



Three Rivers Almanac

Issue No. 24

THE NEWSLETTER OF THREE RIVERS LAND CONSERVANCY

FALL 2005

Conservation of Pratt Property a Step Toward Clackamas County Natural Area Protection

by Elizabeth Patte

Just off of highway 224 in Clackamas County, near the River, lies an amazing landscape of cliffs, boulder caves, and old growth forest. Western red cedars, Douglas firs and western hemlocks as old as 200 years tower overhead. Western dogwoods, Pacific madrones, and vine maples fill the understory. A variety of woodland plants including duck's foot, thimbleberry, vanilla leaf and salal cover the ground. This is perfect habitat for the abundance of wildlife which thrives here, from pileated woodpeckers and migratory songbirds to salamanders and other amphibians.

The site's boulder caves also create a unique habitat. Known as Carver Caverns, these caves are home to several "at-risk-species" of bats including the fringed bat (*Myotis thysanodes*), shown below, the long-eared bat (*Myotis evotis*), and the Pacific big-eared bat or Townsend's bat (*Corynorhinus townsendii*). The caves were most likely formed during the Pleistocene Age, when large slabs of the Sandy Ridge sandstone formation collapsed.

Many of the native species found here are sensitive to the presence of humans. Bats, for example, will abandon their roost if they are repeatedly disturbed.

Jeff & Lita Pratt own 34 acres of this beautiful landscape, with its diverse and fragile ecosystem. Their property is part

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Fringed Bat Photo: © Merlin D. Tuttle, Bat Conservation International, www.batcon.org

Construction Begins on Second Phase of Stafford Trail System

As you drive on Stafford Road toward Luscher Farm you might see bulldozers at work. Do not be alarmed; work has begun on Luscher Farm's newest section of trail! This new section is a vital link in Three Rivers Land Conservancy's Stafford Basin Trail System.

The Stafford Basin Trail System was created in 2001 by an Advisory Committee of 24 citizens, and city and county representatives. The National Park Service provided technical assistance, and Portland

State University's School of Urban and Regional Planning led the public outreach. When complete, the trail will connect the cities of Lake Oswego, West Linn, and Tualatin.

In 2001 the first section of trail was completed, linking Luscher Farm with Cooks Butte. This second link in the trail system will pass through the historical farm and around its organic gardens. ALTA Planning and Design has designed the trail for multiple uses: walking, biking,

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From the Executive Director: *Life on the Road in Mongolia*



Mission

The mission of Three Rivers Land Conservancy is to preserve and protect natural areas, scenic and recreational areas, wildlife habitat and historic lands in greater Portland.

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TRAVEL LOG: Just one half-hour outside of Mongolia's capital, Ulaanbaatar, we leave the asphalt and hit our first dirt road. We proceed bumping along for about an hour. My Scottish friend Misha, our guide Selenge, our driver Ogi and I stop to eat lunch alongside a small stream with cows and sheep milling about. The wind is blowing strong, animal poop is all around, and the sun is fierce. Low mountains frame the background. The landscape is a dull green and brown. Ogi opens the door to the Russian van and pulls out a wool carpet for us to sit on. Four of us squeeze onto the carpet in the tiny corner of shade and try to eat lunch. I try two of the meat pies purchased by Selenge called hooshor. I am not much of a meat eater and these pies do nothing to make me feel better about eating it.

While sitting there, an old nomad man appears from nowhere on his horse. Dropping off the horse's back, he retrieves a cigarette from Ogi and begins to tell us about the weather, his animals, and how things in general are going. All this is translated by Selenge, who seems to translate a minimal amount of information. I know it must get tiring for her, but I still want to know more. The nomad asks me how the weather is back where I come from and I tell him rainy. Very rainy. The nomad asks if maybe we can send some rain from my home to his, where it is too dry. I say I wish I could.
— July 15, 2005

This summer, I was blessed with the opportunity to take a two month sabbatical from Three Rivers Land Conservancy. I decided to go on the adventure of a lifetime: Mongolia. I

want to share with you what I learned.

