

Crested Butte Land Trust

PROTECTING & PRESERVING

natural lands, scenic vistas, wildlife habitat, trails and working ranches



CRESTED BUTTE LAND TRUST WINTER 2011 NEWSLETTER

president's LETTER



On a recent ski out the Slate River Valley, I couldn't help but reflect on winter's powerful grip on the natural world. The pristine snowy white that surrounded me was casting its Rip Van Winkle spell; the wildflowers and

marmots were tucked in, covered by nature's thick white comforter, preparing for a long sleepy break from the active summer season.

As I glided along across the Gunsight Bridge parcel with the early morning light just touching the peaks, it dawned on me that the Land Trust never gets the luxury of a deep sleep or a time out. As protectors of the land, we must be content with a cat nap here and there. For this gorgeous and incredibly diverse land that I was crossing needs constant care, and we are its stewards, for as long as my mind can hold the thought of forever.

Protecting this beautiful valley through stewardship is as important as preserving it in the first place, the two go hand in hand. So it is with all the lands in our care. To help us protect and preserve, last year CBLT embarked on a strategic planning process that we completed last November. CBLT's Strategic Plan is a very comprehensive document that outlines our goals for the next three years, and we are confident this plan will give the Land Trust the tenacity we need to accomplish our mission.

As partners in land conservation, we would love your input, thoughts, and suggestions. You can check out the Strategic Plan at www.cblandtrust.org, or feel free to give Ann a call at 970.349.1206.

This coming year promises continued land conservation projects that will help preserve and manage our magnificent surroundings forever. Your confidence and continued support inspires us to stay focused on our mission. We sincerely thank you for helping us preserve what we all hold dear in our hearts.

Keith Bauer, President

CRESTED BUTTE LAND TRUST



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Keith Bauer, President
Peter Kennel, Vice-President
Tim Mueller, Treasurer
Fred Holbrook, Secretary
Beth Appleton
David Baxter
Joe Currier
Margery Feldberg
Karen Janssen
Chuck McGinnis

STAFF

Ann Johnston, Executive Director
Kim Carroll Bosler, Development Director
Liz Vehlow, Outreach Coordinator
Chad Martens, Stewardship Coordinator
Danielle Beamer, Conservation Assistant

CONTACT

Mailing Address:
PO Box 2224
Crested Butte, CO 81224
Physical Address:
308 Third St.
Crested Butte, CO 81224
P: 970.349.1206
F: 970.349.1210
www.cblandtrust.org
director@cblandtrust.org

Cover Photographer: Xavier Fane
Editor: Ann Johnston
Associate Editor & Designer: Kim Carroll Bosler

Founded in 1991, CBLT is an IRS designated 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization committed to the protection and preservation of the Gunnison Valley's natural lands, scenic vistas, wildlife habitat, trails and working ranches. All gifts, grants and contributions are tax deductible.

*Preserving the present
for the future*

Conservation in the Classroom

As part of an ongoing effort to educate and engage local kids in land conservation, the Crested Butte Land Trust visited all four classes of kindergartners at the Crested Butte Community School this past October.

CBLT board member and educator, Karen Janssen, shared with each kindergarten class some lessons on what a land trust is and what it does to benefit the community. Most of the children were very familiar with CBLT's popular Wood Walks Trail where they reportedly, "Biked, took walks, and liked the pretty view."

Karen worked with stewardship staff to create a presentation geared for young students. "It's so important that environmental awareness begins at a young age. We live in an amazing place, and I want the kids to appreciate and

participate in caring for the natural world around us," said Karen. Her classroom presentation focused on wildlife habitat. The children learned about the different types of wildlife found on CBLT protected properties and why habitat

"It's so important that environmental awareness begins at a young age. We live in an amazing place, and I want the kids to appreciate and participate in caring for the natural world around us."

- Karen Janssen, Educator & CBLT board member

was important. Karen offered a fun learning experience by teaching through music and an interactive project. The kids learned a habitat song and were also given drawings of Paradise Divide and the Slate River Valley done by local artist, Dawn Horne. They enjoyed glueing on pictures of the resident elk, rabbits,

mice, fish, beavers and bluebirds in their respective habitats.

