



LONG TOM WATERSHED COUNCIL AUGUST 2022 NEWSLETTER



LONG TOM WATERSHED COUNCIL'S
25th Anniversary Celebration 2022

[how we work](#) [get involved](#) [donate](#)

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

Join us at Richardson Park for an afternoon of community fellowship, dessert, music, and celebration!

[CLICK HERE TO GIVE TODAY](#)

longtom.org/celebrate25 | [more information on page 3](#)

AUGUST VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETING

“Willamette-Laja, Mexico Watershed Partnership & Youth Education - Aves Compartidas”

Tuesday, August 23rd, 6 - 7:30 p.m..

Join us for a **virtual presentation at our YouTube channel:** youtube.com/longtomwsc. Meeting background provided by the WLTP.

“The [Willamette-Laja Twinning Partnership](#) (WLTP) is a bilingual peer-to-peer learning experiment developed in 2015 to bring together conservation professionals, university students, and youth. Our youth education program, [Aves Compartidas](#), connects students in bilingual (English-Spanish) elementary schools in the Willamette Valley with students in Guanajuato, Mexico through the themes of shared migratory birds, watershed conservation, and environmental education. WLTP regularly organizes international exchanges for conservation professionals, university students, and primary school teachers.

Aves Compartidas is designed to be interdisciplinary and incorporate multicultural learning. Students are encouraged to share their personal experiences related

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to heritage and cultural traditions and their experiences living in or visiting Mexico. They create genuine connections with students in our neighboring country via letters and video messages. Through this program, students are connecting to real people, places, and animals. Oregon teachers involved in this program have expressed the importance and lack of such experiences for young



Twinning Partnership logo

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students of color. While meeting curriculum standards in both nations, we have melded our curriculum to meet the needs of STEM in Oregon, and incorporated the culturally relevant curriculum developed by Audubon de Mexico, Salvemos al Rio Laja.

Universities in both nations are joining the WLTP, attracted to the innovative opportunities for student professional development, real world international experience, and exposure to DEI-focused community programming. As an example, the University of Oregon's [Environmental Leadership Program](#) has partnered for highly successful student-led delivery of Aves Compartidas curriculum in dual language school, River Road, Eugene.

In addition to providing the ins and outs of the major WLTP programs, Tara, Dionné, and Jalil will highlight the educational, cultural and emotional aspects of the Partnership and how it's binational focus has brought to the forefront the incredible opportunities for Amistad & Paz in the natural world and communities."



Students in the Aves Compartidas Program

Meet the Presenters

Tara Davis, Twinning Program Coordinator

Tara has worked in conservation for 16 years focusing on river restoration as well as non-profit management and fundraising. A fourth generation native to the USA's West Coast, she received a Bachelor's Degree from



Santa Clara University, California in Environmental Science and a Masters in Water Resources Management emphasizing watershed health in developing nations from the University of New Mexico in 2006. In Oregon and abroad, Tara has worked with several diverse civil society organizations including affordable housing, federal wilderness area designation, private land protection, and river restoration. Tara's Masters research enabled her to work closely with conservation groups in Rio Laja basin in Guanajuato, Mexico. Over a decade later, this work has transformed into the bi-national Willamette-Laja Twinning Partnership.

Dionné Mejía, Willamette Basin Program Instructor



Dionné Mejía is one of the program instructors for the Willamette-Laja Aves Compartidas program. Dionné is a first generation Mexican-American from Southern California and she earned her M.S./B.S. in Ecology at the University of California San Diego in 2016.

Currently, she works as an Ecological Education Coordinator at Institute for Applied Ecology in Corvallis, Oregon. As a lifelong lover of insects, Dionné has studied arthropods that inhabit rotting cactus in the Sonoran Desert, dung beetles in Costa Rica, and pollinators in the Oregon Coast Range.

Jalil Aragon, Laja Basin Program Instructor



Jalil studied a career in Industrial Engineering and a Master's degree in Industrial Organization. After years of experience in the automotive industry, she began to transition to a more sustainable way

of life. For more than a decade she has shared her personal, family, and academic experience with youth and community groups on topics such as: social responsibility, simplicity in everyday life, and environmental education. She is currently collaborating in the Aves Compartidas education program.

