

Winter
2023

LWC Meanderings

Watershed News & Reflections



LWC MISSION:

To engage and assist 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 501(c)3 non-profit comprised of stakeholders who live, work or recreate within the Luckiamute and Ash Creek watersheds.

WHO WE ARE:

Karin Stutzman, *President*
Monmouth

George Grosch, *Treasurer/Secretary*
Kings Valley/Hoskins

Britton Castor
Pedee

Dave Ehlers
Kings Valley/Hoskins

Nick Hazelton
Kings Valley/Hoskins

Jackson Stalley
Dallas

Jay Tappen
Kings Valley/Hoskins

Scott Youngblood
American Bottom/Buena Vista

COUNCIL MEETINGS:

Typically held the second Thursday of every month from 6 — 8 pm.

Details and links will be posted at:
www.LuckiamuteLWC.org

The Luckiamute and Ash Creek watersheds are part of the ancestral lands of the Kalapuya Indians, who are represented today by the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde and the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians.

Well I'll be Dammed: Beavers Bring Benefits to the Basin!

By Suzanne Teller, Outreach Coordinator



Beaver dams create wetland habitat rich in biodiversity. Photo credit: Emily Fairfax

The year 2023 starts a new biannual theme for our *Love Your Watershed* education and outreach program — Beavers in the Basin! Why are we choosing to highlight this buck-toothed rodent for the next two years? The answer may surprise you!

The North American Beaver (*Castor canadensis*) is one of the few species that deliberately and profoundly alters its environment for its own benefit. Beavers often construct dams in order to slow the flow of water and create an open water habitat. These pools provide a safe place for beavers to build their home lodges and access their favorite food – the inner bark layer of certain species of trees, including willow, alder and cottonwood.

The ponds and wetlands that are created behind beaver dams do more than provide beaver with a safe place to live, they provide a vast array of benefits to the surrounding landscape and their resident plant and wildlife communities. Some of these benefits we've known for a long time, while others are only just beginning to be fully documented. Below are just a few of the many benefits of beavers and their dams:

- 1) Beaver ponds create new high-quality habitat for fish and other aquatic life, as well as countless species of birds, reptiles, amphibians, mammals, insects and plantlife which depend upon a reliable source of water.
- 2) The slower-moving waters behind a beaver dam allows sediment to build up at the bottom of the pond, improving water quality. When the beavers eventually move on and the dam breaks down, the water recedes, leaving a lot of nutrient-rich soil behind.
- 3) Beavers build canals into the neighboring woodlands that radiate out from their home pond. Along with their ponds, these canals allow water and nutrients to flow over the landscape, which creates off-channel habitat for fish and increases water storage, recharging aquifers and raising water tables.
- 4) Beaver dams and their ponds can filter toxins and pollutants from the water.
- 5) Beaver ponds and wetlands provide refuge for wildlife during wildfire, and help increase the resilience of the surrounding land to wildfire damage.

During the next two years, the LWC is looking forward to highlighting the history of beaver in the watershed; dispelling some myths; sharing details about the many positive effects that this industrious rodent can have on the health of our rivers and lands; and offering strategies to help reduce beaver-related impacts and increase coexistence opportunities. In the meantime, you can learn about how beavers create ponds and wildlife-rich wetlands by visiting the High Desert Museum's interactive beaver stream website at <https://highdesertmuseum.org/beaver-interactive/>.

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

Welcome to our newest staff member!



Ross joined the LWC as Restoration Projects Manager on December 8, 2022 and while new to the work in the Luckiamute, he is an Oregon native and has lived most of his life here. Ross was raised in a family of loggers and grew up hunting and fishing and enjoying the outdoors as often as possible. When Ross became aware of fluvial geomorphology as a field of study in college it was a watershed moment for him, and it became the primary focus of his time at the University of Oregon and for his MS from the University of Idaho. Ross has worked on water rights issues in eastern Washington, water quality in the Redwood forests of Northern California, and was on the state-wide wildfire cleanup project from beginning to end. Ross enjoys playing basketball, backpacking, and multiple sci-fi mediums while he navigates the treasures and treacheries of parenting a high schooler. You can contact Ross to welcome him to the LWC team at restoration@luckiamutelwc.org.

