# LANDSCAPES

### **FEATURED THIS ISSUE**



Counting Fish (2)



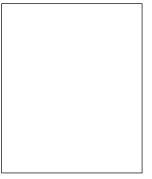
Support = Success (4,5)



Metolius Preserve
 What's next...
 (7)

"With the purchase of the land comes some immense stewardship responsibilies."

## River Visions



Danae Bennett Miller, nationally known bronze sculptor, will be the featured presenter at River Visions, the Deschutes Basin Land Trust's Fall 2003 fundraiser. Set for Sunday, October 12th from 4:00-7:00 p.m., the event will be held at the Deschutes River Ranch Lodge in Tumalo.

Working primarily in cast bronze, Danae's energetic, expressive works draw forth the essence of each subject beyond total realism.

Danae will share her experiences in observing her subject matter, as well as the casting process which brings her art to life. A silent auction will feature artwork and premium items for outdoor enthusiasts. Light appetizers will be served along with a no-host bar.

Proceeds from the event and silent auction will support the Land Trust's work. Tickets are \$30 per person or \$55 for two and can be purchased by check or credit card through the Land Trust office. Call (541)330-0017 for information or tickets.

## Acquisition Accomplished Metolius Preserve: 1,240 acres

You've undoubtedly heard the news by now...with your help, we successfully purchased the land for the Metolius Preserve!

You recognized the importance of this project and responded in a phenomenal way. In just under 18 months, the Land Trust raised roughly \$2.4 million. Funding for the project has come from local donors and donors around the world, as the Metolius is a truly magical place.

We're grateful to all those who've contributed so generously of their time and money to create the Metolius Preserve. I'd like to note three who's participation was central to our success. The first is of course **Willamette Industries** for having the vision and commitment to work with the Land Trust to create this opportunity in the first place. While Willamette no longer exists, their commitment to Oregon was second to none and we're proud to be a part of their legacy.

We were also fortunate that the **Orvis Company**, a giant in the outdoor industry, recognized the significance of this effort and jumped into the campaign, and in the process taking the campaign to over 250,000 people worldwide. *cont'd on page 3* 

## Remembering Why We Do This Work



Board Member, Rick Rupp, releasing chinook fry in the Metolius River

"With each act of stewardship, this Preserve belongs a little bit more to each of us."

Tpon learning that the Metolius Preserve transaction had closed on Friday, July 25th, the Land Trust's staff loaded up and drove out to our newest Preserve. I'm not quite sure what each of us was expecting; not much had changed, except for some document being recorded in Madras. A sense of

anti-climax prevaded. However, as we unloaded the materials to install a temporary kiosk, the sense of teamwork and camaraderie that had carried us through 18 months of a capital campaign rapidly reappeared.

In the past 18 months, the Land Trust's staff, Board, volunteers and some very generous donors have combined to create the beginnings of something very special. The purchase of the Metolius Preserve

is both a coming of age for the Land Trust and an important springboard for our Back to Home *Waters* program and the dream of restoring salmon and steelhead to the upper Basin. After all, this campaign wasn't simply about 1,240 acres, but about laying the foundation for landscape scale conservation in the years ahead.

Yet it's our acts of stewardship that make this all real. We have habitat to enhance and manage, roads to convert to trails and a forest to carefully steward. With each act of stewardship, this Preserve belongs a little bit more to each of us. And with each act, it becomes more a part of each of us. We live in a time when our lives are increasingly chaotic and less centered. Can you think of a better way to become part of this place, than by investing a little bit of yourself in helping to steward a very special place? Consider this your invitation.

**Brad Chalfant**, Executive Director



## Spring Chinook Study Continues with Lake Creek Focus

iologist Jens Lovtang, a masters' student at **D**Oregon State University, is continuing his study of spring chinook habitat use in the Metolius Basin. Over the past three years, spring chinook salmon fry have been released into the Metolius River, Spring Creek, Heising Spring, Canyon Creek, and Lake Creek. Lovtang tracks growth and distribution of these fish to assess the quality of the rearing habitat. Portland General Electric is funding the study as part of the larger effort to restore fish passage at the Pelton-Round Butte dam complex.

