



# The Quail

News from Lane County Audubon Society

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## From a Board Member

Barbara Bryson, bbryson150@gmail.com

## Habitat Haven, Coming Soon to Your Area

by Board Member Barbara Bryson



Lane Audubon is excited to announce the pilot of our backyard habitat enhancement program: **Habitat Haven!**

### Why are we doing this?

Habitat has been disappearing for decades. In the past 50 years, the United States has lost 3 billion birds. Our pollinators are down 40 percent. The UN says we are in a “biodiversity crisis,” with many contributing factors, including habitat loss and pesticides. As our landscape becomes more developed, urban and suburban yards play an increasingly important role in the survival of wild birds. But we can make a difference! By planting natives, taking care of our soil, reducing lawns, providing safe habitat, reducing pesticides, and removing invasive plants, we can create corridors of life

for birds, wildlife, and the insects we need to pollinate food crops for humans that nourish birds as well!

To better understand this, keep in mind that insects evolved with native flowering plants. While some bees are generalists and will use many different flowers, many native bees prefer specific native flowering plants to collect pollen for their young. For example, mining bees prefer asters and willows. Squash bees will only use pollen from the cucurbitae (pumpkin) family. That makes it important to plant native flowering plants that best serve our native pollinators. European honeybees, on the other hand, exist in greater numbers than ever before and they compete with native bees for pollen and nectar. Another factor working against native bees is that they may only travel a short distance to find food, so they need flowers close by. Many of our crops are pollinated by native bees, and they need our help!

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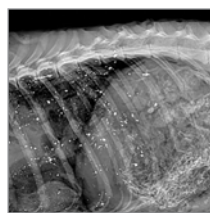
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## Conservation

Debbie Schlenoff, 541.685.0610, debschlenoff@gmail.com

# These LCAS Conservation Efforts Are Closely Interconnected



Photo: Barbara Bryson

*Dr. Ulrike Streicher in front of Louise Shimmel Wildlife Hospital at Cascades Raptor Center.*

Lane County Audubon is working with partners across the state to develop an **Oregon Bird-Friendly Community Certification** program, which also includes the **Non-Lead Ammunition campaign** detailed below. **Habitat Haven** (page 1) is equally integral to that work. The combined programs recognize the important role local communities can play as they create, restore, and protect habitat for birds, work to reduce threats to birds, and provide opportunities for stewardship, education, and nature-focused activities to engage community members.

Bird populations across the United States, on the Pacific Flyway and in Oregon are in trouble.

Nearly 500 species of wild birds utilize Oregon for some portion of their life cycle, and many of these birds pass through our cities and towns. The programs are designed to support communities in creating local coalitions to support avian

conservation activities. We are working to form our coalition in Eugene and start moving toward official designation as one of Oregon's **Bird-Friendly Communities**.

Stay tuned for our announcement and more information coming soon. We are putting in place many programs, including the **Non-Lead Ammunition** campaign detailed below, that support efforts to protect birds in addition to our Lights Out program (see: [laneaudubon.org/field-notes/lights-out-eugene/](http://laneaudubon.org/field-notes/lights-out-eugene/) or the April issue of *The Quail*).

## The Case for Non-lead Ammunition

By LCAS Board Member Barbara Bryson

**Doctor Ulrike Streicher** is the veterinarian at Eugene's Cascades Raptor Center. On a cool March morning, I spoke with her at the Raptor Center, while an American Kestrel watched us from her aviary.

**When larger raptors come to the clinic and are ill, they get a blood test for lead.** "About 80 percent of the raptors we see have subclinical lead exposure," said Dr. Streicher. A subclinical exposure means that there is a level of lead in the blood that, while not critical, is not normal. When lead is at a toxic level, it causes neurological symptoms, such as lethargy, disorientation, difficulty seeing, and muscle incoordination. For toxic cases, chelation—a procedure using oral or injectable medicine—is the only way to remove lead from the sick bird. Without treatment, lead poisoning typically results in starvation, convulsions, and death. Sometimes lead poisoning causes permanent heart damage, or visual problems that, even with treatment,

prevent a bird's release into the wild.

