



# Long Tom Watershed Council

November 2012 newsletter and meeting notice

*Action  
Through  
Understanding*



## *Public Meeting: Why & how to manage your property for bird habitat*

Tuesday, November 27, 5:30 p.m.

Veneta Community Center

*Open to all, free, with light refreshments*

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

### *Topics*

- Why oak and prairie habitats are important for native wildlife and which species live there.
- Simple steps property owners can do and which months to do them.
- Options that work with different property goals.
- Why oak & prairie stewardship is important in this particular watershed.
- **A landowner's view of their own project.**
- Possible funding for larger scale habitat improvement work.

A single oak tree or patch of prairie may contribute more to local **wildlife than you may think. November's public meeting will look at** how oak and prairie habitats are connected and the bird species  
*(continued on next page)*

### Speakers

- Ed Alverson, *Ecologist*
- Glenn Johnson, *Naturalist*
- Ted Brown, *Landowner*

### Meeting Hosts:

Steve Cole & Lindsay Reaves

*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.*

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

that depend on these increasingly rare areas. Several species of Willamette Valley birds use grasslands for food, nesting, and cover.

Learn what bird species you can find here - such as acorn woodpeckers as western meadowlarks (pictured on first page) - **and how to attract them.** We'll also talk about simple things property owners can do to improve habitat for wildlife and the best time of year to do them, working within the values and goals you have for your property.

By lending a helping hand for birds on your property, you also help many other native plant and wildlife species that depend on oak and prairie habitats. Healthy oak & prairie lands also benefit people by improving soil health and water retention, and reducing the risk of catastrophic fire. Many people also value the beauty and history of these habitats.



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## *Make a gift and make a difference for people and habitat in your watershed*

It's that time of year when friends and family come together to give thanks for what's meaningful in their lives. The Long Tom Watershed Council is thankful to our friends across the watershed community for their support and participation in the work of improving stream health and habitat for fish and wildlife. Our very successful Annual Celebration on November 8 showed that much can be accomplished when diverse and caring people come together. Please help us continue our important, locally-based work by giving a tax-deductible gift to LTWC this holiday season. You can donate through our website, [www.longtom.org](http://www.longtom.org), or by using the enclosed reply card.



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## *Thank you to our recent donors!*

*Lead Gifts:* Stroda Brothers Farm ([strodabrosfarm.com](http://strodabrosfarm.com))

*Annual Meeting Sponsors:*

Jules Abbott, Rolf & Barbara Anderson, Jason Blazar, Mike Brinkley, Tina Fenley, Gary & Jo Holzbauer, Jim & Chris Pendergrass, Hugh Prichard, Lindsay Reaves & Tom Bauman, Dave & Suzanne Turner

*Supporters:* Jason Blazar, Beth Krisko, Michael Shippey, Global Impact (through volunteer program at Symantec Corporation)

# 2013 Calendar Overview

## Next Public Meeting:

### **"The Latest on Fisheries in the Long Tom**

Tuesday, Jan 29, 6:00 p.m.

Monroe High School cafeteria

## Public Meetings & Tours

- Tuesday, March 19, 5:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, May 28, 5:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, July 30, 5:30 p.m.

## Help us spot invasive knotweed!



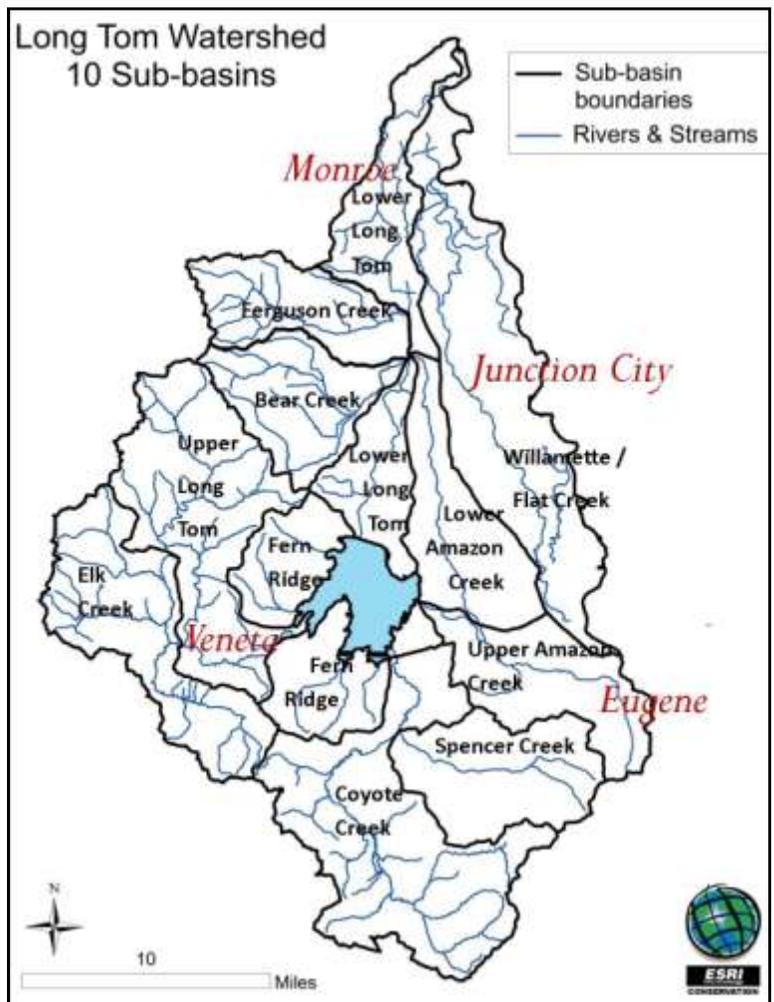
Japanese knotweed is a highly invasive plant with broad, heart-shaped leaves and white flower clusters in the summer (left photo). In winter, it looks much different with dead, brittle, standing canes (right photo). Visit [www.longtom.org/stewardship-resources/invasive-species/](http://www.longtom.org/stewardship-resources/invasive-species/) for more info about knotweed & other invaders.

