



LONG TOM WATERSHED COUNCIL MAY 2024 NEWSLETTER



Kirk Pond north of Fern Ridge Reservoir

CARP FEST! Saturday, June 1, 2024 | 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

West Kirk Park | Clear Lake Road, Junction City, OR

We are excited to announce that our first annual Carp Festival will be held June 1st at West Kirk Park on Clear Lake Road! This event has been years in the making and is finally coming to fruition. With support from the Mountain Dew Outdoor Grant program, and partnership with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), we will be celebrating the unheralded, sometimes disrespected, common carp and teaching people how to fish for them.

While they are considered a “trash fish”, gross, or otherwise hated-on around Oregon, they are a top game fish in Europe and a very worthy adversary for anglers. They are present in the Long Tom River, Amazon Creek, Fern Ridge Reservoir, and the Willamette River in LTWC’s service area. They have thrived in the warmer, slower moving water created by human impacts since the 1800’s in the Willamette River watershed. They are a non-native, invasive species and there are efforts around the Pacific Northwest to reduce their numbers from some bodies of water. They feed along the bottom of slow moving or slack waterbodies, rooting in the substrate, which disrupts native aquatic plants and stirs up sediment that increases turbidity, which negatively impacts other native aquatic creatures. They are so widespread in the Willamette River watershed that it would be nearly impossible to significantly reduce their population. We do encourage people to keep what they catch, as long as they are caught from bodies of water that aren’t subject to fish consumption advisories, and learn how to prepare them, as many people in other parts of the U.S. and world eat them. Fish consumption advisories can be found here:

<https://bit.ly/4bl3R2Q>

Join us on Saturday, June 1st, from 8:30am-3:30pm at West Kirk Park to learn more about common carp, other than game fish in the watershed, and how to catch them on rod and reel. ODFW angling education staff and volunteers will be on hand to teach you how to fish for carp and the other species present in the Long Tom River, Kirk Pond, and Fern Ridge Reservoir.

- June 1-2 is ODFW free fishing weekend, so no fishing license is required!



Carp fishing image courtesy American Carp Society

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Carp Fest - continued

- ODFW will have loaner fishing rods and tackle available
- Learn Gyotaku, the Japanese art of Fish Printing, from Bruce Koike, owner of Little Pond Nature Prints. See image below and view Bruce's work at <https://www.brucekoike.com/>
- **We are looking for volunteers to help during the event, no experience necessary. Please reach out to Shawna Heurgue at operations@longtom.org if you would like to volunteer!**

Check out the brilliant movie Carpe Diem, by Sam and Jake Gigliotti, about fly fishing for common carp in southern California. <https://vimeo.com/333651605>



Largemouth bass gyotaku print made by Bruce Koike

UWWPARTNERS TOUR OF STORMWATER FACILITIES IN URBAN EUGENE/SPRINGFIELD

The LTWC Urban Waters and Wildlife Program held a tour for the Urban Waters and Wildlife Partnership members, staff and their boards to explore and celebrate select green stormwater infrastructure (GSI) projects within Springfield, OR. Projects represented several design and installation phases, ranging from the planning stage up to seven years post-installation.

The tour commenced at Island Park, where a collaborative group of local nonprofits and government organizations are envisioning a project to improve the ecological health of Island Slough which currently accepts 300 acres of stormwater runoff from downtown Springfield as well as direct stormwater runoff from adjacent businesses. From there, the group traveled to the Bob Keefer Center, where LTWC and Willamalane Parks and Recreation District are collaborating to improve stormwater management practices across Springfield's parks and recently installed a pilot project. Next, the group toured the grounds of the Riverview Center for Growth, formally known as the Child Care Center. Situated on the McKenzie River, the stormwater outlet from their primary parking lot enters the river just 100 feet upstream of EWEB's drinking water intake, making this site particularly impactful on the region's drinking water. Finally, the tour concluded with a visit to QSL Print Communications, where retrofitted swales have made a tangible impact, effectively reducing urban pollutants and pesticide use across more than 24,000 ft² of property.



Tour stop at Riverview Center for Growth

SPRING PLANTING!

During three frigid mornings in early March, LTWC staff and R. Franco Restoration crews planted over 42,000 native shrubs and trees. 32,000 were planted at Snag Boat Bend, a site near the mainstem Willamette river and the remaining ten thousand were placed along Bear creek at Bennett Vineyards. Snag Boat Bend and Bennett Vineyards host a variety of habitats that the council has been helping improve, including wetland, upland, and riparian habitats.

