

TRINIDAD COASTAL LAND TRUST

2012 Annual Newsletter

The TCLT is a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting for the public benefit the natural beauty and character of Humboldt County from Little River to Big Lagoon

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Don Allan
Vice-President
Bryce Kenny
Secretary
Susan Elliott
Treasurer



Richard Johnson
Steen Trump
Matthew Marshall
Matthew Malkus
Michael Black



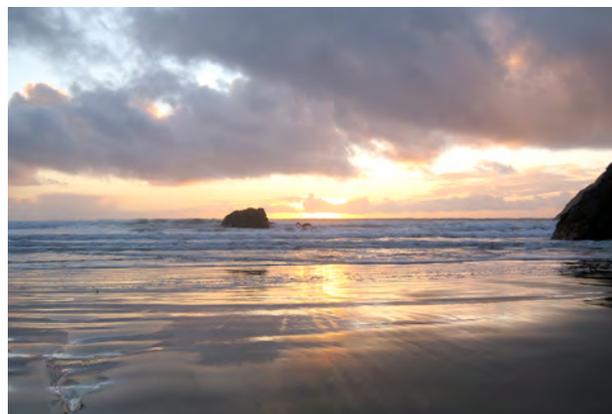
Annual Meeting November 18th

Our annual meeting will be held at the Trinidad Town Hall – Civic Club Room, on Sunday November 18 at at 3 pm. The Pilot Rock Ramblers will provide entertainment during the social hour. All are welcome and we hope to see you there or hear from you soon. Encourage your friends to attend or become new members. Remember, we are here for the public benefit to protect the natural beauty and access of our beautiful coast. And we need everyone's help.

President's Letter

This has been an unusually tough but also very opportunistic year for the Trinidad Coastal Land Trust. In November 2011 we lost our community's best friend in Mr. Ned Simmons.

He held the heart and mind of our organization as the senior volunteer board member until his peaceful passing. Ned was also the senior volunteer fireman, elections officer, a forester, botanist, artist, poet, village historian and friend to all. Selflessly Ned gifted his house to our land trust and since then our ten volunteer board of trustee members have shifted our focus to property management. It's a grueling business that takes patience and financial planning. We are finally and positively moving ahead with remodeling the Trinidad Art house into an art gallery retail business space and a studio. Ned's wish and our community's vision of a local Trinidad artisan cooperative gallery is expected to open this November.



Our monthly board meetings and committee meetings have also been focused on the Saunders Park property containing the Trinidad Museum, the almost completed library building.

the park and gardens. Although the land trust was generously gifted the property by our senior community statesman Mr. Glenn Saunders and his wife Janis, we have partnered with key organizations to create this amazing community and cultural center. The Trinidad Museum Society led by Patti Fleschner has been most instrumental in everything from the start. The Friends of the Trinidad Library and library building committee volunteers have spent years coordinating all aspects of this building project. The gardens are tended to by committed horticulturists. Although a struggle at times, it is an honor for all members of our land trust board to have create this community center and park. Thank you to the hundreds of local people who have supported the fundraising efforts for the library building.



On that note I would like to announce yet another spectacular opportunity our Trinidad Coastal Land Trust will be taking on this coming winter and spring. We will be fundraising for and beginning construction of an additional small building adjacent to the library and museum. It will be designed to function both as a land trust office, conference room and art gallery. The approximately 850 square foot room will be a multipurpose space for groups to meet, for workshops and artists to host gallery events. The building construction budget is \$90,000. Three amazing donors have already stepped up to pledge a total of \$60,000, in honor and in memory of Ned Simmons. We need to raise an additional \$30,000 to complete

construction. Our land trust building fundraising account is held with the Humboldt Area Foundation. Please contact our land trust via Facebook, email or me personally, Ben Morehead, to discuss this in more detail.



Partnering For Stewardship

Community collaboration and conservation go hand in hand. Trinidad is full of volunteer groups, businesses and natural resource agencies that are increasingly working together to take on projects ranging from natural habitat restoration and trails to park management plans and policies. Our Camel Rock beach park is managed by the people for the people, literally. Locals, beach lovers, surfers, dog walkers and organizations like the Humboldt Surfriders and the California Conservation Corps spend several days every year maintaining, mowing and cleaning this park. And the new dog waste bag bins we have installed at Camel and Moonstone Beach are in high demand; maintained by volunteers.

Our board members also volunteer to represent our land trust in other meetings. We are a part of the City of Trinidad appointed 'Trinidad Head Study Committee'. This group is working on management plan recommendations for Trinidad Head and public access. The 'Trinidad Coastal Monument Gateway Committee' includes several agencies and organizations partnering to highlight Trinidad as a premier location to enjoy the California Coastal National Monument (coastal rock

protection areas). Projects have and will include funded environmental education signs, outdoor recreation marketing, ecotourism, scientific research and supporting community efforts to highlight Trinidad as a destination gateway town to enjoy our coastline.

