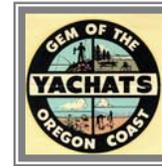




CITY OF YACHATS NEWSLETTER



APRIL 2012

THE YACHATS CITY COUNCIL VISION

Adopted: April 2, 2009

Our village is a place where natural resources are valued and protected, where diversity is celebrated, and where a vibrant economy and sense of community pride create and recreate a living spirit. Yachats cares not just for its citizens' basic needs but also supports them in their efforts to excel mentally, physically, artistically, and spiritually. It is a community with an enduring sense of itself.



Mayor's Message

By Ron Brean, Mayor

There are a lot of things going on in and around Yachats. Of course that is always the case but at this moment there are quite a few things that have some affect on the future of our City. There are a number of folks engaged in calculating, planning, and adjusting and recalculating to position "us" appropriately to deal with changes that are coming our way. Most people, though, make their contributions to our village in other ways. Living their lives, doing what they do, plying their trades and sharing their hobbies and talents is what consumes their time and results in lasting benefits for all of us. It is primarily to those folks, probably the majority of us, to whom I'm targeting this article. Even if you're not at the table for the discussions it is important for you to know what the discussion is and what may lie ahead.

About four years ago the City Council created a finance committee. It was charged with taking a look at the City's financial obligations, potential future obligations, and to assess the City's ability to cope with those demands. First under the capable leadership of Keith Perkins and now ably lead by Tom Lauritzen, the Finance Committee has been grappling with road repair costs, storm water drainage improvement needs, water system build-out, watershed collection infrastructure, and a host of other needs. Recently they have been charting out future costs for repair and replacement of systems and facilities in order to understand fully what appropriate levels of reserve funding should be generated in order to meet those needs when they arise. Additionally, revenue streams and trends are being watched and analyzed to determine what funding levels are likely to be available to create appropriate reserves and meet those demands. This work is ongoing but will tell us very soon what must be done to be fully prepared to match fiscal resources with fiscal demands.

I anticipate that at some point we will conduct a town hall meeting to share the information and perhaps brainstorm some strategies for meeting future needs.

On another front, there is a proposed change in the City Charter coming up on the ballot in May. You may have attended the town hall meeting in last month to discuss the proposed changes. If not, I thought I'd post a few words here to give you the general idea. Periodically city councils review their charters to see if they are appropriately addressing the realities of the current times. The League of Oregon Cities (LOC) offers a sample charter for consideration of member cities which has pretty much all the bases covered and is generally adopted by cities with only minor modifications to meet the nuances of the city in question. It has been vetted extensively and therefore offers a fairly reliable template. There are a few areas in which the existing Yachats City Charter differs from the LOC template. The reasons for these differences have to do with the size of our city. Some adjustments were made because we do not have a "City Manager" model and some were based on community attitudes that existed at the time. The changes proposed by the Council are intended to clean up some operational issues, clarify some roles and responsibilities, and provide appropriate authority within City structure. Your job as a voter, of course, is to determine whether we got it right in our recommendation.

The changes include defining the City's Municipal Court, a few details about the Municipal Court Judge's responsibility, the City Attorney responsibility, and the Mayor's responsibility as "Administrator." In the view of the Council these are intended to clean up the language to reflect the realities of how we operate.

In addition, a recommended change is to match the length of the term in office of the Mayor to that of all other City Council members. At present the Mayor serves a two-year term while every other Council

member serves a four-year term. The only difference in responsibilities is that the Mayor chairs council meetings and has the administrative responsibility described above. This is a model used by many cities, although there are also many cities that have two-year terms for the mayor. The Council's recommendation is based on equity within the Council and a more appropriate term for learning and exercising proficiency at administrative responsibilities.

Finally, the existing charter restricts the Council's authority relative to purchase or sale of real property. As far as the Council has been able to determine, Yachats is the only city in Oregon with this restriction. The Council is making a recommendation that the language creating this restriction be removed. It is our feeling that it puts the City at a distinct disadvantage in negotiating the best price for needed property and reduces the City's ability to influence desirable land use outcomes.

There are a couple of the "big deal" things going on right now; I hope you find these facts and perspectives useful.



City Council Briefing

By Debrah Edwards, Deputy
City Recorder

Yachats City Council meeting took place on Thursday, March 8, 2012.

