

## **LONG TOM WATERSHED COUNCIL**

May/June 2016

Action Through Understanding

## **Coyote Creek Project Tour Invitation**

Part of "Neighbor to Neighbor Tour" event in cooperation with Lane County Small Woodlands Association

Saturday, June 4, 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Bauman Tree Farm, 84289 Territorial Hwy (directions back page)



Photos: Volunteers planting willow & spirea stakes along Nighswander Creek (left); view of the Coyote Creek basin from project site at the Watkins's property (middle); blackberry and firs were thinned to create a more open oak savanna habitat (right)

## **LTWC Coyote Creek Project Tour Topics**

- Learn about a project to improve oak savanna and streamside vegetation
- How LTWC worked with the landowner to improve the quality of the habitat along the stream on a working ranch
- Why thinning woody trees from around oaks benefits savanna and prairie plant species
- How this project's proximity to several other habitat improvement projects is enhancing wildlife habitat in the Coyote Creek basin

### **RSVP Necessary!**

RSVP to Lindsay Reaves at Bauman Tree Farm by <u>June 1</u> (541-746-8990 or lindsayga@peak.org)

**Lunch Provided!** (along with morning coffee, tea and snacks)

For more info about the tour, Rob: 338-7055 or operations@longtom.org

### More on next page

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

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· Phone: (541) 338-7055 · Email: operations@longtom.org



## Tour Project to Improve Oak Savanna and Streamside Habitat

**Saturday, June 4 - part of "Neighbor to Neighbor Tour" 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.** (LTWC project tour at 10 a.m. and again at 1 p.m.)

LTWC will be hosting a project tour at the Watkins property, a working ranch about 12 miles south of Eugene. The project improved rare oak savanna, oak riparian, and streamside habitat along Coyote and Nighswander creeks. The Watkins's ranch is close to additional LTWC project sites at Polyrock Ranch and Laughing Stock Farm, as well as downstream from the Baumans' restoration work on the headwaters of Nighswander Creek. These areas create a corridor of improved habitat in the Coyote Creek basin, which is an important anchor area for native oak and prairie plant and wildlife species in the Wilamette Valley.

This project tour is part of the annual "Neighbor to Neighbor Tour" (formerly "Howdy Neighbor Tour") organized by the Lane County Small Woodlands Association. This all day event provides an exciting opportunity to explore private forest management with experts in the field on topics including how to manage a tree farm for wildlife habitat, forest health and disease, and forestry economics. In addition to LTWC's project tour, there are sessions happening throughout the day (full agenda on back page of insert). Bauman Tree Farm serves as the base for all event activities (map and directions on back page). Bus transportation will be provided to the Watkins property across the highway. Please RSVP by June 1 to Lindsay Reaves (541-746-8990 or lindsayga@peak.org). We hope you'll check out this awesome opportunity to learn about forest management and wildlife habitat!



**Streamside Habitat:** Rows of native trees and shrubs that were planted during early 2013. The Watkins' goats are helping to keep blackberry & other invasives in check until the native plants become established.



**Oak Savanna Habitat:** Before the project, young conifers were encroaching on some of the mature oaks in the background at the top of the slope.

## Purple Loosestrife: Help us spot this invader!

**Key Features:** This erect, bushy plant grows in wetlands and along stream banks and other bodies of water. Plants forms uniform stands up to 7-9 feet tall, and showy magenta flowers bloom in mid-summer.

**Why it's Invasive:** Purple loosestrife crowds out native wetland and riparian vegetation that's essential for wildlife such as amphibians, songbirds, and waterfowl. It can produce up to 2 million seeds per season and can even reproduce from broken pieces of plant.

