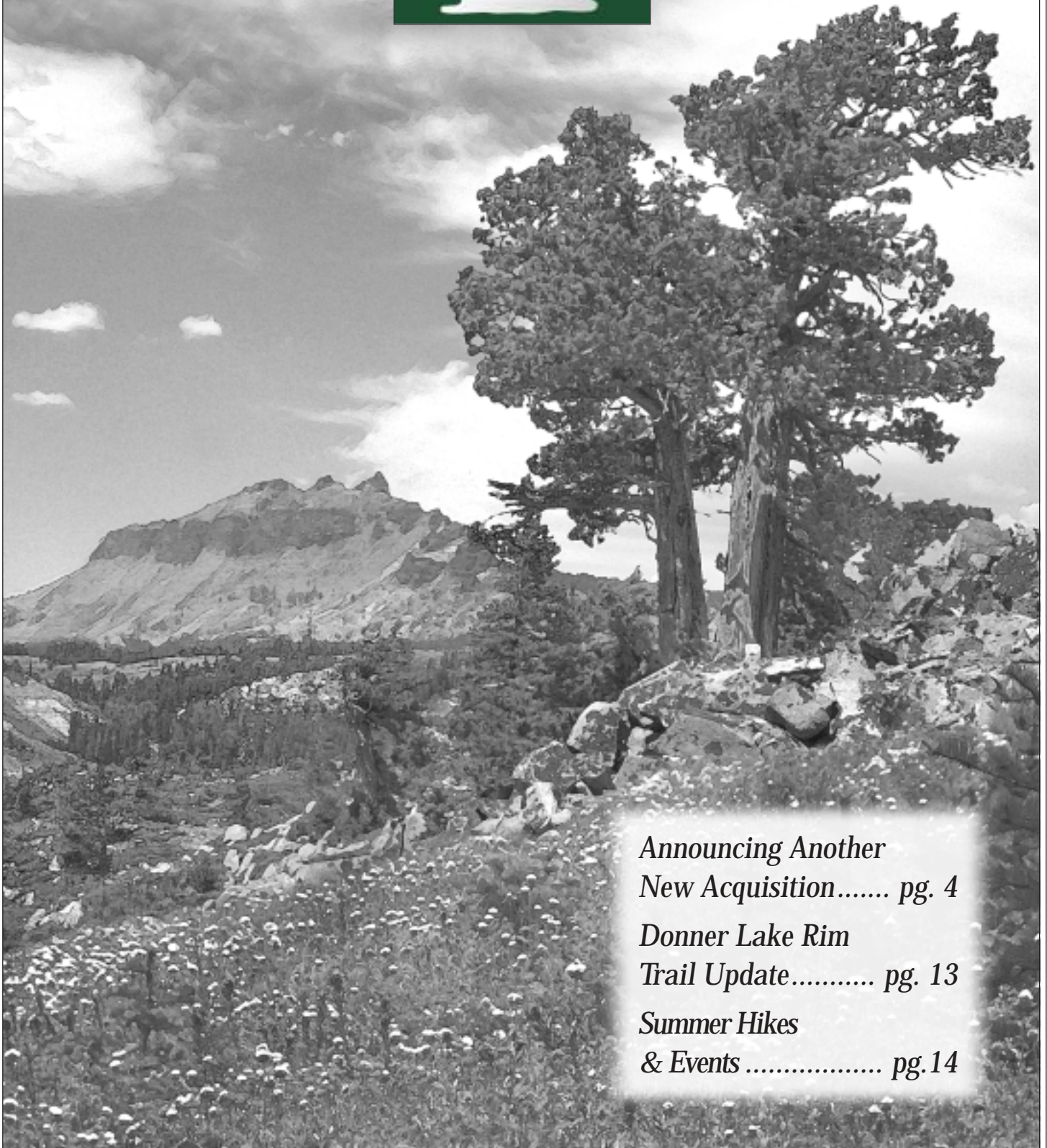


TRUCKEE DONNER LAND TRUST

Preserving and protecting important historic, recreational and scenic open spaces in the greater Truckee region.



