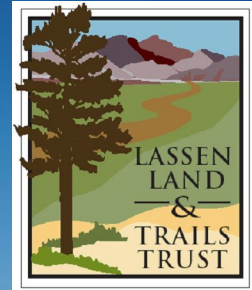


LLTT Newsletter

Quarterly Newsletter of Lassen Land and Trails Trust



September 2008

Volume 2008, Issue 2

Modoc Line, June 2008

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

Development Intern

David Sowers

Depot Manager

Bill Faatz

Volunteer LCCA Preserve Manager

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V. President - Frank Hall

Secretary - Nancy Murray

Treasurer - Phil Nemir

Board of Directors:

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Frank Hall

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Rod Latimer

Helen Leve

Zellamae Miles

Nancy Murray

Judy Oliver

Pat Martinez

Jeff Warren

Board Advisors:

Stan Bales, BLM

Carol Curry, CPA

Letter from the Executive Director

LLTT Members:

September marks a huge step forward for LLTT—the acquisition of the Modoc Line! After many years and many hard working partnerships, this valuable transportation and recreational corridor has been protected for the public benefit of Lassen & Modoc Counties. Thanks again to everyone who helped make this happen, and thanks especially to YOU our members! There is more information inside this newsletter about how it all came together, and there will be more information coming soon as we get further along with our management plan for the corridor. As our Board President, Helen Leve, indicates on page 5 of this newsletter—we have been accomplishing so much and moving forward so quickly it's growing hard to keep everyone informed of our accomplishments. We have taken on a new Development Intern, Connie Stone, who has been invaluable in helping at both Nature Camp 2008 and with day to day operations at LLTT. We hope to keep her on board after her internship is completed in December, and look forward to growing our staff as well as our projects into 2009 and beyond. Nature camp was a success, and thanks again to Jan Heid for starting this well loved event. We're hoping to add another camp in 2009 by partnering with the USFS, so we'll be sure to keep you in the loop on that as it develops. The Eagle Lake & Paiute Meadows runs were successful, Movie Night at the Depot has found a loyal fan-base, Bridgefest started an exciting new tradition in Susanville, and Rails to Trails looks to be once again a great annual celebration—and these are just the "event" portions of what we've been up to!

As Director of LLTT, I've found it is easy to be perpetually distracted by what's around the next curve, but I encourage all of our membership to take pause and reflect on our accomplishments thus far in 2008. I have lived in and visited many communities across the Country, but I have yet to see a better example of a small non-profit providing so much for so many. Outside of being a hardworking land trust and trails advocate, LLTT has provided our community with, arts, culture, recreation, history, outdoor education, and most importantly a vision—a vision to come together and celebrate the beauty of what surrounds us in this corner of California—and to work toward protecting what's important for not only those of us that live here now, but those that will live here in the future. I'm proud to have you all as my employers. Thanks again, take pride in what you're helped accomplish, and I'll see you at the Rails to Trails Festival!

Matt Sayles, Executive Director

P.S. The sticker (Inside) is to say thanks for all your help over the years!

LLTT Acquires Modoc Line Rail to Trail!



Effective Friday September 5th 2008, Lassen Land and Trails Trust (LLTT) acquired title to the Modoc Line Rail to Trail corridor from Union Pacific Railroad of Omaha, Nebraska. The Modoc line runs 86 miles north & south from Wendel, CA to McArthur Siding, CA, and traverses a large portion of hard to access Bureau of Land Management property as well as valuable wildlife & game habitat. The historic standard gauge Modoc Line came into existence not long after the original narrow gauge line, the "N-CO" (Nevada, California, and Oregon) was built, and the corridor itself has long been a celebrated piece of railroad history. The "N-C-O" was affectionately nicknamed the "Narrow, crooked, and Ornerly" due to its meandering and oftentimes steep grades, and portions of the original N-C-O are still visible from the current Modoc line itself.

Southern Pacific purchased the N-C-O in 1925 and converted the railroad to standard gauge between 1927 and 1928. Union Pacific assumed control of the Line in 1996 and has not operated a through train over the Modoc since 1997. Rails and ties were removed between Wendel and the McArthur siding during 2003 and 2004.

