

Spring Training Opportunities

Our spring training schedule provides volunteers with a variety of opportunities to develop and expand leadership, naturalist or surveying skills while helping to protect some of Oregon's most remarkable places. For more information and to learn how to apply, please contact Molly Dougherty at 503 802-8100 or mdougherty@tnc.org.

Naturalist

Like meeting the public and want to learn more about Oregon's natural history? Become a volunteer naturalist! Greet visitors, answer questions and foster compliance with visitor guidelines at our most heavily visited preserves. Volunteers must patrol "their" preserves at least twice during the 2007 field season.

Training opportunities:

Tom McCall Preserve (season April - June) - Sat., March 31

Cascade Head Preserve (season May - Oct.) - Sat., April 28 or May 12

Crew Leader

Like working outside? This opportunity is for you! Crew leaders provide support and leadership for work parties around the state. Volunteers must commit to leading two work parties during the 2007 field season. Training opportunity:

Friday, April 13, 5:30 - 9:00 p.m. & Sat., April 14, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Weed Watcher

Want to help protect biodiversity while you hike? Become a weed watcher! Prevent the establishment of invasive plants by surveying for and reporting new infestations at Portland and Medford area preserves. Training opportunities:

Camassia, Sandy River Gorge & Tom McCall preserves: Sat., June 2

Lower Table Rock & Agate Desert preserves: Sat., May 19



The next generation of Nature Conservancy volunteers carries supplies up the Cascade Head Preserve trail in preparation for a busy day of pulling weeds on the grassland. © Ric Battaglia



Message from Molly

Thank you to more than 800 volunteers who contributed over 25,000 hours of time and effort toward helping us accomplish our state-



Molly Dougherty, director of volunteer programs
© Cliff Alton

wide conservation goals last year. You are vital to all of our conservation successes.

This year, we are excited to welcome twelve full-time AmeriCorps members to The Nature Conservancy in Oregon. Since January, this dedicated team has

been helping us achieve tangible, lasting conservation results statewide. We hope you can join them and the rest of our volunteer team as we head into the busy 2007 field season.

Join us on a work party or attend one of our spring training sessions and become a volunteer crew leader or naturalist. Or, check our volunteer classifieds and see if one of our positions matches your interests and skills.

To learn more about our volunteer opportunities throughout the year, please visit our Web site at nature.org/oregon, join our e-mail list (instructions below) or contact our volunteer program at 503 802-8100.

We look forward to working with you sometime soon on a preserve or in one of our offices across the state.

Did you know The Nature Conservancy maintains an Oregon volunteer e-mail list?

It's easy to sign up for regular e-mail updates about current and upcoming volunteer opportunities throughout the state. Just visit the volunteer section of our Web site, nature.org/oregon, and follow the directions in the beige box.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Volunteers of the Year: George Greer and Dottie Waddell



Each year, we honor exceptional volunteers for efforts that significantly advance The Nature Conservancy's mission in Oregon. We are delighted to announce the 2006 Ray C. Davis Volunteer of the Year Award winners, George Greer and Dottie Waddell.

George Greer understands the nuts and bolts of effective conservation. Literally. He's tightened a few on weed eaters and seed harvesters. In five years, George has dedicated over 1,200 hours to improving habitats at the Conservancy's southwest Oregon preserves. He's completed a host of projects, including native seed production, noxious weed control, monitoring, prescribed burn assistance, GPS mapping and more. George has also supported the Conservancy's mission beyond Oregon. Chosen from hundreds of applicants, he spent six weeks enduring heat, drenching humidity and flies while preparing trails for eradicating non-native rats to protect Palmyra Atoll's sooty tern habitat.

"George is a vital cog in our wheel of stewardship work," says Molly Sullivan, southwest Oregon stewardship coordinator. "He creatively solves our most challenging problems and always cheerfully goes the extra mile." George sees volunteering as a way to make a positive differ-

ence. "I want to leave the Earth a better place than I found it," he says.