- Mayor Breaan presented recently retired Yachats volunteer Marie Green with an engraved plaque in appreciation of her work for the City and the citizens of Yachats.
- Councilor Dunn suggested that Yachats and Waldport Councils hold a joint meeting to discuss the South Lincoln County Rural Tourism Studio project.
- Mayor Breaan reported that the Lincoln County Mayors are discussing the possibility of a plan for water system interconnections as a way to deal with water shortages in the future.
- Public Works Director John McClintock reported that the Emergency Planning Committee will hold a tabletop exercise on April 10, 2012 from 9 a.m. until noon and are requesting the City Council's participation.
- McClintock reported that Fat, Oil, and Grease (FOG) disposed of through the City's sewer system continues to be a problem. In response, Fat Trapper© containers and replacement foil bags are

now available inside City Hall for purchase at cost.

- The Council discussed the recently submitted volunteer applications to serve on the Public Works & Streets Commission and the Budget Committee. They will continue their discussion, during April's meeting, regarding the best way to ensure that the volunteers appointed have the necessary expertise and knowledge to serve.
- Council unanimously adopted both Ordinance No. 312—Amending Yachats Municipal Code Chapter 8.04 Water Service and Ordinance No. 313—Amending Yachats Municipal Code Chapter 8.08 Sewer Service.
- Council unanimously adopted amendments to the *City of Yachats Safety Manual* and the *City of Yachats Personnel Manual*, as recommended by City County Insurance Services to reduce the City's risk and liability.
- Council unanimously adopted the *Quiet Water Riparian Restoration Plan*, as presented by the Quiet Water Home Owners Association, with the condition that a letter from the City is sent to the Quiet Water Board explaining that the City is concerned about removal methods and a request that the City is consulted about planned methods. The Quiet Water Homeowners Association will seek a grant to help pay for the plan and no City money will be used.

For more detailed minutes and documents submitted to the City Council for this agenda log on to www.YachatsDocuments.info.

The Yachats City Council requests the public join them for their next meeting on Thursday, April 13, 2012 at 2 p.m. inside the Yachats Commons Civic Meeting Room.



Public Works Department

By John McClintock,

At a City Council meeting, several months ago, I was asked what was required to become a wastewater or water treatment plant operator. A number of conditions must be met before the State of Oregon issues an applicant a certificate of competency to operate a wastewater or water treatment facility.

A wastewater plant operator must have a valid Oregon Department of Environmental Quality-required certificate equal to or greater than the State-designated classification (type and grade level) of the system supervised to operate a wastewater treatment plant. Certificate grade levels are numbered I–IV as are

treatment facilities.

A water treatment plant operator must have an Oregon Health Authority-required certificate also equal to or greater than the facility grade level to operate a water treatment plant.

The one exception is that the certified operator is under the direct supervision of another operator whose certificate grade level meets either requirement.

In order to be eligible to take the State examinations for wastewater or water treatment operator certification the applicant must have the required amount of time and training at a licensed facility.

Once the State examination is passed the operator is required to accumulate 2.0 Continuing Educational Units (CEU's) every two years in order to renew their certificate. These CEU's are available through numerous seminars, webinars, 2-3 day "short schools," and college courses. Each credit hour is equal to .1 CEU.

The City of Yachats Public Works personnel are all required (by State law) to be certified in water treatment or wastewater operations. We presently have six employees with four certifications in wastewater treatment and four certifications in water treatment.

If you have any questions or would like to talk with one of our operators, please call Public Works at (541) 547-3243 during regular business hours.



Yachats Trails Committee Update

By Lauralee Svendsgaard, Chair
& Wally Orchard, YIPS Leader

As I pen these lines it still hardly looks like spring. On the other hand daffodils are flowering, weeds are sprouting, and my lawn will soon need to be mowed. Of course any day now you will start noticing the small, bright yellow flowers of Scotch broom up and down Highway 101—but not so much in "our" backyard!

The Yachats Invasive Plants Subcommittee (YIPS!) made some headway against the "alien invaders" during our first full year of operations in 2011. Scotch broom continues to be one of our targets and this year we hope to get rid of every single broom plant along the Yachats' Highway 101 corridor before it sets seed.

