



Luckiamute Watershed Council

www.LuckiamuteLWC.org

LWC Mission:

To engage 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 volunteer, nongovernmental, advisory group composed of stakeholders living or working in the Luckiamute and Ash Creek watersheds.

Council meetings:

Held the second Thursday of every month at 7 p.m., Visit our website at: www.LuckiamuteLWC.org for location and details. Meetings are open to the public. Please join us!



Events:

Join us for a tour of LSNA and get a firsthand look at the new interpretive panels installed along the trail!

Details on page 4

LWC Community Science Series are coming to a venue near you! These free interactive events are a perfect way to get to know your watershed!

Details on page 3

Landscapes of Luckiamute State Natural Area

By Suzanne Teller



A crew from D. Franco Contracting plants saplings in 2013, as part of the LSNA Restoration Project.



This photo of the same area in April 2014, shows one year of vigorous growth.

The changing of the seasons always seems to bring a sense of excitement. And after this year's extra hot and dry summer, the arrival of fall may be even more celebrated than it normally is! Already we are waking up to a chill in the air, clouds seem to linger in the sky a bit longer, and a few rainstorms have managed to thoroughly soak the soil.

At the Luckiamute Watershed Council, the arrival of Autumn means we can stop

wondering if this year's crop of newly planted trees and shrubs will survive the intense heat and drought of summer. It also means that our crews are out once again treating invasive knotweed along the banks of the Luckiamute River and its tributaries. This year, however, we have something new to celebrate as we head into fall: three brand new interpretive panels at Luckiamute State Natural Area!

As one of the outreach components of our Luckiamute State Natural Area Enhancement Project, the interpretive panels play an important role—both in educating park visitors about features and characteristics of the landscape, and engaging them to stop and interact with the ecosystems that are being restored all around them. Five years into this project, you can really see the difference in the landscape as the planted native vegetation matures and fills out the understory.

The first sign will welcome you as you head into LSNA's North Tract entrance by the prairie habitat. As you look around the trail, the unique high density planting method used to restore the native habitat here is evident. The young trees and shrubs are planted in tight rows, allowing the canopy to close more quickly and prevent invasive weeds from establishing in the understory. The panel encourages visitors to look around and identify native species, such as Oregon grape, red elderberry and Douglas spirea.

Continued on page 2

Landscapes of Luckiamute State Natural Area, continued

The second panel is located just off the main path, along a small side-trail that leads into one of the hallmark attractions of LSNA: the gallery forest. This unique forest type is made up of towering cottonwoods, big leaf maples and Oregon Ash that grow alongside a streambank in an otherwise open landscape. The gallery forests of the Willamette Valley have all but disappeared, and LSNA has one of the largest remaining tracts in the state. You may not always be able to see them, but many species of birds and animals make their home in this rich forest habitat. Listen carefully and look closely—you may see signs of their presence around you!

As you round the bend in the circular path and enter the low-lying wetland area, you will come to the third panel in the series. This panel celebrates the river as it really is – a living, dynamic entity. The Luckiamute River is not just the waterway that flows through the landscape along a defined channel; it also includes all of the low-lying land that sur-

rounds the river channel. Collectively, these areas make up the river’s floodplain. When the Luckiamute River overtops its banks, the floodplain is inundated by several feet of water. This benefits fish by giving them access to a rich source of nutrients and more spawning sites, and it also benefits terrestrial wildlife and plants by leaving behind nutrient-rich soil when the waters recede. In fact, it is this natural cycle of flooding that gives the Willamette Valley the rich, fertile soil that makes this region famous for agricultural production.

As the arrival of Autumn beckons you outdoors to welcome the new sights and sounds of the season, consider adding Luckiamute State Natural Area to your list of places to visit. For details on our upcoming October 28 tour of LSNA, turn to page 4 or go to our webpage at <http://www.LuckiamuteLWC.org/LSNA-fall-tour.html>. We hope to see you there!



These are images of the three interpretive panels that will be installed at Luckiamute State Natural Area in mid-October. Make plans for a fall visit to this beautiful state park to see them in person! See page 4 of this newsletter for details about our October 24th tour of LSNA.

Save the Date!

Join the LWC at Burgerville on Oct. 21!

Come out and support local agriculture, a home-grown Oregon business, and your watershed all at once! On October 21, join us at the **Monmouth Burgerville** from **5:00 to 8:00 p.m.** for some delicious and locally-sourced fare. Burgerville will donate 10% of all sales to support the work of the Luckiamute Watershed Council. Plus you will have an opportunity to participate in a raffle for fun prizes!

Hope to see you there!



Land Management Problems?

Do you own or manage a small farm, woodland, or wildlife acreage in Benton, Polk, or Yamhill county that needs improved land management practices? An OWEB Small Grant might just be what you're looking for.

OWEB small grants award up to \$10,000 for on-the-ground projects that work to improve the productivity and efficiency of grazing systems, animal waste management, erosion control, forest management practices, irrigation, streamside vegetation, rainwater collection, instream fish & wildlife habitat, culvert replacement, plant or animal pest management, noxious weed control and more...

Offered Quarterly beginning:

- 11/01/2015
- 01/31/2016
- 05/01/2016
- 7/31/2016

Small Grant Team
 Contact: Marc Bell
 marc.bell@polkswcd.com
 503-623-9680 x5

Urban living solutions also available: Storm water runoff collection systems, Flood storage, Improved surface drainage & Pest management. On the web at: OWEB small grants.

