

WETLANDS

Winter 2006

*A Seasonal Publication of
The Wetlands Conservancy*



Richard Wilhelm

This is an exciting time for wetlands conservation. We have raised awareness and the time is ripe for a strategic, statewide, cooperative effort. Your year end gift or membership renewal will allow us to continue our important work of conserving Oregon's wetlands.

Congress Helps Ranchers and Farmers Protect Land *New Law Improves Tax Benefits of Conservation Easements*

Congress recently passed a law to enhance the tax benefits of protecting your land by donating a voluntary conservation agreement. If you own land with important natural or historic resources, donating a voluntary conservation agreement can be one of the smartest ways to conserve the land you love and protect Oregon's natural heritage, while maintaining your private property rights and possibly realizing significant federal tax benefits.

These new incentives make it easier for average

Americans, including working family farmers and ranchers, to donate land. The legislation allows:

- A conservation easement donor to deduct up to 50% of their adjusted gross income in any year
- Qualifying farmers and ranchers to deduct up to 100% of their adjusted gross income
- Donors to carry over deductions for their contribution for as many as 15 years

These changes allow many modest income landowners to

deduct much more than they could under the old rules, bringing increased fairness to the tax code.

A conservation easement, is a legal agreement between a landowner and a nonprofit land trust or government agency that permanently limits uses of the land in order to protect important conservation values. It allows you to continue to own and use your land and to sell it or pass it on to heirs.

When you enter into a conservation easement with a land trust, you give up some

Inside this Issue

Congress Helps Protect Land	1
New TWC Partnership with Pacific Forest Trust	2
Staff & Board News	3
New Meyer Memorial Trust Grant to TWC	3
2006-07 Projects & Accomplishments	4
Tualatin Natural Area Conservation	6
Pension Act of 2006	7
Workplace Giving	7
Volunteer Opportunities	7

continued on page 2

Community Event May 19, 2007

Watch our website and mailings for details on our May 19 Hedges Creek Community Event that will feature music, food, arts/crafts, and activities for children as an introduction to the marsh and kick off of TWC's and the City's partnership to restore the marsh.

Happy New Year!

Our donors, volunteers, board, staff and partners are the foundation of TWC's success. We appreciate the diverse of ways the community supports our mission and work. Thanks to all of you. We look forward to continuing to work with all of you and others to conserve Oregon's Greatest Wetlands.

of the rights associated with the land. For example, you might give up the right to subdivide your land or build additional houses. The land trust is responsible for making sure the terms of the agreement are followed.

Conservation easements vary widely. An agreement to protect rare wildlife habitat might prohibit any development, for example, while one on a farm might allow continued farming and the building of additional agricultural structures. An easement may apply to just a portion of the property, and need not require public access.

A conservation donation requires not only a willing donor, but a qualified conservation organization to accept the donation. That organization needs to be able to show that the donation closely fits its particular charitable mission. The Wetlands Conservancy will only accept donations that fit our mission.



A conservation easement can help a landowner pass land on intact to the next generation. By limiting the land's development potential, the agreement lowers its market value, which in turn lowers estate tax. Whether the agreement is donated during life or by will, it can make a critical difference in the heirs' ability to keep the land intact.

If a conservation easement benefits the public by permanently protecting important conservation resources and meets other federal tax code requirements, it can qualify as a tax-deductible charitable donation. The amount of the donation is the difference between the land's value with the agreement and its value without the agreement.

To qualify as a charitable donation, a conservation easement must be permanent. Landowners should get professional financial planning and legal advice before making such a major donation.

To learn more about conservation easements, contact

TWC, your local land trust, your tax or real estate advisor or the Land Trust Alliance website at www.lta.org.

TWC Partners Forges New Partnership with Pacific Forst Trust

TWC will begin a new partnership with Pacific Forest Trust to manage forest, wetland and estuarine habitats in the McCaffrey and Poole Sloughs of the Central Coast. The Pacific Forest Trust is the only conservation group in the nation solely committed to alleviating the threat to the integrity and productivity of America's private forests with a comprehensive strategy to Retain, Sustain and Gain. Since 1993, the Pacific Forest Trust has been working to preserve, enhance and restore America's vast and vital private forests – and safeguard their many public benefits – through education, innovation and collaboration.

BOARD AND STAFF NEWS



Jim Rapp Returns to TWC Board of Directors

Jim Rapp is Portland Marketing Manager for the Environment and Resource Management group of HDR, Inc. He was previously Executive Director of the non-profit For the Sake of the Salmon, and a city manager and planner in Oregon, Alaska and Alberta. Jim served as Board Vice President of TWC in the mid-1990's.

