

# LANDSCAPES

FALL 2002

## FEATURED THIS ISSUE



- Forest Management (1, 4)

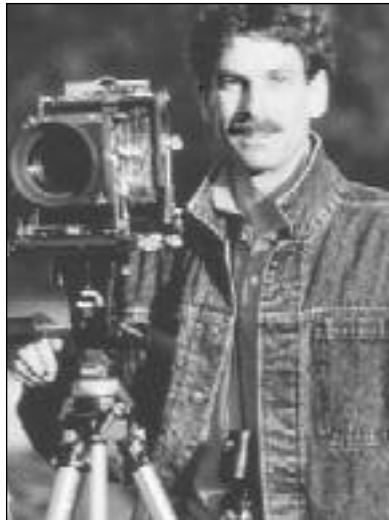


- Back to Home Waters Update (3)



- Stewardship - A Year in pictures (5)

*"When used as a tool to manage our forests, fire can have many positive benefits."*



## River Visions

**B**ruce Jackson, highly acclaimed nature landscape photographer, will be the featured presenter at **River Visions**, the Deschutes Basin Land Trust's Fall 2002 fundraiser. Set for **Sunday, October 20th from 4:00-6:30 p.m.**, the event will be held at the **Deschutes River Ranch Lodge** in Tumalo.

Share an evening with Bruce, whose dramatic color images pay homage to the spiritual essence of the American West. Bruce will provide a slide presentation and share some of his experiences behind the images. Bruce's framed limited edition print, titled **'Life in Balance'**, will be auctioned along with other premium items for outdoor enthusiasts (silent auction). Light appetizers will be served along with a no-host bar.

*cont'd on page 3*

## Oregon's Record Fire Season Raises Awareness

**I**t's hard to pick up a newspaper these days without reading a fire-related article: the largest fire in Oregon history burning in the Kalmiopsis Wilderness, fingers pointing in blame for the scale of the fires that have occurred in the last several months, or President Bush's new fire policy.

The magnitude of the fires in the western U.S. in recent years is due in part to decades of fire suppression and the resulting build up of fuels in our forests. But fire is a natural phenomenon, and our forests have evolved with frequent, low intensity fires. When used as a tool to manage our forests, fire can have many positive benefits, such as releasing nutrients, rejuvenating native plant communities, and reducing the risks of catastrophic fires.

*cont'd on page 4*



Bill Hopkins



## Executive Director's Corner



Byron Dudley

**"Thank you to all of the volunteers that toiled long and hard, out in the field."**

Where did Summer go? It seems like just yesterday that we were hiring a new Land Steward and moving into a new office. Busy is an understatement. Having thrown **Karen Allen**, our new Land Steward into the frenzy of the field season,

I'm overwhelmed with all of the activity that took place. Working with **Martin Winch**, our Camp Polk Site Manager and **Katie Ewing** our Summer Intern, the Stewardship Program made huge strides. Seed gathering, willow planting, weed pulling, monitoring and restoration planning; our Stewardship staff along with a growing corps of volunteers accomplished more on the ground this year than ever before. *Thank you to all of the volunteers that toiled long and hard, out in the field. Your efforts are showing results.*

On the project side, most of our efforts have centered on the **Metolius Preserve** and our deadline to acquire the 1,240 acre property from Weyerhaeuser. Staff has been working feverishly to interest foundations and agencies in providing funding for the Preserve. At the same time, we're also juggling our on-going fundraising for basic office operations. As a private, non-profit we count upon the generosity of our members, without which we couldn't function. For this reason, we need to keep building our membership by getting the word out and by getting people out to our Preserves.

But, staff can't do it alone. We need your help. If you haven't renewed your membership, please do so. If you know of someone who isn't a member, but should be, please urge them to join. Alternately, you can send us their names and we'll forward them information. With your help, we can accomplish great things, but only with your help.

**Brad Chalfant**, Executive Director



## Land Trust Television Debut

With much thanks to the Deschutes County Commissioners, the Land Trust debuted on Central Oregon Cable this summer with a six minute "mini-documentary" that showed repeatedly through the month of August. The program was an edition of "**Inside Deschutes County**" and focused on the Land Trust's **Back to Home Waters** program and the pending Metolius Preserve acquisition. Underwater footage of fish and the scenic **Metolius River** helped tell the story of the on-going effort to restore habitat for the reintroduction of salmon and steelhead to the upper Deschutes Basin.

