



LONG TOM WATERSHED COUNCIL

February 2020

Action
Through
Understanding

Public Meeting Invitation “River Data for the People!” Thursday, February 27, 6 - 8 p.m.

Presenters Mark and Aaron use this “drone boat” to help with collecting data to map rivers. This technology is currently being used on the Long Tom River! See a boat in person at their presentation!



Where: Northwest Community Credit Union Community Room - 545 E. 8th Ave, Eugene, 97401

Presenters: Mark Fonstad and Aaron Zettler-Mann, University of Oregon Geography Department

Come learn about techniques for mapping and monitoring watersheds and how technologies such as aerial photography and LiDAR can help us learn more about our riverscapes, including the Long Tom!

Free and open to all! Light snacks and refreshments provided

Inside this Issue	
February 27 Public Meeting details	2
Donor Appreciation	3
Otter Photos from Jason Hunton	3
Urban Volunteer Opportunity!	4
Volunteer Appreciation	5
Winter Planting Tips	5
Welcome, Lorette Waggoner!	6
LTWC Staff & Board Contacts	6

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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Public Meeting Background: “River Data for the People!”

Thursday, Feb 27, 6 – 8 p.m.

Northwest Community Credit Union Community Room

545 E. 8th Ave, Eugene

Join LTWC for its first public meeting of 2020! River Scientists Mark Fonstad (Associate Professor, University of Oregon Department of Geography) and Aaron Zettler-Mann (post-doctoral researcher, UO Department of Geography) are river data experts hoping to help usher in a new age of river science that brings state-of-the-art data collection technology into the hands of the community – watershed councils, citizen scientists, and local conservation groups – for the benefit of rivers everywhere.

Technologies like aerial photography and LiDAR (light detection and ranging) have made it possible to collect huge amounts of detailed information about rivers and watersheds over very large areas, and these datasets have revolutionized what we know about rivers and watersheds, the ways that we plan restoration projects, and our ability to notice changes in the landscape. But these types of methods have historically required things like airplanes and 7-figure budgets. Mark and Aaron are hoping to help change that.

At this presentation, you’ll learn about:

- History of watershed mapping technology and how and why it’s been used.
- Techniques available today, including new tools and advancements to make awe-inducing science data collection accessible to organizations like LTWC!
- Ideas and planned projects for the future.
- See initial results from their new “River Seer” project, which includes data and images from the lower Long Tom River near Monroe, including at Stroda Brothers Farm.
- A chance to see and touch a drone boat and learn about how it’s used!
- Resources for interactive online maps to get more information about the area, including historical maps, LiDAR, historic vegetation, and more!

All are welcome to attend!

Free, with light refreshments and snacks

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

Directions & Parking Info: Northwest Community Credit Union is located just east of the federal courthouse and southeast of the Ferry Street Bridge. Guests are welcome to park in the bank parking lot. Street parking is also available on 8th Avenue, and there’s a Diamond parking lot just to the southeast of the bank.



Mark Fonstad



Aaron Zettler-Mann

Thank you for giving to LTWC!

Donations since our November newsletter

Thank you so much to the following donors have generously given to LTWC over the last couple months!

UP TO \$150: Rick Ahrens, Jan Becker & Penny Palmer (*Faith Community Fund*), Vicki Blackman, Sharon & Jim Blick, Ted Brown, Paula & Denny Conn, Marcia Cutler—In honor of John Coglin, Alan & Sue Dickman, Lee Dulcy, Ron & Karen Gilson, Green Theory LLC, Allan Gubrud, Becca Hale, Keyte Hladky, Lauri Holts, Einar & Deb Ingebretsen, Debra Johnson & Bill Harper, Jeff Krueger, Gary Lech & Sally Smith, Darian Lightfoot, Charlie Loeb (*Faith Community Fund*), Ashley Malan—In honor of Piper, Pepper & Lee March, Kelly Parrott, Matthew Parrott, Letha & James Pontious, Leo & Carole Poole, Dorothy & Neff Powell (*Faith Community Fund*), Robert Bingham Powell—In honor of Ty & Dick Zeller, Jim & Connie Regali, St. Mary’s Episcopal Church (*Faith Community Fund*), Carrie & Joseph Steinbach, Phyllis Weare, Liz Vollmer-Buhl, Charles Zennache & Bonnie Henderson, Anonymous (3)

UP TO: \$500: Jim & Mary Ellen Bradshaw, Leslie Burpo, Linda & Doug Carnine (*matching funds for restoration project*), Betsy Halpern (*Faith Community Fund*), The Iris Charitable Fund, Patricia McDowell, Ray Morse & Phyllis Helland, Network for Good, Oregon Community Foundation Advised Fund, Steve Soltesz & Ditte Lokon, Jodi Sommers & Jay Keister, Richard and Ty Zeller (*Faith Community Fund*)

UP TO: \$2,500: Glenn Gibbons Jr. & Elizabeth Schmidkunz (*Faith Community Fund*), Val & Ken Kime (*matching funds for restoration project*), Karen Leigh, Royal Blue Organics / Café Mam, John Winquist

UP TO: \$5,000: Lee & Veronica Davis (*rent donations*), Arlin Rothauge (*matching funds for restoration project*)

You “otter” see these photos!

