



# The Long Tom Watershed Council

July 2003

Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, July 29, 2003 5:30 p.m. — 7:30 p.m.  
Lower Long Tom Sub-watershed,

Historic Coyote Creek Restoration Site, Junction City

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

## ***Outdoor Tour and Discussion***

Restoration project tour!

Rain or shine!

5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Historic Coyote Creek Restoration Project

*Art Johnson, Landowner*

*Cindy Thieman, Project Manager*

*Jim Ekins, Site Manager*

90 min

Update on the status of the Fern Ridge Dam  
repair plans and funding.

*Jim Beal, US Army Corps*

30 min

- Note the early start time and please arrive promptly!
- Allow 20-30 minutes drive time from Eugene to find the site.
- Please come prepared for a 2-hour outdoor walking tour on uneven ground. Bring sunscreen and snacks...we'll bring the drinks!

*\*See back cover for directions\**

**FREE PASS TO THE LANE COUNTY FAIR**

**We still need 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.

## **Old Trails, Today's Roads**

The main traffic through the Long Tom Watershed in the late 1700s and 1800s was along the "old trail" or "California Trail," which is the approximate location of Territorial Highway today. This was the main route that early fur trappers and explorers took from Ft. Vancouver to Sacramento. The Applegate trail, an alternate route, was established in 1846 by a group of explorers who were headed to California from Polk County. This trail followed the Long Tom River as far as Monroe, crossed over it and traveled to Eugene along what is today River Road.

***Remember, no meeting  
in August!***

***Come to our next meeting!***

**Annual Celebration**

**Sunday, September 28<sup>th</sup>**

**1:00-4:00 pm**

We'll have a Family Picnic and  
Awards Ceremony at the Oregon  
Country Fair site!

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***Questions, info, comments?***

*Dana Erickson, Coordinator*

683-6578, [longtom@efn.org](mailto:longtom@efn.org)

[www.longtom.org](http://www.longtom.org)

***Rather have this newsletter e-mailed?  
Let Dana know: [longtom@efn.org](mailto:longtom@efn.org)***

## **COUNCIL MEETING BACKGROUND**

**BY CINDY THIEMAN, PROJECTS & MONITORING COORDINATOR**

Restoring Bottomland Hardwood Forests and Native Prairie on Coyote Creek This month's Council meeting will be an outdoor tour of the historic Coyote Creek riparian, oak savanna, and wet prairie restoration project. The Long Tom Watershed Council, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and landowner Art Johnson are partnering on this multi-year project to restore a 100-acre site surrounding a historic branch of Coyote Creek. The project is located to the south of Franklin Rd. and about 2 miles north of Fern Ridge Reservoir. At this site was the confluence of the Long Tom River and Coyote Creek before Fern Ridge Reservoir was constructed in the early 1940s. Historic aerial photos from 1936 and surveys from the 1850s and 1940s show a meandering network of channels in this area surrounded by oak and ash bottomland forest. Clearings of oak savanna and wet prairie were scattered throughout the area as well. Species that likely thrived here include western pond turtle, red-legged frog, Oregon chub, western meadowlark and the acorn woodpecker.

In 2001 the project re-established the connection between two segments of historic Coyote Creek and enhanced streamside vegetation along a portion of it by removing blackberry and planting native trees. We removed the rest of the blackberry in 2002 and completed streamside tree planting in February 2003. During the summer of 2002, we excavated reed canarygrass out of the creek channel bottom at several locations where this non-native, invasive grass was choking the waterway. Stop-logs (water control structures) were installed on two culverts that drain the creek segment into the Long Tom River, which has raised the water level in the historic channel several feet before allowing it to overflow into the culverts and spill out into the Long Tom. By retaining water in the restored channel throughout much of the year we are providing aquatic habitat for a variety of native amphibians and migrating waterfowl and inhibiting the regrowth of reed canary grass.

Last summer we began to restore the old fields on the property to native prairie. Over the next several years the entire property will be restored to a mixture of bottomland hardwood forest along the creek, and a complex of oak savanna and wet prairie in the areas between the creeks. We also plan to reconnect historic Coyote Creek to its original confluence with the Long Tom River. This will allow cutthroat trout and other native fish to access the historic channel from the river; a move these fish must make when either stream flows or water temperature become too high in the lower Long Tom River.