Jim Labbe has stepped down off of the board but will continue to volunteer with TWC. Thanks to Jim and welcome to Jim Rapp.

TWC Board Elects New Officers

TWC Board elected Geoff Huntington president, Paul Agrimis Vice President, Ed Casey Secretary, and Anne Eakin Treasurer. Marlene Huntsinger past president remains as a board director.

TWC Hires Coastal Steward and New Urban Lands Steward

Paul Engelmeyer, of Yachats Oregon, is TWC's first coastal steward. Paul has been the Director of the Audubon's Ten Mile Creek Sanctuary since 1991. Paul has worked with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Siuslaw National Forest on the development of a basin-wide restoration plan for the Ten Mile Creek Watershed. He is a respected voice on Pacific Northwest conservation issues and provides valuable information to state and regional fish and wildlife commissions. He was on the National Marine Fisheries Service Science Review Team for the designation of Essential Fish Habitat.

Jennifer Schley and Chris Runyard have replaced Marshall Johnson, who moved to Maryland. Jennifer worked for TWC as an AmeriCorps volunteer for TWC and also worked on invasive plant management projects with Marshall. Jennifer and Portland Community College student Joshua Roach are in charge of restoration and management at Central Hedges Creek, Apache Bluff, Cedar Mill, Hart Wetland and Gresham Meadowlands. Chris has worked as a Friends of Trees crew leader and planter for 11 years, and has led the Tsunami Crew, a dedicated team of crew leaders restoring the Three Creeks watershed in Clackamas, for five years. As a pilot for United Airlines, he used to see "forest destruction,

wetland degradation, sprawl, and oil slicks in the middle of the ocean." Now his priorities are "salmon, air, trees, and the community that surrounds them." Chris is doing the Kellogg Creek Knotweed project and managing the Hearthwood and Minthorn Springs Preserved I Clackamas County.

Colin Macdonald is doing outreach for our May 19 Hedges Creek event. Colin is a graduate of the University of Oregon in Family and Human Services and Nonprofit Business Administration. As native Oregonian born and raised in Cedar Mill, he has traveled extensively around Oregon. He shares a passion for the outdoors and strives to preserve and restore the abundance of natural resources we have all come to enjoy. Check our website for opportunities to meet and work with our new stewardship team.

Meyer Memorial Trust Grant Supports TWC Expansion

A three-year \$190,000 grant from the Meyer Memorial Trust will support expansion of staff capacity as we implement Oregon's Greatest Wetlands.

The grant funds will be used to hire a chief operating officer and coastal steward and redesign our website and logo.

Board of Directors

Geoffrey Huntington
President

Paul Agrimis
Vice President

Ed Casey Jr., *Secretary*

Anne Eakin, *Treasurer*

Gary Hahn

Marlene Huntsinger

Mark Jockers

Steve Jones

Jeff Keeney

Preston Michie

Althea Pratt-Broome

Jim Rapp

Staff

Esther Lev
Executive Director

Mary Anne Sohlstrom
Office Manager

Jennifer Schley
Property Steward

Colin Macdonald
Outreach Coordinator

Paul Engelmeyer
Coastal Steward

The Wetlands Conservancy

PO Box 1195

Tualatin, Oregon 97062

Phone 503.691.1394

Fax 503.885.1084

www.wetlandsconservancy.org

T H E W E T L A N D S C O N S E R V A N C Y

Central Coast

YAQUINA ESTUARY AND
BEAVER CREEK MARSH

PROJECT GOALS

- Conservation of intact salt and brackish marsh
- Restoration of marsh areas and adjacent timber lands
- Expansion of partnerships and conservation opportunities

PROJECT PARTNERS

NON-GOVERNMENTAL SUPPORTERS

- The MidCoast Watersheds Council
- Green Diamond Resource Company
- The Central Coast Land Conservancy
- Oregon Habitat Joint Venture
- The Nature Conservancy
- Pacific Forest Trust
- Private Landowners

GOVERNMENTAL SUPPORTERS

- Lincoln County
- Oregon Dept of Fish and Wildlife
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- National Marine Fisheries Service
- Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission
- Lincoln County Soil and Water Conservation District
- OWEB
- Oregon State Parks

