

Behind the Scenes

July 2021



Dear Friend,

The cooler temperatures over the past couple of days have certainly felt wonderful after this incredibly HOT start to our summer. As we mourn the tragic loss of 107 lives due to the heat wave and as farmers and orchard managers survey the impact of these unprecedented temperatures on their crops, many of us are wondering if our summers are going to look like this more often. What can we do to prepare for hotter, dryer Oregon summers? How can we manage our land to be more resilient in the face of a changing climate?

Unlike managed landscapes, our forests and natural areas have quite a bit of built-in resiliency when it comes to dealing with natural disasters and extreme weather events. However, a dramatic decline in water availability is a threat to the survival of all of our familiar landscapes—including our wild spaces. In this month's Meanderings newsletter, you'll read about some ways you can reduce your own water usage and help protect the availability of one of our most precious resources.

In future issues of Behind the Scenes, we'll continue to explore climate resiliency strategies for watershed restoration. In fact, a key goal of one of our newly funded partnership projects—the Mid-Willamette Beaver Partnership—is to improve habitat conditions for biological and human communities in the face of climate change. Stay tuned for more news about this exciting and innovative project in an upcoming BTS!

Happy reading (and stay cool)!

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

Upcoming **Love Your Watershed** Events:

July Native Seed Care Packages



Coming soon to your mailbox!

We are so grateful to all of our *Friends of the LWC*, and would LOVE to show our appreciation for your support! Thanks to Illahe Vineyards and Oregon Bee Atlas, we have native seed packets that will be sent to all of our Friends for whom we have mailing addresses, along with some excellent resources on pollinator-friendly gardens and landscapes. Once you get your package, hold onto the seeds until the fall and then plant them as soon as the rains arrive. Come spring, you will be gifted with a wonderful display of wildflowers native to the Willamette Valley! **If you would like to make sure we have your mailing address to send you a care package, please fill out the form at www.luckiamutelwc.org/friend-mailing-list!**

Traditional Ecological Knowledge video series



Coming in August!

The final touches are being applied to this 2-part video series we are producing in partnership with the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde (CTGR) and Polk Soil & Water Conservation District. The first video will feature Greg Archuleta, Grand Ronde Tribal Elder and CTGR Cultural Education Program instructor, introducing Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) and its importance to landscape restoration goals. Part 2 of the video series will focus on the ways in which landowners can incorporate principles of TEK as they manage their own land.

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Summer
2021

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:

Wendy Hudson, *President Monmouth*

Karin Stutzman, *Secretary Monmouth*

George Grosch, *Treasurer Kings Valley/Hoskins*

Britton Castor
Pedee

Dave Ehlers
Kings Valley/Hoskins

Jackson Stalley
Dallas

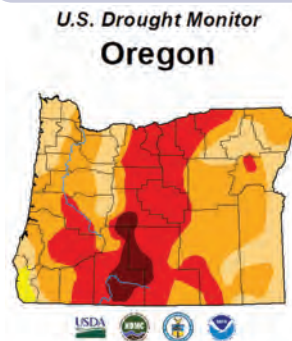
Scott Youngblood
American Bottom/Buena Vista

COUNCIL MEETINGS:

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

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

Let's Do Our Part to Take Care of our Water... and our Watershed



From left to right: This map from the US Drought Monitor released on June 24 shows the entire state of Oregon in drought; Despite no watering since May, the author's garden soil is retaining plenty of moisture thanks to a thick layer of mulch; Oregon grape is a drought resistant native shrub that produces beautiful sprays of yellow blossoms and berries that sustain a wide variety of wildlife (and are edible for people too!); Drip irrigation is one of the most efficient ways to water your garden.

By Suzanne Teller, LWC Outreach Coordinator

Oregon summers have always felt perfect to me. While I talked about sunny outdoor get-togethers on our deck, my east coast friends and family would complain about sweltering heat and humidity. Meanwhile, my in-laws in the southwest sent us thermometer photos showing the mercury well above 100. Never would I have ever imagined that the day would come when I would be posting thermometer photos that would make *them* cringe.

From June 25 to 28, temperatures soared to unbelievable highs, reaching well over 100 degrees in our watershed for three days straight at a time when temperatures typically hover around the 80's. Corvallis and Albany hit 110 on June 27, setting a new all-time record high for both cities. Meanwhile, Salem obliterated its previous record of 108 set in 1941, with a scorching 117 degrees on June 28.

The tragic consequences of this unprecedented heat wave are still unfolding, but we

already know that 107 lives were lost as a result. Additionally, orchards and berry growers throughout the region are seeing devastating impacts to fruit size and yields. Across Washington, Clackamas and Multnomah counties, produce farms are seeking emergency state aid while still assessing the full extent of the heat damage.

One of the most disconcerting things about this heat wave is that it is part of a broader trend towards hotter, dryer weather for the Willamette Valley, and for the Pacific Northwest as a whole. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), conditions are expected to worsen through the rest of the summer and fall with persistent and expanded drought conditions across the Northwest.