Jens Lovtang and Jeremy Romer snorkeling Lake Creek for spring chinook.

Preliminary results of the study indicate that Lake Creek, in the vicinity of the Metolius Preserve, may provide the

best spring chinook rearing habitat in the basin. Snorkeling surveys show that the two upper Lake Creek study areas contain the highest densities and the greatest total number of juvenile chinook salmon of any release stream.

This year, Lovtang released more than twice as many fish as last year (140,000 to 55,000). The increased numbers will allow him to assess whether the fish release design has any influence on distribution. The latest snorkeling surveys on Lake Creek show that fish are both more widely dispersed and present in greater densities than last year -- further evidence that Lake Creek is in fact a "hot spot" for juvenile chinook rearing. For more information on Lovtang's study, go to http://oregonstate.edu/~lovtangj/index.html

### Metolius Preserve Acquisition, contd from page 1

And of course, I'd like to thank the woman who was truly the heart and soul of this campaign, Mrs. Elizabeth H. "Becky" Johnson. Long a giant among Central Oregon's community leaders, Mrs. Johnson made the creation of a Metolius Preserve her personal mission. While no single person could be said to have pulled off this campaign, Mrs. Johnson's efforts were critical to generating the individual and community support that assured the financial support of agencies and foundations, alike. Her drive was such that the Land Trust's Board and staff were constantly racing to keep up with her.

**However, our work is far from being done**. With the purchase of the land comes some immense **stewardship responsibilities** and we haven't yet raised all the funds needed to turn this property into the gem it deserves to be. For this reason, we'll continue to raise funds to enhance wildlife habitat, convert roads to trails, reduce the wildfire threat and create interpretive facilities to tell the story of this remarkable eastside forest, its unique wildlife and how we'll manage this forestland sustainably.

While a formal dedication of the Metolius Preserve won't take place until **next spring**, we hope you'll help us celebrate this milestone achievement at one of our many events this fall. We also hope that you'll continue to help us in the months and years ahead, as we steward this very special place.

## Metolius Preserve Major Gifts

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The Land Trust Endowment Fund offsets operational costs to ensure special lands are conserved for generations to come.
Give today!

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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



## **Conservation Easements**

A conservation easement is a voluntary legal agreement between a landowner and the Land Trust to preserve the special values of the property.

### A Flexible Conservation Tool

Property owners grant conservation easements to protect their land from incompatible activities while retaining private ownership and use. The provisions of each easement are **tailored to the particular property and individual owner**. The specific restrictions are detailed in the easement document, and the landowner conveys to the Land Trust the responsibility to monitor and enforce compliance with these restrictions. The conservation easement "runs with the land" and is binding on all future owners of the property.

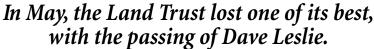
Easement provisions address such issues as subdivision of the property, construction of roads or buildings, mining, or protection of historic resources. An easement restricts development or use of the property to the degree necessary to protect the significant values of the property. **Granting a conservation easement to the Land Trust does not open the land to public access.** 

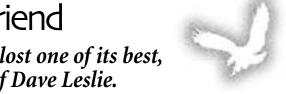
#### Potential Tax Benefits

If your property meets Internal Revenue Service requirements defining conservation purposes, you may receive an **income tax deduction** for the donation. In general, the value of the easement donation is the difference between the property's fair market value without the easement and its fair market value with the easement in place. The easement may also reduce estate and property taxes. It is important to discuss these potential financial benefits with an **attorney or tax advisor** because each landowner's situation is different.

**Brad Nye**, Conservation Project Manager

## A Tribute To A Friend





Dave was not only a co-founder of the Land Trust, but continued to be one of our most ardent and committed Board members. A geologist and land use planner by training, Dave had a perspective and personality which compelled him to think far into the future. It was his unique perspective that caused Dave to always push the Board and Staff of the Land Trust to work a little harder, be a little more creative, and dream a little bigger. Impatient and aggressive, Dave was also the one who always made us slow down and pay attention to the details.

