



# Lower Nehalem Community Trust

*beading the necklace of people and place*

JUNE 2011

## Message from the Chair

In January the Trust completed the purchase of 19 acres adjacent to the estuary at the end of Tohl Avenue in the Bayside Gardens neighborhood. The Board has named this property Sitka Wetlands to honor the Sitka spruce trees growing there. Our third annual Pie Day, which included a baking workshop and pie auction, was enjoyed by about 60 community members ... yum! The Board conducted its annual retreat, hosted by our newest board member, Merle Wallis, which included a mid-year fiscal evaluation and future planning.

With the assistance of our Community Garden Coach, Karen Matthews, we submitted an application to the Oregon Community Foundation to expand the capacity of the greenhouse and garden in order to accommodate more gardeners and to increase our vegetable donations to the North County Food Bank. Unfortunately we were not awarded this grant, but we will continue to pursue other grant funds. Yes, we're persistent! Right now we need sun more than grant funding.

The biennial Estuary Clean-up on February 19 brought out over 90 eager volunteers, and for the first time in history we had a beautiful clear, sunny day that put a smile on everyone's face and great energy in their step. In March Esther Lev, Executive Director of the Wetlands Conservancy, conducted a workshop at the Sitka Wetlands property with a hardy group of LNCT members and visitors. Local resident and Trust supporter Kim Miller presented a workshop for home gardeners on Vermiculture, demonstrating how to build healthy soil through worms.

Our Earth Day event was directed at thanking our 180+ volunteers with a viewing of the film "Sometimes a Great Notion" based on Ken Kesey's novel. The film was introduced by Matt Love with data and anecdotes about the making of the film on location in Newport and the surrounding area.

The Watershed Education field trips are in process during May and June. Peter Walczak and Erich Miller are coordinating the project this year, which provides each K-6th grade class in the NKN School District a field trip that coordinates classroom science with experiential outdoor learning.

We are always grateful to our volunteers, members, and donors who make it possible for the Trust to continue functioning. The beginning of the year has been busy and fulfilling for everyone involved in the Trust. Hope yours has been the same.

—Olivia Mercado, LNCT Board Chair



*Neahkahnie Middle School students spent a rain-free day of service at Sitka Wetlands removing "old growth" scotch broom and Armenian (Himalayan) blackberry from the newly acquired property. By the end of their four hours of work, the newly opened space revealed small hemlocks, alders, salal, salmonberry and Douglas spirea.* PHOTO BY KATHRYN HARMON

## North Edge Gains 33 Protected Acres

The 19-acre Sitka Wetlands now stands preserved on the North Edge of the Nehalem Estuary. Along with its sister parcel, 14-acre Cedar Creek Properties, 33 acres of prime estuarine edgelands are now preserved in perpetuity. In a two-year capital campaign effort, the Trust board with the support of community members, foundations and regional donors raised the necessary funds to match the grant which provided the opportunity to purchase the land.

The ambitious campaign began in March of 2009 during a time of economic gloom. With wetlands grant funds available at the state and federal level the Trust Board agreed to attempt to purchase 11 priority parcels on the north edge of the Nehalem Estuary. The edge lands had been identified in a local lands inventory as some of the most critical habitat on the North Coast providing important ecological benefits for the health of the Nehalem watershed and its inhabitants. These benefits also contribute to the greater health of the global ecosystem.

Of the 11 initial parcels identified in the campaign, seven were acquired from willing landowners to total 33 acres. The first six parcels to be acquired, totaling 14 acres, christened Cedar Creek Properties are located west of Bayside Gardens Road and the seventh comprising three tax lots and totaling 19 acres, closed escrow in January and have been named Sitka Wetlands.

LNCT will continue its efforts to educate the public on the importance of wetlands and the need to preserve this valuable and vulnerable ecological asset.



## GARDEN CORNER

by Karen Matthews  
ACF Poultry Project Manager

### *Slug Breath Isn't All Bad...*

Perhaps I should start by telling you about how I fell in love with a flock of slug eaters.

It began last July, in the cool wet summer at the Oregon Coast. As you may recall, our 2010 spring and summer months brought unprecedented rains and the some of the coolest weather on record. After months of battling slugs by every method known to gardeners; trapping, drowning, salting, rimming with copper, baiting with beer, and even resorting to midnight hunts we finally got tired of replanting garden crops. Each time our seedlings emerged slugs quickly devoured them.

In a fit of desperation, we found a work crew to help us out in the slug-hunting arena. On July 15, Stella, Mel and Blue arrived on the farm in the trunk of my Honda Accord. They were happy to be released from the pet carriers they traveled in and I was glad to let the little “fertilizer machines” out of the trunk so it could air out.

The ducks were encouraged to follow us around the garden on their first few forays out into the field as we found slugs and hand fed our new hunters. We learned how to lead them where we wanted to go by slowly and calmly walking behind them raising our arm to get them to turn left or right. They, of course, are naturals at foraging for slugs, bugs, and grubs and quickly found lots to keep them busy. It has taken some experimenting to know when to allow the ducks into the garden as we don't want them to eat the new lettuce sprouts (a favorite almost as treasured as slugs) but we are getting the hang of it and they have spent many days ridding the garden of the unwanted pests.

