

Behind the Scenes "Lite"

January 2022



Dear Friend,

If you spent the last days of 2021 in or near the watershed, I hope you were able to enjoy the view of the snow-blanketed landscapes that we woke up to after Christmas day. For those of you who lost power, missed out on spending time with loved ones, or faced other challenges due to the snow and ice, I hope that things are now back to normal and that you are staying safe, warm and dry in this now very wet winter weather!

The LWC Staff and Board members are proud to reflect on all that we've accomplished together in 2021. Thanks to our Friends, Business Circle members, donors, contractors, volunteers and supporters, we planted 87,574 native trees & shrubs, engaged 887 event participants and worked with hundreds of partners towards achieving a healthy watershed for all. As we turn the page to 2022, we are excited about having more opportunities to protect and restore our rivers and lands, and gather together for in-person events, volunteer activities, and our 20th Anniversary celebration.

On behalf of all of us at the LWC, we wish you a great start to the New Year!

--Suzanne Teller, LWC Outreach Coordinator (contact me at Outreach@LuckiamuteLWC.org or 503-837-0237)

Love Your Watershed: Upcoming Virtual Sips 'n' Science



Logging the Luckiamute: Ramifications of Splash Dams and Log Drives

Date: Tuesday, January 11, 2022

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

Place: via Zoom (*registration required*)

The Luckiamute Watershed Council is honored to welcome Stephen Dow Beckham as the speaker for our first Sips 'n' Science event of 2022 with a look at the fascinating history and impacts of logging practices in our region. This presentation examines the use of the Luckiamute River for transportation of forest products between 1853 and 1936. It places the challenges of log transport in the context of changing technologies, particularly the use of river drives and artificial freshets created by splash dams. The illustrated presentation identifies the types of splash dams, their environmental impacts, and the creative responses of lumbermen in the Mid-Willamette Valley to "getting out the cut" of the region's Old Growth forests. **Details at <https://www.luckiamutelwc.org/sips-n-science-splash-damming.html>**

What's Coming in 2022?

The LWC's Education & Outreach Committee is excited to introduce some of the awesome events being planned for this year. Here's an exclusive look at what's coming in the next few months!

- *Love Your Watershed* theme for 2022 will continue as "Exploring the History of our Watershed"
- A rescheduled LWC 20th Anniversary Celebration at Emerson Vineyards on May 14 (*see Meanderings newsletter for details!*)
- Spring and Fall bird walks will continue, including walks at J2E Tree Farm and Soap Creek valley
- Bilingual Butterfly/Moth nature walk with lepidopterist Dana Ross – *tentatively scheduled for July 30 – 31*
- Landowner tour(s) to highlight practical applications of Traditional Ecological Knowledge, in collaboration with Polk Soil & Water Conservation District and the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde
- Return to in-person Sips 'n' Science for Fall 2022 (pending COVID-19 status and trends)

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

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:

George Grosch, *President/Treasurer Kings Valley/Hoskins*

Karin Stutzman, *Secretary Monmouth*

Britton Castor
Pedee

Dave Ehlers
Kings Valley/Hoskins

Jackson Stalley
Dallas

Scott Youngblood
American Bottom/Buena Vista

COUNCIL MEETINGS:

Typically held the second Thursday of every month from 6 — 8 pm.

Details and links will be posted at:
www.LuckiamuteLWC.org

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.

Expanding the Gallery Forest at LSNA



(1) Aerial view of the 60-acre formerly-leased field within LSNA North Unit. Note the large tract of gallery forest bordering the north side of the field. (2) A view of the LSNA North Unit field with gallery forest cottonwoods in the background. (3) Several acres of standing water at LSNA North Unit two weeks after 2019 Willamette flooding. Frequent flooding here provides salmonids access to nutrient-rich floodplain habitat.

By Suzanne Teller, LWC Outreach Coordinator

If you have ever visited the North Unit Loop trail at Luckiamute State Natural Area (LSNA), you might have wondered why a farm field is situated right in the middle of this Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) property. This oblong trapezoid of open field provides an expansive view of the towering cottonwoods and bigleaf maples that grow between the north end of the trail and the Luckiamute River, but it does seem a bit out of place amidst the surrounding forested landscape.

Historically in fact, much of the landscape alongside this stretch of the Luckiamute River was dominated by floodplain forest, which looked a lot like the large remnant of cottonwood-maple-ash gallery forest that still exists here. Traditional knowledge and architectural surveys reveal that this area provided a rich source of fish, shellfish, wild game, camas root and other resources for the local Kalapuya residents. But when Euro-American settlers arrived, much of this forested landscape was converted into agricultural production, which is still the predominant land use of the surrounding landscape.