YIPS! Subcommittee has designated Scotch broom as *Weed of the Month* for April (see insert in this month's water/sewer bill for detailed information).

You too can help wherever you see Scotch broom flowering or not. The best way to pull these invasive species is with a weed wrench during the spring months while the soil is still moist. Don't try cutting broom—it will put up multiple shoots making it even harder to grip and pull out. Weed wrenches are available on loan from the City of Yachats at no cost. Call the Yachats Commons during regular business hours at (541) 961-6597 to reserve one. There are three sizes to choose from—small, medium, and large. The medium size works well on plants up to 6-feet tall, after that the large size will be best.

The YIPS! crew meets on the third Saturday of each month, weather permitting, to work on various sites in and around Yachats. To be placed on the "exclusive" YIPS email notification list, call or e-mail Wally (see contact information below) and you will be advised of all our forays. We are entirely dependent on volunteer help.

Look out for next month's mystery *Weed of the Month* in your water/sewer bill or log on to www.yachats.info for all downloadable info on each month's Weed.

Yachats Trails Crew will meet on Saturday, April 7, 2012 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Prospect Trail and Garden. As with the Amanda Trail, new (or in this case revamped) trails take a fair amount of maintenance in their first couple of years, so we'll conduct assorted tasks throughout the trail.

YIPS! (Yachats Invasive Plants Subcommittee) will meet Saturday, April 21, 2012 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wally Orchard will select the work site and provide details on location via the Trails Committee's email list.

For more information about the City of Yachats Trails Committee, its activities, or to be added to the Committee's email list simply contact one of us via phone or email:

- Lauralee Svendsgaard, Trails Committee Chair, at (541) 547-3640 or lsven@peak.org
- David Lavrinets, Trails Crew Leader, at (541) 547-5388 or dalavrinets@peak.org
- Joanne Kittel, Development Committee & Amanda Trail Leader, at (541) 547-3144 or jkittel@peak.org

- Wally Orchard, YIPS Leader, at (541) 547-5474 or worchard@peak.org



The Public Library— Yachats' Hidden Gem

By Gretchen Armstrong and
Jane Shay, Library Volunteers

The Yachats Public Library is supported by three distinct groups: the City's Library Commission stewards the Library's long-term plans; the Friends of the Library sources funds and grants; and the volunteers operate and maintain 100% of the Library—there are no paid positions.

The Library's book collection is always changing and growing every month. We strive to keep up-to-date with fiction and nonfiction best sellers and the newest Northwest history/nonfiction books by Northwest authors. There are also many large-print books and a separate section for mysteries and westerns. New books arrive in the children's section every month and the selection for young adults is ever expanding.

Gardeners, foodies, and chefs of all levels will enjoy the many gardening manuals, how-to guides, and cookbooks available at the Library as well as the "Yachats Seed Bank" with its collection of free vegetable seeds.

One of the best bets at the Library remains our ever-growing collection of audiobooks on CD and movies on DVD.

If you're hurried, looking "it" up and checking "it" out quickly has never been faster or easier with the Library's newly digitized card catalog and bar-coded checkout system.

Books, audiobooks, and DVD's aren't the only items that draw people to the Library. We have four computers with Internet access (and one with Microsoft Word) that are available to use free of charge.

Need Wi-Fi? Have a seat with your laptop or other Internet access device at our designated table in the backroom and enjoy free Wi-Fi access during operating hours or sit outside on our bench or in your car anytime. The Library sits on the nexus of two walking paths: the boardwalk path (behind the Yachats Commons) passes through the wetlands and provides some shelter on windy days; and the Yachats Ocean Road/804 Trails link with its the ocean view and brisk breezes.

The Yachats Public Library has something for everyone—come see it for your self. For more information contact us at: (541) 547-3741.

Hours

Mondays & Fridays:	12-4 p.m.
Tuesdays & Thursdays:	12-5 p.m.
Wednesdays:	12-6 p.m.
Saturdays:	10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Sundays:	Closed



Little Log Church & Museum

By Mary Crook, Events
Coordinator

"Getting To Know You" was the theme of the tour some folks from Eugene came up with who wanted to visit some towns they had driven through, vowed to stop in someday, but never got around to it. Yachats was the 51st community in Oregon they visited.

