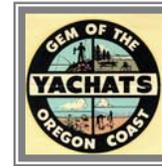




CITY OF YACHATS NEWSLETTER



SEPTEMBER 2011

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 rare months when I know what I want to write about in the newsletter long before the deadline for submission. An idea of some gravity strikes me and I know I would be writing about it even if there were no newsletter. They are stand-out ideas. In those months, as rare as they are, I worry that Debrah—our capable newsletter editor—will be harmed by the great shock of receiving something from me in advance of my normal last-minute submission. Much more frequently, however, poor Debrah must suffer the anxiety of any editor whose time is limited and whose contributors are prone to temporal delinquency. This is one of those months. The day of this writing is the day of the deadline.

In my defense, what I'm talking about isn't pure procrastination. It's more a dilemma that comes from having way too many options. There is too much to do in pursuing projects and community improving concepts to sit down for very long and think about, or write about, each of them. There are so many amazing people, and stellar events, and awesome ideas conceived by our neighbors that selecting any one thing to highlight is a difficult choice. There are (especially this time of year) so many things to do: local places to explore; and productions, events, sights, performers to see and hear that picking one and sitting still long enough to capture effectively an essence in writing is a daunting task. So here I sit, as usual, with my computer in my lap and my fingers tapping along the keyboard trying to capture the spirit of our town in a few paltry words while knowing that many volumes would be required just to scratch the surface.

There's a new play in rehearsal. There's a new Youth and Family Activities Program initiative in the making. There's a brand new Parks and Commons Commissioner

volunteering his time to serve others. There are a half dozen people working every angle to try to find a way to preserve view and watershed values in the Salmon Creek drainage. There is a new batch of recently improved road surfaces. An idea for a labyrinth is maturing. A planning concept for the Commons and Commons Park area is ripening. A local improvement district has been completed which will essentially return full will value to property investments. A group of friends donated a beautiful, artistic bench in memory of a beautiful and giving Yachatian. It was placed along a marvelous trail constructed and maintained by donated muscle power. With one day of notice volunteer crews rallied to assault ripening fields of a nasty invasive plant and avert the dispersion of disastrous quantities of seed. Many hands made a giant pile of ivy and bared the rock wall at Whale Tail Park. The U.S. Forest Service asked for, and received, community help in combating invasives in the Cummins Ridge Wilderness Area. City staff is doing what they do every day and they continue to do it well and with dedication.

Last month I attended the Oregon Mayors Conference. Ours is not the smallest of towns represented but, as you might guess, most are larger. It's interesting to hear what other mayors are dealing with and to discuss ideas for solutions. All mayors brag about their towns, but they all complain too. I think it's in those insider complaints that you really learn about the true character of a town. The fact of the matter is when I'm asked what the biggest problem is that we're dealing with in Yachats—an invitation to complain—I struggle to find an answer. Obviously we have a few problems to resolve, but we as a community go about it in such a way that they are not so much problems as they are just the improvements that we're working on right now. I'm much better at the bragging part, except it's a bit difficult to know which brag to choose. Maybe, at least once in a while, I should choose the one about the patience of our newsletter editor.



So Lincoln Co CERT Coordinator Steps Down

By Debrah Edwards,
Deputy City Recorder

I met Betty Johnston when I came to work for the City in 2006. The first time I caught site of her I thought, "Oh, what a sweet-faced, little, white-haired lady." Then she opened her mouth--at about 5' tall few would expect this small statured senior to have such a, well, loud mouth. What I learned next was this diminutive lady with the loud mouth was a powerhouse of energy with a mission.

Since 2004 Yachats own Betty Johnston has volunteered her time in various disaster preparedness projects. She's made it her heartfelt crusade to help better prepare the Yachats community for (the inevitable) disaster.

Just some of the things she's done in the past 8 years are: taught over 300 people in her FEMA-based ARE YOU READY? classes; participated as a member of South Lincoln Co. CERT (Citizen's Emergency Response Team) as a traffic controller at the 2011 Newport Loyalty Days Parade; organized and led Yachats in the Oregon Coast *TsunamiReady, TsunamiPrepared* drill; taught two groups of Angell Job Corps students basic disaster preparedness; appeared as a speaker at senior centers and low-income Hispanic housing to educate these groups on the importance of disaster preparedness; taught the City staff the first portion of CERT training so we could become certified as well as leading us on two CERT simulations. She did all of this and more while taking care of her sick and elderly parents, who eventually passed on, on top of being the care provider for her mentally challenged adult daughter and her companion.

