



## TRIBAL OWNERSHIP PROMOTES COMMUNITY HEALING



Neal Maine/PacificLight Images

*The site known as Ne-ah-coxie includes tidal wetlands, saltmarsh, and Sitka spruce forest.*

On May 4, NCLC returned 18.6 acres of land on the Necanum Estuary in Seaside to the Clatsop-Nehalem Confederated Tribes. This land, once a village site known to native people as Ne-ah-coxie, is the first property the tribes have held title to since settlers began claiming their lands in the 1800s. Read more at [NCLCtrust.org](http://NCLCtrust.org).

In an editorial in the Astorian newspaper, Charlotte Basch wrote about the significance of the transfer. Here are excerpts, shared with her permission.

This transfer means so much to so many people: the ongoing preservation of the Necanicum watershed and Seaside estuary, the strengthening of community relationships and partnerships, the formal stewardship of land in Seaside by tribal people for the first time in generations.

**“THIS TRANSFER MEANS SO MUCH TO SO MANY PEOPLE.”**

This transfer also signifies the opening of a door to a new era of tribal representation and community healing. Native and non-native youth growing up in our community today will never know a Clatsop County

without the public representation of tribal people.

Almost one year ago exactly, our relatives to the north, the Chinook Nation, purchased Tansy Point near Warrenton—the site where, in 1851, several independent tribal nations of the lower Columbia River signed treaties with the United States (*continued on page 4*) government,



Greg Lin

*Charlotte Basch with her family’s canoe Lightning.*

**INSIDE**

It’s time: Join the campaign for the Rainforest Reserve



## DIFFERENT PATHS, SHARED VISION

This summer the City of Seaside started a process to reconsider how to best manage the watershed it owns and that it draws its drinking water from, to ensure high quality and adequate quantity into the future. Nearly a dozen private and public groups are at the table for these conversations, including North Coast Land Conservancy.

In Rockaway Beach, citizens have long been concerned about the quality of their drinking water, which flows through private timberlands. About two years ago the Jetty Creek Working Group formed. It consists nonprofit Sustainable Northwest, the landowner, local citizens, and NCLC. The group is weighing options for how to best protect the community’s water source.

NCLC doesn’t only acquire land and conservation easements. It also serves an important facilitation role on the coast, helping other organizations conserve land in a variety of ways, all for public benefit. Other examples include helping Cannon Beach acquire Ecola Creek Forest Reserve (below) and helping the US Fish and Wildlife Service acquire the forested upland at Whale Cove near Depoe Bay.



## SOCIALLY DISTANCED STEWARDSHIP

By Jeff Roehm

*Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, Nothing is going to get better, it's not.*  
—Dr. Seuss, from *The Lorax*

I’m sitting along Circle Creek beside a big pile of policeman’s helmet I’ve just finished pulling up. I’m hot, sweaty, tired, and very happy.

I can’t help thinking back to the middle of March when Governor Brown put up the stay-at-home advisory, and everything closed down. Spring was just getting started. The wildflowers were poking through the dirt, and planning for the summer was in full swing. The Wednesday Weed Warriors were starting back up, and as always I had five—make that six—NCLC reserves to monitor. I couldn’t wait. Then, in the ding of a new email alert, we were done.

I sunk deep into the couch, and then into a self-imposed, disappointed funk. But let’s face it, my grandson had just lost his job. A high school classmate of mine had visited a friend in a nursing home, caught the virus, and in two short

weeks was gone. My disappointment started to melt away.

I think the biggest problem I had was that I didn’t know how bad it would be or how long it would last. I still don’t. I do know that of all the things I could be doing for NCLC today, this has the highest priority I can think of.

It turns out when we shut down in March, my biggest disappointment was for the land. I heard people say, “It’ll give the land a rest.” That’s not the way things work here. Our land needs us.

### “OUR LAND NEEDS US.”

Where I’m sitting now is a place where, during winter floods, the Necanicum River sometimes tries to take a shortcut. It’s the portal for invasive species into our reserve, particularly policeman’s helmet. If it gets past us here, that beautiful forested wetland downstream might become a reserve in name only.

This is where I have to be.

*Jeff Roehm is one of a handful of experienced NCLC volunteers doing stewardship on our lands this summer following strict social-distancing protocols. Jeff is also a monthly donor (we call them Sustaining Stewards), a Coast Legacy Circle member, and a donor to the Rainforest Reserve campaign.*

## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



## CONSERVATION CAN'T HAPPEN IN A BUBBLE

I've always chosen to live in a bubble, because the world was too much for me to take in. The hurt and the sadness of so many was more than I could bear. When I watch the horrors of systemic racism clearly shown on videos going viral on social media, I want to scream to the world, "Stop being racist! You've got to be kidding me!" And then I want to crawl into a cave. When I come out of my cave, I go back to work, caring for my family and my community and the plants and animals of the Oregon Coast.