So on two Tuesday mornings in March I met busses, each containing 21 passengers, at the Cape Perpetua Visitor Center where we wended our way into town. Ham that I am I regaled them with stories about Yachats' past, present and future. (I love tour groups—they are so appreciative of our hospitality, enthusiastic about our exhibits and stories, and they actually laugh at my jokes!) They really liked visiting the Church and Museum and especially enjoyed seeing old photos of places we saw en route from the Cape to town.

How about you, your family, or your visitors making your own "getting to know you" visit to the LLCM...it's a very pleasant place to be.

Still Seeking Docents

On another matter, one of our volunteers wished to be closer to her family in the Portland area so she put her home on the market and sold it in one day! So now we are down another volunteer.

We'd love to have a couple of people on tap to be museum docents. We have a great training program, so don't worry about being an instant expert. Whether you are a long-time resident who draws from the "tribal memory" or an enthusiastic newcomer, we would welcome you as a Yachats ambassador. If you are interested, please give me a call at (541) 547-4547.

Anyone in the Yachats area needing to mount or remount their house numbers may contact the Yachats Rural Fire Protection District at (541) 547-3266 for free assistance.



From the Garden of the Historic Log Church & Museum

By Louis Mensing, LLCM
Gardener

Since I didn't receive any gardening questions this month I thought it would be a good time to talk about a couple of the beautiful plant species in bloom at the Little Log Church & Museum garden.

Garrya elliptica James Roof-Silk Tassel is a native evergreen shrub. Known for its exquisite catkins, the *James Roof* cultivar can grow catkins up to 12" in length. The flowers are dioecious meaning individual flowers are either male or female, however there is only one sex found on any one plant. The fruit is a round berry covered with a fine purplish-gray hair. It is not edible by humans.

Ribes sanguineum glutinosum-Flowering Currant is a native deciduous shrub. The plant is covered with drooping clusters of 10-20 brightly colored tubular pink or red flowers. This is all accentuated by the shapely maple-like green leaves that develop appealing autumn colors. The fruit is a dark purple oval berry and is edible by humans.

Both of these shrubs are widely used in landscaping because of their many attractive attributes. Their brightly colored flowers and fruit attract many birds and beneficial insects but are not grazed by deer or rabbits to a great degree. They are hardy to cold temperatures of about 15°F to 4°F and can grow in semi to deep woodland shade. Best of all they are moderately drought-tolerant but flourish in areas with rainfall of about 25" per year making them ideal for the Oregon Coast.

Please submit your gardening questions in writing at the LLCM during regular business hours, Monday-Wednesday and Friday-Sunday from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m.; or email me anytime at LLCMGardener@yahoo.com. Be sure to type "Yachats Gardening" in the subject line to ensure your email will be read.

Activities Program

By Alice Beck, Executive Director

Yachats Youth & Family Activities Program (YYFAP) in conjunction with One of Us Productions presents *An Evening of Dinner Theater* featuring Cris Torp's original comedy *American Idle*. There will also be live and silent auctions with all proceeds benefiting the youth and families of South Lincoln County.

As an added treat, gourmet chef Mark Shimer of Hawaii will be making a command appearance for this benefit!

Please call ahead to reserve your tickets at (541) 547-4599 or email yapkids@peak.org. Tickets are \$60 per person.

Yachats Lunch Bunch

By Paul Niblock,
Coordinator Extraordinaire of
the Volunteers du jour



Are you 55 years or better?

Then the Yachats Lunch Bunch is for you! Each month this friendly and fun-loving group meets on the last Thursday of the month inside the Yachats Commons multipurpose room to socialize, enjoy a freshly prepared hot meal, and some live entertainment.

This month's luncheon will take place on Thursday, April 26, 2012. Doors open at 11:30 a.m. and lunch is served at noon. There is a suggested donation of \$4 per person.

The menu—prepared and served by the culinary students from Angell Job Corps—will be: your choice of Beef or Vegetable Lasagna; Fresh Green Salad; Rolls with Butter; Hot Coffee or Tea; and Apple Pie for "afters." The entertainment remains at the whim of the "Entertainment Secretary" and will be stupendous as always.

If you've never come to a "Lunch Bunch" you have no idea what you're missing. This is your chance to greet old friends, make new ones, catch up on the news, and share some good gossip or as Alice Roosevelt Longworth once had embroidered on a cushion "If you have nothing nice to say come sit next to me." Of course you can sit next to me anytime...

