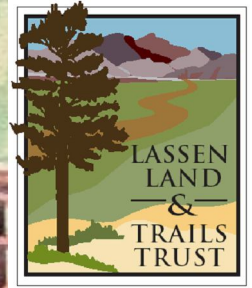


# LLTT Newsletter

Quarterly Newsletter of Lassen Land and Trails Trust



December 2008  
Volume 2008, Issue 4

## Mission Statement:

The mission of Lassen Land and Trails Trust is to conserve significant natural areas and agricultural landscapes and to promote and enhance a public trail system throughout Lassen County.

## Staff:

### Matthew Sayles

Executive Director

### Connie Stone

Project Specialist

### David Sowers

Depot Manager

### Leah Larsen

Lands Manager

### Bill Faatz

Volunteer LCCA Preserve Manager

## Board Officers:

President - Helen Leve

V. President - Frank Hall

Secretary - Nancy Murray

Treasurer - Phil Nemir

## Board of Directors:

Jerry Douglass

Jonelle Kanavel

Rod Latimer

Zellamae Miles

Pat Martinez

Michael McCue

Liz Norton

Judy Oliver

Jeff Warren

## Board Advisors:

Stan Bales, BLM

Carol Curry, CPA

Bridge #9, Bizz Johnson Trail, Sally Posner

## LLTT Members:

Happy Holidays! The picture above might look familiar to many of you, as it is Sally Posner's rendition of the re-built Bridge #9 on the Bizz Johnson Trail. It is also the primary focus of the LLTT Trails Endowment Fund, which was started by our 2007 Volunteer of the year, Linda Hansen. As 2008 draws to a close, we're offering LLTT Members & the public some great holiday gift-giving opportunities that will benefit the Endowment Fund, as well as our efforts to rebuild the Bridge #9.

Inside this newsletter you'll find a list of gifts that you'll receive for a year-end donation to the Trails Endowment Fund (keep in mind, this is separate from our annual "un-dinner" and regular membership dues). We're offering a limited # of gifts for donations ranging as low as \$20, to as high as \$150 .

We're very excited that one of these gifts is a live CD from Bridgefest Music Festival, featuring performances from the myriad of musicians that performed this past summer. If you didn't make the festival, this is a great opportunity to hear what you missed, and still help out LLTT and the Trails Endowment Fund.

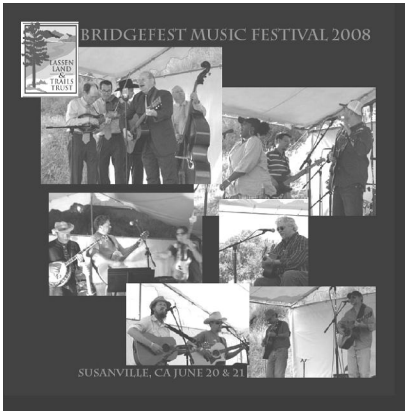
Aside from these great year end opportunities, LLTT has been very busy with new staff additions (more inside), office re-structuring, and our ever increasing conservation and trail projects. Looking to 2009, you'll see LLTT focusing on connecting the Modoc Line to the Bizz Johnson (which would provide almost 150 miles of rail-to-trail in NE California!), completing the first steps in the long-awaited Bizz Johnson Loop Trail, our continuing work on several important ongoing conservation projects, and all of the same great annual events you've come to expect from LLTT.

Thanks again to the staff, the Board of Directors, and of course YOU, our members who have kept us focused on our mission for over 20 years. I'm thrilled to see so much being accomplished, and I look forward to 2009's list of accomplishments and achievements. I hope you all have a great Holiday, and enjoy the season with family and friends.

Thanks,  
Matthew Sayles, Executive Director

## In-Kind Gifts for Donations to the Trails Endowment Fund

*Donate to the LLTT Trails Endowment fund, and receive the following in-kind gifts!*



### **\$20 gift to the Endowment Fund:**

*You receive:*

**Bridgefest Live 2008 CD featuring:** Bumpus (Chicago, IL), the Del Williams Bluegrass Band, The Blue Garter Dixieland Band, the Keesey Brothers, Sam Williams, and Crazygrass. (\$20=1 CD, \$35=2 CD's)



### **\$50 gift to the Endowment Fund:**

*You receive:*

**Bridgefest Live 2008 CD AND  
a 2008 Rails to Trails Apron (one size fits all)**

(thanks to our anonymous model/chili-cook-off contestant!!)



