

Outdoor Tour Invitation

Owens Creek Project Tour and Wildlife Walk

Tuesday, June 26th, 6 - 8 p.m.

24755 Lavell Road (directions on back page)



Beavers frequent the wetland and riparian areas along Owens Creek (beaver photo by Steve Trask). Learn more about beaver and other watershed wildlife at the project tour.

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Meeting Topics:

- Approach to improving streamside habitat and options for landowners
- Wildlife Walk! Learn how to look for signs of wildlife with naturalist David Walp
- Learn about beaver biology and how folks might deal with problem beavers

***Note: Tour will include hiking about 1—1.5 miles over uneven ground**

***Wear sturdy shoes or boots and bring water**

LTWC Public Meetings and Project Tours are free and open to everyone

Light refreshments are provided

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.

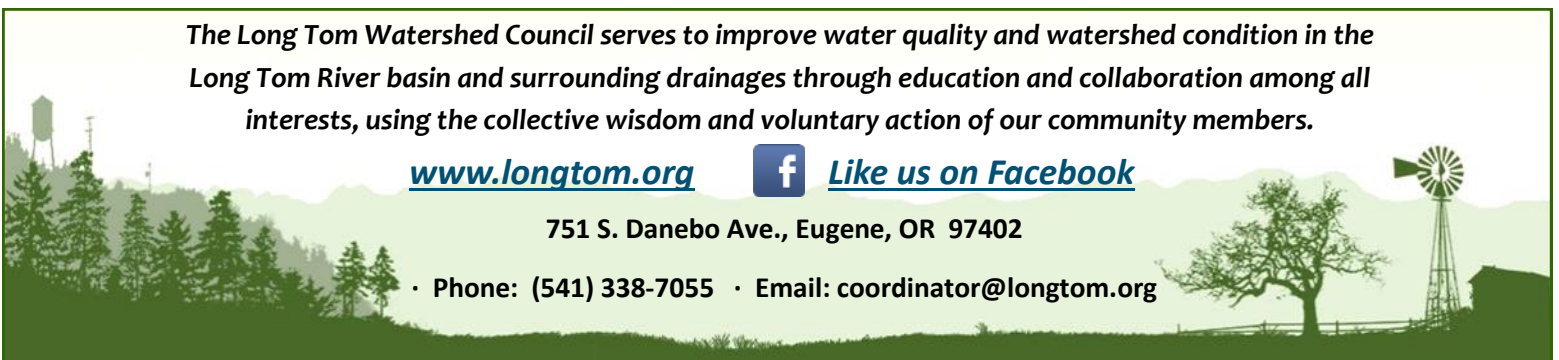
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June 26: Owens Creek Project Tour and Wildlife Walk

Explore the watershed this summer at a free tour of a riparian enhancement project along Owens Creek! In addition, take a wildlife walk along the stream with local naturalist David Walp to learn more about the species that inhabit our watershed and how to spot signs of their activity.

This privately-owned site is about nine miles west of Junction City, among rolling hills, farms, forests, and vineyards. It lies in the heart of significant habitat improvement work completed by LTWC and the Owens Creek community. In [last November's newsletter](#), we highlighted the incredible accomplishments of Owens Creek's neighbors, as the council reached a major milestone in removing the last priority fish passage barrier on mainstem Owens Creek. That momentous occasion represented over a decade of relationship-building, grant writing, and the vision of local landowners to remove or replace 11 barriers. Fish passage improvements are only part of the story, and Owens Creek landowners, project partners, and the Council have also worked together to increase habitat complexity and quality in the stream through the installation of log jams, and the planting of native trees and shrubs along the creek itself.

The June 26th tour, hosted by landowners Al and Donna Hrynshyn, will showcase the planting of native vegetation on nearly seven acres of streamside habitat. Immediately upstream is another 7+ acre riparian planting project owned by Giustina Land & Timber, and just downstream of the tour is one of the culvert replacement projects on a Lane County right of way at the entrance of the shared driveway to the project site and High Pass Winery. Tour attendees will have an opportunity to view the plantings, learn about how the plant species are selected and arranged, how the project was funded, and about opportunities for landowners to enroll in the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP).

