



NCLC's thinned forest is at left; forest on neighbor's land at right is twice as dense. In foreground: habitat piles.

HELPING A YOUNG FOREST AGE GRACEFULLY

When NCLC bought 340-acre Boneyard Ridge on Tillamook Head in 2016, the plan was to let the former timber farm grow into a mature rainforest. But one 85-acre block of 20-year-old trees had been planted so densely that the trees couldn't grow properly.

After consulting with restoration foresters, NCLC planned a project designed to optimize the young forest's health. In November a crew of fifteen fallers spent a week thinning the block from about 630 to 220 trees per acre. The cut trees were left on the ground, and some were arranged in "habitat piles" mimicking large downed wood, providing shelter and perching sites for amphibians and birds. In 2022, after the downed trees have begun to decompose, NCLC plans to return to plant 3,000 western redcedar and big-leaf maple trees

HABITAT PILES WILL HELP FOREST GROW AND WILDLIFE THRIVE

in gaps left in the forest, restoring the species diversity that historically characterized Tillamook Head.

"Few land conservancies have taken on restoration of young conifer

forests such as this," said NCLC Stewardship Director Melissa Reich. "We are pioneering techniques that we may be able to use in the proposed Rainforest Reserve." Read more at NCLCtrust.org/news.

Funding came from the US Fish & Wildlife Service, Oregon Wildlife Foundation and Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board.



"They were incredibly efficient," Melissa said of the thinning crew from Curtis Hill Forestry. Communicating with whistles and other cues, they managed to work closely and fell trees quickly, without incident. They built all the habitat piles by hand.



Dune tansy (left), yarrow, and dune goldenrod are among the nectar plants that Oregon silverspot butterflies depend upon.

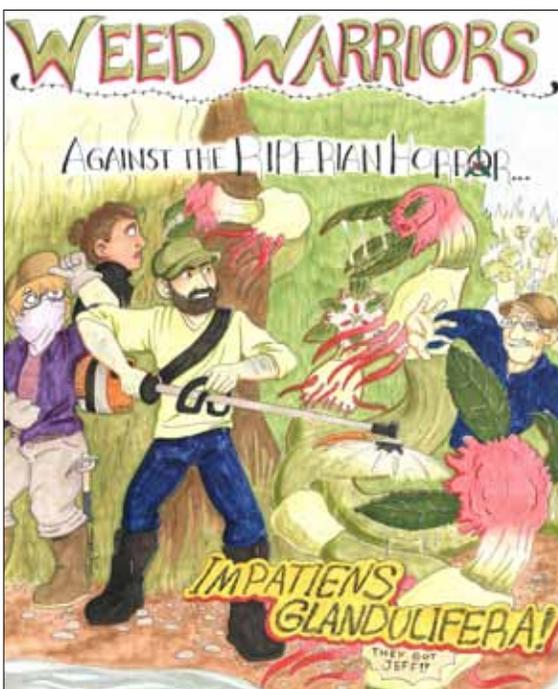
PREPARING THE PRAIRIE FOR BIG PLANTING

First we tested techniques for preparing the soil. Then in 2015 we planted thousands of early blue violets, the host plant for Oregon silverspot butterfly larvae, which eat the plant's leaves immediately after emerging. Last spring we continued our efforts to get rid of broom, European grass species, and other invasive weeds.

These efforts to improve habitat in the coastal prairie will serve a variety of native wildlife, including that iconic native butterfly, which we hope to welcome back to the Clatsop Plains in the next few years. We are

focused mostly on our Surf Pines Prairie and Neacoxie Prairie habitat reserves, just north of Gearhart. Last fall volunteers planted beach strawberry and angelica, robust species that can compete well with non-native grasses. We also spread 10 pounds of native plant seeds.

The next chapter unfolds next fall, when we will plant 15,000 native wildflower seedlings: Canada and dune goldenrod, yarrow, Douglas aster, and dune tansy. These nectar species are what the adult butterflies may someday feed on, flying from sip to sip in the summer breeze.



WRAPPING UP PULL-PILE-STOMP

It was a massive undertaking: attempt to wipe out invasive *Impatiens glandulifera*, better known as policeman's helmet, not only on our own properties along the Necanicum River but throughout the entire watershed. The three-year collaboration with Necanicum Watershed Council wrapped up at summer's end when our stewardship interns, Wednesday Weed Warriors, and additional volunteers pulled, piled, and stomped the last policeman's helmet plants they could find.

