



LONG TOM WATERSHED COUNCIL APRIL 2024 NEWSLETTER



HOME SEPTIC MAINTENANCE AND MONITORING Public Meeting - Thursday, April 25th, 2024 | 5:15 - 7 p.m. | Konnie Room Fern Ridge Library | 88026 Territorial Hwy, Veneta



Septic systems can seem a mystery to most of us. They can be one of those things underground and forgotten until they fail. Keeping your septic systems working correctly helps protect local water quality, keeping our streams and groundwater clear of bacteria, nitrates, and other pollutants that can be harmful to wildlife and human health. Most rural areas are outside of those served by central sewers and landowners must treat and dispose of wastewater on their own lots. Proper regular maintenance and monitoring can help keep your system working correctly and help eliminate surprise, and often catastrophic failures of septic systems. This workshop will help you know how to keep your system in good condition and will share resources for financing repairs and replacements when they are needed.

In this meeting, LTWC's Amanda Reinholtz will provide a local water quality context for the importance of good septic system health and Chrissy Lucas-Woodruff from OSU Extension will be sharing information to help you keep that catastrophic failure from becoming a reality by:



- *Learning about proper maintenance and monitoring of your specific type of septic system.*
- *Learning to ensure proper treatment of the effluent and a longer life of your system.*
- *Learning to protect the health of your family, neighbors, and animals as well as your property investment and the safety of groundwater resources.*

Come get a FREE nitrate screening of your well water (BRING: ½ cup untreated water in any clean container) to see if your septic might be leaching into your well and drinking water system.

Chrissy Lucas-Woodruff is an Outreach Program Coordinator for the OSU Extension Service Groundwater Education Program. Her primary expertise is working with domestic well and septic system owners to troubleshoot issues, interpret water quality results and promote appropriate maintenance and repair of these systems.

We will have light snacks and beverages available for those coming directly from work.

To register visit longtom.org/HomeSeptic

Chrissy Lucas-Woodruff,
Outreach Program Coordinator for
the OSU Extension Service
Groundwater Education Program

MEET OUR NEW STAFF MEMBERS:

We are excited to announce several new staff members: Katheryn (Kyt) Bergstrom, Fiscal Manager; Lucy Walsh, Urban Waters and Wildlife Partnership Coordinator; Emma Garner, Education Program Manager for the Upper Willamette Stewardship Network and our new Interim Executive Director, Jennifer Wheeler.

Kyt Bergstrom



Kyt joined the Council in February, 2024 as our Fiscal Manager overseeing grant fund management, accounting and payroll duties, and providing financial advice and direction. She brings a vast array of knowledge and experience around business financial management, managing her own businesses, and financial research.

Kyt grew up on the beaches of the Atlantic Ocean, spent time in the South and the Midwest, and recently relocated to Oregon to be closer to her family and the Pacific Ocean. She holds three degrees: B.S. in business analytics, B.S. in process engineering, and an M.S. in organizational management. In her free time, Kyt enjoys spending time with her spouse and huskies, swimming, kayaking, camping, hiking, crabbing, and deep sea fishing.

Lucy Walsh



Lucy also joined the council in February and works from the LTWC offices, but in conjunction with the Urban Waters and Wildlife Partnership. She is an experienced community builder and Earth scientist who takes pride in creating science-driven, collaborative, and trusting social environments that let participants thrive on their way to project success. As the Long Tom Watershed Council's Urban Waters & Wildlife Partnership Coordinator, Lucy supports community actions that promote and sustain voluntary urban stormwater management improvement projects in the Upper Willamette urban areas. She holds degrees in Geology (B.S., M.S.), is a certified Master Recycler, and has spent her professional career building resilient communities through the development of public safety tools and programs. You may know Lucy from her work as Oregon's ShakeAlert Earthquake Early Warning coordinator. Lucy finds joy breathing in the forests of Oregon, spending time with her family, volunteering, and catching up on pop-culture podcasts while weeding her garden. She celebrates the opportunity to join a network of folks who care so much about long-term ecological and community health.

