

THE MCKINLEYVILLE LAND TRUST

NEWSLETTER SPRING 2009 NUMBER 25



Photo by KCPratt

Annual Dinner features Amy Stewart!

Vibrant writer and speaker Amy Stewart will present a talk for the annual MLT dinner. She is the author of *From the Ground Up*, *The Earth Moved* (it's about earthworms), and recently *Flower Confidential*, all highly regarded books about gardening and horticulture. *Flower Confidential* goes far beyond mere flower gardening, into the financial, social and cultural ramifications of the international flower trade. She has been a guest on such programs as NPR, Good Morning America and CBS Sunday Morning.

Amy will discuss her new book, *Wicked Plants*. It's about villains of the plant world, tales of bloodcurdling botany that you won't want to miss!

To hear this speaker, be sure to come to the Annual Dinner, at Azalea Hall on Pickett Rd. in McKinleyville, March 28, 2009, from 6-8 pm. A donation of \$20 (\$15 for seniors and students, and \$10 for children under 12) is requested for a delicious full dinner, a silent auction and a world-renowned speaker.

Chah-GAH-Cho

Beautiful Chah-GAH-Cho (CGC), 9.4 acres of woods and open land with a sweeping view of the ocean, is located on the south end of the Mill Creek Marketplace. Recently, a group of volunteers and Board members have begun to implement the Management Plan.

The acquisition of CGC in 1995 sparked the creation of the MLT. The management plan for this area includes a trail system, plant management, and suggestions for planting species that could be used by local Native Americans for basketry, among other uses. Although much of the land is full of native plants, there



is considerable encroachment of berrybushes, which are choking out some of the natives, the existing informal trails, and the potential grassland.

A working group has come together to implement this plan. Some

of the ideas are to mark and clear a trail system, which can be mowed until funds are available to put in more permanent trails; use mowing, or possibly goats to control the berrybushes; encourage community use of the area by working with schools, youth groups, local churches, and the Healthsport facility which is next door to develop volunteer participation and to make CGC available as a community resource.

The Board is looking for funding for these projects, and volunteers to help design and maintain the development of this area. If you are interested, please call 839-LAND or Nancy at 839-2500, or Lisa at 650-575-7108. Donations for this project are also being gratefully accepted.

RALLY!

by Nancy Correll

Pittsburgh, PA was the location for this year's Rally, the conference of the Land Trust Alliance (LTA). It was my first Rally, and my first encounter with people involved in land conservation outside California. I talked with board members from New England, where thousands of acres of adjoining land are protecting whole ecosystems; with volunteer land trusts, 22 of which have achieved the new accreditation credentials that assure professional level performance of individual land trusts; and I studied the management of the Laurel Highlands in Pennsylvania (where, at the same time, my husband Richard Duning was enjoying two houses designed by Frank Lloyd Wright).

One of the most inspiring nuggets of information was that since the new tax incentives have been in

place (now extended through 2009) twice the land has been protected within the last year than in the year before. In fact, many believe that in 2008 more land was protected by acquisition and conservation easements than was lost to development.

This is an incredible achievement, by a group of non-profit, often underfunded volunteer groups of people. How do they do it? Hard work, carefully building their organization, being transparent in their objectives and respectful of private ownership; and increasingly, being more open to public access and education.

What does this big national movement have to do with McKinleyville? Nationwide, leaders estimate that we have about 20 years to save from development what can be saved. McKinleyville is no exception. But it's not huge acreage that we need. We need to see how our existing open spaces relate to each other. Do they

connect environments (as MRB connects to Hiller Park and the Hammond Trail)? Do they protect a variety of natural environments in our area? (Forest, prairie, wetlands, streams and in our case, anadromous fish) and do these environments connect to each other in ways that allow movement of wildlife? Do our protected open spaces protect the integrity of our town? and do they contribute to economic and recreational health of our people?

We have work to do here, but we do need help from our community. If you are interested in volunteering your time or making a donation to the McKinleyville Land Trust, please call 839-LAND or send your check to MLT, P.O.Box 2723, McKinleyville, CA 95519 (see budget, below, to see where your unrestricted but essential donations will be used). You can become part of this nationwide effort to protect our national treasure – the land.

The Budget: or, Where Does the Money Go?

In these days of tightening budgets, one expects to come up a little short sometimes. However, the McKinleyville Land Trust has always operated on a shoestring. Here is the operating budget for 2008. As you can see, even before the current financial conditions, this land trust is a little underfunded for even the most basic operations. There are also almost no funds for maintaining the properties we own for the benefit of the community: Chah-Gah-Cho and the Mad River Bluffs.

Not reflected in this budget are the endowment funds, which are reserved for monitoring and defending our existing conservation easements. Because the Land Trust is responsible for these easements in perpetuity, these endowments must not be allowed to become depleted.

We depend heavily upon individual donations to keep doing what we do in the community. Please consider a donation, which is tax-deductible, to help us do our job!

