



Long Tom Watershed Council

April / May 2021 Newsletter

**Action
Through
Understanding**



Scenic Spring Woodland Walk

Monday, May 17th, 6 - 8 p.m.*

Limited Attendance Outdoor Tour - Registration Required
for Lottery Drawing

**Contingent upon current state & local COVID-19 guidance*

We're offering a limited attendance, RSVP-only guided walk on May 17th, 6-8 p.m., of scenic oak woodland and prairie habitat along the Long Tom River. **This walk is in cooperation with our partners at WREN in the West Eugene Wetlands and will be led by local naturalist Rick Ahrens.**

It's been a while since our last outdoor event, way back at our Annual Celebration in 2019, and we miss seeing and interacting with you on the landscape! We are thrilled to be offering an opportunity for 12 community members to join us for a masked, socially-distant hike on a remarkable landscape a few miles downstream of Fern Ridge off Franklin Road. *(continued on next page)*

Photos (from left): Mature oak woodland on the Johnson property; a resident herd of elk frequents the property; tour of Johnson property during spring 2018 for Rivers to Ridges partnership event.

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Mission: *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.*



May 17 Scenic Spring Woodland Walk (continued)

Register for your chance to attend!

In order to ensure the safe distancing for all attendees, our maximum threshold for the guided walk is 12 attendees. We will be choosing participants via a lottery system. **Those interested in participating can fill out a form to enter the lottery by Monday, May 10th at 5 p.m.** If you are interested in attending the walk with someone, please submit one form with both of your names and contact information (**limit one entry for a maximum of two people**). **Lottery winners will be chosen and notified by Wednesday, May 12th. All tour attendees will be asked to wear masks for the duration of our exposure to one another and attendees are asked to maintain 6-foot physical distance between households.** There will be another drawing for those not selected to win prizes, including an LTWC hat, steel pint glass, and otter!



Register online for the lottery at longtom.org/springwalk2021/ by May 10 at 5 p.m.!

Background

The site of the May 17th tour is a habitat restoration project is part of a 1,200-acre multi-ownership area of intact, native habitats including wet and upland prairie, oak woodland and savanna, riparian forest, and wetland. There are also vernal pools and remnants of the historic Coyote Creek channel. For over 10,000 years the Kalapuyan people tended oak and prairie through the use of fire. Now these habitats are some of the rarest in the Willamette Valley and are stewarded by local agencies and passionate landowners. The properties connected to this site include the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, McKenzie River Trust, and three families with which LTWC has worked closely.

One family is the Johnsons, and since 2000, LTWC has worked alongside them to enhance and restore habitat structure and species diversity through multiple project phases. The site harbors numerous upland and wetland plants, including extensive camas in the spring and the rare Bradshaw's lomatium, the latter of which was recently downgraded under the Endangered Species Act as an example of a recent conservation success story. The site is also rich in bird life and supports a number of raptors, waterfowl, songbirds, and oak-prairie-adapted species. The vernal pools and wetlands support northern red-legged frog and western pond turtle, and there's even a resident herd of elk! **We're grateful to the Johnsons for their ongoing stewardship and their generosity of spirit to share this special place during this tour.**



Meet the Walk Leader: Rick Ahrens grew up in a birding family in Ohio and moved to Oregon in 1981, where he has been a volunteer naturalist with several local non-profits. He has been involved with the West Eugene Wetlands for over two decades, with a particular interest in insects and wetland ecology.

If you're unable to join the tour, don't worry! A short video will follow on May 24th. Both the tour and video opportunities are being presented in partnership with [WREN in the West Eugene Wetlands](#).

Ted Brown & Family
Paula Conn
Patricia & George Miller
Jim & Christine Pendergrass

Marshall & Susan Peter in honor
of Dick & Ty Zeller
Anami Ridge
Jon Texter



GreenLane Hosts Panel on Urban Stormwater Solutions

We're grateful to [GreenLane Sustainable Business Network](#) for hosting a panel discussion earlier this month focused on green infrastructure solutions in the urban landscape. Sarah Whitney, LTWC's Urban Waters & Wildlife Program Manager, spoke about the council's Trout Friendly Landscapes program and moderated a conversation among Trout Friendly project partners Charlie Tilt ([Hummingbird Wholesale](#)), Casey Roscoe ([Seneca Family of Companies](#)), and Richard Sugar ([2fORM Architecture](#)).

The panelists represent diverse experiences from businesses who have either partnered with LTWC to create a Trout Friendly Landscape or implemented one on their own. In all cases, these businesses voluntarily made improvements to their on-site stormwater management. The panelists represented a range of stormwater projects, including at the larger, industrial scale and at smaller, commercial scales. They shared their goals and motivations for implementing voluntary stormwater projects, and also discussed the benefits of the project and the considerations to keep in mind. A creative, site-specific approach was used for each site, and it shows the different types of options and resources available for businesses.

2fORM Architecture: After



Seneca Sawmill - 4 years later



The full panel discussion and Sarah's Trout Friendly Landscapes (TFL) presentation is available as a [video on GreenLane's YouTube Channel](#). The first 20 minutes includes GreenLane board business, so below are approximate time stamps if you would like to skip ahead.

