



# Loo Wit Rumblings



Environment, Education, Conservation & Events for Southwest Washington

## May 14 Member Program Features Watersheds Alliance

*Lehman Holder, Programs Chair*

Loo Wit Group will welcome Sunrise O'Mahoney, director of the Watershed Alliance of Southwest Washington, formerly Vancouver Watersheds Alliance, at its member program on May 14 (Monday).

Sunrise will acquaint Loo Wit members with the scope and focus of the Alliance's work in SW Washington. Program time is 6:30 p.m. in the Columbia Room at the Vancouver main library, 901 C St (corner of Evergreen and C St).

O'Mahoney has served as director of the Alliance since 2012 and holds a B.A. in Public Affairs from Washington State University Vancouver. She is passionate about the environment and bringing people together to build awareness of the benefits of a healthy, natural environment, especially clean water. Growing up amidst the redwoods of northern California, Sunrise developed an early appreciation and respect for nature and brought this strong ethic to SW Washington.

Since its beginning in 2008, the alliance has grown rapidly, and now counts more than 700 volunteers among its ranks. Although the Alliance's focus has been on the restoration of Burnt Bridge Creek, under O'Mahoney's direction it now has projects throughout Clark County including Battle Ground and Washougal. The mission is to educate and engage community members to be active stewards of SW Washington's natural legacy, with a focus on creeks, lakes and other bodies of water. Both adults and children are given hands-on educational opportunities in the restoration and protection of waterways.

Please join us for an educational evening with one of Vancouver's leading environmental advocates.



Sunrise O'Mahoney began work with the Watershed Alliance of SW Washington in 2010, becoming its director in 2012. She leads the Alliance's efforts to restore and protect waterways in Vancouver and Clark County.

# LOO WIT CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Saturday, May 12:** Hike Knebal Springs Loop.

**Sunday, May 13:** Cycling: Frenchman's Bar and Vancouver Lake

**Monday, May 14:** Watersheds Alliance of SW Washington program \*see page 1 for details

**Sunday, May 20:** Sea kayaking: Lacamas Lake

**Saturday, May 26:** Hike to Tygh Creek

**Sunday, May 27:** Cycling: Two Bridge Loop

*\*Outings are posted on Meetup approximately 7 days in advance of the event.*

***Beyond Coal & Oil Task Force Meetings are held the 2nd Wednesday of the month at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Vancouver. Meet & greet with pizza starts at 5:30 pm, followed by the meeting at 6:00 pm.***

***Executive Committee Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month from 6:30 to 8:00 pm at St. Andrews Lutheran Church in Vancouver.***

## **We're on Facebook!**

If you haven't already, please give us a "like" on Facebook! We share information about upcoming events, photos from outings and the latest Loo Wit news. You can even share our posts with your own Facebook friends, helping to spread the word about Loo Wit! We'd love to interact with more of you online!

You can also find all of our upcoming outings on MeetUp, and archives of our monthly newsletters on our website.

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

[www.meetup.com/Portland-Vancouver-Sierra-Club-Outings-Events](http://www.meetup.com/Portland-Vancouver-Sierra-Club-Outings-Events)

[www.sierraclub.org/washington/loo-wit](http://www.sierraclub.org/washington/loo-wit)



## **Loo Wit Executive Committee Members**

**Mark Leed**—Chair

**Don Steinke**—Oil & Coal

**Steve Foster**—Treasurer/Sales

**Mike Newsham**—Outings Liaison

**Alona Steinke**—Oil & Coal/at large

**Fred Suter**—Vice Chair/Legislative Liaison

**David Bybee**—Secretary

**Emily Waters**—Newsletter



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(voting members)

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*Explore — Enjoy — Protect*



## Port of Vancouver Forum Discusses Strategic Plan

*Lehman Holder, Programs Chair*

Loo Wit Group was among approximately 20 representatives of the Clark County environmental community on April 18 when the Port's 10-year Strategic Plan was discussed.



Port of Vancouver with Mt. Hood in the background. Photo: portofvanusa.com

The Port provided a general overview of operations plus listening to feedback on operations and thoughts on the Port's future. Areas of focus included the strategic plan's process, financial overview and 2018 budget, along with current activities related to the environment.

Port environmental management of natural areas includes a wetland mitigation bank, Purple Martin gourds, bat, owl, and bee boxes, avian and habitat surveys, volunteer monitoring, invasive species removal, bird-friendly window features and work with Friends of Trees and Vancouver Watersheds Alliance.

## Loo Wit Gears Up for Political Season

*Lehman Holder, Programs Chair*

With the critical 2018 midterm elections looming large, Loo Wit's political committee ("polcom") is active in upcoming races.

Regarding the 3<sup>rd</sup> Congressional District race in SW Washington, members should know that Loo Wit cannot make an endorsement for a federal office -- the required 2-step process for that is handled by Washington Chapter and National Sierra Club entities. However, the Loo Wit polcom will be involved in endorsement interviews and its thoughts will be considered.

Loo Wit can endorse in local and state races, though, and activity is forthcoming in those campaigns.

If you're interested in getting involved in Loo Wit's political efforts, contact Mark Leed at [markleed002@gmail.com](mailto:markleed002@gmail.com)

## Don, Alona Steinke Pictured in Earthjustice Quarterly

by Programs Chair

Earthjustice, America's premier environmental law firm, was deeply involved in the recent fight over the proposed Port of Vancouver oil terminal. Loo Wit executive committee members Don and Alona Steinke were pictured in the firm's Spring 2018 quarterly magazine article, "The Thin Green Line."

