



LONG TOM WATERSHED COUNCIL

April/May 2019

Action
Through
Understanding

Public Event Invitation

Friday, May 3, 5 - 8 p.m.

Bear Creek Project Tour and BBQ Bash at Bennett Vineyards!

25974 Hwy 36 (2 miles west of Cheshire)



Photos from left: Melting snow in Feb. around one of the ponds created for turtle and amphibian habitat; a contractor prepares to push a piece of large wood into position; bridge over Bear Creek that replaced a culvert that previously blocked fish passage

Event Highlights

- **Project Tour of Bear Creek restoration** activities around the vineyard **starting at 6 p.m.** in the tasting room parking lot
- **Celebrate the contributions** of private landowners like Bennett Vineyards to habitat enhancement in Bear Creek!
- Join us for **casual conversation, wine, and BBQ**
- **Live folk music** by the Eugene Barnstormers!
- BBQ available for purchase from **Kico's BBQ food truck**
- Bennett Vineyards is **donating a % of wine sold to LTWC!**

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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.

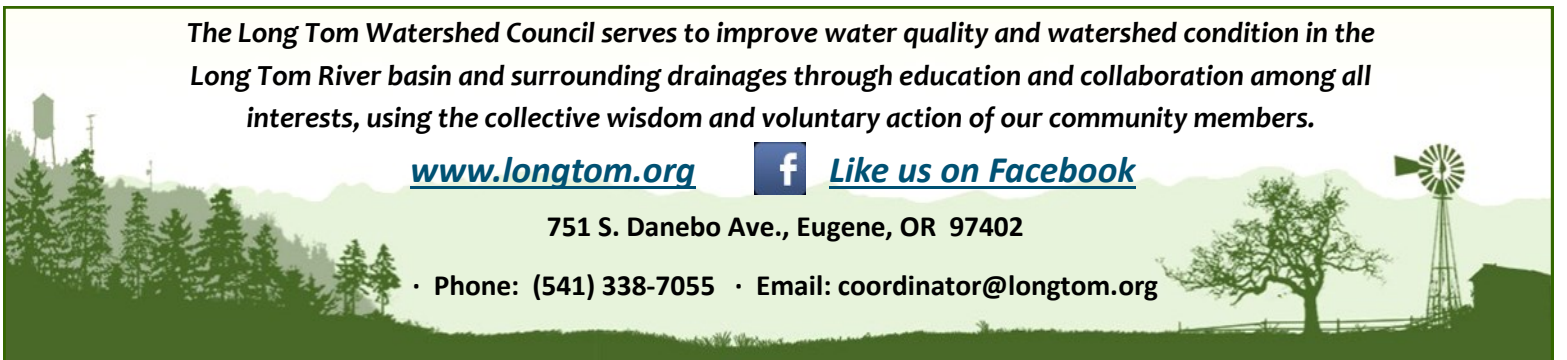
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May 3: Bear Creek Project Tour & BBQ Bash at Bennett Vineyards

The Long Tom Watershed Council is partnering with [Bennett Vineyards & Wine Company](#) to host an evening of BBQ, music, and local wine punctuated by a project tour of recent restoration efforts to improve a wide variety of habitats on the vineyard.

Last year, the Bennett family worked with LTWC on a project to improve a combination of wetland, upland, and streamside habitat. Log jams were placed throughout a nearly one-mile segment of Bear Creek to improve stream complexity and create spawning and cover habitat for native fish like cutthroat trout and the aquatic insects they eat. We also excavated three shallow, seasonal pools to provide habitat for rare western pond turtles and red-legged frogs. Most recently over the winter, we planted 16 acres of native trees and shrubs along the stream. These efforts followed up on a project a few years ago to replace a fish passage barrier with a bridge over Bear Creek. LTWC fish biologist and project manager Jed Kaul will be leading the project tour on May 3 to share more about these restoration actions.

We also want to congratulate Bennett Vineyards on receiving the **Hero of Salmon award for 2019!** This award recognizes growers that best represent [Salmon-Safe's](#) habitat restoration and biodiversity enhancement goals. Congratulations to owners Gene and Lisa Bennett for this tremendous accomplishment!

