



Southern Oregon

LAND

CONSERVANCY

For people. For nature. Forever.

2018 Annual Report



Message from the Executive Director

In 2018 we celebrated 40 years of conservation in southern Oregon. Our members and supporters have been with us all along the journey. We thank you for partnering with the Conservancy to save the places we all need and love. Land is key to a healthy and secure future, providing water, food, clean air and natural, cost-efficient carbon storage. Today, 80% of Americans live in cities and suburbs, often with limited access to the outdoors.



Most Americans have never heard of land trusts. Through our outreach and education programs we aim to reconnect people to nature, to inspire them to engage in conservation support and volunteerism, and to get outdoors. For me, I head to the trails and rivers to relax, stay fit, and improve my creativity. I am grateful for the great Oregon outdoors. Let's continue to work together to inspire all Oregonians to conserve our natural resources and protect the land for generations to come.

Cathy

– Cathy Dombi

ABOUT THE COVER: A conserved property in the Coleston Valley described on page 6.

THIS PAGE: SOU students pull Scotch broom on Elk Island.



Photo by Mike Potts

Elk Island – Rogue River Preserve

Land in Flux: avulsion, erosion, saltation, sedimentation

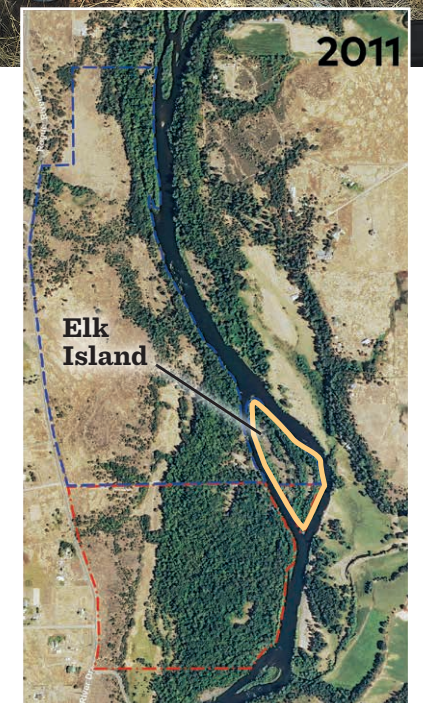
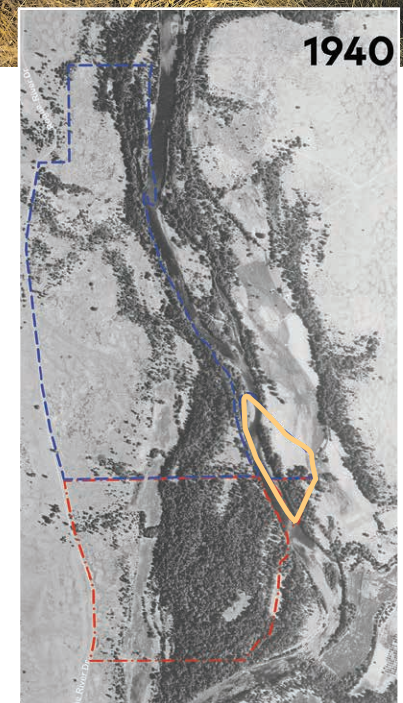


Photo by Thomas Craig



Photo by Mike Potts

Looking at a 1940 aerial photograph of the Rogue River Preserve, a 352-acre property SOLC owns near Eagle Point, the vernal pools, streamside forests, and woodlands are easy to pick out. But something is missing. Where is the island we call Elk Island?

Dynamic stream processes are constantly taking stream banks here, and building land there. River islands are ephemeral features of the Earth. Today the 16-acre island has lupine-dotted sandy meadows, a cottonwood swale with a mucky stream bottom, and is fringed by alder, willow, and nonnative Himalayan blackberry. It is a refuge for breeding Willow Flycatchers and browsing elk.

In the future? Who knows? Nonetheless, we honor our commitment to steward the whole property and regularly visit the island to pull invasive Scotch broom and English ivy, pick up trash brought by winter floods, and monitor for new threats.



