



LONG TOM WATERSHED COUNCIL

Watershed news and meeting notice
NOVEMBER 2010

Action
Through
Understanding



Top left: Engineers inspect a railcar bridge placed across a tributary to Spencer Creek on the Murphy property.
Center: An excavator picks up a large conifer log to place in the stream
Top Right: Oregon white oak, Nootka rose, and Pacific ninebark were among the trees & shrubs planted upslope from the creek.

November Council Meeting

Hosts: Charles Ruff, Jason Hunton, Jim Pendergrass

Tuesday, November 30 — 5:30 p.m.

Fern Ridge Library, Konnie Room

Free and open to everyone—refreshments served!

Project Results: Improving Wet Prairie & Stream Habitats

- ◆ How to improve habitat for fish and wildlife by selecting and planting riparian trees & shrubs
- ◆ Why large wood is an important stream feature
- ◆ How to remove invasive species
- Cindy Thieman, LTWC Project Manager

This year's work: your review & input please

- ◆ Major work planned for this year
- ◆ Involving people
- Hosts, and Dana Dedrick, LTWC Watershed Coordinator

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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.

751 S. Danebo Ave., Eugene, OR 97402 · Phone: (541) 683-6578 · Fax: (541) 683-6998

www.longtom.org

Council Meeting Background

What will the council work on this year?

What do you think?

A large part of this month's council meeting will include **time for your review and input** on an outline of projects and work we present to you. A few of our directors—Jason Hunton, Charles Ruff, and Jim Pendergrass—and staff members will be there to facilitate and support the discussion and hear your thoughts. Come with your thinking caps on and don't be shy—ideas from each one of us are what's made this watershed council work well for over 12 years!

What we'll do at the meeting:

- ◆ Present an overview of the work planned already
- ◆ Focus on Coyote Creek and Amazon Creek a bit more
- ◆ Hear your thoughts, opinions and advice
- ◆ Highlight involvement and input opportunities

Depending on people's interest, we'll also have available:

- ◆ Results from the council evaluation recently conducted by the board, so you can add your thoughts anytime during the next month
- ◆ 3D images of the watershed with color-coded water quality status and project locations, so you can see the big picture

Work Planned for this year

1. **6 Council meetings or tours** with 6 newsletters— on forestry, local fish migration, pesticides, & more
2. Develop and initiate project to **monitor select pesticides** in Amazon Creek, **implement “best management practices”** with interested commercial businesses and farmers, and re-monitor.
1. Work with landowners to **snorkel survey Bear Creek** and find out what habitats fish are choosing there (similar to Ferguson Creek snorkeling last summer).
2. **Implement multiple restoration projects**— Correct fish barriers at 5 culverts. Plant 3 stream miles, and fence as needed. Improve oak woodland, prairie, and wetland habitat on ~170 acres.
3. Conduct **maintenance on 13 projects** (watering, spraying, mowing, inspection, etc)
4. Conduct **effectiveness monitoring** on 4 projects—fish surveys, bird surveys, etc—any improvements?
5. Collect **baseline monitoring** data at more sites in model watersheds so we can detect change/improvement in conditions later
6. Tag fish and **track cutthroat trout migration patterns** in Ferguson, Bear and Rattlesnake Creeks
7. Choose up to **10 important local invasive species**, “early invaders”, and educate about them
8. **Reach out to more landowners** to educate, and to see if they'd consider improvements on their place
9. Continue to **develop projects in high priority areas** with landowners
10. Present **final results from regional water quality monitoring** project by small towns in Lane County
11. Scope **off-channel flood storage** for the lower Long Tom River, if possible
12. Enter info and use new database to track projects and **connect more volunteers with our activities**
13. Explore how we could diversify even more in grants, especially try to find outreach grants
14. **Expand our small but dedicated local donations program** so we can work on priority things, at a high quality level, and without burning out!



Council Meeting Background

PROJECT BACKGROUND & DESCRIPTION: PRAIRIE ENHANCEMENT AT MURPHY'S

This project restored approximately 40 acres of pasture that was once prairie along a tributary to Spencer Creek. The landowners wanted to improve fish and wildlife habitat and take steps to protect their property from future development.

