



SMLC NEWS

Open Space! Generation Wild! Trails! ...and More!

Throughout South Metro Land Conservancy’s 26-year history, the organization has focused on the acquisition and preservation of open space in the south metro area. SMLC has initiated or participated in conservation and land preservation projects totaling over 10,300 acres of protected open space. We believe that SMLC’s efforts have been key to the quality of life that we enjoy. There is no question that open space, parks, trails and natural areas are integral to what we are as a community.

During the past few years SMLC has devoted more energy and advocacy to trails and connectivity. For example, SMLC is an active participant with the South Platte Working Group to build and enhance connections to the Platte River and other destinations important in people’s daily lives. In fact, SMLC is a strong voice about the importance of connectivity and recreation opportunities in natural areas.

Under the auspices of Great Outdoors Colorado’s “Generation Wild: Kids Grow Better Outside” program, SMLC took on a project in 2018 to reconnect children with nature. SMLC partnered with Bemis Library on its summer reading program by designing a scavenger hunt booklet to get children out in our parks and awarding them with a SMLC purchased book about nature. In 2019 this partnership continues with the Friends of the Library/Museum (FOLM) and with the Village Preschool also participating this year. SMLC is funding high-quality, nature-themed books for these reading programs.

While you are familiar with our role in procuring additional land for South Platte Park, an 880-acre natural open space gem, SMLC is turning its attention to helping people understand the importance of natural areas in their neighborhood parks. These parcels are often misunderstood, yet they provide habitat for birds and animals close to home. SMLC is exploring how it can provide more educational opportunities about these important areas.

This year, SMLC is taking a break from its Stampede! event but there is still a lot happening. You can expect SMLC to continue its work to make our community the best it can be.

Sincerely,

Pat Cronenberger, President
John Hershey, Vice President and Treasurer
Linda Knufinke, Secretary
Elizabeth Richardson, Board Member
Scott Melin, Board Member



Members of Generation Wild enjoying South Platte Park!



Please Join us to Recognize a Great Conservationist: Bobbie Sheffield

Date and Time: August 21 at 5 p.m.

Place: Round-about just west of the Carson Nature Center parking lot, followed by a reception at the Solar Classroom

We will hold a short ceremony and reception to honor Bobbie Sheffield, co-founder and long-time SMLC member, whose name is being engraved on the SMLC stone in the roundabout in the Mary Carter Greenway. Light refreshments and appetizers will be served. We would love to see you there! No rsvp required.

Longtime SMLC Board Member Retires

Co-founder and longtime SMLC Board member Bobbie Sheffield retired from the South Metro Land Conservancy (SMLC) Board in January.

Bobbie, along with a group of other like-minded citizens, formed SMLC in 1993 because of their concern with the rapid loss of open space in the south metro area. The first project the new organization tackled was partnering with the City of Littleton to secure 18.75 acres of the Newton Trust property next to South Platte Park. SMLC went on to be involved with purchases that added important park land and buffer.

Under Bobbie's leadership the organization did not just contribute financially and facilitate land acquisition for South Platte Park. SMLC notably was involved with the purchase of the Chambers Farm (now Wynetka Ponds Park), Lee Gulch Open Space and the

Stockwell property adjoining Chatfield State Park, to name just a few.

One recent SMLC project was the 1,000 acre Marris property, of which Bobbie is particularly proud. Not only did SMLC provide seed money to facilitate the purchase with Colorado Open Lands and Trust for Public Lands, SMLC was the catalyst for adding 9000 acres to the Plains Conservation Center and ensuring placement of a conservation easement on the Center. "The easement was almost as important as the purchase of the Marris property," Bobbie remarked.

Bobbie served for 10 years on the Arapahoe County Open Space and Trails Advisory Board and was SMLC's representative on the South Platte Working Group.

Bobbie says, "Working with SMLC has been one of the great joys of my life. Now is the right time to retire from the SMLC Board as the organization is strong and financially stable. I'm stepping aside to let others take the lead and I look forward to devoting more time to my family."



Bobbie Sheffield enjoying the Colorado outdoors she loves so much. Thank you, Bobbie, for your wonderful legacy of protected open spaces in our community.

