



COASTVIEW

NORTH COAST LAND CONSERVANCY

SUMMER 2019

HAPPY BIRTHDAY CIRCLE CREEK!



Carolyn Propst

The 2019 season of *On the Land* outings kicked off with a guided hike June 1 on the trails at Circle Creek.

AFTER 15 YEARS, NCLC'S 'LIVING ROOM' COMES OF AGE

It's been fifteen years since North Coast Land Conservancy acquired the farm at the foot of Tillamook Head and began the slow process of turning it back into a healthy floodplain forest. Along the way, the 364-acre property turned into something more: a conservation center welcoming to people as well

as wildlife.

That transformation couldn't have happened without the dedication

'IT'S WORTHY OF CELEBRATION ALL SUMMER LONG.'

and sweat of dozens of volunteers: planting thousands of trees, building

and maintaining trails, pulling weeds, cleaning and reclaiming the big barn. It's worthy of celebration—which is just what NCLC is doing at Circle Creek Conservation Center, all summer long and into the fall.

"NCLC came of age with acquisition of Circle Creek," said NCLC Executive (cont'd. on page



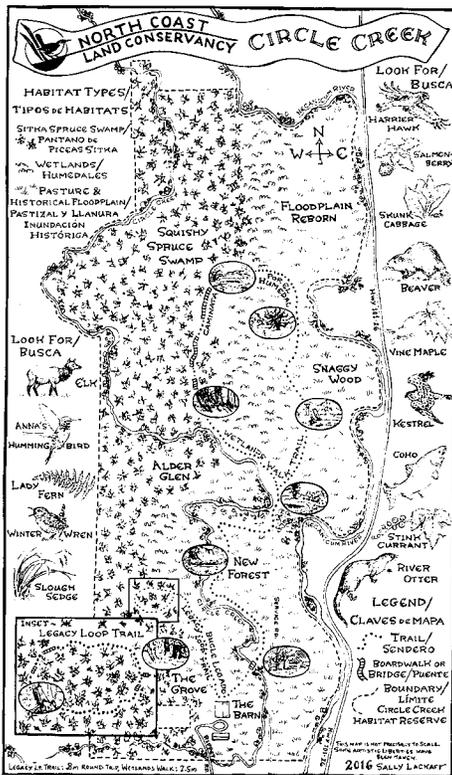
Mike Patterson

NEW BUTTERFLY SPECIES FOUND IN GEARHART FEN

When you conserve land, you cannot know all the species you're conserving it for—now and in the future. Case in point: June's copper. Astoria naturalist Mike Patterson recently discovered this butterfly living in the Gearhart Fen—the boggy land east of US 101 at Gearhart, much of which is conserved by NCLC. June's copper is a subspecies of the Mariposa copper butterfly. It was lepidopterist and author Robert Michael Pyle who originally suggested Mike keep (cont'd. on page 3)

INSIDE

Meet Circle Creek's historian and the Rainforest Reserve's portraitist.



JOIN THE PARTY!

Whether you're a first-timer or a frequent visitor to Circle Creek Conservation Center, there is always something new to see.

Circle Creek's summer-long 15th birthday party began with a guided walk June 1 and wraps up with a Fall Fungi Frolic on Oct. 25. There's still time to join an On the Land guided walk this summer or fall; visit NCLCtrust.org and click on EVENTS to read descriptions and register.

Or visit any day on your own. There's a new bilingual (English and Spanish) trail map, along with directions and other information, at NCLCtrust.org/circle-creek-conservation-center.

CIRCLE CREEK AT 15

(continued from page 1)



Volunteer tree planters at Circle Creek in 2014. Come see those trees now!

Director Katie Voelke. Up to that point NCLC's largest property was less than 20 acres, and its staff consisted of a part-time director. Today NCLC owns more than 50 properties, the largest of which is 900 acres, and our staff numbers eight. Acquisition of Circle Creek, Katie says, "was a big step toward becoming the strong, resilient organization we are today." It also helped kick-start NCLC's growing partnership with Oregon State Parks and other owners to conserve nearly all of Tillamook Head.

JOIN US ON THE LAND

**Saturday, Aug. 17:
MOTHING WITH MIKE PATTERSON**

**Tuesday, Aug. 27:
READING THE LAND WITH TOM HORNING**

**Friday, Oct. 25:
FALL FUNGI FROLIC WITH ERIC OWEN**

A LIFELONG LEARNER—AND DOER

Pat Johns enjoys traveling—to watch birds in different habitats or to visit with friends. But when she's at home in Gearhart, rarely does she not slip into the NCLC office and quietly start working on the donor database, after first checking her in-box to see what's most urgent. She helps cater house parties and talk up conservation at farmers' markets. She's a site steward, closely monitoring two NCLC habitat reserves. If you've walked CoastWalk Oregon, Pat's the smile above the clipboard, checking you in and out.