Year in Review



Photo by Mike Potts

Sharing Knowledge and Passion for the Natural World is a Role We Take to Heart

Students on the Land

Our Loving the Land program, now in its 14th year, has engaged more than 3,000 students from the Ashland and Talent/Phoenix school districts. For five days, Oredson-Todd Woods is transformed into a learning center for adventure, exploration and creativity, under the guidance of stewardship staff and enthusiastic volunteer educators. We also hosted the Roots & Shoots Club, middle school students from John Muir School, and Boy Scouts on education, restoration and trail building projects on conserved lands. These experiences connect youth to nature, teach them how to work together, and help them understand the important role they play in caring for our environment.

Diggin' In Work Parties

Throughout the year, rain or shine, volunteers show up for work parties on conserved lands. From pulling invasive weeds or planting

native plants to clearing trails, we are so very grateful for the volunteers who roll up their sleeves and dig in! In 2018, volunteers mowed, built trails, erected bird houses, removed old barbed wire fencing and trash, and pulled noxious weeds.

Hikes and other Explorations

What in the world is a herptile bioblitz? Well it happened on the Rogue River Preserve, along with wild mushroom hunting, birding and a dragonfly excursion. History hikes in the Jacksonville Woodlands and on Upper Table Rock were also part of 2018's hike series, along with wildflower exploration and more birding in the Cascade Foothills. You may have even had the thrill of catching butterflies on the gorgeous Sky King Cole property. These were just a handful of experiences that made up more than 22 hikes, outings, and community events put on by SOLC last year, and more than 373 enthusiastic community members

participated! We are so grateful to our marvelous and talented volunteers who lead these adventures for us every year.

Conservation Group Partnerships

Many hands make light work. The more the merrier. There is no I in TEAM. Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much. Strength in numbers. Those trite sayings...they are all true in our experience! Many thanks to the following groups and many others who helped us accomplish big things in 2018—Scouts BSA, Bureau of Land Management, Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts, Freshwater Trust, Jackson County Weed Management Area, Land Trust Alliance, Native Plant Society of Oregon, The Nature Conservancy, Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife, Pacific Crest Trail Association, Rogue Basin Partnership, Rogue Valley Audubon Society, Rogue Fly Fishers, Siskiyou Field Institute, and the Willamette Partnership.

2018 Financial Snapshot

Revenue

Contributions to operations	\$500,199
Grants	\$101,634
Investment Income (net)	\$49,089
Other Income	\$2,334
Total Revenue	\$653,256

Expenses

Programs	\$334,558
Fundraising	\$81,260
Administration	\$120,421
Total Expenses	\$536,239

Total Net Revenues

\$117,017

Current Assets

Cash and cash equivalents	\$148,140
Investments	\$2,369,646
Receivables	\$7,791
Prepaid expenses	\$5,411
Total Current Assets	\$2,530,988

Non-Current Assets

Receivables	\$24,911
Property and equipment	\$96,914
Conservation lands	\$2,363,466
Conservation easements	\$3,321,700
Beneficial interest in charitable trust	\$419,023
Total non-current assets	\$6,226,014

