



# Loo Wit Rumblings



Environment, Education, Conservation & Events for Southwest Washington

## Vancouver Port Commission Elections—Another Victory!

*Don Steinke, Vice Chair/Oil & Coal*



Frank Marre, Maggie Flannigan, and Alona Steinke sign-waving on November 6th.

On November 7, the Sierra Club's endorsed candidate Don Orange won election to the Port Commission at the Port of Vancouver. He has promised to vote with Eric LaBrant to cancel the Tesoro Savage Oil terminal lease.

We are making history by stopping the expansion of the oil industry in the place they most want to be. When this campaign became a million dollar race a few weeks ago, it was covered by the New York Times.

Several hundred volunteers from the Sierra Club and Washington Conservation Voters knocked on at least 12,000 doors and made thousands of phone calls to get out the vote. We had 100 sign wavers the week before the election. Victories don't happen by accident. So far, none of the many new fossil fuel export proposals in Washington State have been approved.

Orange won't take office until January 1. Before then, we'll have an opportunity to get a another nail in

Tesoro's coffin. We expect EFSEC to deliberate in public and make a recommendation to Governor Inslee in November. We want to have a packed house for this event. We need two nails in the coffin. Inslee's and the Port Commission. Here's a FB link to the event: <https://www.facebook.com/events/125210204834482/>

We are very grateful to all the members of ILWU local 4, and the Stand Up To Oil Coalition. They made all the difference.

## LOO WIT CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Monday, November 20th:** Keep the Oil In the Soil! EFSEC Public Hearing. Vancouver, 6:00-8:00 pm. *\*EFSEC does not share location until 1 week prior to event. See Facebook event or contact crVanwash@gmail.com for more details.*

**Wednesday, November 22nd:** Meaningful Movies: An Inconvenient Sequel. 6:15-9:00 pm. Old Liberty Theater, Ridgefield.

**Saturday, December 2nd:** Outings Committee Meeting Unitarian Universalist Church of Vancouver. 3:30-5:00.

**Saturday, December 2nd:** Loo Wit Annual Holiday Party, Unitarian Universalist Church of Vancouver. 5:00—8:00 pm

***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 normally held on the first Tuesday of the month from 6:30 to 8:00 pm***

### **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**—Vice Chair/Oil & Coal

**Steve Foster**—Treasurer/Sales

**Mike Newsham**— Outings Liaison

**Alona Steinke**—Oil & Coal/at large

**Lehman Holder**—At large

**Fred Suter** — Legislative Liaison

**David Bybee**—Secretary

**Emily Waters**—Newsletter



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FOUNDED 1892

**Loo Wit ExCom Leaders 2017**  
(voting members)

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Other contact info, see Don Steinke

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**Loo Wit Advisory & Committee Leaders 2017**  
(non-voting members)

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## Loo Wit Holiday Party

*Mark Leed, Chair*

Mark your calendar for Loo Wit's annual Holiday Party on Saturday, Dec. 2. This year's celebration will feature finger food, wine, a silent auction and raffle items. We will recognize outstanding volunteers and hear presentations from two guest speakers.

Nicole Budine, Policy and Campaign Manager for the Cascade Forest Conservancy (formerly known as the Gifford Pinchot Task Force) will present a program on the Conservancy's work to safeguard the beauty and wonders of Washington's Southern Cascades. Nicole grew up in upstate New York, cultivating her love of nature by exploring the local forests and rivers. She moved to the Northwest to attend law school at the University of Oregon, where she earned a J.D. with a concentration in Environmental and Natural Resources Law. Her presentation will focus what we can do to protect the pristine Green River watershed near Mt. St. Helens, which is threatened by a proposal to conduct destructive mining exploration.



Nicole Boudine

Photo courtesy of Cascade Forest Conservancy

Miranda Mendoza, an interpretive park ranger at Oregon's Rooster Rock State Park, will update us on fire recovery and trail conditions in the Columbia Gorge following September's devastating Eagle Creek fire. Join us to learn about the impacts of the fire on the Gorge and what we can do to help support recovery.



