



May 14, 2016

POB 872,  
27746 Redwood Hwy.  
Cave Junction, OR 97523  
541-287-2164  
ruskranchnaturecenter.org

Board of Directors  
Kimberlie Lehman, President,  
Patricia Downing, Exec. Director  
Terry Davis, Member  
Jeannette Rogers, Member  
Jan Walker, Member



**The Mission of Rusk Ranch Nature Center is to benefit the community and to provide opportunities for the public, particularly young people, to appreciate the natural world and instill a sense of stewardship toward the earth and its inhabitants, and preserve and conserve nature and wildlife.**

***“At Rusk Ranch Nature Center we value the healing power of nature and nature’s ability to nurture creativity, to inspire a sense of belonging, and to build community by showing us our deep interconnectedness. We value the long term wholeness of recognizing that people and nature are inseparable. We strive to nurture whole families, multi-age groups and children.”***

Dear Angels, Volunteers, Members and Sponsors,

So much going on! This update letter is getting out a couple months late...my apologies : )

We ran our very first social media fundraiser, for the Nature Discovery Center facility, as a match challenge, just before the Holidays, during the national Giving Tuesday campaign. Beth Stark made our first lead donation of \$5,000, and the Rusk family made a significant contribution as well! (Our deepest gratitude to the Stark family and Rusk family for all they do in the community!) We matched that with your help, for a total of \$10,000! Thank you so very much for making this happen. The nature center truly is a community effort.

For any who don't know, our "Angels" committee is a group of supporters who agree to donate a monthly amount, to keep our operations a-float while we are working on building the Nature Discovery Center. Without them, we would not be able to stay open until the facility is built, even though all labor is volunteer. This is so meaningful for our community. Thank you ANGELS! Angelic in deed!

We recently received a grant from the Ford Family Foundation to hire a consultant (Dianne Smiley) to do a "Campaign Readiness" assessment for us. This is something the foundations and other investors need, in lieu of a Feasibility Study, before they invest in a capital project like ours. She is almost finished with the assessment, and it should help us as we inch forward.

During the school year, thanks to a generous donation from Kimberly Lehman, we again partnered with Evergreen School to sponsor the Bugs R Us guy to present to all 450 kids at the school. On June 26, at the Nature & Art Festival, and again August 20<sup>th</sup>, Bugs R Us will be at the center.

Our architect, Carlos Delgado, created a wonderful design for the Nature Discovery Center (NDC), and it is posted on the website (Home → About Us → Documents).

Divonna Ratliff joined our Steering committee for the NDC to coordinate our exhibit design process. She comes with many years experience at OMSI in Portland and also the Children's Museum. We are so grateful to have her expertise. We hired Alan Ransenberg, from the Alchemy of Design, as our designer for exhibits. We have some great ideas and plan to have a summary document available soon.

We also have a super new intern: Matthew Mclean from the SOU School of Business. Matthew is a student in the MBA program, specializing in Nonprofit Management. He is helping with our campaign work and donor relations. And big bonus – he lives right here in Illinois Valley!

Thanks to Bonnie Allison we are partnered with the Forest Service to provide milkweed starts for a project to help the monarchs. We also sold milkweed at the Master Gardeners sale in Grants Pass and the IV Garden Club sale in Cave Junction.

Board meetings for the coming year are set on the following dates, and we hope you can join us. (or call or email anytime if you'd like an update, meet for coffee or have an hour to spare as a docent or other volunteer).

Board meetings 2016, first Thursday of month:

June 2, at the cottage at RRNC  
July 7, at RRNC Butterfly Pavilion  
Aug 4, at RRNC Butterfly Pavilion  
Sept 1, at RRNC Butterfly Pavilion  
Oct 6, at RRNC Butterfly Pavilion  
Nov 3, location TBS  
Dec 1, location TBA



We are getting ready to open Memorial weekend, Friday May 26. We still have a need for Docents, if you have two hours to spare. We are all volunteer run, until we get our Nature Discovery Center built. Docents have a delightful and easy job of just showing butterflies to visitors!

If you haven't come by in a while, please drop in and enjoy the hummingbirds, butterflies, flower garden, natural playground, bunny, pollywogs, goats, toad, and frogs.

Warmest regards,

Patty Downing on behalf of the Board of Directors

*As always, we are so very grateful for your generosity and vision in getting this dream rolling! The Angels, Members and Sponsors are a special group and you can be proud of your part in making this happen. Warmest Regards, ~ the Board of Directors of RRNC*

**June 26, Sunday, Nature and Art Festival:**

- Kids nature art projects - Salmom Run eco-game - Southern Oregon Guild Red Tent arts project
  - Illinois River Valley Arts Council kids arts - Bigs R Us (11 am) Bug Show
  - All the usual: Natural Playground, polywogs & frogs, Butterfly Pavilion, bunny & goats
- 10am - 3pm, \$3 all adults and children

**August 20, Saturday, Bugs R Us Reptiles and Amphibians Show, 11 am - No charge for show only**

**Rusk Ranch Nature Center**

POB 872 27746 Redwood Hwy, Cave Junction, OR 97523 ~ 541-287-2164 [info@ruskranchnaturecenter.org](mailto:info@ruskranchnaturecenter.org)  
Center opens end of May through end of September, 10-5pm Tuesday through Sundays