MESA LAND TRUST
Celebrating 35 Years

Lands for Tomorrow

Pictured: Newly planted Palisade peaches. Photo courtesy John Fielder

Thank you to our Platinum Underwriters for their sponsorship of this publication.
Dear Friends,

Land defines our community.

Thirty-five years ago a group of Palisade farmers formed the Mesa Land Trust because they understood that Mesa County is blessed with extraordinary natural lands, unique farmland, wildlife habitat and scenic places that are worthy of protecting for future generations. The founders understood that the right way to conserve these special places was through a landowner driven process built upon private property rights.

The founders also understood that the lands that surround us have an enduring value. Conserved land that we enjoy today will be enjoyed by our grandchildren and theirs. This land will provide a home for wildlife a century from now. And while agriculture will change, protected farms and ranches that now produce tens of millions of dollars of revenue annually will be available for crops for the foreseeable future and beyond.

Today, we benefit from their foresight and persistence. The Land Trust’s work matters if you care about local food, increased trails, scenic drives or rides, and hunting, fishing or watching wildlife.

We have partnered with the owners of over 200 properties to complete conservation agreements that protect over 65,000 acres in and around Mesa County. These places embody the best of western Colorado’s agricultural and natural heritage.

This legacy reflects the landowners, donors, volunteers and others who have given so generously to protect this place we call home. We are indebted to them and grateful for their support.

We are pleased to celebrate our 35th Anniversary with you and encourage you to review this publication and go to www.mesalandtrust.org to learn more about our work.

Warm Regards,

Steve McCall
President

Rob Bleiberg
Executive Director

Founders and board members, past and present. L-R Guy Parker, Van Graham, Bill Prakken, Nancy Ellyson, John Pabst, Pam Childers, Mike Mechau, Nancy Wilson, Chris Muhr, Bonnie Talbott, Max Stites, Dorothy McNeese, Harry Talbott, Sandie Cooper, Belle Chesnick, Steve McCall, Margery Fillinger, Janine Rider, Zach Eyler, Barb Chamberlin, Mike Sewell.
Mesa Land Trust Founders Envisioned Agriculture Remaining in the Grand Valley

John and Doris Butler’s love for agriculture and open space motivated the East Orchard Mesa couple to join Palisade peach farmers Harry and Bonnie Talbott and others 35 years ago in founding the Mesa Land Trust – the first land trust in the nation formed specifically to save farmland.

“There is only so much agricultural land in the world,” John said. “If we develop that, what do we have left?”

Peach grower David Cox credits the Butlers for the fertile farmland that he and his wife Jaime lease from the retired farmers. The Coxes tend a peach orchard on property that the Butlers placed in a conservation easement more than three decades ago.

“Because of his phenomenal stewardship of the ground, it’s a vibrant orchard with beautiful soil he has nurtured for the last 50 years,” Cox said.

Along with farming the Butlers’ property, the Coxes were able to purchase eight-and-a-half conserved acres from David’s father. Conserved land makes property more affordable for young farmers whose start-up costs are high.

Harry and Bonnie’s 23-year old grandson Charles, a sixth-generation Talbott farmer, was able to purchase his grandparents first farm – where the Talbotts raised their four sons and placed their first conservation easement years ago.

“We started by putting our own land into easements,” Harry said. “Speculation can drive land up way out of reach of agriculture. We wanted there to be farms here.”

Preserved farmland contributes to the bucolic east entrance to the Grand Valley, and has also encouraged the growth of local agricultural tourism – a major economic boost to the valley. The Colorado Mountain WineFest in Palisade draws visitors from all over the world and wine-related tourism brings in over $100 million annually across the state.

Palisade peaches have become one of Mesa County’s most “cherished” industries. The Palisade Peach Festival attracts visitors nationwide and the peach industry brings over $15 million into the local economy annually.

Both festivals provide a “huge boost for local businesses,” Palisade Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Juliann Adams said. “The Mesa Land Trust has preserved our cultural community, and has helped young families get into farming.”

Since the Talbott’s and Butler’s first conservation agreements in 1982, 200 additional easements have been placed, protecting more than 100 square miles of agricultural lands, wildlife habitat, and scenic natural lands in and around Mesa County.

“Our main aim was to preserve the peach industry; to have a viable industry into perpetuity,” Harry said.

