

the COUNCIL NEWS

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The Lands Council preserves and revitalizes our Inland Northwest forests, water, and wildlife through advocacy, education, effective action, and community engagement.

www.landscouncil.org



10,000 Ponderosa Pines. One Day.

After competing in nation-wide competition, TLC gears up for major planting day
by Amanda Swan - Director of Development & Communications

In July, The Lands Council's Executive Director, Mike Petersen received an exciting phone call – from Tom's of Maine, the well-known producers of natural hygiene projects. The Lands Council had been chosen as one of twenty finalists in the nation-wide "50 States for Good" contest, and their proposed project to Reforest Spokane by planting 10,000 Ponderosa pine seedlings with the help of 500 volunteers in one day was now close to becoming a reality.

"Reforest Spokane Day was somewhat of a crazy idea that I put together," admits Petersen. "When we received the call that we were in the running, however, I quickly realized we had a shot at winning! The competition is voting-based," he said, "and I knew right away that the Spokane community was instrumental in us winning this competition."

"50 States for Good" awards a total of \$150,000 to the top six projects - \$50,000 to first place, and \$20,000 to second through sixth place. As voting for the competition took off on August 3rd, The Lands Council team anxiously watched to see where they ranked – and were ecstatic when their project appeared in the third place position.

"Starting the competition in third place was what really lit that fire under us," said Development Director, Amanda Swan. "After that, we became really confident that this competition was ours to win." Spreading the word to TLC members, promoting the competition on the organization's Facebook and Twitter accounts, and reaching out to the



Ponderosa Pines, native to the Inland Northwest, are a common fixture on the Spokane horizon. The Lands Council is thrilled to have their project, Reforest Spokane Day funded by Tom's of Maine, allowing them to plant 10,000 seedlings across the city.

local media for help were major steps in moving up the ranks explains Swan.

"There was a point in the competition where we had fallen to 5th place," reflects Swan. "At that same time, this sense of urgency and support came flooding in from our community. Soon we rebounded back to third, then second and finally first place!" On September 6th, in an attempt to increase the suspense behind the popular competition, Tom's of Maine pulled the ranking page from their website. At that time, The Lands Council was holding onto first place.

At that point, The Lands Council team sat down and had a talk explains Swan. "We were confident in our chances of winning – and even more so, were blown away by how

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Executive Director's Report



It was an incredible summer for The Lands Council! In early July we moved the first of three beaver families to new homes, and snagged a front page article about the Beaver Solution in the Wall Street Journal.

Then, in August, nearly 150 of you donned helmets and bicycles and rode in the first annual Brews Cruise, touring several of our restoration sites as well as some of our city's finest establishments.

This summer, we were also selected as one of 20 finalists in the Tom's of Maine 50 States for Good contest. You voted and we were recently notified that we won \$20,000 for our Reforest Spokane project. This means that on October 22, hundreds of volunteers will plant 10,000 Ponderosa pine in our great city. I want to thank everyone for voting, you all rose to the occasion and made the difference.

We are also very appreciative for the great news coverage in the Spokesman Review, and on KPBX, KXLY and KHQ.

Our urban ecology efforts were also boosted with a formal agreement with the City of Spokane's Urban Forest Department. We will be working closely with Urban Forestry to plant and nurture native trees, and enhance the ability of our urban forest to reduce toxic runoff, conserve water and make our city more liveable. We see the link between trees and water quality as vital and have started working closely with the City of Spokane and Washington Department of Ecology to ensure that new developments will minimize their impacts on the environment.

Our work to protect and revitalize our river also had a number of successes. With our partners at the Spokane Riverkeeper and Center for Justice, we staged a successful protest at Coyote Rock, and we think we have backed down the developer from a massive dock project that would harm the upper Spokane River. We have also been invited to be a part of the Spokane River Toxics Task Force, helping find and eliminate sources of PCB's and other chemicals that are finding their way to the river.

