



Cascade Head Preserve © Rick McEwan

Message from Molly

Thank you to more than 800 volunteers who contributed over 46,000 hours of time and effort toward accomplishing our statewide conservation goals last year — another all-time high!



Molly Dougherty, director of volunteer programs
© Chris Purves

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 2010 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 throughout the year. 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 call 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: James Thompson and Rick McEwan



Each year, we honor exceptional volunteers for efforts that significantly advance The Nature Conservancy's mission in Oregon. We are delighted to announce the 2009 Ray C. Davis Volunteer of the Year Award winners, James Thompson and Rick McEwan.

James Thompson has been volunteering with the Conservancy for well over a decade, first in California and then in Oregon since 1996. As a crew leader for as many as 10 volunteer work parties each field season, James has supervised hundreds of other volunteers restoring fish and wildlife habitats from the coast to the Idaho border. Plus, he regularly signs up for the most challenging assignments and jumps in to help when other crew leaders are in a pinch.

"James has built great relationships with other volunteer crew leaders, and he's extremely reliable," said Molly Dougherty, director of volunteer programs. "I would have a difficult time pulling off our ambitious work party program without him."

James says he enjoys how volunteering connects him with the land and with others who share a sense of environmental stewardship.



Rick McEwan first photographed Zumwalt Prairie Preserve and donated his stellar images to the Conservancy in 2004. A retired teacher living in Enterprise, he now visits Zumwalt several times a week — in all weather and seasons — capturing the dramatic landscape as well as people in action. He's volunteered statewide, shooting photos at more than 27 other sites. If you've seen Nature Conservancy publications, including this one, you've enjoyed Rick's talent and generosity.

"In many ways, Rick's work has become the face of Oregon conservation," said Jen Newlin, creative manager. "Without him, our publications and events would lack a resonating power on which we've come to depend."

"I'm honored to collaborate with the Conservancy," Rick said. "I learned my craft in the Sierra Nevada, but I honed my art on Oregon preserves."

Congratulations and genuine thanks to James and Rick. Our successes would not be possible without dedicated supporters like you.

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 us 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

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, November 20

Prep and plant native shrubs and trees.

Sandy River Gorge Preserve

Just two 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 8

Remove invasive species (difficult one-mile hike, 700' elevation gain)

Saturday, May 22

Remove invasive species (difficult 1.5-mile hike, 800' elevation gain)



Ari DeMarco, 2009 AmeriCorps Conservation Team member, helms a canoe full of invasive purple loosestrife during a Blind Slough Swamp Preserve volunteer work party. © Nikolai Daniilchik/TNC

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 21

Saturday, August 28

Remove invasive purple loosestrife (requires canoeing.)

Cascade Head Preserve

This spectacular coastal headland near Lincoln City provides habitat for the endangered Oregon silverspot butterfly and Cascade Head catchfly.

Saturday, June 12

Remove blackberry.

Saturday, June 26

Pull pennyroyal.

Saturday, July 24

Build and maintain trails.

Saturday-Sunday, August 14-15

Remove Queen Anne's lace and teasel on the pinnacle and maintain trails.

Saturday, September 25

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

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, May 22

Transplant Henderson's checkerbloom.

Saturday-Sunday, September 11-12

Control saltmeadow cordgrass.

Central Oregon

Boardman Grasslands

This preserve boasts the Columbia Plateau's best expanse of unplowed native sage and bunch grass habitats and harbors Oregon's largest viable population of the Washington ground squirrel.

Saturday-Sunday, May 15-16

Survey and remove invasives, collect native seed and improve facilities.

Saturday-Sunday, November 13-14

Plant native wildflowers.

Juniper Hills Preserve

This 14,000-acre site on the Crooked River east of Prineville harbors ancient junipers, an outstanding diversity of bunch grasses and colorful earth formations.

Saturday-Sunday, October 23-24

Maintain fences, remove invasives and improve facilities.

Klamath Basin

Sycan Marsh Preserve

Surrounded by pine forest, this high elevation wetland is home to thousands of nesting and migrating birds, threatened fish and newly discovered aquatic creatures. To register, contact Alicia Fitzgerald,

AmeriCorps Southwest Oregon program assistant, at (541) 770-7933 ext. 5# or afitzgerald@tnc.org.

