

# Behind the Scenes

November 2019



Dear Friend,

As we step into the final month of the year, I'd like to take the time to **thank you** for your support this year. Whether you have donated your dollars or your time, you exemplify the concept of community-based conservation. Your contributions do more than support our restoration projects and our outreach efforts, they also help offset the costs of the critical "behind the scenes" work that is needed to put these programs in place. We are proud to be able to put your contributions to work in our local community, and share with you all of the progress we are making towards a **healthy watershed for all!**

You may have already received a letter from us in the mail asking for your continued support through 2020. If you have not yet done so, please consider renewing your membership as a **Friend of the LWC** by donating an annual minimum of \$25, or a volunteer commitment of at least 5 hours a year. Our updated donation page at <https://www.luckiamutelwc.org/donate.html> makes it even easier to set up a recurring monthly donation, make a one-time contribution, or give a gift in honor of a loved one.

Thank you so much, and have a wonderful holiday season!

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


## **Love Your Watershed: Sips 'n' Science is back!**

On November 13, Sue Reams from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) gave a tree-mendous presentation about oak habitat restoration opportunities at Brew Coffee & Taphouse. A group of about 40 Friends of the LWC and members of the community enjoyed Brew's excellent selection of "sips" while listening to the science involved in restoring oak woodland habitat in Polk county. I am also happy to announce that, thanks to generous contributions from attendees and Brew's dollar-per-pint donation, we raised \$113 for the LWC that night!




If you missed this presentation, don't worry - we have two more exciting Sips 'n' Science presentations on the calendar for early 2020! See below for details, and keep an eye out for registration details coming soon to your inbox!

### **Sips 'n' Science: Worm Bin Composting**

 January 22 @ 6:30 - 8:00 pm  
Pressed (788 Main St., Dallas)

Learn the science behind vermicomposting and get the resources you need to start your own worm bin compost! **Details and RSVP info at [www.LuckiamuteLWC.org/vermicomposting](http://www.LuckiamuteLWC.org/vermicomposting)**

### **Sips 'n' Science: Life Cycle of the Steelhead Trout**

 February 2020 @ 6:30 - 8:00 pm (date coming soon!)  
Valkyrie Wine Tavern (301 S. Main St., Independence)

Come enjoy a tale of one of our watershed's most iconic native fish, while enjoying some of Valkyrie's outstanding wines and special menu selections! Stay tuned for more information and registration details coming soon to your inbox!

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

# Watershed Notes

## ***A season to give thanks... and to honor those who were here first***

Thanksgiving is a time when we celebrate the bounty of harvest-time, family togetherness, gratitude and the spirit of generosity. Some may think of the story of the Pilgrims and Native Americans sitting down to a shared feast — a pleasant, innocuous image that seems to convey the spirit of the season and all of the qualities we celebrate at this time of year. Yet it seems more appropriate at this time to acknowledge the history of the Luckiamute Kalapuya who inhabited the lands of our watershed for 9,000 years before Europeans first settled here.

The Luckiamute (Lakmiut) band of Kalapuya (Calapooia) Indians lived along the Luckiamute River and its tributaries from Rickreall south to Corvallis. Like other Kalapuyan bands, the Luckiamute subsisted on foods harvested directly from nature, including roots from the camas lily, nuts, seeds, berries, fish and wild game. Skilled at weaving and carving, the Luckiamute used a wide array of plant materials and animal skins for making baskets, clothing, reed mats, jewelry, musical instruments and ceremonial carvings. Far from a passive subsistence economy, the Luckiamute intensively managed the landscape in order to maintain the foods and materials they relied upon. One of the tools they used in landscape management is fire. In order to clear unwanted vegetation and encourage the growth of the plants they needed for food, medicine and handicraft, fires were deliberately set every year. Not only did this burning keep the overgrowth in check, it also controlled pest populations, encouraged new growth that attracted deer and elk down from the hills, promoted bumper crops of acorns, and prevented destructive fires by removing excess plant debris.



Prior to contact with European explorers and traders, the Kalapuyan population is believed to have numbered as many as 15,000 people. However, along with the arrival of Europeans in the late 1700's, came an onslaught of devastating diseases. Over the next 60 years, catastrophic outbreaks of smallpox and malaria wiped out over 95% of the native population in the Willamette Valley, leaving only 600 survivors by 1849. In 1851, a Luckiamute representative signed a treaty with the federal government that proposed a Luckiamute Reservation on a small tract of land within their traditional homeland near the present-day towns of Pedee and Monmouth. But this treaty, like those negotiated with the other Kalapuyan tribes at this time, was never ratified. In fact, the proposed land had already been granted to European settlers the year before without ever having been rightfully ceded.

On January 4, 1855, the Kalapuya along with representatives from the Molala and Clackamas Chinook met in council at Dayton and negotiated a treaty with Joel Palmer, Oregon superintendant of Indian Affairs, who promised medical care, schooling, vocational training and other resources. As a condition of the treaty, the tribes were moved to the Grand Ronde reservation. Life on the reservation, however, was far different from what had been promised by Palmer. Inadequate shelter, insufficient food and lack of medical care resulted in hundreds of additional deaths within the first year. At the time of the move, in 1870, there were 36 members of the Luckiamute. By 1910, that number had dwindled to 8. Uprooted from their traditional lands and lifestyle, confederated with other tribes, and decimated by disease, the Luckiamute had lost their unique tribal identity. Then, on 1954, the federal government enacted the Western Oregon Indian Termination Act and terminated its trust relationship with the Grand Ronde, including all of the bands and tribes of the Kalapuya descendants along with all other Western Oregon tribes.

Due in large part to the ratified treaties with the Willamette Valley tribes, including the Kalapuya Treaty of 1855, The Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde (CTGR) succeeded in their bid to restore their treaty rights and revive their community in the 1980's. Following their restoration in 1983, treaty obligations were again recognized, allowing for much-needed health and human services benefits for tribal members and for the renewal of government-to-government negotiations on a variety of issues. Today, there are an estimated 4,000 Kalapuya descendants, most of whom are enrolled with CTGR, as well as some who are enrolled the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians (restored in 1977).

*Information for this article was obtained from:*

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