



PHOTO BY CHARLIE JOHNSON

ESTES VALLEY LAND TRUST COMMUNIQUE

DECEMBER 2014



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.

2014: A YEAR TO REMEMBER

If you are a long-time friend of EVLT, you have seen that mission statement numerous times because it has been our mission since the beginning. So after 27 years of pursuing this mission, what has changed?

As the saying goes, the more things change the more they stay the same. We are still seeking conservation easement agreements as a means to preserve critical open space. For the past couple of years, there have been fewer easements completed in the Estes Valley and the rest of Colorado, probably due to economic issues as well as other distractions such as flood recovery. This fall, however, has seen a flurry of new activity. An easement was recently finalized with Tom and Kathy Hornbein on Devils Gulch Road, another will close in December, two more are actively progressing toward closings in early 2015, and several others are in the early discussion stages. Our Land Protection Committee is indeed busy!

There also are some interesting changes in our approaches to our protection mission. Our Strategic Conservation Priorities

Plan has identified properties throughout the valley that show especially high conservation values, and we are proactively seeking opportunities to discuss conservation goals with the owners of those properties.

A shift in our understanding of our mission has come about because of the flood of 2013. Shortly after the event, the EVLT Board held a special meeting and agreed that the EVLT commitment to preserve and protect open space, valleys, wetlands, streams, ranch lands and wildlife habitat includes more than just conservation easement properties, and that our stewardship mission extends to the community at large. From that decision came our re-vegetation projects, our active participation in the Fall River and Fish Creek Master Plan coalitions, and our continuing to work to develop innovative conservation solutions to enhance the health and resiliency of our watersheds.

Who knew that our land protection mission could be such an interesting journey? Watch and wait as we progress!



THE OPAL LAND AND CATTLE RANCH, A CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROPERTY OWNED BY ANNEMARIE CHENOWETH, IS A SPECIAL PLACE: NOT ONLY DOES IT CONTAIN CRITICAL WILDLIFE HABITAT, BREATHTAKING VIEWS, AND RIPARIAN AREAS, IT IS A WORKING RANCH WHICH PRESERVES A HISTORICAL WAY OF LIFE IN THE ESTES VALLEY AREA. UNFORTUNATELY, THE SEPTEMBER 2013 FLOODS DEVASTATED THE PROPERTY, BUT ANNEMARIE IS NOT A WOMAN EASILY DEFEATED. SHE AND HER FAMILY, WITH THE HELP OF EVLT AND WILDLAND RESTORATION VOLUNTEERS, ARE WORKING INCREDIBLY HARD TO BRING THE RANCH BACK. ALTHOUGH IT WILL TAKE MANY MONTHS FOR FULL RESTORATION, ANNEMARIE IS PROOF THAT LARGE OBSTACLES CAN BE OVERCOME WITH A BIG DOSE OF DETERMINATION AND GRIT.

RE-VEGETATION PROJECTS HELP RE-GREEN OUR VALLEY

Although the September 2013 floods caused major damage to properties and disruptions to our lives, Estes Valley Land Trust worked hard through 2014 to “re-green” our community. Thanks to a generous grant from the Community Foundation of Northern Colorado, EVLT worked with landowners across the Estes Valley and beyond to restore and re-vegetate flood-damaged lands. Throughout 2014, EVLT coordinated the re-seeding of over 180 acres, the planting of over 2,300 tree seedlings, and the installation of 8,500 square yards of erosion control blankets, all at no cost to

the landowner. We worked directly with owners of over 50 properties, and many more indirectly to assist them to recover their property. In addition to the nearly 350 hours provided by EVLT staff to manage the program, communicate with landowners, and order and often deliver materials, EVLT volunteers generously donated over 200 hours of their time to assist with removing debris, spreading seeds, planting trees, and laying erosion blankets. By ensuring that native grasses and trees were planted, EVLT’s work has jump-started the recovery of ecosystem function in areas that, if left alone, would be prone to further erosion and takeover by noxious weeds.

