

WHAT A YEAR!

Thanks to you,
EVLT turned
thirty this year.



In August, the Cosby family (above) joined over 250 friends of EVLT to celebrate the land trust's anniversary. WooHoo! It's a Bar-B-Que! featured mouth-watering barbeque, lively music, gnome-home building for kids, and celebrating with friends old and new. What a day!

The land trust also closed on its 165th conservation easement, a beautiful 37-acre property near the Wild Basin entrance of Rocky Mountain National Park. See page 3 for the unique story behind the Posey Conservation Easement.

The anniversary celebration continues! **We hope to see you at our holiday party on December 7th.** See the back cover for details and be sure to RSVP by November 29th.

Additional
acres
preserved
by EVLT



The mission of the Estes Valley Land Trust is to preserve and protect open space, valleys, wetlands, streams, ranch lands, and wildlife habitat in the Estes Valley and surrounding area. Lands adjacent to Rocky Mountain National Park and the Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest are of special concern.

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The land preserved by the Estes Valley Land Trust brings people together. Take your friends (including the furry ones) to Hermit Park Open Space for a late fall hike.

L to R: Mary Lamy, John and Sally Stevenson

JOIN US ON FACEBOOK

When news happens—big events or small—you will find timely posts to keep you informed.

facebook.com/estesvlt

LEARN MORE

Get information about our conservation work, events, and everything “EVLT.”

evlandtrust.org

Land Conservation a Marathon, Not a Sprint

Land conservation takes time, and our newest conservation easement is proof.

In 1997, Mildred Posey of Hills, Iowa, donated a 37-acre property to the Estes Valley Land Trust. Mildred's vision was to protect a perennial stream, aspen forests, and wildlife habitat. After more than 20 years, legal access was secured and the land trust sold the land to Donn and Barbara Ritchie, subject to a conservation easement.

"EVLT listened to us and was flexible so the easement was able to meet both our needs and those of the land trust. We're proud the land is preserved."



Barbara, Skylar and Donn Ritchie are excited about living on the Posey conservation easement.

"We feel very protective of the Posey property and wanted to make sure we found the right landowners, with a strong conservation ethic. We're really excited to work with the Ritchie family to preserve the land," said Board President Peter Sinnott.

The Posey property was exactly what the Ritchie family was looking for.

"When we saw it for the first time we thought, 'What a treat!' The aspens were beginning to leaf, Horse Creek was running fast ... this land had it all," said Donn Ritchie.



The Posey Conservation Easement preserves a portion of the Wild Basin ecosystem.

Building trust with a new buyer is important in making sure the property remains protected.

"EVLT listened to us and was flexible so the easement was able to meet both our needs and those of the land trust. We're proud the land is preserved," said Barbara Ritchie.

The conservation easement allows the Ritchie family to build one home on the property. The land trust will work closely with them to site it in a manner that does not harm the conservation values.

Donn and Barbara look forward to sharing their land and home with their daughter and new grandchild. "We can't wait to have her family visit us at the property. When Skylar was five years old, we helped her build a nature fort out of sticks and logs. She still remembers it!" said Barbara.

Now the Ritchies are looking forward to building more nature forts with their new grandson.

It's Growing...

We invite you also to join the Forever Estes Circle." Forever Estes, the EVLT circle of friends who have included the land trust in their estate plans, nearly doubled in size this year. The Board of Directors is privileged to recognize the following Forever Estes Circle members, who have chosen to make a lasting contribution to the mission of EVLT.

Anonymous (4)
Gail Albers
Mary Banken
Joan Borel
Art & Marsha French
Robin & Stacey Harding

Susan Harris
Carol Henning
Dave Koon
Nils & Denice Kristoffersen
Glen Kroh
Mary Lamy

Sandy Lindquist
Linda McKee & Roger Fankhauser
Jan Ricker
Peter & Stephanie Sinnott
Leo Weber



*"Planned giving is easy. Steph and I decided to begin this process while we are healthy and our thinking is clear."
Peter and Stephanie Sinnott*

We invite you to join this elite group of Forever Estes Circle members. By naming the Estes Valley Land Trust as a beneficiary of your will, living trust or retirement account, your legacy will last forever.

If you have already included the Estes Valley Land Trust in your estate plans, thank you! We would love to hear from you and, with your permission, recognize you in our outreach materials.

"I'm proud to make a planned gift to the Estes Valley Land Trust. I've given them permission to list my name as a Forever Estes Circle member to help raise awareness and encourage additional membership."