Karen plans to share a similar presentation this winter with the first graders, and she is working on something more advanced for the fourth grade

classes later in the school year. "Inspiring children to learn today informs the actions of tomorrow. I hope to see many of these kids become the land conservation leaders of our community's future," said CBLT's Executive Director, Ann Johnston. CBLT thanks all these enthusiastic students and their teachers.

Kindergartners at the Crested Butte Community School participated in a fun day of learning about wildlife habitat with Karen Janssen, a CBLT board member. All photos were taken by Chad Martens, Stewardship Coordinator.



cbt NEWS

CBLT Plans for the Future

To better manage our land conservation programs and projects, CBLT recently completed a comprehensive long-range planning process that resulted in the organization's first ever strategic plan. Reviewed and approved by the Board of Directors, CBLT's Strategic Plan for 2011-2013 defines the purpose of the organization and articulates our mission, our vision for the future, and the values that guide our work, while identifying a set of ambitious goals and objectives to guide CBLT's activities over the next three years. We encourage you to view the Strategic Plan in its entirety at www.cblandtrust.org, and we welcome your comments and questions.

signed by the artist. This is a 24 in. by 18 in. full color, museum-quality print suitable for framing. Posters are available at www.cblandtrust.org or at the CBLT office located at 308 Third St.

CBLT Calendars

The 2011 calendar reflects the seasonal beauty of Crested Butte's magnificent mountain setting. Powerful images by acclaimed local photographers are paired with original haikus created by Nancy Vogel's fourth grade class from the Crested Butte Community School. Calendars can be purchased online at www.cblandtrust.org, at the CBLT office located at 308 Third St. in Crested Butte, or from local retailers.

of more modest means, naming CBLT as a beneficiary in your will or trust can mean a significant gift with little cost to you, and there are substantial tax benefits. You can still leave your family and loved ones assets that carry less tax liability. Now may be the time to take action if you would like to include land conservation as part of your legacy. We're here to help you explore the options. Please contact Kim for more information, without obligation. All consultations are confidential. You can call 970.349.1206 or email development@cblandtrust.org.

Thanks from Supporters

"Hi CB Land Trust. We had a chance to get back to CB this summer. Got in a ride on the Lower Loop- out past our wedding site (Woods Walk) and hit up the new Budd Trail. An awesome effort for one day's work! Thanks for what you do."

Jason and Emily, Seattle, WA

"I just read your Strategic Plan and Goals a couple of times and found them very impressive and comprehensive. Living as I do in a community whose leaders value development over preservation, it makes me sad for our lost opportunities in Colorado Springs... I'm amazed at what you've accomplished in the little time I have been associated with CBLT- a very rich and personally rewarding experience."

Bob, Colorado Springs, CO



CRESTED BUTTE LAND TRUST

Shaun Horne Posters

CBLT thanks local plein-air artist, Shaun Horne, for generously donating the image from one of his original oil paintings for use as a print to benefit CBLT. This landscape print depicts summer in the Slate River Valley with a view of Paradise Divide, and a limited number has been

A Lasting Gift

By remembering the Crested Butte Land Trust in your will, you can make a lasting gift without affecting your current financial security and freedom. Some of the most meaningful gifts that CBLT receives come from the estates of regular contributors. Whether you are wealthy or

CBLT Wish List

- Two ARC GPS Units & Software- \$1000
- Chainsaw- \$400
- 4-Drawer Legal Size Filing Cabinet- \$450
- Dell Computer & Monitor- \$1000
- 3 Shelves Bookcase- \$25

To donate any of the above items or contribute to their purchase please call Liz at 970.349.1206. Thank you!

cbt MISSION

To forever protect and steward open lands for vistas, recreation, wildlife and ranching, thus contributing to Gunnison County's unique heritage and quality of life.



Photo by www.XavierFane.com

cbllt EVENTS

Adventure Auction and Gourmet Dinner, March 18

Join us on Friday, March 18 for CBLT's 10th annual Adventure Auction and Gourmet Dinner. A live and a silent auction will entice you to bid on surfing, skiing, flyfishing and culinary adventures, as well as trips to exotic locales, original artwork, wine and outdoor gear. Support the worthwhile cause of local land conservation while enjoying an entertaining evening.

