



# Lower Nehalem Community Trust

*Beading the necklace of people and place*

Newsletter & Annual Report

December 2007

## *Progress Made at Vosburg Creek*

Last January the Trust was awarded a two-year OWEB restoration grant for the Vosburg Creek property. During 2007 we have had three volunteer Saturdays, one day of donated work by the Cascade Conservation Corps and some staff time dedicated to restoration activities. These activities included “whacking” blackberries, cutting 3-4 inch diameter “old growth” ivy from trees, and demolishing fish tanks and a trailer from the hatchery days. In addition, Hope Stanton, a Vosburg Creek Stewardship Committee member, is working with our technical consultant, Michele Long of ODFW, to develop a planting plan for the property. The OWEB restoration grant continues through December 2008.

The Vosburg Creek Stewardship Committee together with the assistance of Rosie Sweetman, staff intern, and Nadia Gardner has developed a management plan for the property. While based partially on the OWEB grant activities, the management plan seeks to be more comprehensive and future-oriented. The plan includes two primary objectives:



(1) to preserve the ecological integrity of the property and enhance its ecological functions for the benefit of the animal and plant communities within the Nehalem Estuary; and (2) to provide a safe and exemplary riparian ecosystem that is accessible to all members of the community and utilized as an ecological learning site.

The Trust Board is grateful to the stewardship committee members and all the volunteers who have helped in any way to restore the property. Special recognition is given to Western Oregon Waste and Trails End Recovery for donating a large dumpster and handling the disposal of the contents. Many thanks for your support!

We continue to seek volunteers for general clean up, to control invasive species and to plant native trees, shrubs and grasses at Vosburg Creek. See the “Appeal for Volunteers” box on the next page for more information.

*Olivia Mercado*

## *ACF Wetlands Restoration Rescheduled for Late Summer 2008*



The Lower Nehalem Community Trust began work on plans for wetlands restoration at Alder Creek Farm in 2004. We obtained a planning grant from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB). Ducks Unlimited did the wetlands engineering design work for us and developed several alternatives for wetlands restoration. The Trust was very concerned about the possible effect of the restoration on our neighbors and therefore decided not to remove the dike on the east side of Alder Creek, nor to fill in the ditches on the west side and south side of the farm. Instead, we decided to remove the dike on the west side of Alder Creek that was built to protect the lower pasture on the farm and fill a ditch down the center of the farm.

The final plan was reviewed and approved by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and grants for the

completion of the work were obtained from OWEB, NRCS and the Tillamook Estuaries Partnership. We applied for and received permits for the project from the Division of State Lands, the Army Corps of Engineers and Tillamook County. Despite concerns raised by the local community the County concluded that we had “submitted substantial engineering specifications demonstrating that nearby properties will not be adversely affected by the proposed work”.

However, continuing concerns about the possible effect of the restoration on nearby property expressed by the Cities of Nehalem and Manzanita, Nehalem Bay Wastewater Agency and Nehalem Telecommunications led to meetings with their representatives. The Trust agreed to monitor the conditions both upstream and downstream of the project for five years after completion of the project.

We were pleased to receive final approval of our permit application July 31. This was too late to get the project underway during the low water period this summer. We are looking forward to completing this project in the late summer of 2008.

*Gareth Ferdun*

## Message from the Chair

Once again we are moving into winter in our cycle of seasons. Our activities slow down but never come to a halt for late fall and early spring are good times to do more restoration planting, using the trees and shrubs from our own nursery. We started many of these babies last January from cuttings taken here on Alder Creek Farm. We have fertilized and watered them all summer and now they're ready to go out to build habitat for many creatures on our properties. Winter is also our planning time, a time of writing grants and arranging workshops and educational programs to begin as we move into spring.



Tree planting along Alder Creek

We watch the changes on the land and rejoice that we have these places to nourish us. With your help we can continue this great work. Please join us with a membership contribution of \$15 or more or by becoming a volunteer. We always have openings for more volunteers with our youth education programs, our stewardship activities, or office tasks.

Changes have come to the Trust this fall. Nadia Gardner, our first full-time manager, resigned in October to take a position with one of our sister organizations here in northwest Oregon. She is now Coast & Estuary Conservation Lead for the Columbia Land Trust and will be based in Astoria. We wish her well. She has given us a lot of energy, enthusiasm, and hard work during the last fifteen months. We see the evidence all around us on our properties and in the structure of our organization. Thank you Nadia for everything. We have hired Erich Miller, a fairly new member of our community whom you may have met working at Mother Nature's, on an interim basis while we recruit a new manager. He has experience working as an administrator for community non-profits. We're sure you will enjoy meeting him.

*Georgenne Ferdun, Board Chair*

## An Appeal for Volunteers

Despite moving into the cool season of the year, we still are very much in need of volunteers. The planting of native species at Alder Creek Farm and the ongoing efforts to clean up the Vosburg Creek Property will continue into the Winter and early Spring. Additionally, our fruit orchards will need to be pruned in January or February and we are looking at moving our irrigation system. If any of these activities appeal to you, contact LNCT at 503-368-3203 or [lnct@nehalemtnet.net](mailto:lnct@nehalemtnet.net). We will gladly use your skills, energy and enthusiasm.

