

# Behind the Scenes

September 2023



Dear Friend,

Although it is not yet September 22, you may be feeling like we've already entered into the fall season. Well, according to the meteorological calendar, fall has already started! The "official" first day of fall that we are accustomed to coincides with the astronomical calendar, which equates the start of autumn with the autumnal equinox - when night and day are almost exactly equal in length. The meteorological calendar, on the other hand, divides the year into four three-month seasons based on annual temperature cycles. In the U.S., the start of meteorological fall is September 1, which is a solid three weeks before the start of astronomical fall on September 22!

But no matter which calendar you refer to, the arrival of cooler, wetter weather right at the start of this month is heralding the transition to a new season. In addition, many migratory birds have already begun their annual exodus to warmer climates, while others are busy harvesting seeds and fruits to put on an extra fat layer. Trees and shrubs are starting to pump water out of their cells and into their roots, leaving the remaining sap to act as a sort of "antifreeze." Broadleaf trees are slowing down their production of chlorophyll, which causes their leaves to reveal beautiful shades of red, orange and yellow before they finally drop off to contribute valuable nutrients to the surrounding soil.

This is the perfect time to recognize and honor these seasonal activities by developing some autumn rituals of our own. Putting out suet feeders gives migratory birds an extra boost of nutrition as they prepare for their long journeys south, and helps our year-round birds store up fat reserves for winter. Another helpful action you can take is to let fallen leaves decompose on the ground around your trees and shrubs. If you can't leave them where they are, rake them up and spread them elsewhere on your yard to boost soil nutrient levels and provide overwintering habitat for beneficial insects. Happy reading, and may you and all of your loved ones (both human and non-human) have a lovely fall season!

--Suzanne Teller (Outreach@LuckiamuteLWC.org or 503-837-0237)



## Adopt-A-Road Clean-Up Effort Needs Volunteers!



**When: October 7 @ 9:00 - 11:00am**

**Where: LSNA Paddler's Access Parking Lot**

The LWC is looking for volunteers for our bi-annual clean-up of a 1-mile stretch of Buena Vista Road alongside the entrance to Luckiamute State Natural Area's North entrance. Join our awesome crew of dedicated volunteers and help us keep trash off the road and out of our streams! Learn more and sign up here: <https://www.luckiamutelwc.org/adopt-a-road.html>

## Save the Date: Maxfield Creek "Headwaters to Confluence" Restoration Project Tour



**When: October 14 @ 1:00 - 5:00pm**

Check your inbox this week for an invitation to RSVP for a fall project tour with Restoration Project Manager Ross Hiatt. We'll be taking participants on a behind-the-scenes tour of old and new project sites along upper and lower Maxfield Creek that represent almost two decades of restoration work along this picturesque tributary to the Luckiamute River. Along the way, you'll see first-hand how project partners are working together to restore the stream channel to provide high-quality salmon, trout and lamprey habitat.

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

# Watershed Notes

## LWC Honored at Polk SWCD Conservation Celebration



On August 31, Polk Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) held their Conservation Celebration at Salt Creek Cider House in Dallas to bring together the many people who are committed to enhancing soil, water and wildlife habitat in Polk County. Several individuals and organizations were recognized for their outstanding service that evening, including the Glenn-Gibson Watershed Council for Urban Conservation Stewardship and Lua Siegel of Luckiamute Valley Charter School, who was presented with the Environmental Educator Award. The LWC was also honored with the Watershed Stewardship Award! We are so grateful to be working with Polk SWCD, and all of our amazing partners, donors and volunteers within the watershed community. This award is yours too!

## Upcoming Partner Events & Volunteer Opportunities

### Benton Soil & Water Conservation District Seeks Salmon Watch Volunteers!



**When: September 16 @ 10:00am - 12:30pm**

**Where: Clemens County Park, Alsea**

Join Benton SWCD in beautiful Clemens Park to learn about Salmon Watch, an award-winning environmental education program for Benton County 5th-8th graders. During this volunteer training event, you'll explore student learning stations, learn about program logistics, and discover the forests and creeks along the stunning Alsea River. You may even glimpse an early spawning salmon or two! For more information about Salmon Watch, check out <https://www.bentonswcd.org/volunteer-for-salmon-watch>

### Marys River Watershed Council Tap Talk: Invasion of the Emerald Ash Borer



**When: September 21 @ 5:30 - 7:30pm**

**Where: Common Fields, Corvallis**

Join the Marys River Watershed Council for their next ecology pub talk at Common Fields in Corvallis! Jennifer Killian, City of Corvallis Urban Forester, will be discussing how to prepare for the inevitable invasion of the highly destructive Emerald Ash Borer. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/invasion-of-the-emerald-ash-borer-tickets-707583099097>

### Soil & Water Conservation District Native Plant Sales In and Near the Watershed



With the return of the rains comes the excitement of getting a planting plan in place for your native garden or landscaping project! Luckily, there are several Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) native plant sales coming up that can help you get started. For planting tips and resources, and to view a "Planning and Planting Your Native Garden" virtual workshop, visit <https://www.luckiamutelwc.org/native-plant-resources.html> Happy planting!

### Benton SWCD Native Bulb and Seed Sale

**When: September 23 & 24**

**Where: Corvallis Fall Festival (Central Park, 650 NW Monroe Ave., Corvallis)**

Make sure to stop by the Benton SWCD Native Bulb and Seed Sale to browse a selection of plants adapted to the unique soils and weather of the Willamette Valley! Learn more at <https://www.bentonswcd.org/annual-fall-native-bulb-and-seed-sale>

### Polk SWCD Fall Native Plant Sale

**Online pre-ordering open now!**

**When: October 13 & 14**

**Where: Delbert Hunter Arboretum (631 SW Park St., Dallas)**

Your plant purchases will not only help support native habitat in your own yard, the proceeds will go toward oak woodland and prairie restoration at Polk SWCD properties! This year, there are a wide variety of wildflower bulbs, plants in pots, and bare-root options available, as well as a custom pollinator seed packet. Learn more and pre-order before they sell out at <https://www.polkswcd.com/plant-sale.html>

### Marion SWCD Autumn Native Plant Sale

**Online pre-ordering open now!**

**When: October 21**

**Where: Salem Public Library (585 Liberty St., Salem)**

Order your native wildflower bulbs now, and plan to pick up on October 21, between 12 and 5pm. On the same day as you pick up your order, the Pollinator Symposium will be happening - so if you'd like to get some in-depth knowledge of how to protect and enhance pollinator habitat make sure to RSVP for this FREE event as well! Get the details at <https://www.marionswcd.net/shop/>