By leasing this land to farmers, OPRD has kept this area in agricultural activity—a decision that has had both its advocates and its critics over the years. But then, in 2019, the Luckiamute River ended up having the final say. When the park's namesake river decided to stretch out one of its meanders during a significant flooding event, it undercut the banks a bit too close to the existing North Unit access road—rendering this site no longer accessible to farm equipment. This was a large factor in the decision made by OPRD that same year to transition the field from an agricultural lease to an expansion of the floodplain forest.

Thanks to funding from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB), Meyer Memorial Trust (MMT), Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and PGE Habitat Fund, these 60 acres are about to be re-incorporated into the surrounding gallery forest. Crewmembers from D. Franco Contracting will begin planting 158,000 native trees and shrubs here this month, and continue stewarding this area for years to come with invasive weed treatments and inter-planting as needed. The plants that will be added here have been carefully selected to reflect what

Expanding the Gallery Forest, continued

is already growing here, what species will be best adapted to both current and future climate conditions, and which species have cultural significance to local Tribes. In total, 35 different types of trees and shrubs have been ordered from our partner nurseries—from the familiar snowberry and red osier dogwood to the less common but climate-adapted white alder and incense cedar.

The next time you visit LSNA, be on the lookout for the thousands of new plantings that will dot the field, and mark the beginning of the transformation of this land back to floodplain forest!

SAVE THE DATE!



LWC 20TH (+1) ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

When: Saturday, May 14, 2022 @ 1:00 - 4:00pm

Where: Emerson Vineyards

The year 2021 marked the 20th Anniversary of the Luckiamute Watershed Council—that's 20 years of watershed restoration and outreach in partnership with our watershed community! We had to delay our 2021 celebration date because of the upsurge of COVID-19 cases due to the Delta variant, but we are ready to celebrate with you in 2022! Find out more and RSVP at www.LuckiamuteLWC.org/20th-anniversary-celebration

Join the Fun-draising Committee!



The LWC is looking for volunteers of all backgrounds to join the Fundraising Committee (and yes, the emphasis is definitely on FUN!) There is no specific experience required to join the team, and we welcome your expertise in a wide range of skills and interests. Fundraising Committee members get to help plan some of our most exciting and engaging events, work with LWC staff to come up with creative ideas for thanking our donors, and engage with fellow watershed residents who are passionate about protecting the health of our rivers and lands! Find out more and submit an interest form on our website at www.LuckiamuteLWC.org/joinFRC.html

Soil and Water Conservation District Native Plant Sales Happening Now!

Your local Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) are a great source for native plants throughout the year. Not only can your SWCD help you score the best native plant options for all your gardening and landscaping needs, you will also be able to take advantage of their knowledge, expertise and helpful resources.

Key Dates	Benton SWCD www.bentonswcd.org	Marion SWCD www.marionswcd.net	Polk SWCD www.polkswcd.com	Yamhill SWCD www.yamhillswcd.org
Pre-order Deadline	<i>Mark your calendar - June 3 - 6, 2022</i>	Online ordering open January 5 through February 21!	<i>Order now for the best selection!</i>	Ordering starts on January 1!
Order Pick-up Day	Feb. 3, 4 & 6, 2023 <i>by reservation only</i> Davis Family Farm 4380 NE Hwy 20, Corvallis	March 11 & 12 <i>by reservation only</i> Bauman's Farm, Gervais	March 3, 4: 9am—4pm March 5: 9am—1pm 580 Main St., Suite A Dallas	Feb. 11: 9am—6pm Feb. 12: 9am—2pm Yamhill Valley Heritage Center
In-Person Native Plant Sale (Overstock Sale)	N/A Order online or call (541) 753-7208	N/A Order online or call (503) 391-9927 x312	N/A Order online or call (503) 623-9680	Feb. 11: 9am—6pm Feb. 12: 9am—2pm Yamhill Valley Heritage Center
For More Information	Teresa Matteson (541) 753-7208	Jenny Meisel (503) 391-9927 x312	Morgan Neil (503) 623-9680	Julie Lorenzen (503) 376-7600
Link to Native Plant Sale Information	bentonswcd.org/programs/plant-sale	marionswcd.net/nps	www.polkswcd.com/plant-sale.html	yamhillswcd.org

Welcome to LWC's New Monitoring Coordinator!