Emma Garner



Emma Garner is the Education Program Manager for the Upper Willamette Stewardship Network. The LTWC is one of seven NGO partners that make up the Upper Willamette Stewardship Network (UWSN) that collaborate and share staff to accomplish conservations goals in the Upper Willamette. Through their role at the Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council, they manage an education program that provides students across the Upper Willamette unique place-based field trip experiences. Through hands-on activities centered in art, science, writing, and self-reflection students learn about watershed health, function, and how we connect to and impact environmental ecosystems. Their favorite part of their work is watching students fill with joy as they discover something new about themselves and the outdoor spaces around them.

Emma was born and raised in the Willamette Valley. Growing up, they could be found raising tadpoles from a neighborhood stream, monitoring bird nests in their backyard, and creating field journals. Following that passion for exploring the outdoors, Emma attended Oregon State University and graduated with a B.S. in Fisheries and Wildlife.

When Emma is not coordinating and leading environmental education activities, they are playing with their 2-year-old dog, planting and pruning away in the garden, and reading.

LEADERSHIP TRANSITION AT LTWC

The LTWC Board of Directors welcomes Jennifer Wheeler as the Interim Executive Director. Jennifer grew up in Eastern Idaho, spent 25 years in higher education, specifically alumni relations, and has been a nonprofit consultant for ten years. In addition to degrees in marketing and public relations, she holds a certificate in Interim Executive Leadership and has been a long-time volunteer for an environmental nonprofit in Idaho.

“It is my deep honor to assist the Long Tom Watershed Council in this time of transition,” said Wheeler. “The rich and diverse portfolio of relationships, partnerships, cultural sensitivities, and projects is the hallmark of this honored organization, and I look forward to helping the organization find its next leader.”

During this time of transition, Jennifer will lead the organization in close concert with the board and staff. Her hybrid work schedule will have her splitting time between Eugene and her hometown of Boise, Idaho. Jennifer can be reached at coordinator@longtom.org



Jennifer Wheeler

Chee la! Shu’ dan’-nast-li~!

Hello and happy spring from the Traditional Ecological Inquiry Program! After our gray rainy winter, we’ve been working hard to get our new season of teaching and learning underway. It seems like the beautiful oaks and meadows of Chalamali are coming to life a little early this year, so we’re just in time. Our Spring Rounds kickoff event gave the community a chance to dust off some winter cobwebs, share some delicious food, and talk about the seasons to come. David Lewis shared Kalapuya history, and we all enjoyed a lesson on oak tending and fire from one of our returning participants. We welcome four new Intern families this round, and five returning. Intern projects this year will put some creative and inspiring ideas in action: traditional fire-starting tools, pre- and post- burn monitoring, bow making, camas cultivation, and others. Our connections to local Tribal education programs, stewardship organizations, and Universities will keep our Interns busy with college and career exploration. All of this year’s TEIP projects center fire ecology and work with cultural fire, and we are already looking forward to the fall burns.



TEIP Youth at Chalamali



Four Directions Cake



TEIP thanks the Long Tom Watershed Council for this sixth year of collaboration and partnership; we appreciate all the creative human people actively engaged in supporting and uplifting Indigenous Traditional Ecological Knowledge. To learn more about and support TEIP, visit: www.longtom.org/community/teip/

FAREWELL AND A BIG THANK YOU TO HEIDI HEISLER

After 9 years managing all things financial at LTWC, Heidi Heisler has moved on to an exciting new position at American Whitewater, a national nonprofit that works to improve river access, water quality, and river function around the United States. Transitions like this are always bittersweet, as we hate to lose awesome people like Heidi, but it is also evidence that we know how to hire and cultivate great workers, and her lengthy tenure shows that LTWC is a great place to work.



Heidi worked mostly behind the scenes to make sure that all of our amazing projects and programs were successful, by working with all the staff to develop budgets, get contractors paid for their work, get reimbursements from grantors, and last but not least, make sure all the staff got paid on time. All of the important work we do out in the watershed would simply not be possible without the support work that she and other awesome operations and administrative staff do at LTWC. We are very lucky that Heidi was able to help train our new Fiscal Manager, Kyt Bergstrom, on our complex fiscal systems, and that she is still available as a resource to us as we navigate the transition.

