

our place

INSPIRING YOU TO
PROTECT GREAT PLACES

SPRING/SUMMER 2017

2017 Events Calendar Inside

COOPER'S HAWK
PHOTO BY ROGER PLOTHOW



TETON REGIONAL LAND TRUST

A Note from our Executive Director

SO MANY PLACES TO EXPLORE



Despite the fact that I grew up in eastern Idaho and have spent most of my life here, I am still amazed at how many places I have yet to explore. On my list—hike up Palisades Creek from Swan Valley, explore the Saint Anthony Sand Dunes, visit Mud and Market Lakes during the spring bird migration, float the lower stretches of the Teton River, and the list goes on.

Throughout this newsletter, we have worked to highlight some of the special corners of eastern Idaho. Whether it is exploring the Tex Creek area to see what comes up after last year's fires or seeing a rare bird migrating through Market Lake, I hope you find some inspiration for your summer adventures in these pages.

We hope you will put our 2017 events calendar on your refrigerator and join the Land Trust on an adventure or at an event. There you can learn more about our work and the land we protect, while meeting with others who share a passion for all that eastern Idaho has to offer. —*Joselin Matkins*

A CHALLENGE GRANT IS ON THE TABLE!

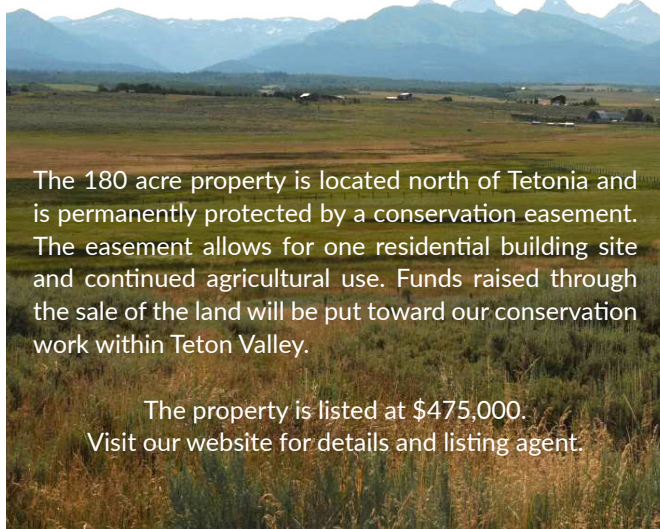
A generous group of Challengers put up \$25,000 to provide an incentive to help us with membership goals.

We are encouraging people to increase their gift because we cannot receive the challenge funds without matching this goal. Make a tax-deductible gift and help us meet the Challenge. If you are not a member and would like to be a part of it, today is as good as any to make a gift and see your gift go farther.

If you're already a member, please consider increasing your membership gift in 2017. Your gifts, great and small, will help us reach our Challenge goals.

For more details or to make a gift over the phone, please call Diane Temple, Development Director at (208) 354-8939.

SPRING CREEK RANCH CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROPERTY FOR SALE



The 180 acre property is located north of Teton and is permanently protected by a conservation easement. The easement allows for one residential building site and continued agricultural use. Funds raised through the sale of the land will be put toward our conservation work within Teton Valley.

The property is listed at \$475,000.
Visit our website for details and listing agent.

Dinner on the Land

Wine & Beer | Live Music | Dinner | Live Auction

Friday, July 21 • Beginning at 5:30 pm

Join us this year as we celebrate conservation on the Six Springs Ranch, home of the Land Trust Office.

Space is limited so get your tickets today. \$100 per person or \$800 for a table of 8 people.

Contact Diane Temple at diane@tetonlandtrust.org or 208-354-8939.