Jean-Paul's Winter Planting Tips

by Jean-Paul Zagarola, Bonneville Environmental Foundation Senior Project Manager



Now that winter is here, we are at the best time of year to plant native trees and shrubs. For those of you ready to put some plants in the ground, here are a few quick planting tips to get your new trees and shrubs off to a great start. George Kral, botanist and owner of Scholls Valley Nursery, recommends planting roots deep on most plants, particularly shrubs and plants that grow from cuttings, an inch or more above the collar. This will help spur additional root growth and better prepare plants for the drought season.

In general, we tend to avoid planting conifers this way, but he recommends doing this with cedars especially as they will tend to grow extra roots. OSU Extension also gives the okay on planting above the nursery soil line as long as you're not planting any twigs or needles (see link posted below). Finally, make sure the hole where they are planted is sufficiently large to avoid j-rooting, a common problem with conifers. Dig the hole a few inches below where the roots will end up to provide a buffer of soft soil where healthy roots can grow. Happy Planting! *Plant Conifer Trees Correctly* (OSU Extension): <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/news/plant-conifer-trees-correctly>

Soil and Water Conservation District Native Plant Sales Happening Now!

Your local Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) are a great source for native plants all year round, but winter happens to be the *best season* for native plantings! Learn more about local District plant sales by clicking on the links in the chart below.

Key Dates	Benton SWCD www.bentonswcd.org	Marion SWCD www.marionswcd.net	Polk SWCD www.polkswcd.com	Yamhill SWCD www.yamhillswcd.org
Pre-order Deadline	<i>Last day to order is February 1!</i>	Online ordering open January 1 through February 5!	<i>Order now for the best selection!</i>	Ordering starts on January 3!
Order Pick-up Day	February 25 <i>order pick-up only</i> Benton County Fairgrounds 110 SW 53 rd St., Corvallis	March 3: 9am—3pm March 4: 9am—2pm Bauman's Farm, Gervais	Feb. 3: 9am—4pm Feb 4: 9am—12:30pm 560 Oak Grove Rd. Salem	March 3: 9am—6pm March 4: 9am—2pm Yamhill Valley Heritage Center
In-Person Native Plant Sale (Overstock Sale)	N/A Order online or call (541) 753-7208 x204	March 3: 9am—3pm March 4: 9am—2pm Bauman's Farm, Gervais	Feb. 3: 9am—4pm Feb 4: 9am—12:30pm 560 Oak Grove Rd. Salem	March 3: 9am—6pm March 4: 9am—2pm Yamhill Valley Heritage Center
For More Information	Teresa Matteson (541) 753-7208 x204	Heath Keirstead (503) 949 - 4709	Morgan Neil (503) 623-9680	YSWCD Main Office (503) 472-6403
Link to Native Plant Sale Information	bentonswcd.org/shop	marionswcd.net/shop/	polkswcd.com/plant-sale.html	yamhillswcd.org/nps



Love Your Watershed

Upcoming Sips 'n' Science Pub Talk

Pleistocene Paleoecology of the Mid-Willamette: A Ghost Story

Wednesday, January 25 @ 7:00 - 8:30pm

You won't want to miss this fun and interactive in-person Sips 'n' Science at [West Valley Taphouse](#) in Dallas! LWC Project Manager Aubrey Cloud will transport us back in time to discover the lost world beneath our own feet. Join us for a tour of a land both familiar and surprisingly wild. Hear about exciting fossil discoveries in our watershed and its neighbors. Learn about local Pleistocene paleoecology; the mammoth-sized hole it has left in our modern world, and the lessons it holds for our future. You are invited to reimagine how you think of the land; to engage with it on its own time scale instead of our own.

Space is limited! RSVP at <https://www.luckiamutelwc.org/paleoecology.html>

Partner Events in the Watershed

what does a positive, sustainable future look like?