The riparian area surrounding most of Spencer Creek has well-developed canopy structure and layers, and the upper portion of this seasonal stream is also well vegetated. However, the lower 1,000 feet of the seasonal tributary was sparsely vegetated and was invaded by non-native blackberry and scotch broom. This lack of shade increases stream temperature, stresses native fish such as cutthroat trout, and impairs macroinvertebrate populations.

The tributary was straightened in the 1940s, leading to channel scouring and a subsequent disconnection between the stream and its surrounding floodplain. The historic sinuosity and shallow depth of the channel allowed higher flows to spill over the banks and resupply soil nutrients.

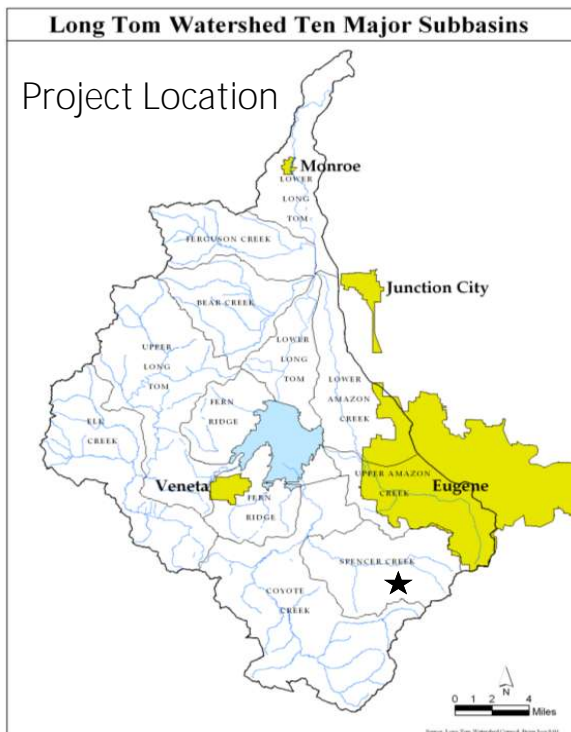
The existing pasture had many patches of native wet prairie and upland prairie plants, most notably a population of the more rare Willamette daisy. These were being invaded by blackberry, scotch broom, and Reed canarygrass. This was especially the case on the west side of the tributary after an undersized culvert failed several years ago, blocking mower access to the west side pasture.



Before the project: This tributary to Spencer Creek lacked instream structural diversity such as pieces of large wood that create high quality habitat conditions for trout and their food (macroinvertebrates).



Implementation: Large conifer logs with root wads were positioned in the tributary channel. In addition to **enhancing habitat, these logs will help the channel's flow to naturally meander.**



PROJECT FUNDING & SUPPORT

Project Cost:	\$ 173,685
OWEB funding:	\$ 68,466
NFWF funding:	\$ 15,000
Match (USFWS, NAWCA, Landowner):	\$ 90,219

Partners

Ron & Janice Murphy, *Landowners*
 Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)
 National Fish & Wildlife Foundation (NFWF)
 US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS)



Council Meeting Background (continued)

RESTORATION TECHNIQUES

Reed canarygrass, blackberry, and other invasive vegetation was spot-sprayed with herbicide and mowed afterward to mulch dead plant material. Ash trees were thinned in areas targeted for prairie restoration.

Along the riparian area and within the stream, large pieces of conifer logs with rootwads and willow stakes were strategically placed to mimic structures already along the stream and increase channel sinuosity and improve fish habitat. In order to improve channel-floodplain interaction, ditches were filled in and water was re-routed into swales.

A paddock area was expanded for the horses. This provided an alternative place away from the riparian area, which was planted with native trees and shrubs, including Oregon white oak, ponderosa pine, ninebark, and nootka rose.

A railcar bridge was installed over the Spencer Creek tributary to allow maintenance access to the Willamette daisy on the west-side of the tributary.

