



The Long Tom Watershed Council

June 2003
Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, June 24, 2003 5:30 p.m. — 7:30 p.m.

Amazon Sub-watershed, Amazon Creek @ Oak Patch Rd., Eugene

**WE ARE MEETING EARLY THIS MONTH AS IT IS AN OUTDOOR TOUR!
We'll bring drinks!**

Outdoor Tour and Discussion

Two Hour Outdoor Walking Tour
Rain or shine!

Amazon Creek Restoration Project at Oak Patch Road

Terry Colvin, City of Eugene Project Manager
Cindy Thieman, Council Projects and Monitoring Coordinator

Metro Waterways Study Update

Therese Walch, City of Eugene

*Meet at Amazon Creek where it passes Oak Patch Road just south
of West 11th at 5:30 pm.*

Fire in the Valley!

Fire promotes growth of Hazelnut, berries, and bulbs like Camas and wild onion. These were important staples in the Kalapuya diet. See this month's Watershed News Column for safeguarding your home against fire. Look in next month's to learn about how humans have used fire as a tool in the watershed.

Come to our next meeting!

Tues, July 29th

Outdoor tour and discussion.

Meeting early again!

5:30 - 7:30

Fern Ridge Dam Repair and Associated Potential for Water Quality and Habitat Improvements

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Questions, info, comments?

Dana Erickson, Coordinator
683-6578, longtom@efn.org
www.longtom.org



Amazon Creek Planting Day, 2002

Volunteers with the Council and Eugene Stream Team planted the Amazon Creek Restoration site in February 2002. Today the plantings are successful and the site is quickly becoming vegetated.

FREE PASS TO THE LANE COUNTY FAIR

We are now looking for volunteers to tend the Watershed Councils' booth at the Lane County Fair.

Free day pass to the fair for volunteering.

See "Announcements & Opportunities" for details.

Rather have this newsletter e-mailed?

Let Dana know: longtom@efn.org

Council Meeting Background

Amazon Creek Restoration Project

By Cindy Thieman

Amazon Creek flows from its headwaters in southeastern Eugene through the City and eventually into Fern Ridge Reservoir and the Long Tom River. Historically, this creek looked and functioned very differently than it does today. Early settlers in the area described it as a vast marsh in the winter. Inevitably, the City grew up around the creek, and city dwellers became intolerant of the frequent flooding. In the 1950s the Corps of Engineers assisted the City in dredging and channelizing the creek. The result is the deeply incised channel we see today, which functions to prevent most floods. However, the conditions and habitat it once provided for plants, fish and wildlife have been greatly diminished.

In fall of 2001 City contractor's excavated and re-contoured the channel and south bank of Amazon Creek between Oak Patch Rd. and Acorn Park St. What was once a single, steep-banked channel is now several channels planted with wetland grasses and rushes. The south bank slopes gently up to the bike path now and is planted in native shrubs, like Pacific nine-bark and Douglas spiraea, Oregon ash, white oak and Ponderosa pine. The City's goals for this project are to diversify the stream channel and riparian vegetation without compromising flood storage or conveyance capacity. The project may also help improve water quality. The Council's contribution to this project was acquiring funding for most of the plantings and working with the Eugene Stream Team to plant hundreds of trees and shrubs in February 2002. In addition, we are monitoring aquatic insects in the creek to document potential improvements in the insect community.

PROJECTS & MONITORING UPDATE

Cindy Thieman, Projects & Monitoring Coordinator

As summer comes into full bloom the Council project managers and volunteers are staying busy monitoring water quality. In addition to our regular monthly monitoring, during the summer we place temperature probes at over 30 locations across the watershed. The probes record water temperature every hour. These data provide important information on conditions for native fish during the summer and enable the Council to plan tree planting and facilitate other activities in sub-watersheds where temperatures are too high.