### **\$150 gift to the Endowment Fund:**

*You receive:*

**Bridgefest Live 2008 CD a 2008 Rails to Trails Apron (one size fits all) AND a limited edition signed Sally Posner Watercolor Print of the Bridge #9 on the Bizz!**

If you are interested in donating to the Trails Endowment fund, please mail your check or money order made out to:  
**"LLTT Trails Endowment Fund"**  
**PO Box 1461, Susanville, CA 96130.**  
**(Please include your name and phone #)**

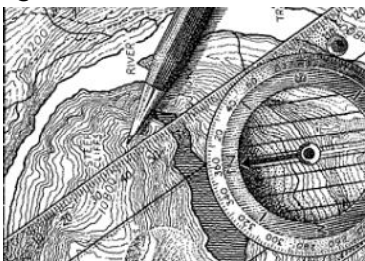
**Note:** Once your donation is received, you will be notified that your gift is available for **PICK UP ONLY** at the Susanville Railroad Depot 601 Richmond rd. If you are an out of area/out-of-state member, please contact us and we'll work out an arrangement for mailing you your gift. Posner Prints and Aprons will be ready for pick-up by December 15th, and Bridgefest CD's will be available by December 22nd. All gifts for donations will be held at the Depot until claimed by donors, and remember all donations to LLTT are Tax-Deductible! Please call LLTT at 530-257-3252 if you have any questions. (We'll offer these gifts until they're gone!)

***Support our Business Members! Business Memberships start at \$100.  
please shop with these folks & say THANK YOU for supporting LLTT!***

**101 Ranch/Goodrich Creek, Bill Keeler, Owner, P.O. Box 308, Red Bluff, CA 96080, (530) 527-0175**  
**5 Dot Ranch, Midge Swickard, 490-425 State Route 139, Susanville, CA 96080, (530) 257-6058**  
**Barakat, George, MD, Orthopedic Surgery, 555 Ash Street, Susanville, CA 96130, (530) 257-9060**  
**Balding Energy Enterprise, 508-450 Stoney Lane, Susanville, CA 96130, (530) 825-3481**  
**Banner Lassen Hospital, 1800 Spring Ridge Dr., Susanville, CA 96130, (530) 252-2000**  
**Bike Station, Jeff Warren, Owner, 702 Main Street, Susanville, CA 96130, (530) 257-2525**  
**Deal & Davie Inc., 1107 Main Street, Susanville, CA 96130, (530) 257-6115**  
**Diamond Mountain Casino, 910 Skyline Terrace, Susanville, CA 96130, (530) 257-1100**  
**Doyle Electric, Chuck & Jean Coyle, 434-625 Doyle Loop, Doyle, CA 96109, (530) 827-2869**  
**Gold Run Cabinet and Door Co., 885 Cypress Street, Susanville, CA, 96130, (530) 251-4653**  
**Hulsman Ranch, Hannah & Susan Tangeman, P.O. Box 850, Susanville, CA 96130, (530) 257-7262**  
**Janesville Self-Storage, Mike & Lindee Larsen 464-900 Main St., Janesville, CA 96114, (530) 253-2233**  
**KSUE 1240/JDX FM 93.3, 3015 Johnstonville Rd., Susanville, CA 96130, (530) 257-2121**  
**Lassen Addressing Service, Jim Chapman, Owner, P.O. Box 674, Susanville, CA 96130, (530) 257-6009**  
**Lassen Humane Society, Cindy Howe, P.O. Box 1575, Susanville, CA 96130, (530) 257-4555**  
**Mountain Meadows Mead, Ronald Lunder, 12 Third St, Westwood, CA, 96137 (530) 256-3233**  
**Plumas Bank, 3000 Riverside Dr., Susanville, CA 96130, (530) 257-5013**  
**Realty World-Lassen Land & Homes, 2301 Main Street, Susanville, CA 96130, (530) 257-7727**  
**Sierra-Cascade Nursery, Inc., 472-715 Johnson Rd., Susanville, CA 96130 (530) 254-6702**  
**Susanville Supermarket, Rick Stewart, Owner, 50 Grand Avenue, Susanville, CA 96130, (530) 257-5136**  
**Susanville Therapy & Athletic Rehabilitation, 711 Main St., Susanville, CA 96130, (530) 257-8989**  
**Susanville Towing/Lassen Tire, P.O. Box 41, Susanville, CA 96130, (530) 310-9793**  
**Truckee Grubstake and Outfitting Co., 707-685 Wingfield Rd., Janesville, CA 96114, (530) 253-2677**  
**Watkins, Sharron, Certified Bookkeeper, P.O. Box 86, Janesville, CA 96114, (530) 253-2668**

Greetings LLTT members!

