



Autumn 2016

WallowaLands

News from Wallowa Land Trust

Keep It
Rural!

Partnership Moves East Moraine Trail Plan Forward



Partnership Moves East Moraine Trail Plan Forward

by Tara Porter

The East Moraine of Wallowa Lake is visually stunning, culturally significant and ecologically important. As such, it should be protected and preserved. As many know, Wallowa Land Trust was formed largely to focus on this special place. But we aren't the only ones who believe in conserving this amazing landscape. A few years ago Wallowa Land Trust, the Wallowa County Board of Commissioners, Wallowa Resources, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, and The Trust for Public Land came together to form the Wallowa Lake Moraines Partnership, with the express goal of protecting the East Moraine.

The Partnership's goals are to:

- ◆ maintain sustainable working lands of farms, forests and range to contribute to our local economy and rural ways of life;
- ◆ provide public access respectful of the landscape and its scenic beauty; and,
- ◆ protect open space for wildlife, recreation and natural resources.

The East Moraine is all private property, and most is owned by the Ronald C. Yanke Family Trust. The Partnership is securing funds to purchase the Yanke land. Once purchased, these 1,800 acres will be owned by the County and continue to be managed for grazing, timber and recreation. Eventually a trail corridor traversing both private and County land will be open to the public.

The first step in making this trail a reality is developing a Trail Plan, which the Partnership is hard at work on now. Once completed, the Plan will:

- ◆ identify management objectives recognizing the current ecological, social, economic and political environment;
- ◆ provide guidelines that will direct the trails' management; and,
- ◆ develop strategies for implementation of various management components.

Concerns raised by landowners and stakeholders regarding the development of an official trail along the East Moraine include: dog use, trespassing, littering,

hunting, trail widening and public safety. The Trail Plan addresses these concerns and issues through the development of rules and regulations, public education and trail signage. The trails will be signed in a manner that makes users aware they are crossing private land. Also, an active monitoring program consisting of volunteers and various agency personnel will be implemented to detect violations and help discourage many of these problems.

Wallowa Land Trust is working with East

Moraine landowners to develop trail easements on their properties that reflect landowners' desires while providing outdoor recreation opportunities. A trail easement is similar to a road easement you may have across the neighbor's property, providing access to your own land. It gives the Land Trust the rights to create a trail and maintain it while the owner keeps and continues to use the land. Use of these trails should be considered a privilege granted by the landowners, not a right.

The Trail Plan also addresses five important

resource management issues on the East Moraine: wildlife, vegetation, soils, cultural values and wildfire. Each component has a set of action steps to help preserve and protect these values, because overuse, misuse, or poor design and maintenance of the trail can damage the East Moraine.

Completing this plan is a shared effort with the local community (hikers, bikers, equestrians and landowners to name a few), our regional partners and other agencies. Input and guidance from landowners, stakeholders and the public will be sought at numerous points throughout the process. Stay tuned for upcoming public meeting dates!

“ Use of these trails should be considered a privilege granted by the landowners, not a right. ”



photo by Leon Werdinger



Molly Verhey



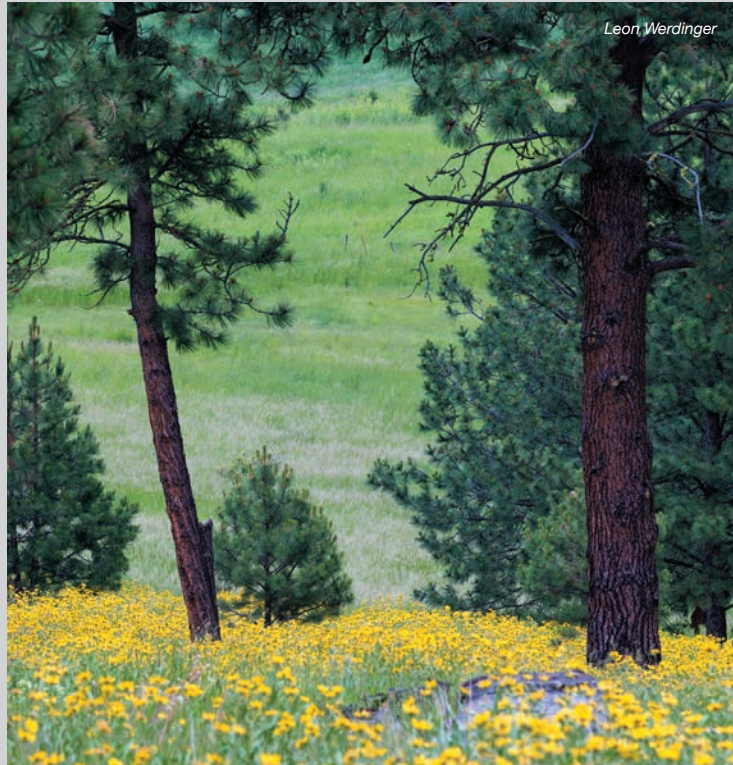
Leon Werdinger

Tara Porter works as a consultant providing a wide variety of management services for natural resource organizations. In her "spare" time, she enjoys cooking, sleeping, spending time with her family and finding ways to express her creative energy.

