



# LONG TOM WATERSHED COUNCIL

July 2013 newsletter and meeting notice

*Action  
Through  
Understanding*



Great Blue Heron



River Otter



Hooded Merganser



Amazon Creek in the West Eugene Wetlands

**Public Meeting Invitation**  
Wednesday, July 24, 5:30 p.m.  
Campbell Community Center, Eugene

Save the Date!

LTWC's 16<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Meeting & Celebration

Sat., Sept. 21

## ***Pesticides in Amazon Creek***

### **Kevin Masterson, Oregon DEQ**

- Latest results from two years of pesticide sampling data
- How those results compare among the diverse land use areas within the Amazon Creek basin and what the trends indicate

### **Dave Walp, local naturalist**

- Local wildlife species that use Amazon Creek
- Why Amazon Creek is an important habitat corridor for native wildlife

### **Jason Schmidt, Amazon Creek Initiative Manager**

- Ways you can champion support for LTWC's efforts in Amazon Creek and throughout the watershed

#### **Meeting Host:**

**Max Nielsen-Pincus, LTWC Board member**

**Open to all, free with light refreshments**

**For more info, Rob: 338-7060 or [operations@longtom.org](mailto:operations@longtom.org)**

*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.*

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



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## July 24 Public Meeting: “Pesticides in Amazon Creek”

Amazon Creek is a valuable natural asset to our community. The Long Tom Watershed Council is working with the local business community, property owners, farmers, and others to develop unique solutions that improve water quality, habitat, and recreational opportunities. Not only is Amazon Creek important to us, but it is also home to many native species including the great blue heron, river otter, American beaver, and just this past winter we found three cutthroat trout in the creek west of Junction City.

*“A waterway through downtown is a community asset. If it goes ignored, no one will want it to be there. We need to make Amazon Creek an amenity to all.”*  
– Rusty Rexius, Rexius, Inc.

At our July 24 meeting, we’ll discuss these native species and their habitats; share the results from two years of pesticide sampling from five locations in Amazon Creek; and learn about ways you can help improve the condition of Amazon Creek through Trout Friendly Landscapes, stormwater management, and joining our growing Business League of supporters.

## LTWC recognized for community service

### LTWC to receive community recognition at Ninkasi July 24!

Ninkasi Brewing Company, along with Sterling Bank, have pledged to donate to LTWC and five other organizations. Ninkasi & Sterling Bank will honor LTWC with a **check presentation on July 24th from 6—8:30 p.m. on the Ninkasi patio** (272 Van Buren St). LTWC will host an **informational table**, and the event is free and open to the public. Check out Ninkasi’s event calendar at [www.ninkasibrewing.com](http://www.ninkasibrewing.com) for more info.



From left: Carolyn Stein, Jim Pendergrass, Dana Dedrick & Jason Schmidt

### We’re now BRING RE:think certified!

LTWC received **BRING’s Re:think certification** in May for our positive impact on the local environment and community. LTWC joined a list of more than 65 local RE:think businesses that practice conservation and efficiency in their workplace and daily activities. Thank you to Carolyn Stein at BRING for helping us become RE:think Certified!

### LTWC recognized for outstanding civilian service!

The **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers** District Commander Col. John Eisenhower presented the **Department of the Army Commander’s Award for Public Service** to project landowner and former board member **Tony Stroda**. Stroda was honored for his efforts as a liaison between the Corps Willamette Valley Project and the agricultural community. Eisenhower also presented the **Outstanding Civilian Service Award** to LTWC Executive Director Dana Dedrick. The Council has been instrumental in building relationships between the Corps and area stakeholders, and bringing in two grants to improve habitat on Corps property. For more info: <http://go.usa.gov/bm6m>.



