



100 Valleys

A Quarterly Publication for the Supporters of Umpqua Watersheds, Inc

An Oregon 501(c)(3) Non-Profit

Spring 2019 | Issue 79



Outreach Committee....

Barbara Lynch joined the Umpqua Watersheds Board of Directors in the summer of 2018, and she has since become the Outreach Committee Chair. She is thrilled to explore all the beautiful wildlands Oregon has to

offer. Barbara works as a preschool teacher at a private school, and she strives to further her environmental and conservation education whenever and wherever possible. She likes to think globally and act locally.

The Umpqua Watersheds community can look forward to many concerts, festivals, events, and hikes this coming year as the Outreach Coordinator continues to organize these events. Our biggest events include our **Annual Banquet and Silent Auction** next month as well as the Umpqua Brew Fest in October. Committee volunteers are needed. Join the committee on the last Thursday of every month at 5:30 pm at UW office.

Banquet Keynote Speaker

Jacob Lebel

It would be difficult to imagine that members of Umpqua Watersheds and the community have not heard of our Guest Speaker for this years Annual Banquet and Silent Auction, Jacob Lebel. I will attempt to describe this inspiring and humble individual for those that may need an introduction or refresher.



Photo by Robin Loznak

Jacob is a graduate of Roseburg High School and has been interested in issues affecting climate change since before he graduated. You may recall from the Fall 2015 Umpqua Watersheds newsletter, that he and his friend and community member, Alex Loznak, founded a youth group called the League of

Umpqua Climate Youth (LUCY). Starting small, they spearheaded efforts to bring solar to our schools and then growing to include efforts at the regional and state level and joining forces with Our Children's Trust, a group seeking to challenge the Federal Government. In that climate case, Julianna vs. the United States, Jacob is one of over twenty plaintiffs suing the U.S. Federal government for their climate negligence and violation of constitutional rights of youth to demand climate change policies to protect their future. This is part of a larger youth-driven global climate recovery campaign that seeks to secure the legal right to a stable climate and healthy atmosphere. In his own words, "I am telling my government to stop aiding and turning a blind eye to the corporations who profit off destroying our resources, climate, and environment, and start acting in the interest of its people. Our lives may depend on it."

A few years ago, Jacob joined the campaign with hundreds of individuals, tribal governments, business owners, and organizations to intervene in the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's process to object to the dangerous Jordan Cove natural gas pipeline project. In 2016, Jacob also travelled to North Dakota to join the movement against the Dakota Access Pipeline near the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation. The Water Protector movement has done more to reshape the national conversation for any future environmental project, and it must have been amazing for Jacob to take part in it. As they say, "Water is Life." Absolutely!

One of Jacob's passions include working on a family farm. He has a connection to the land, and he knows first-hand how quickly climate is changing in Oregon. He has connections with other self-sustaining communities worldwide that are focused on creating living ecosystems. He writes to inspire people on a deeper level beyond what the conventional media offers. He also appears as a special guest in the Red Dragon Irish Band.

We look forward to his presentation, Climate in the Courts, at our upcoming **23rd Annual Banquet and Silent Auction on April 13th**. If you have donation items for the banquet, please bring them to Umpqua Watersheds or contact us to arrange pickup. Thank you and see you there!

Our Mission:

Umpqua Watersheds is dedicated to the protection and restoration of the ecosystems of the Umpqua watershed and beyond through education, training, advocacy and ecologically sound stewardship.

Kasey's Corner ... Executive Director

Over the last 35 years, *Land and Water* hosts the Public Interest Environmental Law Conference (PIELC) at the University of Oregon. It is the world's largest public interest environmental law conference and usually draws several members from Umpqua Watersheds as well as members from our sister organizations. Unfortunately, snow and ice kept many people away. I was able to attend on Saturday and enjoyed visiting with people at the various tables and gleaned new insights from the presentations I attended. The title for PIELC this year was "Common Ground" and focused on ways to "empower our common interests to constructively and effectively work" to combat Climate Change.

