

LANDSCAPES

SPRING 2007

FEATURED THIS ISSUE



- Remembering Becky Johnson (3)



- Upcoming Activities (4&5)



- Skyline Forest Update (7)

Protecting Family Land



Boyer family photo

Bill and Ann Boyer on a snowy winter's day.

"One of his final wishes was to see this land protected."

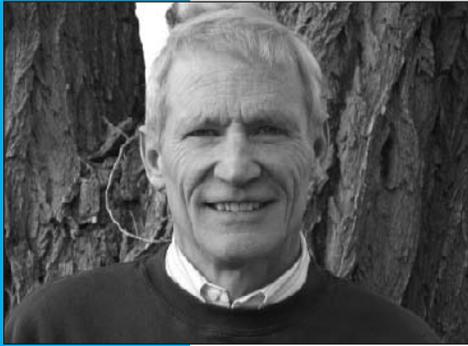
The Boyer family has lived in Central Oregon for 25 years. Worried about increased development in the growing Cloverdale area, Bill and Ann Boyer decided last year to enlist the Land Trust's help to permanently protect their land for wildlife. Bill Boyer passed away in May 2006 after a long illness, but Ann, along with the couple's sons Dave and Jeff, continued forward with the project. In late December an agreement was signed to permanently protect the Boyers' 80 acres of wildlife habitat, old growth juniper woodland, and scenic views in the Cloverdale area.

"My husband died last spring after a long illness. One of his final wishes was to see this land protected. We decided that **creating a land preservation agreement with the Land Trust was the best way to make sure our land stayed undeveloped and home to wildlife** even when we are gone," commented Ann Boyer.

Brad Nye, the Land Trust's project manager, noted that "the Boyers have given a gift to the whole community by protecting significant wildlife habitat, the rural character and the scenic beauty of the local area. It's very rewarding to work with people who make these types of commitments to the land and future generations of Oregonians."

Land preservation agreements, also known as conservation easements, allow private landowners to continue to own and use their land while restricting development and other uses of the land to protect wildlife habitat, scenic views, important farmland, ranchland, or timberland, and other natural resources. The Boyer land will remain private property but will protect these important natural resources for generations to come.

Finishing the Story of Our Future



Staff photo

As Board President, Collins Hemingway has been leading the strategic planning process.

Last fall, the Land Trust kicked off a **strategic planning** process intended to reassess our direction and develop the capacity to implement programs such as *Back to Home Waters* and projects such as Skyline Forest. In the first phase of the process, **we received excellent feedback** from four focus

groups, forty personal interviews, and an online survey of members.

Among the positives: You support the Land Trust because **we achieve real results** with our protected properties. We enable people, particularly children, to understand nature's values. A number of you also said we "elevate hope" because our success in protecting and restoring special places also encourages citizens to engage in other activities that improve their communities.

Other feedback encouraged us to step

beyond individual projects and **take a more holistic approach** to everything we do. We need to "finish the story" for each stream, developing further plans to protect habitat and connect with other critical lands.

Much of our planning has resulted in tightening the scope and focus for each of our major programs: *Community Preserves*, *Back to Home Waters*, and *Working Farms, Forests and Ranches*. By doing this, and articulating a comprehensive long-term plan and budget, we can develop funding to implement entire programs rather than just individual projects.

Finally, we got consistent feedback that **we need to more fully engage people**: current and past board members, general members, students, related organizations, and other friend. A first step in this direction: we are planning a general membership meeting in October. Stay tuned for more information.

We look forward to seeing you then—as well as out on Land Trust properties this season.

