



REDWOOD COAST LAND CONSERVANCY

Dedicated to protection of open spaces and natural resources from the Navarro to the Russian rivers

OCEAN ACCESS AT ST. ORRES CREEK

By Ray Van de Water

In July, through the generosity of coastal property owners John and Mary Sue Erickson, RCLC was granted an easement over their property along St. Orres Creek, Gualala, providing for public access to a very scenic gulch and ocean cove at the creek mouth. The access point is across Highway 1 from the famed St. Orres Inn.

RCLC is now engaged in planning improvements and getting the necessary building permits from CALTRANS and the Mendocino County Planning and Building Department. With permits in hand, RCLC will apply to the State Coastal Conservancy for help in funding the trail-building work. We hope to complete the work and open the access for public use in spring or summer of 2003. RCLC is highly pleased to gain this easement; it provides for public access along a stretch of the coast where there has been little or no public access up to now. The beach and ocean are quite close to Highway 1 here, the access trail being less than 200 feet long. Another exciting RCLC project! 🌲



The trail will be improved.



A view from the top of the bluff.

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARD WINNER

Gualala artist Ron Bolander won RCLC's Environmental Award at the 2002 Art in the Redwood Art Show. The Art in the Redwood judges selected his beautiful large color photograph entitled, "IMPENDING STORM". In Ron's view, the photograph "shows both nature and the hand of man. The hand of man is not intrusive, but works in conjunction with nature."

Congratulations, Ron! 🌲



Photo by Shirley Eberly.

OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS



The way Cook's Beach and Fish Rock might look from a viewing platform.

The Bonham Family has offered to dedicate portions of their land at Bourns Landing, including access to Cook's Beach. Here are some of the views that RCLC representatives saw on a recent Field Trip. We scouted out possibilities, for example there might be a viewing platform from above and improved trail access to the beach. More news on this project. 🌲



David Scholz, Bob Rutemoeller and Ray Van de Water return from their walk down the beach.

REDWOOD COAST LAND CONSERVANCY

PRESIDENT: Shirley Eberly
 VICE PRESIDENT: Laurie Mueller
 SECRETARY: Cecilia Moelter
 TREASURER: Bob Rutemoeller
 DIRECTORS: Rosemarie Hocker, Ray Van de Water, Bill Wiemeyer
 HISTORIAN: Ramona Crooks
 BLUFF TRAIL COMMITTEE: Randy Burke, Fiona O'Neill and Bill Wiemeyer
 ADVISORS: Sharon Burningham, Roger Dingman, Kristen Drake, Vivian Green, Doug Hammerstrom, Jerry Immel, Mary Sue Ittner, Ray Jackman, Jim Lotter, Fiona O'Neill, Brian Regan, Mary Rhyne, Barbara Russell, Dorothy Scherer, Charlotte and David Scholz, Doug Simmonds, Kristine Thomure, Florence Van de Water, Jan Venolia and Julie Verran

WEB DESIGN: Ivan DeGarza, Charlotte and David Scholz
 MAILING VOLUNTEERS: Dwight and Shirley Eberly, Ruth Hayflick, Doug Hammerstrom, Rosemarie Hocker, Claire McPherson, Cecilia Moelter, Mary Rhyne, Bob Rutemoeller, San Smith, Lillian Thomas, Flo and Ray Van de Water and Jan Venolia

TRAIL MONITORS: Shirley and Dwight Eberly, Kristen Drake, Mary Sue Ittner, Sue and Bob Lease, Cecilia Moelter, Bob Rutemoeller, Kathleen Sandidge and Flo and Ray Van de Water

CONTRIBUTORS to this issue include Shirley Eberly, Rosemarie Hocker, Bob Rutemoeller and Ray Van de Water. Photos by Rosemarie Hocker unless otherwise indicated. RCLC is a member of the National Land Trust Alliance, California Land Trust Council, Redwood Coast Chamber of Commerce.

