



Celebrating 30 Years

# COASTVIEW

NORTH COAST LAND CONSERVANCY

SPRING 2017

## MOVING AHEAD WITH RAINFOREST RESERVE CONSERVING OREGON'S LEGACY



*Randall Henderson*

In November, the board of North Coast Land Conservancy signed a purchase and sales agreement giving NCLC the opportunity to buy 3500 acres of rainforest above Oswald West State Park over the next five years. Should the sale be completed, the Rainforest Reserve will be the largest single private acquisition of land for conservation in western Oregon.

NCLC has been working for ten years to figure out how to conserve the land that Oregon's first state parks superintendent, Samuel Boardman, had himself hoped to add to the state park system and, in so doing, create what he believed would be one of the nation's "outstanding natural parks." By

### "IT'S A GREAT OPPORTUNITY. BUT THERE IS STILL MUCH TO DO."

bringing a willing owner to the table, and by signing a PSA with that owner, NCLC has taken a major step toward achieving that vision. But it is just the first of many steps that will be required to get to the finish line in five years, including appraisals, environmental assessments, and fundraising.

"The good news is that the current owners are holding it for us and aren't going to sell it to anyone else during the term of the PSA,"

NCLC Executive Director Katie Voelke explained. "It took nearly a decade of work by our staff with two different owners—we work only with willing landowners—and ultimately it took bringing in a new owner that shares our goals for this land. It's a great opportunity. But there is still much to do."

The Rainforest Reserve lies at the heart of NCLC's Coastal Edge Conservation Initiative, which is focused on landscape-scale conservation of coastal-fronting lands from Tillamook Head to Nehalem Bay. Acquisition of the Rainforest Reserve will create an uninterrupted, 29-square-mile corridor of conservation. It will link the near-shore ocean at *(continued on page 3)*

## HELP ERADICATE POLICEMAN'S HELMET



In just four years, this invasive plant with the perky pink blossoms has spread widely throughout the Necanicum River watershed, eroding streambanks and crowding out native plants beneficial to wildlife. We have tried on our own to get rid of it at our Circle Creek property. But this year NCLC and our partners at Necanicum Watershed Council are launching an all-out, three-year attack on *Impatiens glandulifera* throughout the watershed, with help from an \$86,000 grant from Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board. We're hiring stewardship interns to find and destroy policeman's helmet in the upper watershed in June and July, when policeman's helmet is in bloom and easy to

identify but before it goes to seed. At the same time, staff and volunteers will be attacking the plant downstream at Circle Creek. HOW YOU CAN HELP:

- Take part in Weed Warrior Wednesdays or join a special stewardship day Saturday, July 8, at Circle Creek. Details at [NCLCtrust.org/hands-on-stewardship](http://NCLCtrust.org/hands-on-stewardship).
- Are you a kayaker? We need experienced boaters to help us map occurrence of this weed along the Necanicum River in late spring. Training is May 20. Details at [NCLCtrust.org/citizen-science-kayakers](http://NCLCtrust.org/citizen-science-kayakers).

**IF YOU SEE  
POLICEMAN'S HELMET**

**PULL.**  
Pull it up by the roots; it's easy.

**PILE.**  
Pile the plants away from the riverbank.

**STOMP.**  
Step on the hollow stalks to crush them.

Get tips on identifying policeman's helmet and more at [NCLCtrust.org/pull-pile-stomp](http://NCLCtrust.org/pull-pile-stomp).



# 10 YEARS OF CARING FOR THOMPSON CREEK AND STANLEY MARSH



Volunteers at December 2016 willow planting stewardship day

When NCLC acquired 80 acres of creek and marsh on the east side of Seaside in 2006, it had a long history of use by humans: as a small farm, a world-class horse-rearing facility, a logging operation, and ultimately a portion of a proposed housing development. Today it is again a thriving natural wetland full of young coho salmon, waterfowl and songbirds, and a free-roaming elk herd, not to mention all the aquatic and flying insects that form the bottom of the food chain. We'd like to take full credit, but much of the turnaround has been the work of beavers (which we have gone out of our way to welcome back to the land). Those beavers' dams—and the vast wetlands they create and maintain—are now scattered throughout the

property, with new ones appearing regularly. NCLC continues to actively steward this property. Last summer volunteers with Weed Warrior Wednesdays successfully tackled the tunnel of blackberries that had

completely obscured the waterway—formerly known as Ditch Creek—running from Stanley Marsh to Thompson Creek. In October we partnered with the City of Seaside and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to remove a collapsed culvert on that same creek—now known as Beaver Creek—running

under a decommissioned road, freeing juvenile salmon, lamprey, and other native fish to again travel between the marsh and creek. On a cool but dry day in early December, two dozen volunteers turned out to sip cocoa, connect with friends, and plant hundreds of willows along Beaver Creek. Thanks to everyone who has helped steward this special property over the past decade.

