



THE MCKINLEYVILLE LAND TRUST NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2014 NUMBER 31

THE CHAH-GAH-CHO TRAIL PROJECT IS SHOVEL-READY, NEEDS DONATIONS, BENCHES

by Nancy Correll

After years of preparation, Chah-GAH-Cho (CGC) has acquired permits for the trail project! The application for the Coastal Development Permit and the other associated permits was approved in August. The McKinleyville Land Trust (MLT) has received two local grants, one from Coast Central Credit Union and the other from the McKinleyville Area Foundation. With these funds, we have begun to clear some of the trail access corridors. The access easement behind K-Mart to CGC has already been cleared, with the energetic work of the Sheriff's Work Alternative Program (SWAP).

But this project is not yet completely funded. Contributions can help us build durable trails, good signage, lasting benches, bike racks and doggie pots. Any donation sent to the MLT designated "For CGC" will go to this project.

This is the time to consider donating a bench: a memorial for a loved one, an inspirational verse, a place to meditate and remember. Contact MLT at 839-LAND for more information.

Donations can be mailed to McKinleyville Land Trust, P.O. Box 2723, McKinleyville, CA 95519. Thank you!



The CGC trail project is located in southern McKinleyville, in the forest and meadow adjacent to the Mill Creek Shopping Center, and includes beautiful views such as this one over the Mad River to the Pacific Ocean.

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CONNECTING THE COASTAL TRAIL

by Emily Sinkhorn

Imagine walking or cycling from McKinleyville up towards Trinidad all on a separated trail and low-traffic coastal roads...that vision can be a reality with community support!

The Little River Trail (LRT) is proposed to extend the Hammond Coastal Trail northward and connect Westhaven and Trinidad to the Humboldt Bay area. The trail would provide a safe bicycle and pedestrian route separated from motorized vehicles from the south end of Scenic Drive in Westhaven over the Little River to Clam Beach Road.

A feasibility study has been completed; the Trinidad Coastal Land Trust has been awarded funds for the acquisition of a key parcel from its willing seller, Green Diamond; and the State Coastal Conservancy has offered support for the next steps if local matching funds can be found.

To realize this goal, more community support for the Little River Trail will be needed to show the region this trail segment is a priority. You can support the Little River Trail by discussing with friends and co-workers, writing letters to the editors of local papers or speaking with your elected officials.

For more information visit <http://www.naturalresourceservices.org/projects/little-river-trail-feasibility-study>



MLT IS ONLINE!

Check us out on our website and Facebook page for the latest info!

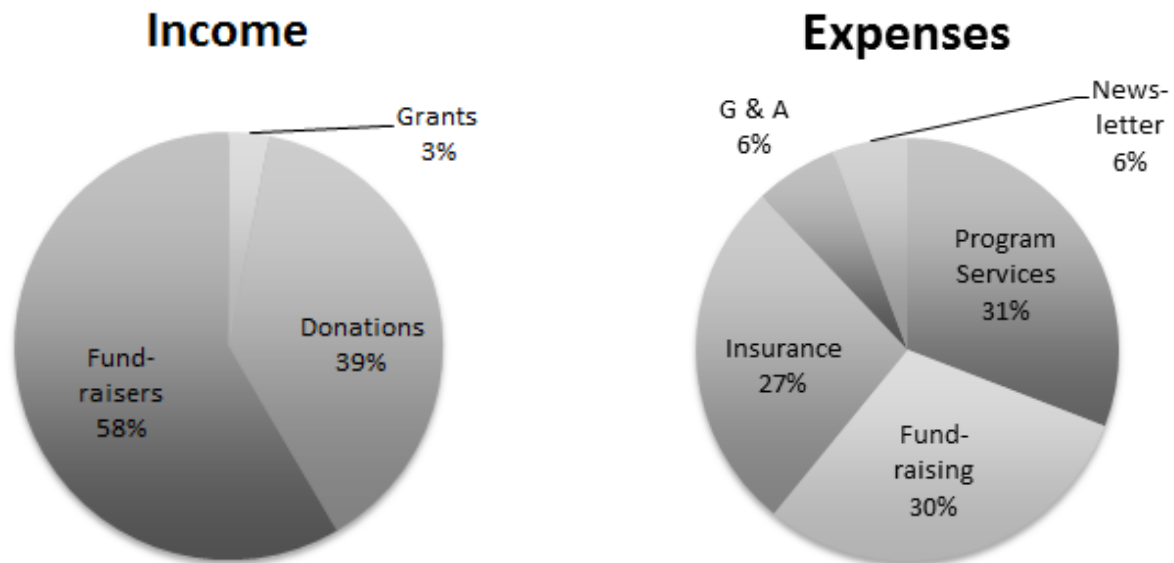
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TREASURER'S CORNER

