

*We Thank Our
Presenting
Sponsors...*

Platinum Level:



Gold Level:



Don't Fence Me In Trail Run and Prickly Pear Open Space Fair

*Oh, give me land, lots of land under starry skies above,
Don't fence me in.*

*Let me ride through the wide open country that I love,
Don't fence me in.*

*Let me be by myself in the evenin' breeze,
And listen to the murmur of the cottonwood trees,
Send me off forever but I ask you please,
Don't fence me in. Cole Porter, 1944*

Cole Porter got it right. We love open country, where we can ride, walk, and enjoy the evening breezes. Help us celebrate trails and open space in 2007. Get the kids, the dog and your sneakers, and join us in Pioneer-Heritage Park in Helena on Saturday, May 12. Events will again include 5k and 12k trail runs, 5k and 12k trail walks and the popular 5k dog walk. For the second year, our festival in the park, now known as the **Prickly Pear Open Space Fair**, will be part of the celebration.

The Open Space Fair has something for everyone. Organizations such as the **Montana Wilderness Association**, the **Montana Discovery Foundation**, **Exploration Works!** and the **Holter Museum** will be sharing their information and activities. Outdoor related businesses, such as **Great Divide Cyclery** and **The Base Camp** will host booths showing off their latest gear. The always popular **Air Jam Inflatables** for kids will be offering free admission from 10am-12 noon. Again this year, the **Lewis & Clark Humane Society** will be on
Continued on page 5...



Win-Win Situation

Gather donations from others for your participation in any of the events. PPLT gets needed program funds and you get a cool thank-you gift! We have an easy way for you to e-mail your family and friends and ask for their support through our website, prickypearl.org. Dogs are also encouraged to gather donations. *See page 5 for thank-you gifts.*

...And Our Business Sponsors

Silver Level:

Downtown Helena, Inc. • Mountain West Bank • Taco Del Sol

Bronze Level:

Helena Hardwoods • Keller, Reynolds, Drake, Johnson & Gillespie, PC • Mosaic Architecture, PC • Robert Peccia & Assoc. • Van's Thriftway

Westside Parcel Purchase Completed

Board of Directors

Michelle Bazzanella
Terry Cohea
Connie Cole
Ken Eden
Phil Hess
Paula Jacques
Sarah Jaeger
Art Keeler
Curt Larsen
Tom Likens
Dawn North
Bob Person
LeRoy Schramm
Mary Schuller
Jeff Williams

Prickly Pear Staff

Andy Baur
Executive Director

Diane Boyd
Land Protection Coordinator

Maggie Engler
Development Director

Heather Nese
Administrative Services Coordinator

Emmett Purcell
Trails Assistant

We are happy to announce that in January 2007 we completed the purchase of two parcels at the base of Mt. Helena near the upper end of Holter Street. The acquisition of these two parcels ensures a popular and important trail access is protected forever.

This project would not have been possible without the incredible support of the neighborhood and other key donors. We raised over \$75,000 to complete this transaction! Several large gifts were incredibly helpful. Specifically, we received an anonymous gift of over \$27,000 and a major challenge grant of \$12,000 from Moira Ambrose and Hugh & Andrea Ambrose. And our members came through at the Harvest Moon banquet where a “call for cash” raised over \$14,000. To top it all off, the FWP Recreational Trails Program awarded grant of nearly \$28,000 allowing us to complete this project on time. We also owe a huge amount of gratitude to the seller for selling the tract at a reduced price,



making it attainable for PPLT and our supporters.

Prickly Pear Land Trust is temporarily holding the title to the land until we are able to transfer ownership to the city of Helena. We are presently collaborating with the city to complete this transfer and anticipate finishing this process this summer. Future plans for the trailhead include a sign and consolidation of the numerous, use-established trails that pass through the area. So enjoy the spring weather and go take a hike beginning at our new Westside access.

Take a Morning Hike or Ride Courtesy of Trolley to Trails this Spring & Summer

Downtown Helena Businesses, Helena Area Transit System (HATS), and the Downtown Helena Business Improvement District are proud to sponsor the fourth annual Trolley to Trails program. Trolley to Trails is a great way to get out and take advantage of Helena’s trails and natural beauty only minutes from Downtown Helena with family and friends. Trolley to Trails offers free shuttle service every Saturday, from late May to early September.



Riders can catch the Trolley at the Women’s Mural on Broadway and anywhere on the Walking Mall. The Trolley will transport you up Grizzly Gulch. Passengers may disembark at the short ridge trail or stay on to get to the longer ridge trail at the head of Grizzly Gulch. The Trolley will have three shuttle runs starting at 8, 8:40, and 9:20 a.m. Thanks to the efforts of HATS and the Helena Bicycle
Continued on next page...