Spring Newsletter
Volume 28 ❖ Spring 2006



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The Truckee Donner Land Trust was founded in 1990 in order to preserve and protect important historic, recreational and scenic open spaces in the greater Truckee region.

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FRONT COVER PHOTO:

Castle Peak from the Pacific Crest Trail.
Cover Image courtesy of
www.CarmelStudios.com.

A Message from the Board President

In January 2006, the Board of the Truckee Donner Land Trust held a retreat at which it reviewed the potential for preservation of important natural resources in our area. The Board of Directors then unanimously committed this organization to an aggressive goal of protecting more than \$100 million of land in the greater Truckee area by the year 2010. Once this goal is achieved, the Land Trust will have created an exemplary legacy of protecting open space, recreational access and wildlife habitat for future generations to cherish in perpetuity.

To put our goal into historical context, the Land Trust has to date preserved over 8,000 acres of land. More than half of those acquisitions occurred just last year. And as a result of the generous support of our members and the tireless pursuit of public and private funding by our staff, the Land Trust is obtaining the resources to make additional and substantial acquisitions of land.

Achievement of this goal will require three ingredients: a professional staff to execute the plan, a cohesive and committed Board of Directors to steer the course, and money. I am pleased to report that the first two ingredients are already in place. With your generous support, the money will be there as well.

Last year, the Land Trust reorganized its staff to meet the challenges posed by our growing achievements. Our Executive Director, Perry Norris, has forged important partnerships with national land trusts that help share the burden and expense of land preservation. And internally, Perry has built a team of professionals committed to success. Last year we were pleased to welcome Stan Wingate, who brings financial



Martin D. Bern, Board President

expertise to the Land Trust at a time when land trust transactions across the nation are being scrutinized. Kellie Wright continues to successfully implement our fundraising goals and membership programs as Development Director. Sara Taddo has joined the Land Trust as Land Conservation Director, providing needed expertise in both our land acquisition and stewardship functions. Finally, Dale Lawrence joined as our Membership Coordinator.

As the Land Trust has evolved, so has its Board of Directors. We recently added three prominent members of the community: Bill Goerke, David Brown and Jeff Hamilton. The all-volunteer Board is actively engaged with staff in the direction and implementation of our goals, and fully committed to achieving them within our window of opportunity.

We are also committed to running a tight ship. The ratio of management and fund raising expenses relative to the value of land conserved is less than 6%, a percentage almost unparalleled in the non-profit community.

In the coming months, we will be launching a campaign designed to fulfill the final piece of our puzzle—raising funds to achieve our goal. An important portion of that effort will be the continued generous support of our members. With your help, we can achieve the vision of tomorrow that I know you all share for our community.

Campaign Updates & Land Trust News

Truckee River Corridor

The Land Trust and The Nature Conservancy are close to finalizing a public access and conservation easement on 7.5 miles of Truckee River frontage between Floriston and Stateline. The project also includes the acquisition in fee of approximately 3,400-acres of upland, extending from Boca Ridge to the river.

Billy Mack Canyon

See article page four. Once the snow melts, the Land Trust will be putting in place a management plan, undertaking extensive removal of ground fuels and slash piles. We'll also start flagging a trail to connect to the Pacific Crest Trail.

Gray Creek Canyon

The Land Trust owns nearly 1,400-acres in this critical tributary to the Truckee River. We are in the process

of conveying the property to the California Department of Fish and Game for long-term management. Our partners and friends at the Truckee River Watershed Council will begin restoration in the Canyon this summer, eliminating erosion caused by roads.

Martis Valley

The Land Trust, working with The Trust for Public Land, is working to create opportunities for open space protection in the Valley. With the recent Siller Ranch settlement, significant mitigation funding is now in place to acquire open space.