REDWOOD COAST LAND CONSERVANCY OBJECTIVES

The specific purposes of this corporation include, but are not limited to:

- (a) The conservation of lands for recreational, educational, ecological, agricultural, scenic and open space opportunities. Conservation of lands shall be accomplished by acquiring real property or partial interests therein, including conservation easements as defined in California Civil Code Section 815.2, and recording appropriate instruments necessary to protect in perpetuity the physical environment of the area for wildlife, ecological and aesthetic purposes beneficial to the public interest;
- (b) To promote, activate and develop public coastal accesses to the ocean, rivers and other natural or scenic features, including developing trails, paths and walkways;
- (c) To study, project and develop plans for future needs in respect to public recreational lands, accesses and facilities;
- (d) To determine open space and conservation needs in the coastal areas of Mendocino and Sonoma counties and to arrange for necessary stewardship and conservation by easements, agreements or other mechanisms;
- (e) To publicize local needs of the type mentioned above and to raise funds by public subscriptions, grants or other means as necessary to meet such objectives.

PLEASE CHECK YOUR NEWSLETTER LABEL

If there is a "01" or "02" in front of your name, that means you have sent RCLC a contribution or membership donation for that year. If there is no number to the left of your name, or if it shows a contribution for 2001, please consider helping us this year. A contribution form is printed on the return envelope in this issue. Contributions are tax deductible. Thanks for your help.

ANNUAL RAFFLE SUPPORTS RCLC

Dear Friends:

We are again asking for your support for the Redwood Coast Land Conservancy (RCLC), a local land trust working to preserve coastal and watershed areas from the Navarro to the Russian Rivers. We are an all-volunteer organization. To complete our projects, we depend upon public contributions of time, expertise and money. Your donations and membership dues enable us to obtain additional grant funds from other sources. We have accepted easements to develop public access along the bluffs above the Gualala River estuary and mouth. Last year we were able to purchase the 3.5 acre Hearn Gulch Beach and Headlands for public access, recreation and open-space and scenic protection purposes. This purchase was made possible with a grant from the California Coastal Conservancy and lots of work by our volunteer, Barbara Artegiani Russell. We also are holding Conservation Easements from private landowners. We recently have accepted public access easements at St. Orres Creek and have taken steps to hold easements at Bourns Landing. We really appreciate the generous help from the Coastal Conservancy for acquisition and development funds, but still need your help too.

Please help us with your tax-deductible donations and memberships renewals. For a chance to win one or more of the prizes on the list below, please fill in the enclosed ticket stubs and mail them back in the enclosed envelope, with your donation. We will have a public drawing on Sunday January 12th, 2003, at 3:00 p.m. at the Sundstrom Mall in Gualala, and will notify the lucky winners. You need not be present to win. Some of the prizes are too fragile or too large to ship. We will arrange with you to pick them up on your next trip to the coast. We can send you more tickets. You can reach me at 707-884-4426 or at brutem@mcn.org 🌲

Thank you,

Bob Rutemoeller for the RCLC Board

Drawing will be Sun Jan 12, 2003 at 3PM at Sundstrom Mall

Art Portrait of your coastal home by Mark Taylor.

Donated by David and Charlotte Scholz. 12 X 16 Oil Painting, value \$250

Sea Ranch Golf Course: an 18 hole round of golf for two with a cart

Margi Ingersoll: Handpainted 6" art tile or set of four coaster tiles

Pacific Rain Handmade Soaps: Gift crate from www.pacificrainsoap.com

Ansel Adams Calendar for 2003 donated by a friend

Gualala Pharmacy: One pound of Fudge

Gordon Smith: 20 minute chair massage

Bill Perry: Color Photo 11 by 14 Color photo "After the Storm"

Everything Under the Sun: \$30 gift cert for items from the "Treasure Chest"

Rock Art by Ellen Soule: Donated by a friend.

Paul Kozal: (2 items) Signed posters of "Enchanted Path" and "Cypress Trail"

Alinder Gallery: Book

Sea Ranch Lodge: (2 items) Gift certificates for a one night's stay midweek for two

Gualala Trading Co.: Gift Certificate

Gualala Video: Gift Certificate

Shirley Eberly: Ceramic piece

Rumors: Haircut \$45

Upper Crust Pizza: One large pizza

Adventure Rents: Half-day float trip on the Gualala River

Sea Ranch Lodge Store: cap

B & B Stay: For 1 or 2 couples at Rainbow's End donated by Cecilia and John Moelter

