place

INSPIRING YOU TO PROTECT GREAT PLACES

PHOTOGRAPH BY LEXI DOWDALL



A Note from our Executive Director CELEBRATING COMMUNITY & MAKING CONNECTIONS



I always look forward to summer in eastern Idaho. Coming off a winter injury, I am more excited than ever for the long days and warm nights. There are so many things that make summer here a special time. Birds return to nest, fish swim upstream to spawn, big game migrate to the mountains, and people get outside to recreate and enjoy all our region has to offer.

This summer the Teton Regional Land Trust will be busy with several projects that protect land, restore habitat, and engage our community. This newsletter shares stories from landowners reflecting on the last twenty years of partnership with the Land Trust. We also highlight our most recent project at the head-waters of the Teton River. Together we play a part in ensuring the future vitality and sustainability of our region's irreplaceable natural resources.

When people can connect with nature, they are more likely to care and protect it. With this in mind, we are excited to see progress on a handful of community conservation projects. Along Teton Creek, we are continuing our work to safeguard and restore habitat for a variety of species from wintering elk to migrating songbirds. At the Bates Bridge, we eagerly anticipate the construction of the new safe and secure boat

ramp, complete with a new parking area and improved amenities.

And as summer turns to fall, I hope you will come out to the inaugural Greater Yellowstone Crane Festival. This community celebration will be held on September 15, at the Driggs City Plaza. Come join us as we celebrate the gathering of Sandhill Cranes in Teton Valley as they prepare for their winter migration. The event will feature live music, crane dances, art, poetry, and activities for all ages. I am really looking forward to this event, though I am willing to wait patiently while enjoying all that summer has to offer in this incredible place. —Joselin Matkins

Conserving working farms and ranches, fish and wildlife habitat, and scenic open spaces in Eastern Idaho for this and future generations.



Bates Teton River Bridge

If you drove over Bates Bridge this winter, you might have noticed materials staged in preparation for spring construction of the Bates Access Project, recently named Buston River Park. The park includes a new boat ramp, a new parking area on the north side of Bates Road, a permanent pit toilet, and other recreational amenities.

In 2016, the Land Trust partnered with Teton County, The Trust for Public Land, and other community partners to purchase the eighty-acre parcel at Bates Bridge. The goal of the community-based project is to improve the safety of one of the most popular access points along the Teton River, support our recreation-

al-based economy through the development of permanent public access, and protect the wetlands and habitat for the river's fish and wildlife.

The seven-mile stretch between Bates and Packsaddle Bridges is almost entirely protected on both sides of the river.

The reach between Bates and Packsaddle Bridges is one of the most beloved and popular stretches on the river for floaters, paddleboarders, and fly-fishing enthusiasts. It is also the most protected stretch of the Teton River. The seven-mile stretch is almost entirely protected on both sides of the river, totaling nearly 2,300 acres of conserved land, ensuring the permanent preservation of this natural treasure. Aside from the Bates Teton County property and the Idaho Department of Fish and Game Rainer Access, these conserved lands are all private properties with conservation easements. Thank you, landowners!

Whether you have been lucky enough to have fished the river over the past twenty years, or if you just discovered it as a fantastic place to paddle board or float, you undoubtedly know that the Teton River is special. The Land Trust

The Land Trust has spent the last twenty years working

with forty willing landowners along the Teton River to protect this treasured resource. The result is over twenty-five river miles and seven thousand acres of habitat protection. This work preserves habitat for the river's wildlife through voluntary limits on development within the river corridor. is proud to have been a part of securing a safe and user-friendly access. As you get out this summer to enjoy the river, we hope you will be a part of protecting it for future generations by being a responsible steward, respecting wildlife, and continuing to support the conservation efforts of your local Land Trust.



Celebrating Conservation Anniversaries STORIES FROM THE LANDOWNERS

Years of Conservation Along the Teton River Toni Hill reflects on making Teton Valley her home

Since she was seven years old, Toni knew she wanted to spend her life on a ranch, and in 1962 Toni and her husband Ed moved to the Teton Valley to live out that dream. While Ed's family homesteaded in the "Teton Basin," as it was known at the turn of the 19th century, Ed moved to the Salt Lake area after graduating as a mechanic from the Idaho State University trade tech. He worked for a machine shop in a building Toni's father owned. Ed, a quiet and shy person, was invited to a family picnic. At the picnic he met Toni and for both of them, it was love at first sight. She was eighteen and he was twenty-one. After just four months and one week, they exchanged their wedding vows.

