



Protecting Special Lands in Western Oregon

# CURRENTS

Summer 2011

## Easement Preserves 62 Acres in Long Tom Watershed

CONSERVATION AND FARMING COEXIST ON FERGUSON CREEK PROPERTY

When Trey and Tammie Hagen spotted the For Sale sign in front of the farm that would soon become their home, something clicked. “We had to do it,” said Trey Hagen, relishing the memory of the moment they decided to purchase the scenic 238-acre property. Hagen had grown up just half a mile away. After spending many years traveling throughout the US and abroad, buying this piece of land along Ferguson Creek in the Long Tom Watershed was a homecoming.

“I’ve always felt Ferguson Creek was really special,” said Hagen, who still has family that lives close by. “When I was a kid, this creek was our entertainment. We would spend our afternoons fishing, building miniature dams, and finding the best swimming holes. Now my son Cormac will have that opportunity, too,” Hagen said.

The creek the Hagen family loves will be preserved for future generations thanks to an agreement with the McKenzie River Trust.

MRT’s newest conservation easement protects 62 acres of vital habitat for fish and wildlife on the Hagen property. The property contains diverse native forests and emergent wetlands. This habitat may benefit declining species including greater sandhill crane, western bluebird, pileated woodpecker, northwestern pond turtle, red-legged frog, and western brook lamprey, all considered species of concern by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. The land is also within the Pacific Flyway, one of several major routes across North America for migrating waterfowl. Funding for the easement was provided by the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA), a grant



The Hagen family on their property southwest of Monroe.

program operated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Since 2007, MRT has protected five other properties in the Willamette Valley using NAWCA funds.

The Long Tom Watershed Council (LTWC) is a key partner for the project, providing technical assistance and funding for research and long-term restoration.

“This project is a great example of how the watershed council and land trust can offer services to meet landowner goals for their property,” said Dana Dedrick, Watershed Coordinator for the Long Tom Watershed Council.

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Landowner Tammie Hagen carries her 4-year old son Cormac on a walk through a meadow on their property. The conservation easement there protects more than one and a half miles of Ferguson Creek, habitat for many species of birds, fish and reptiles.



## Local Brewers Value Clean Water

Oakshire Brewery is honoring EWEB's centennial year of service and commitment to clean drinking water by brewing three small-batch beers. Profits from the sale of the beers will go to the Berggren Watershed Conservation Area!

- July: Green Power Pale Ale
- September: Land Trust Lager
- November: Skookumchuck Wild Ale

## Help Protect Eight Different Watersheds in Western Oregon!



MELANIE KNAPP

Your ongoing support directly affects our conservation efforts on the Mainstem, Coast Fork and Middle Fork of the Willamette, the Long Tom, Umpqua, Siuslaw and other coastal rivers and estuaries and our namesake, the McKenzie River. Your gift ensures the natural lands that surround us are preserved forever.

**To donate, please visit [mckenzieriver.org](http://mckenzieriver.org) or use the envelope provided.**

*Thank you!*

# Get Involved With Our Upcoming Events



BRANDI FERGUSON

## Eugene Celebration Parade Saturday, August 27th at 10 a.m.

This year the McKenzie River Trust will join our local partner Watershed Councils to march in the parade. Contact Liz (llawrence@mckenzieriver.org) to walk with us!

## Bird Tour of Berggren Watershed Conservation Area Saturday, September 17th 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

MRT Board member and avid birder Margie Paris will lead this tour of our 92-acre property on the Lower McKenzie River. Bring your binoculars! Sign up online: [mckenzieriver.org/events](http://mckenzieriver.org/events)



MATT STANSBERRY

## McKenzie River Two-Fly Tournament Saturday, September 24th

The fourth annual Two-Fly fundraising event is organized by the Caddis Fly Angling Shop and Trout Unlimited with proceeds benefitting MRT. Contact the Caddis Fly at 541-342-7005 to participate.

## National Estuaries Day Saturday, September 24th

National Estuaries Day is an annual celebration of the vibrant coastal areas where rivers meet the sea: estuaries. Visit [estuaries.gov](http://estuaries.gov) to learn more about these magical ecosystems and how you can get involved.



T. GIRAUDIER

## Natural History Tour of Berggren Watershed Conservation Area Sunday, October 2nd, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Visit the McKenzie River Trust's 92-acre property on the Lower McKenzie River with ornithologist Dan Gleason. Tour the property and learn more about habitat restoration, plants and animals – especially birds – that make their homes here. Sign up online: [mckenzieriver.org/events](http://mckenzieriver.org/events)

## Mount Pisgah Mushroom Festival Sunday, October 30th, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Visit MRT staff and Board members at our booth!