Triple Falls with fire damage. Photo courtesy of Miranda Mendoza

The Holiday Party starts at 5:00 PM on Saturday, December 2 at the Unitarian Church of Vancouver, 4505 E. 18th St. See you there!



## Loo Wit Co-Sponsors Film Showing

*Megan Dudley, Guest*

Take a break from Thanksgiving preparations and have a night out! A decade after AN INCONVENIENT TRUTH brought climate change into the heart of popular culture, comes the riveting and rousing follow-up that shows just how close we are to a real energy revolution. Vice President Al Gore continues his tireless fight traveling around the world training an army of climate champions and influencing international climate policy. This event is free to the public, donations accepted. It is sponsored by the Loo Wit Sierra Club and Ridgefield Community Library.

Guest speakers will be Marc Rappaport, renewable energy innovator, Climate Reality Leader and Ridgefield resident, and Don Steinke, Writer and Organizer for Climate Action in SW WA, Sierra Club . Doors open at 6:15, previews start at 6:45. Beer, wine, coffee, ice cream, snacks available for purchase. Discussion to follow the film.

### Event Details:

**November 22nd, 2017**

**Old Liberty Theater**

**115 N Main Ave**

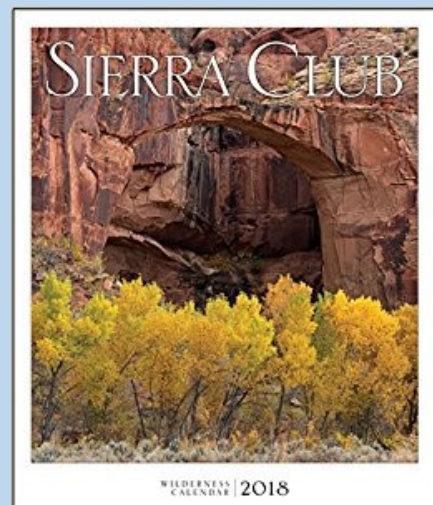
**Ridgefield ,WA 98642**



### 2018 Sierra Club calendars are here!

\$15.00 Wilderness Wall or Desk, \$13.50 with 10% membership discount. 20% discount for five or more. Checks preferred.

Contact Loo Wit Treasurer, Steve Foster to get yours! [siberman88@aol.com](mailto:siberman88@aol.com) or 360-607-8076.





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## **Loo Wit Executive Committee Election Now Underway**

*Lehman Holder, Executive committee*

If you're a member of Loo Wit Group, you're encouraged to cast your vote in this year's officer election for the Group ExCom (executive committee). You'll find a list of candidates, their qualifications and interest in Sierra Club elsewhere in the following two pages of this issue of *Rumblings*, so please take a look.

At last count, Loo Wit membership was more than 2,100 and increasing. The ExCom is responsible for guiding and administering the Group's efforts in conservation, outings, political, legislative and related activities. Terms are for two years and are staggered, so the entire ExCom is not elected in the same year. It's extremely important for the ExCom to have your support, and voting is a good way to provide that. It's easy to contact an ExCom member – a list is included in every issue of *Rumblings*.

The election concludes on Dec. 31.

### **HOW TO VOTE—THREE OPTIONS!**

1. Print out page 9 of this newsletter and mail the completed form to Loo Wit at PO Box 13 Vancouver, WA 98686
2. Email your vote to Lehman Holder at [tripsguy@aol.com](mailto:tripsguy@aol.com). Use "2017 Elections" as the subject line.
3. Attend Loo Wit's Holiday Party on December 2nd and vote in-person!





### Candidate Bios—Executive Committee Elections

**Alona Steinke:** I am a retired R.N. I can see no better use of this time in my life, than to fight climate change. I want a bright future for my grandson and for all the generations to come. Their future should be one with clean air and clean water. One way in which to achieve this is by stopping all new fossil fuel infrastructure and working to transition to 100% clean energy for all.