The property was acquired through a process known as "Rail Banking" Rail banking is a federal law administered by the Surface Transportation Board (STB). It allows agencies to acquire railroad right-of-ways from an operating railroad and, "bank," it until future rail use is applied for at the STB. The purchasing agency (in this case LLTT) has all the property rights held by the railroad including easements for rail use. The line is thus not officially abandoned, and irreplaceable infrastructure is preserved. In the case of the Modoc Line, Union Pacific Railroad has right of first refusal to reactivate the line if rail use again becomes feasible.

From a Railroad standpoint, It often makes good economic sense to railbank an unused line, salvage the ties, rail, and other equipment, and work something out with an agency wishing to utilize the corridor until such time that any railroad reactivates the line with a request to the STB. If the corridor is not saved, there cannot be any future rail. In the interim, the corridor can be used as a trail, which helps preserve it.

LLTT anticipates that a myriad of recreation will occur in the interim use of the former rail line, including hiking, bicycling, agricultural & historical tourism, horseback riding, and significant sections open for vehicle & OHV use for wildlife viewing & public land access. At this time, LLTT is not encouraging use of the corridor, as the management plan is incomplete, and access & safety issues have yet to be dealt with. LLTT anticipates completing the management plan in mid-2009, and hopes to have an official dedication ceremony shortly thereafter.

The acquisition of the corridor has taken several years and several partnerships, but ultimately LLTT took the lead to raise funds to acquire the Modoc Line, as well as prepare a Management Plan for its long term operation and maintenance. The funds to acquire the line came from the Wildlife Conservation Board of California, who viewed the line as high priority due to its proximity to sensitive Sage Grouse and pronghorn habitat as well as access for research and hunting. In addition, the Sierra Nevada Conservancy has funded LLTT to prepare a management plan for the long term use and maintenance of the line, and has been invaluable in assistance with negotiations and meeting facilitation. Other partners have included Lassen & Modoc Counties, the Rails to Trails Conservancy, and both the Eagle Lake & Alturas offices of the Bureau of Land Management.

***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
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

Welcome Connie Stone, LLTT Development Intern!



Greetings LLTT Members! My name is Connie Stone and I am the newest staff member at LLTT. I officially began working for LLTT in mid-July while I both assisted and led our annual Youth Nature Camp. I moved to Susanville from the San Joaquin Valley at the beginning of July. I am thrilled to be living here and even more excited to be a part of LLTT. It is a great feeling to truly believe in the organization you work for. I am a student at CSU Fresno and currently completing my internship here at LLTT. In December, upon the completion of my internship, I will officially have my degree in Recreation Administration with an emphasis in both Community and Youth Services and Adventure Programming. I love the outdoors so Susanville is the perfect fit

for me! Some of my favorite outdoor activities include, hiking, mountain biking, kayaking and riding horses. I have never lived in an area that gets snow so I'm a little nervous for my first winter here, although I am looking forward to trying out some new winter activities. I am eager to put faces to names so stop by and say "hi" sometime.

P.S. My horses are still in the valley so if anyone has an extra horse and needs a riding partner let me know. I can't imagine a more beautiful place to ride!

