



ESTES VALLEY LAND TRUST COMMUNIQUE

June 2014

2014 SUMMER BREAKFAST SERIES WATER'S WAYS:

THE 2013 FLOOD AND ITS AFTERMATH

The theme of the 2014 Summer Breakfast series is one that is near and dear to the hearts and spirit of the Estes Valley community. Although the September 2013 flood in Northern Colorado occurred nine months ago, the recovery process still occupies thoughts, conversations and actions. Runoff, raindrops and repairs command our attention while sewers, roads, utilities, and reconstruction of properties consume our energy and resources.

The EVLT Breakfast series will provide a slightly different perspective on "Water's Ways." Rather than centering on the devastation of human constructs, the emphasis will be on Mother Nature. Floods, after all, are a natural occurrence. As seen through the eyes of the "nature experts," floods bring beneficial change and new opportunities. Finding approaches to restoration that best coincide with natural processes will help

future generations build communities that can weather the storms and live in harmony with the natural elements.

The public is welcome and encouraged to attend both the June and July breakfasts. The members-only August breakfast includes our brief annual meeting. Not a member? Well then, it is time to join! For only \$35 per year you are welcome to join the conservation community and be a full participant in the activities of this wonderful group. A member form is included in this newsletter that you can complete and mail. Or, go to EVLT's website at www.evlandtrust.org to become a member. Or, become a member when you attend one of the breakfasts this summer.

Details about the 2014 Summer Breakfast events are provided on page 3 of this newsletter. Plan to attend all three this summer.



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.



HAVE A FEW HOURS TO GIVE?

VEGETATION RESTORATION EFFORTS WILL CONTINUE FOR A VERY LONG TIME. IF YOU CAN SPARE A FEW HOURS NOW AND THEN TO HELP WITH THIS IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION TO FLOOD RECOVERY, PLEASE CONTACT ERICA GOAD AT 970-577-6837 OR ON EVLT'S WEBSITE AT WWW.EVLANDTRUST.ORG OR ON EVLT'S FACEBOOK PAGE.

GOOD NEWS FOR FLOOD RECOVERY

The impact of the recent flood will be felt by all residents of the Estes Valley for years. In light of the EVLT mission to "preserve and protect open space, valleys, wetlands, streams, ranch lands, and wildlife habitat in the Estes Valley and surrounding area..." now is the critical time for the organization to help landowners and the broader community along the road to recovery.

With this mission in mind, EVLT is thrilled to announce that it is the proud recipient of a \$35,000 grant from the Community Foundation of Northern Colorado. The grant is specifically designed to provide assistance to the Land Trust's landowners to promote short-term flood recovery. EVLT is grateful to the Community Foundation for this opportunity to help steward and restore the land.

Support will be available first to conservation easement landowners who were affected by the flood. With remaining funds, assistance will be extended to the wider community. In addition, the grant opens new doors for EVLT to collaborate with other community organizations working on flood recovery.

Grant money will be used for purchasing plant material to re-vegetate areas affected by the flood. Getting desirable new plants started on flood-ravaged land will accomplish the following:

- Prevent the aggressive spread of noxious weeds
- Prevent further erosion
- Re-establish native plant ground cover

The plant materials include:

- High-altitude native grass and forb seed mixtures
- Temporary ground cover species, such as sterile wheatgrass
- Cuttings and containerized plants, such as willows, blue spruce, and other riparian woody vegetation

EVLT is organizing volunteer crews to help plant the seeds and vegetation and to assist with debris clean-up. This is your opportunity to personally make a positive and lasting difference in the preservation and conservation of beautiful areas in the Estes Valley. Please contact EVLT (evlt@evlandtrust.org) if you are interested in volunteering in flood-recovery efforts. Thank you!

SOCIAL MEDIA UPDATE

In the past six months EVLT has pursued an active online presence... both through its website (www.evlandtrust.org) and its Facebook page. If you have not had a chance to check out these sources, you are strongly encouraged to do

so! EVLT's printed newsletter is published twice a year...but life goes on between those printings! When news happens—big events or



small—you will find timely posts to keep you informed. Also changing photographs of wildlife and landscapes reinforce why conservation remains EVLT's top priority.



JUNE EVENT

Saturday, June 21, 8:00 a.m.

“Geomorphology of the Flood in Layman’s Terms”

Why did we suffer so many devastating landslides? When will our rivers go back into their old banks? Streams that rarely flow at all have been flowing all winter—what’s up with that? Answers to these questions and more!

by Art French, retired Geologist

Art recently retired to Estes Park after a 33-year career as a minerals and petroleum geologist for Mobil Oil. Art has a passion for land conservation and a broad perspective of land trust issues.

Hughes/Weber Conservation Easement property:
2241 Devils Gulch Road

RSVP by 5:00 pm Monday, June 16.