**Emily Waters:** For the past year, I have edited the Loo Wit newsletter and regularly attended Executive Committee meetings, as a member of the advisory council. At this time, I'm seeking election to the Executive Committee. I see a lot of possibility for what the group can do, and look forward to helping Loo Wit continue to explore, enjoy and protect the natural places we all love!



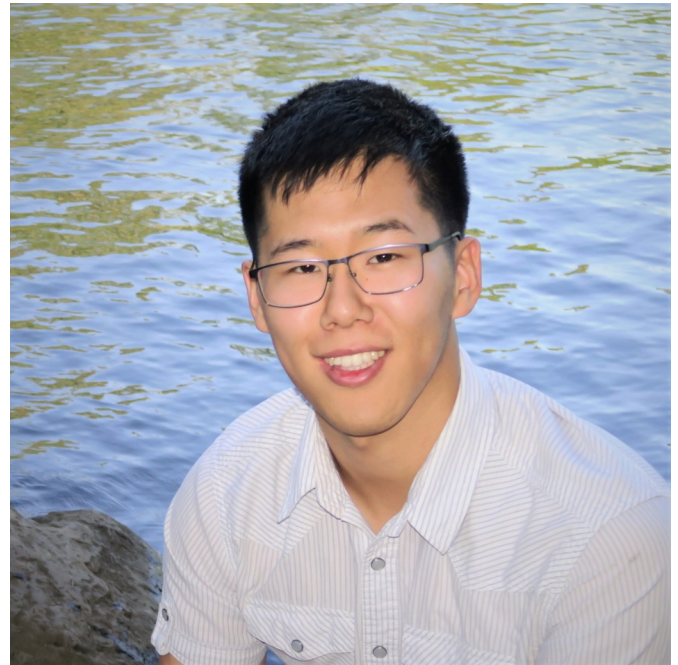
**David Bybee:** After serving as grassroots ExCom secretary somewhere in the Club for 17 years, I'd enjoy your vote for continuing my addiction for another term with Loo Wit. Sierra Club Life Member 44 years, Keeper of the Hot Springs List 32 years, Oliver Kehrlein Outings Service Award 2009. Leader of *Hot Springs in the Shadow of the Range of Light* 29 years - longest running clothing optional outing in 125 year history of the Club. Kindness is uneventful. It does not flash, it glows...





### Candidate Bios—Executive Committee Elections

**Minsahng Song:** I was born in Seoul, South Korea and moved to Vancouver when I was 11. I went to middle and high school in Vancouver and went to Hendrix College located in Conway, Arkansas where I studied environmental studies. After graduating, I went to China to work as an environmental science teaching assistant at an international college, and recently came back to the Pacific Northwest. My environmental interest is ecological roles that people play in the environment. I want to serve on the executive committee because I wanted to be more actively involved in conservation of the local environment that I'm in.



**Steve Foster:** I seek reelection to the Loo Wit ExCom. I currently serve Loo Wit as ExCom member and treasurer, also handling Sierra Club calendars and merchandise. I've been a regular participant in outings and am active in conservation issues, including membership in several other environmental and conservation groups. I'm committed to the Sierra Club's mission of exploring, enjoying and protecting the planet as well as protecting endangered species, especially in today's political climate.





SIERRA CLUB LOO WIT ELECTIONS

PO BOX 13

VANCOUVER, WA 98666



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Please vote. Your ballot must be delivered by **December 31st, 2017** to :

Sierra Club Loo Wit ExCom Election

PO Box 13, Vancouver WA 98666

Please include your return address and current membership number with your ballot

*Fold the bottom edge of this page and staple or seal with tape*

***Leave this top voter identification label open after folding and sealing the ballot***

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## **2017 LOO WIT GROUP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE BALLOT**

