



Trav Williams/Broken Banjo Photography

TILLAMOOK RIVER REVIVAL

NCLC Executive Director Katie Voelke strides across the floodplain at Tillamook River Wetlands.

ACQUISITION TO RESTORE WETLAND HABITAT FOR SALMON AND MORE

Five major rivers flow into Tillamook Bay. For millennia, coastal coho salmon have flowed up those rivers every winter to spawn in upstream gravels. These once-robust salmon populations have dwindled over the past century as those rivers' floodplains were diked, drained and filled for dairy farming, cutting off juvenile salmon from the wetland habitat they depend upon.

Recent efforts by Tillamook Estuary Partnership and others have restored essential salmon habitat along four of those rivers. With North Coast Land Conservancy's acquisition of 73-acre Tillamook River Wetlands in July, now all five rivers feeding Tillamook Bay will have healthier habitat to offer the salmon and other animals that depend upon the tidal wetlands here

to complete their life cycles.

NCLC will be collaborating with Tillamook Estuaries Partnership on restoration of the site, which is likely to begin in a year or two. TEP is currently working on design of the project as well as collecting native plants and their seeds to propagate for later planting. Read more about the project at NCLCtrust.org/Tillamook-river-wetlands.

GRANT HELPS RAINFOREST FUNDING REACH \$9.5M

A \$400,000 grant from M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust awarded in November put conservation of the Rainforest Reserve within reach. By year's end gifts from individual donors, public agencies, and private foundations such as Murdock had contributed \$9.5 million toward the campaign goal of \$10 million, leaving \$500,000 yet to be raised.



With support from the community, NCLC hopes to complete fundraising

and take ownership of the Rainforest Reserve in summer of 2021.

"This grant award is a win for all who love the Oregon Coast and launches us into the last stretch of this marathon campaign," said NCLC Executive Director Katie Voelke. "Every donation counts."

Donate at NCLCtrust.org/creating-a-rainforest-reserve.

INSIDE It takes all kinds (of supporters to keep NCLC going strong)



**REVERENCE FOR NATURE
ERIC HALPERIN
& BEBE MICHEL**

The year NCLC debuted CoastWalk Oregon—2016—happened to be the year Eric Halperin and Bebe Michel were transitioning into retirement from their optometry practice in Tillamook and preparing to move to Gearhart. They were looking for a way to engage with their new community, and CoastWalk fit the bill. Eric went on to become a four-year CoastWalk finisher. He began pulling weeds with NCLC and became a regular Wednesday Weed Warrior. Both Eric and Bebe are among the volunteers who prepare newsletters like this one for mailing—something that used to happen in the boardroom but now takes place at volunteers’ own kitchen tables. And they’re generous donors.

What prompts such dedication? “Water protection, species diversity protection, and climate protection,” says Bebe. “All the lands being set aside, and stitching them together: it’s so important to our welfare right now.”

“We just have a reverence for nature,” Eric adds. NCLC’s pandemic

pivots—the protocols developed to keep staff and volunteers safe while still getting the work done—have especially impressed him. “It’s so well run. It’s just a top-notch organization.”



**DREAM TO REALITY
ANDREA MACE**

For five of her 27 years on Oregon’s North Coast, Andrea Mace lived in Arch Cape—walking distance to what will soon be, with the community’s help, the Rainforest Reserve.

Now a realtor with Realty One Group, she has made it her mission to share her love of the Oregon Coast with her clients by making donations to NCLC’s Rainforest Reserve campaign on their behalf.

“The vision of the Rainforest Reserve is a very ambitious and inspiring project,” Andrea says. “Many sellers have owned their second homes for decades and feel very invested in the area; by making a gift on their behalf, I help them become part of a lasting legacy in an area that is precious to them. With buyers, many are new to Oregon or perhaps have just visited the coast on vacation, so they don’t know about

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the vision of the land trust. A gift on their behalf makes them aware of the Rainforest Reserve. Hopefully it will inspire some new residents to be stewards of this amazing place by making their own contributions.