JULY EVENT

Saturday, July 19, 8:30 a.m.

“River Master Planning”

What makes a healthy and resilient river corridor? What kinds of decisions will help ensure that the consequences of the next flooding event will be less severe? What results will Estes Park see from the Fall River and Fish Creek Master Plan projects?

by Julie Ash, P.E., Walsh Environmental Scientists & Engineers

Julie is the project leader for the master planning team that has been contracted by the Town to complete both the Fall River and the Fish Creek Master Plans.

Fall River Hydroplant Picnic Grounds:
1700 Fish Hatchery Road

RSVP by 5:00 pm Monday, July 14.



AUGUST EVENT

Saturday, August 16, 8:00 a.m.
Annual Meeting – members only.

“Flood Impacts on Fish and Wildlife”

What happened in the natural world in the face of the September flood? In what ways were fish habitats affected? Were the wildlife migration patterns disrupted? What long-term impacts might we expect to see from the changes that have happened?

by Paul McLaughlin, Ecologist, Rocky Mountain National Park

Paul is an Ecologist with the Continental Divide Research Learning Center at RMNP. He has worked for the NPS since 1983 and has witnessed the flood and its continuing impact on RMNP.

Rocky Mountain National Park:
Hidden Valley Area

RSVP by 5:00 pm Monday, August 11.

BREAKFAST DETAILS YOU NEED TO KNOW

- Reservations are required for all summer breakfast events. Note RSVP deadlines above.
- Make your reservations by telephone: 970-577-6837 (you can leave a message after hours); or by email: evlt@evlandtrust.org; or through EVLT’s website: www.evlandtrust.org.
- Provide your first and last name for each reservation (for name badges).
- Breakfast will be served by Catering for All Occasions with a different selection for each breakfast. Breakfast will include an egg entree, fresh fruit, pastries, juice, and hot coffee.
- Cost for the breakfast is \$15 per person (\$5 for K-12 students, \$0 for preschoolers), payable by cash or check at the event.
- All three breakfast events will be held outdoors. Please bring your own chair, jacket, sunglasses, hat, sunscreen and drinking water for after breakfast.

MONITORING

The 2014 Monitoring Season was kicked off on May 20 with an appreciation luncheon and training session.

Many of EVLT's nearly 100-strong group of volunteer monitors attended the annual Monitor Appreciation Luncheon and Training, held at the Rock Inn on May 20th. The monitors learned about EVLT's recent activities and plans for

training session and check out one of four iPads that the Land Trust has set up for monitoring.

It'll be a busy season for the monitors as they work to complete nearly 180 monitoring events over the course of the summer. The monitors will be documenting any changes to conservation easement properties, including flood damage that occurred last year. EVLT staff will follow up on any issues that the monitors find. EVLT will work with landowners to assist with flood recovery and re-vegetation as much as possible, using the grant funding that EVLT received from the Community Foundation of Northern Colorado. In addition to annual monitoring, EVLT staff continues to complete Baseline Upgrade reports for some of the older

conservation easement properties to reflect higher standards and better technology. The Land Trust is also in the process of instituting a photo re-visit program, where photo points will be re-visited every 3-5 years to track changes over time.

EVLT is very excited about the season and can't thank its volunteers enough for their commitment to conservation!

"OUR VOLUNTEERS TRULY ARE THE BACKBONE OF THIS ORGANIZATION."

-ERICA GOAD,
STEWARDSHIP COORDINATOR

this year's monitoring season. Some of the big changes for this year include completing site visits earlier to document flood damage and the ability to fill out monitoring forms, take GPS points and photos, and create monitoring maps electronically. The monitors can attend a



HERMIT PARK UPDATE

One of the community's favorite recreational areas is Hermit Park Open Space, a publicly-accessible open space that is owned and managed by the Larimer County Department of Natural Resources and preserved by a conservation easement held by EVLT.

Like many other places in the Estes Park area, Hermit Park suffered severe flood damage. Several roads had massive erosion, making it impossible to be open during the beginning of the summer season. At this time, Hermit Park staff hope to reopen by July 4. EVLT wishes them well and hopes for a speedy recovery!



**WELCOME,
HARRIETTE
WOODARD!**

Join EVLT in welcoming Harriette Woodard as the newest member of its Board of Directors. Harriette comes to the Board with a strong background in business and real estate, owning her own mortgage company as well as having worked in a variety of corporate environments. With this experience, Harriette brings an invaluable and unusual perspective to Board discussions. Harriette has been an active citizen of Estes Park for fourteen years, working for a variety of civic organizations and causes. EVLT is fortunate that she has agreed to use her expertise in support of the Land Trust, and looks forward to many beneficial projects. Harriette is off to a great start, having initiated the EVLT Scholarship for Estes Park High School seniors that is featured on page 6 of this newsletter.