## BUST BROOM FOR BEAVERS

Join us May 6 to weed out Scotch broom growing around Stanley Marsh. May is broom-busting month on the Oregon Coast—the best time of year to cut down this invasive plant that out-competes native plants and diminishes wildlife habitat. Visit [NCLCtrust.org/hands-on-stewardship](http://NCLCtrust.org/hands-on-stewardship) for details on this and other broom-busting and stewardship opportunities.



## CATCH YOUR INSPIRATION! COASTWALK OREGON RETURNS



CoastWalk Oregon 2016 was an experiment: Would 50 people be willing to join us to walk 30 miles of the Oregon Coast Trail while making a significant donation to coastal conservation? **YES** was the overwhelming response, and **THANKS!** sums up what we heard from participants who battled wind, reveled in sunshine, and celebrated their accomplishment with us.

Bill and following in the footsteps of visionary Gov. Oswald West (and his horse, Fred the Freak). The series of three consecutive 10-mile day hikes begins on Friday, Sept. 22, in Ecola State Park and ends on Sunday with a boat ride across the mouth of Nehalem Bay.

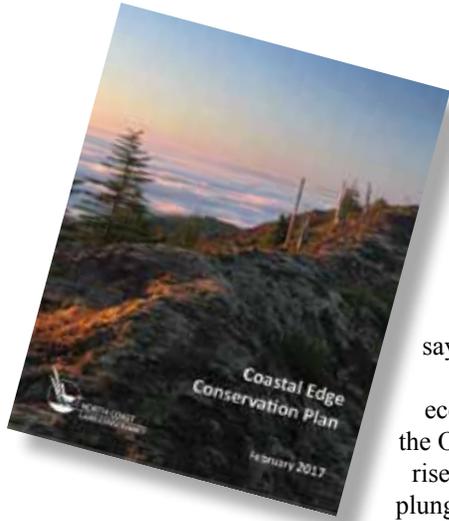
Visit [CoastWalkOregon.org](http://CoastWalkOregon.org) for complete details or to register. Don't delay; registration is already more than half full. Spread the word to any avid hikers you know who might like to challenge themselves on this spectacularly scenic route while supporting Oregon coastal conservation. CoastWalk Oregon is also on Instagram and Facebook: follow us! And thanks to our generous sponsor Visit Tillamook Coast.



CoastWalk Oregon is back for a second year with a new route commemorating this year's 50th anniversary of the Oregon Beach

# READ ALL ABOUT IT: THE COASTAL EDGE

It may sound dense, but NCLC'S brand-new Coastal Edge Conservation Plan is actually an engaging read for anyone interested in the future of northern Oregon's dramatic coastal-fronting lands. It's full of gorgeous photos and layered maps that clearly illustrate which lands are high priority targets for conservation, and why.



## “HERE THE MOUNTAINS RISE SHARPLY FROM THE SEA.”

The Coastal Edge is NCLC's term for the stretch of Oregon coastline from Tillamook Head to Nehalem Bay—a major focus of our work at this time. Why? Essentially because, as the plan says, it's “an unusually compressed, biogeographically concentrated ecosystem, unlike anywhere else on the Oregon Coast. Here the mountains rise sharply from the sea and streams plunge directly into the ocean, without large estuaries where freshwater and saltwater mingle. The direct land-sea interface of these coastal-fronting watersheds results in habitat that is also unique, home to a rare mix of plants and animals.”

To download and read the Coastal Edge Conservation Plan, visit [NCLCtrust.org/conservation-initiatives/coastal-edge-initiative](http://NCLCtrust.org/conservation-initiatives/coastal-edge-initiative). For a printed copy, contact Lynette, (503) 738-9126 or [nclc@NCLCtrust.org](mailto:nclc@NCLCtrust.org).

### JOIN US ON THE EDGE

Our series of free summer On the Land guided outings kicks off Thursday, June 8, with a 2.6-mile round-trip hike to the top of Neahkahnie Mountain in Oswald West State Park. Neahkahnie lies within the Coastal Edge Initiative area and has much in common with the peaks in the proposed Rainforest Reserve, 3 miles to the north. This hike is a perfect opportunity to learn more about—and immerse yourself in—the Coastal Edge. Partnering with NCLC on this outing are Lower Nehalem Watershed Council and Friends of Cape Falcon Marine Reserve. Register at [NCLCtrust.org/on-the-land-summer-outings](http://NCLCtrust.org/on-the-land-summer-outings).

*(RAINFOREST RESERVE, continued from page 1)* Cape Falcon Marine Reserve and the shoreline at Oswald West State Park with the ridgetops at Onion Peak and the Angora Peak summit complex. The Rainforest Reserve will protect nearly an entire watershed along with the headwaters of creeks that supply drinking water to many coastal residents.

NCLC staff has already begun meeting with watershed councils, water districts, and other groups to gather input and answer questions about plans for the Rainforest Reserve. Watch for announcements about additional meetings with anyone interested in helping advance this historic conservation opportunity. We look forward to hearing from you.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

It's shaping up as a busy spring at NCLC. Find details for all at [NCLCtrust.org](http://NCLCtrust.org).