MCKINLEYVILLE LAND TRUST STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENSE JANUARY THROUGH DECEMBER 2008	
INCOME	
Fundraising	\$ 4,164
Donations	1,511
Interest	330
Miscellaneous	<u>259</u>
TOTAL INCOME	<u>\$ 6,264</u>
EXPENSE	
Fundraising	\$ 1,988
Engineering Fees	1,671
Insurance	2,289
Supplies, In House Publications, Postage, Telephone	1,346
Rentals	430
Taxes	459
Dues and Miscellaneous	<u>339</u>
TOTAL EXPENSE	<u>\$ 8,522</u>
NET LOSS FOR YEAR ENDED 12/31/08	<u>\$-2,258</u>



Natural Resource Club cleans up Chah-Gah-Cho!

Thanks to Team Chah-GAH-cho!

Despite a cold, overcast morning on January 31, nineteen Team Chah-GAH-Cho volunteers assembled with enthusiasm and tools ready to take down some of the overgrown vegetation on the southern side of our parcel. Lisa Eldredge organized members of HSU's Natural Resources Club for this three-hour effort. John, Nick, Zeb, Holly, Hannah, Jaclyn, Alex, Katie, Luran, Mitra, Gabby, Lisa, Frank, Maya, and Allen limbed some of the trees in the forested portion of our 9.4 acres and pulled down and out berry vines that had climbed overhead. Judy, Darci, Laura and Dorothy picked up trash, bagged it, and hauled it out to the dumpster that we were allowed to use courtesy of Kmart.

Already the resident berry vines are showing new buds for this year's growth. If we are to maintain public access to this community open space, more effort to curb the understory growth is mandatory. Please contact us if you are willing to help out on volunteer days. Do

spend some time exploring this, your property, and while there, pick up litter!



Lisa Eldredge

Lisa Eldredge, our volunteer extraordinaire, is a proud native of Northern California. She has a B.S. in Natural Resources from Humboldt State University, and will begin graduate work this fall for environmental science, in the Pacific Northwest. As an avid environmentalist, she is especially interested in the role of non-profits in incorporating social and political aspects with environmental issues, for the betterment of the natural world (including human communities). Lisa is excited to spend time with the McKinleyville Land Trust while in between schools, finding this a great way to be active in the community with enriching conservation and restoration work. During the last two years, she has worked as a botanist for the US Forest Service, although she is currently enjoying a winter inside as a boatbuilder crafting cedar strip kayaks. While not busy with restoration or boatbuilding, several favorite pastimes are gardening, bicycling, and writing autobiographies in third person.

DECIDING THE FUTURE

By Joyce King

The General Plan is our most important tool for protecting the natural landscape, working lands, and rural character of Humboldt County. The Update has entered its final phase, offering several important opportunities for public input. Anyone concerned about how our land and lives will be affected by coming changes in population, climate, and economy should plan to participate.

Typically, land use policies are driven by those with strong financial interests. Our community needs equal input from those who live on the land and care about the quality of life it supports. Without it, we will risk increasing losses of prime agricultural soils; air & water quality; healthy forest, river, & bay ecosystems; affordable housing for low to middle income families; and the small-town character of our communities.

What is the General Plan?

The General Plan is the official blueprint of how Humboldt County will grow and develop over the next 20 years. In order to prevent land use that degrades its ability to provide fair and equal access to health, security and happiness for its population, the state requires every county to have a General Plan dictating how much, what kind, and where to locate residential and commercial development.

Humboldt County's

General Plan will also contain policies for housing, infrastructure, transportation, public health & safety, open space, natural resources, energy, and economic development.

The proposed changes to the present Plan are organized into four Alternatives and the final version will probably be an amalgamation:

Alternative A offers most protection for the natural landscape, allocates residential land to accommodate the State's projected growth rate for Humboldt County (6,000 new housing units over the next 20 years), concentrates new growth in areas already served by infrastructure and services, and provides the highest level of public health benefits according to the county's recent Health Impact Assessment - 23 positive results for 35 criteria considered (www.humpal.org/hia.html).

Alternative B plans for double the State projection for housing need (12,000 new units), allows more new development outside existing infrastructure, and scores no positive health impacts and eight negative ones according to the Health Impact Assessment.

Alternative C plans for three times the State projection for housing need (18,000 new units), allows over 60% of new growth to go into the unincorporated county, continuing the high rate of residential conversions of farmland and timberlands*, and scores 30 negative impacts and a single

positive one according to the Health Impact Assessment.

*Since 1964, the rate of zoning conversion of farmland has been 3,000 to 5,000 acres per year. From 1985 to 2001, 60,000 agricultural acres were rezoned for other uses. Similar trends affected timber lands.

Alternative D is the no change alternative, most similar to Alternative C.

What you can do

Humboldt County's Planning Department, Planning Commission, and Board of Supervisors need to hear from the public as they evaluate, modify, and approve the final draft of the General Plan and its Environmental Impact Report.

For approximately 6 months, opportunities to participate in these hearings will take place in the Supervisors' Chambers at the County Courthouse, 825 5th St, Eureka, 95501. Hearings on Land Use and Resource Management chapters will probably take place in the last two weeks of March, April and May. Both live and repeat broadcasts of the hearings are carried on Public Access TV, Channel 10.