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.

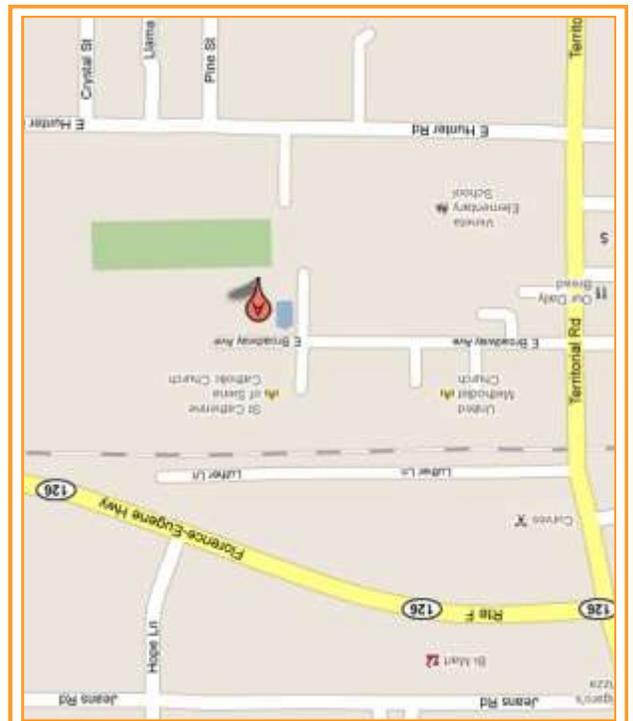
**BLM Disclaimer:** "The views and conclusions contained in this document are those of the authors and should not be interpreted as representing the opinions or policies of the U.S. Government. Mention of trade names or commercial products does not constitute their endorsement by the U.S. Government."

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 work in the Long Tom River basin. We're thankful for the donation of postage expenses!

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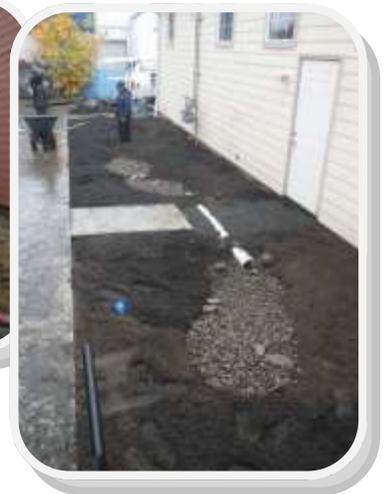


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## Our work on Amazon Creek is breaking ground, literally!

In October, construction began at our first Stormwater Retrofit project at 27<sup>th</sup> and Willamette in Eugene. This is a completely voluntary project that modernizes a commercial property with respect to stormwater. This kind of project is not required unless a property owner completely redevelops a property, or starts new construction. The property owner approached the Council after seeing one of our outreach flyers. After a site visit, the owner and LTWC agreed on a project to improve water quality and beautify his property for the tenants and their clients.



**Runoff from the building's rooftop and a parking lot are diverted to a collection of swales** where plants and soil filter pollutants out of the runoff, and percolates into the ground before reaching Amazon Creek. The new landscaping requires little to no pesticide applications, showcasing how a commercial property can improve its landscape impact. For more information on our Amazon Creek Initiative, or to volunteer, contact:

*Underutilized lawn and bit of pavement are being converted to rain gardens and planted swales that will look beautiful & treat stormwater on site.*

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