(From left): Col. John Eisenhower, Tony Stroda, Brenda Stroda & Dana Dedrick

## Strength in Numbers:

### The Evans Family's generous support of the Cutthroat Trout Migration Study

by Megan Connor, *LTWC Watershed Stories Intern*

The Evans family came to Oregon in the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century and settled on land near Junction City with Ferguson and Eber Creeks running through their property. In 1942 Rollin Branyan Evans and Frances Rae Evans wed and started to build their family. Rollin and Frances had three children—James, Richard, and Maryrae. Hardworking, dedicated, and with an inherent passion for community, the Evans family has played a major role in the Junction City area. Recently, Richard “Dick” Evans and his wife, Gretchen Evans, donated \$15,000 to the Long Tom Watershed Council (LTWC) to support the improvement of cutthroat trout by funding the Cutthroat Trout Migration Study.



*Richard B. Evans*

As a senior international business advisor and former President of Alcan Inc., Mr. Evans is a successful businessman living in San Francisco, California, but he never forgot his rural Oregon roots. Richard Evans is also an avid fisherman and supports local organizations working to improve native fish and their habitats.

“I had no idea that anything like the Long Tom Watershed Council existed,” said Richard Evans, “and one thing that struck me about the organization was their enthusiasm, passion, and interest in working to better the local watershed. My sister, Maryrae, has built a strong relationship with the Council and I knew that the watershed had a need for funding. My wife and I were very impressed with their dedication, and we felt that the Long Tom Watershed Council’s Cutthroat Trout Migration Study was something that we could whole-heartedly support.”

The Long Tom Watershed Council is a local organization in the Eugene area that focuses on improving water quality and watershed conditions in the Long Tom River basin with the support and actions from local community members like the Evans family. Just like the Evans family,



*This nearly 12” cutthroat trout was trapped at tagged at Maryrae & Andy Thomson’s (Dick Evans’ sister & brother-in-law) on Ferguson Creek in 2010.*

cutthroat trout are an important part of the Long Tom River basin’s heritage. Cutthroat, however, are facing challenges from changes to water quality and habitat conditions. To learn more about the watershed’s cutthroat trout, their biology, and population trends, LTWC partnered with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife in 2010 to launch the Cutthroat Trout Migration Study.

The mission of the Migration Study is to track the seasonal migration patterns and life histories of cutthroat trout in the Long Tom River basin, especially in Bear and Ferguson Creeks, with the goal of trapping and tagging 700 total cutthroat trout. The results of the study will help LTWC and its partners understand and

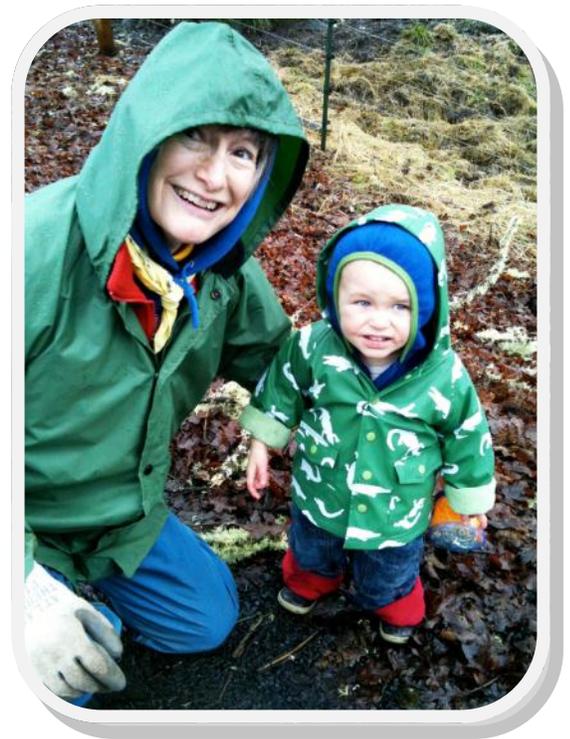
prioritize fish passage corrections and habitat improvements for trout and other native species.

Since 2010, LTWC volunteers have trapped and tagged more than 450 cutthroat and has recaptured more than 100 fish (sometimes multiple times). Traps are set from late fall through spring and are checked three times each week. Live trout are captured and then PIT tags (similar to microchips in pets) are inserted into the fish. Five antenna stations have been placed in both Bear and Ferguson Creeks to detect the fish as they swim by, with plans to install another in Amazon Creek. LTWC has been collecting the information and is working with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to improve the obstacles that the fish face on their migratory journeys.

