

Orient Land Trust – December 2006 E-Newsletter

Hello, and welcome to our end-of-year electronic newsletter! With the exception of our annual fall paper newsletter, all Orient Land Trust communications are done via e-mail. So if you wish to stay informed about all things OLT and Valley View, please send your current e-mail address to info@olt.org. If you wish to be removed from our e-mail list, just reply to this message with REMOVE in the subject field.

2006 December closing reminder: Orient Land Trust / Valley View Hot Springs is CLOSED this year from December 1st through December 25th, re-opening on Tuesday the 26th*. Though the office may be intermittently staffed during this time, we will not always answer the phone during our normal 9:00 am to 10:00 pm hours. Feel free to leave a message or send us an e-mail and we'll get back to you when we can. We will re-open for guests at 9:00 am on the day after Christmas, refreshed and ready to go – see you then!
(*Starting in 2007, OLT will be closed each year from Dec 1st - Dec 28th)

Fall Newsletter online. Did you receive our Fall 2006 Newsletter in the mail? If not, you can go to our [website](#) and click on Newsletter in the left hand column of any page to read or download a color version.

Land Conservation. The wildlife and irrigation improvements at the Everson Ranch are complete for the first phase (2006). A total of \$66,017 was spent on fencing cattle from riparian areas, creating a reservoir and improving irrigation structures. New fencing allows pronghorn to pass through and the area along the stream will not be grazed which will improve fish habitat and native plant growth. The reservoir will provide more fish habitat and better irrigation. Irrigation along with reseeding in 2007 will improve native grass growth.

Thank you for your financial support! We are grateful to the many hundreds of OLT member contributors who have already responded to our Fall 2006 Donation Drive - we could not accomplish our [mission](#) without you! Every dollar you donate goes towards land preservation, so by becoming a new member or renewing your Orient Land Trust membership you are helping to preserve the open spaces and clear skies that keep this a special, beautiful place. If you haven't become a contributor yet, please visit our [Ways to Give](#) web page to see how to join the OLT family of supporters - there are valuable [benefits](#) for you, plus all donations are tax-deductible. You may donate online, or print a contribution form to mail in with your check. Beat that end-of-year deadline for 2006 charitable contributions!

Now is the time to apply for summer 2007 on-site host positions - In 2006 our full time summer volunteer hosts were invaluable in helping to educate visitors about Orient Land Trust, along with providing much-appreciated assistance to the OLT staff! If you have a month to spare between May and September, consider spending it here at Orient Land Trust as a Campground Host, Discovery Host, or Bat Tour Guide. Volunteer hosts may camp here for free for the duration of their commitment. See [Volunteering](#) for additional details, job descriptions, and applications to print and mail in. The deadline for applications is February 15th, 2007.

2006 Raffle a Success - Thanks to everyone who bought raffle tickets this year – you helped OLT raise over \$15,000 for land conservation! The drawing was held on November 11th, and the winners have all been notified and have selected their prizes. So now it's time to start

thinking about next year's raffle...

Donations for 2007 Raffle Needed! We are planning a raffle for 2007 that would have large cash prizes along with donated big-ticket products and services. If you would like to support Orient Land Trust by donating a product or service with a fair market value of \$100 or more, please send us an e-mail at info@olt.org so we can get an idea of what prizes we will have available. All donations of goods and services are tax-deductible to the donor. So we can get rolling on our raffle plans, please send us your information by January 31st, 2007.

Board of Directors Opening

We currently have a vacancy on the OLT Board of Directors. Board members are required to:

- Attend board meetings (in 2007, on the second Saturday of Jan, Mar, Jun, Sep, and Dec)
- Be fully committed to the mission of the Orient Land Trust
- Be active in fundraising and serve on committees
- Be able to represent the Orient Land Trust positively and knowledgeably at all times
- Have e-mail and internet capability

Useful experience and skills include: familiarity with Valley View Hot Springs and naturism; previous experience with nonprofit organizations; previous experience with land trusts or conservation organizations; fundraising experience; and public relations experience. A full board term is three years. All board members are volunteers.

Interested individuals should submit a letter of intent to:

[Board Development Committee](#)

Orient Land Trust
PO Box 65
Villa Grove, CO 81155

Letters should highlight your experience with nonprofits (including volunteer boards), fundraising, accounting, work on committees, volunteerism, familiarity with OLT, your interests and expertise, and why you should be asked to join the board. See [Board of Directors Position Description](#).

Committee Members Needed

If you would like to be involved in the future of OLT, there are many opportunities to help. Members from the public are needed – you do NOT need to be on the Board of Directors to participate! Committees include:

- **Board Development:** Advertise for, recommend and familiarize new board members. Educate and improve current board.
- **Resource Development:** Fundraising strategy and volunteering recommendations.
- **Land Management Plan:** Recommend the process of securing the management of OLT lands in perpetuity as well as the process of accepting founders land donation.
- **Land Action Committee:** Determine what real estate parcels are threatened, which are important, and recommend priorities for OLT to pursue for conservation and/or protection.

All these committees are actively seeking individuals who have an interest in these particular areas. Most committees meet by conference call and utilize e-mail communication. If you are interested in serving on a committee, please contact info@olt.org.

Thanks again to all who have supported us in the past year. Happy holidays and see

you in 2007!