Village Bootery: Gift

Rosemarie Hocker: (3 items) Box of local scenes photo note cards

Gualala Hotel Restaurant: Gift Certificate

Sonya Halley: Painting

Bruce Jones: Painting

Susan Field: Artwork

Susan Shaddick: Kelp Sculpture

Village Fitness Center: (2 items) Books for ten visits

The Food Company: Gift Certificate

Grace McMaster: Original Watercolor, matted

Tom Eckles: (2 items) Matted photographs with nature theme

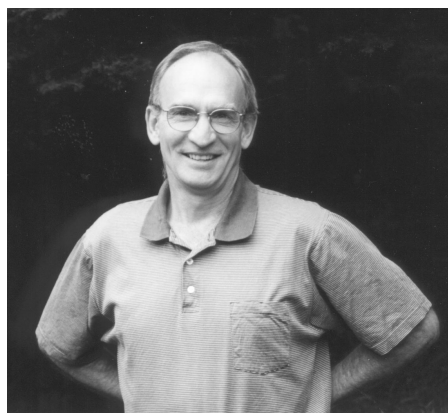
And More... 🌲

RCLC PROFILE - Bill Wiemeyer

Past president Bill is Director of Environmental Planning at The Sea Ranch. He made the connection between last fall's Profile of Architect Fiona O'Neill and his introduction to RCLC. "Fiona was on the Board before I was. When RCLC was planning Phase I of the Bluff Trail, Fiona said we need someone with your expertise to help out on this. And so I went to a meeting, and soon, there I was – on the Board. Getting involved in RCLC is one of the most rewarding things that I do other than being a parent." Bill and Sandy have two daughters, Hanna and Julia, students at Horicon Elementary.

Growing up in Ukiah, Bill lived but a quarter mile away from woods. At eight years of age, he'd come home from school, finish his homework and take off with his friends until it got dark. "It was all OK. There was nothing to worry about. Over time," he said, "you got this sense of comfort, being in that environment. There is a lot of good to say about what nature does for one's mindset, one's view of the world.

"All the time that I spent in nature as a child formed me as an adult. What I value in life today is all about being



out in nature. It's one of the reasons why my work at The Sea Ranch means so much to me and also why I'm in the Land Conservancy."

Biology was his first love. Influenced by his happy experiences fishing and being out in the woods, he earned his BA at Sonoma State, becoming a fisheries biologist, and later earned a Masters degree from Cal Poly Pomona in landscape architecture. He put himself through school doing landscape construction. Pursuing an interest in horticulture, he found opportunities in the kind of landscape design that had to do with natural resource management. "Ecosystem management means looking at all the natural systems, how they work and how you integrate humans in that. Some places come close to that in a lot of ways, The Sea Ranch being one. There was sort of a natural mesh between my interest in biology, nature, and this approach to land planning. Natural

resources management is what got me here."

Bill thought about this stretch of the coastline, from the mouths of the Navarro to the Russian Rivers, and what it could be like in the future. He asks, "What brought us here? Driving along the coast, you know there's a wonderful environment down there where the ocean meets the shore. You want to absorb all the sights, sounds and smells, the colors, textures, the cold, the heat. You want to get to it, put your hands in it, get your feet wet, and dabble in the tide pools. We should preserve what's best about the place. And that means access, direct access. If you can't get to it you've missed it all. You just drive by it. You might as well be in a theater."

Seeking and accepting Conservation Easements is an important means of achieving access. "There are a thousand reasons why we should be looking to the larger community, taking a regional view, among them sewers, water, and timber harvesting. It's important that we have leadership," he says.

As for the future of RCLC, Bill sees that "there is too much work for too few people. If we had one staff person, even a part time person, we could do so much more. We've got to work towards that." May that hope become a reality. 🌲

GOOD BYES AND HELLOS

Bill Chapman, former Gualala Bluff Trail Project Director, has passed the mantle and materials of the Gualala Bluff Trail, Phase II, to Randy Burke. Bill, Connie and Adam have moved to Sun River, Oregon, where Bill has a new position as manager of that community. For their many contributions to the betterment of the environment we live in, we thank them. The Chapmans can be reached at P.O. Box 3095, Sun River, OR 97707.