As devastating as the immediate impacts of extreme temperatures are, one of the most worrisome effects of persistent warmer, dryer conditions is wildfire. Although many factors contribute to the

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Let's Do Our Part, continued

frequency, intensity and duration of wildfires in our region, hotter temperatures and less precipitation are causing wildfires to ignite faster, and burn hotter and longer than ever before.

Fearful memories of the orange-tinged, smoky skies of Summer 2020 loom large, and almost certainly were a major factor in the decision of many cities and counties across Oregon to urge restraint or, in some cases, even ban the use of fireworks during this year's Fourth of July celebrations. But if we are facing hotter, dryer summers in the future, what are some more long-term measures we can take to adapt to this new climate pattern?

One way to help ensure that your community can avoid the worst outcomes of wildfire is to minimize fire risk around your own home and yard. OSU Extension has some excellent webinar recordings and practical steps that you can do to build fire resiliency on your own property, available at <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/forests/fire>.

Keeping as much moisture as possible in the ground and in our streams is another way to help the land, plants, wildlife and human communities become more resilient to the effects of climate change. As temperatures increase and precipitation decreases, what we do to alter our habits and adapt to a new 'normal' matters more than ever. Shallow streams heat up more quickly, threatening the survival of our cold water dependent salmon and trout populations. Increased demand for water from farms, gardens, landscaping and household use depletes our groundwater reserves, which can take decades or longer to recharge. Water falling on hot, dark impervious surfaces warms water and shuttles it away from the soil into gutters and drainpipes where it is carried away far from our streams and aquifers. By finding ways to reduce our water usage, we can help ensure that enough water is available for all of us.

Careful and conscientious stewarding of our precious water resources has never been more crucial to the health of our lands and rivers, and the well-being of our communities. When we each do our part to limit how much water we use in our homes and yards, we ensure that more moisture remains in the rivers and aquifers and our atmosphere—which can help mitigate the impacts of hotter temperatures and reduce the severity of wildfire.

Thank you, Love Your Watershed Campaign Donors!

Thank you to all of our supporters!
We raised a total of \$15,047!



Thanks to a steady stream of support from our watershed community, Pedee made it 84% of the way to our fundraising campaign goal of \$18,000. That's \$15,047 that will go to our events, workshops, project tours and videos that help inspire and empower people to protect the health of their watershed!

18 Ways to Be a GREAT Water Steward

—from the Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD)

- Plant perennial, drought-tolerant native plants, and consider xeriscaping to help reduce fire risk.
- Install drip irrigation instead of using a garden hose or sprinkler system.
- Harvest and store rainwater using rain barrels.
- Add mulch to your garden and landscaping to prevent moisture loss.
- Water your plants early in the morning or late at night to reduce evaporation, and make sure sprinklers are not inadvertently watering the sidewalk or street.
- Recycle household water (for example, when waiting for warm water from your tap, capture the running cold water for another use).
- Move your mower blade up one notch and allow your grass to grow a little higher (longer grass leads to less water loss through evaporation).
- Plant your garden in small blocks instead of long rows for easier watering and greater efficiency.
- If you're resurfacing your patio or driveway, consider using permeable pavers or pervious concrete.
- Add compost to your garden to help retain water.
- Be sure to check your garden hose for leaks and replace worn-out washers on a regular basis.
- When planting your garden, group plants by watering needs to increase efficiency.
- Install a water timer—look for one with a soil moisture sensor that detects how wet the soil is and prevents overwatering.
- Disconnect downspouts from storm drain system and divert into a rain garden or rain barrel instead.
- If you have a fish tank, don't throw that water out when you clean it—it's great for your plants!
- Resist the urge to wash down driveways, walkways and patios. Sweep them off instead.
- Replace grass around tree trunks with mulch, wood chips or gravel. Grass competes with the tree for nutrients and water!
- Trim your trees on a regular basis—fewer branches and leaves means less water loss.

View more great indoor & outdoor water conservation tips at www.regionalh2o.org/water-conservation

Upper Luckiamute Enhancement Project Update



After deftly navigating delays due to COVID-19, scheduling issues, and an unusually early declaration of fire season, our Upper Luckiamute Project partners are now moving forward full steam ahead! Officially titled, “Protecting the Best: Upper Luckiamute Mainstem Anchor Habitat Enhancement,” this project is focused on restoring and enhancing the aquatic and riparian habitat along the uppermost reaches of the Luckiamute River with in-stream log placements, invasive plant removal, and understory plantings.

In late June, Steve Trask (Trask Consulting) and Graham Trask (Trask Design and Construction) started large wood work at the Upper Luckiamute project site—including the harvest, staging, and placement of conifer logs into the stream channel. Using heavy machinery, these logs were carefully anchored in place to form interlocking structures that slow water velocity and trap sediment, which will protect and enhance habitat quality for fish, macroinvertebrates and other aquatic life.

