

Ozark Regional Land Trust

Fall 2008



The Ozark Holler

ORLT's Mission

Through carefully designed programs of conservation and appropriate land management, ORLT will empower people to protect the natural resources of the Ozarks forever.

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Your Support Has

- Resulted in ORLT and Ozark landowners protecting 18,898 acres of farms and forests since 1984.
- Backed ORLT's completion of 77 conservation easement and nature preserve projects.

Ozark Farm Forever

Family Donates Conservation Easement on Expansive Farm in Gasconade River Watershed

ORLT completed a major conservation easement in early July on a 1,550 acre farm in the Gasconade River watershed.

This donation by the Boettcher family will protect forever the extensive oak-hickory forests and clear headwater streams found throughout the property.

It also adds a significant buffer to the nearby Canaan Conservation Area,



Lois Wyman, Esther Boettcher, and Glenn Boettcher

managed by the Missouri Department of Conservation. Together, these properties protect 3,000 acres of prime wildlife habitat.

The Boettcher family acquired the farm over several years beginning in the 1930s. The family patriarch, William Boettcher, was an early leader in soil and water conservation.

After Mr. Boettcher's death, his widow and children cared for the expansive farmstead. They commissioned a forest management plan and participated in conservation programs. In recent years, native grasses were planted, glades restored, and some fields reforested with hardwoods.



Mature hardwood forests cover two-thirds of the farm

The Boettchers are model land stewards and their gift ensures that the area's rolling hills and forests will be protected forever.

The project also adds to protected lands in the watershed of the Gasconade River. ORLT now holds easements on nearly 6,000 acres in the watershed.

Ninestone Land Trust Hosts ORLT Annual Meeting in Berryville, AR *Membership Elects Four to Board of Directors*

It doesn't get any prettier than the 415 acres protected by the Ninestone Land Trust near Berryville, Arkansas. A magical waterfall, crystal clear Piney Creek, towering bluffs, and huge shortleaf pines grace the property. It is a classic Ozark scene

About thirty-five members of ORLT gathered at Nine-

stone in early June to conduct organizational business and take in the sights. Judy Griffith and Don Matt live on the property and were welcoming hosts.

The meeting consisted of a background on the Ninestone project by Don Matt, an update on organizational affairs, and a presentation on biodiversity in the

Ozarks by outgoing board member Andrea Radwell.

The membership also elected four new directors to the ORLT board. This group brings diverse skills, including law, business, conservation, and non-profit management. Turn to page three to meet the new board members.

Woods Prairie in Bloom!

A rain-soaked spring meant abundant wildflowers at ORLT's Woods Prairie Preserve near Mount Vernon, Missouri. Purchased by ORLT in 1999, this 40 acre preserve is one of southwest Missouri's few unplowed prairies. More information is at www.orlt.org.



Tickseed Coreopsis



Coneflower, Rattlesnake Master



Hairy Wild Petunia

Campaign Update

ORLT Supporters Jump-Start Operating Endowment

ORLT founder Gregg Galbraith challenged members last fall to help expand the land trust's work by building an operating endowment. Gregg committed \$60,000 toward the endowment if matched by others.

The Community Foundation of the Ozarks pledged to match another \$25,000 through its Stewardship Ozarks Initiative.

This challenge seemed a large task to an organization with a small budget and in the middle of a staff transition.

You responded in terrific fashion, however, and ORLT now has a solid foundation of an operating endowment that it hopes to grow larger in the future.

Thank you for your support of this important campaign!

Operating Endowment Campaign (Phase I)

Goal: \$170,000

Raised: \$176,011*

* Includes contributions, pledges, and deferred gifts

A Commitment to the Ozarks

Long-Time Supporter Rosemary Wakeham Makes Leadership Gift

Rosemary Wakeham has developed her love of the outdoors over many years living in the Ozarks and traveling to other parts of the world. Her philanthropy helps ensure that future generations can be inspired by the same beautiful landscape.

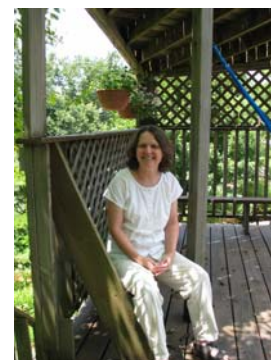
Wakeham, a long-time ORLT supporter, boosted the Operating Endowment campaign with a major gift this past March. Along with more than 100 other donors to the campaign, she helped ORLT raise more than \$176,000 for the new endowment that will help sustain ORLT's work with a perpetual stream of funding.