25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION 2022

longtom.org/celebrate25

The Long Tom Watershed Council is celebrating its 25th anniversary! Join us for an in-person, outdoor event on **Saturday, September 24th from 1:30 - 4 p.m. at Richardson Park along the shore of Fern Ridge Lake.**

We've achieved so much together in during the last 25 years, and none of that 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 also looking forward to the amazing, visionary work happening on the ground today and moving us forward into the next 25 years.

Event Features:

- An assortment of **non-alcoholic beverages** will be provided. Guests are welcome to **bring a picnic** to enjoy as well!
- **Dessert Auction:** An assortment of locally-made pies, pastries, and other deserts will be up for auction! Bid as a family or table on the dessert you want to share. Proceeds go to LTWC!
- **Watershed Awards:** We'll honor this year's Watershed Awardees – the outstanding project and community partners, volunteers, contractors, and other folks who have made invaluable contributions to our watershed over the last year. This year, we're also introducing a "Lifetime Achievement Award!"
- **Elect Board Members:** Confirm our slate of this year's new volunteer board members. Help us thank them for their service to the watershed!
- **Highlights & Accomplishments:** Reflecting on what we've accomplished and looking ahead to tomorrow's vision!
- **Trivia with Prizes!** Each table can compete in a friendly game of Long Tom trivia!
- **Live Music!**
- **Activities & Games:** Families and children are encouraged to come! We'll have an assortment of yard games, sidewalk chalk, and other fun outdoor activities
- **Socializing among Neighbors and Friends:** ample time to reconnect with familiar faces and form fresh connections

Tickets: \$10 / person | \$18 / group of 2 | \$25 maximum for group of 3+



Above: Richardson Park along Fern Ridge Lake. The event will be held entirely outdoors under two large covered pavillions. Below: images from our last fully in person annual celebration!



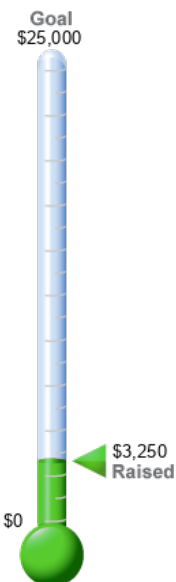
HELP US RAISE \$25,000 FOR OUR 25TH ANNIVERSARY!

Your gifts are essential to keep the work going to improve the health of our watershed. This last year saw the emergence of a regional prescribed fire and cultural burning program for the Willamette Valley, the continued innovation and expanding partnerships in both our Uplands and Urban Waters & Wildlife programs, progress made on the Long Tom and Willamette mainstems, and the delivery of both virtual and in-person learning events. Your passion and support have helped drive all of this significant work forward.

Help us meet our goal of \$25,000 for our 25th Anniversary! In 2020, you all exceeded our expectations with your generosity by giving \$25,000 in just a few short months! We've decided to aim high for that goal this year, and with a few gifts pledged already at \$3,250, we're already off to a great start!

Thank you for all that you do for this watershed, and please help us meet this year's goal by giving whatever amount is meaningful to you. Whether that's \$1,000 or \$1 – every gift counts!

Thanks to these businesses & entities who have already contributed or pledged support!



Bauman Tree Farm Roseburg Resources Co.



2022 BOARD ELECTION

All members of the Long Tom Watershed Council—that is any adult who supports the purpose and mission of the Council and is connected to the watershed community—may sign in during the Annual Meeting and Celebration and vote to elect our slate of volunteer board members and approve any bylaws updates. Each year, the Council recruits and recommends a slate of Board of Directors candidates for election at the Annual Meeting & Celebration that balances the diversity of perspectives and geographic and land use representation in the watershed. Anyone who attends the September 24th Annual Celebration and signs in will be able to vote to affirm the 2022 board candidate listed below. The full list of board member bios is also available on our website here.

