



NEWSLETTER 2011

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- John Norton
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About Us

- Founded in 1995
- We currently steward 12 easements and own 1 property covering over 3,500 acres
- We work across 8 counties in Idaho and Washington
- We are an all-volunteer organization

Contact Us

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preserve

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.

Palouse Prairie Preserved

A 160-acre parcel of property on Gormsen Butte in southwestern Latah County recently has been set aside as a part of a conservation easement to protect a local native and endangered ecosystem - a remnant of the Palouse Prairie. This easement is the culmination of several years of work and is a collaborative effort between property owners, Frank and Rebecca Hill of Moscow, Palouse Land Trust, Latah Soil and Water Conservation District, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Idaho Department of Fish and Game.

Palouse Prairie remnants are important because of a great diversity of native plant species. These lands are extremely rare and are considered one of the most endangered ecosystems.

The property consists of 42 acres of Palouse prairie remnant, an adjoining 55.6 acres of



Gormsen Butte in southwestern Latah County

native grass seeding, a 32.4-acre area of native seeding enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program, and 30 acres to be managed as a buffer for the remnants and native seeding. The Landowner Incentive Program, a competitive grant program funded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and administered through Idaho Department of Fish and Game, was used to secure the funds for the easement. The funds were matched by landowner commitment.

Under the easement, the land remains under the ownership of the Hills. The land will never be developed and restoration efforts to protect and hopefully expand this rare ecosystem are underway. While not open to the public, the easement will provide an opportunity for researchers from the University of Idaho and other institutions

to study the rare ecosystem.

This is the first conservation easement to protect Palouse Prairie and the Palouse Land Trust is responsible for monitoring the terms of this easement. We gratefully thank the Hill's for their contribution to our community and future generations.



Nest and eggs of a ground nesting bird.

You're Invited!

Mark your calendars and come help us celebrate! We will be celebrating our 2010 achievements towards promoting conservation on the Palouse on Wednesday, May 18th, 2011. We will provide dessert and wine to all our supporters that evening from 7-9 pm at the 1912 Center in Moscow. We would love to see you there!



Dr. Maynard and Margaret Fosberg

A Legacy of Conservation Through Donation of an Easement

Dr. Maynard and Margaret Fosberg were among the first to donate a conservation easement to PLT during our early years. The Fosbergs, a well known conservation minded couple, own property at the corner of Mountain View Avenue and D Street. Their property provides beautiful, scenic roadside views to all passersby. In 1999, they put 17.44 acres under easement with us. The Fosbergs speak fondly of their ongoing conservation efforts undertaken with their first easement, among them the restoration of native plants and grasses.

In December 2010, the Fosbergs expanded their easements by donating a second easement that encompasses 5.2 acres and is located across D Street from their first easement. Establishing the second easement took over a year. John Norton worked with the Fosbergs in the early stages and Gerry Wright and Janice Smith-

Hill completed the baseline study and required easement documents. The significance of this property is that it provides scenic open space and potential habitat for native plant restoration within a high-density suburban environment. Furthermore, this property is one of a few open spaces on the eastern border of Moscow, is highly visible from Mountain View Avenue, and offers fantastic views of the foothills and Moscow Mountain. This easement will ensure that the property is forever retained in its scenic, natural and open space condition, and will prevent any use of the property that will significantly interfere with its conservation value. The conservation easement does permit the maintenance of existing agricultural activity.

We thank the Fosbergs for their expansion of conservation efforts in Moscow and Latah County.

Idlers Rest

The name 'Idlers Rest' supposedly originated around the turn of the last century by people who found refuge during the scorching summer months in the cool air of the shade cedar groves. Idlers Rest Nature Preserve is still a destination for people looking for a short walk among tall trees, a chance to watch birds or study flowers, or to learn about the interactions of water, soil, and vegetation in a variety of ecological niches. We, as the Palouse Land Trust, own this land and are obligated to manage this area for educational and low-impact recreational activities.

By far, the majority of those using the preserve honor the land and those that they share it with.

There are often volunteer efforts to help maintain the preserve. These range from ad hoc trash collection by users to organized work parties that fill potholes in the parking lot, clear trails and block "bushwacked" trails, and remove "kid-made" structures. Thank you to all.

A few, through ignorance or disregard for this unique area interfere with our mission to manage it. The predominant problems are after-hours parties, occasionally with fires and almost always with trash, paintball contests (paintballs, although biodegradable, can

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be toxic to animals) that mar the beauty of the area, and occasionally, target shooting. We encourage users to report any activity they believe is not in line with the management of this area.

Furthermore, Idlers Rest is aging. There are more blow downs, and diseased trees each year. In response, we are beginning the process of developing a management plan that will address the problems of mitigating potential wildfires, disease and parasites while maintaining the environment within the preserve. Expect more information as we progress with this effort.

Idlers Rest remains a wonderful, cool place for a contemplative walk within 5 miles of Moscow. And we at PLT intend to keep it that way for future generations.



Students from UI CORE discovery course repairing the parking area at Idlers Rest

Board Members

Jocelyn Aycrigg was raised in Colorado where she spent many family vacations, with her parents and 4 siblings, exploring national parks throughout the West and in particular Rocky Mountain National Park. Her family also had a menagerie of pets including 3 dogs (2 Newfoundlands, 1 Great Pyrenees), 2 cats, 3 horses, about 10 rabbits, a turtle, and a few gerbils. Spending time outside and caring for pets led to her interest in wildlife biology, which she pursued at the University of Colorado for her B.A., the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry for her M.S., and the University of Idaho for her Ph.D. She has lived in California, the Adirondack Mountains of New York, Illinois and finally northern Idaho.

