



LOWER NEHALEM  
COMMUNITY TRUST  
*beading the necklace of people and place*

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Lower Nehalem Community Trust  
*beading the necklace of people and place* JANUARY 2013

**Message from the Executive Director**

Perpetuity is one of those concepts that can stretch and boggle my mind. That the Lower Nehalem Community Trust has committed to protect and preserve its land in perpetuity is an awesome and humbling responsibility. It is hard enough to conceptualize the life and course of an organization three to five years out, much less a time frame as long-term and abstract as perpetuity. When faced with the question of how to honor this pledge, I find myself returning to the basics. To protect and preserve land for the long term we need to build a resilient and sustainable organization with a strong vision; we need to care for our land to the best of our ability; we need to engage in dialogue with our community; and we need to be open and adaptive to the latest science, the interests of the community and ultimately the land itself.

Stewardship, caring for the land, lies near to the heart of the work of every land trust. Re-establishing native species, helping restore natural processes and removing invasive species creates the conditions for robust ecological habitats. This past summer Ida Gianopulos, our 2011 stewardship intern, returned as staff to spearhead restoration efforts and organize the initial assessments of our newest properties, Blacktail Ridge and Zimmerman Marsh. Ida also brought deep insight into how we can better understand and manage the land under our care. Her knowledge of the latest science about the important roles of often-overlooked species such as mushrooms and insects, led to some important changes in the way we view and manage our lands.

Our Coastal Food Ecology Program serves an important role in bridging the values of caring for the land and building the community and it continues to grow and strengthen. This last year with a winterized greenhouse we were able to begin sending donations of fresh greens to the North County Food Bank in February—earlier than ever before.

This past year also set the groundwork for a new phase in organizational growth. We completed an organizational assessment in June and then received an Accelerating Conservation Excellence (ACE) grant from the Land Trust Alliance to allow us to engage in a suite of planning processes. For the last few months and the six months ahead, we will be engaging in planning for our future: a strategic plan, conservation plan and resource development plan. These planning processes will allow us to look back at our successes, reaffirm our strengths, clarify our vision and engage our community—all in the service of creating a place where all species in the Nehalem watershed and Neahkahnie region can live full lives in an environmentally-rich habitat.

—K. Erich Miller, *Executive Director*



Tina Wilson and Peggy Biskar were the winning bidders of the Alder Creek Farm dinner for eight at the June 2012 Living Locally fundraiser. The magical, gourmet evening at the farm was enjoyed by these eight lucky attendees (left to right): M.J. Anderson, Tina Wilson, Monica Gianopulos, Kathie Howell, Carol Povey, Peggy Biskar, Karen Babbitt and Tela Skinner. PHOTO BY LORRAINE ORTIZ

**SAVE THESE DATES**

**“Pie Day” Events Saturday, January 26, 2013**

*Don't miss our most beloved fundraiser of the year!*

The Trust's fifth annual “Pie Day/Night” fundraising event will feature a sweet and savory pie auction and the renowned all-you-can-eat pie feast. Bring your friends and have some fun as you support the ongoing work of LNCT and our event partner, Food Roots. 7:00 pm at the Nehalem Bay United Methodist Church, 36050 10th Street in Nehalem. \$5 admission includes auction and pie feast. Plan to bring some extra \$\$ and go home with a homemade pie from the auction. Call us at 503-368-3203 or lnc@nehalemtrust.net for more information. Join Us!

**Estuary Cleanup, Saturday, March 2, 2013**

**Lichen Walk & Talk, Saturday, March 9, 2013**

**Edible Landscaping, Saturday, April 6, 2013**

*See all upcoming events, dates and details on page 4...*

**Fire Destroys NCLC Offices in Seaside**

On the morning of December 5, 2012 we were shocked and saddened to learn of the devastating fire which destroyed the offices of our sister land trust North Coast Land Conservancy. So many have asked what they can do to help. As NCLC prioritizes its needs, check their website www.nclc.org and we will keep our members/donors informed through our monthly e-bulletin.

