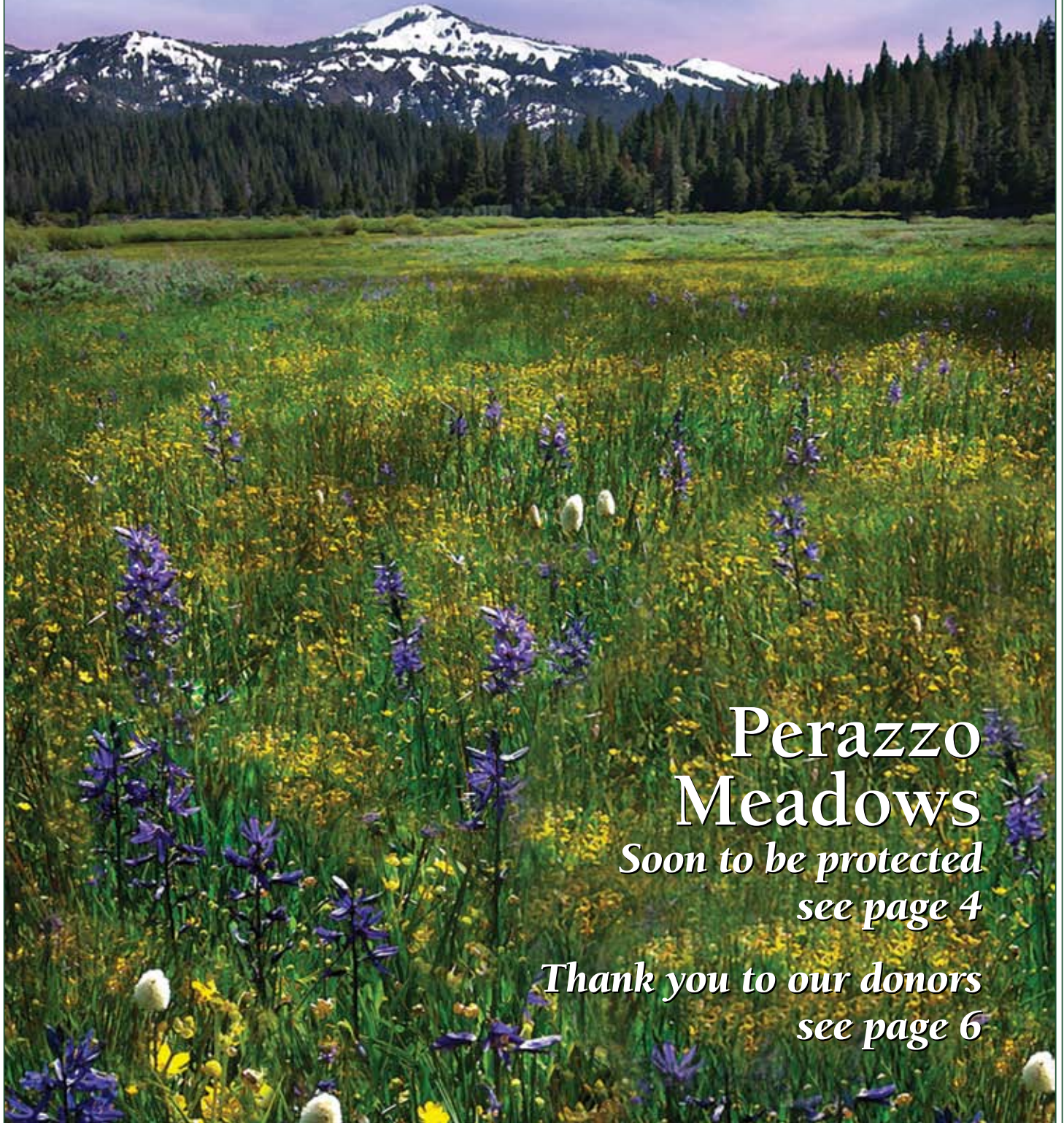


TRUCKEE DONNER LAND TRUST

Preserving and protecting important historic, recreational and scenic open spaces in the greater Truckee region.



Spring Newsletter
Volume 33 ❖ May, 2008



**Perazzo
Meadows**
*Soon to be protected
see page 4*

*Thank you to our donors
see page 6*

A FEW OF THE LANDS WE'VE PROTECTED — WITH YOUR HELP

Over 12,600 acres protected to date with a value of \$46,000,000.



Schallenger Ridge above Donner Lake, protected in 2002. This was the Land Trust's first multi-million dollar acquisition.