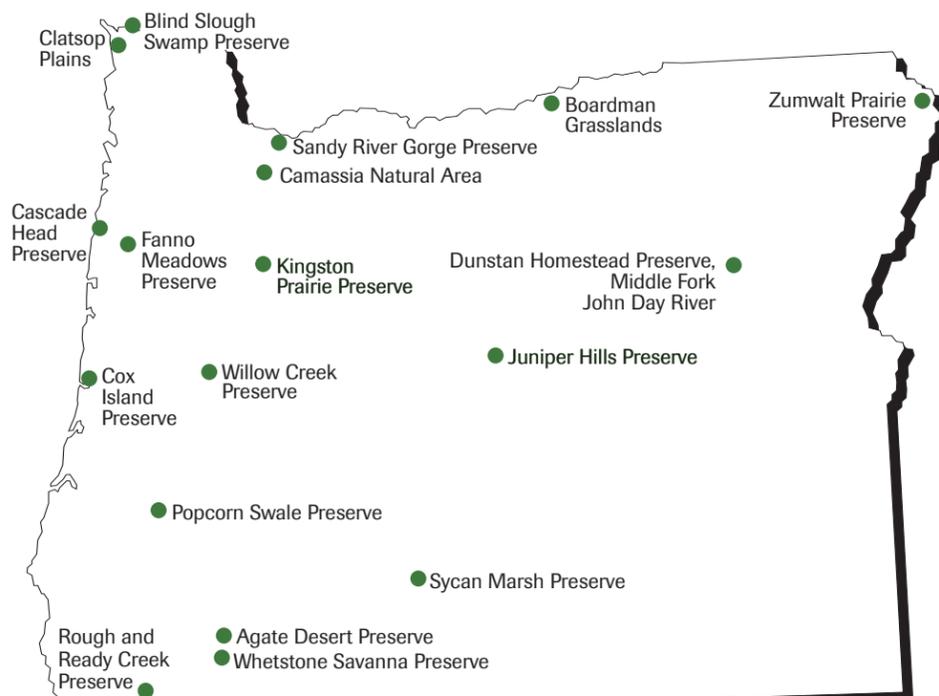
Dottie Waddell has tirelessly devoted more than 1,300 hours to managing projects for our Enterprise office since 2002. Also an accomplished multi-tasker, Dottie tackles whatever needs doing, such as office and volunteer management, financial reconciliation and research. Her skills, however, reach beyond the office. Dottie's also led crews and cooked meals during numerous Zumwalt Prairie Preserve volunteer work parties.

"Over the years, Dottie has been a valuable and trusted asset to our office," says Ray Guse, former northeast Oregon stewardship coordinator. "She's aided our conservation efforts in too many ways to list." Dottie's happy to use her skills to help The Nature Conservancy. "I especially enjoy working alongside the wonderful volunteers and staff," Dottie explains. "There's always something interesting to do, and it's clear they appreciate my work."

Congratulations and sincere thanks to both George and Dottie. Without committed supporters like you, our success would not be possible.

Above from left: George Greer © Molly Sullivan/TNC, Dottie Waddell © Melissa Roy-Hart/TNC

See Oregon's Last Great Places – Join a Volunteer Work Party!



Volunteers take a well-earned break after a full day of removing fences at Sycan Marsh Preserve.
© Mark Hedrick/TNC



Willow Creek Preserve volunteer Nova Sinniger plants native species at a Nature Conservancy work party last November.
© Larry Armbrust

Volunteer Work Parties

Field season is here, which means it's time to venture out onto our preserves to lend nature a hand. There are numerous opportunities this spring, summer and fall to enjoy the great outdoors while working with Conservancy ecologists and volunteer teams to protect some of Oregon's most critical habitats. For more information or to register for a work party, please contact volunteer coordinator Susan Hawes at 503 802-8100. Or, send an e-mail to shawes@tnc.org. When you register, you will receive a complete list of everything you should bring to be fully prepared for a fun day or weekend in the field.

Portland Area Preserves

Camassia Natural Area

This 27-acre preserve near West Linn features woodlands, wildflower meadows, rock gardens, ponds and willow and aspen swales. Home to over 300 plant species, including several rare ones, Camassia is a special gem in a rapidly growing urban area.

Saturday, March 17

Saturday, April 14

Saturday, October 27

Saturday, November 10

Restore oak habitat, remove debris, plant native species and maintain trails.

Sandy River Gorge Preserve

Just 20 miles east of Portland in the Sandy River Gorge, this preserve hosts pristine habitats, including an old-growth Douglas-fir forest, and provides a home to native salmon, elk, river otter and other wildlife.