Fruitlands Forever

The unique farmland at the east end of the Grand Valley is a valuable asset that underpins our community’s economy and quality of life. In 2009, guided by local fruit growers, Mesa Land Trust launched the Fruitlands Forever Initiative, an effort to conserve a critical mass of this unique agricultural land suitable for growing peaches and wine grapes near Palisade. Today, through this effort, the Land Trust has conserved over 40 family farms totaling 780 acres. We are over three-quarters of the way to our 1,000 acre goal—a number that will provide enough land to sustain the fruit industry into the future.
Preserving Land and a Family Heritage on Glade Park

By Sharon Sullivan

Maxine Aubert said she didn’t know what she was getting into when the self-proclaimed “city girl” from Price, Utah married a rancher in 1941. Each spring Maxine and August Aubert with the Aubert family from Price, Utah and a half-dozen sheepherders would lead 7,000 sheep from their winter range in Green River, Utah to their summer grazing lands atop Glade Park’s Pinon Mesa – a journey that lasted about 10 days.

While the men walked, and rode horses or mules, Maxine would walk alongside, ride, or sometimes drive the supply truck to the Glade Park-Pinon Mesa property that August’s parents Florenz and Grace Aubert homesteaded in 1926. After the lambs were born in the spring, the family would head to a higher elevation, where they stayed in a cabin for the summer.

Maxine prepared meals for her family and the Basque sheepherders they employed. She hauled water from a nearby mountain spring which also provided the only refrigeration for food. Meals were cooked in a wood burning stove and bread was baked daily in a Dutch oven. Clothing was washed on a scrub board or rock near the clear spring water.

“We relished roughing it in the summers,” after living in town with all the modern conveniences the rest of the year, said daughter Chele Hawks, the youngest of four siblings.

“I didn’t know what I was getting into, but I loved it when I got used to knowing how to do everything,” said Maxine, a vibrant 92-year old, and a widow since 1998. “My favorite part was looking down into Unaweep Canyon,” south of Pinon Mesa.

The Auberts switched to raising cattle in the 1980s. Chele’s husband Dave Hawks continues to raise cattle on the property today.

“It’s such a rich heritage,” Chele said. “That open land is so gorgeous – that’s where Mesa Land Trust came in.”

Maxine partnered with Mesa Land Trust to preserve much of her property – 3,500 acres – in two conservation easements. The family was compensated for their development rights with tax credits and funding from Colorado Parks and Wildlife. They retain all other rights of ownership, including maintaining their cattle ranch operation.

“That motivation was to preserve the land,” Chele said. “Once big ranches are sold and developed, they’re gone – it becomes a part of Colorado that won’t be recaptured.”

The conserved parcels protect wildlife habitat in an area rich with elk, deer, wild turkeys, and bears.

“August loved that land up there, and I am so grateful we preserved it,” Maxine said. “It’s so close to Grand Junction. Our children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren love it too,” Maxine said. “Keeping the ranching life, agricultural traditions possible is so important. It’s a lifestyle – a good lifestyle.”

“Once big ranches are sold and developed, they’re gone — it becomes a part of Colorado that won’t be recaptured.”

Chele and Dave Hawks.
Shared Community Vision on Glade Park

By Sharon Sullivan

Glade Park is known for its stunning red-rock canyons, high-elevation aspen and fir forests, sagebrush rangeland, and abundant wildlife. Less well known is its story of neighbors working together to conserve a cherished landscape and a way of life.

In the late 1990s, dozens of landowners rallied around a shared vision of ranchland conservation and habitat protection. They brought in speakers to learn about a variety of land management topics, including options to protect their home. The effort bore fruit in 1999 when Mesa Land Trust worked with Jay Van Loan and his late wife, Dori, to complete the first purchased easement in Mesa County on a 470 acres ranch along the Little Dolores River.

“If not for the sale of the conservation easement we wouldn’t be here,” Jay said. “It gave us an economic boost – we really needed it. We would have had to sell, otherwise.” Jay and Dori later placed two additional conservation easements on other Glade Park holdings. These easements benefit the threatened Gunnison Sage Grouse and a host of species including deer, elk, black bear, mountain lions, game birds and raptors.

Glade Park’s tradition of private land conservation began in the late 1970s, when Mountain Island Ranch donated some of the first conservation easements in Colorado. “Mountain Island set an example for the rest of the community,” said Mountain Island Ranch Manager Belle Chesnick. “They saw that we were still able to ranch in the same way as before.”

Many other Glade Park landowners have since followed suit. Today, the area boasts nearly 50,000 acres of private land protected through more than 40 conservation agreements.
We Couldn’t do it Without Volunteers!
This past year, 125 volunteers helped build trails, restore native vegetation, and broadcast the message of conservation. Volunteerism reflects the heart of our community and the Mesa Land Trust is fortunate to work with these devoted individuals.

2014-15 Expenses

- Programs: 92%
- Fundraising: 3%
- Administration: 5%

Accomplishments

Over the past 35 years, with community support, we have conserved over 65,000 acres in and around Mesa County, including:

- 7.5 miles of frontage along the Colorado and Gunnison Rivers
- 25 miles of scenic road and byway frontage
- 40 family owned ranches
- 1,150 acres of prime agricultural soils
- 1,400 acres that separate our growing communities
- 45,300 acres of elk and deer winter range
- 61,000 acres of working ranchland
- $54,000,000 in land conserved over the last decade.