Independence Lake and Snow Mountain

The Land Trust closed on nearly 2,000 acres on the ridges above Independence Lake and 660 acres in the North Fork of the American River drainage earlier this year. We are in the process of conveying the properties to a public agency.



The incomparable Martis Valley.

Welcome Bill Goerke, David Brown and Jeff Hamilton!

The Truckee Donner Land Trust is pleased to announce the election of three new directors to its Board, Bill Goerke, David Brown and Jeff Hamilton.

Bill Goerke, a retired software executive, previously served as an advisor to the Land Trust assisting with communications. Bill is an avid Nordic skier and cyclist.

"It is exciting to join the Board of the Land Trust while so many projects are underway. There is an undeniable urgency to our work that the Land Trust's staff and Board are aggressively responding to," Bill said.

David Brown is a passionate hiker who moved to the Truckee Tahoe area in 1967 and has been a full time resident at Northstar since 1971. He has served for six years as a Board member with the Tahoe Rim Trail and was an early finisher of its 165-mile loop.

"Of all the non-profits in the area, the Land Trust has the best focus and is in the best position to making a substantial difference in protecting and preserving the natural beauty of this area," David said.

Jeff Hamilton, a former professional speed skier and Olympic medalist, has been a Truckee resident since 1988. Jeff was born and raised in the Sierra.

"I want to be a part of the Land Trust as it makes permanent contributions to our community," Jeff explained as to his reason for volunteering for Board service. "I recognize the immediate need to protect and preserve what makes our region spectacular. I appreciate the amazing job the Land Trust has done to date; and it would be a privilege to be involved in this organization and its exciting future."

"The Land Trust is fortunate to have three such experienced and capable individuals join our Board," said Board President, Martin Bern.

"The Board would also like to acknowledge the contributions of Jeff Hill, Matt Russanoff and Wendell Ulberg who left the Board at the end of last year."



Bill Goerke



David Brown



Jeff Hamilton

Further Acquisitions in Billy Mack Canyon

Protecting Donner Summit Acre by Acre

The Land Trust is pleased to announce the acquisition of an additional 58 acres in Billy Mack and Negro Canyons on Donner Summit.

The acquisition includes two parcels, split by the Interstate 80. The northern parcel links to 750 acres that the Land Trust is working to acquire in Negro Canyon, 280 acres of which is currently under contract. The southern parcel is sandwiched between Forest Service land and 240 acres acquired in fee and conservation easement by the Land Trust in 2005.

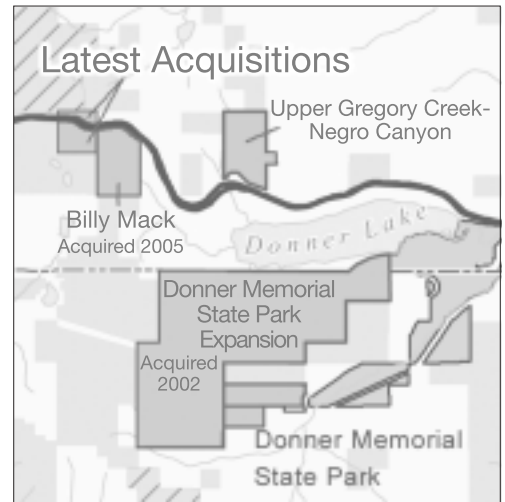
"These acquisitions will create important and contiguous links and corridors for habitat, access to recreational lands heretofore closed to the public and help maintain a clean and healthy Donner Lake," said Sara Taddo, the Land Trust's Land Conservation Director.

The acquisition comprises the northerly ravine at headwaters of the raging Frog Creek, a major tributary to Donner Lake.

Billy Mack Canyon also provides extensive habitat for the endangered Willow Flycatcher, as well as Northern Goshawk and Peregrine Falcon. On a recent hike of the property, fox, Northern Goshawk and beavers were spotted. Also discovered were old growth Jeffrey Pine between five and six feet in diameter.

