



Message from the Chair

Happy New Year! Have you made your resolutions for the New Year? Mine are to enjoy more time with family and friends, and to personally focus on stewardship for Trust lands. Stewardship is a primary function for any land trust. The basic idea of stewardship is to return land to its natural state. This involves developing a management plan that includes baseline surveys of the various habitats and wildlife present on a site and creating a strategy for restoration. The plan's starting point is often removal of structures and materials left behind by previous owners, and also removing non-native, invasive species such as English ivy and Himalayan blackberry. What's needed? Lots of time, sweat and energy, and sometimes, heavy equipment, are part of the on-going stewardship process.

During 2010 the Board will continue to administer the Trust, a non-profit corporation. I've learned that this is a job similar to maintaining a small business that includes managing policies, insurance, taxes, and personnel. Financial accountability is a primary function that takes time to document even with computer software. If you are interested in reading about the Trust's financial status and achievements during the past fiscal year (July 1, 2008- June 30, 2009) our annual report can be found on the Trust's website at www.nehalemtrust.org.

Perhaps the most significant initiative that the Trust began this past year was the application for and receipt of a grassroots grant from the Meyer Memorial Trust to develop procedures for expanding the donor and membership base, maintaining/developing community outreach activities and events, and modifying/implementing our fundraising plan. We are fortunate to have been able to contract with Lorraine Ortiz through this one-year grant. The results of her efforts are clearly documented and it appears that we will achieve the objectives included in the grant. The grant will terminate at the end of June. However, we intend to continue with the procedures that are established during the duration of the grant with the intent of providing long-term sustainability for the Trust. Achieving this goal will take several years.

During 2009 we have worked with landowners and the community to acquire additional wetland conservation sites along the Nehalem estuary. As we launch into another year the Board will continue its efforts to achieve the Trust mission, to protect and steward land in our region.

Thanks for your support and best wishes for the New Year.

Olivia Mercado, *Board Chair*

LNCT Community Garden Program Shares Its Bountiful Harvest



Gardener Michele Wilkey (left) and Community Garden Coach Karen Matthews (right) display a weekly Food Bank harvest in mid-September. PHOTO BY JUDITH JONES (Story on Page 2)

SAVE THE DATE

“Pie Day/Night,” Saturday, January 23, 2010

Join us for our most delicious and fun fundraiser of the year!

The Trust's second annual “*Pie Day*” fundraising event will feature a film, discussion, pie auction and pie feast. Bring your friends to learn more about growing local food and the ongoing work of the LNCT and Food Roots. Radio personality Peter Newman will be our pie auctioneer along with a surprise guest. The event will be held from 6:30-8:30 pm at the North County Recreation District, 36155 9th Street in Nehalem. Suggested donation to attend this year's Pie Day event is \$5 which includes the film, discussion, auction and pie feast. Plan to bring some extra \$\$ and go home with a homemade pie from the pie auction. Call us at 503-368-3203 or lnct@nehalemtnet.net for more information. Join Us!

North County Food Bank Benefits from LNCT Community Garden Program

Over twenty gardeners wrapped up another productive season at the Alder Creek Farm Community Garden in Nehalem. The community garden, now in its fourth season, is a project of the Lower Nehalem Community Trust, an expression of the Trust's goal to teach sustainable techniques of food production for our cool coastal climate. Participants in the garden have fun learning about vegetable gardening, trying new varieties of vegetables and finding new ways to prepare what they grow.

The community garden provides many enriching and edifying experiences for the gardeners. The pleasure of eating fresh picked produce is its own reward! Growing produce locally also rewards community gardeners with the knowledge that they have lessened the impact on the earth of fuel and resources used when food is shipped thousands of miles to our dinner tables. Another benefit is the exercise the physical work provides, and one of the most rewarding aspects is sharing excess produce with community members in need.

In past years community gardeners have donated 1000 pounds of food to the North Coast Food Bank. Given the state of the economy and increased need for Food Bank donations, gardeners targeted more high production crops for the 2009 season. The result: donations of produce to the food bank in 2009 totaled 1884 pounds!

The first few months of the garden harvest yielded sugar snap peas, lettuce, cabbage, broccoli, carrots, and kale. As the summer progressed the zucchini and green bean took a leading position in the weekly donation boxes and finally, later in autumn, cucumbers, carrots, onions, winter squash, and potatoes topped the donation list.