Betty is an amazing woman, someone I admire and am proud to call my friend. But it is now time for my friend to step down and take a well-deserved rest.

Rest she will, but Betty will also continue volunteering her time teaching the 3-hour FEMA ARE YOU READY?: Basic Preparedness and Coastal Hazards training. The next class will take place at 9 a.m. on Saturday, October 15, 2011 at the Waldport Senior Center. Registration is free but required (see contact information below).

If you are interested in becoming the new South Lincoln County CERT Coordinator email Betty at seaspruce@peak.org or call her at (541) 547-4934, but not in the afternoon—she's finally gotten around to enjoying the art of the afternoon nap.



Yachats Local Wetland Inventory

By Larry Lewis, City Planner

The Yachats Local Wetlands Inventory has been completed and is currently being reviewed by the Oregon Department of State Lands for final approval. The report provides a citywide inventory, mapping, and assessment of streams, wetlands, and riparian areas. The Yachats Local Wetlands Inventory is available for review online in the Yachats Document Library. Some key results of the Inventory are summarized below:

- A total of 42 wetlands and probable wetlands are identified in the Local Wetlands Inventory (LWI) with a total area of approximately 12.98 acres.
- Wetlands that are less than one-half acre in size are designated as probable wetlands.
- In accordance with State of Oregon requirements, the LWI provides a more detailed assessment of wetlands that are greater than one-half acre. The general location of the six wetlands that are greater than one-half acre are the Smelt Sands State Park-Adobe Resort area, the Yachats Community Park, the western portion of the Quiet Water PUD, land just south and east of the Yachats River, land located between Yachats Ocean Road and Shell Street, and located near Shellmidden Way between Highway 101 and Yachats Ocean Road. Based on the detailed assessment of the six wetlands, the first four wetlands identified above are considered to be significant wetlands.

Next, the Yachats Planning Commission will consider amendments to the Yachats Development Code that would regulate development within and near wetland areas. The regulations may result in setbacks that restrict development near streams and wetlands.



Yachats Public Works Department

By John McClintock,
Public Works Director

We have just completed our street preparation and paving projects for this year. One of the most common questions asked was, "When you are going to pave my street?"

I would like to try to answer that question by going through the process of how streets get prepared and paved.

At the same time each year I look through my list of all of the streets in Yachats and assess which of those streets are in need of improvement. I then present this prioritized list to the Public Works and Streets Committee so they can make a recommendation to the Budget Committee. Each May the Budget Committee and the City Council meet to discuss and vote on how much of that line item budget request they are willing and able to approve for the upcoming fiscal year.

Based on the amount of money adopted into the City's budget for "Street Improvements," I then try to stretch those dollars as far as possible to repair as many streets as possible from my prioritized list of streets.

The money for Streets Improvements comes from the State Gas Tax and allocations from the City's General Fund. The City of Yachats Finance Committee, along with the Public Works and Streets Commission are looking at various options to not only generate more funds, but to generate a more consistent amount so we can plan, knowing that a certain minimum amount will be available each fiscal year. Obviously, the more funds available the more streets we can improve.

I hope that this helps answer the question concerning the prioritizing of street paving. If you have any other questions please contact me weekdays from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at (541) 547-3243 or at City Hall (541) 547-3565.



Attack of the Killer Species

By Frankie Petrick, Fire Chief
YRFPD

"Tansy ragwort" sounds like an evil villain straight out of a Harry Potter movie, but the reality is even more frightening than that. Tansy ragwort is a very invasive species of plant that causes slow death in livestock. Even small amounts ingested by cattle or horses stays in their system building up over the months or years until it reaches

toxic levels when it becomes fatal. Since the poison is cumulative there are no acute symptoms.

Why is all this a problem in Yachats? Well as you might guess the seeds are very lightweight and are easily carried by the wind or by birds to open fields and river banks were they readily take root and grow into three foot tall yellow plants.