Our Property Holdings Reviewed

The Trinidad Coastal Land Trust owns, for public benefit, some of the most beautiful natural coastal properties and beach access trails around. An amazing benefit to being a volunteer with our land trust is that one gets to manage, restore, engage in and help to preserve these lands. Every year we hike and visually monitor the properties and work to make improvements to trails as needed. The following is a short description of the eight properties we own and the eight additional conservation easements we hold on private properties.



From south to north, the Land Trust holds a public access conservation easement on a portion of the otherwise privately-owned Moonstone Beach parking lot. The Merryman family, owners of the parking lot, beach house and restaurant, work with the land trust to support the public use and public responsibility on the beach. Heading north along Scenic Drive, the Land Trust owns the Pilot Point nature reserve. Pilot Point is the large landmass jutting out at the north end of Moonstone Beach. This property is a geologic/ecological reserve and is currently not open to public access. Moving further north along the coast, another popular property is Houda Point (a.k.a. Camel Rock). This eight acre beach park with trails is maintained by land trust volunteers, Humboldt Surfriders and our local surfing

community. Aside from being one of the most scenic vistas and best surf spots in Humboldt County, Camel Rock is home to the largest breeding colony of Leach's Storm Petrels in California. Moving north, in 1979 the Land Trust received the North Luffenholtz Beach property from Georgia Pacific Lumber Company. This property adjoins and is accessed from the Luffenholtz County Beach Park and is a fantastic family and surf-fishing beach.



Baker Beach and Trinidad Head

Continuing up the coast, the Land Trust owns the scenic Baker Beach property and holds conservation easements protecting forest and open space on the adjacent Baker Ranch subdivision. Heading north along Scenic Drive towards Trinidad, you pass through an enchanting redwood forest grove. The two acre Bruno Groth Grove was donated by Herman and Ann Iverson in honor of longtime community member and sculptor Bruno Groth. Old Home (or Indian) Beach is the next larger beach cove after Baker Beach, on the south side of Trinidad. The TCLT holds both ownership of a forest parcel and a public access conservation easement along the Parker Creek trail to this beach. We also hold a small public access easement to the Parker Creek Trail from Wagner Street. The Martin Creek Trail is just north of Trinidad along Stagecoach Road. The trail is undeveloped and requires the cooperation of the public in maintaining both its privacy and access.

Lastly, the land trust owns two properties in town. The Saunders Park property housing the museum, library and proposed land trust gallery room is now a cultural center and park near the entrance to town. The Trinidad Art house, near the lighthouse, is a historic building constructed in 1900 and was gifted to our land trust by the late Ned Simmons. Interior improvements are being made and our land trust board is close to finalizing a rental lease for a new artists cooperative gallery gift store, expected to open this November.

“Putting It Out There”

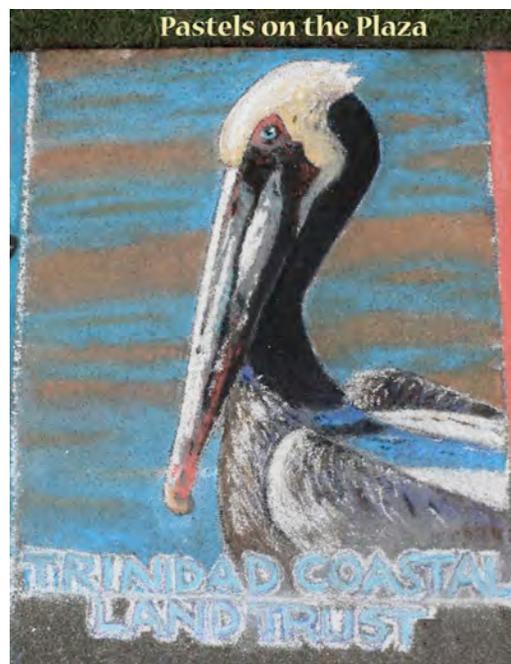
Susan Elliott

Our TCLT Directors and volunteers have been pretty busy “out there” this year. If you participated in one of the invasive-plant-removal days we’ve helped organize along south Scenic Drive, you’re probably already aware of this.



Susan Elliott and Don Allan converse with local artist Connie Butler at our Fish Festival booth June, 2012. Thanks guys!

If you weren’t able to join in on the extreme-weeding fun, perhaps you came by our table at the Trinidad Bay Watershed Night, bought a TCLT t-shirt at our booth at the Trinidad Fish Festival, or watched our very own Matthew Marshall create a sidewalk masterpiece at Pastels on the Plaza. And, if we missed you at any of these events, you can catch up on recent (and future) activities on our newly launched Facebook Page.