Trolley, continued... Club, the Trolley will be sporting a bike rack for the convenience of riders. Trolley to Trails schedules and maps of Downtown Helena and the Ridge Trail are courtesy of Prickly Pear Land Trust. They can be picked up at sponsoring downtown businesses or by visiting www.downtownhelena.com. For more information please call Downtown Helena, Inc. at 447-1535. Donations are welcomed. Take advantage of this free service and hit the trails!

Trail Walks 2007

For the fifth year, the Membership and Outreach Committee is offering fabulous trail walks for the general public! This summer's series focuses on the new trails in the South Hills, and a new user group: kids!

June 19, 7pm The way may be steep, but-wow- the view is fantastic. We'll climb the newly purchased Mt. Ascension parcel. Meet at the Beattie Street trailhead.



July 17 We are partnering with the Montana Discovery Foundation to offer a trail hike for kids. Stay tuned to www.pricklypearlt.org for more details on this special event.

Aug 21, 7pm Our trail crews have been hard at work this summer, and now is the time to reap the fruits of their labor. Join us for a hike on the new Hobbes Hill trail. Meet at the intersection of South Hills Drive and Arrowroot.

Always wear sturdy hiking shoes or boots and wear layers of clothing. The Committee will provide water, snacks and great information as you hike. Happy trails!

Volunteer Opportunities in 2007!

The Land Trust is looking for a few good volunteers! We are going to be out and about in the community a great deal in the spring and summer of 2007. We are seeking people willing to talk to others about the Land Trust, share info with the public, and help set up and take down booths at community events this year.

We are also seeking people who would enjoy preparing treats and appetizers for various Land Trust events like Harvest Moon, Don't Fence Me In, and Grandstreet Theatre. "Cooks" would be contacted well in advance of an event to find out if they can make a contribution at that time.

If you can help with any of the activities listed below where we still need people, or would like to be on the "cooks" list, please call board member Dawn North at 443-4284 and feel free to leave a message.

Upcoming Membership & Outreach activities include:

- | | |
|----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| May 5 | International Migratory Bird Day
<i>8am-1pm • Need to enjoy children and not mind getting your hands dirty</i> |
| May 12 | Prickly Pear Open Space Fair during Don't Fence Me In
<i>7am-1pm Promote the organization to those attending the Fair and the Trail Run, and sell PPLT merchandise or help with the run itself</i> |
| May 19 | Helena Trail Riders Event
<i>We have enough help, but know that we are reaching out to other trail users</i> |
| June 16 | Humane Society's Strut Your Mutt
<i>Promote PPLT to those attending this morning event</i> |
| Sept. 29 | Harvest Moon
<i>Staff a table during the social hour</i> |

**The work of the Land Trust depends on volunteers.
Thanks for considering these opportunities!**

Speaking of the Land Trust...

Do you belong to a civic organization in the Helena area? Do you know of a group that needs speakers on topics of interest in our community? The Land Trust has a group of enthusiastic volunteers ready and willing to come to the rescue!

The Membership and Outreach Committee of the Land Trust will make a presentation to your group about the work of the Land Trust and its current projects. The program can be tailored to the available time and the specific interests of your organization and includes a Power Point presentation of PPLT's program and services.

To schedule a presentation please call board member Dawn North at 443-4284 and feel free to leave a message.



Volunteer Spotlight: The Corps of Pulaski

Picture this: You are alone leading a volunteer trail workday. All of a sudden 20 people show up at the work site raring to work. Before you know it, you are overwhelmed with questions while trying to get folks lined out on the tasks at hand. This happened a time or two to our PPLT trail staff, but several years ago we were determined to make sure it wouldn't happen again. We created the **Corps of Pulaski**.

The Corps of Pulaski is a group of trained crew leaders that stand ready to assist Trail Boss Emmett Purcell at trail workdays. Each Corps of Pulaski member is trained in the basics of trail maintenance and building as well as general workday dynamics and logistics. We like to have at least two members of the Corps of Pulaski at every workday.

Last year's Corps really pitched in and made the trail workdays go more smoothly. Leading the Corps of Pulaski was board member Phil Hess. At his side were his lovely bride Gwen Sensenig along with Dave Dalthorp, Buck Rea, Tygan Oberst, Mark O'Keefe, Dick Thweatt, Karen and David Thompson, Chris Beskit, Sarah Raz and Mark Brooke. We thank them for taking to the time to learn about our projects and spending the needed time training. We look forward to some return members this year.

And speaking of this year, we would love to have ***you*** in the Corps of Pulaski! If you are interested in serving in the Corps of Pulaski, call Andy at the office, 442-0490. We will provide training, camaraderie and a T-shirt.

