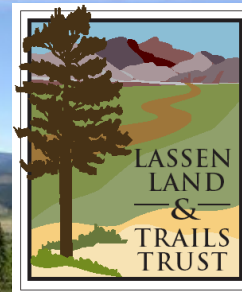


LLTT Newsletter



Spring 2009

Volume 2009, Issue 1

Photograph: View from vista in new trails, Susanville Ranch Park (courtesy of Joel Rathje)

Mission Statement:

The mission of Lassen Land and Trails Trust is to conserve significant natural areas and agricultural landscapes and to promote and enhance a public trail system throughout Lassen County.

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Executive Director

Connie Stone

Project Specialist

David Sowers

Depot Manager

Leah Larsen

Lands Manager

Bill Faatz

Volunteer LCCA Preserve Manager

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Carol Curry, CPA

Letter from the Executive Director

LLTT Members:

Happy Spring! Having just returned from the California Trails & Greenways Conference in Yosemite National Park, I have been pleasantly reflecting on the recent successes of LLTT and our partners in Northeast California.

The conference marks a high-point for the hard work that has been accomplished in our region from the beginnings of the Bizz Johnson Trail through to the acquisition of the Modoc Line and the recent completion of the new Trails in the Susanville Ranch Park.

I was honored to be a co-presenter at the conference with both Stan Bales (Recreation Planner for the Eagle Lake BLM), and Joel Rathje (Trails Coordinator for Lassen county). As presenters, we outlined how to succeed in completing projects in lower-income rural communities. Our session was well attended, and the interest and questions related to our work spoke lengths about what trails can mean for recreation, health, and local tourism dollars.

Yet more specifically what I learned reinforced my perception of how unique our corner of California is, and how rare it is that a local community has embraced trails on such an intrinsic level. Perhaps this is in part to the emigrant past of our region, criss-crossed with converging paths, and linked together by a desire to seek what lay just beyond the horizon. Apart from history, I believe local advocacy and hard work has (more recently) made trail support an intrinsic value to a new generation.

Some might agree with me that new ideas are often greeted suspiciously in small communities, and that local politics can often times get in the way of what is in the best interest for all. Whether or not that is a universal truth, it is getting easier to see that trails are becoming part of the ethos of where we live.

Taking that further, I would say that trails are becoming part of the way we define ourselves as a community. For example, take Susanville's new town slogan: "Trailhead to the outdoors, where the Sierra greet the Cascades."

For another example of how trails are now being viewed as a near unequivocal asset, I point to the approval of a parks grant of \$200,000 for the new trails in the Susanville Ranch Park by the Lassen County Board of Supervisors in 2007. No controversy, hardly any politics, and thanks to hard work and focus—completed in less than two years. Fourteen miles of world-class trail on County property without hardly a murmur of complaint from politicians or the public.

At the conference in Yosemite, both Stan & Joel agreed with me that we owe all of our success to strong partnerships, and a stubborn desire to see things completed. As one of the key-note speakers mentioned: "Any-pitcher can start a ballgame—but it takes someone special to finish it with a win."

In a region that has dealt with divisive issues ranging from prison development, to large-scale resort construction, to more recently alternative energy generation—it is easy to focus on the ugly aspects of socio-political divisions that result in gridlock.

So take pride that your community is moving forward with a vision for trail-based recreation—and thank your local leaders and trail advocates (LLTT Members!) for their long term work in making this another bright spot in our region.

Thanks again for all you have done,

Matthew Sayles, Executive Director

Looking to 2010 for Bridgfest Music Festival

As I'm sure all of you are aware, the recession has hit many non-profits in California hard, and LLTT is a rare exception of continued success. Even though LLTT is well positioned to weather this current economic downturn, the Staff & Board of LLTT have made a determination to postpone what would be the "Second Annual Bridgfest Music Festival" until 2010.

But don't be too disappointed!

