DLC President’s Letter

Well, Spring has sprung with recent snows and the early flowers such as Spring Beauties and Pasque struggling to withstand the frost onslaught. We should enjoy these spring snows as they bring much needed moisture to our state. Last year the pond behind my house went totally dry for the first time since I moved to this house in 1999. Three years earlier it was overflowing its banks. There is no doubt that our climate is constantly changing and our constant wish is for more moisture.

Since our last communication we have closed on a new easement on 87 acres in Sedalia near several other DLC protected private properties. To date DLC has protected over 824 acres in this area. If you are following us on Facebook you likely saw pictures of bears at a pond last fall which were taken with a field camera on the this property which adjoins the Pike National Forest.

Fundraising is a primary mission of every nonprofit and we have set very aggressive goals in our five year plan. We will strive to increase our overall fundraising by 34% per year, every year for the foreseeable future. This year we are well on our way to achieving that goal.

Our fundraising comes in two basic forms. First we ask for donations which include our campaign around Colorado Gives Day in December each year. Since there is a small matching donation made by Community First Foundation we participate as much as possible. Every year Colorado Gives Day has grown and we have grown with it. We thank all of you that participated as it is a very important part of our annual appeal.

Secondly we hold events on the DLC protected lands as we believe our supporters should be able to see the good that comes from their support. Traditional events have included the JA Ranch (6200 acres preserved just north of Greenland) barbecue in August and a Night at the Cherokee Ranch Castle in October.

We are very excited to announce a new and very different event this year which is Plein Air Painting. We have invited several renowned Plein Air artists to paint their vision on two protected properties with incredible views in Douglas County. They will work all week and then present their paintings for sale at the Dawson Butte Open Space on June 28. During the week their “still wet” paintings will be viewable at the Castle Rock Art Guild’s Art on the Edge Gallery in Castle Rock. More details are available on the DLC website. There is a list of artists there already and you may recognize some of them. Please join us for this exciting inaugural event.

Thanks again for all your support over the years. We will continue to work hard to earn that support.

Pete Smith, DLC Board President
President's Circle ($2,000)
Jim and Patti DeLay, Thomas and Mary Dyk, Rod and Patti Hostetler, Nina Ritchie, Peter and Nina Smith, Mel and Rita Sorensen.

Chairman ($1,000)
Jane and Steve Bound, Merrill and Beryl Jacobson, Michael and Patricia Ivy, Richard Bangs, Sylvia Collinson-Cooper.

Benefactor ($500)
1st Bank of Douglas County, Michael and Deborah Barber, Thomas Barenberg, Edward and Laurie Bock, Cheryl Boughton, Alan Carpenter - Land Stewardship Consulting, Inc., Dan Danser, Jeff and Anne Drabing, Mildred Emerson, Mark and Pat Endry, Helen Erzinger, Dave and Elizabeth Hofmeister, Barbara Hoversten, John and Louise Kears, Hugh and Urling Kingerly, Julliette La Chapelle, Chris and Elizabeth Lawson, Sydney and Tom Macy, Larry and Meme Martin, Lee Niswander, George and Charlotte Odeck, Michael and Karen Parry, Harry and Jane Plotke, Rudy and Alice Ramsey Foundation, Doug Reagan, Randy and Hattie Reed, Robert and Susan Reid, Philip Shepherd, Ruth Sims, Bruce and Debra Smith - Animal Clinic of Parker, P.C., Tagawa Gardens, Patricia A. or W. Timothy Toole, Alan Clarke and Vanessa Dao, Dave Watts.

