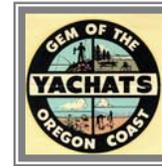




CITY OF YACHATS NEWSLETTER



OCTOBER 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

It's happening again, as it does each year at this time. I recognize a larger percentage of the patrons of Yachats businesses as my neighbors and friends and less as

strangers passing through. On the highway there are fewer license plates from other states and less slow moving vehicles whose occupants are awestruck by the views that are ours everyday. The lines for a cup of coffee or a seat at a restaurant are shorter. The pace is a bit less frenetic. Our town is more *our* town again.

It's a little like the time when well loved relatives or friends have come for a long visit and have finally loaded up their car and headed home. The visit was precious. The time spent together created new and treasured memories. The next visit is already planned and anticipated, but there is still a sigh of relief that we have our home, our routine back again.

As a community we are grateful for those that come to visit, that support local businesses, that help pay the bills that make it possible for those of us who live here to enjoy a sustained life. Most of us enjoy sharing this treasure with others. Many of us happily meet and chat with visitors from places like the valley, Idaho, or England. The Oregon Coast is globally renowned for its beauty and majesty and we live in the gem of that coast. The appreciation they show for our town and its surroundings is something we have in common with them, but their coming here and spending their money in order to be here and stay here is what helps keep us thriving.

This season we have seen more of them than at any time since the economy hit the brakes. Some local businesses have reported that July and August were

the best two months in their history. The national economy is showing signs of recovery, but it is still lagging. Job numbers are still lower than anyone would like to see, the real estate market is still soft, the financial markets are still "iffy", but locally we seem to be doing well. When tourism is strong and local businesses do well, the City does well too.

There are multiple reasons for what appears to be a fairly solid economic recovery in Yachats. Obviously the strength of the scenic attraction of this magnificent coastline hasn't diminished. It is still world class. Yachats' people are world class too and the friendliness of our town continuously draws favorable comment from those who visit. But then other coastal communities with pretty good views and pretty nice people have not been as successful. Through the course of the economic downturn they have suffered more and lost more businesses.

I think part of the reason Yachats fared well is the result of our Finance Committee, our Marketing Committee, our Chamber of Commerce, and our City Council taking steps to be sure we remained an attractive and compelling place to visit during these times when people have been guarded about how they spend money. Our "systems" predicted a downturn in City income early on. We put in place some counter measures to adjust. GoYachats.com, the establishment of a Marketing Director position, the beefing up of the City's relationship with the Chamber of Commerce, and working together with all affected to develop a unified approach to marketing, all seem to have helped us weather this storm far better than other communities. We allocated Visitor Amenities Funds to finance these attempts to keep our economy off the critical list. These funds can only be spent on improving visitor services. Our decision to leverage these funds, spend them strategically to serve both visitors and residents, helped protect our economic vitality. And it seems to have paid off.

It's difficult to measure which of our efforts was the most successful. It's not possible to identify which dollar spent created the visitation that has seen us through the crisis thus far. But anecdotally, and in total, it appears that our community effort has been successful. The marketing efforts, the festivals, and the partnering with other nearby communities have apparently paid off. We'll continue to work together to be sure the business community remains vibrant. We may now be able to focus differently, direct Visitor Amenities Funds in a different (but effective) way, or create new reasons for people to come visit us. Our businesses need visitors to stay alive and we need all of our businesses to serve us even when the tourists go home. We also need all of our visitors to provide the tax revenues that fund city services.

So for now, we can enjoy that breath of fresh air that comes when the guests go home. We can kick our shoes off and relax just a bit knowing that our efforts and investments have done their work... for now. We can look around and enjoy our home and each other without having to share. Then we can begin planning and looking forward to the next time our friends come back.



City Council Briefing

By Nancy Batchelder City Recorder

The City Council of Yachats proposed a revised Charter to the voters on the May 15, 2012 ballot. The revised Charter incorporated several changes that were largely based on the League of Oregon Cities Model Charter. The revised Charter proposal was defeated by a margin of ten votes.

At the June 11, 2012 Council work session and the June 14, 2012 City Council meeting, the Council discussed the results of the May election and made the decision to propose another amendment to the Charter, this time making a single revision.