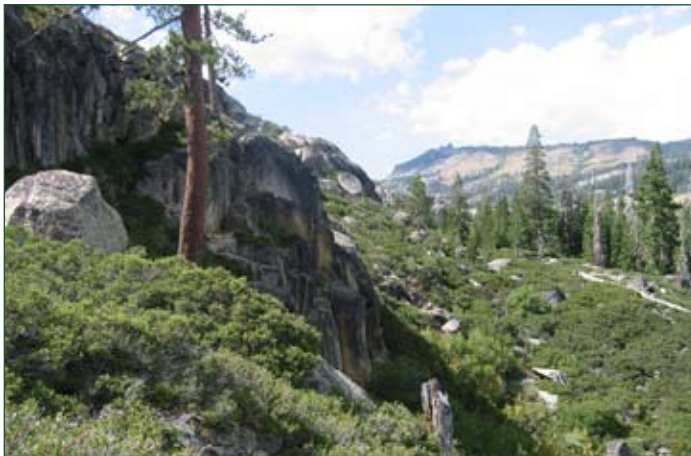
The Land Trust acquired over 2,000 acres above Independence Lake in 2006.



Negro Canyon is heavily used by hikers, bikers, snowshoers, skiers and riders. The Land Trust acquired 240 acres in the Canyon in 2005.



Through four separate acquisitions, the Land Trust has protected over 1,350 acres in Gray Creek Canyon, an important tributary to the Truckee River.



The Land Trust has protected over 330 acres in Billy Mack Canyon, a critical part of the Donner Lake watershed.



In 2007, in partnership with The Nature Conservancy, the Land Trust protected 3,200 acres in the Truckee River Canyon between Floriston and the state line.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Protecting Historic Lands and Traditional Livelihoods for the Future of California

Dear Friends,

The Truckee Donner Land Trust has recently joined a unique partnership to safeguard at least 100,000 acres of the Northern Sierra's highest-priority lands and waters over the next five to ten years. The Truckee Donner Land Trust, the Feather River Land Trust, The Trust for Public Land, The Nature Conservancy and the Sierra Business Council are the five members of what has come to be called The Northern Sierra Partnership.

California's Northern Sierra, the most botanically diverse region for its size in all of North America, is world-renowned for its mountains, open valleys, unique wildlife, expansive wetlands, vast forests and recreational opportunities.

But growing threats could forever change this unique landscape. Urban sprawl is fragmenting the region's natural open spaces. Catastrophic wildfires threaten communities and habitat for wildlife. Lack of coordination between private landowners, government agencies and businesses has left some of the most pristine natural areas – such as Perazzo Meadows featured on page 4 -- open to destructive development and further fragmentation.

As threats to this region mount, this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity has arisen to protect the Northern Sierra. Unprecedented amounts of public bond dollars are now available for conservation projects and the newly created state agency, the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, means the time is right for all stakeholders to join forces and protect this region – before it's too late.

Inspired by leadership from the Morgan Family Foundation, The Northern Sierra Partnership will



The Land Trust is pleased to welcome long-time members Penny and Bob Fink to our Advisory Committee.

coordinate with both public and private sectors to safeguard wildlife, protect working ranches, tribal lands and productive forests, and provide local communities as well as the broader region with clean water, clean air and world-class outdoor recreation.

To achieve the Partnership's ambitious conservation goals, the partners will launch a coordinated capital



Hikers on the Pacific Crest Trail en route to Tinker Knob. Photo courtesy of Olof Carmel, www.carmelgallery.com.

campaign to raise up to \$100 million in private funding that will leverage more than \$300 million in local, state, and federal funds for conservation projects in the region.

The Partnership has identified priority lands for protection based on the threats they face, the biological diversity they support, the recreational opportunities they offer, and the strategic leverage they hold. The Partnership also is working with the Resources Legacy Fund to manage campaign dollars and develop innovative agreements to guide joint fundraising and resource allocation.

Warm regards,

*Perry Norris,
Executive Director*

PERAZZO



Perazzo Meadows with the Little Truckee River in the foreground.

Perazzo Meadows – soon to be protected.

Perazzo Meadows, a 992-acre landmark on the Little Truckee River with over 2.5 miles of river frontage, is close to being preserved forever. The Truckee Donner Land Trust, in partnership with The Trust for Public Land, inked a deal in January to acquire the property for its appraised value, \$4 million.