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

Land Steward

Bill & Jo Faatz

Partner

Rick Stewart

Mike Foster

Supporter

Beth & Ray Corbin

Stephen & Gail Cramer

Jerry & Dollie Douglass

John & Joann Flaherty

Frank & Georgianne Hall

Laura & Randy Jertberg

Michelle Joy

Kevin & Jane Justis

Helen & Marshall Leve

Hank & Virginia Martinez

Barney & Julie McKee DDS

Nancy & John Murray

Lynda Jackson & Phil Nemir

Jim Reichle

Jane Rosenberg

Ed & Carolyn Schuyler

Kay White

Calvin & Jean Yeates

Family

Dean & Penny Artz

Don & Jeanine Bair

Martin & Janet Balding

Cheryl Belcher

Greg & Connie Boomer

Steve & Karen Bradbury

Seren & Larry Bradshaw

Bob & Brigid Brower

Alli & Kenny Burt

Danny & Heather Cluck

Tamar Dean

Roger & Paula Deschene

Kim & Melica Earll

Kathy Gies & Rich Egelhofer

Phil Finkel

Charlene Ford

Noreen Frieling

Ed & Carol Gann

Robert Gaumont

Linda & Norman Goodmanson

Jim & Patrice Goubert

Joe & Donna Harvey

Bernice Heckenliable

Sid Bean & Jan Heid

Harry Hicks

Jim & Jean Hodge

Kelly & Patty Holmes

Doug & Minette Hutchinson

Scott & Bonnie Johnson

Jim, Gail & Gene Johnston

Michael, Erin & Katelyn Justice

Nicole Kanavel

Tim Keeseey

Chuck Lavoilette

Pat & Mike Martinez

Robert & Mary McBroom

Doug & Edie McCoy

Michael & Laurie Mehlhaff

Chris & Carolyn O'Brien

Mike Smith & Judith Oliver

Merilea Partch

Linda Phillips

Mike West & Mary Piowaty

Kathy & Bruce Rhymes

Gary & Chris Robertson

Anthony Gould & Gary Schoolcraft

Margaret Schrock

Bob & Karen Sherve

Dale & Linda Soule

David Sowers

Charles & Karen Spence

Gene & Daphne Stark

Leah Larsen & Brian Taylor

Larry & Margie Teeter

Matthew Levine & Candace Toft

Dianna Henning & Kam Vento

Bud & Sylvia Wells

Paul & Christi Whitcome

John Ton & Glee Willis

Paul & Ruth Schlotterbeck

Michael, Erin & Katelyn Justice

Marjorie, Franz & Anne Lattka

Friend

Laurie Bliss

Nina Bliss

Moiria Shea & Douglas Buck

Ceci Dale-Cesmat

Lawrence & Victoria Fischer

Heidi Friend

Dwayne & Mary Greenwood

Linda Hansen

Paul Hardy

Rob Hill

Patricia Hodges MD

Martha Horan

Cindy Howe

John Larrivee

Jim Lytjen

Achille & Jean Marinoni

Rushelle Meadows

Zellamae Miles

Janice Newton

Katy & Gary Olsen

Paul & Linda Perez

Mike Rivas

Steve & Kate Robertson

Jay Yaw

Bob Gower

Shireen Miles

Student/Senior

Richard Ballew

Evan Chappuis

Linda Erway

Carmella Farrace

Donna & Carl Fettig

Christel Fliss

Emma Freeman

Mary Lee Fruehan

Lois Mankins

Julie McQueen

Bill Phillips

Sarajo Pyle

William & Kathleen Schovajsa

Movie Night at the Depot September-December 2008

Sept. 24th- "Mogambo" (1953)

Oct. 28th & 29th (special double-feature month)
"Dracula" (1931)"The Blob" (1953)

Nov. 19th (NEW DATE)

"Shultze gets the blues" (2003)

Dec. 17th- "Miracle on 34th Street" (1947)

(suggested donation at the door)

\$5.00 general admission

\$2.00 children **doors open at 6:00 pm**

show starts at 7 pm

For more details go to: lassenlandandtrails.com



Letter From Board President, Helen Leve

September, 2008

In the Strategic Plan adopted by the Board of Directors of Lassen Land and Trails Trust on August 30, 2005, there is a brief outline of the history of LLTT. A cryptic line describes the early 1990's as a time when we "proved we could get things done."

As I approach the end of a second year as president of your Board of Directors, I am constantly humbled, amazed and exhilarated by the energy and scope of this organization. I am humbled when I contemplate every day the herculean efforts of the many volunteers who have come before and the continued support of our growing membership. I am amazed and exhilarated as I find a board and membership ready to take on the responsibilities of the growth of LLTT from its early efforts to save the Depot and — together with public agencies — develop the Bizz Johnson Trail.

