



THE MCKINLEYVILLE LAND TRUST NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2013 NUMBER 30

LOCAL INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' TRADITIONAL USE BOTANICAL AREA IN THE MAKING AT DOW'S PRAIRIE

By Nanette Kelley

On October 24th, Trinidad Rancheria Tribal Historic Preservation Officer Rachel Sundberg shared cultural conversations with Dow's Prairie School 4th graders and Indian Education students at the McKinleyville Land Trust (MLT) Dow's Prairie Educational Wetland. Her visit was the first event in an ongoing educational opportunity at the wetland, the creation and eventual utilization of an indigenous peoples' traditional use botanical area. The area will include common historic plants (suitable to this local wetland) used for food, clothing, medicine and basket making by local tribes.

After a Yurok and local culture Q&A in the gym, it was off to the wetland for more in depth discussions about

(Continued on page 2)



MAD RIVER BLUFFS MEANDERS

By Greg Jaso

The residents of McKinleyville are fortunate to have access to a variety of north coast habitats, including forests, wetlands, grasslands, coastal dunes and estuarine rivers. ALL of these habitats are represented at Mad River Bluffs (MRB), which encompasses 74 acres of land on the west side of town, between Hiller Park and the ocean.

Purchased in 2001 by the California

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Students learn about local native botanical traditions.

DOW'S PRAIRIE ED. WETLAND (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Yurok food, home life and medicinal traditions. The kids learned how to transplant Yerba Buena and Yarrow starts. Both plants are being propagated for eventual spring planting in the wetland and the school garden. These and about two dozen other types of local traditional use plants were purchased with a grant from the McKinleyville Area Fund.

Dow's Prairie School students will learn to care for the young medicinal use plants in their schoolyard greenhouse and garden until spring when the plants will be transplanted into the school garden (as a reserve) and also directly into the wetland. At that time, Yurok and or Wiyot elders will visit the students to continue the conversation about local plants and traditions, and share stories. Eventually, as the plants mature, some will be used for gathering and traditional use demonstrations at the site.

Scotch broom is the primary invasive species at the MLTDPEW. In November, McKinleyville Land Trust board members and one McKinleyville Middle School volunteer burned the large pile of dried Scotch broom that had been pulled out last spring by the Humboldt County Sheriff's Department CalTrans Inmate Work Crew.

Amazingly, this Scotch broom offered a turn for the positive, in spring the nicely mulched area that remains where the 20x30 foot pile of dead invasives had been composting will be transformed into this new botanical area. In addition to educational uses, the plants will aid in the ongoing restoration of the wetland.

The following is the grade level appropriate curriculum for the wetland classroom. Members of the community, who have expertise in any of the following areas and wish to contribute to the wetland education of the Dow's Prairie students, please contact Nanette Kelley, MLTDPEW Team Leader and MLT Liaison to Dow's Prairie School, through the MLT.

Kindergarten—Reptiles and Amphibians (similarities and differences in appearances of animals)

1st Grade—Mammals (different animals inhabit different environments, meeting their needs in different ways)

2nd Grade—Birds/Soil (animals have predictable life cycles/earth is made of materials that have distinct properties)

3rd Grade—Insects (adaptations in physical structure or behavior may improve chances of survival)

4th Grade—Native/Non-Native Plants/Food Chains (plants depend on environment for survival/producers, consumers and decomposers are all related for food chains and webs)

5th Grade—Water/Micro-organisms (water cycle and use of water by communities/organisms)

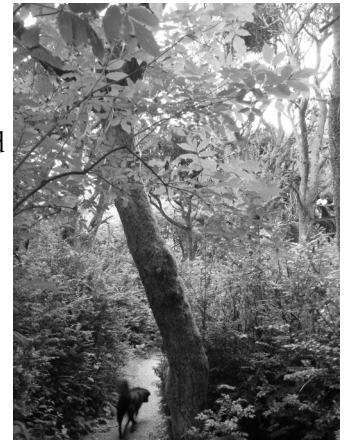
The MLT Dow's Prairie Educational Wetland is not a public access property. Due to the sensitive nature of the habitat, study and restoration efforts, public and group access to the wetland must be by appointment. Volunteer days and educational events are semi-annual & TBA.

MAD RIVER BLUFFS MEANDERS (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Coastal Conservancy with funds from Prop. 12, the "Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air and Coastal Protection Act of 2000," and turned over to the McKinleyville Land Trust (MLT) for preservation, MRB is laced with 6,500 feet of meandering footpaths courtesy of Redwood Community Action Agency and the California Conservation Corps. The trail system, which is tied into Hiller Park, the Hammond Trail and a parking area at the end of Ocean Avenue provides unique walking access to a natural setting with four lookouts offering outstanding views of the Mad River Estu-

ary, dunes and the Pacific Ocean. It's a great place to stroll, walk your dog, bird watch and just enjoy the outdoors in our own backyard.