The City Council voted to place this proposed amendment to the Charter on the November 6, 2012 ballot for voter consideration. If adopted by the voters, the amended Charter will go into effect on January 1, 2013.

The proposed amendment to the Charter would eliminate the requirement for voter pre-approval of the City's purchase or sale of real property. The proposed amended Charter would allow the City Council to make decisions on the purchase or sale of

real property in a timely manner, by foregoing the need to first seek voter approval.

All **final decisions** made by the City Council would **still need to meet the requirements of the public meetings laws**. In addition, to the extent a purchase of real property would be financed with general obligation bonds, the **voters would still need to approve the issuance of such bonds**.

In reviewing the Charter's requirement for voter pre-approval of real estate transactions, the City Council determined that no other city charter in Oregon contains a similar voter pre-approval requirement.



Yachats Public Works Department

By John McClintock, Public Works Director

About 5 months ago I gave the mayor and city council notice that I planned to retire from my position with the city on October 31, 2012. This being my last newsletter article, I wanted to thank all those that have made my time employed by the city probably the most enjoyable of my 38 years in public works.

I would like to thank the 3 mayors I have had the pleasure to work for; Lee Corbin, Sue Smith and Ron Brean. All 3 have been nothing but supportive and have allowed the space to do my job.

I would also like to thank the city council members. They, along with the mayors, have helped provide me with direction and have taken the time to understand public works. That has helped us to accomplish the many projects that have been completed over the years. I would like to thank all of the commission and committee members I have shared meeting with that have helped me so much along the way. A real testament of community involvement.

I would like to thank Nancy, Kimmie and Linda at City Hall. They all have been very supportive and made my job that much easier. Nancy has always been available for any questions or concerns that I have had, and has been instrumental in helping me achieve the goals that were set.



I want to thank the public works staff; Dave, Russ, Rick, Jeremy and Kevin. They all have been supportive in what I was trying to accomplish, and have supplied

valuable input to also achieve our goals. They have had to put up with my daily morning meetings and sometimes quirky sense of humor and I thank them for that. I know they will continue their outstanding work for whoever takes my place.

I would also like to thank the community as a whole. Since I have been with the city we have done numerous projects that have involved tearing up a good portion of the community. Residents have been very understanding of the inconveniences that construction brings us and I truly appreciate that.

In public works there always seems to be another project to do, or a repair to be made or a deadline to meet, but on October 31, 2012 I will try to start thinking other thoughts.

Years ago my wife Marilyn gave me a clock to hang on the wall of my office. Knowing that I spend a lot of hours at my job she attached a note to the clock that is still there; "so you will know when to come home". I DO NOW!



**Thank you ALL
Very much!**



Code Enforcement Report

Donald Niskanen, Code
Enforcement Officer

Special Alert on the use of chemicals: herbicides and insecticides.

On September 19, 2012, I noticed activity on a property that had been notified of invasive species on their property. The letter I sent was dated the summer of 2011. No activity or correction of the problem was attempted.

Out of the blue, the herbicide Crossbow was being sprayed to contain Himalayan Blackberry and Himalayan Knotweed. The sprayers were not in working order and there was a lot of overspray and drift.



I talked to the workers, whom I know. They work for one of our local motels. The property is privately owned. I knew we

had several residents that are extremely sensitive to these chemicals that live in close proximity, so I notified them of what had happened.

One, I am sure left the immediate area. Two others closed all windows and doors. One person, without previous knowledge of the situation, drove by the site and was immediately affected by the poison. I had left him a warning note on his door, but he didn't see that until he had gone through the spray zone.

This is an appeal to all residents. The City has no control on the use of over the counter herbicides and insecticides. I have no authority as Code Enforcement Officer to stop you from using these chemicals. The manufacturers of these poisons have protected themselves well by the warning labels they put on their product. It is the liability of the user, if the instructions are not followed.

Because of our location and the wonderful sea breeze we all enjoy, many of our residents have relocated here because of the air quality. That can change in an instant with the use of these chemicals and poisons.

There is an email network set-up that notifies all people that are super-sensitive to these chemicals. All we need is the lead-time as to when, where and what is being used. Name and specific address are not necessary, King Street between E. 8th and E. 9th, Wednesday, September 26, 9:00 AM, Crossbow or roundup or Rodeo. Please let us know ahead of time so we can notify our friends and neighbors. You can call City Hall, 541-547-3565 or call me 541-961-6695 and I will get the warning out.