## Garden Grows New Gardeners

Year Two of the community garden at Alder Creek Farm saw a remarkable increase in new participants. Almost a dozen gardeners took part in the garden this past growing season, with over half of them novice gardeners.

While vegetable gardens are a year-round endeavor, most gardening activities occur in the spring and summer months in the Pacific Northwest. Having a huge greenhouse to protect us from inclement weather allowed us to get an early start again this year. In late February, seedlings were started for some of the warm weather crops such as tomatoes, peppers and basil, followed by more seed starts in March and April. The seedlings were tended inside until the weather warmed the soil and the plants reached a size that would allow them to survive transplanting.

Much preparation and effort went into the garden layout, designating paths, building another raised bed, sowing seeds and transplanting plants and by the time May rolled around, we were already harvesting our first crops of 'oh-so-tender' baby lettuce, spinach and kale. As the soil warmed, the vegetable harvest yielded more produce than the gardeners could use and we were able to share the bounty, donating 1,072 pounds of food to the North County Food Bank.

During the week, community gardeners tended the plots, weeding, watering, and harvesting what they could use for their family. Each Tuesday morning, a group of gardeners



LNCT Board Member Sherri Raschio training string beans in the community garden.

harvested the remaining produce and one of our gardeners transported it to the Food Bank facility in Wheeler for distribution. Helping feed our selves and our neighbors fresh, organically grown produce has been a rewarding experience.

By the time fall arrived, the harvest switched to

corn, winter squash, turnips and FINALLY, some ripe tomatoes. In September we planted some fall and winter vegetables and hope to harvest a small amount of greens, leeks, cabbage, turnips, carrots and beets through the colder months of the year.

We just wrapped up the garden season by pulling out old plants and planting cover crops to enrich the soil for next year. In addition to the many crops we grew, we can add to our list "a crop of seasoned gardeners"!

*Karen Mathews*



*We would like to thank the*  
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# Lower Nehalem Community Trust

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **BIRDING 101 – Friday, May 16, 6 – 8 PM**

#### **North County Recreation District, Nehalem.**

Dawn Grafe from the United States Fish & Wildlife Service, who did our presentation on Oregon Birds of Wind & Shore, returns with Birding 101, an informative slideshow presentation. Saturday morning she will lead a bird walk at 7:30 am, place to be announced.

### **FIRST SATURDAY WORK PARTIES – Saturdays, 10 am – 2 pm**

#### **Beginning February 2, 2008**

You make it happen! Join us in removing invasives, planting natives, working in the Alder Creek Farm garden and other tasks with a potluck meal at noon. Check our e-bulletins or call the office for location and specific activities.

### **STEWARDSHIP ON WEDNESDAYS – Every Wednesday from 10 to 12 noon**

#### **Continuing through the winter into spring.**

If the weather permits, join us on Wednesdays at Alder Creek Farm for a variety of stewardship tasks appropriate to the season.

*More Info: Call 368-3203 or email LNCT@nehalemtrust.org*

*Directions: Alder Creek Farm: End of Underhill Lane, between Manzanita & Nehalem, off Hwy 101  
Vosburg Creek: DuBois Street & Hwy 101, south of downtown Wheeler*

## Sun Shines on the 5th Annual Harvest Celebration

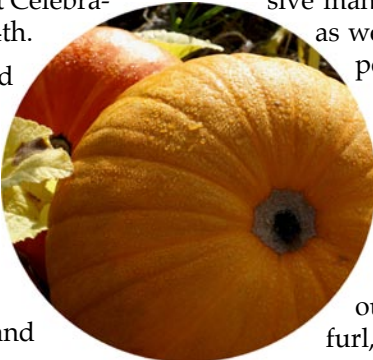
After a bout of rainy weather, the sun rose to the occasion at the Trust's 5th Annual Harvest Celebration at Alder Creek Farm on October 14th.

Greenspire, the Wes Wahmund Trio, and the Splitback Veer provided fabulous music. Attendees snatched up produce and meat from local farmers at the last farmers' market of the year. Volunteers squeezed fresh apple cider for all to enjoy and local bakers brought a wide array of sweet and savory pies. Kids made fish flags with Rosie Sweetman and Jessi Just thanks to Cart'm Recycling.

The event served to highlight the Trust's recent success-

es in the community garden and the new comprehensive management plans for the conservation areas, as well as thank our many volunteers and supporters.

The party wouldn't have been such a success without our event volunteers and supporters. Thanks to Bill's Tavern and Manzanita News & Espresso for their donations, to Vivi Tallman and Fred Lackaff for the use of their new cider press and to our event sponsors, Manzanita Lumber, Un-furl, Komm Construction, and Mother Nature's Natural Foods.



*Nadia Gardner*