On the project front, we are wrapping up the four restoration and enhancement projects and one technical assistance project we received funding for between July 2001 and July 2003. These include Historic Coyote Creek Stream and Riparian Enhancement, Amazon Creek Restoration, Poodle Creek Fencing and Riparian Enhancement, and Peters Riparian and Wetland Enhancement. Be sure to catch this month's Council meeting to tour the Amazon Restoration project. Our technical assistance grant was for the Long Tom Fish Passage and Culvert Assessment. This project, in partnership with the Corps of Engineers, studied fish passage at two sets of culverts at Cox Butte Rd. and the Long Tom River. I'll describe this project in more detail next month.

If you are interested in volunteering with the Council this summer please contact Cindy at 683-2983. We are looking for some folks to help monitor stream flow, do monthly water quality monitoring at Ferguson Creek, and possibly help sample fish in Fern Ridge Reservoir and tributaries.

Watershed News Column

Each month, volunteer editor Jim Ekins arranges a column for the West Lane and Tri County News on behalf of the Long Tom Watershed Council. Submissions of topics are always welcome, as well as an offer to write a column, or a name of someone you think could. Authors get their name in the byline of the article!

Contact ekinsja@yahoo.com

Rural Home and Business Fire Awareness

By Jim Ekins and Duane Zentner

Another fire season is upon us and preventing fires really takes a conscious effort. Making that effort is cheap insurance and will benefit you and the environment immensely. If you are a small landowner within a forested setting (even near a town), thinking ahead about wildfire will help you protect your home and property, and that of your neighbors. In coming months, we will discuss historical use and ecological effects of fire.

Within the Long Tom Watershed, about 46% of the total acreage is zoned for forestry and almost 10% is rural residential. Even the 8% considered urban contains many forested home sites. With this in mind, and that 88% of the Long Tom basin is privately owned, residential and business owners play a significant role in fire protection.

Home landscaping can influence the number of wildfire events and the behavior of fires. Owners often prefer homes that are private, have scenic views, are nestled in vegetation, and use natural construction materials (cedar shake roofing, for example). Natural vegetation contributes to scenic beauty but it may also provide a ready trail of fuel leading a fire directly to the combustible fuels of the home itself. Private landowners can help reduce this risk through the creation of defensible space around their homes and businesses, and by using fire-resistant materials

building those structures.

Just a few actions recommended include removing branches that extend over the eaves and roof. Create a brush-free strip around your house to help slow or stop an encroaching wildfire. Make your address clearly visible for emergency fire responders. There are over two dozen homeowner action items listed through the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF), and most are just common sense. The main thing to remember is to create an open space around your home. Wouldn't it be nice to take a vacation this summer and not have to worry about such things?

There are several places in our community to get very good information about how to make your rural home fire-defensible. Your local fire station (Lane Rural Fire/Rescue: 688-1770) and ODF (Veneta: 935-2283) are very good places to start. Two excellent additional sources of information are on-line at <http://www.odf.state.or.us/> and www.firewise.org.

Thanks Jim and Duane!

Thank you to Lauri Mullen!

For a year Lauri shepherded our columns and organized our volunteer news column system to pass it on to the new editor Jim Ekins.

Welcome aboard Jim!

Announcements & Opportunities

Calendar of Events

Tuesday June 24

Long Tom Watershed Council Meeting

5:30 pm-7:30 pm

Amazon Creek @ Oak Patch Rd.

521-5378, Michele

Saturday June 28

Native Plant Tour of Big Island

345-2799, Mike

see announcement on next page for details

Thursday July 10

Steering Committee Meeting

6:30 pm - 9:00 pm at Council Office

683-6578, Dana

Saturday July 12

ForestCare Tour, 10am-2pm

345-2799, Mike

see announcement on next page for details

Unique Volunteer Opportunity

SAVE THE SALMON

TEACH THE NEXT GENERATION

Help teach Eugene-area youth about salmon and watersheds with Oregon Trout's Salmon Watch™ program, an award-winning education program that centers on streamside field trips to view spawning Chinook salmon. In 2002, more than 3,900 students in 129 Oregon classrooms participated in the Salmon Watch program.