But what a disservice it is to allow my own privilege to protect me and my family in our little bubble. That bubble has now popped. NCLC has popped its bubble too. We might not yet know exactly what to do, but we are going to do it. We will take a hard look at ourselves, and we will uncover difficult truths, and we will make change in the ways that we can so that we can stay true to our vision of an Oregon Coast where plants, wildlife, and people—all people—thrive.

## HELP CREATE THE RAINFOREST RESERVE

Since 2016 NCLC has been working to conserve 3,500 acres of land adjacent to Oswald West State Park. A \$2.1 million grant from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board has brought the amount raised toward this \$10 million project to more than \$8 million. Now it's your turn!

NCLC can't complete this landmark conservation project without your help. To learn more or to make a donation, visit [NCLCtrust.org/creating-a-rainforest-reserve](http://NCLCtrust.org/creating-a-rainforest-reserve).



## SUPPORTER PROFILE

## PROTECTING THEIR SPECIAL PLACE



Busy careers didn't leave Lisa Cerveny and David Russell much time for volunteering. Not until they retired and moved from Seattle into their Gearhart beach house in 2014 did they slow down, take a breath—and jump into enthusiastic support for North Coast Land Conservancy.

First they hosted a house party for the Conservancy. Lisa soon joined the Development Committee. They're generous donors, and they're Coast Legacy Circle members, having named NCLC in their wills.

At the heart of their commitment to NCLC is their connection to community and their long-time love of this landscape. "Ever since we were dating, every time we wanted

do something special, we'd go to the Oregon Coast," Lisa says. But there's more to it than that.

"We really like that it's something that's going to last for generations." David says of coastal conservation. "That continuity, what NCLC is doing now, will affect so many generations into the future: that's powerful stuff."

"The more we learned about NCLC, the more we respected it," Lisa adds. "It's not a big organization, but what they are accomplishing here in conserving land that we absolutely love—it's priceless. It's very unusual for a community this size and an organization this size to accomplish as much as they have."



Helping to conserve Oregon's coastal lands, forever.

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Donations of appreciated securities can help NCLC acquire valuable lands for conservation, such as this young forest within the proposed Rainforest Reserve.

**AN EASY WAY TO MAKE AN IMPACT**

People of any age can support NCLC and cut their tax bill by donating appreciated securities. Gifting securities enables you to claim a tax deduction for the current value of the securities—if you have owned the securities for more than a year—and you avoid capital gains tax on the securities' appreciation. To make this happen, you merely instruct your broker to transfer the securities to NCLC's broker. Your broker should not charge any commission for making the transfer. Of course, just writing a check to North Coast Land Conservancy is always a great way to keep the conservation momentum going on the coast.

If you would like more information, please contact Katie Voelke at katiev@nclctrust.org. All inquiries are strictly confidential. The information above 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.

**COASTWALK GOES VIRTUAL**

Join would-be CoastWalkers Sept. 10 for a free virtual presentation on the Oregon Coast Trail. Door prizes!

Details and registration at NCLCtrust.org/event/virtual-OCT

**TRIBAL OWNERSHIP** (continued from page 1)

government, only to later be unratified. So many promises made at that site were broken and forgotten, but with that land once again in tribal ownership, the shared history of that place will live on.

Our relatives' ownership of our shared treaty grounds makes me proud and gives me hope. These feelings are rekindled today with the transfer of Ne-ah-coxie and the outpouring of positive response.

One of the promises made on that August day in 1851 was that the Clatsop Tribe would "be at liberty to occupy, as formerly, the fishing grounds at the mouth of the Neacoxsa Creek, whenever they wish to do so for the purpose of fishing."

Neacoxie was promised to the Clatsop people nearly 170 years ago. Today, indigenous people are regaining some of their most culturally significant lands—Clatsop-Nehalem in Seaside, Chinook at Tansy Point—creating a synergy and support of our tribes' mutual interest in protecting and caring for the lands that matter most.

Today, I am proud not only to be a Clatsop, Nehalem and Puyallup woman, but I am also proud to be part of our Clatsop County community. Today we are coming together, no matter our differences, to make things right for both past and future generations.

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



Find us on the web at NCLCtrust.org