**What to Do:** Purple loosestrife is extremely difficult to remove. Prevent spreading by cleaning shoes, boots, equipment, and clothing after working outside. Report suspected Purple Loosestrife to <a href="http://oregoninvasiveshotline.org">http://oregoninvasiveshotline.org</a>



Photo credit: Linda Wilson

## Join us in making Amazon Creek Trout Friendly!

LTWC is in the midst of our spring fundraising campaign in support of our vision for a Trout Friendly Amazon Creek! So far the council has been impressed by the excitement and enthusiasm about this long term vision for clean water and healthy habitat in the Amazon. This important work in the Amazon is supported by our 18 years of water quality and habitat work downstream in the Long Tom and rural tributaries, while this work upstream supports those important projects we've been building over the life of the council. This watershed-wide approach is a reflection of our commitment to the entire watershed community, and represents the diverse nature of our



watershed, and of the ways in which habitat and water quality can be improved throughout the basin! Cleaner water in Amazon Creek means cleaner water in the Long Tom River, and by supporting this vision for Amazon creek, you are supporting our work basin-wide and the full complement of important successes the council continues to achieve for the Long Tom Watershed.

Please join us in support of this important vision for a Trout Friendly Amazon Creek! Email or call Clinton Begley [clinton@longtom.org | 541-654-8965] to learn how your gift will directly impact clean water and healthy habitat for people and wildlife in the watershed. Or give online at <a href="https://www.longtom.org/donate">www.longtom.org/donate</a>.

## **Recent Gifts - Thank You for Your Support!**

Business League: Huntons' Family Farm, Organically Grown Co.

Individual & Business Donors: Vicki Blackman, Bruce Campbell, Doug & Linda Carnine, Douglas Evans, Quinton Hallet, Kurt & Mary Koehler, Ted Ledgard, Whitey Lueck, Mark Rauch, Redtail Fund of the Oregon Community Foundation, Rosboro, Kevin Shanley, Transition Management, Inc., Anonymous (2)





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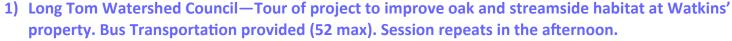
## Lane Co. Small Woodlands Association "Neighbor to Neighbor Tour" Event Agenda, featuring LTWC project tour at 10 a.m. and again at 1 p.m.

Saturday, June 4, 2016, 9:30 a.m.—3:30 p.m. Bauman Tree Farm (84289 Territorial Hwy, Eugene)

### 9:30-10:00 a.m. Check In & Session Sign Up

- Park in main meadow and walk to Blue Sky Meadow
- Check-in and session sign up
- Coffee, tea, and snacks provided

### **Session 1: 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.** (Choose 1)



- 2) "How Does your Forest Grow?" Tour of tree farm to explore and understand what a forest needs (moderate, 1 mile hike) Lauren Grand, Lane County Extension Forester
- 3) "Forest Health & Disease: Why are my trees dying? What to look for following 3 years of drought." Dave Shaw, OSU Extension

### Lunch: 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

- Visit Info Booths, including LTWC, Wow-net, Oregon Herb & Craft, and Oregon Department of Forestry
- **ODF informal presentation** "Fire Prevention: what to do and what not to do"
- Visit **student building project** University of Nebraska architecture students

### **Session 2: 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.** (Choose 1)

- 1) Long Tom Watershed Council—Tour of project to improve oak and streamside habitat at Watkins' property. Bus Transportation provided (52 max). Repeated from morning tour.
- 2) "Making a Living Off Your Tree Farm" Steve Bowers, Jeanne Shuttleworth, and Pat Mooney
- 3) "Forests for Wildlife & Habitat" How to create a forest for critters Fran Cafferata-Coe

### Session 3: 2:30 - 3:30 p.m. (Choose 1)

- 1) Vista View Hike at Bauman Tree Farm (moderate, 1 mile hike). Same route as in "How does your Forest Grow Session" Lindsay Reaves
- 2) Bauman Tree Farm Tour (trailer transport provided) Tom Bauman
- 3) Hang out in the Blue Sky Learning Meadow LCSWA members

For credit card donations visit <a href="www.longtom.org/donate">www.longtom.org/donate</a> to enter your credit card or PayPal information

751 S. Danebo Ave. | Eugene, OR 97402 | 541-654-8965

Questions? Please call Clinton, 541-654-8965 or clinton@longtom.org

Your tax-deductible support allows us to do unique local work for this watershed community!



# Nominations open for Board of Directors—due July 29

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 clinton@longtom.org by Friday, July 29. The letter should include at a minimum your name, contact information, including phone number, and a statement of interest. The nominee will be sent a Board Interest packet with a brief application form. The Nominating Committee will present a slate of candidates on the website prior to the Annual Meeting, with information provided at the meeting. New Board members will be elected at the October Annual Meeting. Please contact Clinton Begley for more information: 541-654-8965.