This section of Owens Creek is also a very active wildlife area—particularly for beaver—and naturalist David Walp, who has over 50 years of experience tracking and learning about Oregon Wildlife, will share tips on spotting wildlife along our streams. During the tour, he'll point out animal tracks, other signs like deer rubs, and we'll even visit a beaver dam. David has a great deal of experience working with beaver and will also spend time talking about possible solutions to common beaver problems. He also has a collection of beaver pelts, skulls, teeth, and feet, which he has collected over the years for educational purposes, and will teach attendees about beaver biology. There will even be a round of beaver trivia!

Don't miss this tour! (Directions on back page)



Rows of native trees and shrubs planted in 2015 and 2016 along Owens Creek near High Pass Winery.



David Walp donated these pelts to the Willamette Resources & Educational Network. Can you identify these residents of the watershed? Answers are on page 7! (Hint Animal A is missing part of its tail)

June 26th Tour Speakers



*(From left) **David Walp**, local naturalist; **Al Hrynshyn**, property owner & LTWC board member; **Jed Kaul**, LTWC fish biologist & project manager*

Exploring Biochar Creation in Oak Habitat Restoration

For over 12 years the Long Tom Watershed Council has been working to restore upland oak and prairie habitats on private and public lands in our watershed. Because of indigenous land management and agroforestry practices in the Willamette Valley, oak, upland prairie, and wet prairie habitats support hundreds of species including numerous birds, plants, insects, and wildlife.

Of the oak savanna and prairie habitat that existed before European settlement in the Willamette Valley, only about 1-2% of that habitat remains, and the Long Tom Watershed supports important remnant habitat. More than 90% of remaining oak and prairie habitat exists on private lands, which means landowner efforts in the Long Tom can contribute significantly to enhancing and restoring these important habitats, and stewarding them into the future.

Frequent, low intensity fire, an important component to healthy oak and prairie habitats, is largely missing from our landscape. Historically, the Kalapuya people stewarded these habitats through the seasonal use of fire, which favored plants and animals used for food and fiber. Today, that culturally and ecologically important stewardship is largely absent from these habitats. In turn, both invasive and native woody plants have encroached—creating forest and prairie conditions inhospitable for many of the plant and animal species that depend on these rare habitats.

In addition to our ongoing work to facilitate dialogue about reintroducing traditional techniques to the Long Tom, the council's ecologist, Katie MacKendrick, proposed exploring alternative techniques that might bring a few of the benefits that fire provides, back to our oak and prairie project sites: the on-site creation of biochar.

What exactly is biochar? Biochar is a form of charcoal creation in a low-oxygen environment. On-site biochar creation presents an alternative opportunity to add carbon back to the soil and reduce carbon and particulate emissions. Efforts to understand and utilize biochar could provide great benefits to regional restoration. It could have potential in farm, forest, habitat restoration, and stormwater filtering sites as a soil amendment.

In April, Katie joined biochar consultants John Miedema and Kelpie Wilson, to meet with new oak project landowners Dan and Gen Casares, Ray Morse and Phyllis Helland to test out a kind of specially designed portable biochar kiln that the council, and other regional partners, hope to utilize on local projects. This fall, we'll begin our first year of testing biochar creation techniques. Let us know if you'd like to learn more.

Read more about this exciting work from our April 20th "Learn Your Long Tom" post: <https://mailchi.mp/56047ea9c991/biocharapril2018>.

If you'd like to learn more about biochar creation and see more photos of the process, feel free to check out these resources: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/7avX9bQYtOup9URj1>
<http://ubetbiochar.blogspot.com/>



(Above) A group of consultants, landowners, and partners load a steel kiln, "The Oregon Kiln," with Douglas fir and Scotch broom slash to turn it into biochar.

(Below) The small diameter wood quickly transforms into biochar and the fire needs quenching with water to stop the wood from becoming ash.



Recent Gifts - Thank You for Your Support!

Individual or General Gifts: Cybele Higgins, Fred Meyer Community Rewards Program, Jim & Chris Pendergrass, United Way of Lane County

Traditional Ecological Knowledge Project: Columbia Bank

Urban Office Space Rent Contribution: Lee & Veronica Davis

Volunteers Assist with Rain Garden Installation!