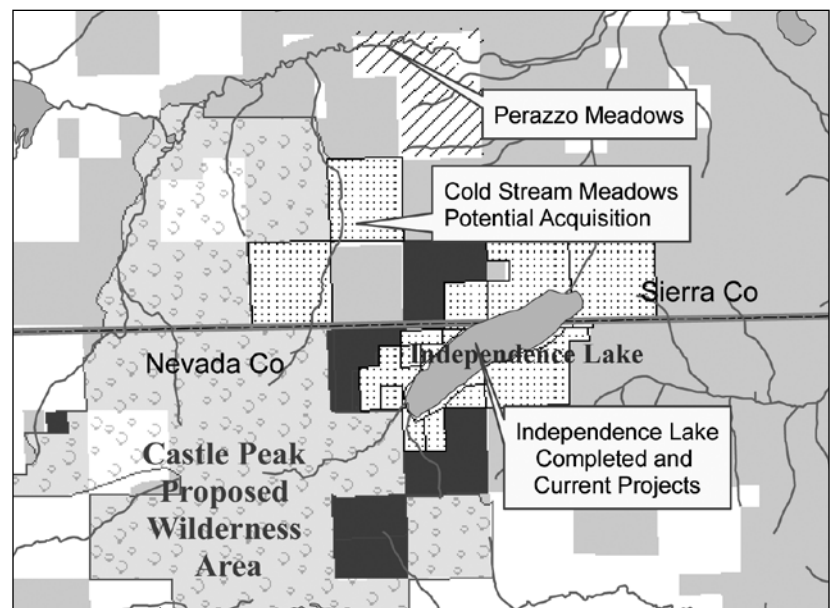
Also included in the transaction are 440 acres northwest of Castle Peak at the edge of Paradise Valley in the proposed Castle Peak Wilderness Area, and a 160-acre parcel in the Martis Valley that is immediately adjacent to Waddle Ranch. The Land Trust and TPL acquired the 1,482-acre Waddle Ranch in 2007.

Perazzo Meadows is a large, wet meadow-riparian habitat system in the northern Sierra Nevada on the Little Truckee River, a

complete the transcontinental railroad. This checkerboard pattern presents many challenges to management of the forests for

primary tributary in the Truckee River watershed. This area is incredibly rich in biological and aquatic habitat value due to its proximity to neighboring public forestland in the northern range and critical watersheds in the Truckee River system. It is located on the eastern division of the Sierra Nevada checkerboard.

The Sierra Nevada checkerboard is a land ownership pattern of alternating sections of public and private lands, and dates to the nineteenth century when the federal government granted every other square mile to the railroads as an incentive to



Perazzo Meadows.

M E A D O W S

forest and watershed health and wild fire response. It is imperative that the most accessible and biologically rich sections of this checkerboard be protected for public access, water quality and biological habitat.

The Little Truckee River is a target site of the United States Forest Service (USFS) for restoration of riparian habitat and water quality improvements. The habitat conditions in Perazzo Meadows support rare species such as willow flycatchers, peregrine falcons, bald and golden eagles, Lahontan cutthroat trout, and mountain yellow legged frog. Additionally, the habitat conditions stretch in all directions to neighboring areas such as Independence Lake, Sagehen Creek Basin (designated an Experimental Forest for wild black bear habitat), the Pacific Crest, east to the Truckee River watershed, and west to the Yuba

River watershed. This region of the northern Sierra Nevada is noted for its biological diversity and highly accessible recreational lands.

Following completion of the acquisition, the Land Trust will be constructing a new parking area and trail for public access to the Little Truckee River.

Funding for the project will likely come from public and private sources. The Land Trust, in partnership with the Truckee River Watershed Council, has already received a \$1.5 million grant for the acquisition from the State Water Resources Control Board, and an additional \$500,000 grant from WRCB for restoration.

Perazzo Meadows Biological Facts

- The 982-acre parcel under contract includes approximately 2.5 miles of the Little Truckee River.
- The extensive riverine, montane riparian, and wet meadow habitats on the parcel are part of the Perazzo Meadows complex, and are among the finest examples of such habitats in the Sierra Nevada.
- There are approximately 100 acres of wet meadow-willow habitat within the parcel.
- The remaining 882 acres consist primarily of upland habitat that includes lodgepole pine, white fir, red fir, Jeffrey pine, and Aspen stands important to fur bearing mammals.
- The report *Conservation of Aquatic Diversity in the Sierra Nevada* (Pacific Rivers Council, 1998) identified the Little Truckee River as a conservation priority of great importance to the integrity and persistence of Sierra Nevada aquatic diversity.
- The willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii*), a neotropical migrant bird species listed as endangered by the State of California, has been identified on Perazzo Meadows.
- Waterways passing through Perazzo Meadows contain as many as six species native to the Lahontan Basin.
- Non-fish wildlife species known to occur, or to have high potential of occurrence, in the Perazzo Meadows are pine marten, mule deer of the Loyalton Truckee herd, and mountain lion.



