



# REDWOOD COAST LAND CONSERVANCY

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

## RCLC To Complete Gualala Bluff Trail

The RCLC Board has decided to resume work on the Gualala Bluff Trail this month to complete the unfinished segment behind the Surf Center before the funding authorization for the project expires.

Although the rest of the Gualala Bluff Trail was completed by early 2007, a series of delays have stalled completion work on this final segment of the trail.

RCLC has had permits and funding in place to build the trail since 2004, but work on this section was interrupted first by a lawsuit filed in 2005 by property owner John Bower's firm, Bower Limited Partnership (BLP), in an attempt to stop construction of the trail, and then in 2006 by the failure of the poorly maintained 108-foot retaining wall on the property, which tore away part of the trail easement.

A BLP proposal to extend the wall along 400 feet of bluff face has caused further delay and has been under review by the Coastal Commission since April 2008.

Since then RCLC has been waiting for the retaining wall issue to be resolved so that work on completing the trail



*Waiting for replacement of the failed retaining wall behind the Surf Center has halted construction on the Gualala Bluff Trail since 2007.*



*Photo credit: Bob Kutzmuller*

could be coordinated with the wall's replacement and Coastal Conservancy funds granted for the project would be spent most effectively.

The terms of the 2005 lawsuit settlement specified that RCLC would coordinate with BLP to facilitate the replacement of the failed retaining wall, but stipulated that if there were undue delays, RCLC could proceed with completion of the trail and BLP would repair any damage to the trail caused by its replacement of the retaining wall.

BLP was granted an amendment to replace the retaining wall in May of 2010, but has not done so. The Coastal Commission has not set a hearing date to rule on the BLP proposal to extend the wall.

Unfortunately, RCLC will lose its funding if work on the trail is not completed by March 31, 2013. At this point, RCLC can wait no longer and must move ahead to complete the trail.

*"We are delighted at the prospect of finishing the trail", says RCLC President Bill Wiemeyer. "While it made sense to coordinate our efforts with the work needed to replace the wall, we have now been waiting for more than six years.*

*With our funding about to expire, we've decided to move ahead rather than wait any longer."*

*Photo credit: Laurie Mueller*

# Redwood Coast Land Conservancy

*Local residents devote their time and expertise to help RCLC protect our coast.*

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Bill Wiemeyer  
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Secretary: Lois Lutz  
Treasurer: Bob Rutemoeller

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Harmony Susalla.

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Linda Bell

## PROJECT MANAGERS

**Hearn Gulch:** David Scholz  
**Gualala Bluff Trail:** Linda Bell  
**Cooks Beach/Bonham Trail:** Irene Leidner  
**Newsletter Editor:** Laurie Mueller  
**Graphic Design:** P.T. Nunn  
**Website Editor:** Dave Jordan

## MISSION

*Redwood Coast Land Conservancy works to:*

- preserve for future generations the natural environment and sustainable land use of coastal watersheds from the Navarro to the Russian rivers
- provide public access to scenic land
- educate the public regarding the value of our natural heritage.

*We envision a protected and restored coast, from the Navarro to the Russian rivers, preserved for public enjoyment and appreciation of its natural beauty, abundant diversity of wildlife, and rich cultural history.*

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

## From Our New Executive Director

For several years in the late 90's, part of my professional role with a Utah resort community involved helping the community define what it wanted to be and look like when it grew up. This was a growth and development question that was decidedly a historical perspective easier to answer with the question, "who do we not want to be like as we grow"? At the time, Utah had very little statutory experience with conservation for public access and we struggled with basic definitions of open space, passive vs. active use, appropriate holders of conservation easements, - it was all largely without precedent. But, it was very exciting to be on the forefront of preserving viewsheds in entryways, preserving the agricultural use of old family parcels that were otherwise ripe for resort development and maintaining public access in beautiful places. The dialog was heavy with questions to other resort communities who lamented that they wished they could turn back the clock and revise their vision for community planning.

Fast forward to 2012 and I find that I have filled those interim years with fringe attachment to conservation efforts. I'm really happy to be back in the thick of things. The tools and opportunities available in conservation are now so much more sophisticated and so creative to the mutual benefit of all parties involved in setting aside land for public enjoyment. I've been a board director with RCLC for over a year now. My association has allowed me to become reacquainted with the myriad of resources and possible partnerships, public and private, that we came to know in those early efforts at conservation in Utah. Many of those partners have had immeasurable success and have gone national with their efforts to help smaller conservancies to achieve local goals. It's still a quest for creative solutions, for helping families stay on the land, for preserving those spaces in the natural environment that speak to us. Now I get to join the effort professionally again. I'm equally pleased that I have some experience to offer and that I get to move around in a role with an organization for which I know something of their current scope of work and the players.

Most week-days, you can reach me at (707)331-2172 or email: [lindagcook@msn.com](mailto:lindagcook@msn.com) or [rclc@rclc.org](mailto:rclc@rclc.org) and I'll respond as quickly as my half-time position allows. Outgoing ED, Nancy Trissel, and I are in the throes of a happy transition – she from staff to a board seat and me from board to a staff role. We are very pleased with the continuity that this role reversal represents.