Bird-watching and hiking with her family at an early age is what she credits

with her affection for the outdoors. This carried forward into a degree in biology from Ohio University and a life-long passion.

Today, Wakeham gets outdoors as much as she can with her friends and enjoys tending to native plants around her home. In addition to her support of ORLT, she has also helped other non-profits protect land and develop trails near Rolla.

Her philosophy on conservation is that people should "preserve what we can" while it still exists. She encourages ORLT to "keep doing what it has been doing to protect the Ozark landscape."



Rosemary Wakeham

Congress Boosts Land Conservation

Tax Incentives in Farm Bill Make Conservation a More Viable Option for Many

Recognizing the tremendous benefits that result from land conservation, Congress this spring extended tax incentives that make conservation a more viable option for landowners. These incentives will result in long-term protection of more farms, forests, wildlife, and streams.

In a nutshell, the tax incentives allow landowners to deduct a greater percentage of their income

when they donate a conservation easement to a land trust. The deduction may also be spread over a longer period of time than in the past.

Farmers and ranchers qualify for even greater benefits, being able to deduct up to 100% of their income for choosing a conservation easement.

The tax incentives allow landowners to benefit from

the current value of their land without selling it for development. It is also a way of acknowledging the great community benefits that flow from the donation of a conservation easement.

For more information, contact Ted Heisel at (314) 401-6218 or ejheisel@orlt.org.

You can also visit the Land Trust Alliance's website for detailed information. (www.lta.org).

New Faces on ORLT's Board



Kurt Homeyer



Jim Lukens

Meet ORLT's New Board Members

ORLT's membership elected four new board members at the annual meeting in early June. They bring extensive experience in different fields.

Kurt Homeyer of Ellington, Missouri, manages The Nature Conservancy's Current River Project. He is engaged in a number of large conservation projects for TNC.

Jim Lukens lives near Fayetteville, Arkansas, and directs the Southern Sustainable Agriculture Working Group. Jim brings a deep background in communications and non-profit management to ORLT's board.

Jake Reby practices real estate and corporate law in St. Louis at the firm Lewis, Rice & Fingersh. He has

also served on numerous non-profit boards of directors in the St. Louis area.

Bill Roselius is a marketing and management consultant in Eureka Springs, Arkansas. Bill's brings to ORLT's board knowledge of information technology, strong business skills, and commitment to conservation.



Jake Reby

Thank You to Outgoing Board Members

Three members of ORLT's board have also recently decided to step down.

Andrea Radwell of Eureka Springs was elected in 2001 and served as Secretary for a number of years. Andrea's long tenure was inspired by her feeling that the "protection of land is

the most important way to give something to future generations."

Ben Johnson of Little Rock stepped off the board this spring in order to devote more time to his family. Ben had earlier donated to ORLT a family farm near Fayetteville, known as New

Pear Farm.

Ken Jones of St. Louis, who served as ORLT's treasurer in recent years, moved to Arizona to pursue a new job. Ken was instrumental in bringing about recent upgrades to ORLT's accounting systems.



Bill Roselius

Ozark Regional Land Trust

P.O. Box 440007
St. Louis, MO 63144
Phone: (314) 401-6218
E-mail: ejheisel@orlt.org
Web: www.orlt.org

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Empowering People to Protect Land in the Ozarks

ORLT Board

Andrew Thomas, *President*
Jim Lukens, *Vice-President*
Gene Dunaway, *Treasurer*
Paul Justus, *Secretary*
Gregg Galbraith
David Haenke
Kurt Homeyer
Jake Reby

ORLT Staff

Ted Heisel
Executive Director

Abigail Lambert
River Stewardship Project
Coordinator

John Cutler
Mapping Consultant

Jerry Sugerman
Monitoring Consultant

Gary Freeman
Membership Consultant

Help Protect the Beautiful Ozarks

Make a Gift to ORLT today!

How You Can Help:

Become a Member. Support ORLT and stay informed of its conservation work.

Encourage a friend to join. Each new membership is put to work on conservation projects.

Make an honorary gift. What better way to honor someone than help protect an Ozark farm or forest!

Donate stock or property.

One of the best ways to support ORLT is to donate appreciated stock or unused property.

Leave a conservation legacy. Include ORLT in your will or trust and help protect the Ozarks for future generations.

Contact us today for more information about how to support ORLT's conservation work. Call (314) 401-6218 or email ejheisel@orlt.org.



The owners of this forest recently contacted ORLT about conservation options. Your support allows ORLT to help landowners protect the special places of the Ozarks.