

CURRENTS

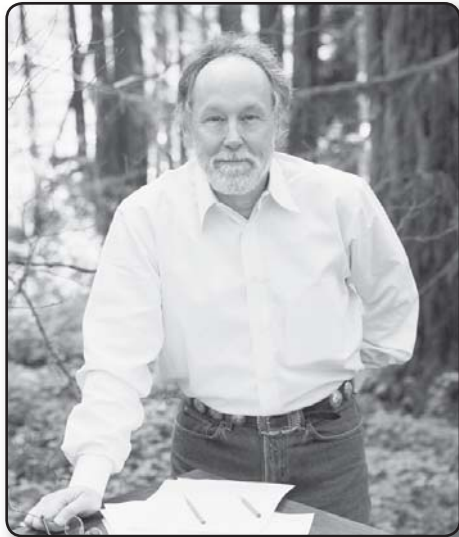


McKenzie River Trust

Summer 2009

A Magical Evening with Barry Lopez

By Rick McMonagle



Barry Lopez

Photo by David Liittschwager

It was a full moon night, the rain finally broke, and sun beams and crowds streamed into the Hult Center in Eugene on Friday May 8. The atmosphere was clearly advantageous to hear from Barry Lopez, one of America's most gifted writers, in a benefit appearance to celebrate the twentieth anniversary of the McKenzie River Trust.

People came from Portland, the coast, McKenzie Bridge, Santa Fe, northern California and points unknown to be with us that night to help celebrate our first two decades of protecting special places in Lane and Douglas counties. We had our four past Board presidents and current Board of Directors, staff, family, friends, funders, students, a metro bus driver, business owners, a congressman, writers, conservationists, and a potpourri of others. The combination of hearing from Barry Lopez and the chance to partake in the festivities of the occasion was an irresistible draw.

Magical is a powerful and often overused word to describe an unexpected or unusual convergence of conditions to create a WOW moment that sticks with us, sometimes for an entire lifetime. However, many people used that term to describe their feelings and the mood created by Lopez's stirring presentation that eventful night. His spoken words affected us all in a very dynamic way.

Barry Lopez is, of course, a master writer, and has won numerous awards and recognition to prove it. Most everyone there was an avid fan of his work and wouldn't have missed this rare opportunity to hear what he had to say about nature and community on the McKenzie River. He has traveled the world, encountered unique cultures and critters, rubbed elbows with world leaders and movie stars, but just like the salmon, he always came back to his home of 35 years on the McKenzie. This is his where he writes, (Continued on page 3)

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President's Message

By Roger Robb

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*Building a legacy
of local protected
natural lands*

As I begin my term as board president of the McKenzie River Trust, I would first like to thank Rolf Anderson for his past three years of inspirational and firm leadership and his commitment and dedication to the Trust. Rolf spent a good deal of time with me over the past year sharing his experience and wisdom on the history and philosophy of the Trust. Thank you, Rolf, for your leadership, service and friendship and I look forward to working with you for many years on the board of directors.

As many of you know this year marks the 20th anniversary of the McKenzie River Trust. In this issue of *Currents* you will find a photo of four past board presidents of the Trust. These were dedicated volunteers who provided leadership and passion to fulfill the mission and goals of the Trust through a major commitment of their time and energy. These former leaders grew the Trust into an organization that has protected over 2,600 acres of lands, not only in the McKenzie River valley where we began our work 20 years ago, but also in the Willamette, Umpqua, Long Tom and Siuslaw watersheds. They developed the organization from an all volunteer board managed trust to one that is staffed with skilled conservation professionals.

This past May we celebrated our 20th anniversary by presenting *An Evening with Barry Lopez—Nature and Community on the McKenzie River*, at the Hult Center for the Performing Arts. Barry, an acclaimed writer and long-time McKenzie River valley resident, mesmerized the audience with his musings and stories about land and community and the need for all of us – conservationists, landowners, the business community, farmers and politicians – to work together to protect and restore the special lands that make Oregon a unique place to live and work. I, for one and I believe many in the audience, left the performance with a renewed dedication to continue the work of the Trust.

Looking forward into the remainder of 2009, the Trust is fully engaged in working with landowners to protect new properties and expects to close several of these projects before the end of the year. And, we continue our major restoration project on Green Island with tree plantings, levee removals and other activities as well as restoration work on our other owned properties.