Volunteers planting willows along a Teton River tributary

Get Your Hands Dirty

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Are you looking for volunteer opportunities that can help protect great places in eastern Idaho? Teton Regional Land Trust works with dedicated volunteers for biological inventories, restoration projects, fence removal projects, office work, outreach, and educational events. Opportunities range from a few hours on a single day to ongoing projects that are both fun and rewarding. Here is a list of volunteer opportunities:

Events

- Wrun for Wray, June 24 (SAT)
- Family Event, June 28 (WED)
- Tin Cup for Teton Regional Land Trust
- Dinner on the Land, July 21 (FRI)
 - pre-event: auction and raffle donations
 - set up, decorate, hang lights
 - day after: take down

Land Stewardship

- weed spraying
- general maintenance
- water management for waterfowl
- fencing, move for grazing rotation
- fence removal

Out in the field (training can be provided)

- bird monitoring/bird identification
- plant identification
- restoration project maintenance

Maintenance

- outdoor classroom/Woods Creek Fen
- kiosk area on Six Springs Ranch
- office area landscaping

Office

- organizing office & event supplies
- mailings
- scanning (next winter)

Want to be on our volunteer list?

Send us an email: kate@tetonlandtrust.org

Volunteers Extraordinaire MEET MIKE AND TRISH BOYD

How did you first get involved with the Land Trust?

After buying our land from Brooke Saindon and learning of the Land Trust, we began exploring options on how we could help.

What was your first volunteer project with us?

In 2009, we began collecting Christmas trees from our subdivision to assist in a bank restoration project, organized by Tamara Sperber, Matt Lucia, and Wray Landon. That was our first taste of fellowship through the land. It hooked us on the Land Trust and conservation in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem.

How long have you been Land Trust volunteers?

For nine years.

What's been your favorite project?

We've helped update materials and write standards for the Woods Creek Fen education box, rolled wire and hog fence, put up pavilions, face painted, planted willow sticks and trees, and fed chili to volunteers out by the Big Eddy. If we had a favorite project, it is the Swan Project.

Any good stories?

We have fond and hilarious memories of putting fencing around and across a conservation pond to protect cygnets, watching men in shifting boats and canoes attempt to pound "t" posts in the pond, using Cary's Clips to attach the fencing, and then watching the young birds go free to return to the valley the next year. How wonderful this work is ... and the pizza is great!

We are honored to be in your estate plans, what motivated you?

As for what motivated us to have Teton Regional Land Trust in our estate, originally we looked at Grand Teton National Park, but decided it was the inclusive nature of the Land Trust, i.e. farmers, ranchers, and conservation, that we felt was more important. We love this valley ... its people and environment ... and we feel you support that in so many ways. Mike has



fallen in love with the Swan Project, and knowing Wray and so many of you, has solidified our feelings of being a part of the Land Trust family.

"Teton Valley has so much beauty, both within the environment and its people. We love and enjoy all of it!"
Mike & Trish Boyd



Trumpeter Swan Nesting Project

ENCOURAGING TRUMPETERS TO NEST IN TETON VALLEY

The Trumpeter Swan embodies grace, beauty, and unspoiled wildness. The bird is the crown jewel of healthy wetlands. Trumpeters became nearly extinct in the early 20th century due to habitat loss and heavy hunting for their quills, feathers, and meat. By the end of this era, one of the last strongholds was within the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. With their dwindling population, they became designated as a “Species of Greatest Conservation Need.” Historically, the Rocky Mountain population nesting and breeding range has been limited to Yellowstone National Park, with few concentrations in eastern Idaho, western Wyoming, and Montana. Adding to the challenge, as interest in exploring our public lands continues to grow, areas that once provided secure nesting habitat are experiencing more disturbance, which leads to abandoned nests and a change in habits.

This is where the Teton Valley Trumpeter Swan Project comes in. It’s our goal to restore and bolster Greater Yellowstone nesting populations. Together with our partners, we are working to protect and restore habitat along the rivers, marshes, and wetlands that provide ideal habitat for foraging and nesting. We are working with our partners on a 10-plus year project that involves releasing young Trumpeters on protected wetlands. These wetlands are typically large tracts of land that are protected through conservation easements and thus, largely undisturbed areas for the swans to raise their young. In releasing young Trumpeters, it’s our goal to foster conditions to give the young swans the opportunity to bond with the area so they will return to the wetland to nest and raise their young.

