



# TRINIDAD COASTAL LAND TRUST

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## 2016 Annual Newsletter

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



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Ben Morehead  
Executive Director

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## Message from the President

As you will read about in the following pages it has been a great year for the Trinidad Coast Land Trust: the acquisition of 15 acres of coastal property along the Little River, the completion of the Simmons Gallery and TCTL office, a continuing ramp-up of restoration and stewardship efforts on TCTL's many properties, and the 3-year anniversary for the Trinidad Art Gallery, TCTL's partner and long-term tenant of the TCTL's 490 Trinity Street property.

In addition to this exciting list of accomplishments, I'm please to be able to announce the hiring of Ben Morehead as TCTL's first Executive Director. A long time Board member, Ben has been involved with TCTL for 17 years. Ben has worked professionally for many years in the land trust conservation field, including work with Southern Humboldt's Sanctuary Forest and with the North Coast Regional Land Trust. Ben's extensive experience includes projects ranging from conservation land acquisitions to private working ranch conservation easements, writing conservation project grants, fundraising and managing organizational programs.

Ben will combine his land trust professional experience with his love for the greater Trinidad outdoors as TCTL's first paid staff person. While the organization has achieved remarkable success since its founding in 1978, this transition will enable to TCTL to more fully address both the ongoing stewardship needs of its current holdings as well as pursue new projects and programs to better support TCTL's mission.

Ben will be working out of our new office in the Simmons Gallery building, behind the Trinidad Library. Please call or stop by for a visit. Land Trust open office hours will be Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays 10am-3pm. Our new office phone number is 707-677-2501 or you can email us at [info@trinidadcoastallandtrust.org](mailto:info@trinidadcoastallandtrust.org).

Looking forward to the year ahead, TCTL's objectives include: increasing monitoring and management activities for TCTL holdings, continuing work with Green Diamond on Strawberry Rock conservation and access, and pursuing restoration and access improvement

projects for Moonstone Beach, Baker Beach, Martin Creek, and the new Little River Property.

Of course, none of TCTL's efforts would be possible without the support of the community and TCTL's members. As we put the finishing touches on the Simmons Gallery and equip the TCTL office, gifts can be made to our Simmons Gallery Building Fund Capital Campaign –we are still accepting donations for the “Donors Rock” and “Donors Bench” memberships *up until January 31, 2016*. Both the Donor's Rock sculpture and Donor's Bench will be artistically designed and located outside the Simmons Gallery. Your donation entitles you to a permanent engraved name plaque recognition, and for lifetime donors an “in honor or memory of” recognition statement.

Thank you for your support of the Trinidad Coastal Land Trust and the Trust's continuing dedication to preserving and protecting this amazing place we are privileged to call our home.

—*Matthew Marshall,*  
*TCTL President*

### Annual TCTL Membership Meeting December 13, 2015 at new Simmons Gallery

The community is invited to attend the Trinidad Coastal Land Trust (TCTL) annual membership meeting on **Sunday December 13<sup>th</sup> at 3pm**. at TCTL's new office/gallery, behind the library at 380 Janis Court.

Members and guests are invited to hear a land trust update and have the opportunity to ask questions. TCTL is always looking for interested volunteers and advisors to help with various projects, both in the office and out on the land.

TCTL holds access easements or fee title ownership to 18 beach access trails and coastal preserves in the greater Trinidad area.



# Community Celebrates New Gallery & Major Coastal Property Acquisition

Once again, to say this was an exciting and fast paced year for TCLT is an understatement! In addition to managing and improving TCLT land holdings and coastal access easements, the Land Trust completed construction of its first permanent office located in the new Simmons Gallery, behind the library. This took a three-year, \$100,000 building fund capital campaign and a very supportive Trinidad community and Land Trust membership base. Thanks to all of you donors and in-kind contributors, Trinidad community leaders, fundraising committee volunteers, the Humboldt Area Foundation, Trinidad Trust Fund, Trinidad Civic Club, Trinidad Museum Society and anonymous major donors. It was a successful team effort worth the wait. The unofficial grand opening was held on September 17<sup>th</sup> during the Trinidad Chamber of Commerce “Tastin’ Trinidad” event. It was a wonderful evening to showcase the new gallery with the Ned Simmons collection on display.