As I look back on the past success and future opportunities for the McKenzie River Trust, I am honored, privileged and a bit humbled to continue the leadership tradition of this dedicated organization and will do my utmost to ensure that we continue our focus on protecting the wonderful places where we live, work and play. I would like to thank all of you for your generous support of time, energy and gifts and hope to see you at one of our events later this year.

We Need Your Input

The McKenzie River Trust is pleased to announce it is applying for accreditation under the Land Trust Accreditation Commission, an independent program of the Land Trust Alliance. The land trust accreditation program is conducting a review to ensure the Trust is working efficiently and ethically to preserve and protect special lands. You can help with that effort by sending comments to the Commission on how the McKenzie River Trust complies with national quality standards. For the full list of standards, please see the following web link: www.landtrustaccreditation.org/getting-accredited/2008-indicatorpractices.

Comments may also be faxed or mailed to the Land Trust Accreditation Commission, Attn: Public Comments: (fax) 518-587-3183; (mail) 112 Spring Street, Suite 204, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866. Comments on the McKenzie River Trust's application will be most useful by August 31, 2009.

Staff News



Good Luck, Amanda

Along with the three other new staff, Amanda Atkins was a member of the class of June 2008. As our Operations Manager, she helped to streamline our sometimes complicated financial systems. She skillfully organized events, helped to get our “float” off the ground for the Eugene Celebration, planned field trips, outdoor events and staff socials. Her passion remains in environmental education and you’ll be sure to find her showing some lucky kids the wonders of local bug life. We know her new river raft will also keep her in touch with the blue McKenzie and other local waters. We wish her the best and hope she continues her legacy of volunteering for the Trust.

Welcome, Brandi Ferguson

Brandi recently joined the McKenzie River Trust as Operations Manager after working for the past seven years

as the Administration and Research Manager for an airport consulting group. Brandi is a committed volunteer for the City of Eugene Stream Team and a trained Tree Steward. Through her volunteer work she discovered her passion for habitat restoration and adopted



Awbrey Park, through the City of Eugene’s Adopt a Park Program. At the park she has organized volunteer work parties and elementary school field trips to help remove invasive non-native plants and plant native plants. Working for the McKenzie River Trust has given her the opportunity to combine her professional administrative background and volunteer experience to help support an organization that does work she is passionate about. Beyond her work at the Trust, Brandi enjoys cycling, yoga, and photography, is an aspiring oil painter and loves exploring the outdoors with her two sons, Ethan and Jack.

A Magical Evening with Barry Lopez (continued)

(Continued from page 1) creating those worlds of words that move us to laughter and tears and wonder. He draws his inspiration from that place and from that special river that flows by.

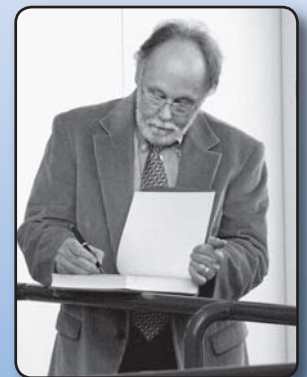
We often think about the many gifts of the McKenzie River--cold, clean drinking water, fabulous fish and wildlife habitat, a place to go for fun, fishing and recreation and as a diamond blue source of hope and inspiration. It connects us to the deep snows of the Cascades and the boundless shores of the Pacific. We are all truly blessed to be living with this river in our midst.

Magically, the great McKenzie has given us Barry Lopez. While he was not born on its banks or floated down it as

a babe in a reed basket, he has lived with the river for over half of his life. He made a conscious decision to be a part of its waters, draw his visions from its many changes and make our community his treasured home. If it wasn’t for the McKenzie, Barry Lopez wouldn’t have written *River Notes* and numerous other works. In many ways, the McKenzie has birthed this great writer and he in turn, has become another one of the river’s many gifts to us.

We are very grateful for all of the time, energy, work and passion that Barry Lopez contributed to make the night of May 8th a huge success. We are also wish to thank the many individuals, our underwriters, CDI Vaults and EWEB, and everyone else who made this 20th anniversary celebration a night to remember.

