



A P U B L I C A T I O N O F T H E N O L S D E V E L O P M E N T O F F I C E

# FRIENDS

Welcome to *Friends*, a newsletter for people committed to helping NOLS provide the world's best education in wilderness skills and leadership. This publication aims to provide useful and interesting information on charitable gift planning and the people who support NOLS.

S U P P O R T I N G E X C E L L E N C E A T N O L S • J U N E 2 0 0 6

## A Life-Long Relationship

### *Pete Colhoun helps to keep NOLS Vital*

BY CINDY CAREY

Keeping the NOLS mission vital is a challenge that falls to all of the school's supporters as we bring our strengths to the table to ensure a strong future for the school. When Pete Colhoun came to the table he came not only as a willing and generous philanthropist but also as an active and impassioned leader. Over the course of his tenure on the Board of Trustees, Pete has prioritized alumni, philanthropy and unique marketing as means to ensure NOLS' future as a strong and vibrant institution. His retirement from the board in 2005, after serving a six-year term, gave us the opportunity to talk with Pete and reflect on the infusion of energy and ideas that he brought to the school.

"My relationship with NOLS began over 24 years ago, when my first of three children took a NOLS course," says Pete, "and it has been a continuous relationship ever since."

Creating this type of lasting connection is an idea that Pete has championed over the course of his time with NOLS. "Alumni can be information carriers and ambassadors for the school," he says, "they can give of their time as well as financial

support and are more valuable to an organization than an endowment." Today, NOLS cultivates lifelong relationships by inviting alumni to stay connected with the school and one another through reunions, trips and seminars, helping in marketing efforts and by offering other services.

Our alumni are not the only audience that Pete wants to connect with the NOLS mission.



*Pete explores the Prince William Sound on a 2004 Board trip.*

"NOLS has a nine product," believes Pete, "but recognition of that is a two on the same scale." Through innovative marketing we are gaining ground on that two and changing what Pete terms the "2:9" story. Initiatives such as the NOLS bus, our relationship with NASA and partnerships with companies such as Patagonia, Silk and Orvis have helped raise

NOLS' public profile. Through Pete's relationship with Orvis, NOLS established the current partnership that has brought together two leaders in their respective industries. With that tie NOLS has been featured in the Orvis catalog, which reaches over a million households and has been able to improve the quality of fly-fishing curriculum, instruction and gear available to our students. *continued on page 4*

**"Pete serves NOLS with passion, commitment and enthusiasm. He gives generously of his time, ideas and support."**

*John Gans, NOLS Executive Director*



#### NOLS LEADERSHIP QUOTE

**"I believe in the power of experiential education. The skills & experiences you gain on a NOLS course can be utilized the rest of your life. My hope is that expended time in wild places will motivate NOLS graduates to live simply and become better stewards of the earth."**

*Lisa Jaeger, a NOLS instructor since 1987, inspires students with her passionate approach to leadership, wilderness education and the environment. She has supported NOLS not only as an outstanding instructor but also through her gifts to the NOLS International Base Camp Initiative and Annual Fund. Lisa and her husband, Terry, live in Wasilla, Alaska.*

## NOLS SUMMIT TEAM PROFILE

### Eric Gilbert: Committed to Wilderness Education

BY KIRSTEN JOHNSON

As a suburban kid from St. Louis, the chance to explore the West on a NOLS Semester in the Rockies was a unique opportunity for Eric Gilbert. The thunderstorms on the slopes of the Wind River Range in winter left an indelible impression; however, he gained far more from the experience than simply an appreciation of the wilderness. "The single most important thing I gained during my NOLS semester," says Eric, "was a sense of confidence that I could walk into an unfamiliar situation, adapt to it and succeed."

That leadership skill, termed "tolerance for adversity and uncertainty" in the NOLS curriculum, is one that Eric relied heavily upon while he gained a Ph.D. in chemical engineering from the University of Washington, Seattle. He later surprised himself by leaving that field and pursuing a career in business. Eric credits his educational opportunities, especially NOLS, for giving him the confidence and flexibility to make this type of bold career move. "An educational environment like NOLS allows people to explore areas and aspects of life that they may otherwise avoid," he explains.

A member of the NOLS Summit Team and a contributor to the Annual Fund, Eric supports creating opportunities for another generation of leaders to be challenged in a stunning and demanding environment. This commitment to philanthropy stems from an ethic of charitable giving demonstrated by his parents from his youth and a gratitude for the educational opportunities he has been afforded. "NOLS has the potential to focus and galvanize leadership abilities," he says, "and that is the type of non-traditional education I strive to support." By including NOLS in his estate plan, Eric is creating a legacy that will help NOLS continue to provide dynamic leadership and educational opportunities for tomorrow's leaders.