I traveled by myself; flying to Beijing and then taking the Trans Siberian Railway to Mongolia. Though I traveled alone, I quickly found many kindred spirits. Two countryside tours, one through northern Mongolia and one through southern Mongolia, allowed me to see the high steppes and Gobi Desert. I also spent 20 days in the capital, Ulaanbaatar.

Much to my surprise, Mongolia bears some similarities to Oregon. Although more than twice the geographic size of Oregon, Mongolia also has 3 million residents. Like Oregon, half the residents live a rural lifestyle and depend on natural resources directly for their livelihood. The capital has roughly the same population as Portland.

The rural population still lives the



ancestral nomadic lifestyle. They live in round felt tents called

gers. The dwellings suit the climate and nomadic lifestyle as they are quite warm in winter, cool in summer, and can be entirely dismantled in a few hours. These Mongolians' livelihood is dependent on livestock – there are more than 30 million domesticated animals in Mongolia.

The horse is a vital part of the Mongolian lifestyle – these people practically invented horseback riding. In fact, Ghengis Khan utilized horsemanship to dominate most of Asia and Europe around 1100 A.D. Modern life has come to Mongolia though,

(Continued on next page)

Mongolia (Continued from previous page)



and horseback riding is being replaced by jeeps and dirtbikes for nomadic transportation.

My most vivid memory of Mongolia is the beauty of the countryside: the vivid blue sky, the grassy green hills and the picturesque *gers*, typically bright white, nestled into the hillside. The old mountains, worn

down under the pressure of an ancient sea, are quite lush, turning a chartreuse color, when it rains. White puffy clouds traverse the sky creating a mosaic on the hillsides of ever-changing light and shadow.

Traveling in Mongolia wasn't easy. The capital is a rough and tumble city with prevalent street crime. I visited the one major park in the city, Children's Park (*Nairdam*), where many families and children play every summer evening. Much to my dismay, I read in the newspaper that the president of Mongolia was suggesting the construction of an Olympic-style stadium to take over this very park.

While in Ulaanbaatar, I lived in a Mongolian family's apartment. It was a Soviet style apartment building with concrete blocks and no landscaping. I was pleased to see that outside of each apartment building was an open square with playground equipment for the children. Every evening, the playground would fill with children from the apartments. I could hear the games of basketball and hide-and-go-seek from my open bedroom window until well after dark.

I wanted to give back to Mongolia while visiting. So I volunteered time with several non-governmental organizations. I was most interested in those groups dedicated to preserving Mongolia's fragile ecosystem. However, I found numerous other groups working on important issues such as human and women's rights. Meeting so many dedicated people with big dreams and visions for Mongolia, while working on shoestring budgets, was truly inspiring.

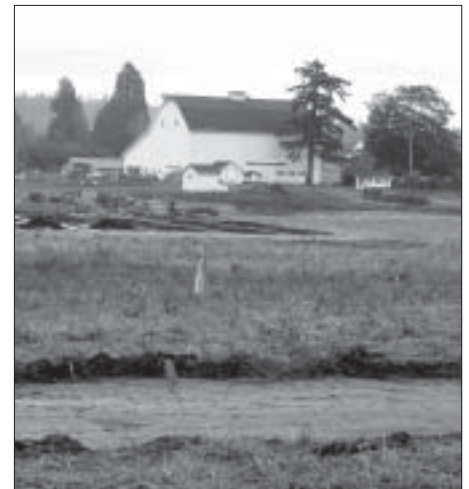
As I re-enter life here in the United States, I feel truly blessed to live in such a wonderful place as the Portland area. I also feel even more strongly that we have an opportunity to do something different here by conserving our important natural lands close to home. As I continue my work at the community-based level here in Portland, I hope to keep my Mongolia friendships and the world citizen spirit alive within me.

If you are interested in hearing more about my trip, please call me at 503-699-9825. I've developed a slideshow and will be showing it this fall and winter.

— J.C.



Stafford Trails (Continued from page 1)



horseback riding, and wheelchair use. The City of Lake Oswego funded the trail with a 2002 bond measure.

