

November 15, 2016

Dear Friends,

On New Year's Day with our 35mm camera slung over one shoulder, I set out to photograph Alder Creek Farm when I found myself locking eyes with a river otter just yards away—motionless and alertly taking the measure of me before slipping silently back into the creek.

I'm grateful for opportunities to collaborate on the stewardship of our lands with schools, partner organizations and community members—Max

For more than fourteen years, you and other generous supporters have helped Lower Nehalem Community Trust conserve 136 acres of land and nurture the community asset that is Alder Creek Farm. That brief communion with but one creature making its home in our wildlife sanctuary has stayed with me all year long, reminding me why our work matters.

What began as a dream in the imaginings of our founders, Alder Creek Farm is now a small-scale food operation and a rare place: 60 acres of protected natural area, fruit orchard, community garden, native plant nursery, sustainable irrigation systems, greenhouse, and ethnobotanical teaching trail.

It's our soul: a gathering place for birders, a labor of love for community gardeners, an elk sanctuary, and a hands-on conservation classroom for all ages.

In this astonishing year you helped LNCT with more than 5,000 hours of volunteer community service.

Wow! With you by our side everything is possible.

Because of all of you, LNCT thrived in 2016.

Working together we...

- **Donated** 1,700 pounds of organic produce and veggie starts from our garden and greenhouse volunteers to the food pantry and senior lunch program.
- **Protected forever** 7+ acres of riparian forest on Neahkahnie Creek safeguarding a critical spawning connection for endangered Coho to the new fish passage culvert in the Alder Creek watershed.

I'm thankful for the volunteers that make our garden a huge success: not just the time, but also the care, camaraderie, and team building that they all give. Truly a blessing for all—Karen



photo Max Broderick

Homecoming at Alder Creek Farm

- **Offered for free** a dozen education programs ranging from open garden days to moth night-viewing.
- **Completed** the first phase of trails at Elk Meadows, our nature park project with City of Manzanita.
- Celebrated community conservation with **370 festivalgoers** at our 14th Annual Harvest Festival at the Farm.
- **Planted** native trees, shrubs, and herbaceous vegetation on 3 acres, and **removed** invasive plants on 5 acres.
- **Launched** a new website.
- **Acquired** new GPS equipment and GIS mapping software.

I am grateful for and humbled by being part of a community that is conscientious, engaged, and respectful of the land, water, plant and animal people — Mary

2017 will be a watershed year; we're calling on you now to help fulfill its promise with your gift. We are working to conserve 59 additional acres on the Nehalem Estuary with the protection of Bott's Marsh and Nedonna Marsh.

The influx of newcomers drawn to our region is a reality, and we need to protect places like these from development. Vulnerable landscape in the heart of our coast is irreplaceable; please help us save it.

Also, we are initiating a master plan process for Alder Creek Farm so it grows and develops in step with our community, but we can't do it without you. Investing in Alder Creek Farm and conservation close to home enriches our daily lives, health, and wellbeing and strengthens our community.

Whether yours is a long and deep connection to LNCT or whether you are new to our work and appreciate the difference conservation makes in your life, your gift today keeps us strong. If you are able to increase your gift, then we too can do even more.

From all of us at LNCT, thank you. May your generosity inspire others, imbue your holidays with joy, and return to you, the river otters and other wildlife, and to the land in countless ways.



Dale Cramer Burr
Executive Director



Mary Corey
Office Manager



Maxwell Broderick
Stewardship Coordinator



Karen Matthews
Garden Coordinator

Won't you join us by giving now and giving generously to realize our dreams for 2017?

WORKING TOGETHER FOR POSITIVE CHANGE

- \$1000 \$500 \$250 \$100 \$50 \$ _____

Go paperless and donate at nehalemtrust.org

Name(s) _____ Phone _____ Email _____

Address _____

My employer will match my gift (form is enclosed) _____

My gift includes securities; please send me your charitable gift transfer instructions

LNCT is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization (EIN 74-3052925). Your donation is 100% deductible.

Please make checks payable to: LNCT | PO Box 496 | Manzanita, OR 97130