Join your fellow neighbors and watershed community members in celebrating this amazing work, which is emblematic of the incredible, voluntary efforts of private landowners and business owners to improve stream and habitat health across the watershed!

Project Tour starts at 6 p.m. Join us for conversation, wine, and food from [Kico's BBQ](#) before and/or after the tour.

Questions? Rob at 541-338-7055 or operations@longtom.org



Aerial image of pond with vineyard and Hwy 36 in the background. Photo by Steven P. Smith



This shallow, seasonal pond at Bennett Vineyards was excavated to create habitat for rare species like western pond turtles. The logs were placed in the pond as basking structures.

WILL YOU HELP BRING JUVENILE SPRING CHINOOK BACK TO THE LONG TOM?



Juvenile wild spring Chinook salmon from the Long Tom River in Monroe

WILD CHINOOK SALMON IN THE LONG TOM?

While most people don't think of the Long Tom when they think of salmon, the Long Tom River is an essential piece of the endangered wild spring Chinook Salmon's complex life histories in the Willamette system. Wild fish born in the McKenzie or Middle Fork make their way down the Willamette during winter's high flows in search of rearing habitat like the Long Tom. The warmer,

slower, and naturally clay-silted waters make for great places to hide and get a little bigger before heading out to sea. Historically, juvenile fish would have been common in parts of the Long Tom system in the winter!

SO WHERE ARE THEY?

Currently an Army Corps of Engineer's structure in Monroe prevents these fish from accessing much of their historical Long Tom range. The Watershed Council is currently engaged in a multi-year collaborative effort alongside the Army Corps and the City of Monroe to figure out how to provide passage for these special little visitors to the watershed! This winter, the Army Corps announced that this project would be one of only TWO new-start projects in the country to examine this structure's impacts on fish passage! The Corps is actively engaged in critical technical review of this project right now!



An Army Corps Dam in Monroe Blocks Passage to Native Fish

We have already secured a total of \$108,000 THIS YEAR in combined grants, and donations from local donors, toward this year's work on this project!

This brings the total cash and in-kind resources invested to this project over the last 4 years to over \$300,000 from Dick & Gretchen Evans, the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, and The Hewlett Foundation's Resource Legacy Fund. **Now we need an additional \$80,000 for the council to stay engaged in this critical phase underway!**

WHAT WILL MY GIFT ACHIEVE?

- Continued engagement with local, and federal partners to continue designing & vetting the fish passage alternatives
- Ensuring watershed wide priorities are reflected in the process through final design
- Direct support of the critical backbone services required to manage a project of this size
- Propel this project from the outreach & vision phase, into the design phase, our next critical step toward implementation!

A VOLUNTEER FUNDRAISER WILL BE IN TOUCH WITH YOU SOON TO ASK FOR YOUR SUPPORT IN THIS IMPORTANT WORK!

Do you have questions about the project? Visit our campaign page at longtom.org/springchinook for more information or to give online today!

Notice of Willamette Valley Environmental Impact Statement

Army Corps of Engineers seeking public input

Our partners at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), Portland District, recently announced the publication of a public notice of intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to address the continued operations and maintenance of the 13 dams throughout the Corps' Willamette Valley System (WVS), which encompasses the Willamette River and many of its tributaries - including the Long Tom. **The Council wanted to share this information and make the watershed community aware of the Corps' request for public input on their EIS process.**

Each dam contributes to a water resource management system that provides flood risk management, power generation, water quality improvement, irrigation, fish and wildlife habitat, and recreation. The intention is to meet these objectives while also meeting Endangered Species Act obligations to support the survival of listed species such as Chinook salmon and steelhead. The last EIS for the Willamette Valley was completed in 1980.

The Corps has invited all affected federal, state, and local agencies, Tribes, other interested parties, and the general public to participate in the process. The purpose of the public scoping process is to serve as a mechanism to solicit agency, Tribal, and public input on alternatives and issues of concern, and ensure full and open participation. Input received during the scoping process will help the Corps to identify people or organizations interested in the proposed action, identify the significant issues to be analyzed in the EIS, and gather input to be used in the development of action alternatives.