Yachats has made an amazing effort on controlling the spread of invasive plant species, mostly on a volunteer effort. It is pretty obvious, when you venture beyond our City limits. You can travel north or south and see these invasive species running rampant.

Yachats Trails Update



By Lauralee Svendsgaard, Chair
Joanne Kittel, Leader
David Lavrinets, Leader
Wally Orchard, Leader

**October 6, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00
p.m. – Trails Crew work event**

at the Prospect Garden. Having met with a botanist from Oregon State Parks, we're going

to be doing some revamping of our demonstration garden. Reducing the labor intensive wildflower area

and planting some lovely (much easier to maintain) native shrubs. We'll still have an area for lovely wildflowers, but not nearly as wide-spread.

October 20, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. - YIPS crew work event. We'll tackle a host of invasives immediately south of the Yachats Bridge on Oregon State Parks' property.

Details about the work events will be sent to the Trails Committee's contact list. If you would like to be added, just send a request to one of the e-mails listed below.

The Trails Development Subcommittee has made significant progress on the Gerdemann Botanical Preserve - Fistera trail link. We met in September to develop the task chart and timeline for the trail's construction. Kraig Lindelin, the Trails Specialist for Siuslaw National Forest (SNF), attended. Mayor Ron Brean is working with SNF on the Operations and Maintenance Plan needed to finalize the permit. We appreciate the SNF's due diligence and collaboration on this project.

In early October, the Development Subcommittee will meet with City officials and representatives from Blackstone I and II to look at routing options for the public trail that will be built through these two developments.



YIPS News(Yachats Invasive Plants Subcommittee)

Since spraying of **knotweed** in Yachats was discontinued two years ago, this invasive has been spreading unchecked on several

crucially located, privately owned properties. The situation was discussed at the City Council work session on September 10. Although chemical treatment is recognized as the most effective method of treating large knotweed stands, chemical sensitivity by many of our neighbors have the Council working hard to find alternative means of dealing with this highly aggressive and dominant plant. We'll keep you posted on further developments.

Although YIPS has taken care of most of the **tansy ragwort** blooming in the city this season, there are big concentrations of this weed all around us. The YIPS work event on September 15 targeted tansy growing along N-53, a county road that begins about nine miles up the Yachats River and runs through the Siuslaw National Forest. Several hearty souls joined this adventure on a glorious fall morning, and removed about six garbage bags full of tansy flower heads as we wandered down the road.

We were excited to find several cinnabar moth larvae feeding ravenously on the tansy. These caterpillars were the main reason tansy populations were significantly reduced throughout Oregon several years ago. It's hoped these voracious tansy flower eaters will make a comeback and reduce the rapidly spreading tansy throughout the state. We left the flower-heads with the caterpillars in the hope they will "go forth and multiply."



The October weed of the month is **Clematis vitalba**, one of Yachats' six most wanted - Dead! This weed easily escapes from cultivation and invades moist forest areas, especially near

rivers. At this time of the year clematis is easy to spot, blanketing native vegetation and displaying bunches of showy seed heads. The vine is very good at climbing trees, and unfortunately will kill a tree once engulfed. We are fortunate that the Lincoln Soil and Water Conservation District has a grant to manually remove clematis in our area. However, they can't remove all of it, so we need do our part by uprooting clematis vines on our own property and wherever we find them. And, of course, please don't plant any clematis unless you are sure it is a non-invasive variety.

If you have questions about weeds, contact Wally Orchard at worchard@peak.org or 541-547-5474.

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

- Lauralee, Chair, Yachats Trails Committee
541.547.3640 or lsven@peak.org
- Jan Brown, Leader, PR & Communications
541.547.5388 or espressobrown@gmail.com
- Joanne Kittel, Leader, Development Committee & Amanda Trail
541.547.3144 or inkittel@peak.org
- Wally Orchard, Leader, YIPS
541.547.5474 or worchard@peak.org



DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOUR PROPERTY'S HAND VALVE IS?

