

WALLA WALLA CRUSH 2011

Register Now! OCTOBER 8, 2011



A benefit for the Blue Mountain Land Trust

Pre-registration is open—save a place now and ask your friends to join you for the October 8, 2011 Walla Walla Crush Walk/Fun Run: 1 mi, 5k, and 10k.

Visit our website to download the application or register at www.active.com. Sign up by Sept. 16 to reserve a t-shirt and/or wine glass.

For more information visit our website at bmlt.org or email us if you have any questions at bmlt@bmlt.org or call 525-3136.



P.O. Box 1473
Walla Walla, WA 99362
Website: www.bmlt.org
bmlt@bmlt.org | (509) 525-3136

Non-Profit U.S.
Postage
Paid
99324
Permit #44



FALL, 2011

509.525.3136 | www.bmlt.org

PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Like many people I have a collection of hats in my coat closet. This summer, my favorite hat has been my Blue Mountain Land Trust hat with our logo emblazoned on the front.

With BMLT's continued success and growth, I've had many opportunities to wear my Blue Mountain Land Trust hat figuratively as well as literally.

First it was to meet with Tim Foster, our newest Board member. You will find Tim's picture and bio in this newsletter. It is my pleasure to welcome Tim to our board of directors.

Secondly it was to say goodbye and hello to Tom Reilly. Tom has decided to resign his board position in order to become our new conservation director. Tom's easy going style and extensive knowledge of conservation will be a great fit for our organization. Our thanks to our previous conservation director, Cathy Udenberg, and best wishes in her new career.

Thirdly it was to represent the board of the Blue Mountain Land Trust at the closing of the Martin conservation easement. I am always humbled to sign my name for BMLT. My signature represents the culmination of countless hours put in by staff and landowners, along with many, many hours donated by both BMLT board

members and volunteers. It also represents the faith and support of our membership. **THANK YOU!**

My literal hat accompanied me while I worked and played this summer. I wore it last at our "RaptorRapture" outing on August 27th. I will put it on again for our "Go With The Flow" outing in September, and of course my hat and I will be there to cheer and greet you at the to the finish line of the "Crush" run on October 8th.

I look forward to seeing both you and your hat at these events. Thank you for your continued support. *Cheryl*

NEW CONSERVATION DIRECTOR

Tom Reilly is wearing a new hat at Blue Mountain Land Trust as our Conservation Director. It may be a new position for him, but he's an old hand at natural resource management after a 32-year career with the U.S. Forest Service.

Tom is a former U.S. Forest Service District Ranger in Walla Walla for the Umatilla National Forest and later served as acting Forest Supervisor at Umatilla and Rogue River and Siskiyou National Forests, and Forest Supervisor of Beaverhead-Deer Lodge National Forests, Dillon, MT and Clearwater-Nez Perce National Forests, Orofino, ID.

He has been a member of the BMLT Board of Directors, but has resigned that position to take on the task of managing the land trust's conservation program.

It's wonderful that Tom and his wife Peggy chose to return to Walla Walla, and we are lucky to have his expertise at BMLT.

(See Tom's photo next page at the Farmers Market)

BOARD MEMBERS & STAFF

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

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



I love the seasons in Walla Walla. Even though this has not been an extremely warm summer, the changes leading to fall are becoming evident -- especially the shorter days. I'm looking forward to the beautiful fall weather that we enjoy here and a host of activities at the Land Trust.

We've been busy since the spring newsletter. Here are a few highlights. More details are contained in the other articles. Because of your generosity we have met our match for the Donald and Virginia Sherwood Trust grant for this year. Next year the match requirement will be greater so we'll appreciate your continued support of our efforts. Your help has enabled us to make significant accomplishments and more are on the way.

We're sad to see Cathy Udenberg our Conservation Director this past year leave our employment. Cathy has been instrumental in helping us expand our GIS capabilities as she upgraded our stewardship and project management systems. Cathy has taken a full time job with Columbia County as their GIS manager. Fortunately she will stay on with BMLT as a volunteer. Cathy will be replaced by Tom Reilly a former forest supervisor and BMLT Board member. Welcome aboard Tom!

