

Behind the Scenes

June 2018



Dear Friend,

The big news this month is that we're moving! On July 1, we will start a new lease at 165 D Street, just a couple of blocks away from our Main Street location. We are excited to be in a larger, brighter space that is ADA accessible and still located in the heart of the historic downtown district of Independence. In its prior life, our new building served as the Valley & Siletz Railroad depot, and still sports a ticket window and waiting area. This bit of history seems even more pertinent considering that we removed a portion of the Valley & Siletz railroad berm as part of our Side Channel Reconnection project in the Upper Luckiamute! Stay tuned for an invitation to an Open House party coming this summer, but in the meantime, feel free to drop in to say 'hi' and check out our new home!

Happy reading!

--Suzanne Teller, LWC Outreach Coordinator

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LOVE YOUR WATERSHED



Photographer Miriam Haugen captures some of the highlights of our Ethnobotany Workshop on June 5, 2018. ©2018 Miriam Haugen

On June 5, we had the privilege of working with three members of the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde to offer a **Native American Ethnobotany of Western Oregon** workshop at Beazell Forest Education Center. This free, open-format event was open from 2:00 to 7:00 pm, and attracted participants from Polk, Benton, Marion and Yamhill counties interested in discovering new ways to look at and interact with our native plants. Presenters Greg Archuleta, Lorraine (Bejee) Barton and Devon Robinson wowed everyone with their knowledge, stories and presentations of the uses of native plants by The First Peoples of our region. Workshop attendees not only got to participate in some hands-on table activities, they also had the opportunity to join one of two hikes along Beazell trails with Greg Archuleta, learning to identify native plants and how they were and continue to be used in Native American cuisine, crafts and medicine. This event was the final one in our 2017 - 18 **Love Your Watershed** program, a series of events that aim to educate community members about their watershed and inspire them to take action to protect it.

Right now, we are in the process of putting together an event line-up for our 2018 - 19 **Love Your Watershed** series, so stay tuned for more details coming soon! In the meantime, we would welcome your input as well. Send your thoughts and ideas for events to Suzanne Teller, either by email at Outreach@LuckiamuteLWC.org, or by calling the LWC office at 503-837-0237.

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

Watershed Notes

Unbelievably, summer has begun already and we are now preparing to send out our Knotweed Control Project update to all of our participating landowners. As we approach the end of the funding cycle for this project, we are proud to be able to celebrate its successes with you and encourage streamside property owners to continue fighting this noxious invader whenever they see it re-emerge on their land. Visit www.LuckiamuteLWC.org/knotweed-control to read more about this project or to tell a story about your experience fighting knotweed on your property!



Wildwood Bridge before and after knotweed control treatment.

We're Moving!

Amidst a whirlwind of events, strategic planning sessions and grant deadlines, the Luckiamute Watershed Council has taken on one more task this summer — moving!

Currently located in an upstairs suite in “The Little Mall on Main” building on South Main Street, the Council had been keeping an eye out for suitable office space that offered more room and was accessible to mobility-challenged community members. Not only does the new location offer both of these advantages, it also will provide an office for Lucas Hunt, Council Coordinator for the Rickreall and Glenn Gibson Watershed Councils.



Starting on July 1, the LWC office will be located in the old Valley and Siletz Railroad depot building at 165 D Street in Independence!

The new building is located a short ways down the road at 165 D Street, and used to be a railway depot for the now defunct Valley and Siletz Railroad. Interestingly, the LWC has another indirect intersection with the history of this railway via our Side Channel Reconnection Project. One of the first steps to restore a natural meandering portion of mainstem Luckiamute River involved the removal of a portion of the old Valley and Siletz Railroad berm that prevented fish from utilizing valuable off-channel habitat. You can read more about this project and view some time-lapse footage of the river channel's transformation on our website at www.LuckiamuteLWC.org/upper-luckiamute-side-channel-reconnection-project.



A view of the old Valley-Siletz Railroad berm at our Side Channel Reconnection Project site.

In fact, the construction and operation of the Valley and Siletz Railroad has impacted much of the work that we do today in the upper parts of the Luckiamute watershed. The railroad was built in 1912 to connect Independence to Valsetz, a now-abandoned logging community in the Coast Range just west of Falls City. During railway construction, parts of the Luckiamute River were straightened, disconnected and made impassable to juvenile salmon and trout. Additionally, splash-damming was used to ease the transport of timber downstream — but also scoured the river of its large wood and gravel, reducing the river floor to bare bedrock in many places. As the Luckiamute Watershed Council settles into its new headquarters, we'll continue to work with landowners to reverse some of the unintended consequences of these historical practices associated with the Valley and Siletz.

We also welcome you to stop by anytime to check out this part of our local history, talk about your hopes for the watershed, discuss any project ideas you might have, and share your experiences and knowledge with us. Our office phone number is the same, so feel free to call us at 503-837-0237 before stopping by to make sure we are not out in the field. Our own hope for this move is that our new location will inspire a fresh look at our role in the community, and help us get even better at engaging all of our stakeholders in watershed conservation.

As a **Friend of the LWC**, we would like to invite you to celebrate with us at our Open House party later this summer. Stay tuned for a postcard invitation with the date and details coming to your mailbox soon!