



*The crowd enjoying Leigh Anne Jasheway's opening monologue*

## 2023 CELEBRATION - AWARDS, COMEDY, MUSIC, STORIES

### *Thriving Landscapes, Thriving Communities*

The 2023 Celebration was a great success! Numerous people dubbed it “the best ever”. More than 120 people came together at the Veterans Building in Eugene on November 2 for a night of laughter, music, great food and community. We had Leigh Anne Jasheway, a local award-winning comedian as our emcee, Meadow Rue Band and Skarlett Woods bringing us toe-tapping music, and we heard stories and wisdom from Elder Marta Lu Clifford of the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde. Awards were given, new board members were elected, and retiring board members were thanked and applauded.

#### **Congratulations to our awardees:**

- Outstanding Project Partner - Meghan Murphy, City of Springfield
- Outstanding Project Partner - Oregon Department of Forestry, Western Lane District
- Outstanding Public-Sustaining Entity - Upper Willamette Soil and Water Conservation District
- Outstanding Lifetime Volunteer - Rebecca Hale
- Departing Outstanding Employee - Rob Hoshaw

#### **New board members approved at the meeting:**

- Dr. Paulina Whitehat
- John Deck
- Connie Peabody

#### **Outgoing board members completing their terms:**

- Al Hrynyshyn
- Jamie Newsome

See center insert (pg 3-4) for more photos!



Sarah Whitney discussing Urban Waters and Wildlife projects with attendees at the welcome table during happy hour.

# OTHER WAYS TO GIVE TO THE COUNCIL

## *A list of unique ways to give to support the council's on-going work*

### **EarthShare**

EarthShare is a workplace giving program that allows employees to donate to their favorite nonprofit agencies through payroll deductions. The LTWC has joined EarthShare to allow one more option for payroll giving. EarthShare has been helping nonprofits enroll in local, state, federal, and private campaigns for decades. For more than 30 years, they've worked with employers in the public and private sectors to ensure nonprofits are represented in workplace employee giving campaigns. To date, the organization has driven more than \$375 million to urgent environmental issues. They have provided millions of individuals with the opportunity to begin and continue their journey of stewardship. Currently employees of State of Oregon, Lane County, and City of Eugene and elsewhere can donate through EarthShare to the Long Tom Watershed Council through payroll deductions. Contact your HR department to see about setting up a payroll deduction for the LTWC. For more information about EarthShare, visit [earthshare.org](http://earthshare.org).

### **United Way**

The LTWC has worked with United Way of Lane County for many years for employees who have options to donate through United Way payroll deductions. Many Lane County employers work with United Way to make these donations possible. To see if your employer is one of them, contact your HR department and see about setting up a regular donation to the LTWC. For more information about United Way visit [United Way of Lane County](http://United Way of Lane County).

### **Fred Meyer/Kroeger**

Another way you can easily give to the LTWC is by donating your grocery rewards earned at Fred Meyer/Kroeger. If you have a reward card with Fred Meyer/Kroeger, you can login to your FredMeyer account and follow the instructions to link your card to an organization. You can find the instructions by visiting their [site](#). When you are filling out their form and you are asked, our nonprofit number is: VV587. Everytime your shop and use your rewards card, you are helping the council earn a donation.

### **Recurring Monthly Donation**

You can also set up a recurring monthly donation either by setting up the LTWC in your bill pay section of your online banking or if you don't use bill pay at your bank, you can contact Heidi Heisler at the LTWC office ([fiscal@longtom.org](mailto:fiscal@longtom.org)) and she can help you set up a monthly Automated Clearing House (ACH) monthly donation to the LTWC.

### **Estate Planning, Stock and Other Non-Cash Assets**

For assistance with setting up Estate planning or stock and other non-cash assets, please contact Executive Director Steve Dear at the LTWC office ([coordinator@longtom.org](mailto:coordinator@longtom.org)).

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## 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. We are committed to living this commitment by taking action. For example, the council hosts and actively supports the Traditional Ecological Inquiry Program and we support efforts to uplift and reintroduce cultural burning through the Willamette Valley Fire Collaborative.



# MORE FUN FROM THE CELEBRATION!



Leigh Anne Jasheway, emcee



Skarlett Woods, singer



Meadow Rue Band



Board member Jabrila Via



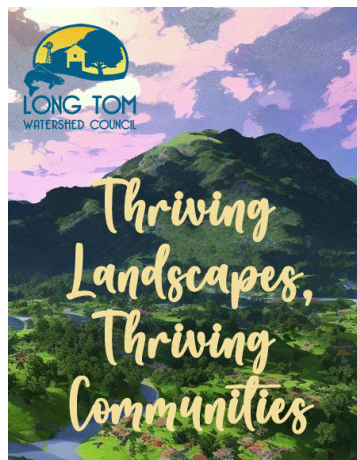
Marta Lu Clifford, Storyteller



Pictures of the crowd!



Our helpers at the Merchandise table:  
Leslie, Tegan, and Addy Heisler



Board member Connie Peabody

# AWARDS AND RECOGNITION FROM THE CELEBRATION



Meghan Murphy, recipient of the Outstanding Project Partner award with Council Executive Director Steve Dear.