Liabilities

\$22,051

Total Net Assets

\$8,734,951

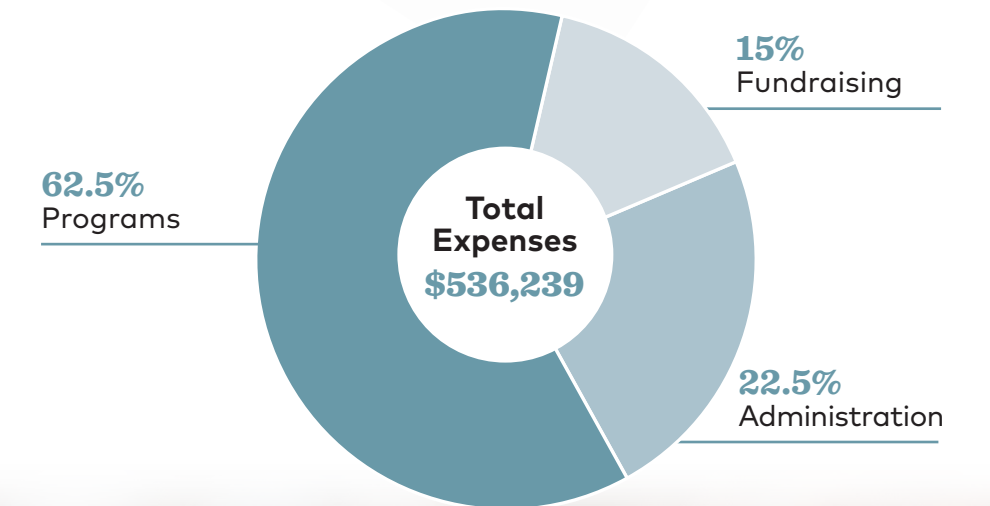
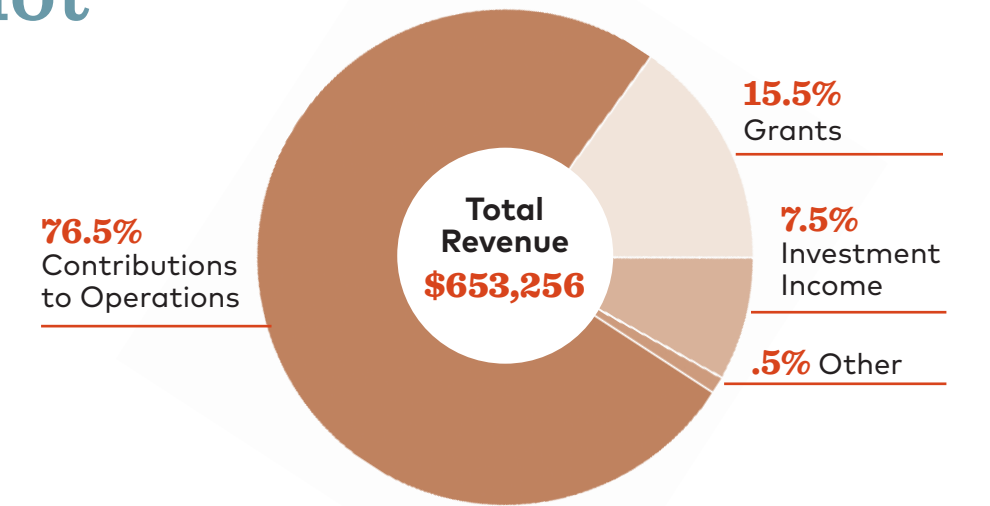


Photo by Frank Lospalluto



SOLC Adds Three Conservation Easements, 287 Acres Under its Protection

Conservation easements are a way for private landowners to ensure that their vision for their land, lifelong stewardship, and family heritage live on for generations to come. Conservation easements promote best management practices, while restricting or limiting activities that may diminish the natural value of the land, such as clear-cutting, subdivision, and intensive development.

Lands that have “high conservation values”—determined by size, diversity, and uniqueness of the property—are likely eligible for a conservation easement. Working lands (e.g., farms, ranches, and forests), relatively undisturbed and diverse habitat, and lands with unique features (e.g., major streams and rivers or a scenic view) may also fall into this category.

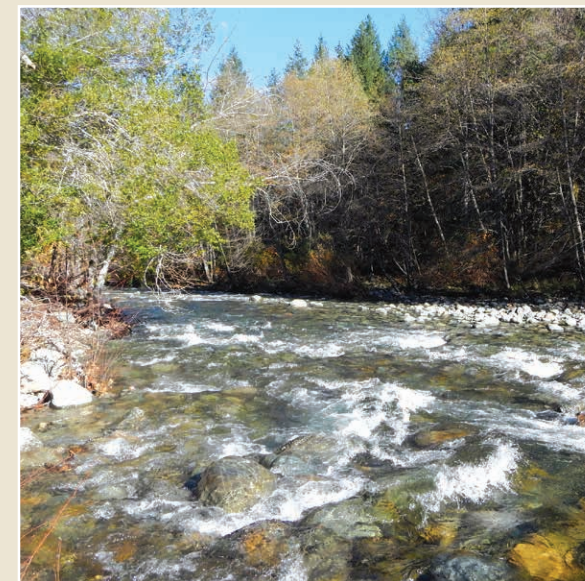
In 2017-18, three new conservation easements were donated to SOLC.



