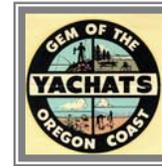




CITY OF YACHATS NEWSLETTER



MAY 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

This is a country that was founded on the premise that government should never be trusted. It's a good premise. When you look around the world at diverse places where things seem to be going very badly it is generally a situation where government, often in the form of a dictator or dynasty, has taken advantage of the misguided trust of its people for personal wealth building. In other cases where it is going woefully wrong there is one ideology (religious or otherwise) that has infiltrated government to the exclusion of contrary ideas. In each situation single agendas rule and a multitude of disenfranchised people suffer.

In our own country we have the blessing that each of us, in turn, gets to feel somewhat disenfranchised while the entire nation, led at least momentarily by the less enlightened, explores the benefits of ideas we feel are worthless, harmful, misguided or self-serving. In time the pendulum swings the other way. Those that were feeling comfortable become worried and those that were worried become more comfortable. This is what is known as "the American Way". It's what Superman diligently fought hard to protect.

If that sounds cynical, it's not meant to. It is meant to be a somewhat flippant description of a beautiful system that allows a diverse population to offer its ideas for a better society and have them tested by all of the minds in that society which it is seeking to make better. Usually, hopefully, the outcome is that the truly good ideas survive, the mediocre ideas are made better, and the harmful ideas simply die. The concept is pure synergy. The whole is far greater than the sum of its

parts. The dictator (no matter how benevolent his or her intention) or the single ideology is no match for the collective intellect of the populace.

Fortunately, the concept filters down to City government, even to the small towns in the remote corners of the Oregon coast. More fortunately yet for we who live in Yachats, ideas seem to be widely accepted as a basic good which ought to be candled by the light of day and assayed for purity in the crucible of public scrutiny. If there is a political malady from which the nation at large suffers, it is that we have become more tolerant of those bent on crushing any idea different from their own. In my opinion crushing ideas without adequate scrutiny is the earmark of totalitarian thinking. Doing so secretly, because you can, is pure dictatorship.

In Yachats, your City Council puts all of its transactions on the Document Library. There are no secrets. Our meetings are all public. In Yachats City government alternative ideas are entertained until proven inferior to other ideas. In Yachats, I don't think I've ever heard a City staff member or City Councilor say "We don't do it that way". More likely they'll begin the analysis by saying "That's interesting....what if...?"

All of that is true enough, but here's the punch line: We're still government. We are not to be trusted. Don't trust us to have the right ideas. Unless you participate, as pure as our intentions may be, we're stuck with just our own ideas. They may be good ideas, but the few are always inferior to the many. Get involved. Apply for community service. There are opportunities to serve on various commissions. Run for the Council, it's not too late. Come to Council meetings and take advantage of the Citizens' Concerns portion of the agenda to let us know your ideas. Tell us what you think when you see us at the post office. We're doing our best and I think we're doing well, but what I think is far inferior to what we think.



City Council Briefing

By Nancy Batchelder , City Recorder

Yachats City Council meeting took place on Thursday, April 12, 2012.

- Council appointed Joel Evans to serve on the Public Works and Streets Commission; Larry Newman to serve on the Parks and Commons Commission; and, John May to serve on the Budget Committee.
- County Counsel, Wayne Belmont was present to provide the City Council information about the Board of County Commissioners' plans to submit a measure to the voters in November that would establish an animal services district. Oregon law governing formation of a new district requires cities to approve being included in that district. Belmont said that if the voters approve the formation of the district and establish a permanent tax rate, it would pay for the animal shelter, animal control, and all related operations and maintenance. That permanent rate would replace the current Local Option Levy of \$0.11 per thousand that funds the program, and would not exceed that amount. The City Council will discuss this further at their May meeting.
- City Council agreed with the recommendation from the Public Works & Streets Commission regarding the process for renewing the Charter Cable franchise. The franchise does not expire until February 2015, but the FCC rules require the City to determine which of the two methods will be followed three years before the expiration. There will be opportunities for public input during the renewal process.
- Brean announced that some partition walls would be installed in City Hall to provide space for an office for the Mayor. The modifications will not cost much and most of the work will be done in-house. The Mayor will be able to use the space to conduct business and/or have conversations in a more confidential manner if needed.

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



Public Works Department

By John McClintock,

- During the Tabletop Drill on April 10, the Emergency Preparedness Committee learned a lot about what is known and what is not known. The emergency scenario the committee used was a severe winter storm that left the city isolated with significant damage. There were many questions asked that could not be answered so the Committee will be working on getting those answers in the months to come.
- Electricians are working on making all the necessary connections between the Commons electrical system and the emergency generator to provide power to the building so that it may be used as the emergency shelter if needed.
- The City will be contracting with the State for the Yachats River Monitoring Device installation and monitoring services. That contract should be received soon for City Council review.
- All of the trees that were a hazard in the City right-of-way have been taken down, and are being removed. The chips and firewood will be made available free of charge to anyone in the community.
- The Finance Committee has been working on the ten-year plan infrastructure and facility capital plan. Most of the projects and improvements have been identified. At the next meeting, the Committee will begin talking about how to pay for everything.