Dave managed to pack several lifetimes into his



brief fifty years, I'd argue that many of his proudest and most enduring accomplishments were on behalf of the Land Trust. Dave has left as his legacy, an organization to conserve and steward the very best of our landscape, but perhaps most important to Dave, an organization that will stand the test of time. Few people ever contribute to a community as Dave did. We're greatly fortunate to have known him, we're deeply saddened to have lost him. *Thank you, Dave*.



## Metolius Preserve...What Happens Next With the acquisition accomplished, we begin to conduct the

management activities to help protect the Preserve.

#### Our actions support four management priorities:

- protect, and where necessary, restore fish and wildlife habitat;
- protect and promote old-growth and healthy forest stands;
- provide public interpretation, educational, and research opportunities;
- provide for low impact recreational use where consistent with natural resource protection and restoration goals.

Some initial actions we'll take on the Preserve include signs to inform visitors of the Land Trust ownership and how we intend to manage the property. We'll be installing temporary kiosks to display maps and information; leading tours; proceeding with natural resource inventories; and teaching environmental education through our partner, Wolftree.

Some of our initial restoration work will include pulling invasive



We'd like to commend Willamette Industries for their years of good stewardship of the property.

weeds, initiating the process of converting roads to trails, removing slash

piles and log landings from previous forestry operations and replanting these sites. This fall will also be a time of continued forest management and reforestation planning so that we can help manage the forest to protect wildlife, reduce the incidence of insects and disease, and enhance the growth of a healthy forest.

We encourage you to join us on the Preserve for a **Saturday work party** (Sept. 6<sup>th</sup> and Oct. 4<sup>th</sup>), a walking tour on Sept 24th, or a biking tour on Oct. 4th. Call (541)330-0017 for more information.

Karen Allen, Land Steward

## A Way to Give...for private land conservation, forever!

The **Deschutes Basin Legacy Society** recognizes supporters who have invested in the future of the Land Trust with a planned gift. A planned gift is the ultimate expression of commitment to private voluntary land conservation in the Deschutes Basin. These may include:

- •Bequests gift of cash, appreciated securities, or personal property via will or living trust.
- ·Life income gifts gift of cash, appreciated securities or other assets such as real estate that provide you and/or beneficiary with income for life or a fixed period of time. These gifts can take the form of **Charitable Lead Trusts** where income is paid to the charity for a defined period after which the assets in the trust pass to beneficiaries of the donor's choice.
- •Life Insurance name the Land Trust as the beneficiary of your life insurance policy or transfer ownership of the policy to the Land Trust during your lifetime.
- Retirement Accounts designation of a portion or all of unspent retirement fund assets.
- •Real Estate gift of real estate, allowing you or another to use the property for life, or creation of a Charitable Remainder Trust, to generate additional income.

Please join the growing numbers of members who have made thoughtful gifts to the Land Trust in their will. The Land Trust has established an endowment fund with the **Oregon Community Foundation** and is a participating member of the Leave a Legacy program. For more information on bequests, please contact Brian Harrington at 541-330-0017.



### **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.



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## Wish List

The Land Trust would like to "hire" a *Volunteer Metolius Preserve Caretaker* who can help us actively manage the property.

Volunteers are also needed to assist with *design and construction* of two permanent kiosks for the Metolius Preserve.

- Bookshelves
- Color Laser Printer
- Digital Camera
- Easels
- Benches for Preserves
- 8 ft Conference Table & Chairs
- Woodworking skills for signs and kiosks
- Dissecting Scope for plant identification
- Volunteers

Contact us at (541) 330-0017 if you would like to help by donating time or services.

## **Events**

- Metolius Preserve Tours Walk - September 24th - 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Bike - October 4th - 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- Stewardship Work Parties
  September 6th, 17th; October 4th
  Stewardship Potluck: October 15th
- Camp Polk Meadow Tours September 9th, 19th, 23rd
- River Visions 2003 Fundraiser Sunday, October 12th - 4:00-7:00 p.m.
- *National LTA Rally*October 16-19th, Sacramento, CA

### 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!

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