



REDWOOD COAST LAND CONSERVANCY

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

New Funds in Place

WORK ON BLUFF TRAIL PROGRESSES

Bluff trail volunteers have made significant progress on the second phase of the Gualala Bluff Trail. Weekly work crews have cleared brush, dug out a ramp to connect the trail to the property behind the Breakers Inn, and leveled out what will be the trail in several spots.

When completed, the trail, which now ends behind Surf Motel, will be extended along the bluff top all the way to the south end of Oceansong. Work is being concentrated now behind the Breakers Inn and Oceansong.

Bridge construction funded

On October 27, RCLC received important additional funding for the trail when The California Coastal

Conservancy voted to augment the original grant RCLC received last year. With this increased funding in place, major construction work, including a bridge along the bluff behind the Breakers Inn, can begin.

RCLC appreciates the California Coastal Conservancy and the State Coastal Commission for their continued support and reaffirmation of the importance of the trail.

The state grant for this project now totals \$141,171. RCLC will need to raise \$20,910 in matching funds for the project. 🌲

For more on the bluff trail work, see page 3.

LATEST RULING ON TRAIL ACCESS

At a court hearing in Ukiah on November 4, Judge Leonard LaCasse of the Mendocino County Superior Court ruled once again that RCLC has the right to build the Gualala Bluff Trail and has enjoined John Bower and his agents from “impairing reasonable access” to the deeded easement on his property during construction of the trail.

The second phase of the trail, approved by the County last October, is being built on an easement dedicated by the Bower family for the trail in 1977. Mr. Bower has sought to stop the building of the trail through several legal actions. The latest ruling was in response to the No Trespassing signs he posted in an attempt to prevent RCLC volunteers and work crews from crossing the Surf Super parking lot to work on the trail.

RCLC is moving forward with building the trail, confident that the courts will continue to uphold the right of our community to have public access along the bluff top.

So far RCLC has had to spend more than \$10,000 to protect the easement dedicated to the community by the Bower family. Thankfully many people have stepped forward to help pay for legal costs, but more funds will be needed for upcoming hearings. 🌲





RCLC President Shirley Eberly

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

As I look over the articles we have included in this issue of our newsletter, I take pride in what RCLC, as a small all-volunteer organization, has been able to accomplish.

I am also reminded of the key role our local community plays in those accomplishments. First, and most obvious, is the generous financial support we receive. The list of our contributors (*see page 6*) continues to grow.

An equally important reason for our success is the marvelous group of local volunteers who are willing to whack weeds and dig trails as well as handle the many administrative and legal details required of a land trust. (*See page 3*).

As our work progresses on the Gualala Bluff Trail, the Hearn Gulch Preservation and Public Access Project, and the trails for Bonham Beach and St. Orres Creek, we will need to raise matching funds for state grants and to ask for many hours of volunteer work.

I know we can look to our local community for this support and thank you in advance for your continuing contributions of time, money and effort. 🌲

RCLC'S HARMONIOUS VOLUNTEER

By Irene Leidner

Where would we be without the astounding abundance of talent and good will in this tiny community? Harmony Susalla is such an example; she approached us with the fund-raising idea of selling "sit-upons", offering to donate fabric from her brand new "Season One" line of Harmony Art Fabrics. Harmony has been a serious hiker and outdoors lover all her life and incorporates that love of all things natural into her fabric design, as well as her philosophy of living and giving in this very special area. A visit to her web site at <http://www.harmony-art.com/> will give you an idea of her strong interest in and commitment to social, economic, artistic and environmental areas.

Sit-upons are large, washable fabric squares with waterproof backing which come in handy on any outdoor activity that might be a bit damp. 🌲



Harmony models fabric samples of her sit-upons.

HELP NEEDED

We plan to begin the drilling for the pedestrian bridge behind the Breakers Inn soon. Volunteers are still needed on Mondays and, when we start on the bridge, other days as well. We invite you to join us. Even if you can't come each week, we appreciate whatever time you can give. Volunteer hours working on the trail count towards the RCLC required match for State funds.

Contact Ray Jackman at 785-3831 for more information. 🌲

BLUFF TRAIL VOLUNTEERS

Thanks to the many volunteers who have worked on the Gualala Bluff Trail

Ray Jackman	Harry Lutz
Don Mahaffey	George Anderson
Jim Suhr	Kathie Anderson
Irene Leidner	Walt Davenport
Bill Davy	John Petersen
Dorothy Ruef	Robert Juengling
Chris Howard	Harmony Susalla
Chuck Howard	Gail Taylor
Chad DeGarmo	Paul Nordstrand
Wayne Lusk	Dard Hunter
Bob Rutemoeller	Mary Hunter
Mary Sue Ittner	Richard Knarr
Ray Comeau	Ken Holmes
Dave Scholz	Colleen Jackman
George Marshall	Phil Simon
John Moelter	Fred McElroy
Frank Healy	

VOLUNTEERS ARE ESSENTIAL TO THE WORK OF RCLC

RCLC is an organization built on the work of volunteers. Volunteers work with state and county agencies for funding and permits, manage public access and conservation projects, work with landowners to set up and monitor conservation easements, and handle all the financial, administrative and legal aspects of a small non-profit organization.