Ultimately, our re-seeding program provided EVLT with the opportunity to operationalize our mission in a unique way: by becoming an important long-term resource and partner for restoration efforts in the area, and thus ensuring the preservation of wildlife habitat and natural beauty and the re-building of our community.



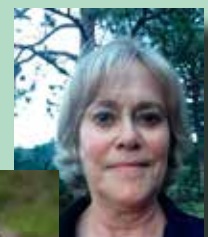
YOUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS

EVLT is very fortunate to welcome to our team three new Board members elected for a three-year term each, and to renew our appreciation for three returning Board members who have been elected to another three-year term. All six of these Directors were elected at the Annual Membership Meeting which was held in conjunction with the Breakfast on August 16, 2014. When you see them, please thank them for their great service to EVLT and our community.

Visit www.estesvlt.org/about-us/board-staff/ for more information about these great people!



New Directors elected by the membership are John Nolan, Alice Reuman, and Peter Sinnott (below).



Board members returning for additional 3-year terms include Craig Axtell, Jim Broomfield, and Leo Weber (above).

FLOOD TALKS: A SUMMER BREAKFAST SERIES TO REMEMBER



For the second year in a row, a natural disaster in the Estes Valley was the theme of EVLT's summer breakfast series. In 2013, the theme centered on the recent fires. This year's theme was the 2013 flood and its aftermath and, with a total attendance of nearly 400 at the three events, it was a topic that garnered great interest. Each breakfast was held in a beautiful location with memorable scenery.

The series began in June on the Hughes/Weber conservation easement, adjacent to Lumpy Ridge. Retired geologist and EVLT Director Art French explained the geology of the flood and its resulting landslides. It turns out that landslides recur not infrequently, geologically speaking!

At July's breakfast event Julie Ash, water resource engineer at Walsh Environmental and project leader of the Fall River and Fish Creek Master Planning Teams, gave a

fascinating presentation on the numerous variables that affect stream flow, erosion, and habitats, and the balancing act of providing for healthy, resilient river corridors while protecting property. The Fall River Hydroplant Picnic Grounds on Fall River was the perfect setting for this program.

In August we visited RMNP's Hidden Valley, where Paul McLaughlin, ecologist at the Park, discussed the effects of the flood on wildlife and other natural resources. At this event, attendees had the opportunity to bid in the Silent Art Auction of "recycled" art donated to EVLT. Thank you to those who donated the art and to those who bid. Thanks also to Carly Lober who organized the auction.

We offer our sincere thanks to our

excellent speakers. Many thanks also to Linda Guzzi and her crew from Catering for All Occasions, who once again prepared and cheerfully served the delicious breakfasts. We are always grateful to our hosts at each of the event sites. Spending beautiful summer mornings on lovely conserved properties with enthusiastic attendees is a special treat!

The Educational Events Committee deserves special thanks for their creative, energetic work in planning and staffing these highly successful events. The 2014 committee was chaired by Art French and Harriette Woodard and included Gil Anderson, Frances and Roy Marvin, Bob and Judy Taphorn, Mary Banken, Erica Goad, and Jan Swaney. The committee is considering topics for next year's theme—they only hope that another disaster doesn't make their decision easy.

THANKS TO YOU -- THESE LANDS ARE CONSERVED

The people of the Estes Valley have a reputation. When EVLT Board and staff members travel to Fort Collins for County meetings, to Denver for statewide meetings, or even to Providence, Rhode Island for the national conference of the Land Trust Alliance, the people that we meet know about what you have accomplished in this valley. You have treated this land and its inhabitants with an awesome respect. You have honored nature's bounty and worked to keep it pristine. You have worked tirelessly to restore it following natural disasters. You have given of your time and your treasure to ensure that this marvelous gift will still be here for our children and grandchildren.

There are very few land trusts that have founding members who were devoted full-time volunteers, that are able to call upon a team of volunteers to accomplish so much for the trust, and that have a terrific foundation of support -- emotional and financial -- throughout the entire community. The Board and staff of Estes Valley Land Trust know that we are very fortunate. We are a successful land trust because of you. We are very grateful!

