



# TRINIDAD COASTAL LAND TRUST

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## 2013 Annual Newsletter

Dedicated to protecting for the public benefit  
the natural beauty and character of Humboldt County  
from Little River to Big Lagoon



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## Annual Membership Meeting December 15<sup>th</sup> at Trinidad Museum

**Everyone is invited to attend our annual membership meeting on Sunday, December 15th at 3:00 p.m. at the Trinidad Museum.** Members and guests are invited to hear a land trust update and have the opportunity to ask questions. Appetizers and drinks will be served. We are looking for interested volunteers and advisors to help out on projects, both in office and on trails. We hold access easements or title to 17 beach access trails and nature reserves in the greater Trinidad area.

## Community Celebrates Library Completion

To say this was an exciting and fast paced year for the Trinidad Coastal Land Trust is almost an understatement! In addition to managing and improving our land holdings and coastal access easements, we found ourselves in the midst of construction of the Trinidad Library. Located on property graciously donated to the Land Trust by Glen and Janis Saunders; Saunders Park and the Trinidad museum (along with the beautiful native plant garden) were completed several years ago.

This was an absolutely amazing effort by our community who raised nearly \$500,000 for building construction. While there were plenty of glitches

and problems along the way, the library was completed on schedule and within budget. It's a real testament to the dedication and teamwork of everyone who contributed to this effort. After 14 years of planning, fundraising and very hard work, it was so great to see the community celebrate this milestone.

The TCLT is proud to be part of this effort. As the legal owner of the building and property, we have leased the building to the City of Trinidad for 99 years. The City in turn has contracted with Humboldt County to provide library services. Congratulations to everyone who worked so hard to make our Library a reality.

This is first time in the 98 year history of the library that we have a permanent location with brand new equipment and construction designed for longevity and low maintenance. For example, there are over 2 miles of underground piping surrounding the library that is part of the state of the art geo-thermal heating system. This system dramatically reduces heating energy costs and improves reliability.

But we are not quite done. Throughout this year our Board has been planning the final construction activity on this property. We are happy to say that construction of the Trinidad Coastal Land Trust office and the Simmons Art Gallery will commence very soon. Located on the northeast side of the library building, this 500 sq. ft. addition will serve as an office for the TCLT, art gallery dedicated to Land Trust founding member, Ned Simmons, and a community meeting room. Construction will be completed in 2014. For more details, see the additional article in this newsletter.



Grand opening of the Trinidad Library



The view of Pilot Point, on the right, and Camel Rock from  
TCLT's Moonstone Beach easement

## Invasive Plant Removal Work Days

As part of the Land Trust's mission to preserve the natural beauty and biodiversity of our property holdings, we periodically hold work days to remove invasive plants, primarily the dreaded English Ivy (*Hedera helix*), Andean Jubata Grass (*Cortaderia jubata*) and Scotch Broom (*Cytisus scoparius*); contrary to common usage, it is primarily Jubata Grass in our area that is the problem, not Pampas Grass (*Cortaderia selloana*). The Land Trust has long been aware of the problem of invasive plants and has documented the presence of these species on our land holdings as part of its "property monitoring" obligations. Left unchecked, these invasive plants out-compete our native plants and trees, greatly reducing species diversity – including insects, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals. In March of 2011 the Trust passed a resolution committing to "working through itself and other interested groups and individuals to stop the spread of and eventually to eradicate non-native plant species from its land holdings and from other open space areas in Northern Humboldt County". In recent years we have worked primarily on our three largest holdings: 1) Pilot Point, the headland at the north end of Moonstone Beach; 2) Baker Beach; and 3) Houda Point (Camel Rock).

This year, in collaboration with volunteers from the HSU Natural Resources Club, we had an "Ivy Bash" at Pilot Point on May 4; on July 27 the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) arranged for

Nick's Interns to help us remove ivy and trash at Houda Point. At the Pilot Point event volunteers were treated with fruit and granola bars in the morning and vegetarian chili, corn bread, and drinks for lunch. Everyone worked very hard and had a great time. These efforts are just the beginning in what the Trust hopes will become a sustained program to control and eradicate non-native plants from our land holdings and live up to our duty to preserve the natural habitat on them. We urge all of you to come and help out on our future events!

**Property Highlight:** Pilot Point is a property dedicated to the conservation of native flora and fauna and is a research area for the Humboldt State University. The property is primarily forested with Sitka spruce, Douglas fir, red alder, and *Ceanothus*. Its southern slopes are home to the mountain beaver (*Aplodontia rufa humboldtiana*), a rodent unrelated to the true beaver. As a vegetarian that dines on fleshy herbs and shoots of young trees, the mountain beaver's status in the Trinidad area is seriously threatened by invasive plants such as English ivy and Andean Pampas/Jubata grass.