Pat grew up in California's San



Joaquin Valley; family vacations often involved camping in the high Sierra. After a career in education, she moved to Gearhart in 2012, following a lifelong family friend, and almost immediately began volunteering for NCLC. Oregon's Coast Range "can't replace the Sierra,"

Pat says, "but I've come to love the trees and the configuration of the land here too."

After retiring, Pat volunteered virtually full-time for an agricultural history center in Watsonville, researching and helping create interpretive exhibits. She's now applying those skills at NCLC, researching the history of logging and farming at Circle Creek for use in future interpretive displays. She's a Sustaining Steward of NCLC and a member of NCLC's Coast Legacy Circle. Thanks, Pat, for allowing us to shine a light on your many contributions to coastal conservation!

COASTAL MARSH CONSERVATION NOW COMPLETE

A 40-year effort to conserve a pristine, undeveloped saltmarsh on the edge of Nehalem Bay just north of Wheeler was completed June 24 when North Coast Land Conservancy transferred the deed for Bott's Marsh to Lower Nehalem Community Trust.

Botts Marsh provides habitat for dozens of bird species and rearing habitat for chinook and coho salmon. LNCT, which conserves land exclusively in the lower Nehalem region, worked for many years to acquire the marsh. When timing challenges put the project at risk last spring,



Lynn Levering Thomas

NCLC transferred Bott's Marsh to Lower Nehalem Community Trust in June.

NCLC lent support by purchasing the property as a bridge owner. This gave LNCT time to complete its due

diligence and ultimately buy the property back from NCLC three months later.

SURPRISE IN THE FEN (continued from page 1)
his eyes open for June's coppers living in the Fen.

The larval food plant for this butterfly—the only thing it eats as a caterpillar, prior to metamorphosing into a butterfly—is *Vaccinium oxycoccos*, or native cranberry, which grows on mounds of sphagnum moss in the Fen. Pyle muses that June's copper might have descended thousands of years ago from Mariposa coppers that lived at higher altitudes in what is today Washington. "When the cranberries got shoved downhill with the glaciers, the butterflies presumably went with them," said Pyle. From Washington's coastal bogs and river mouths, those copper butterflies apparently evolved into a distinct subspecies and dispersed southward. Mike's find was "truly one of the most remarkable butterfly discoveries in the Northwest in recent years," Pyle said.



Carolyn Propst

SPOTLIGHT: RAINFOREST RESERVE



AN ARTIST RENDERS THE RAINFOREST RESERVE

NCLC engaged Astoria artist Sally Lackaff to create a series of illustrations of the Rainforest Reserve—its spectacular landscape and its life forms large and small, from lichens and lilies to black bears. Sally also created the illustrated trail maps for Circle Creek Conservation Center (see story on page 2). See more of Sally's work and read about this monumental conservation project at NCLCtrust.org/creating-a-rainforest-reserve.



Helping to conserve Oregon's coastal lands, forever.

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TRADE TAXES FOR LAND CONSERVATION



Generous donations allowed NCLC to purchase Boneyard Ridge in 2016.

Here's a win-win way to support conservation at no cost to you. If you are older than 70½, the required minimum distribution (RMD) from your IRA is taxed by both the IRS and the Oregon Department of Revenue. But you can avoid taxes on your RMD by directing all or part of it (up to \$100,000 per year) to North Coast Land Conservancy or another public charity. This "IRA rollover" strategy is better than a tax deduction, and it can benefit you even if you claim the standard deduction. In 2020, this strategy should be at the top of your list if you would rather give to coastal conservation than to the IRS. Simply instruct your IRA custodian to send checks directly to the charities of your choice. This information is general in nature and is not tax advice

or legal advice; please contact your attorney or financial advisor for advice specific to your circumstances.



COASTAL LANDS FOREVER— RAINFOREST RESERVE

That's the title of this oil painting by Michael Orwick, commissioned by Dragonfire Gallery in Cannon Beach. You can't buy it, but you can buy raffle tickets at the gallery (\$10, three for \$25) for a chance to own it. The winning ticket will be drawn Sept. 21 during the Earth & Ocean Arts Festival. All proceeds benefit NCLC's coastal conservation work.

FALL MEANS PLANTING, INDOORS AND OUT



Visit NCLCtrust.org for details on these upcoming hands-on stewardship events.

Wednesday, Aug. 21, Svensen:
Plant Wildflowers and Wapato

Thursday, Oct. 31, Tillamook:
Spooky Seed Sowing
(costumes encouraged!)

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



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