Truckee Donner Land Trust Lands and Conservation Director, Sara Taddo, was lucky enough to hitch a ride out of the Truckee Tahoe Airport for an aerial tour of the greater Truckee region. This photo is of the Perazzo Meadows complex looking southwest. To see more of Sara's aerial photos, visit our website, www.tdlandtrust.org.

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Your generous and continued support preserves the scenic, recreational, and historic lands that we all cherish.

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(Waddle Ranch Campaign)

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Gift memberships and honorary and memorial contributions make saving places like Carpenter Peak above Independence Lake possible.

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Give the gift of open space for all occasions.

An honorary gift is a thoughtful way to show your friends and family how much you care about them and the environment. Call the Land Trust at 530-582-4711 for more information.

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2008 SUMMER HIKES & WALKS

Back by popular demand, the Land Trust is very pleased to offer for the 12th year a slate of very cool hikes, all free of charge with membership! To sign-up please contact Carol at 530-582-4711 or visit www.tdlandtrust.org for more information. Register early as most hikes do fill up. We hope to see you on the trail!

Please bring water, snacks, sunscreen, and sturdy shoes for all hikes!

May 25, Sunday – Wildflowers at Sagehen Meadow

Witness the explosion of colorful fields of wildflowers on this annual hike led by Judy Mayorga at Sagehen Meadow. This is a good walk for kids. Last year over 40 species of wildflowers were spotted! Enjoy hunting for wildflowers all the way out to the Camas Fields.

Hike Distance and Level: about 2 1/2 miles one way (5 miles round trip) with some rolling hills. Easy. Limit 12 people.

June 7, Saturday – Wildlife at Waddle Ranch

Join Land Trust Board member David Brown on a hike through the newly acquired 1,482-acre Waddle Ranch, the heart of the Martis Valley. You will witness beautiful meadows, lush green forests, granite peaks and a beautiful bird and wildlife sanctuary. Sun exposure is predominant on a good portion of the trail.

Hike Distance and Level: 6 miles with some elevation gain. Easy to moderate. Limit 15 people.

July 6, Sunday – Razorback Ridge to Crow's Nest

Join John and Heather Svahn on this exciting hike starting at Ice Lakes Lodge, climbing to Razorback Ridge, continuing to Crow's Nest Peak leading ambitious hikers up to the summit, and then descending back on the third leg of a triangle. Those who want can have lunch at the Lodge.

Hike Distance and Level: 6-mile loop. Strenuous with sections of steep terrain. Hiking poles highly recommended. Limit 15 people.

July 12, Saturday – Donner Summit to Point Mariah

Join Tam Lieberman on an expedition to see the wild Point Mariah, a windswept vista overlooking the American River canyon deep into the Royal Gorge on Donner Summit. Enjoy a bird's-eye view of the Royal Gorge, which plunges 4,417 feet down sheer granite cliffs to the North Fork of the American River. This hike showcases two Land Trust projects in the Sierra Checkerboard. Bring lunch.

Hike Distance and Level: 6 miles. Moderate to difficult.

July 26, Saturday – Hawk's Peak/Far Side

Join John and Elizabeth Eaton on a hike for great views of Donner Lake, Schallenberger Ridge and the Pacific Crest. Descend into the Sunrise Bowl and climb up to Hawk's Peak where there are great views to the north, including Castle Peak and Mt. Lola. There are a rich variety of trees, shrubs and wildflowers along the way. Bring lunch.

Hike Distance and Level: 3-4 hour hike with elevation changes of several hundred feet. Moderate to strenuous.

August 2, Saturday – Billy Mack Canyon

Join Sara Taddo, the Land Trust's Conservation Director, in exploring one of the Land Trust's most exciting acquisitions! This hike navigates the rugged Billy Mack Canyon from the Pacific Crest Trail down to the meadow at Billy Mack Flat, teeming with beaver dams and wildflowers. Help Sara search for future trail routes! Bring lunch.

Hike Distance and Level: 5-mile loop. Strenuous. Limit 10 people.

August 23, Saturday – Castle Valley to Summit Lake on the Pacific Crest and Donner Lake Rim Trails

Join Stan Wingate, the Land Trust's Associate Director, for a hike that crosses meadows and open granite, and provides panoramic views of Castle Peak and Donner Summit. Picnic and swim if you'd like at Summit Lake. Bring lunch.

Hike Distance and Level: 8 miles with notable elevation changes. Moderate to difficult. Limit 15 people.



