



NEWSLETTER 2012



Palouse Land Trust Board

- John Bolles – President
- Janice Smith-Hill – Vice President
- Charles Burke – Secretary
- Archie George – Treasurer
- Jocelyn Aycrigg
- Roger Blanchard
- Mike Jennings
- Ryan Niemeyer
- Paul Wendland
- Gerry Wright

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- Stephen Bishop
- Nick Crookston
- John Dunn
- Penny Morgan
- John Norton
- Jay Pengilly
- Barb Seamen
- Gina Wilson

Staff

- Amy Trujillo
Executive Director

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

Contact Us

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www.palouselandtrust.org



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PalouseLandTrust

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.



Message from the President

By *John Bolles*

To all of our supporters, I am honored to serve as the new President of the Palouse Land Trust. As you will read in this issue, this year has been an exciting time of growth for the land trust. Late in 2011, we completed our twelfth easement. We are currently negotiating three more easements, which combined would bring our total protected acreage on the Palouse to over 4,000 acres.

While we are continuously looking for important land to protect, we also have an obligation to uphold the conservation values on our current easements, and we’re looking to you to help us with this as we begin a new volunteer monitoring program (see the information on the back cover). We also have an obligation to responsibly manage our one fee-title property: Idler’s Rest Nature Preserve just outside of Moscow.

When The Nature Conservancy turned Idler’s Rest over to the Palouse Land Trust in 2004, they did so with the idea that a local organization could better steward this important community resource. The grant deed included a mandate that specifies the property shall be used and maintained forever as a nature preserve for the conservation of wildlife habitat, as well as for scientific, educational and aesthetic purposes. The mandate goes on to specify that the property shall be managed and maintained to the fullest extent possible in its natural state, while still allowing for scientific and educational research, ecological management, maintenance and other improvements as may be appropriate.

To-date, PLT has installed signage, maintained the small parking area at the preserve, patrolled the preserve to try to prevent misuse, and held

volunteer events like the one mentioned in the S.O.P.E. article in this newsletter. Now, PLT has acquired a grant from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to develop a professional management plan for Idler’s Rest.

PLT is working with Northwest Management, Inc. to develop the plan. (Northwest Management is generously donating staff time to serve as the match for the NRCS grant.) The plan will focus on ways to improve the habitat at the preserve and address fire and safety concerns while staying true to our mandates. We will also be working on developing a plan for more educational opportunities within the preserve.

Idler’s Rest is an important community asset. If you would like to provide input, please call or e-mail us. I look forward to a busy year ahead and I hope you will continue to support our work.



Tera King from Northwest Management, Inc. joins board members on a tour of Idler’s Rest to discuss management objectives.



Roger Blanchard



Ryan Niemeyer



Paul Wendland



Amy Trujillo

Board and Staff Transitions

Two long-term board members stepped off the board this year. We are sad to say goodbye to Jay Pengilly and Gina Wilson as we will miss their camaraderie and professionalism, but we are pleased that they have both agreed to serve on the land trust's Advisory Board. Jay and Gina have contributed countless hours to PLT's mission over the years, and we wish them well in their new endeavors.

New faces

After serving on the PLT advisory board since the mid-1990s, **Roger Blanchard** joined the Board in June of this year. Roger worked as a landscape contractor for 11 years in Washington State prior to embarking on a 25-year career in municipal parks, facilities, and community forestry management. He recently retired from the City of Moscow, but continues to work as a consulting arborist throughout the region. Roger and his wife Alane have lived in Moscow since 1990 and enjoy exploring the diverse landscapes of the Pacific Northwest.

Ryan Niemeyer joined the Board in December 2011. Ryan is a graduate student in Water Resources at University of Idaho. He grew up in eastern Washington and enjoys nature both for its beauty and the benefits it provides society. He hopes one day, as a scientist and academic, to contribute to conserving and sustaining our natural environment both through science and stakeholder collaboration. Ryan sought to join the Palouse Land Trust board to become more involved

in the processes involved in easement acquisition, monitoring, and public participation.

Paul Wendland also joined the Board in December after moving to Moscow last summer. Paul has extensive community development and management consulting experience, having served in the US Peace Corps in West Africa and other overseas consulting assignments, including Iraq and Afghanistan. Paul joined the board to learn about and to serve the Moscow community, and to pursue his personal interest in working in conservation and conservation finance across the West. Paul currently serves on the PLT's Development Committee and would love to hear from interested PLT supporters.

Welcome our new Executive Director

Amy Trujillo comes to us with 10 years of land trust experience from the San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy (SELCO) in Encinitas, California. After receiving her B.S. in Ecology from UC San Diego, Amy went to work for SELCO as a biologist, then manager of SELCO's regional weed control program, land stewardship coordinator, and eventually Associate Director. Amy, her husband Justin, and their two kids moved to Moscow last fall. They have enjoyed exploring the Palouse and feel lucky to have found such a warm and welcoming community to call home.