2016 PROJECT UPDATE

This spring provided a huge leap forward for our Trumpeter Swan Nesting Project. Two Trumpeter Swans released by the Land Trust and Partners in 2016 returned to their original release wetland in Teton Valley. This is known as “natal philopatry,” which is when an animal bonds with their birthplace, and instinct triggers them to return year after year. The swans were first seen in March, and were joined by other wild swans. The two returning Trumpeters are wearing green neck collars numbered R13 and R14. Before March, they had last been spotted in Teton Valley in mid-November 2016. Having R13 and R14 return to their release site after surviving the winter is a major success, as it proves the project’s design to promote bonding with the release site is working.

TRUMPETER SWAN NESTING PROJECT PARTNERS

Idaho Department of Fish and Game, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Intermountain Aquatics, Wyoming Wetlands Society, Trumpeter Swan Society, Northern Rockies Trumpeter Swan Stewards, Bill and Shirley Maeck Foundation, Idaho Chapter of the Wildlife Society, Idaho Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Silverstar Communications, Community Foundation of Teton Valley, and private donors.

(Above) Trumpeters released onto the wetland this May.

2017 SWAN RELEASE

This May, four more yearlings were released onto a Teton Valley conservation easement wetland. Project leader and Teton Regional Land Trust Resource Specialist Bill Dell’Isola is hopeful for the same success we had last year.

“There are seemingly endless variables to account for with a wildlife reintroduction project, especially when considering the animal’s best interest,” Bill says. “We are doing everything we can to promote bonding with the release wetland, and promoting survival of the birds. I am elated at the success of having R13 and R14 return to the release site, and am doing everything I can to ensure that our 2017 released yearlings can share the same success.”



USFWS project lead Cary Myler helps the students get up close.

FUTURE CONSERVATIONISTS

Engaging youth in conservation is an important part of connecting them to the land and sharing the significance of keeping it special. The Land Trust was fortunate to have a Teton High School senior, Gage Hicks, interning with us as part of the school’s work study program. The Trumpeter Swan Project is a great opportunity to engage younger students too. The Land Trust’s Bill Dell’Isola and Gage worked with Ms. Young’s 4th grade class at Rendezvous Upper Elementary in Driggs. They gave a hands-on class presentation on Trumpeter Swan biology and conservation science. Following the presentation, the class was invited to be a part of the swan release. The students took a field trip to the wetlands where Bill and Gage were able to continue with the swan lessons learned in the classroom. The students had the unique opportunity to be up close when the swans were being released. This program was made possible by a grant through the Community Foundation of Teton Valley Youth Philanthropists. Their gift supported classroom instruction and allowed the Land Trust to purchase binoculars and educational materials. The students enjoyed using the binoculars at the release event, which proved to significantly enhance their experience. The Land Trust is grateful for the opportunity to provide inspiration for future conservationists.

“I have learned more about conservation here than I ever would have sitting in a classroom. This has further inspired me in pursuing a job that can directly benefit our wildlife and their habitat. It has also been amazing to make connections with the staff and learn exactly what it takes to make all of this work.”

-Gage Hicks, Teton Regional Land Trust intern.

He will be attending University of Idaho in Moscow starting this fall to pursue a degree in wildlife biology.



Ms. Young’s 4th grade class and the Land Trust’s Intern, Gage Hicks, looking to the future.



Protecting Land Near Market Lake Forever

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH DUCKS UNLIMITED

A recent partnership between Ducks Unlimited (DU) and Teton Regional Land Trust has conserved important farmland and open space near the Market Lake Wildlife Management Area. Thanks to the generosity of Wetlands America Trust, a supporting organization of Ducks Unlimited, the 242-acre property will continue to be used for agriculture and will help buffer nearby public lands. The property's flood-irrigated agricultural fields and wetland areas, along with its proximity to the Wildlife Management Area (WMA), make it valuable to many important bird species. Flood irrigation on the property benefits migratory birds by providing wet forage areas on their annual pilgrimages, while also helping with groundwater recharge.

"Market Lake WMA is a world-class resource for a wide variety of wildlife, especially migratory birds," says Bill Dell'Isola, Resource Specialist for Teton Regional Land Trust. "This easement is undoubtedly a benefit to the resources provided by the Market Lake WMA. It is extremely fulfilling to have been a part of such an impactful project."