Caddis Cup Fly Fishing Tournament, July 14-15

Save the date for the Caddis Cup Fly Fishing Tournament slated for July 14-15, 2011. Whether you're an experienced angler or relatively new to fly fishing, this small and non-competitive tournament is an unforgettable fishing experience in a spectacular mountain setting. Participants are paired with knowledgeable local



Photo by Chad Martens

guides and have access to some of the best water in the valley. A casual dinner at the beautiful Cement Creek Ranch

kicks off the event, and the tournament concludes with an awards celebration.

Wine and Food Festival, July 21-24

One of the premier events of the summer, the 4th annual Crested Butte Land Trust Wine and Food Festival will offer over 400 wines and an array of culinary delights. A portion of the proceeds from the festival's signature event, the Grand Tasting, will benefit CBLT. Please join us July 21-24 to sip and savor the season.

For more information or to reserve tickets to any of CBLT's fantastic events, please call Liz at 970.349.1206 or send a message to events@cblandtrust.org. Event proceeds directly benefit the ongoing efforts of CBLT to protect and preserve the rugged beauty of the Gunnison Valley.

Saving the Slate River Valley

Starting with our very first project back in 1992, the Crested Butte Land Trust has permanently preserved more than 1,200 acres of environmentally significant and incredibly scenic land in the Slate River Valley. These protected lands provide habitat for diverse plant and animal species and maintain inspirational views, while offering a multitude of year-round recreational opportunities.

Because of the Slate River Valley's easy accessibility from the towns of both Crested Butte and Mt. Crested Butte, CBLT has worked to provide miles of trails for residents and visitors to enjoy. The Lower Loop, Woods Walk, the Budd Trail and the new KB Connector encourage people of all ages and abilities to get out and experience nature while hiking, biking, snowshoeing and Nordic skiing.

While we celebrate our past achievements, there is still much work to do. Highly visible and strategically located open space- considered by many people to be public land- is actually privately owned land that could be developed. CBLT is committed to preserving additional acres of land before it's too late. The *Campaign for Saving the Slate River Valley* is a \$250,000 effort to dramatically

increase protected acreage in the valley and to address the long-term care and management of those conserved lands.

The cornerstone of the campaign is the Kochevar parcel, which will add 384 acres to existing protected lands in the Slate River Valley. Representing one of the largest conservation transactions

Whether you're focused on the magnificent view of Paradise Divide or the miles of single track, it's support from people like you that ensures the permanent protection of key acreage in the Slate River Valley.

in Crested Butte's history, protection of the Kochevar parcel is made possible through the collaborative efforts of CBLT, the Kochevar family, the Trust for Public Land and the Town of Crested Butte. The Kochevar parcel is contingent to the Slate River Trailhead, buffers National Forest and is part of an elk migration corridor. Additionally, this property will enable CBLT and the Town of Crested Butte to provide new recreational amenities. Join us when we break ground on new trails in June 2011.

Because CBLT protects lands in perpetuity, the *Campaign for Saving the Slate River Valley* also includes a number of stewardship projects to maintain the

conservation values of all protected acreage. Maintenance and repair of the Gunsight Bridge is one example, as well as a project to reclaim the wetlands just north of the Gunsight Bridge from the degrading impacts of historic mining operations in the Smith Hill area. In addition, CBLT has filed a Statement of

Opposition in water court against U.S. Energy's conditional water rights. CBLT is dedicated to maintaining the quality and quantity of water in the Slate River as part of our ongoing stewardship obligation.

Whether you're focused on the magnificent view of Paradise Divide or the miles of single track, it's support from people like you that ensures the permanent protection of key acreage in the Slate River Valley. Your tax deductible donation benefits the entire community, now and for future generations. Please join us and give generously. Donations can be made at www.cblandtrust.org or checks can be mailed to CBLT, P.O. Box 2224, Crested Butte, CO 81224.





Photo by Kurt Reise

conservation UPDATES

New Mike's Mile Trail

Mike's Mile is named in honor of Mike Martin, a Crested Butte local who was passionate about outdoor recreation. Extending the Lower Loop trail system, this unique three-season trail crosses the Slate River as it follows the old rail grade out to CBLT's Gunsight bridge parcel. It's being groomed and maintained for classic and skate skiing by the Crested Butte Nordic Council this winter season. Skiers and their dogs can continue on Mike's Mile from the Pooch's Paradise trail. Dogs need a Nordic Pass, available free of charge from the Nordic Center.

