

VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR

Back in 2000, when the Land Trust was only five years old, a few dedicated volunteers gathered to plan educational tours of the newly acquired Camp Polk Meadow Preserve.



LAND TRUST



CAROLYN WASSMAN



GARY MILLER

(TOP) JANE MEISSNER (IN GREEN) AND PAT KEARNEY (IN RED) ATTEND A HIKE LEADER TRAINING AT WHYCHUS CANYON PRESERVE. (CENTER) JANE GETS DOWN TO DETAILS ABOUT NATIVE DESERT PLANTS. (BOTTOM) JANE LEADS A TOUR OF THE RESTORED WHYCHUS CREEK AT CAMP POLK MEADOW PRESERVE.

They developed a tour route and determined the best way to share the human and natural history of the meadow. That first year they led a handful of public tours, the following year a dozen. Today that dozen has grown into a successful Walk + Hike program with 100 outings offered each year. The common thread: dynamite volunteers who lead each and every outing.

From April through October, volunteer hike leaders take people to see the stream restoration at Camp Polk Meadow, the birds at Indian Ford Meadow, the views of Whychus Canyon and the fall colors of the Metolius Preserve. In the course of a season, they will guide more than 600 people (twelve times as many as they did in 2000) through a Land Trust protected land. Attendees come away with new natural history knowledge and an understanding of the importance of land conservation.

Who are these hike leaders? They are retired teachers, anthropologists, electricians, ecologists or working biologists, land-use planners, and geologists who all find time in their busy schedules to volunteer for the Land Trust. This year we are very pleased to recognize one of these outstanding leaders as one of our 2012 Volunteers of the Year.

Jane Meissner has been a Land Trust member since 2004 and a hike leader since 2009. A self-taught naturalist who taught hiking, skiing, and snowshoeing at COCC for 20 years, Jane was raised in Central Oregon and spent much of her childhood outdoors learning about wildflowers with her mother Virginia Meissner (of Meissner sno-park fame). Jane leads a wide variety of hikes for the Land Trust exploring wildflowers, forest ecology, stream restoration, wagon road history, and more.

“Jane is a huge asset to our hike program. An experienced naturalist who knows the birds and the bees, Jane also brings wonderful stories of growing up in Central Oregon before this was *the* place to recreate. It’s often her reflections that help visitors understand why protecting these places is so important,” says Brad Chalfant the Land Trust’s executive director.

“I like that I may be encouraging others to see the value of preserved land not just for their use, but for the plants and animals. I really enjoy watching people develop an interest in the natural world,” notes Jane. And develop an interest they have! Jane has her own following of hikers that go where she goes because each adventure is so much fun. **Congratulations Jane, and thanks for all your expertise and energy!**

While our hike leaders often get all the credit for successful outings, there is another corps of volunteers who are equally part of the success: hike shepherds. Much like their namesake, shepherds volunteer their time to be the sweep at the end of the group of hikers. They also help with logistics, spot birds, relay information, and have even been known to tie shoes! Though this year was the first year we formally asked for shepherds to help on hikes, we’ve had one shepherd who has been hard at work since 2008. She is Pat Kearney, our other 2012 Volunteer of the Year.

A retired senior administrator in Student Affairs at UC Davis, Pat Kearney has been a Land Trust member since 2000. Pat first got involved with Land Trust hikes as a spotter on bird walks. Recognizing that leaders often struggled talking about birds and spotting them simultaneously, Pat would stay in the back of the group and call out birds she saw and then help attendees locate them in their binoculars. She quickly became indispensable to bird walk leaders and the Land Trust began looking for more “Pats” to help co-lead all our bird walks.

“As the years progressed we realized Pat did so much more than just call out birds. She helped check-in attendees at

the beginning of a hike, kept the group together while out on the trail, and was an extra hand in case of an emergency—once she even drove to find a participant who got lost getting to the trailhead,” says Sarah Mowry the Land Trust’s outreach director.

In addition to being “Chief Shepherd” at the Land Trust, Pat has taken the time to become an Oregon Master Naturalist so she can contribute more on her hikes, and she consistently volunteers for events and other projects.

Thanks Pat, for all you do for the Land Trust!



(LEFT) PAT KEARNEY ON A SNOWY DAY AT WHYCHUS CANYON PRESERVE, AND (RIGHT): PAT HELPS SOME CHILDREN IDENTIFY INSECTS ON A KID'S WALK.