For 10 years, the Land Trust has protected an average of $11 worth of land for every dollar spent on operations.

In 2009, Mesa Land Trust became one of the first 53 land trusts in the country to earn accreditation by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission.
Mesa Land Trust completes perpetual conservation agreements for a number of reasons:

- Landowners who conserve their property often seek permanent protection for their land.
- State and federal tax incentives are only available for perpetual conservation agreements.
- Granting agencies like Great Outdoors Colorado or private foundations provide funding only for permanent land conservation.
- Less-than-permanent conservation easements are a fiscally irresponsible use of scarce public and private dollars. Limited funds should be directed to permanent land conservation.

In it for the Long Haul

Mesa Land Trust completes perpetual conservation agreements for a number of reasons:

- Landowners who conserve their property often seek permanent protection for their land.
- State and federal tax incentives are only available for perpetual conservation agreements.
- Granting agencies like Great Outdoors Colorado or private foundations provide funding only for permanent land conservation.
- Less-than-permanent conservation easements are a fiscally irresponsible use of scarce public and private dollars. Limited funds should be directed to permanent land conservation.

The Next Generation Caring for the Land

Youth, ranging from elementary school age students to college students continue to grow Community Stewardship on the Three Sisters. Students of all ages pick up trash, build trails, restore native vegetation, research rare plants, and more. East Middle school students (above with their teacher Tina Sleigh) participate in service learning by helping out on the Three Sisters.

In the last 35 years, with community support, the Mesa Land Trust has conserved over 65,000 acres in and around Mesa County, including:

- 7.5 miles of frontage along the Colorado and Gunnison Rivers
- 25 miles of scenic road and byway frontage
- 40 family operated ranches
- 1,150 acres of prime soils in east valley
- 1,400 acres that separate our growing communities
- 45,300 acres of elk and deer winter range
- 400 miles of working ranch land through
- $54,000,000: the value of land conserved over the last decade.

For 10 years the Land Trust has protected an average of $11 worth of land for every dollar spent on operations.
By Sharon Sullivan

As a kid growing up in Grand Junction during the late 1960s, Jane Quimby remembers going out with her father Bob shooting her .22-rifle in the hillsides off lower Monument Road, in an area known as the Three Sisters. Though the family lived only minutes away in the center of town, the Three Sisters seemed remote, “far away, and out in the country,” Jane said.

Both her late parents were active in the community. Her mother, also named Jane, served as Grand Junction’s first female mayor, and founded the Quimby Family Foundation to support various community projects.

Thus, it was a natural fit for the Quimby Family Foundation to give $25,000 to Mesa Land Trust a few years ago, for the purpose of preserving open space along the Monument Road corridor. The donation allowed the land trust to hire Libby Collins to run a capital campaign to raise money to purchase the Three Sisters in 2012. “Our parents instilled in us an appreciation for outdoor recreation, the environment and public spaces,” Jane said. “The donation was a chance to do something to protect the view shed as you’re coming out of Colorado National Monument. People got very excited about it – it became the community’s vision.”

“The Grand Valley has a unique mix of agricultural and recreational lands, and scenic views that differentiate us from other parts of the state and world. As we continue to grow it’s important that we do not lose our unique community distinctness.”

— KEVIN BRAY, Bray Real Estate

Instead, the developer decided to sell the property to Mesa Land Trust who placed the land in a conservation easement before giving the property to Grand Junction for the community’s enjoyment.

“The Mesa Land Trust stepped in to buy this land for the community. Kids are always riding bikes out there – it’s wilderness for a lot of people,” said Collins. Two years later, with tremendous community support, the land trust bought two additional parcels off of Monument Road known as the Bookends. The City, Mesa Land Trust and the Bureau of Land Management manage the properties together as the Three Sisters Park. This Park has become an opportunity for volunteerism, service learning, and also serves as an outdoor laboratory. The Colorado Plateau Mountain Biking Association (COPMOBA) builds family-friendly trails on the Three Sisters. And Collins coordinates groups and students eager to improve this community asset. Great Old Broads for the Wilderness helps restore native vegetation. Teenagers from Hilltop’s Youth Crew assist with restoration efforts and help build and maintain trails. The Junior Service League supports efforts to encourage children and teens to get out and enjoy the trails. Local middle-school students work on restoration projects and learn about native vegetation. Colorado Mesa University faculty and students conduct research in the area.