EVLT AMONG FIRST 16 LAND TRUSTS TO ACHIEVE RENEWED ACCREDITATION



A celebration is underway at Estes Valley Land Trust! EVLT was recently awarded renewed land trust accreditation from the Land Trust Accreditation Commission, an independent program of the Land Trust Alliance.

"This achievement demonstrates EVLT's commitment to permanent land conservation and the rigorous accreditation renewal process," said Mary Banken, Executive Director. "Our staff members, landowners, volunteers and Board have worked vigorously to uphold the ever-increasing high standards of the Land Trust Alliance. We are proud to achieve reaccreditation, making us a stronger organization to benefit the entire community."

EVLT was nationally accredited in 2008 as one of a prestigious first group of 39 to be awarded this designation. EVLT is now among the first 16 land trusts to achieve accreditation renewal, indicating that it meets national standards for excellence, upholds the public trust and ensures that conservation efforts are permanent.

Founded 27 years ago, EVLT now administers the stewardship responsibilities of 159 conservation easements (nearly 9,600 acres) in the Estes Valley and surrounding area. Over 100 volunteer monitors and numerous conservation-minded landowners assist in this effort.

"EVLT is an important member of the 254 accredited land

trusts that protect more than half of the 20,645,165 acres currently owned in fee or protected by conservation easement held by a land trust," said Commission Executive Director Tammara Van Ryn. "Accreditation renewal, which must be completed every five years, provides the public with an assurance that accredited land trusts continue to meet exceedingly high standards for quality."

According to the Land Trust Alliance, each land trust that achieved renewed accreditation submitted extensive documentation and underwent a rigorous review to verify that their operations continue to be effective, strategic and in accordance with strict requirements.

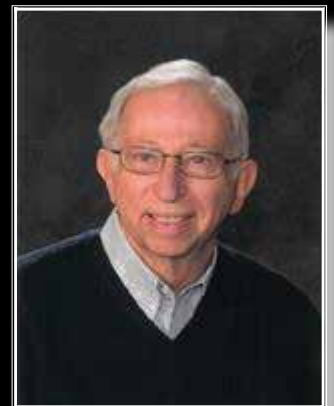
According to the Land Trust Alliance, over 1,700 land trusts now operate across the country to save places that people love. In addition to health and food benefits, conserving land increases property values, saves tax dollars by encouraging more efficient development, and, in the Estes Valley, draws tourists to view the scenic beauty and wildlife. Over 47 million acres of farms, forests, and parks are now protected as conserved land across the United States.

Please visit EVLT's website at www.evlandtrust.org to learn more about the Land Trust's mission. EVLT welcomes your membership and your participation in accomplishing its goals.

WILLIAM (BILL) LAMM

EVLT lost a good friend and long-time supporter with the recent passing of Bill Lamm. Bill spent 29 years as a practicing attorney before turning his energies toward land conservation in the Estes Valley that he loved so deeply. Bill was a volunteer for EVLT for over twenty years, including 15 on the Board of Directors. Through Bill's efforts, many of EVLT's monitoring protocols were established and many stewardship problems were capably addressed. Bill provided the inspiration and leadership for EVLT during its first accreditation application process. His fingerprints are on every property and document that the Land Trust carries.

Bill is survived by his dear wife Marty, three children and four grandchildren. The family has identified Estes Valley Land Trust as a recipient for memorial contributions. We are grateful.



MEMBERSHIP & CONTRIBUTION FORM

Suggested Membership Levels

Conservator \$1000 _____ Protector \$500 _____
 Steward \$250 _____ Benefactor \$100 _____
 Defender \$70 _____ Basic Member \$35 _____
 Other: \$ _____

Member Information

Name(s) Mailing address City, State, ZIP Code	
Telephone:	e-mail:

The Estes Valley Land Trust is a 501(c)(3) private, non-profit organization. Your donation is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.



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Heartfelt congratulations to Taylor Bobowski and Zach Pierce as the inaugural recipients of the Estes Valley Land Trust Scholarship awards. With this new scholarship program honoring students who demonstrate a love and dedication to the natural world, EVLT is underscoring its commitment to conservation for future generations. Mary Banken and Harriette Woodard were on hand for the senior awards ceremony to announce the winners of the \$500 scholarships.

BADGERS

BY EMILY SCHEVE, written at age 10

This poem was contributed by an easement owner's granddaughter, written about her wildlife experience on the easement property!

WHITE AS SNOW
 BLACK AS MIDNIGHT
 DEEP DOWN AS FAR AS THEY CAN
 QUITE A SIGHT
 CLAWS AS LONG AS NAILS
 EATING LIKE KINGS
 FAST AS A CHEETAH
 BURROWS SHAPED LIKE RINGS
 LIKE LITTLE STALKERS IN THEIR HOLES
 EATING LIKE KINGS ON LITTLE MOLES



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