

Spring Training Opportunities

Our spring training schedule provides volunteers with a variety of opportunities to develop and expand leadership, naturalist or surveying skills while helping to protect some of Oregon's most remarkable places. For more information and to learn how to apply, please contact Molly Dougherty at 503 802-8100 or mdougherty@tnc.org.

Naturalist

Like meeting the public and want to learn more about Oregon's natural history? Become a volunteer naturalist! Greet visitors, answer questions and foster compliance with visitor guidelines at our most heavily visited preserves. Volunteers patrol "their" preserves at least twice during the 2008 field season. Training opportunities:

Tom McCall Preserve (season April - June) – Sat., March 29
Cascade Head Preserve (season May - Oct.) – Sat., April 12 or 26

Crew Leader

Like working outside? This opportunity is for you! Crew leaders provide support and leadership for work parties around the state. Volunteers commit to leading two work parties during the 2008 field season. Training opportunity:

Friday, April 11, 5:30 - 9:00 p.m.
and Saturday, April 12, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Portland)

Weed Watcher

Want to help protect biodiversity while you hike? Become a "weed watcher!" Prevent the establishment of invasive plants by surveying for and reporting new infestations at Nature Conservancy preserves. Training opportunity:

Saturday, May 3 (Portland)



Volunteer as a naturalist, crew leader or "weed watcher" at Nature Conservancy sites across Oregon, including at Lower Table Rock north of Medford (above). Free, naturalist-guided hikes of this landmark preserve are also offered each spring in partnership with the Bureau of Land Management. For a schedule of hikes, please contact Cara Conroy at 541 770-7933 ext. 5 or cconroy@tnc.org. © Dennis Wiancko

The Nature Conservancy
 Protecting nature. Preserving life.™

Sycan Marsh Preserve © Rick McEwan

Spring 2008 Volunteer Newsletter

Welcome

Thank you to more than 800 volunteers who contributed over 40,000 hours of time and effort toward accomplishing our statewide conservation goals last year – an all-time high!



Molly Dougherty (right), director of volunteer programs, with Susan Hawes, coordinator © Melissa Roy-Hart/TNC

Much appreciation to the 2007 AmeriCorps Conservation Team (ACT) members who contributed over 11,000 of those hours to research, habitat restoration and to engaging local communities across Oregon. We hope you can join our 2008 ACT members and other volunteers in protecting Oregon's ecologically important lands and waters.

Join a work party or our growing practicum program. Attend one of our spring training sessions to become a volunteer crew leader or naturalist. Check our volunteer classifieds, visit our Web site at nature.org/oregon, or contact our volunteer program at 503 802-8100 to see how you can get involved.

Having started our conservation careers as volunteers, we relish the opportunity to work with incredibly dedicated supporters like you.

We hope to see you soon!

Did you know The Nature Conservancy maintains an Oregon volunteer e-mail list?

It's easy to sign up for regular e-mail updates about current and upcoming volunteer opportunities throughout the state. Just visit the volunteer section of our Web site, nature.org/oregon, and follow the directions in the beige box.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Volunteers of the Year: Barb and Thor Wegner, Nancy Menken



Each year, we honor exceptional volunteers for efforts that significantly advance The Nature Conservancy's mission in Oregon. We are delighted to announce the 2007 Ray C. Davis Volunteer of the Year Award winners, Barb and Thor Wegner and Nancy Menken.

Barb and Thor Wegner love to be outside, enjoying the fresh air and exercising – and the Conservancy's first-ever Oregon preserve is benefiting. Since 1998, they've dedicated over 2,300 hours to Camassia Natural Area in West Linn, regularly pulling invasive species, picking up litter and educating visitors. Often tackling the toughest infestations of English ivy, Himalayan blackberry and Scots broom, Barb and Thor are also trained to recognize the most troublesome potential invaders, helping to prevent future problems.

"Barbara and Thor's dedication to Camassia has helped reestablish a healthy preserve," said Jonathan Soll, Willamette Basin conservation director. "I deeply appreciate their ongoing removal of invasive plants and trash, always working with a smile and without supervision." Barb and Thor feel a deep responsibility to the environment. "This is our home," she

said. "We don't like to sit by when it needs our help."