With the broad community support, it is no surprise that the Three Sisters has become extremely popular with hikers, runners, bikers, and dog-walkers. “Three Sisters and the Monument Road Corridor are an incredible asset and it is a great pleasure working with so many to preserve and enhance this wonderful area,” said Collins.
THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS AND PARTNERS IN CONSERVATION

Thank you to all of our supporters for these recent donations. We apologize if we have omitted or misspelled your name. Please feel free to let us know!

PRIVATE FOUNDATIONS AND FUNDS
Agua Fund Inc.
The Arches Foundation
The Bacon Family Foundation
Colorado Riverfront Foundation
The Colorado Trust
Gates Family Foundation
Gates Outdoor Conservation
Hilltop Community Resources
Junior Service League
Land Trust Alliance
LoDo Fellowship
McBride Family & Aspen Business Center Foundation
Mike O'Brien Living Trust
The Norscum Wildlife Foundation
Teluride Hills-Philanthropy Club
Western Colorado Community Foundation
Bob and Kate Denning Fund
Cushman-Quain Family Fund
Jesse and Betty Boyne Fund
Painted Sky RCF Fund
Western Colorado Community Foundation
Dave and Mary Wood Fund
William S. and Mary Robinson Charitable Trust
Wilson Family Foundation

EVENT & INSERT UNDERWRITERS
PLATINUM
Al metals Welding
Alpine Bank
American Rental Specialties
Alta Solar Solutions
Chadwick, Steinkirchner, Davis & Co
Chevron Corp.
The Daily Sentinel
Grand Junction Subaru
Hoskin, Farma, and Kamps, PC
Moody Insurance Group, Inc.
Oakley, Wooten, Love, Mendenhall, Keeler – Wells Fargo Financial Advisors
Safel Mt.
Willards, Seidman, and Murcell, PC

SILVER UNDERWRITERS
American Rental Specialties
Palisade Brewing Co.
Canyon Wood Ceilars
Cortina Vineyards
Rib City

BUSINESS PARTNERS
Alpine Bank
Bri 707
Boy Real Estate
Colorado Components
Dos Hombres Restaurants
Grand Junction Subaru
Main Street Bagels
Pueblo's Pizza
Ruby Canyon Cycles
Safel Mt.
Specialized Bicycle Components

IN KIND DONATIONS
Allen Beezly
All Land Natural Resources Consulting
Buck's Signs
Maloof Children
Angela Classen

PETER NICHOLS
David and Nancy Patz
William and Judith Prunson
Gudrun Rice and Charles Kerr
Janine and Kirk Rider
Janet Shevel
Kenneth Scrone and Mary Thom
Roger and Rita Stenberg
Helen Smithack
Gary and Deborah Steller
Charles and Carolyn Steaton
Andrew and Janis Butzko
Russ Walker and Laura Cummings
George Wheeler
Nancy and Robert Wilson

JIM COX
CPMG/DA
Barbara & Brad Daveport
Joe Dujacich
Lee Gray
Great Bigs for the Wildlands
Hawk Greenway
Paul Hackstedt
Kannah Creek Brewing Company
Microsoft Corporation
Tamera Minwick & CMU students
Lynn Peru-Hewett and Jim Hewitt
Powderhorn
Bill Praklin
John Price
Orgi and Sprouts
Mike and Valerie States
Tamariskummili
Vitality Films, Inc
Westwater Engineering

PUBLIC SECTOR PARTNERS
Bureau of Land Management
City of Grand Junction
Parks & Recreation, City of Grand Junction
Division of Wildlife & Mining Safety
Goldbelt Tour Natural Scene Byway
Great Outdoors Colorado
Mesa County
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Town of Palisade

EASEMENT & STEWARDSHIP FUND DONORS
Patton and Bremar Farm
Tab Farm Foe
Doyle & Sandra Files
Casto Family Ranch
Ladder Canyon Ranch
Ruckman Farm
Sudoway Farm

MEMBERS AND CONTRIBUTIONS BENEFACTORS
Lee and Kay Ambrose
Anonymous Donors
Herb and Laura May Bacon
Bank of America Matching Gift Program
Tony Rater and Sharon Weather
Charles and Robbie Breau
Christine and Barb Brown
Phyliss Browning
Robert and Holly Brownson
Mercedes Canmore and Roberta Neilsen
Malcolm and Pam Childers
Calkin Cruz and Jane Kuebel
Norman and Margery Filinger
Tim and Christy Fry
Pat and Ruby Gormley
Chris Hermanson
John and Penny Hopkins
Harri and Joann Holstmy
Edward Hurley and Karen Knob Hurley
Ken and Rose Marie Johnson
Dale and Jane Johnson
Tom Latoisue and Eva Malanowski
Helen Lee and Arvid Koppang
Robert Macgregor
Karen and Mark Madzen
Chuck and Kendra McDonald
Joseph and Linda Moren
Della Mottum
Chris Malt and Jen Taylor
Jan Musleren