Having watched a horse die a slow and agonizing death several years ago after ingesting Tansy ragwort, because the owner did not know the danger, I have worked diligently to keep the sides of Yachats River Road free of this insidious plant as well as my own fields. The Tansy ragwort that grows so easily next to the beach is not only a danger to livestock, but is listed on the City of Yachats Noxious and Invasive Vegetation list.

It requires diligence to control Tansy ragwort and different methods work better at different times of the year. You can do your part by checking your property. If you need assistance identifying and eradicating Tansy ragwort, please contact City of Yachats Code Enforcement Officer, Don Niskanen at (541) 961-6695 or Yachats Invasive Plant Subcommittee (YIPS!) Leader Wally Orchard at (541) 5474.

I'd like to thank those folks who responded to my S.O.S. regarding the outbreak of Tansy ragwort on Ocean View Drive on August 15th. The next day a group of more than a dozen volunteers showed up and cleared multiple lots of this deadly invasive.



Code Enforcement Report

Donald Niskanen, Code Enforcement Officer

I know we've all enjoyed the weather this summer. Short-lived as it may have seemed it was a welcome change.

As welcome as the good weather were the tourists who visited Yachats. Tourism is the life-blood of our beloved village. By and large the benefits of visitors outweighs the drawbacks, but that does not mean we had a complaint-free season either.

One of the primary infractions I dealt with was vacation rental homes with too many vehicles parked in front of and around them. In light of this issue, the City Council is appointing a Task Force with representatives on both

sides to investigate, discuss, and make recommendations to the Council.

The property management agents with clients in Yachats have formed their own association with the hope that communication between themselves and the City will help eliminate some of these problems. Issues regarding parking, numbers of vehicles, and occupancy limits could be self-monitored. This would go a long way in dealing with some of the complaints.

Another issue the fair weather brought to light is number of contractors working within city limits without a mandatory City of Yachats Business License. To help avert this issue businesses and residents can ask the simple question, "Do you have a City Business License?" From now until December 31, 2011, business licenses are \$20 (half price) and renewable at the beginning of each calendar year. That is a bargain compared to the \$650.00 citation I issue after I've given an unlicensed business two verbal warnings. Business licenses are easy to obtain. Applications can be picked up at City Hall during business hours or downloaded at www.yachatsdocuments.info.

Very good progress has been made with our Invasive Plant Species control program. With the cooperation of property owners we have dealt with Japanese knotweed, Scotch broom, Himalayan blackberry, and English ivy. The next two invasive plants in the list are Morning Glory and Binder weed. Homeowners with either or both of these species on their property will receive notification by mail. Our progress does not mean eradication of these invasives; it does mean awareness, education and some control of these invasives. That's a very good start.

I am happy to respond to questions or problems. I can be reached on my cell phone (541) 961-6695, at City Hall (541) 547-3565, or via email dwn@peak.org. I am only able to answer question that pertain to the Yachats Municipal Code and within Yachats City Limits. All other issues must be dealt with by the Lincoln County Sheriff (541) 265-4277 or Yachats Rural Fire Protection District (541) 547-3266 or ODOT (888) 275-6368. If you have a genuine emergency and need immediate assistance dial 911.



Yachats Trails Update

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

It is a wondrous thing seeing a community come together with gusto! And clearly, our Trails volunteers have shown great heart in all the many activities they've been engaged in this summer.

Yachats' Trails Leaders have been very active with assorted projects. The following is a summary of our recent accomplishments:

August 6th - the Yachats Trails Crew completed the lower Prospect Trail.

August 13th - the community joined in the dedication of our first piece of "trail art"—a beautiful bench created to honor the memory of Leslie Carter. If you haven't had a chance to visit Leslie's bench yet, you're in for a treat.

August 16th at Fire Chief Frankie Pedrick's request, Trails volunteers turned out to remove seed heads from the dastardly Tansy ragwort along Ocean View and Marine Drives. Fifteen volunteers joined in a three-hour effort and removed the seed heads of this lethal plant. A huge endeavor, but many hands made for quick work!