Seven caretakers signed on to the duck care team and I have to say these are some of the most spoiled ducks around. They have a very nicely refurbished duck house named “The Quack Shack,” a safe and secure night pen, and the adoration of over 30 gardeners who frequent the garden. They are mostly safe inside the elk fence area at the farm but have known to escape the 4” holes in the fenced area and we need to add finer mesh to the lower two feet of the fenced area to keep our ducks contained and safe from predators.

While I can't say the garden is “slug free” we have made tremendous progress in knocking down the numbers of slugs in the growing area. It will be interesting to see how much of an impact my three slug eating friends have made as spring arrives and the tender plants emerge at the farm.

I haven't yet come close enough to really smell their breath but if I did I am sure it would have the faint odor of slug!

## *Leaving A Legacy...* **Our Bequest Program is Launched**

With the enthusiasm and encouragement of Merle Wallis, our newest board member, we have been hard at work getting our planned giving program ready to launch. A bequest to LNCT is one of the easiest ways to ensure that your love and passion for the local environment carries on to future generations.

Is it ever too early to begin to think about your legacy—what you want to leave behind for the next generation? Legacies come in all shapes and sizes, but what they have in common is they are a conscious, planned action. A legacy gift left to LNCT can help assure that the lands we've protected are cared for forever.

We think legacy planning is a very satisfying thing to do. After planning for the financial security of your family and loved ones, we hope you will consider a planned gift to the Trust.

There are several ways to leave a legacy. You may include a bequest to Lower Nehalem Community Trust in your will or living trust. You may provide for the eventual distribution of assets, such as those held in retirement fund accounts or life insurance policies, potentially gaining tax or financial benefits.

For more information about a planned gift to LNCT, please contact us. We can send you materials, answer questions or arrange for an in-person visit.

If you have already included LNCT in your will or estate plans, please contact us so we can update our records. We would like the opportunity to thank you for planning for our future.

### *In Memory of Captain Paul Gray*

August 17, 1943 - November 11, 2010

In November we lost our good friend Captain Paul Gray. After serving as a tug boat captain on the Columbia River for 26 years, Paul retired to the Nehalem Bay community in 1978 with his wife Nancy. Paul's long career on the river strengthened his mechanical aptitude and fostered his strong belief in self-sufficiency.

He generously shared his time and talents with the Trust by building and maintaining an irrigation system at Alder Creek Farm. Always ready with a wise word laced with his reknowned wit, Paul spent much time at ACF and in these words expressed his love of the place, “when I'm down there, I feel like I have a right to be there. It feels like my place. A hawk flies by with a snake, the herd of elk—it's always a rich experience. Little things like that make me feel a part of it.” Paul was so very much a part of the Trust and he will be greatly missed on the Great River of the West and throughout our Nehalem Bay area community. *Fair winds dear friend.*

## ***Wetland Experts Lead Walkabout on 19-Acre Sitka Wetlands***

With the continuing acquisition of wetlands, the Trust invited two experts to lead an educational walkabout on the new Sitka Wetlands natural area to define why wetlands are priority conservation targets. On a rare sunny day in March, Esther Lev, executive director of the The Wetlands Conservancy and John van Staveren, profes-



*John VanStaveren, wetlands scientist, demonstrates how to define hydric soils at the recent Sitka Wetlands walkabout.*

PHOTO BY LORRAINE ORTIZ

sional wetland scientist led 30+ community members on an information packed walk through the beautiful Sitka Wetlands which borders Alder Creek Farm to the south and the west. Armed with a shovel and chart to define hydric soils John and Esther answered questions and generously offered technical data and information about the Trust's newest acquisition.

## ***Business Membership Program Gathers Momentum in Year Two***

With eleven business members now supporting our work, we are encouraged to spread the word and reach out yet again. These businesses understand that business and ecology are inherently connected or as Senator Gaylord Nelson, founder of Earth Day, so aptly stated, "the economy is a wholly owned subsidiary of the environment, not the other way around."

If you already work with these businesses, please thank them for supporting LNCT. If you have not yet had an opportunity to do business with them, please consider them the next time a need arises.

***Unfurl Clothing:*** an eco-fiber clothing boutique

***KOMM Construction:*** serving the community since 1997

***TLC Credit Union:*** a community friendly credit union

***Twist/Basketcase Wines:*** tasting room in Pacific City

***US Bank/Manzanita:*** all of "US" serving you

***Sarah Smythe McIntosh/Law Manzanita,*** professional

legal services at coastal rates

***Bank of Astoria:*** best service in community banking

***Manzanita Rentals:*** charismatic vacation homes

***Cloud & Leaf Bookstore:*** downtown Manzanita

***Syzygy,*** a lifestyle store in Manzanita

***One Green World:*** unusual trees from around the world

If you own a business and are interested in becoming a business partner with the Trust call today for more information, 503-368-3203.