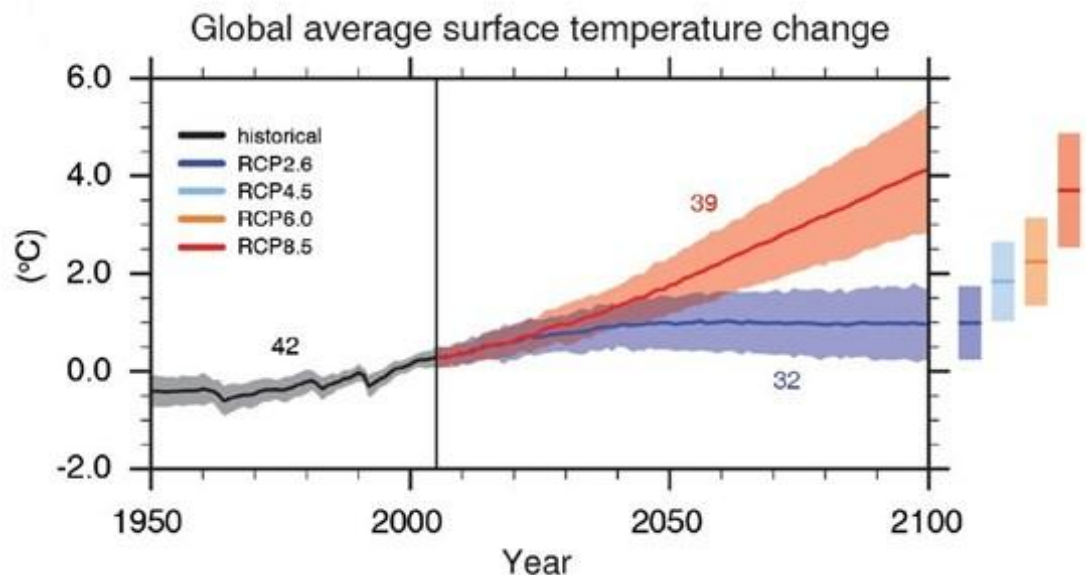


In October of last year the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) issued a warning from 90 climate scientists from 40 countries that if humans don't take immediate action to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius by 2040, we will not be able to turn back from a very bleak future. While everyone will be impacted by failure to act immediately, decisively and collectively to put the brakes on climate change, poor people and countries will be impacted the most. One of the major impacts of climate change will be felt by the availability of clean water because of shrinking glaciers and snowpack.

Throughout the day, I kept thinking about the impact climate change will have on the ability of children to enjoy the quality of life that we have today. Over the last eight years I have been involved with Umpqua Watersheds I am very proud of the time, effort and resources we have put

into providing opportunities for young people to learn about and appreciate the environment and the consequences of not working collaboratively to protect it. I am proud of Umpqua Watersheds and its work to restore and protect our precious watersheds.

I think it is very important that we should remember the kids as we ponder what to do and how we should demand policy actions at local, state, federal and international levels. Sadly, a recent Gallup poll found that only 46% of those surveyed felt that working to curb greenhouse gasses to stop Climate Change should be a top priority. Umpqua Watersheds believes that addressing Climate Change should be one of the top priorities as reflected in our choice for our keynote speaker and topic at this year's membership banquet. We are very proud of Jacob Lebel and Alex Loznak are represented as two of the 21 plaintiffs in *Juliana v. United States*.



Umpqua Watersheds Banquet and Silent Auction

April 13, 2019, 5-10 pm

UCC Campus Center

Cost \$30 (\$35 at the door)

Board of Directors

Stan Petrowski-President/Restoration Chair
J. Patrick Quinn-Vice Pres./Conservation Chair
Ken Carloni-Education Chair

John Hunter-DCPARC Chair/Facility Management
Diana Pace-Secretary/Volunteer coordinator/Wilderness Co-chair

Barbara Lynch-Outreach Chair
Kat Stone-Treasurer
Eric Stauder-Board member

Office hours are 1-5 M-W, 9-1 Th-F.

Staff

Kasey Hovik-Executive Director
Melanie MacKinnon-Office Manager
Christine Smith, Maris Wilson-AmeriCorps
Robbin Schindele- CLWC Coordinator
Diana Larson-Bookkeeper
Patrick Schneider- KQUA Program Director

Facilities Management... John Hunter

The crazy weather late February rally tested the heartiness of our building and we are happy to report that it all stayed outside. For the first time in years the interior our office has been leak free. No more pans and buckets to collect water. No more mops and rags to dry floors. A dry interior is our reward for the investment on roof upgrades and money was well spent.

Since our last report, we have been busy repairing the ceiling damage in various places in the office. Special thanks to our super star volunteer, Phil Schad. There are still several sections of ceilings that need to be patched and painted.

