



LONG TOM WATERSHED COUNCIL JUNE 2022 NEWSLETTER



Meadowfoam in bloom at a restoration project near Franklin Rd (photo: Clinton Belgey)

SAVE THE DATE!

Long Tom Watershed Council's 25th Anniversary Celebration

Saturday, Sept. 24th, 1:30 - 4 p.m.

This year, LTWC is celebrating its 25th anniversary! We've achieved so much together in that time – none of which would have been possible without the support, local knowledge, and voluntary action of all of you in the watershed community! Join us in marking accomplishments over the last 25 years while looking ahead to some amazing planned work on the horizon.

After two years of virtual or hybrid events, this year's annual celebration will be all about community and creating an opportunity for fellowship. **The event will feature a dessert auction, non-alcoholic and alcoholic beverages, live music, and ample time to reconnect with familiar faces and form fresh connections.**

The event will be fully outside and open to everyone, without a lottery. A link with more information and to register will be posted on our website in near future at:

longtom.org/celebrate25

We're excited to see you all there!

INSIDE THIS NEWSLETTER:

Annual Celebration - Save the Date!	1
Elder Fire Talk	2
LTWC Leadership Transition	4
Donor Appreciation	4
Board of Directors Openings	5
Ferguson Creek Project Funded!	5
August Public Meeting Preview	6
Watershed Map, Staff & Board Contacts	6



View of Fern Ridge Lake from Richardson Park and the park shelters (photos: Lane County)

SUMMER ELDER TALK: “DINÉ PERSPECTIVE ABOUT TÓ” (WATER)

Wed, July 20th, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

The next in a seasonal series of Elder Talks will be on July 20th. These conversations center Tribal voices, and this upcoming event has been organized by several members of the watershed community who are committed to uplifting Indigenous perspectives. July’s presenter will be Paulina Whitehat, who will provide the Diné perspective about Tó (water) in talking about the importance of water to Indigenous people of the Southwest, and how issues faced in her homeland are related to the health and well-being of Indigenous people – and larger community – here in Oregon.

This talk will be outside and **hosted at Havenroot, just south of Veneta**. We hope you’ll join Paulina in hearing her powerful story!

Site information & logistics on next page

Elder Talk Introduction by Paulina Whitehat

“I will share knowledge and Diné perspective about Tó (water). My goal is to share information with allies like the Long Tom Watershed Council and other environmental stewards on the importance of caring for one of the elements that sustain life. I also would like to share stories, history, and lived experiences of the Diné regarding water. The Diné are the original stewards of the land located in the Four Corners area of the U.S. (states now called Utah, Colorado, New Mexico, and Arizona). The homeland of the Diné is located within the Colorado River Watershed. Water is scarce in the Southwest landscape and it has been deemed the “gold” of current times and in the future. The Colorado River, a major water source for the Southwest, is currently flowing at historically low levels. Climate change, droughts, unsustainable growth, and over-reliance on the water by urban areas in Colorado, Utah, Arizona, Nevada, and California contribute to the growing water crisis.

Diné Original Instructions and teachings convey that

a crisis occurs if elements are out of balance for too long and if left unaddressed. The Diné maintain harmony with nature by living in balance since time immemorial. It’s been challenging to maintain the balance that is shared in Diné Creation stories which were learned from our ancestors and our deities.

Colonialism, politics, extraction of natural resources, and the easy life that entices Diné people to participate in Western culture contribute to the imbalance. But the Diné have been adapting to the changing times to survive and continue to exist. The Diné balance their way of life informed by scientific knowledge. I will share lessons learned about sustainability and living in harmony with nature.”

More about the Presenter

Yá’át’ééh! Paulina Whitehat is Diné, was born/raised on Diné bikéyah (Navajo land) in northern Arizona, and currently lives in Oregon. She will complete her Ph.D. in Special Education in the summer of 2022 at the University of Oregon. She gained more than 20 years of teaching and school leadership experience in tribal and diverse communities in rural and urban settings in Arizona and South Dakota. Her work in Tribal communities sparked her research interest in countering the effects of experienced trauma on students with the use of language and culture as protective factors to heal. She is interested in improving wellness for students and their community. Wellness for Indigenous populations includes revitalizing and practicing cultural



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JULY 20TH ELDER TALK

practices and resilience by using Indigenous knowledge and language to heal. It is crucial for Indigenous people to have a connection to the land and nature to heal, achieve balance, and increase wellness. The land and waterways are healthy when their original stewards are balanced.

Paulina enjoys spending time with her family and supports her mother and Indigenous communities by listening, taking action, and exchanging knowledge and wisdom. She speaks Diné bizaad (language) fluently and enjoys listening to stories about history, cultural practices and teachings, and Indigenous knowledge/wisdom during conversations with her mother, elders, and others who have important knowledge to exchange. She likes to hike, camp, explore the coast and the outdoors in the Pacific Northwest, and participate in land restoration work. She loves how welcoming and generous the Indigenous peoples of Oregon are to everyone.