Leon Werdinger

Benefactor Seeds Endowment for Wallowa Land Trust

by Kathleen Ackley



When I think of an endowment, I imagine a fancy fundraising ball for a museum or a university with celebrities, politicians, expensive dresses and opera singers. Those are the kind of organizations that have endowments after all, right? Well our little land trust now joins the ranks of the illustrious, thanks to one incredible donor whose generosity allowed us to start our very own endowment! With a \$50,000 gift, we are now set to grow this nest egg to support our land conservation mission.

What exactly is an endowment? An endowment is an invested pool of money, established

to build a reserve for the purpose of creating a financial bedrock for the organization. It is a permanent investment reserve, meaning the principal can never be touched, but the income from that principal is available to support Wallowa Land Trust's day-to-day operations and land conservation work. As the principal grows over time, so will the income generated from it.

What better way to plan for the future and ensure we are indeed up to the task of protecting land in perpetuity? Contact our staff for more information about how to make a gift to help grow our endowment.



Portland Cello Project

On a recent autumn night at the OK Theater in Enterprise, Wallowa Land Trust held its first-ever fundraising event with the nationally recognized performance group, the Portland Cello Project. Composer Gideon Freudmann led an ensemble of cellists playing original and improvised music, much to the packed theater's delight. The evening show followed a free afternoon special performance by the musicians for 300 kids from all over Wallowa County.

Both young and old found themselves amazed at the music that can come from a single cello, let alone five.

The event grossed \$14,400. Special thanks go to the Wallowa County Soroptimists, Wallowa Valley Center for Wellness, Winding Waters Clinic, and several generous individuals who supported bringing this incredibly talented group out to Wallowa County.

Hannah Jane



Thanks to local web guru, Jeff Baird, we have an upgraded and updated website! If you are looking for information on conserving your land or want to know more about Wallowa Land Trust's work in the County, this is the place to go. You can find out about upcoming events, learn about the projects we're working on, make a donation or even buy a t-shirt. Take a look and let us know what you think: www.wallowalandtrust.org.



T-shirts Available Now

We now have t-shirts for sale! Printed locally on 100% cotton, our t-shirts are a stylish way to support Wallowa Land Trust and "Keep it Rural!" They are available at our office or via our website www.wallowalandtrust.org in sizes S, M, L & XL for \$15 each.

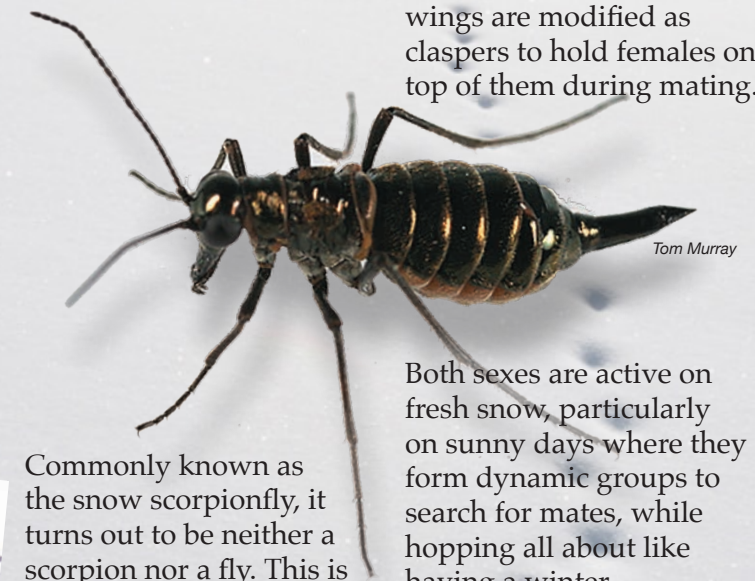
Snow dancing in the Wallowas

by Jim Hansen

Snowshoeing along a white-capped meadow on a sunny winter day, you might spy black dots bouncing on the fresh snow. Closer inspection with a magnifying glass reveals these specks hopping on the surface to be insects!

pupae in moss chambers before emerging as adults.

The adults are dark colored, about a tenth of an inch long. Their heads are distinguished by having elongated, almost horse-like mouth parts. Females are wingless, but males' wings are modified as claspers to hold females on top of them during mating.