**Subclinical levels** may cause birds to fly and see with less precision, and they may produce eggs with thin shells or chicks with deformities. Lead doesn't leave the body, even though blood levels drop over time. Lead accumulates in bones, affecting a bird's ability to survive.

**Why are raptors, scavengers, and other wildlife suffering from lead exposure?** Animals that eat the offal (gut pile) left behind in the field by hunters after an animal is shot are

*continued on page 4*



*X-ray of lead shot in coyote*

## Field Notes: March 2024

Tom and Allison Mickel, atmickel@gmail.com

# Cassin's Auklet, Northern Fulmar, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Ross's Goose, Swainson's Hawk

The month seemed to be a bit of a mixed bag, but I guess that's not unusual for March! As is normal, wintering species are starting to move north and a few neotropical migrants are trickling in. This should continue for the next month or so. Keep a sharp lookout. This time of year, you never know what might show up!

### Abbreviations:

Fern Ridge Reservoir (FRR)

Ross's Goose	March 1	LCC	JS	Never common
Eurasian Wigeon	March 17	Maple Creek	LH	Last eBird checklist report for season
Eurasian Wigeon	March 17	Washburn Ln	SH	Last eBird checklist report for season
Costa's Hummingbird	March 30	Chambers St area	JG	Still being seen
Rufous Hummingbird	Feb 25	E Eugene	JG	First spring sighting from Eugene/Springfield
Red Phalarope (5)	March 7	Bob Creek	LP,SM	Unusual in the spring
Cassin's Auklet	March 21	Tokatee Klootchman	RR	Never common along the Lane coast
Northern Fulmar	March 20	Bob Creek	CS	Starting their northward migration
Snowy Egret	March 12	FRR – Royal Ave	LP	Last eBird checklist report for season
Swainson's Hawk	March 29	Coburg Rd area	A&DH	Rare in Lane, but annual in spring
Rough-legged Hawk	March 8	FRR – Royal Ave	LP,SM	Last eBird checklist report for season
Golden Eagle	March 7	Washburn Ln	TC	Last eBird checklist report for season
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	March 19	Near Skinner Butte	CQ	Rarely found, especially in the spring
Prairie Falcon	March 7	Washburn Ln	TC	Last eBird checklist report for season
Horned Lark	March 5	KR Nielsen Rd	SM	Small number breed in the area
Violet-green Swallow	March 20	River Road area	RH	Flying around nest boxes
Mountain Chickadee	March 6	Glen Oak City Park	RF,TC	Last eBird checklist report for season
Pygmy Nuthatch	March 13	Glen Oak City Park	SH,DP	Last eBird checklist report for season
Chipping Sparrow	March 20	River Road area	RH	First spring sighting
Orange-crowned Warbler	March 20	River Road area	RH	First spring sighting
Orange-crowned Warbler	March 20	Downtown Eugene	EC	First spring sighting
Western Tanager	March 19	U of O area	BN	Seen off and on at feeder
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	March	Lost Creek Rd area	RP	Still being seen daily

A&DH Anne & Dan Heyerly, BN Bruce Newhouse, CQ Charlie Quinn, CS Carter Strope, DP Diane Pettey, EC Ellen Cantor, JG Joshua Galpern, JS John Sullivan, LH Lars Houde, LP Lalla Pudewill, RF Rachael Friese, RH Rich Hoyer, RR Roger Robb, RP Ritch Pope, SH Sally Hill, SM Sylvia Maulding, TC Thomas Cramer



Cassin's Auklet

Photo: Wikimedia Commons, Duncan Wright



Northern Fulmar

Photo: Wikimedia Commons, Charles J. Sharp



Yellow-bellied Sapsucker

Photo: Wikimedia Commons



Ross's Goose

Photo: Wikimedia Commons, Andrew C



Swainson's Hawk

Photo: Wikimedia Commons, Great Sand Dunes National Park



susceptible to lead poisoning from lead bullets that shatter on impact, leaving behind 500 or more microscopic particles of lead. It may take only a few particles to sicken an eagle. Most of the particles are not visible to the naked eye, but can be seen in an x-ray.