Between 2011 and 2012, 159 new Cutthroat Trout were captured and tagged. One particular finding from the study is the variation in the sizes of the largest cutthroat trout found in different parts of the watershed. In Bear & Ferguson Creek, no cutthroat trout were captured over 12 inches, but in 2013, trout as large as 12 and 13 inches were tagged in small tributaries to the Long Tom River near Monroe. This is exciting news for people who remember catching large trout in the area, and LTWC hopes to learn where these larger fish are coming from.

LTWC is working to restore cutthroat trout habitat and improve access to spawning and juvenile rearing habitat. Richard Evans fondly reminisced about one of his favorite childhood memories of fishing on Ferguson Creek. “I remember a few summers when I was in junior high or high school that the Cutthroat Trout were huge! They had to have been about 15 or 16 inches! I remember spending my time out on Ferguson Creek and catching multiple fish then bringing them home to cook for a family dinner. I hope that the Migration Study will help us understand how to help make the fish sizes larger.” While there’s no guarantee of larger trout in the future, the hope is that habitat improvements to the stream reaches and spawning grounds trout use will help their populations thrive.

The involvement and support of numerous volunteers and watershed neighbors has made this important research possible. “We wouldn’t be able to collect this data in the first place without the dedication of the more than 75 volunteers who’ve participated in the study,” said Rob Hoshaw, Operations Manager and Volunteer Coordinator for LTWC. “The Evans family is giving us the capacity to oversee the project for two more years, including coordinating volunteers and analyzing and presenting the data,” Hoshaw explains. The eventual goal of the study is to publish the findings of the Cutthroat Trout Migration Study in a scientific journal. The generous support of Richard and Gretchen Evans leverages many hours of volunteer service and allows this research to continue through 2015. Learning more about cutthroat trout will assist LTWC in its efforts to improve trout habitat and ensure that future generations have an opportunity to enjoy this beloved native fish.



*Richard's sister, Maryrae Thomson, with Richard & Gretchen's grandson, Noah, at the Thomson property along Ferguson Creek.*

# Save the Date!

## LTWC's 16th Annual Celebration

Saturday, September 21, 4—7 p.m. at Confluence

Farms on Ferguson Rd. Featuring:

- A picnic dinner in the country
- Posters from area project landowners
- Watershed awards
- Tour of gorgeous property and restoration project at Confluence Farms

Join fellow neighbors & community members at a fun and family-friendly end of summer watershed celebration!

More details soon at [www.longtom.org](http://www.longtom.org) and our Facebook page.

## Nominations open for Board of Directors—due July 23

Might you, a colleague, or a friend be interested in helping to guide the watershed council for a term of 3-4 years? If you are interested, or know someone who might be, please **send a letter of nomination** to the **Nominating Committee** at the Council address (751 S. Danebo Ave, Eugene, OR 97402) or email to [coordinator@longtom.org](mailto:coordinator@longtom.org) by **Tuesday, July 23**. The letter should include at a minimum your **name**, **contact information**, including **phone number**, and a **statement of interest**. The nominee will be sent an application packet.

All those who apply will be included on the ballot for the Board of Directors which is published in the Council newsletter prior to the Annual Meeting. New Board members will be elected at the Annual Meeting. Please contact Dana Dedrick for more information:

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 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 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