Town Tidbits

Original comedy *American Idle* will be showing April 13-29, 2012 Fridays

Yachats Youth & Family



and Saturdays at 7:30 pm and Sundays at 2 pm inside the Yachats Commons, tickets \$10 per person.



Lifelong Learning Comes to Yachats

By Andrea Scharf, GoYachats Marketing Director

As the City's marketing director for the past two years, I have put a lot of thought into what would bring visitors to Yachats in the "off-season," basically everything that isn't Summer. Many travelers look for some value-added experience when they plan their trips, like ElderHostel (or "Road Scholar," as it is now called). Lifelong Learning programs, often under the umbrella of a university or similar educational institution, are becoming increasingly popular. What if Yachats could offer multi-day programs of high quality and broad appeal?

Thus the Yachats Center for Lifelong Learning (YCLL) was born. Our first program, *Depth Perception*, held in February, was very successful, bringing scientific expertise about deep ocean research to Yachats, with creative activities designed to enhance our ability to learn through different media. Our exciting programming continues in April:

The first program, April 14-18, is a *Celebration of Japanese Art & Culture*, with workshops in Japanese style basketry, fabric dyeing (shibori and katazome), temari (embroidered balls), origami, and shodo (calligraphy and brush painting). There will be a gallery and showroom at the *Celebration* headquarters in the Overleaf Event Center, with displays of kimonos, pottery, and other forms of Japanese art. Rose Estes, the owner of Hauser Gallery in Seal Rock, will run the gallery and will present a lecture on the art of the kimono. The Green Salmon will offer Japanese tea with dessert plates of Japanese-style sweets and displays of tea sets. There will be sake tasting at Ona Restaurant and Lounge and other merchants will be participating as well. Volunteers needed to help with Celebration of Japanese Art & Culture—Contact Andrea at (541) 547 3092. Visit YCLL.org for schedules and registration information.

On April 28 and 29, in conjunction with the OSU Creative Writing Department's *Lifetime Literary Achievement Award to Joyce Carol Oates*, YCLL will present a discussion of her novella, "Black Water." Two grad students from the MFA program in creative writing will lead the discussion, followed by an opportunity to do some of your own writing using prompts based on

the book. YCLL.org for more information and registration.

And if you haven't yet attended a *Yarn Over Yachats* knitting workshop to prepare for WWKIP—well, why not? Yachats is going to paint the town YARN on June 1, and fill Yachats with knitters for "World Wide Knitting in Public Day" on June 16. At the workshops, avid knitters will be available to teach beginners and to provide patterns for objects to be used to decorate the town. All ages and all skill levels are welcome. The schedule of workshops is available on YCLL.org, as is information about all the other programs. Questions? Contact Andrea Scharf, (541) 547-3092.



Invitation to Wander

Donald W. Niskanen, Co-Chair

The Yachats Academy of Arts and Sciences in cooperation with Gerdemann Botanic Preserve owners Kathleen and Jerry Sand are pleased to offer an *Invitation to Wander* in the Gerdemann Botanic Preserve on Saturday, May 5, 2012 from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m.

Since there is no public parking available at the Preserve, participants will gather in the north parking lot of the Yachats Commons where there will be light refreshments available. Participants will then be chauffeured to the Preserve (some in my own mint-condition 1985 Cadillac Seville) and returned to the Commons afterwards. This is not a guided tour, but docents will be available at the Preserve for information and directions.

It is a perfect time visit the Preserve and enjoy its eclectic plant collection from all over the world and view its extensive wildlife including many birds. Participants will be able to "Wander" the paths to view the entire 3.5-acre woodland garden.

This event is a "Thank You" to the community from the Sands (during the transition of ownership). The Academy is not publicizing this event in the newspapers or other media as it is meant for locals and area residents, however, guests will not be turned away.

The Preserve offers a wheelchair accessible trail loop for those unable to walk the public footpath. The Sand's have purchased a trail wheelchair and it is available for use. Please call me in advance at (541) 961-6695 or (541) 547-5143 so we can make accommodations.

Please note: service dogs only.

For more information call me at (541) 961-6695 or log on to www.GoYachats.com.