

# HUMBOLDT NORTH COAST LAND TRUST

## 2010 Annual Newsletter

*Humboldt North Coast Land Trust is an organization dedicated to protecting for the public benefit the natural beauty and character of Humboldt County from Little River to Big Lagoon*

P.O. Box 457, Trinidad, CA 95570-0457

Phone 707-677-0716 / www.hnclt.org

### **TRUSTEES:**

**Ben Morehead**

President

**Don Allan**

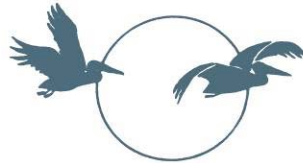
Vice-President

**Beverly Zeman**

Secretary

**Gail Ward**

Treasurer



**Susan Elliot**  
**Ned Simmons**  
**Ilene Poindexter**  
**Matthew Malkus**  
**Steen Trump**

### **Annual Membership Meeting**

#### **November 14 At Trinidad Museum**

Everyone is invited to attend our annual membership meeting on Sunday, November 14 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 encourage guests to tour the museum, the native plant garden, future library building site and new city park, all of which stand on the Land Trust-gifted 'Saunders Park' property (originally donated by the Glenn and Janis Saunders). This property is one of 15 beach access trails and nature reserves owned by or granted to our Land Trust.

important to both our land trust identity and getting conservation projects funded. Having our primary location, Trinidad, included in our name will make it much easier for people to identify with our organization and eliminate any confusion with other groups. As stated in our mission statement at the top of this page, the greater Trinidad area is our focus and the words 'Trinidad' and 'Coastal' are important identifiers. Land trust projects and funding requests will be properly identified and this new name will make it easier for our volunteers to share our work. *Please consider and vote on this issue along with the board nominee ballot box on the cover sheet of this newsletter.* Please contact boardmember Ben Morehead (677-0177) with any questions.

### **Vote Request to Members: Land Trust Name Change**

'*Trinidad Coastal Land Trust*' is the new name our Board of Trustees has approved, dependent upon a membership vote, to replace our existing non-profit 501(c)3 organizational name. Why are we requesting this name change? Because our name does not specify our Trinidad region focus area, our existing name frequently gets confused with other 'north coast' land trusts in Humboldt and northern California, and there seems to be general name confusion even with local residents. Our boardmembers are frequently having to correct people and agencies about who we are, who we are not, and where we are located. Local government and funding agencies can't seem to get it right. Name affiliation is extremely

### **Board President's Update**

Greetings. I, Ben Morehead, am the current President of the Land Trust Board of Trustees. Time flies and 2010 has been another successful year for our group. A quick summary of accomplishments: First, land trust board and community volunteers held several trail workdays this past summer. The Houda Point-Camel Rock trail work day was a huge success. Our local Humboldt Surfriders volunteer organization showed up in force to mow grass, clear brush, repair steps and improve the trails down to the beach; we even removed a dead pine tree and trimmed its trunk into a seat from which to view Camel Rock. We have also installed a trash bag dispenser for dog waste at both Houda and Moonstone Beach. We are already seeing a

reduction in dog waste on the beach due to dog owners using the bags. Thank you!

Land Trust board volunteers also worked with a local Eagle Scout troop to start an invasive non-native ivy removal project at our Baker Beach property. The scout troop group spent three days removing and disposing of ivy that, with time, will take over native vegetation and hurt local ecology and wildlife habitat. Thank you to all who helped out at these events. We expect to be hosting more work days starting next Spring.

Our all-volunteer Board of Trustees continues to monitor our properties and identify specific areas for trail improvements and non-native plant removal. English Ivy is a *growing* problem on almost all our properties. Volunteer groups are needed to take on ivy removal. If anyone is interested or has ideas to share please contact us.



**Local Eagle Scout Troop with trash bags full of invasive ivy, near Baker Beach. Thank you!**

Many residents in Trinidad are asking ‘where is the new library?’ Quick answer: we are working on it! The land trust and library committee are working together to get the needed engineering reports and permits. Negotiations and contracts are moving forward and we expect to break ground on the new library building next spring. Thank you for your patience. The Trinidad Museum and native plant garden is open to the public and construction on the new city park is underway. As many of you know, Glenn and Janis Saunders have donated a wonderful parcel in Trinidad, where in partnership with the City of Trinidad, Trinidad Museum Society, Friends of the Trinidad Library and numerous volunteers, we are building a new ‘community park’. Special thanks to Glenn and Janis Saunders for their land donation and library building fund challenge

grant. Thanks to building contractor Charles Netzow for his dedication and attention to detail on the construction of the new museum. Please contact us or visit the museum if you are interested in donating to the library building fund.