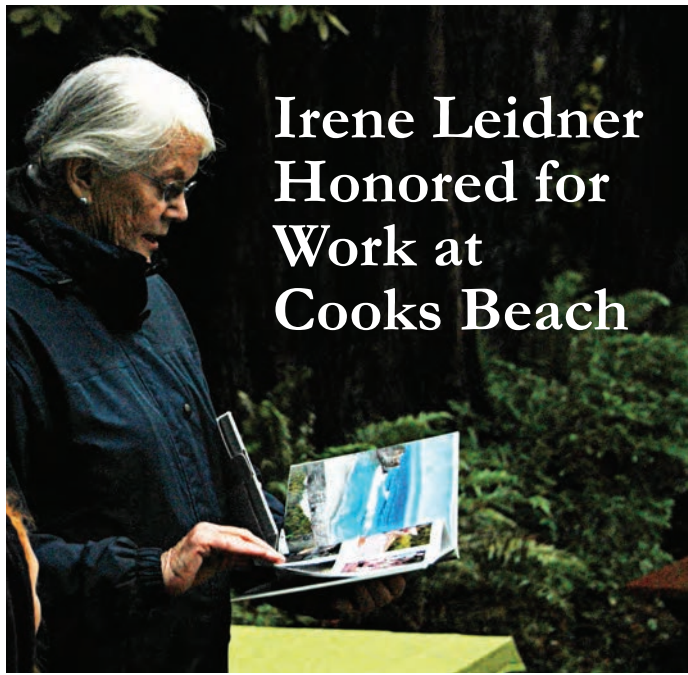


Linda Bell

Photo credit: Frank Bell

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Linda Bell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "L" and "B".





## Irene Leidner Honored for Work at Cooks Beach

Photo credit: Bob Rutemoeiler



Irene joins Harmony Susalla and other volunteers at Cooks Beach to enjoy the sunset.

Photo credit: Bob Rutemoeiler

Despite an unseasonal rain shower, 60 or so RCLC members, volunteers and family thoroughly enjoyed an outdoor potluck dinner at Gualala Arts to recognize Irene Leidner for her devotion and commitment to overseeing the completion of Bonham Trail to Cooks Beach and to thank all the people who have helped her with this project.

At the event Irene was presented with a photo book that commemorated many of the project's more

memorable moments and the challenges that volunteers faced in building the trail.

Cooks Beach is a popular beach used by many local residents. The RCLC project provided better access to the beach by improving the Bonham Trail and installing cement steps at the bottom of the trail.



Guest Linda Bostwick braves the rain.

Photo credit: Bob Rutemoeiler



Photo credit: Laurie Mueller

New RCLC Board Members Bill Clement and Susan Moon

## Two New RCLC Board Members

Bill Clement of Point Arena and Susan Moon of Manchester were welcomed as new RCLC Board members at the Board's July 26th meeting.

Bill has spent his career working in natural resource management. He has a lifelong interest in the environment and in caring for the ecosystems of the Earth. "We need to preserve our only home for future generations. RCLC works hard to preserve and facilitate access to the Redwood Coast and I am honored to be able to work with them."

Susan, who is a member of the Point Arena Planning Commission, has a strong interest in environmental design, endangered species, land stewardship, and public access to the ocean. "Land trusts are the critical link that connect us to the resources we all may call our own. RCLC and other coastal land trusts are in a unique position to ensure access and stewardship in perpetuity. I have been very impressed by RCLC's achievements and am thrilled to join the effort."



## 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:

#### Rosemarie Hocker

Bill & Mary Retzer  
Ray & Colleen Jackman  
Gillett & Betty Bechtel  
John & Cecilia Moelter  
Carol Bogert & Phil Strong  
Lois & Harry Lutz  
Sus & Harmony Susalla  
Dennis & Nancy Marks  
Art & Penny Dreyer  
Martha (Dibby) Tyler  
Doug Hammerstrom & Diane Harris  
Marge Anthony  
Tim Balambao & Joan Hoffman  
Dave & Charlotte Scholz  
Bob Rutemoeller & Mary Sue Ittner

#### Rev. Fr. Theo O'Sullivan

Gillett & Betty Bechtel

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Mark & Judy Van de Water  
Richard & Roberta Van de Water  
Marian & Ken Brown  
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Janann Strand