THANKS TO OUR MONITORS

Many thanks to our wonderful volunteer monitors for your hard work this year! Monitoring was more complicated this year than usual due to the need to document flood damages and a shorter timeline, but everyone took this in stride and did a fantastic job. Volunteers, you make great stewardship possible for EVLT! Oh yes... thanks to the Rock Inn for the great luncheon!

Erica Goad, Stewardship Coordinator



Gil Anderson
 Craig Axtell
 Pat & Sandy Begley
 Jim Broomfield
 Bruce Brown
 Vernon & Peggy Burch
 Jane Bush
 Norm Carver
 Bill & Chris Childers
 Earl & Carol Clark
 Terry Cohen & Robert Bellows
 Dr. John Cooper
 Hal & Bonnie Dalzell
 Sandi & Charlie De Joseph
 Linda & Dan Dilts
 Joe Dodds
 Paula Edwards

Becky Elrod
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 Tony Fink
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Nan Lederer
 Sandy Lindquist
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 Jackson Moller
 Ken Oldham
 Sally & Wayne Park
 Bill Pinkham
 Anita Prinzmetal
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 Mark & Val Riffle
 Terry Rizzuti

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 Frank & Donna Shavlik
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 Maurita Stueck
 Mark Tabb
 Marcia & David Tavel
 Corinne Thomas
 Scott & Karen Thompson
 Joan Van Horn
 David Van Wert
 Leo Weber
 Lynn & Susan Weissenrieder
 Jim White
 Mike & Linda Wold
 Harriette Woodard
 Marsha Yelick & Bruce Nickels

GIVE YOUR TIME

VOLUNTEERS ARE THE HEART OF EVLT. WITHOUT THE DEDICATION OF MANY COMMITTED, ENERGETIC VOLUNTEERS, WE SIMPLY COULD NOT ACHIEVE THE LEVEL OF EXCELLENCE THAT OUR SUPPORTERS EXPECT.

VOLUNTEERS MONITOR THE 150 PROPERTIES UNDER EVLT'S PROTECTION TO ENSURE THAT THEIR CONSERVATION VALUES ARE SUSTAINED. THEY SERVE AS LIAISONS BETWEEN LANDOWNERS AND EVLT STAFF. THEY PROVIDE THE CREATIVITY AND ORGANIZATION THAT MAKE OUR EVENTS HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL. THEY GET DIRTY WHILE ASSISTING OWNERS AFFECTED BY THE FLOOD TO REMOVE DEBRIS AND PLANT NATIVE SEED AND TREES. THEY SUPPORT OUR FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES, ASSIST WITH MAILINGS, SERVE ON COMMITTEES, AND EVEN BRING US HOMEMADE COOKIES!

CURRENTLY WE ARE SEEKING VOLUNTEERS FOR THE FOLLOWING:

- ASSIST THE PUBLICITY COMMITTEE IN WRITING ARTICLES AND PUBLICIZING EVENTS. YEAR-ROUND RESIDENCE NOT REQUIRED.
- JOIN THE EDUCATIONAL EVENTS COMMITTEE TO HELP PLAN AND CARRY OUT THE EVLT SUMMER BREAKFAST SERIES FOR 2015.
- ASSIST WITH RE-VEGETATION PROJECTS FOR FLOOD-DAMAGED PROPERTIES DURING THE SPRING MONTHS.
- BECOME A VOLUNTEER MONITOR FOR THE 2015 SEASON.

IF YOU'D LIKE TO JOIN OUR OUTSTANDING TEAM OF VOLUNTEERS, CONTACT THE OFFICE AT 970-577-6837 OR EMAIL US AT EVLT@EVLANDTRUST.ORG.