The Land Trust is also anxiously awaiting the broadcast of an hour long documentary this Fall by **Oregon Public Broadcasting**. Deschutes Basin Land Trust staff spent four days this past Spring



OPB films as students monitor water quality of Squaw Creek

with an OPB film crew working on a documentary that highlights land trust efforts here in Oregon. The crew shot footage at the future **Metolius Preserve**, filmed a middle school class doing stream monitoring at **Camp Polk Meadow** and interviewed a **Squaw Creek** area landowner. OPB hasn't released their Fall schedule yet, but stay tuned.



# Back to Home Waters

A Program of the Deschutes Basin Land Trust

Staff continues to invest a large amount of time in the **Metolius Preserve** project. The project is the cornerstone of our **Back to Home Waters** effort in the **Metolius subbasin**. The Land Trust has an option to purchase 1,240 acres of timberland along **Lake Creek**, the creek that flows between Suttle Lake and the Metolius, and we **must raise \$3,000,000 by July, 2003**, when our option expires. It is likely this option represents our only chance to secure this important habitat as Weyerhaeuser, the property owner, is currently soliciting back-up offers for the property.

Fundraising efforts have been focused on charitable foundations and state and federal agencies. We've received uniformly positive response from the local community and funders alike, but we're still awaiting that large "anchor" commitment needed to make the project successful.

Exciting things are happening with our broader **Back to Home Waters** effort. We recently met with the **Oregon Water Trust**, the **Deschutes Resources Conservancy**, and the **Upper Deschutes Watershed Council**, to begin mapping out a restoration strategy for the Squaw Creek subwatershed. All of the groups share the approach of achieving conservation goals through the willing participation of landowners. The Upper Deschutes Watershed Council has completed its **Squaw Creek Watershed Action Plan**, and we look forward to working with them to implement the plan on our existing and future projects.

In other parts of the Basin, we're working with the **Crooked River Watershed Council** to complete baseline aquatic habitat surveys on the Crooked River. These surveys are an important first step to identifying and prioritizing habitat restoration projects.

**Brad Nye**, *Conservation Project Manager*



## Why Endowment?

Our mission requires that we take the long view...gifts to the Land Trust Endowment Fund offset operational costs to ensure special lands are conserved for generations to come.



## River Visions

*cont'd from page one*

Proceeds from the event and silent auction will support the Land Trust's work including the **Back to Home Waters** program and the development of **Community Preserves**. Tickets are \$25 per person or \$45 for two and can be purchased by check or credit card through the Land Trust office. Call Jessica at (541) 330-0017 for more information or to purchase tickets.

*Bruce Jackson Image: 'Life in Balance', a silent auction item at River Visions.*



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## Newsletter

Jessica Huettl  
Layout/Design

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The Deschutes Basin Land Trust acquires land or conservation easements from willing sellers or donors. Acquired lands are managed to preserve their natural and scenic values. The Land Trust serves landowners within the Deschutes Basin, which includes lands in Crook, Deschutes, Jefferson, Klamath, Sherman and Wasco counties drained by the Deschutes River and its tributaries. The Trust has been recognized by the IRS as a 501 (c)(3) tax-exempt organization.



## Fire Awareness *cont'd from page one*

Due to fuels accumulation, prescribed fire is often best used in conjunction with initial thinning to reduce fuel loading.

With the heightened awareness of and concern over fire and forest management, we thought it appropriate to *share our efforts to manage forested lands owned or overseen by the Land Trust.*

At **Camp Polk Meadow Preserve**, we are doing minor thinning in the Ponderosa Pine woodland to reduce fuel loading, remove hazard trees near roads, and enhance wildlife habitat. The goal here is to break up areas of dense, continuous horizontal and vertical ladder fuels, while leaving a healthy forest with several large snags and wildlife piles for bird and wildlife habitat.

The management goals of the **Hopkins-Young Special Management Area** include enhancing forest and habitat features to benefit old-growth dependent species. Improving habitat for **white headed woodpecker and northern goshawk** has the added benefit of reducing fuels and creating open, park-like ponderosa pine conditions similar to those that existed decades ago when natural fires burned more frequently and with less intensity than today. If and when a fire moves through the forest, the

large trees will be more likely to survive and understory plant species will be invigorated.