"I am very excited to see this pathway going in" said Jay Minor, President of Three Rivers Land Conservancy and Stafford Trail committee member. "Three Rivers has been working to achieve this vision for a long time. We are so pleased that the City of Lake Oswego is such a great partner, and that together we're creating this trail for everyone to enjoy."

Stewardship – Keeping Special Places Healthy, Accessible and Beautiful!



Pulling Together to Save a Natural Place

Our monthly weed pulling parties have been a great success. Since this time last year, volunteers and staff have cleared more than 2 acres of native forest at Keller Woodlands. We have cut and pulled English ivy, rescuing native plants and trees. Once conserved, these ecosystems provide the benefits we Oregonians cherish in our native forests – habitat for birds and wildlife, healthy native plant populations, soil and water quality protection, and the beauty of these native forests.

Volunteers keep coming back to enjoy the camaraderie, to connect to this wild and beautiful place, and to see the progress we've made in reclaiming our native forest. Please join us! See details below.

Volunteers Needed!

English Ivy Removal Party at Keller Woods

Saturdays, 9 a.m. until noon

January 7 • February 4 • March 4
April 8 • May 6

To sign up or for more information contact Sam Roderick, volunteer coordinator at information@trlc.org or (503)-699-9825.

Adopt an Acre

Thank you members and friends who have contributed to our Adopt-an-Acre program, an ongoing opportunity to support our stewardship efforts in the region. With your support, we restore forests and stream banks, remove invasive plants and reintroduce native plants on our conserved properties.

A donation of \$100 restores 50 feet of stream edge; \$500 restores an acre of forest. In thanks, we'll send you a matted photo of one of our natural areas. With a contribution of \$500 or more, we will take you on a personal tour of one of our natural areas.

Make a Difference Day at Beth Ryan Reserve

Nearly 15 years ago Three Rivers Land Conservancy completed its first conservation project, the Beth Ryan Nature Reserve. In December of 1991, Art Piculell and William Cox donated the property to Three Rivers and named it after Beth Ryan, a lifelong Lake Oswego resident committed to the preservation of green spaces in her neighborhood.

Since the time of the donation, management of the reserve has been focused on balancing the need to keep its ecosystems healthy with that of maintaining an accessible natural area for the neighbors and residents of Lake Oswego. It was in that spirit that Three Rivers organized "Make a Difference Day," a day of restoration at Beth Ryan in cooperation with AmeriCorps and neighbors and friends of the Beth Ryan Nature Reserve.

On Saturday, October 22, volunteers gathered to participate in a variety of

Free Naturescaping Workshop

December 3, 2005
9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Attract wildlife to your yard
Create a beautiful landscape
Protect the environment

Three Rivers is hosting a Naturescaping workshop in cooperation with Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District. Join us to learn more about the benefits and methods of replacing English ivy and other forest invaders on your property with native plants.

To sign up for the free workshop, please call 503-797-1842 or send an email to: naturescaping@yahoo.com

maintenance and restoration projects, including improving trails and removing invasive species.

The change that took place at the site was dramatic. Thanks to the hard work of all the people involved, the project was a huge success, and did indeed make a difference!



Carver Caverns Conserved

(Continued from page 1)

of a parcel purchased in 1941 by the Pratt family. This land is located within a larger natural area south of the City of Damascus now being considered for protection — The Clackamas River Bluffs and Canyons Natural Area.

As Clackamas County readies for urban development in the next few years, the residents of the Damascus area have expressed a strong desire to protect green spaces and wildlife habitat. Jeff and Lita are two such residents. They decided to put that desire into action by placing a conservation easement on 29 acres of their land which will protect it from logging, mining and subdivision forever.

“My wife and I had felt for several years that it would be a good idea to put in place some kind of safe-guard to ensure that our beloved forest would be protected from exploitation should something happen to us. As we watched the incorporation of Damascus proceed, and followed the ongoing public discussions regarding land use in our area, it became clear to us that now would be an opportune time to take action,” explains Jeff, who grew up on this land.