LLTT is going to instead celebrate National Trails Day in 2009 with an interim event: "**Trailsfest**" which will celebrate the grand-opening of the new trails in the Susanville Ranch Park. The event will be an all day occasion, with a kick-off ceremony in the Ranch Park at **8:30 a.m. on Saturday, June 6th**. The day will be opened with guided hikes & rides of the new trails, and will wrap up with a **reception at 4:30 p.m. at the Hotel Mt. Lassen**.

There will be **great live roots music** being performed, and the full menu & bar will be open to the public as well as trail enthusiasts. LLTT will be mailing out more information on the Band that will be performing (a special surprise from out of town), and will keep you posted on Bridgfest 2010 as ideas unfold.

Rest assured that both our Interim "Trailsfest" and "Bridgfest Music Festival" will be quality events, and know that all funds brought in will go to benefit the LLTT Trails Endowment fund to repair the Bridge #9 on the Bizz Johnson Trail.

LLTT Food Drive May 18th-22nd

LLTT members are always so generous with their time and personal commitment to help with LLTT projects. This time, we would like to pay it forward and help our community. The local food shelf at the Crossroads Ministries is critically low of non-perishable foods due to the overwhelming demand during these tough economic times. LLTT is appealing to you to drop off a bag or small box of non-perishable food items at the Depot during the week of May 18-22 between 9 AM to 4:30 PM. The following items are especially needed: pasta, pasta sauce, boxes of rice, and macaroni and cheese, canned tuna, Spam and chicken, canned vegetables and fruits, beans, chili, and bottled juices. If you can't drop a food donation off at the Depot during that week, please call Elizabeth Norton at 257-3243 to arrange for pick-up. Thank you for helping those in need.

16th Annual Paiute Meadows Trail Run

When: Saturday May 16th

Where: Susanville Ranch Park (West of Meadowview School)

What Time: 8:30 a.m. (Kids Run/Walk) 9:30 a.m (2 & 4.7 mile run & walk)

More information: contact 530-257-3252 or e-mail lltt@frontiernet.net

Discount Registration on or before May 14th!

***Support our Business Members! Business Memberships start at \$100.
please shop with these folks & say THANK YOU for supporting LLTT!***

101 Ranch/Goodrich Creek, Bill Keeler, Owner, P.O. Box 308, Red Bluff, CA 96080, (530) 527-0175
5 Dot Ranch, Midge Swickard, 490-425 State Route 139, Susanville, CA 96080, (530) 257-6058
Artisan Coffee, Austin Minert, 464440 Church St, Janesville, CA 96114, (530) 253-3000
Barakat, George, MD, Orthopedic Surgery, 555 Ash Street, Susanville, CA 96130, (530) 257-9060
Balding Energy Enterprise, 508-450 Stoney Lane, Susanville, CA 96130, (530) 825-3481
Banner Lassen Hospital, 1800 Spring Ridge Dr., Susanville, CA 96130, (530) 252-2000
Bike Station, Jeff Warren, Owner, 702 Main Street, Susanville, CA 96130, (530) 257-2525
Deal & Davie Inc., 1107 Main Street, Susanville, CA 96130, (530) 257-6115
Diamond Mountain Casino, 910 Skyline Terrace, Susanville, CA 96130, (530) 257-1100
Doyle Electric, Chuck & Jean Coyle, 434-625 Doyle Loop, Doyle, CA 96109, (530) 827-2869
Gold Run Cabinet and Door Co., 885 Cypress Street, Susanville, CA, 96130, (530) 251-4653
Hulsman Ranch, Hannah & Susan Tangeman, P.O. Box 850, Susanville, CA 96130, (530) 257-7262
Janesville Self-Storage, Mike & Lindee Larsen 464-900 Main St., Janesville, CA 96114, (530) 253-2233
KSUE 1240/JDX FM 93.3, 3015 Johnstonville Rd., Susanville, CA 96130, (530) 257-2121
Lassen Addressing Service, Jim Chapman, Owner, P.O. Box 674, Susanville, CA 96130, (530) 257-6009
Lassen Humane Society, Cindy Howe, P.O. Box 1575, Susanville, CA 96130, (530) 257-4555
Mountain Meadows Mead, Ronald Lunder, 12 Third St, Westwood, CA, 96137 (530) 256-3233
Plumas Bank, 3000 Riverside Dr., Susanville, CA 96130, (530) 257-5013
Realty World-Lassen Land & Homes, 2301 Main Street, Susanville, CA 96130, (530) 257-7727
Sierra-Cascade Nursery, Inc., 472-715 Johnson Rd., Susanville, CA 96130 (530) 254-6702
Susanville Supermarket, Rick Stewart, Owner, 50 Grand Avenue, Susanville, CA 96130, (530) 257-5136
Susanville Therapy & Athletic Rehabilitation, 711 Main St., Susanville, CA 96130, (530) 257-8989
Susanville Towing/Lassen Tire, P.O. Box 41, Susanville, CA 96130, (530) 310-9793
Truckee Grubstake and Outfitting Co., 707-685 Wingfield Rd., Janesville, CA 96114, (530) 253-2677
Watkins, Sharron, Certified Bookkeeper, P.O. Box 86, Janesville, CA 96114, (530) 253-2668

