

Spring Training and Hiking 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. To learn how to apply, please contact Molly Dougherty at 503 802-8100 or mdougherty@tnc.org (unless otherwise noted).

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 patrol "their" preserves at least twice during the 2009 field season.

Trainings: Tom McCall (season April - June) : Saturday, April 4
Cascade Head (season May - Oct.) : Saturday, May 9

Crew Leader

Like working outside? This training is for you! Crew leaders provide support and leadership for work parties around the state. Volunteers commit to leading two work parties during the 2009 field season.

Training: Saturday, April 25 (in Portland)

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 Tom Call Preserve near Hood River. To register, please contact Tania Siemens, invasive species project coordinator, at 541 914-0701 or tsiemens@tnc.org.

Training: Saturday, April 4 (at Tom McCall)



Volunteers listen as Debbie Pickering (seated), coast ecologist, explains the rare plants, wildlife and grassland communities found at Cascade Head Preserve. Naturalists share knowledge gained during training with preserve visitors throughout the field season. © Rick McEwan

Spring Hikes on the Table Rocks

Enjoy the wonderful wildflowers, geology, history and wildlife of these ancient landmarks near Medford. Free, naturalist-guided hikes are offered weekends throughout April and May. For a schedule, please contact Kai Victor, AmeriCorps Southwest Oregon program assistant, at 541 770-7933 ext. 5 or kvictor@tnc.org.

The Nature Conservancy

Protecting nature. Preserving life.™

Zumwalt Prairie Preserve © Rick McEwan

Spring 2009
Volunteer Newsletter

Message from Molly

Thank you to more than 900 volunteers who contributed over 45,000 hours of time and effort toward accomplishing our statewide conservation goals last year — another all-time high!



Molly Dougherty, director of volunteer programs
© Melissa Roy-Hart/TNC

Much appreciation to our AmeriCorps Conservation Team (ACT) members who contributed over 20,000 of those hours to research, habitat restoration and to engaging local communities across Oregon. We hope

you can join our 2009 ACT members and other volunteers in protecting Oregon's ecologically important lands and waters.

The Nature Conservancy offers many ways for you to lend nature a hand. Join a work party or our growing practicum/volunteer intern program. Attend one of our spring training sessions to become a crew leader, naturalist or weed watcher. Check our volunteer classifieds, visit our Web site at nature.org/oregon/volunteer, or contact us at 503 802-8100 to see how you can get involved.

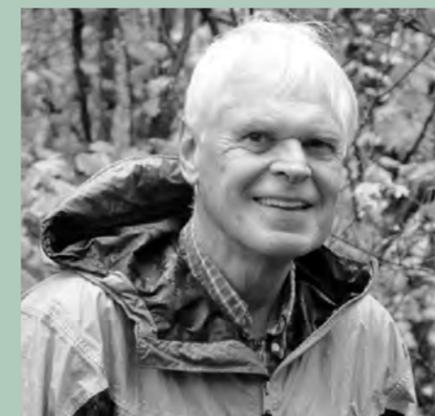
I hope to see you soon!

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 our Web site, nature.org/oregon/volunteer, and follow the directions in the beige box.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Volunteers of the Year: Jeff Clark and Carl Nielsen



Each year, we honor exceptional volunteers for efforts that significantly advance The Nature Conservancy's mission in Oregon. We are delighted to announce the 2008 Ray C. Davis Volunteer of the Year Award winners, Jeff Clark and Carl Nielsen.

Since he began volunteering at Camassia Natural Area four years ago, Jeff Clark has truly been a positive force. Averaging 20 hours each week, he's patrolled dozens of acres there and at Sandy River Gorge Preserve, removing English ivy, Himalayan blackberry, Scots broom and other invasive species. And his efforts haven't stopped there. Jeff's also improved trails and boardwalks and helped to grow native plants for habitat restoration. He's even assisted with publications by sharing his professional expertise as a former print shop owner.

"Jeff's steady work is like having an additional, full-time staff member with the Portland preserves crew," said Kyle Strauss, the Conservancy's AmeriCorps program coordinator. "His energy and work ethic are inspiring, and his sense of humor makes him a joy to work with."

Jeff is honored to lend nature a hand. "I just want to do anything I can to help

The Nature Conservancy succeed in its noble and essential mission," he said.

Carl Nielsen joined the Conservancy's Oregon volunteer team in 2001, in part because he felt the human race could do a better job of caring for the planet. After meeting Conservancy staff and other volunteers, he knew he'd found the right place to pitch in and make a difference, so he started coming in each Wednesday to assist with transcriptions, mailings, data management, filing and more. He quickly became a key member of the philanthropy department.