#### Duane Gordon

Kathi Gordon

#### Mary Van Walterop

Anne Hendricks

#### Lauriston Marshall

Lucia Marshall

#### Lillian Thomas

Bob Rutemoeller & Mary Sue Ittner

### In Honor of:

#### Lois Lutz

Allyssa Lutz

#### Matt & Chris Fong

Gareth Fong

#### Mary Sue Ittner

Denny Gold

#### Foxie

Harmony & Sus Susalla

#### Tern & Auke Kaplan

Steve & Anita Kaplan

#### Jane & Wayne Novak

Yvonne Novak & Aaron Weindling

#### Mary Sue & Bob

Bob & Linda Ittner

# Gifts from June 2011 to June 2012

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

Rob & Craven Alcott  
Lucienne & David Allen  
Gary & Judy Amado  
Annette Daroczi Hartman  
Marge Anthony  
Arkin Tilt Architects  
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Rosemarie Hocker  
Gale Hooper  
William & Mary Inouye  
Bob & Linda Ittner  
Mary Sue Ittner &  
Bob Rutemoeller  
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Richard & Roberta Van de Water  
R.C. & Tina Vasavada  
Thomas J. White &  
Leslie Scalapino  
Bill & Sandy Wiemeyer  
Janet & David Windsor  
Theresa & Pasteur Yuen



## Art in the Redwoods 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 Tim Brody of Rohnert Park for his pastel entitled "Gualala Rivermouth Sunset".

Tim Brody paints contemplative pastel landscapes. His intention is to invoke in the viewer a contemplative presence of the healing influence of nature and a "re-connection to our true spiritual nature of wakefulness, spaciousness, and clarity".

# New RCLC Mapping Project

RCLC has begun a major GIS mapping project to help the Board strategize and prioritize land use opportunities. The project is being facilitated by Mike Lane, well-known GIS Professional Guru. The project task force's initial area of interest will be bounded by Alder Creek to the north and Gualala River to the south and extend from the coastline east to the San Andreas Fault.

Base maps depicting major areas, roads, parcels, ownership and other primary data that serve to locate landmarks will be created first. Additional layers will then be specifically designed to capture data that can overlay the base with a depiction of current projects, wish-list projects, watersheds, botanical data, archeology, and public access locations.

The list of possible layers is huge, as is the potential for base information to change over time. The sample maps Mike has produced so far are works of art beautiful to display and to compile in future documents that can be distributed. However, the real utility will be the creation of a GIS database that can be manipulated in many different combinations, even if we're only interested in reviewing the opportunities of one particular feature at a time.

The first major effort for the task force has been to locate web-based information currently available from other sources, such as CalTrans, Dept. of Fish & Game, and Bureau of Land Management, who would be willing to share data with us in a format that we can readily use. At the same time we are defining our goals and areas of interest so that we can focus on the information sources we genuinely need for this project. There is such a thing as too much detail, and Mike is artful in determining the limits of a readable map.

This project will provide a wonderful resource to have at our fingertips as RCLC refines its strategic plan, promotes conservation efforts, looks for trail connections, increases public access on the Coast... A picture is worth a thousand words when showing a landowner or grantor how close we may be to filling a gap in a trail segment or setting aside land for critical habitat.

Additional funding for this project will be pursued with grants and donations.



*Preserving our local coast lands.*



*Photo Credit: Laurie Mueller*

*Linda Bell and Nancy Trissel at work with Mike Lane on new RCLC Mapping Project*

## RCLC Welcomes Linda Bell as New Executive Director

The RCLC Board of Directors of RCLC has selected Linda Bell as its new Executive Director effective August 1st.

A member of the Conservancy's Board of Directors, Linda succeeds Nancy Trissel, who has served as the Conservancy's chief executive since January 2011. Nancy has agreed to continue her affiliation with RCLC as a member of the Board of Directors.

In announcing the leadership transition, RCLC Board President Bill Wiemeyer stated that RCLC is "indeed fortunate to retain two top-notch individuals who are committed to conserving the Mendonoma coast."

Wiemeyer added that it has also been a huge benefit to the Conservancy in this transition that, with Linda and Nancy already sharing a common understanding of the issues and projects the Conservancy has undertaken this year, we can proceed seamlessly."

Ms. Bell, who formerly served as Executive Director of the Point Arena Lighthouse Keepers, Inc., says her decision to accept the staff lead with RCLC was motivated by personal considerations. "It's another great professional opportunity, with another great local organization. I am excited by this new professional challenge and pleased to have more flexibility with my personal time in this part-time position. I am grateful to the RCLC Board for this new opportunity and to the Board of Directors of Point Arena Lighthouse Keepers, Inc. which has been very supportive of my decision."

*Photo Credit: Laurie Mueller*



# Memorial Project Offers Beautiful Coastal Views



Photo credit: Nancy Trised

Survey work has begun on “Will’s Rest”, a memorial to William Craig Whitely, who spent many vacations enjoying this scenic coastal terrace north of Anchor Bay with family and friends.

Will Whiteley’s mother Rita Milhollin donated the land to RCLC to create a memorial that would be open to the public “to afford others the opportunity to share the beauty, majesty and solace of this lovely place.” The memorial will include a walking path and benches and a memorial marker, dedicating the preserved land to Will and his love of this

place. The marker will also display the names of Will’s family and friends who have helped fund the project.

Once the necessary surveys are completed, RCLC will apply for a county permit to build the project.

This generous donation of land will enable RCLC to provide community access to another scenic spot along our coast while offering a fitting memorial to someone who appreciated its beauty.



REDWOOD COAST  
LAND CONSERVANCY

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