Don and Alona gave untold hours of their time and effort to help ensure that the terminal was defeated. The Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC) recommended in November 2017 to Gov. Jay Inslee that the terminal be rejected, and Gov. Inslee did just that this past February. Port commissioners Don Orange, Eric Lebrant and Jerry Oliver then put the final nail in the terminal's coffin by voting unanimously to void the contract with Tesoro-Savage.



From left to right, Port of Olympia Commissioner EJ Zita, Linda Garcia, and Don and Alona Steinke celebrate the Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council's decision to deny Tesoro-Savage a permit for the Vancouver oil terminal. Photo courtesy of Linda Garcia, via Earthjustice website.



Neatha Lefevre was a tireless advocate with the Sierra Club for clean air and healthy communities. At left is a picture of Neatha on April 8, 2018, as she was collecting signatures for Initiative 1631. She planned to collect signatures 3 days before she passed away at age 77.

We felt particularly encouraged by her email-signature which said, ***Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time, we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Galations 6:9***

If she were still with us, she would be collecting signatures.

If you feel motivated to help put clean air and clean energy on the ballot, contact Don Steinke, [crVanwash@gmail.com](mailto:crVanwash@gmail.com)  
Neatha's work lives on but she will be missed.



## LOO WIT OUTINGS

### Spring, Summer Outings Underway—Join Us!

*by Lehman Holder, Programs Chair*

After a rainy, chilly April delayed season-opening bike outings, Loo Wit's spring-summer outings got underway in May with a beginner/novice sea kayak outing on May 6. More bike, kayak and hiking outings will be coming up.

Although kayak outings go rain or shine, bike outings are postponed in case of rain for safety considerations. Always check with the outing leader on the status of an outing.

You can take a look and rsvp for upcoming outings by going to: [www.meetup.com/portland-vancouver-sierra-club-outings-events](http://www.meetup.com/portland-vancouver-sierra-club-outings-events) . It's not necessary to be a Sierra Club member to participate in a local outing, although you need to rsvp on Meetup to participate. So have some fun this summer – join us and get out there!





## Snake River Dam Removal Draft EIS In Process

*Mark Leed, Chair*

Scientists have long told us that dams are the biggest obstacle to recovery of migratory fish stocks in the Columbia River system, and that removing them is likely the only way to prevent extinction of wild salmon and steelhead. Sierra Club supports ultimately removing the 4 outdated dams on the lower Snake River in Southeastern Washington. These aging dams - Ice Harbor, Little Goose, Lower Granite and Lower Monumental - are relatively unreliable power sources. A recent study by the Northwest Energy Coalition found that their power could be replaced by solar and wind energy, and by upgraded battery storage and energy efficiency. The dams have also lost much of their importance for navigation. Barge traffic on the Lower Snake has largely been replaced by trucking. Removing the dams will also benefit endangered Puget Sound orcas. Orcas feed on Chinook salmon during the winter, especially off the mouth of the Columbia River. The great decline in Chinook runs is thought to be one of the main reasons orca populations are in danger.

Federal agencies are preparing a draft EIS to evaluate removal of the 4 dams. In addition, Sierra Club and several of our allies are sponsoring an Energy Replacement Study. A recent U.S. District Court ruling grants additional spill over the dams starting this year. This will benefit salmon and steelhead runs in the interim, but removal is the best long-term solution.



For more information, please visit <https://earthjustice.org/features/remove-four-lower-snake-river-dams> or <https://www.wildsalmon.org/facts-and-information/myths-and-facts-about-lower-snake-river-dam-removal.html>.

Photo courtesy of Spokane Public Radio.



### Loo Wit Attends Annual Earth Day EcoFair

*Emily Waters, Executive Committee*

On Saturday, April 21<sup>st</sup>, Loo Wit joined many other local environmental organizations for Clark Public Utilities' annual Earth Day EcoFair at Salmon Creek Park. This was the 19<sup>th</sup> year the event has taken place. Each year, volunteers, families and local organizations come together to plant native trees, remove invasive species, engage with interactive nature demonstrations and learn about the work going on in their community.

Loo Wit executive committee members Mark Leed, Fred Suter, Steve Foster and Emily Waters attended the event and spoke with community members about outings opportunities and Loo Wit programs. The real star of the show was Loo Wit's special mascot for the day, Shadow the Siberian Husky. Shadow was a real draw and kept people coming to the booth throughout the day. Steve was able to hand out all of Loo Wit's promotional materials by the end of the day thanks to Shadow's hard work!

While some members manned the booth and talked with families making the rounds of the vendor tent, volunteers were outside the event collecting signatures for Initiative 1631, which would put a fee on pollution that would enable investments in transitioning Washington state to clean energy, increase the resiliency of the state's waters and forests to the impact of climate change, and reduce the impacts of climate change on communities.



Left: Loo Wit Executive Committee Members Emily Waters, Mark Leed and Fred Suter, with honorary mascot Shadow. Middle: Volunteer Jean Avery gathering signatures outside the event for Initiative 1631. Right: Emily Waters & Shadow at Loo Wit's booth.





# Don't Get Left Out in the Cold... Join Us!



Sierra Club Outings are a terrific way to meet new people and enjoy the great outdoors. Whatever your interests - hiking, canoeing or birdwatching - there is an outing for everyone. If you are new to the area, let your local Chapter or Group give you the lay of the land. Join today and become part of America's largest environmental organization offering the most enjoyable outings.

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**YES! I would like to give a gift membership to:**

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**Check enclosed. Please make payable to Sierra Club**

Please charge my:  Visa  Mastercard  AMEX

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 Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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a FREE Sierra Club  
Weekender Bag!**



Membership Categories	Individual	Joint
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Standard	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 49
Supporting	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 100
Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 175
Life	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 1250
Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 35
Student	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 35
Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 35

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