**UPCOMING 2013 EVENTS**

Call 503-368-3203 for more information on any of the following events and watch the monthly e-bulletin for updates.

**Friday, January 25: Pie Crust Making Workshop** with pastry chef Kim Miller, 4 p.m.- 7 p.m. Workshop fee includes all ingredients and instruction. \$25 for LNCT members, \$35 for non-members. This workshop fills up fast, so call soon!

**Saturday, January 26: Exciting Pie Auction & All You Can Eat Pie Feast**, 7 p.m., Nehalem United Methodist Church, 36050 10th Street in Nehalem, \$5 donation/admission at the door.

**Sunday, March 2: 10th Estuary Cleanup**, 7:30 a.m. Wheeler Waterfront Park. Evening party for all participants, 6 p.m. Upstairs, Tsunami Grill.

**Saturday, March 9: Lichen Walk & Talk with Carla Cole, Lewis and Clark National Historical Park Natural Resources Project Manager**, 10 a.m. - Noon. Meet at Alder Creek Farm.

**Saturday, April 6: Edible Landscaping with Jim Gilbert of One Green World**, 11 a.m., Alder Creek Farm. Free to LNCT members, \$5 non-members.

**Saturday, April 27: Bird Walk & Talk with Tami Lesch**, 9 a.m. - 11 a.m., Zimmerman Creek Marsh in Wheeler. Free to LNCT members, \$5 non-members.

**Saturday, May 18: Coastal Food Ecology Program Annual Plant Sale**, 9 a.m., Alder Creek Farm

**Saturday, June 8: 6th Annual Living Locally Fundraising Gala**, 6 p.m., NCRD

*check our website—www.NehalemTrust.org—for more information & new event postings*

**Nehalem Estuary Cleanup—An Enduring Partnership of Community and Place**

The 10th Nehalem Estuary Cleanup is set for 7:30 a.m. March 2nd. Over the 14 years since it began, the now biennial estuary cleanup event has set an example of caring for our environment and has become a community institution. The estuary cleanup began as a community-led activity which was taken over as a community-wide project of the Lower Nehalem Watershed Council bringing together a cross section of the community to help out. Families, students, long-time residents and newcomers spent the day pulling out trash of all sizes and shapes from the edge of the estuary. These hearty volunteers have always gathered back together in the evening for a warming chili supper.

In many ways little has changed since those first few cleanups. There is still the great community involvement and the chili afterwards. Many of the same volunteers at that very first event are still coming back, including some of those original school children now grown up and living

elsewhere. However, the event has continued to evolve, grow and improve. LNCT came on as a co-sponsor in 2003. The Nehalem Estuary Cleanup became one of the first such events in the state to recycle what was collected, and over time CARTM and the Nehalem Bay State Park have increased their involvement as yards of styrofoam, glass bottles, tin cans and miscellaneous items beyond description are pulled from the estuary. The consistent effort is paying off with less and less trash in the bay. Join us March 2nd for this local tradition on behalf of the beauty and health of our estuary.



Scott Warren hauls a load of styrofoam and debris from the Bay. Even with snow in the foothills, sometimes the sun does come out on cleanup day! PHOTO SUPPLIED BY LNCT

**Get Outside! Join us for ongoing Volunteer Stewardship—Wednesdays, 10 a.m. - Noon.** Call 503-368-3203 for details.



## GARDEN CORNER

by Karen Matthews

ACF Garden & Poultry Project Manager

### Garden Expansion Means Greater Impact

The community gardeners implemented and completed an Oregon Community Foundation (OCF) Advised Funds grant project that focused on garden expansion at Alder Creek Farm. Several previously unused areas of the fenced garden enclosure were cleared and cultivated to increase the overall production area from 6,600 to 11,400 square feet. The in-ground irrigation system was expanded to accommodate the increase in square footage. Eight new raised beds were installed at ADA standard height. Two of the eight have had cloches installed to extend the growing season by several months. All raised beds have benches that allow disabled gardeners to sit down while gardening.

