

# THE MCKINLEYVILLE LAND TRUST



Ron LeValley



Photo:

**BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE**  
*Parus atricapillus*

Ron LeValley will present a slide-illustrated presentation on Humboldt Habitat for Birds at this year's Annual Dinner Fundraiser.

## ANNUAL DINNER FUNDRAISER

On April 5<sup>th</sup> at Azalea Hall, MLT will host its Annual Dinner Fundraiser. A meal of Chicken Cacciatore or Eggplant Parmesan will be served at 6 p.m., followed by a keynote address at 7 p.m. Admission and dinner is \$15 Adult/\$5 Child. This year's keynote presentation titled 'Humboldt Habitat for Birds' will be presented by Ron LeValley of Mad River Biologists.

Humboldt County abounds in bird diversity, from the pelagic waters offshore to the higher elevations of the Coast Range. Ron has been studying and photographing birds for over 30 years on the north

coast, and will share some of what he has learned about the interaction between birds and the habitats that the Land Trust helps to protect. Ron will intersperse his words with those of William Leon Dawson, author of the 1923 book *Birds of California*. This will be an entertaining, educational and inspirational presentation.

Ron is the founder and Senior Biologist of Mad River Biologists, a biological consulting firm in Humboldt County, California. Best known for the identification and distribution of birds along the Pacific Coast, he also has an extensive understanding of a

## Updates

### Annual 'Visioning' Meeting

On February 2nd, the MLT Board met for our annual 'Visioning' meeting. The purpose of this meeting is for the Board to review and revise our existing policies and guidelines, as well as identify and plan activities for the forthcoming year.

Items discussed at this year's meeting included development of draft policy regarding memorials on Land Trust property; plans to develop a Prospective Easement Donation "Fact Sheet"; and activities and improvements on current land trust properties, including our newest addition, Dow's Prairie Vernal Pool.

### Office Space?

Do you have extra office space at your at your business? The McKinleyville Land Trust is looking for a new home to house our computer and files, and to gather for our monthly meetings. Our meetings are scheduled on Sunday evenings between 7-9 p.m.

Please contact the Land Trust at 839-LAND if you are interested in donating space.

natural history subjects. A lifelong interest in marine birds and mammals was enhanced by his involvement with Point Reyes Bird Observatory beginning in 1966, including serving as a biologist at the Farallon Island research station. Ron gathered a worldwide perspective on ecological issues when he founded, and for 15 years directed, Biological Journeys, a pioneering ecotourism company.

One of Ron's outstanding attributes is sharing his knowledge and enthusiasm with others.

As a professional photographer, Ron has compiled an impressive collection (over 70,000 images) of wildlife photographs that he uses for presentations and publications. Ron's photography started back in the 1960s and has evolved with the technology of the time.

He is a founding member of the Mendocino Coast Photographer Guild and Gallery, 301 North Main Street, Fort Bragg CA where his work can be seen.

Ron's photos are also on his web site at [www.levalleyphoto.com](http://www.levalleyphoto.com).

It will be a fun and illuminating evening. We look forward to seeing you there!



**Long-Billed Curlew**  
*Numenius americanus*

*Photo: Ron LeValley*

## Mission Statement

The McKinleyville Land Trust is a non-profit, public benefit corporation. The McKinleyville Land Trust promotes voluntary conservation of land for nature, timber, agriculture, education, recreation, history, and scenery. The Trust is a way for people to donate land or conservation easements in perpetuity as a means of accomplishing their personal conservation goals. Often these donations have a tax saving advantage as well.

### **McKinleyville Land Trust Board of Directors 2008**

*Allen Bird - President.*

*Kristin Schmidt - Vice President.*

*Dorothy Klein - Secretary*

*Wayne Sutherland - Treasurer*

*Darci Short.*

*Nancy Correll*

*Lindsay Walker*

Have your coffee and help the MLT too! Coffee mugs designed by Board Member Dorothy Klein are available for \$8 (tax included). The mugs can be purchased at Blake's Books on Central Avenue, by calling 839-LAND, or at all of the McKinleyville Land Trust fundraising events.