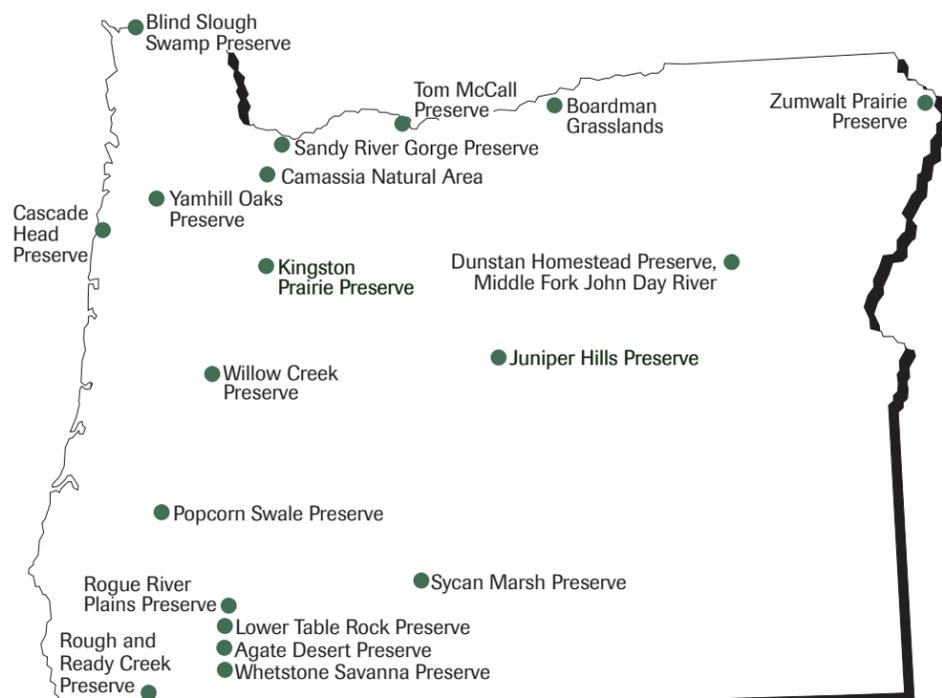
"Carl is an incredible asset to the Oregon program," said Cynthia Beckwith, associate director of philanthropy. "He is committed, reliable and professional. We feel fortunate to have him on our team."

With more than 900 volunteer hours logged, Carl "feels very good about contributing his time and effort to an organization that is accomplishing so much."

Congratulations and genuine thanks to both Jeff and Carl. Without dedicated supporters like you, our successes would not be possible.

Above from left: Jeff Clark © Philip L. McCarty
Carl Nielsen © Cynthia Beckwith/TNC

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



Our 2009 AmeriCorps Conservation Team will lend their skills and time across Oregon, helping with research, habitat restoration, community outreach and more.

© Kyle Strauss/TNC



Volunteer crew leader Heather Coleman removes invasive Scots broom during a Sandy River Gorge Preserve work party last summer. © James Thompson

Volunteer Work Parties

Field season is here, which means it's time to venture out onto our preserves and give nature a boost. 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 call Laura Moran at 503 802-8100, or send an e-mail to orvolunteers@tnc.org, unless otherwise noted. 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, October 3
Remove invasive species.

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 salmon, elk, river otter and other wildlife.
Saturday, May 2
Maintain trails and remove invasive species. (Difficult one-mile hike, 700' elevation gain)
Saturday, May 16 : Take Care of Oregon Day!
Remove invasive species. (Difficult 1.5-mile hike, 800' elevation gain)



Steady rain didn't stop dedicated volunteers like Marci Krass from planting native species at Camassia Natural Area in West Linn last fall.
© Philip L. McCarty

Oregon Coast

Blind Slough Swamp Preserve

Home to Oregon's best example of a Sitka spruce swamp, this preserve provides habitat along the Columbia River for bald eagle, osprey and river otter.
Saturday, August 22
Saturday, August 29
Remove invasive purple loosestrife. (Requires canoeing)

Cascade Head Preserve

This spectacular coastal headland near Lincoln City provides critical habitat for the endangered Oregon silverspot butterfly and one of the few populations of Cascade Head catchfly.
Saturday, June 20
Maintain trails and remove pennyroyal.
Saturday, August 15
Remove Queen Anne's lace and teasel on the Penacle.
Saturday, August 29
Remove blackberry.
Saturday, September 26
Remove Queen Anne's lace. Includes a volunteer appreciation party. (Difficult four to five-mile roundtrip hike, working off trail, on steep slopes)

Central Oregon

Boardman Grasslands

This preserve boasts the Columbia Plateau's best expanse of unplowed native sage and bunch grass habitats. Enjoy spring wildflowers at peak.
Saturday-Sunday, May 16-17 : Take Care of Oregon Day!
Remove invasives and improve facilities.

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 bunch grasses and colorful earth formations.
Saturday-Sunday, September 26-27
Maintain fences, remove invasives and improve facilities.