2022 Board Candidate: Confirming a Mid-Year Vacancy:



Kurt Koehler (pronounced “Court Curler”). Kurt retired as CFO of Enli Health Intelligence Corporation, a company he cofounded in 2002 and sold in Dec 2020. Prior to Enli, Kurt held a variety of leadership positions during 20 years at Intel including those in finance, product marketing, general manager, plant manager, and director of internal software application development, where he received two Intel Achievement awards for his contributions. Kurt has served as a Board Member and President of 1000 Friends of Oregon, Board Member and Executive Committee Member of the Hillsboro Chamber of Commerce and Founding Board Member and President of Hillsboro Schools Foundation. He received CFO of the Year award from the Portland Business Journal and Philanthropy Leadership award from the Hillsboro Chamber of Commerce. Kurt is a 5th generation Oregonian. He graduated from Jesuit High School, received a BA from Stanford and an MBA from Wharton. Kurt and his wife Mary own Star Farms, a 116 acre forest at the headwaters of Owens Creek where the LTWC did a fish passage project in 2009.

FAREWELL FROM CLINTON BEGLEY

“As I bid you farewell, I wanted to thank you for your energy and support during my time as the Council’s Executive Director. The last seven years have been an incredible time of growth for me as a human being, and as a leader. It has also been an incredible time of growth for the Long Tom Watershed Council. The emergence of prescribed fire and cultural fire as an opportunity area, the beginning of the Traditional Ecological Inquiry Program and significant strides in relationship building with Tribes and Indigenous people, the significant growth of partnerships and staff focused on the urban area, the continued growth of scale and complexity on the mainstem Willamette projects, raising the profile of our work through interactive storytelling, innovation on biochar and regenerative practices in terrestrial habitats, and the progress being made on the Long Tom mainstem to name a few. There is even a carp derby on the horizon! We have also invested deeply in making sure that the council itself is a thriving and sustainable nonprofit that can exist for the long haul.

It is impossible to avoid feelings of incompleteness when stepping away from systems level work like this. But I’m reverent of the work we have been able to accomplish together. To look back over our annual reports and newsletters is just one small way to get a sense for everything we have been able to accomplish together over the last seven years. I am incredibly proud of that work. Those milestones are a testament to the team of rockstars I’ve been fortunate to know and work with among staff, board, and partners – and to the trust we developed together to go big where we could, and to go inward when it was necessary.

We weathered the sunset of the Willamette River Initiative’s sustained funding and helped to stand-up the Upper Willamette Stewardship Network to fill the gaps. We endured an ongoing pandemic together. We watched in horror as the McKenzie, the Umpqua, and the Santiam rivers burned. We made strides in advancing considerations around diversity, equity, and inclusion while social unrest unfolded around the country and reshaped our understanding of barriers and belonging. And, we continue to see the effects of



Clinton (lower right) and LTWC staff at 2017 Staff Retreat

climate change disrupt our ecosystems, our lifeways on working lands, and the stewardship mission we carry. We have also nearly doubled our team of staff, become much more influential regionally, received funding from the United States Congress to expand our Rx fire program work to the entire Willamette basin, and coalesced a passionate team of municipal and utility partners to scale-up our capacity to improve water quality in the Springfield/Eugene urban area. What a ride!

These successes are not mine, they are ours. I wrote frequently in these newsletters about the “We” of this work - it has always been a community of many leaders working together to advance what matters to them most. Above all I am grateful for the privilege to be part of that “We” during my time here; it has been a gift. The story of this Council began long before I got here, and I am excited to watch how the team of staff, board, and partners like you launch from this 25th Anniversary year and carry forward that enduring vision for a healthier Long Tom Watershed well into the future. Thank you for letting me be part of this watershed council’s ongoing story and for giving me your trust and support along the way!”

-Clinton Begley

INNOVATIVE PARTNERSHIP LAUNCHES WILLAMETTE VALLEY-WIDE CULTURAL FIRE PROGRAM!

The Long Tom Watershed Council and EcoStudies Institute are thrilled to announce an innovative partnership years in the making!

For nearly 10 years LTWC's Katie MacKendrick has been steadily working with Tribal and NGO partners to reshape what is possible for the long-term restoration and stewardship of oak and prairie habitats in the Long Tom Watershed and Willamette Valley. Importantly, she has been a consistent champion for uplifting and centering Indigenous partners in this work. Through her work with Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde and Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, as well as through the Traditional Ecological Inquiry Program, opportunities have emerged to explore collaboration and co-management across Tribal lands, private lands, and those managed by public agencies, to increase the use of Cultural Fire.

