



landscapes

CONSERVING LAND FOR WILDLIFE, SCENIC VIEWS, AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES.

DESCHUTES LAND TRUST NEIGHBOR NEWS {FALL 2018}

DESCHUTESLANDTRUST.ORG/NEIGHBOR-NEWS

NEIGHBOR NEWS: METOLIUS PRESERVE

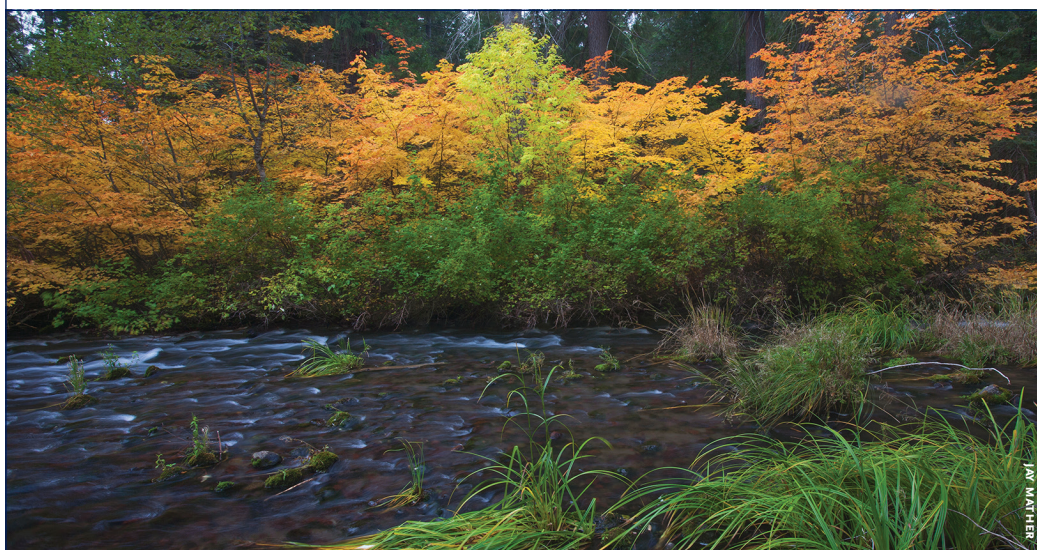
Fall is just around the corner and with it will come the brilliant colors of changing vine maples and golden yellow larch and aspen. Have you ever wondered why leaves change color and what it is that makes them so brilliant?

Leaves change color because of length of night and the pigments inherent in them. Sure, environmental factors like temperature, rainfall, and food supply are part of the equation, but these factors are highly variable year after year and only play a part in the story. Length of night is the constant. As days grow shorter and nights grow longer and cooler, biochemical processes in the leaf begin the transformation.

There are three types of pigments in leaves: chlorophyll, carotenoids, and anthocyanins. Chlorophyll gives leaves their basic green color. Chlorophyll is not a very stable compound and it requires sunlight and warm temperatures. In fall, the chlorophyll gets sluggish as nights grow cooler and days are shorter. Once chlorophyll slows down, special layers in the leaf prohibit any water from reaching it and trees break down chlorophyll and the leaves' true colors are exposed.

The carotenoids and anthocyanins that are present in the leaf are unmasked once chlorophyll production ceases. Carotenoids produce the yellow, orange, and brown colors also found in pumpkin, corn, carrots, and daffodils. Red and purple colors come from anthocyanins which are also found in cranberries, red apples, plums, and blueberries. Once the chlorophyll is gone, we get to see the glorious colors that were there all along.

So, this fall, head out to the Metolius Preserve to catch the brilliant fall colors of vine maple along Lake Creek. But hurry, they won't last long! —



JOIN US FOR A FALL OUTING!

Join the Land Trust on a guided nature walk! Each year volunteers lead free walks and hikes at Land Trust Preserves including the Metolius Preserve.

Whether it's fairy houses for kids, a fall colors hike, or a nature journaling class, you are guaranteed to learn a little more about your backyard!

