



Happy spring, friends of the Oswego Lake watershed! Nature all around us seems to be emerging from its quiet winter slumber and it's hard not to get distracted by the rainbow of colors decorating our project sites and the gardens of our community. On the right we have the fabulous Camas lily; their roots have long nourished the people of the Northwest and served a pivotal role in the diet and trade of the Kalapuyans of the Willamette Valley, and continue to exist as a culturally significant staple today. Seeing their vibrant violet petals and "tender blue eyes" always brings to mind [this poem](#) by Lynn Ungar.



Bonus photo: River otter spotted by board member, Mary Ratcliff, in Whitaker Pond!

Definitely be sure to read this newsletter with your calendar open, because this spring is packed with lots of free opportunities for you, your friends, and your family to celebrate Arbor Month, Earth Day, and more. Are you taking the [Soil Your Undies challenge](#) this year? Attend our [annual soil forum](#) with LOSN and learn about techniques you can use to improve your soil. Will we see you at [Gabe Sheoship's First Food talk](#) on Saturday, April 8th? Come say hi to us at the [LO Sustainability Fair](#) or get your hands dirty on Earth Day at our [volunteer event at Westlake!](#)



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by clicking [this link](#). Even if you can't support financially, your contribution as a volunteer, participant, or committee member is greatly recognized and appreciated!

We hope to see you soon out there!

—*Oswego Lake Watershed Council Board and Staff*

P.S If you enjoy our newsletter, please add this address to your email contact list to ensure that any future e-news we send don't accidentally get filtered!

Join the Watershed Council!

OLWC is looking for individuals who are interested in protecting and enhancing natural resources throughout the Lake Oswego Community. We are a group of neighbors and jurisdictional representatives (City of Lake Oswego, Lake Oswego School District, and the Lake Oswego



Corporation) committed to making a difference by working together to protect water quality and enhance our urban forest ecosystem. We accomplish this through a combination of on-the-ground stewardship projects and community education. We are looking for board and committee members interested in supporting this work. If you are interested in getting involved please contact Jack Halsey: jack@oswegowatershed.org.

For more information about OLWC or to see other volunteer opportunities www.oswegowatershed.org

Soil Your Undies for Science!



Third time (!!) Soil Your Undies participant, Leslie, showing off cotton briefs #28 before she buries them in her garden!



We had a blast participating in the Lake Oswego Reads Kickoff last Saturday! In the spirit of *The Seed Keeper*, and building healthy soil, we handed out 40 pairs of undies to LO community members.

If you weren't able to make Saturday's

event but still want to try out a low-tech, super accessible way to test



- [LO Reads and OLWC's First Foods talk with Gabe Sheoships](#) at the LO Heritage House on Saturday, April 8th at 10am
- The [2nd Annual LO Sustainability Fair](#) on Saturday, April 15th, 10am-1pm at Lakeridge Middle School
- On Earth Day, Saturday, April 22nd, 12pm-2pm at Luscher Farm



If none of these options fit your schedule, we can make other arrangements to get your materials to you. Just make a note of it in the [Google Form](#).

Special thank you to Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District for supporting this education campaign!

[Learn more about Soil Your Undies!](#)

Join us for a virtual talk with "soil chef" and local regenerative farmer, Cuauhtemoc Villa!

Speaker: Cuauhtemoc Villa

When: Wednesday, April 12

Time: 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm

Hosts: LOSN & OLWC

Where: Zoom

[Registration link](#)

This Earth Month, we are fortunate to have

Cuauhtemoc Villa joining us on April 12th to discuss probiotic techniques you can apply to your own gardening and home landscaping to build healthy microorganism communities and support the bioremediation of other natural systems. Cuauhtemoc Villa is a Taino, Aztec, and Mayan regenerative farmer and soil educator based in Portland, Oregon. Cuauhtemoc is passionate about honoring indigenous agricultural practices and sharing this wisdom with people of all ages.



[Click here for more info about this soil science talk!](#)

More ways to Engage with LO Reads 2023 pick, *The Seed Keeper* by Diane Wilson

This year's LO Read pick features a main character with a powerful relationship with food and the way it's produced. The novel follows Rosalie's exploration of her Dakhóta heritage and her ancestors' role in seed keeping alongside grappling with shifts in modern agriculture that create distance between the land and the people who live on it.