### **Acknowledgements:**

Thank you to Murphy's Market in Trinidad for their generous donation of food to help feed our wonderful volunteers, and to the BLM for orchestrating the help from Nick's Interns!

## Beach Access Trail Work

We held only one official trail work day this year (at Houda Point/Camel Rock), and although only two volunteers showed up we got most of the trails weed whacked and the entire top area was mowed. Board members have also contributed time and equipment to keep Houda Point an attractive place for the public to frequent, and have worked on making the Martin Creek Trail off Stagecoach Road passable to the hardy folks who like to visit the rugged “Secret Beach” north of Elk’s Head. More needs to be done on all our properties which provide public access to our beaches, so watch for our next Trail Work Day alerts (now posted on our new Facebook website) and please come help.

Acknowledgements: A big thank you to the Trinidad Rancheria for donating approximately 100 feet of untreated wood decking from the old Trinidad Pier! These 4”x12” planks will be used for future trail restoration/maintenance projects.

## Trail To Strawberry Rock

The Trinidad Coastal Land Trust is very happy to report that it has been approached by Green Diamond Resource Company to be the holder of a public easement trail to Strawberry Rock. The rock is located northeast of the City of Trinidad in forestland owned by the company. It has long been used by members of the community as a destination for hikes, and affords a majestic view of the coast and surrounding woods. Acquiring a public easement trail to this special place has long been a goal of the land trust.

The proposal will likely include the setting aside of a grove of mature second growth redwood trees for public enjoyment. Tree sitters have been occupying the grove for over a year to protect it from possible logging by Green Diamond. The conservation plan was put forward by long-time Trinidad resident and Green Diamond executive Neil Ewald. The plan is contingent upon receiving funding from a national conservation foundation. There is no definite timeline, but the wheels are turning right now.

While the scope of the project is thought by some to be less than what it should be, there is no doubt that if it can be achieved, it will be a major benefit to the community-at-large, and an important holding for the land trust to steward in perpetuity.

## Tax Benefits for Donation of Conservation Easements

If you own land with important natural resources or public benefits such as coastal access, donating a conservation easement or gift of property can be one of the smartest ways to conserve the land you love while maintaining your private property rights and possibly realizing significant tax benefits. Donating a conservation easement can be a major financial decision, and the federal income tax deduction that may come with a donation can help make conservation easements possible for landowners in our community. We can share more information with you. Please contact your tax attorney/accountant for specific details about your property and tax situation.



Baker Beach



## Fundraising for the Land Trust Office, ‘Simmons Gallery’

At the library grand opening event in August we announced the land trust fundraising campaign for a new office and gallery, to be known as the Simmons Gallery. We announced that the total budget will be approx. \$90,000 and that we have already raised \$30,000 in donations over the past six months (all in support of memorializing the late Trinidad Art Gallery owner Ned Simmons). The donations have been deposited into our “Trinidad Coastal Land Trust Simmons Gallery Building Fund” at the Humboldt Area Foundation.

\$60,000 left to fundraise. We have approved building plans for the gallery and contractor Charles Netzow is set to break ground on phase one this month. We are hoping that the gallery and permanent home for the land trust office will be completed and open for business by next summer.

The land trust office ‘Simmons Gallery’ will be an eighteen foot by twenty-eight foot wing of the library building with a separate entrance. The building will share its south wall with the library and will look out onto the native plant garden . Entry will be from the east, which borders Saunders Park. To the adjacent north is the one-acre native plant garden and pond. By sharing a building site with the library, the gallery will utilize existing engineering, architectural, mechanical, and geotechnical designs, share a radiant floor heat system, have access to the men's and women's restrooms. It will function both as an art gallery and a land trust office. Gallery space includes a twelve foot by twenty-seven foot (interior dimensions) open studio room with a ten foot ceiling. In addition, the building will include two small offices (cubbies with sliding doors) approximately 4.5 feet by 6 feet. Our floor plan makes this easier to visual.

