



# LONG TOM WATERSHED COUNCIL JANUARY 2022 NEWSLETTER



Winter Green Farm near Noti

## IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON FARMS & FOOD

### *Virtual Presentation*

*Tuesday, Jan 18th at 6 p.m.*

LTWC is continuing its series of public meetings on how a changing climate is impacting various communities and our watershed. On January 18th at 6 p.m., we'll be hosting a virtual discussion on the impacts of climate change on agriculture. This will be **broadcast live on our YouTube channel ([youtube.com/longtomwsc](https://www.youtube.com/longtomwsc))** and will also be available to watch any time afterward at your convenience.

Agriculture is a core part of the Long Tom Watershed's identity. It comprises approximately 30% of the land area, and is vital to our local economy and foodshed. So many of the project landowners partnering alongside us to improve water quality and habitat include families in farming and ranching. In a "nutshell" the Council wouldn't be where we are without the support and voluntary participation of the ag community!

The soil and climate of our region allow for a bountiful diversity of crops: vegetables, orchards, vineyards, grass seed, hay, mint, berries, Christmas trees, and more. And the sight of grazing cattle, sheep, and other livestock are ubiquitous along our rural roadways.

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Shifts in our area's climate mean that farmers and ranchers in our area are facing challenges. More frequent and extreme weather events – from heat and drought to ice storms – are having an impact on our farms and foodsheds. Changes in climate patterns are impacting management practices and the ag economy, and creating a host of challenges such as crop loss, early harvests, and increased costs.

We're excited to welcome presenters Tiffany Monroe and John Deck - both farmers in our area - to share their perspectives and lived experiences on the topic, talking about the main challenges and considerations facing local farmers, and how the ag community is adapting, and about emerging opportunities and advancements in the industry.

# IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON FARMS & FOOD

Live on YouTube, Jan 18th at 6 p.m. ([youtube.com/longtomwsc](https://youtube.com/longtomwsc))

## About the Speakers



### Tiffany Monroe

(photo and bio credit: Lane Families for Farms & Forests)

Tiffany is a fifth-generation farmer, who grew up on a hazelnut, vegetable, seed, and timber farm in Junction City, Oregon. She received her bachelor's degree from Oregon State University in Crop and Soil Science with a minor in

Horticulture. She later obtained her master's degree in Community and Leadership Development with an emphasis in Agricultural Education from the University of Kentucky. Her graduate research on implicit bias focused on lowering racial anxiety, implicitness, prejudice, and racial color-blindness among entering college freshman. Additional research and programing included evaluation of gardening and plant science curriculum for elementary school students, rural African American male perspective on education, and food systems, food justice, and race curriculum development. Post graduate studies, Ms. Monroe has worked as the first African American Female Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension Agent in Kentucky history and for the Kentucky Department of Agriculture in the Office of Marketing and Product Promotion. Now home in Oregon, Ms. Monroe farms with her husband, engages in agricultural advocacy work across the country and serves as president for both the Lane County Farm Bureau and the Lane Families for Farms and Forests organizations. Ms. Monroe was recently appointed as co-chair of Governor Kate Brown's Racial Justice Council and serves as co-chair of the Environmental Equity Committee. One of her great passions is to promote local business and industry through her role with the McKenzie Business Association.



### John Deck

(photo: John & his wife Christine)

John, his wife Christine, and their children own and operate the 320-acre Deck Family

Farm approximately seven miles west of Junction City. The farm is certified organic, and they raise pork, chicken and eggs, grass-fed beef and lamb. They also collaborate with Full Farm CSA, which grows organic and seasonal vegetables and fruits on the property. In the late 2000s and early 2010s, LTWC worked with the Decks on a multi-part restoration project to replace a fish barrier culvert on Owens Creek with a bridge, and to install fencing and native plants along Turnbow Creek, with grant funding from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board and financial assistance from the National Resources Conservation Service CREP program. You can read more about the restoration project details on our [website here](#).



*Bennett Vineyards & Wine Co. (top right) and Confluence Farms (bottom right) are both agricultural properties with LTWC restoration projects.*

# Thank You for Giving to LTWC!

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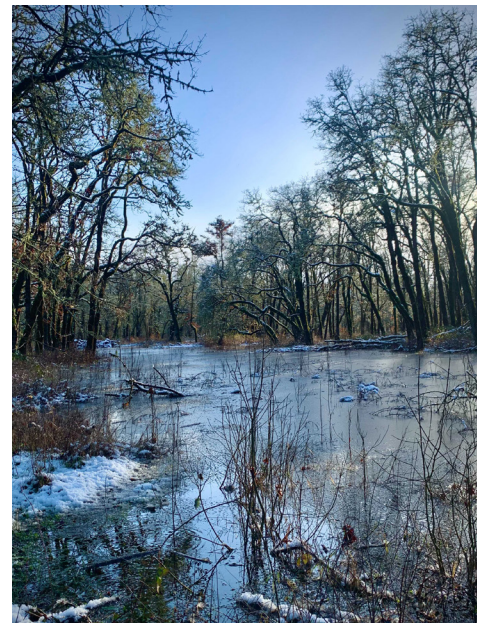


Photo by Derek Johnson

# STAFF INTERVIEW: INTRODUCING GREG OLDSON!

We welcomed Greg to the Long Tom Watershed Council staff in October as a stormwater drafter in the Urban Waters and Wildlife Program. Greg joins Sarah Whitney and Miranda Hawkes in working with urban partners and property owners to develop projects to improve the water quality of urban stormwater that has downstream impacts in the Long Tom Watershed and Upper Willamette River. He brings to this work years of background in both landscape architecture and his love of nature and gardening. We hope this glimpse into Greg's background and life will encourage you to get to know Greg a bit better when you encounter him and his work at the LTWC.