This Saturday, April 8th, we are very excited to have Gabe Sheoships, Executive Director of [Friends of Tryon Creek](#) speak about First Foods at the Oswego Heritage House at 10am. This event is free

[channel](#), but we are encouraging the community to attend in person.

[Click here for more info about Gabe's talk for LO Reads](#)

"If I take care of the oak trees, I am also taking care of our family."

—Diane Wilson, The Seed Keeper



Lake Oswego Reads Event



Westlake Oak Woodland & Native Plant Walking Tours

Wednesday, April 19th 11 am to 12:30 pm

Friday, April 21st 4pm to 5:30pm

The Seed Keeper by Diane Wilson is saturated with descriptions of rivers, prairies, Minnesota woodlands, and how the native Dakhóta

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Join OLWC for a walking tour of local seeds, soils, flowers, and trees, connecting with the land and relearning local foods, plants, and medicines. On this family-friendly walking tour at Westlake Oak Woodland, we will observe centuries-old white oaks, wildlife, and wildflowers including camas and trilliums, native flowering shrubs, snags, oak trees, and more! We will also learn how this woodland fits into larger systems – land tending, climate change, fire, active management, food systems, watershed health, upland successional processes, and partnerships will be highlighted.

[Sign up for Wednesday April 19th Tour](#)

[Sign up for Friday April 21st Tour](#)

[Click here to view the LO Reads Full Calendar of April Events](#)

Pre-K Nature Camps!

OLWC recognized a need for a summer nature camp aimed at kids ages 4-6, and we are working with Community Schools to deliver. Each day will incorporate a nature-based theme with songs, stories, crafts, activities, and guided forest hikes brought to you by former Tryon Creek and Portland Water Bureau educators.

Reach out to Allie at allie@oswegowatershed.org to pre-register for the week in June or the week in July.

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SUMMER 2023
NATURE CAMP!

When: June, 26-30 and July 10-14
Time: 8am-12pm, Monday-Friday
Where: Uplands Elementary School
Ages: 4-6 (Pre K - Kindergarten)
Cost: \$250
Scholarships Available!



For more info please
visit our website:
<https://www.oswegowatershed.org/nature-camp/>



More info about our Summer Nature Camps!

Celebrate Earth Day with us Beneath the Oaks!



Happy Earth Day! Join us for a morning of land tending and restoration at Westlake HOA Oak Woodland. This beautiful oak woodland habitat is home to 300-year-old white oaks and a diversity of wildlife! We will be pulling invasive ivy, shiny geranium, and other invasive species. We will also pick up trash along creeks, wetland habitats, and pathways. Depending on the weather, we may also plant native species for ecological restoration. Volunteers will learn about Oregon White Oak ecology, indigenous land tending, and the cultural value of Oak ecosystems. Pulling weeds requires volunteers to be able to bend over or kneel, but we can arrange alternate projects for those with different abilities or mobility issues.

Sign up for our Earth Day event here!

OLWC's 5th Grade Campus Watershed Field Trips

Lake Oswego Watershed Council is excited to be launching a field trip program designed for 2nd and 5th-grade classes in the Lake Oswego School District to explore and understand their local campus watershed. This spring we are starting with 5th grade at Oak Creek, River Grove, Forest Hills, and Lake Grove Elementary. Field trips will be about 90 minutes to two hours long and will walk students through different watershed science activities, demonstrations of how water moves on natural and constructed landscapes, and include water quality testing rotations.

We need volunteers! If you live near one of these elementary schools or just want to help students understand how their local watershed works, sign up to be a volunteer lead. Our tours will occur throughout the month of May and then later in the fall. We will provide training and scheduling. Just reach out to Allie at allie@oswegowatershed.org to learn more about this exciting education opportunity!



Our newest Education & Outreach Committee member, Whitney helping us install leaf bags to collect critters for our macro-invertebrate studies!

Be a Tree Hero This Arbor Month

to make sure they're not succumbing to the powerful grip of invasive English ivy, a species that has perfected the adhesive art of spreading rapidly (at about a foot a year) from ground roots that then wind tightly up the trunk of trees cutting them off from the resources they need to survive and weakening their structure to



disease and harsh weather conditions. Once English ivy begins to ascend a tree, its photosynthetic capacity increases with the increased light availability, which facilitates a transition to the mature growth phase where it produces flowers and berries that birds love to eat and spread. Areas dominated by ivy have a lower diversity of birds, mammals, and amphibians, (though rats seem to appreciate dense mats). Ivy also poses risk as a ladder fuel – flammable organic matter on the forest floor that allows fire to climb up into the tree canopy.