A seasonal emergent wetland was created in place of several ditches and a large seasonal swale was enhanced to create wet prairie and shore bird habitat.



Board Member Carl Harrison and Local Boy Scout Troop 54 planted native trees and shrubs along the riparian area. The blue tubes in the photo reduce browse damage on the young plants and increase carbon dioxide concentration among the leaves.

ECOLOGICAL & ECONOMIC BENEFITS

- ◆ Removal of invasive non-native plants will increase the biodiversity and percent cover of native prairie grasses and forbs.
- ◆ This project contributes to the recovery of the rare Willamette daisy.
- ◆ Large woody debris and willow plantings will increase channel sinuosity and connectivity between the stream and the surrounding floodplain.
- ◆ Large woody debris will also increase the quality of habitat for macroinvertebrates and juvenile cutthroat trout.
- ◆ Moving horses to the paddock area will reduce stream bank erosion and allow native vegetation to grow.
- ◆ Contractors from the local area were used for all phases of the project which contributed to the local economy.



A crane places a railcar bridge over the tributary to Spencer Creek. This will allow the landowners maintenance access to the west side of the property.

The Long Tom Watershed Council thanks our partners and funders for their support!

Please support our work!

We're on PAYPAL now! Click the button at www.longtom.org

The Board of Directors is working on a fundraising plan to raise **money to support the Council's projects and education programs** in the watershed. Please check the website homepage for our new PayPal button—an easy way to make a contribution.



After 12 years, 50 projects and 110 events, and counting, the Long Tom Watershed Council has demonstrated just how committed this community is to improving water quality and fish and wildlife habitat in this local watershed.

- In 2009, LTWC won an international award **for the “Science and Practice of Ecology and Society” for the community-based** approach to watershed restoration.
- Also in 2009, LTWC become a **“model watershed”** with funding and support from two private foundations - with a matching challenge to increase the pace, scope, and effectiveness of our work by utilizing and expanding the community participation and commitment that got us here.
- Now over 1,000 families are directly connected to learning about watershed conditions and what kinds of projects neighbors are doing via our newsletter.
- More than 2,500 adults have participated in watershed learning through the Council - these are the people with the power to do projects or actions on their property, or help others to do so.

Please support our work!

YES! I'd love to help with a tax-deductible donation to the Long Tom Watershed Council to improve water quality and habitat in my community!

Note: The Council will not release your personal information to other organizations.

DONATE BY MAIL:

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Check here if you'd like to receive our newsletter via email _____

Send to:
Long Tom Watershed Council
751 S. Danebo Ave.
Eugene, OR 97402

THANK YOU!
LTWC Board of Directors

Questions?
Dana Dedrick, Watershed Coordinator
541-683-6578

DONATE ONLINE

www.longtom.org

On the front page, left sidebar — find the **“Donate” button and click to begin PayPal donation**. Thank you to everyone who has donated to the Council!

Donate



2010 Annual Meeting Recap

73 people attended this year's Annual Meeting & Celebration at the Inn at Diamond Woods in Monroe. The evening included delicious food from Deck Family Farm and Diamond Woods, great conversations, project posters and remarks from 4 landowners, a virtual flyover of the watershed, and an awesome chipping contest on the golf course! Council members elected 6 new volunteer Steering Committee members— Sue Kacskos, Max Nielsen-Pincus, David Ponder, Charles Ruff, Dave Turner, and Therese Walch. The Council thanked outgoing Steering folks for their dedication, and presented 4 watershed awards to Karen Hans, Paul Atkinson, Becca Hale, and Bruce Newhouse. *Thank you to everyone who attended, and who helped make this "showcase event" fun and informative.*



Six incoming Steering Committee members were elected and welcomed at the 2010 Annual Meeting.

Sponsor Appreciation

Eugene Water & Electric Board
Event Sponsor

Deck Family Farm
Provided locally-raised, organic beef patties

Individual Sponsors

Tom Bauman & Lindsay Reaves
Kat & Jim Beal
Peg Boulay & Bruce Newhouse
Tina Fenley
Ric Ingham
Rich Margerum
Adam Novick
Tom O'Brien
Jim & Chris Pendergrass
Deborah Saunders Evans
Eric Wold

Chipping Contest Winners: Linda Crocker and Jim Pendergrass! And they donated their winnings to the Council!



