

1999 Newsletter

PALOUSE LAND TRUST

ANNUAL MEETING

**Wine and dessert
party**

Nov. 13 at 7:00 PM

Join us on Saturday, Nov. 13 at the Unitarian Church, 420 East 2nd St. in Moscow for the annual membership meeting and fund-raiser for the Palouse Land Trust. Share dessert and coffee or a glass of wine with board members, local landowners, and other people interested in conserving open space, water quality and wildlife habitat in the Palouse.

Speakers:

Alan Busacca, from WSU, will talk about **"Our Palouse Heritage"**.

Paul Kimmell, Latah County Commissioner, will speak about **"Farmland Preservation"**.

Find out how to get involved in your land trust. Learn about current and future projects.

Bring a friend and neighbor. Help us kick off our 2000 membership drive.

Palouse Prairie Remnants Need Protection

Remnants of the native grasslands are few and far between in the Palouse. Home to native wildflowers and important nesting sites for birds, remnants are threatened by weed invasion, shrub encroachment and trespass use. Bertie Weddell and Juanita Lichthardt have worked for the last two years, with funding by the Bureau of Land Management, to identify prairie remnants and encourage landowners to protect them in private, voluntary conservation agreements. The Palouse Land Trust wants to work with the landowners to protect these special places, these unique parts of the Palouse landscape.

We need volunteers to work with landowners in developing appropriate protection strategies. If you are interested, please contact Bertie Weddell: 334-0737 or weddellb@pullman.com.

Berman Creekside Park Dedicated

Katrina Berman dreamed of a park when she granted a conservation easement to the Palouse Land Trust and then donated land to the City of Moscow year. Those dreams are coming true.

Now under construction along Paradise Creek near Styner Avenue in Moscow, the 4-acre park will include a butterfly garden, native vegetation, a garden to stimulate the senses, a sledding hill and a trail along Paradise Creek. In keeping with the conservation easement, only native plants will be used. The Palouse Land Trust is responsible for ensuring the land is managed as required in the conservation easement now and in the future.

This park is uniquely beautiful. It is the only public park in southeastern Moscow. Many people worked together with the City of Moscow to create this part of the Linear Park in Moscow.



People at the Palouse Land Trust

A big step for the Palouse Land Trust: Executive Director

We welcome Lynn Wells Tanimoto as our first Executive Director. She has now worked for the Palouse Land Trust for almost one year, part-time. Many of her efforts are focused on landowners, including the many that contact the Palouse Land Trust each month. In addition, she has developed working relationships with the Latah County Commissioners, the Moscow City Council, the Latah Soil and Water Conservation District, and the Linear Park Task Force. She will soon expand these contacts to Whitman County. Her efforts are invaluable to the Palouse Land Trust. Her support will greatly increase the effectiveness of the busy volunteer members, board, and advisory board.

Lynn grew up on a farm in Ohio. Although she has lived many places, she has called Moscow home for more than 10 years. She has a life-long interest in natural history and field biology. More importantly, she wants to make a difference to her community and to conservation on the Palouse. The Palouse Land Trust appreciates her energy, enthusiasm, commitment, and skills with people.

Changes to the board

Archie George is now President of the Board of Directors. He replaces John Norton, who ably served the Palouse Land Trust in its first four years. As former treasurer and one of the founding board members, Archie brings a breadth of experience with the Palouse Land Trust and with conservation efforts. Jay Pengilly replaces Archie George as Treasurer for the Board of Directors. Other board members include Charles (Hoey) Graham, Penny Morgan, John Norton, Margrit von Braun, and Gerry Wright.

Advisory Board members include Stephen Bishop, Roger Blanchard, Nick Crookston, Steven Drown, Kirk Harden, Ken Houska, Jack Porter, Janice Smith-Hill, Bill Venosdel, and Bertie Weddell. The Executive Director and board call upon these people frequently for advice.

Thank you very much

Thanks to all our members, advisory board, and board of directors for another great year.

Amy Grey designed our invitations and membership reply card. Wanda Burns has volunteered many hours doing baseline monitoring on easements. Anna Haarsager helped with the web page and did babysitting. Phil Tanimoto provided technical support for the web site construction and for other computer needs. Conservation Imaging, Inc. hosts our web site.

Thanks to all of those who made our annual meeting a success. They include the Wine Company of Moscow, Alan Busacca, Paul Kimmell, Sandra Haarsager, and the Unitarian Church. Many members made desserts.

We're making a difference, and we couldn't do it without you.

