

Behind the Scenes

June 2019



Dear Friend,

Happy summer! With June winding to a close, we are wrapping up our current **Love Your Watershed** programming and preparing for our 2019-2020 series of community events. We are grateful to all of you who donated to our June **Love Your Watershed** fundraising campaign and helped get us all the way to our \$10,000 goal! Thanks to you and all of our Friends of the LWC and Business Circle members, we are looking forward to a full calendar of community education and outreach programs. Keep reading for a look back at our Pollinator Tour and Falls City Sips 'n' Science pub talk, get a preview of our dry farming field day, and find out how we are continuing the fight against Japanese knotweed!

Happy reading!

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

LOVE YOUR WATERSHED: Connecting Communities to their Watershed



We had a *bee-utiful* Planting for Pollinators tour at Illahe Viineyards on June 9. Not only did we hear how Illahe is providing habitat for native bees and other beneficial insects between their rows of grapevines, we learned from OSU PhD student, Aaron Anderson, about the many ways we can protect pollinators at home! Then, on June 21, Dr. Steve Taylor knocked it out of the park during our final Sips 'n' Science event of the season! While enjoying fabulous food and drink at The Bread Board in Falls City, participants were transported back in time to the geologic formation of the Luckiamute watershed, and learned how this history has shaped Little Luckiamute Falls and the surrounding landscape.



As we head into the summer months, we are busy planning a terrific lineup of Love Your Watershed events that includes both old favorites and exciting new events. Along with our seasonal bird walks with Joel Geier, popular Sips 'n' Science pub talks and annual Recreation Fair, we will also be adding a watershed-wide drinking water forum and dry farming tour to the schedule. We are thrilled to be able to offer such a diverse range of programs to our community, and are extremely grateful for all your support that makes this possible. YOU are a large part of the reason we are able to achieve our outreach and education goals!

Monmouth-Independence Rotary Club Grand Parade (*Volunteers needed!*)



July 4 @ 10:00am - 3:00pm
Western Oregon University campus

Join us as part of the Grand Parade "rear detachment" as we collect trash along the parade route and interact with the cheering public as part of this well-loved Fourth of July tradition!

Sign up to be a volunteer at www.LuckiamuteLWC.org/grand-parade-volunteer

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

Watershed Notes

WE MADE IT! Thank you for showing how much you LOVE your watershed!



We did it! Thanks to our *Love Your Watershed* contributors, Friends and Business Circle members, we raised \$10,000 during the past month to support our *Love Your Watershed* community education and outreach program! We are thrilled to be able to continue our diverse community activities through the end of this year and next summer - including our annual recreation fair, guided bird walks, project tours, ethnobotany workshops, and Sips 'n' Science pub talks. We are grateful to all of you helped make this fundraising campaign a success — whether through your financial contributions, volunteer time or donated goods and services. Our Education and Outreach team has been busy putting together a terrific line-up of *Love Your Watershed* events for the coming

months. What do we have scheduled so far? Here is the very first date to put on your calendar!

Dry Farming Presentation & Field Day



Wednesday, September 11 @ 5:00-8:00pm
Gowen Farms, Independence

Did you know that it is possible to grow crops and garden vegetables in the Willamette Valley without any irrigation at all? Join the LWC and Polk and Marion Soil & Water Conservation Districts for a fascinating look at dry farming with Amy Garrett, of the Oregon State University Extension Small Farms Program. Amy will share her research, you will hear testimonials from local farmers, and then we will tour Gowen Farms to get a first-hand view (and taste!) of dry-farmed tomatoes, squash, melons and more! **Stay tuned for details and early-bird registration, coming soon!**

The fight against knotweed continues...

By Dan Farnworth and Suzanne Teller



A ferocious invader of watersheds and backyards, apparently unstoppable, circling the globe, able to crack house foundations and live underground without light for years — knotweed is a formidable opponent in our struggle to control the spread of invasive plants. After almost a decade of targeted knotweed control along the Luckiamute and Little Luckiamute Rivers, the Luckiamute Watershed Council handed over the reins of this ongoing effort to the landowners along these waterways last year. Though grant funding for this project has all been spent, the LWC is in the process of developing and compiling resources to help landowners identify Japanese knotweed — and its hybrid

cousin, Bohemian knotweed — and effectively treat it on their own. Armed with knowledge, proper technique, and dedication, it is possible to control the spread of knotweed and perhaps even eradicate it completely from your property. **But everyone's participation is needed to make a knotweed-free watershed a reality!**

So, how tough *is* it to get rid of this invasive plant? Recently, knotweed made it to national American media when it was featured in an early May issue of Slate, an online news magazine. After a losing battle (or battles, rather) with this aggressive bamboo-like plant, Slate writer Henry Graber researched the history of knotweed and described how it became public enemy #1 in many communities across the world. This very interesting and in-depth article puts the LWC's 9-year fight against knotweed into perspective, and highlights the long, strange history of knotweed's relentless march across England, Europe and the United States. Read Graber's article online at <https://slate.com/technology/2019/05/japanese-knotweed-invasive-plants.html>.

If you have knotweed on your property, need help identifying it, or would like some advice on how to control it, please contact us at (503) 837-0237 or Outreach@LuckiamuteLWC.org. And stay tuned for more information about our knotweed control resources in the next few months!