Almost wrapped up. There's one more task to complete: fill in gaps left by the weed's removal by planting native riparian plants on the riverbank at Circle Creek. Healthy native plants will help crowd out any new policeman's helmet plants that emerge next summer and into the future. (And where they do emerge, we'll be there to pull-pile-stomp them in June and July.) You can help NCLC replant the riverbank on Feb. 5; details at NCLCtrust.org.

One of our 2019 interns, Michelle Patterson, drew a tongue-in-cheek summary of the project; that's her at far left with her fellow interns, attempting to rescue volunteer Jeff Roehm from the voracious invader.

EXPLORING COASTAL BIODIVERSITY

Join NCLC Executive Director Katie Voelke at two free public talks this spring.

**North Coast Ecology:
A Picture of Diversity**
Wednesday, March 18, 6 pm
Seaside Public Library

The northern Oregon Coast is home to a wealth of plant and animal species, including humans. That very biodiversity requires thoughtful management of the land, with a view toward the future.



John Dudley

The proposed Rainforest Reserve horizon from Necanicum Estuary, Gearhart

Creating A Rainforest Reserve
Wednesday, May 13, 7 pm
Cannon Beach Library

For more than a century, people have eyed the mountain range

adjacent to Oswald West State Park and wished it could be conserved. NCLC is now poised to do just that. Find out what makes these 3,500 acres so special.

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

MAKING AN IMPACT—THEIR OWN WAY



Over 53 years of marriage, John and Stephanie Dudley have come to appreciate their differences. “I’m a doer,” Stephanie says, as John adds with a laugh, “and I’m a dreamer.”

The two career educators moved to Gearhart 13 years ago, and almost immediately got involved with North Coast Land Conservancy. Stephanie

serves on the Development and Outreach committees. She staffed the wine pull at the summer picnic and shared her lemon pound cake at the summer’s house parties. She probably hasn’t pestered you for a donation, however: “When we tell our story,” she says, “NCLC sells itself.” She’s also a member of the Gearhart Planning Commission and volunteers at the St. Vincent de Paul

Food Pantry.

John sees himself as less of a joiner. “I walk a different road, often just me and my camera,” he says. His contributions to NCLC include use of his coastal landscape and wildlife photography, often offered in service of helping to make the proposed Rainforest Reserve a reality. That’s one of his recent photographs, above. John’s images have graced the covers of NCLC’s last two annual reports.

He and Stephanie are also donors, contributing to NCLC in ways that are especially valuable to the conservancy. They are Sustaining Stewards, making automatic monthly contributions. They are founding members of the Coast Legacy Circle, having included NCLC in their estate plans. And they have pledged financial support for the Rainforest Reserve.

“NCLC is protecting as well as finding meaning in the land” is how John sums up his support for the conservancy. Stephanie is even more succinct.

“NCLC is always my positive.”



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LAND CONSERVANCY**

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Oregon's coastal lands,
forever.*

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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*



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COAST LEGACY CIRCLE



PLANNING PRESERVES 'SACRED TRUST'

Les Neitzel's roots in the Necanicum Valley run deep. His family has lived and farmed there for three generations. North Coast Land Conservancy is now in the process of acquiring a life estate on the land Les grew up on, where he plans to live out his life, thanks to a gift that Les considers to be not so much a property transaction as the transfer of a sacred trust.

"My motivation is at least as much spiritual as practical," explains Les. As a child, he watched as his grandparents' land—next door to his parents' land—was sold to a developer, who scraped off and sold the topsoil and created a trailer court in place of the forest, pasture, and truck garden there. Les still feels the loss.

"When we do harm to living, breathing land, we also harm ourselves and each other," he reflects. Even after moving into town as an adult, Les continued to help his parents care for the land; after his mother, Ernestine, died in 2018 he moved back.

"This little parcel of land isn't pristine wilderness; it's not better than any similar parcel of land," Les adds. "But I have the legal and moral authority and responsibility to protect it somehow, to keep it from getting ruined." He knew that North Coast Land Conservancy—for whom he's volunteered for years, whose staff members have become his friends—was the entity that could help him do that.

"It just feels like the right thing to do."

**VOLUNTEER
STEWARDSHIP
DAYS**

WINTER & SPRING

**Visit NCLCtrust.org
for dates and details**



- FEB** Replant the Riverbank
- MARCH** Clean Up the Bay
- APRIL** Release the Trees
- MAY** Bust Scotch Broom

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