McClintock announced that he plans to retire soon. He will work through October 31, 2012 and then use accrued leave until his formal retirement date in the spring of 2013.



Yachats Trails Committee Update

By Wally Orchard & Lauralee Svendsgaard

Walk Yachats' trails and it's clear that Spring has sprung in all its green glory, helping to ensure an endless array of tasks awaiting the Trails Committee's volunteer crews. Soon we'll be welcoming our "fair weather friends" from the warmer climes, and for them we've scheduled some

of our more festive activities a bit later than in past years. Our monthly Trails Crew and YIPS Crew (Yachats Invasive Plants Subcommittee) will continue to meet on the first and third Saturday of each month, respectively. But mark your calendars now and join us for some of our fun-filled "good neighbor" activities featured below:

- **May 5, Saturday** -- Yachats Trails Crew to meet at Prospect & E. 2nd Street (yes, again) for maintenance along the Prospect Trail.
- **Also, Saturday, May 5th** -- Gerdemann Botanical Preserve walk-about, hosted by Yachats Academy of Arts & Sciences. Shuttles available at the Commons north parking area from 11am to 3pm.
- **May 19, Saturday** -- YIPS Crew to meet at the Yachats Cemetery at King Street. Details below.
- **June 2, Saturday** -- National Trails Day! The Yachats Trails Crew and friends will join the U.S. Forest Service at 10am at Cape Perpetua Visitors Center for displays and a celebration of trails in Yachats and Cape Perpetua. The Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians and of the Coos, Lower Umpqua & Siuslaw Indians will conduct a flute concert in the Amanda grotto (at the bridge) at 12 noon.
- **July 4, Wednesday** -- La De Da! Think "zany" and help us make a showing in the Parade we can be proud of and hope it doesn't make it on Facebook!
- **July 8, Sunday** -- The Annual Overleaf Lodge Ivy Pull. Details to follow.
- **July 22, Sunday** -- The Yachats Trails Committee's annual picnic at Bear Wind Mountain (Joanne's) from 2 to 6pm. Details will come later, but mark your calendars.

YIPS (Yachats Invasive Plants Subcommittee) News

April saw the launch of the "Weed of the Month" (WOM) campaign in Yachats. By November we will have featured 8 different invasive weeds. In this way, we hope to alert Yachatians to the problems caused by these weeds, and to enlist support in our efforts to remove them. You probably know already that April's WOM was Scotch Broom. Some Yachatians will have received a mailing with information about the impact of broom and how to remove it. You may also have seen Wanted posters around town, featuring Scotch Broom and some related gang members. If you see any broom in Yachats anywhere near highway 101, please let me (Wally) know so that we can send out a posse. As you read this, YIPS members have already this spring dispatched hundreds of broom plants, ensuring that they will no longer pose a menace to our citizenry.

Broom may be in full retreat, but other equally noxious weeds still roam our neighborhoods. And one of the worst is blackberry, May's WOM. Any time and all the time is a good time to tackle this nasty weed. Dig it out with some of the roots. Cutting it at ground level sets it back but doesn't finish the job. For more info on blackberry, go to the website below.

YIPS meets once a month, usually the third Saturday at 10 am, to do battle with WMOs (weeds of mass obstruction). Our May 19th foray will be to remove Spurge Laurel from the forested area around the King St. cemetery. Josh Lambert of Lincoln Soil and Water Conservation District will guide and lead us. Meet on King at the usual time. Be sure to bring gloves as the laurel is toxic. More details will be sent out by e-mail during the week before the meet.

All WOM publications can be downloaded from the web. Go to www.yachats.info and follow the link.

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



Yachats Public Library

DREAM BIG READ

Yachats Public Library
Summer Reading Program

Tuesdays June 26 -August 14
10 a.m.-Noon

Spend the summer dreaming at your local library. This will be the second year we will be offering a Summer Reading Program for children 4-8 years of age. The 2012 theme focuses on the joys and thrills of the nighttime hours: stargazing, lullabies, scary creatures of the night and nocturnal animals. Get ready to share your dreams and nightmares.

Each week we'll read stories at the Yachats Library and children will have a chance to check out books. Then we'll walk to the Commons for a Dream related craft or presentation.

Children will have the opportunity to win prizes each week based on their independent reading. For those too young to read, time spent listening to stories will qualify them for prizes. Special activities at the Commons will include making dreamcatchers and pillowcases, a music event and a puppet show. Children will receive a free book to take home at each session.