*See aerial photo of the site in separately attached document.*



## LONG TOM WATERSHED COUNCIL

751 S. Danebo Ave ~ Eugene OR 97402

[www.longtom.org](http://www.longtom.org)

### Coordinator's Letter

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Dear landowners, land managers and residents of the Long Tom Watershed,

Greetings to you during a hot summer week! For this month's Council meeting, we will again have an outdoor tour of one of the Council's restoration projects. Please see the meeting agenda and Council meeting backgrounder in this newsletter for details.

We will also have an update of the Fern Ridge Dam repair situation. We recently met with the Army Corps to determine what kinds of watershed health opportunities might coincide with the repair, and although none were straightforward enough to be included in this already complex problem, some other project ideas were generated and partnerships formed such that we have a few paths to move forward on. One specific opportunity we'll have is to radio-tag our native cutthroat trout to better understand their population, distribution and movement in the Long Tom River basin. This kind of work can supply the scientific information needed for future restoration projects.

You may be curious as to our funding picture for the rest of 2003, and through 2005. We have secured a Council Support grant with Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board which means we will be operational at our basic level for two more years. In the current analysis we have been awarded 70% of the funding we outlined in our competitive proposal and have signed a conditional grant agreement. This will hold unless some additional unforeseen disaster happens with the state budget or legislature. In keeping with the reduced funding, the Steering Committee has decided to reanalyze the Council's proposed Work Plan for 2003-2005 during a mini-retreat in late August. If this subject fascinates you, please let us know of your interest by calling me at 683-6578.

In related funding news, our Restoration Projects grant has been awarded full funding, as these funds were set aside by constitutional amendment in measure 66. These grant agreements cannot be signed until the legislative session is over, and we are eagerly awaiting the beginning of work on six landowner projects around the watershed! Our monitoring grant has met a less fortunate fate as it is considered a "non-capital" investment, a group which was not allocated funding this year. We will reapply for our full program in October, to begin February 2004. In the meantime, because our program would be interrupted without funding, and because our grant was ranked number one in the Willamette Basin, there is a good chance we will receive a small award to keep the monitoring going at a basic level until February. I will update you as soon as we know.

Finally, as many of you know, Michele Stowe's AmeriCorps volunteer position with us is coming to an end August 12<sup>th</sup>. She has been a fantastic addition to our Council, supporting the monitoring and education programs with great energy and we'll miss her. If you are interested in joining us for a little going away party, please let me know!

Best to all,  
Dana

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**Steering Committee Members:** *At-Large:* Duane Zentner, Ryan Collay, Michael James;

*Amazon:* Anita Ragan, Scott Duckett, Bart Johnson;

*Lower Long Tom:* Mike Kesling, Dave DeCou, Scott Gibson;

*Upper Long Tom:* Rick Allison, Anna Scott, Larry Rhodes

**Coordinator:** Dana Erickson

**Phone:** (541) 683-6578

**e-mail:** [longtom@efn.org](mailto:longtom@efn.org)

**Projects & Monitoring Coordinator:** Cindy Thieman

**Phone:** (541) 683-2983

**e-mail:** [cindythieman@yahoo.com](mailto:cindythieman@yahoo.com)

# ***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 is 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](mailto:ekinsja@yahoo.com)*

## **Historical Human Uses of Fire**

**By Jim Ekins**

As with any tool, fire is at the same time beneficial and dangerous. For thousands of years, humans in the Long Tom basin have used, revered, and feared fire on the landscape. Even today, fire evokes deep emotions and is a powerful force on the watershed's inhabitants and natural systems.

Early Kalapuya used fire on a small scale in roasting ovens. In the Long Tom watershed's lowlands, and especially near the confluence of (what is now) Coyote Creek and the Long Tom River, camas bulbs were cooked and turned into cakes for winter food supplies, and for trade. Roasted acorns, hazelnuts, cattail rhizomes, and wild sunflowers also supplied toothsome and wholesome morsels. The Kalapuya used fire for many reasons, including keeping grasslands open for the camas to grow, and clearing ground just before acorns dropped, making harvesting much easier.

Early settlers, concerned that fires would move into farmland, outlawed the Kalapuya's practice of setting fires. But the farming community had its own culture of fire; the seasonal timing of desired burning being different. Heavy, highly effective plows were not used until the gasoline era, say in the 1930's. Before that innovation, if grass straw was not burned, it jammed and overwhelmed the smaller, lighter horse-drawn (and even steam-powered)

plows. Also, the long-stemmed grasses harbored fungus, decreasing seed production and potentially imperiling entire crops. Fire was used to make plowing easier and to decrease the threat of fungal invasions. Even after high-powered fungicides were introduced, burning straw was seen as cheaper, environmentally friendly alternative.