To focus on a path toward achieving our goals and setting priorities, the Facilities Management Committee has adopted the following Mission Statement: *"Umpqua Watersheds Facilities Management Committee is committed to the timely maintenance and upgrade of our downtown office building in an energy efficient manner. The self-sustaining operation is focused on a safe and comfortable environment that enhances valuable assets to the organization and to the community."*

Our priority for this year is to replace our obsolete HVAC duct work in the attic with a more efficient system and to install more attic insulation. We also hope to replace our interior lighting with LED fixtures with help from the Energy Trust.

We are applying for grants to offset the costs of these improvements. No matter what, our goal is to create a more comfortable and energy efficient office environment.

In the meantime, we have begun the challenge of sorting and reorganizing years of clutter and duplicate materials. This too, will provide a more efficient office area. If you want to roll up your sleeves and help, we have monthly work session on the second Saturday of every month at 10 am. Just one hour of your time can help. Please join us! Committee meetings are the first Tuesday monthly, 5:30 pm, Watersheds Office.

On Saturday, March 23, 3-5 pm, we will hold our quarterly open house. Please attend for a chance to win raffle and door prizes, mingle with your friends at Umpqua Watersheds and appreciate the improvements at our office.

DCPARC Update....John Hunter

We continue to monitor the situation at Whistlers Bend Park where more than 100 trees in the campground were cut. Far more than 11 reported by the Parks Advisory Board (PAB). Public awareness of the logging was non-existent and no harvest plan was filed with the Oregon Dept. of Forestry. The logging company was given total discretion to extract over 10 times the number of trees advertised! Whistler's Bend is noted for its world renowned disc golf course. The logging damaged and disrupted regular play at the course upsetting



Monthly Board of Directors:

When: 3rd Monday of Every Month, 6:00pm

Where: Umpqua Watersheds Office

For board and staff members only. If there is a topic you feel the board should broach let us know!

Email kasey@umpquawatersheds.org

Education Committee

When: 2nd Tuesday of Every Month, 6pm

Where: Umpqua Watersheds Office

Ken Carloni - ken.carloni@gmail.com

Restoration Committee

When: 3rd Tuesday of Every Month, 5:30pm

Where: McMenamin's Roseburg Station Pub

Stan Petrowski - Stanley@umpquawatersheds.org

Conservation Committee

When: 1st Monday of Every Month, 6:00pm

Where: Umpqua Watersheds Office

J. Patrick Quinn - jquinn@mydfn.net

Facility Management

When: 1st Tuesday of Every Month, 6:00pm

Where: Umpqua Watersheds Office

John Hunter - goldenarchie46@yahoo.com

Wilderness Committee

When: Last Wednesday of Every Month, 6:00pm

Where: Umpqua Watersheds Office

Bob Hoehne - oho937@hotmail.com

Douglas County Parks Resource Advisory Committee (DCPARC):

When: 3rd Wednesday, 6:00pm

Where: Umpqua Watersheds Office

John Hunter, goldenarchie46@yahoo.com

Outreach Committee

When: Last Thursday of every month, 5:30pm

Where: Umpqua Watersheds Office

Barbara Lynch at bjflynn@hotmail.com



Disc Golfers who have helped to maintain the course. Equipment used has left mud ruts throughout the campground.

We are monitoring other county land and hosted a hike to the former Britt Nichols County Park. Over 30 people joined us which was reclassified by the BOC in Dec as County forest. The Kiwanis Club and the Roseburg school district, in 1953, was promised a share of the timber receipts. On Feb. 19, along with other concerned groups and individuals, we hosted a "Rally for Transparency" in front of the County Courthouse. A group of 60 people joined us to exercise their right to free speech and assembly and encourage more transparency in our county government.

It is our quest to find common ground with all of Douglas County to create a more livable 100 valleys of the Umpqua. Anyone wanting to show their support and solidarity, DCPARC has "Remember Whistler's Bend" as well as "Remember Busenbark" T-shirts sizes medium through 2XL, now available for \$16 at the UW.

Education at Umpqua Watersheds is flourishing with new connections resulting in more programs and additional youth interactions! Maris and I enjoy working in the office together, collaborating on some projects and working individually on others. I've been continuing programs from previous years and expanding on them while finding ways to bring more experiential education to new schools. My goals for this year were to double our turnout at the Martin Luther King Jr. Day Umpqua River Clean-up and to double the number of schools where we have Science Wednesday. I am proud to say that we have already reached both goals and are only halfway done with the service year!