The land and trail system are maintained by Friends of Mad River Bluffs, a committee of MLT. This group and other volunteers patrol trails for obstructions and trash, and work to remove invasive non-native plants affecting the natural flora of the forest. If you would like to get involved please contact the MLT at 839-5263 or email info@mmlandtrust.org.



A winding trail through Mad River Bluffs' lush and varied forest.

KHSU'S CONVERSATIONS ON THE LAND

By Nancy Correll

Monthly interviews with representatives from local land trusts began on KHSU this year. Starting in May, land trusts are describing to the community what a land trust does, where it's located, what the projects are. Your own McKinleyville Land Trust gave its interview in July – we hope you heard it. Others include Sanctuary Forest, Jacoby Creek LT, Northcoast Regional LT, Siskiyou LT and Trinidad LT.

Still to come are the Mattole Restoration Council, Lake County LT and Sonoma LT.

All these organizations are part of the California Northern Region Land Trust Council (with the imposing acronym of CNRLTC), a group created to support and sustain the individual land trusts of our north coast.

For information on upcoming interviews, call Katie Whiteside at KHSU, 826-4805.

GOODBYE TO A BOARD MEMBER

Since 2011, Laura Bridy has served on the MLT Board. In addition to regular board duties such as monitoring properties, eradicating invasive weeds, collaborating and providing input to the rest of the board, she is really the person who created the digital presence for MLT. She designed and manages our website, she's the one responsible for our beautiful newsletter, she's put us on Facebook, put Paypal on the website, and generally has kept all of us abreast of funding and publicity opportunities. For several years before joining the Board, she had vol-

unteered for MLT, helping with fundraisers, cleanups and the website. Her busy life as Assistant Project Manager at Pacific Coast Fish, Wildlife and Wetlands Restoration Association and anticipation of furthering her education will keep her off the Board, but she will continue to help where she can (including this newsletter!).

Laura will be missed, but the MLT deeply appreciates all she has done for land conservation. Thank you, Laura!

CELEBRATION & PROGRESS AT CHAH-GAH-CHO

By Emily Teraoka and Nancy Correll



Learning about plans for the up-coming Chah-GAH-Cho trails project. This publicly accessible land is located behind the Mill Creek (Kmart) Shopping Center.

On July 20th, the MLT welcomed over 40 people to Celebrate Chah-GAH-Cho! This event was held to introduce people to the property and to learn about our plans for the upcoming trail project. Volunteers were on hand selling BBQ food and drinks and there was live music provided by Ali Nelson. Leonel Arguello led several guided walks of the planned trail system. It was a wonderful afternoon and we are glad that so many people made it out to celebrate Chah-GAH-Cho!

As this newsletter goes to press, the Chah-GAH-Cho committee is putting the final touches on our Coastal Development Permit (CDP) application. Although it has been a long process, this application has helped us to update and consolidate our legal and documented basis for what we plan to do.

And what a plan it is! New, durable trails! Signs! Benches! Doggipots! Bike racks! We plan to make this beautiful spot a destination for runners, hikers, and walkers of McKinleyville!

The main thing we need to do now is raise the funds to do this project. As you know, the traditional big grants for projects like this are now few and far between. We have received a generous grant from our own local Coast Central Credit Union for \$9,500. A mere \$15,000 is all we need to complete the trail project!

Can you help? Donations of any size are appreciated, and if you specify that your donation is for Chah-GAH-Cho, that's where it will go!

We will also be planning fundraising events; if you would like to help – please send us your name and contact information (see below).

This is truly a project, with your help, that is by and for the community of McKinleyville!

Donations can be sent to MLT, P.O.Box 2723, McKinleyville, CA 95519, or can be made via Paypal on our website (mlandtrust.org). Please leave a message at 707-839-5263 (839-LAND) if you have any questions.



DURABLE COLLABORATIONS

By Judy Haggard

In Fall 2013, the McKinleyville Land Trust and six other local land trusts were approached by Solid Ground Consulting (SGC), a consulting firm hired by the Land Trust Alliance (LTA), the national organization of land trusts, to serve as the pilot study for a national project called the "Durable Collaboration Initiative." The initiative was developed as a result of conservation leaders across the country expressing a concern about the capabilities of most land trusts to meet their obligation to be permanently sustainable. They felt that collaboration was a way for land trusts to meet this obligation. The project would be supported primarily by the LTA and by regional and local funders, including some matching funds provided by the participating land trusts.

