



Loo Wit Outings focus of April 21st Members Program

Time to get outside -- outings season is here! Loo Wit's strong outings program is the topic for the Group's Earth Week member program at United Congregational Church, 1220 NE 68th St in Vancouver (Hazel Dell).

Social time begins at 6:30 p.m. and the program at 7 p.m. Light refreshments will be available.

Immediate past Loo Wit outings chair Mike Newsham and longtime outings leader Lehman Holder will inform members and others of upcoming outings and opportunities for participation. Mike will show slides of past hikes and encourage those attending to take advantage of his always-varied hiking offerings. Lehman will discuss Loo Wit's sea kayaking and cycling (bicycle) outings and what's coming up with those. Both will be available to answer questions and chat with members afterwards.

Hiking outings are already underway and the first bike outing is set for April 19 (Sun), barring rain. Kayak outings begin on May 2 (Sat) with a beginner ("A-level") paddle on Lake River. This outing includes instruction.

Loo Wit's outings program is widely recognized by the Sierra Club's Washington (statewide) Chapter for its strength and diversity of offerings. A strong outings program goes hand-in-hand with Loo Wit's conservation efforts that focus on local issues. Hope to see you all there!

April 22nd Earth Day Fundraiser at Burgerville!

From 4 to 8 pm on Earth Day, the Cascade Park Burgerville will be donating 10% of all sales to Loo Wit!

Here are four ways you can support the event:

- (1) Volunteer to table or bring costumers their food as you engage them in conversation about the Sierra Club.
- (2) Contribute to an environmental gift basket that we will raffle off. We would love to have one for children and one for adults. If you have ideas for new items you would like to donate, let us know!
- (3) Tell your friends about this event. We especially hope to make this a kid-friendly event.
- (4) Come eat a burger or veggie burger!

If you would like to volunteer or contribute to a gift basket, please contact Brooks Berndt at brooks@vanucc.org. The Cascade Park Burgerville is the Burgerville that is closest to I-205 and Chkalov Drive. Its address is 11704 Southeast Mill Plain Boulevard, Vancouver, Washington 98684.

Spring Calendar of Events:

Saturday April 18th: Stream Team Earth Day event at Salmon Creek Greenway

Tuesday April 21st:
Loo Wit member program

Wednesday April 22nd:
Cascade Park Burgerville Fundraiser for Loo Wit

Wednesday April 22nd: Earth Day

Tuesday May 5th:
Conservation Comm Meeting
Loo Wit ExCom Meeting

Loo Wit ExCom Leaders:

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 or Lehman at tripsguy@aol.com



Water outings training set for May 16-17

It's almost time to get on the water. Loo Wit kayak outings will be starting another season on May 2, with an "A level" (newbies/novices) outing on Lake River near Ridgefield.

Outings leader Lehman Holder is again planning the annual water outings leader training on May 16-17, with a 3-hour classroom session and 2-hour pool session on Saturday, and a two-hour paddle on Lake River on Sunday. The goal is to train those who are interested in becoming Sierra Club water outings leaders. Together with outings leader Laura Skehan, Lehman has led kayak outings for Loo Wit for the past 10 years, and encourages potential new leaders to sign up.

Signup deadline is May 8 (Fri), with a minimum of three participants and max of five needed for the class. Charge for the class is \$5 for use of the pool on Saturday, and a fee of \$32 for kayak rental on Sunday. In order to become certified water outings leaders, participants must follow up the training with Sierra Club's Outings Leader Training (OLT) 101, and become certified in basic first aid and CPR.

Leading water outings is not only a lot of fun -- it's also very fulfilling and will enrich your life. If you have questions, or want to sign up, e-mail Lehman at: tripsguy@aol.com .



Oil campaign news

by Don and Alona Steinke

To keep oil out of the river and to combat Climate Change, the two most important events of the year in SW Washington will be the oil and coal hearings. We need at least 1000 people for each. We turned out 350 people to the Community Oil Forum on April 1 at the Kiggins Theater.

The date for the hearings will probably be late July for Tesoro Savage in Vancouver and late November for the Millenium Bulk Coal Terminal in Longview. Join the listserv to be notified when they are announced.

NuStar

Although The City of Vancouver is opposed to new oil terminals, NuStar had figured out a way to avoid environmental review and was well on the way to approval. On New Year's Eve, former Loo Wit President John Karpinski figured out a way to require environmental review.

