



# landscapes

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

DESCHUTES LAND TRUST NEIGHBOR NEWS {SPRING 2020}

DESCHUTESLANDTRUST.ORG/NEIGHBOR-NEWS

## BUTTERFLIES TAKE TO THE SKY

*Spring has certainly sprung and with it comes all things fluttery!* Butterflies are the solar powered denizens of our forests and meadows, taking flight when temperatures warm. One butterfly we see early each spring throughout Central Oregon is the California tortoiseshell.

California tortoiseshells (*Nymphalis californica*) are an orange to dark brown-reddish butterfly with black spots. They overwinter in Central Oregon as adults, which is why we see them in the early spring and even sometimes on warm winter days! To survive our cold winters, they hibernate in sheltered areas like cracks in trees, wood piles, or buildings. This is why they look slightly faded by spring and sometimes have tattered wings—they've survived all winter long!



CALIFORNIA TORTOISESHELL. PHOTO: CLAIRE WEISER.

Though you rarely need help finding these omnipresent butterflies, California tortoiseshells nectar on fir needles in spring and love ceanothus bushes. The butterflies that are flying now will lay their eggs on ceanothus. Those eggs will eventually become the California tortoiseshells we will see flitting about in late summer through early fall.

California tortoiseshell populations have a boom and bust cycle. We see thousands of them in a single year, then their numbers will crash, and we'll hardly see any for the next several years. Rest assured there are lots of other butterflies to watch when the tortoiseshells have a slim year! —

Learn more about the butterflies of Central Oregon: [deschuteslandtrust.org/co-butterflies](https://deschuteslandtrust.org/co-butterflies)



KRIS KRSTOVICH

## BRINGING THE OUTDOORS AND NATURE TO YOU

*Are you missing the nature of Central Oregon during this time of physical isolation? Never fear, the Land Trust is here! We are working to bring the outdoors and nature to you. Check our website, join our e-newsletter, and follow us on social media for what's blooming, flying, growing, and happening in and around Central Oregon!*

Learn more: [deschuteslandtrust.org/nature-bytes](https://deschuteslandtrust.org/nature-bytes)



ANOTHER COMMON BUTTERFLY OF THE METOLIUS PRESERVE, A FRITILLARY LANDS ON THE NOSE OF A CHILD. PHOTO: SUE ANDERSON.

DOUGLAS VINCENT

SUE BOGERTON



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## THE MAGIC OF OUR PINE FORESTS

*Did you know that forests—like those at the Metolius Preserve and Metolius River Preserve—play a major role in mitigating climate change damage?* Why? Because they are excellent at storing carbon dioxide, a key greenhouse gas that is causing climate change. In fact, forests are the world's largest land-based carbon sponge. How? Trees, and all plants actually, are magical! They make their own food through a process called photosynthesis that involves taking CO<sub>2</sub> out of air to make the energy they need to survive. So trees and forests help mitigate climate change by actively removing CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere! Even when plants die and decompose, they continue to store a massive amount of CO<sub>2</sub> as soil. Places like the Land Trust's Metolius Preserve and Metolius River Preserve are the sponges we need, and will continue to need, to absorb CO<sub>2</sub> and help combat climate change damage.

The Land Trust is committed to addressing climate change here in Central Oregon. We have a climate change strategy that helps guide our work in ways that account for and respond to the impacts of climate change. We are implementing this strategy as we acquire new land, manage the land we already protect, and engage the community in our work. Forests are a key part of that strategy.

Our goal is to conserve more forested land so those places can continue to remove and store CO<sub>2</sub> into the future. Conserving lands with older trees—which store more carbon overall and at a faster rate than younger trees—is one especially effective way for the Land Trust to maximize carbon capture. Finally, we also strive to manage our forested properties so they can grow into healthy, diverse, mature forests that will absorb lots of CO<sub>2</sub> into the future. **Learn more about climate change in your backyard: [deschuteslandtrust.org/climate-change](https://deschuteslandtrust.org/climate-change)**



**THIS YEAR THE LAND TRUST CELEBRATES 25 YEARS OF LAND CONSERVATION! JOIN US! [DESCHUTESLANDTRUST.ORG/25-YEARS](https://deschuteslandtrust.org/25-years)**



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LAND TRUST

GARY MILLER

### WILDFLOWER SPOTLIGHT: SPOTTED FRITILLARY

*Watch for this native lily as you are out and about this summer! Spotted fritillary (*Fritillaria atropurpurea*) blooms from late spring to early summer in the forests of the Metolius region. They can be hard to spot because of their subdued brown to greenish color, but their beautiful spotting and delicate petals just beg for a closer look.*

**Learn more: [deschuteslandtrust.org/co-lilies](https://deschuteslandtrust.org/co-lilies)**