The steady work of our Gualala Bluff Trail volunteers is perhaps the most visible evidence of how RCLC volunteers contribute to our community.



Volunteers John Moelter, Ray Jackman, and Don Mahaffey take a well-deserved break from tackling weeds along the bluff top. Photo by Bob Rutemoeller

GUALALA BLUFF TRAIL NEWS

by Mary Sue Ittner, Bluff Trail Coordinator

This August volunteers began work on Bluff Trail Two under the inspired supervision of Ray Jackman with consultation from Phil Simon, our contractor who has volunteered his time in this initial period. Work is done on Mondays from 9 to 12 with a break in the middle when workers enjoy a treat, usually made by Colleen Jackman. The number of volunteers varies, but a total of 25 have helped so

far and an amazing amount of work has been done. Weeds and brush have been cut back and pulled to the edge of our easement where after a week of drying they were loaded into vehicles to go to the dump. Chad De Garmo and Wayne Lusk, enjoying the cleared view, decided they could help us and have come back a number of times to clear weeds away. A ramp has been dug out with hand tools and the beginning of the trail

formed behind the Breakers Inn and Oceansong. Some nice pieces of rock were uncovered and have been integrated into the trail, and a first round of shale has been added to prevent erosion to some of the cleared areas.

While they work, volunteers have an opportunity to partake of outstanding views of the river and wildlife, and to appreciate the wonderful addition to our community that they are helping to create.

Work on Bluff Trail One

Volunteers also monitor the completed section of the Bluff Trail behind Surf Motel each week and have held two work parties this spring to prune and weed the trail.

RCLC recently received a grant from the Coastal Conservancy to refurbish and improve the trail.

Sheep fencing was added for safety, shrubs have been cut back, areas weeded, the trail dug out, and new shale added. Some of this was paid for by the grant, but volunteers did a lot of the work. We are already receiving compliments on how nice the trail now looks. 🌲



Bluff trail. Photo by Mary Sue Ittner

BONHAM BEACH

by Irene Leidner

Bonham Beach is a very scenic and popular favorite with local residents. The protected cove provides shelter from the wind and welcome respite for beachgoers.

RCLC plans to improve the trail down to the beach along an easement granted by the Bonham family. RCLC is awaiting final approval from the Mendocino County Planning and Building Department, expected around the beginning of 2006, when actual construction of the trail improvement can begin. In the meantime, local volunteers have been monitoring the trail and beach almost daily.



Sea stacks on Bonham Beach. Photo by Irene Leidner



A visit to Bonham Beach at low tide. Photo by Irene Leidner

RCLC will use part of a \$100,000 grant provided by the State Coastal Conservancy for the Bonham Beach Project. The efforts of all concerned, especially Ray van de Water as coordinator among the various agencies, will culminate in an improved trail, overlook, and safe and enduring access to Bonham Beach. The developmental and financial support of the Coastal Conservancy, as well as their confidence in our efforts is most welcome.

Bonham Beach (formerly called Cook's Beach) is at the north end of the Old Coast Highway off of Highway One just north of Gualala. 🌲

ONE STONE AT A TIME

Local resident Joel Chaban has spent the last several months building an impressive set of stone steps to allow easier access to the beach.

Joel is an avid jogger, and every time he went jogging on the beach, he picked up another couple of stones to add to the pile, so that today the beach is accessible to all.

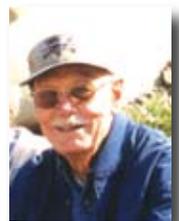
Joel doesn't seem to mind that these steps will be replaced with cable steps when the trail building begins, or that the winter storms may remove some or all of the rocks - Joel is truly a dedicated volunteer! 🌲



Joel Chaban and friend rest on steps. Photo by Irene Leidner

SPECIAL THANKS...

A special thanks to Ray Van de Water, a founder of RCLC and one of our most dedicated volunteers, who is retiring from the RCLC Board after many years of untiring work on behalf of RCLC. And thanks also to Irene Leidner, the newest member of our Board, who has stepped forward to continue Ray's work on the Bonham Beach and St. Orres projects. 🌲



BONHAM BEACH VOLUNTEERS

Thanks to our volunteers at Bonham Beach.