New Fencing Curbs Erosion at the Confluence Parcel

CBLT completed a reclamation project last summer at the confluence of Coal Creek and the Slate River. The creek had widened due to the loss of beaver dams, which were washed out during exceptionally high water back in 2008. Additionally, the riparian vegetation, primarily willows, had been hedged or mushroomed, meaning the tops and lower branches had been eaten. This widening creek has increased the sediment load and also may allow an increase in stream temperature as the water level decreases. This area was ideal

for restoration because the impacts could be easily remedied. CBLT stewardship staff partnered with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to erect a wildlife friendly fence on the southwestern portion of the Land Trust's Confluence parcel. The remainder of the property will continue to provide scenic open space and support historic grazing practices.

Weed Eradication and Management

Throughout summer and fall, stewardship staff worked with a dedicated group of volunteers to address the problem

of noxious weeds on CBLT protected properties. Stewardship staff annually monitors, evaluates and maps all CBLT lands, including weed detection. Volunteers spent much of their time pulling noxious weeds by hand to stop these non-native plants from invading and taking over native wildflowers and other vegetation. CBLT also collaborated with neighboring landowners to control the spread of weeds beyond property lines. CBLT is committed to maintaining the conservation values and ecological integrity of all the properties we steward.

Conservation Tax Credit News

The highly successful conservation easement tax credit program, in place since 2000, has resulted in the protection of distinctive conservation lands in Colorado worth an estimated \$400 million. This year, HB10-1197 was passed by the General Assembly and signed into law by Governor Ritter. Changes to the program, beginning in 2011, will include a cap on the tax credit of \$26 million a year, or \$78 million for the three year duration of the cap. Tax credit certificates will be administered by the Colorado Division of Real Estate. Landowners wishing to consider conservation easements are advised to start the process early this year. CBLT is proud to be a licensed land trust in accordance with CO HB08-1353. For more information on the Conservation Tax Credit, please contact Ann Johnston at director@cblandtrust.org.



Photo by Chad Martens



Photo by Chad Martens



CRESTED BUTTE LAND TRUST
PO Box 2224
Crested Butte, CO 81224

NONPROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO. 27
CRESTED BUTTE, CO
81224

The Norman Award CBLT Honors Volunteer of the Year

Fred Koval is the recipient of this year's prestigious Norman Award, which honors the Crested Butte Land Trust Volunteer of the Year.

The Norman Award is given annually to a CBLT volunteer for their commitment towards the preservation of the Gunnison Valley. "It's important for me to be involved in organizations that share my values; the love of the land and the community. That's why I feel so strongly about supporting the Crested Butte Land Trust. It means a lot to me when I can support CBLT with my time and energy," said Fred.

Fred first visited the valley in the late 1970's, and built a home in Skyland. In addition to working as a tennis instructor, Fred volunteered numerous hours assisting the Land Trust with events throughout last winter and summer.

Last fall, Fred and his wife, Robin, moved to Essex, Massachusetts to pursue teaching opportunities. Even so, Fred explained that the couple and their sons continue to "call Crested Butte our home. It is the land and the community for us." The Kovals will spend as much time as possible back in the valley each summer, and plan to return full-time when their sons begin college. An avid trail user and



Fred Koval with CBLT's Outreach Coordinator, Liz Vehlom.

conservationist, Fred describes Paradise Divide in the autumn- with a dusting of snow on the mountains, golden aspens and the river gurgling- as pure heaven. He added, "The Lower Loop is my favorite trail. It's always the first ride I do when I return to Town."

The Norman Award is named for Norman Bardeen, who founded CBLT in 1991 and served on the organization's original Board of Directors. Bardeen continues his volunteer service today as

a member of the Independent Board Member Review Committee.

Koval's contributions will be recognized at the annual It's About the Land Party. The celebration will be held January 18, 2011 at the yurt, out in Magic Meadows. The yurt is maintained by the Crested Butte Nordic Council and is accessed using skis or snowshoes. CBLT thanks each and every one of our volunteers, and we offer ongoing ways to make a difference.

www.cblandtrust.org

VISIT CBLT ONLINE FOR PROJECT UPDATES, AN EVENTS CALENDAR, TO VOLUNTEER, OR TO MAKE A DONATION

Photo by Chad Mertens