IMAGINE OUR FUTURE

a community art & writing project for all ages



learn more at <http://bit.ly/imagine-our-future>

Call for Entries - Artists and Writers!

Submissions: January 1 - February 15

Online Gallery: April 22 Earth Day

Join the FRIENDS OF THE LWC!

What does it mean to be a **FRIEND OF THE LWC?**

- Monthly "Behind the Scenes" Bulletins
- Early access to event registration
- Discounts on workshops and our online store
- *Knowing that you are helping improve the health of your watershed!*

Ready to Join?

Find out how at

www.LuckiamuteLWC.org/Friends!

We 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.

*Your contribution may be tax-deductible. The LWC will provide a letter of documentation early the following year.

LIFEWAYS OF THE KALAPUYA PEOPLE

In this family-friendly workshop presented and designed by local tribal member Stephanie Craig, participants will learn how to work with tule and make a traditional duck decoy.

Come and learn about the traditional lifeways of the Kalapuya People, including Traditional Ecological Knowledge, plants, family belongings, and more!

JAN. 21, 2023 | 2PM | HERITAGE MUSEUM



\$10 per participant

Registration required.

www.orheritage.org



On January 21, the Independence Heritage Museum has a fantastic hands-on opportunity for you to learn about the traditional lifeways of the Kalapuya people, including traditional ecological knowledge, plants, family belongings, and more!

RSVP at www.orheritage.org/events-1/lifeways-of-the-kalapuya-people

Upcoming Council Meetings

Join us for our LWC Monthly Meetings, typically held the second Thursday of each month. Our meetings are always open to the public and discussion topics include local watershed issues and actions. Details, driving directions, and/or Zoom links are posted at www.LuckiamuteLWC.org.

January 12 @ 6:00 - 8:00pm (via Zoom)

February 9 @ 6:00 - 8:00pm (via Zoom)

March 9 @ 6:00 - 8:00pm (TBD)

To donate to the LWC, go to www.LuckiamuteLWC.org/donate or you can send a check to:

165 D Street, Independence, OR 97351

Thank you to our supporters!

THANK YOU TO OUR MOST RECENT DONORS AND VOLUNTEERS!

We are so grateful to the following donors and volunteers who have contributed their hard-earned dollars and their time and energy to our conservation goals from October 1 to December 31, 2022. Your support of the Luckiamute Watershed Council makes a BIG difference, and helps us achieve our goal of a *healthy watershed for all*. **THANK YOU!**

Special Recognition to the LWC's Bedrock Society

A special note of thanks goes to our donors who are opting to make automatic monthly contributions to the Luckiamute Watershed Council! Like the bedrock that underlies every stream of our watershed, recurring donations provides a foundational layer of support for our organization with a steady stream of income that we can count on every month to advance our mission. Find out how you can set up a recurring monthly donation and become a part of our Bedrock Society at <https://www.luckiamutelwc.org/donate.html>

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THANK YOU, Amazon Smile and Fred Meyer Community Rewards participants!
Your purchases earned us **\$40.57** for the third quarter of 2022!

You can participate in the Amazon Smile program by shopping at <https://smile.amazon.com> (same log-in as regular Amazon account) and choosing the **Luckiamute Watershed Council** as your designated charity!

For Fred Meyer, sign into your account at www.FredMeyer.com, and link your Community Rewards card using our nonprofit number: **Q1717**

October 1 - December 31 Donors

October 1 - December 31 Volunteers

<i>Anonymous Donor</i> <i>In Memory of John Potter</i>	Ben Gorman	Ben & Suzanne Paroulek	Brian Bangs	Renee Jaffer
<i>Anonymous Donors (7)</i>	David Hibbs & Sarah Karr	Tom Robertson & Julie Biddle	Judy Beebe	Phil Larsen
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Luckiamute Watershed Council Staff



Executive Director: Kristen Larson
Operations Coordinator: Maya Cook
Outreach Coordinator: Suzanne Teller
Monitoring Coordinator: Amanda Brackett
Project Manager: Aubrey Cloud
Restoration Projects Manager: Ross Hiatt

THANK YOU, BUSINESS CIRCLE DONORS!



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