

Summer  
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](http://www.LuckiamuteLWC.org)

## A Watershed for All



Photo credit: Willamette River Initiative

**Left:** Andre Tharp, 15, fishes along the Middle Fork Willamette River on an excursion organized by Portland nonprofit Soul River, Inc. **Right:** Volunteers help protect young plants along Ash Creek during the LWC's Earth Day Mulching and Deer Fencing project in 2019.

— by Kristen Larson, LWC Executive Director

An important part of the LWC's work is providing opportunities for people to connect with the watershed. Through our **Love Your Watershed** Program, we offer events and resources for people to connect with their watershed, learn about it, and learn how each of us can help protect and improve it for people and wildlife now and into the future. But what if people don't feel welcome in the outdoors? What if the idea of going on a hike or out to birdwatch is unfamiliar and uncomfortable, or worse, invokes a negative or frightening experience?

Chad Brown is the founder and President of [Soul River, Inc.](http://SoulRiverInc.com)\* a 501c3, Portland-based nonprofit. He is a U.S. Navy veteran and founded Soul River, Inc. to promote the healing potential of the outdoors for veterans and at-risk youth.

\* A list of website URLs referred to in this article is included on the next page.

Soul River, Inc. organizes outdoor educational transformation experiences for inner city youth, providing leadership training and a chance to enjoy positive experiences in the outdoors.

Chad recently shared his perspective on the death of George Floyd, the subsequent protests, and his experiences as a Black man recreating in a predominantly white sport – fly fishing. His [words](#) provide lessons and important perspective, particularly for someone like me who is privileged to generally not have to wonder about my personal safety when recreating outdoors. His experiences remind us that we all have a role to play in making sure everyone is safe and welcome in the outdoors, in our community, in our watershed. Recently, [Black Birders Week](#) and [Black Hikers Week](#) were organized to call attention

## *A Watershed For All, continued from page 1*

to the barriers to outdoor spaces that Black people face and to identify how these issues can be addressed. These conversations should not be reserved for just one or two weeks a year, but can serve to remind us that as a community, we can and need to do better.

The LWC's mission is to engage and assist landowners and communities in the voluntary protection, restoration, and enhancement of the Luckiamute and Ash Creek watersheds. We are learning how we can do a better job of making sure we are listening to voices and perspectives of diverse communities, particularly those that have been and continue to be marginalized. We have a lot to learn and significant work ahead to be more inclusive, but we hope the journey will lead to more fully achieving our mission and serving our whole watershed community.

### **Website URL's mentioned in the article are listed below:**

Soul River, Inc.: <https://www.soulriverinc.org/>

*Thoughts on the Killing of George Floyd*, by Chad Brown. Published in Hatch magazine on June 7, 2020:

<https://www.hatchmag.com/articles/thoughts-killing-george-floyd/7715062>

*Birding While Black*, by Casey Lyons. Published in Backpacker magazine on June 4, 2020: <https://www.backpacker.com/news-and-events/birding-while-black>

*Black Hikers Week Wants to Make the Trail a More Welcoming Place for Everyone*, by Zoe Gates. Published in Backpacker magazine on June 25, 2020: <https://www.backpacker.com/news-and-events/black-hikers-week-2020>

## *Help us Celebrate One Million Plants this year!*

This Fall, we will be marking an important milestone in LWC history—the planting of our *one millionth* native plant! Due to COVID-19 concerns, we have had to make the difficult decision to cancel a celebration we had planned for this September. However, we are planning to reschedule this event for next year, when hopefully we will have the opportunity to come together to honor all those who have made this achievement possible.

Even though we can't celebrate in person this year, we do want to mark this occasion by featuring “before and after” photos of the planting sites where we have worked with our partners and project landowners to restore the health of our watershed—one plant at a time. Do you have a planting site on your property that we can feature as part of our celebration slideshow? Please head to our webpage at <https://www.LuckiamuteLWC.org/one-million-plants.html> to find out how to submit your before-and-after photos—or just your photos from today! And don't forget to include your own smiling face, as well as any family members, partners, co-workers and beloved pets you wish to include. After all, YOU - our landowners and land managers - are the reason we have been able to achieve this momentous milestone! If you have any questions, feel free to email [Outreach@LuckiamuteLWC.org](mailto:Outreach@LuckiamuteLWC.org) or leave us a voicemail at 503-837-0237.