Saturday-Sunday, August 21-22

Remove fences.

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 31 - August 1

Remove invasives.

Saturday-Sunday, October 16-17

Collect native seed, assist with stream restoration and maintain and build fences.



Volunteer crew leader Erin Parker gets to the root of the invasive species problem by removing Queen Anne's lace at Cascade Head Preserve. © Philip L. McCarty

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 18-19

Improve fence lines for wildlife, build shrub exclosures and improve facilities.

Willamette Valley

Kingston Prairie Preserve

Southeast of Stayton, this 128-acre site harboring native grasses and rare wildflowers is the best native prairie remaining in the central Willamette Valley.

Saturday, July 24

Collect native seed and remove invasives and fences.

Volunteer Work Parties continued from page 2

Yamhill Oaks Preserve

This 272-acre preserve west of McMinnville is the first-ever protected area for the endangered Fender's blue butterfly in the northern Willamette Valley.

Saturday, August 14

Collect native seed and remove invasives.



Volunteer George Greer (right) and AmeriCorps Conservation Team members Sean McKenzie (left) and Kai Victor removed a cabin from Rough and Ready Creek Preserve last year. © Kyle Strauss/TNC

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 mabenotsch@tnc.org.

Saturday, May 8

Saturday, July 10

Saturday, October 9

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.

Southwest Oregon

To learn more or register for a southwest Oregon volunteer work party, please contact Alicia Fitzgerald, AmeriCorps Southwest Oregon program assistant, at (541) 770-7933 ext. 5# or afitzgerald@tnc.org.

Agate Desert Preserve

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

Saturday, May 22

Remove invasives.

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, July 10

Remove invasives.

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 17

Remove invasives.

Rough and Ready Creek Preserve

Long treasured by botanists, this 110-acre preserve south of Cave Junction hosts a remarkable diversity of plants found nowhere else on Earth.

Saturday, June 26

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 27

Remove invasives.



Volunteer interns and Conservancy staff measure plant abundance at Zumwalt Prairie Preserve near Enterprise. Go online to nature.org/oregon/volunteer for additional internship and practicum opportunities.

© Robert V. Taylor/TNC

Volunteer Classifieds

Your time and talents are needed! The following volunteer positions are currently available.

For more information and 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 Saturday, March 27 and Friday, May 21, and at the Sandy River Gorge on Saturday, May 22 and Thursday, June 24.

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 Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday, with a minimum of eight 10-hour work days between June 22 and September 24.

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-news, please contact Alicia Fitzgerald at (541) 770-7933 ext. 5# or afitzgerald@tnc.org.

Dunstan Homestead Field Assistants (Northeast Oregon)

Survey for bird species at 30 sites along the Middle Fork John Day River. Bird enthusiasts of all experience levels are encouraged, with existing audio/visual ID skills appreciated. A minimum commitment of two days between May 10 and June 27 is required. You're also invited to help eradicate invasives during a weeklong work party: July 26-31.

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 2010 field season.

Trainings: Tom McCall (season April - June) : Saturday, April 10 and Cascade Head (season May - Oct.) : Saturday, April 24

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 2010 field season.

Training: Saturday, May 1 (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 across Oregon. For more information, please contact Tania Siemens, invasive species project coordinator, at (541) 914-0701 or tsiemens@tnc.org.

Training (Multnomah County): Saturday, May 15



Throughout the field season, volunteer naturalists share information with visitors about Cascade Head Preserve's rare plants, wildlife and grassland communities. Naturalists are also needed at Tom McCall Preserve in the Columbia River Gorge. © Philip L. McCarty

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 Alicia Fitzgerald, AmeriCorps Southwest Oregon program assistant, at (541) 770-7933 ext. 5# or afitzgerald@tnc.org.



Volunteer stewards gathered for a celebration picnic last spring. Stewards regularly help restore habitats at Camassia Natural Area and Sandy River Gorge Preserve. See our "Volunteer Classifieds" inside to find out how you can get involved. © Jerry Witt



Nature Conservancy volunteer Cole Fuller mends fences at Clear Lake Ridge Preserve in Northeast Oregon.

© Garth Fuller/TNC

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