Land Trust Walks + Hikes are offered through October. Details: deschuteslandtrust.org/hikes

JAY MATHER



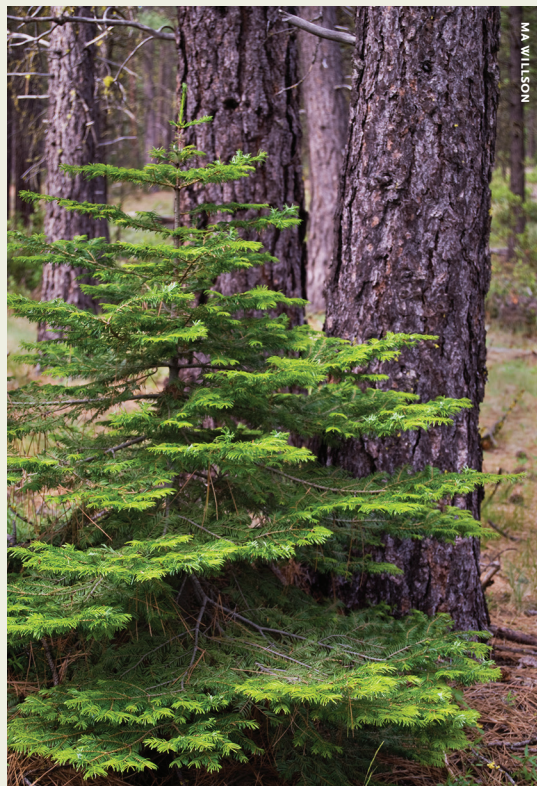
CONSERVING THE FORESTS OF THE METOLIUS PRESERVE

For the last 15 years, the Deschutes Land Trust has hosted a Tree Hunt each December at our Metolius Preserve. What's a tree hunt and why do we cut our trees with the community's help?

The Tree Hunt is the Land Trust's annual event where we invite our supporters and neighbors out to cut their own holiday tree at our Metolius Preserve. It's a fun, festive gathering that features hot drinks, kids' activities, and wreath making.

Historically, the forests of the Metolius Preserve were dominated by ponderosa pines with a mix of conifers growing in wetter areas. Fire suppression changed the forests, leaving much of the Metolius with overcrowded stands and trees like grand fir in areas where they historically were not. To reduce overcrowding and to restore the ponderosa-dominated forests, we spent multiple years actively restoring the forest. In the process, we left a portion of the Preserve unthinned, hoping YOU could help us with the rest of our restorative thinning! Cutting grand fir trees helps us maintain the balance that makes our forests healthier AND gives you a locally grown, wild Christmas tree!

Grand firs (*Abies grandis*) are classic Christmas trees with soft, flat needles that have a whitish hue on the undersides and widely spaced branches with lots of room for ornaments. They grow in dry to moist conifer forests from low to middle elevations. Grand firs have thin bark, making them very sensitive to fire and they can hybridize with white firs (*Abies concolor*), making identification between the two trees a challenge! Grand firs were named "grand" by botanist David Douglas because of the height and diameter they can attain. Get to know your local grand fir trees by taking a fall hike at the Metolius Preserve or by joining us for our annual Tree Hunt! —



MA WILLSON



FIND YOUR PERFECT GRAND FIR AT THE METOLIUS PRESERVE!

The Land Trust's Metolius Preserve is chock full of grand fir trees which make wonderful Christmas trees. If you want to come cut your own tree (and help restore the forests of the Preserve!), please join us for our annual Tree Hunt:

Metolius Preserve Tree Hunt
December 1st, 10am-2pm

Bring your own hand saw and enjoy hot drinks, wreath making, and merriment! The Tree Hunt is held weather permitting. Details: deschuteslandtrust.org/tree-hunt



THE DESCHUTES LAND TRUST IS PROUD OF OUR GENEROUS FAMILY OF SUPPORTERS. JOIN US TODAY: [DESCHUTESLANDTRUST.ORG/JOIN](https://deschuteslandtrust.org/join)

LANDS IN TRUST PROTECTED FOREVER

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