I wanted to give you an update on one of the projects I've been working on, Nature Camp 2009. This years Nature Camp is going to be a very exciting one. We will be doing our traditional Nature Camp for kids between the ages of 6-12 years old at Goumaz and Eagle Lake. In addition to that, we're applying for funds to expand camp to include local High School students to satisfy their Senior Mentorship requirements. This camp will be one week long (7days) and will be held at Eagle Lake near the Spaulding area. LLTT will be renting a cabin in Spaulding for the high school kids and chaperons to stay in. Chaperons will be undergraduate students from the Archaeology Departments at both CSU Chico and UNR. In this camp the kids will learn how use GPS technology to do mapping of archaeological sites on the USFS property. The kids will work all day in the field doing mapping and other data collection (photos/drawings) of these archaeological sites. I am currently in the process of applying for a grant to fund our expanded Nature Camp in partnership with Heidi Perry and the USFS. The grant is through the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, and if approved for funding, will allow LLTT to provide a wonderful addition to our current Nature Camp. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at LLTT. Have a wonderful holiday season!



Connie Stone, Project Specialist

*Thank you to members who have renewed & Welcome New Members....*

**Membership Donations**

**Partner**

Midge Swickard  
Elizabeth Norton & Robert Andrews

**Supporter**

Nancy Nordensten  
Tony & Sally Esparza  
Lance Phillips  
James & Iva Foster  
Joanne & Richard Mathies

**Family**

Paul & Ruth Schlotterbeck  
Marjorie & Franz Lattka  
Bill & Sheri Houck  
Michael McCue & Maureen Walsh

**Family (cont.)**

Gerald & Mary Cary Nordstrom  
Bruce & Patty Davie  
Bruce & Karen Ovitz  
Ted Friedline & Anita Osborn

**Friend**

Bob Gower  
Franc Giustino  
Coline Beyer  
Prairie Houck  
Julia Howard  
Ann Leve

**Student/Senior**

Shireen Miles  
Diane Rymel

**Memorial Donations**

**Memory of Mark Murray**

Helen Leve  
Judy Oliver  
Jerry Douglass  
Zellamae Miles  
Jeff Warren  
Frank Hall

**Memory of Julie McQueen**

Helen Leve  
Dave & Gwen Urbanac  
Air Toxics  
Bechtel Suboffice Staff  
Jan Heid

**Welcome Leah Larsen, LLTT Lands Manager!**

I grew up in Susanville and graduated from Lassen High School in 1994. I started my undergraduate education at Cal Poly in San Luis Obispo and completed it at Humboldt State University in Arcata with a degree in Botany and Environmental Biology. I got very excited about field biology and caught the travel bug early in college. I had an assortment of different jobs in interesting locations, working with birds, plants, fungi, and a variety of other creatures.

I went on to get my Master's Degree at Humboldt in Biology, where I studied lichens in the Redwood Forest Canopy, a place that I was first introduced to by Jim Reichle on the Lassen High Biology Field Trip. In grad school, I found a passion for teaching as I instructed students in botany, biology, and natural history courses. My favorite place to teach was in the outdoors, where students learned first hand through experience. I continued on this path after grad school working for a study abroad field institute called Round River Conservation Studies. I led groups of college students on field-based conservation programs in Ecuador, Namibia, and British Columbia. I facilitated community-based conservation research, taught courses in biology, and managed the logistics of the program. I learned, along with my students, the importance of working with local people on conservation efforts.

I have traveled a lot and done conservation work in many places in the world. And now I am so happy to be home working on conservation issues where I grew up, working with my own local people. I am thankful to have a job in Susanville that fits my interests and supports my beliefs about the land.

As the new Lands Manager, my main focus has been on the Lassen Creek Conservation Area (LCCA). This land was slated for housing development when LLTT purchased it to protect prime mule deer habitat and to serve as part of an important wildlife corridor connecting the Diamond Mountains to the Bass Hill Wildlife Area. In June 2007, the Pine Fire burned 265 acres of our property and since we have been working on implementing a fire rehabilitation plan. To avoid non-native plants replacing the bitterbrush community, we have re-seeded with bitterbrush and other native plant seed. We just completed our second round of re-seeding with the help of a tractor and seed drill and volunteers from the community and Lassen High School. Now that the seed is in the ground, we are putting up a deer exclusion fence around the re-seeded area. Although the long term goal is to provide forage for the deer, they must be excluded from the area until the bitterbrush is established and large enough to be able to sustain browsing. This will take an estimated 3 to 5 years and then the fence will be taken down. The fence should be completed by this spring when we hope to see the new seedlings starting to appear. Once the fence is complete, we will focus on improving the LCCA for public non-motorized access. We will keep you updated as this project progresses.



## Letter From Board President, Helen Leve

Greetings of the Season and best wishes for the year ahead from your Board of Directors! We have had an extraordinary year of accomplishments under the capable management of our Executive Director, Matt Sayles. I echo the entire board's feelings when I say, "Thank you, Matt, for a job well done." At the same time I want to thank all of you, our members, for your continued support and enthusiasm as we continue our work of preserving our agricultural heritage, conserving lands, and creating trails. In October, we had a strategic planning session to help us to focus on our mission and the future work of LLTT through 2010.