We've made significant progress towards completing five more conservation easements that will protect an additional 519 acres of important Blue Mountain region agricultural lands and fish and wildlife habitat. We closed on one in late August, see the enclosed article, and will complete three more by the end of the year. The fifth project will be completed in the spring of 2012.

Planning for the 2011 Walla Walla CRUSH 1mi/5k/10k is underway, and we hope to see many of you at the event on October 8th. If you are unable to attend the CRUSH, we hope you can participate in one of our 'Learning on the Land' field trips. We're also planning a spring dinner auction event to be held on April 21, 2012. Mark your calendars for that date to enjoy good food and good company and to participate in our first auction of local landscape art and other local made products or outdoor-related activities.

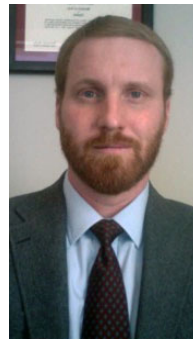
Thank you for your continued support. We are able to do our work because of you and we are grateful. If you want to know more about our activities, please contact me. *Tom*

TIM FOSTER JOINS BOARD

BMLT welcomes a new board member!

Tim Foster grew up in the Northwest, and loves hiking and fishing. He worked as a conservationist in Idaho and an attorney in Colorado and Washington. Tim moved to Walla Walla in 2009.

He is an attorney with Reese, Baffney, Frol & Grossman, P.S., in Walla Walla.



VISIT US AT THE FARMERS MARKET

Say "Hello"! to Blue Mountain Land Trust at our booth at the Walla Walla Farmers' Market every Saturday through September, run by board members and staffers. Stop by to chat and put a face with BMLT's activities.

We'll give you the lowdown on the upcoming CRUSH Run/Walk and other fun and interesting activities planned for the coming months. You can sign up for the CRUSH, purchase hats and t-shirts to show your support for BMLT, and get your questions answered about conservation easements, stream restoration, and more. See you there!



NEW EASEMENT ON THE TOUCHET

The latest Blue Mountain Land Trust conservation easement protects a riparian zone important to salmon and steelhead recovery along the Touchet River southwest of Dayton. The agreement was signed on August 25th.

The 35-acre easement protects both sides of 3/4 of a mile of the river. It contains an old river meander corridor, and within the existing stream there are several low gravel islands and other wildlife habitat. A previous fencing project by the Columbia County Conservation District protects the riparian corridor from grazing. As part of the easement, the fence area will be extended to 100 feet back from the riverbank, and future riparian vegetation restoration and enhancement is planned. Within the fenced area only passive recreation and habitat improvements will be allowed, while the rest of the property remains accessible for agricultural uses.

Zoning at the site would have permitted subdivision into 1 1/2 -acre lots and adjacent property has already been subdivided. Now, thanks to a willing landowner and financial support from the Snake River Salmon Recovery Board, BMLT has successfully purchased the conservation easement to protect this lovely and environmentally significant tract for all time. It is a prime example of our continuing cooperative efforts with other conservation organizations to bring back salmon and steelhead!

THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIP

It's been said it takes a village to raise a child, and it might just as well be said, "It takes a community to practice conservation." Blue Mountain Land Trust is privileged to be part of a working group of local conservation entities that cooperate to develop projects that serve their common interests and those of the community at large.

Among the partners we cooperate with regularly are Tri-State Steelheaders, Walla Walla County Conservation District, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Kooskooskie Commons, and The William A. Grant Environmental Center. These groups recently collaborated to publish an informative booklet about conservation projects underway in our valley.

More than ever, such collaborations make sense because limited conservation funds are put to most efficient and effective use on those projects where shared conservation goals overlap. Add to that, each organization and its professional staff brings special skills to a given project.

If you would like to know more about our conservation partners, contact us for the informative booklet "Conservation in the Walla Walla River Basin". We have copies available at the BMLT office. Drop by to pick one up or call or email us to have one sent to you.