*Eric Gilbert is a member of the NOLS Summit Team, a recognition society for donors who include the school in their estate or other long-term giving plans. If NOLS is in your plan, please let us know (800.332.4280 or [development@nols.edu](mailto:development@nols.edu)).*



*NOLS Summit Team  
Member Eric Gilbert*

# A Living A Useful Tool to Achi

**T**he traditional will has long been established as the vehicle for estate distribution. So long in fact, we frequently forget to explore other options. A living trust is an alternative avenue that may benefit you in ways not covered by a will. Living trusts are becoming increasingly popular and may be an appropriate addition to your plans for providing for the future security of your loved ones and fulfilling your philanthropic goals.

#### *Advantages of a Living Trust*

A living trust provides an appealing set of advantages including privacy, flexibility, control over entrusted assets and an ease of estate distribution. The living trust is a revocable arrangement allowing you to retain the ability to change or cancel the trust as you see fit. Selection of the trustee, including the option to name yourself to that post, affords you continued control over your assets. These factors help ensure that the trust will be kept and managed to your wishes.

The privacy afforded by a living trust is also beneficial. Unlike a will, which is part of the public record, a living trust is a private document and its terms are confidential and not required to be made public. This gives you the flexibility to create and maintain the trust without public scrutiny.

A key advantage to a living trust is that, as a matter of statute in most states, it is not subject to the probate process. Avoiding the possible delay and expense of probate makes a living trust an attractive option as part of your comprehensive estate plan.

#### *A Living Trust and Charitable Giving*

A living trust also provides the flexibility for your continued support of the non-profit causes that have been important to you. Like a will, a living trust can be structured to meet your philanthropic goals, no matter how straightforward or complex they are. The variety of ways to facilitate charitable giving through a trust include, but aren't limited to: giving of specific assets, giving a percentage of the overall trust assets, or giving a portion of the remainder after other needs have



# g Trust: ve Your Estate Goals

been met. Also, if you need to continue to draw revenue from your assets during your lifetime, a trust will allow you to create a life-income gift that will ensure that both your financial needs and philanthropic goals can be met.

A living trust can be a simple document but it should be drafted by a professional. This step helps to eliminate any later confusion and expense. A correctly drafted trust is fully invested, with all assets for eventual distribution transferred to the trust. If you include a gift to a charitable organization, the estate tax charitable deduction will apply for that gift. It is also important to remember that a “pour-over” will is not only a good idea, but is necessary to account for any assets not invested in the trust. If an asset is named in both the will and the trust, the will takes precedence and that asset is subject to probate.

A living trust can be a beneficial piece of your overall estate plan, giving you not only flexible options for providing for your family and important non-profit causes, but also preserving your ability to see estate wishes carried out.

## *What to know about a living trust*

- 1) A living trust can be tailored to meet your needs, no matter how complex or simple they may be.
- 2) Appointing yourself as trustee allows you to maintain full control over the management of your assets.
- 3) Assets distributed through a living trust are not subject to probate, helping to ensure the straightforward distribution of your estate.
- 4) Charitable goals can be structured through a living trust, even allowing you to maintain a revenue stream from assets that will ultimately go to a non-profit beneficiary.

## VOLUNTEER IN ACTION

### Elaine Walsh: Communicating a Lifestyle

By JOANNE KUNTZ



Active NOLS volunteer  
Elaine Walsh

Communication is a mainstay leadership skill taught at NOLS. For Elaine Walsh, after her Alaska Backpacking course in 1989 and Instructor Course in 1994, it became a way of life and continually grounds her in her present work as a professional mediator and NOLS volunteer in Jackson Hole, Wyoming.

“Before my NOLS course, I didn’t even know mediation existed,” exclaims the Maine native. “I was an urban kid, from an Irish Catholic family, and forthright communication was simply not part of my family’s skill set.” But collaborative group mediation was something she embraced on course and hasn’t stepped away from since.

Browsing through her website it is clear she boasts an impressive resume of negotiation, facilitation, and environmental conflict resolution services. In light of her professional background, it is impressive then that her NOLS volunteer resume rivals that of her business. A member of the NOLS Advisory Council since 2003, Elaine has hosted two alumni gatherings in Jackson and helped found and maintain the Teton Petzoldt Scholarship Fund.