Five enthusiastic and hard-working ninth-graders assembled at OSU Extension's Master Gardener Office on June 8th to volunteer in the early stages of a rain garden installation. These North Eugene High School freshmen were participating in a "Day of Caring," with groups of students volunteering at community projects throughout Eugene. Armed with shovels and wheelbarrows, the enthusiastic and hard-working teens dug out the existing clay soil to a depth of 20 - 24". Once complete, this rain garden will treat roof runoff before it flows into storm drains and, ultimately, the Willamette River. The amended soils and water-loving plants absorb stormwater that picks up pollutants from the roof while creating an attractive landscape.



Thank you to Kendall Lawless and her 9th grade class!

This is the second urban stormwater project at OSU Extension's office downtown. Previously, stormwater planters were installed to cool, filter, and slow down the flow of water from the other end of the building.

LTWC teamed up with the Willamette Resources and Educational Network (WREN) to provide this activity and opportunity to for students to volunteer and learn about water quality and urban stormwater. Lane Community College's Stormwater Management Class in the Water Conservation Technician Program got the rain garden project up and rolling by performing site analysis including percolation testing, sizing the facility, and developing the design including a planting plan. Many thanks to the groups of students from North Eugene High and LCC! Thanks also to OSU Extension for embracing voluntary stormwater management and devoting their own capable volunteer task force to complete and maintain the projects! This voluntary stormwater facility is truly a community effort!



Left: LCC students begin sizing the area that will become the rain garden; Right: LTWC's Urban Stormwater & Habitat Specialist, Sarah Whitney, talks about rain gardens and urban water quality. You can see the existing planters in the background.

Invasive Ludwigia Treatment: Progress & Volunteer Opportunities!

For the past three years, the Long Tom Watershed Council has received funding or in-kind support from the Oregon State Weed Board (OSWB), the United States Army Corps of Engineers, and the City of Eugene, along with dozens of volunteers, to get populations of invasive Uruguayan water primrose, or “ludwigia,” under control.

Ludwigia has an extremely aggressive growth pattern. In just a couple of years, it can take over slower-moving bodies of water, forming dense mats that may span the entire water body and form a thick fringe of vegetation at the water’s edge. It can alter flow, impair aquatic habitat, reduce available oxygen in the water, interfere with navigation, recreation, and water withdrawal, and pose threats to water delivery and flood conveyance. Ludwigia populations in and around Eugene and the Long Tom Watershed are the oldest and furthest upstream populations of the plant in the Willamette system. This makes them source populations that lead to the spread of ludwigia to downstream areas. For these reasons, control of source populations in our watershed are currently considered among the top priorities for invasive species management in the entire Willamette River Basin.

Together with our funders and other partners including the Oregon Department of Transportation, the Junction City Water Control District, and many private landowners, we have made significant progress at a number of upstream source locations, including Empire Park Ponds, Park Avenue Ponds, and Clear Lake. This February, LTWC was awarded its fourth OSWB grant to help continue this important work. Since 2011, the City of Eugene has been working on controlling populations at Delta Ponds and Golden Gardens Ponds, and LTWC has relied heavily on the expertise of the city’s Ludwigia control project manager, Lauri Holts (thank you, Lauri!). The City has a great website explaining their efforts: www.eugene-or.gov/2458/Delta-Ponds-Ludwigia-Control

We believe that landowner and volunteer engagement will become increasingly critical to the sustained success of these efforts. We hosted our first ever volunteer weed pull last summer, and had a blast with all the volunteers who came out. Together, volunteers contributed 122 hours to pulling invasive water primrose, coordinating and monitoring, and assisting with outreach. **We are thrilled to be hosting more on-the-water volunteer events this summer in July and August** (dates and details in sidebar).

For more information on this project, including maps and photos, visit <https://mailchi.mp/557a89de6082/learnyourlongtomludwigia2018>

If you believe you have this plant on your property, or would like to be on a list to receive emails about volunteering this summer, please contact Amanda Reinholtz: amanda@longtom.org

Volunteer Opportunities: Mark Your Calendars!