1. Alona Steinke
2. Emily Waters
3. Minsahng Song
4. Steve Foster
5. David Bybee

**Please vote for up to 5 Candidates**

| <b>Candidate</b>     | <b>Single</b> | <b>Joint</b> |
|----------------------|---------------|--------------|
| <b>Alona Steinke</b> | [ ]           | [ ]          |
| <b>Emily Waters</b>  | [ ]           | [ ]          |
| <b>Minsahng Song</b> | [ ]           | [ ]          |
| <b>Steve Foster</b>  | [ ]           | [ ]          |
| <b>David Bybee</b>   | [ ]           | [ ]          |



## LOO WIT OUTINGS

### Fantastic Summer for Loo Wit Outings

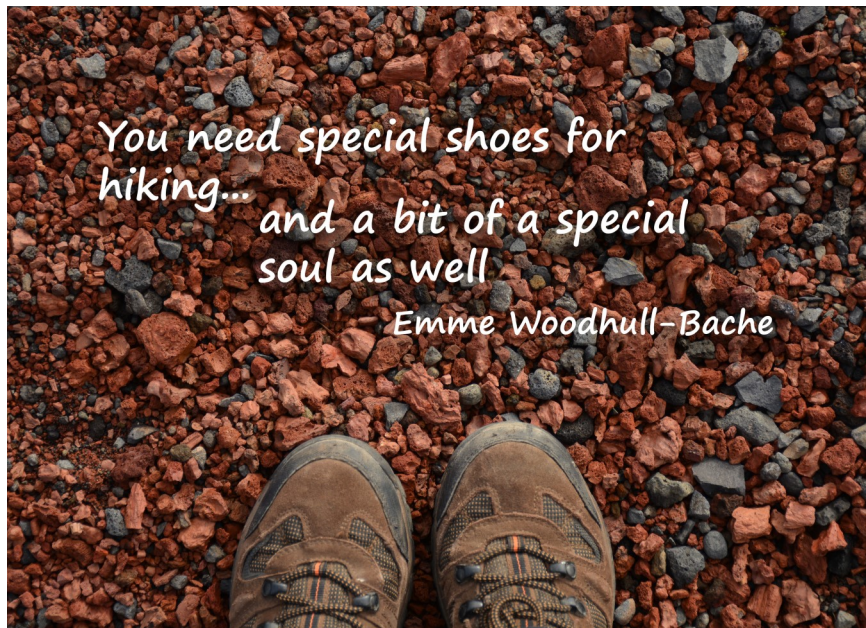
*by Lehman Holder, Executive Committee*

Summer and fall outings concluded in mid-October, with overall participation showing a nice increase over 2016. Numbers include April bike outings and May sea kayak outings.

With last winter's Nordic ski outing totals added, more than 200 took part in Loo Wit ski, bike and sea kayak outings during 2017. This is probably due to the fact that all Loo Wit outings are now posted on the Portland-Vancouver Sierra Club outings webpage on Meetup.com, which makes upcoming outings easy to access and sign up for.

Outing totals for 2017: six Nordic ski outings, with 38 participants; 12 bike outings and 86 participants; 12 sea kayak outings, 85 participants. Total participation for 30 outings was 209 participants.

Loo Wit outings are open to both members and non-members. This winter's Nordic ski outings begin in January. It's already snowing at Mt. Hood, so 2018 promises to be another good season for cross-country skiing. Never skied? One Nordic outing will be instructional. If you're reading this article and are interested, keep an eye on the Portland-Vancouver outings webpage: [www.meetup.com/portland-vancouver-sierra-club-outings-events](http://www.meetup.com/portland-vancouver-sierra-club-outings-events). You can also contact outings leader Lehman Holder at [tripsguy@aol.com](mailto:tripsguy@aol.com) for more information. Outings are fun, educational and a great way to meet new people and get some good exercise. Please join us in 2018!





## **Legislative Report**

*Fred Suter, Legislative Liaison*

Not only did Don Orange win the race for Port of Vancouver Commissioner, the Democrats also won back control of the Washington State Senate on Nov 7<sup>th</sup>. This is significant because the Democrats now control both state legislative bodies and the Governor's mansion.