Project landowner Joe McFadden talks about the restoration work on his property with an incoming Steering Committee member David Turner.

Presenting Landowners

These folks provided a favorite part of the evening:

John & Christine Deck
Andy & Maryrae Thomson
Joe McFadden
Tony Stroda

Volunteer appreciation!!

Bruce Campbell
Kate Widmer
Steering Committee members

Council Steering Committee

During October's Annual Meeting and Celebration, Council members elected and welcomed six new volunteers to our Steering Committee: Sue Kacskos (Upper Long Tom), Max Nielsen-Pincus (Amazon), David Ponder (Amazon), Charles Ruff (Upper Long Tom), David Turner (At Large), and Therese Walch (Amazon). Please refer to our September newsletter for their bios (www.longtom.org). We would also like to recognize the eight continuing Steering Committee members and thank them for their continued dedication and service. This 14-member Board of Directors is a diverse group of volunteers bring a variety of perspectives to the table, and we are excited to move forward with their knowledge and balanced guidance.



Kat Beal—At Large: Kat has worked for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as a park ranger and a wildlife biologist. Kat's work with the Corps has primarily involved management and monitoring of sensitive species and their habitats in the Willamette Valley. Kat served for several years on the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board's Willamette Valley grant review committee and now serves as an advisor to the Council's technical review committee. She and her husband Jim have two boys; one attends Lane Community College, and the other is a self-employed craftsman.



Kim Carson—At Large: Kim Carson is the current Regional Education Coordinator for Oregon Trout covering the Mid-Willamette Valley and coordinator for the Corvallis Outdoor School Program. She holds a Masters Degree in Art Education from the University of New Mexico and has served in the capacity of program coordination for non-profit organizations for over 10 years. Personal interests include a 50-acre restoration project in partnership with William L. Finley Wildlife Refuge on her property in the Muddy Creek Watershed.



Steve Cole—At Large. Steve Cole is a native Oregonian and consulting forester for woodland and forestland owners in the watershed and region since 1992. Steve is interested in promoting practical and sustainable land stewardship; maintaining, improving and protecting water quality; and controlling invasive plant and animal species through education and eradication efforts. Steve graduated from OSU with a degree in forest management, and worked as an industrial forester for the Woolley family in Drain and later for the Giustina family in Eugene. Steve lives in Eugene; he has three grown daughters and a 15 year old son.



Carl Harrison—Upper Long Tom. Carl was born and raised in Hermiston, Oregon. He earned his B.S. in Forest Products Engineering from the University of Idaho. After graduation he worked for the Nez Pierce Indian tribe in Lapwai, Idaho as a forester. He has worked for McFarland Cascade in Eugene as a Resource Manager since 1989. Carl married his wife Debbie in 1997 and they are raising their two children along the Long Tom River in the Elmira area. Carl enjoys hunting, fishing and camping with family and friends. He is currently a member of the local volunteer fire department, member of the Society of American Foresters, former board member of Lane Small Woodlands Association (eight years), and can often be found helping coach his kids on the TSP fields.

Council Steering Committee (continued)



Jason Hunton—Lower Long Tom. Jason was raised in Junction City. After over a decade away, Jason has recently married and returned home to manage his family's grass seed farm, and he also works at Surecrop Farm Service. Jason is knowledgeable about agricultural needs and perspectives. His interests include wetlands restoration, native species, fishing, wildlife photography, riparian areas and land banks.



Jim Pendergrass—Lower Long Tom. Jim was born in Portland, and has lived in Oregon almost his entire life. Educated at Stanford, he retired from a 33-year career in the banking industry, most recently as President of Wells Fargo's Small Business Banking Group in Oregon. He and his wife Chris, a ceramic sculptor, have been married for 36 years, and they spent 20 years in eastern Oregon before moving to the valley 13 years ago. They live on a small farm in the Bear Creek sub-watershed outside of Cheshire, where they raise sheep and trees. Both are long-time private pilots, and are also active scuba divers, skiers and hikers. And Jim plays ice hockey in the adult league in Eugene!



