

Help re-tree Circle Creek for Earth Day, April 20



North Coast Land Conservancy is celebrating Earth Day with a day of tree planting and land stewardship at the 364-acre Circle Creek Habitat Reserve south of Seaside. The day includes a preview tour of the first walking trail being constructed at the property. The walking trail will guide visitors through some of the newest habitat plantings on the property and then onto a path through a mature forested grove of large trees and lush native shrubs—a landscape well on its way to becoming a thriving temperate rainforest.

Earth Day at Circle Creek begins with NCLC's fourth annual memorial celebration, The Forest Remembers. Community members gather in a majestic grove and read aloud the names of all those who have had memorial gifts made to the land trust in their honor. Volunteers will then join in and help plant hundreds of cedar and spruce trees along Circle Creek, helping to grow the future temperate rainforest with every tree. The day wraps up with a gathering in the big barn for refreshments and the celebration of a job well done.

Earth Day at Circle Creek Schedule April 20, 2013 10 am – 1:30 pm

10 am The Forest Remembers

NCLC's annual ceremony in The Grove at Circle Creek acknowledging all memorial gifts made to the land trust in honor of friends and loved ones.

10:30 am – 12:30 pm Tree Planting along Circle Creek

12:30 – 1:30 pm Refreshments in the Big Barn

Saturday Morning Stewardship April–September 2013

Volunteer work parties begin at 9 am and end at noon except where noted. Bring gloves, sturdy boots, rain gear, and water; NCLC will supply the tools needed. We will not normally have access to public restrooms. Work continues in the afternoon, so if you want to make a day of it, pack a lunch and stay!

For more information and directions to the work site, please call NCLC Stewardship Director Melissa Reich at 503-738-9126 or e-mail melissar@nclctrust.org.

MAY 18 Broom Buster Week!

It's BROOM BUSTER week! The North Coast Land Conservancy will be bustin' out the broom all over the Clatsop Plains this month. For our Stewardship Saturday we are going to join forces with the Gearhart Homeowner's Association to remove Scotch broom at Little Beach. Please join us for a morning of broom bustin' mania.

JUNE 22 Ivy pull along Nehalem Bay

NCLC and the Lower Nehalem Community Trust are joining forces for an ivy pull! Fishers Point and Vosburg Creek are both on the south end of Nehalem Bay and provide crucial habitat for salmon. Over the years, invasive English ivy has become established in the mature Sitka spruce and red alder forest. This twining woody vine can climb and topple even our sturdiest trees. Please join us in ivy removal efforts to save these coastal giants. This work party will start at 10 am and end at 3 pm. Meet at the Wheeler train station at 10 am to carpool to the sites.

JULY 27 Necanicum Forest invasive plant pull

This forest near Klootch Creek along Highway 26 is well on its way to becoming a dynamic riparian forest ecosystem. Help keep it on that path by helping to remove the tansy ragwort and blackberry that are creeping in along the edges and threatening to evict native species that wildlife depend upon.

AUGUST 17 Twilight Eagle Sanctuary

Want to spend the morning wandering through a tidal marsh picking flowers while bald eagles soar over your head? Notorious for being one of the most beautiful invasive plants along the North Coast, purple loosestrife aggressively outcompetes and replaces native grasses, sedges, and other flowering plants that provide a higher quality food for wildlife. Help us enhance wildlife habitat along the Columbia River.

SEPTEMBER 28 Neawanna Point clean-up

Celebrate National Estuaries Day with NCLC by enhancing wildlife habitat at Neawanna Point at the mouth of the Necanicum Estuary. Our work will include maintaining native plantings, removing invasive plants, and collecting trash brought in by the tides. We'll also spend some time exploring the estuary and learning about the critical ecological function it provides to salmon and other wildlife that call the estuary their home. Please join us in celebrating the heart of our coastal landscape.