Greeting LLTT members!

I am pleased to announce that I have officially received my first grant from the BLM! A few months ago I applied the BLM and Lassen County for funding to continue Nature Camp. Lassen County (a great supporter of Nature Camp) approved LLTT for Title 3 funding. I also submitted an additional grant application to the BLM for supplemental funding. I am thrilled to announce that we have received both!

I have also submitted another grant application to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) to fund a river cleanup for the Susan River Parkway. I have recently been informed that this grant application will not be reviewed at the June meeting for the SNC. This meeting has been cancelled and all applications will be rolled over and reviewed at the September meeting. I'm pretty sure all of you share my frustration with the high-quantity of litter and trash along the Susan River Parkway (the paved trail from Alexander to just past the BLM offices). I have submitted this grant to the SNC in hopes of receiving funding to purchase all of the supplies needed for a trail and river cleanup. Past river cleanups have collected litter from trail and river-banks but not the riverbed. I plan to purchase waders and rubber boots so we are able to remove the trash from within the river (ie. Shopping carts, tires, sleeping bags and other rubbish). Once all of these supplies are purchased I would like for these types of cleanup projects to become annual or semi-annual events. I will be sure to keep all of you posted on the status of my grant application. If you have any questions at all, feel free to contact me either by phone or email.

Sincerely,

Connie Stone
 cstonelltt@frontiernet.net



Thank you to members who have renewed & Welcome New Members....

Membership Donations

Partner

Bill Watson
Bill & Jo Faatz

Supporter

Marjorie Buell
Mike Foster
Frank & Georgianne Hall
Richard & Jonelle Kanavel
Jerry & Dollie Douglass
Jim & Jean Hodge

Family

Seren & Larry Bradshaw
Jim & Debbie Cleveland
Roger & Paula Deschene
Claudia Dunlavy
Richard & Holly Egan
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Jeff & Carol Fontana
Miriam Karen Fouch
Noelle Eckley & Bob Freschl
Noreen Frieling
Kent Holmes
Melanie & David McFarland
Nancy & John Murray
Bill & Charlotte Nebeker
Mike Smith & Judith Oliver

Michael West & Mary Piowaty
Bart & Kathleen Simmons
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Lassen Recreation Association
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Zellamae Miles

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Naomi & John Rea
Galen, Linda & Clinton Roberts
Clarence & Jackie Tripp
Flanigan-Leavitt Insurance
Pat Hodges
Michael Mehlhaff

Student/Senior

Emma Freeman
Anthony Gould & Gary Schoolcraft
Gail Valceschini
Fred & Joan Zuehlke
Bill Phillips