**Volunteers repair the Houda Point beach trail (south side); Johnny Calkins, trail building and restoration expert, coordinated the effort.**

Finally, farewell to lifelong community volunteer, storyteller, restaurant entrepreneur, successful county supervisor and Moonstone Beach property owner Mr. Sam Merryman, who died this past year. Sam was dedicated to managing the very popular Moonstone Beach (private) parking lot with public access as a priority, despite its frustrations and challenges!

### **Partnerships In Progress**

The land trust is currently engaged in numerous partnership projects. First and foremost, the museum / library / park / native garden project involves numerous local community groups working together to overcome both bureaucratic and financial obstacles for a great multi-use community center. Learn more about this at our Nov. 14 public meeting. The land trust has joined with the California Coastal National Monument Trinidad Gateway Committee with hopes to further the effort of protecting coastal resources. There are new interpretive displays at both our Houda Point / Camel Rock property and down the road at the Luffenholtz County Park, overlooking the beach. A trail locator map display will soon be placed outside the museum building. One of our long-term goals is to help connect the California Coastal Trail from Patrick’s Point State Park to the Hammond Trail at Clam Beach.



**23 year volunteer boardmember Ned Simmons on trail with present and future volunteers.**

## **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.

## **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 in your will or living trust to benefit the Humboldt North Coast 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.

HNCLT, a 501(c)3 non-profit charitable organization, has a fund with the Humboldt Area Foundation (HAF) where individuals can make a donation and or one can create a bequest in one's 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 Humboldt North Coast Land Trust in your will, the following language may be helpful:

"I give the Humboldt North Coast 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."



**Baker Beach, Land Trust Property, Trinidad Head in background**

## **Property Holdings Reviewed**

Our land trust was formed in 1978 by local citizens to help create public access to our coastline and beaches without the involuntary

taking of private property (e.g. the real threat of government purchase of coastal property to make a state park from Trinidad State Beach to Clam Beach). Over the years, land has been donated or acquired from willing sellers. From Moonstone Beach to downtown Trinidad, our land trust has helped create a network of trails to the beach and reserves for all to enjoy.

We currently hold fee-title ownership on seven properties and additionally hold conservation easement agreements on eight more private properties. Starting 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 rock jutting out at the north end of Moonstone Beach. This property is a geologic / ecological reserve and is currently not open for public access. Moving further north along the coast, another popular property is Houda Point (a.k.a. Camel Rock). This eight acre beach park and trails are maintained by land trust volunteers and our local surfing community. Besides 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. In 1979 the land trust was donated the North Luffenholtz Beach property by Georgia Pacific Lumber Company. This property adjoins and is accessed from the Luffenholtz County Beach Park to the south and is a fantastic family and surf-fishing beach.

Moving 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 Beach is the next beach cove after Baker Beach. The land trust holds both ownership of a forest parcel and a public access conservation easement along the Parker Creek trail to this beach. Our most recent

conservation easement is the Martin Creek Trail just north of Trinidad along Stagecoach Road. This private property protects both wildlife and a variety of native plants, plus access to a small beach. The trail is undeveloped and requires the cooperation of the public in maintaining both its privacy and access.

Last but definitely not least, our land trust has been gifted the 'Saunders Park' parcel in Trinidad where in partnership with the city, Trinidad Museum Society, Friends of the Trinidad Library and numerous volunteers we are building a community center including the museum, library, a native plant garden and a city park.



**Land Trust donated Property:  
North Luffenholtz Beach**

Photos, a map and additional information can be found on our website: [www.hnclt.org](http://www.hnclt.org)

### **In Closing**

Our annual meeting will be held at the Trinidad Museum on Sunday November 14 at 3pm. All are welcome and we hope to see you there or hear from you soon; encourage your friends to attend or become new members. Also, please don't forget to *return your voter ballot* and membership donation form.