Only sixty thousand dollars to fully fund and complete the new gallery-office. We are so close but need your financial help. Maybe you have been a longtime supporter or would like to become one. Conservation lands gifted to our land trust and cash donations from our supporters have created to date a



TCLT Board members and contractor Charles Netzow at the site of the future Simmons Gallery and TCLT Room

legacy of community conservation and permanently protected beach trails and open space. We want to continue this growth and become an even stronger local organization for coastal access, land protection and environmental education through guided hikes and field trips. An office would allow us to have a phone and computer, a permanent address to meet and eventually have hired staff to run our programs. The majority of the new building will be available as a gallery for events, showings and workshops. Our little artist town of Trinidad does not have a dedicated art gallery and it would be a wonderful addition to our community’s new cultural center housing the museum, library, botanical garden and city park.

**We are aware that our work involves the protection of significant places, forever. This is an enormous responsibility and the sustainability of our Trinidad Coastal Land Trust is of the utmost importance in safeguarding and maintaining these places. Your support is needed to help fund the construction of a permanent location from which our community land trust can grow, take on more successful projects and continue our tradition of providing public benefits and access to our coastlines finest vistas and beaches.**

All donations are tax deductible and can be deposited into the Trinidad Coastal Land Trust Building Fund account at the Humboldt Area Foundation. Thank you very much for your consideration of this timely opportunity. Please contact board president Ben Morehead for more information or a tour of the building site.

# Our Property Holdings Reviewed

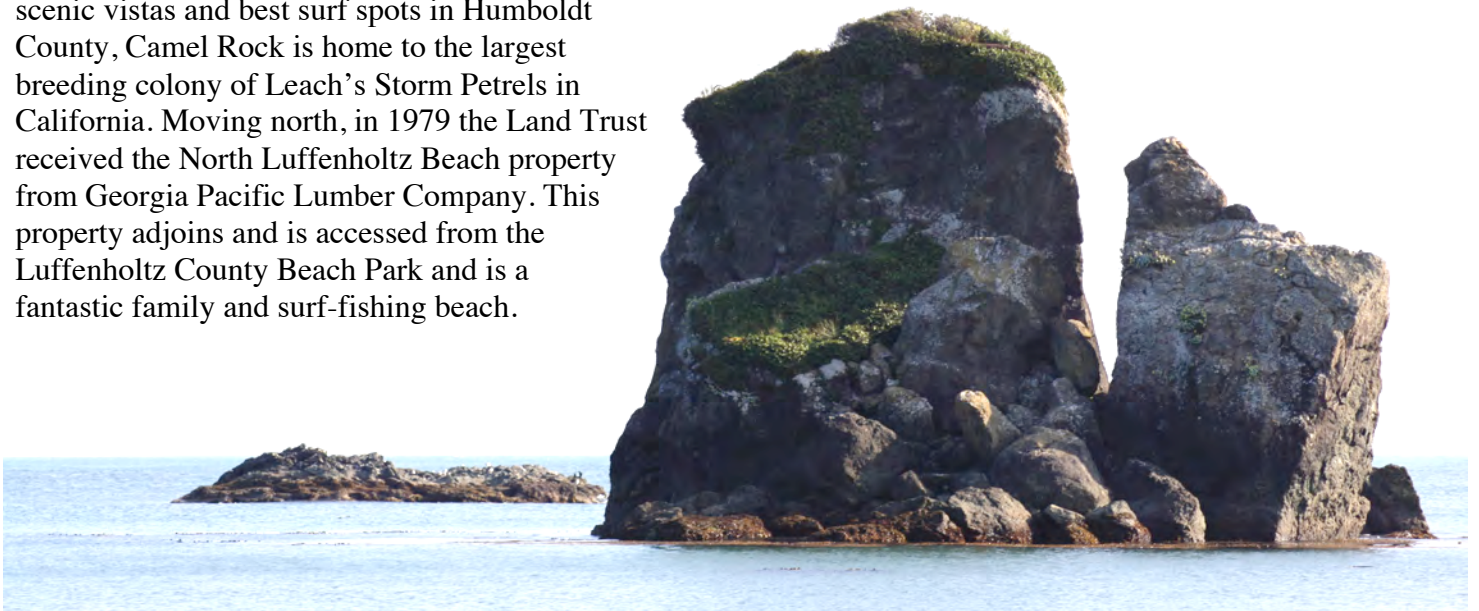
The Trinidad Coastal Land Trust owns, for public benefit, some of the most beautiful natural coastal properties and beach access trails around. An amazing benefit to being a volunteer with our land trust is that one gets to manage, restore, engage in and help to preserve these lands. Every year we hike and visually monitor the properties and work to make improvements to trails as needed. The following is a short description of the eight properties we own and the eight additional conservation easements we hold on private properties.

