



## June 23rd Members Program: Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area

On June 23, Loo Wit will host a presentation about Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area, one of the Portland-Vancouver region's best kept secrets. Surrounded by warehouses and port terminals, Smith and Bybee is one of America's largest urban wetlands. Troy Clark, president of Friends of Smith and Bybee Lakes, will present our program. An avid birder and canoeist, Troy has spent over 20 years walking and paddling the wetland, savoring its outstanding wildlife habitat and advocating passionately for its preservation. You're invited to come and learn about the history, recreational opportunities, and challenges facing this often overlooked gem.

Time & Date: 6:30 pm Tuesday June 23rd  
Location: First Congregational Church  
1220 NE 68th St in Hazel Dell

Please join us for the talk and refreshments.



photo courtesy of Vince Schreck

## Conservation Committee Developing Plan to Reduce Local Emissions

The next Conservation Meeting of the Loo Wit group will be:

Date: Tuesday, July 7th

Time: 5:30 - 6:30 pm (before the 6:30 pm Loo Wit Executive Committee meeting)

Location: First Congregational Church (see above for address)

Pizza and soda will be provided.

The following will be on the agenda:

1) Developing a 10-point plan for the City of Vancouver to reduce CO2 emissions.

2) Drafting a letter addressing gravel mining on the East Fork Lewis River.

-- Brooks Berndt, Conservation Chair

## Summer Calendar of Events:

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**Tuesday June 23rd:** Loo Wit Member Program

**Sunday June 28th:** Four Rivers Kayak Outing

**Sunday July 5th:** Columbia River Highway State Trail Bike Ride

**Tuesday July 7th:**  
Conservation Comm Meeting  
Loo Wit ExCom Meeting

**Sunday July 18th:** Blue Lake Park in Fairview Bike Ride

**Saturday August 1st:**  
Willamette Valley Bike Ride

## Loo Wit ExCom Leaders:

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**Mark Leed** - Chair

**Don Steinke** - Vice Chair/Oil & Coal

**Steve Foster** - Treasurer/Sales

**Brooks Berndt** - Conservation

**Mary Lynch:** Legislation

**Ben Dennis:** Rivers & Fish

**Mike Newsham:** Outings  
Liaison

**Alona Stienke:** Oil & Coal / at large

**Lehman Holder:** At large

Loo Wit is seeking volunteers to be Programs Chair and also Newsletter Editor. If you'd like to contribute contact Mark at [markleed02@gmail.com](mailto:markleed02@gmail.com) or Lehman at [tripsguy@aol.com](mailto:tripsguy@aol.com)

## Bon Voyage, Ben Dennis, Loo Wit will miss you

Ben Dennis, a longtime member of Loo Wit's executive committee (ExCom), has relocated with his wife Leslea to the Olympia area. His good work on rivers and fish issues will be sorely missed.

Ben is a dedicated flyfisherman, and has been at the forefront of efforts to restore and protect the East Fork Lewis River and other river and fish issues. His efforts brought focus to gravel-mining and other issues on the East Fork, which is an ongoing fight.

Thank you, Ben, for your dedication and commitment, and Loo Wit wishes you and Leslea the very best in your new location!





## Kayak, bike outings offer outdoor fun, adventure

Now that we are well into June, Loo Wit's sea kayak and bike outings are well underway, and we've already had some very good ones. If, however, you've not yet been able to join us, not to worry -- there are still a lot left between now and mid-October.

Nearly all of these outings are "day" trips -- meaning that it isn't necessary to be away from home overnight. On June 28 (Sunday), we'll be doing our "Four Rivers" kayak outing. This is about a three and a half hour paddle on four connecting rivers -- East Fork Lewis, Lewis (main stem), Columbia, and Lake River. We will put in on the East Fork, and paddle downstream to the others. Take out is at Ridgefield Marina. The outing will take a total of about six hours, including setting the car shuttle, a lunch stop and short break, and retrieving cars after finishing. This is a "BYOB" outing (Bring Your Own Boat), so you'll need your own kayak or a rental. Rentals are not available at the put in.

Since Loo Wit's kayak outings are now being posted on Meetup, it's highly recommended that you sign up early with the outing leader, Lehman Holder, [tripsguy@aol.com](mailto:tripsguy@aol.com). as there will very likely be a wait list. This outing is limited to 10 boats (any combination of singles and doubles) and sign up is open now. Please include a cell phone number when you sign up, in case the leader needs to contact you on short notice just before the outing.

Another significant and upcoming kayak outing is set for Aug. 29 (Sat). Destination for

this one is Hope Island State Marine Park in south Puget Sound, just north of Olympia. We will put in at the Boston Harbor marina and paddle across two miles of open water to Hope Island, stop for lunch, and then explore the water around Hope Island before paddling back to Boston Harbor to take out. Rentals are available for this outing from the Boston Harbor store. Since this is a saltwater paddle, we'll be seeing some marine life that we don't see on our freshwater outings. Sign up with the outings leader, Lehman Holder. Again, an early signup is recommended.