**APRIL 29**

### The Forest Remembers

Join our community to remember those in whose names gifts have been given to NCLC.



**MAY 6**

### Broom Bust for Beavers

This stewardship day at Stanley Marsh in Seaside kicks off Broom Buster Month on Oregon's north coast; more details on facing page.



**MAY 6**

### Beaver Tales: A Celebration of Beaver Art

Traveling art show opens in Seaside; details on back page.



**MAY 17**

### Wildlife: The Artist's Eye and You

This final 2017 Listening to the Land presentation features naturalist and photographer Neal Maine.



**MAY 17**

### Broom Bust the Coastal Prairie

Broom Buster Month continues with a stewardship day in Gearhart.



**JUNE 8**

### Experience the Coastal Edge

The On the Land outings season begins with a free guided hike up Neahkahnie Mountain (details at left).



**SAVE THE DATE!  
AUGUST 24**

### Summer Picnic at the Barn

Enjoy trails, tunes, and pie at NCLC's second annual summer gathering at Circle Creek Conservation Center.



Preserving the Oregon Coast Forever

North Coast Land Conservancy is a nonprofit land trust dedicated to safeguarding Oregon's vital coastal landscapes. Working with a wide-range of community partners, we acquire strategic lands and manage a living network of coastal habitats—from Astoria to Lincoln City—necessary to support abundant wildlife and diverse community needs, now and forever.

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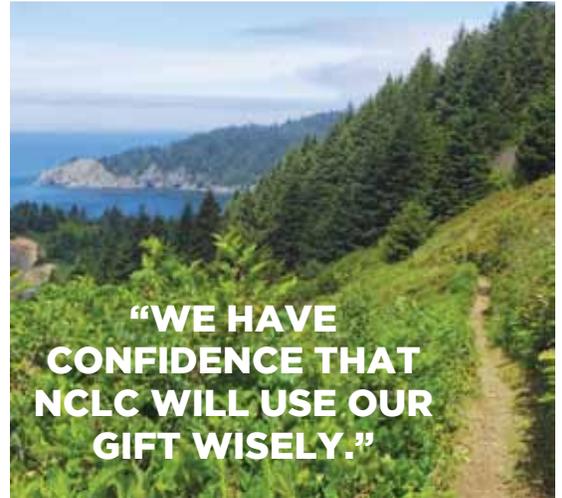


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**WHAT LEAVING A LEGACY CAN MEAN**

For many people estate planning is a thoughtful process that often reveals the depth of one's values. When NCLC recently learned that donors Chip and Toni Greening had named NCLC in their estate plans, we asked what leaving a legacy means to them. "Re-doing our estate plan recently caused us to think about our personal legacy beyond helping out our family", Chip explained. When the Greenings purchased their home on the coast in 2008 they found a new appreciation of this unique environment and its vulnerability to outside pressures. "Leaving a legacy gift means that values my wife Toni and I hold dear will be carried on into the future and handed off from one generation to another. We've always valued the land trust model and after careful review of NCLC's organization, we are confident that they will use our gift wisely and have the resources and relationships to leverage their efforts long into the future."



Do you have a will? Are you preparing your estate plans or have questions about NCLC's planned giving program? To find out more, contact Katie Voelke at 503-738-9126 or katiev@nclctrust.org. We have the information you'll need to name NCLC in your plans and ensure that your values live

**SO, WHAT'S AN "RMD"?** Last December, Congress made permanent a law that allows those age 70 1/2 and older to donate up to \$100,000 from their IRAs directly to charity. The contribution counts toward your required minimum distribution (RMD) and isn't included in your adjusted gross income. If you might be considering donating this way, thank you in advance for thinking of NCLC and let us know if we can help.

**ARTISTS HAVE BEEN BUSY AS...**



Beavers and the wetland landscapes they create are the focus of a traveling art show organized by the Wetland Conservancy and stopping in Seaside for the month of May. "Beaver Tales: A Celebration of Beaver Art" features art in a variety of media, all of it highlighting our natural ally in conserving Oregon's wetlands and restoring natural systems. Selections will be displayed at Fairweather House and Gallery and other locations in Seaside beginning May 6, the evening of the First Saturday Art Walk. A portion of the proceeds from sales of artwork will go to NCLC. That same day Francis Backhouse, author of Once They Were Hats: In Search of the Mighty Beaver, will speak and sign books from 1 to 3 p.m. at Beach Books. Then in June, the artists of the Astoria Art Loft (astoriaartloft.com) are having their own beaver art show exclusively benefiting NCLC. Thank you, artists!

**JOIN OUR E-MAIL LIST** If you only receive newsletters from us in the mail, you're only getting half the picture. North Coast Land Conservancy also sends out monthly e-newsletters with breaking news, upcoming events, and blog posts focused on seasonal changes and wildlife on the Oregon Coast. To subscribe, visit NCLCtrust.org and click on STAY IN TOUCH. We don't share our mailing list with anyone, and you can unsubscribe at any time.

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