Our work to protect forests also made gains this summer. Our idea to set up old growth reserves and connecting corridors has caught the attention of the Forest Service and the timber industry. The Idaho Panhandle National Forest has agreed to a pilot project, in the lower Priest Lake basin, that would restore a watershed holistically. Forest Policy Director Jeff Juel, GIS contractor Paul Sieracki and I are working with the Panhandle Forest Collaborative to make our vision become reality. We are excited that this could start a new level of cooperation and better forest management in north Idaho and northwest Montana.

We also had some very sad news this summer. Mike Chappell, a brilliant attorney, incredible father to Christopher and Stephen and loving husband to Cynthia, suddenly passed away on September 11th. Mike was a great friend, as well as passionate warrior for the rivers of our region. He was our attorney for the City of Pullman water pollution case, started the Gonzaga Environmental Law Clinic and co-founded the Spokane Riverkeeper. It was Mike's idea to create the Toxics Task Force as a way to start cleaning up PCB's now. We miss you Mike, and we will try our best to keep up the great work you started.

Sincerely,

Mike Petersen

Urban Forestry

Reforest Spokane cont.



Though no taller than a foot now, the Ponderosa pine seedlings will grow to mighty heights.

passionate the Spokane community had become in helping us win.” The organization agreed that no matter the outcome of the competition, they were committed to planting those 10,000 seedlings.

“We ordered the seedlings, set the planting date, and began working with County and City staff as well as the DOT to identify planting sites,” explained Petersen, adding that “we knew our chances of coming in within the top six places were high, and we just couldn’t bear the thought of not rewarding our community with this project after all their hard work of voting day after day.”

As was the case back in July, Mike Petersen received another important phone call from Tom’s of Maine a couple weeks after the voting ended. The representative from the company had exciting news for The Lands Council. Their hard work had paid off and as they’d hoped, they were a winner – taking second place and receiving \$20,000. “We were thrilled,” said Swan. “Though we were confident in our efforts, there was this part of us that worried we’d somehow slip out of the rankings. Now we can breathe easy!”

Crediting their success to the lengthy list of individuals and groups in Spokane who stepped forward to help promote the competition, The Lands Council is now gearing up for October 22nd. Those 10,000 seedlings require a substantial amount of space explains Kat Hall, TLC’s Conservation Programs Director and resident tree-planting expert. Hall is currently working to secure up to 20 planting sites throughout Spokane and Spokane Valley.

“We have about ten solidified planting locations, and are currently working to identify even more,” said

Interested in Volunteering?

Date: Saturday, Oct. 22nd
9 a.m. - Noon

Location: Various sites

Needs: Shovel, gloves, sturdy shoes

How to sign up: Visit TLC’s website at www.landscouncil.org, and click the “Sign Up Now” button.

Hall. “Right now, we know we will be planting at various sites along the Spokane River for restoration purposes, as well as in city parks and along the North-Spokane corridor for aesthetic purposes,” explains Hall.

Recruiting volunteers for the event is of high priority explains Swan. “We’re thrilled with the number of volunteers we’ve received so far,” said Swan in reference to the 200-plus individuals currently signed up. “Those interested in volunteering can visit our website to sign-up and choose their preferred planting location.” For more information on Reforest Spokane Day, or to inquire about large group participation, please contact Amanda Swan at (509) 209-2851 or aswan@landscouncil.org.

Branching Urban Forestry Efforts

By Kat Hall - Conservations Program Director

The Lands Council and the City of Spokane’s Urban Forestry Program have signed a memorandum of understanding and created a new program called Urban Branches. Urban Branches represents an exciting effort to maximize mutual goals and objectives in enhancing Spokane’s urban forest canopy.

“The Urban Branches partnership is really ideal,” said Mike Petersen. “It’s mutually beneficial for our two teams to join forces because now supporters of the City’s urban forestry efforts are presented with an opportunity to make tax-deductible donations, while our team is able to expand on an already successful program.

TLC will kick off Urban Branches and celebrate NeighborWoods month with a four-part public educational workshop series this October, focusing on tree planting, pruning, use of native species in the landscape, and low impact development strategies for the homeowner. These workshops are FREE and open to the public. Visit <http://spokaneurbanforestry.org/index.php/Parks/page/1132/#Workshop%20Series> for more details and to register!

Additionally, the Spokane City Council is considering a funding proposal that would benefit the City’s urban forestry efforts. Stay tuned for more on this as events unfold.

