

PRESERVE: Land Trust is seeking volunteers for work parties

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“folks can expect to see weed management, old barbed wire fence removal and other debris clean up, and aspen restoration. In the longer term, we’ll assess stream restoration opportunities with our restoration partners.”

About a dozen Land Trust supporters signed up for the limited number of slots on this first-ever tour of the new preserve. Land Trust volunteer Carol Wall also treated the attendees to some of the history of the new preserve. She told the group that “When the Santiam Wagon Road was being built in the 1860s – in return for construction of the road – the company was granted three sections of land for every mile of road construction. This site was part of their holdings, which added up to a total of 861,000 acres!”

By the turn of the last century, those holdings had been somewhat reduced. “In 1911,” Wall said, “the Oregon and Western Colonization Company took over the holdings of 800,000 acres.” After World War II, the Willow Springs site was owned by a succession of families until

it found its permanent home under the stewardship of the Deschutes Land Trust.

Like much of Whychus Creek, the existing stream channel on this site no longer flows naturally, due to artificial straightening designed to reduce flooding and enhance agriculture. Zalewski explained that the straighter channel causes water to flow faster, which – in turn – seriously erodes the flood plain soils. In this case, while not as extreme as the damage at the Camp Polk site, the creek at Willow Springs is still five to 10 feet below the flood plain in some places.

The Land Trust’s nationally acclaimed reclamation project at the Camp Polk Preserve returned the stream to a more natural condition and restored the flow of Whychus Creek to its original floodplain. While the goal will be to eventually do the same at Willow Springs, Zalewski concedes that it will be several years before

that project can begin.

At this time, a similar six-phase stream rehabilitation project is already taking place downstream at the Whychus Canyon Preserve. That project is still in its early stages, so Willow Springs will have to wait its turn for major renovation. In the meantime, the Land Trust will be undertaking a series of less dramatic stewardship efforts to clean up the property and remove invasive weeds as it begins to help the land return to its natural state.

Toward that end, the Land Trust will be actively seeking volunteers to help advance the organization’s goals. “The property is not open to the public,” said Egertson, “so the best way to see it is on a free Land Trust tour or by joining one of the work parties we’ll be scheduling later this summer. For more information, we encourage folks to check out our website at deschuteslandtrust.org.”

Blind sled-dog racer plans run for congress

BEND (AP) — A legally blind woman who has competed in four of Alaska’s Iditarod sled-dog races has announced she will be running for Congress.

KTVZ-TV reports 32-year-old Democrat Rachael Scdoris-Salerno filed paperwork Monday to run for Oregon’s Second Congressional District seat.

Scdoris-Salerno plans to

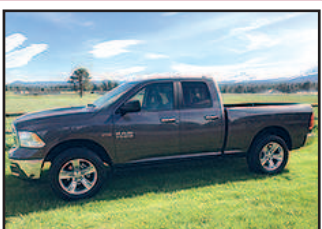
unseat incumbent Rep. Greg Walden. She says she is frustrated with politicians representing special interests.

Scdoris-Salerno was born with an uncorrectable visual disorder. She has competed in the Paralympics in tandem cycling and has worked at her father’s sled-dog ride business at Mt. Bachelor.

She bought the business from her father two years ago.

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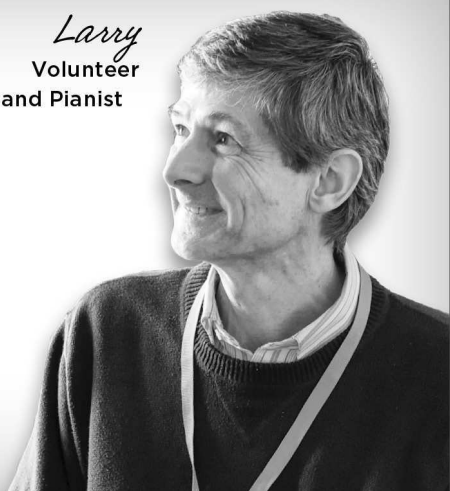
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