Mary Lamy, Forever Estes Circle member

Endowment Ensures Your Gift Lasts Longer than a Lifetime

Do you want to ensure the Estes Valley Land Trust will be here forever to protect what you love about the Estes Park area?

The Board of Directors is pleased to announce the formation of the land trust's first endowment fund, named the Perpetuity Fund.

"I've been an EVLT member for more than 15 years and I'm thrilled the Board has established an endowment. Now I can make a major gift and restrict it for the perpetual operations of one of my favorite organizations." Leo Weber, Honorary Board Member

The income from the Perpetuity Fund will ensure that EVLT will:

- remain your independent land trust, always reflecting the values of the residents of Estes Park.
- monitor and defend each conservation easement to ensure every acre remains preserved forever.
- continue to preserve additional land for wildlife, open space, local history, and public recreation.

EVLT's mission is to protect open space forever, so make your gift last longer than a lifetime. Please consider making an immediate gift or include EVLT in your estate plans. For information, contact the EVLT office at 970-577-6837.



This summer, volunteer monitors Alan and Suzanne Miller discovered a deer skeleton during a site visit.

Monitoring: Hiking with a Higher Purpose

EVLT's team of 100+ volunteers monitor each conservation easement property annually to ensure that conservation values remain intact. Those monitors never know what they'll find.

This summer, Suzanne and Alan Miller made an unusual discovery when they came across a deer skeleton. Typically, bones are separated and dispersed by scavengers and exposure to the elements, but these were not.

"We monitor five or six conservation easements per year, but we've never found an intact deer skeleton," said Alan.

"We love to hike, and monitoring for the land trust is really just a hike with a higher purpose" said Suzanne.

The Estes Valley Land Trust is seeking new monitors for 2018. Training is provided. If you are interested, please contact the land trust at 970-577-6837 or evlt@evlandtrust.org for information.

Congratulations, Scholarship Recipient Lily Tomasula Martin

Lily Tomasula Martin was the recipient of EVLT's \$1,000 scholarship. The annual scholarship is awarded to a local high school senior who plans to pursue an environmental career.



L to R: EVLT Executive Director Jeffrey Boring, Lily Tomasula Martin, Scholarship Committee Chair Harriette Woodard

Support Stewardship on Colorado Gives Day!

Colorado Gives Day is EVLT's biggest annual fundraising event. Last year, you donated over \$14,000 to the land trust on Colorado Gives Day.



Stewardship Intern Shannon Szabo was EVLT's superwoman this year!

This year we have a \$20,000 goal. All donations will support our stewardship program and help fund our Stewardship Intern position. Help us fill this need by making your Colorado Gives Day donation.

Colorado Gives Day is Tuesday, December 5. But why wait? Schedule your donation today!

To donate, go to www.coloradogives.org and search for Estes Valley Land Trust. Thank you!



Thank You to Our Many Donors!

**EVLTL relies heavily on the support it receives from its members and other donors.
We simply could not fulfill our mission without you. Thank you!**

BENEFACTOR LEVEL (\$1,000+)

Vaughn Baker, in honor of
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Rosemary Wolf, in memory of
Homer Rouse

**“We live in
the midst of
spectacular
beauty. EVLT
helps keep it
that way.”
Mel and Gray
Rueppel**

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 it earned an
 excellent
 reputation under
 its original team
 of volunteers;
 the reputation
 for excellence
 continues
 under its current
 leadership
 of staff and
 volunteers."
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 Mary Murphy,
 President, Board
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Linda McKee, Hiker, Nature Lover, Major Gift Donor

Often, nature grips us at an early age. This is the case for Linda McKee, a longtime donor to the Estes Valley Land Trust, who recently made a major gift.



Linda McKee at Emerald Lake, one of her favorite hiking destinations.

"I grew up on a farm and have wonderful memories of playing with my brother at "the ditch" – a small stream on our property."

These days, Linda's favorite places are Emerald Lake and Sky Pond in Rocky Mountain National Park and the Rim to Rim Trail at Grand Canyon National Park. She believes conservation of lands outside our Park system is also important.

"I made a major gift to the land trust to keep Colorado natural and open. Now, part of my legacy is to support the land trust and protect the places I love."

Setting up a recurring sustainable donation is easy and secure. Go to evlandtrust.org/donate.



**Please join Estes Valley Land Trust
at our Holiday Open House**

Thursday, December 7th 4-6 pm

**The Historic Crags Lodge
300 Riverside Dr.
hors d'oeuvres and cash bar**

**In appreciation to our
members for their support.**

Not a member? Now is a good time to join.
Not sure? Contact the office.

**Please RSVP by November 29
evlt@evlandtrust.org
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