## **Watershed Community Events**

### "Taste the Watershed!" to support LTWC!

### Tues, June 14 at Hop Valley Tasting Room

Eugene Tasting Room located at 990 W. 1st Ave. More details to follow at <a href="https://www.longtom.org">www.longtom.org</a>.

## Open House at Laughing Stock Farm

## Sunday, June 26, 2 p.m. 83601 Territorial Rd, Eugene

Owners Paul Atkinson and Sid Baum recently entered into a conservation easement with Northwest Land Conservation Trust, and they are inviting neighbors and the watershed community members to visit their farm and see an example of an easement on working lands. Laughing Stock Farm also has a done a project to improve fish passage and stream habitat with LTWC. For more info: 541-345-2186.

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 use the following disclaimer, 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

## LTWC Board of Directors

### **Lower Long Tom**

Steve Horning, *Vice-Chair*Jim Pendergrass, *Past Chair*John Reerslev

### At Large

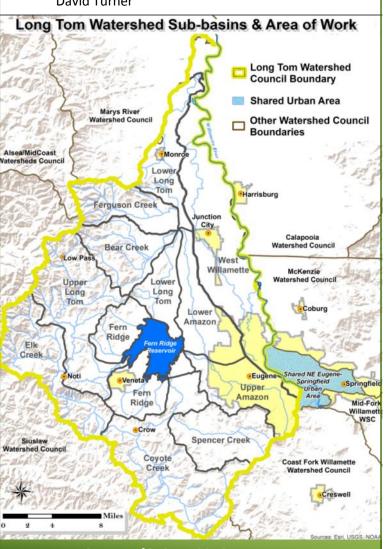
Mike Brinkley, *Treasurer*Deborah Saunders Evans, *Vice-Chair*David Turner

### **Upper Long Tom**

Cary Hart Lindsay Reaves Charles Ruff, *Chair* 

#### **Amazon**

Alan Dickman Shelly Miller



## **Council Staff Contacts**

Dana Dedrick, Watershed Coordinator/E.D.: 541-338-7055

Clinton Begley, Development & Communications: 654-8965

Rob Hoshaw, Operations Director: 338-7055

Jed Kaul, Fish Biologist: 338-7058

Katie MacKendrick, Ecologist: 338-7033

Sarah Whitney, Urban Habitat & Stormwater: 654-8965

Heidi Heisler, Fiscal Manager: 338-7042

Melanie Giangreco, Ops & Database Assistant: 338-7060

## LTWC Working to Improve Willamette River Anchor Habitats

The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board recently awarded funding for a "Focused Investment Partnership" program to improve aquatic habitat for native fish and wildlife along the mainstem Willamette River. These grant dollars are available for regional partners within the Willamette Mainstem Anchor Habitat Working Group to apply for, starting with over \$2.3 million in 2016, over the next six years. In addition to LTWC, partners in this group include other watershed councils, soil and water conservation districts, land trusts, and the City of Eugene, among others. OWEB lottery dollars will be matched with significant grant funds that LTWC has already secured through Meyer Memorial Trust and the Bonneville Power Administration.

We recently submitted grant proposals for a third phase of work at Snag Boat Bend and Sam Daws Landing, two publicly-owned properties north of Harrisburg. Work will include planting 48 acres of bottomland forest and reconnecting floodplain habitat to the river by removing constructed features like berms and water control structures. OWEB is likely to fund LTWC's Willamette work projects for the next six years. LTWC will continue working on projects like these with the voluntary participation of private landowners and public partners on

projects that will include increasing river channel complexity, reconnecting side channels, and reestablishing bottomland forests. Side channels, in particular, provide slower water for migratory Chinook salmon, Pacific lamprey, and cutthroat trout to use as refuge during high flows or and to hide from predators. Forested side channels increase habitat complexity, provide shade that cools water temperatures, and also can reduce the impact of flooding on agricultural fields during winter. We're excited by the momentum in this growing area of our work!





Long Tom Watershed Council

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## Directions to June 4 Neighbor to Neighbor Tour (signs will be posted)

