

REDWOOD COAST LAND CONSERVANCY

Dedicated to conserving open spaces and the natural environment along the Mendocino Coast

Volunteers Turn Out for Coastal Cleanup Day

With support from the California Coastal Commission, Mendocino Land Trust, and several other organizations, RCLC organized volunteers to clean up three beaches in Southern Mendocino County as part of California Coastal Cleanup Day; Manchester State Beach, Schooner Gulch and Cooks Beach/Bonham Trail on September 19, 2015.

The purpose of California Coastal Cleanup Day is to bring awareness to the problem of marine debris and to take a citizen science snapshot of the state of our beaches and coastal waterways, on the same day annually, all along the California coast.

Beach “captains” greeted volunteers and distributed citizen science materials that volunteers used to quantify all of the items collected. Most local beaches were quite clean and this can be attributed to good stewardship throughout the year. All in all, Mendocino County cleaned up 5,000 pounds of trash on Coastal Cleanup Day.



Common Murre Rescued on Cooks Beach

Credit: Susan Moon



Children love Cooks Beach

Credit Adam I. Brown

In past years many pounds of presumed Japanese tsunami debris had been found along Manchester Beach, but none were reported this year. Items of local concern included fishing gear, dog feces bags and human waste at Cooks Beach and hundreds of cigarette butts in the parking lot of Manchester beach. Many wildlife entanglements in fishing gear were reported. A common murre, that was experiencing starvation, was rescued on Manchester beach and transported by volunteers to Santa Rosa for rehabilitation.

With your help we can expand our participation in California Coastal Cleanup Day in future years. Thank you to all our beach captains and volunteers who participated in 2015!



Wildflowers at the Point Arena-Stornetta Unit of the California Coastal National Monument

Credit: Susan E. Moon



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**We envision a
protected and
restored Mendonoma
coast conserved for
public enjoyment
and appreciation of
its natural beauty,
abundant diversity
of wildlife, and rich
cultural history.**

From Our Executive Director

I've reached a milestone in my life on the Mendonoma Coast where a LOT of people seem to know who I am and what I do with RCLC. I know I've gone suspiciously underground lately, avoiding grocery stores and restaurants, for fear that someone will approach me and ask brightly, "so, what's RCLC working on now?" I simply can't talk about these projects yet.

What I can tell you is that right now RCLC is considering several excellent opportunities for conserving significant properties which I know will be very exciting to our regional communities. We even have some potential funding lined up to establish easements or make outright purchases on these exceptional properties. We're moving right along, and, we're prepared to participate with our share of the costs involved.

Although I'm optimistic, I struggle with the glacial timeline. I know that land trusts need to conduct a great deal of due diligence, before we make a firm commitment, to discover everything we need to know about the properties we are considering and to make sure that our decisions are right for us and for the community. What are the conservation values? What is the appropriate use for the land? What is the appropriate price? Who are potential funding partners? These and many other questions make our heads spin as we explore the possibility of acquiring and managing any property. Will the land be purchased or donated? Or is a conservation easement more appropriate? What about a bargain sale for less than the appraised market value or other tax considerations? All these options have different consequences, different timelines and different satisfaction levels for the land trust and for property owners.

This is where you come in. Your support of RCLC has made this important exploratory work possible. Through donor contributions set aside in our Opportunity Fund, we have the flexibility to act quickly to satisfy the timing requirements of landowners and cover the upfront costs for environmental studies, appraisals, title and records searches, and the legal costs for developing contracts and other issues that might arise.

RCLC works on a lean annual operating budget of \$45,000 to \$50,000 to manage and maintain our current conservation and public access projects and to explore the possibilities of new acquisitions. We couldn't do this important work without the dedication and expertise of our many volunteers, advisors and the continuing support of our donors.

As you'll see in the balance of the newsletter, the RCLC Board Members and I lend a great deal of time to other important groups in the area. We have a wealth of expertise to offer and our participation helps with community outreach and strengthens awareness. Partnerships and collaborations with other groups not only accomplish more conservation activities than we can alone, but our connections pay off in spades when RCLC needs assistance or technical expertise. I'm very gratified that our activities translate into community leadership – we're in good company.

I hope to have more information for you in the next few months about the opportunities we're exploring. In the meantime, I want to thank you for your support of the Redwood Coast Land Conservancy. I hope that you will consider making a contribution at this time to our Opportunity Fund for the successes we hope to achieve or to help us continue our work to steward the spectacular coastal properties we have already set aside.

Sincerely,

Linda Bell, Executive Director



Linda Bell

Celebration of RCLC Public Access Held at Gualala Arts

An exhibit celebrating RCLC public access projects was held earlier this year at The Gualala Arts Center in Gualala. Fifty-one entries of photographs and other works of art inspired by the Gualala Bluff Trail, Cooks Beach and Hearn Gulch were submitted by local artists.