Many hunters care deeply about wildlife and have switched to non-lead ammunition. Organizations like the Non-Lead Hunting Education program and Sporting Lead Free are run by hunters who encourage using non-lead ammunition. Raptors are not the only animals protected when non-lead bullets are used.

Hunters and their families who consume game shot with lead ammunition may also suffer dire consequences. There is no safe level of lead in children and pregnant women. Children exposed to even small

amounts of lead during gestation, nursing, or game-meat consumption may develop cognitive impairment and behavioral issues due to the effect of lead on their developing brains. Pregnant women may miscarry or deliver developmentally abnormal babies.

Lane Audubon is making an effort to work with these organizations in promoting lead-free ammunition in our area. As Dr. Streicher noted, when talking to hunters, “It’s important to speak from a positive angle, and not sound anti-hunting.” If you know any hunters, encourage them to look into one of the following hunting organizations: [oregonzoo.org/wildlife/non-lead-hunting-education-program](http://oregonzoo.org/wildlife/non-lead-hunting-education-program); [sportingleadfree.org/](http://sportingleadfree.org/); [cdc.gov/lead](http://cdc.gov/lead).



Photo: Barbara Bryson

Pollination in action

## Audubon in the Schools Is Back!

The AITS (Audubon in the Schools) program sends volunteers into the classroom and out into the field with students to create future ornithologists and foster an appreciation of nature in the next generation. As of spring 2024, we have six volunteers, and requests are coming in from several schools, including Adams, Edison, Agnes Stewart Middle School, Thurston Elementary, and Yujin Gakuen Immersion School.

AITS currently offers two different lessons, Feathers 102 and Binoculars 101. The binoculars lesson starts with a quick review of basic bird characteristics and then instructs kids on how to use binoculars. We bring silhouettes to teach the identification of common birds, practice with pictures of birds, and then go outside to look, listen, and find birds. The feathers' lesson starts with a presentation about the parts of a feather, the types of feathers, and their various uses. It ends with an art lesson that includes drawing feathers.

We're always looking for more volunteers! If you'd like to get involved, please contact Barb Pope at [aitsbirds@gmail.com](mailto:aitsbirds@gmail.com). We give special thanks to the LCAS board for purchasing 10 new pairs of Nikon Trailblazer binoculars for our program.



## Invitation to Tour Golden Gardens

Saturday, May 4, 10 am – 2 pm  
Golden Gardens Park

Come celebrate our critters and natural spaces at this fun, all-ages, free event! Special thanks to tour partners: Bee City Eugene, Lane Audubon Society, Active Bethel Community, Eugene Parks and Open Space, Willamette Resource and Education Network, Beyond Toxics, and WildCraft Cider Works.

## LCAS Program—In Person and Zoom Tuesday, May 28, 2024, 7:00 pm

Dennis Arendt, 541.221.3691, dennisarendt@gmail.com



Photo: Sue Anderson

*American Lady*



Photo: Sue Anderson

*Becker's White*



Photo: Sue Anderson

*Monarch*

### Volunteer Needed: Recording Secretary for Board

We need to replace our retiring Recording Secretary for LCAS monthly Board meetings. The meetings occur on the first Tuesday of the month in the early evening. This volunteer attends the board meeting, takes notes, then emails the minutes to Board members. Duties require about three hours of time per month, and the volunteer needs their own computer and email capabilities.

FMI: [audubon@laneaudubon.org](mailto:audubon@laneaudubon.org). To volunteer, please go to the website volunteer page and fill out the form: [laneaudubon.org/volunteer/](https://laneaudubon.org/volunteer/).

## Winged Flowers — A First Look at Butterflies



*Sue Anderson*

**Sue Anderson** has been educating people about butterflies for many years, giving talks about butterflies to a wide array of groups. This will be her first time presenting under the auspices of the Lane County Audubon Society. We are excited that she has agreed to share her expertise, information, photos, and experiences with us.

Sue's presentation will touch on the butterflies most common to our local area, the mystery of metamorphosis, the Monarch migration phenomena, identification resources, and stories from her fieldwork. Nearly all the

slides will be from her own photo collection. She'll cover butterfly biology, the difference between butterflies and moths, links to plants including habitat requirements and butterfly gardening, and available field guides, including where to find butterflies in Lane County. Also included will be information from the North American Butterfly Association annual counts.