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------|
| Joel Chaban | Jean and Chris Jewel |
| Fred and Fran Ducey | Eric Wittig |
| Marcia and Don Heimburger | |

HEARN GULCH PROJECT PLAN UNDERWAY

by George Anderson

The historic Hearn Gulch Headlands property is located just north of the Fish Rock Road intersection with Highway 1 at Mendocino county mile marker 10.0. Dramatic ocean views, abundant native plant life, a sheltered ravine, and a sandy wind-protected pocket beach with a small creek characterize the area.

With the help of our local community, RCLC acquired an additional two acres on the south end of the bluff last April. This acquisition will enable RCLC to provide protection of the entire bluff top and to improve public access to the headlands. Funding was provided by a major grant from the State Coastal Conservancy and matching funds from RCLC contributors.



A parking area will be provided so that fragile areas damaged by vehicle traffic can be restored. Photo by Leigh Mueller

Plans being reviewed

In June, Hearn Gulch coordinators Dave Scholz and George Anderson submitted the application package for the Hearn Gulch Preservation and Public Access Project to Mendocino County where it is now being reviewed.

Applying for a permit is a thorough and lengthy process designed to make certain that environmental

resources are being protected. As part of the permit application package, RCLC included an extensive botanical survey, a geology report, and an archaeological survey. These reports provide an excellent inventory of the natural resources on the property, including lists of wildlife and plants, extensive information on soil conditions, and risk factors for erosion.

The Hearn Gulch application also includes a site plan with detailed information on what improvements are planned and where they will be located. Because the property is on Highway One, a Caltrans encroachment permit was also required.

Public comment on the project was solicited at the September 1st GMAC meeting where the project received an enthusiastic

endorsement.

Next steps

Once the permit is approved by the county, RCLC can begin work on protecting and restoring the fragile headlands and provide public access parking for Hearn Gulch.

Trails out to the headlands, the Sea Cave Cove overlook and the beach will be developed, with protective sheep fence and signage as needed.



New Hearn Gulch purchase protects headlands view to the south. Photo by Leigh Mueller

The plan includes a day-use parking area to accommodate 4-5 passenger vehicles. Areas damaged by past unrestricted vehicle traffic will be restored. Care will be taken to avoid impacts to rare plants and wetland areas during the parking lot and trails construction process. RCLC hopes to start work on the Hearn Gulch project this spring.

Work on these improvements will be funded by the California Coastal Conservancy and private contributions. The Community Foundation of Mendocino County has awarded RCLC a \$5000 grant to furnish and install fencing needed to protect the native vegetation. Contributions from the local community will be needed to help complete the project. 🌲



THANKS TO OUR RCLC CONTRIBUTORS *January 2004-November 2005*

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REDWOOD COAST LAND CONSERVANCY

Many people devote their time and professional experience to help RCLC protect our local coast.

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GUALALA BLUFF TRAIL COORDINATOR: Mary Sue Ittner

BONHAM BEACH PROJECT COORDINATOR:

Irene Leidner

NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Laurie Mueller

GRAPHIC DESIGN: Wendy Platt

CONTRIBUTORS to this issue include George Anderson, Shirley Eberly, Mary Sue Ittner, Irene Leidner, Leigh Mueller, Bob Rutemoeller, and Harmony Susalla

WEBSITE EDITORS: Jeanne Gadol, assisted by Dave and Charlotte Scholz

HISTORIAN: Ramona Crooks

RCLC is a member of the National Land Trust Alliance, California Land Trust Council, and the Redwood Coast Chamber of Commerce.

PLEASE CHECK YOUR NEWSLETTER LABEL
 An "05" in front of your name means that your most recent contribution to RCLC was during this year. If there is no number to the left of your name or an "03" or "04" (indicating that your last gift was in 2003 or 2004) please consider making a contribution for this year to support the work of the RCLC. A contribution form is printed on the return envelope in this issue.

VOLUNTEER PROFILE: DAVE SCHOLZ

When asked to actually think about it, I would guess that there have been three influences that put me on the path toward land trusts.

Growing up in Palo Alto, my family spent summer vacations at Lake Tahoe. This was in the early 1950s and it was, of course, all fun. But it was also before much of the intense development now associated with this spectacular landscape. Over time, the contrast between those teenage memories of a more pristine wonderland and the changes wrought by the State's growth and Tahoe's easy access have become ever sharper.

Second, courtesy of two longtime Sunnyvale neighbors, I was able for 10 + years to experience nature in a more unfiltered way, backpacking portions of the high Sierras. These were usually 4 – 6 day excursions, mostly along the John Muir trail, in wilderness areas preserved for our benefit by previous generations.