Ginger Thompson-Veys' graphite drawing of "The Bridge" along the Gualala Bluff Trail was selected as the exhibit favorite.

The exhibit was curated by long-time RCLC volunteer Mary Sue Ittner who was assisted by Robert Rutemoeller, Harmony Susalla and the excellent staff and volunteers of Gualala Arts. RCLC Board members and other volunteers contributed food for the event.

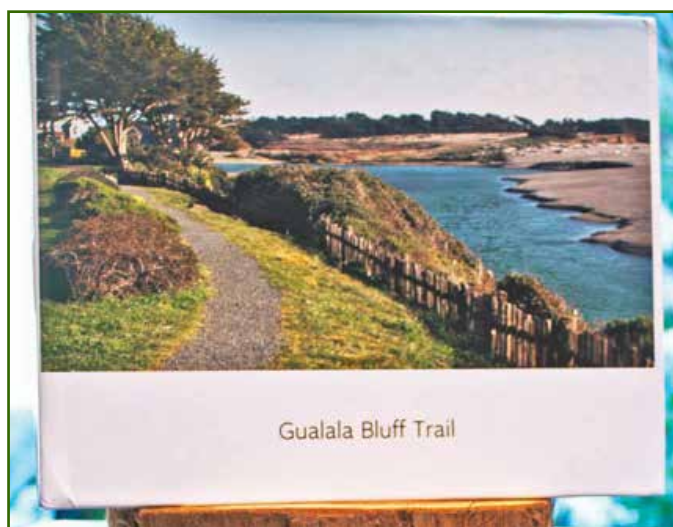
Photographs of the event and the beautiful array of entries can be seen by going to RCLC's website at www.rclc.org/news.



Ginger Thompson-Veys stands by her graphite drawing "The Bridge" 1st place



*Grand Opening of Artistic Celebration of RCLC Public Access
Credit: Harry Lutz*



*The Art of Perseverance - photo book by Mary Sue Ittner
2nd place*

"We were pleased with the wonderful entries submitted for this exhibit inspired by the three public access locations. Almost every entry was chosen by someone as one of their three favorites. Although the voting for second and third place was close, the clear winner was "The Bridge," a graphite drawing by Ginger Thompson-Veys. Her drawing shows the bridge over the swale on the Gualala Bluff Trail that was built by volunteers. It is a familiar sight to those who walk the trail. In second place was "The Art of Perseverance," my photo book of images taken between 2005 and 2014 on the Gualala Bluff Trail as the second phase of the Gualala Bluff Trail was started, delayed and finished. The favorite in third place was a photograph taken by Rozann Grunig entitled "Sandbar Opening from Bluff Trail" showing the Gualala River breaking through to the ocean."

- Mary Sue Ittner



Sandbar Opening from Bluff Trail - photograph by Rozann Grunig, 3rd place

RCLC Allies With Other Groups Protecting Our Local Coastal Environment



Mendocino MPA Seal Credit: Susan Moon



The waters off Hearn Gulch are in the center of the Saunders Reef State Marine Conservation Area, an impressive rocky reef and bull kelp habitat. Credit: Laurie Mueller

Marine Protected Areas (MPA Collaboratives)

This year RCLC has assisted the California Marine Protected Area Collaborative Implementation Project by participating in the Mendocino MPA Collaborative. RCLC stewards Hearn Gulch, which is adjacent to Saunders Reef MPA. This summer, our Vice President, Susan Moon, volunteered her illustration skills to the Collaborative by helping design and produce a fold out pocket guide to the Mendocino MPAs, and by creating a logo for the group.

“It was Mendocino Area Parks Supervisor, Loren Rex, who came up with the idea to have an abalone character prominent in the design. I tried to integrate the major stakeholders including fishing, science, law enforcement, Native Americans and the unique environments of the Mendocino County MPAs. The result was more of a seal than a logo, but everyone seemed happy with it so we went with the design to represent the group”, says Moon.

Projects of the Collaborative include a uniformed officer training program and marine protected area outreach and education to be provided to schools, councils, clubs and associations in Mendocino and Lake Counties. Part of the group’s mission is to create effective, transparent, grassroots stewardship of California’s marine protected areas. The Collaborative has installed signs in several key locations along the coast to assist the public and law enforcement in identifying MPA boundaries from land.



Hearn Gulch Beach

Credit: Susan E. Moon

California Coastal National Monument

RCLC has been an active official partner working with the Point Arena Gateway Group of the California Coastal National Monument (CCNM) for several years now. Partners in this group include the Point Arena-Manchester Band of Pomo Indians, Mendocino Audubon Society, California Native Plants Society, Acorn Partners in Education, the City of Point Arena, to name just a few. The United States Bureau of Land Management manages the land and is in the process of amending the Resource Management Plan.