Since 2020, LTWC and EcoStudies Institute (ESI) have been partnering together on this work. Rhodri Wiseman and Mason McKinley of ESI have been close partners with LTWC staff, and Tribal partners, in imagining a future in which Indigenous people can be supported in getting more good fire reintroduced to their ancestral homelands of the Willamette Valley. Supporting a more robust workforce to carry out culturally relevant stewardship work year-round is key for this long term success. A proof of concept for this work and partnership included a recent burn training for Indigenous practitioners last fall at a private property in the Long Tom Watershed conserved by McKenzie River Trust, and written about by [KLCC](#) and [High Country News](#). Since at least 2018, the Long Tom Watershed Council has been a key partner in a basin-wide effort to develop a 30-year conservation plan through the Willamette Valley Oak and Prairie Cooperative. This long-term strategy includes reducing barriers to culturally-relevant prescribed fire, and leadership of Indigenous stewards across the Willamette Valley. So while this approach is innovative, it is grounded in a solid scientific understanding of the role that people, and fire, have and should continue to play for the health of the Willamette Valley.



Jesse Kidd (top) and Katie MacKendrick (bottom)

With bold support by Senator's Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley, LTWC was awarded \$500,000 in the 2021 Federal Budget to help support a vision for scaling up that kind of burn training and prescribed fire implementation via a regional partnership model. Concurrently, EcoStudies Institute was awarded \$1 million via the Oregon Conservation Corps on behalf of this shared strategy. Together, and matched by funding from implementation grants via the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, and Pacific Birds Joint Venture, LTWC and EcoStudies Institute are working together to stand-up a Tribally-focused burn crew Willamette Valley wide!

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This regional approach seeks to maximize the unique capacities of the many partners involved, and we are excited to celebrate LTWC Ecologist Katie MacKendrick, and EcoCultural Restoration Specialist Jesse Kidd in their move into new positions at EcoStudies Institute to bring their talents to a broader geography of habitats and partnerships, continuing to include the Long Tom and with emphasis in the Upper Willamette. EcoStudies has many decades of experience managing burn crews of this size, and we are excited about this innovative approach to capacity sharing, and a mission-centered approach to organizing our staff and resources in a way to achieve maximum impact for this ambitious vision.

That long term vision is being co-created in cooperation with a coalition of partners in the Upper Willamette Stewardship including [McKenzie River Trust](#), [Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council](#), [Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council](#), [Friends of Buford](#)

[Park & Mt. Pisgah](#), and [McKenzie Watershed Council](#), plus The Nature Conservancy. Through this robust partnership, restoration and stewardship projects will be better able to consider how good fire can be incorporated into project design and development, and together how the Upper Willamette Stewardship Network can continue to support Indigenous communities and partners in Tribal governments in asserting their role in regional stewardship and environmental decision making.

With their transition, Katie and Jesse aren't saying "goodbye" to the Long Tom but instead helping to bridge a pathway between LTWC and partners to see this momentous vision come to life. **Thank you to Katie and Jesse for all of their hard work in standing up a regional prescribed fire and cultural burning program!** We're very excited to partner alongside them on this critically important work in the months and years to come.

Thank You for Giving to LTWC!

SUMMER 2022 DONATIONS

Victoria Blackman

Paula Conn

Fred Meyer / Kroger Rewards

Anami Ridge

Anonymous



Urban Wildlife! This Cooper's Hawk was photographed in Eugene by Aaron Whitney

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.



OREGON DEQ RELEASES DATA VIEWER FOR PESTICIDE STEWARDSHIP PARTNERSHIP

Pesticide presence in Amazon Creek, the Long Tom River's largest tributary, has been the focus of one of Oregon's [Pesticide Stewardship Partnerships](#) (PSPs). Since 2011, LTWC has been leading this collaborative effort among agricultural and urban businesses, the City of Eugene, the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, the Oregon Department of Agriculture, and other partners. Amazon Creek drains approximately 70% of the City of Eugene and about 23 miles of agricultural land downstream. The PSP aims to monitor pesticides at locations throughout the Amazon Creek Watershed, determine which chemicals are of greatest concern to local water quality, and communicate results to local stakeholders to support and promote voluntary practices to help protect local water quality.