Canoe-based volunteer ludwigia pulls are a great way to get out and enjoy the Long Tom River while contributing to the health of the watershed!

Our canoe-based events will take place:

- Sat, July 21
- Sat, August 11

Email amanda@longtom.org if you'd like to volunteer!



Welcome back, Lindsay Reaves, and thank you, Charles!

We'd like to warmly welcome Lindsay Reaves to the board! Lindsay is a fourth-generation Oregonian and has lived in Eugene since 1981. She received her B.S. in health education from the University of Oregon and a master's in social work from Portland State University. Lindsay, along with her husband Tom Bauman, manage the 672-acre Bauman Tree Farm as a sustainable forest tree farm. As part of Forests Today & Forever, they host the annual Forest Field Days, which educates middle school students on forest stewardship and management. Lindsay served two prior terms on the LTWC board in 2011 and from 2014-2017. She offers immense expertise and awareness of forestry priorities and concerns, as well as a depth of knowledge on education, communication and board governance and fundraising, among many other topics. In addition to her experience and connection to the forestry industry, she is a creative thinker and good partner for advancing the Council's mission.



Lindsay was recommended by the board this month to fill Charles Ruff's vacated seat in the Upper Long Tom geography. She will be presented for election, along with the full slate of board candidates, at the October Annual Meeting & Celebration.

We'd also like to sincerely thank Charles Ruff for his eight years of service on the LTWC board! With his extensive experience as the former general manager of the Oregon Country Fair, Charles was able to lend a great deal of valuable guidance to the Council in regards to nonprofit management, leadership, and fundraising. Charles is also one of the organizers for the Oregon Truffle Festival and currently resides in Hawaii. Thank you, Charles, for your service to LTWC!



Nominations open for Board of Directors! (due August 10)

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 LTWC address (**751 S. Danebo Ave, Eugene, OR 97402**) or email to **coordinator@longtom.org** by **Friday, August 10**. 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 & Celebration, with information provided at the meeting. New board members will be elected at the October Annual Celebration. Please contact Executive Director Clinton Begley for more information: 541-654-8965 / coordinator@longtom.org.



The council holds board meetings on the first Thursday each month except during August and December. This May, the board had an opportunity to tour Confluence Farms (above images) on Ferguson and South Fork Ferguson Creeks, and to talk with landowner Trey Hagen about his family's farm and their work with LTWC and McKenzie River Trust.

April 24th Public Meeting Images

Thank you to the nearly two dozen community members who gathered at the Long Tom Grange Hall April 24th to learn more about the results of the council's Cutthroat Trout Migration Study. We especially want to thank ODFW fish biologist Karen Hans for an excellent presentation, and to the Long Tom Grange for hosting our event!



Animal ID Answer Key

(From Page 2)

- A: River Otter
- B: Mink
- C: American Beaver

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 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!