We continue to have a presence at Fremont Middle School in their Natural Resources class. This pilot class has been successful in nurturing the students' curiosity for nature and the outdoors. They look forward to going outside and tending to the garden while learning about the resources Earth offers. Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and local volunteers teamed up with the class to offer angler education. The students learned about fish and fishing then we accompanied them on a field trip to Cooper Creek Reservoir to test their skills.

Science Wednesday at Fir Grove finished in November and started at Hucrest Elementary in January. Twenty-one bright and energetic students attended after school science club and explored the topics through experiments and other hands-on activities. Some topics we have explored in 2019 are: Weather and Climate, The Carbon Cycle, Soils and Erosion and The Water Cycle. These students thrive when they are moving around and asking lots of questions. Their energy is contagious and I've been happy to have lots of parent volunteers. Maris and I will be at Hucrest for their Outdoor School in the summer to present about the properties of water.

I really love exploring science with students through art. Forest Thursday at the Boys and Girls Club will continue in March, giving me more opportunities for this. We upcycle items like toilet paper rolls and egg cartons to create fun trinkets relating to the forest. I use games and questions to bring science into the project. I also began providing art activities at Casa de Belen recently. We've only had one day of environmental art so far, but it was fun meeting new faces and painting rocks for them. It is a very therapeutic activity for all involved.

I am very grateful for the professional development opportunities this second AmeriCorps year at Umpqua Watersheds has provided for me. In January, I began attending the Natural History and Ecology of Oregon Mammals at the

Christine Smith....AmeriCorps Voice



Douglas County Museum in partnership with Umpqua Natural Leadership Science Hub. It has been very educational and engaging, allowing me opportunities to learn to key animal skulls and identify traits of mammals better.

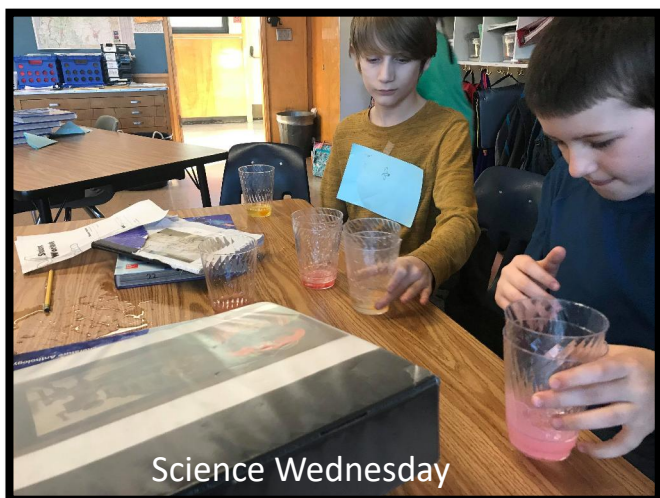
In February, I joined nine other educators at the South Slough Reserve for a workshop on climate change and ocean acidification. These three days were packed with resources to adapt to my own curriculum and unforgettable experiences. The Charleston weather cleared up enough for us to take a morning boat excursion. We took water samples and reviewed studies of the estuary's PH to understand local and global trends. We also used art to express the personal importance of what we study and teach. It was beautiful to recognize the value of art and humanities in science. We're all connected, as are our actions, and students should always be encouraged to feel as if their talents have a place in the protection of the natural world.

In February, Maris and I were delighted to attend the State of the Beaver Conference. UW's own Stan Petrowski played a big role in this conference and I am so glad we made it! I learned so much about beavers and have a deeper appreciation for their niche in this world. It was amazing to see people from all over the world coming together to share their studies and the status of these critters across the globe.

In January, Maris and I spearheaded the Martin Luther King Jr. Day Umpqua River Cleanup. 110 volunteers attended and picked up 4,580 pounds of trash! We are so thankful to our many community partners who made this happen:

Roseburg Disposal, Douglas County Public Works, Blue Zones Project, Sherm's Thunderbird, Casa de Belen, DC Farmers Co-op, Bagel Tree Cafe, The City of Roseburg, BikeWalk Roseburg and SOLVE Oregon. The weather was in our favor that day and it was a true community event.

This year has zoomed by and soon it will be spring! I look forward to botany hikes, sunshine and swimming in the river. My favorite time of year is when I'm outside in the sun with youth. We have lots of outdoor schools and camps on our calendar so stay tuned for summer fun.