Join us for a hike across Waddle Ranch which will include a visit to Dry Lake. We should have plenty of opportunities to see wildlife.

STEWARDSHIP

Caring for the lands we've protected

Summer 2008 will be a busy season for stewardship and enhancing public enjoyment of Land Trust lands. Sara will continue to monitor and enforce the terms of conservation easements at numerous projects, including Jackass Ridge, the Sierra College Campus at Hippie Hill, Northstar, Billy Mack Canyon, the Warming Hut on Boreal Ridge, and in the Truckee River Canyon.

The Land Trust is partnering with many organizations, including the Truckee River Watershed Council and USFS, on numerous projects such as streambed restoration at Perazzo Meadows and road repair in Negro Canyon. The Tahoe Donner

Association forestry department will conduct a fuels reduction program at the Pine Forest Open Space, owned by the Land Trust, to provide a fuel break south of the Tahoe Donner and Alder Hill subdivisions.

In addition to developing trailheads, trails, and informational kiosks to support public enjoyment of Waddle Ranch, John and volunteers will build a new section of the Donner Lake Rim Trail. The new section will provide a scenic 'single-track' trail on USFS property adjacent to Tahoe Donner. Other activities slated for the summer include The Kid Zone science camps on Land Trust properties, and the Summer Hike Series described on page 14.



Two photos of Waddle Ranch showing "before and after" thinning to improve forest health and habitat, as well as reduce the risk of fire.

Buck for Open Space Partners

Preserving open space in the greater Truckee Donner region is simply good business. The Land Trust would like to thank the following conservation-minded businesses and their customers and encourage you to give them your business.

Please welcome Robert Colpitts, DDS, to the Buck for Open Space program! Dr. Colpitts is personally donating \$1 on behalf of each of his customers.



- Best Western Truckee Tahoe Inn**
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WELCOME JANET ZIPSER ZIPKIN

to the Board of Directors

Janet was born and raised in San Francisco, and holds a BS in Business Administration and an MBA from UC Berkeley. Her career began with brand management and advertising, and includes 19 years of teaching marketing and business classes at the college level. She was a Director of Marketing at Stanford University, and currently is the Executive Director of Squaw Valley Institute.

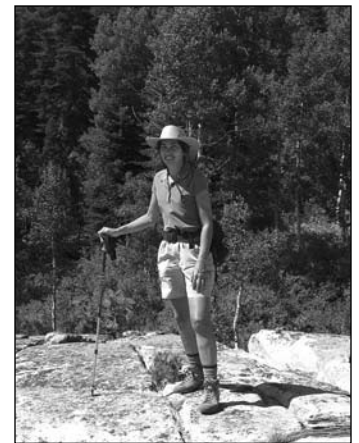
Janet is married to Dr. Charles Zipkin, and together they raised five children. Beginning in 1984, they spent their family vacations at their Tahoe Donner home, with

thoughts of retiring there in 2006. Charles has since opened a local practice, and Janet is busy with the Squaw Valley Institute among other endeavors.

She enjoys skiing (downhill and Nordic), cycling (road and mountain), and swimming (lake and pool) "on a recreational level." One of her favorite experiences is to come to a crest on a long, hot hike and see a cold alpine lake just down the trail a bit.

Janet indicates she is delighted to be joining the Land Trust board. "I believe that preserving

and protecting open space is no longer an option, it is a necessity. The flora need it, the fauna need it, and we need it." She added, "We must ensure that our precious natural resources are cared for so that we and future generations may all experience both the thrill and the sense of peace that comes from using or observing the land in its natural state."



Janet Zipser Zipkin

DONNER LAKE RIM TRAIL UPDATE

The snow is melting; soon it will be time to hike, bike, or ride on the Donner Lake Rim Trail!

The winter of 2007-2008 came in like a lion, and seems to be going out like a lamb. The south-facing stretches of the Donner Lake Rim Trail are beginning to feel the warmth of spring and will soon be open.

It will be exciting to see how the newer sections of the Rim Trail, and the Wendin Way Trail, fared over their second and first winters, respectively. By utilizing sustainable methods in constructing the Rim Trail, the Land Trust staff is betting on minimal, "spring cleaning" maintenance. But every winter on Donner Summit is harsh, and we can't be sure how the trail is

until the snow melts. Please use caution when hiking in the early season, and be on the lookout for fallen trees, unstable rocks and rushing creeks.

