



**SOUTHERN  
OREGON  
LAND  
CONSERVANCY**

## Annual Member Meeting

Join us on Saturday, June 9th, at the Butte Creek Mill for a tour of the historic mill, lunch, and our member meeting.

Call 482-3069 to reserve your place.

## Colestin Hike

The Southern Oregon Land Conservancy and Native Plant Society invite you to join Dom DiPaolo on a hike to explore the plants in the Colestin Valley. The hike is scheduled for Sunday, June 3, 2007 from 9 am to 2 pm and will take place on a privately owned property protected by the Land Conservancy.

Space is limited. Please call Anita at 301-2561 to sign up.

# Terra Firma Times

Spring 2007

## 1,312 Acres at Siskiyou Summit Conserved

Over 1,300 acres of exemplary natural lands at the Siskiyou Summit have been permanently protected through a conservation easement donated to the Southern

Oregon Land Conservancy by owners Nancy Ames Cole and Marshall Cole.

The project, a partnership between the Land Conservancy, Pacific Crest Trail Association, and numerous community members, protects one of the most biologically important properties in the region as well as a mile of the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail.

According to Liz Bergeron, executive director of the Pacific Crest Trail Association (PCTA), "a conservation easement is a very good instrument for permanent protection. The Pacific Crest Trail's route through the Cole property provides hikers and equestrians with the opportunity to experience the land's rich natural resources up close."

The property is unique habitat surrounded by the Cascade-



Siskiyou National Monument, straddling the ridge that connects the Cascade and Siskiyou Mountains just south of Ashland on Pilot Rock Road. Ac-

ording to local ecologist, Tom Atzet, "this property is the Grand Central Station for species migration and dispersal throughout the Pacific Northwest."

The land is a mosaic of mixed conifer forest, natural meadows, pine-oak-juniper savannah, wetlands and ponds. It is home to numerous rare plants and an extensive occurrence of native grassland, which is rare to the area. The property is a critical corridor for the northern spotted owl and other wildlife including bobcat, elk, and black-tailed deer. Several ponds and springs are located on the property and western pond turtles make their home there.

The property also contains the headwaters of several major stream systems, most notably Emigrant Creek.

Conserving the property has  
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## Conservation Coordinator Hired

Dominic DiPaolo joined the Land Conservancy team in February, taking over the hard-to-fill shoes of Su Rolle, who retired to spend more time with her family.

For the past two years, Dom has worked at the Medford BLM interpreting and analyzing historic maps and vegetation descriptions. Prior to that he was a biologist with the Point Reyes Bird Observatory in California.

Dom has a strong background in GIS and an interest in the ecology of plant communities of Southern Oregon and Northern California. He has a B.S. degree in Environmental Studies from the University

of Vermont. Since 2005 he has volunteered with the Land Conservancy as an active member of the Lands Committee.

Dom's responsibilities include conducting monitoring visits, assisting with project selection and baseline documentation, and working with volunteers.

Stop by and say hello to Dom or call him if you'd like to join in on a monitoring visit this season.



## Ask Alex

*Questions and answers from our staff attorney, Alex Dykema. Have a question? Send it to [info@landconserve.org](mailto:info@landconserve.org) and we'll try to answer it in our next newsletter.*



### Can any land be protected by a land trust?

Every land trust has their own standards and process for selecting projects, and it is one of the items I believe landowners should ask about when they talk with a land trust. Because a land trust may have to defend any of their easements and use their resources to do so, landowners should be careful consumers when they approach a project as important as the permanent protection of their land.

Not every property is eligible for the protection of a conservation easement. Nor is it appropriate for land trusts to place an easement on any property just because the

landowner wants to see it protected. At a minimum, every project needs to satisfy the state legislation's standards, and it is even better if it meets the requirements of the Internal Revenue Code provisions regarding deductibility of an easement. Also, many trusts have very specific missions and are not equipped for projects outside their area of expertise. In order to insure basic standards are met, the land trust should review each project against an objective set of criteria based on the conservation values most important to their region and their programs.

In our case, every project is reviewed by the staff against set criteria to see if it has the necessary conservation values and fits within our priorities. Projects that meet the criteria are then sent to the Lands Committee and Board of Directors for approval before moving forward. This helps us guarantee that the projects we take

on are high priority, well crafted projects which protect high value lands within our service area.

In the same way that not every project is appropriate for a Conservation Easement, not every project is right for our organization. We will always try and help landowners who want to protect their land, and sometimes that help may come in the form of a recommendation of other land protection tools or other organizations that may be a better fit for their proposal. It is always difficult to say "no" to a project because we know that each piece of land has special attributes and contributes to the larger landscape. But we believe we serve our members, our landowners and our community best by being selective and careful in the projects we take on for perpetuity.