A THOUSAND THANKS TO THE 211 INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS WHO DONATED MORE THAN 5,601 HOURS TO THE LAND TRUST LAST YEAR!

Cal Allen, Karen Allen, Sue Anderson, Valerie Anderson, Andy Andrews, Tom Atkins, Ned Austin, Jon & Elaine Austin, Gary Bagwell, Geoff Barnard, Bob & Jerri Barss, Jim Bauersfeld, Don Bauhofer, Bend Endurance Academy, Clarence Bergevin, Herb Blank, The Boone Family, Dave Breuer, Janet Brown, Pamela Burry, Mary Campell, John Casey, Lisa Clark, Scott & Kristan Collins, Nancy Conner, Conservation Alliance Backyard Collective, Carolyn Cook, Lloyd Corliss, Mary Ellen Coulter, Mary Crow, Gretchen Dakin, Janet Davis, Clyde Dildine, Elke & Erhard Dortmund, Georgi Douglas, Byron Dudley, Eva Eagle & Bruce Bowen, Paul & Sue Edgerton, Colleen Egertson, Ginny Elliott, Alice Elshoff, Mike Emmons, Robert Evans, Jim Ferguson, Tom Filcich, Jim Fisher, Win Francis, Brian Frankle, Dwain Fullerton, Norma Funai, John Gerke, Lois & Kent Gill, Mike Golden, Michael Graham, Sandy Green, Dana Gronemyer, Kate Gronemyer, Robert Groves, Darcy Hagin, Daniel Hammer, Jim Hammond, Jeffrey Hancock, Brian Harrington, Kristen Harris, Collins Hemingway, Norman Henry, Ross Henshaw, Dick Hollenbeck, Jeff Horton, Maggie Jaeger & Raul Alvarez, Don & Paula Johnson, Patrick Kallal, Frances Keels, Mike Keithley, Michael Keown, Kathryn Knox, Lawrence Koppy, Karen & John Kreft, Mary Krenowicz, Kris Kristovich, Spencer Krueger & Mary Lefevre, Gary Kutz, John Lavery, Pete Leroy, Yancy & Karen Lind, Bruce Livingston & Bethany Rowland, Derek Loeb, Kirsten Lowery, Martha Lussenhop, Ted Maas, Paul & Barbara MacMillan, Kelly Madden, David Marshall, Christina Mastrangelo, Jay Mather, Joanne Mathews, Susan Maxwell, Kim McCarrel, Daniele McKay, Frank McKim, Steve McMasters, Jane Meissner, Nancy Merrick, Kirk Metzger, Gary Meyer, Bill Miller, David Miller, Brian Miracle, Bill Mitchell, Angela Monday, Carol Moorehead, Jon Nelson, Jim & Lisa Nicol, Kay & Bob Norin, Jerry Norquist, The Nye Family, The Ockner Family, Leslie Olson, OSU Cascades Students, Outward Bound, Joyce Padgham, Maret Pajutee & Rod Bonacker, Karen Parker, Pat Peckham, John Pittman, Lauri Powers, Matt Puntney, Jason Quartucy, Deb Quinlan, Bill Rainey, William Raleigh, Janice Reed, Marina Reisinger, The Reisinger Family, Ginger Remy, Joanne Richter, Rimrock Ranch, Jan Rising, Tom Rodhouse, Barbara Rurner, Jake Schas, Pete & Magda Schay, Mary Jo Schlaefer, Amanda Schroeder, John Schubert, Casey Schuder, Tyler Scrivens, Lisa Seales, Zeta & Richard Seiple, Linda Shaw, Sisters Christian Academy, Sisters High School Students, Cyndi Smidt, Lisa Smith, John Sorlie, Al St. John, Pearl Stark & Brett Yost, Eric & Sherry Steele, Chuck & Patricia Stephany, Darin Stringer, Heidi Supkis, John Tackmier, Barbara Taylor, David Tenney, Bob Thomas, Rick & Linda Thomas, Dick Tipton, Trout Unlimited, Vince Venincasa, Mike & Wendie Vermillion, Melinda Walker, Carol Wall & Pat Kearney, Robert Weber, Larry Weinberg, Jonathan Weitz, Westside Swine club, Eric & Malissa White, Jeff Wieland, Steve Williams, Dougal Williams, Fran Willis, MA Willson, Bob Woodward, Mary Yanalcanlin, and Jennifer Zalewski.