



REDWOOD COAST LAND CONSERVANCY

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

RCLC & Friends Celebrate the Gualala Bluff Trail

On July 12th, more than 70 of RCLC's Volunteers, Friends and Supporters joined the RCLC Board of Directors to celebrate completion of the Gualala Bluff Trail. The fog lifted, the wind died down and the sun shone for a few hours while those gathered talked about the trail and walked the length of the quarter mile pedestrian way along the bluff in downtown Gualala.



Mary Sue Ittner cuts ribbon held by Ray Jackman & Bob Rutemoeller; photo by Frank Bell



Mary Sue Ittner; photo by Sus Susalla

Following the ribbon-cutting, all were invited to partake in fun food and drink offerings by local eating establishments including Surf Market BBQ, Pazzo Marco Creamery's Gelato & Sorbetto; Shoreline Restaurant and Trink's Café.

The crowd included staff from our project partners – California Coastal Commission and State Coastal Conservancy; Mendocino County Supervisor Dan Hamburg and staff; representatives for State Assembly Member Wes Chesbro, Senator Noreen Evans and Congressman Jared Huffman; Landowners represented by John Bower & Family, Surf Motel staff and Surf Market staff. We collectively gave a big round of applause to the many, many volunteers who sweated and toiled with RCLC over the 12+ year life of this project. It is truly a labor of love!



Susan Moon (L) & Julie Verran (R) with Cal Coastal Commission folks; photo by Bob Rutemoeller



Robert Juengling joins in; photo by Harry Lutz

Redwood Coast Land Conservancy

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Vice President: Rob Alcott
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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Linda Bell

PROJECT MANAGERS

Hearn Gulch: David Scholz
Gualala Bluff Trail: Linda Bell
Cooks Beach/Bonham Trail: Irene Leidner
Newsletter Editor: Linda Bell
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 Executive Director

As we complete the Gualala Bluff Trail and other major projects, RCLC is entering a new era. Although we are quietly laying the groundwork for some new projects, we don't currently have any big "sexy" projects underway. As a result, our charitable support has dropped considerably from the 2008, 09 and 2010 levels when our annual giving was really strong.

Continuing support from our members has made completion of these projects possible. We will still need your ongoing support as we continue our work on habitat conservation and building new trail segments and as we perform the preliminary work on surveys and permits for projects in the pipeline – before they ever get to the big, sexy stage.

At the same time, funding prospects for new projects from the State Coastal Conservancy and the Land and Water Fund have been waning in an era of budget-tightening. Coupled with the downturn in member and contributor support, it is a real challenge for RCLC to imagine what our next big project would look like without thinking creatively.

RCLC hasn't changed dramatically, but the climate in which we do business has changed a great deal. As state and federal funds continue to diminish, land trusts across the country are struggling with sustainability and are looking for creative ways to leverage their project funds.

Here along the Mendonoma Coast, we'll have to look for greater collaborative efforts with our neighbor land trusts and agencies to the north and south. This year, RCLC plans to partner with and support Mendocino Land Trust to strengthen Coastal Access Program acquisitions already in the works. We have an excellent rating of success with the California Coastal Commission and the State Coastal Conservancy for our stewardship of coastal lands and for building segments of the California Coastal Trail. We think the quest for grant funding will be strengthened by durable collaborations with projects like MLT's and the Bureau of Land Management's California Coastal National Monument expansion.

We've always done more with less. It's time to get back to the levels of local charitable support that RCLC has been known for and that allowed us to boldly accept the difficult, pioneering-type projects that others have turned down because they were too hard.

Please consider a contribution to RCLC as a vote of confidence for our efforts. It's all good work and we just need to be able to sustain it.



Linda Bell

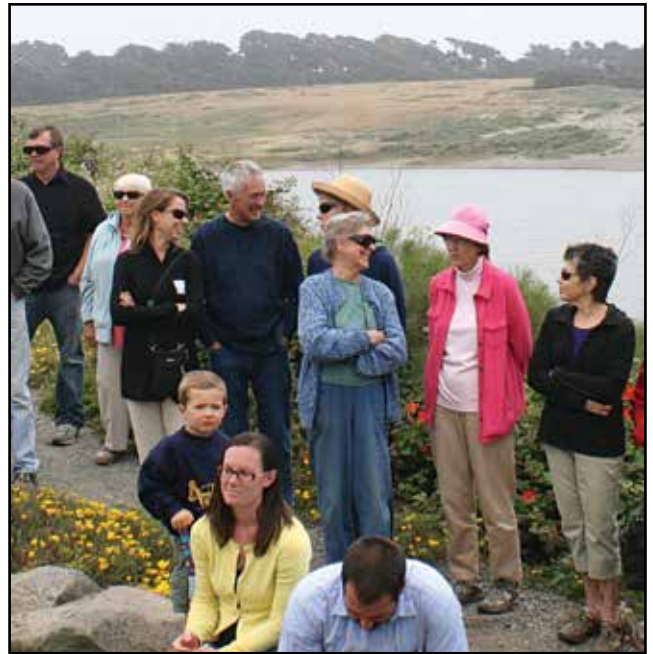
Photo credit: Frank Bell

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Linda A. Bell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.



RCLC loves Pazzo Marco Creamery; photo by Bob Rutemoeller

RCLC & Friends Celebrate the Gualala Bluff Trail



Young Eddie Bower watches from the rock; photo by Frank Bell



John & Cecelia Moelter enjoy GBT; photo by Frank Bell



Seated on rock (L-R): Dorothy Scherer next to the late Bea Aker, who will be greatly missed by all. Standing at Right: Betty Athens, Ray Comeau photo by Sus Susalla



The crowd gathers; photo by Frank Bell



Your IRA Can Help Preserve Our Coastal Lands

IRA Donations to RCLC may help reduce your taxes for 2013. If you're at least 70 ½ years old, you can help protect coastal land and public access trails and reduce your taxable income for 2013. Two friends of RCLC have already sent IRA distributions to us this year.