He had noticed a permit application for track reconfiguration for NuStar and the City Permitting Department had provided public notice and a 2 week comment period.

Karpinski advised us to submit comments asking for a Determination of Significance. The State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) requires an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) when there is likely-hood of significant impacts.

Thanks to 177 of you submitting comments, the City feels it is on solid ground to do that and will conduct an environmental assessment.

As of this writing on April 3, we don't have a definitive plan but in general we want the following to be included:

- Wide area and cumulative impacts.
- A Health Impact Assessment
- The Climate Impacts including the tail pipe emissions of the end user of the fuel.
- A 120 day comment period after the DEIS is published.

According to SEPA, a project may be denied if there are harms that can't be mitigated. We need those harms to be included in the EIS.

We have until 4:00 P.M. on May 4 to submit comments.

Send your comment to the responsible official: Jon Wagner jon.wagner@cityofvancouver.us

Jon Wagner deserves to be thanked for all the hard work he has done on this and all the extra work we are putting on his desk. He also wrote the 14 page scoping comment for the City regarding Tesoro-Savage.



Crude Oil is not like motor oil. Crude oil contains dissolved gases like propane. When a tank car ruptures, gases rush out and find a spark. Flaming oil heats an intact tank car nearby until it bursts from the internal pressure.

At 7/16 inch thick, the tank cars rupture at derailment speeds of 13 mph. They'll never be strong enough to hold up at 40 mph. Earlier this year, four oil trains exploded involving the newest safest tank cars.

Even if the tank cars were stronger and the gases removed, the oil would still end up in the river.

Four candidates are seeking to replace Nancy Baker on the Port Commission. Be looking for our endorsement.

The first group to oppose the Tesoro Savage Oil Terminal was ILWU Local 4.

A year later on June 3 of 2014, the City of Vancouver passed a resolution opposing all new oil terminals in the state thanks to work of the Sierra Club.

Since then 22 other cities have passed resolutions of concern, as has the Columbia Gorge Commission, The Washington State Council of Fire Fighters, the Washougal School District and 57 tribes.

To get more info:

More Oil and Coal News...

If you're interested in oil trains and terminals but haven't been getting campaign updates from the Loo Wit Group, send an email to Don and Alona Steinke

crVancouverUSA@gmail.com and asked to be placed on the Loo Wit lists. We'll add you to the *Cascade-Loowit-Coal-Forum* listserv.

Subscribers may post to the list, but generally not many people do except Don. He sends to the list approximately 3 times per month depending on need.

To get daily updates, like our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/loowit.group>

Boaters and Kayakers

A protest against oil trains is being planned near Tacoma in Puget Sound. This will be similar to the symbolic blockade of the Columbia River staged by Rising Tide in July of 2013.

This will be in conjunction with the U.S. Open Golf Tournament (like the World Series of Golf). Only the train tracks separate the golf course from Puget Sound. For more details go to: <http://www.peoplesclimatefleet.org/>

If the Governor's Carbon Tax fails in the legislature, the governor might place the proposal on the ballot.

If he doesn't, I will be supporting a revenue neutral carbon tax ballot measure, and hope you will help collect signatures for it this summer.

Thanks,
Don and Alona

Concerned about Hanford cleanup? Close-up look may be offered

Loo Wit Group and Columbia Riverkeeper, a river-advocacy organization, are working to coordinate a possible joint outing to the Hanford Nuclear Reservation and a chance to kayak the Hanford Reach of the Columbia River.

Although still in the planning stages, both Loo Wit and Riverkeeper hope that several Loo Wit members will be inspired to participate -- Hanford Reach is the last free-flowing section of the Columbia. Proposed date is July 25-26, with possible travel to the Tri-Cities area on July 24 (Fri). Accommodations may offer either camping or a motel in Richland. Participation will be limited to 20, and the trip fee (still unset at present) will include a Saturday tour of the nuclear reservation, Saturday evening dinner and a Sunday kayak paddle along the spectacular White Cliffs abutting the east side of Hanford.

Members and others who are interested should contact Lehman Holder, tripsguy@aol.com. Riverkeeper will begin taking signups soon.





Chapter executive committee to visit Vancouver in June

Loo Wit Group will welcome members of its parent (statewide) organization, Washington Chapter, to Vancouver on June 13-14 (Sat-Sun) for a Chapter retreat. Loo Wit members and executive committee members are encouraged to drop in on a Saturday afternoon meeting in the Skamania Room of the Ft Vancouver Regional Library.