In her words, she has loved butterflies ever since she was "knee high to a grasshopper." Fascinated by all sorts of insects and spiders, she focused on butterflies because "they're beautifully colored and they don't bite!" Her experiences include teaching Adult Education classes and leading the 4th of July Butterfly Counts (similar to our Christmas Bird Counts) for more than 38 years in the Ochoco and Metolius areas of Central Oregon. She has also led numerous butterfly walks for the Deschutes Land Trust and is now learning her Willamette Valley species.

This presentation will be at the Campbell Center (155 High Street) on Tuesday, May 28. Doors open at 6:30 for some social time; the program begins promptly at 7:00. This presentation will also be available over a Zoom link, which will be posted on the LCAS website about a week before the event. Past programs are posted there as well, about a week later.

# Lane County Audubon Society



*The Quail* is the newsletter of Lane County Audubon Society, a chartered chapter of National Audubon Society. Local members of National Audubon Society receive a free subscription to *The Quail* but are encouraged to voluntarily join Lane County Audubon Society.

### The Quail Subscriptions

Contact Tim Godsil at 541.915.8852 or [tgodsil@gmail.com](mailto:tgodsil@gmail.com)

### The Quail Upcoming Content Deadlines

July-Aug: June 1  
Sept: August 1

Submit material to Karen Irmscher at [quailkaren1@gmail.com](mailto:quailkaren1@gmail.com)

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## Lane County Audubon Society Officers & Board Members

President	Maeve Sowles.....541.343.8664..... <a href="mailto:audubon@laneaudubon.org">audubon@laneaudubon.org</a>
Treasurer	Ron Renchler.....541.345.0834..... <a href="mailto:christyandron2@gmail.com">christyandron2@gmail.com</a>
Members	Ash Berry ..... <a href="mailto:ashb@uoregon.edu">ashb@uoregon.edu</a>
	Barbara Bryson..... <a href="mailto:bbryson150@gmail.com">bbryson150@gmail.com</a>
	Cecelia Hagen..... <a href="mailto:audadv@laneaudubon.org">audadv@laneaudubon.org</a>
	Katie McInnis ..... <a href="mailto:katminrin@gmail.com">katminrin@gmail.com</a>
	Debbie Schlenoff.....541.685.0610..... <a href="mailto:debschlenoff@gmail.com">debschlenoff@gmail.com</a>
	Kirstin Waldkoenig ..... <a href="mailto:kirsinw@uoregon.edu">kirsinw@uoregon.edu</a>

## Lane County Audubon Society Committee Chairs

Audubon Phone	Dick Lamster.....541.485.BIRD
Audubon Adventures	Cecelia Hagen..... <a href="mailto:audadv@laneaudubon.org">audadv@laneaudubon.org</a>
Audubon in the Schools	Barb Pope ..... <a href="mailto:aitsbirds@gmail.com">aitsbirds@gmail.com</a>
Booth	Ron Renchler.....541.345.0834..... <a href="mailto:christyandron2@gmail.com">christyandron2@gmail.com</a>
Conservation	Debbie Schlenoff.....541.685.0610..... <a href="mailto:debschlenoff@gmail.com">debschlenoff@gmail.com</a>
Field Notes	Allison & Tom Mickel..... <a href="mailto:atmickel@gmail.com">atmickel@gmail.com</a>
Bird Outings	Lalla Pudewell..... <a href="mailto:tolalla@gmail.com">tolalla@gmail.com</a>
Membership Data	Tim Godsil.....541.915.8852..... <a href="mailto:tgodsil@gmail.com">tgodsil@gmail.com</a>
Program Coordinator	Dennis Arendt .....541.221.3691..... <a href="mailto:dennisarendt@gmail.com">dennisarendt@gmail.com</a>
Quail Editor	Karen Irmscher ..... <a href="mailto:quailkaren1@gmail.com">quailkaren1@gmail.com</a>
Recording Secretary	Kirstin Waldkoenig ..... <a href="mailto:kirsinw@uoregon.edu">kirsinw@uoregon.edu</a>
Webmaster	Hilary Dearborn..... <a href="mailto:hcdearborn@gmail.com">hcdearborn@gmail.com</a>

