



Summer 2015

Land Matters

A NEWSLETTER OF THE VIRGIN RIVER LAND PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION

Jackson Flat

Virgin River Land is pleased to announce the completion of the Jackson Flat Conservation Easement in neighboring Kane County.

Five years ago, when the Kane County Water Conservancy District set out to build the Jackson Flat Reservoir just east of Kanab, they uncovered the site of indigenous human habitation. Recognizing the need to preserve it, they approached VRLPA and asked us to assist them in protecting the site.

Archaeologists believe many generations of Ancient Puebloans lived on the site about one thousand years ago. Pit houses were discovered and experts are confident that more dwellings are still buried beneath the site. The site contains roughly one hundred smaller structures that were likely used as storage of foods such as corn, beans, and squash.

Lengthy and complicated negotiations between various stakeholders have introduced VRLPA to a new dimension of land conservation. We worked with many partners to protect Jackson Flat in perpetuity. Partners include the Kaibab Band of Paiute Indians, the Archaeological Conservancy, Kane County Commission, the Kane County Water Conservancy District, and the State of Utah.

VRLPA is especially grateful for

the pro bono legal work of our good friend, Russ Gallian at the legal firm of Gallian, Westfall, Wilcox and Welker in St. George.

LUGU Report

VRLPA participated for the first time in the annual “Love Utah Give Utah” fundraising extravaganza last March. Many of you were the recipients of frequent “e-blasts” and pleas from our board members and friends to help us meet some challenge and matching grants, and to contribute to our fundraising efforts for our conservation projects.

And you responded! Our goal in fundraising for this event was to raise funds to continue our conservation work with property owners in the Pine Valley Meadows area. Your generosity, as well as the extraordinary generosity of two major donors helped us raise over \$11,500. We are especially grateful to Kayla Koeber and Dean Brown for their challenge grant and to our Anonymous Angel for an amazing matching grant. And we are very grateful to you as well, because you stepped up when we needed you most. Although we didn’t win prizes for having the most donors, our donors’ average contribution was

higher than almost all other nonprofits who participated in that one-day event.

VRLPA would like to acknowledge several volunteers who went the extra distance to make our fundraising possible. Michelle Larsen Bonner, volunteer extraordinaire, spent countless hours developing the LUGU webpage and the LUGU Facebook account for VRLPA. Michelle also created flyers and posters and kept everyone excited.

Our good friend and former secretary, Marie Landis, edited a great video for our LUGU webpage and printed materials for publicity. Thank you for your great efforts.

Our webpage at LUGU is still up and live, so it’s not too late to log on, view the lovely photographs of Pine

Valley, and make a donation.



Amazon Smile

VRLPA 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>.





Annual Members' Meeting, photo: VRLPA

Annual Members' Meeting 2015

April 10, 2015 was a perfect spring day for the Annual Members' Meeting at the lovely Hela Seegmiller Historic Park in St. George. This was a wonderful opportunity for board, members, and interested individuals to mingle, hear about VRLPA's latest projects, initiatives, and accomplishments, and enjoy delicious refreshments. President Chris Blake presented an overview of the year's activities and milestones, and attendees had an opportunity to review VRLPA's Annual Report and make nominations from the floor for vacancies on the board of directors.

Michelle Rocks!

VRLPA is fortunate to have some great people who volunteer their time and talent to help us get the word out about open space conservation. One of our most dedicated and stalwart volunteers is Michelle Larsen Bonner. Amazing Michelle has been spurring VRLPA's community outreach efforts



Michelle Larsen Bonner

for several years, in addition to lending a hand with fundraising efforts, notably Love Utah Give Utah and the Greater Zion Conservation Fund.

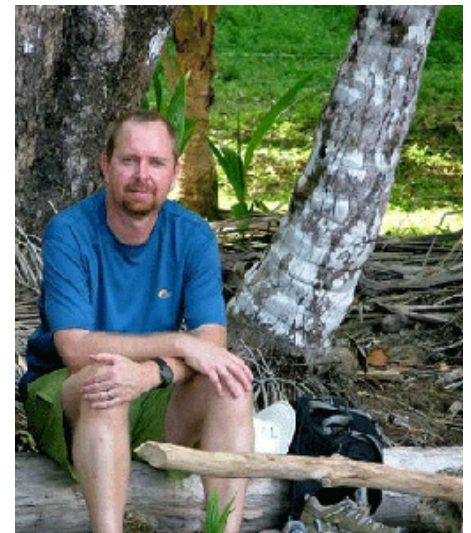
Michelle took charge of VRLPA's 20th anniversary party at the River Rock Roasting Company in LaVerkin in 2014, arranging the location and providing wonderful eats; similarly, she has provided awesome spreads for VRLPA's annual members' meetings since 2014. Michelle's flair for design and creative food presentation has seriously raised VRLPA's credibility!

Michelle has also volunteered time and talent by working at VRLPA booths at the Kayenta Arts Festival and Springdale's Earth Day Festival.

Elizabeth Andrew said "Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart." That's our Michelle: All Heart. Thank you, Michelle.

VRLPA Welcomes Kelly Bringhurst to the Board

As a result of the elections at the Annual Members' Meeting, the VRLPA Board of Directors is pleased to welcome our newest board member, Kelly Bringhurst. Kelly is a long-time resident of St. George and a professor of geology and chair of the Physical Sciences Department at Dixie State University. A member and supporter of VRLPA, Kelly loves our beautiful area and shares the commitment to preserve open space and provide land stewardship. Welcome, Kelly.



Kelly Bringhurst

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@infovest.com.