## Easement Preserves 62 Acres in Long Tom Watershed *continued from page 1*

The Ferguson Creek property is very scenic, offering a glimpse of what homesteads looked like in the early settlement days of the Willamette Valley. Along with an intact, meandering stream, the property also contains hay fields and Confluence Farms, a three acre transitional organic blueberry farm operated by the Hagens.

“Farming and conservation have both been part of our plans for this property since we bought it,” said Trey Hagen.

“Active farming and habitat conservation are sometimes posed as opposite sides of a spectrum of land use. Today, property owners like us who consider land management practices for the long haul see conservation and farming coexisting and proving beneficial to each other.”

**For more information about how you can conserve your land, visit our website at [mckenzieriver.org](http://mckenzieriver.org) or call us at 541-345-2799.**

# Staff and Board Update



## Jim Pendergrass, *Board member*

Jim retired from Wells Fargo Bank after serving as Greater Oregon Regional President for a number of years. He has a B.A in Anthropology from Stanford University. A native Oregonian, he is also a board member of the Long Tom Watershed Council and the Network of Oregon Watershed Councils in addition to volunteering as a diver at the Oregon Coast Aquarium.

He and his wife Christine also work as scientific divers supporting salt water and fresh water research projects for the USFS, ODFW and other agencies in the northwest. Jim plays ice hockey in the local adult league and enjoys birding, skiing, hiking and traveling with his wife in his spare time. They live on a small farm west of Cheshire where they have a large garden and raise sheep.



## Margie Paris, *Board member*

Margie is a faculty member at the University of Oregon School of Law, where she teaches and writes about criminal law and criminal procedure. She also served as the law school's dean for five years. Born and raised in Chicago, she earned her bachelor's and law degrees from Northwestern University. She was a criminal defense lawyer in Chicago for a number of years before moving to Eugene in 1992 with her husband and two

children. Her membership on the MRT Board enables her to draw both on her legal expertise and on her passion for the natural world. She has been an avid birder since childhood and spends her free time birding, hiking, and biking.



## Stephanie Detwiler, *Controller*

MRT welcomes Stephanie in the newly created position of Controller. She will administer the daily financial functions of the Trust and help guide the organization's long term financial health. Stephanie comes to us with more than twenty years experience in non-profit management accounting. She has served as the Director of Administration and Finance for Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics since 1998. When not at work she enjoys gardening, music and volunteering.



## Melanie Knapp, *Conservation Planning Associate*

We bid a fond farewell to Melanie as she completes her year of service as a RARE participant with MRT. Melanie has done an exceptional job keeping MRT abreast of developments with the Farm Partnership at the Berggren Watershed Conservation Area while developing the management plan for the property. She will return to the UO this fall to complete her dual Masters degrees in Environmental Studies and Conflict Resolution.

We will miss her good humor and thoughtful attention to detail, as well as her stories from weekends climbing at Smith Rock. We wish Melanie well in all her future endeavors, big and small!

## Work at Berggren Watershed Conservation Area is Gearing Up!

Over the past year, we've been getting down and dirty with all 92 acres of the Lower McKenzie property - studying vegetation and wildlife, monitoring the extensive side channels, and planning for upcoming restoration. Bleeding Heart and Camas put on a show blooming earlier this summer. Recent wildlife sightings

include a river otter, Yellow-Breasted Chat, and Northern red-legged frogs.

Our partners at Cascade Pacific Resource Conservation & Development are gearing up, too, with the hire of their first employee for the Berggren Demonstration Farm – the Farm Coordinator.

**Come see for yourself just how special this protected property is on one of our upcoming tours this fall! Sign up at [mckenzieriver.org/events](http://mckenzieriver.org/events).**

## Board of Directors

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Beaver dam at Berggren Watershed Conservation Area.



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Pacific chorus frog



## OUR MISSION

T. GIRAUDIER

*The McKenzie River Trust protects and cares for special lands and the rivers that flow through them in western Oregon.*



Big leaf maple

T. GIRAUDIER

## RAPID NEWS

- MRT recently protected a property with a working blueberry farm.
- Total number of properties protected by MRT: 36.
- Total acres protected: 3,300 – that’s more than eight times the size of Alton Baker Park!
- Total number of bird species observed on Green Island, our largest protected property: 156.



RAPTORIEWS BY PHILIP BANILES

*The Willamette River continues to meander at Green Island.*



Rufus hummingbird

T. GIRAUDIER