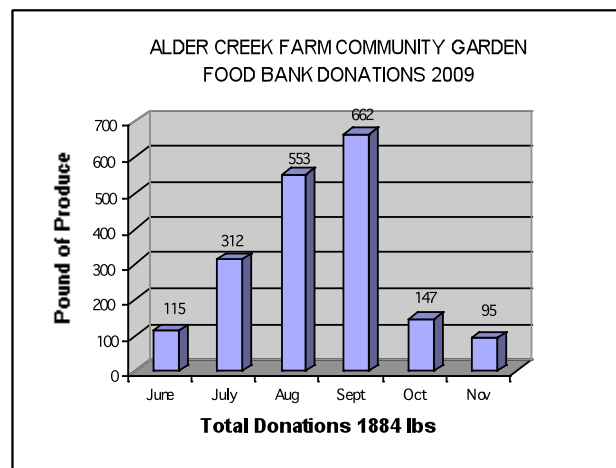
Part of the community garden experience is trying new foods. This year's food discovery is the great taste of kale. Kale comes in all sizes and shapes, is an easy leafy green to grow in our climate, versatile and is packed with nutrients. Karen Matthews, Master Gardener and community garden coach, encourages the gardeners to use edible plants such as kale both for landscape beautification and nutrition in their own home landscapes. Leek flower stalks were also a new find for the group this year—they are delicious sautéed in olive oil and garlic with a sprinkling of salt and pepper!

The Community Garden members are as diverse as the vegetables they grow. Many of the gardeners are retired while others are employed in the local community. This group is represented by a variety of past and present careers: school teachers (including a few sports coaches); executive secretary; high tech manager; sales executive; market research analyst; nurse; nurse practitioner; yoga instructor; "domestic engineer" (stay-

at-home mom); builder; laborer; biologist, and more. A few members juggled their work schedule to join the garden work sessions on Tuesdays or worked in the garden on their day off. There was even a gardener who 'commuted' from Portland. This weekend coastal resident spent her weekdays as a public property specialist and gardened with the group on Saturdays. This varied group was brought together by a common goal of learning, growing, and sharing with our community.

Gardening in our mild coastal climate is a year-round activity. Garlic is planted in October and harvested in July or August. Four different varieties of garlic are grown in the garden and the size of the crop increases annually to meet the demands of the members who love to cook almost as much as they love to garden. The Community Garden yielded a bountiful garlic harvest this year and next year's crop is now planted in the freshly amended soil of a raised bed.

The Alder Creek Farm Community Garden is one of the five core programs of the Lower Nehalem Community Trust. A fee is charged for participation in



the Community Garden program and members of the LNCT receive a discount on this fee. Membership in the Trust begins at just \$15. The Community Garden program, along with all the programs of the Trust, is sustained through individual donations, grants and services from local businesses and charitable organizations.

Each year in February, Community Gardeners, old and new, start the season by deciding on crops to plant and starting seedlings in the greenhouse. To learn more about the Community Garden program of the Lower Nehalem Community Trust or to become a member, call 503-368-3203, email lnct@nehalemtrust.org, or visit us on the web at www.nehalemtrust.org.

Alder Creek Farm Conservation Site Showcased at Annual Harvest Festival



Henry Gernert and Kalani Mersereau make a fine team in the Harvest Festival's two-legged race. PHOTO BY JUDITH JONES

Once again the community came together to celebrate the end of the harvest season and show support for the Trust at the seventh annual Harvest Festival at Alder Creek farm on October 3, 2009.

Local farmers brought their end of season wares; wonderful entertainment was provided by Greenspire, Fred Lackaff and square dancers from Astoria and Garibaldi; and food vendors provided a range of delicious, local fare. Face painting and games were available for the kids, many of whom also participated, along with other volunteers, in squeezing fresh apple cider. Local bakers provided a wide range of hand-made cakes, cookies and sweets at a booth in the greenhouse, which had been transformed into a café-like space for the event.

The Harvest Festival served to highlight the hard work that had gone into the community, children's and permaculture gardens this year. Karen Matthews and Maia Holliday were on hand to give tours of the gardens and answer questions about Coastal Food Ecology Center. Additionally, our festival appeal for new members met with great success. By the end of the day more than 12 festival participants joined the ranks of our members.

The day wouldn't have been a success without the many volunteers and supporters who helped out. Additional thanks go to Bill's Tavern and the Tillamook Creamery Association for their donations, to Vivi Tallman and Fred Lackaff for the use of their cider press and to Sherri Raschio who served as the event organizer.