Ducks Unlimited donated the conservation easement and gave up a portion of the property's development rights to protect this important farmland and open space. Chris Bonsignore, DU's Manager of Conservation Programs, described the reasoning behind wanting to protect the property:

"Preserving the rural landscape in and around Market Lake, which includes wetlands, other natural habitats, and agriculture, provides important benefits for waterfowl, other wildlife, and people. This is one of DU's highest priorities in Idaho. We are very pleased to be working with the Teton Regional

Land Trust and our other partners to complete this conservation easement, which will preserve a portion of this unique landscape for the benefit of future generations."

"DU's efforts to conserve open lands buffering the Market Lake Wildlife Management Area are extremely important for the many species utilizing the WMA's resources," said Josh Holmes, Teton Regional Land Trust Land Protection Specialist.

Most recently, the property was sold to an agricultural producer. The conservation easement, which limits subdivision, mining, and other incompatible uses, will remain in place for the benefit of future generations, while the farmland continues its traditional agricultural production.

What is a Conservation Easement? A conservation easement is a voluntary, legal agreement between a landowner and the Land Trust that limits certain uses of the land—like large scale subdivision—in order to conserve the natural and traditional values of the land. Landowners grant conservation easements to protect the resources of their property, while retaining the rights of private ownership. The terms of the conservation easement represent a mutual agreement between the landowner and the Land Trust. We only work with willing landowners and do not ask the landowner to enter in an agreement if he or she is not satisfied.

(Above) Thousands of snow geese stop over at Market Lake during their spring migration.

A Family Field Guide to Market Lake

FIND NEW PLACES TO EXPLORE

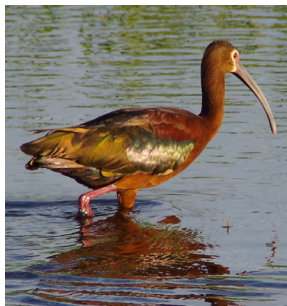
One of Teton Regional Land Trust's strategies is to conserve private properties that connect to public lands. Over the past quarter century, we've made significant strides in protecting land in the vicinity of southeastern Idaho's Wildlife Management Areas. These efforts create an even greater impact for the wildlife that nest, raise their young, and forage in these special "off the beaten path" places.

With its abundant marshes and wetlands, it's a great place to watch for waterfowl and migratory birds. Mallards, Canada geese, Canvasbacks, Cinnamon and Green-winged Teal, Northern Shovelers, and Ruddy Ducks are common waterfowl species that nest and raise their broods here. The spring months bring opportunities to look for White-faced Ibis, as thousands nest in scattered colonies throughout impoundment areas. During the spring and summer months, the Market Lake area is home to numerous gulls, terns, egrets, herons, and grebes.

Bald and Golden Eagles are regular winter guests, while Red-tailed and Swainson's Hawks, American Kestrels, and Northern Harriers are commonly observed during spring and summer months. Long-eared, Short-eared, and Saw-whet Owls frequently nest on Market Lake WMA lands. Mammals frequenting this area include both mule and white-tailed deer, and the area also sees a small moose population.

What to Do: Market Lake WMA offers a variety of family recreational pursuits, including wildlife photography, hiking, horseback riding, and picnicking. You can volunteer with Idaho Department of Fish and Game to help release captive-raised pheasants during the fall months. For the hunter, there is limited upland game hunting on the Market Lake WMA, with resident bird populations fluctuating from year to year.

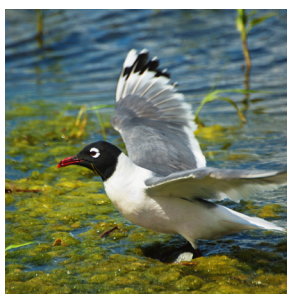
For more information, visit Idaho Fish & Game: www.idfg.idaho.gov/visit/wildlife-management-areas (our source for this information).