## Lane County Audubon Society Welcomes You—Join or Renew Today!

We ask you to become a local member of Lane County Audubon Society and support our grassroots efforts in the local community. Your membership dues for National Audubon Society no longer fully cover the costs of a membership in your local chapter. Your local dues stay here to help us work on local education projects and conservation issues related to birds and their habitats. With your support, we will continue to do the things you expect from us. We welcome your suggestions—this is your Audubon! We appreciate your support. — *Maeve Sowles, President*

### Lane Audubon Membership Benefits

- *The Quail*—9 issues/yr.
- Field trips and bird walks
- Program meetings
- Educational publications
- Conservation issue representation
- Answers to questions: 541.485.BIRD
- Website: [laneaudubon.org](http://laneaudubon.org)

### Lane County Audubon Society Yearly Membership

- Individual \$20.....\$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Students and Seniors (65 and over) \$15 .....\$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Family \$25.....\$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Lifetime Membership \$400.....\$ \_\_\_\_\_
- I want to do more. Here's my tax-deductible contribution for .....\$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Total Enclosed (check payable to Lane County Audubon Society) .....\$ \_\_\_\_\_

To pay by PayPal, go to [laneaudubon.org/support/join](http://laneaudubon.org/support/join)

I am a  Current National Audubon member  Don't know

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Gift memberships  Lane Audubon's Living Legacy program

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I would prefer to receive the e-Quail newsletter by e-mail.

I would like to receive e-mail alerts about conservation issues.

I would like to volunteer for Lane County Audubon activities.

Lane Audubon will not release your personal information to other organizations. We will use it only for Lane County Audubon Society communications.

Mail this form and your payment to: Lane County Audubon Society, P.O. Box 5086, Eugene, OR 97405



## Lane County Butterfly Club Meeting

Wednesday, May 8, 7-9 pm  
Willamalane Adult Activities Center,  
215 C St., Springfield

Rick Ahrens presents **Identifying and Counting Mountain Butterflies in Oregon**

For outdoor events below, preregistration required: [naba.org/chapters/lane-county/naba-oregon-field-trips/](http://naba.org/chapters/lane-county/naba-oregon-field-trips/).

**Sat June 15, 1-3 pm, Learn to Count Butterflies in Local Parks**, led by Sharon Blick. Location within the Eugene Count Circle TBA. Notification will come after participants preregister.

This meeting and our June field trip aim to teach and review how to spot, identify, and count butterflies and recruit volunteers for long-running butterfly counts aimed at monitoring long-term trends in butterfly populations

**Sat June 29, all day, Ochoco Butterfly Count (35th year)** led by Sue Anderson.

We will meet at a campground in the Ochoco National Forest about 15 miles east of Prineville.

## 2024 Wildflower and Music Festival

Sunday, May 19, 10 am-5 pm (tickets required)

In partnership with the Native Plant Society of Oregon and Lane Community College, Mount Pisgah Arboretum presents the 2024 Wildflower and Music Festival! View hundreds of species of local wildflowers on display in the Arboretum's White Oak Pavilion. Enjoy guided nature tours, live music, local food, arts and crafts vendors, and information booths. LCAS members will staff one of the non-profit booths.

Pre-purchase of tickets required. Tickets \$12, free for Arboretum members.

FMI and ticket purchases:  
[mountpisgaharboretum.org/festivals-events/wildflower-music-festival/](http://mountpisgaharboretum.org/festivals-events/wildflower-music-festival/)

A Board Member's Message *continued from page 1*

### How are birds and insects connected?

Birds need insects to feed their young. Douglas Tallamy, in his book *Nature's Best Hope*, states that it takes more than 10,000 caterpillars to support one nest of young chickadees! At least 96 percent of our birds feed insects, not seeds or berries, to their young. Caterpillars are best because of the high protein content. To get more caterpillars, we need to plant the trees, shrubs, and flowers that they need to survive.