After much discussion, the MLT Board decided that this was an opportunity that we couldn't pass up, and that, in the best interest of our land trust, i.e., to become more effective in fulfilling our mission of conserving lands for perpetuity, agreed to sign on. So, we, along with the six other local land trusts, now make up the Northwestern California Cohort, which is the first of four or five groups forming across the country.

The goals of the pilot study are to explore the various options for collabora-

tion in our region, determine which kind of collaboration is the best fit for each organization, and begin the process of establishing collaboration agreements with action steps. MLT should benefit from the initiative by being able to build its organizational capacity through shared resources (e.g., staff, office space, and equipment) with other land trusts, and, instead of competing for regional resources (e.g., funding, volunteer pool), we will be able to work together to better use these resources to all our advantage. The conservation community in this region as a whole will also be strengthened as a result of these collaborative efforts.

A day-long meeting of the cohort facilitated by SGC and multiple conference calls between SGC and MLT Board members has so far resulted in an individual assessment report that identifies MLT's strengths and shortcomings with regard to collaborative opportunities and a report that synthesizes the common challenges and opportunities for the cohort. More meetings and conference calls are planned, resulting in a set of models customized to address the cohort's range of issues and the corresponding options along the spectrum of collaborations (the spectrum runs from networking to merger [although the option of merger does not seem to be of interest to any of the members of the cohort]).

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MLT IS ONLINE!

Check us out on our website and Facebook! You can get information about our properties, upcoming events, and see what we have been doing!

WWW.MLANDTRUST.ORG

WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/MCKINLEYVILLELANDTRUST



THE POWER OF SUSTAINED GIVING

By Nancy Correll

There is an easy yet substantial way to give to your favorite non-profit land trust. It is known as sustained giving. You can set up an automatic donation schedule with your bank to send an affordable amount every month to a designated organization. Banks refer to this type of transaction as an automated clearing house (ACH) or electronic funds transfer (EFT) and you don't have to be technologically savvy to use it.

Once set up, you need do nothing more, knowing that your donation is helping your land trust to sustain its work of conserving and caring for land in your community. And you can specify the project you would like to support. For instance, one person donates \$50 per month using EFT to support the new trails project at Chah-GAH-Cho. Over the period of 2 years, he has already contributed \$1,200.00 to this project! Another sustaining donor sends \$100 a month to support the

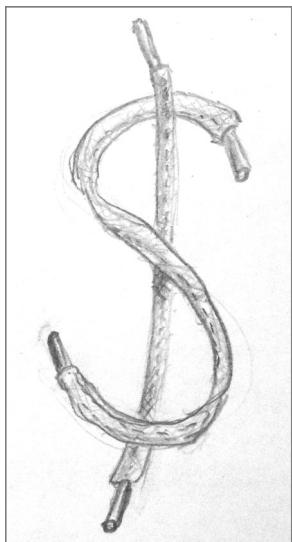
work at Dow's Prairie Educational Wetland.

MLT is grateful for any contribution, in any amount, either by check, cash, or automatic transfer. Put together, donations from the supporters in our community make it possible to do our work. As you can see from our treasurer's report, we have some monetary expenses such as insurance, legal fees, printing of newsletters, and others that we do need contributions to cover.

Sustained giving is a way to ensure that we can plan ahead to cover the expenses that are coming up. Consider setting up a sustainable giving arrangement, and become a key supporter to protect land in your community!

All donations to MLT, including sustained giving, are tax-deductible.

If you'd like more information on how to this works or how to get it started, please call Brenda Pease at the McKinleyville Land Trust (707) 839-LAND.



2013 FINANCIAL REPORT

By Brenda Pease, Treasurer

The MLT had another successful year of operating on a shoestring budget. All income was used to pay for operating expenses. Income was \$15,000 during the last twelve months. The income is comprised of donations, fundraisers, and grants. Grants were received from the McKinleyville Area Fund and the Humboldt Area Foundation. Expenses were \$14,500, which were used for program services, insurance, and legal fees. Legal fees were incurred to rewrite the easement for the Chah-GAH-Cho property so that trails could be developed. Our two main fundraisers—the annual dinner in March and the food booth at the North Country Fair—were huge successes again this year! Thank you to everyone that volunteered, attended, and donated! It couldn't be done without you!

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Like many all-volunteer non-profit organizations, MLT depends on volunteers to help us take care of our land and our easements. Here are some tasks that need doing – can you help?