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. To register, contact Kai Victor, AmeriCorps Southwest Oregon program assistant, at 541 770-7933 ext. 5 or kvictor@tnc.org.

Sycan Marsh Preserve (cont.)

Saturday-Sunday, August 15-16
Remove fences and improve facilities. (Includes painting research station)



Invasive plant removal is a group project at the Conservancy's Boardman Grasslands. The preserve harbors Oregon's largest viable population of the Washington ground squirrel, listed as endangered under the Oregon Endangered Species Act.
© Jeff Krenke

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 25-26
Remove invasives, collect native seed and create bird houses and willow enclosures.

Zumwalt Prairie Preserve

High on the edge of Hells Canyon, this 33,000-acre preserve is North America's largest remaining native bunch grass prairie, as well as home to one of its largest concentrations of nesting raptors.
Saturday-Sunday, September 12-13
Maintain trails, remove invasive species, build shrub enclosures and spread native seed.

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 20
Saturday, July 25
Each work party is from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Projects include removing invasives, maintaining plots, monitoring species and collecting native seed.

Volunteer Work Parties continued from page 2

Yamhill Oaks Preserve

West of McMinnville, this 272-acre preserve is the first-ever protected area for the endangered Fender's blue butterfly in the northern Willamette Valley.
Saturday, June 27
Collect native seed, monitor species and remove invasives.

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. To register, please contact Matt Benotsch, Willamette Valley stewardship coordinator, at 541 343-1010 ext. 302 or mbenotsch@tnc.org.
Saturday, May 9 : Take Care of Oregon Day!
Saturday, July 11
Saturday, October 10
Each work party is from 9:30 a.m. to noon. Projects include propagating native plants, removing invasives and fences, clearing brush and collecting native seed. For directions and more, visit the work party section of our Web site, nature.org/oregon/volunteer.



Armed with a machete and a strong commitment to preserving nature, volunteer Kara Blandi removes invasive teasel at Dunstan Homestead Preserve on the Middle Fork John Day River. © Marci Krass

Southwest Oregon

For more information or to register for a Southwest Oregon volunteer work party, please contact Kai Victor, AmeriCorps Southwest Oregon program assistant, at 541 770-7933 ext. 5 or kvictor@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 4
Count endangered plants.

Lower Table Rock Preserve

Rising dramatically above the Rogue River Valley, a showy early spring wildflower display including rare plants graces the top of this 1,881-acre Southwest Oregon preserve and its twin, Upper Table Rock.
Saturday, May 16 : Take Care of Oregon Day!
Celebrate the preserve's 30th anniversary by helping with a stewardship project.

Popcorn Swale Preserve

A wildflower haven in the spring, this remnant of Umpqua Valley wet prairie near Roseburg contains tufted hairgrass and several rare plants.
Saturday, June 6
Saturday, July 18
Saturday, September 19
Control non-native species.

Rogue River Plains Preserve

Located near the Table Rocks, this 125-acre landscape of mounded prairie and vernal pools protects the endangered large-flowered meadowfoam as well as a threatened fairy shrimp.
Saturday, April 18
Survey endangered plants.

Rough and Ready Creek Preserve

Long treasured by botanists, this 110-acre preserve hosts 250 native plants, including the rare Siskiyou fritillary.
Saturday, June 13
Collect native seed.

Whetstone Savanna Preserve

North of Medford, this preserve shelters mounded prairie and vernal pool grassland communities, and safeguards a key portion of the best remaining oak savanna habitat on the Rogue Valley floor.
Saturday, March 21
Remove non-native species.



Doug White gathers native seed during a Kingston Prairie Preserve volunteer work party. © Philip L. McCarty

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 contact Molly Dougherty at 503 802-8100 or mdougherty@tnc.org (unless otherwise noted).

Preserve Stewards — Portland Area

Restore native vegetation at Camassia Natural Area in West Linn and/or Sandy River Gorge Preserve. 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 Tuesday, April 7 and at the Sandy River Gorge's Cornwell tract on Saturday, May 16.



Volunteers take a break after removing invasives from Whetstone Savanna Preserve. © Molly Sullivan/TNC

Native Habitat Restoration Interns — Portland Area

Restore salmon habitat in the Sandy River watershed by removing invasive species. Projects include outreach, data collection, monitoring, and weed eradication with herbicides. Kayaking and rafting may be required, as is a strong swimming ability. Work is Monday through Thursday with a minimum of eight 10-hour work days between June 15 and September 30.

Field Assistants — Southwest Oregon

Contribute to 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 e-newsletter, please contact Molly Sullivan at 541 770-7933 ext. 2 or msullivan@tnc.org.

Dunstan Homestead Field Assistants — Northeast Oregon

Survey for bird species at 30 sites along the magnificent Middle Fork John Day River. Bird enthusiasts of all experience levels are encouraged, and housing is provided. A minimum commitment of two days between May 9 and June 27 is required.