Collins Hemingway, Board President

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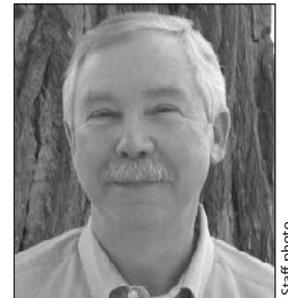
Comings & Goings

The Land Trust is **deeply grateful** to **John Casey** and **Dwain Fullerton** for the eight years of dedication, generosity, and leadership each has given on the Board. John and Dwain both served as Board Presidents during periods of tremendous growth and their leadership led to dramatic increases in the number of acres conserved and our capacity to manage and restore those lands. Having **completed their terms on the Board**, each has committed to staying actively engaged to help the Land Trust build the capacity to accomplish the Skyline Forest project and see salmon swimming *Back to Home Waters*.

We are also pleased to note a **new board member**. **Bob Evans** and his wife Sharon live in

the Redmond area. Bob spent much of his professional career in Hillsboro as a builder and developer of commercial buildings.

An avid fisherman and birder, Bob was instrumental in the creation of Hillsboro's Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve and chaired its campaign for interpretive facilities for the local community. **Bob's extensive experience** with Jackson Bottoms and his ability to work with diverse perspectives will be a big boost for the Land Trust.



Welcome to Bob Evans our newest board member!

Staff photo



Community Preserves

Conserving land for local communities.

Remembering Becky Johnson

This winter brought the passing of one of the Land Trust's grandest **Community Preserve** champions: **Becky Johnson**. She died in January at age 93 at her home in Redmond. Becky was a **tremendous supporter** of the Land Trust from the very beginning, and her efforts on behalf of our Metolius Preserve were key to our acquisition of the property.

Though we are saddened by the loss of Becky, we know **she would be proud** of the recent updates to the **Becky Johnson Nature Trail** at the Metolius Preserve. Last fall we reported on the installation of new viewing platforms along Lake Creek. We also worked with **Trout Unlimited, J Bar J**, and numerous other Land Trust **volunteers** to finish the trail and connect it to the platforms and new bridges.

Finally, we are excited to report that new interpretive signs will be installed at the Preserve early this summer. Signs in the South Fork Kiosk will orient visitors to the Preserve and recognize those who contributed to the Metolius Preserve campaign. Additional signs will be placed on the new viewing platforms. One will tell the story of Lake Creek's salmon and the other of streamside vegetation and wildlife around the Preserve. We hope you'll get out and **visit Becky's trail this spring!**



Becky Johnson at the 2003 Metolius Preserve dedication.

Staff photo



This spring at Camp Polk:

Watch pygmy nuthatches as they vie for nesting cavities and employ unmated males to do the nesting work!

Metolius Restorative Thinning Nearing Completion



Staff photo

Thinning underbrush at the Metolius Preserve.

As you know, for the last year the Land Trust has been knee deep in **restoring the forests of the Metolius Preserve**. Crews from Integrated Resource Management (IRM) and Melcher Logging have been thinning the overcrowded stands to create a mosaic of high, medium, and low densities—all with the goal of restoring wildlife habitat and old-growth ponderosa pine conditions.

To date, the crews **have completed both thinning and the mowing and grinding of slash, shrubs, and grand fir seedlings** in the southern

2/3 of the Preserve. This winter they've also done a lot of hand thinning and piling in the northern section of the Preserve and burned most of the piles. In spring we'll **seed** these burn sites with **native grasses**.

Later this year we will begin implementation of our **prescribed burning plan**. This plan calls for ground burning areas that have been thinned and mowed to help restore natural ecological functions. Be sure to **join a forestry tour this year to find out more** about these and other restoration activities at the Preserve.

2007 Land Trust Tours

Ecology Hike - Metolius Preserve

April 14, 10AM-1PM with Paul Edgerton
Explore the forest and plant ecology of the Metolius Preserve on this 3-4 mile moderate hike.

Geology & Fish Hike - Alder Springs

April 20, 9AM-1PM with Travis Thornton & Brad Nye
Visit the geologic past and explore current efforts to restore native fish on this 3-4 mile strenuous hike.

Biography of a Place - Camp Polk Meadow

April 20, 1-3PM with Martin Winch
Join a local author to explore the history and ecology of one of Central Oregon's oldest places.