By Kimmie Jackson

Yachats Municipal Code 8.04.140 requires that all residential and commercial owners have a hand valve installed in the meter box on the property's side of the meter. With the unpredictable

winter months just ahead it is essential to know where your hand valve is located, if it is functioning, and if it is free of dirt and debris. The City recommends that customers check the hand valve on their property twice yearly when the time changes over. In addition, we recommend that customers turn their water off at the hand valve if their property will be vacant for more than 3 consecutive days.

It is also wise for Property Managers to remember that if a property is going to be vacant for more than 3 consecutive days the water should be shut-off at the hand valve. This will help to prevent any unnecessary water consumption, call out fees, fines, and preventable high water bills.

Taking time to do so will lessen frustration and the risk of an enormous water bill.

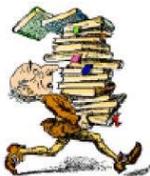


Yachats Public Library

By Sandra Calkins

Summer has passed us by. The tourists are mostly gone. The Oregon Coast is settling into fall mode. We are preparing as animals do for the long winter months—for the rains and the days indoors.

Many people suffer during these days of gloom from SAD (seasonal affective disorder). The primary cause listed is lack of sunlight, but my opinion is that it is also caused by boredom. If I'm correct, right now we all need to be planning on doing something about that boredom. To alleviate boredom, one can always learn something new. Your library is here to help.



If you are a crafty or artistic person, maybe you can learn a new craft or study some of the great artists. You can discover woodworking ideas or needlework projects that you can share with family or maybe sell at next summer's Farmers Market. Maybe you are inclined to literary pursuits. Read some of the old classics that you missed in school—or some of the new ones. Read some children's classics—the newer books like the Harry Potter series or the Hunger Games—books that are turning a whole new generation onto reading. Read some poetry and try writing some yourself.

Perhaps you have always wanted to try your hand at being a great chef. The library has numerous cooking books with yummy recipes. Maybe you want to prepare for next spring. Read some gardening books and plan to have a garden that is the envy of the

neighborhood. Look into some books on health to become a healthier you.

Would you like to learn more about the Oregon coastal area? The library has a good collection of local history. Maybe you would like to research your family through time. Our volunteer genealogist, John Cooper, is here on Wednesdays from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon to help you get started.

With all these ideas and more, there is no reason for anyone to have a boring winter. Come to the library and discover something new. It may change your life.



Blessing of
Animals

Little Log Church and Museum

By Mary Crook, Events
Coordinator

A Time for Thanks

Fall is a very fine time to give thanks, don't you think? The national thanksgiving holiday, of course, is next month, but the abundance of summer needs to be appreciated a-forehand. We enjoyed an abundance of wonderful visitors this summer at the Log Church – from all over the country as well as Europe, Canada, and Asia. I know the flow was spread throughout the city and appreciated by our merchants and innkeepers. Judging from the increase in visitor traffic, it looks like our local economy is at long last taking a turn for the better.



At the LLC&M our volunteers were given a formal thank you at a special luncheon on September 15th at the Yachats Ladies Club. Thanks to the culinary talents of Log Church volunteers Robbie Schoonover and Julie Dutcher we were treated to a fiesta of Mexican food, along with an opportunity for volunteers to get together as a group. Thanks to the Ladies Club for providing a venue for us to chat, re-connect, and swap stories.

In October we have another opportunity to give thanks to our beloved animals. For on Sunday, October 7th at 3:00 p.m. the Little Log Church will again host its annual *Blessing of the Animals* in the St. Francis Garden. We hope to see a plethora of creatures great and small, our teachers of love and joy, in the garden. All animals are invited, and should be on leash or in carriers. For animals that cannot be physically present, a picture or name will do just fine for a blessing. All will be included.

Blessings to all, and most of all, *thank you!*

Happy Retirement John! You will be missed!



Commons Events

By Leon Stern, Coordinator

What is bright and has four legs?
Why, it's Sunny and Chair. Oops!
Sorry for the cheap joke - go
ahead, tell me to go fly a kite -
(sorry, Kite Festival was last

weekend) - or just ask me to go take a hike (I'll call Lauralee Svensgaard and ask for suggestions). Yes, yes - oh happy day -The Chairs Have Landed!

The Friends of the Commons organization combined the new storage room project with the "When are we going to get more comfortable chairs?" project. For several years the Friends have been managing the design and fundraising efforts for the new storage room space. This space - formerly the boiler room - is now a very handy and easily accessible place where our tables, chairs and sundry items can be stored.