Higher in the Long Tom drainage, big fires in the early 1800's cleared many ridges and mountaintops and burned unchecked for days or even weeks at a stretch. These fires cleared underbrush and small trees, making hunting and traveling easier and safer for the original inhabitants. Early settlers used the cleared areas for sheep and other livestock forage. Before widespread irrigation in the Long Tom's lowlands, livestock were driven into the mountains during the spring. Here, water and forage were plentiful in the previously burned areas.

Throughout history, fire played a substantial role in shaping the landscape. The Long Tom Watershed Assessment ([www.longtom.org](http://www.longtom.org)), Bureau of Land management (541/683-6600, <http://www.edo.or.blm.gov/>), the Lane County Museum (682-4242, 740 W. 13<sup>th</sup> at the County Fairgrounds) and the Western Fire Ecology Center (541/302-6218, <http://www.fireecology.org/>) have more information about this subject.

Thanks Jim!

# Announcements & Opportunities

## Calendar of Events

Tuesday July 29

Long Tom Watershed Council Meeting

5:30 pm-7:30 pm

Historic Coyote Creek Restoration Site  
521-5378, Michele

Tuesday August 12-13

Forest Roads Workshop

8:00 am - 5:00 pm,

(541)737-2329, Conference Coordinator  
see announcement on next page for details

Late August, date TBA

Steering Committee Work Plan Retreat

@ member's house

683-6578, Dana

Sunday September 21

McKenzie Salmon & Bull Trout

Spawning Trip

345-2799, Mike

see announcement this page for details



### **Bull Trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*)**

81% of Oregon's bull trout populations are considered to be at a "moderate risk of extinction," "high risk of extinction," or "probably extinct." There are three separate populations of bull trout in the McKenzie watershed, which is part of our upper Willamette Basin. Male bull trout are easily distinguished by their hooked lower jaw. (Photo by Prof. Ernest Keeley, UBC, Canada. [www.zoology.ubc.ca/~keeley/](http://www.zoology.ubc.ca/~keeley/))

**McKenzie River Trust hosts a  
McKenzie Salmon & Bull Trout  
Spawning Trip!**

**Visit the salmon spawning grounds  
along the McKenzie River, with a  
special side trip to bull trout  
spawning grounds.**

**Fisheries Biologist Jeff Ziller will be on  
hand to discuss issues and questions about  
these amazing fish.**

**Contact McKenzie River Trust  
345-2799, [mrt@mckenzieriver.org](mailto:mrt@mckenzieriver.org)  
[www.mckenzieriver.org](http://www.mckenzieriver.org)**

## Lane County Fair Booth!

Summer is here and it is fair time! **The Lane County Fair is August 12-17.** The five local watershed councils and East Lane SWCD will again 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 share. It's easy and you'll be working with one other volunteer.

**Grab a shift!** 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](mailto:micstowe@yahoo.com), or call 521-5378.**

### **Available Time Slots for our Council & Entertainment that Day**

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

The Beach Boys

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

Rascal Flatts

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

Funk & Salsa

# Announcements & Opportunities

## West Eugene Wetlands Summer Programs for Adults

To register for events (or for info) contact:  
Holly McRae, 683-6494,  
west\_eugene\_wetlands@hotmail.com.

**Sunday August 10<sup>th</sup>**

### **Dragonfly Walk**

**10:00am-noon (Limit: 20 people)**

Meet at the corner of Wallis Street and 5th Avenue (access Wallis by turning south off W. 1st Avenue between Seneca and Bertelsen) at 10:00 am. This event is co-sponsored by the Lane County Audubon Society.

**Wednesday August 13<sup>th</sup>**

### **“Evening in the Wetlands” Walk**

**7:30pm-11:00pm (Limit: 30 people)**

Wear comfortable shoes and dress in layers (it can still be windy and cool). Also bring water and a flashlight with a red lens cover. Meet at the end of Royal Ave at the gate west of Fisher Rd. This event is co-sponsored by the Lane County Audubon Society.

**Saturday August 16<sup>th</sup>**

### **Field Sketching in the Wetlands**

**9am-noon {Limit: 10 people (minimum 6)}**

Participants are responsible for bringing their own supplies: Sketch book, at least 8”X10”, Graphite Stick or 4-6B pencils, Small camp chair, Water & snack.