Bird Walk - Rimrock Ranch

April 21, 8-11AM with Norma Funai & Mary Crow
Celebrate Earth Day with a bird walk at this private ranch with outstanding fish & wildlife habitat.

Bird Walk - Camp Polk Meadow

April 28, 8:30-10:30AM with Norma Funai
Bird your way around the meadow and wetlands of one of Central Oregon's birding hot spots.

Bird Walk - Indian Ford Meadow

May 4, 8:30-10:30AM with Norma Funai
Explore the meadow and creek bottom in search of warblers, rails and other feathered friends.

Whychus Restoration - Camp Polk Meadow

May 8, 10AM-12PM with
Amanda Egertson & Ryan Houston
Learn about plans for restoring 1.7 miles of Whychus Creek for salmon and steelhead.

Ecology Hike - Metolius Preserve

May 11, 10AM-1PM with Paul Edgerton,
Mary Crow & Amanda Egertson
Explore the forest ecology and birds of the Metolius Preserve on this 3-4 mile moderate hike.

Bird Walk - Camp Polk Meadow

May 12, 8:30-10:30AM with Norma Funai
Bird your way around the meadow and wetlands of one of Central Oregon's birding hot spots.

Wildlife Walk - Camp Polk Meadow

May 19, 9-11AM with Jim Anderson & Tom Rodhouse
Join renowned naturalists to explore the wild side of Camp Polk Meadow.

Bird Walk - Rimrock Ranch

May 25, 8-11AM with Norma Funai
Search for birds on this private ranch along Whychus Creek.

Fish Walk - Metolius Preserve

June 2, 1-3PM with Rod Bonacker
Learn about local efforts to bring salmon and steelhead back to their home waters.

Bird Walk - Rimrock Ranch

June 12, 8-11AM with Mary Crow
Search for birds on this beautiful private ranch along Whychus Creek.

Butterfly Walk - Metolius Preserve

June 15, 12:30-2:30PM with Amanda Egertson
Learn about the ecology and identification of all things fluttery.

Restoration & History Walk - Camp Polk Meadow

June 16, 9-11AM with Joyce Padgham
Explore the meadow while learning about its unique history and exciting future.

Family Birding - Camp Polk Meadow

June 23, 9-11AM with Norma Funai
Children and parents, come search for birds on a tour designed for families. Hands-on activities!

Plant Walk - Metolius Preserve

June 23, 10AM-12PM with Paul Edgerton
Catch the summer wildflowers and learn other plant ecology on this guided walk.

Bird Walk and Weed Pull - Camp Polk Meadow

June 30, 9-11AM with Sherry and Larry Berrin
Bird your way around the meadow and then stay and give something back to the land.

Advance registration is required, please call (541) 330-0017.
Watch your mailbox in June for the July through September tour schedule!

Explore one of the unique places we have conserved with a knowledgeable naturalist.

Land Trust Preserve Tours fill quickly, call us at (541) 330-0017 to register today! For more information visit www.deschuteslandtrust.org



Get Outside and Give Back in 2007

Volunteer for a 2007 work party! Register by calling (541) 330-0017. Join our volunteer email list contact sarah@deschuteslandtrust.org and learn about even more opportunities to give back.

Indian Ford Meadow
Earth Day Clean-up
April 21, 10AM-12PM

Boyer Fence Pull
May 5, 9AM-12PM

Indian Ford Meadow Weed Pull
May 12, 9AM-12PM

Indian Ford Meadow Weed Pull
May 30, 9AM-12PM

Metolius Preserve
Spring Trail Clean-up
June 9, 9:30AM-12:30PM

Camp Polk Meadow Weed Pull
June 15, 9AM - 12PM

Camp Polk Meadow Bird Walk
and Weed Pull
June 30, 9AM - 11AM birds, 11AM - 12PM weeds



Staff photo

Homeschool students help with spring clean-up on the Becky Johnson Nature Trail at the Metolius Preserve.