“It is our hope that by establishing this conservation easement on our property, we can not only protect and preserve it, but also provide some momentum toward establishing a ‘Big Park’ in the area.”

After she visited the Pratt property, Three Rivers Board Member Emogene



Waggoner described it as “a wonderful treasure added to our inventory of conservation easements. The

carpet of ferns and native plants enhances the beauty of the majestic old growth. Walking through the grove is reminiscent of walking through Muir Woods in California, and the bat caves add an element of mystery that truly makes this a special place.”

Conserving the property has been a whirlwind 9-month process. Three Rivers applied to Clackamas County for funding under the Federal Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-determination Act of 2000 and was awarded the grant in January 2005. Through a collaborative process with the Pratts, a professional negotiator, Clackamas County Soil and Conservation District, and resource and forest management consultants, Three Rivers produced a Resource Management Plan for the property and agreed on the specifics of the conservation easement. In September, final documents were signed, sealed and recorded, and this beautiful land with ecological, geological and historical importance was permanently protected! The Pratts will continue to live on the property and manage it under the guidance of the Resource Management Plan with assistance from Three Rivers.

As wild and natural as much of the

Conservation Conversation

Tuesday, November 22

8 – 9 a.m.

- Learn about Three Rivers
 - Take our virtual tour
- Meet other conservation supporters
 - Learn how you can help

Please join us at our office for this free introduction to

Three Rivers Land Conservancy

1675 South Shore Blvd.

Lake Oswego, OR

RSVP at 503-699-9825

Light breakfast will be served

Pratt property is, it has not escaped the encroachment of non-native species. As with most edge-habitat environments, the 29 acres the Pratts placed under conservation are under attack by the usual outside invaders, including English ivy and holly, Himalayan blackberry, clematis and laurel. In dealing with these problem species, which can quickly displace native wildlife, the Pratts and Three Rivers will work toward control and eradication of these non-natives. The Resource Management Plan will also guide habitat restoration and thinning of second-growth trees on a portion of the conserved property.

No words better express the bigger vision behind the Pratt’s decision to conserve their land than Jeff’s own: “If the Clackamas Bluffs and Canyons Park becomes a reality, it will be to the Damascus area as Forest Park is to Portland; or as Golden Gate Park is to San Francisco; or Central Park to New York City – something that people a hundred years from now will look at, and be thankful that this generation had the intelligence to recognize it, the heart to value it, and the will to preserve it.”

Conservation DVD Available at Three Rivers

LANDMARKS IN CONSERVATION, a new DVD produced by Oregon State University Extension Service, is available for loan from the Three Rivers office. The DVD is designed to help rural landowners, farmers, ranchers and foresters develop sustainable natural resource management plans for their land. It is applicable to all lands from a 5-acre farm to a 100,000-acre ranch. Stories from the land owners bring the material to life. Call 503-699-9825 for more information.

Local Winemakers and Chefs Help Raise Over \$53,000 for Land Conservation

The Three Rivers Wine and Land Benefit just keeps getting better! This year's event received overwhelming support from the community.

Winemakers generously poured their wines, chefs eagerly donated their culinary masterpieces, sponsors contributed cash to cover expenses, and the best volunteers ever helped make the event a successful celebration of the land and its bounty.

The key to the success this year was the spirit of volunteering. The event produced nearly double the revenue of the previous year, primarily due to a dedicated core of volunteers on the Wine & Land Steering Committee. The group set bold goals and followed through recruiting sponsors and auction items, selling more than 250

tickets, and devising a raffle that raised more than \$6,000 alone!

On event day, a beautiful sunny Sunday in September, 28 volunteers took charge, working alongside the winemakers and chefs. The result was a showcase of some of the best wine and food of our region. The importance of Three River's conservation message was front and center in a very tangible (and delicious) way — creating a sustainable future where farmland and open spaces are permanently protected is vital to our region's economy, as well as its livability and ecological health.