Part of the acquisition includes a series of huge granite outcroppings known locally as "Area 51," popular with extreme skiers. The acquisitions also include plentiful opportunities for rock climbing and hiking on Donner Summit, previously posted with "no trespassing" signs.

**Join the Land Trust
on August 5th for an
all day pioneering
hike exploring
Billy Mack Canyon.**



Acquisitions on Donner Summit.

The acquisition and easement are parts of a larger multi-million dollar campaign for open space and trails in the Truckee area that the Land Trust is pursuing. The Billy Mack lands are also in the immediate vicinity of other Land Trust projects including Blackwall and Castle Valley.

This acquisition follows a string of successes for the Land Trust in 2005. The Land Trust signed a conservation easement with Sierra College on Hippy Hill and closed on nearly 4,000 acres in the Sierra Checkboard and Truckee River Canyon.

Altogether, the Land Trust has now protected over 8,000 acres in the Truckee Donner region.



Billy Mack Canyon contains numerous granite outcroppings.

"These acquisitions will create important and contiguous links and corridors for habitat..."

- Sara Taddo, the Land Trust's
Land Conservation Director

Stewardship Basics

As the owner and manager of protected properties, the Truckee Donner Land Trust must be a steward and monitor each property's condition annually, and often times seasonally.

The Land Trust uses internal and external expertise to monitor forest health, tree species mortality, erosion, misuse of a property, habitat viability, water quality, excessive fire fuels, and pollution.



Wildlife habitat is always a consideration. A bobcat near Donner Lake. Photo courtesy of Karen Witt.

Each project's vigor, or lack of, is based on the original baseline documentation, a summation of the property's conservation values at the time the Land Trust acquired it. In some cases, violations of allowed use, or degraded environmental conditions from erosion or invasion of noxious weeds, are addressed in reference to the Stewardship Plan. Appropriate action is taken to solve problems on the land, or steward the existing health.

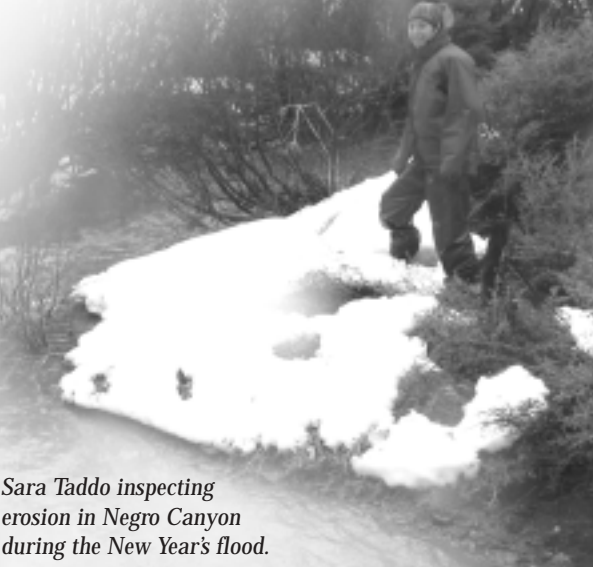
The Land Trust will be implementing several improvements on its properties based on stewardship protocol. At Billy Mack Canyon, we will be thinning dead lodgepole pines and white firs for wildland fire fuel reduction.

A contractor has been hired by the Truckee River Watershed Council to implement a restoration plan in Gray Creek, constituted by a grant agreement and a partnership with the Watershed Council.

With the construction of the Sierra College Campus, we will be overseeing that the buildings and roads comply with the restrictions of the Conservation Easement and protect

McIver Hill's scenic qualities. We also are diligent about annual maintenance of our cherished Donner Lake Rim Trail to prevent erosion, noxious weed invasion, and degradation of the trail.

If you are interested in assisting with monitoring, please contact us at 530-582-4711.



Sara Taddo inspecting erosion in Negro Canyon during the New Year's flood.

Buck for Open Space Profile

Thanks to Cottonwood Restaurant Owners Mike and Jennifer Blide!

