



Rosy plectritis at Camassia Natural Area © Linda M. Hardie/TNC

Message from Molly



© Philip J. McCarty

With summer behind us and fall in the air, the field season is winding down across Oregon. But, there's still time to get outside and lend nature a hand. We'd love to have you join us at an upcoming restoration work party!

Volunteers will be removing invasive species, monitoring native plants, and performing other restoration tasks at Camassia Natural Area in West Linn on October 3rd — and at Willow Creek Preserve in West Eugene on October 10th. We hope to see you there!

You can also always get involved with an upcoming event or in one of our offices. Check out the Volunteer Classifieds on Page 2 to learn more about current opportunities.

And, if you are working on any independent volunteer projects, and haven't tracked your hours on a sign-in sheet or volunteer log, I'll really appreciate receiving first quarter hours (July 1 – September 30, 2009). Thanks, in advance, for e-mailing them to me at mdougherty@tnc.org.

Molly Dougherty
Director of Volunteer Programs

SUMMER OF SERVICE



Volunteer Emily Van Vleet pulls invasive Queen Anne's lace at Cascade Head Preserve © Philip J. McCarty



Work party participants gather for our annual volunteer recognition party at Cascade Head Preserve. © Philip J. McCarty

The Nature Conservancy Receives Top Charity Navigator Rating

For the second consecutive year, The Nature Conservancy has received the highest rating from [Charity Navigator](#), the leading charity watchdog organization in the United States. The coveted four-star rating indicates that the Conservancy exceeds industry standards and outperforms most charities in the environmental sector.



Charity Navigator bases its overall ratings on two key areas of financial health: (1) organizational efficiency, or how well a charity manages its program, administrative and fundraising expenses; and (2) organizational capacity, or how well a charity can grow and sustain its efforts over time.

This year, the Conservancy received four-star ratings in both areas — an improvement over last year's three-star rating for organizational efficiency. Charity Navigator found that the Conservancy's fundraising efficiency had improved from \$.11 to \$.08 (i.e., it cost the organization only \$.08 to raise \$1 in charitable contributions).

Only 20 percent of Charity Navigator-rated organizations have received at least two consecutive four-star awards.

VOLUNTEER CLASSIFIEDS

Contact Molly at 503-802-8100 or mdougherty@tnc.org for more information about these and other Oregon volunteer opportunities.

Wednesday Night Volunteer Leader

Set up projects, monitor and replenish treats and help with clean-up. Commitment is one Wednesday evening per month, from 4:45 to 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday Volunteer Night (weekly)

Complete office projects such as mailings, data entry, Internet research and more. Please come to an orientation to find out more about how to get involved with volunteer night. 5:00 - 6:30 p.m., at the Portland office.

Conservation Leadership Awards Luncheon

The Nature Conservancy's annual event at the Oregon Zoo in Portland. Greet and register attendees, usher guests to tables, set-up the event and assist with other tasks. Time slots vary, but most volunteers need to be available between 9:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. on Thursday, October 29th. Lunch will be provided.

Volunteer Receptionist

Handle incoming calls, greet visitors, sort mail and more. A four-hour weekly commitment is requested, and there are several possible shift times. May be "on-call" after training.

Volunteer Orientation

Join us and find out more about how to get involved as a volunteer. Our next orientation will be at our Southeast Portland office on **Thursday, October 22** at noon. Please RSVP to Molly at mdougherty@tnc.org.

SEPTEMBER VOLUNTEER WORK PARTIES (STATEWIDE)

To learn more or sign up, please call 503 802-8100 or send an e-mail to orvolunteers@tnc.org, unless otherwise noted. Carpools may be available from the Portland Office.

Camassia Natural Area, West Linn: This 27-acre preserve features woodlands, wildflower meadows, rock gardens, ponds and willows and aspen swales. Home to over 300 plant species, including several rare ones, Camassia is a special gem in a rapidly growing urban area.

Saturday October 3: Remove invasives and maintain replanting areas.

Willow Creek Preserve, Eugene: Home to over 200 species of native plants and the rare Fender's blue butterfly, this 508-acre preserve is the ecologically richest remnant of native wet prairie in the southern Willamette Valley. To register, please contact Matt Benotsch, Willamette Valley stewardship coordinator, at 541 343-1010 ext. 302 or mabenotsch@tnc.org

Saturday October 10 (9:30 a.m. - noon): Projects include propagating native plants, removing invasives and fences, clearing brush and collecting native seed. [Visit the Willow Creek Preserve Web page](#) for driving directions, and don't forget to dress appropriately for the weather (long pants and sturdy footwear are strongly encouraged).

JOIN THE TEAM:

Apply for the 2010 AmeriCorps Conservation Team!

All AmeriCorps Conservation Team positions for 2010 are now posted on nature.org/careers. We're seeking 13 committed individuals to help protect important habitat through science and restoration work across Oregon.

Eliminate noxious weeds, work with volunteers, reduce fire fuels, collect scientific data and more. Positions run from January 11 to December 10, 2010, and are available in Bend, Enterprise, Eugene, Medford, Klamath Falls, Portland and John Day. Apply now — deadline is October 19th!



2009 ACT members At Zumwalt Prairie Preserve
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The Nature Conservancy is a leading conservation organization working around the world to protect ecologically important lands and waters for nature and people.