*In 2013 (left), Riverview Park along Ash Creek was overrun with blackberry and other noxious weeds. Today (right), native vegetation is thriving where invasive plants used to grow!*





*Thank you to Willamette Habitat Restoration Fund, who made it possible for us to bring you this video!*



**Willamette  
Habitat Restoration**

*Stay informed about the latest updates for our events at [LuckiamuteLWC.org/LoveYourWatershed!](http://LuckiamuteLWC.org/LoveYourWatershed!)*

# LOVE YOUR WATERSHED

We are excited to announce that you are now able to participate in a virtual Plant ID Walk & Learn tour from your living room! Since we had to cancel our Plant Walk that had been scheduled for May 20 at Sarah Helmick State Park, we decided to bring the trail to you instead. In this video, Jody Einerson and Brad Withrow-Robinson from Oregon State University Extension Office will be showing you how to identify several native woodland trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants commonly found in our watershed, and throughout the mid-Willamette Valley. A big thank you goes to Willamette Habitat Restoration fund for providing the funding for this video production, and to Grahame Bywater of Bywater Films for his excellent videography skills. You can watch it now on our *Love Your Watershed* webpage ([LuckiamuteLWC.org/LoveYourWatershed](http://LuckiamuteLWC.org/LoveYourWatershed)) or on YouTube ([youtube.com/watch?v=1UrFA82MRgl&t=2s](https://youtube.com/watch?v=1UrFA82MRgl&t=2s)).



*Last year, donations from our supporters helped us reach our \$10,000 fundraising goal for the Love Your Watershed program — bringing our fish all the way to the finish line! Stay tuned for the start of our 2020 fundraising campaign, coming in August!*

## **Our Annual *Love Your Watershed* Campaign is Launching in August!**

Last year, Friends of the LWC and watershed supporters helped us reach our fundraising goal of \$10,000 towards bringing watershed education and outreach events to our community. These donations helped us connect people to our lands and rivers through events like seasonal bird walks, project tours and our Sips 'n' Science pub talks throughout 2019 and early 2020. Since COVID-19, we have had to cancel or postpone many of our in-person events this spring and summer, but we are continuing to adapt and come up with new ways to inspire and empower our communities to take action for watershed health while social distancing. Keep on the lookout for a letter or email coming soon that will explain how you can play a role in helping to keep our *Love Your Watershed* Program going strong throughout the rest of this year, and into 2021. Thank you so much for your ongoing support and hopefully, we'll be able to see you soon when we are able to resume in-person events!

### **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](http://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](http://LuckiamuteLWC.org).

**July 9 @ 6 - 8pm:** Zoom link and agenda available at [LuckiamuteLWC.org/monthly-meeting-details](http://LuckiamuteLWC.org/monthly-meeting-details)

**August 13 @ 6 - 8pm:** Location to be determined

**September 10 @ 6 - 8pm:** Location to be determined

To donate, go to [LuckiamuteLWC.org/donate](http://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 April through June 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 organization and advance our mission. 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

Scott Youngblood

**April - June 2020 Donors**

Cliff and Gay Hall

Julie Hawley

Wendy Hudson

Chris and Lisa Jaramillo

One Tree Planted

Gordon Taylor

Trout Unlimited, Bluebacks Chapter

*Anonymous Donors*



**April - June 2020 Volunteers**

Judy Beebe

Wendy Hudson

Marc Bell

Phil Larsen

Heidi Christensen

Gail Oberst

Dave Ehlers

Amy Pinkley-Wernz

Dan Farnworth

Chris Seal

Kathy Farnworth

Tony Spitzack

Douglass Fitting

Jackson Stalley

George Grosch

Karin Stutzman

Karen Haberman

Scott Youngblood

Karen Hans

***\* How does the federal CARES Act Charitable Giving Incentive apply to my donation to the LWC?***

*The CARES Act—the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act—is a \$2.2 trillion stimulus plan that contains enhanced charitable giving incentives. The act creates a new above-the-line deduction (universal or non-itemized deduction that applies to all taxpayers) for total charitable contributions of up to \$300. The incentive applies to cash contributions made in 2020 and can be claimed on tax forms next year. The law also lifts the existing cap on annual contributions for those who itemize, raising it from 60 percent of adjusted gross income to 100 percent. For corporations, the law raises the annual limit from 10 percent to 25 percent.*



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

**Luckiamute Watershed Council**

165 D Street

Independence, Oregon 97351

Phone: 503-837-0237

[LuckiamuteLWC.org](http://LuckiamuteLWC.org)

Executive Director: [Kristen Larson](#)

Outreach Coordinator: [Suzanne Teller](#)

Monitoring Coordinator: [Caleb Price](#)

Assistant Project Manager: [Aubrey Cloud](#)

Project Manager: [Jean-Paul Zagarola](#)