Mike and Jennifer Blide took over ownership of the Cottonwood Restaurant in 1995. Having worked primarily in the ski industry, Mike admits, "I lacked the plumbing, carpentry, electrical and refrigeration skills required of restaurant ownership." Despite these challenges, Mike and Jennifer quickly made Cottonwood an icon in Truckee dining. With its picturesque view and cozy setting, diners have been enjoying the cuisine at Cottonwood for years.

"When the Land Trust floated the idea of the Buck for Open Space program, I was immediately enthusiastic about it. We had recently come

from a summer trip to Park City, which has a tremendous trail network and had a program similar to The Buck for Open Space program." Mike, Vice President of The Truckee Trails Foundation, avidly supports the program and very simply explains why it works so well.

"It is a modest contribution which targets locals and tourists alike, which is appropriate." Mike is overwhelmed by the amount of people who congratulate him on a great idea for a great cause.

Although Mike and Jennifer have recently purchased horse property in Sierraville, where daughter Savannah is an emerging cowgirl, their roots will stay in Truckee. "We will still commute to school, work hard with the Trails Foundation, and have REALLY deep roots in Cottonwood."



Jennifer, Savannah and Mike Blide.

Mike's contribution to preserving Truckee while supporting smart growth is apparent. "Everywhere you look, you see synergistic relationships between businesses, non-profits, public agencies, and individuals. These are the connections that make for a healthy community and Truckee is fortunate to have so many great organizations intent on keeping it that way"

Thank You to Our 2005 Donors

Your generous and continued support preserves the scenic, recreational, and historic lands that we all cherish.

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*Look deep into nature, and
 then you will understand
 everything better.*

- Albert Einstein

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Hikers on Schallenberger Ridge, acquired by the Land Trust in 2002.

Photo courtesy of Phil Schermeister.

We apologize for any error in these acknowledgements. Call us if you have any corrections. 530-582-4711. Thank you for your continued support.

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In Memory

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In Memory of...



Pat Crow

Patricia Crow

Pat married Wayne Crow in 1980 and became part of the Donner Lake community. Since retirement in 2001, Pat and Wayne lived at Donner Lake and Palm Desert. Pat continued her love of hiking in the desert regions, but truly the Sierra was her first love.

The Crow Family, along with friends and colleagues, established a memorial fund with the Land Trust in Pat's name.

Contributions in memory by:

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Consider including the Truckee Donner Land Trust in your will or estate plan and leave a legacy that your children and grandchildren can hike, bike and experience under their feet forever.

Please call the Land Trust (530-582-4711) to find out more about planned giving.

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Steve Thorndyke & Lisa Keyson

Lawrence Marshall Bean

Larry was married to Carol and had three children, Kelly, Ryan and Lauren.

Larry enjoyed celebrating with his family on any occasion, big or small. Larry and his uncle Dick Bartholomew, who the Bean Family also recently lost, spent most of their summers at the Bean Family cabin

at Serene Lakes. Larry and Dick will be missed by family, friends, and everyone who ever knew them.

Larry's family lovingly set up a memorial fund with the Land Trust in Larry's name.



Larry Bean

Contributions in memory by:

Jeanette L. Bean
Nancy & Marshall Bean
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April Young

Betty McGlashan Cochran Kenny

Betty lived a life full of friends and family. She raised four sons, Robert, Jr., William, Doug, and Charles.

Betty loved animals and playing bridge.

Betty and Robert Sr.

spent many summers camping on their land near Donner Lake. Betty's family generously set up a fund in Betty's name for the Land Trust.



Betty McGlashan

Contributions in memory by:

Betty Austin
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John Brush
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More Milestones for the Donner Lake Rim Trail

Castle Valley Trail Plan Approved

The Donner Lake Rim Trail, 23 miles encircling Donner Lake high on the surrounding ridges, is making great progress!