Future work at this site will include planting conifers in the riparian area, seeding and replanting the disturbance areas with native shrubs, and monitoring the accumulation of sediment in the stream channel over the coming years.

As with many of our projects, our goals are being accomplished with the help of many partners—including Bonneville Environmental Foundation (BEF) for contracted Project Management services; the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Hancock Forest Management, who are donating the logs that will be placed in the stream channel; Xerces Society, which helped conduct freshwater mussel surveys; Insitute for Applied Ecology (IAE) who is assisting with wetland surveys; Trout Unlimited, who has contributed \$1,000 directly to this project and conducted steelhead spawning surveys earlier this year; and D. Franco Contracting, who will be removing invasive species, thinning conifer stands, and planting and stewarding about 14 acres of native plants.

Two New Ways to Give to the Luckiamute Watershed Council!

Join the Legacy Circle

You can help protect this special place we call home by joining the Luckiamute Watershed Council Legacy Circle — making an enduring contribution to the LWC through a philanthropic tool known as planned giving. It’s a remarkable type of deferred giving that can help you make a larger gift than you ever thought possible while at the same time receiving significant tax and financial benefits. Learn more on our website at <https://www.luckiamutelwc.org/join-the-legacy-circle.html>

Ways to Give in Retirement

Many of us like to give to our favorite qualified charities by writing an occasional check and then claiming a deduction on our annual taxes. But recent tax laws have doubled the standard deduction, sharply curtailing the number of filers who itemize, and therefore, who are able to deduct charitable gifts. But if you’re a retiree over the age of 70½, there is a mechanism that preserves the tax benefits of giving, even though you might no longer itemize your deductions. This mechanism is known as a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) and you can learn more about it at <https://www.luckiamutelwc.org/giving-in-retirement.html>

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.

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.

July 8 @ 5:00 - 6:00pm* (via Zoom)

August: Date and time to be determined

September 9 @ 6:00 - 8:00pm

**Please note that our July meeting time has shifted to an earlier and shorter time due to a scheduled board training.*

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!

**Your contribution may be tax-deductible. The LWC will provide a letter of documentation in January 2022, following your donation.*

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 to June 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>!

Judy Beebe
Michael Cairns & Gail Oberst
Maya Cook
Jeremy Gordon
George Grosch & Ann Bowen
Hollis Fishelson-Holstine & Charles Holstine
Stephen & Ava Howard
Danny & Renee Jaffer
Becky Jay

Paige Jenkins
In Honor of LaDonna Brave Bull Allard
Deb Merchant
Becca & Russell Meskridge
Erin Murphy
Terry Murphy
Linda Samuels
V Environmental LLC
Scott Youngblood



THANK YOU,
Fred Meyer Rewards
participants! Your
purchases earned us
\$25.81 for the first
quarter of 2021!

You can participate in the Community Rewards program by linking your Fred Meyer card at www.fredmeyer.com/i/community/community-rewards, then using our unique nonprofit number: **Q1717**

April - June 2021 Donors

Albany Animal Hospital
Tremaine & Gail Arkley
John & Janyce Berens
Willette & Keith Burbach
Ann Chetock
David & Sarah Ehlers
Dan & Kathy Farnworth
Sara Evans-Peters
*in Honor of Josie & Ellie
Evans-Peters*
The Fitzsimmons Family
In Memory of Eileen Fitzsimmons
Cliff & Gay Hall
Mark & Marcella Henkels
Linda & Joe Hillesum
Wendy Hudson

Danny & Renee Jaffer
in Memory of M.M. Jaffer
Kyle Jansson
Jessica King
Phil Larsen & Judy Riggs
Kristen Larson & Tom Wilson
in Memory of Kathy Larson
Luckiamute Acres Ranch
Judy Maule
Jerry & Judith Paul
Dave & Judy Peterman
John & Sandra Potter
Holly Purpura
In Honor of Kathy Larson
Sharon Safina
Starker Forests

Jay & Jane Tappen
Suzanne & Jay Teller
Western Skies Cattle
Ranch
Nan Willis
Faye Yoshihara &
Kevin Kenaga

April - June 2021 Volunteers

Judy Beebe
Marc Bell
Andrea Berkley
Erin Burns
Rob Burns
Kayden Cantrell
Britton Castor
Heidi Christensen
Maya Cook
David Craig
Brandon Culcasi
David Ehlers
Dan Farnworth
Douglass Fitting
Janet Flores
Harry Fuller
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Karin Stutzman
Mike Unger
Kelly Wiggins
Juan Vargas-Perea
Scott Youngblood

A BIG thank you also goes to our 13 anonymous donors for this quarter!



THANK YOU TO OUR BUSINESS CIRCLE SUPPORTERS!

Croft Vineyards
Hancock Forest Management
KWIP La Campeona 880 AM

Les Schwab
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

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