Written comments may be submitted at any time to Planning Commission or Board of Supervisors at the foregoing address, or emailed to mspencer@co.humboldt.ca.us. Comments may be general as, "I prefer Alternative A", or as specific, as "I support (4s.6.5) Implementation Measure FR IM3, which encourages support of local land trusts and conservation organizations." For sample public comments, visit www.healthyhumboldt.org and click on "Get Involved". To see updated schedules of hearings or download the final draft of the General Plan, go to the General Plan Update official website at www.planupdate.org. To find past public comments click on Documents and Historic Documents.

Please Welcome Three New Board Members!

The McKinleyville Land Trust is pleased to add these three members to our Board of Directors.

These new additions have not made us too large, however! We would be happy to add additional Board members as well as volunteers to our ranks. If you find land trust goals and methods interesting, please contact us at 839-LAND.

Joyce King

My affection for the McKinleyville Land Trust began soon after I arrived in Humboldt County from the Bay Area in 2000. It saved the wonderfully wild bit of coastal spruce forest overlooking the Mad River, where my dog and I would ramble for several hours a week, delighting in the native vegetation, spectacular views, and absence of the ticks and poison oak which prevent such intimacy with the woodlands of the Bay Area.

I grew up loving the great outdoors of California. Starting in the L.A. deserts and chaparral, my 40 years since high school has been spent working my way northward. In an otherwise very fortunate and happy life, my one great tragedy has been the disappearing climax ecosystems and richness of species diversity in the lands I have loved.

For the last 13 years, I have tried various forms of activism to save old growth forests, endangered species, and watersheds, first with the Bay Area Sierra Club Ancient Forest Committee, then the Humboldt Watershed Council. Fighting economically motivated forces and trying to get politically hamstrung agencies to enforce environmental regulations has been a rough experience. I look forward to the kinder, gentler approach to preservation and restoration of natural environments offered by Land Trusts and conservation easements.

And now my daughter in New York is giving me the opportunity to be a Grandma at last. I hope this will not interfere with my responsibilities to the MLT Board and you will be as glad to have me as I am to work with you.

Judy Haggard

Judy holds a BA and MA in Biology and a Secondary School Teaching Credential (Biology) from Humboldt State University. She worked for state and federal natural resource agencies and since then has been working as a consulting wildlife biologist.

She has coauthored with her husband, Pete Haggard, the insect field guide "Insects of the Pacific Northwest" as well as articles on native insects and plants for Darlingtonia (California Native Plant Society, North Coast Chapter), The Dunesberry (Friends of The Dunes), and other local publications and contributed text and photographs to the "Regional Reports Northwest" section of Fine Gardening (August 2007 issue). She and Pete are dedicated to maintaining a wildlife-friendly garden; their garden was one of several featured in a local native plant garden tour cosponsored by the Audubon Society (Redwood Region) and the California Native Plant Society (North Coast Chapter).



McKinleyville Land Trust

Board of Directors 2009

Allen Bird - President
Nancy Correll - Vice-President
Dorothy Klein - Secretary
Wayne Sutherland - Treasurer
Darci Short
Joyce King
Tom Lisle
Judy Haggard

Tom Lisle

I was born and raised in Iowa but have been moving west ever since working on the trail crew in Glacier National Park during a summer in college. I earned a PhD. at UC Berkeley in Geology and took a job with Redwood National Park in 1976, just in time to get involved with controversies over Park expansion. I switched over to the US Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Research Station (Redwood Sciences Lab) in Arcata in 1977 and have been there ever since. My research interests include river processes, aquatic habitats, and watershed management, and our group focuses on the cumulative effects of land management on downstream values. On the MLT Board, I of course do not represent the Forest Service but I do bring my experience with land managers, resource professionals, and public groups who bring a wide spectrum of outlooks to bear on knotty problems. I have seen how better information can improve how we treat the land. But it takes dedicated people like the MLT to bring together the knowledge and wisdom and relationships with local people to find workable solutions that find wide support in the community. I have admired how effective the MLT has been over the years and feel honored to serve on the Board.

Good-bye to outgoing Board Members

Good-bye to Lindsay Walker, who is pursuing her post-graduate education in Portland. We miss her capable editing of the newsletter, her energetic can-do attitude, and her arrival at meetings on her bicycle. Thanks, Lindsay, and all the best in your new life in Portland!

We also bid a regretful farewell to Kristin Schmidt, who has been on the Board since 2003, and has contributed her valuable skills to the vast improvement of our lands. We will miss her.



Lindsay Walker



Kristin Schmidt

Mugs for McKinleyville Land Trust can be purchased for \$8 at the Annual Dinner, March 28. (see front page), or at Blake's Books in McKinleyville.



The McKinleyville Land Trust
P.O. Box 2723
McKinleyville, CA 95519

Don't miss the

McKinleyville Land Trust

ANNUAL DINNER!

Saturday, March 28, 6-8 pm

at Azalea Hall

with speaker Amy Stewart

(see front page article)