PATRON
Drew and Tia Armstrong
Rob Bierbing and Shery Clevy
David and Ann Brach
Chris Brooks, Marion Reid
Larry and Fran Brown
Kelley and Nancy Burford
Christian and Beth Rugs
Parker and Mary Clayton
Clay and Hornter Carpenter
Barbara and John Chamberlin
Matthew and Angela DeObia
Kate Denson
Evon and Kim Ela
Shane and Lyken Erickson
Joan Far
The Flyin’ Miata, Bill and Ten Cardell
Rebecca Frank George Oubane
Russell and Julie Gates
Mark and Catherine Green
James Greslin
Mike Hardy
Janice Harshman
Dave and Pam Haws
Shane and Robin Heil
Barbara Higley
Kristine and Gregg Kampf
Michael Klus
Susan and Susan Low
Don MacKendrick
James and Susan Maclean
Brian and Linda Mahoney
Neil and Linda Mendenhall
Amy Norgaard and Owen O’fallon
Lynn Peru-Hewett and Jim Hewitt
Pioneer Matching Gifts Program
Anthony and Sally Prinsen
Wanda Way Putnam
Charles Quinnly and Susan Cushman
Restoration Estates Homeowners
Clark and Kathleen Rieves
Jack and Jan Roberts
R. Mike and Jean Sewell
Max and Vicki Stites
Gus and Gwen Sublette
Brian Sullivan
Dick and Reanna Taggart
Susan Trance and Wise
Barry and Gai Tuohy
John and Pamela Walge
Ian and Jane Wood

DONOR
Ivan Aliko
Mauree Basso
Marsha Bilbao
Brenda Borenszench and Elizabeth Rowan
Phillip and Fran Born
John and Doni Butler
George and Judy Callison
Dan and Carol Campbell
Brenda and Tom Chais
Karen Combs and Lynn Wengner
Mary and Janet Comstock
Charles and Sue Cooke
Keith Dickenson and Tessa Keating
Laramie and Clark E,hld,
John Flanagan
Lee and Sally Gaglione
Susan and Alan Gambri
Barbara and Kim Goske and Charles Kerr
Janine and Kirk Rider
Janet Shevel
Kenneth Scrone and Mary Thom
Roger and Rika Stenberg
Helen Smithack
Gary and Deborah Steller
Charles and Carolyn Steaton
Andrew and Janis Butzko
Russ Walker and Laura Cummings
George Wheeler
Nancy and Robert Wilson

John Flanagan
Lee and Sally Gaglione
Susan and Alan Gambri
Barbara and Kim Goske and Charles Kerr
Janine and Kirk Rider
Janet Shevel
Kenneth Scrone and Mary Thom
Roger and Rika Stenberg
Helen Smithack
Gary and Deborah Steller
Charles and Carolyn Steaton
Andrew and Janis Butzko
Russ Walker and Laura Cummings
George Wheeler
Nancy and Robert Wilson

ZACH AND LAIAE EYLER
Legg and Anne Fetterer
Keith Fife and Kathy Porter
Wilson and Janice Lindsay
Betty Fiquaitt
Lyn Fraser
Judy Frick
Sherrie and Joe Fye
Fuoco Motor Co.
Andrew and Laura Furl
Gay Johnson’s Inc.
Richard and Aylene Gerhardt
Heather Gens
Dennis and Ruth Ann Ginella
Neal and Betty Goodson
Mary and Margaret Goodson
Diane Melancon
Bill and Mary Graham
Beth and Paula Glee
Lee and Patsy Gellett
Ann Gibson and Arthur Smith
James and Marjorie Golden
Bill and Mary Graham
Dietrich and L. boa
Craig Hughes and Karin Lee Hughes
Steve and Nancy Johnson
B.J. Longnecker and Donald Dietrich
Glen and Nancy Martin
Steve and Ruth McCall
Josh McDaniel and Der Pennt
Pat and Cindy Kennedy
Stan McFesse and Sherri Heims
Mike and Blakley Mechau
Steve and Anne Meyer
Walt and Lucy Morrison
Gerald Nelson and Launna Neumieh
John and Cathi Slobot
Verda Patterson
Stan and Barbara Preston
Jane Quincy and Gerry Cowhig
William Robinson
Irene Ruggles
William and Carol Scott
Karr and David Shepard
Linda Sirms
Richard Van Gunterev and Jane Hilt
Eve Venderer
Rick Wagner and Jean Reynolds Wagner
Lennie and Steve Watson
Jacob Webel
Westmore Drive Dinner Club
Wayne Whisenon and Alberta Huash
Margie Wilson, Grand Valley Books
John and Rosanna Winkett