- photos courtesy of Jim Jarzabek

## Bike outings

Upcoming bike outings in July include a ride on the Columbia River Highway State Trail on July 5, a beautiful 15-mile round trip ride from the start point just east of Multnomah Falls to Cascade Locks and back, with a lunch stop in Cascade Locks. On July 18 (Sunday) we'll pedal out to Blue Lake Park in Fairview, most of which is on the Marine Drive bike path. Champoege State Park (south of Portland) will be the start point on Aug 1 (Saturday), for a 24-mile loop ride in the Willamette Valley. You can sign up for any of these outings with the outing leader, Lehman Holder, [tripsguy@aol.com](mailto:tripsguy@aol.com). Bike outings are done at "social" pace (average of 10-12 mph), and are "group" rides, meaning that no one is left behind.

Loo Wit outings are open to non-members of Sierra Club, as well as members. A small donation of \$4 for non-members and \$2 for members is asked. We invite you to join us for some fun this summer in our beautiful Pacific Northwest!

# Oil campaign news

by Don and Alona Steinke

In Vancouver, we live between giant oil deposits and hungry Asian Markets. Of course big oil companies hope to make a killing extracting and exporting all that they can.

But the oil trains are not inevitable.

A powerful narrative is unfolding in cities and towns across the region. Small town heroes are taking on multinational corporations to protect the people and places they love.

Communities are standing together to loosen the fossil fuel industry's tight grip on our energy choices. They have stopped eight fossil fuel terminals and delayed eight others.

## Stopped

Grays Harbor Coal  
Coos Bay Coal  
Clatskanie Coal  
Boardman Coal  
Brentwood LNG  
Warrenton LNG  
Longview Propane  
Portland Propane

## Delayed

Shell in Anacortes  
NuStar in Vancouver  
Coal in Longview  
Coal at Cherry Point  
Tesoro Savage in Vancouver and  
Three oil terminals in Grays Harbor

All the trains for those projects would have passed through Vancouver.

Oil trains will leave our communities with snarled traffic and serious hazards like oil spills, fires and explosions, and the oil terminal will make us sick.

These are direct threats to our quality of life, and our ability to attract business.

But there's a catch, the oil industry needs us. They won't

profit unless they can build terminals in our communities. They have to get our permission, and we are saying no.

The city councils of Spokane, The Dalles, Hood River, Bingen, Stevenson and Washougal have passed resolutions expressing grave concern about oil terminals.

ILWU Local 4 and the Washington State Council of Firefighters say the oil trains are unacceptable.

The Umatilla's, The Columbia Gorge Commission, the Washougal School District, Seattle, Vancouver and ten other cities all say no to oil terminals.

Our communities are standing up to some of the biggest corporations in the world to protect the people and places we love.

It's a big deal for our families and for our climate. People in places like Aberdeen, Clatskanie, Vancouver and Anacortes are making a difference.

For each oil-by-rail facility, we have a choice; we can roll out the red carpet for the oil companies, making it easier for them to run roughshod over the place we call home, or we say no way, and make better energy choices for our kids and grandkids.

Another catch, is that Governor Jay Inslee has the final say on the Tesoro Savage Oil terminal. It would be difficult for him to not know oil terminals are bad for the State of Washington.

He also knows that clean alternatives are here and will create far more jobs than an oil terminal.



Check out all the small businesses taking a stand against the oil terminal. <http://vancouver101.us/>

If you would like to be on our listserv to receive 2-4 updates per month on coal and oil, please subscribe to the listserv set up by the Sierra Club for this purpose, and open to the public.

The original focus of this listserv was for coal exports, but now the focus includes oil terminals and Climate Change.

Please subscribe using the email account that you actually read, and if you have filters, set them appropriately.

Generally, I'm the only person posting messages to that list, and I post only 2-4 times per month.

How to subscribe:

Send an email from your email account to:

[Listserv@lists.sierraclub.org](mailto:Listserv@lists.sierraclub.org)

Then leave the subject line blank, and in the message field . . . paste the following message.  
SUBSCRIBE CASCADE-  
LOOWIT-COAL-FORUM

If you don't subscribe, you might not get any updates for two months.

# A Special Kayak Outing...

## Kayak the Hanford Reach with Loo Wit, Columbia Riverkeeper

The Hanford Reach is one of the last remaining free-flowing sections of the Columbia River. You have an opportunity to join an outing jointly organized by Loo Wit Group and Columbia Riverkeeper on July 25-26 (Sat-Sun). However, if you want to go, *don't delay*. To sign up, you should contact Abigail Cermak, Riverkeeper's Hanford coordinator, [abigail@columbiariverkeeper.org](mailto:abigail@columbiariverkeeper.org), (541) 399-9162.