The Forest Service has approved plans for our newest section, almost three miles through Castle Valley. The new section of trail will provide mountain bikers an alternative to the Pacific Crest Trail and connect to the popular Hole in the Ground trail.

This new, three-mile section running from Summit Lake across Castle Valley to Interstate 80 is spectacular. Chalked with crystalline, granite boulders and scenic vistas to the south of the Pacific Crest Trail, the trail building will be arduous yet rewarding.

Trail building will occur from both the Castle Valley and Summit Lake ends of the new section. We hope to complete this section by mid-summer 2007. The Truckee Donner Land Trust will be organizing crew leaders, volunteer groups, and the local public to mobilize active trail building and community support for the project.

Last year an informational kiosk was installed at the base of Negro Canyon. Thanks to the Truckee Sunrise Rotary, Rotary Club of Truckee, Lahontan Community Foundation and Truckee Tahoe Community Foundation for making this kiosk possible. Additionally, a new truss bridge and a boardwalk were constructed and completed along the trail in Negro Canyon to

protect water quality resources in Gregory Creek. A special thanks to the Alpine Winter Foundation for their generosity in adopting the new truss bridge. We are still looking for someone to adopt the new boardwalk.

The trail and structures held up well during the New Year's flood and throughout a record winter! Have fun out there this spring and summer!



The Quinn Family Bridge across Gregory Creek.



Rock work for the approach to a bridge on the Donner Lake Rim Trail.

Support the Rim Trail

Sign up today. Families, scout groups and clubs welcome.

Please join us for a fun day of hard work! Trail building is a great team building exercise for your club or business. If you have a group of six or more, we'll create a date for you, or join us on one of our scheduled trail building days. To schedule call 530-582-4711 or email Sara Taddo at sara@tdlandtrust.org.

Available Dates:

June 17, 18, 24, 25

July 8, 22, 23, 29, 30

August 5, 6, 20, 26

September 17, 23, 24, 30

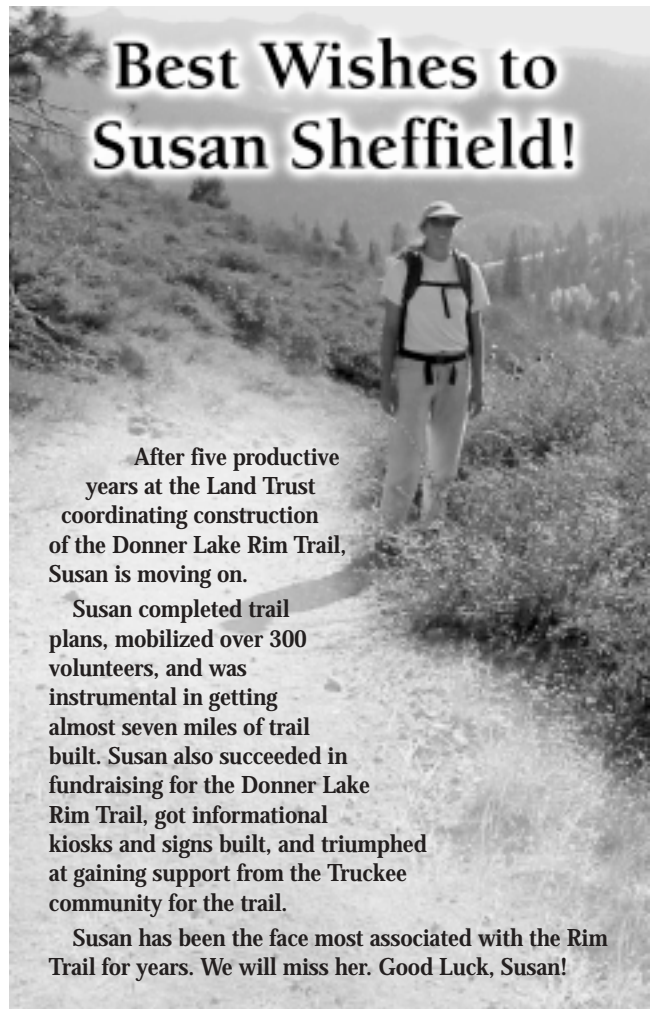
October 1, 7, 15, 21, 22, 28, 29

Best Wishes to Susan Sheffield!