Toni and Ed shared the same interest in ranching and after Ed was drafted into the army and served in Germany, the two returned to the states. That summer they worked on a ranch near Daniel, Wyoming. The next year, Ed was a hired hand on a ranch in eastern Montana. His sister, Murel Kay, told them about 400 acres for sale in the Bates area. At the age of twenty-four, Toni's dream of owning a ranch came true thanks to her parents; Clint and Dorothy Withers, financial help and Ed's hard work. The four became partners in a beautiful ranch along the Teton River. The couple and their children Rayma, Tom, Heidi, Harley, and Eddie continued to raise Angus cows for thirty-five years. They looked forward to hunting, camping, picnicking, snowmobiling and such in the little free time they had. The highlight of winter was ice fishing on Jackson Lake. Ed would leave his snow plane parked at Colter Bay.

In the 1980s, the Hills cooperated with Teton County Soil Conservation District to develop a fencing and water development demonstration area to control cattle grazing within their Teton River pastures. Ed saw change coming in Teton Valley and became involved as a member of the Teton County Above: Ed Hill's last year running cattle in the early 1990s. Left: Toni Hill and her grandchildren along the Teton River.

Planning Commission, and as an early Teton Regional Land Trust board member. He told Toni that he liked the idea of preserving agricultural heritage, and with development picking up pace in the 1990s thought he could help the Land Trust build trust with the local families who had settled and worked the land for generations.

Twenty years ago, the Hill family protected their land through a conservation easement. A few years later, they also sold a portion of their land along the river to the Land Trust. People floating the Teton River can still enjoy the picnic area on the riverbank that the Hill family treasured. It was important to Toni that the picnic area remain open to the public. Edwin Hill died of cancer in 1992 at the age of fifty-seven. He would be proud to know that his three sons each own their own businesses. Two of his sons still work their family's land and have been able to expand their operations across the valley.

Toni has seen a lot of changes come to the valley. She recently shared that back when her kids were young, they rode the train for fun between Driggs and Victor on special occasions. These days, she still loads the grandkids up to go for adventures around the valley. They explore backroads, look for arrowheads, and spend time enjoying the "Teton Basin." With all the changes, Toni is grateful for the people she has met, the time spent camping with her kids and grandkids along the river, and the opportunity to share her time with her family and friends here in beautiful Teton Valley.

In recognition of Ed Hill's commitment to conservation and the Land Trust, the "Ed Hill Conservation Award" is presented by the Land Trust to the individual or group who best demonstrates an active interest in conservation of land.



Years of Conservation Along the Henry's Fork Passing on the Nedrow Family Legacy

Along the banks of the Henry's Fork, the Nedrow family works together to carry on the family tradition started in the late 1930s. This year, the family is celebrating fifteen years of conservation. "The Land Trust helped me save my farm," says John Nedrow. "The conservation payment our family received when we signed the conservation easement helped out tremendously when malt barley contracts, yields, and production were unstable for several years."

The conservation easement ensures the family farm will be passed on to the next generation and safeguards the Henry's Fork riverfront, along with wetlands, sagebrush steppe habitat, and transitional range for migrating big game.

"Farming is never easy, but it's worth it. The river and the land are part of our family. And by working with the Land Trust, we know that no matter what, this land will never be developed." — John Nedrow

"My wife, Sheila, and I plan to pass our land down to our kids. It's important to us to share the meaning of the voluntary conservation with them, so they are also getting involved with the Land Trust," John says. John is currently the vice president of the Land Trust board.



Greg and John Nedrow



Years of Conservation Along the South Fork The Burns Family reflects on conserving traditional agriculture and protecting habitat

The two-hundred acres of pasture, farm fields, and healthy cottonwood forest along the banks of the South Fork of the Snake River have been in the Burns family since the 1930s. As development slowly crept toward their family farm, they felt it was important to protect as much of the wildlife habitat and the traditional character of the land as possible.