FRIEND
John and Katharine Achgt
Joseph and Mary Ann Albers
Gene and Arlene Albers
Steve and Debbie Allerton
Lawrence and Rutimia Allison
Jim and Susan Anier
Kenneth Arnett
Frank and Rebecca Beering
James and Brenda Billings
Larry Bierbing
Miriam Blozvich
Carol Bonett Butler
James and Lynn Bragdon
Tony Bratke
Jill and Joseph Brennan
Dean Bresler and Leslie McWirtb
Myles Brown
Lynn Brownson
John Bruno
Bob and Judy Bubel
Mary Buss
Darrell Cawells, Conceot Construction
Michael Cawmm
Duane Carr
Kenneth and Nancy Carter
Chamberlin Architects
Jacque Chappe-Judd and Eric Reid
Sander Gifford and David Hull
Fred and Kay Cowey
Foster Ovington
Detore Crude
Paul and Sharon Curn-Mills
Scott and Amy Czempek
William and Amy Darro
Geog and Dennis Darro
Steven and Kim Eastabrook-McPadden
Annabel McCleod and Robert Johnson
Frances Ellewood
Joseph and Dana Elliott
Nancy and Robert Elusive
Donna Espy and Lyle Nichols

ZACH AND LAIAE EYLER
Legg and Anne Fetterer
Keith Fife and Kathy Porter
Wilson and Janice Lindsay
Betty Fiquaitt
Lyn Fraser
Judy Frick
Sherrie and Joe Fye
Fuoco Motor Co.
Andrew and Laura Furl
Gay Johnson’s Inc.
Richard and Aylene Gerhardt
Heather Gens
Dennis and Ruth Ann Ginella
Neal and Betty Goodson
Mary and Margaret Goodson
Diane Melancon
Bill and Mary Graham
Beth and Paula Glee
Lee and Patsy Gellett
Ann Gibson and Arthur Smith
James and Marjorie Golden
Bill and Mary Graham
Dietrich and L. boa
Craig Hughes and Karin Lee Hughes
Steve and Nancy Johnson
B.J. Longnecker and Donald Dietrich
Glen and Nancy Martin
Steve and Ruth McCall
Josh McDaniel and Der Pennt
Pat and Cindy Kennedy
Stan McFesse and Sherri Heims
Mike and Blakley Mechau
Steve and Anne Meyer
Walt and Lucy Morrison
Gerald Nelson and Launna Neumieh
John and Cathi Slobot
Verda Patterson
Stan and Barbara Preston
Jane Quincy and Gerry Cowhig
William Robinson
Irene Ruggles
William and Carol Scott
Karr and David Shepard
Linda Sirms
Richard Van Gunterev and Jane Hilt
Eve Venderer
Rick Wagner and Jean Reynolds Wagner
Lennie and Steve Watson
Jacob Webel
Westmore Drive Dinner Club
Wayne Whisenon and Alberta Huash
Margie Wilson, Grand Valley Books
John and Rosanna Winkett

FRIEND
John and Katharine Achgt
Joseph and Mary Ann Albers
Gene and Arlene Albers
Steve and Debbie Allerton
Lawrence and Rutimia Allison
Jim and Susan Anier
Kenneth Arnett
Frank and Rebecca Beering
James and Brenda Billings
Larry Bierbing
Miriam Blozvich
Carol Bonett Butler
James and Lynn Bragdon
Tony Bratke
Jill and Joseph Brennan
Dean Bresler and Leslie McWirtb
Myles Brown
Lynn Brownson
John Bruno
Bob and Judy Bubel
Mary Buss
Darrell Cawells, Conceot Construction
Michael Cawmm
Duane Carr
Kenneth and Nancy Carter
Chamberlin Architects
Jacque Chappe-Judd and Eric Reid
Sander Gifford and David Hull
Fred and Kay Cowey
Foster Ovington
Detore Crude
Paul and Sharon Curn-Mills
Scott and Amy Czempek
William and Amy Darro
Geog and Dennis Darro
Steven and Kim Eastabrook-McPadden
Annabel McCleod and Robert Johnson
Frances Ellewood
Joseph and Dana Elliott
Nancy and Robert Elusive
Donna Espy and Lyle Nichols

THE DAILY SENTINEL, Sunday, October 25, 2015 • MESA LAND TRUST
THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS AND PARTNERS IN CONSERVATION