Site Information & Logistics

Location: Havenroot, which provides outdoor event space and hosts outdoor education camps such as Camp Fire Wilani.

Address: 24487 Bolton Hill Road. Veneta, OR 97487

Directions:

- From Hwy 126 in Veneta, head south on Territorial Road.
- In approximately 1/2 mile, turn right onto Bolton Hill Road.
- Go 1.25 miles until you see the Havenroot sign on your right.
- Turn in the driveway and follow signs to Event Parking, Amphitheater and Pavilion. There will be a short walk to the Amphitheater from the parking area.

Other Details:

- The event will be entirely outside,
- Walking is on dirt roads and pathways.
- Water and a simple snack will be provided.
- Restrooms are available.
- Contact Jabrila Via with any logistical questions: jabrila@wintergreenfarm.com

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.



LEADERSHIP TRANSITION AT LTWC

After seven years with the Council, LTWC Executive Director Clinton Begley is departing to pursue a role in river stewardship nationally. His last day at the Long Tom is Friday, July 15th.

Operations Director Rob Hoshaw will step in to perform the Interim Executive Director duties while the board and staff conduct their search process, which is being crafted now. Rob has been with the Council since 2010 and has deep relationships and knowledge about the Council's work and mechanics.

The board is highly engaged in the transition planning, and is looking at this as an opportunity to ensure the equity journey, associated commitments, and written strategies that we began many years ago, can continue to guide the organization through this transition period.



Clinton at Coyote Creek South

The Long Tom Watershed Council has never been better equipped to attract a truly diverse slate of qualified candidates, and thoughtfully support any new leadership in moving the work of the Council forward.

The work of the Long Tom has a lot of inertia, our finances are strong, and the expert team of staff is highly engaged and knowledgeable. The Council is well equipped to weather this transition and maintain momentum on our numerous fronts!

Stay tuned for updates on our hiring process for the next Executive Director and please reach out to info@longtom.org with any questions you might have about the transition ahead.

Thank You for Giving to LTWC!

APRIL - JUNE 2022 DONATIONS

Ted Brown

Church Women United (Earth Care Interfaith Fund)

Paula Conn

Dedrick Family Fund

Allen Dong

Fred Meyer / Kroger Rewards

Allen Mullen

ShirleyMarie Raven

Dennis & Suzanne Reynolds

Anami Ridge

St. Mary's Episcopal Church (Earth Care Interfaith Fund)

United Lutheran Church (Earth Care Interfaith Fund)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS OPENINGS AT LTWC

Do you care deeply for the health of the lands and waters of the Long Tom watershed? Are you interested in the human and social systems that support watershed health? We have openings on our Board of Directors! We are seeking candidates who can meet 10 times a year for our general board meetings, participate in at least one sub-committee, and bring your lived experience and expertise to the table for the health of our watershed, and the diverse communities that depend on it.

We are currently requesting board candidates with connections to federally-recognized Tribes and members of the agricultural community. We're also searching for board members with an interest and expertise in fundraising. Ideal candidates will bring a variety of lived experiences, identities, and interest areas to the board. **If you are interested and would like to learn more about board service with the Long Tom, or let us know about someone you think we should reach out to, you can send a letter of interest to info@longtom.org** (or mail to 11 East 27th Avenue, Eugene, OR 97405). Please include your name, why you're interested in being on the Long Tom Board of Directors (or why someone we should reach out to might be a good fit), and a short bio about yourself and what you might bring to benefit the lands and waters we share. We can bring board members on anytime throughout the year and currently have openings! You can read our bylaws regarding board membership on our website (longtom.org)

FERGUSON CREEK RESTORATION PROJECT FUNDED!

We're excited to announce the Council has secured funding from both the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) and Ducks Unlimited to complete oak savanna and floodplain forest restoration at Confluence Farms along Ferguson Creek. The Hagen family at Confluence Farms has been longtime partners, and have previously participated alongside the Council to enhance fish passage, riparian and instream habitat beginning over a decade ago.

This next phase will improve habitat for a diversity of native fish and wildlife species, including cutthroat trout, western brook lamprey, beaver, northern red-legged frog, acorn woodpecker, western bluebird, and white-breasted nuthatch.