Steward ($250)
Abbe Ranch, Ginger Allspach, Sheryl Anderson, Raymond and Christine Arthun, David and Joan Banko, Melinda Beck, Jane and Kevin Bral, Land and Karen Brennan, Richard Brown, David and Beverly Carson, Gene Crandall, Daniel and Julie Dobler, Andrew and May Dodds, Milo and Sandra Eckles, Jan Friedlander, Rodger and Kimberly Greer, Christine Hashimoto, Larry and Sharon Huddleston, Weston and Janet Johnson, John and Jamie Kimbrough, Myron Krupp, Steve and Cheryl Matthews, Gary and Suzanne Mayes, Betty Meyer, Bruce and Jane Michael, Andy and Patay Morris, Mardi Chase and Bill Mueller, Mike Mullinnix, Chuck and Becky O’Reilly, Tony Perconti, Steve Perry, Jay Poulis, David and Barbara Quissell, Carl Reid, Frederica Riahi, Dr. David F. and Debra Roberts, Vern and Mary Roberts, Molly Ross, Peggy and Don Runyan, Elaine and Rick Stucy, Kamil and Gloria Tazi, Christine Walden, Liz Willoughby.

Protector ($100)
Charlotte Armstrong, John and Connie Berry, Nancy Page Cooper, Douglas and Linda Diedrich, Charles and Sally Evans, Gwen and Jonathan Feifarek, Terry and Patricia Fiske, Berni and Linda Funk, Dr. Henry and Arline Gardner, Marvin and Betty Gelroth, Rob and Mary Kay Gra, Ken and Jeanette Hicks, Juanita Jahnigen, Philip and Catherinne Jankouskas, Garnet and Verna Jeffery, Eric and Mary Jensen, Thomas and Marilyn Johancen, Thomas and Cynthia Johnson, John and Joy Kancir, Keith and Maria Kay, Patrick Klein, Ted and Sandra Koerner, Bruce and Susan Lowry, Charles and Susan Malone, Philip and Elaine Mueller, Stephen and Kathleen Newell, Mike Oldham, Patricia Owen-DeLay, Alan and Dolores Peterson, Cathy and Mark Postlewaite, William and Margaret Pond, Linda Preshaw, Carolyn Pugh, Mark and Robin Richards, Randy & Suzanne Richardson, Robert and Joan Ripple, John and Priscilla Rizzo, Laura and Steve Roberts, Ilene Ruggensack, Paul and Corrinn Ruttkar, Jackie Sanderson, Claudia Schechter, Craig and Debo Schroeder, Bill and Donna Scott, Bruce and Ayn Scott, Steven Shadow, Christopher and Marilyn Simpson, Joan Sjostrom, John H Stansfield, Harry Truitt, Marletta and Don Ulrich, James and Gwen Underwood, Richard and Marilyn Vap, William and Linda Vincent, Bill and Judy Walker, Beatrice Weaver, Mark Weston, Al Wosstolen, John and Eunice Yost.

Conservator ($50)
Larry and Sandra Adams, Douglas and Diane Ampe, Harold and Dru Anderson, Laura Arndt, Paul Avant, Bertha Ann Aviles, Crystal Babos, Hollis Bach, Ronald Baker, Kit Bazley, Claudia Bellmessieri, William and Diane Bender, Alisson Biggs, Frank and Barbara Blatter, Gary and Pam Bone, David and Cheryl Bradley, Col. Harold and Barbara Braly, Juli Brennan, Bo Broughton, Lorna and Don Buckler, Penny Burdick, Dr. Glen and Jan Burmeister, Michael T. Butterfield, Ron Clausen, Jim and Julie Connally, Beorn Courtney, Cecil Craft, Michael and Betty Dall, Sarah Danser, Glen DeRussy, Rudolph and Virginia Dubek, Barry and Marianne Edward, Anthony and Debra Falcone, Thomas and Sharon Fanning, Lou and Nell Fletcher, Bert and Brooke Fox, Kathy Fox, Judy Gelner, Donald, Colleen George, Mary Willman and George Meares, John and Susan Gianakos, Greg Gidez, Jim and Darlene Godley, William and Nancy Gripman, Robert and Becci Hamilton, Wendell and Charlotte Hatfield, Paul and Lindy Helzer, Marilyn and Dan Hershberger, Sharon Hines, Robert and Linda Houston, Jill and Don Jesperson, John and Carolyn Jones, Sean and Rosemary Keefe, Douglas Kibbe, Lori Kinney, Joe and Cheri Knopinski, John and Alyssa Kopenhafer, Scott and TA Kramer, Boris Krivoruk, Stephen and Mary Kuehster, Ed and Judy Fauri Lee, Arthur and Cheryl Lizotte, Richard and Sue Mahon, Judith and John Makens, J Don Morris, Carole Murray, Randall Nelson, David and Norma Nixon, Marjorie Nockels, Bill and Beverly Noe, Patricia Norris, Doyle and Kathleen Oswald, Lewis Palmer, Lisa Poggas, Alan and Susan Pollock, Elizabeth Richardson, Sabine and Guenter Schmidt, E. Dwight and Janis Schmitt, Janet Slate, Edward and Beverly Statter, Kristal and Russell Suter, Mary and Tom Trotter, Susie Trumble, Carl and Laurie Turk, Andreas Vlahinos, Ken and Carol Wadsworth, Bruce and Judy Wika, Mary Williams, Linda Woodstock, Steve Baroch and Ana Ximenes, Ted and Betty Zieman.