Deborah Saunders Evans—At Large. Deborah is a limnologist and long-time resident of the area with experience as a program director, policy analyst, and consultant. Deborah served on the Long Tom Watershed Council's first Interim Steering Committee and provided technical assistance in writing the council's first water quality monitoring grant. She is interested in improving and protecting water resources and habitats, fostering communication between all stakeholders, outreach and education, and long-term organizational stability.



Chad Stroda—Lower Long Tom. Chad Stroda is the fifth generation on the Stroda Brothers Farm in Monroe. After receiving an education in agriculture and machinery, Chad worked in California and Hawaii before returning home to work on the family farm. Chad brings an agricultural perspective to the Steering Committee. His father, Tony, served on the Steering Committee from 2006 to 2010.

The Long Tom Watershed Council, a local nonprofit, counts on participation from many people and organizations. The local office of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) donates postage for our mailings. They have a new requirement to include the following disclaimer, which is now standard procedure for all BLM partnerships.

BLM Disclaimer: "The views and conclusions contained in this document are those of the authors and should not be interpreted as representing the opinions or policies of the U.S. Government. Mention of trade names or commercial products does not constitute their endorsement by the U.S. Government."

The Long Tom Watershed Council is still a local nonprofit (since 1998) with no government affiliation or authority. We partner with local people, businesses, and agencies in the interest of finding local solutions and bringing grant funding from private and public sources to do restoration, education and monitoring work in the Long Tom River basin. We're thankful for the donation of postage expenses!

Invasive Species Spotlight: Knotweed

Identification:

- ◆ Several closely-related species: Japanese, Giant, and Bohemian (with the latter being a hybrid of the first two)
- ◆ Herbaceous perennial (leaves and stems die during winter and re-sprout in growing season)
- ◆ Grows in dense thickets 4—10 feet tall or higher
- ◆ Leaves: heart-shaped, broad ovals with pointed tip; leaf size may vary from plant to plant
- ◆ Leaves alternate along stems
- ◆ Younger stems & leaves can appear purple in color
- ◆ Flowers: greenish-white or cream colored plumes that begin where leaves join stems; blooms Aug—Oct
- ◆ Fruit: Small and white with wings for wind dispersal
- ◆ Seeds: Tiny & triangular
- ◆ Winter: Dead, brittle, standing canes



Knotweed thicket grows beside a stream on a riparian area.

Photo: Tualatin River Keepers

Habitat:

- ◆ Native to eastern Asia
- ◆ Established but not pervasive in Long Tom Watershed.
- ◆ Most commonly found along riparian areas, waterways, and areas around human activity

Ecological Impacts

- ◆ Spreads aggressively; regrows each year from large underground rhizome (root-like) system extending over 50 feet
- ◆ Dense thickets exclude native vegetation and choke out competition
- ◆ Lowers plant diversity and reduces quality of habitat for fish and wildlife
- ◆ Recolonizes rapidly after ineffective treatment or natural disturbance



Image showing the broad, heart-shaped leaves and flower clusters

Courtesy of U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

How to Get Rid of It:

- ◆ Knotweed is persistent, expensive and time consuming to remove once established. Cut or insufficiently burned stems can regenerate.
- ◆ Cut or mowed knotweed will generate from rhizome; sometimes rhizome can be killed after repeated cutting several times per growing
- ◆ Foliar herbicide spray in the fall is most effective & efficient removal method. Cutting the knotweed back in mid-summer will make it a more manageable height for fall spray application. Only certain herbicides are approved for use near water. Follow the label instructions.
- ◆ Effective long-term control usually requires planting trees that will eventually shade out knotweed.
- ◆ Important to monitor & repeat treatments until no new growth is detected for at least 5 years in a row.
- ◆ Dispose of material by burning or throwing in the garbage. Do not compost!
- ◆ Control in our watershed will depend on early detection and reporting from our residents

** Continued on bottom of next page **

Calendar & Announcements

LTWC Council Meetings & Tours

Council Meeting:

Tuesday, November 30, 2010 at 5:30 p.m.