The project will improve 60 total acres, restoring hydrology and plant communities on floodplain oak forest, ash-white alder swale, and spirea-sedge patches on land that has been managed for hay production over the last 100+ years. It will also improve and

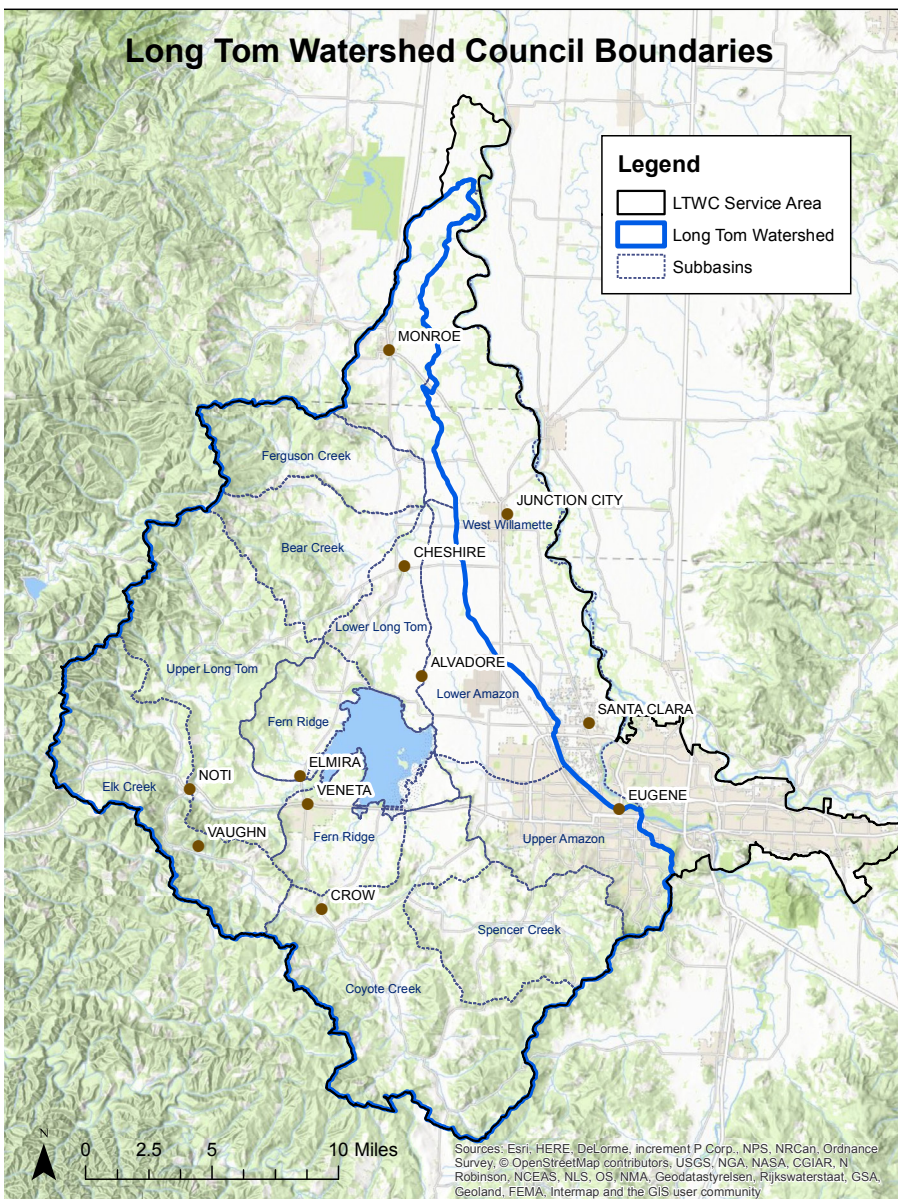
enlarge two acres of seasonal wetland pools, reconnect Ferguson Creek to two historic floodplain channels, install 20 beaver dam analogs on 1.25 miles of stream, restore eight acres of historic oak savanna, and remove invasive weeds like blackberry and English ivy.

In addition to the Hagen family, OWEB, and a North American Wetland Conservation Act grant via Ducks Unlimited, partners include: McKenzie River Trust, NRCS, USFWS Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program. Thanks to all of them for their strong partnership!



NEXT PUBLIC MEETING: AUG 23, 6 P.M.

Join us on Tues, Aug 23rd for a virtual presentation by the [Willamette Laja Twinning Partnership](#). The international partnership is a collaboration that provides cross-cultural exchange among restoration practitioners and educators in both the Willamette Valley and Rio Laja within the state of Guanajuato in Central Mexico. Learn more about the program's shared learning, with speakers from both the Willamette and Rio Laja. More information to follow in our next newsletter.



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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jamie Newsome, *Co-Chair*
Taylor Evans, *Co-Chair & Treasurer*
Shelly Miller, *Vice-Chair*
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Jabrila Via
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Amanda Reinholtz,
River Scientist & GIS Specialist
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Greg Oldson, *Stormwater Drafter*
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Katie MacKendrick, *Restoration Ecologist*
Lorette Waggoner, *Operations Coordinator*
Miranda Hawkes,
Stormwater Drafter & Designer
Rob Hoshaw, *Operations Director*
Sarah Whitney,
Urban Restoration & Stormwater Specialist
Sydney Nilan,
*Coordinator for Upper Willamette
Stewardship Network*

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.