Thank you to all of our 2013 Donors!
Announcing the Conservation of 88 acres in Western Douglas County!

Douglas Land Conservancy is honored to accept the donation of a conservation easement by the Nockels Family on their 88 acre property west of Sedalia, Colorado. The Nockels are the third generation owners of this private property which provides valuable wildlife habitat in harmony with working forest agriculture. The property supports multiple plant communities including Ponderosa pine/scrub woodland, Douglas-fir forest, Successional aspen forest, Riparian shrubland and improved pasture. The property provides important, natural habitat for wildlife, including invaluable sources of water within the surrounding National Forest. For many years Jack and Fleta Nockels lived and worked on the property. It was Jack and Fleta’s wish that it always be protected. Jack cared for the land until his death in 2011. Fleta now lives in Castle Rock and enjoys visiting the property.

The donation of this conservation easement to DLC adds to the area already protected through conservation easements by the Butterfield, Meyer and DiNatale families. These easements make up over 800 acres of protected private properties surrounded by the Pike National Forest. The conservation of this land helps to protect the headwaters of Indian Creek and to maintain the rural agricultural heritage of Western Douglas County.

In addition to these private properties, the neighboring DLC protected 308 acre Pike Hill Open Space is owned by Douglas County. This County open space is accessible by the Ringtail Trail from the USFS Indian Creek Trailhead or Roxborough State Park.

The private and public land in the vicinity protected by Douglas Land Conservancy now totals 1,100 acres. The Pike National Forest surrounds much of this land, forming a large continuous area of protected open space. Thank you Nockels Family for your generous donation of open space!

Bluebird Nesting Box Monitors Needed!

Colorado is the summer home to two native bluebird species, Western bluebirds and mountain bluebirds. Both bluebird populations have declined significantly throughout the United States due to habitat loss. The Colorado Bluebird Project is being coordinated by the Audubon Society of Greater Denver and aims to “improve the vitality of bluebird populations throughout the State of Colorado, and to inform and educate the public about bluebirds”. Douglas Land Conservancy got involved in the Colorado Bluebird Project last year, partnering with Douglas County Open Space to install and monitor bluebird boxes on County open space properties. Many new nest boxes have been installed at Dawson Butte Open Space, south of Castle Rock, to welcome more bluebirds in 2014!

DLC is looking for volunteers to help monitor the boxes from April until August. Training will be provided. To volunteer, contact DLC at (303) 688-8025 or staff@douglaslandconservancy.org – and you can help our native bluebird population thrive!
2014 DLC Guided Hikes and Outdoor Education

Douglas Land Conservancy recently developed a new outreach program offering guided hikes on DLC conserved public and private open spaces. The guided hikes are open to anyone interested in attending and are designed to provide educational information from local experts while raising awareness about DLC and its mission.