THANKS TO RE-VEGETATION VOLUNTEERS AND SUPPORTERS

We are grateful to the Community Foundation of Northern Colorado and to Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) for their financial support to help steward and restore the beauty of our valley. We also are grateful to the terrific volunteers who have assisted with the clearing, seeding and erosion blanketing of the properties we have re-vegetated, including:

Leah Adams
 Gil & Susan Anderson
 Craig & Kris Axtell
 Jody Barbour
 Roger Fankhauser
 Mike Figgs
 Art & Marsha French
 Curt Gleaves
 Jacob Grasmick
 Susan Harris
 Debby Hughes
 Kathleen Kase
 John Krueger
 Nan Lederer
 Tyler Lewis
 Jackie Oldham
 Emily Plummer
 Terry Rizzuti
 Pete Sinnott
 Candy & Jim Sulzbach
 Jim Swaney

Shellie Tressel
 Leo Weber
 Nathan Weber
 Lynn Weissenrieder
 Woody Woodburn



Maurita Stueck: A Volunteer You Should Know!

Although we are fortunate to have many wonderful volunteers, Maurita Stueck is a very special and devoted supporter of Estes Valley Land Trust. Maurita has been a part of the EVLT family since the beginning, nearly 28 years ago. She celebrated her 90th birthday a few years ago... as Maurita has joked, everyone above 80 gets asked all the time anyway, so specifics

don't matter. Maurita continues to be an active conservation easement monitor for EVLT. This year she visited five of our conservation easement properties. Maurita has been the monitor for several properties on Rock Ridge since the easements were put into place in the early 2000s, and every time she drives by the properties, she is thankful that the area remains beautiful and undeveloped! Maurita keeps monitoring for EVLT because of the joy it brings her to walk around and see the natural beauty that is forever preserved.

Maurita's passion for conservation stems from her father, who donated a large tract of land in the Ozarks to The Nature Conservancy in the 1960s. As a girl growing up in the St. Louis, Missouri area, Maurita's love of the outdoors was fostered through camping trips with the Girl Scouts. Maurita has committed much of her life to the natural world, as a 30-year member of the Missouri Chapter of The Nature Conservancy, a volunteer for the Girl Scouts, and a 28-year volunteer for the botanical gardens in St. Louis. Maurita's family (her husband Neil and their three daughters and one son) first arrived in the Estes Valley in 1982. Some of the first people they met were

Helen and Pieter Hondius, who later told them about the forming of Estes Valley Land Trust. Maurita joined the Land Trust soon thereafter and has been a dedicated member ever since.

Thanks to Maurita for all she has done over the years for Estes Valley Land Trust and the community! We are so grateful for amazing supporters like her!



MAURITA AND FRIENDS ENJOY A HIKE ON AN EASEMENT PROPERTY



MAURITA STUECK:
A VOLUNTEER TO CHEER ABOUT!

MORE THANKS FOR RIPARIAN RESTORATION VOLUNTEERS

We want to shout-out a special thanks to the enthusiastic students and staff from Eagle Rock School who are volunteering with EVLT. They are important contributors to the GOCO-funded riparian restoration projects on conserved properties that we will be completing during the coming year. Our first project together was in November on the Martin Conservation Easement, and these workers were superb. Many thanks to:



Elias Aguirre
German Del Toro
Stacy Escobar
Courtney Lancaster



Alysha Dan
Ember Ejones
John Guffey
Melvin Myanez

AN ANNUAL THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS - GIVING IN MANY WAYS

Our sincere thanks from EVLT to the following people and businesses that have provided membership and other forms of financial support during 2014. Thank you!

Lamm Memorials

Susan & James Alvillar
Robert Wells Johnson
Herb & Barbara Hoover
Pieter & Helen Hondius
Carol Henning
Leslie & Paul Goldsmith
Mr. & Mrs. W. Braiden Darley
Mary & Sue Childers
Allison & Tom Brownlee
Jack & Dee Willome
Beth Johnston
Terry Rizzuti & Mary Banken
Arnold & Bonnie Silverman
Leo Weber & Deborah Hughes
Marty Lamm family
Jean & Bruce Rader
Judy Phillips
Craig & Kathy Phillips
Arthur & Mary Otten
Jon & Mary Lawritson
Bob & Elaine Lawrence

Suzanne Latendresse
Mary W. Lamy

Kingsmore Memorials

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Joyce & Donald Lash
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Bequests

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Dorothy Kingsmore
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Scholarship Fund