The conserved property consists of roughly half-cultivated land and half-undisturbed riparian habitat. The family wanted to make sure the fields and pastures remain agricultural, while also appreciating the untouched wildness on other areas of their property. They specifically wanted to manage the land between the levee and the river for the health of the forest and resident and migrating wildlife—including more than thirty species of birds documented by the Land Trust. They also knew that anglers and boaters frequently float the stretch of river in front of their property and agreed to protect the view from the river by prohibiting any building along that stretch. Today, the Burns family feels that the combination of continued farming on the agricultural land and conservation of the river bottom has proven to be a very viable arrangement.

The family wanted to make sure the fields and pastures remained agricultural, while also appreciating the untouched wildness on other areas of their property.

"We donated the easement along the South Fork and have had the pleasure of working with a number of very dedicated and capable staff members ever since," Greg Burns says, reflecting on the last ten years. "We've found the Land Trust to be a valuable source of information in a number of different areas, including information on wildlife-friendly fencing, control of noxious weeds, and management of the cottonwood corridor. The stewardship style of the Land Trust is thorough but benevolent, allowing the agricultural use and wildlife habitat of property to coexist. We are very pleased with our decision to donate our conservation easement. It has given us peace of mind regarding the future of the property."

Family Tradition and Partnerships COME FULL CIRCLE

Teton Full Circle Farm Commits to Farmland Forever

The landowners of Teton Full Circle Farm are committed to the concept of "farmland forever." Farm owners Erika Eschholz and Ken Michael had been leasing five acres of land for their Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) operation, before purchasing twenty acres of prime farmland just outside of the City of Victor. Though this parcel could have easily been sold for residential development, Erika and Ken saw potential in the property as more than just dirt—they saw it as soil. Teton Full Circle plans to expand its CSA operation on its new ground, providing more local food for their community and protecting it with a conservation easement so that it remains farmland forever.

"By supporting 'Farmland Forever,' you are supporting local food, young farmers, healthy ecosystems, healthy lifestyles, and community," Erika and Ken explained." To top it off, when we sell this farmland it must be sold to a farmer at agricultural prices because it cannot be developed, making the land much more affordable for the next farmer."

Erika and Ken have committed to working with the Teton Regional Land Trust and have initiated a Farmland Forever campaign. To learn more, please *visittetonfullcirclefarm*. *org/farmland-forever*.

Biodynamic Farming

Teton Full Circle Farm takes organic farming a step further with biodynamic farming practices. Organic and biodynamic farming are very similar; both grow without chemicals and GMOs. However, biodynamic is a holistic practice where all things are considered living interrelated systems—animals, plants, and the solar system. A farm is viewed as its own organism where everything it needs to thrive is produced on site.

Pollinators

Organic farms provide benefits to pollinator and insect species that are seeing population declines due to pesticides and loss of habitat. Pollinators provide an essential ecosystem service that benefits agricultural producers, agricultural consumers, and gardeners. Protection of Teton Full Circle Farm will benefit pollinator species designated by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game as Species of Greatest Conservation Need, including Hunt's bumble bee, Morrison's bumble bee, and the Mason bee.

Teton Valley Farms COMMITTED TO CONSERVATION

Farmland Stays in the Family

Building on almost three decades of private land conservation in the Teton Valley, the Teton Regional Land Trust and a family that has been farming and ranching in the area for four generations worked together to protect the family farm. The resulting conservation easement protects vital agricultural lands from development and conserves an important resource for wildlife at the headwaters of the Teton River. The patchwork of wetlands and barley fields makes this area an excellent resource for the Greater Sandhill Cranes and other waterfowl. Spring-fed creeks that flow through the property gather at the headwaters of the Teton River. This conservation easement also buffers already conserved land, contributing to approximately four-hundred acres of protected agricultural land and riparian habitat.

By providing financial compensation for development rights, the land will remain a working farm in the family's hands. This helps maintain our valley's agricultural legacy, protects habitat for wildlife, and safeguards water quality. Since 1990, the Land Trust has partnered with sixty-two families in the Teton Valley to protect more than eleven thousand acres. Collectively, these voluntary agreements have helped maintain many of Teton Valley's most treasured resources, including its productive farm and ranch land, scenic vistas, and critical habitat for the region's iconic wildlife, like moose, trumpeter swans, and Yellowstone cutthroat trout. **Regional Conservation Partnership Program** Building on the farmland protected this March, we are excited to be a part of a partnership that includes landowners, Friends of the Teton River, and LegacyWorks Group. This partnership was awarded the first Regional Conservation Partnership Program grant in the State of Idaho through the Natural Resource Conservation Service. The program provides funding for conservation easement purchases and seeks to protect and restore Teton Valley farmland through both traditional and new farming practices. Goals of the project include:

Farmland and Wildlife Habitat Protection Permanent conservation of properties with productive farmland, prime soils, and wildlife habitat through conservation easements.