To learn more about why English ivy is such a big deal, [click here!](#)

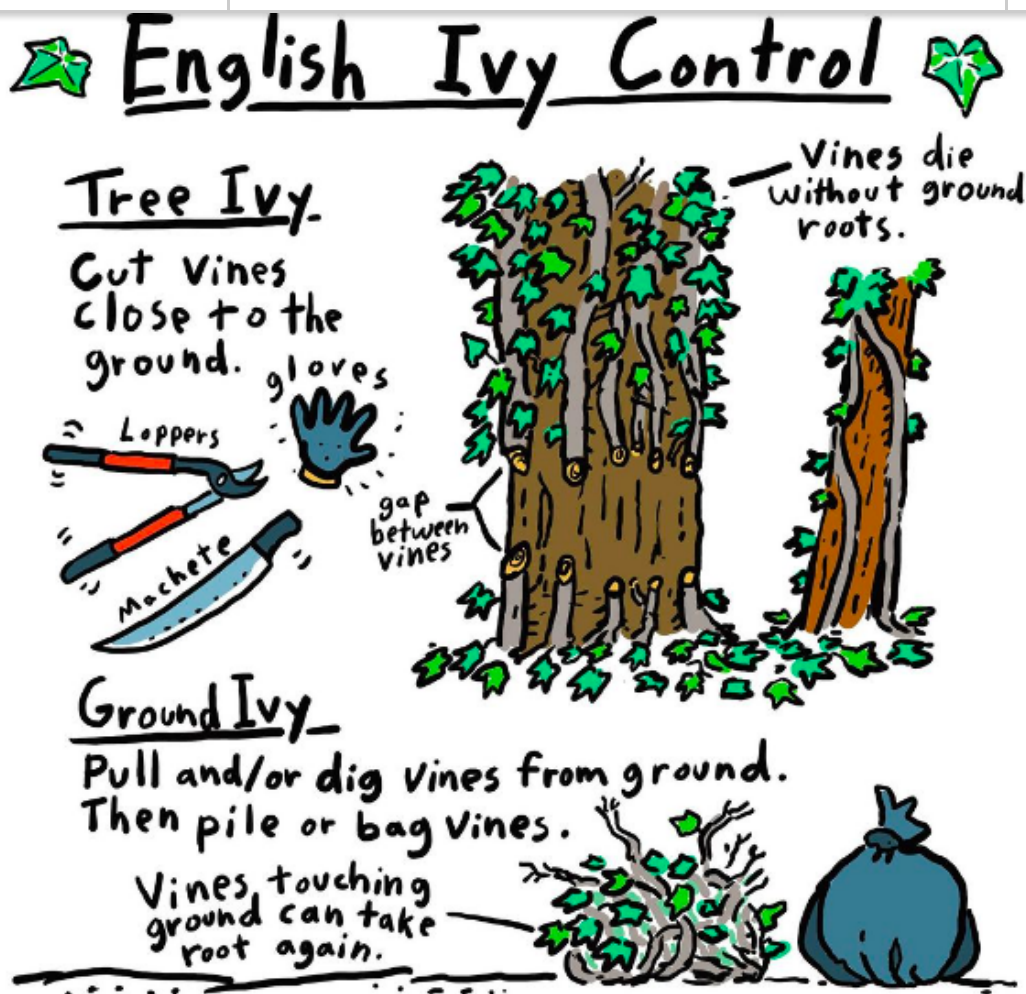


Illustration by Jon Wagner at East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District

Despite the massive benefits to the biodiversity of your landscape, removing invasive English ivy from your yard can be a tiresome chore. If you're overwhelmed with the scope of **English ivy on your trees or don't have access to the tools you need to remove it, we want to help out! This month, you can fill out this Google Form to request one of our amazing, knowledgeable Urban Forest Committee volunteers to come to your residence to help you remove tree ivy.** If you suspect you have a tree(s) on your residence suffering beneath the weight of English ivy and you'd like OLWC to coordinate a volunteer to come and remove it, please fill out the form using the link below!