The greenhouse also went through a major change. Enhancements to extend the growing season included: rigid insulation sprayed onto the sheet metal walls, insertion of soil heating cables at the bottom of new concrete block raised beds, use of air bubble insulation and auxiliary lights. These upgrades allowed the first crop of greens to be planted in early January which began to produce for delivery to the North County Food Bank by February. As a result of the greenhouse upgrades and the increase in outdoor planting areas, donations to the Food Bank increased to 2,287 pounds in 2012.

Impacts of this expansion were an increase in the number of Community Garden participants and opportunities for gardening education. For the first time two garden crews (Tuesday & Saturday) were established. As a Trust program, the purpose of the garden is to edu-



LNCT's Coastal Food Ecology Program's Community Garden successfully delivered 2,287 pounds of fresh produce to the North County Food Bank in 2012. Lucy Brook was one of the active participants in the program, working semi-weekly shifts in the greenhouse, garden and orchard. PHOTO BY JANE WANNELL

cate our local population in how to grow healthy organic food in our marine weather, to reduce our carbon footprint, and to thereby assist in the conservation of our regional habitat. Education is an ongoing process provided by the Garden Coach, Karen Matthews, on a regular basis for the community gardeners and through periodic workshops. This year lead orchardist Joanne Benningfield organized a grafting and pruning workshop in conjunction with One Green World, and Karen Matthews coordinated a cloche building for raised beds workshop attended by 55 and 32 individuals respectively.

Thanks to everyone who participated in the implementation of the OCF grant project. Board members, LNCT Executive Director, Garden Coach, and gardeners worked a total of 644 hours to implement all the changes. And very importantly, thanks to the Gaylord-Eyerman Family Fund, the Ronald E. and Ivy L. Timpe Fund, and the Anonymous Fund of the Oregon Community Foundation. Additional thanks to the Schmuck Foundation and Groundhog Construction for their contributions to a separate, but complementary community garden project that created pathways and a main driveway for truck delivery of compost, chips, and manure. Great soil and teamwork is garden magic!

### LNCT Receives Capacity Building Grant from Yarg Foundation/LTA ACE Grant Program

LNCT has received a \$28,000 grant to assist in capacity building for the organization. The grant was awarded by the Land Trust Alliance's ACE (Oregon Advancing Conservation Excellence) grant program. This unprecedented opportunity came through the private family foundation of John Gray who leaves a legacy of philanthropy and an understanding of the important role that Oregon land trusts play in the quality of life for all Oregonians.

LNCT is one of 1,700 land trusts across the country that collectively protect over 47 million acres. According to a national census released by the Land Trust Alliance, Oregon land trusts have permanently protected 53,000 acres—more than half of the acreage in all Oregon state parks combined.

The grant received by LNCT will be used to fund strategic and organizational planning activities. Entering its 11th year, LNCT is prepared to clarify the organization's

vision, longer-term goals, conservation focus, resource development strategies and financial procedures.

The primary focus of the Yarg Foundation is to implement and fund a ten-year, \$10M initiative to support the land trust movement in Oregon. The vision of the initiative is to instill in Oregonians the understanding that we all individually, and collectively, are stewards of our natural spaces and in so doing strengthen our communities by providing a connection to the natural world which in turn supports a healthy economy.

"Land trusts have proven that they know how to conserve land for the economic, social and environmental benefit of their communities for generations to come," said Nick Walrod, a Gray family member. "My grandfather's hope was that these grants will help bring further recognition to land trusts and the fundamental role they play in our communities and state."