Makin' it Happen: Trail Work Days

The South Hills trails are part of the heart and soul of our community and our organization. Every year we work to improve the trails, create new sustainable routes and close off damaged trails. Prickly Pear Land Trust is pleased to be the coordinator of the City of Helena's South Hills trail system **for the 7th consecutive year**. As we are fond of telling our trail friends, there is no dedicated City trail maintenance staff – **our volunteers ARE the trails crew**.

So, in that spirit we are rolling out our trail workday schedule for 2007. Again we are focusing on Monday evenings instead of weekends. After experimenting with this schedule last year, we had considerably more participation on Mondays and folks were able to enjoy those precious summer weekends guilt-free.

Our projects this year will focus on creating better access for our east side neighbors. This will include a new route on Hobbes Hill to the east of Mt. Ascension and a new trail on Nob Hill, one of Helena's newest open space parks. Later in the season we will monitor our progress on other potential projects and post more info on our website as it comes in.

This schedule and the work locations are tentative at this point, so please check our website, www.pricklypearlt.org or give us a call at 442-0490 to get the latest details about trail workdays.

Monday, April 30, 5:30	Mt. Ascension	Beattie Street Trailhead
Monday, May 21, 5:30	Mt. Helena Westside access	LeGrande at Grant St.
Monday, June 18, 5:30	Nob Hill Trails	TBD
Monday, July 16, 5:30	Hobbes Hill	South Hills Dr. at Arrowroot Dr.
Monday, Sept. 10, 5:30	TBD	TBD



hand with trail worthy dogs needing new homes. Physical therapists such as **Nash Spine and Joint Rehab** will visit with you about the roel of physical therapy can play in improving your health. To top it all off, vendors such as **Wheat Montana** and **Nancy's Nibbles** will provide hungry runners and onlookers superb food and drink!

The cost for trail run registration is \$25 until Wednesday, May 9 at 6pm. Register on-line by going to www.pricklypearl.org . You can also register through the mail, or in person at the PPLT office, located at 21 N. Last Chance Gulch, Suite 203 (a.k.a. the Placer Center). **Allegra Print and Imaging** at 40 W. Lawrence is also graciously offering a place to register from May 1-9 (excluding Sunday May 6). You can stop at Allegra between 11am-1pm or 4-6pm to register in person. **There will be no registration between May 9 at 6pm and the day of the event.** You can register the morning of May 12 from 8am-9:30am, but it will cost \$40. Dog walkers need to add \$5 for each dog regardless of date of registration.

Don't want to run but want to help out? There are lots of opportunities for volunteers to handle specific day-of-event details. Please contact race coordinator Kris Larson at 459-3437 or klarson@onewest.net if you'd be willing to volunteer your time.

Take a look at the Don't Fence Me In Trail Run brochure you recently got in the mail, and we look forward to seeing you on May 12!

The Dirt on Thank You Gifts...

Those that gather at least \$100 in donations will receive gifts! The more you gather, the bigger the gift. The person who generates the most donations overall will take home a Grand Prize of a Specialized Rockhopper Comp Disc mountain bike from Platinum Sponsor Great Divide Cyclery. Donation forms are available online or in race registration forms. Thank you for going the extra mile for PPLT!



It's for the Birds!

We enjoy undeveloped lands for aesthetic reasons, but open space, farms, ranches, and wildlife habitat are absolutely critical to migrating birds. The Land Trust is helping to host this year's International Migratory Bird Day celebration on Saturday, May 5. Bring the family and join us at the Helena Regulating Reservoir, 8 miles NE of Helena on York Road (Hwy 280) just east of Lake Helena Drive. The festivities begin as early as 6:30am with guided bird-watching hikes. At 9am educational activities kick off. Activities include building bird houses, making plaster casts of bird tracks, viewing the great blue heron rookery, enjoying music, and getting your photo taken with Woodsy Owl and the big Blue Goose.



Prickly Pear Land Trust volunteers will be out in full force. Stop in to see us at the Tracks Tent where we'll be making plaster casts. We are delighted to be a co-host of this event with the Helena National Forest, the US Fish & Wildlife Service, Montana Discovery Foundation, Birds and Beasleys, MT Fish, Wildlife & Parks, and the Bureau of Reclamation.

If you need more information or want to volunteer, please call 449-5201. We hope to see you there!



Aiming for Conservation *at the* **Sporting Clays Shoot**

SAVE THE DATE!

Put Saturday, August 4th on your calendar for PPLT's Second Annual Sporting Clays Shoot, Aiming for Conservation! Join us at the Z-Z Trap Club on Birdseye Road.

This event will raise money for our land conservation and habitat protection efforts. For more information visit pricklypearlt.org or call our office at 406-442-0490.

HAVE a BLAST!