August 19th -Oregon State Parks' Recreational Trails Advisory Council held a public meeting in Florence and received a presentation from the Yachats Trails Committee. The Committee is gaining considerable notice among land managing agencies for its terrific volunteerism and the great things we've accomplished.

August 20th - YIPS! (Yachats Invasive Plants Subcommittee) tackled the ivy at Whale Tail Park, and what a difference a little focus and determination can make!

August 22nd - U.S. Forest Service requested YIPS! Assistance in removing invasives from the Cummins Ridge Trail, and a hearty group of volunteers did us proud.

Last but not least - YIPS! has also been busy with special outings in its effort to manage knotweed at Sea Aire and elsewhere.

Upcoming Activities

Finally! The Amanda pedestrian bridge will be replaced in early September. The Amanda Trail will be closed from the Kittel driveway to the summit of Cape Perpetua from September 8–15, 2011. A call for volunteers has gone out. Those interested are asked to sign up in advance by contacting Lauralee (see last paragraph). The two volunteer days, of 3-hours each, have been scheduled:

- Saturday, September 10, 2011 volunteers are needed to haul dismantled sections of the old bridge from the bridge site to the Kittel driveway.
- Saturday, Sept. 24th volunteers are needed to

remove rock from the gabions and place them back along Amanda Creek.

On Saturday, September 17, 2011 YIPS! will be removing invasives from a site to be determined. To be added to the notification list or to learn the location, contact Wally as indicated below.

We have received very good news in our efforts to create a trail link between Fistera and the Gerdemann Botanical Preserve. In early October the U.S. Forest Service will assign the appropriate experts to assess the trail route to ensure that no sensitive species or cultural sites will be disturbed. It is anticipated that the assessments will be completed by the end of spring 2012. At that time (assuming that the assessments are favorable), we hope to begin construction of the trail link in early summer.

Much to our delight, Jerry Sand has agreed to prepare a planting plan for our future demonstration garden at the lower Prospect Trail. Plans are underway to convert this site, once inundated with blackberry and ivy, to a garden of native and wildlife-friendly ornamental plants. We'll have more information as this project progresses.

At this time of year many invasive plants are making their presence felt. Blackberry, ivy, morning glory, clematis, Tansy ragwort and other invasives are blooming in profusion. By the time you receive this newsletter, their seeds will begin dispersing and the next generation of weeds will start. Your help in pulling these plants (roots and all) wherever you find them will greatly aide our efforts and truly benefit our community, while helping to restore our natural environment.

Volunteer assistance is needed for all our endeavors. No experience is necessary. All are welcomed by a terrific group of people, having fun and improving the village habitat. Please feel free to contact one of us:

- Lauralee Svendsgaard, Yachats Trails Committee Chair at (541) 547-3640 or via email lsven@peak.org
- David Lavrinets, Trails Crew Leader at (541) 547-5388 or via email dalavrinets@peak.org
- Joanne Kittel, Development Committee & Amanda Trail Leader at (541) 547-3144 or via email jkittel@peak.org
- Wally Orchard, YIPS Leader at (541) 547-5474 or worchard@peak.org

Housed within the city limits of Yachats are three beautiful state parks: *Smelt Sands State Recreation Site* (from 101 turn west on Lemwick Ln); *Yachats State Recreation Area* (from 101 turn west on 2nd Street); and *Yachats Ocean Road State Natural Site* (south of the bridge—from 101 turn west on to Yachats Ocean Road)

With the summer tourist season waning now is the best time to enjoy the state parks with your pet(s). Here are a few rules to make your outing pleasant and safe for everyone:

- * Pets are allowed in all three of the state parks in Yachats.
- * Pets must be physically restrained by the owner or be on a maximum 6' long leash and kept under physical control at all times (meaning holding your pet, its collar or its leash).
- * Owners are responsible for their pet(s) behavior including barking or other noises.
- * The pet owner is responsible for removal and proper disposal of all waste
- * Pets must be properly licensed and vaccinated.

