



# Palouse Land Trust

*Our mission is to conserve the open space, scenery, wildlife habitat, and water quality of the Palouse region for the benefit of current and future generations.*

2009

## The Palouse Land Trust Board

Charles Burke (President)  
Gerry Wright (Former President)  
Steve Hollenhorst (Vice President)  
Henry Willmes (Treasurer)  
Jay Pengilly (Secretary)  
John Bolles  
Archie George  
Mike Jennings  
Dennis Murphy  
Dan Pierce  
Steve Shook  
Janice Smith-Hill  
Gina Wilson

## The Advisory Board

Stephen Bishop  
Roger Blanchard  
Nick Crookston  
Penny Morgan  
John Norton  
Barb Seaman  
John Thielbahr

## Executive Director

Ryan Urie

## About the Palouse Land Trust

- Founded in 1995
- Currently protects 11 easements and properties covering over 3,000 acres.
- Works across eight counties in two states
- An all-volunteer organization proudly serving the Palouse

## Contact Us!

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(208) 669-0722

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www.palouselandtrust.org

## New President, New Directions

It's been a busy year for the Palouse Land Trust! At our Board Retreat in June our board president, Gerry Wright, stepped down after many years of excellent service, and I was chosen to fill the office. We're all extremely grateful to Gerry, who will continue to serve on the board, and hope to continue his legacy of successful land conservation.

In 2009 PLT completed two new easements – one an 8.8-acre parcel of open space in the city of Moscow and the other a 50-acre spread along the Palouse River containing the endangered *Howellia aquatilis*, a federally listed threatened species.

Work on our existing obligations continues with a recently completed legal survey of Idler's Rest Nature Preserve and the annual monitoring of all 11 of our easements and properties.

We worked very hard to improve the efficiency of our organization this year. In addition to developing a new three-year strategic plan, we hired Ryan Urie, a graduate student from the University of Idaho, to assist our strategic planning effort and to enhance our record-keeping and stewardship procedures. In addition, the Palouse Land Trust is in the process of developing an updated website to enable better communication with the Palouse

community.

This momentum will continue in 2010 with new easements in the works and a spirited and capable board of directors and advisory board. We hope that you will attend our **Annual Membership Event** on Saturday, November 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. at the 1912 Center in Moscow, or visit our website ([www.palouselandtrust.org](http://www.palouselandtrust.org)) to learn about our latest activities.

All this is only possible with the support of community members like you. Your tax-deductible contributions cover our costs of operation and enable us to continue serving the landowners and general public. We hope you that you will contribute financially to our efforts, either in person at our annual membership event, or you can now donate online at our website. Thank you very much for your support,

~Charles Burke



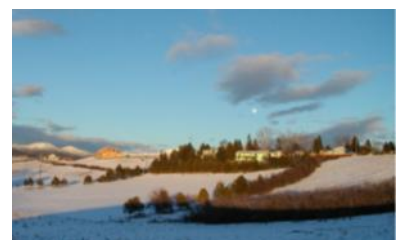
**Charles Burke, PLT's Newly Elected Board President**

## New Easement in Moscow!

In April 2009, Gail and Mark DeSantis signed a permanent Conservation Easement with the PLT to protect an 8.8-acre parcel adjacent to their home on Highland Trail in Moscow. This beautiful parcel, which occupies a hillside east of Polk St., protects open space and habitat for small game in an area of Moscow increasingly dominated by housing develop-

ment. Equally important, this parcel adjoins the expanded property now owned by the Palouse Clearwater Environmental Institute (PCEI) immediately to the south creating an extensive corridor of protected habitat. PCEI staff are working with Gail to establish native perennial forbs and shrubs on the property to further enhance its habitat value. They are

also working to establish a wetlands area in a natural drainage on the property that will be planted with camas.



# Protecting the Water Howellia

*“Water Howellia has to be one of the strangest plants in North Idaho.”*

*Howellia aquatilis* (Water Howellia) has to be one of the strangest plants in North Idaho. This inconspicuous annual grows in vernal pools and sprouts in the fall when the pools fill up. It flowers first in the spring, underwater, and then again later in the summer in the open air after the pools have dried out. Water Howellia is a very rare plant and has a range that defies logic. It is known only from a handful of locations: Flathead Lake, Ft. Lewis, Turnbull Wildlife Refuge, and in our own back yard along the Palouse River near Harvard. The only species in

its genus, taxonomists aren't even sure it really belongs in the Campanulaceae (Bellflower) family.

Water Howellia is a fragile species, sensitive to water quality, water temperature cycles, grazing, trampling, invasive species like reed canary grass, and changes in seasonal climate. In 1994 it was listed as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act, and the recovery plan developed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service considered conservation of the

Palouse River population vital to saving the species.

In the 1940s Marion Ownbey, a professor of botany at Washington State University, bought the property along the Palouse River where *Howellia aquatilis* lives. When his widow passed away a few years ago she left the property to the National Audubon Society who in turn decided to sell the property. Before they did, however, they donated a 50-acre permanent easement to the Palouse Land Trust to ensure the perpetuation of this remarkable species.

Now the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Palouse Clearwater Environmental Institute have joined the Palouse Land Trust to secure Howellia's Palouse River habitat by fencing the property to keep cattle out, weeding out reed canary grass and other harmful species, planting compatible species such as native sedges, and controlling erosion so the pools don't silt in.