Curt Gleaves & Patricia Gianelli
Stewardship Fund

Curt Gleaves & Patricia Gianelli
Larimer Co. Natural Resources
Thomas & Kathryn Hornbein

Office Space Fund

Craig & Kristine Axtell
Robert & Joyce Bramwell

Curt Gleaves & Patricia Gianelli
Gail Johnson & Steve Saeger
Barbara & Wayne Jolly
G. Kent & Janet G. Keller
Bruce Nickels & Marsha Yelick
Terry Rizzuti & Mary Banken
Jan & Jim Swaney
Leo Weber & Deborah Hughes

Commemorative Benches

Jim & Carol Crain
The Freudenburg family
Marvin & Charlotte Gee
Pieter & Helen Hondius
Marty Lamm family
Mary W. Lamy
Ken & Jacqueline Oldham
SCN LLC
Nelson & Greg Thomas
Joanne White

In-Kind Donations

Aspen & Evergreen Gallery

Allan Beezley, P.C.
Hubert Office Services
Mountain Sage Consulting
Sonny & Donna Petrie

To Honor/In Memory

Mr. & Mrs. Owen Ard
in memory of Katherine Lacy
Donna & Dan Dilts Jr.
to honor Dan & Linda Dilts
Betty Mapes
in memory of Glen Mapes
Brad & Mary Sue Rohwer
to honor Jim White
Joan Winstein
to honor Doris Drucker
Don Smith
in memory of Nadine Lueker
Brian & Michell Thomas
to honor Herb & Barb Hoover
Pieter & Helen Hondius
in memory of Harry Hutcherson

THANKS FOR THE MEMBERSHIPS...

Conservator Member Level

Nancy Amos
Vaughn Baker
Buettner Legacy Endowment Plan

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Thomas & Kathryn Hornbein

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Karen Monks
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Maurita E. Stueck

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Terry Rizzuti/Mary Banken
Mel & Gray Rueppel
Jerry & Linda Rutledge
George & Elizabeth Shoffner
John & Sally Stevenson
Pamela & Bob Street
Leo Weber/Deborah Hughes
Harriette & Scott Woodard

SUPPORT EVLT ON COLORADO GIVES DAY!

COLORADO'S LARGEST ONE-DAY ONLINE GIVING EVENT, PRESENTED BY COMMUNITY FIRST FOUNDATION AND FIRSTBANK, IS COMING UP AND WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT.

ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2014, THOUSANDS OF DONORS WILL COME TOGETHER TO SUPPORT COLORADO NONPROFITS LIKE OURS. LAST YEAR, A RECORD-BREAKING \$20.9 MILLION WAS DISTRIBUTED TO COLORADO NONPROFITS. OUR PORTION WAS \$8,075 IN 2013, OUR FIRST YEAR OF PARTICIPATION. THIS YEAR, OUR GOAL IS TO RAISE \$10,000.

COLORADO COMMUNITY FIRST FOUNDATION
GIVES DAY
12.09.14
1STBANK Corporate Partner
24 hours to give where you live

Support us on
Colorado Gives Day!
Tuesday, December 9
Give online at NoCoGives.org
New! \$1 Million Incentive Fund
Presented by Community First Foundation and Community Foundation of Northern Colorado
Learn more at NoCoGives.org

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COLORADO GIVES DAY IS POWERED BY COLORADOGIVES.ORG, A YEAR-ROUND WEBSITE FEATURING NEARLY 1,500 NONPROFITS. THIS YEAR, THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF NORTHERN COLORADO IS PARTNERING WITH COLORADOGIVES TO HIGHLIGHT LARIMER COUNTY NONPROFITS THROUGH NOCOGIVES.ORG. THESE SITES ENCOURAGE CHARITABLE GIVING BY PROVIDING COMPREHENSIVE, OBJECTIVE AND UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION ABOUT COLORADO NONPROFITS AND AN EASY WAY TO SUPPORT THEM ONLINE.