Along the way, she also got interested in Geographic Information Systems (GIS), which is computerized mapping and analysis. While working on her Ph.D., she was hired as a Conservation Biologist for the National Gap Analysis Program (GAP) at the University of Idaho. GAP is a conservation-based program supported by USGS that uses a geographic approach for biodiversity conservation. In this position, she coordinates conservation



Jocelyn Aycrigg

applications, research, and data development in the Northwest as well as nationally.

She enjoys hiking, skiing, traveling, cooking, rafting, reading, watching movies, and spending time with her family. Her interest in biodiversity conservation and wildlife biology led to her interest in the Palouse Land Trust, which as a board member she hopes she can make valuable contributions.

Barbara Seaman has spent the past twenty years actively working to protect significant lands. She moved to Idaho just over a year ago after 30 years in Homer, Alaska. Her background includes running a land trust for Alaska's Kenai Peninsula for



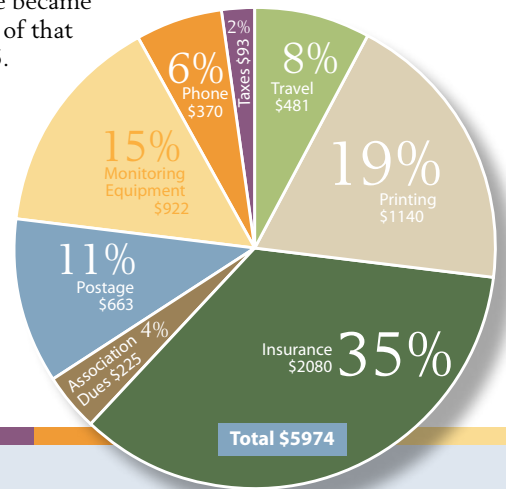
Barbara Seaman

18 years as well as work for the AK Department of Fish and Game and several years as a traditional wood boat-builder and commercial fisherman. Once her two kids had fledged, she moved to Harpster, Idaho with her partner Will and began her new job as a Water Quality Resource Conservationist with the Idaho Soil and Water Conservation District.

Barb's involvement in private land conservation began in 1990 as a board member and then as board president of Alaska's first land trust. She became executive director of that organization in '95. Her work resulted in twenty-two conservation easements and twelve fee acquisitions, among many other important land conservation projects

completed with a wide array of partners. Barb led Kachemak Land Trust from a small, all-volunteer organization to a regional institution and from a tiny annual budget to almost \$1 million, and developed a 'Policies and Procedures Manual', which was used as a template by the Land Trust Alliance (LTA) Northwest Program. She participated in advanced leadership training sponsored by LTA and attended many LTA national and regional conferences over the years. Her years spent in natural resource management and conservation provide Barb with a solid base for work with private landowners, whether in her day job or on behalf of the Palouse Land Trust. Barb is passionate about the work of land trusts and is delighted to join the PLT Board of Directors.

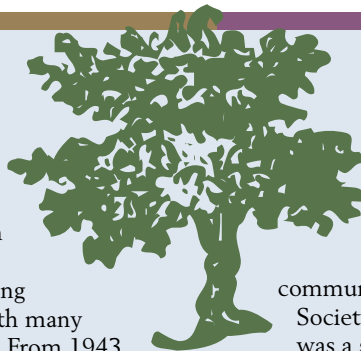
Use of Donations



Henry Willmes

Henry Willmes died Tuesday, July 14, 2010 at his home in Moscow. He was our Treasurer for the Palouse Land Trust. He was 70. He was born August 30, 1939, in Bocholt, Germany to Albert and Anna Mumken Wilmes. As a young child, he and his mother and sister, along with many other civilians were evacuated from the city. From 1943 to 1946 they lived in Wels, Austria. After the war, the family moved to Neuss, Germany. Henry became the first in his family to attend high school and college.

He and his family immigrated to the United States in 1954 and settled in Los Angeles, where Henry graduated from Los Angeles High School in 1957. He attended the University of California at Los Angeles where he earned a bachelor's, a



master's and a doctorate in physics.

After college, he served in the Air Force from 1965-1968. In 1968 Henry was hired as a professor of physics at the University of Idaho. He retired in 2002. Henry was active in the community and served as treasurer of the Palouse Audubon Society and was a volunteer for Meals on Wheels. He was a strong supporter of land conservation and an active supporter of the Palouse Land Trust. He joined our board as Treasurer in 2008.

Henry is survived by his wife Cathy Willmes, sons Charles and Mathew Willmes, and daughter Julie Zommers, grandchildren Henry, Laila, Clare, Anna, and Aleks, sister Katharina Benyei and many nieces and nephews.



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

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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



Where We Work

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 some 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 and we'll walk you through the process start to finish!

thank you

The Palouse Land Trust would like to thank all the individual donors who helped to keep this organization productive. Last spring, many responded to a request for donations so that we could hire an executive director. We raised over \$5,000. We currently have requests to a number of foundations to help raise the additional money necessary to hire staff. In addition, Terry Grzebielski organized a musical event

celebrating Bob Dylan's music that raised \$1,200 and showcased our local musicians. We would also like to acknowledge the following organizations for financial support in 2010.

The Circle
Heart of the Rockies Initiative
Avista
Tri State
Latah Community
Foundation

We Need Your Help!

Do you enjoy designing web pages? We need help in updating our web page as well as maintaining it along with our other social media. Would you be willing to lend us a hand? If you are interested, please contact: Gina Wilson gina.wilson@palouselandtrust.org.