Saturday, May 5

(Difficult 1.5 mile hike, 800' elevation gain)

Saturday, June 9

Saturday, September 22

(Difficult one mile hike, 700' elevation change)

Maintain trails, roads and culverts and

remove invasives.



Susan Healy pulls oxeye daisy during a Fanno Meadows Preserve volunteer work party last summer. © Molly Dougherty/TNC

Oregon Coast

Blind Slough Swamp

Home to the best example of a Sitka spruce swamp in Oregon, this preserve provides habitat along the Columbia River for bald eagle, osprey, river otter and beaver.

Saturday, July 28

Saturday, August 25

Remove purple loosestrife.

Cascade Head Preserve

This spectacular coastal headland, located near Lincoln City, provides critical habitat for native prairie grasses, uncommon wildflowers, the rare Oregon silverspot butterfly and one of the few populations of Cascade Head catchfly.

Saturday, June 9

Conduct trail maintenance and remove invasive blackberry.

Saturday, July 14

Remove oxeye daisy and pennyroyal.

Saturday, August 11

Remove Queen Anne's lace and teasel (on the Penacle), as well as pennyroyal.

Saturday, September 8

Remove invasive blackberry.

Saturday, September 29

Remove Queen Anne's lace (includes a volunteer appreciation party).

Clatsop Plains

This two-mile wide stretch of stabilized sand dunes covers nearly eight miles of Oregon's coast near Gearhart. Visited by Lewis and Clark, this dune system is a mosaic of waterways, wetlands, Sitka spruce forests and coastal prairie.

Saturday, July 7

Remove Scots broom.

Cox Island Preserve

Located two miles east of Florence in the Siuslaw River, this low elevation salt marsh island is visited by over 80 species of waterfowl and other birds.

Saturday-Sunday, July 21-22

Saturday, August 18

Saturday, September 22

Control *Spartina patens*.

Fanno Meadows Preserve

A rare example of spring-fed, high elevation sphagnum-sedge wetlands more common in Alaska, this 744-acre preserve hosts two rare plant species as well as Roosevelt elk and black bear.

Saturday, July 14

Saturday, July 28

Remove invasive species.

Central Oregon

Boardman Grasslands

This preserve boasts the best expanse of unplowed native sage and bunchgrass habitats on the Columbia Plateau. Enjoy spring grasses at their greenest and wildflowers at peak.

Saturday-Sunday, May 19-20

Remove invasive species.

Juniper Hills Preserve

This 14,000-acre preserve situated on the Crooked River east of Prineville harbors ancient western junipers, an outstanding diversity of native bunchgrasses and colorful earth formations.

Saturday-Sunday, June 2-3

Saturday-Sunday, September 29-30

Maintain fences, plant native seedlings, remove invasives and improve facilities.



Nature Conservancy volunteers Dick Demarest (left) and Jeanne White maintain fences at Zumwalt Prairie Preserve. © Rick McEwan

Klamath Basin

Sycan Marsh Preserve

Surrounded by pine forest, this vast, high-elevation wetland is home to thousands of nesting and migrating birds, threatened fish and newly discovered aquatic creatures.

Saturday-Sunday, July 14-15

Saturday-Sunday, August 18-19

Remove fences and maintain facilities.

Northeast Oregon

Dunstan Homestead Preserve

Four river miles of riparian and streambed habitat are being restored for wild salmon and steelhead on this former ranch and dairy farm.

Saturday-Sunday, July 28-29

Remove teasel, pile Aspen stand debris and construct instream structures.

Saturday-Sunday, October 13-14

Plant conifer seedlings and maintain instream structures and facilities.

Volunteer Work Parties continued from page 2

Zumwalt Prairie Preserve

High on the edge of Hells Canyon, this 33,000-acre preserve is North America's largest remaining native bunchgrass prairie, as well as home to one of its largest concentrations of nesting raptors.

Saturday-Sunday, May 5-6

Saturday-Sunday, October 20-21

Plant riparian shrubs, build shrub enclosures, remove fence and improve structures.

Willamette Valley

Kingston Prairie Preserve

This 128-acre preserve southeast of Stayton is the best example of native prairie remaining in the central Willamette Valley, with both wet and dry prairie habitats harboring native grasses and rare wildflowers.

Saturday, June 16

Saturday, July 21

Saturday, August 18

Saturday, September 15

Saturday, October 20

Each work party is from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Projects include removing Scots broom and other invasives and collecting native seed.