From south to north, the Land Trust holds a public access conservation easement on a portion of the otherwise privately-owned Moonstone Beach parking lot. The Merryman family, owners of the parking lot, beach house and restaurant, work with the land trust to support the public use and public responsibility on the beach. Heading north along Scenic Drive, the Land Trust owns the Pilot Point nature reserve. Pilot Point is the large landmass jutting out at the north end of Moonstone Beach. This property is a geologic/ecological reserve and is currently not open to public access. Moving further north along the coast, another popular property is Houda Point (a.k.a. Camel Rock). This eight acre beach park with trails is maintained by land trust volunteers, Humboldt Surfriders and our local surfing

community. Aside from being one of the most scenic vistas and best surf spots in Humboldt County, Camel Rock is home to the largest breeding colony of Leach's Storm Petrels in California. Moving north, in 1979 the Land Trust received the North Luffenholtz Beach property from Georgia Pacific Lumber Company. This property adjoins and is accessed from the Luffenholtz County Beach Park and is a fantastic family and surf-fishing beach.

Continuing up the coast, the Land Trust owns the scenic Baker Beach property and holds conservation easements protecting forest and open space on the adjacent Baker Ranch subdivision. Heading north along Scenic Drive towards Trinidad, you pass through an enchanting redwood forest grove. The two acre Bruno Groth Grove was donated by Herman and Ann Iverson in honor of longtime community member and sculptor Bruno Groth. Old Home (or Indian) Beach is the next larger beach cove after Baker Beach, on the south side of Trinidad. The TCLT holds both ownership of a forest parcel and a public access conservation easement along the Parker Creek trail to this beach. We also hold a small public access easement to the Parker Creek Trail from Wagner Street. The Martin Creek Trail is just north of Trinidad along Stagecoach Road. The trail is undeveloped and requires the cooperation of the public in maintaining both its privacy and access.

Lastly, the land trust owns two properties in town. The Saunders property is a cultural center near the entrance to town, housing the Trinidad Museum, library, park, native plant garden, and proposed land trust room and Simmons Gallery. 490 Trinity Street, near the lighthouse, is a historic building constructed in 1900 and was gifted to our land trust by the late Ned Simmons, and Ned's vision of the property continuing to serve as community space for art and culture is being realized through TCLT's partnership with the Trinidad Art Gallery artist cooperative who are celebrating their one-year anniversary this November.



# Leave A Lasting Legacy: Gifts and Endowments

Are you concerned about protecting the natural beauty and character of our Trinidad coast for present and future generations? Please consider making a charitable gift (of property, stocks or cash) in your will or living trust to benefit the Trinidad Coastal Land Trust. No matter how large or small, a planned gift (land and/or financial assets) will continue your dedication to conservation beyond your lifetime. Planned gifts will help to ensure the long-term financial strength of our community volunteer land trust, allowing us to respond to protect threatened lands, and to secure and restore public trails and beach access under our care. If you already have a will or living trust, you can easily amend that document to add a beneficiary. Depending on the method and timing of your gift, you may: reduce your income tax, capital gains, and/or estate taxes while retaining control of your assets.

Our land trust is a 501(c)3 non-profit charitable organization and has a fund with the Humboldt Area Foundation (HAF) where individuals can make a donation and or one can create a bequest in a will or trust. For example, when long-time Trinidad resident and land trust founding member Herman Iverson passed away several years ago, his family set up the Herman A. Iverson Memorial (Endowment) Fund with HAF. Our land trust receives an annual donation payment from this fund based on the interest generated from the fund's principal. If you would like to find out more, please

contact us or Chris Witt at the Humboldt Area Foundation (442-2993), or a financial planner or attorney for more information about how you can create a lasting legacy through a donation or bequest. If you are considering naming the Trinidad Coastal Land Trust in your will, the following language may be helpful:

“I give the Trinidad Coastal Land Trust, a 501(c) (3) Nonprofit Corporation, Tax ID# 94- 2552913 incorporated in the State of California, and having its principal offices at PO BOX 457, Trinidad, CA 95570 the sum of \$\_\_\_\_\_ (or alternately, \_\_\_\_\_ percent of the residuary of my estate), for its general purposes to protect and conserve land and water resources for public benefit.”

## In Closing

Don't forget - our annual meeting will be held at the Trinidad Muesum on Sunday, Decmeber 15<sup>th</sup> at 3pm. All are welcome and we hope to see you there or hear from you soon; check out our Facebook page; watch for updates at our website and encourage your friends to attend or become new members. Also, please don't forget to *return your voter ballot* and membership donation form. Thank you!



View from the end of the Martin Creek Trail





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