Profile: John Norton

John Norton instigated the formation of the Palouse Land Trust in 1995 and was president of the Board of Directors for four years. He has worked closely with local landowners on conservation easements for our land trust. More importantly, he has brought many people and organizations together to work on projects for our land trust. John is a local lawyer, member of the Unitarian Church, and a friend to many people in Moscow, Pullman, and surrounding communities. He is known for his creative ideas. He and his family often bring diverse people together.

John has long been interested in conservation. He has lived in Moscow for almost 20 years in a house that is more than 100 years old. We at the Palouse Land Trust owe him heartfelt thanks for his vision, commitment, sense of humor and persistence, for he has worked tirelessly to create and grow the Palouse Land Trust.

What did the Palouse Land Trust accomplish last year?

Conserving the open space, wildlife habitat, water quality, and scenery of the Palouse is our focus.

We worked with more than 12 different landowners. We shared information about conservation easements and other planning tools, and made referrals.

We talked to the board of the Latah Soil and Water Conservation District and to other groups about conservation easements and other options landowners have when they want to protect their land and what makes it special to them.

Archie George and Lynn Wells Tanimoto traveled to western Montana to attend the first annual gathering of the Northern Rockies Land Trusts. Lynn also attended the annual Land Trust Alliance Conference in Leavenworth, Washington. Such activities help us develop an effective and efficient organization.

The Palouse Land Trust supported the efforts of the Latah Trails Foundation with a letter to the Latah County Commissioners.

Current Projects

Moscow Mountain

The view is spectacular from the top of Moscow Mountain. There is renewed interest in managing recreational use of two prominent areas at the top of Moscow Mountain: the ancient cedar grove and the site of the old lookout. Both are part of 297 acres of state school endowment land, once proposed as Century Cedars State Park.

Recent meetings reflect the broad support for creating a park on top of Moscow Mountain. Participants in informal discussions have included Latah County Parks and Recreation, the City of Troy, Bennett Lumber/Tree Farms, the Nature Conservancy, Idaho Department of Lands, local residents, recreational bicyclists, University of Idaho, the Palouse-Clearwater Environmental Institute and the Palouse Land Trust.

The Idaho Department of Lands is eager to trade for other land, but by state constitution, school endowment land must be traded or sold at public auction.

If you'd like to see Moscow Mountain protected, tell the Latah County Commissioners, write the governor, and encourage a broad coalition of local organizations to work together to make this happen.

Historical Wetlands

More than 98% of the area once in wetlands has been lost in the Palouse.

Because wetlands can attract wildlife, act as sponges for spring floods, and filter sediment and nutrients from runoff water, many people have suggested restoring some wetlands along streams and lowlands in the Palouse. They were once home to the beautiful camas lily.

The Palouse Land Trust is cooperating on research funded by the US Environmental Protection Agency. Researchers will describe the extent and plant composition of wetlands in the past, and develop environmental education programs about wetlands. The Idaho Fish and Game and the University of Idaho lead the project.

Yes, I would like to become a member of the

PALOUSE LAND TRUST

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

Enclosed is my tax-deductible gift:

- \$25 Basic Membership
- \$50 Contributing
- \$100 Supporting
- \$250 Patron
- \$500 Benefactor
- Other _____

Please make checks payable to the PALOUSE LAND TRUST
Mail to: Palouse Land Trust, P.O. Box 8506, Moscow, ID 83843

Get involved with the Palouse Land Trust

Help the Palouse Land Trust conserve open space, protect wildlife habitat, and enhance streams and wetlands through private land conservation efforts. You can make a difference:

- Become a member. Your financial contributions go far in our mostly volunteer organization.
- Give us the name of a landowner you think we should contact.
- Tell others about us. Share our brochure with friends and landowners.
- Volunteer to help with baseline monitoring, contacting landowners, and mailing newsletters.

Conservation easements are one of the ways farmers and foresters can protect and conserve open space, wildlife habitat, and favorite views. Conservation easements are legal agreements between a landowner and a land trust that permanently limit uses of land. Easements are written to protect open space, scenic values, wildlife habitat, or other conservation values. Because they are very flexible, conservation easements can allow continued agricultural or forest production or limited development. The landowners continue to own and use their land. Landowners can sell their land or pass it on to their heirs. Like road easements, conservation easements are permanently attached to deeds. Conservation easements can help landowners and their families:

- Protect what is special about their land
- Control future development and uses of their land
- Pass land from one generation to the next with reduced inheritance taxes
- Gain significant income and estate tax advantages

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P.O. Box 8506

MOSCOW, ID 83843

<http://www.palouselandtrust.org>

Join Us!

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Wine and Dessert Party

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