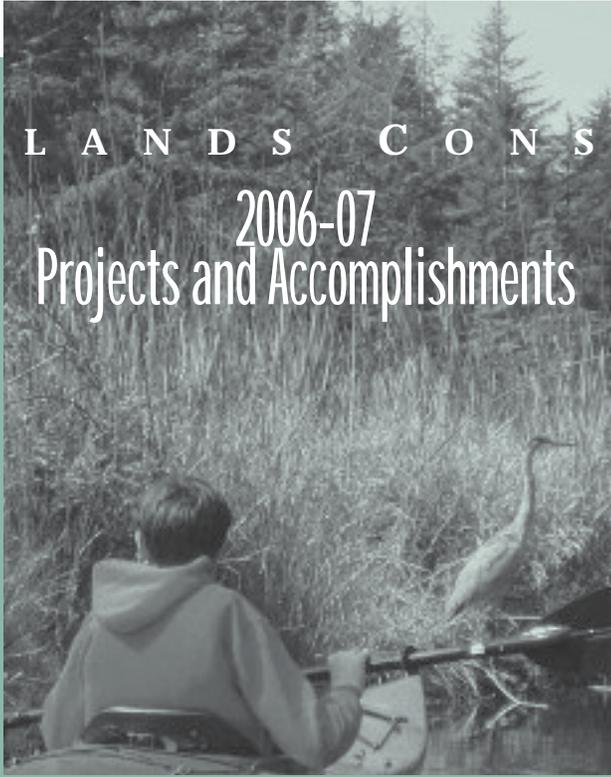
CURRENT AND COMPLETED TASKS

- Obtained conservation easement on 36 acres owned by Lincoln County
- Acquired 410 acres in McCaffrey Poole and Johnson Sloughs and Upper Yaquina River

- Discussed joint management strategy with Pacific Forest Trust

NEXT STEPS

- Create a plan that identifies properties for acquisition, conservation and restoration opportunities in Yaquina Estuary and Beaver Creek
- Acquire additional fee title and conservation easements in Yaquina, and Beaver Creek (some discussions have already begun)
- Provide restoration and conservation technical assistance to private landowners



2006-07 Projects and Accomplishments

Scappoose Bottomlands

PROJECT GOALS

- Implement the Scappoose Bottomlands Conservation and Restoration Plan

PROJECT PARTNERS

- Scappoose Bay Watershed Council
- The Nature Conservancy
- LCREP (Lower Columbia River Estuary Partnership)
- Columbia County Soil and Water Conservation District
- Private Landowners

CURRENT AND COMPLETED TASKS

- Characterized the remaining higher quality wetlands in the Bottomlands
- Published Scappoose Bay Conservation and Restoration Plan
- Started conversations about conservation and restoration of 150 acres of wetland in the bottomlands

- Support watershed council in Scappoose Creek Restoration Initiative

NEXT STEPS

- Work with watershed council and other partners to find funding to implement the plan
- Provide restoration and conservation technical assistance to private landowners
- Work with PGE on wetland management plan for Trojan wetlands

Tualatin

PROJECT GOALS

- Restore Hedges Creek Marsh.
- Build community support for wetland stewardship
- Expand partnerships and conservation opportunities in Tualatin and Sherwood

PROJECT PARTNERS NON-GOVERNMENTAL SUPPORTERS

- Tualatin Heritage Center
- Tualatin Chamber of Commerce
- Local Businesses
- Tualatin Schools
- Kaiser Permanente
- REI

GOVERNMENTAL SUPPORTERS

- City of Tualatin
- Clean Water Services
- Department of State Lands
- Metro

CURRENT AND COMPLETED TASKS

- Developed restoration Plan for Hedges Creek Marsh
- Participated in Tualatin Vision Process
- Developing joint education programs with Tualatin Heritage Center
- Planning spring/summer event

NEXT STEPS

- Implement Hedges Creek Restoration Plan
- Acquire additional land acquisitions and conservation easements in Hedges Creek and Sherwood
- Restore Nyberg Creek Wetland
- Develop art and wetland interpretation brochures with Kaiser Permanente

Oregon Wetland Explorer

PROJECT GOALS

- Build an integrated web portal, called the Oregon Wetlands Explorer, containing tools to support and improve wetland restoration and conservation planning and implementation, streamline permitting and to provide a location for all information on wetlands in Oregon.