The new storage room is accessed through the double doors on the south wall of the multipurpose room as well as through a door in room 3.

As fundraising efforts became nearly complete for the storage room, the Friends decided to add the chair component to the project. 160 new and quite comfortable chairs were purchased and are now available for use in the multipurpose room as well as in the various other classroom spaces in the Commons building. This combined project was nicely supported by a collaboration of the Friends of the Commons, One of Us Productions, Yachats Ladies Club, Yachats Chamber of Commerce and the Yachats Lions Club as well as by other individual donations. Matching funds were received in the form of a generous grant from The Ford Family Foundation.

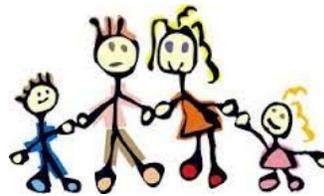
Last week all 160 chairs arrived on a semi truck with an end-lift gate. (The end-lift gate made unloading the 10 high stacks of new chairs much easier than expected.) A handful of volunteers (friends of the Friends) helped unload and process the long awaited chairs. Some of the older chairs were moved to their new home at the Lion's Club. Audiences in the Civic Meeting Room will also notice much more comfortable seating; perhaps this will entice more community members to participate in our local

government. All together we will be maintaining an inventory of around 300 chairs.



The Friends are currently planning a Halloween party to celebrate these new acquisitions; festivities will take place at the Commons on Halloween evening. Be on the lookout for posters with more

details of what is being billed as "An evening with the Scary Chairs". Rumors have it that some of the chairs might appear in costume - so come on over that night and have a seat (if you dare!) Food and music will add to this family friendly celebration. Thanks to all of you who have contributed to these recent improvements in our community center.



Yachats Youth and Family Activities Program

By Alice Beck, Executive Director

YYFAP Facilities Are New and Improved

Thanks to the generosity of two families who donated significant funds, YYFAP was able to make upgrades to our facilities last month. Stop by the preschool room when you get a chance and see the wonderful new bathroom that was added thanks to these donors. Preschool children no longer have to go all the way down the hall to go potty! In addition, thanks to other donors we were able to add a much needed hand washing sink and dishwasher down in Rec-Plus. We are very grateful for the support that allowed us to make these upgrades and continue to be appreciative every day when we use them!

Nurturing Parenting Education Class in Yachats

Yachats Youth and Family Activities Program, Inc., in partnership with Coastal Families Together will be presenting a class for parents of children ages 0-11 years of age starting in September. Parents will gain a greater understanding of the art, science, strategies and techniques that promote self worth, cooperation, compassion in children and form the basis of day to day family interactions. Class begins on Thursday, September 27th and will continue once a week for ten weeks. (Call for availability even if you miss the first class we can get you in if there is room.) Dinner will start at 6:00 p.m. and the class will be held from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Free childcare is available. Class will be held in the Yachats Commons. To register for the

class go to www.coastalfamilies.together.com or call (541) 574-4485. Space is limited! For more information on this parenting education initiative, future classes or questions about local opportunities go to www.coastalfamilies.together.com or contact, Cynthia Breves, Coastal Families Together 541-574-4485, cfthub@gmail.com

Yachats Indoor Park

Come join Indoor Park Play Group for children 0-6 and their parents. Take advantage of educational and stimulating activities for the little ones and support from other parents of young children like you! Thursdays 12:30-2:00 pm in Room 4 at the Yachats Commons. Cost is \$2 per visit or Punch Cards are available - 10 visits for \$20 plus one free! No pre-registration required. Just show up and play!

Children's Clothing Exchange

On October 2nd from 6-8 pm Yachats Youth and Family Activities will host a children's clothing exchange in the Yachats Commons Multi-purpose room. Parents and caregivers can bring gently used, clean clothing to share with other families. Tables will be set up with approximate sizes for parents to display the clothing and look for appropriate sizes. If members of the community have children's clothing to share but can't attend the event, donations will be accepted ahead of time at YYFAP. Call 541-547-4599 for more information.

YYFAP Has New Youth Fishing Equipment to Lend

Thanks to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife YYFAP has a new fishing library with poles and equipment for youth to check out. The library is stocked with rods and reels that can be checked out for up to two weeks, plus starter tackle kits that are the kids' to keep.