At one time we were all volunteers. It was volunteers who started the Rails to Trails Festival; who provided input to the Susanville General Plan for trails and paths; who developed trails at Susan Ranch Park; who offered "Whistle Stop" tours and lectures; who planned dances and cross country ski trips. We are still an organization that depends on volunteers though in the late 1990's we hired our first paid staff — able and part time! Today we have a full time executive director, a paid intern, and a Depot manager. Our pace has quickened so that it is some times daunting: Farmers' Market, increasing trails development, nature camp for children, conservation easements that protect farm land and at the same time provide wildlife habitat.

This month we celebrate a major acquisition. After months — even years — of discussion and negotiation-- and with the award of a funding grant from the Wildlife Conservation Board, we have purchased the Modoc Line. The Modoc Line will provide 86 miles of new trail for hiking, cycling, skiing, birding. This tremendous acquisition would have been impossible without the tireless dedication of our director, Matt Sayles, and the commitment of your board of directors as well as the interest and advice of BLM staff members Stan Bales of Susanville and Tim Burke of Alturas.

The Strategic Plan I referred to was meant to direct our course from 2005 to 2010. We have catapulted forward so quickly that in October we will have another planning retreat to assess our strategies beyond 2010. Our mission continues to be to develop a network of trails and conserve natural and agricultural landscapes to enhance the quality of life in Lassen County. Thank you all for your support in these efforts.

Helen Leve, President

Schedule of Events 16th Annual Rails to Trails Festival October 3rd-5th 2008

Friday Night October 3rd:

5:00 P.M. ————— Beverage Booth & Ticket Gate Opens
 6:00 P.M. to 6:30 P.M. ————— Informational Presentation on the Modoc Line
 7:30 P.M.--9:30 P.M. ————— Sawtooth Mountain Boys Bluegrass Band, an Oregon Original!
 9:30 P.M. ————— Raffle for Grand Prize, Trek 21 Speed Mountain Bike

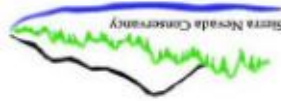
Saturday October 4th:

7:30 A.M. to 4 P.M. ————— Chili Cook Off & Salsa Contest Handcar Rides \$1 per person all day
 Live Music from 10:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.
 KSUE/JDX Chili Cook-Off and Salsa Contest--Judging at Noon/Festival goes tasting from 12 noon-2:30p.m. \$5.00/tasting kit.
 Prizes for chili and salsa cook-off winners. Applications available from LLTT, 257-3252 or online **Deadline to register Sept 26th**
 RAFFLE PRIZES—Grand Prize Saturday Weber Gas Grill Donated by Billington Ace Hardware

Sunday October 5th:

Ride the Bizz Johnson Trail!! Ride the Bus to Westwood and roll downhill all the way back to Susanville (\$10 per rider)
 Handcar Rides \$1 per person all day (based on demand for Sunday)

8:30 a.m.-----1st Bizz Johnson Shuttle Leaves Depot
 11:00 a.m.-----2nd Bizz Johnson Shuttle Leaves Depot



New Trails In Susanville Ranch Park Under Construction

The Susanville Ranch Park Trails Expansion is well underway. Lassen County awarded a contract to Trailscape, Inc. to build 13.5 miles of multi-use, non-motorized single track trails. The Trailscape team will be Randy Martin, President, and Jim Jacobsen. The Trailscape team has many years of experience in trail design and construction and they intend to create a masterpiece for our community.

There will be opportunities to participate in the project as we move forward. Our biggest problem on the property is illegal dumping, litter, etc... If you would like to contribute to the project, there is always a mess to clean up at the equestrian parking area. We will be organizing clean up days as well. If you encounter anyone dumping waste or doing anything illegal, please call the Sheriff. Do not try to handle the situation by yourself. Hopefully, with increased desirable recreational use, the illegal activities will come to an end in the park.

The official opening of the trail network will be on National Trails Day, June 6, 2009. We ask that all trail enthusiasts respect our construction site, wait for safer conditions and a complete network of trails with signage.

Happy Trails,
Joel Rathje, Trails Coordinator



New Trail & Viewpoint looking West



Jim Jacobsen working on the new trails



Joel Rathje on a test run of the trails