An Evening with Barry Lopez



Trust Events

Volunteers and Trust Outings



Well-Planned Giving

By Rick McMonagle

Donors to non-profit organizations come in all shapes, sizes, and backgrounds. They are motivated to give to the charity of their choice by an equally diverse set of reasons. Financial support for community organizations ranges from the pennies collected by elementary school kids to millions of dollars flowing from a substantial estate. We are all givers at some level, be it with our time, energy or dollars—it's just part of who we are.

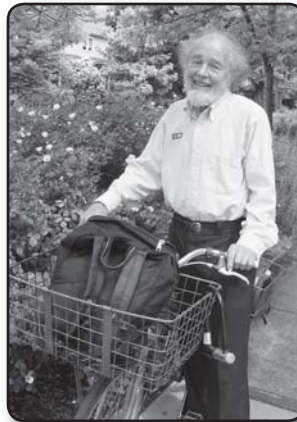
In some ways, long-time Eugene resident Gerald Morsello is a typical generous soul who gives to the causes he believes in. With a closer look, however, Gerald is someone who gives very generously from a modest income and lifestyle. His story, vision and methods of caring for the citizens and special places in and around Eugene is inspiring. We may all learn from the way he has merged his values and lifestyle with his personal philanthropy, with the result being that many people in our community are much better off.

Gerald is a driver for the Lane Transit District, and many of you would recognize his smiling face as he drives you to and from work, school, or play. He's lived in Eugene since 1974, and when he arrived here he wasn't aware of the work of local non-profit organizations. Since that time, he has grown to know and support many of the groups that have become a part of the fabric of our southern Willamette Valley community.

In the 1980's Gerald made a conscious decision to give up his car and use his bicycle and public transportation. For him, not having a car is not a sacrifice, it was a "most natural thing to do." One amazing outcome of his choice is that he's saved thousands of dollars in automobile expenses over the years. And, guess what? He's used that money, along with his modest salary, to make donations to his favorite local charities

to the tune of about \$10,000 per year! That is an admirable direction of personal income to the common good.

Part of Gerald's charitable giving philosophy is to donate "whenever you can!" He doesn't think of his donations as anything special, and he feels that if you see a need and you can help, by all means just do it. He feels that non-profit organizations play a vital role in our society, they are "necessary," and "they do things that just don't get done otherwise." When he first started donating to non-profit groups here, he gave modest amounts to about 15 organizations a year. Today, he gives to fewer groups but in larger amounts because he wants his giving to have a greater impact.



Recently Gerald made donations to local charities, including the McKenzie River Trust, by using funds from his individual retirement accounts (IRA). Since he is over 70.5 years of age, he and anyone else can take tax-free withdrawals from an IRA, provided they use those funds as donations to qualified charitable organizations. This is an effective strategy that can significantly benefit both the donor and the charity.

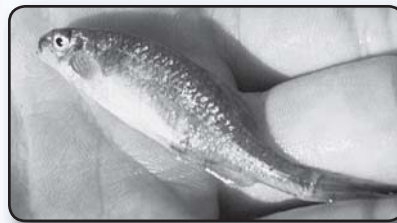
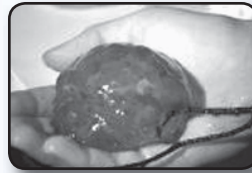
Gerald is a supporter of the McKenzie River Trust for several reasons. First, he got to know some of our staff, in particular Mike Running, who was a Managing Director through 2004. As Gerald learned more about the Trust, he realized that our work fits his values, and he trusted that we would use his donations where they were needed the most. He also feels that if we don't protect special lands now, "it will be harder in the future."

We thought that communicating Gerald's story and ways of charitable giving would show that anyone, even those of modest means, can have a profound and positive impact on the community in which they live. Thank you, Gerald, both for your support of the Trust and for making Eugene a better place.

