

Land Matters

Spring 2015

A NEWSLETTER OF THE VIRGIN RIVER LAND PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION

Bringing Utahns Together for 24 Hours of Giving

What if you could help shape Utah's future in a single day? On March 26, 2015, you can!

Love Utah? Help raise \$2 million dollars for Utah charities and schools in just 24 hours!

It's one extraordinary day to support the organizations that make Utah special, including the Virgin River Land Preservation Association. And, it's your chance to make a real impact.



Give where you live!

How do you put a price tag on the quality of life we enjoy? Nonprofit organizations like Virgin River Land are crucial to Utah's cultural, social, and economic health. Just think about all the things they make possible each and every day.

Support the organizations that enrich our lives. Find out more about Love UT Give UT—and commit to give on March 26, 2015! Visit http://loveutgiveut.razoo.com/story/Virgin-River-Land-Preservation-Association?referral_code=share today and preregister your donation!

Our Friends Step Up with a LoveUT GiveUT Challenge Grant!

Kayla Koeber and Dean Brown, of Leeds, Utah, are VRLPA members and loyal supporters who have stepped up to maximize their generous support

for open space conservation in southern Utah. They have pledged \$500 to VRLPA's Love Utah Give Utah campaign drive which will be matched by \$500 from Kayla's company for a Challenge Grant total of \$1,000. They hope this will encourage other open space enthusiasts to give as well.

Don't miss this oppor-

tunity to double your contribution by going online on or before March 26th to the LoveUT GiveUT website. If you can't log on to donate on March 26th, you can go to the website at any time and earmark your gift to VRLPA to count towards the Koeber-Brown Challenge Grant.

VRLPA's focus for this giving campaign is the preservation of the scenic, historic, open space of the Pine Valley Meadows. Your contributions to the land trust during LoveUT GiveUT will be earmarked for the preservation of this unique place in our local landscape.



Annual Members Meeting April 10th

Our 2015 Annual Members' meeting will be held Friday, April 10th from 6:00-7:30 pm at the Hela Seegmiller Historic Park, located at 3000 E. 2450 South in St. George. This is a wonderful opportunity for members and friends to mingle with board members, enjoy delicious refreshments, and for all in attendance to explore VRLPA's land preservation projects and other activities.

Greater Zion Conservation Fund

We are ready to launch the Greater Zion Conservation Fund to collect voluntary contribu-



**GREATER
ZION
CONSERVATION
FUND**

tions from Zion National Park visitors and supporters of open space. Businesses in Washington County, especially those who benefit from tourism to

Zion National Park and surroundings, are invited to become partners with VRLPA in this exciting initiative.

Participating local businesses collect voluntary 1% contributions for open space from their customers based on the value of purchases. VRLPA will use the funds to acquire conservation easements or to purchase properties that protect critical areas adjacent to Zion National Park

This type of partnership program has proved to be very successful in our neighboring state of Colorado.

If you would like to partner with the land trust in support of land conservation in the Greater Zion area, please e-mail us at: vrlpa@infowest.com.

Amazon Smile

Have you heard about Amazon Smile? Virgin River Land is now a registered charity with this Amazon program. When you shop through the Amazon Smile portal, Amazon will donate a percentage of your purchase to your chosen charity. Shop at Amazon and support VRLPA... Please give it a try. Follow this link to learn more!



<http://smile.amazon.com/ch/87-0516535>.

Earth Day in Springdale April 18th

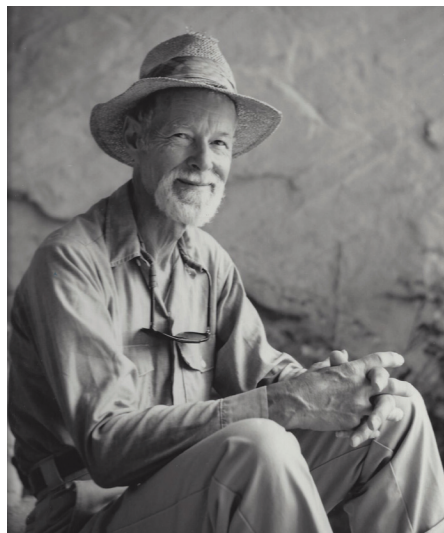
This annual celebration in Springdale is not to be missed! VRLPA will be there, so please stop by the land trust booth and say hello. Festival takes place on the lawn of the Bit & Spur Restaurant at 1212 Zion Park Boulevard from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm.

John Donnell Retires

We are pleased to honor one of our most enthusiastic and tireless members with VRLPA's first-ever *Emeritus* status. John Donnell has served on the board of directors for over 15 years, and though VRLPA is reluctant to let him leave, we are so grateful for his service in preserving Washington County's open space.

John has been especially passionate about preserving the beautiful Pine Valley Meadows. Because of his dedication to the Pine Valley project, VRLPA has chosen Pine Valley as the focus for its Love Utah Give Utah fundraising drive to honor John as he retires. (See articles on first page of this newsletter about LoveUT GiveUT.)

Since his nomination to fill a position on the Board of Trustees in 1998, John has been an essential part of the association's most significant recent projects: the Smith Mesa easements,



John Donnell, photo: David Pettit



Pine Valley Meadows, photo: Maxine Davie

Confluence Park land purchases, and the Pine Valley Meadows easements.

John moved to Washington County from Indiana, and quickly became involved in making his new home a better place. As an avid hiker and cyclist, John was a perfect fit to take the lead on the Three Rivers Trail project as this organization's representative. After years of meetings and negotiations, the Three Rivers Trail is now on firm ground, with all of the participating agencies and municipalities moving towards the goal of a continuous trail from Gunlock to Zion National Park.

John, 94 years old, attended the 2014 Land Trust Alliance Rally in Providence, RI, returning with a fresh perspective on the priorities for a successful and sustainable all-volunteer land trust.

Thank you, John, for your generosity, your commitment, and your friendship. VRL and land conservation is greatly in your debt.

Renew or Become a Member Today

Your support goes directly into our work to protect southwestern Utah's heritage of scenic vistas, open lands, and quality of life.

How to contribute: Online through our website (www.virginriverland.org) or mail a contribution to Virgin River Land Preservation Association, PO Box 1804, St. George, UT 84771.



Stay in touch through Facebook or e-mail us at: vrlpa@infowest.com.