WHITE FACED IBIS

White-faced Ibis is a species of colonial nesting water bird that nests in marsh habitats. The breeding colony of White-faced Ibis at Market Lake WMA is the largest for the species throughout its entire range, with 12,300 nests. There are an additional

4,000 nests nearby at Mud Lake WMA. White-faced Ibis rely heavily on insect forage, via flood-irrigated agricultural fields such as the Wetlands America Trust conservation easement property featured here.



FRANKLIN'S GULL

Franklin's Gull is another colonial nesting bird that nests in high densities at the Market Lake WMA. It is often observed foraging for insects in flood-irrigated agricultural fields along with White-faced Ibis. Franklin's Gull populations

have been declining consistently since the second half of the twentieth century due to habitat loss. Our conservation easement property here provides much needed habitat.



SHORT-EARED OWL

Short-eared Owls are common throughout the spring and summer months at Market Lake WMA, with a number of pairs nesting on the WMA. The Short-eared Owl is one of the few species of owl that frequently hunts during the daytime, flying low,

with a moth-like quality, over short vegetation within open country in search of small mammal prey. Short-eared Owls can often be spotted perched low in vegetation or on the ground. The Market Lake conservation easement provides ample foraging opportunities for Short-eared Owls.

OTHER PLACES TO EXPLORE

Deer Parks Wildlife Management Unit

Located near Menan Buttes, Deer Parks is a hot spot for wildlife viewing. This winter, an amazing 2,500 Trumpeter Swans were spotted in one day!

Tex Creek WMA

Located near the Ririe Dam, Tex Creek is nestled in the foothills just northeast of Idaho Falls. Tex Creek saw over 22,000 acres burned in the 2016 fires that swept across eastern Idaho. Idaho Fish & Game initiated a management program to support the health of the land and big game herd.

Membership News

GIFTS RECEIVED JANUARY 1, 2016, THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2016

Conservation is a long-term investment. We depend on members and donors to support our work. Thank you to our supporters and volunteers who provide their resources and time to further our mission.

Conservators' Circle \$2,500+

Mike and Chenoa Allen
Di Allison
Mark & Robin Anderson
Jay Anderson
David Anderson
Anonymous
Henry Armour & Natalie Clark
Clen & Emma Atchley
Robert Bailie
Bank of America
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Bald Eagle \$1,000+

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Trumpeter Swan \$500+

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Osprey \$250+

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Great Blue Heron \$100+

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Meadowlark \$50+

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Robert & Dee Gustafson
Ralph & Mary Lynn Hartwell
Brent & Pauline Holmes
Robert Hunter & Michelle Cooper
Brenda Inns
David Jones

Jeff Jung & Diane Verna
Kai Karstens
Tobin Kelley & Christine Paige
Steven King
Linda & Alan Klagge
James Kleine & Kimberly Day
Sylvia Kunstmann
Phyllis Lamken
Leadership At Play
Ryan & Lori Lloyd
Gary & Sharon Lust
Paul Mangold & Judy Allen
Robert Marcinko
Jim & Elizabeth McCane
Robert & Lorrie McFadden
Corey McGrath
Kenison & Barbara McIntosh
Linda Milam
Jim & Tahia Miller
David & Allison Monroe
Tim Mooney
Trish Morris
George Morrison
Jill Naylor-Yarger
Jo-Ann Nicola
Derrick & Liz Nobman
Randall Olson
Pete & Mary Lou Oslund
Harry & Jeanne Parham
Susan Patla
Mike & Sandy Peters
W. Randall Porter
Park & Sharon Price
Rick Rigg & Daphne Stoner
David & Marjorie Robinson
Faith Ryan
Emma Salomon
Hopi & Kate Salomon
Iris Saxer
Murray Scharf
Laura Scheele
Gerald & Carrie Scheid
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Peter Singer
Robert Spiel
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John Stanis
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James & Constance Steele
Andy Steele
Jerry & Kathy Stillman
John & Cynthia Stoetzer
Elizabeth Thebaud
Rollin Towler
Jeff Tsosie
Chris & Lane Valiante
L. Van Reet
Cathy Villagomez
Claire Vitucci
Willy & Abby Warner
Ken & Jen Werlin
Fletcher White & Cindy Riegel
Doug & Mary Williams
Harold & Jamie Lou Williams
William & Linda Windels
Charles Woodward
Jessica Zuagg