IN HONOR OF

Kirk Apte
Begina Olin
Josh Davis
Rose Marie Gonzales-Nielsen
David Scott and Judy Valente
William and Carol Scott
Katy and Andrew Scott
William and Carol Scott
Julie Malingowski and Brian Buechler
Suzette and Clarissa Bates
Eric Buechler
Linda Buechler
Jonathan Donati
Nancy Donoane
Robert Gillis
Laura Hartshorn
Kari and Carla Malingowski
Greg and Anna Marx
Cathy and Tony Mizia
Valerie Raney
Ronald and Joan Repert
Alissa and Adam Reynolds
Rebecca Simon
Steve and Theresa Smith
Karen Swagert
Carmen and Eddie Yostin
Celine Van Breukelen
Alison Vincent
Ilana Moir
Emily Moir
Kat and Rob Perle
Bill and Jane Ruesch
Bill and Judy Praxen
Rob Bleiberg and Sheri Covey
Charlie Quinney and Susan Cushman
Richard and Joan Quimby
Gary Stetler
Tony Blake
Kim Pierrpoint
Max Stites
Billy Eppinck
Susan Yeager
Max and Vicki Stites
Vera Patterson
Jay and Maggie Van Loan
Rob Bleiberg and Sheri Covey
Nancy Wilson
Robert Hahn
Leslie Wildeson
Judy Oskey
MONTHLY SUSTAINING PARTNERS

Gene and Betty Allens
Bob and Sherry Allens
Bill and Joan Angel
Carolee Young, KAAP Group LLC
Claire Zibet
SUPPORTER

Gene and Diann Admire
Amy Aglitski
Landon and Patricia Aldridge
Cheryl Alpha
John and Diane Anglin
Bob and Lou Armstrong
Daniel and Sheri Anstoyzeg
Fed Bavaro
Cecilia Barn
Virginia Bremer
Robert Benen
Benet Hill Monastery
Bruce and Vicki Bengel
Sharon Breneman
Tita and Pat Bishop
Bible Cycles
Michael and Dee Burke
William Cardston
Sarah Callin
JC Clayton
Bob and Jeanne Smith
Cindy Whalen
Stephen and Jeanne Wenger
Janis Thayer
Nancy Terrill
Robert Tallarico
Hoppe and Cindy Southway
Jack and Judy Shoffner
Kevin Sellers
Joe Rusk
Joe Pokrandt
Dan Oppenheimer
Fini Oharek
Nicholson Gordon Nicholson and Lay Chin Chew
Ellen Moore and Ellsworth Lebeau
Emily Moir
Charles and Marlene Miller
Eileen Moore and Elsievor Lebeau
Jennifer Moore and Jessie Zicher
Carole Montez
Michele Murphy
Norfolk Foundation and Lisl Chin Chew
Carol Morgan
Robert Tighter
Karyn Scott
Friends & Family of Tim Sewell
COPMOBA
Tim Sewell
John Roper
Karen Plessinger
Steve and Dorcus Kleinschuster
Duane and Beverly Johnson
Thomas and Benita Phillips
Janine and Kirk Rieser
Gary and Deborah Stetler
Max and Vicki Stites
Gus and Gwen Sublette

Robert Taylor and Karen Hayashi
Came and Eddie Ichinose
Christine Tveten
Stephen Zavac
Scott Viggoo
Walter Environmental Group Inc
Frank and Thea Watt
Christopher and Christine Welsh
William D. Wagner, Inc
Amie Wilsey
Judith Woodbury
MEMBER

Rick and Staci Adleman
Richard and Theresa Ahern
Christina Arone
Susan and Richard Andres
Jennie Amick
Bruce and Vicki Benge
Benet Hill Monastery
Virginia Beemer
Cecilia Barr
Bob and Lou Armstrong
John and Diane Anglin
Landon and Patricia Aldridge
Amy Agapito
Gene and Diann Admire
Malinda Winter
Ann Wiemert-Slater
Anne Wenzel and David Miller
David Wean
G.A. and Pat Tucker
Brown Cycles
William Carlson
Tillie and Pat Bishop
Phillip and Rollie Smith
Wayne and Joyce Smith
Monica Solowetz
Jack and Duna Stephens
Karen Swagert
Brad Taylor
Philip Coebinger and Kayla Dodson
Deborah Colby
Libby Collins
Kathleen Conway
Paul and Lorraine Cooper
Matthew Cuneo
Ronald Degus
Matthew Diers
Greg and Jean Dillon
Dusty Durban and Steven Bolton
Peggy Edstrom
Tom Ela
Jerry Fay
Kate Fischer
Michael Fitzmorris and Pamela Mueller
Gordon Foley
Greg Gnesis and Amy Gibbs
Judy Goodhart
Mary Haggard
Ray Hamdorf
Ul and Nancy Hanson
Myrle Hardesty
Barbara Hartshorn
Richard Hecker
Angela and Todd Hegstrom
Casady Henry
Grab Heiring
Aaron Hoffman
Josh and Kate Holm
Stephanie Hudson
Larry and Emma Harms
Philip Jessen
Duane and Beverly Johnson
Brad Jurgens
Edward Kallio
Dave and Trema Kernes
David and Deborah Kirk
Piera Klahn
Paul and Kaos Krays
Ann Kuhlan
Michael Kuzminski
Daoi Langton and Carl Jacobsen
Irene Ledesma
Jeff Legg
Eileen Leptosi
Grace Logsdon
Jim and Margaret MacQueen
Cynthia Mallick
Joe Martinez and Anne Konstedt
Larry McCombie
Dave and Sandy Miller
Bill and Ginger Mitchell
Nancy and Phil Mohler
Steve Morrel
Mountain Khakis
Molly and Eric Meyer
Diane Myers
Bob and Marcia Norton
Judy Oskey
Todd and Laura Oskey
Whitey Painter
Guy and Lon Parker
Barbara Patten
Summer Leigh Pearce
Michael Phillips
Joel Prudhomme
Allie Rados
Tom Ray and Jim Cox
Alison Robb
Peter Rosson
Greg and Christie Robson
Michelle and David Rohbach
Charles and Cheryl Roy
Angelia Salazar
Melanie Sawyer
Brandy Schell
Sherry Schenk
Mehry and Donna Scott
Holy Seegerer
Sean Sheely
Gary and Geselle Smith
Paul and Kimberly Smith
Wayne and Joyce Smith
Monica Solowetz
Jack and Duna Stephens
Karen Swagert
Brad Taylor
ALPINE BANK CELEBRATES MESA LAND TRUST’S 35TH ANNIVERSARY!