We are sure that our LTWC members will remember seeing Heidi and her three triplet daughters selling LTWC swag and tickets at the annual celebration - we are working on convincing them to join us this fall at the celebration! No pressure though, Heidi :)

Heidi - we sincerely thank you for all the hard work you did at LTWC and wish you the best in your next chapter.

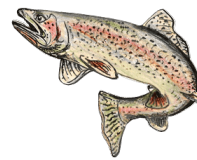
HELP US SAVE PAPER-GO DIGITAL

Subscribing for our **digital newsletter** helps us save on the significant costs of printing a paper newsletter and postage, saves paper resources, AND you get access to more content.

Switching to digital is easy!

Email us at info@longtom.org.

Thank you!



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, we're acting as an ally and host for the Traditional Ecological Inquiry Program and we're supporting efforts to uplift and reintroduce cultural burning through the Willamette Valley Fire Collaborative.



LEAP! FOR THE LONG TOM RAISES AWARENESS & FUNDS

February 29th was a dark and stormy night, yet 90 LTWC members braved the weather to have a great time at “Leap! for the Long Tom” at the Long Tom Grange. Jed Kaul, LTWC’s Fish Biologist and Aquatics Program manager, shared about projects that LTWC has completed in the Bear Creek and Ferguson Creek areas. Our hosts Kurt and Mary Koehler, Al and Donna Hrynyshyn and John and Christine Deck arranged for a delicious spread of hors d’oeuvres and donations of savory sausage from Deck Family Farm and a wide selection of wine from High Pass Winery, Brigadoon Winery, Walnut Ridge Vineyard, Bennett Vineyards and Wine Company, and Antiquum Farm.

Al Hrynyshyn offered a request for donations for unrestricted funds that cover the operations portion of the budget that pays for general overhead expenses for the council which are expenses that grants don’t cover such as rent, utilities, office and computer equipment, and staff support for accounting and operations. A total of \$3,700 was raised. Thanks to all who came and to those who made a donation toward this important part of our council funding. It’s not too late to send in a donation to help the council LEAP! into the future.



Jed Kaul, LTWC Fish Biologist



Al Hrynyshyn, LTWC Trustee

CALL FOR NEW BOARD MEMBERS

The Council’s Board of Directors is recruiting interested people with a passion for the mission and work of the Council. If you are interested in serving on the Council’s Board contact Executive Director Steve Dear at coordinator@longtom.org and 541-654-8954.

THANK YOU FOR DONATING!

Thank you to these donors who have given since our February Newsletter:

Anonymous in memory of Evelyn Savage
Anonymous for TEIP
John and Karen Anderson
Merle and Kathy Allen
Antiquum Vineyards - In-kind
Bennett Vineyards - In-kind
Brigadoon Wine Company, Chris & Shiree Shown - In-kind
John Brinkley
Paula and Denny Conn
Deck Family Farms - John & Christine Deck - In-kind
Andrew Gilmore
Global Environmental Law Alliance Worldwide - Lori Maddox for TEIP
John and Martha Greydanus - in memory of Richard Leo Francis
Trey and Tammie Hagen - Project Match
High Pass Winery - In-kind
Kurt and Mary Koehler
Michael Mattick
Kimberly McBride and Michelle Ericson
Pat McDowell
Pat and George Miller
Shelly Miller
Northwest Watershed Restoration - Tom Moore
Anami Ridge
Rienschke Timber LLC & Sandra Faulhaber
Emily Ryan
Aaron Vaughan and Rita Frost
Walnut Ridge Winery, Aaron & Alisha Young - In-kind
Rudy Wiedenbeck



LTWC STAFF ENJOY BIOCHARBEQUE

Most of the LTWC staff and some of our colleagues at the Mt. Pisgah Arboretum spent one of the amazing sunny days we had in mid-March helping clean up some of the tree debris at Mt. Pisgah caused by the February ice storm. We used one of our custom-fabricated kilns to turn small limbs and woody material into biochar, which is a beneficial soil amendment that helps retain soil moisture and increase microbial activity. We also used the day as a well-deserved staff team building opportunity and used the biochar kiln to cook some hot dogs and s'mores. We have six kilns available for landowner rental, reach out if you are interested in learning more about bio-char and the process of making it!



Finished biochar



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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