Adopt-a-trail

Want to help take care of a **Community Preserve**, but need to do it on your own time? Volunteer to adopt a trail! Simply visit your section of trail several times a season to help keep it clear of debris and weeds. To find out more, email amanda@deschuteslandtrust.org.



Save the Date:

Volunteer
Happy Hour.
May 24th
4-6PM

Visit
[www.deschuteslandtrust.org/
specialevents.htm](http://www.deschuteslandtrust.org/specialevents.htm)
for details

Dirty Half Trail Run - June 10, 2007



We hope you'll consider running the 2007 **Dirty Half Trail Run**. This great run, put on annually by the **FootZone**, is a fun run with proceeds going to a good cause—the Land Trust! Registration has expanded this year; but, if past years are any indication, you'll want to save your spot now. We'd love to see many Land Trusters running the race!

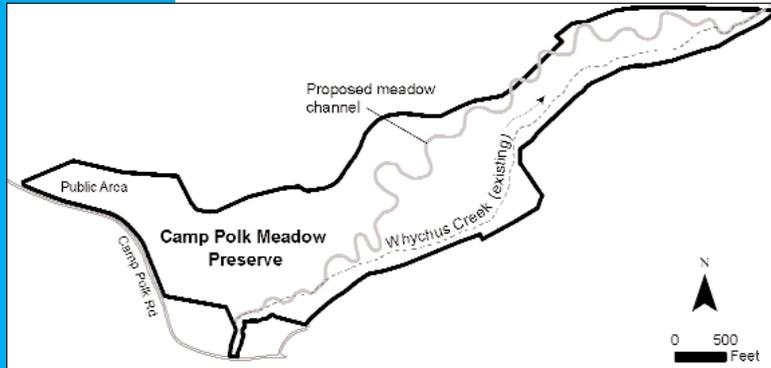
Not interested in running? **Volunteer to help out!** The Land Trust will be helping with aid stations and race-packet stuffing, so we'll need volunteers to make the event a success. Contact Sarah if you are interested in helping at (541) 330-0017 or sarah@deschuteslandtrust.org



Back to Home Waters

Conserving habitat for returning salmon and steelhead.

Restoring Camp Polk's Whychus Creek



With several big *Back to Home Waters* projects recently completed, we thought an **update on the restoration** side of the program would be useful. At Camp Polk Meadow Preserve, the Upper Deschutes Watershed Council and the Deschutes National Forest are leading a team of professional hydrologists, botanists, and geologists to chart the restoration of **Whychus Creek**.

Plans at this point call for **returning the creek to its original channel** through the meadow (see map above). Whychus Creek is currently restricted to a straight and fast channel at the south edge of the meadow. Restoring it to its original channel would re-establish natural meanders, reconnect the creek with its historic floodplain, and **create much better fish habitat** than currently exists. It would also significantly increase the amount and quality of wetland and streamside habitat at the Preserve, benefiting many native plant and wildlife species.

As you can imagine, returning the creek to the meadow is anything but a small project. The restoration team is working on the particulars of this move and **we will likely see the restoration implemented in phases** over the next few years: 1) re-establishing the historic meadow channel, 2) establishing vegetation, and 3) finally returning water to the stream. Early this summer we will host an open house so folks can learn more about this project.



Rimrock Ranch Restoration

The Land Trust has received grants from **Portland General Electric** and the **Bella Vista Foundation** to fund the design of a stream enhancement project at Rimrock Ranch. The Rimrock Ranch stretch of Whychus Creek, like the Camp Polk reach, was straightened and bermed by the Army Corps of Engineers following the 1964 flood. Unlike Camp Polk, however, Whychus Creek retained much of the original meander pattern that it had before the straightening effort. Our focus here will likely be on **restoring the large, pool-creating features** (boulders, fallen trees) that were removed during the straightening effort, but we'll know more once we've completed the **detailed survey and assessment work** funded by these grants.