After five productive years at the Land Trust coordinating construction of the Donner Lake Rim Trail, Susan is moving on.

Susan completed trail plans, mobilized over 300 volunteers, and was instrumental in getting almost seven miles of trail built. Susan also succeeded in fundraising for the Donner Lake Rim Trail, got informational kiosks and signs built, and triumphed at gaining support from the Truckee community for the trail.

Susan has been the face most associated with the Rim Trail for years. We will miss her. Good Luck, Susan!



Thank You To Our Buck for Open Space and Business Partners

The following businesses participate in
the Buck for Open Space
program.

Alpine Mounting	Best Western Truckee Tahoe Inn
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The Village Bistro	West End Bistro

The following businesses participate in
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Truckee River Associates
Truckee Tahoe Lumber
West End Bistro

Summer Hikes & Walks

Back by popular demand, the Land Trust is very pleased to again offer a slate of very cool hikes, all free of charge! Call the Land Trust at (530) 582-4711 or check our website at www.tdlandtrust.org for more information or to sign-up. Register early as most hikes do fill. We hope to see you on the trail!

Please bring water, sunscreen, and sturdy shoes for all hikes!

May 28, Sunday – Wildflowers at Sagehen Meadow

Witness the explosion of colorful fields of wildflowers on this annual hike led by Judy Mayorga at Sagehen Meadow. This is a good walk for kids. Last year 44 species of wildflowers were spotted! Enjoy hunting for wildflowers all the way out to the Camas Fields. **Hike Level: 4 miles, easy to moderate with some off trail. Limit 15 people.**

July 16, Sunday – Negro Canyon, Donner Lake Rim Trail Hike & Frog Lake Cliffs

John and Elizabeth Eaton will lead this moderate hike from Tahoe Donner to Summit Lake. Enjoy the stunning views of Donner Lake and the surrounding peaks. And if you want to make it a full day, after lunch Elizabeth and John will lead anyone interested in continuing on to Frog Lakes Cliffs to see some gorgeous wildflowers. **Hike Level: Moderate. Dogs welcome.**

July 22, Saturday – Sugar Bowl to Squaw Valley

Join Perry Norris and Seana Doherty for the fifth annual hike over this breathtaking skyline trail. Enjoy the wildflowers and the never-ending vistas along this exceptional part of the Sierras. **Shuttle will be arranged to Lake Mary. Bring lunch. Hike Level: Strenuous 17 miles with major elevation changes. Limit 20 people.**

July 30, Sunday – Van Norden Meadow

Join John Cobourn in Van Norden Meadow to explore this amazing wetland environment. John will explain how the meadow hydrology works its rich history. **Hike Level: Moderate walking with one arduous climb.**

August 5, Saturday – New This Year! - Billy Mack Canyon

Bet you've never seen the trout in Frog Creek or the wildflowers in Billy Mack Flat! Why? Because this scenic Canyon had been closed to the public. Join Sara Taddo and be one of the first in exploring one of the Land Trust's most recent and exciting acquisitions! **Hike Level: Strenuous 5 mile loop. Dogs welcome.**

August 19, Saturday – Paradise Lake Hike

Enjoy the stunning beauty of the Pacific Crest Trail on a 14-mile round trip hike to this alpine lake. Local Stan Wingate will lead this challenging hike with the great reward being the destination, an untouched and serene lake, Paradise Lake. Bring your swimsuit, towel, lunch and plenty of drinking water. **Hike Level: Strenuous 14 mile loop.**



Milk Lake, currently under option by the Land Trust and The Trust For Public Land, in the Sierra Checkerboard.

Upcoming Events

A Toast to the Trails – Exploring new tastes while discovering new trails. A fundraising fusion of art, spirit, and adventure.

