us/pnw/pubs/pnw_gtr817.pdf

Native plants and Wildlife-Friendly yards

- Native plant profiles: <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/gardening/techniques/native-plant-gardening>
- Native plants for Willamette Valley yards: <https://www.oregonmetro.gov/native-plants-willamette-valley-yards-booklet>
- Wildlife habitat with Pacific NW native plants: http://www.nwplants.com/information/wildlife_habitat.html
- Find out how to join the Backyard Habitat Certification Program: <https://audubonportland.org/get-involved/backyard-habitat-certification-program/>

Bird and Plant Identification Apps (free!)

- Audubon Bird Guide: <https://www.audubon.org/app>
- Merlin Bird ID: <https://merlin.allaboutbirds.org/>
- LeafSnap (identifies trees using leaf photos): <http://leafsnap.com/>
- PlantNet (upload plant photo to identify species): <https://plantnet.org/en/>



LOVE YOUR WATERSHED

Our May and June events are still on the calendar for now. We'll be evaluating whether or not we'll have to cancel them in the coming weeks, so stay tuned!

Stay informed about the latest updates for our events at
LuckiamuteLWC.org/LoveYourWatershed!

Spring Bird Walk at J2E Tree Farm

Sat. May 9 @ 8:00 - 12:00pm

J2E Tree Farm, Philomath

Plant ID Walk & Learn

Wed. May 20 @ 6:30 - 8:00pm

Sarah Helmick State Park, Monmouth

Planting For Pollinators Field Day

Sun. June 7 @ 1:00 - 3:00pm

Illahé Vineyard, Dallas

Join the FRIENDS OF THE LWC!

What does it mean to be a FRIEND OF THE LWC?

- ◆ Regular “Behind the Scenes” Bulletins
- ◆ Early access to event registration
- ◆ Discounts on workshops
- ◆ *Knowing that you are helping improve the health of your watershed!*

Ready to Join?

Find out how at

LuckiamuteLWC.org/Friends

We 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.

*Your contribution may be tax-deductible. The LWC will provide a letter of documentation in January 2021, following your donation.

Upcoming Council Meetings

Join us for our LWC Monthly Meetings, typically held the second Thursday of each month. **Please note that the time for our upcoming meetings has been changed to 6:00 - 8:00pm.** Our meetings are always open to the public and discussion topics include local watershed issues and actions. Details are at LuckiamuteLWC.org.

April 9 @ 6 - 8pm: CANCELED

May 14 @ 6 - 8pm: Location to be determined

June 11 @ 6 - 8pm: Location to be determined

To donate, go to LuckiamuteLWC.org/donate or you can send a check to:

165 D Street, Independence, OR 97351

Thank you to our supporters!

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 through March 2020. Our supporters are at the heart of what we do and why, and we cannot achieve results without their contributions and hard work. **THANK YOU!**

Special Recognition to our Recurring Monthly Donors

A special shout-out goes to our donors who have opted to make automatic monthly contributions to the Luckiamute Watershed Council! Recurring donations are a predictable source of funding that we can count on every month to help support our restoration projects and community outreach programs. Find out how you can set up a recurring monthly donation at <https://www.luckiamutelwc.org/donate.html>!

Judy Beebe	Stephen & Ava Howard	Terry Murphy
Hollis Fishelson-Holstine & Charles Holstine	Danny & Renee Jaffer	Gail Oberst & Michael Cairns
George Grosch & Ann Bowen	Becca & Russell Meskridge	

January - March 2020 Donors

January - March 2020 Volunteers

Court Ballinger	Danny & Renee Jaffer	Judy Beebe	Pat Melendy
Jonathon & Juli Bansen <i>In Memory of Lloyd Bansen</i>	Paul & Rose Landry	Marc Bell	Terry Murphy
Teasa Bathke	Karen Lippsmeyer	Billy Black	Patty Nevue
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Dan & Kathy Farnworth	One Tree Planted	Douglass Fitting	Tony Spitzack
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Stephen & Ava Howard	Karin Stutzman	Karen Hans	<i>With special thanks to:</i>
Wendy Hudson	Fred Weisensee	Wendy Hudson	<i>Rotary Club of Monmouth-Independence</i>
Sarah Karr & Dave Hibbs	<i>Anonymous Donors</i>	Phil Larsen	<i>Central High School's Rotary Interact Club</i>
		Amanda Leister	



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

Luckiamute Watershed Council

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