The Corps will also host a number of public meetings during the scoping period. The specific dates, times, and locations of the meetings will be published on the Corps' website for this EIS: <https://www.nwp.usace.army.mil/Locations/Willamette-Valley/Evaluation/>. The Corps will also provide email notification of the meetings, planned for May and June 2019.

Comments on the scope of the EIS will be accepted through June 28, 2019. Comments may be sent via email: willamette.eis@usace.army.mil or may be mailed to: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Portland District P.O. Box 2946, ATTN: CENWP-PME-E, Portland OR 97208-2946.

All comments and materials received, including names and addresses, will become part of the administrative record and may be released to the public. **For questions regarding the EIS, or special accommodations for scoping process participation, please contact Suzanne Hill, Environmental Resources Specialist, (503) 808-4767.**

The posted Army Corps' notice of intent is posted online here: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2019/04/01/2019-06258/notice-of-intent-to-prepare-an-environmental-impact-statement-for-the-willamette-valley-system>



Native Landscaping

Tips for using native plants in your gardens and landscapes this spring

By Cynthia Lafferty, Doak Creek Nursery

With the spring rains bringing the dormant plants new life, new leaves emerging, and the hum and activity of hummingbirds and pollinators over the blooming wildflowers, it is a good time to give some thought to planting native plants in your garden. Here are some ideas for how you can incorporate natives in your landscape:

- First, take a **look at what native plants already grow on your property or nearby**. Think about the habitat: is it oak woodland, wet prairie meadow, or a conifer forest? This will be helpful in choosing what plants will do well. **Native plant nurseries (see list at end) can help guide you in selecting the appropriate species.**
- **Plant in large swaths or groups to maximize habitat enhancement.** For example, plant a pollinator hedgerow with mixed native species to extend bloom times, add berries, and add interest with varying foliage textures. You could plant a pollinator hedgerow in front of an existing arborvitae hedge. If there is room, you could plant a wildflower garden in front of the hedgerow. Consider adding a tree in the corner if there is room.
- **Map out the shape of your planting areas** and look at which areas receive full sun, morning or afternoon sun, or full shade.
- **Remove invasive species** from your planting area. It will require patience and determination to keep after the reemerging growth.



This native red flowering currant is thriving in a rain garden at Joe's Garage.

Here are a few different ways to prepare your planting beds when you have an existing lawn:

- Put down **thick layers of leaves in the fall on top of your grass**. Over the winter it will compost the sod and will be ready to plant in the spring.
- Rent a sod cutter and **remove the lawn in the areas where you will plant, add compost or soil** to create your planting beds, and plant.
- Add 6-8" of **bark mulch, wood chips, or compost right on top of your mowed grass area and then plant**. (Note: if using bark mulch or wood chips add 2" of soil or compost on top. Choose a compost with low or no manure content.) Planting this way, you will dig out some grass when you plant, remove that, and plant.
- When done planting, **the plants will do much better with 2-3" of mulch**—both bark mulch or wood chips work great. The plants are healthier, and the feeder roots come right up into it. **Mulching conserves soil moisture, protects roots from very hot or very hot temperatures, and keeps the weeds down.**

- Generally, it is a good idea to **water your plants unless there has been a lot of rain**. During the first year a good rule of thumb is to water well once a week, unless it is very hot, then twice a week. The second year you can taper that off to a deep watering twice a month. Generally, **most natives will do better with some summer water when it has been very dry**.
- Do you have deer? Most of the young native plants are pretty tasty to deer. It is good to **protect them with some wire fencing or deer netting** until they get larger, about 4-5'. You could also use 'Deer Away' or 'Liquid Fence' which works quite well. Spray it on the plants when first planted, then 2 to 3 times per month. It is an organic, rotten egg mixture available at stores like Jerry's, Home Depot, or Down to Earth.
- Usually even in the first year of planting you will find **increased activity with pollinators** like bees, butterflies, and different species of birds.