- ◆ *Project results—Improving wet prairie and stream habitats*
- ◆ *Your review and input on this years work*

Fern Ridge Library, Konnie Room
88026 Territorial Rd, Veneta

Free and open to everyone! Refreshments served.
Carpool an option from the Council office at 5:00 p.m.

Info: Rob Hoshaw
541-683-6949
operations@longtom.org

Community Announcements

Wetland Wander at Meadowlark Prairie

Willamette Resources and Educational Network (WREN)

Tuesday, November 26, 9:00—10:00 a.m.

Wetland Wanders are casual walks through various West Eugene Wetlands sites on the second Tuesday of every month. WREN will provide binoculars. For more information, call 683-6494 or email info@wewetlands.org.

Contacts for volunteer opportunities:

Long Tom Watershed Council: 683-6949

WREN: 683-6494

Nearby Nature: 687-9699

City of Eugene, Parks Volunteers: 682-4845

City of Eugene Stream Team: 682-4850

Knotweed (continued)

If you find or believe you have found knotweed, please call the Oregon Invasive Species Hotline at 1-866-INVADER

or submit a Noxious Weed Sighting Report Form through the Oregon Department of Agriculture at <http://www.weedmapper.org/submit.php>

Additional Resources:

- ◆ Coos Watershed Association (<http://www.cooswatershed.org/knotweed>)
- ◆ Oregon Department of Agriculture (http://www.oregon.gov/ODA/PLANT/WEEDS/profile_japknotweed.shtml)
- ◆ Oregon State University Extension Service (<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/pdf/ec/ec1597-e.pdf>)



Winter knotweed: Dead, brittle, standing canes are what you will find this time of year.

Courtesy of Invasive Plant Company

Our Watershed & Council



Action Through Understanding

Steering Committee

Lower Long Tom
Jason Hunton

Jim Pendergrass, *Chair*
Chad Stroda, *Vice Chair*

Upper Long Tom
Sue Kacskos, *Treasurer*
Carl Harrison
Charles Ruff

Amazon
Max Nielsen-Pincus
David Ponder
Therese Walch

At Large
Kat Beal
Kim Carson
Steve Cole

David Turner, *Secretary*
Deborah Saunders Evans,
Vice Chair

Executive Director
Dana Dedrick

(541) 683-6578

Restoration & Monitoring

Cindy Thieman

(541) 683-2983

Jed Kaul & Josh Harrison

(541) 683-6183

Fiscal / Operations

Amanda Wilson &

Rob Hoshaw

(541) 683-6949

751 S. Danebo Ave
Eugene, OR 97402
Fax 683.6998
www.longtom.org

Long Tom Watershed Ten Major Subbasins



Source: Long Tom Watershed Council, June 2001

STAFF

Watershed Coordinator / Executive Director: Dana Dedrick 683-6578
Restoration & Monitoring: Cindy Thieman 683-2983; Jed Kaul & Josh Harrison 683-6183
Fiscal Manager: Amanda Wilson 683-6949
Operations Manager: Rob Hoshaw 683-6949

Upcoming Meeting: Project Results: Improving prairie habitat. This year's work— your review and input with our Board of Directors and staff. TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 5:30 p.m. — FERN RIDGE LIBRARY, VENETA



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

NOVEMBER WATERSHED COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday, November 30, 5:30 p.m. — Fern Ridge Library, Konnie room

Directions to Fern Ridge Library
88026 Territorial Rd, Veneta

From Eugene, head west on **West 11th/Hwy 126** to **Veneta**.

At the traffic signal head **south/left** on **Territorial Rd** for about 1/2 mile from junction of 126 and Territorial Rd (by Bi-Mart).

The **Fern Ridge Library** is on the right (or west) side of the road, and the meeting is in the **Konnie Room** (on the south side of the building).