Sponsored by: The Polk Soil & Water Conservation District, Confederated Tribes of Grande Ronde, Benton SWCD, Yamhill SWCD, Luckiamute Watershed Council, Greater Yamhill WC, and the Glen-Gibson and Rickreall WC's.

New LWC Community Science Series Coming to a Venue Near You!

Starting this month, the Luckiamute Watershed Council is helping to bring some fun and interactive watershed science events to different venues in and around our community. During these events led by local experts, you will explore topics like Willamette restoration, the state of our fisheries, native plant propagation techniques, and recreation opportunities in the watershed. Get details at <http://www.LuckiamuteLWC.org/lwc-science-series.html>

	<p>Fishing the Luckiamute With Karen Hans, ODFW STEP Biologist</p> <p>Sponsored by:</p>    <p>Public House Independence, Oregon</p>	<p>Save the Date!</p> <p>FREE Native Plant Propagation Workshop</p> <p>Sponsored by:</p>   
<p>Date: Wednesday, October 28 Time: 6:30 - 8:00 pm Place: WOU Auditorium ITC 211</p>	<p>Date: Thursday, November 19 Time: 7:00 - 8:30 pm Place: The Three Legged Dog, Independence</p>	<p>Date: January 21, 2016 Time: TBA (evening) Place: TBA</p> <p><i>More details in our Winter newsletter!</i></p>

About the LWC

The Luckiamute Watershed Council is comprised of volunteer watershed residents who care about the health of the watershed. Current members represent interests ranging from farming and forestry to education and water resources.

The Council is recruiting new board members and seeks individuals who work, live, or play in the watershed—you are a watershed stakeholder.

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.

To donate, go to www.LuckiamuteLWC.org/donate or you can send a check to: **226 S. Main St. Suite L, Independence, OR 97351**

Thank you to our supporters!

Upcoming Council Meetings

Join us for Council Monthly Meetings, held the second Thursday of each month at 7 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.

October 8, 2015: Volunteer Hall, Monmouth (this meeting will go into Executive Session)

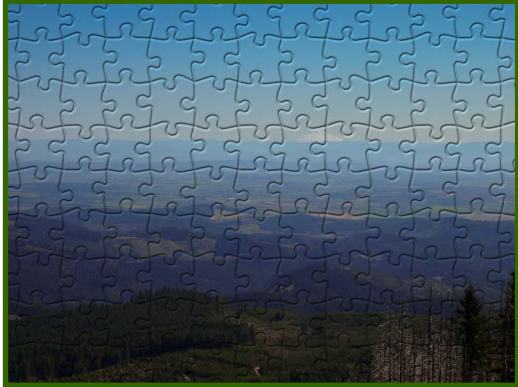
November 12, 2015: Luckiamute State Natural Area Park Office, Albany

December 10, 2015: Volunteer Hall, Monmouth

**Your contribution may be tax-deductible. The Marys River Watershed Council will provide a letter of documentation early next year, following your donation.*

***As our fiscal sponsor, the Marys River Watershed Council maintains the right to redirect funds if the LWC does not comply with our agreement or applicable laws.*

Coordinator's Corner: Pieces of the Puzzle



Mt. Jefferson and the Luckiamute watershed. By Jay Teller

We arrived at this place one parcel at a time, and we'll have to restore it one parcel at a time.

I've heard that sentiment, or something very similar to it, throughout my education and

experience working in the restoration community. I believe it's true. Over time, particularly since the increased settlement and development of the west post-1850's, human actions have intentionally or unintentionally disrupted ecological processes and systems to a point where human intervention is necessary to prevent further degradation or, preferably, set things on a positive trajectory to better functioning ecosystems providing improved habitat, water quality, and other ecosystem services that we continue to appreciate and learn about all the time.

Here are the LWC, we review available data, watershed assessments, and maps and determine appropriate actions to imple-

ment with willing landowners. Looking at the scale of Luckiamute and Ash Creek watersheds, let alone the Willamette or Columbia River basins, it can be intimidating to think of how a few acres here or a few acres there will achieve ecological improvements. When intimidated by that thought, I remember that we got here a few acres at a time, parcel by parcel, action by action, and that's how we'll achieve recovery as well.

The film UPRIVER by Freshwaters Illustrated helps make this point in an inspiring documentary about the Willamette River, the fish and other life that depend on it and the work to restore it. We all are a piece of the grand puzzle, and each piece matters. The sum of our individual actions equals a healthier watershed for current and future generations and all the creatures living their niches from the Cascades, to the Coast Range to the Columbia River. If we focus on the part we have the ability to affect, and tackle the challenge piece by piece, parcel by parcel, it might not seem so daunting.

Join us October 28, at 6:30p.m. at Western Oregon University (see page 3 for details) for a free showing of the 1-hour film UPRIVER and follow-up discussion.

Luckiamute State Natural Area Fall Tour

Saturday, October 24

10:00am – 12:00pm

LWC Outreach Coordinator, Suzanne Teller, and Park Ranger Steve DeGoey will be on hand to answer your questions and talk about the ongoing restoration work that is bringing the native landscapes back to health in this iconic State Park!

[Details at www.LuckiamuteLWC.org/LSNA-fall-tour.html](http://www.LuckiamuteLWC.org/LSNA-fall-tour.html)



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

www.LuckiamuteLWC.org

Luckiamute Watershed Council

226 South Main St., Suite L

Independence, Oregon 97351

Phone: 503-837-0237

Email: info@LuckiamuteLWC.org

Coordinator: Kristen Larson

Outreach: Suzanne Teller

Email: outreach@LuckiamuteLWC.org

Project Manager: Jean-Paul Zagarola

Email: jpzagarola@b-e-f.org