## LTWC Board of Directors

### Lower Long Tom

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

### Upper Long Tom

David Turner  
Cary Hart  
Sue Kacskos  
Charles Ruff

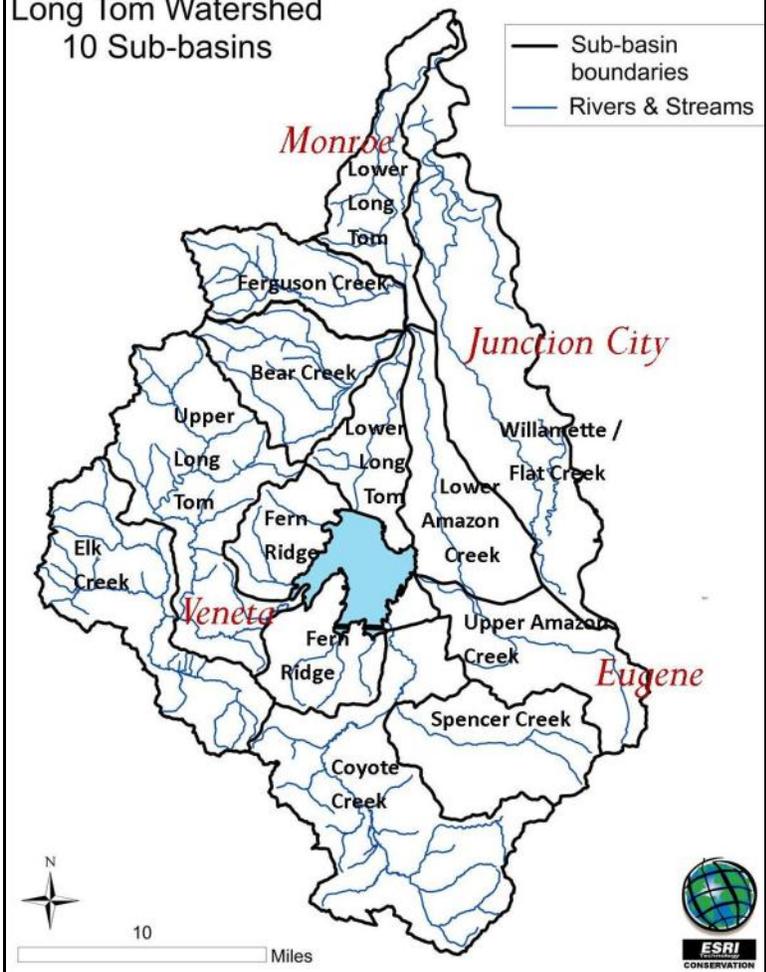
### At Large

Mike Brinkley, *Treasurer*  
Steve Cole, *Secretary*  
Beth Krisko  
Deborah Saunders Evans,  
*Vice Chair*

### Amazon

Max Nielsen-Pincus,  
*Past Chair*  
David Ponder  
Therese Walch

## Long Tom Watershed 10 Sub-basins



## Council Staff Contacts

**Dana Dedrick, Watershed Coordinator/Executive Director:** 338-7055

**Jed Kaul, Aquatic Projects Manger:** 338-7058

**Katie MacKendrick, Restoration Ecologist:** 338-7033

**Jason Schmidt, Urban Watershed Restoration Specialist:** 338-7042

**Rob Hoshaw, Operations Manager:** 338-7060

**Amanda Wilson, Fiscal Manager:** 338-7055



**Long Tom Watershed Council**

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### **Next Public Meeting**

#### **“Pesticides in Amazon Creek”**

**Wednesday, July 24, 5:30 p.m.**

*Campbell Community Center*

*155 High St, Eugene*

*3 blocks north of 5<sup>th</sup> Street Public  
Market on corner of 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave & High St.*

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## **Thank you for supporting our Annual Fundraising Campaign!**

Thanks to the contributions of our watershed friends, the 2013 LTWC Fundraising Campaign was a great success! We raised over **\$20,000**, exceeding our original goal of \$17,000. Thank you for your support of LTWC’s important work in the watershed!



## **Lead Gifts: Kurt & Mary Koehler Fund of the Oregon Community Foundation, Redtail Fund of the Oregon Community Foundation, Reerslev Farms, Inc.**

**Major Donors: Gary & Jo Holzbauer**

**Supporters:** Barbara & Joe Bowman, Emerald Acres, Kim Leval & Pete Sorenson, Hugh & Sue Prichard, Debra Johnson—in honor of the work you do, In honor of Erica Benedict-Barta, Anonymous (1)