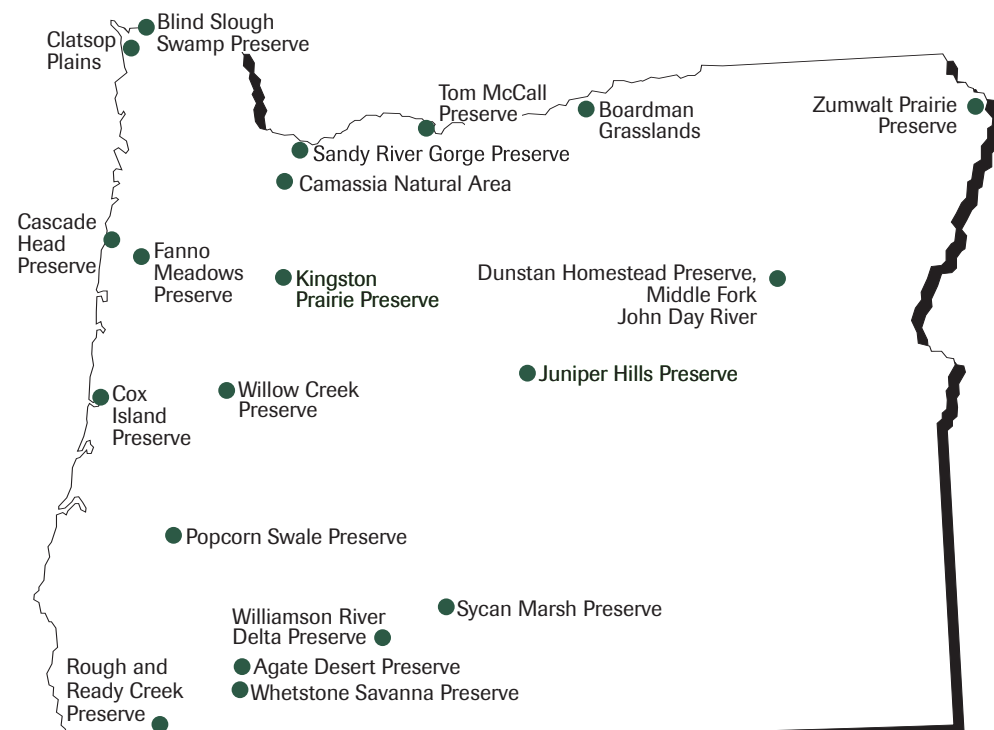
An avid birder and hiker, Nancy Menken has been volunteering with the Conservancy for more than two decades. Initially working in California, she's been helping to protect southwest Oregon's natural places since 1992. Over the years, she's collected, surveyed and planted native species, pulled invasives, fixed fences and more. But data collection is Nancy's true forte. Long days in the rain, cold and heat haven't slowed her accurate data recording on a palm top computer one bit.

"Nancy digs into any project with unending gusto and keen wit," said Molly Sullivan, southwest Oregon stewardship coordinator. "At 80, she's a true inspiration." Nancy's seen what a few weekly hours spent weed pulling or monitoring can accomplish. "You have to work at conservation bit by bit to make a difference," she said.

Congratulations and sincere thanks to Barb, Thor and Nancy. Without committed supporters like you, our successes would not be possible.

Above from left: Barb and Thor Wegner © Doug Kreuzer/TNC
 Nancy Menken © Molly Sullivan/TNC

See Oregon's Last Great Places – Join a Volunteer Work Party!



Volunteers stop for a quick photo during a busy day of removing fences, planting shrubs and improving structures at Zumwalt Prairie Preserve. © Jeff Krenek



Nature Conservancy volunteer John Katzenstein removes invasive blackberry along the Sandy River. © Susan Healy

Volunteer Work Parties

Field season is here, which means it's time to venture out onto our preserves and lend nature a hand. There are numerous opportunities this spring, summer and fall to enjoy the great outdoors while working with Conservancy ecologists and volunteer teams to protect some of Oregon's most critical habitats. For more information or to register for a work party, please contact volunteer programs coordinator Susan Hawes at 503 802-8100 or shawes@tnc.org. When you register, you will receive a complete list of everything you should bring to be fully prepared for a fun day or weekend in the field.

Portland Area Preserves

Camassia Natural Area

This 27-acre preserve near West Linn features woodlands, wildflower meadows, rock gardens, ponds and willow 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 4

Saturday, November 8

Plant native species, remove debris, create hedge boundaries and maintain trails.

Sandy River Gorge Preserve

Just 20 miles east of Portland in the Sandy River Gorge, this preserve hosts pristine habitats, including an old-growth Douglas-fir forest, and provides a home to salmon, elk, river otter and other wildlife.

