

LOWER NEHALEM COMMUNITY TRUST

beading the necklace of people and place

Upcoming 2014 Events

January 2014 Newsletter



New! Hiking Series: Soapstone Lake
Led by wildlife biologist Ted Chu
Saturday, February 15
Carpool departs Nehalem, 10:00 a.m.
(in the event of heavy rain, hike will take place Sunday, February 16, 10:00 a.m.)

New! Exploring The Natural World
Book Discussion Group
Monday, March 10, 7:00 p.m.
Sometimes A Great Notion by Ken Kesey
Cloud & Leaf Bookstore, Manzanita

Coalition of Oregon Land Trust
"State of the Land"
Town Hall Presentation
Wednesday, March 19, 7:00 p.m.
Pine Grove Community House, Manzanita

Family Vegetable Gardening 101
April: Site Selection, Soils & Layout
May: Crop Selection, Planting & Maintenance
Alder Creek Farm

Annual Garden Start Plant Sale
Saturday, May 17, 9:00 a.m.
Alder Creek Farm

7th Annual Living Locally Auction & Gala
Saturday, June 7, 6:00 p.m.
NCRD Gymnasium, Nehalem

Get Outside! Weekly Stewardship Projects
Wednesdays, 10:00 a.m.
Alder Creek Farm

Visit www.NehalemTrust.org
for more information on these and
other events or call (503) 368-3203.

Fall Appeal Thank You

Our heartfelt thanks to all who contributed to our Fall appeal honoring the work of Georgenne and Gareth Ferdun and Erich Miller—leaders who have brought joy and meaning to local conservation. All donations received deepen the legacy of these individuals and strengthen our work.

The World According To Zimmerman Marsh

If Zimmerman Marsh were a book, what story would its pages contain? According to wildlife biologist Mike Patterson, who recently led field studies and field research on the parcel, Zimmerman Marsh has an exciting story to tell.

Clad in worn jeans and boots to his knees he enthuses, "One of the things that amazes me is how very much of this ecosystem is intact despite the intrusion of man-made elements like Highway 101 and its resulting culvert. Despite its modest size, Zimmerman Marsh is host to multiple plant and wildlife species."

Conserved in 2012 with generous community donations and grant funding, Zimmerman Marsh is a three-acre parcel in Wheeler. It is a varied habitat of slough sedge wetlands, mixed riparian, and estuarine wet meadow.

Mike installed trail cameras for a five-day period in December, and with nearly 3,500 images he captured a host of wildlife moving through this habitat: American beaver, muskrat, raccoon, black rat, and Virginia rail. In December alone he identified 36 bird species.

A great discovery to Stewardship Committee co-chair Chip Hall is that beaver at Zimmerman Marsh are removing Eurasian blackberry, an aggressive non-native invasive plant that we all spend long, long hours removing. With a sly smile Chip produces a section of sturdy blackberry vine whittled to a near-perfect point with the telltale chisel marks of beaver teeth.



This Ruby-crowned Kinglet is captured at home in the vertical habitat of blackberry at Zimmerman Marsh. PHOTO BY MIKE PATTERSON

(continued on page 4)

LNCT & NCLC to Host COLT Town Hall In Manzanita

The Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts (COLT) will be hosted by Lower Nehalem Community Trust and North Coast Land Conservancy in a Town Hall meeting on Wednesday, March 19, 7:00 p.m. at Pine Grove Community House, 225 Laneda Avenue in Manzanita.

COLT's mission is to serve and strengthen the land trust community in Oregon by strengthening public policies and programs that are supportive of land conservation. LNCT and NCLC are two of COLT's 19-member Oregon land trusts.

Kelley Beamer, COLT's new executive director, will be sharing a "State of the Land" presentation weaving local conservation efforts with the work being done throughout Oregon, plus updates from the recent legislative session.

Kelley reports, "For over three decades, land trusts across Oregon have quietly and effectively conserved lands, saving landscapes and winning over landowners across the state. Land trusts like LNCT and NCLC are vitally important for safeguarding Oregon's natural heritage and building regional support for conservation."

For more about COLT's work, visit <http://colt.conservationregistry.org/>.

Dale Cramer Burr, Executive Director



Landing...

Be careful what you set your heart upon, for it will surely be yours.

—James Baldwin, 1924-1987

And one day you will awake, though it still feels like a dream, on the Oregon coast with joyful work at hand: conservation, education, and community engagement. That I have found myself among you, in this blessed and magical landscape, is a daily source of wonder.