Soil Health and Water Quality Improvement The program will offer irrigation infrastructure upgrades and use of no-till drill equipment to farmers. No-till drilling techniques increase the amount of water retained in the soil while also reducing soil erosion. Further, the program will offer benefits to farmers leaving grain stubble, or "mulch till" to increase the retention of soil moisture and organic soil content.

Membership News

GIFTS RECEIVED JANUARY 1, 2017, THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2017

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.

> O'Connor Family Fund of the Community Foundation of South

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Legacy Circle

The Legacy Circle recognizes those that have named Teton Regional Land Trust in their estate plans Mark & Robin Anderson Anonymous Garth Blanchard Michael & Patricia Boyd William "Brad" Bradley

Michael Collette & Joann Pittelli Family Trust David & Deborah Fosdick Beth Gardiner Mark & Cathy Gim Gary & Cathy Gross Dr. Richard Grundler Trevor Jackson James Key Wray & Lani Landon Susan & Mayo Lykes Sandy & Mary Mason Jerry Neilsen Tim Reynolds & Patricia Isaeff Dr. David & Lynn Pease Michael Pernice Jerry & Barbara Reece Ron & Susan Rope Ruth Shea Chuck & Judy Shepard Kent Stevens Catherine Travaso If you have included us in your estate plans, please let us know so we can thank you in your lifetime.

In-Kind Support for Restoration, Operations & Events Boots Allen Di Allison Mark & Robin Anderson Blackriver Outfitters Michael & Patricia Boyd Tim & Wendy Brockish Broulim's of Driggs Jean Crabtree Phil Crabtree Diabla's Kitchen Far Bank Enterprises KatvAnn Fox Grand Teton Brewing Company Grand Teton Music Festival Bonnie Griffith Hafner Vineyards Gale Harding Hell's Canyon Winery Henry's Fork Lodge Idaho Brewing Company Idaho Falls Arts Council Idaho Mountain Trading Jimmy's All Season Anglers KAST Gear Buck Leonard The Lodge at Palisades Creek MarCellar's Vintage Wines & Brews MD Landscaping & Nursery Lew & Jill Mithun Purveyors Of Wine Susan Rose Schug Carneros Estate Winery Casey Singer Sonoma Land Trust Sundae Wines Tatanka Teton County Title Teton Valley Lodge The Lodge at Palisades Creek Tight Line Media The Nature Conservancy Three Peaks Dinner Table Three Rivers Ranch Sue Tyler Van Ruiten Family Winery Jack Walker Westbank Anglers Westside Wines & Spirits Michael Whitfield Event Host

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A special thanks to our many volunteers

Honoring Student Excellence MICHAEL B. WHITFIELD SCHOLARSHIP

Teton Regional Land Trust awards an annual \$1,000 scholarship in honor of Michael B. Whitfield, a visionary who helped shaped the Land Trust into what it is today. The scholarship seeks to support the next generation of conservationists and their post-secondary educational pursuits. Candidates must be graduating seniors with a minimum 3.0 GPA who live in Teton Regional Land Trust service-area counties of Bonneville, Clark, Fremont, Jefferson, Madison, and Teton, in Idaho and in Alta, Wyoming. Candidates must show an intention to pursue a major course of study in the environmental sciences, biology, ecology, environmental planning or policy, agriculture, or a related field.

"Growing up and participating my whole life in 4-H has given me a lot of time to think about my future goals. I want to pursue a career in agriculture education to change the lives of students and make sure that they understand the importance of agriculture. I want to make sure that our future adults know where exactly their food comes from as well as know how much hard work and dedication goes into growing and producing the food that is on their plate."

- Baillie Hillman 2018 Scholarship recipient

We recently checked in with our 2016 Whitfield scholarship recipient, Abi Cano. She stood out from the field of candidates with her love of the environment, the world around her, and her goal to study environmental science and education.



