

SCHWERINS DONATE EASEMENT ON FARMLAND & HABITAT



Local residents Don and Anne Marie Schwerin have donated a conservation easement on their 238-plus-acre farm near Walla Walla to Blue Mountain Land Trust to ensure the permanent protection and stewardship of their agricultural land and wildlife habitat.

Because Don was once president of the Blue Mountain Land Trust board, it was a special moment when the easement was signed in late October. Board members and staff gathered with the Schwerins at the land trust office for a congratulatory reception. *continue on page 2*

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Last month it was my great privilege as board president to sign the Schwerin easement. They are great people and wonderful stewards of their land. We are honored to assist them in their efforts to protect and preserve their property.

As you read this newsletter, I hope that you are as excited as we are with our progress, projects and potential to do even more. While staff, board, and volunteers have put in a lot of time and effort on our current projects. We would not be able to look to the future and carry out our mission without the support of our members.



We appreciate your contributions and hope that you realize what an integral part each of you plays in conserving the lands we all love.

Tom Scribner is retiring from the BMLT board this year. Tom is a founding member of the Blue Mountain Land Trust, and was the board president when I joined BMLT. He deserves much credit for the success of our organization. His steady guidance and dedication enabled us to grow to where we are today. Our board meetings will not be the same without his wit and humor. On behalf of the board I would like to thank Tom for his service and wish him well.

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| <i>President</i> | Cheryl Scholl | <i>Executive Director</i> | Tom Dwonch |
| <i>Vice-President</i> | Jon Cole | <i>Conservation Dir.</i> | Cathy Udenberg |
| <i>Secretary</i> | Beth Kreger | <i>Membership & Outreach Dir.</i> | Susan How |
| <i>Treasurer</i> | Carol Jean Thompson | | |
| <i>Directors</i> | Dennis Hopwood | Jim Peterson | Tom Scribner |
| Andrea Burkhart | Sue Parrish | Carl Scheeler | Tom Williams |

MISSION

Blue Mountain Land Trust is dedicated to protecting for future generations the land we love, working farms and forests, watershed, habitat and scenic views, through voluntary partnerships with private landowners.



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Please join us...

Blue Mountain Land Trust
Open House & Annual Meeting

Help us launch 2011 in just the right way! Attend our Open House and Annual Meeting on January 18. From 3-6 p.m., drop by our new offices in the Jones Building, 6 1/2 N. 2nd Ave., Suite 304 in Walla Walla for light refreshments with our staff and board. The Annual Meeting will follow at 6:30-8 p.m. just around the corner at Sapoli Cellars, 15 E. Main, with music, wine-tasting, hors d'oeuvres, and a special presentation. Mark your calendar now, and you'll receive a post card in early January with details.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



This is the season when we sit back and think about the activities of the past year and start planning for the year to come. We at Blue Mountain Land Trust have a lot to be thankful for this year. It has been a busy time for us, punctuated by significant growth in the lands we are protecting and in our ability to do even in the future.

We've been uplifted by the grant that the Donald and Virginia Sherwood Trust has given us. Because of their generosity we have the potential to make significant strides in the next few years. We're very happy this year also to have the honor to work with Don and Anne Marie Zell Schwerin on a conservation easement for their Waitsburg farm. They are amazing stewards of their land, and they have given all of us and generations to come a tremendous gift by donating a conservation easement.

We've added two more part-time staff as a result of the Sherwood Trust grant. I am happy to welcome Susan How and Cathy Udenberg to our team. You can read more about them in this newsletter, but words do not begin to tell the possibilities that we have with the addition of their energy and enthusiasm for land conservation. I am grateful that they come to us with their unique skills at a time when they can be put to good use to protect the natural beauty of our area.

The coming year is looking like a banner year for us. We have a number of great projects underway, including development of a second conservation easement with the Schwerins. We are planning many activities, including field trips to land protected by conservation easements, an expanded art fund raiser, another Walla Walla CRUSH fun run in vineyards southeast of town, and educational activities. We hope you can participate in some of these.

I am excited about the future of Blue Mountain Land Trust. We owe our success to you and all those who desire to protect this beautiful area. Your individual donations help us continue to work with interested landowners. Your suggestions and encouragement give us the ideas that help us plan more effectively for the future. We love what we do here, but our energy comes from the support we receive from you. Thank you for all that you do to support Blue Mountain Land Trust!

WE'VE MOVED!

Blue Mountain Land Trust has moved to a new location. Our new office is located in the Jones Building at 6 1/2 N. 2nd, Suite 304, Walla Walla. See the back cover for the date of our open house. We hope you'll attend the open house or drop by for a visit!