LTWC Board of Directors

Lower Long Tom

Steve Horning
Alec Hrynshyn

Upper Long Tom

Lindsay Reaves
Jabrila Via

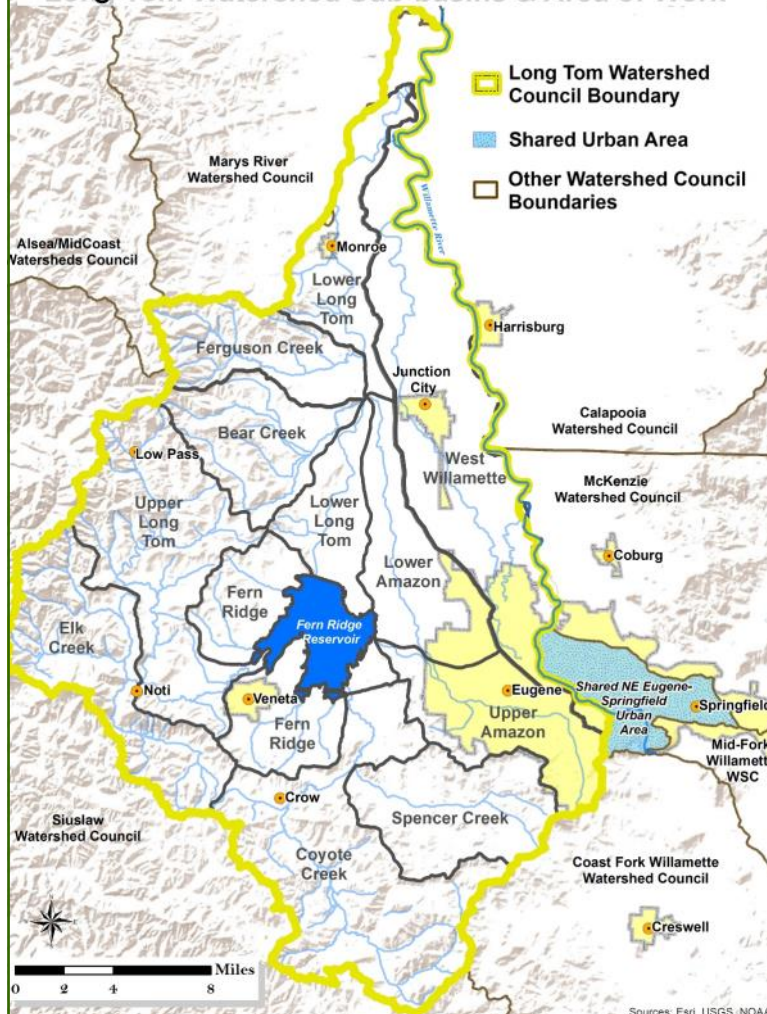
At Large

Ginnie Grilley, *Vice-Chair*
Darian Lightfoot
Pat McDowell
Jonathan Powell, *Treasurer*

Amazon

Shelly Miller, *Chair*
Dave Thomas, *Secretary*

Long Tom Watershed Sub-basins & Area of Work



Council Staff Contacts

Clinton Begley, *Watershed Coordinator/ED*: 541-654-8965

Rob Hoshaw, *Operations Director*: 338-7055

Dana Dedrick, *Special Projects Lead*: 654-8965

Jed Kaul, *Fish Biologist*: 338-7058

Katie MacKendrick, *Ecologist*: 338-7033

Sarah Whitney, *Urban Habitat & Stormwater*: 654-8965

Amanda Reinholtz, *Habitat & Water Quality Spc*: 338-7060

Heidi Heisler, *Fiscal Manager*: 338-7042

Sarah Pollock, *Administrative Assistant*: 338-7055

UO Masters Students Help Launch Strategic Planning Process

This spring, LTWC launched a process that will comprehensively review and update our strategic plan. After 20 years, LTWC has grown both programmatically and in complexity, and we believe the opportunity is ripe to make sure that we continue approaching our mission in a thoughtful and effective way that best serves this watershed community.

Four masters students in the University of Oregon's Public Planning, Policy & Management Program were instrumental in getting this process off the ground and providing baseline information. After Clinton met with UO Professor Bob Choquette and presented to his Strategic Planning Class, the student research team (pictured at right) LTWC for their course project.



*From left: Julissa Rosales, Kaisa Lightfoot,
Nino Dgebuadze, and Agraj Dangal*

The research team conducted "SWOT" interviews (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) with more than 20 community members from across the stakeholder spectrum. The questions aimed at understanding what folks feel the council does particularly well, what we could do better, what opportunities for growth exist, and anything of concern we should be aware of moving forward. The students also examined strategies to expand our fundraising and community engagement activities. Their work culminated in a presentation to the board this month to share their results.

Thank you, Julissa, Kaisa, Nino, and Agraj for your exceptional thoroughness and professionalism during this process! We'd also like to thank the community members who participated in the SWOT analyses and lent their valuable perspective to this important first step. The council looks forward to engaging the public in future opportunities as we build upon the students' initial work in shaping our strategic plan. More updates to come!



Long Tom Watershed Council

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*** Directions***

June 26th Project Tour

6 - 8 p.m.

24755 Lavell Road, Junction

City, OR 97448

*Located about 9 miles west of
Junction City, just north of the
western intersection of High Pass
and Lavell Roads. Driveway is
shared with High Pass Winery.
Signs will be posted!*