"I am extremely grateful for receiving the Michael B. Whitfield scholarship. I am currently majoring in environmental science and I am working toward double majoring or minoring in environmental education or entomology. I recently joined Kappa Delta Chi on campus, and I have been heavily involved with community service. Organizations like the Land Trust have influenced me in my studies, and I have learned about the importance of education and collaboration. I hope to work for an environmental nonprofit organization after graduating from the University of Idaho. Thanks to the help of this scholarship, I have been able to achieve so much in my first and second years of college."

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

2009	Seth Cox of Idaho Falls,
	Idaho Falls High School
2010	Justin Schwabedissen of
	Idaho Falls,Skyline High School
2011	Eli Dery of Driggs,
	Teton High School
2013	Anne Thomas of Rexburg,
	Madison High School
2014	Tyson Mickelsen of Rigby,
	Ririe High School
2015	Nathan Burr of Tetonia,
	Teton High School
2016	Abigain "Abi" Cano of Ashton,
	North Fremont High School
2017	Gage Hicks of Swan Valley,
	Teton High School
2018	Baillie Hillman of Tetonia,
	Teton High School

Letter from Our Board President THOUGHTFUL BALANCE



It's with great enthusiasm that I assume the role as president of the board. I have enormous gratitude to Robin Anderson, my predecessor, for her leadership. Together with the Land Trust's board and staff, we have made great progress with the goal of continuous organizational improvement. This covers multiple facets, from internal operations and stakeholder relations to community engagement, all while adding more keystone properties into the more than thirty thousand acres already protected and stewarded.

Our family, Bill, Libby, Kate (12), Jack (11), Henry (8) considers both Teton Valley and the Chicago suburbs our home. A first encounter, as we put down roots in Driggs, was the Land Trust's Michael Whitfield. Mike's professionalism, insights, and passion for the Land Trust's mission were infectious. I'm honored to pitch in with an organization that has a laser beam focus in an arena where the clock continues to tick.

Indeed, for those of us who have been on this planet long enough, we

probably have witnessed favorite places transformed since childhood. With amazement, I've watched fifty years of steady growth in my grandparents' community of Paradise Valley, just outside of Phoenix. Change is inevitable, but prudent steps taken as we travel on this journey together can make it a "win-win."

Although one could certainly read too much into the un-coached assignment brought home by our second grade son(!), I do think it succinctly highlights the *thoughtful balance* that is intuitively sought.

As it is said, "Out of the mouths of babes..."

At a minimum, as parents, we are grateful for the symbolism that our kids are growing up with a budding reverence for the landscape, natural resources, and heritage of the Greater Yellowstone region. On behalf of the Land Trust board and staff, thanks again for your continued support and involvement in our mission.



—Bill Graham

Welcome to the Board

MATT MACMILLAN - JACKSON, WYOMING



Matt has lived in the Tetons for more than twenty years. He grew up in the White Mountains of New Hampshire where his love and apperception for the outdoors began. Matt holds a bachelor of science in wildlife management from the University of New Hampshire. Professionally, Matt is an associate broker with Live Water Properties assisting clients with the acquisition

and disposition of farms and ranches in Wyoming, Idaho, Montana, and Utah. Matt, his wife Sarah, and their three children recently moved to Jackson.

WES KELLER - SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH



Wes was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin into an active family who enjoyed fishing and camping in northern Wisconsin. He attended Hanover College, followed by the University of Chicago Medical school. He and his wife Jean have lived in Utah for forty-six years, where they raised four children and enjoyed the outdoors—camp-

ing, backpacking, fishing, and skiing. In 1981, they built a cabin outside of Victor. The family has had happy times enjoying all the area has to offer. Wes is looking forward to working with the Land Trust, protecting this area we love so dearly for all who choose to live or visit here.

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



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11th Annual **Tin Cup Challenge**

Increase the impact of your support of the Land Trust by donating through the Tin Cup Challenge. To provide an online gift, please visit *cftetonvalley.org* before 5pm on July 27 and select Teton Regional Land Trust!

> Josh Holmes LAND PROTECTION SPECIALIST

Kimberly Holmes STEWARDSHIP COORDINATOR

Kate Hopkins Salomon MEMBERSHIP & OUTREACH COORDINATOR

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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 efforst 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.