by Brenda Pease

This year the land trust had its most successful fundraiser in years—the gyro food booth at the North Country Fair! Thank you to everyone who bought our delicious gyros! Also thank you to all the volunteers who worked in the booth! Your support is very much appreciated because the gyro booth and the annual dinner account for more than half of our all-volunteer land trust's income. Here's a look at income and expenses for this past year:



In case you are wondering what Program Services are, they include: 1. Membership dues in regional and national land trust associations, allowing the Board of Directors to network with other land trusts on conservation issues. 2. Supplies and maintenance, including signage, doggie pot bags, informational literature, mowing, and removal of invasive plants and hazardous or downed trees.

The annual fundraisers cover ordinary expenses such as the insurance, the MLT voicemail and P.O. Box, storage unit rental for supplies used at fundraisers, and the printing and mailing of the newsletter.

Your donations help make the properties safe and enjoyable for everyone in our community. Your donations are also making possible the development of trails at Chah-GAH-Cho. The coastal development permit was approved and the work has begun! We look forward to your continued support so that the trail system can be completed on time and on budget. Working together we will create a place to enjoy the natural beauty that surrounds us. Your donation makes a difference!



THE ENHANCED TAX INCENTIVE FOR CONSERVATION: WILL IT BECOME PERMANENT?

by Nancy Correll

Landowners often wonder whether there is a tax advantage to creating a conservation easement for their land. There is: a landowner who puts a conservation easement (CE) on their land and donates the easement to a non-profit organization or public agency can take an IRS tax deduction for the value of the easement. (The CE usually lowers the appraised value of the land.)

This tax advantage has been expanded, known as the “enhanced tax incentive.” According to the Land Trust Association (LTA):

“The law:

- *Raises the maximum deduction a donor can take for donating a conservation easement from 30% of their adjusted gross income (AGI) in any year to 50%;*
- *Allows qualified farmers and ranchers to deduct up to 100% of their AGI; and*
- *Increases the number of years over which a donor can take deductions from 6 years to 16 years.”*

This enhanced tax deduction has bipartisan support, and has been passed by Congress several times, but only for a year each time, after which it expires. This year the House passed H.R.4719, which would make the tax incentive permanent.

It’s a good time to send letters to your Senators! Senate bill S526 will be considered by the Senate, probably in November.

Stay tuned and let’s hope that this time the incentive will remain as a reliable aid to land trusts and landowners who want to protect their land.



FAREWELL TO INSTRUMENTAL BOARD MEMBER

Dorothy Klein was instrumental in creating the McKinleyville Land Trust and persistent in keeping it going since incorporation in 1994. Both she and her late husband, Lewis, worked to protect natural habitat and open space in McKinleyville. Dorothy’s broad knowledge of McKinleyville and its people have been invaluable to the MLT. She served as a quiet, efficient member on the Board since 2000, serving as Secretary for most of that time. She is also an accomplished artist, with cards and posters available locally at Blake’s Books. She penned the flower for the McKinleyville Land Trust logo (on the first page of this newsletter), and designed a beautiful mug, the sale of which raises funds for the land trust. We wish her the very best in her plans to move to Berkeley this spring, to live with her sister, Penny Brogden, and continue her adventuresome life.