**Lorette Waggoner (LW):** Where did you grow up? And, along that same line, share an experience or person or the thing that influenced you to develop a love of nature and the outdoors, the primary impetus that inspires you to be part of the kind of work we do here at the LTWC.

**Greg Oldson (GO):** That's easy. I grew up in Colorado, in the Rocky Mountains just outside of Denver. I spent my childhood backpacking. From what my mother told me, I was hiking from the time when I was a few weeks old on my first backpacking trip with my parents. Those times and experiences were very influential. Both of my parents influenced me. My mother was a master gardener, and she hiked all the time and still does. And my dad was always hunting and fishing – fishing was his life. I went hunting and fishing with him all the time and we backpacked all throughout Colorado. It is definitely in my heart of hearts, my home. I have spent much of my life above timberline!

**LW:** What brought you to drafting and landscape architecture? I assume your mother, being a master gardener had some influence on that?

**GO:** Yes, although she always tells me that I never wanted to work in the garden as a kid. Now I'm obsessed with it and try to get my own kids to help



in the exact way that she did. I think all the outdoor experiences I had as a child had an impact. The outdoors and nature spawn a lot of creativity. Much of my work, in nurseries, at the Portland Chinese Garden, or in landscape construction has given me a real passion for and knowledge of plants. I needed a career that was at the intersection of being creative and something that included plants and the natural world so landscape architecture was ideal.

**LW:** Do you have a ritual, a practice, or a way you start your day?

**GO:** Definitely; the first thing is a cup of coffee. Often, throughout most of the year, I make my coffee and try and spend 15-20 minutes wandering around my yard. Especially in the summer I love the morning light, to see just how things are growing and changing every day. In the winter, I hunker inside a bit more, but still have the need to get out in the morning. It's a good way to recognize that the world is so much bigger than us.

**LW:** If you were stuck in an elevator, who would you like to be stuck in there with?

**GO:** The first person who pops into my head is David Bowie.

**LW:** Say a little more. Why do you like David Bowie?

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# GREG OLDSON INTERVIEW (CONTINUED)

**GO:** I just love his out-there creative expression. He has done so much; he's been in films like *The Last Temptation of Christ* and the *Labyrinth*, recorded Christmas carols with Bing Crosby and I could talk at length about his musical evolution from *The Man Who Sold the World*, *Station to Station*, *Let's Dance*, and his final album *Blackstar*. Like David Bowie, I also try to spend much of my time in a place of artistic thinking. Creative expression and the influence of nature are both very important to me. I've got to have that dichotomy of things in my life.

**LW:** If you weren't in your current career, what would your alternative career be?

**GO:** Probably a musician. I still do that. I play in two bands in town and we try and play out 1-2 times a month. I moved to Portland 17 years ago to try to "make a living" in music. Luckily, I met my wife there which probably directed me towards a healthier lifestyle. Music is certainly a passion that I will never retire from.

**LW:** So, with all that you have learned from your life so far, what would you like to go back and tell your 13-year-old self?

**GO:** That is a hard question. I guess I'd like to tell my younger self that when you find an interest, a passion, to spend as much time with it as you can before you move on to something new. I experimented with so many things as a kid, I would go on to a new hobby so quickly that I didn't really spend enough time to

perfect any of them before moving on to the next something new.

**LW:** What kind of things do you do when you are having a bad day to turn it around?

**GO:** First, and foremost would be to take a walk. Then come back and play some music, some guitar. Those two things are incredibly healing in my life.

**LW:** Is there something that has always interested you or that you have never done, that you still want to try?

**GO:** I would like to be a better fisherman. To follow in my dad's steps. I have made attempts but have never been able to get enough food to make it through the winter. My dad always had a freezer full of meat. It's a lot of effort, the endurance and patience to be out on a stream or lake all day. Spending hours walking next to or wading into a river certainly has its place though.

**LW:** Who is your favorite poet, writer, speaker, author, or genre of literature?

**GO:** It changes often, but Fyodor Dostoevsky is probably in the top five. I love the complexity of his writing and novels, especially his intense dialogs about morality. It just blows my mind that he can write from the point of view of 10 people and see all the sides of things in a novel. It's pretty amazing.

**LW:** Along that same line, do you have a favorite quote, saying or mantra?

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## LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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.



# GREG OLDSON INTERVIEW

**GO:** The closet thing that I can think of is Garrison Keillor at the end of *A Prairie Home Companion* always said: “Be well, do good work and keep in touch.” Those are good philosophies of life, especially do good work. You only have so much time in the day, so just do good work.

**LW:** What is the one thing that you look forward to when you get home, when you are off work?

**GO:** Once again, I often go straight to walking around my yard, paying attention to things, how different plants are growing, blooming, and changing every day. It’s just amazing to me how plants cycle over a year. I am really fascinated by that, especially in my vegetable garden. It’s either that or a hike.

**LW:** Is there anything else that want to tell folks about yourself?

**GO:** I like to be a personable person. I feel like every place where I have worked, I have quickly developed friendships with people. I don’t like the feeling of separation between people who are just “professional” at work. I like developing a feeling of friendship and trust with the people I work with. Coming to this office, it feels like that is easy to do. Everybody I’ve talked with has been open and easy to get to know. The cross pollination of ideas is so important, to be able to share openly is so important.

Thank you, Greg, for sharing a bit of yourself with us. I hope all of you in the watershed will share your welcome with him as you have the opportunity to meet him. If you’d like to learn more about Greg’s background, check out his bio on our website ([longtom.org/gregoldson](http://longtom.org/gregoldson)).



Photo by Abby Colehour



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## **Mission Statement**



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.