

■ **CHRIS BRATT TRIBUTES***Continued from page 17*

convictions and his caring nature. Our community is diminished by his absence.

Thank you, Chris, for all your efforts to preserve and maintain the unique and very special ecosystems within the Applegate watershed, specifically, and the Klamath Siskiyou region, in general.

**Paul Tipton**

It is difficult to fit so large a life into a few words. To know Chris Bratt (also known as “Chrissy” and “Tobalito”) you need to have experienced his loving, though uncompromising presence. His beliefs were based solidly on facts and grounded in his commitment to make the world a better place for all, eschewing governmental and political “mumbo jumbo.” Working together as co-chairs of Applegate Citizens Opposed to Toxic Sprays in the early 1980s, inspired by the imminent threat of helicopter spraying of herbicides on BLM land near homes and the Applegate School (and Chris’s mother Beb’s admonishment that “you should do something about that”), we appealed clear-cut timber sales that were being justified by the falsehood that the use of herbicides would somehow miraculously allow regeneration of trees within five years. Those appeals were only the beginning, but they led to a ban on herbicide use on federal lands in the West and helped create a movement toward better forestry practices and agency accountability.

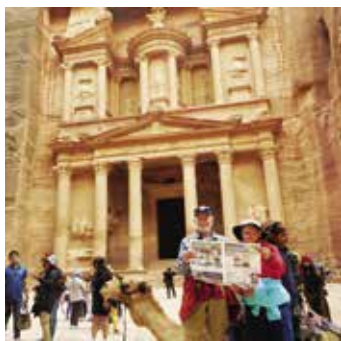
Chris’s involvement in forestry and environmental issues dominated the last 40 years of his life, though he was no slacker in championing just causes in his earlier years. Part of his legacy lies in successful organizations like Geos Institute and the Northwest Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides, where he served in many board positions and which will carry his work forward for the benefit of future generations.

A master woodworker, he also leaves a legacy of beautiful homes, remodels, additions, and creative projects where his fine work will be obvious for many years to come.

This man was generous, joyful, loving, encouraging, prone to sing you a song or give you a kiss and a hug. He was father, brother, mentor, and friend to me and many others. His love will continue to permeate the Earth. He liked to sing, “When I’m on my journey, don’t you weep after me.” That will be difficult to hold to.

Look who’s reading the Gater!

Take us with you on your next trip. Then send your favorite “Reading the Gater” photo to gater@applegater.org or mail to *Applegater*, PO Box 14, Jacksonville, OR 97530. Photos will appear as space allows.

**Photos, top row, left to right:**

—**Tom and Kathy Carstens**, while in Petra, Jordan, read up on required camel-riding lessons found on the Gater’s camelid pages.

—**Moose the Cat** responds to classified ads in the Applegater for expert mouse-hunting within one mile from his Thompson Creek home.

—**Mike and Cindy Phelps** study the wines of Châteauneuf-du-Pape, Provence, France, in the Gater’s extensive international wine section.

—**Larry and Bobbie Winters** take classes found in the Applegater on how to chill with the penguins on the Falkland Islands.

Photos, middle row, left to right:

—**Tom Schwarz and Joy LaSpina** browse the latest Gater for the top ten temples to visit in Bangkok, Thailand.

—**Jack and Marcella Lynch**, in Sydney, Australia, check the Applegater for directions to Tasmania and New Zealand, their next stops.

—**Diana Potts** finds herself in the Sahara Desert, three hours off-road from Tamegroute, Morocco, with only the Gater to guide her way home.

—**Diana Coogle** and a naked woman in the Hirschhorn Sculpture Garden in Washington, DC, discuss a perplexing article about copy editing in the Applegater.

Photos, bottom row, left to right:

—**Mike Kohn** reads the Gater’s detailed information about the curious Chihuly sculpture at the Atlanta Botanical Gardens.

—**Kathy Kliever and Jody Hill**, in Campo, CA, study the Pacific Crest Trail map in the Applegater before hiking the 109.5-mile Section A.

—**Cathy Rodgers and daughter Jenny Emick** search for their times in the Applegater after running yet another half marathon on Antarctica.

—**Dave Weber**, at home in Eugene, checks out the mountain-climbing reviews in the Gater before deciding on his next conquest.

Greeley Wells

As I contemplate this loss of Christopher Bratt, I am moved by and awakened to who he was. I had no reason, I guess, to think of this when he was still here. Somehow this missing is bringing him into focus for me.

Oh Chris, my elder, my example, my prototype of how to be and how to do. Thank you for being in my life. You led such a wonderful life, full of family and

community, craft and good deeds, poetry and meaningful commitments. Your kindness and heart, your intelligence and creativity, that pool of light you showed around you are a wonderful example for us all to bathe in. I am so grateful for your being in my life in such a wholesome way.

Jona (his wife), you are always there, too, at his side, always joyful and supportive. And you, too, are so creative and full of life, for family and poetry and joy with

community and friendship. The pair of you make a model for us all. I’m so glad you are still in our lives. And as it’s hard to imagine this world without Christopher, I’m so glad you are still in it, helping to shine his and your own lights.

Some tributes have been shortened due to space constraints. See full tributes online at applegater.org.

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