Just as significant, in April TCLT acquired a 15-acre property from Green Diamond Resource Company. The property is located along Little River, about ¼ mile upstream of Moonstone Beach. The funding was provided by the State Coastal Conservancy and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

The property sits beyond the cul-de-sac at the south end of Scenic Drive, west of Highway 101 with Little River State Beach to the west, and includes approximately 1,000 feet of riverfront beach along the east side of Little River. It also lies adjacent to a potential route of the California Coastal Trail as identified in the Little River Trail Feasibility Study completed in 2014 by the Redwood Community Action Agency (the study report is available at: [http://www.naturalresourceservices.org/publication/s/Little River Trail Feasibility Study](http://www.naturalresourceservices.org/publication/s/Little%20River%20Trail%20Feasibility%20Study)).

The property includes a multi-use trail easement dedication for the California Coastal Trail. TCLT hopes to develop agreements with the County, Caltrans and funding partners to build a pedestrian/bicycle bridge across the Little River, at which time trail development for public access will occur. Once completed, the Little River Trail will link the Arcata/McKinleyville Hammond Trail system with Scenic Drive to Trinidad.

—Richard Johnson and Don Allan,  
TCLT Vice President and Secretary

Looking toward the new Little River Property  
from Moonstone Beach



## Trinidad's Tiny Treasures

Quietly nestled in the hidden corners of a few Trinidad Coastal Land Trust properties are some rare botanical gems. While most visitors appreciate the sweeping ocean views, towering redwoods, and diverse sea life, these rare plants are often overlooked. To guide conservation efforts the California Native Plant Society has assigned a rarity ranking to the rare plants in the state. There are more than 2,000 plants on the list, encompassing more than 20% of California's total plant species.

Protecting these resources and their habitats is just one of the many reasons land trusts are important conservation tools.

The tiniest of these treasures is *Romanoff tracyi* or Tracy's mistmaiden, and is named for Joseph Prince Tracy, a notable Northern California botanist from the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Tracy's mistmaiden can be seen clinging to rock walls on the north side of Houda Point and is best observed from March-May when blooming. This perennial has bright green, shiny leaves and diminutive white flowers. Even though this plant is common in Oregon and Washington it is considered rare and worthy of protection in California because this is the very southern extent of its range.

Perhaps the most threatened of Trinidad's rare plants is *Oenothera wolfii*, or Wolf's evening primrose. This beauty has showy yellow flowers that bloom from May-October and can be observed at Houda Point and Moonstone Beach. It prefers sandy soils and is seriously threatened by hybridization with the non-native *Oenothera glazioviana*.

The origin of the non-native primrose is unclear but it is likely a hybrid of two North American species that was introduced from Europe as a garden variety. Wolf's evening primrose is susceptible to pollination from the non-native primrose, threatening its genetic integrity. Because of this and threats from development and habitat loss this plant has the highest CNPS ranking of 1B.1 meaning it is rare and seriously endangered in California.



Tracy's mistmaiden at Houda Point

Tucked away in the sand on popular Moonstone Beach you can find *Abronia umbellata* ssp. *brevifolia*, or pink sand verbena, blooming from June-October. This plant has tiny umbels of bright pink flowers and has adapted to the challenges of persisting in shifting sands, occurring in well-drained sandy soils from Canada to Mexico. Because most

California populations have few individuals and are threatened by foot traffic, vehicles, and non-native competition, CNPS has also assigned it the highest rank of 1B.1.

The next time you are enjoying one of TCLT's properties maybe you will be lucky enough to encounter one (or all three!) of these precious resources and it is not uncommon for new populations to be discovered. I encourage you to visit <http://www.cnps.org/cnps/rareplants/> to learn more about rare plant conservation in California and <http://northcoastcnps.org/> to find out how you can participate in conservation efforts locally. TCLT memberships and volunteer workdays are another great way to help conserve Trinidad's tiny treasures.