PS - Did you know the MLT has a memorial fund to honor Dorothy’s late husband? The Lewis Klein funds are used for environmental and conservation materials and projects in McKinleyville schools and the public library. For more information, call the Humboldt Area Foundation at 442-2993.

Photographs from the Land Trust's Dow's Prairie Educational Wetland, a pollywog and the pond.



THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS & DONORS OF 2014

Dorothy Klein, Peggy Brogham, Laura Bridy, Emily, Amaya & Jason Teraoka, Tom Lisle, Judy Haggard, Joyce King, Nancy Correll, Brenda Pease, Greg Jaso, Leonel Arguello, Annika Ragsdale, Meighan O'Brien, Sam, Chris Heppe, Ken Miller, the Go-Green Club of McKinleyville High School: Carmen Arguello, Carina Gloor, Maya Bickner, Michaela Butler, Haleigh Dunk, Meighan O'Brien, Humboldt Sanitation - for taking over 250 pounds of ivy!, Kurt Werner, Johnny Calkins, George Pease, Kmart for accepting many bags of trash from CGC; Gina Rimson, Darci Short, dishwashers Kristen Pease and Holly, Maya Bickner, Alison Hartley, Haleigh Dunk, Noah Pease, Holly Largent, Frank Bickner, Greg Bundros, Lori Dengler, Jeff Dunk, Alan Bird, Shirley Bird, and numerous dinner guests that always pitch in for clean-up! And special thanks to our speaker: Jerry Rohde! Also Edwin & A. H. Uyeki, Vintage BMW House, John Kulstad, Richard Duning, Beverly & George Allen, Christine Angell, Gail & Julian Barbash, Maya Conrad, John Corbett, John Crater, Neal & Suzanne Crothers, Alan Deybo, F.R. & V.A. Felter, Joann Fornes, Sylvia & Don Garlick, Pete & Judy Haggard, Paul & Barbara Kelly, Denise & Michael Kroemer, Jennifer & George Wheeler, Mad River Brewing Co, David McMurray, Sue Mossman, Felicia Oldfather, Pacific Watershed Associates, Sarah Pilkington, Richard Ridenhour, Rebecca Rimson, MH Segal, Emily Sinkhorn, The Lois Nipkau Revocable Trust, Steve Lundin, Terry Myers, Barbara Georgiana, Sam, Justin Ly, Adele Nipkau, Rhonda Farro, Julie Neander, Gordon Leppig, Kate Hansen, Kristen Schmidt, Greg Schmidt, Marilyn Wieman, Ryan Alyward, Lynne Bryan, Dave Roemer, Dave Couch, Kim McClure, Monica Bueno, Chris Heppe, Carol Wilson, Sally Botzler, the Ecoclub and more!

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MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose of the McKinleyville Land Trust is to conserve local open spaces for ecological, historical, agricultural, educational, recreational and scenic values.

For Everyone—Forever.

This newsletter is published on 100% recycled post consumer waste paper by the McKinleyville Land Trust, a non-profit corporation.

Phone: 707-839-LAND
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Designer: Laura Bridy
Image Credits: Allen Bird,
Redwood Community Action Agency,
Laura Bridy, Richard Duning
Printed by: Bug Press



MCKINLEYVILLE
LAND TRUST

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SAVE THE DATE—MARCH 7 ANNUAL DINNER



March 7, 2015, in the evening, is the Annual Dinner. Speaker Don Garlick presents “Our Planet of Plants” a slideshow and presentation of the interrelationships of plants, oxygen, chloroplasts, climate and our place in the web of life. While you listen to such subjects as: how redwoods grow tall and how does osmosis work, you can enjoy a delicious dinner, wine & beer, browse through a silent auction and raffle of beautiful crafts and gifts and even some of the plants Don will be discussing! Best of all, you will be contributing to the effort of preserving and protecting our world of plants! The event will be held at Azalea Hall in McKinleyville. See you there.