NON - GOVERNMENTAL SUPPORTERS

- Institute of Natural Resources
- Oregon State University Libraries
- The Nature Conservancy

- Oregon Habitat Joint Venture

GOVERNMENTAL SUPPORTERS

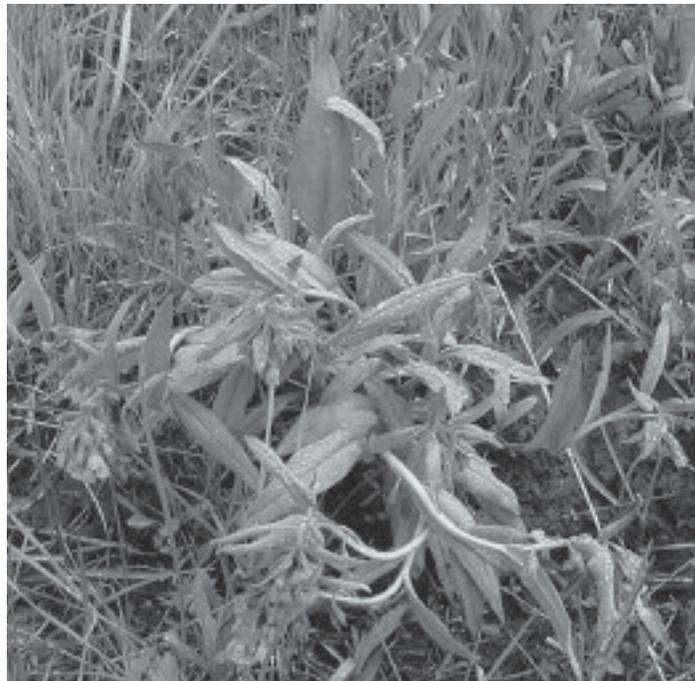
- Oregon Department of State Lands
- Oregon Dept of Fish and Wildlife
- Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
- Environmental Protection Agency
- US Fish and Wildlife Service

NEXT STEPS

- Facilitate a process to engage professionals and stakeholders in a discussion about what information is needed and why
- Complete and integrate available statewide wetland data
- Develop an online permitting tool which includes the ability to allow developers to pre-screen projects before investing in a project

to avoid areas which are likely to impact significant wetlands or threatened and endangered species. The tool would link to other permit streamlining efforts and would simplify permitting when impacts to wetlands or at-risk species were not present.

- Develop tools for wetland restoration, conservation, and mitigation that will help prioritize sites and habitats, and improve restoration goals and methods.
- Collect and produce stories of Oregon landowners who have conserved and restored their wetlands.
- Host trainings and informational workshops on how to access and use the information on The Oregon Wetland Explorer.



Renew Your Membership!

As a member, you already know how your ongoing support directly affects TWC's efforts to conserve Oregon's Greatest Wetlands. By completing the renewal process online, you'll seamlessly maintain your membership status. Renew your membership online right now to ensure that future generations continue to enjoy the unspoiled lands and waters we work to protect.

Gift Memberships

Gift memberships are a fun and easy way to spread the word of The Wetlands Conservancy's work while continuing to help conserve Oregon's Greatest Wetlands. Whether it's a special occasion or no occasion at all, TWC appreciates your decision to show that special someone you care about them and the world around us.



Why is Tualatin doing Community Visioning?

Tualatin has experienced significant growth in the past 30 years transforming it from an agricultural-based economy in 1970 with 750 residents to a bustling suburban community with a mix of residential, commercial business and manufacturing land uses. Between 1970 and 2000, Tualatin's population has grown over 3,000 percent, and since the year 2000 has increased nearly 11%.

By soliciting the opinions and visions of the community, The Tualatin City Council hopes to be more effective and proactive in dealing with the future and what it might bring, and be in a better position to capture opportunities.



greenspace during the City of Tualatin's first urban renewal planning process. Over the next five years TWC will work with the city of Tualatin and Tualatin residents, schools and businesses to restore and enhance the 57-acre Hedges Creek Marsh.

Support Tualatin Natural Area and Water Conservation

In February 2006, the City of Tualatin began a community-wide visioning process, called Tualatin Tomorrow. Through involvement with the community, the city plans to develop a Vision Statement that identifies what Tualatin's community wants Tualatin to be. This "statement for the future" will help to guide the Tualatin Tomorrow process in identifying the steps towards achieving the vision, and will also be used to guide Tualatin's future planning efforts.

TWC sees a community effort to restore and enhance Hedges Creek Marsh as the perfect opportunity to have the marsh be one of the centerpieces and landscape features of the City of Tualatin Community

Visioning. Returning to our roots, Central Hedges Creek Marsh in Tualatin is one of our 2007 priority areas. Hedges Creek Marsh was the birthplace of The Wetlands Conservancy in 1982 when a committed community of citizens, students, and business people joined together to protect this unique

The City of Tualatin is still seeking input on important community resources and vision. Please take a few minutes and visit their website: www.tualatintomorrow.org/stakeholders.html and take the Picture Tualatin and Tualatin Tomorrow Issues Survey. The more voices they hear about conservation and restoration of wetlands, waterways and natural areas, the more likely it will become a foundation of future plans.