THANKS TO COMMUNITY FIRST FOUNDATION AND FIRSTBANK, COLORADO GIVES DAY FEATURES A \$1 MILLION INCENTIVE FUND, ONE OF THE LARGEST GIVES-DAY INCENTIVE FUNDS IN THE COUNTRY. EVERY NONPROFIT RECEIVING A DONATION ON COLORADO GIVES DAY RECEIVES A PORTION OF THE INCENTIVE FUND, WHICH INCREASES THE VALUE OF EVERY DOLLAR DONATED.

CHECK OUT OUR DONATION PAGE THROUGH NOCOGIVES.ORG. GIVE TO PROTECT THE PLACE THAT YOU LOVE ON COLORADO GIVES DAY. YOUR SUPPORT HELPS US TO ENSURE THAT YOUR GREAT-GRANDCHILDREN WILL BE ABLE TO ENJOY THE BEAUTY AND WILDLIFE HABITATS THAT MAKE THE ESTES VALLEY A SPECIAL PLACE TO LIVE, WORK AND VACATION. DO IT TODAY! DONATIONS CAN BE SCHEDULED IN ADVANCE.

Benefactor Member Level

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**HAVE YOU CHECKED OUT OUR FABULOUS WEBSITE LATELY?
 CATCH UP ON CONSERVATION NEWS BETWEEN SEMI-ANNUAL
 NEWSLETTERS AT WWW.EVLANDTRUST.ORG
 FOR EVEN MORE FUN, LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!**



Your Annual Gift

Please consider-- The enclosed envelope might be the perfect way to send Your Annual Gift to EVLT. We thank you for your support of nature's beauty, wildlife habitat, and the community's ability to enjoy it!



MOUNTAIN STRONG FOR NONPROFITS

THE 2013 FLOODS AFFECTED MANY ASPECTS OF OUR LIVES. SEEING THE FINANCIAL HARDSHIP THAT THE FLOODS BROUGHT TO MANY NONPROFITS IN OUR COMMUNITY, THE ESTES PARK NONPROFIT RESOURCE CENTER STARTED MOUNTAIN STRONG FOR NONPROFITS, A CAMPAIGN TO SUPPORT CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS. YOU CAN DONATE TO ESTES VALLEY LAND TRUST THROUGH THEIR WEBSITE, MTNSTRONGNONPROFITS.ORG. IT'S A SIMPLE, GREAT WAY TO GIVE TO EVLT AND TO SEE WHAT OTHER GREAT ORGANIZATIONS ARE ALSO RE-BUILDING TOGETHER.

Joe & Mary Liz Adair	Terrell Dixon & Linda Walsh	Pat & Ellis Laitala	Bus & Rita Schageman
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Jude Blitz & Tom Daly	Glen Haven Association	Jesse & Evelyn Noah	Norman & Dianne Tempel
Mary C. Bollinger	Erica Goad & Paul Larson	Eugene E. Oja, DDS	The Reserve at Estes Park HOA
Merrill & Leona Bolner	Gordon & Linda Goff	Mary Lynn Oliver	Dr. Corinne Thomas
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Robert & Joyce Bramwell	Rob & Candace Gordon	Peggy Parenti	Duane Albrecht & Laura Tritch-Albrecht
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Chris & Bill Childers	Steven Jobst & Jill Anderson	Ravencrest Chalet	Wildwood Inn
Mary & Sue Childers	Bruce & Carmen Johnson	Charles & Sandra Raymond	Mason & Elizabeth Willis
Margaret Clark	Robert Wells Johnson	Walter H. Richards	Mike & Linda Wold
Marjorie Drew Corcoran	Walt & Nancy Kaesler	Rockwood Estates POA	William D. & Jane S. Woodburn
Robert & Judy Corley, Jr.	Cheryle & Dan Kapsak	Brad & Mary Sue Rohwer	Marilyn & John Zimmann
John Davenport	Leola Kenicke & Marilyn Bradley	Carole Rouse	
Steve Dilts	Tom & Jan Kuepers	Salvation Army	
	James & Susan Kutrubes	Dorothy Savory	

