



LONG TOM WATERSHED COUNCIL

May 2007

www.longtom.org

Action Through Understanding

541.683.6578



Kincaid's Lupine
Photo: Benton County

RESTORATION PROJECT TOUR

Wild Iris Ridge

On the ridgeline between Amazon Creek & Spencer Creek

Tuesday, May 29th

5:45 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Location: West Eugene - Directions on back

AGENDA

5:45: **Welcome & introductions**

6:00: **Tour of upland prairie & oak habitat restoration work**

Jesse Cary-Hobbs, *City of Eugene*

Lauri Mullen, *City of Eugene*

7:00: **Prairie & oak restoration management strategies**

Darin Stringer, *Integrated Resource Management*

7:40: **Committee and staff reports**

Save the date for the next
Council meeting:
Tuesday, July 16
Restoration Project Tour,
Bear Creek Sub-basin

Our Mission

The Long Tom Watershed Council serves to improve water quality and watershed condition in the Long Tom River basin through education, coordination, consultation, and cooperation among all interests, using the collective wisdom and voluntary action of our community members.

Council Meeting Notes

COUNCIL MEETING

March 27th, 2007

Veneta Community Center, Veneta

Water Quality & Stream Health in the Long Tom Watershed - Reporting on the Results of a 7-year Monitoring Program

The focus of this meeting was a presentation of the final results from the Council's 7-year water quality monitoring program, which involved collection, processing and analysis of the following types of data:

- Monthly data on turbidity, conductivity, dissolved oxygen, and pH at 18 sites
- Monthly to bi-monthly data on *E. coli*, nitrate, and phosphorus at 34 sites
- Hourly summertime temperature at 67 sites, and
- Macroinvertebrates at 92 sites

Speakers:

Guest speaker Mike Wolfe, Western Region Water Quality Manager for the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), provided a history of water quality monitoring in the Willamette River Basin and emphasized the importance of citizen involvement and monitoring. Mike described how the collection and sharing of data results in action, a clear parallel to the Council's focus on "action through understanding".

Steve Hanson, DEQ Volunteer Monitoring Specialist, noted that watershed councils are the best conduits for collecting water quality data and implementing actions. He recognized the Council as having one of the best water quality monitoring programs in the entire state, serving as a template for others.

Water Quality monitoring volunteers Carl diPaolo and Rolf Anderson shared their motivation for volunteering with the Council, and what they gained from that experience. Carl told entertaining stories of his interaction with property owners and learning the ropes of collecting data. Rolf shared his passion for giving back to the community.

Cindy provided a comprehensive overview of the design, data collection, analysis and results of the water quality monitoring and macroinvertebrate program. She engaged Council members by quizzing them throughout her presentation and awarding winners with local wine, a guide to local flora and fauna, and flower baskets.

Read the Water Quality
Monitoring Report on the
Council's website at:

www.longtom.org

March Council Meeting Thank yous!

We are grateful to **Carl DiPaolo** and **Rolf Anderson** for sharing your inspiring thoughts on why you volunteer with the Council!

Thanks to **Brent and Becky Skiles** of **Spring Creek Gardens** for donating lovely flower baskets for winners of our water quality quiz!

Meeting Backgrounder

PROJECT TOUR

Wild Iris Ridge: Upland Prairie and Oak Savanna Restoration

At this month's Council meeting, we'll be taking a walking tour of Wild Iris Ridge, a 123-acre parcel with remnant upland prairie, oak savanna, oak woodlands and riparian forest located upstream from the West Eugene Wetlands in the Amazon Creek sub-basin. The City of Eugene purchased this site in 2003 for habitat preservation and community open space. The Council is working with the City and forest ecologist Darin Stringer to restore these habitats to help improve the ecological integrity of the interconnected prairie and savanna systems in west Eugene.

The site's historic upland prairie and oak savanna habitats, which were common throughout most of the Willamette Valley prior to Euro-American settlement, have been altered significantly over the past 150 years. Both of these habitat types are increasingly rare in the Willamette Valley. According to a 1995 USGS report, Oregon white oak savanna habitat is among the 21 most endangered ecosystems in the U.S. Less than 1% of this habitat remains in the Willamette Valley from pre-European settlement times, and 98% of this remaining acreage is in private ownership. Additionally as many as 200 species have been reported to depend wholly or partially on Willamette Valley oak habitat or upland prairie, including 45 species designated at-risk by USFWS or the State of Oregon.