Memorial/In Honor Donations

In honor of Franz & Marjie Latka
Norman & Deirdre Mah

Memory of Mark Murray

Flanigan-Leavitt Insurance

Memory of George Farris

Lassen Recreation Association

Memory of Carmella Farrace

Emma Freeman

Memory of Gary Frieling

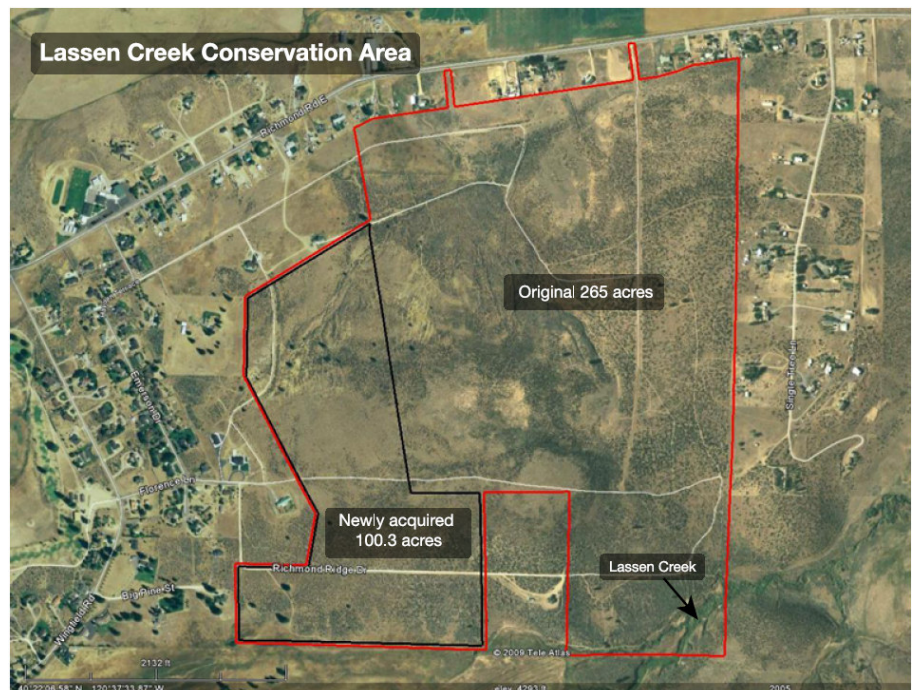
Marjorie Buell

LLTT Acquires 100 acres of mitigation property

LLTT would like to thank Lassen County for their gift of 100 acres of Deer Mitigation property adjacent to the Lassen Creek Conservation Area.

By linking ownership, LLTT now has the ability to manage this property as a whole, and facilitates the ease of which we can complete fire-rehab for the areas jointly affected by the "Pine Fire" of 2007.

Our Lands Manager, Leah Larsen, is already hard at work at repairing fire-damaged fence on the former County property, and is carefully watching the seeded plots of bitterbrush to ensure the safe return of viable mule-deer habitat.



Letter From Board President, Helen Leve

Spring Greetings!

Western bluebirds are in Paiute Meadows, their turquoise blue almost iridescent as they flit from willow to fence post. Evening grosbeaks and gold finches in spring finery fly and feed along the Bizz. With our usual capricious weather, we herald in our Lassen County spring and welcome all of our members and friends to this special season.



The Board of Directors has been closely watching the changes wrought by our fractured economy. Though our projects are not threatened, some of them are in a holding pattern until the grants that fund them are unfrozen. We are secure financially for our current fiscal year, and the Finance Committee has worked on a proposed two year “austerity” budget plan that will see us safely into the future.

Our strength has always been in our membership. In the United States, volunteering is an historic tradition. Even Alexis de Tocqueville, writing about his travels in America in the 1830’s noted the tradition in America of lending a helping hand. In government census statistics for 2007 -2008, volunteers in the US numbered 61.8 million or 26.4% of the population. Each member of LLTT is part of that number! What can LLTT members do today to ease the Trust through tough financial times? For events of the spring and summer seasons we need helpers. Some volunteers are needed to assist with the Paiute Meadow Run scheduled for Saturday, May 16. We look for lots of runners and walkers, too! Others may wish to volunteer to spend a few hours at the Depot as we resume the duties of providing information to visitors about our mission and the trails open for their use. In late July or early August, Connie, our Project Specialist, is planning a river clean-up party. Here is an opportunity not only for our members, but also for youth groups anxious to meet their community service goals. Call Connie at 257-3252 if you would like to get on a list for these activities.

