

Meet the Conservation (corner) Commissioners  
Conservation Corner - November 2016

You may have noticed that, over the last year, a group of dedicated Conservation Commissioners have been writing articles for the Conservation Corner. Who are these people, you ask? Let us introduce ourselves.

**Risa Buck** – Risa spent her first 18 years in Houston, Texas. She collected degrees in philosophy, juvenile justice and community development in Arizona, Ohio & California and settled into Ashland in 1991. Since then she has worked at Ashland Food Co-op, Jackson County Schools teaching mediation and conflict resolution, and waste prevention with Ashland Sanitary/Recology. She built Ashland's first "off grid" home in 1995 which led to her participation with the newly formed Ashland Conservation Commission in 1996. She continues to serve, again as a citizen participant because there is still work to be done. Particular passions include water conservation and protection, the bottle and can collection project downtown and waste prevention in general. If she could waive her magic wand: Every "single -use" disposable, "on the go" purchase we make would be taxed to fund more extensive waste prevention opportunities for Ashland like: incentivizing a 'durables' cup, container, utensil program to eliminate the majority of the material that fills the downtown trash cans every day AND a curbside post consumer compost program for every citizen of Ashland

**James McGinnis** – An Ashlander since 1982, James has spent nearly 40 years with the US Forest Service as an Ecologist, GIS, a Resource Information Manager, and most recently working with all levels within the Forest Service sustainability efforts including net zero energy, water, and transportation pilots, climate change actions, and building a virtual business environment throughout the agency. James has been on the Commission since 2006 and serves in order to focus attention on sustainability and climate change for the community and for city operations. His big goal is seeing the adoption, implementation, monitoring and accountability follow-through of a local Climate and Energy Action plan (stay tuned in the upcoming months on this one).

**Roxane Beigel-Coryell** – The Commission's official representative from Southern Oregon University, Roxane grew up in the suburbs of Los Angeles, but headed north for her degree in Environmental studies and community engagement at Cal-State Chico, then kept moving north and came to Ashland to pursue her masters degree. In the process, she landed her dream job as the Sustainability and Recycling Coordinator for SOU. Roxane has served on the Commission since 2012 and serves to assist in leveraging the resources and efforts of SOU and the community to create a sustainable and resilient community. With one wave of her magic wand, she would convert the planet's energy supply to 100% clean renewable sources.

**Mark Weir** - Mark was born and raised in sunny San Diego and spent a number of years in the Caribbean before starting his family in Ashland. He has held positions in sales, manufacturing and is currently a biochemist working for The CO2 Company. Mark joined the conservation commission in November of 2011 after witnessing a steady decline in the environmental progressiveness of the City of Ashland and is working to keep conservation and climate issues in the forefront for City policy makers.

**Marni Koopman** – Originally from the east Bay Area in California (just beneath the Altamont Pass windmills!), Marni went to UC Santa Barbara, UC Berkeley, and the University of Wyoming to become a Wildlife Ecologist. After postdoc positions in Hawai'i and Colorado, she

moved to Ashland to help develop the Geos Institute's ClimateWise program. Marni has worked in local communities around the West helping them understand the science of climate change and reduce impacts to people and nature. She is working with the City of Ashland to get a science-based Climate and Energy Action Plan in place and ensure that future generations and natural systems can thrive here in Southern Oregon.

**Bryan Sohl** – An Ashland resident since 1988, Bryan grew up in Sacramento, then Napa for high school and on to UC Davis for his physiology degree, followed up by UC San Diego for med school and residency in obstetrics and gynecology. Work at Rogue Valley Medical Center brought him to the Valley. Bryan has been on the Commission for just over two years and is the current Chair of the Commission and is interested in a number of conservation issues, including clean rivers and climate actions affecting future generations, with a goal of helping to put in place a strong climate and energy action plan for the community.

**Cara Cruickshank** – A Commissioner since 2015, Cara is a 12th generation New Englander, but spent 30 years of her adult life in Washington State for college and family. After acquiring a Master's Degree in environmental studies, she co-founded EcoSolutions, a non-profit organization that addressed the toxicity of pesticides, and taught homeowners and businesses about natural yard care methods. This work evolved into pollution prevention and a position as the storm water consultant for Bainbridge Island. During her 5 years in Ashland, her eco-interests led her from the GMO movement, to consulting on the Stream Smart website, re-starting her nature camp and joining the Pollinator Project Rogue Valley. Her magic wand would limit human population growth, restore fish & wildlife populations to pre-European contact levels, and ban all chemicals that are toxic to living things.

**Jamie Rosenthal** – The newest member of the Commission, Jamie is the Commission's representative from Recology, the community's solid waste and recycle franchise. Jamie grew up in Coos Bay and came to Ashland to pursue her communications degree from SOU. As Recology Ashland's waste zero coordinator, Jamie coordinates recycling programs, education and community outreach and works on the Commission to bring the Recology vision of a waste zero way of life to the Commission and the community. Jamie would use her magic wand to find a way to make all plastics recyclable.