Point Arena-Stornetta Unit of the California Coastal National Monument

Credit: Adam I. Brown

“It has been so interesting working with BLM staff, from planners to biologists, archeologists to rangers to conserve and envision the future of these lands. Of utmost importance to me personally is the protection of the lands, which is balanced by interests of the various user groups,” says volunteer RCLC Board of Directors vice president, Susan Moon who attends Gateway Group meetings, and is chairing a subcommittee studying trails on the 1,065 acre National Monument. “The management plan amendments will help to ensure protections and management protocols that are needed for the land based portion of the CCNM. The Point Arena -Stornetta Unit was not previously included in the original management plan which is specific only to rocks and islands off the coast.”

We look forward to RCLC’s continued participation with the Point Arena Gateway group and are thrilled to be part of the protection of this beautiful and important landscape.



Reefs in the Marine Sanctuary contain a rich diversity of sea life.

Credit: Monika Krach, GFA

RCLC Joins New Marine Sanctuary Advisory Group

RCLC’s new collaboration is with a new local advisory group to the Greater Farallones Association. As you know, the Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries were expanded north all the way to the 39th parallel at Alder Creek in Manchester, making Mendocino an important region in relation to what is now the Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary. Advisory group participants from Sonoma and Mendocino Counties provide counsel to the staff, the board of directors and the constituents of the Greater Farallones Association on all activities in the region, including - education, monitoring and citizen science programs, advocacy, community outreach and fundraising. Margaret Lindgren, owner of Unbeaten Path Hiking Tours and a resident of The Sea Ranch, is acting Chair of the Advisors and was recently elected to the Association’s Board of Directors to provide a voice for the region in Association activities and plans now and in the future.

RCLC’s Linda Bell and Susan Moon have been recruited as inaugural members to the advisory group to strengthen relationships with non-profits in the area and with constituents in the Manchester/Alder Creek Region.

Gifts from May 2014 to October 2015

RCLC wishes to thank the following people and organizations for their contributions.

Rob & Craven Alcott
Gayle Alexander & Wanda Swenson
David & Lucienne Allen
Ward & Betsy Anderson
Anonymous Foundation
Marge Anthony
Arkin Tilt Architects
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Memorial and Commemorative Gifts

Gifts to RCLC in memory of friends, family members and colleagues or to honor significant events in people's lives provide a wonderful legacy for those who wish to preserve the beauty of our natural environment

In Memory of

Craven Alcott

Bob Rutemoeller & Mary Sue Ittner

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Rhonda Mark

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Yvonne Novak

John Sperry

Jeanne & Richard Jackson

Harmony Susalla

Mirka Knaster & Larry Jacobs

Harmony & Sus Susalla

Mary Sue Ittner & Bob Rutemoeller

Gualala Bluff Trail Volunteers

Mary Sue Ittner

Investing in RCLC's Future

In addition to working on current projects, RCLC also needs to plan for the future.

With future needs in mind, RCLC has established two funds, one to provide long-term protection for the land we are conserving and another to be prepared for future opportunities.

The RCLC Opportunity Fund sets aside funds so that RCLC can be prepared to move quickly if uniquely scenic properties or endangered habitats in our local area need protection.

The RCLC Stewardship Fund sets aside funds to monitor and maintain RCLC public access projects and conservation easements. Your contribution to the Stewardship Fund will help make sure that RCLC projects are protected and properly maintained.

New Member Mailing

As a small organization, RCLC relies on its donors for funding its projects and other activities that protect and enhance the enjoyment of our local coast. However, many people in our community are not aware of the work we do. This spring RCLC sent a general mailing to local residents to let them know about RCLC and to ask for their support.

Fifty-two people responded with donations totaling \$4,500, including 25 people who hadn't previously contributed to RCLC. We welcome our new members, and thank them for their contribution to our work.

And many thanks also to our current donors who sent in an extra contribution.



**REDWOOD COAST
LAND CONSERVANCY**

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We won't share it with others – this will update our internal database for communications with YOU.

As an environmental organization, we want to reduce direct mail and paper waste as much as possible. We will continue to share our newsletter by direct mail a couple times each year.

Send us an email at rclc@rclc.org with the email address you prefer and the names attached to that email. If your mailing address and phone have changed, please send that along as well.



Local Artist Bruce Jones Receives RCLC Environmental Award

Each year, RCLC presents an Environmental Award for a work entered in the Art In the Redwoods Festival that captures the beauty and spirit of our local natural environment. This summer the award was presented to Bruce Jones for his watercolor entitled “Dawn At The Beach”.

Like us on Facebook!