I hail from the lower Connecticut River valley, which is itself a wonder, too. “Connecticut” is derived from the Mohegan *quinetucket*, which means “beside the long, tidal river.” My name “Dale” means someone who dwells in a valley. Since many of you have asked, my surname is Burr, and my middle name is Cramer, a family name. I use my whole name because it is the name my parents gave me, and it seems an important bequest to honor.

I have many to thank for their tireless support since my first day at the Trust on November 1. I want especially to thank Jill Thurston, who brings such intelligence and heart to her work running our office; Lorraine Ortiz, our development expert, who contributes her wealth of creativity; and Mike Manzulli for his thoughtful legal counsel. Also, the hard work and leadership of our board members are indispensable: Doug Firstbrook, Monica Gianopulos, Olivia Mercado, Allan Olson, Gary Seelig, and David Sip. Finally, our committee chairs have been constant sources of expert and patient guidance: Georgette Ferdun (Development), Gareth Ferdun (Lands), Chip Hall and Sam Harmon (Stewardship), Karen Matthews (Community Garden), Olivia Mercado (Finance), and Gary Seelig (Education). I thank all of you who support the Trust so generously and in so very many different ways.

I have faith that what we set our hearts upon will surely be ours. In this New Year I invite you to dream powerfully an expansive dream of conservation and preserved habitats and species in our region. What we can achieve together is limitless and depends only on what we set our hearts upon. Here’s to landing...at last. And a rich and rewarding 2014 for us all.

Three Plans Now Available Online

LNCT’s 2013 year of in-depth planning has culminated in three source documents now available on our website. Please take time to review our Conservation Plan, Strategic Plan, and Resource Development Plan. These documents will guide the work of LNCT over the next three years. We welcome your comments and questions. Visit www.nehalemtrust.org.

Beading the Necklace of People & Place Comings and Goings

The last six months have been tremendously active and energized for the Trust in so many ways. In October we bid farewell to LNCT’s first executive director **Erich Miller** as he moves to his new home on the East coast and welcomed **Dale** our new executive director.

Georgette and Gareth Ferdun retired from their positions on the LNCT Board. As founders of this organization we have a wealth of gratitude for their vision, persistence, and commitment and have come so very far under their watch. **Merle Wallis** also stepped down from the board last Fall and leaves behind a legacy of LNCT’s Bequest Program. In his place, **Monica Gianopulos** was elected to the board. A long-time volunteer spark plug for the Trust, Monica has now added governance of the organization to her other roles as stewardship, event, and community garden volunteer.

Karen Reddick-Yurka retired from her position as our bookkeeper and has handed the reins to **Karen Kronoff**. The “two Karens”, as they have been referred to during this transition time, are both locals who devote time to their families and their community in so many ways. Karen Reddick-Yurka is CARTM’s board chair and Karen Kronoff has lived in the Nehalem Valley for the past 19 years on her family’s organic dairy farm, Onion Peak Dairy.

Legacy Site Continues To Take Shape



The cedar trees, which were ceremoniously gifted from one generation to the next at the 2012 Living Locally presentation, are now planted at a commemorative legacy site on Alder Creek Farm. Willa Childress, Georgette Ferdun, and Chip Hall were key participants in this historic occasion. This special contemplative location will be dedicated to the spirit of conserving land for generations to come. For information on making LNCT part of your estate plans, contact us at (503) 368-3203. PHOTO BY LORRAINE ORTIZ

GARDEN CORNER

by Karen Matthews,
Garden Coordinator

When asked what was best about the 2013 garden season, one gardener replied: Learning how to grow food in our climate, learning about new crops, and learning from each other. Meeting new people, and getting to know them over shared work.



With the close of LNCT's ninth year of community gardening it is interesting to note the growth and learning of the past years in contrast to where the program is today. 2013 provided an opportunity for the community gardeners to learn and share more than ever before. While there has always been an element of teaching as we garden collectively side-by-side, this year the process was formalized as we began focusing on learning from each other even more deeply.

An education program, modeled after the Master Gardener 10-Minute University, was instituted to highlight a specific topic each week. The garden coordinator delivered a short lesson to members of the Community Garden on a topic that was specific to that period in the growing season. The "ABC's" of garden lessons ranged from apple pruning to xeriscaping (low water gardening) and everything in between.

