

Winter  
2018/2019

# 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:

Patrick Melendy, *President Independence*

Dan Farnworth, *Treasurer Monmouth*

Kathy Farnworth, *Secretary Monmouth*

Gail Oberst  
*Independence*

Karin Stutzman  
*Monmouth*

Dave Ehlers  
*Kings Valley/Hoskins*

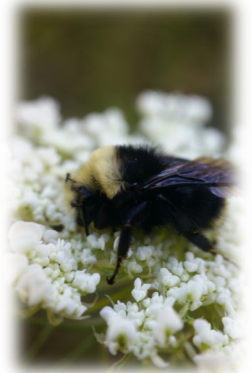
Mark Hazelton  
*Kings Valley/Hoskins*

Wendy Hudson  
*Monmouth*

## COUNCIL MEETINGS:

Held the second Thursday of every month from 7 to 9 pm. Visit our website at: [www.LuckiamuteLWC.org](http://www.LuckiamuteLWC.org) for location and details.

## Keep Oregon Pollinated: A plug for native pollinators



Left: Mining Bee (*Halictus ligatus*) Photo credit: Gilbert Uribe

Center: White-haired bee (*Melissodes spp.*) Photo credit: Gilbert Uribe

Right: Yellow-faced Bumble Bee (*Bombus vosnesenskii*) Photo credit: Andony Melathopoulos

— by Betsey Miller

When we hear the popular slogan ‘save the bees,’ most of us think of that well-known workhorse, the western honey bee. What you may not realize is that the honey bee is just one of 20,000 different species of bees worldwide, and is not native to North America. It was brought here by European settlers and arrived on the west coast only a few years before Oregon became a state!

Experts estimate that Oregon hosts roughly 500 species of native bees. Add to that the other native insect pollinators, such as wasps, ants, flies, beetles, and moths, and conservationists have a lot more to consider than just honey bees.

Because they are well-adapted to pollinate the native plants that keep our local ecosystems healthy, native pollinators are some of our most precious resources. Nearly 90% of plant species

depend on animals (especially insects) for pollination, and the animals, in turn, depend on those plants for food, shelter, and erosion control to keep waterways clear and clean. Humans also depend on pollinators for our food, to a significant degree. Some 75% of food, fiber, and pharmaceutical crops require (or benefit from) pollination. The contribution of pollinators to our economy has been valued at nearly \$30 billion annually!

Research suggests that native species are more efficient pollinators than honey bees because they tend to prefer pollen over nectar. Native pollinators also require less management than honey bees, and are better adapted to our climate. Bumblebees, for example, will forage in colder temperatures and lower light conditions than honey bees, making them quite an asset during our blustery springtime weather.

## *Keep Oregon Pollinated, continued from page 1*

The diversity of our native pollinator complex creates a natural resilience against environmental pressures like climate change. Each species plays a unique role in the function of the group; it is therefore important that we do all we can to keep populations of native pollinators healthy. Dr. Andony Melathopoulos, an Oregon State University entomologist and member of the Oregon Bee Project, is leading the charge in a state-wide effort to evaluate and protect the health of Oregon's native pollinators. Check out the box below for some terrific tips geared towards gardeners and restoration managers wanting to improve habitat for wild bees!

### **Additional Resources:**

Oregon Bee Project: [www.oregonbeeproject.org/](http://www.oregonbeeproject.org/)

Pollinator Plants: [xerces.org/pollinator-conservation/plant-lists/pollinator-plants-maritime-northwest-region/](http://xerces.org/pollinator-conservation/plant-lists/pollinator-plants-maritime-northwest-region/)

Selecting Plants for Pollinators: [www.pollinator.org/PDFs/Guides/PacificLowlandrx9FINAL.pdf](http://www.pollinator.org/PDFs/Guides/PacificLowlandrx9FINAL.pdf)

### **Upcoming Events:**

PNW Pollinator Summit & Conference (for land managers, natural resource professionals, educators): [www.oregonbeeproject.org/pnwpollinators2019/](http://www.oregonbeeproject.org/pnwpollinators2019/)

BEEvent Pollinator Conference (for home gardeners): [orsba.org/events/beeevent-pollinator-conference-2/](http://orsba.org/events/beeevent-pollinator-conference-2/)

February 21— LWC Sips 'n' Science Pub Talk: *The Mighty Mason Bee*: [www.LuckiamuteLWC.org/mason-bees](http://www.LuckiamuteLWC.org/mason-bees)

*Author notes: Betsey Miller teaches entomology at Oregon State University and conducts research on strategies for reducing pesticide use in agricultural production.*