This is where keystone species enter the picture. These are the most important species that support up to 75 percent of lepidoptera (butterflies). In our area, keystone species are native quercus garryana (oak), prunus (bitter cherry and chokecherry), and salix (Scouler's willow). Others are bigleaf maple, vine maple, and both white and red alder. Many shrubs are also excellent choices, including red and blue elderberry, blueblossom, oceanspray, snowberry, and red osier dogwood. These are the plants that caterpillars require.

### The LCAS Habitat Haven Program

Modeling our methods after other successful programs, our Habitat Haven team will support participants who wish to enrich their yards with native plants that provide more habitat for birds and pollinators.

We will provide:

- Volunteer mentors to visit your site and offer suggestions on how to improve the habitat and work toward Habitat Haven certification, moving at your chosen pace.
- Information about what to do and how, based on your goals.
- Three levels of certification. Silver, Gold, and Platinum.
- A lawn sign upon enrollment, and a metal sign upon certification.
- Discounts on native plants at local native plant nurseries.

It's easy to get started, and so satisfying to observe the resulting increase in birds and pollinators! We hope to begin site visits this summer. Our pilot will include 20 properties throughout Eugene, each a half-acre or less in size, drawn at random from a list of interested participants. And that's just the beginning. Those who aren't among the first 20, will go on a waiting list from which we'll draw the next round of participants. The service fee is a modest \$35 to cover costs. Additional donations are encouraged.

To sign up, please see the Habitat Haven Enrollment Form on our website [laneaudubon.org](http://laneaudubon.org). You'll find it in the Conservation pull-down menu. We also need volunteer mentors, especially people who are knowledgeable about native plants and gardening. Administrative help will be required as well, for assembling packets and carrying out other office-type functions.

FMI or questions: email [bbryson@gmail.com](mailto:bbryson@gmail.com)

To volunteer: email [cehagen@gmail.com](mailto:cehagen@gmail.com) or fill out the Volunteer Interest Form on our website: [laneaudubon.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Volunteer-Interest-Form.pdf](http://laneaudubon.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Volunteer-Interest-Form.pdf)

We will contact you!

Let's grow nature together with Habitat Haven!



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your *Quail* subscription expired?  
See page 6 to renew!



## LCAS Saturday Bird Outings & Events

Lalla Pudewell, [tolalla@gmail.com](mailto:tolalla@gmail.com)

### First Saturday Bird Outings, May 4 & June 1

Our First Saturday Bird Outings, created as part of our commitment to the Lane Audubon Inclusivity and Diversity Statement, are meant to hold intentional space for women, BIPOC, and LGBTQIA+ birders. Birders of all levels and backgrounds are welcome to join, particularly those who may have felt intimidated at the thought of birding alone or on other guided walks. Location and leader TBA.

FMI or to sign up, contact Sarah: [1stsatbirdwalks@laneaudubon.org](mailto:1stsatbirdwalks@laneaudubon.org)

### Third Saturday Bird Outings, May 18 & June 15

Our Third Saturday Bird Outings continue to be open to all participants. Rachel Friese will lead the May outing at Skinner Butte. Location and leader for June is TBA. Details of each will be posted on our website and Facebook page as we get closer to the date.

FMI: contact [tolalla@gmail.com](mailto:tolalla@gmail.com)

### Third Saturday Bird Outing — March 16, 2024

What an amazing morning we had for the Third Saturday Bird Outing on March 16! This outing was led by McKenzie River Trust staff members **Charlie Quinn** and **Sarah Merkle** on McKenzie River Trust property. Although this land is not open to the public, Charlie and Sarah provided this special event so that we could see the many birds that are benefiting from its restoration and protection. Clearly many people were interested in birding this beautiful area and enjoying a sunny, almost-spring day. We had 54 individuals in our group! Two Wood Ducks even welcomed us by flying overhead near the parking area.

Our birders broke into smaller groups while moving along the gravel road. As we crossed the bridge, two Black Phoebes were calling from a willow along the river's edge. Brown Creepers and a Pacific Wren were singing in a wooded area. A Lincoln Sparrow was seen in the sunshine. We were surprised to see a Tundra Swan on one of the ponds. Two adult Bald Eagles flew over and were beautiful in the blue sky. Thank you McKenzie River Trust, Charlie Quinn, and Sarah Merkle for a wonderful event!

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