Once again, our stream restoration partner,



Whychus Creek through Rimrock Ranch has retained much of its original meander pattern.

the Upper Deschutes Watershed Council, will head up the Rimrock Ranch project and will work with the landowners, local scientists, and the Land Trust to determine the best way to enhance stream habitat for returning salmon and steelhead. Stay tuned!

Breaking News:

Steelhead will be released in Whychus Creek this spring.

Visit www.deschuteslandtrust.org/BTHW for more info.



Skyline Forest update

Nearly a year and a half has passed since the Land Trust first announced our intent to acquire **Skyline Forest**—the 33,000 acre tree farm that reaches from Bend to Sisters.

As you may recall, Fidelity National Financial acquired control last May of Skyline Forest and the 270,000 other acres in Central Oregon once owned by Crown Pacific. Since then, **the Land Trust** has been in a **continuing dialogue with the owners**, and our goal remains to **conserve every possible acre of Skyline Forest**.

Though the pace of this project ebbs and flows, protecting 33,000 acres takes time and requires a patient and focused effort. We are reminded that each of our major conservation projects has taken time to pull together. Skyline is turning out to be no different. We will be as persistent as we were with the Metolius Preserve, Rimrock Ranch and other projects.

In the meantime, with your help we'll **keep our eyes on the prize**—Oregon's first community forest, managed sustainably for our children and grandchildren. As with all Land Trust projects, it is **your support that assures each project's success**.



Three Creeks Butte as seen from the proposed Skyline Forest.

Jim Yuskavitch



Did You Know?

The Land Trust has an e-newsletter. Sign-up for the Basin Banter — monthly updates on Land Trust projects, opportunities and events!

Join today, email sarah@deschuteslandtrust.org

Invest in the Future

A planned gift to the Land Trust is the ultimate expression of commitment to land conservation in the fast-growing Deschutes Basin.

Planned gifts:

- Can be as simple as a sentence or two in your will.
- Can provide a substantial gift beyond your lifetime.
- Can take the form of charitable lead trusts, charitable gift annuities, life insurance, retirement assets or real estate.
- Can provide certain tax benefits.

For more information about investing in the future of the Land Trust, contact our planned-giving partner, The Oregon Community Foundation at 541-382-1170.

BeldenPhoto.com

**Yes! I want to preserve land in the Deschutes Basin.
I would like to make my tax deductible contribution of:**

\$60 \$120 \$300 \$500 \$_____ \$1,000 (*Five Rivers Society Member*)

Electronically transfer \$_____ (\$10 min) on the 20th of each month from the account **on my enclosed voided check.**
Signature authorizing the above transfer: _____

Please charge my Visa/Mastercard Monthly Once \$_____ Signature: _____
Card # _____ Exp. _____

My check is enclosed.

My contact information on the mailing label below is accurate.

Join the ***Basin Banter*** - the Land Trust's monthly e-news! (We will NOT share your email!) Email: _____

Please do not trade my name with other organizations.

What is the best way to help the Land Trust today?

Convert your membership to EFT! EFT (Electronic Funds Transfer) is a simple process whereby the Land Trust automatically debits your bank account each month for your donation. You determine the monthly amount and are free to stop at any time.

Why convert to EFT?

- Your donation goes further! With the average paper transaction costing around \$25 and only 25% of members responding to each renewal notice, it doesn't take a rocket scientist to determine that we have to use a significant portion of your donation to get you to renew.
- More of your donation goes to protect and restore land.
- It saves resources like paper, ink, energy, and time—for you and us!

Sign up for EFT using the form above or contact Sarah at (541) 330-0017 for more information.

Land Trust Events *See pages 4 & 5 for tours and work parties.*



DESCHUTES BASIN LAND TRUST

www.deschuteslandtrust.org

Phone (541) 330-0017 • Fax (541) 330-0013

760 NW Harriman St. Ste 100

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