CoastView

The North Coast Land Conservancy Newsletter

Spring 2013

Floodplain restoration moves ahead

Circle Creek berm on schedule to be removed this summer

Permitting delays pushed the project back a year, but permits are now in place to move ahead with removal of a berm along the Necanicum River south of Seaside. Using heavy equipment on seasonally wet ground requires careful planning and the right break in the weather. Depending on how long it takes for the north pasture at the 364-acre Circle Creek Habitat Reserve to dry out this summer, work will most likely take place in July or August.

Whenever it happens, the results will be dramatic. This fall, the Necanicum River will connect to its historic flood plain for the first time in decades. Thousands of native trees and shrubs will be planted to jump-start the wetland habitat there, providing a vibrant home to coastal wildlife, from tiny frogs to Roosevelt elk.

While the drama increases on the land, it will decrease on the road. A seasonally dangerous section of Highway 101 south of Seaside will see annual flooding significantly decrease, as those winter storm waters will now be flowing back where they naturally want to go. Frustrated drivers, community leaders, and emergency service providers will be celebrating alongside the bird watchers and wetland enthusiasts, as NCLC partners with the Oregon Department of Transportation to ensure that both traffic and the dynamic Necanicum River keep flowing smoothly.



NCLC Stewardship Director Melissa Reich and Conservation Assistant Austin Tomlinson discuss the logistics of planting tens of thousands of native plants in the new river floodplain.

As smoke clears, a bold vision for coastal conservation



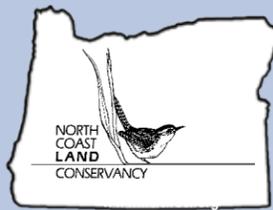
Shortly after fire destroyed our offices on Dec. 5, I wrote to you all that "what we have always known, and what today we are so very thankful for, is that the work of conservation is about People and the Land. The people are all still here, and the land abides." Four short months later, it still holds true. Within two weeks we were up and running in temporary office space, and in February our board and staff spent a full day considering what to do about a permanent home.

The result: In the year to come, you can expect to see a vision start to take shape for the Conservation Center at Circle Creek, a place where the community can gather, children can explore trails and discover the wonders of nature, and people can connect with the land. Not simply an office building, but gift to the future: a place that serves you and your family and fills a place in the heart of the coastal community.

Thanks, as ever, for your support. We will be in close touch with you as we take our next steps.

Katie Voelke

Katie Voelke
Executive Director



Our Mission:

The North Coast Land Conservancy will serve as a resource for Northwest Oregon coastal communities and landowners to conserve and protect land in perpetuity for its ecological and cultural values.

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New board member brings business savvy

NCLC has deepened Vianne Patterson's love of the coast

Vianne Patterson grew up in Oswego, Oregon, when it was still a small town. "I roamed up the creeks and through the woods and spent entire summers on the lake," Vianne recalls. "When we took vacations, it was always to the coast."

She lived for 25 years in Vancouver, B.C., where she earned a master's degree in communications and media studies, became a communications company executive, and spent much of her free time scuba diving and sailing. She took early retirement and returned to Oregon, moving with her husband, John, to Gearhart in 2004. A friend introduced her to the land trust, and soon she was serving on and eventually chairing the Outreach Committee. She joined the board in February 2013.



Meet your new stewardship director



Outgoing director is continuing her work with native plants

NCLC lost a gem when Stewardship Director Celeste Lebo left the land trust in March to become native plant coordinator for the Northwest Oregon Restoration Partnership. But peek at her replacement's resume, and it seems Melissa Reich has been preparing for this very job since childhood.

Melissa grew up on Shelter Island, east of Long Island, New York—a coastal island one-third of which is owned and managed by The Nature Conservancy. She worked at Mashomack Preserve during high school and in summers while studying biology at Lewis & Clark College, where she assisted an ecology professor researching the threatened Oregon silverspot butterfly. In the five years since graduation, she has worked for TNC on the Oregon Coast doing field surveys and working with coastal land owners to improve butterfly habitat. During that time she partnered with NCLC, assisting Celeste with stewardship projects,

so she knew NCLC well even before joining the land trust as stewardship director in March.