- Sarah's TFL presentation starts at ~ 23:00
- Charlie Tilt, Hummingbird Wholesale ~ 34:25
- Richard Shugar, 2fORM Architecture ~ 44:00
- Casey Roscoe, Seneca Family of Companies ~ 51:00

We want to thank Charlie, Casey, and Richard for sharing their invaluable experiences, and GreenLane for hosting this panel discussion! We encourage anyone interested in learning more about Trout Friendly Landscapes or the range of possibilities with green stormwater infrastructure to check out the video. We hope their stories will inspire others!

LTWC in the News!

KOCF 92.7 Interview with Clinton Begley on Climate Justice Public Meeting

News Wraps' Eddie Ahlgreen at KOCF – Fern Ridge Community Radio — interviewed LTWC Executive Director Clinton Begley prior to the Watershed Council's March 23rd Public Meeting on Climate Justice & Supporting Resilient Communities featuring speaker Haley Case-Scott – a Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians Tribal Member, and Climate Justice Organizer for Beyond Toxics and the Eugene-Springfield NAACP.



During the interview, Clinton discusses the history of the watershed council, the importance of voluntary stewardship, the enduring values of including all voices, and why addressing racial injustice is important for achieving a healthier watershed. Thank you to KOCF for sharing of this audio clip! **You can hear this interview by [clicking the video on our website](#).** There is a link to the recorded public meeting from March 23rd at the end of the video, or you visit our [YouTube Channel](#).

Projects Reducing Wildfire Fuels Featured on KVAL

Earlier this month, [KVAL News](#) ran a feature with an interview of our Restoration Projects Manager, Abby Colehour! LTWC is working with the [Oregon Department of Forestry \(ODF\)](#) and local landowners to create defensible fire space around homes in the urban wildfire interface in Crow, Noti, Veneta, Eugene, and surrounding communities. These projects are possible through emergency funding distributed by ODF for use this spring. This work has the dual benefit of protecting people and wildlife from catastrophic wildfires that can intensify and accelerate from high fuel loads in forests along the urban wildfire interface.



LTWC's solid relationships with local landowners interested in voluntary projects put the council in a strong position to mobilize these funds quickly in advance of the coming fire season. The vast majority of our relationships with private landowners are supported through donor dollars — thank you for your support in helping us developing these important community connections!

You can read about this partnership work and watch the new piece at the [KVAL website](#)

Thank You, “Watershed Wednesday” Volunteers!



We're grateful for the help of 14 volunteers from the Eugene Obsidians who jointed staff from the McKenzie River Trust (MRT) and Long Tom Watershed Council on March 14th to remove non-native teasel plants from our riparian restoration project at the confluence of Nighswander and Coyote Creeks near the intersection of Territorial Highway and Briggs Hill Road.

The project is located on property owned by Scott and JJ from The Queen's Bounty Honey. LTWC originally planted this project site in 2012 with funding from the [Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife](#), [Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board](#), and [Meyer Memorial Trust](#). Most of the site is well established — some of the ponderosa pines we planted are 25 feet tall! — but there is one section right along Territorial Highway where the original plantings didn't take well. Since it's an older site with grant funds long ago expired, The Obsidians came to our rescue!

Following up the awesome work that MRT's volunteer crew did planting 400 native trees and shrubs at the end of the winter, these hard working folks used hand tools to clear an acre of the project site that was heavily infested with teasel. The teasel threatened to outcompete the baby trees and shrubs that were planted a couple weeks ago by MRT's awesome crew.

Teasel is biennial - it grows into a rosette its first year and then flowers and produces many seeds in its second year. The obsidians cut off the seed heads that were loaded with millions of seeds and dug out the one-year old plants with trowels and digging forks. We hauled off more than a cubic yard of material to be disposed of! Thanks to all our amazing partners and volunteers for your strong work stewarding this amazing site!

Free Wildfire Preparedness Webinars Offered by OSU Extension

Oregon State University Extension is offering free “Wildfire Wednesdays” every other week from noon to 1 p.m. through June in the run up to fire season. [Check out their website](#) to find out what you can do as a landowner, partner, or local resident to be Fire Aware this summer. You can also watch prior webinar recordings at your leisure!



Description: “As a member of the community, you have the power to alter the outcome of wildfire. Your actions around your home and the surrounding landscape can reduce the chance your home will burn. This webinar reviews practical steps you and your neighbors can do on your own properties before fire season.”

Land Acknowledgment

The Long Tom Watershed lies within the traditional homelands of the Tribes and Bands of the Kalapuyan peoples. Following treaties in the 1850s, the Kalapuya people were dispossessed of and forcibly removed from their Indigenous homeland by the United States government. Today, many descendants are citizens of the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community and the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians. We acknowledge that we are on occupied lands, and express our respect for Kalapuya and all Tribal Nations of Oregon, and the important contributions they continue to make to their communities, including to the stewardship of this watershed.



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