—Jenny Hutchinson,  
TCLT Board Member &  
Rare plant lover



## National Monument Status for Trinidad Head?

California Coastal National Monument designation is being considered for Trinidad Head, and the Land Trust has been awarded a small grant to help support this new addition. The thirteen acres of public land owned by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is currently being considered for this federal designation under bills by Senator Barbara Boxer and Congressman Jared Huffman, who toured the property this past fall. Three northern California public land properties are currently being considered for this protection designation: 5,780 acres of public land in Santa Cruz County, 445 acres in San Luis Obispo County, and the 13-acre BLM parcel on Trinidad Head. Representing Humboldt County, TCLT Executive Director Ben Morehead will be joining a team in Washington D.C. to promote this effort.

### Camel Rock Surf Camera

We are happy to announce that the popular website used by surfers and beachgoers to check the waves at Camel Rock / Houda Point Beach Park was recently gifted to TCLT. Access the camera through TCLT's website or at [www.camelrocksurfcam.com](http://www.camelrocksurfcam.com).

A sophisticated streaming camera feeds live pictures of surf conditions, refreshed every 10 seconds on the website. Camel Rock is an increasingly popular surf spot and the Surf Cam is used by hundreds of web visitors every month. Although thousands of visitors use the Houda Point parking lot, trails and Camel Rock beach each year, many are unaware that the area is owned and maintained by the Trinidad Coastal Land Trust. The Trust plans to expand the use of the website in the future, to enhance fundraising and awareness for the Trust's mission and role in maintaining this area.

—Ben Ebert,  
TCLT Board Member



## Partnering for Success

'Collaborative conservation' is one of the ways TCLT measures success. TCLT depends on our supporting donor members, willing landowners, project partners, and volunteers to purchase and manage conservation properties, maintain trails, implement new programs, conduct outreach at local events and have successful restoration work parties. Donations also help TCLT cover annual costs including property taxes, insurance (liability and property), and professional services such as legal services and accounting. With a volunteer board of directors and support from TCLT's many partners, TCLT continues to successfully protect and promote our area's natural heritage and provide public access to our stunning beaches.

TCLT would like to recognize some of the many organizations that we have worked with this past year: Humboldt Area Foundation, Conservation Lands Foundation, Trinidad Trust Fund, City of Trinidad, Bureau of Land Management, Trinidad Museum Society, Trinidad Civic Club, Friends of the Trinidad Library, Trinidad Rancheria, Trinidad Chamber of Commerce, Trinidad Union School, Humboldt Surfriders, California Conservation Corps., the Merryman Family, Trinidad Head Advisory Committee, California Coastal Monument Trinidad Gateway Committee, Trinidad Art Gallery, Moonstone Crossing Winery, Murphy's Market, Trinidad Garden Club, Trinidad Art Night, Humboldt State University and the Natural Resources Club, Pacific Outfitters Green Team, the County of Humboldt, Friends of the Dunes, Land Trust Alliance, as well as land conservation project partners CA Coastal Conservancy, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Green Diamond Resource Company, and Redwood Community Action Agency. Special thanks to the hundreds of donors who are members of this organization and support TCLT's grassroots conservation efforts. You are the foundation of TCLT and the organization depends on your continued support. A special thank you to our lifetime members who have gifted significantly to the Simmons Gallery Building Fund.

—Ben Morehead,  
TCLT Executive Director

# Treasurer's Report

Presented here are the operating income and expense summaries for the 2014 calendar year (graphs) and 2015 year-to-date (YTD) and budget for comparison. The gifts and grants received and expenses for the construction of the Simmons Gallery/Land Trust Room (LTR) within these periods are also presented separately from the operating numbers. Currently, the bulk of TCLT Program income and (to a lesser extent) expenses are for and from the Trinidad Art Gallery.