Jason Hunton (Hunton’s Farm and Camas Country Mill) took these adorable photos of river otters recently on his farm north of Alvadore. Jason writes: “As a kid, there was little wildlife around the farm. Now elk, bobcats, eagles, otters... Let no one tell you the future is worse than the present.” The Hunton family participated in a restoration project on their farm over a decade ago to benefit wildlife habitat and water quality. Thanks, Jason, for sharing these photos, for your many years of partnership, and for being a good steward of the watershed! You can see more of Jason’s delightful otter photos on LTWC’s Instagram page: @longtomwatershedcouncil



Urban Waters Volunteer Project at HIV Alliance!

Wednesday, February 19, 9:30 a.m. - 12 noon
Co-hosted by McKenzie River Trust

Dig in with the Long Tom Watershed Council and McKenzie River Trust to help protect our urban waters! We'll be planting trees, cleaning out storm-water runoff filters and helping to protect Amazon Creek! Join your community in caring for an urban rain garden at the HIV Alliance building in west Eugene.

HIV Alliance is a project under the council's Urban Waters and Wildlife Program. A couple years ago, LTWC partnered with the nonprofit HIV Alliance to reconfigure a parking lot planting strip into a 520 square foot linear rain garden, and the entire parking lot was regraded so it drained centrally into that rain garden. This "Trout Friendly Landscape" treats storm water leaving the HIV Alliance site – the plants and soil will slow the water coming off the site, and filter pollutants before the water reaches Amazon Creek, the Long Tom River's major urban tributary.

This activity will build upon prior volunteer efforts at HIV Alliance which started in 2017. This year's efforts will include adding biochar to the existing stormwater facility, and also planting new trees around the perimeter of the parking lot and improving soil by adding compost and biochar around the planted trees to improve water absorption and soil life.

Sign up today! The number of volunteer spaces are limited!

You can learn more and sign up at: <http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=beuqvaeab&oeidk=a07egvlh6yy9ab79576>

This volunteer opportunity is part of McKenzie River Trust's (MRT) ongoing "Watershed Wednesday" series, which are volunteer projects designed to connect community members to direct conservation actions throughout the Upper Willamette watershed. We invite you to join the effort to protect, connect, and restore our local lands and rivers! MRT Volunteer Coordinator Elizabeth Goward organizes Watershed Wednesday events for all five organizations in the Upper Willamette Stewardship Network, including LTWC—thank you. Elizabeth!



More than 60 volunteers helped plant over 600 plants into the HIV Alliance rain garden in May 2017!

Biochar and seeding volunteer day in the oak woodland

The LTWC uplands staff and volunteers from the Columbines School of Botanical Studies gathered for a land tending project in the oak woodland at the Andrew Reasoner Wildlife Preserve. The project site had recently been thinned of trees that were encroaching on rare oak habitat. Slash piles from the tree thinning operation had been burned, leaving patches of bare ground covered in a layer of ash and coal. These "burn pile footprints" are an ideal opportunity to reseed native plants in a place where they will experience less competition from established grasses and weeds. We seeded over a hundred burn pile footprints with about 40 pounds of seed from over a dozen plant species!

In addition, the crew experimented with a low-tech method of making biochar. We gathered fine fuels from the surrounding landscape and loaded it on top of a pile of oak and conifer limbs, then lit it with a propane weed torch. After about two hours of a nearly smokeless fire, the pile had burned to a layer of coal, which we shoveled into 55-gallon metal drums, lidded, and sealed with mud to cut off oxygen and therefore combustion. The resulting charcoal, or "biochar" will be used for a volunteer event later this month as a stormwater filter feature in an urban rain garden. Thank you to these volunteers and the Columbines School for your help!



February Tree Planting Tips

The rainy weather has us in a planting state of mind! We plant many of our native trees and shrubs on restoration project sites in February, and now is the best time to get them in the ground before the end of the spring rainy season and the arrival of our dry summers. Bare root trees are usually at peak availability in mid-February, and potted plants can be sourced and planted any time the ground is not frozen. When the ground is saturated with water, it's not an ideal time to work the soil for planting. Instead, wait for the soil to drain (timing will depend on your soil type) before working it. You can still seed native species, especially annuals, but some native wildflowers and grasses need three months cold stratification before they'll germinate—so don't expect some to come up this year if you decide to plant them. The best time to seed those species is late summer/early fall before a rain.