Lassen Land and Trails Trust has grown exponentially in 2008. We have almost tripled the number of miles of present and future trails with the acquisition of the 86 miles of the Modoc Line. We have expanded the number of conservation easements which aid landowners and protect wildlife habitat. We had our first music festival "Bridgefest" to benefit our Trails Endowment Fund and began a successful "Movie Night" program. Of course, we continue to enjoy our Rails to Trails Festival, Farmers Market, January Ski and Soup Dinner, and our Nature Camp for young students which will expand next summer. We cooperate with the organizers of the fall marathon on the Bizz that grows in popularity each year. Our Paiute Run had its 15th anniversary this year and we co-sponsor the summer time Eagle Lake run to benefit the high school cross country track team.

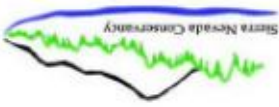
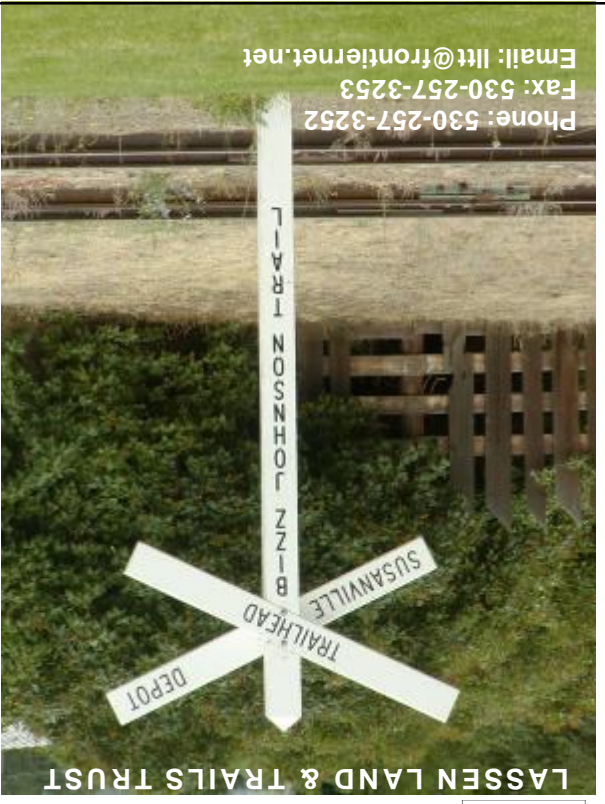
This growth requires us to hire more staff which in turn requires us to have more office space. To meet these needs we will soon absorb all the space available in the Depot. Our tenant and neighbor, the Lassen County Chamber of Commerce that has provided visitors' services at the Depot will be moving to other offices. I want to thank the Chamber for its assistance for the last two years. At the same time, it is with a sense of excitement that I invite LLTT members and friends to become docents at the Depot to inform and assist visitors to not only the "Bizz" but to Susanville and the LLTT mission as well. Call us to volunteer for a two or four hour shift at the Depot as we plan for the next "tourist" season!

Your membership is crucial to us. Thank you and Happy New Year!

Helen Leve, President

### Switch to Digital LLTT Newsletter!

Want to help save LLTT some much needed funds? Sign up to receive your newsletter via e-mail! Sending out a hard-copy newsletter on a quarterly basis costs LLTT on average over \$2,000 per year. Receiving your newsletter via e-mail will help save LLTT money as well as save on paper and ink—which helps the environment too! If you're interested in receiving your newsletter via e-mail, just send an e-mail to: [lltt@frontiernet.net](mailto:lltt@frontiernet.net) with a **subject line "E-mail Newsletter."** Indicate the e-mail address you would like the newsletter sent to, and we will put you on a list to no longer receive a hard copy. The LLTT website also has a newsletter archive that allows you to review all of our newsletters going back to 2004. As newsletters are completed and mailed, they will also be available at [lassenlandandtrails.com](http://lassenlandandtrails.com) to be reviewed at any time in Adobe pdf format under the link "Newsletter Archive" on the home page. This is on a volunteer basis only, so if you want to keep receiving your letter in your mailbox, you don't have to do anything! If you have any questions just call **530-257-3252**, and thanks for your help in saving LLTT funds and resources!



## Frank Hall, LLTT Volunteer of the Year



At LLTT's annual meeting in November, President Helen Leve had the pleasure of presenting Frank Hall with LLTT's Volunteer of the Year award for his countless hours of assistance in the Fire-Rehabilitation of the Lassen Creek Conservation Area.

Frank is a recent retiree from the California Department of Fish & Game, where he oversaw many similar sage steppe & bitterbrush rehabilitation efforts throughout northeast California.

Without his help, much of the work at the LCCA would not have been accomplished, and LLTT staff & Board would once again like to thank Frank Hall for his dedication, service, and expertise in helping us continue the rehab efforts at the Lassen Creek Conservation Area.