### **10 TIPS FOR IMPROVING WILD BEE HABITAT**

*By Dr. Andony Melathopoulos*

1. **Use diverse flower shapes and colors:** This helps attract a diversity of pollinators. In fact, research suggests that flower shape (rather than color) has a greater influence on how pollinators show preference for certain plants.
2. **Make sure the blooms of different plant species overlap:** This ensures a continuous food source through the seasons. Some of our bees (like mason bees) forage as early as February while others (like sweat bees) forage as late as October. There is a need for blooms throughout this entire period.
3. **Include native plants:** They provide better odds of attracting native bees. There are some great exotic plants for bees (lavender is one), but if you aren't sure, a native plant is more likely to attract native pollinators.
4. **Avoid double petal flowers:** Roses, carnations and marigolds are good examples. The second set of petals often come from modified stamens. They look pretty, but have fewer resources for pollinators.
5. **Don't forget about trees that bloom:** They pack a lot of flowers into a small space. Maple, willow and fruit trees are great for pollinators.
6. **Grow large patches of flowering plants:** Pollinators like big box stores and one-stop shopping.
7. **Dead head to extend the bloom:** Though not practical for land managers, this is a good tip for home gardeners.
8. **Provide above-ground nesting areas:** Many bee species are cavity nesters. Rock walls, twigs and hollow stems and logs make good nesting sites.
9. **Leave some bare ground:** Don't over-mulch. Some species of bees dig tiny holes in the soil where they raise their young. Unlike yellow-jackets, these bees are non-aggressive.
10. **Don't spray pesticides when bee-attracting plants are in bloom:** This will put pollinators at greater risk of exposure to toxic chemicals.



*Photo credit: Dr. Andony Melathopoulos*

## Soil & Water Conservation District Native Plant Sales coming soon!

Key Dates	Benton SWCD <a href="http://www.bentonswcd.org">www.bentonswcd.org</a>	Marion SWCD <a href="http://www.marionswcd.net">www.marionswcd.net</a>	Polk SWCD <a href="http://www.polkswcd.com">www.polkswcd.com</a>	Yamhill SWCD <a href="http://www.yamhillswcd.org">www.yamhillswcd.org</a>
Pre-order Deadline	<i>Order now for the best selection!</i>	N/A	No plant sale this year	February 23
Order Pick-up Day	March 2: 9am - 2pm	No preorders! All plants can be picked up at the Native Plant Sale on March 9.	N/A	March 1: 9am - 6pm March 2: 9am - 4pm Yamhill Valley Heritage Center
Native Plant Sale (Overstock Sale)	March 2: 9am - 2pm Benton County Fairgrounds Livestock Building	March 9: 9am - 4pm Bauman Farms, Gervais	N/A	March 1: 9am - 6pm March 2: 9am - 4pm Yamhill Valley Heritage Center
For More Information	Teresa Matteson (541) 753-7208	Jenny Meisel (503) 391-9927 x312	Patti Gray (503) 623-9680 x108	Julie Lorenzen (503) 376-7600
Link to Native Plant Sale Information	<a href="http://www.bentonswcd.org/programs/plant-sale">www.bentonswcd.org/programs/plant-sale</a>	<a href="http://www.marionswcd.net">www.marionswcd.net</a>	<a href="http://www.polkswcd.com">www.polkswcd.com</a>	<a href="http://www.yamhillswcd.org">www.yamhillswcd.org</a>



## LOVE YOUR WATERSHED

### Sips 'n' Science Series



#### “Bringing Back the Pacific Lamprey”

January 9, 2019 @ 6:30pm  
Brew Coffee & Taphouse

#### “The Mighty Mason Bee”

February 21, 2019 @ 6:30pm  
The Valkyrie Wine Tavern

Visit [LuckiamuteLWC.org/loveyourwatershed](http://LuckiamuteLWC.org/loveyourwatershed) for details and registration info!

### 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 also 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.

### Upcoming Council Meetings

Join us for Council Monthly Meetings, held the second Thursday of each month from 7 — 9 p.m. Our meetings are always open to the public and discussion topics include local watershed issues and actions. For details, please visit our web site at [www.LuckiamuteLWC.org](http://www.LuckiamuteLWC.org).

**Jan. 10, 2019:** Monmouth Volunteer Hall

**Feb. 14, 2019:** Monmouth Volunteer Hall

**Mar. 14, 2019:** Monmouth Volunteer Hall

To donate, go to [www.LuckiamuteLWC.org/donate](http://www.LuckiamuteLWC.org/donate) or you can send a check to:

**165 D Street, Independence, OR 97351**

**Thank you to our supporters!**

\*Your contribution may be tax-deductible. The LWC will provide a letter of documentation in January 2019, following your donation.

## THANK YOU TO OUR 2018 DONORS AND VOLUNTEERS!

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One Tree Planted

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Carol Reams  
Chuck Sheffield

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

### Luckiamute Watershed Council

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Outreach Coordinator: [Suzanne Teller](#)  
Monitoring Coordinator: [Caleb Price](#)  
Project Manager: [Jean-Paul Zagarola](#)