Ed Krumpe (right) and the S.O.P.E. volunteers pose on the new bridge

S.O.P.E. Marks Earth Day

Volunteers from the Student Organization for People and the Environment (S.O.P.E.) spent Earth Day working on some much needed projects at Idler's Rest. Ed Krumpe and PLT President John Bolles led the students as they installed directional signs, cleared downed trees from trails, and rebuilt the bridge over Idler's Rest Creek using lumber donated by Jack Carpenter, an Idler's Rest neighbor. S.O.P.E. is a UI club committed to the open discussion of local and global environmental and natural resource issues, bringing people and solutions together for healthy communities and enduring ecosystems.

Foundations Support PLT Transition

This is an exciting time for Palouse Land Trust: in the past year we hired a part-time Executive Director and we're focused on increasing the pace and scale of conservation on the Palouse. The following foundations have given us significant support toward this endeavor:

The Latah County Community Foundation funded the purchase of a computer, printer, and software for our new staff.

The Norcross Wildlife Foundation awarded us a grant to redesign our website to be more dynamic and informative.

The Moscow Giving Circle gave us a grant for capacity building to engage and grow our donor base.

The Heart of the Rockies Initiative funded a professional organizational assessment, giving us a road map to work toward Land Trust Accreditation.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service is funding the development of a professional management plan for Idler's Rest Nature Preserve, with matching support from Northwest Management, Inc.

The Inland Northwest Community Foundation awarded us a Community Strategies grant to begin developing a strategic conservation plan for our service area, reach out to landowners, and develop a volunteer monitoring program.

The Moscow Food Co-op's Dime in Time program gave us the Co-op's donated bag refunds for the month of March to develop an educational piece explaining conservation opportunities available to landowners.

Thank you to all these funders who believe in our mission and support our work!

Special Thanks to our Members

Support from our members makes all our work possible. The 3,500 acres we've conserved to-date (with almost 500 more acres in the works) are a tribute to you. From all of us at PLT, we thank the following donors for their dedication to conserving the open space, scenery, wildlife habitat and water quality of the Palouse region for the benefit of current and future generations.

** Donors labeled with an asterisk have donated every year for 10 years or more – thank you for your enduring support!*

*** These donors generously gave at the Alternative Giving Market in 2011.*

If you believe your name has been left off this list in error, please call Amy at (208) 669-0722.

Benefactors - \$500+

Jocelyn Aycrigg & Bill Seybolt
Pete & Rebecca Bloom
Mark & Gail DeSantis
Mary Dupree & Mark Hume
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Supporting Members - \$100+

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Contributing Members - \$50+

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Basic Membership - \$25+

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Roger Rowley & Carise Skinner
Jaime Jovanovich Walker
Jennifer & Ray Wallace



Kay Montgomery signs her conservation easement with (2011) PLT President, Charles Burke.

More Palouse Farmland Preserved

Last November, as most of us were gearing up for another season of family traditions, Kay Montgomery was crafting her family legacy. Kay owns 50 acres of farmland on the hills behind the Moscow Walmart. She and her husband bought the land in 1964 and raised their four daughters there. With the increased commercial development in the area over the years, Kay wanted to make sure that her land was protected in perpetuity. Kay granted a conservation easement to the land trust over 40 acres of her farm. The easement protects valuable farmland and scenic open space in an area that is quickly developing. As with all our easements, the land trust will monitor the property annually to make sure its conservation benefits remain intact. We thank Kay for her leadership and lasting contribution to our community.

Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 2011 Financial Summary

Money Earned

Member donations	\$9,306
Restricted Stewardship Fund donations	\$8,500
Grant income	\$4,000
Interest	\$405
Insurance refund	\$260
Corporate donations	\$250

Money Spent

Transfers to long-term Stewardship Fund	\$8,905
Organizational assessment	\$3,562
Fundraising	\$2,468
Insurance	\$2,072
Outreach	\$1,560
Administration	\$855
Association dues	\$250
Easement transaction costs	\$119
Reserve for future years	\$2,930



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

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

What is a Land Trust?

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

We need you!

All of our conservation easements need to be visited at least once per year to ensure that the conservation values protected by the easement are being upheld. We're looking for volunteers to help us with this important task. Monitoring visits typically involve reviewing the specific restrictions and allowable uses for an easement and visiting the easement to document its condition. This documentation is essential for the long-term protection of the land.

Volunteers will attend a certification program to learn more about conservation easements, their important role in land conservation, and best practices for monitoring. Training will take place on **Saturday, September 8th**, and will consist of a half-day classroom training and an afternoon in the field at one of our easements. Volunteers will be paired with a mentor and will be expected to conduct at least one monitoring visit on a PLT easement this season. By volunteering as a monitor, you will be playing a critical role in helping to protect the open space, scenery, and wildlife habitat that makes the Palouse region so unique.

To sign up or to learn more, please call Amy at (208) 669-0722 or email at amy.trujillo@palouselandtrust.org.



This could be you – help us permanently protect open space on the Palouse!