This site contains upland habitats necessary for the potential future recovery of both the endangered Fender's blue butterfly and its larval host plant Kincaid's lupine. Two of the largest remaining populations of the Fender's blue butterfly are adjacent to Wild Iris Ridge. The Council's Restoration & Enhancement Priorities (December 2005), identifies oak savanna and upland prairie as high priority for protection and restoration because of the number of listed species linked to this habitat, the extent to which the habitat has been altered or eliminated, and the limited dispersal ability of the butterfly.

The first phase of this restoration project involved the eradication of nonnative scotch broom and blackberry on much of the site, as well as planting of native forbs in test plots. Overall, this first phase has been very successful and we were able to treat more acres than we had originally proposed.

Highlights of this project tour will include:

- Progress to date and Next Steps: Tour of Upland Prairie & Oak Habitat Restoration at Wild Iris Ridge
Jesse Cary-Hobbs, City of Eugene
Lauri Mullen, City of Eugene
- Prairie & Oak Habitat Restoration & Management Strategies
Darin Stringer, Integrated Resource Management



Kincaid's Lupine
Photo: Benton Co.



Fender's Blue Butterfly
Photo: C. Schultz

Council Business

DEQ Recognizes Council for Work on Watershed Health

Our Steering Committee Chair received the following letter from Stephanie Hallock, Director of Oregon's Department of Environmental Quality:

March 30, 2007

Jim Pendergrass, Steering Committee Chair
Long Tom Watershed Council
751 South Danebo Ave.
Eugene, OR 97402

Dear Mr. Pendergrass,

I am very pleased to write this letter recognizing you and The Long Tom Watershed Council for all of your hard work on watershed health. Your efforts to characterize problems, engage with landowners and generate restoration efforts have led to real, on-the-ground results. This council has truly stepped up to the plate by achieving mutual objectives of the State of Oregon and landowners in protecting and restoring watershed health.

We also appreciate the dedication of your team members: Dana Erickson, Cindy Thieman and Jenna Garmon. Thank you all for being great partners in protecting Oregon's water.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Hallock
DEQ Director

Council Formally Joins Wetlands Executive Team

On May 11, the Council was formally acknowledged as a partner in the Wetlands Executive Team, a partnership of federal, state and local governments and public benefit organizations who believe that coordinated, shared management of the west Eugene wetlands enables more effective and efficient use of limited resources.

Partners include the Willamette Resources and Educational Network, McKenzie River Trust, The Nature Conservancy, City of Eugene, Bureau of Land Management, Oregon Youth Conservation Corps, Army Corps of Engineers, Fish and Wildlife Service, and now, the Long Tom Watershed Council.



The Council is proud to be a partner in this effort, and looks forward to working with the Executive Team to further the goals of the partnership.

Tips for Watershed Health

Wildflower seed mixes include some wicked bloomers

Excerpt of an article by Sandra Hines for University of Washington, April 18, 2002

The seed packets have labels with romantic-sounding names such as meadow mixture and wedding wildflowers, while others tout backyard biodiversity and make reference to Earth Day. When growing 19 such packets of wildflower mixes, however, University of Washington researchers found that each contained from three to 13 invasive species and eight had seeds for plants considered noxious weeds in at least one U.S. state or Canadian province. And what makes it nearly impossible for gardeners who want to be conscientious is that a third of the packets listed no contents and a little more than another third had inaccurate lists. Only five of the 19 correctly itemized everything.



Wildflowers near Hood River

"I can't recommend using any wildflower seed mixes," says Lorraine Brooks, who did the work at the UW's Center for Urban Horticulture while earning her bachelor's degree.

The seed mixes in this experiment were produced at or distributed from a variety of U.S. and Canadian locations, not just the Pacific Northwest. Firms with catalog or Web site sales could be selling wildflower mixes to gardeners all across North America and not just to gardeners in the area where the mix is produced. Brooks found the least unruly of the wildflower mixes was a packet from which only 30 of the 106 plants that sprouted and produced flowers were invasive -- that's 28 percent of what grew. From another packet all the species identified were invasive in at least one part of the country and, although the three species in the packet labeled "native" are native to North America, it doesn't mean they are native to all regions. For example, only one species is believed to be native to the Pacific Northwest and it represented 1 percent of what grew. Among the worst mixes were two that each contained two noxious weed species. Brooks and Sarah Reichard, UW assistant professor of forest resources, say gardeners are better off using their favorite plants, or seeds for their favorites, in order to control what's grown in their yards.

In Washington, the state and 49 local weed control boards maintain lists of invasive species and noxious weeds. Depending on how serious a threat is posed by a species and how widespread it already is, weed managers may prohibit its sale and demand landowners eliminate it. Other species fall into categories in which landowners must prevent the plant from going to seed, for instance by deadheading spent blossoms, to prevent it from spreading.