Adults interested in helping with the Summer Reading Program can contact Janet at 547-3367 or pick-up a volunteer form at the library.

JOIN US FOR A DREAMY SUMMER



Little Log Church & Museum

By Mary Crook, Events Coordinator

A Step Back in Time

Last month I had occasion to drive some friends to an afternoon appointment in Corvallis. Although it was raining quite hard that day, the trip was a snap. I left my twentieth century vehicle at their house and drove their spiffy late model Honda Accord to our destination and back.

As we drove through the little town of Blodgett I saw the sign indicating a turn to Summit, Oregon, five miles off the highway to the north. Summit is the town where Rev. Rolla Phelps, his wife Stella and their grown children lived in the 1920s. Rev. and Mrs. Phelps made the trip to the Yachats/Waldport area once a month to preach at the Bay View Mission. In those days travel west of the Coast Range was mostly a matter of walking or riding horseback. Of course the roads from Summit through the Coast Range were gravel. The Phelpses would load their wagon with provisions and deal with the ruts and obstacles in the road, rain or shine, *each month*. Imagine!

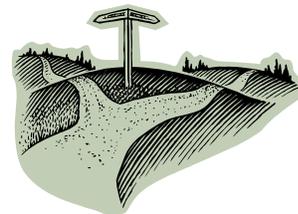
In 1927 Rolla Phelps was given a permanent assignment to Bay View Mission. He and his wife, then in their late fifties, loaded their possessions on a horse-drawn wagon and journeyed to their new home on the coast. Included on that wagonload of treasures was the beloved pump organ Mrs. Phelps would play for services.

After seeing the need for a permanent church in Yachats, Rev. Phelps managed to put together \$200

cash to buy the lot where the little church stands today. The deed was dated 1929. From that point he searched for "suitable timber" for the structure, and, log by log, the church was built. Many loving hands went into the construction of the church and the manse. Records indicate that Rolla Phelps did much of the work himself.

Think for a moment what Yachats must have been like in 1929. Streets were gravel, there was no Highway 101, no electricity, and travel often meant waiting for low tide to drive, ride, or walk along the beach.

We are fortunate to live in a beautiful place with easy access to all the things we deem necessary for a comfortable life. I know I am grateful to people like Rolla and Stella Phelps for being the strong and stalwart pioneers they were. And the next time I drive to Corvallis I will look upon that sign pointing to Summit, Oregon with a whole new sense of appreciation.



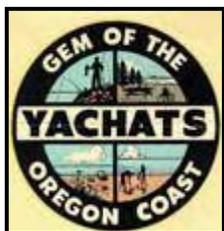
Roads and Parks

Each year the City receives a lot of calls from residents and visitors concerned about the tall grass at the parks and the condition of the roads. There are a lot of public areas in and around town, and there are also a lot of different agencies responsible for the maintenance.

The Whale Tail Park, Commons, Little Log Church and Museum, and the Library are City parks or facilities. Maintenance is done by dedicated volunteers and employees. The public works employees are also responsible for those streets that are official, dedicated and accepted City Streets. All other areas in town fall under the jurisdiction of the State, County, or private property owners.

Yachats Ocean Road and the three State Parks in the area are maintained by the State Parks Department – South Beach Office.

"Main Street" in Yachats is Hwy. 101, and is maintained by the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT). Streets signs are also ODOT's responsibility.



Yachats Weed of the Month - May 2012

Himalayan Blackberry (*Rubus discolor*)

Himalayan blackberry goes by various of scientific names, including *R. discolor*, *R. armeniacus* and *R. bifrons*, but they all boil down to one thing – a highly invasive plant that has colonized much of our region. Although it is not flowering or producing fruit at this time of the year, it will need no introduction to anyone who has spent more than a few hours driving around the Oregon coast.

Identification: Left unchecked, blackberry forms dense, impenetrable thickets. The long, reddish canes, sharp spines, white to pink flowers that appear in the summer and the edible black berries all serve to make it easily recognizable.

Habitat: Blackberry enjoys the high rainfall of the Oregon coast. It quickly colonizes disturbed areas such as roadsides and cleared lots. One square yard of blackberry thicket can produce 10,000 seeds each season. Birds and animals can disperse these seeds over long distances.

Impact: Himalayan blackberry displaces native plants, obstructs water flow in streams and irrigation ditches, and inhibits recreational activities.

Management: Blackberry thickets can be controlled by cutting back the stems and then digging the plants out by the roots. The initial removal should be followed up regularly for several years to remove new plantlets and sprouts from residual roots. Although herbicide treatment can be effective, the city of Yachats discourages this approach.

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

This page brought to you by YIPS!