▲ Colestin Valley

This wonderful 160-acre property is strategically located in the Colestin Valley, adjacent to the Klamath National Forest to the west and bounds the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument to the east. The protection of this property with a conservation easement helps preserve a corridor of private land between BLM and Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument lands to the east and US Forest Service land to the west. This area is one of the

most important ecological corridors in Oregon for wildlife and biodiversity, and is also an SOLC Focus Area. The property contains oak woodland, meadows, chaparral, and forests. Special status plants known on the property are the Southern Oregon buttercup, Ashland thistle, and golden triteleia. Many special status animals have also been documented including Band-tailed Pigeons, and the property is important deer and elk winter range.



▲ East Fork Illinois River

A conservation easement on this 80-acre property protects 2,000 feet of amazing riparian habitat along the East Fork Illinois River and 1,500 feet along a stream in Cedar Gulch. Both streams are important for supporting salmon and steelhead spawning and rearing habitat. The property is located upriver from a 255-acre easement SOLC holds on the Illinois River. It contains upland forests, oak woodlands, chaparral, and meadows. Special status species on this easement include Northern Spotted Owl, Acorn Woodpecker, coho salmon, Chinook salmon, Pacific fisher and foothill yellow-legged frog. It also supports flower endemics like the Siskiyou trillium. Strategically, the property is in an SOLC focus area, provides aquatic, streamside, and upland corridor for wildlife, and is near a large contiguous portion of the Rogue-Siskiyou National Forest connected to the Siskiyou Wilderness.

Sardine Creek

This property has been cared for and stewarded for many years, and the conservation easement was donated to SOLC in 2018. The 47-acre property is on the Left Fork of Sardine Creek, a fish-bearing perennial tributary of Sardine Creek which flows into the Rogue River. This special property contains mixed evergreen and hardwood forest with openings, riparian areas, and oak woodland/chaparral patches. The forest has been well-managed and selectively logged and, although portions have burned, there are many older trees remaining. Plants and wildlife are abundant, and the property is adjacent to BLM lands, some designated old growth forests, and habitat for the Northern Spotted Owl. ▼



Photo by Clem Stockard & Bonnie Brown

Best Practices



This past year, SOLC was awarded renewed land trust accreditation “with no expectations for improvement.”

A perfect score! Accreditation keeps us on the leading edge and demonstrates our commitment to sound finances, ethical conduct, responsible governance, and lasting stewardship. *In perpetuity* is a weighty responsibility. Staying true to the accreditation standards gives peace of mind that we can deliver on that promise. Accreditation is not an endpoint; it is a continuous learning process for our staff and board of directors, and it lets our conservation easement landowners, supporters, and the public know that we hold ourselves to the highest standards.

Working Together for Oregon—for Nature



Our conservation mission in southern Oregon is strengthened by the 26 member-organizations of the Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts (COLT). Throughout Oregon, over 300 land trust staff are responsible for 720 conservation projects protecting 415,796 acres. Kelley Beamer, COLT executive director says it best, “In the face of climate change and the rapid decline of migrating species, we can provide solutions for connectivity, for the protection of water and for connecting people to nature, through their hearts and feet.” SOLC is a proud member of COLT. Our board president, Kevin Talbert, serves on the COLT executive committee and our staff benefit from professional development opportunities and a network of colleagues and specialists across Oregon.

Thanks to all the people who made 2018 a fantastic year!

Many talented and inspiring people come together each year to make Southern Oregon Land Conservancy a vibrant and successful organization. A big shout out to everyone!



Yay volunteers!

We are very fortunate to have wonderful volunteers who support our work and provide expertise, time, ideas, and passion to further land conservation. We are grateful for every hour spent mowing, clearing trails, pulling weeds, surveying, leading hikes, sharing knowledge, attending meetings, and advocating for conservation.