With the results of the election now known, Sierra Club Washington can begin finalizing its legislative priorities for 2018. At the top of the list of proposals has been stopping efforts to legislatively overturn the Hirst decision (permit exempt wells). With Democratic Party control of the legislature, overall repeal seems less likely. Meanwhile the Board of County Councilors of Clark County has been waiting to find out how the state legislature would handle the issue. Could it be that the county will now need to address the issue?

Another item that is high on the list of proposals for Sierra Club Washington is net pen legislation to prevent invasive species from mixing with native species. Recall back in August 2017 when Atlantic salmon escaped into the Salish Sea after their San Juan Islands' net pen failed. The proposal is to advocate for raising Washington's standards to those of the states of Oregon and California.

There is also much discussion about whether the Washington state legislature will pass a carbon tax or whether it will appear as an initiative on the 2018 ballot. In either case, Sierra Club Washington is prepared to be involved in getting a good measure passed or getting the initiative in front of the voters of the state of Washington.

Despite Don Orange's recent win and his position against the Tesoro-Savage oil terminal, the fight against the oil terminal and oil trains continues. Transportation safety and a barrel tax to fund spill response and cleanup are on the list of proposals being considered.

*Legislative report continued on following page*

## **Legislative Report, continued**

*Fred Suter, Legislative Liaison*

Other proposals include defending renewable energy standards (the US House of Representatives just passed a bill classifying hydro-electric power as renewable energy), adaption of California's electric vehicle (EV) standards, extension of the EV sales tax exemption, and advocating for revised building codes for improved energy efficiency. And last but not least is passage of the Capital Budget which was deferred during the 2017 legislative session.

The Capital Budget will be addressed during the 2018 session and Sierra Club Washington's priority will be to ensure that funding for projects such as stormwater infrastructure and hazardous waste cleanup are included in the budget while steering clear of funding bad water bills (such as a moratorium on dam removal).

## **Millenium Bulk Terminal Hearing**

*Don & Alona Steinke, Executive Committee*

On Nov. 2, a hearing was held in Longview regarding Millennium Bulk Terminals' request for a shoreline permit. MBT wants to build the nation's largest coal terminal on the banks of the Columbia River in Longview.

Two key permits have already been denied by the Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Ecology, but Millennium continues to pursue the total of 23 permits that are needed from local, state and federal agencies. Our coalition's lawyer, Kristen Boyles from Earthjustice, skillfully pointed out to the hearings examiner that the final environmental impact statement identified 9 significant and un-mitigatable impacts. These impacts include increased cancer rates in Longview, clogged rail lines, blocked access to tribal fishing areas and coal tanker accidents. The hearings officer now has 10 business days in which to make his recommendation to Cowlitz County.

Please get on our Conservation listserv to receive notices of this and similar events. To do that, send an email to John McConnaughey [Captain.Faisua@gmail.com](mailto:Captain.Faisua@gmail.com) or DonSteinke [crVanwash@gmail.com](mailto:crVanwash@gmail.com) In Vancouver, we stopped the NuStar oil terminal two years ago, and now it looks like we'll stop the big one. Other west coast oil train terminals that were stopped would have been in Benicia California, San Louis Obispo County, California, Portland, Oregon, Longview, Grays Harbor, and Anacortes, Washington. We are supporting our colleagues in British Columbia in opposition to the Kinder Morgan Pipeline there.



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# 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.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_

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

Gift Recipient \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Check enclosed. Please make payable to Sierra Club

Please charge my:  Visa  Mastercard  AMEX

Cardholder Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_  
 Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Join today and receive  
 a FREE Sierra Club  
 Weekender Bag!



| Membership Categories | Individual                       | Joint                            |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Special Offer         | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 15   | N/A                              |
| 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   |

Contributions, gifts & dues to Sierra Club are tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$ 7.50 for a subscription to SIERRA magazine and \$ 1.00 for your Chapter newsletter.

Enclose a check and mail to: Sierra Club,  
 PO Box 421041, Palm Coast, FL 32142-1041

F94Q 1107



Southwest Washington  
Sierra Club  
Loo Wit Group  
PO Box 13