....Maris Wilson

Despite the weather, our education programs have continued at full force this winter! Christine and I are working to expand our reach in the community through our education and outreach programs, as well as continue our own professional development through conferences and events.

In January, a new Science Wednesday program began at Lookingglass Elementary School. 5th grade students were able to learn about the water cycle, soil erosion, and more. Typically, our last lesson is about using a GPS to find caches hidden around the school, but due to inclement weather, we improvised. Instead of learning about GPS, we learned about compass use and how to navigate to the hidden treasure using the cardinal directions. A fun challenge for the group!

At the Boys and Girls Club, spring is coming and plants are blooming! I spent an afternoon with students planting pea seeds in egg cartons for them to take home. We reviewed the basic needs of plants and talked about how the egg cartons will decompose in the soil. They even had a chance to make their own flags to mark the containers in order to remember what they planted. Soon enough, they will be taking that knowledge outside to the garden.



the environmental movement here in Oregon as well as around the globe.

Our MLK Day River Clean Up in February was a resounding success. We had over 100 volunteers attend to help clean up Riverside and Gaddis Parks. In total, over 2 tons of trash was picked up! I am so proud to live and work in a community that values service and working with neighbors. A big thank you to all of the volunteers and partner organizations, as well as those who donated supplies and food for our volunteers.

It's hard to believe that my term of service with Umpqua Watersheds is at the halfway mark. I hope to spend the next half continuing to expand our education programs in the community and working to connect with more people in Douglas County. Coming up, I will be starting a new Science Wednesday at Winchester Elementary School and will be assisting at some of the science education programs at the Roseburg Public Library. I am so thrilled to continue this work and can't wait for some sunny days with students!

One of my favorite things to learn about in the natural world are birds. In February, I was able to continue expanding my knowledge of these animals in Oregon by attending the Winter Wings Festival in Klamath Falls. I participated in workshops and field trips that allowed me to learn more about raptor identification and how these birds are banded in the wild in order to track their movements. In addition, I was able to meet one of my favorite authors, Julie Zickefoose, and listen to her keynote addressing her work in combining art with bird rehabilitation. A truly wonderful experience that only makes me want to continue my bird watching education!

Christine and I also had the chance to attend two other conferences in February. The first was The State of the Beaver, hosted by UW's president, Stanley Petrowski. This conference brought together scientists and environmentalists from across the world to discuss beaver conservation efforts. It was fascinating to hear all about the work that is being done by these professionals. The second conference was PIELC, the Public Interest Environmental Law Conference. I was able to attend sessions about social and environmental justice in the agricultural industry, the usage of the Endangered Species Act in Oregon, the Green New Deal, and more. It was a great insight into the state of

Upcoming Events

Mar 23, 2-4pm Open House at Umpqua Watersheds

~~Mar 16, Lookingglass Rock Hike (Canceled)~~

March 29-31, Fri-Sat Spring Fair

April 13, Annual Banquet and Silent Auction

April 20, Sat. Earth Day & Energy Fair, DC Fairgrounds

April 27-28, Sat-Sun, Glide Wildflower Show, Glide Community Center

April 28, Sun. Crater Lake Snowshoe Walk

April 28, Sun. 7pm KQUA Benefit Concert, Kim Angeles

May 24, Fri. Outback Concert: Lance Canales and the Flood, 6pm



President's Corner Stanley Petrowski

Almost ten years ago, I was honored to be invited to join the Board of Directors of Umpqua Watersheds. It has been a wonderful experience to share the challenges that threaten the natural world with such a diverse Board. So much change is transpiring in the web of life that without their mutually beneficial cooperation, we wouldn't be able to keep track of it all. It is enriching to work with people of such different backgrounds and world views. Our common bond is hope for the earth and its beleaguered inhabitants. I've watched the organization develop steadily through its growing pains. I've experienced the deeply rewarding experience of successful conservation campaigns. To be sure, living and working here in the heart of Douglas County, Oregon has its own unique requirements for adapting to the work at hand. After a decade of ardent effort to conserve and restore our intensely impacted environment my sense of respect for the conservation community and the unique role Umpqua Watersheds plays in that community, has not diminished. The palpable sense of honor, responsibility and humility engendered by working with this organization increases through each and every challenge we face on behalf of the living world.