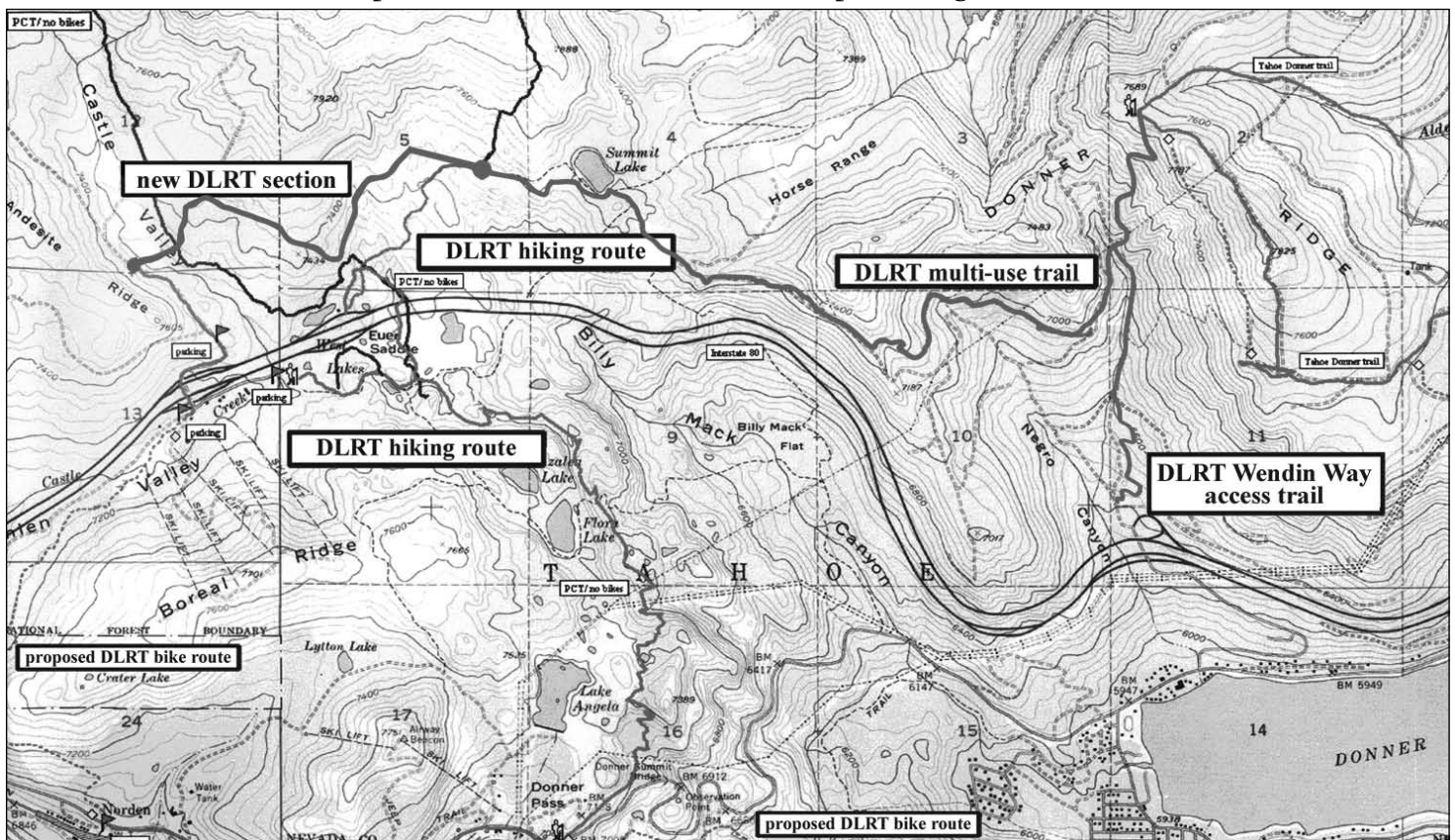
Beginning in July 2008, we will be working on completing a new section of the Rim Trail, almost three miles in length, linking the Drifter Hut Trailhead with the Glacier Way Trailhead, in Tahoe Donner. This section of trail will be a gradual climb (or descent) on an open, west-facing slope in Negro Canyon. It will feature dramatic views of Donner Summit and Donner Lake, and passes



A volunteer group from the American Hiking Society spent five days helping to build a new section of the Donner Lake Rim Trail from Castle Valley to Summit Lake.

by several very old Jeffrey Pines. When working on this part of the trail last fall, mule deer and hawks were a daily sight. With good weather and strong volunteer participation in construction, we plan on having this new section completed this fall. If you would like to volunteer to help construct the Donner Lake Rim Trail please contact John at john@tdlandtrust.org or call 530-582-4711.