- ◆ Be a member of our “Friends of” land stewardship committees: Mad River Bluffs, Chah-GAH-Cho, or Dow’s Prairie Educational Wetland.
- ◆ Tech projects: our webpage, Facebook page, newsletter layout, and digitizing our files (an ongoing project to bring our hardcopy files into the 21st century!)
- ◆ Volunteer Coordination – organizing work parties, event planning and staffing, and keeping our volunteers abreast of MLT events
- ◆ Sign up to help out at events, work parties on our properties, mailing parties, and other opportunities to help out for a few hours – you’ll be glad you did!

You can call us at 707-839-5263 (839-LAND).

A GIGANTIC **THANK YOU** TO OUR DONORS & VOLUNTEERS!

Helen Chitwood, Diane Ryerson, Dora Lopez, Felicia Oldfather, Mr & Mrs. Geoff Spenceley, Robert & Anna Botley, Linda Doerflinger, Jackson & Eklund, Richard Ridenhour, The Lois Nipkau Revocable Trust, David Tyndall & Ruth Angell, Paul & Barbara Kelly, Cross Country Woods, John Kulstad, Richard Duning, Tom Pratum & Peggy Leviton, David McMurray, Gina Rimson, Ken Miller, Lee & Chris House, Neal & Suzanne Crothers, Bob & Ginny Felter, Pacific Watershed Associates, Don & Sylvia Garlick, The DesMarets-Price/Milligan Family, Beverly Allen, Jeff Dunk & Sabra Steinberg, Greg Jaso, Judy Haggard, Sarah Pilkington, Tom Lisle, Dorothy Klein, Nancy Correll, Mr & Mrs Hugh Holt, Mr & Mrs Edwin Uyeki, Singing Tree, Samara Restoration, Ramone’s, Healthsport, Abruzzi’s Restaurants, Sushi Spot, Threadbare Dancewear, Ray’s Foodplace, Kmart, Rite Aid Pharmacies, McDonald’s, 6 Rivers Brewery, Denny’s, Almquist Lumber, Dick Taylor, Redwood Yogurt, Mad River Gardens, Mad River Brewery, Sweet Spot, Curves, Robert Goodman Winery, New Image Salon, Mirador Glass, Fieldbrook Winery, Cap’n Zach’s, Orchids for the People, Carmela’s, Luzmilla’s, Paul’s Live From New York, Silver Lining, John McClelland, Nanette Kelly, Don Garlick, Leonel Arguello, Greg Jaso, Joyce King, Emily King Teraoka, Judy Haggard, Brenda Pease, Nancy Correll, Tom Lisle, Dorothy Klein, Lynne Bryan, Simone Groves, Maya Bickner, Haleigh Dunk, Alison Hartley, Kristin Schmidt, Dave Couch, Monica Bueno, Rachel Shea, Kim McClure, Laura Bridy, Courtney Blake, Carmen Arguello, Jen Kalt, Linda Evans, Frank Bickner, Darci Short, Gina Rimson, Adele Nipkau, Julia Scheffield, Jeff Dunk, Jason Teraoka, Gordon Leppig, Dan Leppig, Julie Neander, Julian Barbash, Dave Roemer, Rhonda Farro, Katie Farro, Larry Hand, Greg Bundros, Jamie Dawson, Linda Doerflinger, Silvie Leppig, Danielle Davis, Darci Short, The NRC Club at HSU, Allen Bird, Johnny Calkins, Annika Ragsdale, Kurt Werner, Shaina Neihans, Carol Wilson, Molly Schmelle, Koa Lavery, Joanne Fornes, Molly Berry, Cara Brockhoff, Ali Nelson, Leah Walker, Pauline Taber, Sophie Freschi, Cassandra Kelly, 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 paper by the
McKinleyville Land Trust,
a non-profit corporation.

Phone: 707-839-LAND
E-mail: info@mckinleyvillelandtrust.org

Designer: Laura Bridy
Chief Editor: Nancy Correll
Associate Editors: MLT Board Members
Image Credits: Nanette Kelley, Jim Sloan,
Laura Bridy, and MLT Board Members
Printed by: Bug Press



MCKINLEYVILLE
LAND TRUST

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ILLUMINATING MCKINLEYVILLE'S PAST AND ENJOYING A DELICIOUS DINNER



1905 Humboldt Northern covered railroad bridge over Mad River.
Photo courtesy of Tom Georgeson.

You won't want to miss speaker Jerry Rohde, probing the history of McKinleyville in his talk, "South of School Road," at the MLT Annual Dinner. Jerry will be describing the colorful history of the area between the Mad River and School Road, which includes our own property, Chah-GAH-Cho, as well as Mill Creek, the old mill site, a shocking drowning incident and more. The evening will also include a scrumptious dinner, wine & beer, a colorful raffle, and a chance to see all your conservation-minded friends. The event will be held at Azalea Hall in McKinleyville...

SAVE THE DATE—MARCH 8!