The Beaver Solution

Beaver Chronicles - A successful Summer

By Amanda Parrish - Beaver Project Director

Autumn is not just a time to imbibe apple cider and wear wooly sweaters, it's also a time breathe a sigh of relief and reflect on all the accomplishments of the Beaver Solution this past summer. In the past three months, Joe and I have trapped, cared for, and relocated three families of beaver, sixteen beavers all together. For those of you keeping track, that's forty-five beaver, comprising seven families, relocated in 2010 and 2011 combined! In addition to the relocations, this summer we also worked closely with the Colville National Forest, completed some of our baseline vegetation and water quality monitoring, and garnered some major media attention to boot! I hate to use the same old puns, but we have certainly been as busy as any beavers I know.

We have cultivated a close working relationship with staff at the Three Rivers District of the Colville National Forest, where we have essentially been given carte blanche to choose relocation sites throughout the forest. In June we relocated a family of four from the Little Spokane to Pierre Creek, a beautiful stretch of riparian habitat in the Colville National Forest. In July we took a family of seven to East Fork Crown Creek in, you guessed it, the Colville National Forest (CNF). In fact, we work so closely with staff there that for our last relocation, we did things a little differently.



A beaver kit takes one last dip in the trough within its temporary home before being loaded up, and transported to its new home in the Colville National Forest in August. This particular family had 7 beaver - 4 adults and 3 kits.



Joe Cannon, Amanda Parrish and board member Steve Llewellyn prepare to release a family of beaver into their new home on Crown Creek.

Usually Joe and I keep the nuisance beaver in a temporary holding facility in our backyard until relocation day, trapping every night for a week in an effort to get the whole family, after which we relocate the beavers simultaneously. For our final relocation this season, we trapped a family of nuisance beaver from Lake Ellen in the CNF, where their dam was flooding a campsite and endangering a road. Instead of driving all the way back to Spokane, we set up a satellite temporary holding facility in a tree cooler at CNF offices in Kettle Falls. For one whole week we camped at Lake Ellen, trapping five beaver total and keeping them safe and sound in the temperature-controlled climate of the tree cooler. When it came time to relocate to Deadman Creek, again in the CNF, a fire crew offered up their Saturday in favor of helping us carry the caged beavers to the drop site. We're so thankful for the beaver support we receive from all the hardworking folks at the Colville Forest!

Another big success came at the end of trapping season. Though we had time for one more relocation before autumn, the landowners we were working with have all had a change of heart. One of our goals is to educate the public about the many benefits of beaver so that landowners with beaver no longer see them as a nuisance. It looks like we did just that! A handful of landowners who had complained to us earlier in the year realized the benefits of living with beaver and are seeking alternative management strategies, such as tree protection and flow control devices. I've worked on the Beaver Solution for three years, and I can tell you that this shows a significant paradigm shift; I'm renewed with energy to spread the word on beaver benefits now that

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What's New?

Bikes + Beer = FUN at First Annual Brews Cruise

By Amanda Swan - Director of Development & Communication

On Sunday, August 28, over 140 bicyclists took to the streets of downtown Spokane for an afternoon of fun – and a few beers – for the First Annual Brews Cruise. The 7.5 mile ride started and ended at Northern Lights Brewing Co., and visited two additional pubs – The Elk and The Saranac Public House. Along the ride, participants also made stops at points of interest to The Lands Council – a planting site along the Spokane River as part of TLC's environmental education program, a beaver habitat near the Flour Mill, and a view of Hangman Creek where TLC spends countless hours working to restore the watershed.

“The great part about this event is that we were able to highlight some of our efforts, but in a fun and casual way,” said Amanda Swan, Development Director for TLC. “We’ve received nothing but positive feedback from participants about how much fun they had, as well as how much they learned about The Lands Council.”

With drink specials at each stop, and an extended happy hour at Northern Lights, Brews Cruise participants stayed well-hydrated in the scorching 96-degree heat. Though worried the heat would deter some participants from coming out, over 25 individuals registered the morning-of.

“Because this was the first year of the event, we were hopeful to get close to 100 participants,” admits Swan, “when we far surpassed that goal, we were thrilled!”