Grants and Foundations

American Rivers
Bates Teton River Access Project of
the Community Foundation of
Teton Valley
CHC Foundation
Community Foundation of
Teton Valley
Cross Charitable Foundation
Donald C. Brace Foundation
Ducks Unlimited
Grand Targhee Resort -
Protect our Winters
Hamill Family Foundation
Heart of the Rockies Initiative
Idaho Coalition of Land Trusts
Idaho Department of Fish & Game
Idaho Fish and Wildlife Foundation
Idaho National Laboratory -
Battelle Energy Alliance
Land Trust Alliance
LOR Foundation

McDaniel Land Foundation
Mithun Family Foundation
North American Wetlands
Conservation
Silverstar Communications
Targhee Womens' Club
Trout Unlimited
US Fish & Wildlife Service - Partners
for Fish and Wildlife Program
Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation
Initiative

Businesses for Land Protection

Apex Insurance Benefits, LLC
Rockin' T Construction
Snake River Builders
Sunrise Café
Teton Communications
Teton County Title

Wray Landon Legacy Fund

Anonymous
Michael and Patricia Boyd
Clifford Coddington
Catherine Crowder
James & Sherry Dokos
Steve & Barbara Frank
Evan & Anita Honeyfield
Wray & Lani Landon
David & Marjorie Robinson
Galen & Kathy Smolik
Peter & Lenore Stepanishen
Teton Valley Health Care
Clint & Gini Van Sielen
Felix & Joyce Zajac
Tim Reynolds & Patricia Isaef

In-Kind Support for Restoration, Operations, and Events

Barker-Ewing
Wayne Bingham & Colleen Smith
Michelle Farrier
Fox Creek Ranch
Doug Gibson
Grand Targhee Resort
Grand Teton Brewing Company
Richard Grundler
Harmony Design

Jimmy's All Seasons Angler
Dieter & Peggy Knecht
Buck Leonard
Linn Canyon Ranch
Ralph & Mary Mullaney Mossman
Purveyors of Wine
Schug Carneros Estate Winery
Eric Soyland
William & Dena Stratton
Targhee Village Golf Course
Teton Valley Lodge
The Lodge at Palisades Creek
Three Rivers Ranch
Tight Line Media
Sue Tyler
Jack Walker
David & Susie Work
World Cast Anglers
Marcellar's Wine and Brew
Heron Glass

Legacy Circle (Those that have named the Teton Regional Land Trust in their Estate Plans)

Robin & Mark Anderson
Anonymous
Garth Blanchard
Michael & Patricia Boyd
Michael Collette & Joann Pittelli
Family Trust
David & Deborah Fosdick
Beth Gardiner
Mark & Catherine Gim
Richard Grundler
Mayo & Susan Lykes
Sandy & Mary Mason
Jerry Nielsen
Michael Pernice
Jerry & Barbara Reese
Ron & Sue Rope
Ruth Shea
Chuck & Judy Shepard
Kent Stevens

Memorial Gifts

Phyllis Anderson in memory of
George Petersen
Jean Dana in memory of Laurel Dana
Keith Dana, Katherine Ludwig &
Family in memory of Laurel Dana
Sylvia Kunstmann Kuntsmann in
memory of Jim Cross
Christine Leusch in memory of
Joanne B. Leusch

Peter Price in memory of Laurel Dana
Dennis Raunig in memory of
Mary Raunig
Tim Reynolds & Patricia Isaef in
memory of Mike DeLate
Sarah Sailer in memory of Jim Sailer
Charles Trost in memory of
Mike DeLate
Douglas Whatmore & Kimmon
Richards in memory of George
Petersen
Ethan & Anne Winter in memory
of Luke Lynch
John David & Geri Bosworth Stukel
in memory of Jean Maxwell
McCarter
Sita Culman in memory of
Peter Culman

Honorary Gifts

Glenn and Melinda DeVoe in honor
of Fox Creek Ranch, Tim Reynolds
and Patricia Isaef
Lexi Dowdall in honor of Mike and
Marci Dowdall
Martha Gilfeather in honor of
Peter Larcom
Oliver Scofield in honor of
Dean Scofield
Martin & Karen Voss in honor of
Tim and Wendy Brockish
Robert Brockish in honor of Tim and
Wendy Brockish
Travis Eames in honor of Bob Lugar
Gordon Greene in honor of Chuck
and Judy Shepard

We apologize for any errors. If there is a correction, please notify Diane Temple at (208) 354-8939.