We're now pleased to announce that monitoring results from the Amazon PSP, and other PSPs around the state, have just been made much more accessible to the public. The Pesticide Stewardship Partnership Data Viewer has been released on the [DEQ's website](#), allowing access to current and historic pesticide water quality data for over 130 different pesticides and pesticide breakdown products.

The data viewer can be found at: [rstudioconnect.deq.state.or.us/PSP-Data-Viewer/](https://studioconnect.deq.state.or.us/PSP-Data-Viewer/)

One early impact in the Amazon PSP was a greater understanding of the enormous role urban land uses play in sourcing and transporting pesticides and other water quality impairments to local waterways, an insight that helped give birth to the Urban Waters & Wildlife Program. Urban areas face complex environmental challenges, and urban stormwater in Amazon Creek is particularly important because it lies upstream of agricultural land, and our neighbors downstream in Monroe who receive all of their drinking water from the Long Tom River and its tributaries, including Amazon Creek. "PSP testing in Amazon Creek is designed to be able to identify the impacts of different land use types, so the dataviewer will allow businesses and others to understand that

everyone plays a role in water quality, and we all need to do better to see real change in our creek," explains Sarah Whitney, LTWC's Urban Restoration & Stormwater Specialist.

Local Ag producers, like Jason Hunton (former owner of SureCrop Service) have been a key partner in the Amazon PSP since its inception, providing critical context to inform the program, and responding to monitoring results by adjusting practices and chemical use on their farms. Monitoring results from the Amazon PSP seem to show that the efforts of the Urban Waters & Wildlife Program and local partners have been paying off. The concentrations of almost all detected pesticides in Amazon Creek have been trending downward, with only a few exceptions.

These results reflect a decade of collaborative efforts from partners, stakeholders, and community members. However, the results continue to speak to the need for continued vigilance and continued improvement. There is still much work to be done, and it will require a community-wide effort. We hope that greater transparency and accessibility of monitoring data will further support for community participation and collaboration in this important endeavor.



2015 PSP Meeting with agricultural producers, hosted by the Hunton Family at the lower Fern Ridge Schoolhouse

REGISTER BY MAIL FOR LTWC'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION ON SEPT 24TH!

YOU CAN ALSO GO ONLINE AT LONGTOM.ORG/CELEBRATE25

Register by Sept 21!

Select the Ticket for Your Group Size:

- Individual Ticket (\$10)
- Group of 2 (\$18)
- Group of 3+ (\$25)

Your Name: _____

Names of Others Attending with You: _____

Any Dietary Restrictions? _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Yes, I would like to make a tax-deductible donation toward LTWC's 25th Anniversary Celebration!

Do you wish to remain anonymous? Yes No

Name as you would like to be recognized: _____

I would like my gift to be recognized: In Honor of In Memory of

Amount of Gift: \$ _____

Please make checks payable to Long Tom Watershed Council or "LTWC" and send to 11 East 27th Avenue, Eugene, OR 97405

Thank you for your support!

INVASIVE EMERALD ASH BORER FOUND IN OREGON

The Emerald Ash Borer, a non-native and highly invasive beetle, has been found in Oregon near Forest Grove. So far, this is the first known sighting in the Pacific Northwest. This highly destructive invasive insect targets ash trees, and the wetlands and woodlands of the Willamette Valley are the prime habitat for the native Oregon Ash.

According to a [news release](#) by the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA), Emerald Ash Borers are native to the eastern part of Asia and were first encountered in North America about 20 years ago in Michigan. The insect has since spread to approximately three dozen states.

The State of Oregon has a [Readiness and Response Plan](#) in place for the Emerald Ash Borer, which had been finalized last year. ODA are asking for the public's help in staying vigilant, by learning more about how to identify an Emerald Ash Borer, and by reporting any sightings to the **Oregon Invasive Species hotline: oregoninvasiveshotline.org**



Photo: Oregon Department of Agriculture



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*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.