## CARBON CREDITS & LAND TRUSTS

Nancy Correll

Governor Schwarzenegger's well-publicized buying of carbon credits from our local Van Eck Forest may be the beginning of a new way of doing forestry. Whether or not you agree with the cap and trade system as a method to reduce greenhouse gases, such as carbon, it looks like the wave of the future and land trusts may be asked to play a role.

Here's how it works:

In 2006, CA passed AB32, requiring carbon emissions in the state to be reduced to 1990 levels by 2020. A cap and trade method, already in use in Europe, will be used to reach those levels. Any company or organization that is unable or unwilling to reduce their carbon emissions to 1990 levels can buy carbon credits from those who are able to reduce below their 1990 levels; or from those who can increase their sequestration (permanent storage) of carbon. It's unclear just how this will play out. So far, the state Air Resources Board (ARB) has the task of deciding what businesses and organizations will be required to reduce emissions. California Climate Action Registry (CCAR) is designated to register companies and help them establish baselines and goals. The process is voluntary now; but by 2012 it will become mandatory for the designated business and organizations.

Forests are major depositories of carbon, but have been depleted by poor forestry practices, forest fires and deforestation, including development. Current commercial forestry results in forests with less carbon sequestration than mature, old growth forests. If a forest can be shown to increase sequestration of carbon, on a permanent basis, it can sell carbon credits for that amount of carbon. Probably current forestry regulations will serve as the baseline for a working forest. Because the enhanced forest practices must be permanent to make the carbon sequestration lasting, the forest will need a conservation easement requiring the additional or equivalent forest practices to be used in perpetuity.

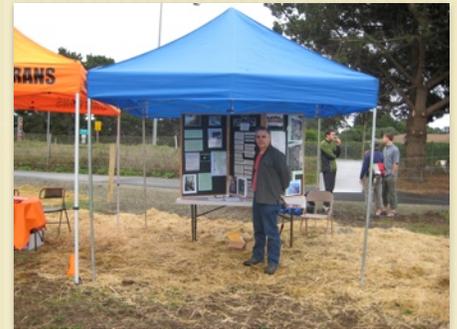
This is where land trusts, with all their experience in creating and monitoring conservation easements, may be helpful in preparing a working forest to sell carbon credits. This could be a way to help fund smaller, private or public working forests as they make the transition from conventional logging practices to an old growth, selective logging model.

Aside from the fact that the methods of carbon sequestration in forests are still being developed, it won't be an easy process for a forest to qualify to sell credits. The forest will have to be more than 100 acres; the initial appraisal could cost \$20,000.00 and must be repeated every 6 years or so; and the forest must also have a conservation easement requiring the superior practices to be used in perpetuity. However, if a forest large enough and the property owner is willing to be held to these standards, the sale of carbon credits could provide a modest revenue stream to help develop and maintain it.

As you read in the papers, the Governor's carbon credits purchased from the Van Eck forest help to offset the carbon dioxide of his airplane trips. With carbon credits now selling for about \$6 a ton in the U.S. and \$20 a ton in Europe, who knows how much a truly sustainable forest can earn?

## Community

McKinleyville Land Trust Board Members Allen Bird and Lindsay Walker, attended the grand opening for the 'Hole in the Hammond'.



This was a great opportunity to meet community members and share the mission and activities of the land trust, while celebrating an invaluable addition to McKinleyville.



## CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS - BOARD MEMBERS

We would like to thank all of the volunteers who consistently volunteer their time and energy to the McKinleyville Land Trust. As an all volunteer organization, the commitment of our volunteers is essential in achieving our conservation goals.

The McKinleyville Land Trust is currently in need of volunteers to assist with several activities including easement monitoring, property management planning, and project management.

The Board is also accepting letters of interest from community members interested in serving on the McKinleyville Land Trust Board. Board membership may include serving on a committee focused on conservation or fundraising/community outreach activities. Board meetings are held monthly on Sundays between 7-9 p.m.

Please contact a board member or call 839-LAND if you are interested.



Skills We Need  
'On Board'

Real Estate

Legal

Project Management

THE MCKINLEYVILLE LAND TRUST

*For Everyone, Forever.*

P.O. Box 2723, McKinleyville, CA 95519

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