The 160-acre **Trout Creek Conservation Easement** lies in a ponderosa pine woodland near the town of Sisters. Trout Creek, an intermittent stream that bisects the property, is lined with a healthy population of **Peck's Penstemon**, a rare wildflower that grows only in a small area in Central Oregon. Fire opens the forest to light and helps reduce competition from surrounding plants. Efforts are currently underway to secure funding for fuels reduction that will benefit the forest, Peck's Penstemon, and the surrounding community.

A prime conservation and education opportunity lies ahead with the future acquisition of the 1,240-acre **Metolius Preserve**. We are currently developing a conceptual management plan that will include proactively managing the forest to enhance old-growth stand conditions, including returning fire at its historic frequency. We hope to partner with the Forest Service, and to use the preserve as an outdoor classroom to tell the story of eastside forests, their fire ecology and evolving forest management practices.

**Karen Allen, Land Steward**

*Special thanks to Carl Yee, Steve Fitzgerald, and Stu Garrett for input on forest management.*

## Monthly Giving Increases Value of Your Gift

The Monthly Giving Plan is an easy way for members to make an automatic monthly contribution throughout the year. By prior arrangement a specific amount is authorized by you and automatically deducted from your bank account, Visa or Mastercard at the end of the month, with the proceeds going to fund projects like our **Back to Home Waters** and **Community Preserves** programs.

### *Your participation...*

- Reduces our costs for processing donations.
- Speeds your gift to protect special lands.
- Provides the Land Trust with a reliable stream of funds so we can better plan for projects.
- Saves resources by not having to write checks or receive membership renewal letters again!

To sign up for the Monthly Program *check the box in the enclosed envelope* or call the office for more information at (541) 330-0017.



Bob Woodward



# Land Trust Stewardship A Year in Pictures



Bill Miller

*Land Trust volunteer works with students to collect groundwater level data at Camp Polk Meadow Preserve.*



Bill Miller

*Board Member, Jerry Norquist and Project Manager, Brad Nye watch as Board Member Rick Rupp assists with releasing fish in the Metolius River.*



*Participants in the Riparian Planting Workshop install a fascine to practice a streambank stabilization technique.*



*Norma Funai and Jo Anne Heinzel lead an informational tour of Camp Polk Meadow Preserve for Riverfest 2002.*



*Students learn observation skills as part of WolfTree's environmental educational program.*



*Land Steward, Karen Allen, demonstrates planting techniques for students at Camp Polk Meadow Preserve.*

***Many thanks to the countless volunteers who make our stewardship work possible!***



# The President's Pen



Bob Woodward

**“there are few guarantees that these special places will be available for future enjoyment”**

I hope you enjoyed a few of Central Oregon's special places this summer. Maybe you went for a bike ride on the back country trails or possibly you enjoyed the beauty of our rivers and streams while on a fishing trip. Whatever

your activity was I'm sure that you were aware of the beauty and wide open spaces we have to enjoy!

While there are few guarantees that these special places will forever be available for future enjoyment, the Land Trust is working hard to conserve some of the best of our signature landscape. It doesn't happen quickly or easily. Nor can the Land Trust save every special place, but we can protect much of what makes Central Oregon unique, so long as we have the capacity to do our work.

Throughout this edition of Landscapes you can read about the variety of projects that we've undertaken. You'll also see that we've added significantly to our team, allowing us to do more to save the special places of our Basin.

My previous communications have always asked for your help and involvement. Now, however, I'm telling you that your financial support is critical. 2002 has been a difficult year for many parts of the economy, which poses huge challenges for the Land Trust and our efforts.

I am committed to the work of our Land Trust and I know that you, a supporter of the Deschutes Basin Land Trust, share that commitment.

The Land Trust is a leader in local land conservation and I am doing all that I can to help continue this important work. I hope you will help with a contribution this month.