Join us! Help Build the Donner Lake Rim Trail
 Available dates: July: 12, 13, 27 • August: 2, 3, 9, 10 •
 September: 20, 21 • October (weather permitting): 4, 5, 11, 12



BUSINESS PARTNER PROFILE

The Pour House

The Pour House is owned and operated by the husband and wife team of Dean Schaecher and Christa Finn. Since 2005 they have been offering delicious and affordable wines in Downtown Truckee.

The Pour House is the result of their combined 25 years experience in the food and beverage industry. Dean is a self-described "wine guy" having managed the food and beverage operations of many local restaurants.

In the back of the shop you will find a tasting bar which changes wines almost daily (sometimes twice daily). The Pour House philosophy is "wine should be a pleasure, not an intimidation."

Dean and Christa are extraordinary supporters of the community, the Land Trust, and the Donner Lake Rim Trail.

"We've seen a lot of changes to the Truckee region over the years.



Dean, Christa and their two children, Chloe Rose and Finn, in front of the Pour House on Jibboom Street.

We support the Land Trust because they are working in a collaborative manner to keep and protect what we treasure about living here," Dean said.

For more information about The Pour House visit www.thepourhousetruckee.com or call 530-550-9664. They are located just west of the post office on Jibboom St.

MEMBER PROFILE

Judi & John Gingerich

Longtime Land Trust supporters Judi and John Gingerich have been skiing in the Truckee area since the 1970's, and have owned a home at Northstar since 1989. They have three children and four grandchildren.

They were drawn to the area for the same reasons we all love Truckee, including its bountiful opportunities for recreation and small town sense of community. They increasingly fear the area is being overdeveloped. "This makes the preservation of open space more important than ever," John commented.

"This is a critical time for preserving significant undeveloped sections of this great area for our

children and grandchildren," Judi said. She added, "We are impressed by the number of people in the Truckee area who are dedicating so much effort to improving the lives of Truckee residents."

Judi and John split their time between Northstar, Indian Wells and their shared ranch on the Snake River in Homedale, Idaho. Their interest in land preservation and management for conservation is apparent; they are in the process of converting 40 acres of their ranch to wetland habitat for migratory birds.

They support the Land Trust because "the Land Trust is aggressive, applies critical thinking to its mission and at the same time is fun and rewarding."

CUT-OUT CALENDAR OF 2008 SUMMER HIKES, EVENTS & TRAIL BUILDING

- May 10 – Trail Building
- May 11 – Trail Building
- May 24 – Trail Building
- May 25 – Trail Building
- May 25 – Wildflowers at Sagehen Meadow Hike
- June 7 – Wildlife at Waddle Ranch Hike
- June 7 – Trail Building
- June 8 – Trail Building
- June 14 – Trail Building
- June 15 – Trail Building
- June 28 – Trail Building
- June 29 – Trail Building
- July 6 – Razorback Ridge to Crow's Nest Hike
- July 12 - Donner Summit Point Mariah Hike
- July 12 – Trail Building
- July 13 – Trail Building
- July 26 – Hawk's Peak/Far Side Hike
- July 27 – Trail Building
- August 2 – Billy Mack Canyon Hike
- August 2 – Trail Building
- August 3 – Trail Building
- August 9 – Trail Building
- August 10 – Trail Building
- August 23 – Castle Valley to Summit Lake Hike
- September 6 – Trails and Vistas Event
- September 7 – Trails and Vistas Event
- September 20 – Trail Building
- September 21 – Trail Building
- October 4 – Trail Building
- October 5 – Trail Building
- October 11 – Trail Building
- October 12 – Trail Building

Call the Land Trust office at 530-582-4711 to sign up for a hike, event, or trail building day. For complete hike descriptions, please see page 14. All dates are subject to change.



Longtime Land Trust supporters Judi and John Gingerich on their ranch in Idaho.

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5TH ANNUAL TRAILS & VISTAS

“Songs of the Earth”

Saturday & Sunday, September 6-7, 2008

Trails and Vistas is a unique art event that offers the community an inspiring art production involving dance, music, and installation art on a guided hike through the beautiful landscape of the Sierra. Over 30 artists and performers present a wonderful wilderness experience through the arts.

The event is a unique collaboration between the Truckee Donner Land Trust, InnerRhythms Dance Theater and Arts for Schools. The three organizations work closely with Founder and Artistic Director, Nancy Tieken Lopez, and Co-Director/Choreographer, Elizabeth Archer, to strengthen ties between art and the environment.

For more information visit www.trailsandvistas.com.

If you are interested in performing or volunteering for Trails and Vistas, or would like to become a sponsor, please call Nancy Lopez at 530-550-8262.