We are excited to introduce you to the newest staff member on the LWC team! On December 3, Amanda Brackett officially started her new role as the LWC's Monitoring Coordinator. Originally from Maine, Amanda graduated from Clark University with a B.A. in Environmental Science and Policy. In 2016, she moved to the West Coast and worked for several ecology research organizations in California, Oregon and Washington. The combination of her education and work experience gives her a strong background in forest ecology, extensive skills in data collection and analysis, and a passion for working in the field. During her interview, Amanda explained that she was drawn to this position because she resonated with the LWC's goal of engaging the public in watershed restoration—a component of watershed council work that she believes is essential to the sustainability and long term success of any efforts to protect and restore ecological health.

Amanda is currently pursuing an M.S. degree in Forest Ecosystems and Society at Oregon State University, studying forest microclimatology and plant physiology through the lens of adaptive forest management. As she wraps up her coursework and finishes her thesis during the first three months of 2022, Amanda will be logging in about 10 hours a week at the LWC. We wish her all the best as she prepares to defend her thesis in March, and we look forward to the transition to her half-time position in April, just in time to prepare for the 2022 temperature monitoring season! Amanda is also looking forward to putting her skills and experience to work for the LWC Monitoring program, and getting to meet landowners and community members in her new watershed community.

“I am excited about the opportunity to put all I have learned into practice and make a difference in my community.”

**—Amanda Brackett
LWC Monitoring Coordinator**



Love Your Watershed

Upcoming Virtual Sips 'n' Science Event

Logging the Luckiamute: Ramifications of Splash Dams and Log Drives

Tuesday, January 11 @ 6:30 - 8:00pm

Details and Registration at LuckiamuteLWC.org/sips-n-science-splash-damming

Speaker Bio: Stephen Dow Beckham is the Pamplin Professor of History, Emeritus, Lewis & Clark College. Educated at the University of Oregon and UCLA, Professor Beckham taught college students for 42 years. He is the author of numerous books, articles, and technical reports and is the former "Oregon Professor of the Year." He is the recipient of the Asher Distinguished Teaching Award, American Historical Association. He is on the board of the Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library and is Chair of the Oregon Committee on Historic Preservation.

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!**

Ready to Join?

Find out how at

www.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 2022, following your donation.*

Upcoming Council Meetings

Join us for our LWC Monthly Meetings, typically held the second Thursday of each month. Our meetings are always open to the public and discussion topics include local watershed issues and actions. Details and Zoom links will be posted at www.LuckiamuteLWC.org.

January 13 @ 6:00 - 8:00pm (via Zoom)

February 10 @ 6:00 - 8:00pm (via Zoom)

March 10 @ 6:00 - 8:00pm (via Zoom)

To donate, go to www.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 October to December 2021. 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 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

Judy Beebe

Michael Cairns & Gail Oberst

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George Grosch & Ann Bowen

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Stephen & Ava Howard

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Scott Youngblood

THANK YOU,
Amazon Smile and
Fred Meyer Community
Rewards participants!
Your purchases earned
us **\$73.70** for the third
quarter of 2021!

You can participate in the Amazon Smile program by shopping at <https://smile.amazon.com> (same log-in as regular Amazon account) and choosing the **Luckiamute Watershed Council** as your designated charity!

For Fred Meyer, sign into your account at www.FredMeyer.com, and link your Community Rewards card using our nonprofit number: **Q1717**

October - December 2021 Donors

Anonymous Donation
in Memory of Margaret S. Olson

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in Memory of John Gaylord

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Judith & Jerry Paul

in Honor of LWC Staff &
Executive Director

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Trillium Forests, LLC

Ruth Versteeg

Amy & Martin Wernz

Kelly Wiggins

in Honor of Isaac Newton
Miller Jr. DLC

Pam Devereaux Wilson &
John Wilson

October - December 2021 Volunteers

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Judy Beebe

Marc Bell

Andrea Berkley

Erin Burns

Rob Burns

Britton Castor

Heidi Christensen

David Ehlers

Douglass Fitting

Nate Gage

Sandra Garcia-Torres

George Grosch

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Faye Yoshihara

Scott Youngblood

A BIG thank you also goes to our 7 anonymous donors for this quarter!



THANK YOU TO ALL OUR BUSINESS CIRCLE SUPPORTERS!

Croft Vineyards
Hancock Forest Management
KWIP La Campeona 880 AM

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Spiritopia
Starker Forests, Inc.



Luckiamute Watershed Council

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Executive Director: Kristen Larson
Outreach Coordinator: Suzanne Teller
Project Manager: Jean-Paul Zagarola
Assistant Project Manager: Aubrey Cloud
Monitoring Coordinator: Amanda Brackett

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Community. Your Watershed.*