



## RESURRECTION UNIVERSITY PARISH

### Land Stewardship Committee

# ALL DAY WE FACE THE BARREN WASTE WITHOUT THE TASTE OF WATER

These words come from the Sons of the Pioneers famous song *Cool Water*, a song written in 1936 by Bob Nolan. The song is about a parched man and his mule traveling a wasteland tormented by mirages and longing for just a taste of cool clear water. Members of the Western Writers of America chose the song as No. 3 on the Top 100 Western songs of all time. A quick trip to the Hyalite Reservoir will reveal the potential for *torment* that the lack of Spring rain and Winter snow melt runoff have produced. If that doesn't make the case then drive to Eastern Montana and see the reduced hay and grain production because of drought. Still not impressed? Then see California, the Salt Lake, the Colorado River and other similar water reservoirs and sources. The water restrictions threatened and in place invoked in Gallatin County should sound as a tolling of the bells to wake up and become part of the solution not the problem.

As the Chamber of Commerce, yea even the Wall Street Journal, tout the extraordinary advantages to living in Bozeman it, appears that they, as well as the many like minded--writers, ignore the question of "from whence comes the water to sustain balanced growth between agricultural and residential."

A full appreciation of Land Stewardship as well as Creation Care (two active ministries in Resurrection University Catholic Parish) implies that "care" should apply not only to the grounds of Resurrection University Catholic Parish but the county and state as well. Paul Gore, chairperson for the Land Stewardship Committee points this out in a recent interview. He says that "...the LSC is actively seeking to gain access to the vacant land to the Church's west for the purpose of snow removal storage. At present the winter snow is stored on the west end of the parking lot and here and there in nearby locations. Being able to store the snow on the vacant field would permit the melt down to move to the water table and feed the creek to the west of the Church instead of going into the storm drainage." One small local step.

#### MISS US?

Technical and administrative problems interfered with the publication of the July Issue of Green Leaf. The "techie" problems are resolved but the administrative problems still haunt us. Simply put, the Land Stewardship Committee needs helping hands of every degree of experience, enthusiasm, availability, creative inspiration and care. Plain old fashioned, *"I Care."*

Stewardship is all about Time, Talent, Treasure. Now here is an oddity. We have the treasure. What we don't have is the talent and time. How about it?

**Call Paul Gore or Ellie Weber at 406-587-2001**

GREEN LEAF





## About the Critters 'n Things...

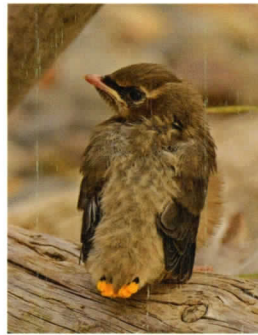
ROCIO'S MUSINGS



An abundance of cedar waxwings is present in the Bozeman area this month and nesting has begun in earnest. Waxwings are fruit and berry feeders and as a consequence they nest later in the spring and summer season in order to avail their broods of the plentiful supply of berries from

Canadian cherry, and mountain ash. Not noticeably loud in their calls, they are often overlooked except for their tendency to flock and wheel about in the sky before landing.

The parish used to have a prolifically fruiting mountain ash by the side door that was highly favored by robins and waxwings. The tree was removed because the berries (after being squished by the feet of parishioners) were tracked into the foyer of the church and marred the carpet and tile.



The baby waxwings have the black eye ring so prominent on the parents. They also clearly sport the rakish yellow pin stripe on the end of the tail.

### SHORT TWIGS

Did you take note that the Catholic part of the parish moniker has been dropped? As Howard Cousell, an American sports journalist and author of the 50's used to say on radio and TV: "I have a firm grip on the obvious!" So do we. With this issue we join the parade and drop Catholic from the masthead. If you are reading this issue as a Saturday/Sunday mass handout then you too have a firm grip on the obvious—we are Catholic and "University".

Some think mother nature is best if left alone, that landscapes are more beautiful if left untouched by the utilitarian activity of humans. However human beings -yes, that includes parishioners reading this bulletin- are not isolated observers. Genesis teaches us that humans were created to be stewards of nature. Co-creators. We are not above nor below, but we are within nature, and can be the keystone to make it flourish in our parish. We invite you to become part of the Land Stewardship Ministry where you can share your talents and develop your spirituality from the ground up. To learn more about what you as a member of Resurrection University Parish can do, learn, teach, and pray, see [hoehchoka.com](http://hoehchoka.com) and read the Green Leaf issues. Remember, "parish is not a place where... parish is a people who..."

### GREAT LEAP FORWARD

Will Wright and Paul Gore, chairpersons of the Creation Care Committee and Land Stewardship Committee respectively have plans to call out to their members and fellow parishioners to gather



and formulate a management plan for progress over the next five years. The *Great Leap Forward* will add to the parish movement initiated by Fr. Paddock's activities as announced at the recent masses and published in the parish bulletins.

Besides taking inventory of people, equipment, and assets, the groups hope to adopt a cohesive overall strategy that will be recorded by season and volunteers so as to produce an efficient and measurable result with accountability.

COME, HOP OVER AND JOIN