Once farmed for non native pasture grasses, these sites have been planted with a variety of plant species for greater biodiversity. In this past planting, 37 different native plant species were added. In their natural states these habitats support many species - amphibians, birds, mammals and reptiles rely on shaded streamside habitats. For instance, the Western pond turtle escapes the heat of summer months by seeking shaded riparian areas. Streams also benefit from the plantings, shade can maintain cool water temperatures and the vegetation stabilizes banks from further erosion. Vegetated and complex riparian habitats keep our watershed healthy!



Crews from R. Franco Restoration and LTWC Staff plant 42,000 Native Shrubs and Trees at Snag Boat Bend and along Bear Creek.



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!



Lorette Waggoner, Operations Manager, Retires and Shawna Heurgue joins staff as Operations Coordinator

After nearly five years of dedicated service, we bid a fond farewell to Lorette Waggoner as she retires from her role as Operations Manager at the Long Tom Watershed Council (LTWC). Lorette has been an integral part of our staff since joining as the Operations Coordinator before being promoted to manager. Throughout her tenure, Lorette played a vital role in planning and directing public meetings and tours, publishing and mailing newsletters, maintaining databases and our digital filing system, processing donations, and overseeing our in-house IT needs. We are grateful for her numerous contributions to keeping LTWC operating smoothly.

As she transitions into this new phase, Lorette looks forward to pursuing her passions, including expanding her jewelry-making endeavors and hitting the road in her 1958 Aloha Canned Ham “Travel Coach” trailer as often as possible.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Lorette for sharing her time and talents with LTWC over the past five years. The entire team wishes her an enjoyable and fulfilling retirement. Lorette is currently training her successor, Shawna Heurgue, our new Operations Coordinator.



Lorette Waggoner at a recent tour.



Shawna Heurgue and Larry, her German Shepherd

Shawna Heurgue (“herg-you”) brings a wealth of experience to her role as Operations Coordinator at the Long Tom Watershed Council. With a B.A. in Sociology, and a graduate certificate in conflict resolution, she is well-equipped to lead with resilience and strategic planning. Shawna’s background in emergency medicine, spanning two decades, coupled with her commitment to social and environmental justice, drives her passion for community empowerment and collaborative initiatives. As a dedicated advocate she has spearheaded fundraising efforts and crisis intervention training.

Shawna is an avid research article and non-fiction book reader and collector, and could spend hours discussing any sociological topic or theory imaginable. When not engrossed in academics, Shawna can be found in her front yard-turned garden oasis, or digging for rocks to tumble and polish. Shawna, and her husband Bruce, both native Oregonians are proud to have called the Willamette Valley theirs, and their three adult children’s, home for the better part of two decades.

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 541-654-8965.

Lower Long Tom River Shading Program - Resources Available For Lower Long Tom River Landowners

Spring is the season of regrowth! In partnership with The Freshwater Trust, we have been working to launch a special river shading program that will work to establish native trees and shrubs along the lower Long Tom River to cool the water and restore wildlife habitat. We will replace aggressive, non-native plants like blackberry and reed canarygrass with native plants that offer habitat, improve water quality, and are more attractive.

Specific sites of highest value for planting new trees have been identified by The Freshwater Trust using analytics with public data, and are located along the Long Tom River from Fern Ridge Dam downstream to its confluence with the Willamette River. We are reaching out to landowners with good sites now and over the next year – look out for a letter from us!

This program is free and includes an annual rental payment to the landowner for the planting area. Contact Jed Kaul or Alejandro Mejia at 541-654-8965 ext. 102 if you are interested in learning more, and you can find more details at <https://bit.ly/3WqjaD4>



LTWC riparian planting project on Owens Creek, before planting.



Same photo location, a few years after planting, native trees and shrubs are thriving.

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.



THANK YOU FOR DONATING TO LTWC!

Thank you to these donors since our April Newsletter:

Paula Conn
Michelle Ericson
Allen Mullen
Oregon Community Foundation - Carnine Family Fund for TEIP
Robin and Danuta Pfeiffer
Anami Ridge
United Way – Shelly Miller
Jennifer Wheeler



Scan me to give at
longtom.org/donate

A major leap for dam removal at Monroe. Can you chip in now or again?

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has been allocated their portion of the project funding to move to the next phase of the dam removal on the Long Tom River at Monroe. This will be the design and construction phase. The City of Monroe and LTWC are updating the partnership agreements and LTWC is organizing the final match funding to ensure we can move forward. We have most of the dollars however project costs have increased since the original estimates. If you care about seeing this project move forward, now is a primary time to contribute!

Please go to our website to donate now, longtom.org, or of course the always-in-fashion mail a check method.

And come by and say hi, eat BBQ and view the posters at the Long Tom booth at the May 18 Monroe Festival, this year combined with the BBQ & Logging Festival up in the City of Monroe.

For more information visit: <https://mbbqevent.org/>



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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