Gardeners might be surprised at the flowers and seeds that are readily available for sale that are considered invasive or noxious. For instance, the wildflower most commonly observed as part of the mixes was the popular bachelor's button (*Centaurea cyanus*), germinating in beautiful hues of pink and blue from three-quarters of the packets tested. Bachelor's button might be fine if kept confined to one's own yard but it's invasive -- that is it outcompetes other plants -- when it gets into native grasslands and prairies.

DONOR RECOGNITION

Our Gratitude To
Monroe Telephone Company
For supporting the Council this year!

Even labels that refer to wildflowers as native should be avoided because everything is native to someplace, but that place may not be where you live, Reichard says. Just think about the differences in plants between Eastern and Western Washington, she says.

Involvement & Learning Opportunities

Ridgeline Area Open Space



The ridgeline area is a twenty mile corridor extending from Fern Ridge Reservoir on the west to Mount Pisgah on the east and marks the transition from the urbanized Eugene-Springfield metropolitan area to the rural landscape to the south. The area contains unique habitats, headwater streams, picturesque farm and forest lands, recreational trails, and forms a scenic backdrop that is visible from much of Eugene and the Spencer Creek Valley.

Shape the Vision Workshops!

WORKSHOP FORMAT AND PURPOSE

Workshops are a drop-in format with staff on hand to gather feedback.

www.lcog.org/ridgeline

Jeff Krueger, Senior Landscape Architect
Lane Council of Governments (541) 682-4122 jkrueger@lcog.org

PROVIDE INPUT on the draft open space vision for the area, which includes recommendations on recreation, habitat, water resources, and visual quality.

WORKSHOPS WILL INCLUDE REPRESENTATION FROM:
McKenzie River Trust, The Nature Conservancy,
Long Tom Watershed Council, Bureau of Land Management, Lane County Parks,
City of Eugene, and Willamalane Park and Recreation District



WORKSHOP 1 EUGENE PUBLIC LIBRARY

100 West 10th Avenue, Bascom/Tykeson Room
MONDAY, JUNE 4, 2007
4:30 P.M. TO 7:00 P.M. (DROP-IN)

- OR -

WORKSHOP 2 SPENCER CREEK GRANGE

at the intersection of Lorane Highway and McBeth Road
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6, 2007
4:30 P.M. TO 6:30 P.M. (DROP-IN)

Long Tom Watershed Council Involvement in the Ridgeline Project

Please consider participating in one of these upcoming workshops. Watershed council staff will attend to meet landowners and residents and to answer questions or discuss any interest people have in addressing water quality and habitat restoration projects in this important area of the Long Tom River basin.

A brief history of our involvement in this project, and the status of that involvement:

In 2004 the Council sent a letter of support for this project to help the partners get a technical planning assistance grant. In 2005, Council staff were invited to project planning meetings to provide input. We elected at that time to participate at the regular input level for the main project, and at the core level for some of the outreach, habitat and water quality work.

At their May meeting, the Council's Steering Committee confirmed that their main interest is to provide input and feedback on the plan (which we have done), and to help with outreach to landowners specifically for the water quality and habitat improvement efforts that could be possible in this area. This is a natural fit to our watershed council mission and goals.

Much of the project includes recreation and the Council is not involved in that aspect. We can help you connect with people that are. The project also includes visioning open space for the long term. Part of this vision relates to addressing habitat and water quality goals; the Council can continue to help landowners and citizens who are interested in this by giving them ideas for being involved.

The Council will continue our focus on how we can help people achieve oak habitat enhancement, improve water quality in the streams running through their place, or help get native cutthroat trout past barriers in streams in the area. We can also assist people in simply learning about the conditions on their land.

Watershed Announcements

Conservation Forestry Field Day: Managing Oak Habitats for Wildlife and a Sustainable Future

May 19, 2007 • 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Cooke Family Forest, Yamhill County near Yamhill, OR

Want to improve oak habitat on your land? Interested in learning about sustainable forest management that improves wildlife habitat? Consider attending this field day workshop.

Speakers and Topics:

- *Douglas Fir Removal, Prescribed Fire and Invasive Species Control: Techniques Used for Oak Woodland and Savanna Restoration* – Steve Smith, Fish and Wildlife Service
- *Thinning of Overstocked Oak Stands and Restoration of Native Grasses at the Cooke Family Forest* – Mike Crabtree, Yamhill Soil & Water Conservation District
- *Improving the Financial Security of Your Woods: Managing White Oak for Wine Barrels, Flooring & Furniture* – Sarah Duemling, Forest Landowner
- *Wildlife and Oak Ecosystem Management: Who Benefits?* – Peg Boulay, Oregon Dept. of Fish & Wildlife
- *Oak Restoration Equipment Demonstration* – Rich Owens, Restoration Contractor

For more information, contact: Mike Barsotti; 503-945-7385; mbarsotti@odf.state.or.us. Or visit www.conservationforestry.org.