Our monthly Urban Forest Committee meetings are every first Friday from 3pm-4:30pm via Zoom. Our next meeting is Friday, April 7th (tomorrow)! Contact Allie at allie@oswegowatershed.org if you'd like more info.

Tryon Creek Watershed Wide Event Recap!

Back in March, we had the pleasure of participating in the Tryon Creek Watershed Wide event at two different project sites:

- Lake Oswego High School, led by Allie, where the LOHS Green Team showed up strong and enjoyed pizza after a productive morning of hand-pulling ivy and blackberry. The LOHS campus exists on the border between the Oswego Lake watershed and the Tryon Creek watershed.
- Mountain Park HOA's Common area where we are currently working on a fuel reduction project. This area is the headwaters of Arnold Creek and an important tributary to Tryon Cree. Jack led volunteers and the group focused on tree ivy removal but also planted a few dozen plants.

Check out a few highlights below and thank you to Tryon Creek Watershed Council for organizing another successful and fun stewardship collaboration!





Congrats, Breck!

Yay, Mrs. Foster!!! It was fun to see this article in the LO Review about Breck's contributions to sustainability education. Breck helped form the LOHS Green Team, a group of motivated students OLWC is proud to work with frequently on campus stewardship projects. Breck does such an amazing job providing kids with space to voice their climate-related concerns as well as opportunities to advocate for more sustainable campus practices. Keep up the good work, Breck! You can read the full article [here](#).



Friday, April 7th, 3pm-4:30pm via Zoom

[OLWC April Urban Forest Committee Meeting](#)

Saturday, April 8th, 10am at the Oswego Heritage House

[First Foods & Indigenous Cultural Lifeways of the Columbia River Basin](#), a presentation by Gabe Sheoships as part of the LO Reads Program

Wednesday, April 12th, 6:30pm via Zoom

[Restoring Healthy Soil with Cuauhtemoc Villa](#)

Friday, April 14th, 8am-9:30 via Zoom

[OLWC April Board Meeting](#)

Saturday, April 15th, 10am-1pm at Lakeridge Middle School

[Lake Oswego Sustainability Resource Fair](#)

Sunday, April 16th, 1pm-3pm at Hallinan Woods

[Friends of Hallinan Heights Woods Work Party](#)

Wednesday, April 19th, 11am-12:30pm and

Friday, April 21st, 4:00pm-5:30pm

[Westlake Oak Woodland and Native Plant Walking Tours](#)

Thursday, April 20th, 7pm at the Oswego Heritage House

[Reclaiming and Sharing Cultural Knowledge with Greg Archuleta and LO Arts Council](#) as part of the LO Reads Program

Saturday, April 22nd, 10am-12pm at Westlake Oak Woodland

[Earth Day Beneath the Oaks: OLWC Work Party at Westlake HOA](#)

Saturday, April 22nd, 12pm-3pm at Luscher Farm

[Planting Seeds of Community](#) (and last chance to pick up Soil Your Undies materials!)

Sunday, April 23rd, 1pm-3pm at Uplands Elementary School Springbrook Park kiosk

[Friends of Springbrook Creek Work Party](#)

Tuesday, April 25th, 7pm at Lakeridge High School

[The Seed Keeper](#) author talk with Diane Wilson and Robin Wall Kimmerer

[City of Lake Oswego Tree Pruning Workshop](#)

Friday, May 5th, 3pm-4:30pm via Zoom

[OLWC April Urban Forest Committee Meeting](#)

Saturday, May 6th and Sunday, May 7th, 9am-4pm at Clackamas County Fairgrounds

[Clackamas County Master Gardeners Spring Garden Fair](#) (come find OLWC's booth!)

Friday, May 12th, 8am-9:30 via Zoom

[OLWC May Board Meeting](#)

Saturday, May 12th, 1pm at Lake Oswego United Church of Christ

Stewardship event with TCWC, LOHS Green Teams and OLWC (volunteers needed! Reach out to wamserc@pdx.edu for details)

Wednesday, May 31st, 12pm-1pm via Zoom

[Crayfish in the Park Science Talk with TCWC and Kyla Schmitt](#)

Would you like to help
support our work in the Lake
Oswego Community?



Make a donation to us!

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