Saturday, April 12

(Difficult one-mile hike, 700' elevation gain)

Saturday, May 17

(Difficult 1.5-mile hike, 800' elevation gain)

Saturday, June 21

Saturday, July 19

(Includes a creek crossing)

Remove various invasive plants, maintain trails and (June 21 only) update the parking area's kiosk.



Volunteers head toward Cox Island Preserve to control non-native *Spartina patens* during a Nature Conservancy work party. © Nancy Bowen

Oregon Coast

Blind Slough Swamp

Home to the best example of a Sitka spruce swamp in Oregon, this preserve provides habitat along the Columbia River for bald eagle, osprey, river otter and beaver.

Saturday, August 9

Saturday, August 23

Remove purple loosestrife.

Cascade Head Preserve

This spectacular coastal headland, located near Lincoln City, provides critical habitat for native prairie grasses, uncommon wildflowers, the rare Oregon silverspot butterfly and one of the few populations of Cascade Head catchfly.

Saturday, June 7

Maintain trails and remove blackberry.

Saturday, June 28

Remove oxeye daisy and pennyroyal.

Saturday, August 16

Remove Queen Anne's lace and teasel on the Penacle.

Saturday, September 6

Remove blackberry.

Saturday, September 27

Remove Queen Anne's lace (includes a volunteer appreciation party).

Clatsop Plains

This two-mile-wide stretch of stabilized sand dunes covers nearly eight miles of Oregon's coast near Gearhart. Visited by Lewis and Clark, this dune system is a mosaic of waterways, wetlands, Sitka spruce forests and coastal prairie.

Saturday, June 28

Remove Scots broom.

Cox Island Preserve

Located two miles east of Florence in the Siuslaw River, this low-elevation salt marsh island is visited by over 80 species of waterfowl and other birds.

Saturday, July 12

Saturday, August 9

Saturday, September 13

Control *Spartina patens*.

Fanno Meadows Preserve

A rare example of spring-fed, high-elevation sphagnum-sedge wetlands more common in Alaska, this 744-acre preserve hosts two rare plant species as well as Roosevelt elk and black bear.

Saturday, July 12

Saturday, July 26

Remove oxeye daisy, Scots broom and velvet grass.

Central Oregon

Boardman Grasslands

This preserve boasts the best expanse of unplowed native sage and bunch grass habitats on the Columbia Plateau. Enjoy spring grasses at their greenest and wildflowers at peak.

Saturday-Sunday, May 17-18

Remove knapweed and improve facilities.

Saturday-Sunday, October 25-26

Plant native wildflowers and shrubs.

Juniper Hills Preserve

This 14,000-acre preserve situated on the Crooked River east of Prineville harbors ancient western junipers, an outstanding diversity of native bunch grasses and colorful earth formations.

Saturday-Sunday, May 31 - June 1

Saturday-Sunday, September 27-28

Maintain fences, plant native seedlings, remove invasives and improve facilities.

Klamath Basin

Sycan Marsh Preserve

Surrounded by pine forest, this vast, high-elevation wetland is home to thousands of nesting and migrating birds, threatened fish and newly discovered aquatic creatures.

Saturday-Sunday, August 23-24

Remove fences and improve facilities.

Williamson River Delta Preserve

One of the most pioneering wetland restoration projects in the West is underway at the mouth of the Williamson River on Upper Klamath Lake. The shallow lake hosts 2-3 million birds migrating on the Pacific Flyway, 17 native fish species, and over 15 endemic species of freshwater mollusks.

Saturday, October 4

Plant willow cuttings in the delta.

Northeast Oregon

Dunstan Homestead Preserve

Four river miles of riparian and streambed habitat are being restored for wild salmon and steelhead on this former ranch and dairy farm.

Saturday-Sunday, July 26-27

Remove invasives, collect native seed, prepare for a prescribed burn and create habitat.

Saturday-Sunday, October 11-12

Build fences, prepare for a prescribed burn, clear brush, pile slash and haul fence materials.

Volunteer Work Parties

continued from page 2

Zumwalt Prairie Preserve

High on the edge of Hells Canyon, this 33,000-acre preserve is North America's largest remaining native bunch grass prairie, as well as home to one of its largest concentrations of nesting raptors.

Saturday-Sunday, June 7-8

Saturday-Sunday, September 13-14

Plant shrubs, build exclosures, remove fences and improve structures.



