

CONSERVE

News from Lemhi Regional Land Trust
and Salmon Valley Stewardship

Spring 2019

New Home for the Pioneer Elementary Pumpkin Patch

With the 2017 purchase of the Salmon School Garden Project (SSGP) property by Lemhi Regional Land Trust (LRLT), the SSGP committee was able to begin realizing a long term goal of fully integrating the Pioneer Elementary Pumpkin Patch into the Salmon School Garden. The Pumpkin Patch has long been an iconic project that is looked forward to annually by Pioneer Elementary fifth graders. Originally located on Salmon School District 291 property, building maintenance necessitated skipping the Pumpkin Patch in 2018, providing the perfect opportunity to start fresh with a new location in the Salmon School Garden in 2019.

Spearheaded by SSGP committee member, Candace Burns, relocating the Pumpkin Patch has been an enormous undertaking. Work began in late March with staging all of the necessary supplies and removing the top six inches of soil to minimize the ever present quack grass problem being battled in the Salmon School Garden. With the area prepped, the Pioneer Elementary fifth graders began constructing “lasagna beds” in early April. These beds consist of a layer of cardboard for weed prevention, followed by alternating layers of straw and manure, which begin to decompose over time providing a rich growing medium for plants. With help from Salmon Junior-Senior High School introduction to agriculture, landscape design, greenhouse management and sixth grade classes and Fern Waters Charter School, the fifth graders ultimately constructed over 350 feet of lasagna beds and wire tunnels for the pumpkin vines to climb.

In May, the fifth graders visited the Salmon School Garden to start their pumpkin plants, including a variety of carving, pie, mini and decorative pumpkins, and will be planting their seedlings the last week of school. Look for dates for the Pumpkin Patch Sale coming in late October!



Pioneer Elementary fifth graders work together to begin constructing new “lasagna beds” for the Pumpkin Patch.



Pioneer Elementary fifth graders planting a variety of pumpkin seeds to transplant later in May.

Reconstructing the Pumpkin Patch has been a community effort and we would like to extend an EXTRA SPECIAL THANKS TO...

**Candace Burns • Dan Browne • Dahle Construction • Lemhi Lumber
Lemhi Soil and Water Conservation District • McFarland Ranch • Running K Ranch
Jim Smith • U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service • ValleyWide Cooperative • Westfall, Inc.**



Left: Pioneer Elementary first graders built their own plants out of vegetables.
Right: Upper Carmen Charter students learn about the parts of agriculture with UI Extension Educator, Shannon Williams, and Salmon FFA members.



Left: Pioneer Elementary fifth graders check out the DNA extracted from their strawberries.

Right: Mary Cerise helps Upper Carmen Charter students dissect Snickers bars.

“Food for Life”: Celebrating Agriculture

Lemhi Regional Land Trust Outreach Coordinator, Charli Williams, and Executive Director, Jen Smith, had the opportunity to visit Pioneer Elementary kindergarten, first grade, fifth grade and gifted and talented program, Fern Waters Charter School fourth and fifth grades and Upper Carmen Charter School kindergarten, first, second and third grade classes as part of National Agriculture Week!

Activities included learning about chickens, building a plant from vegetables, extracting DNA from strawberries, learning about the difference between conservation and preservation and more. A huge THANK YOU to University of Idaho Lemhi County Extension, University of Idaho Nancy M. Cummings Research, Extension and Education Center, Salmon FFA, Mary Cerise and the teachers who shared their classes with us for helping make our portion of National Agriculture Week possible!

Thoughts from the Road...

Salmon Valley Stewardship’s Natural Resources Program Manager, Jenny Gonyer, recently completed a whirlwind tour of the West. Here’s her thoughts from the road:

Sitting in a hip coffee shop in Moscow, I stare at my friend’s water bottle covered in stickers and stay fixated on the words “Save the Salmon.” It’s not surprising to see this sticker as my friend is a fisheries biologist. This makes me pause and rethink about a phone call I had two hours previously between ranchers and a different fisheries biologist. Here I am on the opposite side of Idaho’s mountains from our town of Salmon, and we’re all connected by this species.

I started my adventure in mid-March by returning home to South Dakota, swinging by Nebraska first to finally see the Sandhill Crane migration. The rattling bugle calls of 100,000+ cranes flying throughout the skies couldn’t have been a better way to celebrate the start of spring. From there I headed back west to drive a loop from Idaho to → Utah → Arizona → New Mexico → Colorado → Utah → Nevada → Idaho → Washington → Idaho!