LTWC uses vendors like Doak Creek Native Plant Nursery is to source plants for restoration projects. You can also purchase native plants locally at Down to Earth, Heritage Seedlings, Willamette Wildlings, and Willamette Gardens in Corvallis, among others. In addition, Friends of Buford Park & Mount Pisgah has a native plant sale each spring. You can find a longer list of native nurseries on our website at longtom.org/water/streamside-habitat.

Please choose to plant natives! There are lots of plants to choose from, so please contact or visit your local nursery for ideas and guidance.

From top: western trillium, calypso orchid or fairyslipper, and tall Oregon grape

Welcome to the team, Abby!



Abby Andrus Colehour joined the Long Tom Watershed Council staff in 2019 to take on the management of an ever-increasing demand for habitat restoration projects, particularly in the oak and prairie ecosystems. Raised in the oak savanna and mixed deciduous forests of Minnesota, the lush forests and tall trees of the Oregon enticed her to Eugene in 2012 after graduating with a degree in Biology from Macalester College. Since then, she has been working with community organizations to deepen local identity and connection to nature through ancestral skills and permaculture, and working as an independent habitat restoration contractor. She is especially interested in restoring and enhancing the beneficial role of humans and human culture in our ecosystems. She manages lots of her own projects in her spare time, including wild foods harvesting, basket-weaving, wool crafts, firewood processing, hide tanning, and herbal medicine making. Welcome to the team, Abby!

Next LTWC Event

Urban Stormwater Projects Cycle Tour

Tues, May 21, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

LTWC is hosting a tour of **three urban stormwater projects** in **west Eugene all along the Amazon Creek bike path**, and yes, attendees can - and are encouraged - to join us by bike! Tour stops will include Gibson Steel Basins, Mountain Rose Herbs, and Essex General Construction. More background and logistics coming in the May/June newsletter.

Partner Events

Monroe's 2019 Vino, Vintage & Victory Festival

Saturday, April 27, 1:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Celebrate the history, environment, and culture of Monroe. This festival will feature local wineries from in and around Monroe and the southern Willamette Valley, vintage goods, food, and live music! **LTWC will have a booth with information—stop by to say hi!** General admission is free. **More information of the event's Facebook page** (search for Monroe Vino, Vintage & Victory Festival)

City Nature Challenge Bioblitz

Friday, April 26, 11:30 - 12:30 p.m.

Stewart Pond, 3853—4099 Stewart Rd, Eugene

Join the Willamette Resources & Educational Network (WREN) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in a communal, citizen science effort to record as many species as possible in Eugene. We will be using the iNaturalist phone app to photograph and collect data on the local flora and fauna at Stewart Pond. Every observation will contribute to biodiversity science. Your findings will be shared with scientific data repositories to help scientists find and use your data. All you have to do is observe. No experience necessary and all ages welcome! Contact Laura Maloney at WREN for details: WREN: info@wewetlands.org.

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

Chair: Shelly Miller

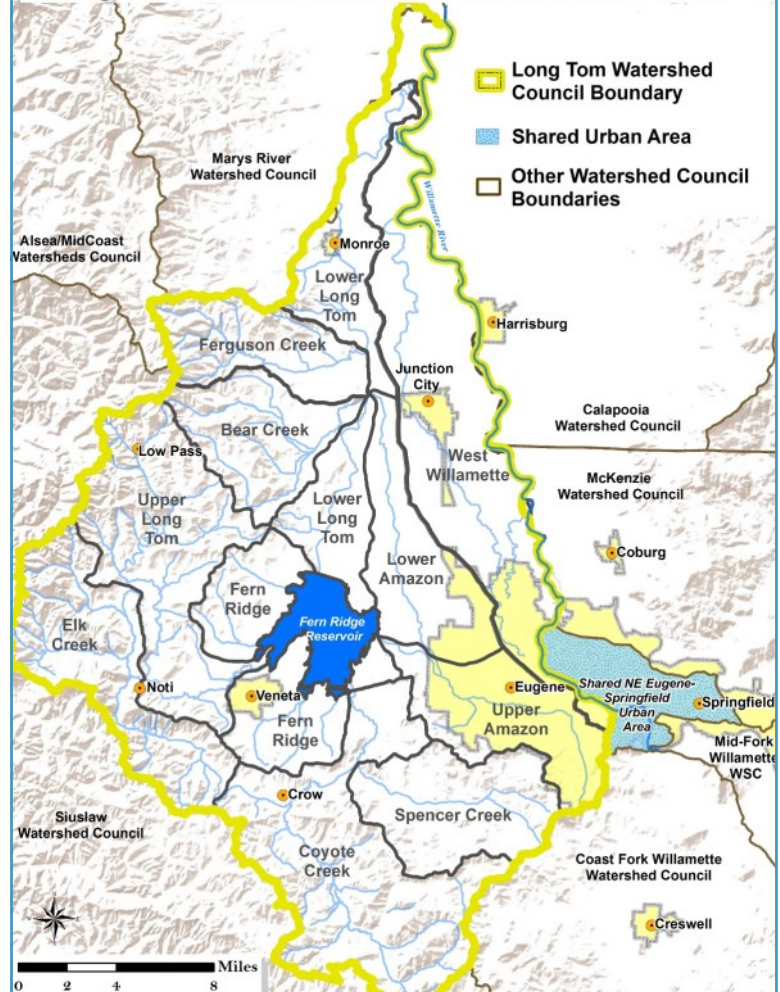
Vice-Chairs: Ginnie Grilley & Jonathan Powell

