

Grand Views



**KEEP IT
GRAND!**

The Middle Park Land Trust is dedicated to helping landowners preserve Grand County's scenery, agriculture, water, wildlife and biodiversity for today and the future.

Volume 12, Number 1

Spring 2007

OUR MOST SUCCESSFUL YEAR EVER



160 Acre Carter Mountain Conservation Easement

The Middle Park Land Trust just completed our 12th year of land conservation in Grand County by accepting 12 conservation easements on 1,076 acres. 2006 was a very busy year for us, as we accepted three times the number of easements of any other previous year. Another positive is that more than half of the land preserved last year is on agricultural lands, which not only preserves historical ranchland, it also provides critical winter habitat for many species of wildlife.

2007 is shaping up to be even better still. As of March, we are already collaborating with several large landowners wanting to place conservation easements on their lands. The combination of the federal and state expanded tax incentives and increased staff is opening new doors for the Land Trust on a daily basis, it seems.

A special thanks to all the people who brought the land trust to where it is today. The strong foundation laid by them is what makes the work being done today possible.

What the Land Trust needs now is your continued support. With members helping us every step of the way, our success in land conservation will only continue to build. Together, we will preserve and protect even more of the precious lands of Grand County for the future.

Save the Date for MPLT's Annual Meeting and Party

Our 2006 annual meeting and event is set for **Sunday June 24th, 2007 at Devil's Thumb's Broad Axe Barn**. The actual Middle Park Land Trust Annual Meeting will take place at 2:00 pm, and all are welcome to attend. The openhouse celebration will follow, beginning at 3:00 pm with the festivities ending around 7.

The cash bar will open at 2pm with barbeque being served for dinner. The Blues Society has agreed to provide entertainment. Eden Brent will be "singing the blues" for your listening and dancing pleasure.

Again this year, come and celebrate your community connections with representatives from other recreational, historical, land and water resource organizations to talk about their missions.

Cost for this event at the beautiful Devil's Thumb Broad Axe Barn is \$20 if you purchase in advance, or \$25 if you want to pay at the door. We have several different ways for you to reserve your space - by phone at 970-887-1177; email mplt@middleparklandtrust.com; stop in at 52 N. 1st Street in Granby or send us a check with the names of attendees to PO Box 1938, Granby, CO 80446.

Watch our website for further announcements on this fun event. We hope to see you there!

EXPANDED TAX INCENTIVES

In 2006, President Bush signed into law a bill which contained provisions that significantly expand the federal tax incentives for landowners who place a conservation easement on their property. This bill also imposes reforms that will help prevent abuse of the increased incentive.

It is important to note that this incentive only applies to easements donated in 2006 and 2007. Land trusts throughout the country are working to make this change permanent, but as of today, it will expire at the end of 2007.

This new law:

- Raises the deduction a landowner can take for placing a conservation easement on their land from 30% of their income in any year to 50%.
- Allows qualifying farmers and ranchers to deduct up to 100% of their income
- Extends the carry forward period for a landowner to take tax deductions for a voluntary conservation agreement from 5 to 15 years.

The state of Colorado has also made a positive change. Beginning in 2007, a conservation easement donor is able to claim up to 50% of the fair market value of the conservation easement as a tax credit. They have also increased the maximum donation amount to \$750,000 which results in a maximum tax credit of \$375,000. (Please remember that this income tax credit is based upon a qualified appraisal.) Further, this credit can be sold to other Colorado tax payers and the donor is able to receive cash. This is usually accomplished through tax credit brokers who match tax credit buyers with sellers.

These positive changes are bringing land conservation to the attention of more and more Grand County landowners. The landowner and the public both benefit and enjoy the protection and preservation of conservation values on such as water, wildlife, view corridors and open lands.

Now Accepting Entries for 11th Annual Purely Grand Photo Contest

Turn in your photos taken in Grand County by Thursday, July 12, 2007 for this year's Purely Grand Photo Contest. We are now accepting entries for photos in six categories: scenery, agriculture, wildlife, floral, black & white, and photos by kids. You can mail your eight by ten matted photos to the Middle Park Land Trust at PO Box 1938 in Granby, CO 80446. Or, you can drop them by our office at 52 North First Street in Granby. On the back of the photo, please include your name, address, phone number, category you wish to enter, and the location in Grand County where the photo was taken.



Photo by Patricia Shannon
2006 Scenery Winner

Prizes will be awarded for first place in each category and for the Middle Park Land Trust Board of Directors' favorite photo. For more information including contest rules, and to view last year's winning photographs, visit our website at www.middleparklandtrust.org.

Cupid's Corner Better Than Ever

The third annual Cupid's Corner Valentine Craft Boutique in Fraser was again sponsored by the Middle Park Land Trust. The 2007 boutique was an even greater success than 2006 with 19 vendors and a great showing of shoppers. A special thanks to Francie De Vos who worked tirelessly to help put this together and who designated the Land Trust as beneficiary. Watch for information on next year's Cupid's Corner in our fall newsletter.



MPLT Board members Judi Servoss and Jerree Stroh with Advisory Board member Bonnie Koblitiz running the Land Trust booth at Cupid's Corner.

Sign Up for City Market Cares

One easy way to help the Middle Park Land Trust with our mission of preserving Grand County's special places is to sign up for the City Market Cares program. It's free to you -- just call us at 887-1177 or e-mail us at mplt@middleparklandtrust.org with your name, phone number, and City Market or King Soopers card number, and you'll be earning money for the Land Trust whenever you shop for groceries.

Vehicles for Charity



The Middle Park Land Trust is now a participant in the Vehicles for Charity program. You can donate your unwanted vehicle, receive a tax deduction, and help the Middle Park Land Trust at the same time. Visit vehiclesforcharity.org for more information, and look for us under The Middle Park Land Trust.

Middle Park Land Trust Website Gets a Facelift

We updated our website late in 2006 with more information, new photos, and a clean new design. Please visit us at www.middleparklandtrust.org to see our newly remodeled home on the web. Check back often for the latest news on MPLT events and accomplishments.

Business Partners Program

*Please Support these Businesses
that Support the
Middle Park Land Trust*

Alpine Classic Music
Devil's Thumb Ranch Resort
Devil's Thumb Nordic/Fishing Center
Engelmann Pines B&B
Fraser Valley Properties
Grand County Internet Service
Grand County Title & Escrow
Grand Lake Lodge
Home James Transportation
J.R.'s Grill BBQ Caterers
Jerry Peirce Construction
Lost Boys Burgers & Shakes
Miller's Inn Massage
New York Life Insurance
Ore Communications
The Paper Clip
Ripple Works
Silk's Dental Hygiene Service
Streamside Art
Walden Hollow Enterprises
Whistle Stop Bed & Breakfast
Winter Park Dental
Winter Park Market
Winter Park Sushi Bar

Board of Directors



Photo by Spencer George.

Our Board of Directors expanded in 2006 to 13 highly qualified and passionate individuals. Charlene Heins is our new treasurer, and Alice Nordloh has become secretary. Mike Braddy remains our Board President, with Deb Froeb as our Vice President. Our entire board does a great job, and will be instrumental in bringing even more success to the Middle Park Land Trust in 2007.

Middle Park Land Trust
PO Box 1938
Granby, CO 80446