Our garden members (now over 30 strong), all bring with them knowledge of various topics. Using an "Adopt a Crop" plan, we gave small teams of gardeners responsibility for learning about and sharing their knowledge on specific plant families. In addition to this knowledge sharing, the gardeners were provided technical information and hands-on guidance from the garden coordinator on the crops in each plant family. The team then led decisions and direction on planting, companion planting, care, and harvest.

There is always something new to try in the garden, and we learn from both our successes and failures. To learn more about LNCT's Community Garden, call (503) 368-3203.



In 2013, community gardeners donated more than 2,000 pounds of fresh produce to the North County Food Bank.

PHOTO BY ANGELLE SOANS

Volunteer Spotlight

Dynamos—Judy Holmes & Linda Olsson

One never knows what vacationing in a favorite place will lead to. Judy Holmes has discovered this for herself after falling in love with the Nehalem Bay area—a favorite getaway destination since 1979. When she eventually purchased a retirement home in 2006 and relocated here full-time in 2009, she sought out LNCT to lend a hand.



Judy Holmes and Linda Olsson are active in LNCT's development committee.

PHOTO BY LORRAINE ORTIZ

"I had heard about the Trust when it first started by a mutual family friend of Doug Firstbrook," said Judy. "I am very attracted to conservation, and it is natural that I would end up volunteering for the Trust."

LNCT works hard to find satisfying jobs for volunteers and offers a wide range of opportunities. Judy's strong people skills and background in social work made her a natural for the development committee and reaching out to the community.

"I enjoy the collaborative nature of what we do on our committee," said Judy. "I retired in 2004, but continued working my job on call in Portland until late May of 2013. Working with LNCT has been a refreshing way to get beyond the pressures and frustrations of that job."

Also active in her Pine Ridge neighborhood, Judy saw a kindred spirit in Linda Olsson when she became a neighbor and encouraged her to meet the LNCT staff and committee members.

Linda, a floral designer from Mukilteo, Washington, was attracted to the area through her deep love of nature, which is reflected in her creations. Having attended many fundraising events over the years, Linda also found a good fit in the development committee and enjoys offering fresh ideas and energy to make the Trust's events extra special.

"My volunteer work with the Trust is very rewarding, and it is fun to be a part of the organization's growth," said Judy. Linda underscored Judy's thoughts and shared her recent experience of kayaking on the estuary and making the connection of how her work with the Trust helps to protect and preserve this beautiful place.

Judy and Linda are indeed a dynamic duo, and both agree that everything the Trust is doing has an impact on people's lives on some level. It's also true that Judy and Linda have a wonderful impact on people's lives. Along with all the ways they contribute to our community, the two can often be seen in productions of The Riverbend Players, a local theatre troupe. Local land conservation is fortunate to have this duo sharing their talents. Thank you!



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NEWSLETTER

Lorraine Ortiz, EDITOR

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We Welcome These New Members to the Trust
July - December 2013

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 Gwen Davidson & Doug Lubotsky
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Join Today! Membership starts at just \$15 per year.

Seeking the Unique & Unusual....

Do you have a unique activity, fantastic vacation property, cooking prowess or special talent to offer at this year's Living Locally Experience Auction? Let's talk! Give us a call at (503) 368-3203. And save the date for this year's event on June 7—it's going to be the best yet!



7th Annual Fundraising Gala Celebrating All Things Local
 FINE FOOD • WINE • EXPERIENCES • FRIENDS

Saturday, June 7, 2014

Zimmerman Marsh World *(continued from page 1)*



Wildlife biologist Mike Paterson at Zimmerman Marsh.

Mike points out that despite often being cast as the enemy, blackberry is a vertical dimension habitat and for many birds and mammal species it provides cover and a reliable food source. He adds, "The removal of blackberry should be coupled with replacement by native analogs like salmonberry, salal, huckleberry, black twinberry, and willows."

Funding for Mike's field research, along with hydrology and soil research by Austin Tomlinson of NW Regolith, is supported by The Collins Foundation and the Wheeler Foundation.

"The beauty of a parcel like Zimmerman Marsh is that it

is so tightly integrated with human systems that its conservation is instantly felt by those who pass this habitat daily." Mike continues, "We have discovered so much vitality on this parcel that our stewardship going forward can be very attuned to what the land tells us it needs. Our work, our challenge really, is to simply pay attention."

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