Commonly known as the snow scorpionfly, it turns out to be neither a scorpion nor a fly. This is a unique, poorly-known critter that prefers wet habitats. Formally known as a boreid, this insect is a member of the family Boreidae from the small order of insects known as Mecoptera. It belongs to a group of insects where the end of the adult abdomen is often curved up, looking like a scorpion stinger. However, boreids do not have this structure and do not sting.

Both sexes are active on fresh snow, particularly on sunny days where they form dynamic groups to search for mates, while hopping all about like having a winter prom dance.

So the next time you are out enjoying a white Wallowa winter, keep an eye out! You might be rewarded with the sight of these boreids hopping about on the fresh snow, engaged in an important winter activity. But don't hover too long, they don't want chaperones!

Wallowa Land Trust member Jim Hansen is a retired entomologist based out of Toppenish, Washington. When he's not travelling the world, he's turning over rocks and looking under logs for new and interesting insects.

Leon Werdinger

A Successful Year of 'Into the Wallowa' Outings

Creativity flows with Fishtrap on the Loh-Hasslacher Conservation Easement



Leon Werdinger

Wallowa Land Trust's popular "Into The Wallowa" Summer Outings and Lectures program enjoyed another successful season with over 200 participants attending eleven outings across Wallowa County. From poetry to music to painting, "Into The Wallowa" is about finding new and creative ways to connect people to nature and the world around us. Stay tuned for our 2017 schedule!



Kathleen Ackley

Art on the Zumwalt Prairie with the Josephy Center

Thank you sponsors:

- ◆ Oregon Humanities
- ◆ City of Enterprise
- ◆ Wallowa County Cultural Trust Coalition

Thank you partners:

- ◆ Building Healthy Families
- ◆ Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
- ◆ Fishtrap
- ◆ The Homeland Project
- ◆ Josephy Center for Arts & Culture
- ◆ Maxville Heritage Interpretive Center
- ◆ The Nature Conservancy
- ◆ Oregon Humanities
- ◆ Prairie Creek Farm
- ◆ Wallowa Lake State Park
- ◆ Wallowa Resources
- ◆ Wallowa Valley Music Alliance
- ◆ Wallowology

The Gate

By Jim Dameron

It was a simple metal gate
Built to hold something in
Or maybe someone out.

It wasn't locked but it took a minute
To figure out the latch
So that the pause suggested
Something special
Might lay on the other side,
Though when the gate swung open
The land looked just like the place
We had come from.

Up ahead was an old skid road
Almost gone back
To pumpkin pine and mariposa lilies
And wild geranium and potentilla.

An old traffic sign suggested
We pick up the pace:
Speed 35, it said.
But nailed to a tree
And full of bullet holes
It did nothing
Except suggest its opposite.

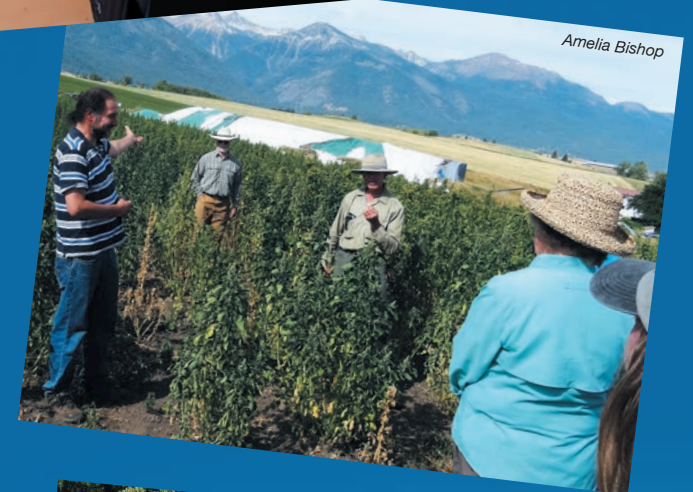
For here we would slow down further.
Here we would look around.
This was a protected spot,
Set aside for the future.

Written on an outing with Fishtrap on the backside of the East Moraine.



Hearing about First Foods from Wenix Red Elk at the Wallowa Band Nez Perce Trail Interpretive Center.

Leon Werdinger



Amelia Bishop

Learning about organic quinoa farming with Patrick Thiel and Ted Golder.



Amelia Bishop

Making music along the river with the Wallowa Valley Music Alliance.

Investigating the ancient geology of the East Moraine with Ellen Morris Bishop



Leon Werdinger



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Wallowa Land Trust's mission is to protect the rural nature of the Wallowa Country by working cooperatively with private landowners, Indian tribes, local communities and government entities to conserve land.

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Tickets available online
www.wallowalandtrust.org

Tropical Getaway Raffle Tickets

\$20 each

**Tickets will be drawn 7pm,
 Saturday February 4, 2017
 at a Winter Blues Party
 at the Lostine Tavern.**