Rain fails to slow the dedicated efforts of volunteers planting ponderosa pine seedlings at Whetstone Savanna Preserve. © Molly Sullin/TNC

Willamette Valley

Kingston Prairie Preserve

This 128-acre preserve southeast of Stayton is the best example of native prairie remaining in the central Willamette Valley, with both wet and dry prairie habitats harboring native grasses and rare wildflowers.

Saturday, April 19

Saturday, June 21

Saturday, July 19

Saturday, September 20

Saturday, October 18

Each work party is from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Projects include removing Scots broom and other invasives and collecting native seed.

Willow Creek Preserve

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.

Saturday, April 12

Saturday, May 10

Saturday, June 14

Saturday, July 12

Saturday, August 9

Saturday, September 13

Saturday, October 11

Saturday, November 8

Each work party is from 9:30 a.m. to noon. Projects include propagating and planting native plants, removing invasives species, fences and woody vegetation and collect-

Volunteer Classifieds

Your time and talents are needed! Our mission of protecting biodiversity in Oregon depends on people like you. The following volunteer positions are currently available. For more information and to learn how to apply, please contact Molly Dougherty at 503 802-8100 or mdougherty@tnc.org (unless otherwise noted).

Dunstan Homestead Field Assistants – Northeast Oregon

Survey for bird species at 30 sites along the magnificent Middle Fork John Day River. Bird enthusiasts of all experience levels are encouraged, and housing is provided.

Invasive Species Control Interns – Portland Area

Restore salmon habitat in the Sandy River watershed by removing invasive Japanese and giant knotweed. Projects include outreach, data collection, monitoring, and weed eradication with herbicides. Kayaking and rafting may be required, as is a strong swimming ability. Work is Monday through Thursday with a minimum of eight 10-hour work days between June 1 and September 30.

Preserve Stewards – Portland Area

Restore native vegetation at Camassia Natural Area in West Linn and/or the Sandy River Gorge. By clearing invasives and regularly returning to one spot, you will clearly see the "fruits" of your labor. Must be physically fit and able to work once a month for a year. Orientations will be held at Camassia by appointment, and at the Sandy River Gorge's Cornwell tract on Saturday, May 17.

Willow Creek Field Assistants – Eugene

Restore endangered Fender's blue butterfly habitat by collecting native seed, weeding and more at a native plant nursery. Training in plant identification, propagation and nursery maintenance is available. Work with staff or on your own. Time commitment is flexible. For more information, please contact Matt Benotsch at 541 343-1010 ext. 302 or mbenotsch@tnc.org.

Field Assistants – Southwest Oregon

Contribute to our conservation work throughout the week. Projects range from vegetation and rare plant monitoring to non-native species control and preserve maintenance. For more information, or to sign up for the southwest Oregon volunteer e-mail newsletter, please contact Cara Conroy at 541 770-7933 ext. 5 or cconroy@tnc.org.

ing native seed. For driving directions, please visit the volunteer work party section of our Web site, nature.org/oregon. Tools and gloves are provided. Participants should dress for the weather; long pants and sturdy footwear are strongly encouraged. For more information or to register, please contact Matt Benotsch, Willamette Valley stewardship coordinator, at 541 343-1010 ext. 302 or mbenotsch@tnc.org.

Southwest Oregon

For more information or to register for a southwest Oregon volunteer work party, please contact Cara Conroy, AmeriCorps southwest Oregon program assistant, at 541 770-7933 ext. 5 or cconroy@tnc.org.

Agate Desert Preserve

Located on the Agate Desert landform just north of Medford, this Rogue Valley grassland provides a sanctuary for rare wildflowers and a federally listed species of fairy shrimp.

Saturday, April 5

Saturday, May 3

Saturday, June 7

Count endangered plants, remove non-native species and harvest native seed.

Popcorn Swale Preserve

A wildflower haven in the spring, this remnant of Umpqua Valley wet prairie near Roseburg contains tufted hairgrass and one-sided sedge/meadow barley communities and several rare plants.

Saturday, July 19

Saturday, August 16

Saturday, September 20

Control non-native species, collect native seed and plant vegetation.

Rough and Ready Creek Preserve

Long treasured by botanists, this 110-acre preserve hosts 250 native plants, including the rare Siskiyou fritillary.

Saturday, June 28

Saturday, September 27

Collect and sow native seed.

Whetstone Savanna Preserve

North of Medford, this preserve shelters mounded prairie and vernal pool grassland communities, and safeguards a key portion of the best remaining oak savanna habitat on the Rogue Valley floor.

Saturday, March 29

Saturday, May 10

Remove non-native species.