The libraries are also stocked with free informational materials. "We don't want the lack of equipment to be a barrier to any child who wants to go fishing," said Christine Clapp, ODFW fish biologist in Newport. "I hope these youth fishing libraries will help recruit a new generation of anglers and inspire kids and their parents to get outside."

Youth fishing equipment library is located at **Yachats Youth and Family Activities Program, Yachats Commons, 547-4599**. As a reminder, children under the age of 14 do not need an angling license, youth 14-17 years of age must have a valid juvenile fishing license. For more information call Christine Clapp at 541-265-8306 ext. 253.



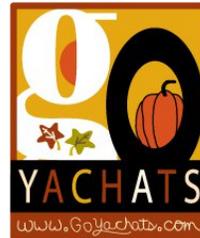
Yachats Lunch Bunch

By Will Williams



The lunch bunch will meet, as usual, on October 25th inside the Commons. Lunch will be served at noon. The luncheon is open to everyone 55 years and older.

The menu for October is; Ham, baked macaroni and cheese, green salad, rolls and coconut cream pie. Doors open at 11:30. We will have some great entertainment so come and socialize with your fellow Yachats. (There is a suggested donation of \$4).



GoYachats.com

By Andrea Scharf
Marketing Director

The days are growing shorter and we all know that the rain will begin to fall pretty soon, but there are still Lots of activities for locals and visitors alike—for example:

The 13th Annual Yachats Mushroom Festival will take place on the weekend of October 19-21, with the usual array of colorful and exotic mushrooms and colorful, exotic mycologists and fans of fungi.

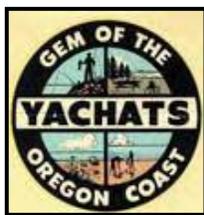
On Saturday and Sunday of that same weekend, one of Yachats' newest residents, Dr. Dean Shrock, will present Why Love Heals, an interactive seminar about the connections between mind, body, and spirit, particularly applied to improving health outcomes. Professionals (nurses, massage therapists, social workers) can receive Continuing Ed credits, but the program is open to everyone interested in how emotional states affect wellness and disease. We welcome Dean and his wife Shelly to Yachats!

The Ladies Club is holding a prime rib dinner to benefit the South Lincoln Resources capital campaign on October 13, and the Yachats Art Guild is having a gallery and show at the Commons the weekend of October 12-14. And coming up in November—the Celtic Music Festival!

So much that happens in Yachats is the result of active volunteers pursuing their passions. The result is a vibrant community that attracts visitors. The visitors in turn help support the events, the businesses, and city government—all of which makes Yachats the wonderful little town that it is! Information about October's events is available at www.GoYachats.com & www.Yachats.org.

The Brush Dumpster is Back

Through the month of October the City is supplying a large dumpster for the residents of Yachats to dispose of ***YARD DEBRIS***. The container is located at the Southeast corner of the Public Works facility on West 7th Street. The gate will be open daily Monday thru Friday from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. Happy Pruning!



Yachats Weed of the Month - October 2012

Clematis or Old Man's Beard (*Clematis vitalba*)

Impact: Clematis invades moist forests, especially along river banks and near urban areas. A vine that can grow up to 100 ft. long, it can climb and smother tall trees by cutting off the light they need for photosynthesis. In Yachats you can see it on trees above the Hwy 101 cutting just north of the bridge; also at the south end of bridge, blanketing the indigenous vegetation on the river bank. It has also invaded the coastal forest near Devil's Churn in the Cape Perpetua scenic area.

Identification: Clematis is a perennial, deciduous, woody vine. The compound leaves are in groups of five, sometimes displaying coarse serrations (see photo). Clematis blooms in late summer, producing small white flowers. The flowers and seed heads make clematis easily identifiable at this time of the year. The seed heads remain visible through the winter.

Management: Do not cultivate any clematis unless you are sure it is a non-invasive variety. Pull or dig clematis plants out by the roots. Clematis in trees will die if the vines are cut near the base of the tree and the roots are removed. Dispose of the plants where they will not be able to re-establish themselves.

Contact information: Call Wally at 541 547 5474 if you have any questions. For our web page, go to www.yachats.info