EASEMENT DONATED CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



On October 28, 2010 Don and Anne Marie Schwerin sign easement donation to Blue Mountain Land Trust.

"Voluntary efforts to protect the rich resources of our area by private individuals like the Schwerins benefit the entire community and preserves the quality of life we all enjoy and value," said Tom Dwonch, BMLT executive director. "The rich agricultural soils continue to grow crops and important wildlife habitat remains intact. Blue Mountain Land Trust is proud to partner with the Schwerins to protect their beautiful farm."

The Schwerin's farm, which has been in the family for more than 80 years, is in an area of highly productive soils and currently produces wheat. In the past peas, garbanzos, canola, alfalfa and grass seed were grown. Two forks of Mud Creek on the property provide nearly a half mile of stream and 80 acres of wildlife habitat.

Because the farm is on the outskirts of Walla Walla, it was a candidate for possible subdivision and development in the future. Now the natural resources of this beautiful property are protected for all time, and the farm's green, rolling hills and stream habitat will always enhance the beauty of our community and maintain its traditional character. In the coming year we will work with the Schwerins on a Conservation Easement for an adjacent parcel of land.

ART RAFFLE WINNERS

The winners of our 2010 art raffle were Dan Billey of Seattle, Linda Herbert of Walla Walla, Erin Peterson of Seattle, Becky Kreger of Portland, Cathy Wickwire of Seattle, and Kris Bassett of Wenatchee. All share our appreciation for the beauty of our region and were enthusiastic about the art they took home.

RECORD TURNOUT FOR CRUSH

The Sixth Annual Walla Walla CRUSH Run & Walk October 2, 2010 was a day of exhilarating sunshine amid the rolling hills and vineyards south of Walla Walla. We had a record turnout of more than 300 people.

There was tremendous support from local sponsors all of which contributed in a big way to the success of the event including: Pepper Bridge Farms, Pepper Bridge Winery, Northstar Winery, Va Piano Vineyards, Gifford-Hirlinger Winery, Abeja, Amavi, Isenhower Cellars, Mannina Cellars, Saviah Cellars, Seven Hills, Tamarack Cellars, Tertulia Cellars, Walla Walla Vintners, Brooks Shoes, Walla Walla Union Bulletin, Banner Bank, Columbia REA, Walla Walla Clinic, Paul Richardson Agency, McGregor Blue Mountain Team, Super 1 Foods, Standard Printing, Associated Appraisers, Burkhart & Burkhart, Copier Services, Inc., Ice Burg, Elsom Roofing, Starbucks – Main Street, and Great Pacific – Pendleton.

We thank our enthusiastic volunteers! Laura Hewitt Adams, Betsy Adkins, Bonnie Close, Sheila Coe, Jean Desjarlais, Ann Dwonch, Tom Dwonch, Madison Elmenhurst, Theresa Falkner, Jerry Hand, Dennis Hopwood, DeeAnn Johnson, Larry Johnson, Walt Keyes, Beth Kreger, Michael Lasher, Diana Martinez, Stacy Morrison, Tom Morrison, Phil Oberg, Sue Parrish, Carol Peterson, Jim Peterson, Frank Ralston, Cheryl Scholl, Margo Scribner, Tom Scribner, Clyde Strickland, Bonnie Stroemel, Carol Jean Thompson, Cathy Udenberg, Barb Van Yserloo, and Ron Van Yserloo.

NEW BMLT STAFF

As our new Conservation Director, Cathy Udenberg works with landowners to develop easements and oversees our stewardship program. She has worked in civil engineering for over 20 years and developed the Walla Walla County GIS system. Raised in Walla Walla, her land use experience and knowledge of the region is a great plus for the land trust.



Susan How, Membership and Outreach Coordinator, will help better serve our members and increase our educational programs. She formerly worked for Flathead Land Trust, Kalispell, MT, and has lived in Walla Walla for four years.



WETLAND RESTORATION BEGUN



Ducks Unlimited, working under contract for Tri-State Steelheaders, has begun restoration work on the Reser Road wetland site. Three ponds have been excavated and aquatic vegetation has been planted. Upland grasses, native trees, and shrubs were also planted this fall. More plantings will be done in the spring.

This project is the result of a number of local organizations working together to restore and protect this 23 acre site located southeast of Walla Walla. The project was funded by the Washington State Department of Transportation as mitigation for construction of a portion of the new US Highway 12. Local organizations involved in the project are Tri State Steelheaders, who obtained the funding, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, the Walla Walla County Conservation District, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Blue Mountain Land Trust. A conservation agreement, that provides perpetual protection for the site, was signed between the landowners and Blue Mountain Land Trust last year. The land remains privately owned but is to be managed for the sole protection of the wetland habitat.