As participants returned to Northern Lights around 4 p.m., they were greeted by an after-ride benefit concert featuring The Camaros, Angela Marie Project and the Working Spliffs. The free concert, taking place on the outside patio at Northern Lights, offered a chance for riders to relax, unwind and interact with The Lands Council, the board of directors and other members.

“The concert was a ton of fun,” said Swan. “Everyone just kicked back, had a drink and a bite to eat and watched the sun set as we listened to great music. There was even some dancing!”

Thanks to the many event sponsors, registration income and additional donations, Brews Cruise raised slightly under \$5,000 for The Lands Council. Equally exciting, said Swan was that the organization was able to meet a whole new audience of potential supporters. “The diversity in the crowd of participants was great! There were some who’d been members for years, others who’d only heard a small amount about what we do, and some who’d never heard of The Lands Council before,” she said. “Now, however, the entire group knows who we are, what we do, and how they can become involved!”

One question has been a constant in the weeks following the event said Swan. “Everyone wants to know when will the next Brews Cruise take place?” The Lands Council is excited to incorporate Brews Cruise as an annual summer event, and has hopes to increase attendance for next year to over 200 riders. Featured here is a selection of photos from Brews Cruise, courtesy of Kristen Black Photography (kristenblackphotography.com). To see more photos from the day, please visit The Lands Council’s facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/The-Lands-Council/62576950873>.

Left: Debbie Boswell and sister Janis Kimberlin pose for a picture at one of the info stops. Bottom Left: The group departs from Northern Lights. Bottom Right: Kat Hall talks to the crowd about TLC's restoration efforts at Hangman Creek.

kristenBlack
photography



THANK YOU TO OUR EVENT SPONSORS FOR MAKING THE FIRST ANNUAL BREWS CRUISE POSSIBLE!

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The Elk Public House
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Northern Lights Brewing Co.
James & Sheila Harless
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Wheel Sport
Chris & Jan Brandvold
Kristen Black Photography
Roast House Coffee

As TLC kicks off the pilot year of Project S.U.S.T.A.I.N., an environmental education effort focused on getting Spokane-area students out into nature, we'd like to take a moment to thank to organizations who've sponsored this exciting project.

Thank you to:



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For more information on Project S.U.S.T.A.I.N. or to inquire about becoming a sponsor of this project, please contact Amanda Swan at (509) 209-2851 or at aswan@landscouncil.org

A Warm Welcome!

The Lands Council is excited to welcome Nicole Parish, our new Americorps member. Nicole will be working with Team Beaver - Amanda Parrish and Joe Cannon in relation to the Beaver Solution.

Additionally, Nicole will be assisting with Project S.U.S.T.A.I.N. as Beaver Solution Education Assistant. Hailing from Bellingham, Nicole is a recent graduate from Western Washington University. She received her degree in Environmental Policy from Huxley, Western's college of the environment. She also recently completed an internship as Campaign Assistant with ForestEthics.

Nicole enjoys going new places and trying new things, having



never been to Spokane before this past August. In her spare time, Nicole enjoys playing soccer, reading, knitting and going camping. Nicole also fosters a passion for music and performing arts. In the past she's been involved in plays and video production, as well as playing the piano and singing in choirs.

Beaver Chronicles cont.

I've seen examples of success! We are now working with state agencies and legislators alike to streamline the permitting required to install in-stream beaver management devices so that we can build more of these in the future and keep "nuisance" beaver in our watersheds.

We've also been able to complete a lot of baseline monitoring on existing vegetation and water quality at a variety of our beaver sites with the help of a summer intern, Michele Larson. Michele will be starting a Master's Degree in Biology at EWU this fall and proved to be an invaluable resource for data collection this summer. And though she missed most of the field season, on September 1st we welcomed our newest AmeriCorps member, Nicole Parish. Nicole will be our Beaver Solution Outreach and Education Coordinator over the next year, working on everything from in-school presentations to landowner outreach and riparian restoration.