Outgoing Board Member Al Hrynshyn (not pictured: Jamie Newsome).



Incoming board of directors members: L to R Dr. Paulina Whitehat, John Deck and Connie Peabody. Kurt Koehler at the podium.



Staff and board from the Upper Willamette Soil and Water Conservation District recipient of the Outstanding Public-Sustaining Entity award and Council Executive Director Steve Dear.



Staff from the Oregon Department of Forestry, Western Lane District recipient of the Outstanding Project Partner award and Council Executive Director Steve Dear.



Executive Director Steve Dear with Rob Howshaw recipient of the Departing Outstanding Employee award.



Rebecca (Becca) Hale, recipient of the Outstanding Lifetime Volunteer award with Council Executive Director Steve Dear.

# COMING SOON AT THE LTWC:

## Operations Coordinator position description and application information

Soon to be posted on our web page is a position for the **Operations Coordinator position** which is expected to transition to the Operations Manager position within six months. To find the information on our web page, look at the top of the main page for the “We are Hiring” link to open the Current Openings page.

The Operations Coordinator will work closely with the Operations Manager to provide essential support for administrative and coordination functions of the Long Tom Watershed Council. This support is critical in keeping the organization operating smoothly and working successfully toward our mission. The ideal candidate will have experience in office and file management, Member and fundraising tracking, event and tour coordination and meeting logistics, and community outreach logistics. The successful candidate will be eligible to transition to the operations manager position within six months time.



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## THANK YOU FOR DONATING TO LTWC!

Anonymous (6)  
Mary Allardt  
Bill Allison  
Rolf Anderson  
Atkinson Memorial Farm  
Conservancy  
David Barta  
John Brinkley  
Diana Bus  
Lore Byxbe  
Cliff and Linda Brown  
Doug and Linda Carnine  
Sue Craig  
Cindi and Richard Bruck  
Dannemiller  
Robin Cochran in memory of  
Eric Mullet  
Gayle and Mike Colehour  
Paula and Denny Conn

John and Christine Deck  
Amy and David Dessert  
Peter and Martha Dragovich  
Taylor Evans  
Katie Geiser  
Al and Donna Hrynshyn  
Betsy and Andy Janeczek  
Katherine and Eric Jensen  
Joe's Garage (Darin David)  
Kurt and Mary Koehler  
Floyd S Lord in honor/memory  
of Beaver D Lord  
Shelly Miller and Dean Walton  
Connie and Mark Peabody  
Pfeiffer Winery LLC and Robin  
Pfeiffer  
James and Letha Pontious  
Steven Pringle  
Anami Ridge

Riensch Timber LLC  
St Mary's Episcopal Church  
Steven Soltesz  
Adam Spencer in memory of  
Helen Gilbert  
Stella-Jones  
Kathleen Sweet  
Charles and Karen Van Duyn  
David Walp and Sally Jo Bowman  
Phyllis Weare  
John and Pem Windquist  
Charlotte (Ty) and Richard Zeller



# WELCOME, ALEJANDRO MEJIA AND SARA WORL!



We are so fortunate to welcome **Sara Worl** to the staff as our Restoration Project Manager. Sara isn't new to the Council. She's been involved since 2018 as a volunteer, intern, and contractor. She will continue working with the Traditional Ecological Inquiry Program, collaborative prescribed fire, oak and prairie restoration, as well other Working Lands and Habitats projects. She holds a BA in planning, public policy and management, a graduate certificate in nonprofit management, and a MS in environmental studies, all from the University of Oregon.

Growing up in the wetlands and oak prairies of Beaverton, and living in the Long Tom Watershed since 2002, Sara is constantly in awe of these precious habitats. She is honored to be a part of the great efforts of people working together to care for our interconnected social and ecological communities. Sara enjoys spending time with her family, baking, gardening, gathering, camping, and can often be found near a river.

**Alejandro Mejia** joined the Long Tom Watershed Council as the Restoration Projects Coordinator this month. He will assist in the development and implementation of restoration projects throughout the watershed. Alejandro hails from the rolling limestone hills of Central Texas, where cool spring water from the Edwards aquifer dances with the Texas wild rice. He graduated from Texas State University with a B.S. in wildlife biology and has assisted in the management of various restoration efforts in Texas and Oregon since 2018.

Having worked for nonprofits and the U.S. Forest Service, he has assisted in vegetation restoration efforts in remote areas of Oregon, such as the subalpine meadows of the Cascades, the Umpqua National Forest, and in communities at risk of wildfire. Alejandro enjoys spending time in his canoe, exploring the emerald waters of Oregon, as well as shooting film, and botanizing.



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## HELP US SAVE PAPER-GO DIGITAL!

Subscribing for our **digital newsletter** helps us save on the significant costs of printing a paper newsletter, saves paper resources, AND you get access to more content. Switching to digital is easy! **Email us at [info@longtom.org](mailto:info@longtom.org).**

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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.

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