Elaine shines as a NOLS volunteer. She values the NOLS community to such a degree that even more than 15 years after her course, she is applying what she has learned about leadership and communication to a successful career and as an invaluable friend of NOLS.

“Supporting NOLS will always be a part of my life,” she says. “My experiences with the school have directly contributed to my mediation work, and my present goals are to stay involved and network for NOLS locally here in Jackson.”

*Alumni are one of NOLS’ greatest resources. Graduates support the school by organizing local NOLS events, networking, cultivating students and organizing regional chapters. Please contact the NOLS Alumni Department (alumni@nols.edu) with your interests and ideas to be a volunteer in action.*



Frederik Nornsell

## GIFTS AT WORK

# History and Beauty Preserved: The Noble Hotel Renovation Continues

BY KIRSTEN JOHNSON

**A**fter a winter of fast-paced work, the Noble Hotel, although not yet complete, is ready to host students and staff for the busy summer season. While the focus of the Noble renovation is to modernize facilities, and anyone who has spent a cold night there or searched for a working bathroom appreciates the importance of improved systems, the historic aspects of the hotel are at the heart of its charm.

One aspect of the Noble's aesthetic facelift generating excitement is the re-creation of the lobby's stained glass skylight. NOLS has recruited Wyoming glass artist Janet Zambi to reconstruct the panels using the original patterns.

"From a preservation standpoint, I think the stained glass will be one of the most dramatic restorations," says Noble project manager John Stoddard.

NOLS alumni Robert Nimmo thinks so too. Rob, a two-time NOLS grad, made the project possible with his gift to the Base Camp capital campaign. "The Noble is a symbol of NOLS and I was attracted to this project as a way of celebrating the school's past and providing a foundation for the future," he says.

Once the summer rush is through, the Noble will again close its doors and the renovation will continue. When the stained glass takes its place above the lobby, a piece of the hotel's past as a respite for Westward travelers will be restored and it will serve as a reminder of the school's rich history, our bright future and the key role that our supporters play in preserving both.

*The original stained glass panels (above right) are being re-created thanks to a generous gift from NOLS alumni Rob Nimmo. The new glass panels (below) will hang above the Noble's lobby (right).*



## *A Life-long Relationship* continued from page 1

When long-time NOLS supporters Gene and Susie Tremblay challenged others to show an unprecedented level of support for the school, Pete joined the NOLS Explorers and became part of this group of philanthropic leaders committed to accomplishing one of NOLS' current funding priorities. The Explorers group recognizes the exemplary generosity of those giving leadership gifts to the International Base Camp Initiative. The philosophy of giving with "warm hands versus cold hands" is a tenant of Pete's philanthropy and an idea that he has promoted when acting as an ambassador for NOLS. "If you wait until you are gone to give a lot of money then

you miss out on a great experience in life," he says. With the Base Camp capital campaign in its final year and hurdles yet to be cleared, gifts such as Pete's help set the stage for the successful completion of the campaign.

In thinking about Pete's impact at the school John Gans, NOLS Executive Director, says, "Pete serves NOLS with passion, commitment and enthusiasm. He gives generously of his time, ideas and support. Pete is a role model of a lifelong commitment to NOLS and his influence will be a lasting one." As for Pete, he is sure that his time with NOLS is a "relationship that will remain for the rest of my life."

## PHILANTHROPIC TIDBIT

### Don't Give Your IRA To The IRS

Tax obligations make an IRA among the most difficult assets to effectively leave to your heirs. Estate and income taxes can dramatically reduce the value of your IRA, leaving your heirs an asset worth only a fraction of its original value.

One way to increase your charitable giving while relieving tax burden is to name a non-profit as beneficiary of your IRA. By designating the non-profit as the beneficiary, the IRA will be fully deductible for federal and state estate tax purposes and the non-profit, owing to its tax-exempt status, will not be subject to the taxes that face non-charitable IRA beneficiaries.

**NATIONAL OUTDOOR LEADERSHIP SCHOOL** 284 Lincoln Street • Lander, Wyoming 82520 • 800.332.4280  
Kirsten Johnson, Editor. For information or to subscribe, please contact: **David C. Cowles** 307.335.2285 • david\_cowles@nols.edu  
NOLS is not engaged in rendering legal or tax advisory services. State laws govern wills, trusts, and many charitable gifts, and these laws vary from state to state. While NOLS welcomes and encourages inquiries about the material in this publication, individuals should consult with their professional advisors when planning their will or a deferred gift.