## TCLT Income & Expenses, Budget vs. Actual

		<u>YTD</u>	<u>2015</u>
<u>Income:</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>10/2015</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Memberships & Donations <sup>1</sup>	\$1,878	\$1,721	\$4,500
Grants <sup>1</sup>	\$5,030	\$1,540	\$2,540
Fundraising <sup>1</sup>	\$1,691	\$1,464	\$2,000
Programs <sup>2</sup>	\$22,000	\$19,945	\$23,000
<b>Total Operating Income</b>	<b>\$32,613</b>	<b>\$24,671</b>	<b>\$32,040</b>
LTR Building Campaign	\$38,711	\$43,641	n/a
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$71,324</b>	<b>\$68,312</b>	n/a

<sup>1</sup> Discretionary income; does not include donations, grants or fundraising income restricted for Simmons Gallery/Land Trust Room construction.

<sup>2</sup> Includes income generated from rents and outreach activities.

		<u>YTD</u>	<u>2015</u>
<u>Expenses:</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>10/2015</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Contract Services <sup>3</sup>	\$5,601	\$7,299	\$9,700
Programs <sup>4</sup>	\$5,599	\$8,664	\$10,750
Operations <sup>5</sup>	\$1,262	\$1,313	\$2,300
Fundraising <sup>6</sup>	\$2,233	\$807	\$1,200
Insurance	\$2,417	\$4,099	\$4,099
Property Taxes	\$3,352	\$1,602	\$3,991
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>\$20,464</b>	<b>\$23,785</b>	<b>\$32,040</b>
LTR Construction	\$40,930	\$46,935	n/a
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$81,859</b>	<b>\$94,504</b>	<b>\$32,040</b>

<sup>3</sup> Includes bookkeeping, accounting, and legal fees. The increase in Contracted Expenses for 2015 is largely due to legal fees paid for an easement review.

<sup>4</sup> Includes costs directly associated with TCLT holdings and outreach activities, including property maintenance, Surf cam, and loan interest on TAG.

<sup>5</sup> Includes printing, office supplies, membership dues, storage fees, and professional development. Budget only include Simmons Gallery/LTR utilities.

<sup>6</sup> COGS and event costs, including advertising, licenses, facilities and food & beverage.

## 2014 Income



## 2014 Expenses



What is not captured in these figures, and makes so much of what the TCLT does possible, are the services of volunteers—monitoring properties, coordinating trail maintenance, helping with garbage detail, and conducting a wide variety of administrative tasks behind-the-scenes. The volunteer hours worked by TCLT board members (beyond governance) and many other community members exceeded 1,600 in 2014 and is estimated at over 2,100 hours already in 2015. The value of contributions from board members, volunteers, and TCLT members does not show up on financial statements but is indeed a tremendous asset to the organization and its efforts to grow Trinidad-area coastal conservation programs.

—Susan Elliott,  
TCLT Board Treasurer



## Property Work Days & Scenic Drive Trash Removal

As part of its mission to preserve the natural beauty and biodiversity of our coastal ecosystem, TCLT periodically organizes work days to maintain trails, remove trash, and rip out invasive plants.

In March of 2011 TCLT 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.” TCLT’s invasive plant removal is concentrated primarily on 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*). TCLT 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.

Over the last year 17 work days were completed in collaboration with volunteers from the HSU Natural Resources Club, TCLT board members, local citizens, and PacOut Green Team.

At most events TCLT provides some nourishment and everyone works hard and has a great time. The last year’s efforts are just the beginning in what TCLT hopes will become a sustained program to control and eradicate non-native plants from TCLT land holdings and live up to the organization’s duty to preserve the natural habitat on them. We urge all of you to come and help out on our future events! More needs to be done on all TCLT properties which provide public access to our beaches, so watch for future Work Day alerts, which will be emailed out and posted on TCLT’s Facebook page and newly-updated website. Please contact us to volunteer.

—*Steen and Tami Trump*  
*TCLT Board Members*

## 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 land trust, allowing TCLT 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 / 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, which provides an annual payment to TCLT 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.

### *In Closing...*

TCLT’s annual meeting will be held at the new Simmons Gallery on Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 3pm. We hope to see you there or hear from you soon—you can “like” TCLT’s Facebook page; sign up for email updates, volunteer, and encourage your friends to attend an event or become a member.

Also, please don’t forget to *return your* membership donation form. **Thank you!**





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