



## Don't Let Invasives Take Root This Spring

Spring weather means the plants and insects are waking up from their winter slumber, and that includes invasive species, too! As you are enjoying spring blossoms, keep an eye out for invasive species around your home, garden, and neighborhood. Oregon State University's [Solve Pest Problems](#) is an excellent tool that helps folks assess risk and take action if needed for a wide variety of invasive species and other pests. It includes helpful identification tips and information about a variety of strategies to control pests, all from reliable, research-based sources.

Some invaders are still new enough and destructive enough that likely signs and sightings should be reported. These high-priority invaders included the [Mediterranean Oak Borer](#) and [Emerald Ash Borer](#), both of which are known to exist in the Willamette Valley, but as of yet have not been found in the Long Tom Watershed. Learn the signs and report any sightings to the Oregon Invasives Species Hotline: <https://oregoninvasiveshotline.org/>.

## Small Grant Opportunity

The Small Grant Program is a competitive, easy-to-access funding opportunity supporting on-the-ground restoration projects on private lands across Oregon. It allows for more local, timely decision-making than OWEB's regular grant program and supports efforts aligned with the [Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds](#) and the [Oregon Conservation Strategy](#).

Grants of up to \$20,000 are available for projects such as native plantings and reducing erosion. Applications are accepted year-round through April 15, 2027 for landowners who would like to commit "small acts of kindness" on their properties for the benefit of water quality, water quantity, and fish and wildlife.

Eligible applicants include Tribes, watershed councils, soil and water conservation districts, nonprofits, schools, and higher education institutions. Private landowners must partner with an eligible organization to apply. See the [complete list of ineligible projects in OWEB's administrative rules](#) (<https://secure.sos.state.or.us/oard/viewSingleRule.action?ruleVrsnRsn=318753>). For further questions, reach out to Long Tom Staff at [info@longtom.org](mailto:info@longtom.org).

# HAPPENINGS & HIGHLIGHTS

## 2026 Connect+ Conference

Seaside, Oregon



Scan for Story Map



Staff members Amanda Reinholtz (speaking left) and Darian Lightfoot presented at the 2026 Connect+ Conference in Seaside. The conference brings together watershed councils, restoration practitioners, and partners from across the region to share strategies, tools, and lessons learned in community engagement and habitat restoration.

Their presentation showcased LTWC outreach projects that highlight



2026 Water Quality Partner Award  
Long Tom Watershed Council

restoration stories and outcomes, including a [StoryMap on the Coyote Creek South restoration project near Fern Ridge Reservoir](#), as well as a StoryMap featuring collaborative habitat restoration efforts along the Willamette River through the [Willamette River Anchor Habitat Working Group](#).

LTWC was also honored at the conference with the Outstanding Partnership in Water Quality Improvement award, recognizing the strength and impact of collaborative efforts across the watershed. Way to go!

## Urban Waters & Wildlife Continuous Growth

### Turning Gray Spaces Green

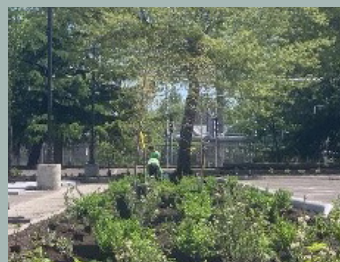
Transforming paved spaces into something that works *with* nature. In a recent project with Willamette Christian Center, LTWC's Urban team removed nearly 10,000 square feet of asphalt from a two-acre parking lot and replaced it with four large rain gardens—turning a hard surface into a system that naturally manages stormwater.

Rain gardens capture and filter runoff from roofs and pavement, allowing water to soak into the ground where soil and plant roots remove pollutants and cool the water before it reaches local streams. They also help reduce flooding and create pockets of habitat for pollinators and wildlife—all while adding green, attractive space to your property.

Interested in bringing these benefits to your own site? Green stormwater solutions like rain gardens can improve water quality, reduce runoff, and make your property more resilient and visually appealing. Get connected with our Urban Waters & Wildlife Team by emailing [urbanwaters@longtom.org](mailto:urbanwaters@longtom.org) or visit [www.urbanwatersandwildlife.org](http://www.urbanwatersandwildlife.org).



Before



During Construction



Immediately After Install



3 Years After Install

# EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES



Webinar and Q&A with Annette Patton,  
OSU Extension Forest Watershed Specialist

**April 15**  
**6 - 7:30 pm**

Online webinar

Register online:  
[beav.es/GRA](https://beav.es/GRA)

Fee: \$5  
(scholarships available)

Did you know? Most of Oregon's drinking water is sourced from our forests!