Treasurer: Dave Thomas

Secretary: Lindsay Reaves

Members: • Jabrila Via • Jamie Newsome • Pat McDowell
• Darian Lightfoot • Nikolai Hall • Alec Hrynshyn

Long Tom Watershed Sub-basins & Area of Work



Council Staff Contacts

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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

Miranda Hawkes, Stormwater Drafter/Designer: 654-8965

Abby Colehour, Restoration Projects Mgr: 338-7033

Thank you for these recent gifts!

General Donations

Merle & Kathy Allen
Doug & Linda Carnine
Allen Dong
Whitey Lueck
Pat & George Miller
Ray Morse & Phyllis Helland
Peter Pollock & Diane Yates

Rent Donation

Lee and Veronica Davis

New grant supports Team TEK!

Spirit Mountain Community Fund generously awarded the council \$25,000 toward the next phase of LTWC Team

TEK led by Curriculum Director Joe Scott and local partners! LTWC/MRT staff member Sarah Pollock was able to receive the award at a warm reception in Grand Ronde. We are so pleased and humbled by Sprit Mountain's

continued support of this project. Thank you! If you'd like to learn more about this work, check out the Team TEK Facebook page, or our website at longtom.org/tribalengagement/



Welcome, Jamie and Nikolai—newest LTWC board members!

We would like to warmly welcome our two newest members to the LTWC board, Jamie Newsome and Nikolai Hall. This month, the board unanimously voted to approve their addition as mid-year appointments. Jamie and Nikolai will stand for confirmation by the council membership at this year's Annual Celebration. If you see either of them, please welcome them and thank them for their volunteer service on behalf of the watershed!



Jamie Newsome, At-Large

Hello, my name is Jamie Newsome. I am from Kansas City, Missouri and I currently live in Eugene, Oregon. I graduated from Indiana State University with a degree in Human and Environmental Systems with a concentration in Geographic Information Systems - GIS. I have done internships with the Army Corps of Engineer as a Water Quality Intern as well as interning with the Bureau of Land Management as a Park Ranger. Currently, I work at Hepa-Graff Professional Cleaning as a Brand Ambassador. I am also involved in Business Network International - BNI and server as a Communications and Co. Event Planner on their Leadership Committee Team. In my free time, I volunteer at Guy Lee Elementary School as a Garden Educator. I help kids learn how to grow, plant, and maintain fruits and vegetables. I am very excited to be a board member! Thank you for allowing me to be a part of the Long Tom Watershed Council!



Nikolai Hall, At-Large

Nikolai Hall is a forester with Mason, Bruce and Girard, Inc, and manages timberland in the Long Tom Watershed and elsewhere in Western Oregon. Nikolai's experience includes work on small woodlands, state forests, national forests, and industrial timberland. He earned his B.S. in Forestry from the University of California at Berkeley.