Already we are thinking ahead to 2006. We have the opportunity to take this event to the next level, and we could use your help! Join the Steering



"I've supported this event from day one and

will continue to support it. What we do in the restaurant and wine-making business is directly related to land preservation, whether it be for agriculture or other uses. It's all part of what Oregon is as a sustainable state."

— Adam Sappington
Chef at Wildwood Restaurant

Committee, become a sponsor, donate auction items, or volunteer. Come on — we guarantee you'll have fun!

Sam Adams and Three Rivers Lead Ivy Summit

Portland City Commissioner Sam Adams and Three Rivers are leading an effort to draw attention to the severity of ivy and other noxious weed infestations in the City of Portland's natural areas, ultimately threatening our air and water quality.

Dubbed the "Ivy Summit," a meeting on November 7 at City Hall in Portland brought together the City Commissioners and Bureau Directors for a "Town Hall" type of Q&A session, led by Commissioner Adams. Experts from the Bureau of Environmental Services, Portland Parks, The Nature Conservancy, Friends of Marquam Park, Portland Department of Transportation, The Nurserymen's Association, The Cooperative Weed Management Board, and Three Rivers Land Conservancy made presentations focusing on low-cost strategies to control English ivy, Himalayan blackberry, clematis and Japanese knotweed. A proposed resolution drafted by the Ivy Summit Planning Committee was presented at the meeting. The document set goals for manag-

ing weeds in the City of Portland.

Three Rivers got the ball rolling with Commissioner Adams when Melissa Rowe-Soll, the Conservancy's land



steward, attended the Oregon League of Conservation Voters Forum and challenged officials to take on the task of addressing weeds. Adams joined a Three Rivers ivy pull at Keller

Woodlands (above), and later met with Conservancy staff to review our Ivy Assessment report, which reveals that volunteer efforts alone are not sufficiently addressing the problem.

Adams proposed the Ivy Summit and asked Three Rivers to help organize the event.

If you would like to know more about our City-wide effort to control invasive weeds, please call Jayne at 503-699-9825 for more information.

2005 Wine and Land Benefit

“What makes this event different from other charity events is that this is really fun!”

— Charles Oldham
Guest at Wine & Land



Genoa's Robert Reynolds



Ken Wright of Ken Wright Cellars and
Nick Pierano of Nick's Italian Cafe



Mike Conklin
of Lucy's Table



A to Z Wineworks' Bill Hatcher pours for a guest



Chef Greg Higgins



The Woodland Fairies



Paul Gerrie of Cristom with Wine and Land guests

All Wine and Land Photographs courtesy of Ty Downing, Ty Downing Photoworks

Please support our Wine and Land participants and partners in conservation:

Wineries:

A to Z Wineworks • Argyle Winery • Beaux Freres • Clear Creek Distillery • Cristom Vineyards
Elk Cove Vineyards • Holloran Vineyard Wines • Ken Wright Cellars
Lemelson Vineyard • Rex Hill Vineyards

Restaurants:

clarklewis • Dundee Bistro • Genoa • Higgins Restaurant & Bar • Lucy's Table
Mint • Mother's Bistro & Bar • Nick's Italian Cafe
Papa Haydn • Wildwood Restaurant & Bar

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Three Rivers

LAND CONSERVANCY

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Keeping Open Spaces Close to Home

The Legacy Circle



You can preserve land for future generations, by including Three Rivers Land Conservancy in your Estate Plans.

Please consider joining our Legacy Circle. You can remember Three Rivers in your will or living trust, or name Three Rivers as a beneficiary of your IRA or life insurance policy.

Contact Sandy Wright or Jayne Cronlund for more information
503-699-9825

Three Rivers Land Conservancy Membership

Your membership with Three Rivers Land Conservancy helps preserve and protect open space throughout the Greater Portland area, for today AND for tomorrow. Join us today!

Membership Dues:

\$ 1,000 and over	Steward
\$ 500	Protector
\$ 250	Patron
\$ 150	Sustainer
\$ 100	Friend
\$ 50	Family
\$ 35	Individual
\$ 10	Student