## ***Volunteer Spotlight: Joanne Benningfield Joins CFEC Team***

Joanne Benningfield, has taken the leadership to maintain the orchard trees at Alder Creek Farm. This spring, with the help of a few friends and her partner Rolf Birchfield, Joanne led the charge to weed, fertilize and mulch each tree. The orchard includes six heirloom apple trees and twenty-eight trees planted during the last five years.

Joanne grew up on a dairy farm where they had a family orchard, but this is her first time as the main orchardist. Last year Joanne completed the Master Gardener training conducted by OSU Extension Services in Tillamook. Part of the OSU training included a "pruning day" at ACF where she met Karen Matthews, David Sip, Vivi Tallman and Kathleen Moore, became a member of the Trust and mentioned that she was looking to north county to apply her new skills. After "falling in love with the farm," she volunteered to lead the work in the orchard. Joanne is also an avid home gardener and continues to learn through attendance at various workshops and by her own curiosity and research. If you are interested in lending a hand in the orchard from time to time contact Joanne at 503-355-2307 or Erich Miller at the LNCT office, 503-368-3203.



*Joanne Benningfield has taken on the care of Alder Creek Farm's orchard.*

PHOTO BY OLIVIA MERCADO

## ***Trust Volunteers Relax and Enjoy an Oregon Coastal Tale Spun by Matt Love***

On Friday, April 15, 49 Trust volunteers turned out to eat popcorn, watch a movie and listen to Matt Love, Oregon author and good friend of the Trust, deliver an informative, entertaining and historical tale about the making of the classic film "Sometimes A Great Notion." Matt's presentation included never before seen photos, stories and events that surrounded the Hollywood film crew when they set up camp on the Oregon Coast in 1970—all research for his upcoming book on the topic.

Matt's account was an eye-opening, behind-the-scenes prelude to viewing the film based on the book by Ken Kesey. We thank our fantastic volunteers and look forward to creating another special event just for them in 2012. If you would like to volunteer for the Trust call 503-368-3203.



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

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## UPCOMING 2011 EVENTS

**Fridays: June 10, 17, August 2, 16, 23:** *LNCT at the Manzanita Farmers Market.* Stop by our table and say “hi.”  
**Saturday, August 20:** *“Ride the Coastal Edge” TRAIN TRIP with special guest interpreter, Gary Braasch, environmental photographer.* Join LNCT and North Coast Land Conservancy for a round-trip excursion through some of the most beautiful estuarine scenery on Oregon’s North Coast. \$40 per person includes catered box dinner. This is always a sell-out. Tickets go on sale at 9 a.m. on July 1. Call 503-738-9126 to reserve your tickets.

**Saturday, September 10:** *4th Annual “Living Locally” GALA FUNDRAISER dinner/auction with special guest speaker, author Brian Doyle.* Delicious, exciting, inspiring, friend-filled—plan to be a part of this special evening when we pull out all the stops to show you a good time while you pull out all the stops to support LNCT. Only 74 tickets will be sold. Call 503-368-3203 to reserve your tickets now.

**October 1:** *9th Annual HARVEST FESTIVAL.* Farmers market, music, garden tours, food, family fun. Watch for more information and updates on our website and in our monthly e-bulletin.

*check our website—[www.NehalemTrust.org](http://www.NehalemTrust.org)—for more information & new event postings*

**We love to hear from you! Call 503-368-3203 or email [LNCT@nehalemtrust.org](mailto:LNCT@nehalemtrust.org)**

## *Stewardship Opportunites In High Gear Throughout the Summer—Join Us!*

Volunteers are invaluable in helping us restore and enhance habitat for the non-human residents of the Nehalem and Neah-kahnie Mountain regions. At the same time removing invasive species, planting native vegetation, caring for past plantings, and generally stewarding the land is great for volunteer body, mind, spirit and the human habitat. A reminder to dress appropriately for the range of weather conditions that we experience here on the north Oregon Coast.

**These special summertime workdays are on Saturdays from 10:00-2:00 with lunch provided.**

**May 28: Cardboard & Chips at Cedar Creek Marsh** – Suppress Reed Canary Grass in preparation to restore native habitat.

**June 11: Scotch Broom Removal at Sitka Wetlands** – Removal of “old growth” scotch broom and dense thickets of Armenian (Himalayan) blackberry.

**July 9: Recaging Plants at Alder Creek Farm** – We love the elk residents at Alder Creek Farm, but they in turn love to munch on the tender young plants that we are trying to establish on the property. This means that our native trees and shrubs need protection and care in the form of caging and as these plants grow, the cages need to grow with them.

**August 13: Repairing Bridges & Caring for Buildings at Vosberg Creek** – Tasks for people of all skill levels, including those who aren’t in touch with their inner carpenter.

**September 24: Parrot’s Feather Removal at Cedar Creek Marsh** – Removal of a unique floating invasive from South America. Come prepared to get your feet wet.

### *More Opportunities: Ongoing Volunteer Stewardship Days*

**Wednesdays—Wednesdays, 10 a.m. - Noon.** Join us for an array of stewardship activities at Alder Creek Farm.