Photos by Tara Fisher

 **236** total volunteers

 **2,183** total hours

 **51** Youth volunteers

 **\$55,514** value of volunteer time



Photo by Mary Wilkins Kelly

SOLC Staff

Cathy Dombi, *Executive Director*
 Paul Belson, *Conservation Project Manager*
 Alex Liston Dykema, *Attorney*
 Teresa Fernandez, *Communications & Outreach Coordinator*
 Kelly Gonzales, *Development Director*
 Lyndia Hammer, *Land Steward*
 Karen Hussey, *Special Projects*
 Kristi Mergenthaler, *Stewardship Director*



2019 Board of Directors

Back row, left to right: Harry Piper, Kevin Talbert (*President*), Jeff Beaupain (*Secretary*), Julie Lockhart, Keith Emerson (*Vice President*). **Front row, left to right:** Heather Hickmann (*Treasurer*), Jim Huber, Molly Morrison. **Not pictured:** Dan Kellogg, Eric Poole, Roger Pearce.

Trustee Council

Karen DeBoer	Kara Olmo	Nancy Tait
Paul Hill	Judson Parsons	Jeanne M. Taylor
Paul Imperia, M.D.	Sarah Sameh	Bill Thorndike, Jr.
Dan O'Connor	Karen Smith	Sam Whitford

Community Members at Large who Serve on Committees

Lands Committee	Donna Rhee	Development Committee
Pat Acklin	Eugene Weir	Pat Acklin
Charles Bennett	Finance Committee	Val Rogers
Michael Derrig	Rick Barth	
Randy Frick		

With gratitude to all of our members and supporters

YOUR GENEROSITY MAKES CONSERVATION POSSIBLE

Visionary: \$25,000+

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 Lurline Coonan*
 R.W. Dill*
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 Piper Grace Fund of the
 Minneapolis Foundation
 Traver Family Trust*
 *Bequests

Guardian: \$10,000-\$24,999

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 Foundation
 Gardner Grout Foundation
 Dan and Lynn Kellogg
 McKenzie River Gathering
 Foundation
 Clem Stockard and Bonnie Brown
 David Stone and
 Carolyn Taormina

Conservator: \$5,000-\$9,999

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 Toll & Wagner Charitable Fund
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 Vince and Patty Wixon

Protector: \$2,500-\$4,999

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 Ashland Creek Press Foundation
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 Full Circle Real Estate
 Richard L. Hay
 KDP Certified Public
 Accountants, LLP
 Julie Lockhart
 Rogue Valley Audubon Society
 Gary and Annette Shaffer
 Douglas and Ann Sierka
 Kevin and Barbara Talbert

Steward \$1,000-\$2,499

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 of the Oregon Community
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 Euclid Fund of the Oregon
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 Harfst and Associates, Inc.
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 Hundredth Monkey Foundation
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 Jeff LaLande

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 Limb Family Fund of Oregon
 Community Foundation
 Linda Sue Park Fund for
 Gaia at Seattle Foundation
 Tracy Lord
 Barbara and Randy Lovre
 Maria MacArthur
 Maggie Purves Fund of the
 Oregon Community Foundation
 Letitia Manley
 Marshik Family Fund of the
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 Raimond Peterson
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 Betsy Bradshaw
 ML Moore
 Bill and Eva Marie Morrish
 Robert Mumby and
 Kathleen Kudo
 Nagel & Padilla, LLC
 Lewis Nash
 Henry Oliver III and
 Barbara Roastingear
 John and Evelyn Ousterhout
 Pacific Power Foundation
 Roger Pearce and Julie Benezet
 People's Bank of Commerce
 Robin Pike
 Suzanne and Michael Polich
 Pronto Print
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 John and Bonnie Rinaldi
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 Lithia Springs
 Donald Rubenstein
 Sarah Sameh and Jay Reeck
 Bruce and Leslie Sargent
 Jim and Elise Scheffel
 Jim Selin and Barbara Clinton
 Bryan and Paula Sohl
 Jerry and Beth Stark
 Sunday Afternoons
 Nancy L. Tait and Jeff Monosoff
 Thalden Foundation
 Troon Vineyard
 Ken and Rebecca Wiseman