During this trip I worked remotely in fun coffee shops and bakeries, but it felt like they were lacking a sense of community. And that word, “community”, kept appearing in my mind and in conversations with friends I was visiting. Many asked if I ever plan on leaving Salmon. I kept thinking about that question as I drove through many beautiful towns with red rock landscapes, endless aspen stands, and mountains taller than Salmon’s, and yet to me, something was missing. The Salmon community is why I keep on coming back.

I have been living in Salmon since 2014 after graduating from college, it was easy to make this place my home. The people in this valley are amazing; they all may have different beliefs, but this melting pot of ranchers and river guides, multi-generational locals and transients, is what makes Salmon unique. The people who live here cherish this place and WANT to live here, sometimes accepting a smaller paycheck just to live in this valley. The smell of ponderosa pines always made me think of my home where I grew up in the Black Hills of South Dakota. After this trip I realized the smell of sagebrush now calls me home. The common goal of living in this amazing place fosters a welcoming community, you just need to invest your energy and stay around long enough to become a part of it.

Driving back North on 93 through the winding river canyons, I know the fish are swimming through these waters and I think about all the collaboration occurring in these valleys to ensure these fish have a home to return to. I round that last corner of the canyon and see that view of the Beaverhead mountains that always makes me smile and know that I am home.

Tiffanie McAllister “Be a Better You” Award Announced

In the fall of 2018, beloved SVS friend and Board Member, Tiffanie McAllister lost her battle with a rare neurological disease. Though she is missed deeply, Tiffanie is still remembered for her humor, adventurousness, and perpetual lightheartedness. She believed in bravely facing her fears and expanding her horizons, always pushing herself to become better physically and mentally. Tiffanie also valued opportunities to be involved; she generously volunteered her time and talents toward numerous community efforts.

To memorialize her exuberant approach to life, Tiffanie's friends and colleagues created the Tiffanie McAllister, “Be a Better You” award. The award is intended to provide financial support to young people who are seeking to become better people and members of society through travel, education and adventure.

The 2019 inaugural award winner is Brooke Painter. Brooke is a Salmon High School senior who is planning to become a Conservation Writer, and she plans use the award to help fund her education. Brooke's compelling, inspiring essay detailed her future plans to use the power of words to help preserve and conserve our natural world. The award selection committee is pleased to support Brooke in this endeavor.

The Tiffanie McAllister "Be a Better You" award is made possible by generous individual donations and through proceeds from Salmon's Six Hours of Spring Flowers Mountain Bike Ride. In addition to funding the award, the race is intended to bring friends and family together to celebrate life, the renewal of spring, facing fears and enjoying nature.

For more information, or to make a financial contribution, please visit www.betteryouaward.com.



Welcome to the Board! ACE HESS

Lemhi Regional Land Trust



From an early age, Ace was drawn to the wide-open landscapes of Central Idaho. With family roots that can be traced back well over 100 years in Lemhi and Custer Counties, he has a great appreciation for the customs and cultures of this amazing landscape. Over the course of his career, Ace spent

sixteen years managing invasive species and restoring native habitats for the Challis field office of the Bureau of Land Management and also spent time in the fuels reduction, fire, range management, wildlife and fisheries programs. Today, he works for Backcountry Hunters and Anglers and as a river guide in the summer. Ace recognizes how vital healthy working landscapes are to the people, fish and wildlife that call this awesome place home and is excited to join Lemhi Regional Land Trust in their mission to conserve these places.

AARON PEETS

Salmon Valley Stewardship

Aaron was born in Salmon and grew up in Baker up Withington Creek. He and his siblings spent countless hours fishing, hunting, riding dirt bikes, horn hunting, and exploring. In high school, Aaron joined the Lost Trail Freestyle Ski Team and traveled around the Pacific Northwest competing in mogul skiing competitions.



In his early 20s he began working in construction, framing and building houses. Aaron's interest in home building took him to Portland, Oregon, where he worked as a general contractor for 15 years. In 2008, he came back to Salmon (temporarily) to help his brother and his wife build their home and never left. Aaron currently owns a company, Granite Crafters, that specializes in custom stone countertops. For fun, he loves doing all the things that Salmon has to offer—skiing, mountain biking, hiking, trail running, fishing, backpacking, camping, whitewater rafting, and stand-up paddle boarding.



Join us for dinner by donation, live and silent auctions, kids' activities and live music by the Jenn Snyder Band!

Interested in being a sponsor or donating an auction item?

Call Charli at (208)756-8879 or email charli@lemhilandtrust.org for more info!

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STAY IN TOUCH!

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