Double your donation by becoming a New Monthly Sustaining Partner at $35 a month.

As Mesa Land Trust celebrates 35 years of conservation we invite you to be part of our 35 for 35 Campaign and help raise an additional $35,000 this year. Alpine Bank is pledging up to $10,000 to match dollar for dollar, for one year, all new Monthly Sustaining Partners committing $35 a month.

Sign up today at www.mesalandtrust.org

Together, we can preserve more of the land that supports our enviable quality of life and strengthens our community around healthy lifestyles.

WAYS TO SUPPORT MESA LAND TRUST
Donate Today!

Visit
www.mesalandtrust.org

Or send a check:
Mesa Land Trust
1006 Main Street
Grand Junction, CO 81501

Remember
Remember Mesa Land Trust in your estate plans

Volunteer
Give us a call at 970.263.5443

Connect
www.mesalandtrust.org

“Supporting Mesa Land Trust is definitely in the long-term interest of our economy and also, the quality of life for our community. And it makes the Grand Valley a desirable place to live, and for businesses to locate to.”
— Ron Bubar, owner of Grand Junction Subaru

Hikers at Three Sisters enjoy the new Hilltop trail. Photo by Lee Gelatt

Thank You!

To all the landowners, volunteers, donors, and those who continue to share the story of land conservation.
Your support drives the Mesa Land Trust to conserve the lands that define our community and embody the best of western Colorado’s rich agricultural and natural heritage.
RANCHING FAMILY CONTINUES TO STEWARD LAND THAT GENERATES WONDERFUL PUBLIC BENEFIT

By Sharon Sullivan

Beeman and Jessie Casto celebrated their 64th wedding anniversary in May by placing 740 acres of their Unaweep Canyon property in a conservation easement with Mesa Land Trust.

"Beeman lived here all his life and wanted this to always be a ranch – that was the determining factor," in signing a conservation agreement, Jessie said. "As we grew older it was clear we would not be able to tend the ranch forever. We didn't want it to be developed."

At 82, Beeman saddles his own horse to move his herd of 300 cows to grazing areas. He continues to put up hay and tend to the irrigation. The grandkids and great grandkids help with chores. "We want to keep it going," said Beeman and Jessie's granddaughter Lisa, who lives just up the road from her grandparents. "Conserving the property with the Mesa Land Trust will make it possible for their grandchildren to someday take over the ranch.

Beeman grew up working on the ranch alongside his parents Byrl and Vivienne Casto. The landscape is lush with oak brush, rabbit brush, sagebrush, birch and juniper trees, as well as aspens. Protecting the box elders and riparian habitat growing along West Creek, that runs through the middle of the Casto property, ensures water quality important to the wild trout fishery downstream on BLM public land.

"I've had bear and elk peeking in my windows," Beeman said. Plus, "we have birds of all kinds, including wild turkeys."

The Casto's conserved ranch provides outstanding views along the Unaweep-Tabeguache Scenic Byway on Hwy 141. The grey granite slopes and red sandstone cliffs iconic to Unaweep Canyon, abundant wildlife, and spectacular fall colors greet anyone traveling the byway toward Gateway.

Experience Beeman’s and Jessie’s ranching life through a short video at www.mesalandtrust.org

Thank you to our Gold & Silver Underwriters for their sponsorship of this publication.