Randy has taken Bill's position. If you haven't yet met Randy, we're sure you will soon. RCLC thanks him for joining the list of RCLC volunteers. Conservation and holding lands in the public trust is good work. 🌲

WEBSITE NEWS

David and Charlotte Scholz, RCLC Advisors, have been working on RCLC's up-dated website. Check it out at www.rc-lc.org/ Tell us what you would like to see. One friend has suggested a map of the boundaries of the Hearn Gulch Conservation Easement, which we expect to have soon. RCLC thanks the Scholz' and Ivan De Garza for their special support. 🌲

STEWARDSHIP FUND

By Bob Rutemoeller

After the Redwood Coast Land Conservancy accepts a conservation easement, or is given real property, its protection of the land has only just begun. From then on, in perpetuity, the Land Trust has the legal obligation to monitor regularly the use of the land and to enforce the restrictions of the easement.

To carry out RCLC's stewardship role, we must visit the site at least once a year, to determine the consistency of the use of the land with the easement's restrictions.

For the Gualala Bluff Trail, we monitor and maintain it more frequently, usually weekly.

For conservation easements, we request a contribution to our Stewardship fund to provide funds for our obligations. Some easement donors are not able to provide such a donation and we are in turn asking our members to provide contributions to the RCLC Stewardship fund. If you would like to make a donation to this fund, please indicate that in a note or check our box on our reply-envelope. If you can volunteer your time that would help greatly too. Thanks for your help. 🌲

EVENTS AND INFORMATION

Waterbag Concerns – Ursula Jones
email: Ursula@mcn.org or
www.gualalariver.org

Gualala River Watershed Council –
Rick Kaye email: rickk@sonic.net

RCLC Annual Meeting – Shirley
Eberly email: dseberly@mcn.org

GRWC Holiday Event and Year End Review – December 17, Gualala
Community Center, 6:00 p.m.

RCLC Raffle Drawing January 12,
2003, 3:00 p.m., Sundstrom Mall 🌲

CONSERVATION EASEMENT MONITORS

Heartfelt thank yous are extended to people who have signed up to walk the Gualala Bluff Trail and provide the weekly maintenance. Thanks to Kristin Drake, Shirley and Dwight Eberly, Mary Sue Ittner, Bob and Sue Lease, Cecilia Moelter, Bob Rutemoeller, Kathleen Sandidge, and Ray and Flo Van de Water.

Two times a year a work party is held to deal with heavier maintenance, for example, spraying poison oak, removing thistles from the river bank, trimming and weeding the landscaping, cutting back dead branches of ceanothus and cutting back the thorns of the Century plant. We thank the following folks who helped recently: Dwight and Shirley Eberly, Mary Sue Ittner, Ray Jackman, Laurie Mueller, Bob Rutemoeller, and Ray and Florence Van de Water.

We can always use the talents of more helpers. Would you be willing to help on work parties to maintain the trail and/or the landscaping around it? Please call Shirley at 785-3327. Thank you. 🌲



PROGRESS ON HEARN GULCH

Hearn Gulch belongs to you, the public, for your ocean access pleasure. RCLC is working on a maintenance plan to make access safer and easier. For the time being please observe the signs posted at the boundaries of the property. One states: "Area under restoration. No Vehicular Access." The other states "Danger. Bluff tops are eroding and are undercut in sections. Please keep away from the edge." Thank you for understanding. 🌲



DONATIONS IN MEMORY AND HONOR

RCLC has received Memorial Gifts in memory of:

Gordon Beebe, in Memory and Honor, from Jan and Gene Strand

John J. Bower from Rosemarie Hocker

Ladd Griffith from Jo Maxon

Bob Hocker from Win Sinclair

Bob Hocker from Bob Kirkwood

Bob Hocker from Margaret DePrima

Frank Ittner from Jay Faulkner

Frank Ittner from Cecilia and John Moelter

Frank Ittner, a contribution to the RCLC Stewardship fund, from Harry and Lois Lutz

Bill Platt, Past President of The Sea Ranch Foundation, from Wilbur H. Haines

RCLC has received Gifts in honor of:
Bob and Rosemarie Hocker from Jackie and Bryan Morse

Peter Reimuller, for helping acquire Hearn Gulch, from Nancy Wagner
Mary Rhyne from Lena Bullamore and Jeff Gyving

Other special contributions to RCLC are two Solano Press Books on topics of land conservation, given by *Warren Jones*. 🌲