"I've admired the land trust's work for a long time," Melissa says, adding that she is happy to be back living in a rural coastal community similar to the one she grew up in.

"I've really appreciated getting to know Melissa over the past several years," says Executive Director Katie Voelke. "She's smart, practical, analytical, and fun and has a passion for conservation—a perfect fit for our team and our stewardship program."

"It was a privilege to work with a talented biologist like Celeste for four years during a great time of growth for our land trust," Katie adds. "Celeste transformed NCLC from a small land trust with some stewardship projects to one with a vigorous stewardship program that would ensure the health and viability of our habitat reserves in perpetuity. Her land ethic, thoughtfulness, and professionalism will be greatly missed."

Volunteer Spotlight: Moria Golub

A passion for helping kids drew her to the land trust

Moria Golub of Astoria first got acquainted with North Coast Land Conservancy when she was scouting out community service opportunities for the Astoria, Warrenton, and Seaside high school students she works with in her role as a college/career advisor for Upward Bound, based at Clatsop Community College. Before long, she and her own two daughters and even their grandmother were regularly joining the students, planting willows and pulling weeds at Saturday Morning Stewardship days.

NCLC stewardship projects fit the bill for Upward Bound, which serves college-bound students whose parents didn't attend college and who may need extra encouragement and support to be successful. Community service is one of the things every college admissions officer and scholarship administrator looks for on an application. But working on the land for NCLC provides kids with much more than a line on a resumé, Moria notes.

"The staff is awesome to work with. They are so organized. One of the early reasons that I latched onto NCLC is that they make it easy to put young people in service situations. Students leave feeling really positive. I've even taken kids out in the rain. And the educational component: they explain it so well. They just really have a way with kids."

Last summer a group of eight students at Upward Bound's six-week Summer Academy spent half of every day working to enhance butterfly habitat on NCLC preserves in the Gearhart area, removing invasive species and doing a plant survey. "The students were really empowered by the project," Moria says, adding that the kids wound up calling their group "Fly Like the Butterfly." One of the eight students is now planning to study environmental science in college.

"It's direct service," Moria points out. "I've driven kids back to the beaver habitat they worked on two years earlier, and they can see the impact of their work. You can even see the beavers. It's real."



Clatsop Community College Upward Bound student Miguel Velasco and Moria Golub help plant willows along Thompson Creek to help build beaver habitat.

Shhh ... it's breeding season



Meet the Pacific chorus frog, a keystone coastal amphibian

It is one of spring's most familiar soundtracks: the musical croaking of the Pacific chorus frog, also known as the Pacific treefrog (*Pseudacris regilla*). Some evenings, walking by a wetland, it can seem as if the frogs are there just to serenade us. Hardly; it's all about finding a mate. But as humans become noisier and noisier, even tree frogs are finding it hard to be heard.

With its camouflaging coloration, the 2-inch-long chorus frog is hard to find, hiding under rocks, rotten logs and leaf litter by day. But come dusk during breeding season (roughly February to June), it's not uncommon to hear the repetitive *kek-ET, kek-ET* "advertisement call" of male frogs attempting to attract females (and to warn away potential rival males). Typically an individual male starts up, then others join in, and the ensuing chorus can go on for ten minutes or more without a break, dusk to dawn and even sometimes in daylight.

Just like the availability of food and nest materials, sound plays an important role in the ecosystem. "All those little peeps and chirps and squawks are so critical to creatures finding each other and mating and migrating," says naturalist Neal Maine. But research indicates that some animals are being forced to adapt to increasing noise levels. An Australian tree frog in the same family as the chorus frog has been found to be adapting to traffic noise by calling at a higher pitch—problematic for females accustomed to associating lower-pitched calls with larger and more experienced males. The story is similar with several bird species. Clearly noise is yet another measureable impact humans are having upon wildlife and the entire ecosystem.