“Helping even on a small level is very gratifying, because I will get to say that I helped make the dream of the Rainforest Reserve a reality.”



**UTILITY PLAYER
SCOTT REKATE**

Retired general contractor Scott Rekate has built some of the most eye-catching buildings in Cannon Beach, from luxurious private homes to the Emma White Building, site of the Cannon Beach Gallery. Now he generously shares his time and talents with NCLC. Recently he upgraded the Bunkhouse at Circle Creek Conservation Center with new windows and helped improve its water system. He’s also spent time installing new trail posts for the Wetlands Walk and maintaining the Legacy Loop. Over the years he’s pulled his share of weeds. In 2020 alone he clocked more than 200 volunteer hours with NCLC.

As Scott puts it, “I help out when I can and when I’m needed.”



KEEPING WARRENTON WILD HELPS HUMANS TOO

Acquisition of 42 acres of Sitka spruce wetland on either side of 9th Street in Warrenton back in October was a win for both humans and wildlife. Together with other properties NCLC already conserves on the Warrenton peninsula, there is now a nearly unbroken corridor of conserved lands from the headwaters of Alder Creek west

NATURAL CORRIDOR NURTURES WILDLIFE AND FILTERS WATER

of downtown Warrenton to where the creek meets the Columbia River. Salmon, elk, small mammals, birds and more will benefit from keeping this corridor wild and undeveloped. Humans will benefit too. 9th

Street Wetland is part of a system that stores large volumes of water, potentially helping reduce the effects of flooding and storm surges. Wetlands also help keep water clean by filtering out sediments and excess nutrients.

With this acquisition, NCLC now conserves some 507 acres of mostly wetlands in Warrenton.

WINTER IS FOR TREE PLANTING



On a sunny day in October, a small group of volunteers gathered at Circle Creek with Land Steward Eric Owen to finish some planting delayed by the pandemic last spring. These western redcedars are meant to help discourage policeman's helmet weeds from reinfesting the floodplain. (*That's Frank Erickson on the left, with Cheryl Conway.*) This month—perhaps even as you read this—Eric will be up on Boneyard Ridge by himself, planting some 2,000 redcedars and 100 big-leaf maples. Don't worry, Eric says: "Bare-root trees are way quicker to plant than potted stock." It's the next chapter in our project to restore species diversity to a block of densely planted timber in this former tree farm on Tillamook Head.



Helping to conserve Oregon's coastal lands, forever.

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COAST TO HOOD

OUR ANNUAL RAFFLE OFFERS TWO GREAT PRIZES

Will you win a stay on the beach or Mt. Hood? Two tickets will be drawn in our spring raffle, one for a stay in a vintage cabin on Mount Hood and one for a stay at a spectacular oceanfront home at Falcon Cove. With just 100 tickets for sale, your odds of winning are 1 in 50. Tickets go on sale March 1; details at NCLCtrust.org/2021-affle.

ALMOST THERE!



Help us bring the Rainforest Reserve to the finish line.

DONATE at NCLCtrust.org

STAFF TRANSITION

WELCOME KATHERINE!

After stepping in to help ramp up our social media last summer, journalist Katherine Lacaze has joined the NCLC staff as its new communications coordinator. Since moving to Seaside in 2014, Katherine has worked at the Seaside Signal and Astorian and as a freelance writer while also heading up the theater program at Astoria High School.

She replaces Bonnie Henderson, who has retired after seven years on the staff. Bonnie looks forward to staying involved with CoastWalk Oregon and finding other ways to support NCLC as a volunteer.



IT'S BACK! COASTWALK Sept. 10-11-12, 2021

This year we're taking a break from the Oregon Coast Trail to lead you on some lesser-known routes through the dunes, prairies, and forests of Oregon's North Coast, including some of our own conserved lands. We'll be staying nimble to follow any pandemic protocols that may remain in place.

Visit CoastWalkOregon.org for details; registration this year starts June 1.

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



Find us on the web at NCLCtrust.org