Willow Creek Preserve

Home to over 200 species of native plants and the rare Fender's blue butterfly, this 508-acre preserve is the ecologically richest remnant of native wet prairie in the southern Willamette Valley.

Saturday, April 14

Saturday, May 12

Saturday, June 9

Saturday, July 14

Saturday, August 11

Saturday, September 8

Saturday, October 13

Saturday, November 10

Each work party is from 9:30 a.m. to noon.

Projects include propagating and planting native plants, removing invasives species, fences and woody vegetation and collecting native seed. For driving directions, please visit the volunteer work party section of our Web site, nature.org/oregon. Tools and gloves are provided. Participants should dress for the weather; long pants and sturdy footwear is strongly encouraged. For more information or to register, please contact Matt Benotsch, Willamette Valley stewardship coordinator, at 541 343-1010 ext. 302. Or, send an e-mail to mabenotsch@tnc.org.

Southwest Oregon

For more information or to register for a Southwest Oregon volunteer work party, please contact Lyndia Hammer, AmeriCorps southwest Oregon program assistant, at 541 770-7933. Or, send an e-mail to lhammer@tnc.org.

Agate Desert Preserve

Located on the Agate Desert landform just north of Medford, this Rogue Valley grassland provides a sanctuary for rare wildflowers and a federally listed species of fairy shrimp.

Saturday, April 7

Saturday, June 2

Count endangered plants, remove non-native species and harvest native seed.

Popcorn Swale Preserve

A wildflower haven in the spring, this remnant of Umpqua Valley wet prairie near Roseburg contains tufted hairgrass and one-sided sedge/meadow barley communities and several rare plants.

Saturday, July 21

Saturday, August 4

Saturday, August 18

Saturday, October 6

Control non-native species and collect native seed.



Volunteers pause for a quick photo while monitoring rare plants at Popcorn Swale Preserve. © Adam Bacher

Rough and Ready Creek Preserve

Long treasured by botanists, this 110-acre preserve hosts 250 native plants, including the rare Siskiyou fritillary.

Saturday, July 7

Saturday, September 22

Collect and sow native seed.

Whetstone Savanna Preserve

North of Medford, this preserve shelters mounded prairie and vernal pool grassland communities with several rare wildflowers, and safeguards a key portion of the best remaining oak savanna habitat on the Rogue Valley floor.

Saturday, March 17

Saturday, May 12

Remove non-native species.

Volunteer Classifieds

Your time and talents are needed! Our mission of protecting biodiversity in Oregon depends on people like you. The following volunteer positions are currently available. For more information and to learn how to apply, please call Molly Dougherty at 503 802-8100. Or, send an e-mail to mdougherty@tnc.org (unless otherwise noted).

Dunstan Homestead Field Assistants – Northeast Oregon

Help restore aquatic and meadow habitats and treat/monitor non-native teasel along the magnificent Middle Fork John Day River. Experience and comfort with machetes and motorized mowers preferred. Ability to operate a small tractor a plus. Dates are July 23-31. For more information, please contact Jeff Fields at 541 421-3037 or 541 932-4314.

Field Assistants – Southwest Oregon

Help with our conservation work throughout the week. Projects range from vegetation and rare plant monitoring to non-native species control and preserve maintenance. For more information, or to sign up for the Southwest Oregon volunteer email newsletter, please contact Lyndia Hammer at 541 770-7933 or lhammer@tnc.org.

Willow Creek Field Assistants – Eugene

Help restore endangered Fender's blue butterfly habitat by collecting native seeds, weeding, mulching and watering at a native plant nursery. Training in plant identification, native plant propagation and nursery maintenance is available. Work with staff or on your own. Time commitment is flexible. For more information, please contact Matt Benotsch at 541 343-1010 ext. 302 or mabenotsch@tnc.org.

Preserve Stewards – Portland Area

Help restore native vegetation at Camassia Natural Area in West Linn and/or the beautiful Sandy River Gorge. By clearing invasives and regularly returning to one spot, you will clearly see the "fruits" of your labor. Must be physically fit and able to work once a month for a year. Orientations will be held at Camassia on Saturday, April 14, and at the Sandy River Gorge's Cornwell tract on Saturday, May 5.

Receptionists – Portland

Handle incoming telephone calls, greet visitors, sort mail and complete other projects as necessary. A four-hour commitment once a week is required.