### Stewardship Highlights include New Models to Care for Land in Perpetuity

For me, the joy of the work of the Trust is getting outside and giving back to the land through stewardship. As in any relationship, the first step in stewarding land is listening, understanding what is happening in the systems around us and how we can be most effective in our practices. Along with our usual work of planting native vegetation and removing invasive plants, special focus was paid to learning to listen in new ways and formalizing our listening in new monitoring practices.

When listening to the land, we often miss the softer voices. What do the mosses and lichen tell us? What is the health of the amphibian population? And what are the roles that insects play in ecosystem health. Recognizing this, in July LNCT hosted Eric Mader from the Xerces Society to deliver a full-day training on assessing and restoring pollinator habitat. The diversity of seasonal flowering plants and even the presence of brush piles now become an important indicator of ecosystem health and have impacted how we manage our lands in small but important ways.

With Ida Gianopulos as stewardship lead, we worked to get the first read on the health of our two new properties, Blacktail Ridge and Zimmerman Marsh. Ida, along with volunteers, was able to take an inventory of all the plant species, assess which animals were using the property and note the potential threats to the conservation values. This information now serves as a baseline to allow us to understand the current conditions on these properties and the changes that our stewardship efforts make.

In 2011 we created and approved our monitoring protocols and started the process of recording in a formal way what we are learning from listening to the land. In 2012, the program strengthened, with volunteers (often neighbors) helping walk the properties and recording conditions and observations and taking pictures from set photo points.

These monitoring efforts have set the stage for a busy season of stewardship ahead. Those of you who have been to Alder Creek Farm over the last month may have seen fenced enclosures sprouting up in the conservation area. With the understanding of how hard it is to get trees to start



Xerces Society Pollinator habitat training encouraged new protocols for LNCT land management. PHOTO SUPPLIED BY XERCES

in a pasture frequented by elk, the Natural Resource Conservation Service has fulfilled an earlier commitment to help provide support for replanting parts of the conservation area at the farm. Having listened, over the next few months we will be getting our hands dirty and caring for the land in an enhanced, active way. —Erich Miller



Growing up on a "huge" river—the Torne River in Northern Sweden—has had a big influence on Monica Gianopulos—specifically her desire to live and work in full view of the Nehalem River and Estuary. LNCT is fortunate that Monica chose to make her home here as she now stands among the Trust's super volunteers. First purchasing property in the area (with a view of the Bay/Estuary) in 2001, she began getting to know the community and by 2003 "was very glad to hear there was a local land trust." When Monica relocated full time in 2007, opening her popular Harrison's Café in Wheeler (sadly now closed), she of course, chose a location where she could serve her customers while also enjoying a view of the river/estuary.

Finding her stride and the rhythm of running a business allowed Monica to make the decision to volunteer for the Trust. Her entry point was a visit to the permaculture garden at Alder Creek Farm. With Maia Holliday as her guide Monica discovered she had been using permaculture principles for decades but had never had a name for it. As former co-owner of a farm/vineyard/winery in Hillsboro, Monica is also well versed in invasive species removal and tree planting so stewardship became the next addition to Monica's LNCT volunteer duet. As part of the stewardship team, Monica helps to plant trees, remove invasives, maintain buildings, organize workspaces and tend the native plant nursery. When approached last March to help with the 2012 Living Locally fundraising gala, she stepped right up to volunteer, plan, cook and serve a beautiful Scandinavian influenced buffet for 125 attendees using all local ingredients—some from the permaculture garden.

Monica's trio of volunteer experiences are simply a natural response to her love of the bay and estuary, mentioning that while living in Nehalem, she and her family spent a couple of Christmas days doing their own "estuary cleanup" as a gift to the habitat she loves (and she noted the gift of being allowed to dump it all for free at CARTM).

Since closing her café last November, Monica is looking forward to more volunteering with the Trust as well as engaging in all of her passions: cooking, gardening, mushrooming, bicycling, hiking and pie making—Monica will be one of the volunteer bakers at this year's Pie Day event on January 26. We know that is going to be one super pie.

PHOTO BY MAIA HOLLIDAY