Sunday, June 18, 2006 – 1 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Tahoe Donner and The Truckee Donner Land Trust are teaming up to raise money for the Donner Lake Rim Trail. The Lodge at Tahoe Donner will be showcasing fine spirits, wine and art from accomplished local artists with a portion of the art proceeds going toward the development and improvement of the trail.

Tickets for wine samplings and light hor d'oeuvres will be sold for \$20 starting May 18 through Tahoe Donner's Member Services Office. 530-587-9400



Trails and Vistas highlights art in our natural environment.

3rd Annual Trails and Vistas Sunday, August 27, 2006

Trails & Vistas is a unique art event examining the work of local artists who actually work in the landscape. Their work not only addresses the social and environmental issues of landscape, but also is situated in and influenced by that very landscape. The performance piece, *Trails & Vistas*, offers the Truckee and North Lake Tahoe community and visitors an original art production that involves dance, music, and installation art on a hike through the beautiful landscape of the Sierra.

We hope to see you at the 3rd Annual Trails and Vistas! For more information, please call 530-582-4711 or visit www.tdlandtrust.org.

Thanks Nancy!

When you called the Land Trust to sign-up for a hike, received a thank you letter for your support, or needed a tax statement for your records, you were in communication with the woman who for five years held the front line for the Land Trust, Nancy Delumyea. Nancy left the Land Trust this year to apply her amazing talents to the Squaw Valley Ski Team, where both her kids, Michelle and Tyler, are promising racers.



Nancy Delumyea

Nancy's good humor and promise to solve any problem are very much missed. We wish Nancy the very best which she so richly deserves.

Business Partners provide us with the reliable funding that we need to pursue large-scale projects, like the Truckee River Corridor Project. To find out more about joining, please call Kellie Wright at 530-582-4711

Cut out Calendar of 2006 Summer Hikes, Events, and Trailbuilding on the Donner Lake Rim Trail

May 28 – *Wildflowers at Sagehen Meadow Hike*

June 17 – DLRT Trailbuilding

June 18 – DLRT Trailbuilding

June 18 – A Toast to the Trails Event

June 24 – DLRT Trailbuilding

June 25 – DLRT Trailbuilding

July 8 – DLRT Trailbuilding

July 16 – *Negro Canyon, Donner Lake Rim Trail Hike & Frog Lake Cliffs*

July 22 – DLRT Trailbuilding

July 22 – *Sugar Bowl to Squaw Valley Hike*

July 23 – DLRT Trailbuilding

July 29 – DLRT Trailbuilding

July 30 – DLRT Trailbuilding

July 30 – *Van Norden Meadow Hike*

August 5 – *New This Year! - Billy Mack Canyon Hike*

August 5 – DLRT Trailbuilding

August 6 – DLRT Trailbuilding

August 19 – *Paradise Lake Hike*

August 20 – DLRT Trailbuilding

August 26 – DLRT Trailbuilding

August 27 – 3rd Annual Trails and Vistas

September 17 – DLRT Trailbuilding

September 23 – DLRT Trailbuilding

September 24 – DLRT Trailbuilding

September 30 – DLRT Trailbuilding

October 1 – DLRT Trailbuilding

October 7 – DLRT Trailbuilding

October 15 – DLRT Trailbuilding

October 21 – DLRT Trailbuilding

October 22 – DLRT Trailbuilding

October 28 – DLRT Trailbuilding

October 29 – DLRT Trailbuilding



The Board and staff of your Land Trust hope you share our pride in what we have accomplished. We hope you believe we merit your continued and generous support. You can count on us to leverage your support to make multi-million dollar conservation efforts happen.

For more details on the Land Trust's most recent acquisition, see story on page 4.



Part of the Land Trust's most recent acquisition in Billy Mack Canyon. Castle Peak in the distance.



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Please check out our newly updated website at www.tdlandtrust.org for news, events, and our summer hike schedule.