And third, I grew to love a different side of nature, the rugged, relatively undeveloped, north coast, a grand landscape that still has meaningful conservation potential.

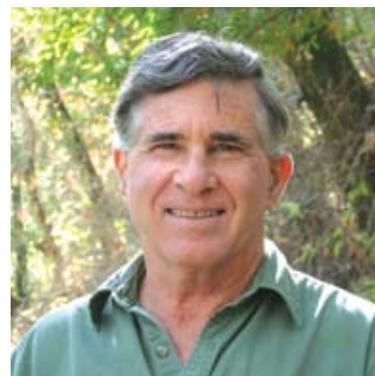
My introduction to RCLC came from a dinner conversation my wife, Charlotte, and I had with our Sea Ranch neighbor, Rosemarie Hocker. After 10 years of steadily increasing visits, we had finally settled on buying a coastal home in 1998. Having lived all our lives on the

San Francisco Peninsula, we both came to treasure the Mendonoma coast and its measured lifestyle. As explained by Rose, the land trust concept of local folks utilizing a nonprofit corporation to help preserve some of the area's natural heritage sounded very appealing. Unfortunately, due to various ongoing commitments, we are only able to be here part of the time. So the obvious question was: "How much could a part-time resident do?" The answer was simple: "With the telephone and the Internet, as much as you want."

My initial project was to update/revise RCLC's website. We were fortunate to obtain the pro bono technical assistance of Sea Rancher Ivan De la Garza and some gorgeous coastal photos donated by local artists. That together with Charlotte's technical writing background enabled us to complete the task in about a year. Of course websites are never "done," so RCLC is now fortunate to have Jeanne Gadol's expertise to help keep the site current.

Next up was the construction of a three-panel tabletop display board. Using standard off the shelf components, text and photos from our new website, RCLC now has a portable folding display that will hopefully stand the test of time.

Hearn Gulch Headlands Preservation and Public Access is the current project. I became involved about two years ago



after it was determined that the adjoining Schwab property was needed to provide the proper access off Highway 1. That acquisition was completed earlier this year and now George Anderson and I will take the project through the planning, permit and construction phases. This is a good fit, as I retired in 2001 following 18 years in the commercial real estate business in Silicon Valley.

An economics degree and an MBA provide additional background, but as any RCLC volunteer will attest, it's the passion for the cause that is the only essential for a productive volunteer. And that is what has been so rewarding for me: working with the Board members and other Advisors who share that focus. In this light, I'd like to especially mention retiring founding Board member Ray Van de Water and his many years of service to the north coast community. As always, it's really all about people. 🌲

ART AWARDS

To support artists who capture the beauty of nature, RCLC sponsors environmental awards for Art in the Redwoods and for the annual Environmental Art Show at Gualala Arts.

"Trees are the feathers on the wings of planet Earth – without them she cannot fly. The trees of the Smith River Gorge that gave me this message would appreciate this recognition. So do I!" Jacquetta Nisbet

Environmental Art Show



Jacquetta Nisbet wins RCLC award for her work. Photo by Harmony Susalla.

Local artist Jacquetta Nisbet, best known for her weavings, received the RCLC Award for her works celebrating trees.

Art in the Redwoods



Chris in her studio with her award-winning work.

This year San Francisco artist Chris Grassano won the RCLC Environmental Award at Art in the Redwoods for her work "Trinity".

A TASTE OF SPRING

Sunday, January 22 at 6:30 p.m • Gualala Arts Center

Sponsored by RCLC and the California Native Plant Society

Join your friends and neighbors for an outstanding wildflower slideshow, some fabulous desserts, and the chance to bid on some very special silent auction items at the Gualala Arts Center on Sunday, January 22 at 6:30 p.m.

The evening will feature a slide presentation by Mary Sue Ittner of California wildflowers, photographed in the spring of 2005, a year with above average rainfall . Mary Sue, her husband Bob and two friends spent a week on a road trip searching for spectacular flower displays --and they were not disappointed.

Delicious homemade desserts will be served, and you will be able to bid on a number of unusual auction items, offered by local experts and enthusiasts to highlight the beauty and wonders of our natural surroundings. A few of the known items are a gourmet dinner for six served on the Gualala Bluff trail, a spring bird walk for six followed by a home cooked brunch, and a custom guided spring wildflower walk at Salt Point with lunch in a special spot



Spring flowers in Bear Valley. Photo by Mary Sue Ittner

and a pot of flowers to take home. Native plants and sit-upons will also be available for purchase.

If you have an idea for an event for the auction or would like to contribute a homemade dessert, please email RCLC@harmonyart.com.

Suggested donation is \$10 for adults, \$5 for children. Proceeds will benefit the activities of the two organizations.



REDWOOD COAST
LAND CONSERVANCY

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