SMLC adds Village Preschool and Friends of the Library/Museum to Partnership

Last year, in conjunction with our 25th anniversary, SMLC undertook a project under the auspices of Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) “Generation Wild: Kids Grow Better Outside”. Generation Wild is a three-year campaign to reconnect children with nature (<https://generationwild.com>).

To further this goal, SMLC partnered with Bemis Library on its summer reading program by providing a scavenger hunt booklet and funding nature-themed books for children. This year, SMLC added the Friends of the Library/Museum and Littleton Public Schools’ Village Preschool to this endeavor and is funding nature-themed books as part of those reading programs.

By the way, check out GOCO’s “100 Things to do Before You’re 12” list no matter what age you are!



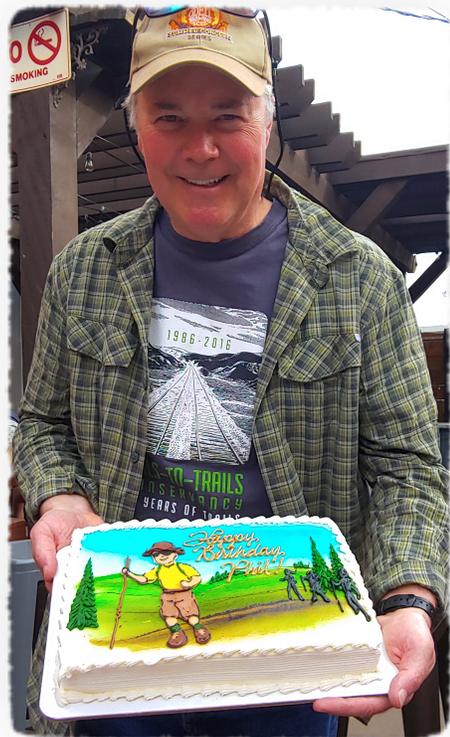
Board member Scott Melin presents nature-themed books to Village Preschool Principal Marnie Yanacheak.

Phil Waltz Bids Adieu to the SMLC Board

After almost 15 years Phil Waltz departed the Board earlier this year. For most of that time he served as the Board’s Treasurer performing that duty to the highest standards.

Many of you know Phil as the Outdoor Coordinator at South Platte Park, where he has served since 1998. Thousands of citizens throughout the region have interacted with Phil over the years, resulting in a better understanding of our natural environment. In addition, the lives of a countless number of children have been enriched by Phil through their participation in nature camps and ranger programs.

Phil said this: “It’s been a tremendous pleasure to serve on the SMLC Board with all the wonderful fellow Board members and for all of our wonderful supporters. I’ve always felt that SMLC is a key grassroots player facilitating the big wheels of land conservancy and education to get big projects done. In the words of Margaret Mead: *‘Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.’*”



We’ll miss you Phil. Thank you!

SMLC sincerely thanks Phil for his dedication to SMLC’s mission and for all that he has done to make the south metro region a better place. Be sure to stop by the Carson Nature Center and thank him!

Scott Melin Joins the SMLC Board

Last October, SMLC announced the addition of Scott Melin to the Board (he is pictured in photo with The Village Preschool Principal in this newsletter).

Scott is an attorney with the Bagley Law Firm and is a 2018 graduate of the Littleton Leadership Academy. He was born and raised in Littleton. Five generations of his family have lived in Littleton from his great-grandmother to his now three-year-old daughter and one-year-old son. Scott's wife, Marcy, is a school counselor in early education in Littleton Public Schools. Her great-grandfather was Samuel Culp, who built the historic "Culp Block" of buildings in downtown Littleton.

Scott grew up fly fishing in the streams and playing in the mountains around his parents' cabin near Deckers, Colorado and has backpacked the 500-mile Colorado Trail from Denver to Durango. Scott is a former CSU Cooperative Extension Master Gardener and enjoys raising and harvesting home-grown produce with his family. He's an avid birder and spends as much of his spare time as possible in South Platte Park. SMLC welcomes Scott to the Board!

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country. Or visit **South Metro Land Conservancy** on
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