Adult volunteers will attend a free training workshop in August or September to learn more about water quality, aquatic insects, riparian zones, and working with kids. Then, in the fall, they'll become "o-fish-ial" volunteer instructors, giving them the chance to share their knowledge with middle and high school students on a **weekday** field trip. Field trips usually begin around 9 AM and conclude between 1 and 2 PM. Travel time to field trip sites averages 1¼ hours.

Eugene Training: Alton Baker Park

Date: August 16th

Time: 8:15 - 12:15 PM

Field Season will be Mid-September through Mid-November. Trained volunteers are expected to sign up for at least one field trip.

Contact Tom Tattam 541-753-4280 or tom.

tattam@ortrout.org or visit www.oregontrout.org

Lane County Fair Booth!

Summer is here and it is fair time! **The Lane County Fair is in August 12-17.** The five local watershed councils will host a booth together. Please come help mind the booth and tell people about the watershed, and your experiences with the Long Tom Watershed Council. We have a map for people to locate themselves in the watershed and other materials to help you prepare for this. It's pretty easy and you'll be working with one other volunteer.

Each volunteer will get an all day pass to the fair for the day they participate. This means a **free concert!** We need two people per block. If these time slots do not fit your schedule, let me know and I will try to find a time that works for you. **Please contact Michele at micstowe@yahoo.com, or call 521-5378.**

Time Slots for our Council

Tue. August 12; 11:00am - 3:00pm

Wed. August 13; 7:00am - 11:00pm

Fri. August 15; 7:00pm - 11:00pm

Sun. August 17; 11:00am - 3:00pm

Entertainment that Day

Heart

The Beach Boys

Rascal Flatts

Funk & Salsa

If you have a watershed activity you would like to include in the monthly newsletter please contact Michele Stowe, Monitoring and Outreach assistant, 521-5378, micstowe@yahoo.com

Announcements & Opportunities

McKenzie River Trust Spring and Summer Field Trips

Native Plant Tour of Big Island: Saturday June 28, 2003. Join Bruce Newhouse, President of the Emerald Chapter of the Oregon Native Plant Society on this romp through the plant communities of Big Island. (For more info on Big Island, see www.mckenzieriver.org) This island is home to 400 year old maples and large beds of horsetails. Please call or e-mail the office to reserve your spot!

ForestCare Tour: Saturday July 12, 2003 10am-2pm. This popular tour takes us through our 90-acre "working forest" conservation easement in the coastal forests near Lorane. (ForestCare information.) Learn about sustainable timber management and how conservation easements can play a vital role in protecting our natural heritage, balancing timber harvesting with conservation. Lunch will be provided. Please call or e-mail the office to reserve your spot.

**Contact McKenzie River Trust at 345-2799, mrt@mckenzieriver.org
www.mckenzieriver.org**

Let's Talk Food!

Join us for a community planning meeting about food. Communities across the nation are realizing the importance of taking steps to ensure they are strong and self-reliant with their food sources, and that all citizens have access to adequate food and nutrition. **FOOD for Lane County and the Lane County Food Coalition are sponsoring meetings in Junction City and Cottage Grove** to explore local food systems and provide a format for community members to take action. All meetings are open to the public. Residents are strongly encouraged to attend and say what they think is important to their community and share ideas they have for the future.

Contact Jessica Chanay, 343-2822.

Next meeting dates:

Junction City

June 26th, 6:30-8:30pm

Viking Sal Senior Center
245 W. 5th St.

Cottage Grove

July 9th, 6:30-8:30pm

Cottage Grove Community Center/Library
700 E. Gibbs St.