T H E G I F T O F A L I F E T I M E

Give More for Less with the Pension Protection Act of 2006

In addition to the improved conservation tax incentives, the Pension Protection Act of 2006 also included a new, limited-time opportunity for IRA donors who may be considering making a charitable contribution to a land trust or other charitable organization.

Give more for less: For 2006 and 2007 only, Americans over age 70½ will no longer pay federal income tax on individual retirement account (IRA) funds, if they are given directly to qualified charities, such as land trusts – up to \$100,000 per person, per year.

How it works: Retroactive to January 1, 2006 and by December 31, 2006, you can make a gift of up to \$100,000 by transferring IRA assets directly to the chosen charity. Between January 1 and December 31, 2007, you may transfer an additional \$100,000. You will not receive an additional charitable deduction because the distribution is not taxable.

Some restrictions apply: Such transfers cannot be used for donor-advised funds or private foundations. You can use these funds to establish a permanent endowment to benefit the charity of your choice.

Is this right for me? If you answer “yes” to any of the following questions, you may want to consider taking advantage of this short-term opportunity. Consult your estate planning professionals and your tax advisors.

- *Are you older than 70 1/2 and are you planning to leave a charitable legacy through your estate plan?*
- *Have you designated your favorite charity as beneficiary of retirement assets?*
- *Do your retirement savings exceed your expected needs?*
- *Are you subject to a charitable deduction limitation because you give more than 50 percent of your income to charity?*
- *Do you take the minimum distributions from your IRA only because you must?*
- *Do taking greater distributions from your retirement plans affect the amount of your Social Security benefits that are taxed?*
- *Do you have adjusted gross income above \$150,500 (\$75,250 for married filing separately), which causes a phase-out of itemized deductions and exemptions?*

Volunteer Opportunities

Watch our website for volunteer opportunities on our Metro Area preserves, planning the Hedges Creek Celebration, and at our New Seasons Benefit Barbecue next summer.

Support TWC Through Workplace Giving

The Wetlands Conservancy is a member of Earth Share, a nationwide network of America's leading nonprofit environmental and conservation organizations, that works to promote charitable giving through workplace giving campaigns. The Conservancy participates in several workplace charity campaigns including the Combined Federal Campaign, state employee campaigns and several corporate campaigns.

By contributing to The Wetlands Conservancy through Earth Share, you may pledge a specified amount from each paycheck to be automatically deducted. Your donation will have an immediate impact in helping us conserve Oregon Greatest Wetlands.

Some ESOR companies match their employees' ESOR donations 100%. Please check www.wetland-sconservancy.org for a list of those companies. If your

company is listed you can double your contribution to The Wetlands Conservancy and help conserve more of Oregon's Greatest wetlands. Spread the word about The Wetlands Conservancy to your work mates.

For more information about Earth Share, including how your employer can host its own campaign, go to Earth Share's web site at www.earthshare.org.

Renew Your Membership!

As a member, you already know how your ongoing support directly affects TWC's efforts to conserve Oregon's Greatest Wetlands.

By completing the renewal process online, you'll seamlessly maintain your membership status. Renew your membership online right now to ensure that future generations continue to enjoy the unspoiled lands and waters we work to protect.

Gift Memberships

Gift memberships are a fun and easy way to spread the word of The Wetlands Conservancy's work while continuing to help conserve Oregon's Greatest Wetlands.

Help Support Wetlands Preservation by Becoming a Member

Membership

- New Member
- Renewal
- Senior \$ 20
- Friend \$ 35
- Family \$ 60
- Steward \$120
- Benefactor \$240
- Corporate \$500
- Founder's Circle \$1,000

I am enclosing a check for \$ _____

Additional gift for Land Acquisition \$ _____

Additional gift for Endowment \$ _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

DAYTIME PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

Or, bill my credit card:

VISA MasterCard

CARD NUMBER _____

EXPIRATION DATE _____

SIGNATURE _____

Please send me more information about The Wetlands Conservancy

Send me information about the tax benefits of land gifts and conservation easements

Clip and mail to: The Wetlands Conservancy, PO Box 1195, Tualatin, Oregon 97062, or just call us at 503.691.1394



P.O. Box 1195
Tualatin, Oregon 97062
503.691.1394

Non-Profit Org.
US Postage
PAID
Tualatin, OR
Permit No. 128

Address Service Requested



Newsletter design: Laurie Causgrove Design
Printed on Recycled Paper