If you have included us in your estate plans, please let us know so we can thank you in your lifetime.



LEAVING A LEGACY

Barbara Brown (1931 - 2017)

Idaho lost a conservation icon when Barb left us. Her passion and love for the outdoors was unparalleled with her love of exploring and skiing the mountains, hiking, backpacking, and biking. She was never far from her camera and frequently shared photos she took along the way. Barb was a passionate conservationist. Our Land Trust staff worked closely with Barb, and her generosity allowed us to protect land along the Henry's Fork and South Fork of the Snake River. Thanks to her support, the lands she loved will be protected forever and will be a part of her legacy. **Rest in peace, Barb, and save us a spot at the campfire.**



Sandhill Cranes in Teton Valley

CONSERVING HABITAT IN THE GREATER YELLOWSTONE ECOSYSTEM

Cranes are among the world's most ancient wildlife species. In fact, it is likely that Greater Sandhill Cranes in the Greater Yellowstone Area have been around longer than the Big Hole Mountains and the Teton River. Part of the modern relevance of Sandhill Cranes is their value as a rallying point for conservation. They are drivers for conservation because protecting them benefits many other wildlife species. To persist, they need expansive areas like national parks, state wildlife management areas, wetlands, and agricultural lands with grain, meadows, and pasture.

In recent years, there has been concern about the Rocky Mountain population and increased pressure on important breeding and fall pre-migration habitat, particularly those in the Greater Yellowstone Area. For instance, thirty years ago it was common to see over 5,000 staging Sandhill Cranes in one day. Today, those numbers have been reduced to 1,200. Teton Valley hosts the largest pre-migration staging populations throughout the West. However, development in Teton Valley continues to remove habitat traditionally used by

Sandhill Cranes. As a result, Teton Valley's capacity to support summering and staging cranes has been reduced.

Teton Regional Land Trust, with the help of partners and volunteers, has gathered data for nearly 15 years to understand the Sandhills. After years of monitoring and logging over 87,000 observations, we've mapped details of nests, foraging patterns, and habitat preferences. Through these maps, we've worked to prioritize, conserve, and secure important wetlands and agricultural lands that support healthy nesting and fall pre-staging habitat. The Land Trust also works closely with farmers to protect their land and manage it in ways that supports the farm's livelihood while benefitting the cranes.

These strategies are helping—population counts are on an upward trend and we're continuing to protect important habitat. By working with farmers and our partners, we're laying the groundwork for the continued success of achieving multiple conservation and community goals.

Conservation Project Updates

TETON CREEK PROJECT:

Last fall, the Teton Creek Project partners, including the Land Trust, secured a public access trail easement along the southern bench of Teton Creek between Stateline and Cemetery Roads. The partners are currently working to secure funding for pathway construction and habitat restoration. We'll keep you posted as the project continues to develop.



SOUTH FORK CONSERVATION:

The Land Trust recently completed a conservation easement along the banks of the South Fork of the Snake River, near the confluence with the Henry's Fork. The property is adjacent to other conserved lands and was made possible by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), with funding through the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF).



BATES RIVER ACCESS UPDATE:

We are happy to report the Bates River Access Project will be advancing this summer. We anticipate that construction of the new parking area and bathroom facilities will begin in August and the boat ramp will be completed in September, depending upon water levels.



Letter from the President

GIFTS FROM MOTHER NATURE



This winter, I was blessed with a special gift. Teton Valley was covered in a very heavy, deep blanket of snow that just kept coming. Relentless gray and snowy days stretched out in front of me. Our yard was hip-high in snow from December through early March.