Vosberg Creek Restoration Project Update

Since August, significant strides have been made at our Vosberg Creek property towards achieving the Board's vision of a restored and revitalized riparian area at this former fish hatchery. The first phase of the Vosberg Creek restoration, which included writing a management plan, demolishing and removing the fishery structures, managing invasive species and planting native trees and shrubs, was completed by the end of 2008. However, some significant goals for the property remained unfinished. When the Lower Nehalem Watershed Council (LNWC) sought grant funding to deal with the failing dam above our property at the headwaters of Vosberg Creek, it represented an opportunity to engage in further stewardship activities at our site as well.

At around the same time, the Lower Nehalem Watershed Council and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife secured funding to remove the old, failing, dam at the headwaters of Vosberg Creek. By coordinating with these agencies, the Trust applied these grant funds to also improving habitat on the lower section of Vosberg Creek. In September, 2009, Euchre Mountain Construction placed some of the large wood into the creek to create shelter for juvenile fish, encourage a more dynamic stream system and to improve gravel retention for spawning habitat. The fish weir at the front of the property, once part of the 1980's hatchery, is now gone, eliminating a barrier to fish passage. In 2010 we will plant Sitka spruce, Western hemlock, red alder and Western red cedar. These native trees will grow to shade and cool the creek, discourage Himalayan blackberries and eventually complete the cycle by falling into the water and improving fish habitat.

We are grateful for the help on this project provided by Sarah Zwissler, Lower Nehalem Watershed Council Coordinator, Phil Simpson and Michele Long, ODFW biologists, and appreciate funding from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, ODFW and US Fish and Wildlife.



ODFW biologist Michele Long supervises the placement of large wood in Vosberg Creek. PHOTO BY SARAH ZWISSLER



LOWER NEHALEM
COMMUNITY TRUST
beading the necklace of people and place

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Upcoming 2010 Events (check our website for new postings and more information about our events)

January 23: “PIE DAY/NIGHT,” Film, Discussion, Pie Auction and Pie Feast Fundraising Event, NCRD Kitchen, 36155 9th Street in Nehalem. A delicious and fun way to support the Trust and Food Roots: Film: “My Father’s Garden,” short discussion, exciting pie auction featuring locally made pies from the best bakers in the area. Surprise guest! Culminates with a Pie Feast. \$5 Suggested donation at the door.

February 13: GARY BRAASCH, photographer, *Climate Change, International & Local Perspective*

March 13: KURT HECKEROTH, BLM botanist, *Native Plant Identification Workshop & Plant Survey*

May 1: MATT LOVE, writer, speaks on *Stewardship*

May 7/8: DAWN GRAFE, USFW leads *Vosberg Birding Expedition*

June 12: 3rd Annual “Living Locally” Gala Fundraising Dinner with special guest Robert Michael Pyle

Join Us for These Ongoing Stewardship Opportunities:

First Saturday Work Parties Resume in February— Saturdays, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Plant and care for native plantings, and other projects at our conservation sites. Potluck lunch.

Wednesdays At Alder Creek Farm — Wednesdays, 10 a.m. - Noon. Stewardship activities

To volunteer or for more information call 503-368-3203 or email LNCT@nehalemtnet.net

What’s New at our Website: www.NehalemTrust.org

Just Published...LNCT Annual Report Now Available

The Lower Nehalem Community Trust invites our members and donors to have an in-depth look at our accomplishments for FY 2008-2009 by downloading a copy of our Annual Report at www.nehalemtrust.org. Along with important financial data, the annual report gives a comprehensive listing of all of our donors, members, volunteers and business supporters. This listing shows the real wealth of our organization—the people and businesses who invest in our mission. You may also request a printed copy of the report by calling us at 503-368-3203 or emailing lnct@nehalemtnet.net.

Announcing: Donate to LNCT Online!

It is even easier than ever to donate to the Trust. Visit www.nehalemtrust.org and use our secure PayPal server. You do

not have to have a PayPal account to donate online. Just follow the easy instructions. If you prefer to donate by check, you’ll also find downloadable forms for memberships, gift memberships, memorial/honor donations and general fund donations. We’re available to answer any and all questions about the many ways to donate to the Trust. Call us at 503-368-3203.

Much Needed Repair at Alder Creek Farm Barn Brings Master Builders Together to Share Skills

Read about the skills donated by local builders using the beauty of timber frame construction, trenails and time-honored building methods to breathe new life into the barn. Photos and story online now, www.nehalemtrust.org.