MEET OUR NEW MEMBERSHIP SERVICES COORDINATOR

Welcome Carol Herrington!

Carol brings to the Land Trust her love of community involvement and volunteering, most recently with adaptive sports programs. She has lived in Truckee since 1989. She enjoys outrigger canoe paddling (especially on Donner Lake), cross-country skiing, cycling, and hiking the abundance of local trails with her dogs. Carol graduated from the University of Nevada with a degree in journalism.

After three years with the Land Trust, Dale Lawrence, the friendly voice of the Land Trust is moving on. Dale has an enormous love for animals and has joined Truckee Tahoe Humane Society as its Membership Coordinator. We wish Dale the very best and offer our heartfelt thanks for her extraordinary service. Dale will continue as our newsletter designer.

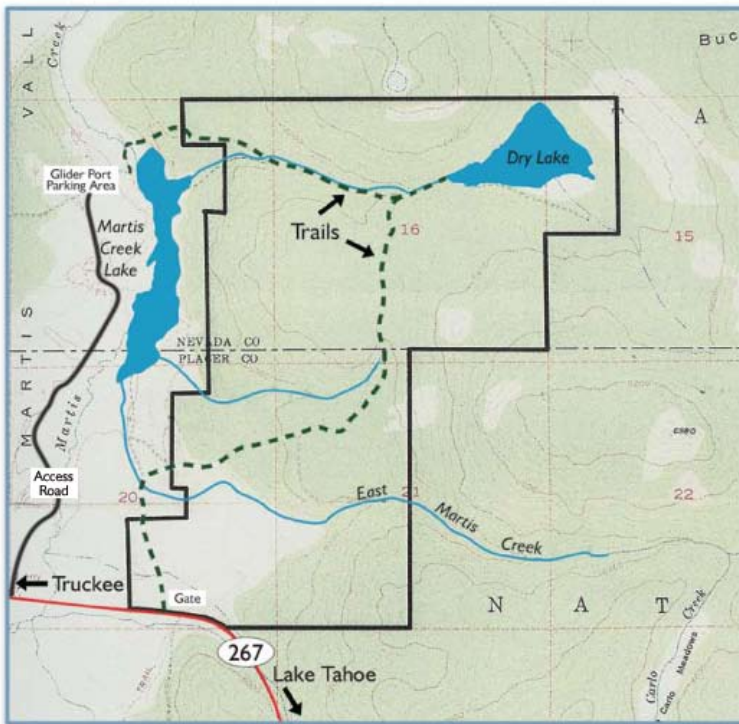


Carol enjoying a break from paddling on Donner Lake.

WADDLE RANCH IS OPEN FOR PUBLIC RECREATION

Whether you enjoy hiking, skiing, birding or biking...Waddle Ranch is open year-round for public recreation. Enjoy!

Access to Waddle Ranch



The best (and safest) access to Waddle Ranch is via the Martis Creek Lake National Recreation Area. From SR 267, drive to where a gate blocks the road with a small parking area. Continue on foot or by bike along the paved road and over the dam where you'll pick-up an earthen trail heading east along a drainage and onto Waddle Ranch.



A great network of trails already exists on Waddle Ranch, affording miles of hiking and biking. The Land Trust will be building more trails and expanding parking in the coming months.



A "local" resident at Lake Ella, formerly called Dry Lake. The Land Trust will be petitioning the United States Geological Survey to officially change the name of the lake in honor of Ella Waddle whose family owned and ranched the property for generations.

The Land Trust would like to thank the Truckee Tahoe Community Foundation Queen of Hearts Women's Fund for its \$25,000 grant for Waddle Ranch management. The generous Queen of Hearts Women's Fund grant will allow the Land Trust to prepare the property for public use and enjoyment. We are excited that the property will be enjoyed by the public yet remain wild, providing critical habitat for bear, cougar, deer, bobcat and numerous species of waterfowl and other birds.

The Truckee Donner Land Trust was founded in 1990 in order to preserve and protect important historic, recreational and scenic open spaces in the greater Truckee region.

Tel. 530-582-4711

Fax 530-582-5528

email: info@tdlandtrust.org

website: www.tdlandtrust.org

The Truckee Donner Land Trust is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization. Your donations to the Truckee Donner Land Trust may be tax-deductible. Please consult your tax advisor.

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COVER PHOTO:

Perazzo Meadows. Photo courtesy:

Elizabeth Carmel, www.carmelgallery.com.



A young volunteer hard at work on the Donner Lake Rim Trail. Volunteers have logged more than 11,000 hours helping build the trail.



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