



Welcome to the May 2006

Orient Land Trust E-Newsletter

Also visit www.olt.org for lots more information.

Have you renewed your membership?

In January, a 160 acre parcel was added to land and open space that Orient Land Trust manages. More land along County Road GG is slated to be developed into residential areas in the future. Currently over 1,000 acres of ranch land situated on both sides of the road is for sale, including a large area of irrigated meadows. Orient Land Trust is exploring a conservation easement for this property. A conservation easement would preserve agriculture use and wildlife habitat as well as open space views. Orient Land Trust relies on contributions from individuals to provide the funds for land conservation projects. You can renew your membership online at www.olt.org/donate/ways_to_give.htm or give us a call at (719) 256-4315. **100% of unrestricted contributions go towards land and open space conservation!!**

Orient Land Trust Raffle! The main fundraising event of the year is here. Over \$8,000 in prizes will be given away. Tickets are now on sale. Buy tickets in person at Orient Land Trust; for other options call 719-256-4315. (*Note: Tickets can be purchased by check or cash only and cannot be mailed.*)

Ticket prices:

\$5 per ticket or

4 tickets for \$20 (\$4.00 each)

10 tickets for \$35 (\$3.50 each)

20 tickets for \$60 (\$3.00 each)

The more tickets you buy the better your chance of winning! No more than 8,000 tickets will be sold.

Prizes include:

- **Free Admission** to Valley View Hot Springs for one year for the raffle winner and one guest. Non-transferable. Also includes the benefit of making reservations up to three months ahead and no reservations needed for day use or overnight tent use at Orient Land Trust. Limited to admission and accommodation fees up to \$2,000; expires December 1, 2007. Must register at each visit and all other established visitor policies must be followed.
- **A Week on the Mayan Riviera** - Seven nights for two people in a Beachfront Bungalow at Playa Sonrisa - "Smile Beach", a clothing-optional couples resort on the Yucatan peninsula. Includes airfare and travel expenses up to \$1,000. Expires December 15, 2008. See www.playasonrisa.com for more information.

- **Dell Latitude D620** Laptop, easily handles any business or personal software. It's loaded (and we do mean loaded) with Windows XP Pro, dual core processor, 2 GB RAM, 80 GB hard drive, R/W CD, R/W DVD, dual batteries, 3 year service contract, fingerprint password, antitheft lock and alarm system, and carrying case.
- **Valley View all to yourselves for free** for you and up to 7 adults plus their children. Stay in the Sunset Rooms and enjoy the hot springs at its most peaceful for one week (up to 6 consecutive nights) December 1-20, 2006 or 2007. This is a rare chance to have the pools and sauna just for your group. Must be the same eight adults throughout the visit. All other established visitor policies must be followed. Damage deposit may be required.
- **Glass Sculpture "Petite Pas de Deux"** - hand-blown, cut and polished by award winning glass artist Kit Karbler, Blake Street Glass Studio. The piece is signed, dated and numbered. Visit www.blakestreetglass.com for more information about the artist.
- **Framed Photograph of Orient Land Trust** - Framed archival digital photograph by John Lorenz, accomplished landscape photographer.

Raffle Drawing will be held November 11, 2006. First ticket drawn chooses from all prizes; second ticket drawn chooses from remaining prizes, etc.

Please Help Pull Weeds - An aggressive plant, Houndstongue, has invaded. Without our attention it will displace the native vegetation. Deer and other wildlife can't eat it. Left alone, each plant can produce thousands of seeds. Help protect and restore habitat at Orient Land Trust. By pulling Houndstongue in the early summer we prevent it from spreading. Volunteers will pull and bag this aggressive weed for two half-day sessions and enjoy the satisfaction of helping protect a place we all care about.

When:

Saturday, June 17, 8:30am to 12:30pm

Sunday, June 18, 8:30am to 12:30pm

RSVP: Please let us know if you would like to help out on either or both of these days.

Send an email to terry@olt.org

Learn more about Houndstongue and other noxious weeds threatening the west at

www.weedcenter.org/prevention/fact_sheets_wpa.pdf

Fireworks FUNdraiser - This year Orient Land Trust's fantastic fireworks display will be on Saturday, July 1st at dark. Everybody likes fireworks, but if you are especially enamored of the pyrotechnic arts, please consider making a special donation to help cover the costs of the display. These fireworks bring pleasure not just to Orient Land Trust visitors, but to many, many other people from around the San Luis Valley. (The stream of car lights heading out County Road GG following the fireworks is almost as impressive as the show itself!) To make a donation for the fireworks, please call 719-256-4315 or email neil@olt.org

OLT Member Appreciation Weekend is June 9-11 this year. Only OLT members (contributors) and their immediate household will be admitted this weekend - all adult "guests" must also be members. While there is no quota for this weekend, **reservations are required** so we will know how many people to expect. Please RSVP today at 719-256-4315.

Valley View's annual party - it's big fun in a completely laid back atmosphere. Be prepared for big crowds of really nice people, all out to have a good time with old friends and new.

- As in years past, there will be live music both Friday and Saturday evenings. This year we're very excited to welcome back "Tumbleweed", the band that played at the very first annual party in 1985 (and several more parties to follow). "Tumbleweed" is reuniting for this gig, and it's going to be a real treat to dance to this great band once again!
- Saturday afternoon all will gather for a super potluck. Please bring your own service and beverages, and a dish to share.
- Any Lost & Found items unclaimed by May 1st will be offered at the Lost & Found Sale on Saturday morning; see for yourself the amazing things that people have left behind.
- On Sunday morning, OLT will be providing breakfast for all. This includes specialty coffees by Saguache Gallery and Espresso.
- **Please remember to bring your checkbook this weekend, so you can get your tickets for the Orient Land Trust Raffle**

The Residence at Valley View is now available. For a limited time only, you can enjoy "luxury OLT-style". The house across from the Welcome Center is available for nightly rental from now until mid-July (when it is expected to be once again occupied by staff). It is a furnished two bedroom with full kitchen and bath. Other amenities include living room and dining room, fully equipped kitchen with breakfast nook, outdoor gas grill, bathroom with tub and shower, with a separate toilet room, towels provided for in-house use (not for soaking), washer / dryer, wireless Internet, DVD player and monitor, late check-in available on Friday with prior arrangement and **GREAT VIEWS ALL AROUND!**

The Residence is non-smoking and no pets. It sleeps a maximum of five people: full bed in one bedroom, queen bed in the other bedroom, day bed in the living room. The rate for this accommodation is \$125.00 per night plus the nightly admission fee per adult. OLT's regular reservation limits apply to this accommodation. This may be just what you need for a great get-away. Call 719-256-4315 to check on availability.