Legislation allows you to make tax-free charitable gifts from your IRA. Gifts of up to \$100,000 from either traditional IRAs or Roth IRAs are excluded from your taxable income and can be used to satisfy your minimum distribution requirement for 2013.

- The transfer must be made directly from the IRA to Redwood Coast Land Conservancy, or another qualified charity, and must be for an outright gift.
- There is no income tax deduction, the amount is simply not reported as income.

How do you make an IRA charitable rollover? Simply contact your IRA provider to make your gift. You may need to provide them with our Tax ID number, which is: 68-0287719.

Please also consider naming Redwood Coast Land Conservancy a beneficiary for part or all of your IRA or other retirement account or for your life insurance or annuity. It is a tax-efficient way of helping your local land trust make a difference for our community. Please let us know if you have done so. Thanks for your consideration and help.

TERRAFIRMA

RCLC has joined a one-of-a-kind liability insurance company created by the national Land Trust Alliance called Terrafirma Risk Retention Group LLC to defend properties conserved by small community land trusts across the country from expensive, frivolous lawsuits. Terrafirma's business is limited to insuring its land trust members against the liability of litigation necessary to protect their conserved lands from threats such as trespassing, vandalism and adverse claims for damages by developers and others. Terrafirma differs from other insurance in that it covers all legal related fees for both enforcement and defense and includes mediation, negotiation and court fees.

RCLC joins more than 420 land trusts in this risk retention pool to protect land trusts that can't afford to self-insure themselves individually. Nearly 60% of land trusts across the country are staffed by one person or all volunteer operations. The average value of a single conservation easement is \$450,000. The most expensive land trust litigation to date cost more than \$1.5 million and others have cost over \$250,000 – far exceeding the reserves of most land trusts. IRS rules currently allow that a land trust could lose its tax status or ability to accept future donations if it does not maintain sufficient resources to defend or monitor easements.

The Board of Directors has chosen to insure each of RCLC's public access/trail easements, fee owned properties (like Hearn Gulch) and conservation easements. The average

FINALLY – Some good news from the legislative front! Congressman Mike Thompson informs us of efforts to boost charitable giving limits (see the full text of Mike Thompson's July 23rd message entitled "Conservation Easement Incentive Act" reprinted on our website www.rclc.org under "News and Newsletters".

annual premium per easement is \$60 for an annual cost of \$715 in 2013. RCLC was eligible for significant premium discounts due to proof of good management practices. Each participating land trust must also validate additional general liability insurance and coverage for directors and officers to be eligible for Terrafirma's specific protection.

If you would like to donate to RCLC's defense fund, and help us defray costs of insuring our easement protection in perpetuity, please contact Treasurer Bob Rutemoeller or Executive Director Linda Bell at (707) 884-4426 or mark your donation for "Defense Fund". For more information about Terrafirma, details can be reviewed at www.terrafirma.org.

For details of the efforts of The Land Trust Alliance in working to ensure the permanence of conservation in the face of continuing threats visit www.lta.org/policy.

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:

Ray and Florence Van de Water

Ken & Marian Brown
Richard & Roberta Van de Water

Elaine Z Leggett

Carol & Jerry Lucey

Barbara Bass Evans

Susan Moon

Dave White

Bill & Betty Burns

Eric Bradford

Elizabeth Bradford

Ele & Don McDonald

Jerry & Carol Lucey

Duane Gordon

Kathi Gordon

In Honor of:

Gualala Bluff Trail Volunteers

Mary Sue Ittner

Trudy Armer

Sus & Harmony Susalla

Jane & Wayne Novak

Yvonne Novak & Aaron Weindling

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 July 2012 to August 2013

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

Rob & Craven Alcott
Lucienne & David Allen
George & Kathie Anderson
Ward & Betsy Anderson
Arkin Tilt Architects
Trudy Armer
Betty Athens
Richard & Marilyn Balch
Linda & Frank Bell
Robert & Judith Biehler
Max Bollock

Iris Borg
Charles Bouril
Dave & Diana Bower
Elizabeth Bradford
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Marian & Ken Brown
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Kathleen Nangle
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David & Evelyn Osteraas
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Norman Zucker



RCLC Environmental Award in Art In the Redwoods Photographer Scott Chieffo

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 **Scott Chieffo** of Gualala for his photo of Bowling Ball Beach entitled "The Alleys". This photo also captured 2nd Place for the Color Photography Award at AIR.





**REDWOOD COAST
LAND CONSERVANCY**

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Please share your email address with us!

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.

Like us on Facebook!



Check out the
NEW LOOK for our website:
www.rclc.org
Many thanks to our new
webmaster, Dave Jordan.

**REDWOOD COAST
LAND CONSERVANCY**

RCLC is dedicated to preserving and protecting coastal lands from the Russian River to the Navarro River.

Contact Us

RCLC News
August 2013
RCLC presents Environmental Award at Art In the Redwoods to Scott Chieffo for his photo:

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Redwood Coast Land Conservancy

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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.

The Redwood Coast of southern Mendocino County and northern Sonoma County is a place of exquisite beauty and natural solitude.

Green forests of pine, fir and redwood, revealed by the silent ebb and flow of coastal fog, extend down to the vast Pacific Ocean. Wild rhododendrons, azaleas and iris surprise and delight the observer with their colorful displays. Rocky bluffs give way to the ocean's powerful surf. Spectacular vistas of wind-swept meadows and tree-covered ridges greet the eye at every turn.