Thank you Matt – great job!

The lion’s share of the work we do as a land trust is behind the scenes—monitoring our conservation holdings & coastal access easements, working on the broad array of administrative tasks required to operate as a non-profit organization... and attending a LOT of meetings. All of this is critical to ensuring the TCLT’s ability to uphold our mission of and commitment to steward the land we hold in the public trust. There always seems to be more to do than the time to get it all done, and getting our message out there beyond our dedicated core group of supporters has been on the “to do” list for a while now. With our official name-change last year, such an effort seemed especially important for us to begin this year.

We are only at the beginning of this process, but what a beginning it’s been! As an organization that relies on public participation and support, engaging people one-on-one about the work we do is important for a variety of reasons. Beyond the more obvious ones, many of us have rediscovered just how much we really enjoy talking with folks about what we do and why we do it. It has been energizing to establish connections with folks from all over our region based on a mutual respect for nature

and a deep appreciation for the uniqueness and beauty of the Trinidad area. And, that's no small thing. So, the next time you see us at an event or find yourself wondering what we've been up to, stop by our booth - or visit our new Face Book page and say "Hi"!

Invasive Plant Removal Days

Steen Trump



Thanks to our super volunteers!

As part of the Land Trust's mission to preserve the natural beauty and biodiversity of our property holdings, we periodically hold work days to remove invasive plants, primarily the dreaded English Ivy (*Hedera helix*), Andean Jubatagrass (*Cortaderia jubata*) and Scotch Broom (*Cytisus scoparius*); contrary to common usage, it is primarily Jubatagrass in our area that is the problem, not Pampasgrass (*Cortaderia selloana*). The Land Trust has long been aware of the problem of invasive plants and has documented the presence of these species on our land holdings as part of its "property monitoring" obligations. In March of 2011 the Trust passed a resolution committing to "working through itself and other interested groups and individuals to stop the spread of and eventually to eradicate non-native plant species from its land holdings and from other open space areas in Northern Humboldt County". In recent years we have worked mainly on our three largest holdings: 1) Pilot Point, the headland at the north end of Moonstone Beach; 2) Baker Beach; and 3) Houda Point (Camel Rock). This year, in collaboration with

volunteers from the HSU Natural Resources Club, we had an "Ivy Bash" at Pilot Point on March 17 and a "Scotch Broom Bash" at Houda Point on October 20. Fellow citizens and Land Trust members also showed up for the day in March. Volunteers were treated with bananas and granola bars in the morning and vegetarian chili, bread, carrots and drinks for lunch. Everyone worked very hard and had a great time. These efforts are just the beginning in what the Trust hopes will become a sustained program to control and eradicate non-native plants from our land holdings and live up to our duty to preserve the natural habitat on them. We urge all of you to come and help out on our future events!



Acknowledgements: Thank you to Wildberries Marketplace for their generous donation of food to help feed our wonderful volunteers!

**VISIT OUR NEW FACEBOOK PAGE.
CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE FOR
EVENTS!**

Beach Access Trail Work

Although we did not hold any official trail work days this year, several dedicated members have periodically trimmed back the vegetation along the trails at Houda Point, as well as cleared one of the trails of a land slide which practically closed the trail. More needs to be done to fully remove the landslide and restore the trail – so watch for our next Trail Work Day and please come help.

Acknowledgements: A big thank you to the Trinidad Rancheria for donating approximately 100 feet of untreated wood decking from the old Trinidad Pier! These 4”x12” planks will be used for future trail restoration/maintenance projects.



Land Trust donated Property, North Luffenholtz Beach

Leave A Lasting Legacy: Gifts and Endowments

Are you concerned about protecting the natural beauty and character of our Trinidad coast for present and future generations? Please consider making a charitable gift (of property, stocks or cash) in your will or living trust to benefit the Trinidad Coastal Land Trust. No matter how large or small, a planned gift (land and/or financial assets) will continue your dedication to conservation beyond your lifetime. Planned gifts will help to ensure the long-term financial strength of our community volunteer land trust,

allowing us to respond to protect threatened lands, and to secure and restore public trails and beach access under our care. If you already have a will or living trust, you can easily amend that document to add a beneficiary. Depending on the method and timing of your gift, you may: reduce your income tax, capital gains, and/or estate taxes while retaining control of your assets.