Look for updates on this exciting project on the PLT website!

[www.palouselandtrust.org](http://www.palouselandtrust.org)



*The Palouse River running through PLT's newest easement*



*“The Crew” for the Idler's Rest Survey (left to right): Charles Burke, Archie George, Gerry Wright and John Dunn from Rim Rock Consulting*

## Idler's Rest Survey

In 2005 the Palouse Land Trust assumed ownership of the Idler's Rest Nature Preserve, a 34-acre parcel near the base of Moscow Mountain, to be managed for educational and low-impact recreational purposes. To date, managing this area and its grove of Western red cedar has been impeded by the lack of a definitive boundary survey. Thanks to the generosity of Avista Utilities, The

Moscow Food Co-op, The Latah County Community Foundation, and individual donors to PLT, the long-planned boundary survey of Idler's Rest was completed late this summer.

This survey provides a number of benefits both to the users of the preserve and to the neighboring landowners. Primarily it enables us to clarify

boundaries and to manage the property with the confidence that we are not encroaching on neighbors, but the properly surveyed and marked boundaries will also provide well-defined points of reference that can be used by educational groups and volunteers to study and help manage this unique parcel. Boundary signs have been ordered and will be placed this fall. We are grateful to Rim Rock Consulting, Inc. for providing us an affordable, professional survey.

# Three New Board Members

This year the Palouse Land Trust is pleased to welcome two new members to the board and one new member to the advisory board.

Board member John Bolles moved to Moscow in 2008 and joined up with PLT soon thereafter to help monitor the Idler's Rest Preserve. Before that he served as Director of the Health Sciences Center for Educational Resources at the University of Washington in Seattle. He has degrees in Wildlife Biology and Physiology & Biophys-

ics from Colorado State University.

Steve Shook, who also serves on the board of the Palouse-Clearwater Environmental Institute, is an associate professor of marketing at the University of Idaho. Originally from Indiana, he now lives on Moscow Mountain with his wife Mary and their three children – Grace, James, and Jennings. He enjoys hiking, mountain biking, and snowshoeing.

Barb Seaman, our new advisory board member, recently moved to the Palouse

after serving 18 years as the director of Alaska's first land trust. In addition to her extensive land trust work, Barb has also worked as a landscaper, a boat captain, a commercial fisher, and as a technician for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

We're happy to welcome such talented people to board to help us continue protecting the great places of the Palouse!

## PLT Online!

PLT has had a website for several years, but it is now undergoing major changes. For one thing, you can now donate online and save the hassle of mailing in a check! We also plan to revamp the site's overall appearance, drastically increase the amount of information available on PLT's properties, and hope to eventually provide more frequent updates on our activities via email. You can help us out by sending your email address to [info@palouselandtrust.org](mailto:info@palouselandtrust.org) and we'll add you to our list. You can follow our progress at [www.palouselandtrust.org](http://www.palouselandtrust.org).



*Nature is an infinite sphere of which the center is everywhere and the circumference nowhere.*

*~ Blaise Pascal*

## PLT's Strategic Plan

This past summer, the Palouse Land Trust Board, with the assistance of Ryan Urie (a graduate student in Bio-regional Planning at the University of Idaho) worked tirelessly to map out a set of new goals and aspirations to guide us in the coming years. Organized into the three overarching categories of Land Conservation, Organizational Development, and Finances, some of our goals for the years ahead are shown at the right.

If you would like to help us achieve our goals, drop us a line!

[info@palouselandtrust.org](mailto:info@palouselandtrust.org)

### Goals

- Developing new project selection criteria
- Improving stewardship of our 11 easements and property
- Attaining accreditation from the Land Trust Alliance
- Improving the PLT website
- Recruiting new board members and volunteers
- Raising new operating funds to hire a full-time staff

## Where We Work!





*Conserving the open space,  
wildlife, water, and scenery  
of the Palouse*

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Moscow, ID 83843  
(208) 669-0722

[www.palouselandtrust.org](http://www.palouselandtrust.org)  
[info@palouselandtrust.org](mailto:info@palouselandtrust.org)

STAMP  
HERE

«Salutation (envelope)»  
« Address»  
« Town», «State»  
«Zip»

## What does a land trust do?

Land trusts work with landowners to conserve working lands, open space, wildlife habitat, water quality, and the countless other benefits provided by undeveloped lands. Land trusts use voluntary, market-based tools to protect natural resources while respecting private property rights.

While a land trust may acquire land outright, more commonly they use conservation easements to protect land. A conservation easement is a legal agreement between a landowner and a land trust that permanently limits certain land uses such as subdivision or development. Conservation easements are extremely flexible and each one is customized to ensure landowner needs and desires are met. They even allow for continued hunting, fishing, recreation, and agricultural and forestry management if the landowner so desires.

In addition to being able to protect the land they love, landowners can also receive generous income and estate tax benefits for donating a conservation easement.

If you, or someone you know, might be interested in conserving the land they love, give us a call at (208) 669-0722, or email us at [info@palouselandtrust.org](mailto:info@palouselandtrust.org) and we'll walk you through the process start to finish!

**~ You're Invited! ~**

**Please join us in  
celebrating the Palouse  
Land Trust's many great  
achievements this year!**

**Saturday, November 14  
6:00-8:00 pm  
1912 Center in Moscow**

**Food and Wine Included!**