Loo Wit outing leader Lehman Holder will be coordinating transportation for Loo Wit members who sign up.

Fee for this outing is \$125 if you need a kayak rental, or \$95 if you don't need a rental. Fees are paid to Columbia Riverkeeper (not to Loo Wit), and you can sign up online at [columbiariverkeeper.org](http://columbiariverkeeper.org).

The Saturday part of the outing includes a tour of the Hanford Nuclear Reservation's historic "B reactor," followed by a salmon dinner at a park in Richland. The kayak outing will be on Sunday. Estimated finish time is about 4 p.m., after which we'll drive back to Vancouver. One of the highlights of the paddle is seeing and paddling alongside the Columbia's famous "white cliffs," on the west side of the river.

Join us on an adventure to a historic and famous destination. This will be an outing you'll always remember.

Find us on the web:

[www.washingtonsierraclub.org/loowit](http://www.washingtonsierraclub.org/loowit)

Find and like us on Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/loowit.group](http://www.facebook.com/loowit.group)



## Save the planet: One forkful at a time!

from Laurel Hopwood - Volunteer in Northeast Ohio Sierra Club

Sierra Club's updated Agriculture policy includes this statement: " Personal dietary choices that minimize or eliminate meat and animal products should be encouraged, due to their many benefits, including reducing greenhouse gas impacts, water pollution and inhumane treatment of animals."

Adopting a plant-based diet is the simplest and cheapest way to combat global warming, reduce water pollution and even save the rainforests.

In light of mounting evidence that the raising of cows, pigs and chicken in factories generates enormous amounts of greenhouse gases, we are calling for a Meat-Free Monday Campaign. A 2010 United Nations report concluded that a shift toward a vegan diet is necessary to combat the worst effects of climate change.

The recent shutdown of drinking water for the entire city of Toledo, Ohio, raises a huge red flag. Manure run off from factory raised animals and fertilizers used to grow feed-crops can cause algae-excreting deadly cyanobacteria. Rather than spending our hard earned dollars to upgrade sewer systems, there is another way. People can take personal responsibility and chose what they put on their dinner plates.

Water depletion from the immense amount of water required to raise animals and feed-crops is depleting a crucial resource: water. If we continue pumping out the Ogallala Aquifer at current rates, it's only a matter of time before most of the wells in the midwest and southwest will go dry.

That's not all. Livestock production is responsible for 70% of deforestation in the Amazon region of Latin America, where rainforests are being cleared to create new pastures and crop production.

We encouraged the city of Cleveland, Ohio, to pass a resolution calling for residents to refrain from eating animal products one day per week. It recognizes the benefits of a diet consisting of nuts, seeds, grains, legumes, fruits and vegetables to improve personal health and the health of the planet.

We encourage families, schools and restaurants to go meat-free (at least) one day per week.

To read our fact sheet, actions to take, resources, meal ideas and sample city resolution, please visit:

<http://www.neosierragroup.org/meat-free-mondays/>

Click here to join the Grassroot Network:

<https://content.sierraclub.org/grassrootsnetwork/teams/meat-free-monday-campaign>



## Volunteer Opportunities: Loo Wit ExCom seeks Volunteer Candidates

We're already halfway through 2015, and the Loo Wit executive committee (ExCom) is thinking about the 2016 ExCom, and our ExCom elections this fall. Time passes fast, and waits for no one.

If you've ever considered being a part of our Group's executive committee, now is the time to make that move. Loo Wit has already lost one ExCom member (relocation; see separate story), so our nine-member board is now down to eight.

For many years, Loo Wit has been one of the strongest and most effective groups in the Washington State Chapter, and that's because smart, accomplished people have always stepped up to volunteer their efforts. Our group's continued strength and well-being depends on its members. If you may be thinking you'd never have time, reconsider -- all current ExCom members also have busy lives and they find time, because protecting and preserving our air, water and public lands is critically important.

What's required to be an ExCom member? You must be a current Sierra Club member, have an interest in our conservation goals and efforts, attend monthly meetings, and be willing to work with a like-minded group of dedicated environmentalists -- you'll find us to be a very friendly bunch, easy to get to know. Loo Wit ExCom meets on the first Tuesday of each month (except August and December) at the United Congregational Church, 1220 NE 68th St in Hazel Dell.

For more information, contact Loo Wit Chair Mark Leed, [markleed02@gmail.com](mailto:markleed02@gmail.com) .



SIERRA  
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FOUNDED 1892

Southwest Washington  
Sierra Club

**Loo Wit Group**

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