Our land trust is a 501(c)3 non-profit charitable organization and has a fund with the Humboldt Area Foundation (HAF) where individuals can make a donation and or one can create a bequest in a will or trust. For example, when long-time Trinidad resident and land trust founding member Herman Iverson passed away several years ago, his family set up the Herman A. Iverson Memorial (Endowment) Fund with HAF. Our land trust receives an annual donation payment from this fund based on the interest generated from the fund’s principal. If you would like to find out more, please contact us or Chris Witt at the Humboldt Area Foundation (442-2993), or a financial planner or attorney for more information about how you can create a lasting legacy through a donation or bequest. If you are considering naming the Trinidad Coastal Land Trust in your will, the following language may be helpful:

“I give the Trinidad Coastal Land Trust, a 501(c) (3) Nonprofit Corporation, Tax ID# 94-2552913 incorporated in the State of California, and having its principal offices at PO BOX 457, Trinidad, CA 95570 the sum of \$_____ (or alternately, _____ percent of the residuary of my estate), for its general purposes to protect and conserve land and water resources for public benefit.”





TCLT preserves the 2-acre 'Bruno Growth Redwood Grove' along Scenic Drive, just south of Trinidad.

Tax Benefits for Donation of Conservation Easements

If you own land with important natural resources or public benefits such as coastal access, donating a conservation easement or gift of property can be one of the smartest ways to conserve the land you love while maintaining your private property rights and possibly realizing significant tax benefits. Donating a conservation easement can be a major financial decision, and the federal income tax deduction that may come with a donation can help make conservation easements possible for landowners in our community. We can share more information with you. Please contact your tax attorney/accountant for specific details about your property and tax situation.

Land Trust Endeavors to Keep Trinidad Art Gallery Going

Bryce Kenny

Most members will remember the passing of our beloved and long-time Board member Ned Simmons last fall. He was kind enough to leave his Trinidad residence, and home of Trinidad Art, to the land trust through his estate plan. The land trust obtained a loan from a long-time friend of Ned's to forestall the payment of the reverse mortgage. This will

allow renting the space to a new local artist's cooperative that plans to open a commercial art gallery where members of the public can enjoy and purchase works by local artists and enjoy musical performances. They hope to have things in place prior to the Christmas holiday season.

Though this direction is outside of our fundamental mission of trails and open space, Ned made it clear that if it was possible to keep Trinidad Art going, that would make him happy. Therefore, the Board has determined that we will do our best to keep this long-time fixture of the community going. Tom Sheen is on site now making improvements with some interior renovation.



'Ned's Place'

by Jim Welsh

Trinidad Art is located across from the Eatery. Stop by and look in the window, or come in if the "open" sign is out, and support the local arts community headed up by Trinidad Art Nights organizer Tim Breed.

Library Building on Track for Spring Completion

Richard Johnson

It seems just like yesterday that our generous community celebrated the Library ground-breaking ceremony. But since then, progress has been fast-paced. According to building contractor, Charles Netzow, construction is on schedule and on budget with most of the exterior

and roof completed and interior work is underway. Building completion is scheduled for spring of 2013. When completed, the building will be leased to the City of Trinidad to be operated as part of the Humboldt County library program.



It's been exciting to watch the building progress and we look forward to completing the last major part of the beautiful facilities that include the Trinidad Museum, Saunders Park and the Library. The Land Trust holds title to the underlying property courtesy of the kind donation of Glenn and Janis Saunders. Many thanks for the countless individual donations, volunteer work and numerous fundraisers sponsored by the Trinidad Friends of the Library. But donations to complete the library are still needed and fundraising continues to ensure all expenses are covered. Donations of any amount are greatly appreciated. Please consider a contribution to the Trinidad Library Founding Family program. Founding Family members make donations of \$500 or more and will be honored on a plaque inside the new library. Contact the Land Trust for further donation information.

Regional Meeting in Whitethorn

Susan Elliott

In mid-September, we participated in our first Face-to-Face meeting as a member organization of the California Northern Region Land Trust Council (CNRCLT). The CNRCLT is a recently formed association of land trusts whose mission is "to improve conservation of land and water resources of the Northern Region through strategic planning, training

sponsorship, network opportunities, capacity building and public policy advocacy." A total of 16 individuals from 11 land trusts in Humboldt, Siskiyou, Mendocino, Sonoma and Lake Counties participated in the nearly day-long event held at the Redwoods Monastery in Whitethorn. The main focus was on building organizational capacity through collaboration.



The concept of capacity-building resonates deeply with most land trusts that are, by their very nature, locally based, often relatively small, as far as non-profit organizations go, and have very limited or, like the TCLT, no paid staff. This meeting was a great opportunity to learn from one another how we've each addressed particular challenges and to brainstorm ways that we might help one another accomplish individual as well as mutual organizational goals.

The next CNRCLT meeting is in early November via conference call, and there are a couple of exciting ideas on the table that we are now beginning to flesh-out. Stay tuned...

In Closing

Don't forget - our annual meeting will be held at the Trinidad Town Hall on Sunday, November 18th at 3pm. All are welcome and we hope to see you there or hear from you soon; check out our Facebook page; watch for updates at our website and encourage your friends to attend or become new members. Also, please don't forget to *return your voter ballot* and membership donation form. Thank you!