This coming April 13th, Umpqua Watersheds will once again host its Annual Banquet and Silent Auction. At the banquet, we hope to effectively inform you of our endeavors, glean your much needed support and solicit the participation of a special few of you to join the Board of Directors. I would especially like to see the next generation of our community join and grow with us to ensure the legacy of life purposed by Umpqua Watersheds. When I became a Board member I brought little more than a passion to restore our ecosystems and protect those areas of untrammeled ancient forests within the Umpqua Watershed. I didn't bring much more information than the years I had experienced as an advocate for aquatic habitat restoration. To be sure, there is a learning curve when one becomes involved but that points right back to the current Board and its willingness to nurture new members through the learning process. If you have a deep sense of environmental justice, a love for the living world or a hope for a thriving community within a healthy environment, please come to the banquet prepared to volunteer for one or more of our committees or for a seat on the Board of Directors.

Needless to say, financial backing is greatly needed. Our vision for the future is to sustain a well equipped staff to formally address the consistent attacks on the world of nature that surrounds us. Currently most of our labors are supported by volunteer Board and organization members. Our dream is to have paid staff with the skill sets to take our current volunteer efforts to the next level. This is a critically needed advance to the fulfillment of our mission and vision. If possible, please consider contributing regularly to this effective visionary organization or place Umpqua Watersheds in your trust or will. A monthly or annual commitment that we could rely upon would greatly enhance our capacity to hire skilled workers able to consolidate the legal, scientific and social tools needed to accomplish the Umpqua Watersheds purpose.

I would like to especially express my sincere gratitude to all of our donors and paying members. You are the ones who have kept the Umpqua Watersheds mother ship sailing the turbulent seas of modern life. You helped us set our course with confidence over the years.

Umpqua Watersheds wants to see you at the Banquet for a time of common fellowship. Bring a friend and share the joy. April 13, 2019. Be looking for more information in this newsletter.

Wilderness Committee... Robbin Shindele

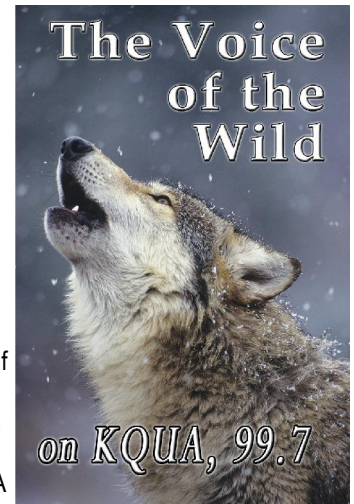
The Wilderness committee has been doing a lot the last few months. We've added some new businesses to our endorser list. We have been active in the newly formed UW grants committee and been working on our own grant applications.

Our caroling event in December went very well. Calling ourselves the Crater Lake Carolers, a group of Wilderness Committee members visited restaurants and breweries in downtown Roseburg. It was fun for us and fun for the patrons as well. A lot of laughter, applause, and singing along accompanied us wherever we went. Even a little dancing as Rick Kreofsky and Bob Hoene broke into a sprightly fiddle tune at Drapers. We even raised \$39.00 dollars for wilderness. More recently, we got an acknowledgement letter from UCAN that verified our Thanksgiving Food Drive was even more successful than we thought. We estimated we gathered 775 pounds of food for the hungry of Douglas County but it turns out we were wrong. UCAN thanked us for a donation of 1075 ponds. Good job to all who participated as workers and donors. And to Oran Mor Meadery, While Away Books and the Umpqua Unitarian Universalist Congregation for hosting Collection Barrels at their facilities.

Our radio show on KQUA, 99.7, *The Voice of the Wild*, the hour long program starts with a sound you might hear in the wild, background information on the animal that made it and the current state of the creature in Oregon's wild spaces. After that we read a description of one of Oregon's 47 wilderness areas. We tell you how to get there, what to expect when you do, why you should visit. Then we feature an interview with someone who knows about the benefits that wilderness brings to us all. The last segment of the show is a short reading from wilderness literature. Many people have been inspired by their interactions with Crater Lake and other wild places so there is a lot to choose from. After airing at 9:00 AM every other Saturday and Sunday the shows are available as podcasts on www.mixcloud.com/kquaradio.

At our February meeting we were very fortunate to have three new members join the Wilderness Committee; Dan Amos, Tony Cannon and Chad Hamblin. All three have very serious backcountry experience. Dan has professional photographic and video experience. They jumped right in and we are in the initial stages of planning a series of videos of hidden places within our proposed wilderness. to be produced this summer We have a proposed name for the trio; *The Crater Lake Expeditionary Force*.