## Welcome New Members

Diane Christopher  
Joan Becich  
Geri and John Procetto  
Joanne and Gerald Clark  
Mayor Mary Schamehorn  
Patricica Bowcock  
Helen Jones  
Lisa Devalin  
James and Sandi Risser  
Jerry Evans  
Shanna Burchell  
April Sevcik

**We also welcome our new Business Members:  
Hakatai &  
First American Title Company**

# Largest Conservation Easement Donated

Lake County may be far from our service area, but no one told that to Don Byrd before he contacted the Land Conservancy nearly 2 years ago asking us to help him protect his land.

The latest—and largest conservation easement donated to the Southern Oregon Land Conservancy is located 22 miles north of Lakeview in Eastern Oregon. It is a spectacular property of 2,271 acres directly across from Abert Rim and stretching for two miles along Highway 395.

Born in Ohio and raised in New York, Don spent most of his adult years in California, but he always



had an interest in the outdoors and nature. After retiring from a 40-year career in the aerospace industry, Don was ready for a different lifestyle. He began looking for a special piece of land where he could plant trees. A place where wildlife could roam free, a place he could protect for the future. After a three year search, he found his piece of paradise north of Lakeview and purchased it in 1995. Since then, he's planted 4,400 trees, built fences to keep cattle from fragile areas, hand weeded and now, placed a conservation easement on the property to permanently protect its natural, scenic and wildlife values. His goal has always been to manage the land for optimum wildlife diversity and protection—one we hope to help him achieve.

From an ecological perspective, the land is situated to contribute to important plant and animal habitat and offer connectivity for species to disperse. It is extremely diverse, ranging from relatively gentle terrain to very steep rocky cliffs. Additionally, there are three primary springs, two creeks and numerous wetlands on site. Vegetation across most of the property is sagebrush, grass and juniper.

The conservation easement prohibits development and subdivi-

sion on the land. Don has been increasingly concerned about large ranches in the west getting broken up. While that hasn't happened yet in the Lakeview area, he wants to ensure that his land will be safe from future development.

The addition of this magnificent property to the lands held in trust by the Conservancy brings our total acreage of land protected to more than 8,000 acres. Five-thousand acres were protected in the past twelve months alone!



We can thank Don Byrd, and the many landowners like him, who share our love of wide open spaces and are willing to act to protect them.

## Leave a Legacy of Land

If you have named the Land Conservancy in your estate plans, please notify us so that we may include you in our Legacy Circle.

For information on estate planning options, please contact us at 482-3069.



been a longtime dream for the Coles, who currently have the property listed for sale. They are hoping to find a conservation buyer who shares their values of protecting the land and adhering to the terms of the conservation

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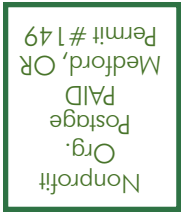
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easement. The easement restricts subdivision and development and requires future owners to work with the Land Conservancy and the PCTA to be responsible stewards, ensuring that Nancy and Marshall's vision will be upheld in perpetuity.



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**Return Service Requested**



## Message From the President

Measure 37, Oregon's controversial land-use initiative, has inspired each of us to rethink our personal priorities for land use in general and forced landowners to re-evaluate the present and future use of their property. This has contributed to a significant increase in landowner interest in the use of voluntary landowner agreements (conservation easements) as a tool to permanently protect their land.

For the Land Conservancy, this rise in interest makes for exciting times! Like the beautiful Sky King Cole property and Lake County Wildlife Preserve described in this newsletter, many new exciting projects are on the horizon. This is the time to grow our capacity, membership and leadership, and

fine-tune our strategies for land protection over the next 3 to 5 years. It's also the time to grow our volunteer base.

Can you lead a hike, join a monitoring visit, or participate on a committee? How about hosting a community forum or volunteering for our outdoor education program? In addition, we have our annual Conservation Celebration party and other special events that are fun to plan and even more fun to attend!

It's the perfect time for you to bring your energy, time, and talent to this extremely rewarding effort of protecting the lands we love.

Hope to see you at our annual meeting.

## Southern Oregon Land Conservancy

### Board of Directors

- President:* Donna Rhee - Ashland
- Vice President:* Dan Kellogg - Gold Hill
- Secretary/Treasurer:* Bill Morrish - Ashland
- Pat Acklin - Ashland
- Tom Atzet - Merlin
- Charles Bennett - Phoenix
- Jon Deason - Medford
- Carol Doty - Bandon
- Mike Claassen - Bandon
- Myra Lawson - Bandon
- Larry Medinger - Ashland
- Sarah Sameh - Ashland

### Staff

- Diane Garcia, *Executive Director*
- Alex Dykema, *Attorney*
- Dominic DiPaolo, *Conservation Coordinator*
- Leslie van Gelder, *Administrative Assistant*