**John Casey, Board President**

*Katie Ewing, our Summer Land Steward Intern, came to the Land Trust from Colorado to assist with our stewardship program. Many thanks to Katie for all her hard work!*



## An Intern's Perspective

The Land Trust sponsored internship provided a meaningful, educational, work based experience. When I began this internship, I did not know what to expect. The entire experience provided a great deal of insight that I intend to use in future positions. I accomplished many tasks that advanced my understanding of the mission, concepts and work of the Land Trust. My hands-on experience included performing project assessments, management and monitoring of conservation easements, as well as planning, restoration and management of Land Trust Preserves. I also assisted with mapping and



*Land Steward, Karen Allen (left) and Summer Intern, Katie Ewing stop for a photo op while doing survey work at the proposed Metolius Preserve*

control of non-native invasive species. I enjoyed learning from and assisting Karen Allen, the Land Trust's new Land Steward. I am grateful that I was given the opportunity to work with quality staff and get to know each of the unique lands managed by the Land Trust. The fieldwork aspect was the luxury of the job. I hope that my contributions, including development of a management plan template and weed population mapping, will be useful to the organization for years to come.

**Katie Ewing, Land Steward Intern**



# Noxious Weed Avengers

Some of the most inspirational moments I spent on the preserves this summer - feeling the early morning chill give way to dawn or watching an orange sun drop behind the Cascades - was while doing none other than...pulling weeds. We made leaps and bounds this summer getting the upper hand on our hit list of invaders: **spotted knapweed, teasel, Canada and bull thistle, mullein, Russian thistle, reed canarygrass.** These non-native species invade and displace native plant communities and reduce native biodiversity that the preserves are intended to protect.

Our efforts were initially guided by a Weed Management Plan for **Camp Polk Meadow Preserve**. We then mapped the distribution and abundance of weeds on all our properties to help us prioritize our control efforts and to monitor our progress. *We want to thank profusely the many dedicated volunteers who gave a gloved hand to invasive species control efforts.*



*Pacific Crest Outward Bound group with 33 garbage bags of weeds removed from Indian Ford Meadow Preserve.*

It's truly amazing how much work a group can accomplish in 3 hours - like the Outward Bound group who pulled 33 full garbage bags of thistle and mullein from Indian Ford Meadow Preserve, enough to FILL 2 subaru wagons! Look for our calendar of events in the Spring newsletter for opportunities to learn more about native and non-native plants, enjoy the preserves, and help us assault the invaders!

**Karen Allen, Land Steward**



## Time Well Spent!

Philanthropy is much more than giving money. Opportunities to serve are just as important as opportunities to give. Volunteering does make a difference.

## Lands in trust, protected forever... for Oregon!

**W**hat does that mean for you? One way you can ensure that phrase has lasting meaning is to consider joining the **Deschutes Basin Legacy Society**. Please join the growing number of members who have made thoughtful gifts to the Land Trust in their will. Simply put, your gift will result in the permanent protection of the lands that are at the heart of what's special about the **Deschutes River Basin**.

- Lands that provide habitat for the Basin's rich heritage of forest, fish and wildlife.
- Lands that anchor the agricultural/ranchland economy of the Deschutes Basin.
- Lands that provide outdoor classrooms as "Community Preserves."
- Lands that provide the scenic open space that has defined the landscapes of the Basin for generations.



Kyle Gorman

The Land Trust has set up an endowment fund with the **Oregon Community Foundation** and is a participating member of **Leave a Legacy** program. For more information on bequests, please contact **Brian Harrington** at 541-330-0017.





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## News Flash

Access to **Camp Polk Meadow Preserve** will be changing. We'll soon have a new driveway off Camp Polk Road to access the Preserve.

***The new access road will enter our property just south of Cemetery Road. Visitors to the Preserve are requested to use this road to access the Preserve.***

## Wish List

- Bookshelves
- Color Laser Printer
- Digital Camera
- Easels
- Benches for Preserves
- 8 ft Conference Table & Chairs
- Laptop Computer for Presentations
- Woodworking skills for sign creation
- Dissecting Scope for plant identification
- Volunteers

## Events

- River Visions 2002 Fundraiser  
**Sunday, October 20th - 4:00-6:30 p.m.**
- National LTA Rally - October 26-29th, Austin, TX

## A note to our readers

If you received duplicates of this publication, or no longer wish to be on our mailing list, please help us conserve resources (i.e. paper and ink; printing cost) by calling us at (541) 330-0017.  
Thank you very much!

**Deschutes Basin Land Trust**  
760 NW Harriman Street, Suite 100 • Bend, OR 97701  
Phone (541) 330-0017 • Fax (541) 330-0013  
info@deschuteslandtrust.org • www.deschuteslandtrust.org