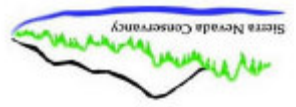
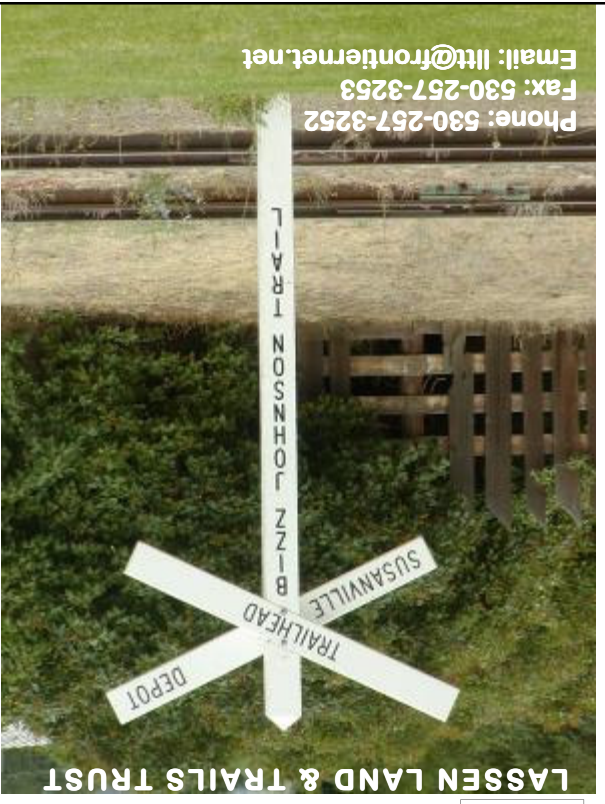
Another way that we can help is to increase our membership. To rephrase a familiar motto, let us “each one reach one”. If each member could invite a friend to join LLTT with a new membership, not only would our membership grow, but our operating budget would as well. Another suggestion is for each of us to consider up-grading our membership to the next level: A “Senior” member would choose the “Friend” category, the “Friend” would choose the “Family” membership. None of these steps is large, but collectively the difference is huge. These are challenging times for all of us. With the continued support of our members we look forward to a season of growth as we pursue our mission of conserving natural and agricultural landscapes and developing a network of trails to preserve and enhance the quality of life in Lassen County.

Thank you for your membership and thank you for your help.

Helen Leve, President

Switch to Digital LLTT Newsletter!

Want to help save LLTT some much needed funds? Sign up to receive your newsletter via e-mail! Sending out a hard-copy newsletter on a quarterly basis costs LLTT on average over \$2,000 per year. Receiving your newsletter via e-mail will help save LLTT money as well as save on paper and ink—which helps the environment too! If you’re interested in receiving your newsletter via e-mail, just send an e-mail to: lltt@frontiernet.net with a **subject line “E-mail Newsletter.”** Indicate the e-mail address you would like the newsletter sent to, and we will put you on a list to no longer receive a hard copy. The LLTT website also has a newsletter archive that allows you to review all of our newsletters going back to 2004. As newsletters are completed and mailed, they will also be available at las-senlandandtrails.com to be reviewed at any time in Adobe pdf format under the link “Newsletter Archive” on the home page. This is on a volunteer basis only, so if you want to keep receiving your letter in your mailbox, you don’t have to do anything! If you have any questions just call **530-257-3252**, and thanks for your help in saving LLTT funds and resources!



Lassen Creek Conservation Area Fire- Rehabilitation Update

The deer-exclusion gate is installed! As you can see in the picture, we're working to keep deer OUT of the newly seeded grounds, so that the Bitterbrush they need to survive will return at a healthy level in the near future.

If you visit the LCCA, please be respectful of the fencing, as any damage could result in trapped deer and damage to our recently seeded bitterbrush & native grasses.