ESTES VALLEY LEGACY

IN JANUARY OF 2015, THE ESTES PARK NONPROFIT RESOURCE CENTER WILL LAUNCH THE NEWLY FORMED ESTES VALLEY LEGACY: A PLANNED GIVING COLLABORATIVE. THE PURPOSE OF THE ESTES VALLEY LEGACY IS TO PROVIDE INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE TO INDIVIDUALS WHO DONATE TO ESTES VALLEY NONPROFITS WHICH WILL HELP THEM MAXIMIZE THE TAX BENEFIT OF CURRENT AND FUTURE GIFTS, INCLUDING ESTATE GIFTS. ESTES VALLEY LAND TRUST IS PROUD TO BE A FOUNDING MEMBER OF THE ESTES VALLEY LEGACY.

THROUGH THIS COLLABORATIVE, THE COMMUNITY WILL ENJOY EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS REGARDING PLANNED AND ESTATE GIVING; FULL ACCESS TO A GIFT LEGACY WEBSITE; PRIVATE CONFIDENTIAL PLANNED GIFT COUNSELING; AND ACCESS TO PROFESSIONALS WITH THE CREDENTIALS APPROPRIATE TO ASSIST OUR DONORS IN MAKING PLANNED DONATIONS.

CURRENTLY THERE ARE 11 NONPROFITS IN THE ESTES VALLEY JOINING US AS FOUNDERS. A REPRESENTATIVE FROM EACH GROUP WILL SERVE ON AN ADVISORY COMMITTEE ALLOWING EACH ORGANIZATION TO HAVE A VOICE IN THE EVOLUTION OF THE PLANNED GIVING COLLABORATIVE.

THE ESTES VALLEY LEGACY WILL GIVE ESTES NONPROFITS AND THEIR DONORS A WIDE RANGE AND DEPTH OF KNOWLEDGE WHICH WILL ALLOW US ALL TO MAXIMIZE AND SUSTAIN OUR CHARITABLE MISSIONS IN THE FUTURE.

WE WILL PROVIDE MORE INFORMATION AS TIME GOES ON AS WE BEGIN USING THE SERVICES OF THE ESTES VALLEY LEGACY IN JANUARY.

More Thanks!!

We could not do this work without our numerous other partners and friends and volunteers who keep us tracking. Thanks have to include a salute to Larimer County Department of Natural Resources, Town of Estes Park, EP Nonprofit Resource Center, Rocky Mountain National Park, EV Recreation and Parks District, Hobert Office Service, Millenium Group, Fidelity National Title Company, Conservation Resource Center, Tax Credit Connection, Granite Seed Company, Colorado State Forest Nursery, Legacy Land Trust, Peter Sartucci, Allan Beezley PC, Shellie Tressel, Michael Lazorchek, Jim White, Ken Oldham, Jacqueline Oldham, Sandy Lindquist... and those unnamed friends who are always there for us.

We cherish our memories of longtime supporters who passed away in 2014, including Wally Betts, Jane Blair, Bettie Chamberlin, Thomas Icenogle, Dorothy Kingsmore, Bill Lamm, Mary Jean Nelson, Pat Petrocine, Bob Trump, and Bill Wachs. This group includes former Directors from our Board, former volunteer monitors, and faithful members and supporters. Good memories of fine people.



MEADOWDALE RANCH: AN EASEMENT TO REMEMBER

You've driven past it many times as you enter or leave Estes Park. You've likely seen elk grazing or a coyote loping across the beautiful, open meadow on the south side of Highway 36 near Pole Hill. Have you ever considered why the vast meadow and hillsides aren't filled with houses?

The 1,168-acre Meadowdale Ranch will always remain open and scenic, thanks to a conservation easement placed in 1996 by two sisters, Candy Sulzbach and Toni Brown. Meadowdale Ranch has a storied history. It was the site of mountain man Rocky Mountain Jim Nugent's cabin, visited in 1873 by Isabella Bird and described in her classic book, *A Lady's Life in the Rocky Mountains*. The property was homesteaded by Ed Blair and later was the site of a sawmill. Clydesdale and Percheron show horses were raised on the property by Arthur Pew, Jr. of the Sun Oil Company, who purchased the property, as well as the adjacent land now known as Crocker Ranch, in 1934. Most of Meadowdale Ranch was sold in 1958 to the Isbell family who operated it as a dude ranch for two years. They, in turn, sold the land to Bud and Edith Hohnholz, who for the next twenty years ran a working cattle ranch. In 1978, Bud and Edith sold 2,500 acres of the original ranch to the U.S. Forest Service, an area known as Homestead Meadows.