On April 28 the Wilderness Committee is sponsoring a concert to benefit KQUA at the First Presbyterian Church in Roseburg. The artist will be internationally acclaimed, award-winning violin virtuoso and composer, Kim Angelis. Her music has been used at the Olympics and World Cup gymnastics events, in film and on TV. From Africa to Asia, from Alaska to Ancud (Chile), the passionate, beautiful, and timeless music of Kim Angelis has captivated audiences and inspired young musicians. Don't miss it!



UW resources are devoted to so many restoration issues that the field seems to be a bubbling cauldron. Sometimes it's hard to keep up. As issues come to the surface, we address them within our means. From our perspective, the need to act is constant. The Umpqua chub, a small indigenous fish found nowhere else the world but in the Umpqua basin, has been reduced to six small clusters found in the river system tributaries. The upper South Umpqua Spring Chinook run has been reduced to a minuscule fraction of its former glory. Lamprey, spotted owls, Pacific fishers, amphibians, insects and a plethora of other species key to the natural world, stand challenged even as I write this.



Sometimes our desire for restoration can seem overwhelming and beyond our reach because of the current pace of habitat degradation. It is only when various and sundry campaign efforts come to fruition that hope is again ignited. No human endeavor seems more rewarding. Looking back in time at the impact of these successes, we can trace the wake of healing as it ripples through the web of life. It is a legacy of life permanently scribed in history and on our hearts.

The truth remains that restoration work can be expensive and emotionally taxing on so many fronts, especially when we can see that those industries that are causing the ongoing damage continue to be subsidized by tax dollars and tax loopholes. Watching the living world respond to our restoration efforts more than counterbalances the burden of corporate greed degrading habitats.

Are you interested in experiencing what I am talking about? You can; in a wonderfully meaning way. Over the past several months I have devoted special attention to the plight of the Monarch Butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*) that occurs in our area and across North America. In recent years this iconic species has been steadily declining in population numbers. There's hardly a nature scene in a child's book or in many media expressions that doesn't have an image of the majestic Monarch butterfly. The Monarch has been a symbol of the mystic beauty and wonder of our natural world. It lives up to the meaning of its name, "A sovereign head of state, especially a king, queen, or emperor."

The west coast migration of the Monarch was at one time between eleven to thirteen million in number. When the population began to decline, academics and scientists sought to estimate the minimal number of butterflies needed to maintain the viability for the west coast migration. They determined 30,000 Monarchs to be an reasonable number of individuals necessary to maintain the population. The last estimate for the migration (this year) was 28,000 butterflies; well below the needed pool for genetic diversity. The US Fish and Wildlife Service is concerned enough about the situation to warrant the potential listing of the Monarch Butterfly under the Endangered Species Act.

Here is where you can play a critical role in restoring this species to its natural place in the web of life. The sole plant needed for Monarch Butterfly caterpillar (larvae) development is a native plant called Milkweed. Because of the continual arbitrary utilization of cancer causing herbicides by private industry and government agencies on many levels, the milkweed plant has been reduced to levels that cannot sustain Monarch Butterfly communities.



Seeds needed to propagate milkweed are freely or cheaply made available online. There are conservation groups and Non-Government Organizations (NGO) that are mounting a concerted effort to establish Milkweed gardens throughout the western U.S. If you have a garden plot or a collective area that can be used to grow Milkweed, please consider dedicating space for this showy nectar producing plant. They are easy to grow and require very little attention. I personally plan to dedicate half of my organic garden plot to Milkweed this year. Many threatened species of pollinating insects also use Milkweed to survive.

If a plot of land is not available to you, partner with a neighbor or friend to nurture Monarch Butterfly larva. Take pictures and document your experience. Sharing that information will go a long way to bring the butterfly back. I would love to see one of the rare blue ones. If you have children at home, the experience of watching a Monarch Butterfly larvae develop into a caterpillar and onto become a full grown butterfly can be life changing. As the stunning butterfly is turned loose, your young scientist/restorationist will have the experience of joy associated with restoration ecology. There are resources online to help you with this task. Here are a few links that you may find helpful to guide your restoration journey.

<https://xerces.org/monarchs/>
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Monarch_butterfly
https://www.biologicaldiversity.org/species/invertebrates/monarch_butterfly/





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