

VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR

Weed pulling, trail clean-ups, office aides, builders.... our two 2008 Volunteers of the Year have lent a hand in so many ways.

Dave Breuer moved to Central Oregon about ten years ago and first became involved with the Land Trust because of Skyline Forest. “I liked the Skyline concept—preservation with management for the beneficial use of all resources” commented Dave, whose professional background includes a career in forestry.

Dave’s background came in handy as he helped stewardship director Amanda Egertson monitor the 3,045 acre Hopkins-Young Special Management Area, a conserved forest near Crescent, OR. The annual monitoring of this vast property includes long days spent navigating unmarked and unmaintained dirt roads and hiking up steep terrain. This year it also included a review of recent thinning activities undertaken by the new owners. “Not only was Dave great company on those long days, but he was invaluable as a co-navigator and forestry consultant,” said Amanda.



DAVE BREUER TESTS THE NEWLY INSTALLED ELECTRIC FENCE AT INDIAN FORD MEADOW PRESERVE. PHOTO: KIM KEHOE. BELOW: MARTHA LUSSENHOP HELPS RESTORE INDIAN FORD MEADOW PRESERVE. PHOTO: JAN HANSSON.

In addition to his help at Hopkins-Young, Dave has also found time for miscellaneous office projects, banner installation, and building fences. Dave is our jack of all trades—one we’re glad to keep!

Martha Lussenhop moved to Sisters in 2005 from the Chicago area. A former museum educator and middle school teacher, Martha and her husband John fell in love with the area on a visit and were fortunate to find property adjacent to the Land Trust’s Indian Ford Meadow Preserve. The Lussenhops became members while still in Chicago, but once they finally moved here Martha threw herself into Land Trust activities.

“It’s good to have a volunteer activity that has an impact on my immediate environment. Since I can’t directly help the far corners of our planet, it is satisfying to ‘act locally’ to help sustain the health of plant, animal and human communities,” commented Martha. Though Martha has logged hours cleaning trails and pulling weeds, most of Martha’s hours were donated to work in the Land Trust office. This most unglamorous of jobs has been one of the most critical for staff. “We so appreciate Martha’s ability to come in regularly—sometimes every week—it really frees up staff, so we can be most effective in our work,” noted Sarah Mowry the Land Trust’s outreach manager.

Thanks Dave and Martha! We couldn’t do our work without you. And thanks to the 135 individuals and groups who donated more than 3300 hours to the Land Trust last year. —