We are always looking for volunteers interested in leading hikes and providing information on a variety of topics such as birding, geology, native plant identification, wildlife habitat, archeology, noxious weed identification, and edible and medicinal plants.

If you are interested in leading a hike or receiving information about upcoming guided hikes, e-mail DLC at Staff@DouglasLandConservancy.org or call the DLC office (303) 688-8025.

We are proud to announce a schedule of fun events upcoming in 2014. Below are sneak peaks of some of these programs, including a variety of outdoor and educational opportunities. We hope you will be able to join us to do some birding, identify native wildflowers, hike, or star gaze.

**Late May:** Birding hike at DuPont Open Space. Guided by Douglas County Natural Resource Specialist, Jackie Sanderson (Date to be determined)

**June 15th:** Wildflower hike at Dawson Butte Open Space guided by Sharon Hines and Elizabeth Taylor

**July 12:** Moonlight Hike at Prairie Canyon Ranch. Guided by Douglas County Natural Resource Specialist, Jackie Sanderson

**September 9:** Guided hike at True Mountain. Guided by Douglas County Natural Resource Specialist, Jackie Sanderson

**Late September:** Star gazing hike at Lincoln Mountain Open Space. (Date to be determined)

For more information on dates and hike details, please visit the DLC web site or call the DLC office at (303) 688-8025.
Capturing the Beauty of Open Land
A Plein Air Art Exhibit and Sale
Benefitting Douglas Land Conservancy
June 28th

You are invited to Douglas Land Conservancy’s first Plein Air painting exhibit on Saturday, June 28, 2014, from noon to 6:00pm at Dawson Butte Open Space.

As a fundraiser for DLC, several renowned artists have been invited to visit private properties in southern Douglas County. These artists will paint during the week and a portion of the proceeds from art sales will benefit the land conservancy.

As part of this unique opportunity you are invited to visit the wet room at the Castle Rock Art Guild’s Art on the Edge Gallery in Castle Rock, Colorado during the evenings of June 25, 26 and 27. The gallery will be open each evening for the public to view and purchase artwork in progress prior to the final event on Saturday, June 28. For more information, visit the DLC web site www.DouglasLandConservancy.org

Some of the artists featured at the event:

Plein Air Painting Event Volunteer Opportunities
June 23rd through June 28th, 2014

To make this Event a Success, DLC is looking for several volunteers to help with the following activities:

10 to 15 volunteers needed to fill shifts helping out each day guiding artists to painting locations on two private properties and other help that artists may need.

Photographers out on the land taking photos of the artists while they are painting

2 volunteers each evening from 5 to 8 pm, June 25th, 26th, and 27th to man the wet room at the Art on the Edge building helping with information and purchases of art.

5 to 8 volunteers to help with set up and take down for the event on June 28th at Dawson Butte Open Space and with art purchases during the event.

If you are interested in volunteering for any of these activities, call the DLC office at (303) 688-8025 or e-mail PattiHostetler@dougkaslandconservancy.org
Save the Date! August 23, 2014, 6th Annual JA Ranch Sunset Barbeque Benefiting DLC!

Please join us Saturday, August 23, 2014 from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. for the Sixth Annual JA Ranch Sunset Barbeque and Open Space Celebration, benefiting the Douglas Land Conservancy!

The JA Ranch is a privately operated cattle ranch located South of Castle Rock, CO. The ranch is protected by a conservation easement, which conserves large expanses of wildlife habitat, scenic viewscapes and working agricultural land.

Tickets are $85 per person and can be purchased through the DLC web site www.DouglasLandConservancy.org or by calling the DLC office at (303) 688-8025.

Sunset BBQ dinner by Buffalo Gals Catering
Live Bluegrass music by The Dry Creek Band!
Casual Western attire and comfortable walking shoes suggested.

DLC is currently offering corporate and table sponsorship opportunities. Visit the DLC web site for sponsor information.