Join us for an introduction to watersheds, including:

- General overview of what a watershed is
- Importance of watersheds
- Water processes across the landscape

## What is a Watershed? *OSU Extension*

Curious about how watersheds work—and why they matter? Join an upcoming online workshop hosted by Oregon State University Extension to explore the basics of watershed science, land use, and local water systems. This engaging session is open to all, with a small registration fee and scholarships available. Learn something new, ask questions, and deepen your connection to the landscape we all share. Register at [beav.es/GRA](https://beav.es/GRA) or scan the code.

For more information, contact Carrie Mack at (541) 237-6808 or [carrie.mack@oregonstate.edu](mailto:carrie.mack@oregonstate.edu)



**Oregon State**  
University



## Emerald Ash Borer - Identification, Management, and the Importance of Ash

with Carrie Mack, OSU & Rachel Cushman, LTWC

**Thursday, May 21, 6-7:30 pm** at the Monroe Public Library

The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is an invasive beetle that kills ash trees and is spreading across Oregon since its detection in 2022. As it expands, it threatens ash in forests, along waterways, and in our communities—bringing environmental, economic, and public safety impacts.

Oregon ash is especially important in riparian areas, where it stabilizes streambanks, shades waterways for fish, supports diverse wildlife, and holds special importance for indigenous communities.

Join us to learn more about identification, species significance, management (including trapping/monitoring opportunities), and ways to stay involved. More information to come on our socials and website.



## Rethinking our Understanding of Restoration

with Chris Rempel (Kalapuya, Chinook, Klamath)

*Sponsored by Benton Soil and Water Conservation District*

**Wednesday, June 3, 6-7:30 pm** at The LCC Longhouse

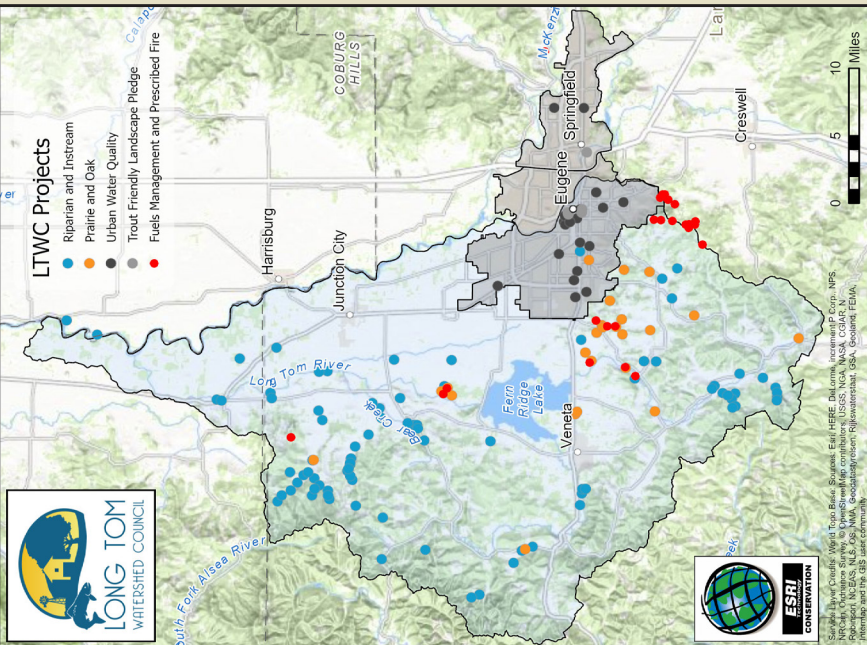
Chris will be sharing about his understanding of cultural restoration practices as they have evolved over the past ten years that he has been involved in this work. Themes include the pace of restoration, the intersection between restoring community and land, and differences between traditional and modern restoration practices.

Chris (Kalapuya, Chinook, Klamath) began his involvement with cultural practices during his undergraduate studies at Portland State University where he minored in Indigenous Nations Studies and he continues to learn and share as a cultural resources specialist for the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde.



Chris Rempel (Kalapuya, Chinook, Klamath)

# Watershed Map & Projects



# LTWC Calendar of Events

- April 15** **What is a Watershed, 6-7:30pm**  
Online
- April 19** **Rethinking Earth Day, 1-5pm**  
Eugene Farmer's Market Pavilion
- May 16** **Monroe Festival, 10am-6pm**  
Downtown Monroe
- May 17** **Wildflower & Music Festival, 10am-5pm**  
Mt. Pisgah Pavilion
- May 21** **Emerald Ash Borer, 6-7:30pm**  
Monroe Library
- June 3** **Rethinking Our Understanding of Restoration, 6-7:30 pm, LCC Longhouse**

Follow our socials for more details ~ Hope to see you at our next event!



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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.



Donate Here!  
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