



# COASTVIEW

NORTH COAST LAND CONSERVANCY

FALL 2017



*Volunteer Patte Fenderson pulls policeman's helmet at Circle Creek.*

## WE ATTACKED AND WE'LL BE BACK

We had a lot of questions last spring when we started our three-year campaign to rid the Necanicum River watershed of the weed known as policeman's helmet. Will people recognize it when they see it? Will they take seriously the threat it poses to waterways and wildlife? How much progress can our volunteers and four stewardship interns make in two months?

We needn't have worried. Folks learned about the "pull-pile-stomp" campaign we crafted with Necanicum Watershed Council, and they jumped on board. And our stewardship staff worked diligently, supported by drop-in volunteers and dedicated Wednesday Weed Warriors.

"People came into the office holding flowering policeman's helmet, asking for help," said Stewardship Director Melissa Reich. "Property owners called to say they got the letter we

sent and asking what they should do. The message got out, and the response has been really positive." Along the way, she says, landowners taught NCLC staff a thing or two.

"We learned that it's growing farther upriver than we thought, and that it's been here longer than we thought.

It was only recently exposed to the creek and river banks, which really accelerated its spread."

This was merely Year One. Word to the weed: We'll be back.

*Read details of this effort at [NCLCtrust.org/pull-pile-stomp](http://NCLCtrust.org/pull-pile-stomp).*

### INTERN SPOTLIGHT



When Amelia Reed joined the Portland area's Youth Ecology Corps in the winter of 2015, she just needed a job. She'd had a difficult adolescence. She had completed her GED, but she wasn't ready for college. Counselors said the corps might be a good next step.

**SHE JUST NEEDED A JOB. SHE DIDN'T KNOW IT WOULD CHANGE HER LIFE.**

Now Amelia—one of NCLC's four 2017 summer stewardship interns—is headed to college to study fisheries and marine biology (*continued on page 3*)

## INSIDE

### RE-WILDING TILLAMOOK HEAD

How do you turn a long-logged landscape into its natural wild state? NCLC and other landowners on Tillamook Head are learning as they go.

# RE-WILDING TILLAMOOK HEAD

Jeff Koelim

*NCLC volunteer Les Neitzel gazes over Boneyard Ridge toward his home in Seaside.*

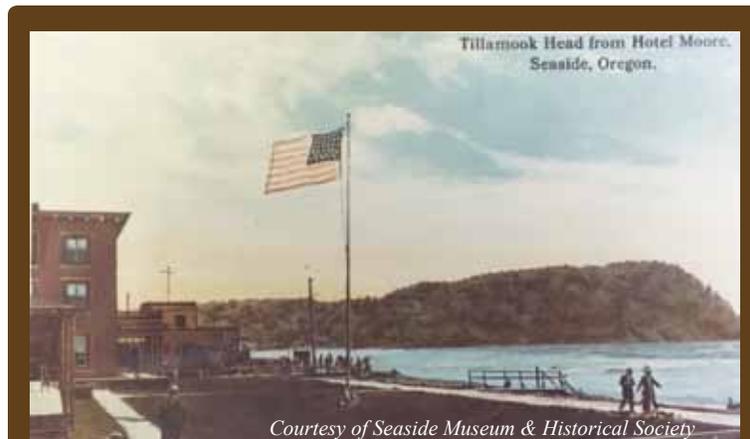
How do you re-wild land that has been a tree farm for nearly a century? It's the key question staff at North Coast Land Conservancy are grappling with as they take on stewardship of Boneyard Ridge, high on Tillamook Head. And we're not alone. Other conservation landowners are facing the same challenge.

Parts of Boneyard Ridge can effectively be left alone to grow into what scientists call "late seral forest." Such old-growth forests have large, old trees in a variety of species. They also have gaps in the forest with younger trees and shrubs. They have large snags and downed wood on the forest floor as well as woody debris in the streams. The

## **AS TREES GROW, STORM WINDS WILL DO NATURAL THINNING.**

oldest stands in Boneyard Ridge currently have about the right density of trees, and as they grow, storm winds will do natural thinning. The youngest stands are much too dense and will need to be thinned. Stewardship staff is still weighing the best way to do that. Left alone, the young trees will all grow tall and skinny, allowing little light to reach the forest floor. Eventually a winter windstorm will likely blow down the even-aged stands of trees before they have the time to grow into the big, old forest we want to encourage. NCLC may accelerate the thinning process with helicopter logging, as Oregon State Parks is doing in

adjacent Elmer Feldenheimer State Natural Area. As we work to create rainforest conditions on Tillamook Head—and one day, in the proposed Rainforest Reserve—we will be contributing to the science of rewilding coastal forests.



*Courtesy of Seaside Museum & Historical Society*

## **FOREST MANAGEMENT ON AN ICONIC HEADLAND**

For millennia, the trees blanketing Tillamook Head grew to maturity, with wind and fire creating the only gaps in an otherwise unbroken rainforest canopy. The First Peoples of this coast harvested Sitka spruce roots to weave into baskets, rain hats, and ropes for whaling; the western redcedars they selected for use as canoes or for house construction would have been the most accessible  
*(continued at [NCLCtrust.org/rewilding-tillamook-head](http://NCLCtrust.org/rewilding-tillamook-head))*

## DONOR PROFILE: GETTING IT RIGHT

The forestland advertising flyer landed in Shoaib Tareen's and Cathy Filgas's mailbox at just the right moment. A year earlier they had sold their business of 30 years and had started the Tareen Filgas Foundation to protect birds and their habitat, in this country and around the globe. Suddenly here was a 340-acre tree farm for sale on Tillamook Head, adjacent to Ecola State Park and just a 20-minute walk from their second home in Cannon Beach. The property was such a perfect fit with their foundation's mission and their love of the coast, Cathy says, that buying it last summer was "sort of a no-brainer."