THE HIGHWAY 36 ENTRY TO ESTES...FOREVER PRESERVED



A SECLUDED POND TUCKED INTO THE MEADOWDALE HILLS.

With Edith's death in 1985, the remaining ranch property was passed on to their granddaughters, Candy and Toni. Later that year, the U.S. Forest Service began a 10-year attempt to turn a USFS easement through the Meadowdale property into a public-access road to USFS's Homestead Meadows southeast of Meadowdale. Those plans gave rise to a statewide effort, led by EVLT, to support Candy and Toni in halting the project. Finally, the USFS dropped their plans in exchange for a conservation easement being placed on the property.

The acquisition of the Meadowdale Conservation Easement represents one of the largest and most successful community fundraising efforts in Estes Park history.

Hundreds of people donated to help EVLT purchase the conservation easement, which Candy and Toni sold for well below the market price. Other partners and supporters include the Town of Estes Park, Larimer County, Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO), USFS, and Rocky Mountain National Park. Conservation values are exceptional as the Ranch contains a variety of ecosystems and supports bears, elk, mountain lions, and bobcats. In 1996, the Meadowdale Conservation Easement was finalized with Candy and Toni giving up all but 8 building sites (one home per 146 acres), all but one hidden from view of Highway 36. Three houses have been built.

In recent years Candy retired from a professorship at Colorado School of Mines in Golden, and she and her husband Jim Sulzbach relocated from the Denver metropolitan area to live their dream on Meadowdale Ranch. Candy and Jim are the kind of landowners we love to work with at EVLT, as they take great pride in their beautiful, natural property and are excellent stewards. We are grateful to Candy and Jim, to Toni, and to the entire Estes community for their work to ensure that residents and visitors will forever enjoy a spectacular entry to Estes Park.



CANDY SULZBACH AND DAUGHTER ERVN AMMERMAN ENJOYING THEIR FAMILY LEGACY, PRESERVED WITH THE HELP OF A CONSERVATION EASEMENT.



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Hooray for 1A!

The November elections proved that Larimer County residents love and support their open spaces! 82% of voters resoundingly voted YES for Issue 1A, a 25-year continuation of the ¼-cent Open Space tax that has funded many projects throughout Larimer County, including Hermit Park Open Space, Lily Lake, Knoll-Willows, the Lake Estes Trail, and several EVLT-protected conservation easements here in the Estes Valley. The Larimer County Open Lands Program has been a great partner over the years, and we have great optimism for the next 25 years of preservation. Thank you to all who supported Issue 1A through yard signs, campaign funds, letters of support and, most importantly, your vote. Such strong, bipartisan support of open space is a tremendous inspiration to us at EVLT – and we are thrilled!



Congrats RMNP!

EVLT joins the community and the country in celebrating the 100th birthday of Rocky Mountain National Park. Our hats off to Enos Mills and others who had to foresight to protect this national treasure... and to the many people over the years who continue to devote their lives in service to Rocky. Protection of lands that are adjacent to RMNP is one of the key tenants of EVLT's mission statement, so that we might help protect the natural areas and wildlife corridors that are so important. We are proud of the partnership that we have had with Rocky for all of these years, and look forward to the next hundred together!

EVLT OFFICERS, DIRECTORS & STAFF

PRESIDENT	Jim Broomfield
VICE PRESIDENT	Craig Axtell, Leo Weber, James White, Marsha Yelick
SECRETARY	Ken Martin
ASSISTANT SECRETARY	Alice Reuman
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ASSISTANT TREASURER	Harriette Woodard
DIRECTOR	Art French, Charlie Johnson, John Nolan, Peter Sinnott
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STEWARDSHIP COORDINATOR	Erica Goad
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