Testing the Effectiveness of Various Site Preparation Techniques for Wetland Prairie Restoration

May 24, 2007 • 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. (Optional site visit from 3:00pm-5:00pm)
Eugene Public Library, 100 W. 10th Ave., Bascom Tyksom Meeting Room

Speakers and Topics:

- *Introductions and Background* (10 min.) – Jeff Krueger
- *Presentation of Results of the Site Preparation Study* (50 min.) – Laurel Pfeiffer-Meister
- *Summary of Results of Mycorrhizal Abundance Study* (5 minutes) – Julie Lynn Stewart
- *Dragonfly Bend Habitat Enhancement Project Overview* (15 minutes) – Trevor Taylor
- *Questions and Information Sharing* (remainder of time)

For more information, contact: Jeff Krueger; 541-682-4122; jkrueger@lcog.org.

**Would you like a presentation about the watershed and our Council?
Would your agency or organization like to talk about ideas for collaboration?**

Please call Dana Erickson at 683-6578

More Opportunities & Calendar

Council Events

Restoration Tour of Wild Iris Ridge Amazon Sub-basin

Tuesday, May 29: 5:45pm-8:00pm
Wild Iris Ridge (agenda on front & directions
on back of this newsletter)
Contact: Jenna Garmon, 683-6949;
jgarmon@longtom.org

Steering Committee Meeting Long Tom Watershed Council

Thursday, June 14; 6:30pm-9:00pm
Contact: Jenna Garmon, 683-6949;
jgarmon@longtom.org

Restoration Tour of Owens Creek Bear Creek Sub-basin

Monday, July 16: 5:45pm-8:00pm
Contact: Jenna Garmon, 683-6949;
jgarmon@longtom.org

Opportunities on the Web!

www.longtom.org
www.wewetlands.org
www.ortrout.org

Other Events

StreamTeam: Native Plant Nursery Open House

Native Plant Nursery at Alton Baker Park
May 19: 10am - 2pm
Contact: Matt McCrae at 682-4850

WREN: Wetlands Exploration Day
Activities & Games for Kids & Parents
May 19
Contact Holly McRae at 683-6494

Wildflower Festival & Plant Sale
Mt. Pisgah
May 20: 10am - 4pm
Contact: 747-3817

WREN: Spring Butterflies
West Eugene Wetlands
June 2: 1pm
Contact Holly McRae at 683-6494

Bike Day 2007
Fern Ridge Bike path
June 2: 10am - 4pm
Contact Holly McRae at 683-6494

StreamTeam: Willamette River Clean-up
June 23: 9am - 4pm
Various locations along the Willamette
Contact Matt McCrae at 682-4850