Frogs, Fish and More on Trust Lands

Jodi Lemmer - Land Steward

We recently completed our spring amphibian and Oregon chub inventories on the McKenzie River Trust's owned properties. The news is good! New populations of Oregon chub continue to be found and large numbers of egg masses from native amphibians abound. We believe our ongoing protection, strong partnerships, and good stewardship have played a role in the continuing health of these species on our protected lands. Our Oregon chub population inventories, initiated in 2001, continue to occur due to the strong partnership and generous support of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW).



and Rough skinned newts (*Taricha granulosa*). The ODFW inventories on Green Island and Big Island found new populations of Oregon chub. This discovery of new distributions of the fish, greater distances off the mainstem McKenzie into the smaller creeks and sloughs, continue to amaze and delight us. Sloughs, side channels and active beaver ponds, cold water hyporheic zones, and large wood and emergent native vegetation all combine to make these islands, creeks, and back water habitats attractive and suitable places for freshwater fish and amphibians.

All the news is not good, however. Populations of Bull frogs and non-native warm water fishes continue to be found on Trust properties. These species have played a part in the decline of our native fish and amphibian populations while regional changes in land use continues to impact the floodplain, create warmer water, and diminish habitats suitable for natives. The

Green Island, Big Island and the McKenzie Oxbow all have populations of Red legged frogs (*Rana aurora*), Northwestern Salamanders (*Ambystoma gracile*),

Trust's protection, enhancement and stewardship of floodplain habitats are helping to offset those negative trends.

Rapid News

- The Trust netted over \$11,000 at the Barry Lopez benefit event at the Hult Center.
- The number of egg masses of the species surveyed on all of the Trust islands in the March 2009 inventories are: Red legged frogs 40, Northwestern Salamanders 171 and Rough skinned newts 2 (plus five adults).
- We thank Gervais Salon/Day Spa for a generous donation and the 5th Street Public Market in Eugene for hosting us at their Earth Day celebration event.

- Appreciation goes to Clancey Printing, Kelley Coplin, Skip Cosper, Laurie Gerloff, Lori Howard, KLCC, Literary Arts, Poppy Lochridge, J. Michaels Books, and a host of others for their help and generosity for the Barry Lopez Event.
- Kudos to Kit Larsen and Roger Robb for leading more bird walks on Green Island this spring.
- What has an armadillo-like body, seven pairs of legs interspersed with gills and often swims upside down in swarms totaling thousands? They're scuds and they are distant cousins of shrimp, crawfish and sowbugs.

Their pods can be as dense as 10,000 per square yard and a single mating pair can produce more than 20,000 offspring a year!

- The Pension Protection Act has been extended through 2009! If you are 70.5 or older, this law allows you to make tax-free gifts to the McKenzie River Trust from your Individual Retirement Account (IRA). Contact Rick McMonagle at 541-345-2799 today to learn how you can take advantage of this opportunity to help us protect the special lands of Lane and Douglas counties.
- The 153rd bird species found on Green Island, a Western bluebird, was recorded this Spring.

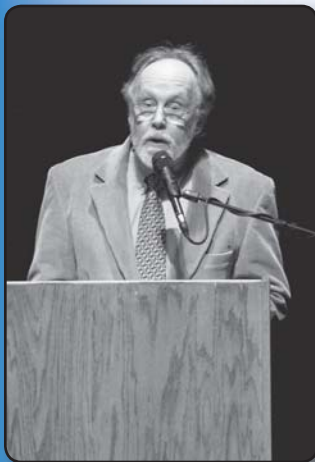


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Summer 2009 Events

- **Ten Mile Creek/Cape Perpetua Scenic Area hike**, Saturday, June 27, register with Margot Fetz at (687-0733) or margotf39@hotmail.com or visit www.obsidians.org.
- **KLCC Garden Tour**, Sunday, June 28, 9-5 p.m.
- **McKenzie River Cleanup**, Saturday, July 11, 9-Noon, 541-896-3817.
- **Eugene Celebration Parade**, Saturday, September 5.
- Check out our website (www.mckenzieriver.org) for new events.



“**M**y purpose here tonight has been to honor the vision of the McKenzie River Trust; to suggest that, by my lights, their work represents an act of citizenship; to thank you in the audience for your contributions tonight to their cause; and to ask you, collectively and individually, to take a hand in what they are trying to do, to be a part of the discovery they have embarked on. We have a great deal more lead time here than many other American communities, and what this Trust and other trusts are doing in the United States is worthy. It’s pioneering and courageous and difficult and risky. It’s the kind of work that engages both the hand and the mind, and, if you wish, the heart and the soul. It sends you to bed with a sense of having done something good and right.”

Barry Lopez
May 8, 2009