Landmark: \$500-\$999

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 Paul Acklin and Julia Bott
 Susann and Marc Allen
 Janet Anderson
 Ashland Food Co-op
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 Avista
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 Joseph Emerson
 Caroline and Robert Brooks
 Annette Buchanan
 John Burns
 Don Byrd
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 Suzanne Christensen
 Romain Cooper and
 Christie Dunn
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 Tom Doolittle
 Annette S. Dykema
 Keith Emerson and
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 Wyatt Family Charitable Fund

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 Jill Brenkman
 Martin Albert and Peggy Wright
 Mona and James Albright
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 Mike LeTouneau
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 Sharon Anderson
 Juliet Anderson
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 Anonymous
 Bob and Jeanne Arago
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 Victoria Sturtevant
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 Deborah Morgan
 Amy Blossom and Brad Galusha
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 Gleneda and Marc Borton
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 Eugene Robbins
 Jim Bronson
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 Chris Brown
 Willard Brown and
 Judith Ginsburg
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Phyllis Reynolds
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Suzanne Seiber
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Catherine and Rick Shaw
Charles and Mary Sinclair
Siskiyou Chapter Native
Plant Society
Greg and Eileen Skoog
Sandra and Dennis Slattery
Craig G. Smith
Douglas and Linda Smith
Rebecca Snow
Francis and Carolyn Sobotka
Julia Sommer
David and Lori Sours
Kathy Spear
Nancy Spear
Mark Spector and
Nancy Hamrell Spector
Anne Stabile and
Michael Zacchino
John and Sonya Stanchfield
Janet Stavenhagen
Susan Stevens-Briody
Janie Stewart and
Neal Strudler
Patricia and James Stocker
Marge and Roy Sutton
Terry Swain
Marlene and Virgil N. Syverson
Carla Takemoto
Kathy Tarr and Jim Yarborough
Joel and Donna Taylor
Anne Taylor
Jeremy Tchou
Laurie and Marvin Teply
Ruth and Charles Ter Bush
Paul and Marcella Theeman
Richard and Linda Thomas
Richard Thomas
Bill and Angela Thorndike
Janie Tibbals
Steven Tichenor
Karen Toal
Jim and Kathy Tompkins
Terry Toth, N.D.
Pepper Trail and Debra Koutnik
Thomas Treger and
Ruth Rabinovitch
Laure Trickle
Sharon and Larry Triplett
Denise Trochei and
Michael Snouffer
Miriam Umpleby
Upper Five Vineyard
Marc Valens and Anne Golden
Jennifer Van Datta
Leo and Marianne van Dijk
Leslie van Gelder
Dr. James and Karen VanDelden
Roger Vanderbeek
Susan and Joseph Viani
Johan Visser and
Judith Wright Visser

Therese Von
Piper Von Chamier
Ron and Jan Waitt
Ellen Wakefield
Carol Ann Walker
John and Carol Walker
Janet Walker
Josephine P. Dolly Warden
Ellen Watrous
James and Susan Watson
Todd Watson
Michael and Roseanne Weir
Rebecca Werling
Rachel Whalley
Ruby Whalley
Colin and Elizabeth White
Sheila White
Sam Whitford and
Kurt Bernhardt
Richard Whitley and
Joan Resnick
Sylvia and Keith Whitman
Kathryn and David Whyte
Jennifer Wicklund
Tom Wicklund
Eugene Wier and
Karsten Peterson
Joanne and Robert Wilcox
Barbara and Richard Williams
Norma and Wyman Williams
Jonathan Williams and
Pamela Ahr
Karen and George Wilson
Case Wiseman
Katherine Wolfe and
Larry Zowada
Debra and Larry Wolfson
Norma and Frederick Wright
Roseanne and Jeff Wyatt
Dottie Yockey
Bradley Youngs
Helenann and Maurice Ziegler
Richard and Ann Zimmerman
Elisabeth Zinser