The weekend retreat will begin on Saturday morning with a kayak outing on Lake River and conclude on Sunday morning with an informal gathering hosted by Cathy Morton, Loo Wit political chair. It will be the first Chapter retreat hosted by Loo Wit since 2008.

Members who would like to assist in planning and giving help are encouraged to contact Lehman Holder, tripsguy@aol.com.

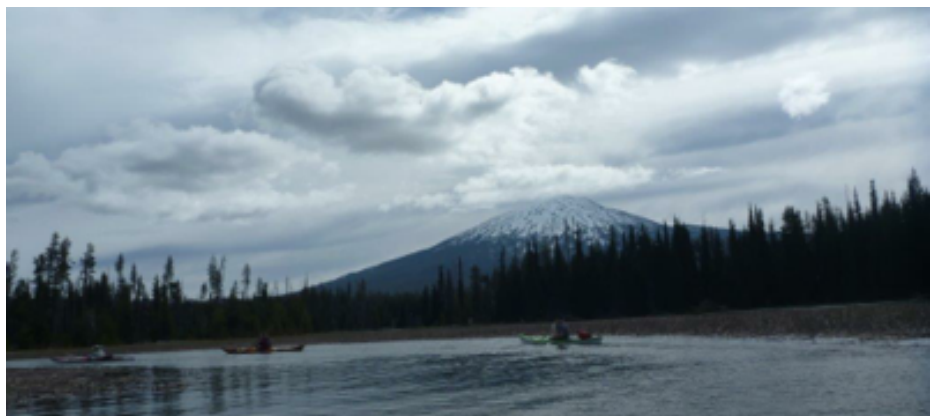
2014 accomplishments testimony to Loo Wit strength, effectiveness

Once again in 2014, Loo Wit Group's active involvement in southwest Washington conservation, political, outings and outreach activities earned the regard of Sierra Club's Washington Chapter.

Thanks go to the strong efforts of Loo Wit's executive committee (excom) for planning and carrying out the group's objectives and priorities. Heartfelt appreciation to vice chair Don and wife Alona Steinke for their consistent and persistent work on the proposed Port of Vancouver oil terminal and oil by rail issues, Cathy Morton for her effective leadership of the political committee, Brooks Berndt for thoughtfully guiding the conservation committee, Ben Dennis on rivers and fish issues, Mary Lynch for working with the Chapter legislative committee,

Steve Foster for excellent managing of group bank accounts, finances and calendar sales; new chair Mark Leed for keeping everyone aware of ongoing coal issues; Dave Bybee and Alice Linker for taking minutes at meetings and other efforts; and 2014 chair Lehman Holder for keeping everyone going in the same direction, keeping track of it all, and leading outings.

There are many reasons why Loo Wit is a effective group, and it boils down to the human element -- people who care about our environment. The range of activities included in Loo Wit's efforts is very wide -- from election endorsements and campaigning for candidates to tabling and speaking outreach to educational member programs to trail improvement work and holiday party fundraisers. All of these are key to a healthy, high-functioning group that has a high profile in the community and at the Chapter level.



Volunteer Opportunities:

Loo Wit Group has two exciting volunteer opportunities this month:

On Saturday, April 18 we're looking for volunteers to help staff our table at the annual Earth Day EcoFair at Salmon Creek Greenway. The EcoFair is a great opportunity to share information about Sierra Club with the public, as well as to network with other local environmental advocates. A highlight is Portland Audubon's live birds-of-prey presentation. The fair runs from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. If you'd like to volunteer, please contact Lehman Holder at tripsguy@aol.com.

On Wednesday, April 22, Loo Wit is holding a fundraiser at the Cascade Park Burgerville, 11704 SE Mill Plain Blvd. From 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM, we'll get 10% of all sales. We need volunteers to table or bring food to customers, while engaging them in conversation about the Sierra Club. If you can help for all or part of the 4:00 to 8:00 PM shift, please contact Brooks Berndt at brooks@vanucc.org. If you're unable to volunteer, I encourage you to help support Loo Wit by dropping in for a burger or veggie burger!

Have a great Earth Day,

Mark Leed
Sierra Club



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Southwest Washington
Sierra Club

Loo Wit Group

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