Because these three parks belong to the state, the City of Yachats does not have jurisdiction over them. To obtain more information or to file a complaint, call them at (800) 551-6949. If you'd like more information about pets in Oregon State Parks log on to the link below:

<http://www.oregonstateparks.org/images/pdf/pets-in-parks.pdf>



Yachats Youth and Family Activities Program

By Alice Beck, Executive Director

Traditional Native American Canoe Carving

During two days in August, YYFAP's Summer RecPLUS program welcomed Rocky Hoiness, member of the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz. While a drummer played traditional music in the background and told stories of canoe building adventures of the past, Rocky demonstrated Native American dug-out canoe building techniques using traditional tools. Rocky and the YYFAP youth will continue to work on the canoe for the remainder of the summer.

Register for Fall RecPLUS

It's time to register for YYFAP's afterschool program, RecPLUS, (Passages to Learning, Understanding and



Pets in State Parks

Success). There will be fun activities every day after school weekdays from 4-6 p.m. in the Commons basement. Kids 6 and up choose what they want to do with a variety of activities offered, such as gardening, science experiments, arts and crafts, ping pong, pool, Wii, and much more! Cost is \$60-\$100 per month, per family based on ability to pay. If youth qualify for free lunch, the monthly payment is reduced to \$20. RecPLUS is open Monday through Friday from 2 until 6 p.m. The registration form is available at www.yachatsyouth.org or can be picked up at the inside the Commons basement. For more information call (541) 547-4599 or log on to our website.



LLCM's 3rd Annual Art & Music in the Garden

By Robbie Schoonover,

The Little Log Church and Museum will host a day in the garden with music and vendors on Saturday, September 24, 2011 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Come stroll the gardens, meet friends and enjoy our beautiful Yachats setting with a delicious lunch purchased from Julie Dutcher and me.

Our LLCM volunteers will be also be honored on that day. For more information call (541) 547-3976.



One of Us Productions Presents... by Robbie Schoonover

Del Shore's black comedy, Daddy's Dyin', Who's Got the Will?, begins its three-weekend run at the Yachats Commons on Friday, September 2, 2011

Yachats' own Carl Foster Miller directs this entertaining stage play about dysfunctional siblings fighting over the family fortune.

Play times are scheduled for 7:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday evenings with matinee showings on Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets may be purchased in advance at Raindogs, Toad Hall, or Shirley's or at the door for \$10.

Yachats Lunch Bunch

By Paul Niblock, Coordinator



This month the Lunch Bunch meets on Thursday September 29, 2011 in the Yachats Commons multipurpose room.

This monthly event is open to everyone 55 years or older. Doors open at 11:30 a.m. and lunch is served at noon. The menu this month is: Ham; Baked Macaroni and Cheese; Green Salad; Roll & Butter; with Apple Pie for dessert prepared and served by the culinary students from Angell Job Corps. There is a suggested donation of \$4.

This is your chance to meet old friends and make new ones. If you've never been, it's high time you paid us a visit. We've been doing this now for over ten years. So come on. What are you waiting for? Get yourself a cup of coffee, listen to the entertainment, and enjoy being a member of the Lunch Bunch. It's that simple.



Still Small, Still Beautiful, Still Yachats, Gem of the Oregon Coast!

By Andrea Scharf, Marketing Director

Do you have a GoYachats t-shirt yet? They are available at four Yachats locations: The Village Bean; Paddy Kait; Yachats Mercantile; and the Yachats Visitor Center. They are stunning in black, with a sharp white and blue logo—check 'em out!

An update of the GoYachats marketing plan was presented to the City Council in July. Continuing to focus on increasing tourism in the off-season, GoYachats is developing plans to create a Yachats Center for Lifelong Learning, which will offer lectures, classes, workshops and special events intended to attract travelers in search of an enriched travel experience as well as people pursuing special interests such as quilting and writing. The center will launch in February 2012.

Meanwhile, there are lots of events and activities coming up. Sky Candy, bringing back the old-fashioned Yachats kite festival with some new twists, takes place on Labor Day weekend. The Falls Blues Show & Shine car show comes to town September 9 - 11, and on September 13, the Peoples Coast cyclers will spend the night in Yachats. You can find information about these events and lots more on GoYachats.com/Events. It's a great planning tool for your out-of-town guests, too! (And  us on our Facebook page, too!

SPECIAL ALERT

***The Amanda Trail will be closed from the Kittel
driveway to the summit of Cape Perpetua
From September 8 - 15.***