**Do you have a neighbor or friend that might be interested in the Council?
Are you interested in volunteering?**

Please call Jenna Garmon at 683-6949

Our Watershed & Council



**Action
Through
Understanding**

Steering Committee

Lower Long Tom

Brent Skiles
Eric Freepons
Co-Secretary
Tony Stroda

Upper Long Tom

Will Bondioli
Co-Vice Chair
Ric Ingham
Co-Vice Chair
Gary Nolan

Amazon

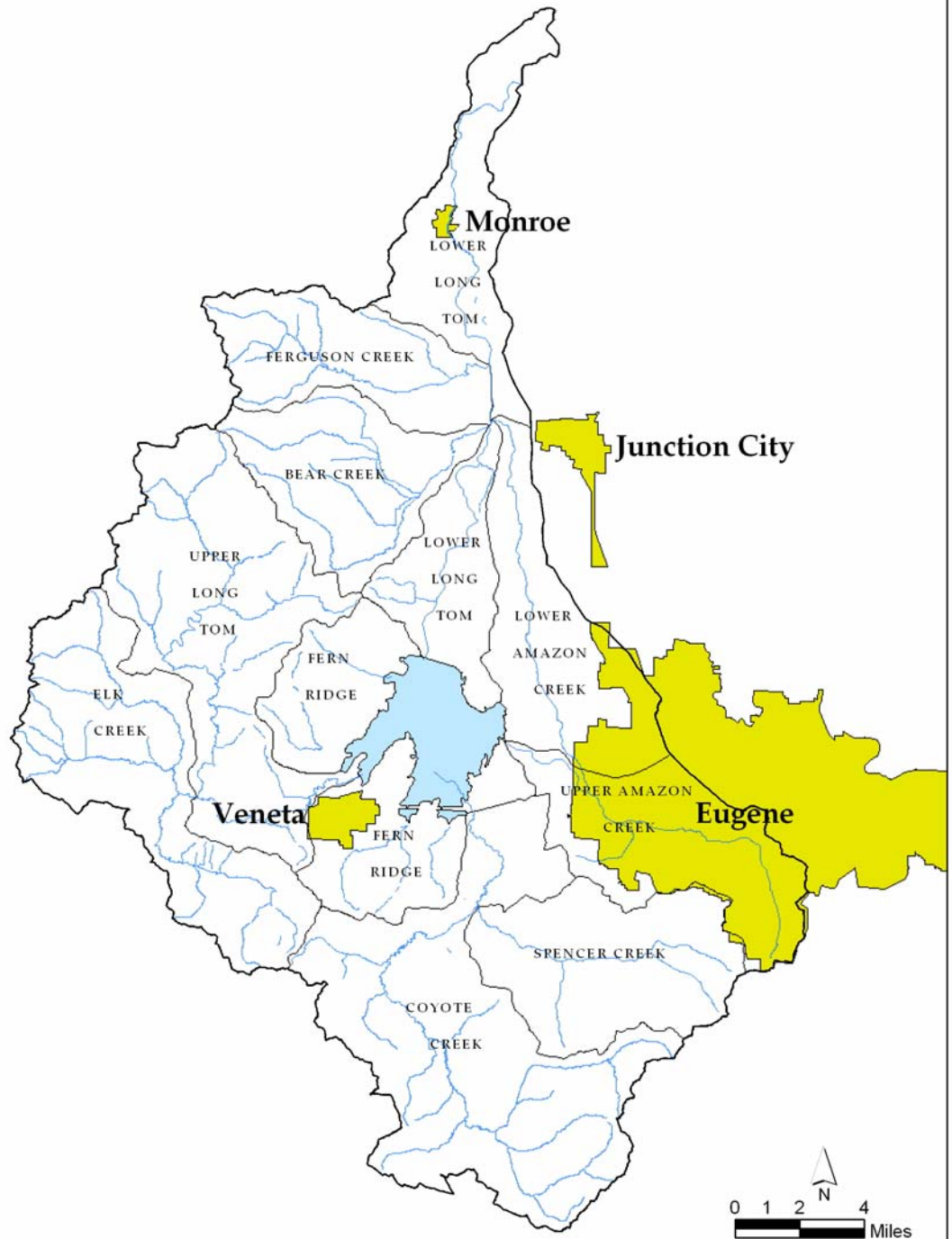
Peg Boulay
Sarah Medary
Co-Secretary
Tina Fenley
Treasurer

At Large

Ryan Collay
Rich Reeves
Corey Johnson
Jim Pendergrass
Chair
Rich Margerum
Immediate Past-Chair

751 S. Danebo Ave.
Eugene, OR 97402
Fax: (541) 683-6998
Web: www.longtom.org

Long Tom Watershed Ten Major Subbasins



Source: Long Tom Watershed Council, Brian Issa 9/03

Staff

Projects and Monitoring

Cindy Thieman
(541) 683-2983

Coordinator

Dana Erickson
(541) 683-6578

Stewardship & Outreach

Jenna Garmon
(541) 683-6949

Want to save your Council money on mailing costs?
Let us know you'd like an electronic version by emailing jgarmon@longtom.org!



Long Tom Watershed Council
Phone: 683-6578
e-mail: *coordinator@longtom.org*
www.longtom.org
751 S. Danebo Avenue
Eugene, OR 97402



Restoration Project Tour Tuesday, May 29th, 5:45 p.m. Wild Iris Ridge

From Hwy 126/ West 11th St. in Eugene (near Council office):
Go East on West 11th to Bertelsen Rd. Take a RIGHT (south) on Bertelsen. Follow Bertelsen Rd. south approx. 1 ¼ miles. Take a RIGHT where Bertelsen merges with Bailey Hill. Follow Bailey Hill south approx. ½ mile. Take a LEFT at the second long gravel driveway on the East side of Bailey Hill just past Gimpl Hill Rd. and the Bailey Hill Market. This is just south of 3205 Bailey Hill. The correct driveway has a long pole fence on the north side of the driveway and a house to the south. Go east up the driveway and keep RIGHT at the split. Park near the yellow gate.

Carpool from Council office at 5:30 p.m.
(751 S. Danebo Ave., Eugene).
CARPOLERS GET A PRIZE!