

SPRING 2021 NEWSLETTER

Dedicated to providing coastal access while protecting the natural beauty and character of the Humboldt County Coast from Little River to Big Lagoon.



NO MERE MAID; CELEBRATING COMMUNITY AND THE COAST



No Mere Maid by Matt Beard

THIS year, we have become all too familiar with adapting to a physically distant, confusing, tumultuous world. However, two very important aspects of our lives has remained constant; the coast and our community. Access to trails, beaches, waves, and forests have been a solace of calm, comfort, and connection for so many of us in Humboldt County. We feel that this is something to celebrate, which is why we invited Matt Beard to paint an image emblematic of our beloved coastal community for our Toast to the Coast Virtual Gala, and his interpretation of a north coast mermaid, *No Mere Maid*, (pictured to the left) just blew us away. Matt has a way of illuminating the power, awe, and striking beauty and character of the North Coast landscape, and community, in this paintings.

“As an artist in Humboldt County, it cannot be overstated how important the Trinidad Coast has been for me. Years of deep enjoyment have fed endless inspiration, and not just for me. One only needs to look around at the local art scene to see the outsized influence the Trinidad Coast has had on artists for generations here.” (Matt Beard)

READ ON!

Spring - Summer Schedule
Community Science Updates
Land Conservation Projects
Annual Report 2020
Letter from the Director
And more!

LEAVE A LASTING LEGACY

Do you consider yourself a steward of your families land? You can leave a lasting legacy by making a planned gift of land, estate, or funds to the TCLT, which will continue your dedication to conservation beyond your lifetime. Visit our website, under *Get Involved*, or call us to learn more about our Planned Giving program and how you can leave your legacy.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS - SPRING/SUMMER 2021

Educational Opportunities

COVID-19 precautions are in place. *Space is limited and registration is required by emailing your contact information to michelle@trinidadcoastallandtrust.org.*

Little River Trail Virtual Workshop: Monday, April 19, 5:30-7pm

Learn more about this trail project, which will connect the Westhaven/Trinidad area to the Hammond Coastal Trail. We'll share preliminary opportunities and constraints for trail design and engage community members in design considerations. **Find the Zoom link on our Web calendar.**

Exploración de Zonas Intermareales: Domingo, 2 de mayo de 10-12pm en Trinidad Pier / Exploring Intertidal Zones: Sunday, May 2nd from 10-12pm at Trinidad Pier
Únase con Daisy Ambriz & Michelle Kunst para una caminata familiar bilingüe de baja marea en español e inglés. Todos son bienvenidos. Join Daisy Ambriz & Michelle Kunst for a family-friendly bilingual low-tide walk in Spanish and English. All are welcome.

Trinidad Head Art Hike: Saturday May 15, 10am-12pm
Sketching is a great way to slow down and study the natural world at various stops on the trail around Trinidad Head. Join local artist and art workshop leader Margaret Kellermann on a unique interpretive hike for artists at all levels, ages 12 and up. Limited to 6 participants.



Participant inspecting lichens through a hand lens on a Lichens and Bryophytes walk.



Programs & Project Manager, Michelle Kunst, holding a gumbboot chiton on a tidepool exploration walk.

Seaweeds and Invertebrate of the Intertidal Zone: Saturday, May 29, 8-10am

Join Allison Poklemba, seaweed enthusiast, and Michelle Kunst, intertidal invertebrate enthusiast for a two-parter tidepool experience at Old Home Beach.

Geology of Trinidad State Beach: Saturday June 12, 9-11am

Danny O'Shea will guide us on a journey through the geologic history of our unique rocky shoreline at Trinidad State Beach.

Scenic Drive Bioblitz: Sunday June 13, 8 - 10am

Celebrate a belated World Oceans Day (June 8) by observing and recording the biodiversity of the Scenic Drive coastline during the low tide using the iNaturalist app.

Seabird Watching: Sunday, July 4, 9 am - 12 pm at Trinity & Edwards Streets

Learn how you can be seabird safe over the 4th of July weekend. Experts will be on hand with spotting scopes to help you see and learn about the seabirds that call our coast home. No RSVP needed!