In Honor of
Wendy Lo in Honor of
Kent Werges
Stan and Gail Hille in Honor of
Kristi Mergenthaler and
Pete Hille
Stephanie Lovelady and Noah
Lovelady-Allen in Honor of
Linda Moreland
Paul Acklin and Julia Bott
in Honor of Pat Acklin
Elizabeth Newell in Honor of
Sara & Bryant
Robert and Rosemary Harvey
in Honor of The Harvey Family,
Current and Future
Janet Duxbury and Jerry Schaller
in Honor of Roger Vanderbeek
and Susan Mosle

In Memory of
Lorraine Bockmier in Memory of
Catherine Vilas Hayes
Chris Brown in Memory of
Curt Brown
Katharine Lewis in Memory of
Diane Amarotico
Deborah Broeker in Memory of
Diane Amarotico
Veronica Owen in Memory of
Elizabeth Owen
Tom and Felicia Hazel
in Memory of Evian Di Stefano
Tom Johnston in Memory of
Fran Aversa
Laurie and Glenn Nielsen
in Memory of Ginny Jensen
Mallory Sanford in Memory of
Jake Sanford

Conservation Life Members

Nancy Ames
David Atkin and Lori Maddox
Fritz and Ginger Bachem
Bonnie Baker
Robert and Carol Benner
Greg and Sharon Bennett
Chip and Clara Boggs
Alfred W. Buck
Don Byrd
City of Ashland
City of Jacksonville
Marshall Cole
Art and Kathy Coolidge
Lurline Coonan
Romain Cooper and
Christie Dunn
Stan Dean and
Katharine Bronwen
Susan Delles
Paco Despacio
Lucy Dilworth
Annette S. Dykema
Mark H. Forney
Elizabeth Freeman
Robert Gilkey
Patricia Gordon
Bill and Marilee Grimm
James Gurley and
Katherine Mechling
Celia Hulett
Bonnie Johnson
Narcissa D. Kelley
Dan and Lynn Kellogg
Ogden Kellogg, Sr.
Alex and Jennifer
Liston Dykema
Shahoma McAlister and
Prasad Boudreaux

Amy Cuddy in Memory of
Joe Chaves
Jean Schuyler in Memory of
Ogden Kellogg, Sr.
Rob Stalford in Memory of
Patricia McCurry and
Prudence Goodall
Robert and Barbara Grillo
in Memory of Patricia McCurry
Edwin McCurry in Memory of
Prudence Goodall
Diane Coash in Memory of
Patricia McCurry
Edwin McCurry in Memory of
Patricia McCurry
Mary Lou Farmer in Memory of
Steven Logue

Bruce and Nancy McDonald
Beth Peterson and
Mark Kelz
Gary Milner
Mike Milner
Bret Moore
Mark Newberger
Vincent Oredson
George Parsons
Judson Parsons and
Diana Gardener
Alice Petrich
James D. Proctor
Eleanor A. Pugh
John and Lorraine Roach
Ron Roth and Kathleen
MacMichael
Bruce and Leslie Sargent
Erwin and Diana Sawall
Jim and Elise Scheffel
Jack and Susan Shipley
Barry Snitkin
Taylor Starr
Clem Stockard and
Bonnie Brown
David Stone and
Carolyn Taormina
Lawrence Tesler
John Todd
Paul Torrence
Oshana Turtle Catranides
Thomas and Silvia Tuttle
Marilynn Walther
Judith L. Wible, M.D.
Wildlands, Inc.
Williams Creek Watershed
Council

We have attempted to record all names as accurately as possible. If we have made an error, please let us know so we can correct our records.

Year in Review OUR EVENTS

Conservation Celebration October 12, 2018



Photos by Jesse Smith

Landmark Event September 30, 2018



Photos by Addington Pro Photos

New Member Event July 14, 2018



Photo by Lloyd Smith

Photo by Lloyd Smith

Photo by Della Merrill

Photo by Della Merrill

Member Picnic June 2, 2018



Photo by Mary Wilkins Kelly

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