Now, while the powder hounds would suggest that the snow itself was indeed the gift, my present came in the form of a mother and baby moose. We live on seven acres of aspen forest land, near the BLM and wilderness areas. A visit from a moose is not unusual, but my moose gift just kept on giving. Our moose family arrived late one afternoon, munching on the tender parts of our aspen and chokecherry bushes. We watched them out of our windows as momma came closer and closer to the house. At one point, I thought she might walk up onto the deck. As nightfall came, she and baby bedded down about 25 feet from my daughter's bedroom window. I expected them to be gone the next morning.

They were not. They did not flinch when our family dog went outside to "do her business." They only gazed at us as we went about our daily routine. We were given the privilege to watch them every day, close up, observing their beauty and power. Our moose family adopted my yard, my aspen, my landscaped evergreen bushes, and my hay stack as their sustenance for several weeks.

As I watch these moose, I think about the wonderment of nature, how daunting, cold, and cruel it can be. I don't fool myself into thinking that our moose family just likes being around us. They are trying desperately to survive, taking nutrition wherever they can find it.

I am in awe of the fact that I live in a place where I can have this type of encounter with God's creatures. I am thankful every day I wake up and see the new destruction that the moose have wrought in my garden. That means they survived the night and ate more.

I am thankful every day for the Land Trust and the work that our staff does to make sure these awe-inspiring beasts still have a place to roam, habitat in which to thrive, and connected lands that allow them to travel from mountain to river, undisturbed. This work cannot happen without your continued support. I am thankful every day for your thoughtful gift. —Robin Anderson

Welcome to the Board



BRETT NOVIK, SWAN VALLEY, IDAHO

Brett's love for the outdoors brought him to Idaho in 1997. Having fished for Large Mouth Bass, Blue Gill, and the occasional Rainbow Trout in the rivers and lakes of upstate New York, and against his parents' wishes, he pursued his obsession to make a living in the great outdoors and applied for a job as a guide on the South Fork of the Snake River for the South Fork Lodge. His accomplishments range from appearances on "In Search of Fly Water" on ESPN to "Adventure Guides" on the Outdoor Channel, a feature in *Northwest Fly Fishing Magazine*, and, most importantly, having made a career out of being a fish bum! He is currently an ambassador for Clacka-Craft Drift Boats, Scott Rods, Hatch Reels, Scientific Anglers, Simms, and Costa Sunglasses.



PAUL MERRILL, VICTOR, IDAHO

Paul graduated from Boise State University with a B.B.A. in Business Management. He has 24 years of experience in the investment management business. He has worked for various Wall Street firms and currently owns an independent financial advisory practice in eastern Idaho. As a Utah native and resident of Victor, he was drawn to the area because of his passion and love for the outdoors and, in particular, the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. Paul realizes the real need to preserve and protect open spaces for wildlife habitat and for future generations. He and his three kids are all avid skiers. His kids are in the fields of biology, engineering, and education. Paul also loves backpacking, biking, and diving.

TETON REGIONAL LAND TRUST
1520 SOUTH 500 WEST
PO BOX 247
DRIGGS, ID 83422



AMPLIFY YOUR IMPACT — GIVE THROUGH THE TIN CUP CHALLENGE

Increase your impact by giving through the Community Foundation of Teton Valley's Tin Cup Challenge. By donating now through July 21st, your gift will be matched by a pool of generous Community Challengers. Giving is easy. To provide an online gift, please visit cftetonvalley.org and select Teton Regional Land Trust as the recipient of your donation.

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SIGN UP FOR OUR EMAIL NEWSLETTER ON OUR WEBSITE.



Teton Regional Land Trust has been accredited by the Land Trust Alliance, meeting national standards for excellence, upholding the public trust and ensuring that conservation efforts are permanent.

A copy of the latest Financial Report and Registration filed by this organization may be obtained by contacting us at: PO Box 247, Driggs, ID 83422; (208) 354-8939
Teton Regional Land Trust is a nonprofit, tax-exempt charitable organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Donations are tax-deductible as allowed by law.