Oregon grape (left) and red-flowering currant (right)

Are you feeling inspired to plant some Willamette Valley native plants? Our Upland Ecologist Katie MacKendrick compiled a list of native plant nurseries that can be found on our website at longtom.org/streamside-habitat/

Welcome, Lorette!

We'd like to extend a warm welcome to our newest staff member, Lorette Waggoner. Lorette joined LTWC in December, 2019 as our Operations Coordinator to assist in supporting the day-to-day operations of the council. She has a B.S. in Management from Linfield College and a wealth of office support, management, and administration experience. She has worked for both for-profit and nonprofit organizations, assisting in helping to streamline and document operations and general management / administrative responsibilities.

Lorette is a fourth generation Oregonian with both sides of her family settling in the mid-valley area in the 1850s.

During her youth, her love of wild places was fostered by her life on the family's 40-acre orchard farm near Rickreall and annual summer weeks at Camp Kilowan along Teal Creek, near Falls City. She enjoys as many camping trips as she can squeeze into each summer in her 1958 Aloha Travel Trailer which she and her husband have been restoring. Lorette has lived in Eugene with her husband, David, since 1979, and they have an adult daughter, Bethany. Besides the outdoors, Lorette enjoys jewelry-making, crafting and DIY projects, building/drawing labyrinths and sharing them with others, reading, and cooking.

Welcome, Lorette! We're excited to add your many talents to our team!



LTWC Board of Directors

Chair: Shelly Miller

Vice-Chairs: Pat McDowell and Alec Hrynyszyn

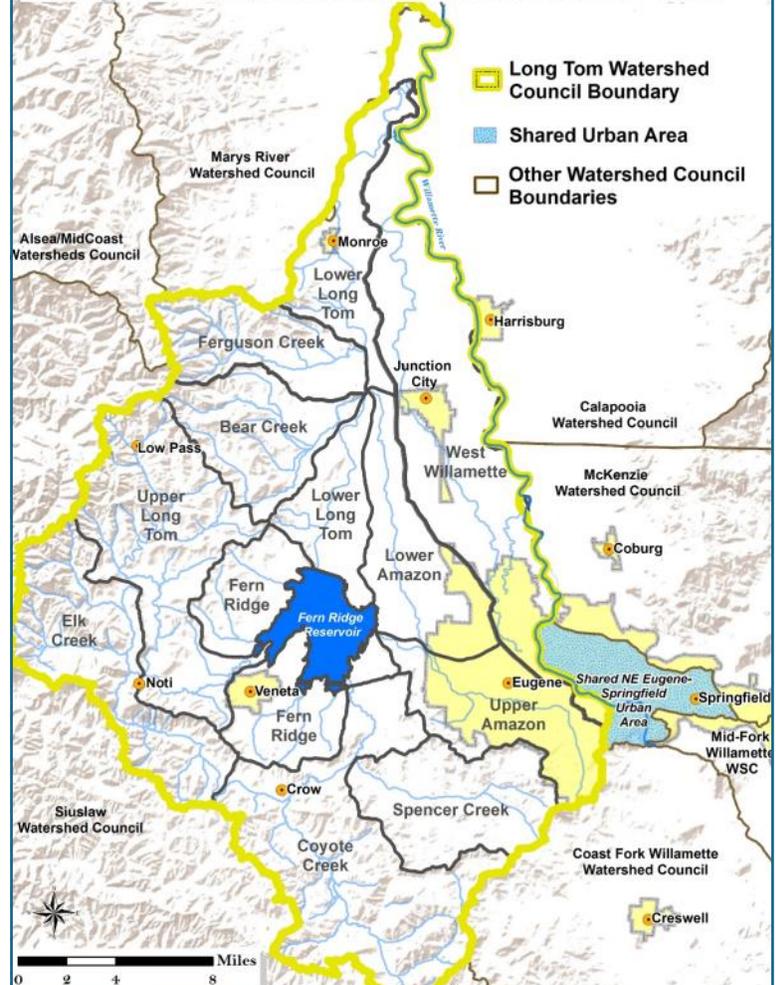
Treasurer: Taylor Evans

Secretary: Lindsay Reaves

Members:

• Jabrila Via • Jamie Newsome • Jodi Sommers • Nikolai Hall

Long Tom Watershed Sub-basins & Area of Work



Council Staff Contacts

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Katie MacKendrick, Ecologist: 338-7033

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

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