



JULY 2014

The Freedom to Volunteer

By Volunteer Mark Hougardy

**NATURE
NEEDS YOU**



As we celebrate the Fourth of July this month we are reminded about what makes this holiday special. Many remember with warmth: time with friends, seeing family, enjoying summertime food, watching displays of fireworks, and being thankful for our freedom. For me personally, freedom includes the ability to support meaningful causes through volunteering.

Recently, I was reminded of this while introducing a green space to out-of-town friends when a bald eagle flew over our heads. Everyone was enthralled! It was a magnificent event because the area had been neglected for decades and was only now returning to a more natural state thanks to the hard work of people with a vision, and thousands of hours of volunteer work. People often remind me there is no paycheck with volunteering, they are correct; but for me, volunteering is about working with others toward a shared goal, being involved, and accomplishing great things for America.

Help keep southwest Oregon a beautiful place, check out these great volunteering events and opportunities below:

WORK PARTY

Trouble with Teasel

Saturday, July 12, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Popcorn Swale Preserve, Family Friendly - Drop in Anytime



The [Popcorn Swale Preserve](#) is one of the Umpqua Valley's best remaining wet prairie sites. Located just north of Roseburg, this preserve is home to one of the few remaining populations of the endangered rough popcorn flower and many other native wildflowers, grasses and sedges.

Help The Nature Conservancy continue with its successful removal of teasel, an invasive weed that takes over the prairie and crowds out native plants.

Photo: Molly Morison

[» Email Molly to Attend](#)

WORK PARTY

Fences, Wetlands and Wildlife Weekend

Saturday-Sunday, August 9-10
Sycan Marsh Preserve



The [Sycan Marsh Preserve](#) is a vast, verdant wetland in the upper reaches of the Klamath Basin. It is a key site for wetland research, restoration, and is home to thousands of nesting and migrating birds, threatened fish and newly discovered aquatic creatures.

Join us to help protect this natural treasure by removing fences and rebuilding spring enclosures (knee boots or hip waders are needed).

In a cooperative agreement with ZX Ranch, The Nature Conservancy is working to restore the natural water flows and wildlife habitat, while compatible grazing and forestry practices are being tested. The goal is a model of landscape restoration that both revitalizes wetlands for wildlife and helps to sustain the local economy.

NOTE: This is an overnight work party. We typically leave late afternoon on Friday, end work at about noon on Sunday, and return to Medford by 5pm-ish. Bring your sleeping bag and we'll provide the food and fun. Limited to 12 people. Volunteers will have the option of camping or sleeping in a screened porch. You'll have access to a kitchen and bathroom/shower facilities. All the details will be sent when you sign up. If you have any questions [email Molly](#) or call: 541-770-7933 Ext. 2#

Photo: Teresa Fernandez

[» Email Molly to Attend](#)

SCIENCE IN ACTION

What's My Scent?

Researcher Ikju Park recently collected the floral scent of the endangered rough popcornflower at Popcorn Swale Preserve. He's learning if a biocontrol insect (a weevil) that eats an invasive popcornflower relative (houndstongue) might also be attracted to native members of the forget-me-not family. Rigorous testing of biocontrol insects is required before they can be released to ensure that they do not harm desirable plants. Join our work party this month, and we might find a few popcornflowers to sniff ñ the fragrance is lovely!



The federally endangered rough popcornflower.

Photo: Teresa Fernandez/TNC



Photo: Kelly Amsberry/ODA



Ikju and his equipment.

Photo: Kelly Amsberry/ODA

VOLUNTEER CLASSIFIEDS

You can help nature with your knowledge and skills. Current opportunities are listed:

FOREST CREW ASSISTANTS, JUNE-SEPTEMBER
Support The Nature Conservancy's [Forest Initiative](#) and help conduct a study of the fire regimes, structure, and composition of historical forests in the Illinois and Applegate watersheds in southwest Oregon. Volunteers are needed to support the Forest Crew with field data collection including tree measurements and habitat classifications. The work requires good physical fitness and the ability to commit to a minimum of five 10 hour days between June and September. Volunteers will gain skills and knowledge in forest ecology and have the opportunity to visit unique and beautiful forest landscapes.

DONATION SOLICITATION VOLUNTEER
Our volunteers work hard at the preserves and within the office throughout the year; they appreciate delicious snacks to keep them fueled, plus a little something extra every now and then! Help support our volunteer program by soliciting donations of food and gift items from local businesses and individuals. Fundraising experience is helpful but not necessary. Volunteers should enjoy community outreach and be able to clearly communicate with people about The Nature Conservancy's mission. Hours are flexible.

THURSDAY CREW
The Thursday Crew meets every week at our local preserves to help with current projects including weed removal, rare species monitoring, fencing and more. New faces are always welcome - join us!

OR STATEWIDE

Summer is a great time to get out and volunteer with The Nature Conservancy. [Discover opportunities across the beautiful state of Oregon.](#)