## **Thank You!**

We would like to give a belated thank you to **Louisa Hemacheck**, who invited the Council to set up a display at her booth at Eugene’s Earth Day Celebration this year on Saturday April

## **Forest Roads Workshop**

The primary objective of the workshop is to provide road management information to small woodland owners, operators and all others interested in Oregon forests, water quality and aquatic habitat. The focus is recognition and mitigation of impacts from legacy roads. The basis for the workshop are recent publications such as...

- *Forest Road Management Guidebook*
- *Forest Road Contracting, Construction, and Maintenance for Small Woodland Owners*
- *Oregon’s Forest Protection Laws: An Illustrated Manual*
- *current research findings*

**August 12-13 — Eugene, OR; 8 am - 5pm**

**Day 1: Classroom session**

**Evening** (optional) Case studies from local landowners

**Day2: Field Exercises**

**Fee is \$50.00**

*Workshop qualifies for up to 16 Oregon Professional Logger (OPL) credits.*

## FOREST ROADS WORKSHOP

FEE: \$50

August 12-13, 2003, Eugene, OR     September 9-10, 2003, Medford, OR     September 16-17, 2003, Prineville, OR

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Company \_\_\_\_\_

Work address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Payment:  Check (Make your check payable to OSU College of Forestry) or charge to  Visa  MasterCard

Account # \_\_\_\_\_

Name as it appears on card: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration date: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Forestry Outreach Education Office, Oregon State University, 202 Peavy Hall, Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR 97331-5707 - Telephone: (541) 737-2329 • Fax: (541) 737-4966 • outreach@for.orst.edu

# WILD WEDNESDAYS

## IN THE WEST EUGENE WETLANDS

Are you interested in experiencing nature While learning about your Local habitat? Check out the West Eugene Wetlands Education Program's free Summer Adventures. Contact Holly McRae at Holly\_McRae@or.blm.gov or at 683-6494 for registration information. Each session limited to 10 children, to make arrangements for larger groups contact Holly.

### "Nature Journaling"

**Wednesday July 16<sup>th</sup>**

**8am-10:30am**

Observe the wetlands up close & create your own nature journal. Discover new techniques for journaling. For ages 8-12. Bring a snack & water.

### "Animals of the Night"

**Wednesday July 23<sup>rd</sup>**

**8:00am-10:00am**

Learn about the fascinating lives of night creatures. We'll study owls and bats through games and crafts. For ages 5-7. Bring a snack & water.

### "The Wonders of the Wetland"

**Wednesday July 30<sup>th</sup>**

**8:00am-10:00am**

Join a naturalist for a walk through the wetlands. Explore animal habitats, and use naturalist's skills and field equipment. Wear long pants and good walking shoes. Bring a snack & water. Ages 8-12.

### "Beginning Birding"

**Wednesday August 6<sup>th</sup>**

**8:00am-10:00am**

Birds are amazing and fun creatures to learn about and watch in the field. Join an experienced birder to learn about birds see them in their environment. Bring a snack & water. For ages 5-7.

### "Art and Nature"

**Wednesday August 13<sup>th</sup>**

**8:00am-10:00am**

Become inspired by nature! Students will use graphite pencils to recreate their discoveries in the natural world. For ages 8-12.

### "Dragonflies and Damselflies"

**Wednesday August 20<sup>th</sup>**

**1:00pm-3:00pm**

The wetlands are home to many different types of dragonflies and damselflies. Join an expert in the field to learn about these beautiful summer insects! For ages 8-12

### "The Wonders of the Wetland"

**Wednesday August 27<sup>th</sup>**

**8:00am-10:00am**

Join a naturalist for a walk through the wetlands. Explore animal habitats, and use naturalist's skills and field equipment. Wear long pants, and good walking shoes. Bring a snack & water. For ages 5-7.

#### **NOTE:**

There were no notes taken at last month's Council meeting because it was an outdoor tour. If you have questions about the meeting, please contact Dana Erickson, Council Coordinator, at 683-6578.

**DIRECTIONS for July meeting at the Historic Coyote Creek Restoration Site:**

The Restoration Tour site is on Franklin Road, south of Junction City.

From Hwy 99, go west on Meadowview Road. Meadowview Rd. is north of the golf course and south of the storage place. It's also about 1.8 miles north of Airport Rd., and about 1.8 miles south of Milliron Rd. where the livestock auction is.

Travel west on Meadowview to the "T", then turn right on Alvadore Rd., then left on Franklin.

Approx 2 miles later turn left onto the dirt road immediately before you would otherwise cross the Long Tom River. Parking will be plentiful near the gate.