### "NCLC HAS DONE SUCH AMAZING WORK OVER THE YEARS."

Shoaib is a long-time birder who serves on the board of the American Bird Conservancy. Cathy grew up in the northern California redwoods with a deep

#### AMELIA *continued from page 1*

on her way to a career in marine or coastal conservation. "The best two years of my life—so far" is how she describes her YEC experience. She worked hard, pulling weeds, planting shrubs and trees, building and maintaining trails. But wherever her crew worked, naturalists also taught them about that area's natural history. She learned bird and plant identification. She learned about the salmon life cycle and even taught it to schoolchildren as part of the Portland area's Salmon Watch program. She was named YEC's first assistant crew leader, taking on additional leadership roles. She later went to work at Metro's Native Plant Center. By the time she saw the posting for a summer internship at NCLC, her path was set.

"I just appreciate nature so much," Amelia says of her interest in a conservation career. "We're kind of trashing it, especially the ocean. I want to do my part to help restore what I can."



appreciation for healthy forests. Their goal for the property is "to really get the habitat right for wildlife," Shoaib says, acknowledging that it's "a tall order." The forest there is mostly young. But they wonder how soon one of the 80-year-old trees on the land might be of interest to a marbled murrelet looking for a nest site. They expect to collaborate with North Coast Land Conservancy and other conservation landowners as they develop a forest management plan,

just as the conservancy is doing as it works with Oregon State Parks and others to maintain a home for wildlife on Tillamook Head.

"NCLC has done such amazing work over the years," Cathy says. Adds Shoaib, "We just want to put together something that is viable and lasts for a long time."

*Thank you, Tareen Filgas Foundation, for generous support of NCLC.*

### GET A CONSERVATION CHRISTMAS TREE FROM BONEYARD RIDGE



Saturday and Sunday, December 2 and 3  
11 am to 1 pm each day  
Circle Creek Conservation Center  
Visit [NCLCtrust.org/conservation-trees](http://NCLCtrust.org/conservation-trees)



Preserving the Oregon Coast Forever

North Coast Land Conservancy is a nonprofit land trust dedicated to safeguarding Oregon's vital coastal landscapes.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

- Doug Green, President
- Tammi Lesh, Vice President
- Ron Logan, Treasurer
- Tom Horning, Secretary
- Betsy Ayres
- Kevin Brownlee
- Randall Henderson
- John Mersereau
- Vianne Patterson
- Lisa Phipps

**STAFF**

- Executive Director**  
Katie Voelke
- Associate Director**  
Jon Wickersham
- Stewardship Director**  
Melissa Reich
- Development Director**  
Lorraine Ortiz
- Conservation & Stewardship Manager**  
Amy Hutmacher
- Administrative & Outreach Assistant**  
Lynette Villagomez
- Land Steward**  
Eric Owen
- Communications Coordinator**  
Bonnie Henderson

**MAILING ADDRESS**

P.O. Box 67  
Seaside, OR 97138

**PHYSICAL ADDRESS**

2609 N. Roosevelt Drive  
Seaside, OR 97138

**CONTACT US**

(503) 738-9126  
nclc@NCLCtrust.org



PRINTED ON FSC PAPER WITH SOY INKS



It's fair to say there's something for everyone on our winter stewardship calendar—even a tool maintenance day. Join North Coast Land Conservancy outside for one or more of the volunteer days we're planning fall through spring.

What about the weather? This year we're hedging our bets. We're posting dates and other details at [NCLCtrust.org/hands-on-stewardship](http://NCLCtrust.org/hands-on-stewardship). But check back as the date grows closer; if a storm is approaching, we'll reschedule and post new dates online. As always, we'll provide hot drinks in cold weather!

- OCTOBER** Hack holly at Neacoxie Forest in Gearhart
- JANUARY** De-vine intervention at Sand Creek in Warrenton
- FEBRUARY** Tool shed clean-out and tool maintenance at Circle Creek in Seaside
- MARCH** Plant willows and other native plants at Thompson Creek in Seaside
- APRIL** Tidy trails at Circle Creek Conservation Center in Seaside
- MAY** Bust Scotch broom: location to be determined

**BUSINESS SUPPORTER**



**Cannon Beach Book Company**  
130 N. Hemlock, Cannon Beach

**STORY** A fixture in downtown Cannon Beach for nearly 50 years. Long-time employees Deb Mersereau (on left) and Maureen Dooley-Sroufe bought the store from Valerie Ryan in 2014.

**NICHE** Often cited as the perfect browser's bookstore, Cannon Beach Book Company is a haven for discriminating readers of all ages.

**PHILOSOPHY** "We both spend a lot of time outdoors and the natural beauty was a big reason why we moved here. We feel it's important to conserve this land for future generations."

By making automatic, recurring monthly contributions to NCLC, Cannon Beach Book Company became a Business Sustaining Steward. Recurring monthly donations help even out your cash flow—and ours. To become a Sustaining Steward—as a business or individual—visit [NCLCtrust.org/support](http://NCLCtrust.org/support) or call 503-738-9126.

Stay current and engaged by following North Coast Land Conservancy on Facebook and Instagram



Find us on the web at **NCLCtrust.org**