Amazon Appreciation Day Report

Jim Ekins and Will Peters, two active Long Tom Watershed Council Members, were among dozens of volunteers who lent a hand at the 12th Annual Amazon Appreciation Day on June 7th. Since there is less trash in Amazon Creek these days and many volunteers eager to improve the waterway, the Eugene Stream Team offered an alternative for non-adoption group volunteers. Over 100 native plants were salvaged from the future path of the Amazon Headwaters connector to the Ridgeline Trail system. Jim even brought his trailer and helped us haul plants to the Native Plant Nursery which is operated by Stream Team volunteers. Elsewhere in the sub-basin adoption groups accomplished a variety of tasks: **The Eugene Metro Rotary completed their vegetative plot monitoring at the widening project; Miracle on 33rd weeded and re-mulched their native plantings; Jefferson-Westside Neighbors scoured the creek banks and beds picking up trash; Bill Clingman and his daughters, who have attended every Amazon Appreciation Day, took on the downstream corridors and Eastern Gateway as well.**

Stream Team is currently soliciting ideas for how to increase the appreciation component of Amazon Appreciation Day. What changes would you make? If you have ideas to share or would like to participate in a brainstorm session please **contact Lorna Baldwin at 682-4850 or lorna.j.baldwin@ci.eugene.or.us.**

WANTED

FOR DESTRUCTION OF WATERSHEDS & WILDLIFE HABITAT

JAPANESE & GIANT KNOTWEED



Michael Wilby

Aliases: Mexican or Japanese bamboo, fleeceflower

DESCRIPTION

- Thick green to reddish stems that look similar to bamboo
- Large bright green leaves ranging from egg to heart-shaped with a pointed tip
- Sprouts in April, grows to 15 feet tall or more by July
- Spikes of white flowers appear from July to September.
- Seen in flood zones along rivers and creeks, also frequents ditches and yards

CAUTION

Considered *extremely invasive*. Knotweed usually spreads when roots are moved and often travels by waterways. Tiny root fragments can produce new plants.

REWARD FOR ERADICATION

A healthy and functional watershed providing habitat for native fish and wildlife.

SEE THE LAST PAGE OF THE NEWSLETTER FOR
INFORMATION ON HOW TO CONTROL
JAPANESE KNOTWEED.

JAPANESE KNOTWEED

How can it be controlled?

Once established, knotweed is extremely hard to eradicate. Its roots can grow down more than 10 feet and spread out more than twenty feet. Here are three options:

CUTTING: Even large stands of knotweed are easily cut with hand tools. Although the plant initially re-sprouts vigorously, repeated cutting close to the ground should eventually kill it. Cut at least every 4-6 weeks, including once after mid-September, so the plant cannot send out reserves to the roots. This method may require more than one year.

HERBICIDES: If repeated cutting is impossible or undesirable, herbicides can be used. Spray on the leaves or better yet, apply in high concentration directly to fresh cut stems. Apply in late summer, ideally following an early season cutting. Products approved for use near water must be used. Garlon3A is best, but Rodeo may also work. Follow the label directions and use carefully. Native plants touched by herbicide will also be damaged or killed.

DIGGING: **Small** plants in loose soil can be dug up. Remove **ALL** of the root and dispose of it. **Do not throw stems or roots into the river.** Check to see if the plant returns, because even small root fragments can start new plants.

Information provided by The Nature Conservancy

Links: www.nps.gov/plants/alien/fact.htm
www.wa.gov/ecology/wq/plants/weeds
www.metro.dst.or.us/parks/volopps.html

NOTE:

There were no notes taken at last month's Council meeting because much of the time was spent in small group discussions. If you are interested in a particular subject from the meeting, please contact Dana Erickson, Council Coordinator, at 683-6578.

DIRECTIONS for June meeting at the Amazon Creek Restoration Site:

The Restoration site is at Amazon Creek and Oak Patch Road, just south of W 11th. The Taco Bell on W 11th is at Oak Patch Road. There is parking on the northeast side of the creek.