Lastly I wanted to ask, have you read the Wall Street Journal lately? While stock markets don't have anything good to say, there was one bit of cheerful news on the front page of the Wall Street Journal on August 30th. The article was titled, "With Trouble on the Range, Ranchers Wish They Could Leave it to Beavers," and featured The Lands Council's own Team Beaver! Joel Millman, a reporter from the Wall Street Journal, travelled all the way to Spokane to follow Joe and me around as we trapped and relocated beaver in July. You can find the entire article on our website. And stay tuned! I just completed an interview with NPR's Living on Earth program, which should air sometime in early October. Of course, if you miss it there will be a link on our website where you can listen. It's the beavers, not me, who deserve such positive, national media attention, and I am glad to see that after centuries of managing our watersheds, beaver are finally getting the recognition they deserve.

Program News

Healthy Homes

By Kat Hall - Conservation Programs Director

In conjunction with the City of Spokane Community Development Department, the Spokane Regional Health District, and Kiemle & Hagood Co., we've created a new TLC environmental health project this summer called "Healthy Homes." This project includes a neighborhood outreach component on the hazards of lead and radon in the home and the EPA Renovator Rule (RRP), as well as a survey about housing conditions that create or exacerbate health problems (e.g. mold & asthma, dust & allergies, poor insulation & cold/flu, excess trash & rodents, etc.) and whether resident behaviors increase health risks. We are also distributing home radon and lead test kits to low-income families. This fall, we hope to interview health professionals to find data on



how home environmental exposures correlate with health outcomes. For more details about our Healthy Homes work, contact Kat.

RUNDOWN ON RADON

Radon is a colorless, odorless, naturally-occurring radioactive gas that comes from the decay of uranium and radium in the ground. Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer after cigarette smoking. Radon gas travels from soil to air and into the home through cracks and holes in the foundation, floors, or walls. It becomes trapped and builds up inside the home. Any home may have a radon problem. The Spokane area has a high prevalence of radon gas: 60% of Spokane County homes have elevated levels of radon.

The only way to know if you have elevated levels of radon is to test your home. Purchase a do-it-yourself test kit online or from a local home improvement or hardware store, or hire a professional contractor. For more information, please visit <http://www.epa.gov/radon/index.html>.

Third Annual Picnic with the Beavers Recap

The Third Annual Picnic with the Beavers, held on Sunday, September 11th, was a success as about 70 people headed out for an afternoon of fun and learning at Liberty Lake County Park. As children, parents and grandparents checked in and received their name tags, they were encouraged to enjoy the array of snacks provided by The Lands Council.

"We chose snacks that were all beaver-related," said Amanda Parrish, Director of the Beaver Solution. "From pretzel sticks and peanut butter resembling sticks and mud to a full-fledged beaver dam made from bean dip, even the snacks offered the opportunity for learning."

Guest of Honor and Coeur d' Alene tribal elder, Felix Aripa, welcomed guests, telling them about the role wildlife, in particular the beaver, played throughout the history of his tribe.



Two participants check out one of the signs of a beaver habitat, a tree with chew marks along the creek.

After, families were broken into two groups and invited to take part in three learning stations.

Station 1, offered a lesson in the Coeur d'Alene language, teaching kids through wildlife examples. In Station 2, participants enjoyed a hike with Bijay Adams of the Liberty Lake Sewer and

Water District, learning about wetland formation and viewing multiple beaver dams. Finally, Station 3 allowed children to show their creativity and gain insight into the life of our favorite ecosystem engineers by building edible dams out of an array of snacks such as pretzel sticks and chocolate frosting.

"All three stations were a hit with the kids and their parents," said Parrish. "Picnic with the Beavers is always such a fun event for us to put on because we're able to raise awareness about the benefits of beaver through family-friendly activities."

At the end of the day, the kids were introduced to The Lands Council's own beaver mascot, "Chip" who generously gave out hugs and high fives. The Lands Council wrapped up the day of fun and learning with a drawing, awarding two children with a complimentary beaver t-shirt.

THE LANDS COUNCIL

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Beaver T-shirts have arrived!

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Adult & Youth sizes
\$14 - \$16
Purchases are tax-deductable

To order yours today, please contact Amanda Swan at aswan@landscouncil.org
Or 509.209.2851



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