

# Behind the Scenes

May 2023



Dear Friend,

Last week's beautiful weather really started getting us excited about spending more time outdoors in the coming months! I hope you have lots of opportunities to be outside and to enjoy the explosion of colors, sounds, scents and new life that has really kicked into high gear now that we have reached the mid-point of Spring.

Looking at what's on the LWC calendar, I am feeling really inspired by the incredible partnerships we have with other organizations, agencies and community members. I want to give a shout-out to Brandt's Sanitary Service for donating free dumpsters and yard waste pick-up during our Earth Day Ivy Pull Event, and to Town & Country Hardware for their donation of 25 pairs of high quality work gloves. Not only were they much appreciated by our student volunteers that day, they will continue to protect the hands of our hard-working volunteers for many future events as well!

In addition to our Earth Day report, I am very excited to introduce you to the newest staff member of the LWC team - Jonah Nicholas! Once again, thank you so much for your support of watershed health - and happy reading!

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



## Upcoming LWC and Partner Events:

### McMenamins Friends & Family Night

Tuesday, May 16 @ 5 - 10pm, McMenamins Corvallis Pub (420 NW Third St., Corvallis)



It's ba-ack! We are excited to welcome you once again to McMenamins Corvallis pub for a delicious way to support your local watershed councils. Outdoor seating is available if the weather's nice and if so, your pups are invited to join you too! A full 50% of sales during this event will go to both the Marys River and Luckiamute Watershed Councils. Be sure to invite your friends and family, and spread the word to your neighbors! Details at <https://www.luckiamutelwc.org/mcmenamins-friends-and-family-night.html>

### Creekside Social at Pedee Creek Barn

When: Saturday, May 20 @ 1:00 - 4:00 pm, Pedee Creek Barn (see website for directions)



Join us for a Meet & Greet at Pedee Creek Barn! Chat with other local landowners, land stewards and experts about opportunities to work together. Learn about land management resources and funding opportunities available to you. We're here to listen to your concerns about natural resources and to answer any questions. Service providers attending include Polk Soil & Water Conservation District, Natural Resources Conservation Service, OSU Small Farms, the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde and the LWC! Please enjoy complimentary food and beverages while mingling alongside Pedee Creek.

RSVP at <https://www.polkswcd.com/creekside-social.html>

### OSU Get Outdoors Day

Saturday, June 3 @ 10am - 3pm, Peavy Arboretum (Corvallis)



On Get Outdoors Day, the forest brims with bilingual activities, families, and community groups – all coming together with the goal of getting people outside, enjoying community, and hopefully trying something new along the way (like catching a fish in Cronemiller Pond for the first time)! Find out more at <https://cf.forestry.oregonstate.edu/outreach-education/go-day>

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

# Watershed Notes

## A BIG Welcome to the LWC's New Monitoring Coordinator!



Jonah just started as our Monitoring Coordinator on April 12, and we are really excited to have him join the LWC Team! Jonah is originally from the Mid-Willamette Valley and grew up in the forests of the Oregon Coast Range and Cascades. He loves exploring the local environment through hiking, backpacking, running, and canoeing. Jonah followed his love of the outdoors and studied at Oregon State University where he received a bachelor's degree in Forest Engineering and after learning to love the local water systems of Oregon, he received a master's degree in Sustainable Forest Management with a focus on forest watershed hydrology. Jonah has previously worked to research the effects of timber harvests and riparian management on streamflow in headwater streams. He has also spent time working in forest road engineering, forest surveying, and recreation management. If you would like to reach out to Jonah, feel free to send him an email at [Monitoring@LuckiamuteLWC.org](mailto:Monitoring@LuckiamuteLWC.org).

## Earth Day Oak Stewardship Project Results



WOU Alternative Spring Break Coordinator, Kailee Badua, helped get a group of 8 students out to remove invasive ivy from an oak grove along South Fork Ash Creek. Thank you, Kailee!

This year, the LWC celebrated Earth Day on April 22, by organizing volunteers to remove invasive English ivy from a small grove of beautiful oak trees growing along South Fork Ash Creek. As in so many of our projects, this effort was accomplished with the help and support of multiple partners, including the City of Independence, Brandt's Sanitary Service, Town & Country Hardware and Western Oregon University's Alternative Spring Break program.

The event took place in the new Brandy Meadows development in Independence. South Fork Ash Creek flows along the northern edge of this housing area, and is separated from the development by a buffer of streamside habitat that includes a grove of Oregon white oak trees — some of them look to be several hundred years old! This waterway joins up with the mainstem Ash Creek at Pioneer Park (7th St. and C St.), which flows directly into the Willamette River at Riverview Park. Ash Creek provides important habitat for both aquatic and terrestrial plants and wildlife, and it contributes important benefits for local human residents as well — including stormwater drainage and recreation opportunities.

Why were we removing English ivy? Brought to this country in the 1700's by European settlers as an ornamental ground cover, English ivy grows rapidly in the mild climate of the Pacific Northwest and can quickly overtake an area once it is introduced. Once established, it forms a dense carpet of ever-green foliage that excludes native vegetation; smothers small shrubs and trees; and can cause larger trees to fall due to the added weight of its leafy climbing vines.

This Earth Day volunteer event follows another ivy removal effort that happened this past September, in which First Nature Tours participants helped us free some of the largest oaks from invasive ivy. We are so grateful to both of these volunteer groups, and to all of our partners, for helping to restore and protect the health of these oaks and the surrounding streamside habitat of South Fork Ash Creek!



A BIG thank you goes to everyone who contributed to and participated in this Earth Day event!



You can see the dead ivy on the oaks in the middle of this photo. This was the result of a fall volunteer event with volunteers from First Nature Tours. The Earth Day volunteer effort builds on this work, and has expanded the number of oaks which have now been freed from ivy. We will continue to monitor the progress of this important streamside oak habitat, and share updates in the future. This is truly a group effort, and exemplifies community-based conservation in action!