Seabirds of Trinidad: Saturday, July 10, 9:30-11:30am

Join biologist Russ Namitz for this walk to learn about the ecology of seabirds that nest and rest on the offshore rocks of Trinidad.

HELP CARE FOR THE LANDS YOU LOVE!

Educational Opportunities Continued...

Stay tuned for more guided walks by checking out our web calendar.

Tidepooling for Beginners: Sunday, July 25, 7-9am

This intertidal exploration under the Trinidad Pier is for first time tidepoolers or those with limited mobility.

Summer Stewardship Work Day Schedule

Join volunteers on the first Saturday of the month from 9:30-Noon at various Land Trust coastal properties. All are welcome!

June 5: Pilot Point Invasive Plant Removal

July 3: Martin Creek Trail maintenance and Invasive Plant Removal

August 7: Baker Beach Invasive Plant Removal and Trail Maintenance.

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED BY EMAILING YOUR NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION TO MICHELLE@TRINIDADCOASTALANDTRUST.ORG.



Ambassadors & volunteers proud of their work repairing the Baker Beach stairs.

ENGAGING COMMUNITY WITH SCIENCE AND CONSERVATION

Michelle Kunst, Programs & Project Manager



Seabird Community Scientist, Jessie Bunkley, counting birds during a training survey.

We've been noticing an increased recognition of community science initiatives propping up around us in the conservation movement; so what really is it? We like to define community science as any effort that involves community members in the process of science, without requiring scientific training, and increases literacy around our natural environments, as well as the threats that face them. It is fueled and enriched by local place-based knowledge, connection, passion, learning, action and empowerment.

TCLT has been working with the Bureau of Land Management and the Northcoast Seabird Protection Network for the past four years to train community members on seabird identification and ecology, population and disturbance data collection techniques, and spend valuable time in the field with other community members passionate about marine wildlife.

As of March 2021, sixteen new trainees are equipped with the knowledge to conduct surveys, which are immensely valuable in two ways; data is used to inform best management practices for future coastal conservation policy, but also engages our community in meaningful action and connection with the landscape. If you see people at various locations on Patrick's Point and Scenic Drive with spotting scopes and clipboards, go say hello, ask them what they are seeing, and don't forget to say thank you!

LEAVE A LASTING LEGACY

Michelle Kunst, Programs & Project Manager

The Trinidad Coastal Land Trust was founded with the mission to protect **public access** to our unique and striking coastline. Since our founding over 40 years ago, we have believed that our coastline is a source of joy and inspiration. Every day we work to ensure that people can experience this stunning beauty from Little River to Big Lagoon by maintaining public access trails, providing educational walks and activities that connect our community to place and the stewardship of these lands. We believe that a more compassionate and joyful world of citizens who care for the coast and all its living beings is key to ensuring their protection for current and future generations.

We've been working to continue broadening our land protection efforts to include **rural residential conservation easements**; which is an avenue of conservation which protects natural resources on privately owned lands in perpetuity. In Humboldt County, according to *CalLands*, 67% of the land base is owned privately, as opposed to public lands such as National Forests, County, State, and National Parks; which means that much of our biodiversity is also supported by those lands. Conservation easements are a way to work with conservation minded landowners to negotiate a legal agreement that protects valuable natural resources after that landowner.



Prarie on Ruprecht property.



Sitka spruce, douglas fir, and redwood forest on Ruprecht property.

We are thrilled to be very close to completing a conservation easement with Ted and Joan Ruprecht, protecting their 20 acre coastal forest property, in which the land will remain in its natural state, unfragmented, allowing for limited residential development in perpetuity. This land is home to a small fish-supporting creek, a pasture, redwood groves, and a vibrant understory of huckleberry, alder, and trillium.

“In 50 years [the property] will be more mature and I think even more precious because of the inevitable alterations that are going to happen to the environment around us” Ted said when asked about why they chose to develop a conservation easement. He offered advice to other property owners, *“even if you’ve got just a small isolated area, but you’ve got something worth preserving, a conservation easement is a really great way of achieving that, and I think future generations are going to appreciate that.”* (Ted Ruprecht)

Do you consider yourself a steward of land that your family owns? You can leave a lasting legacy, or a **Planned Gift**, by making a donation of property, estate, stocks or funds to TCLT, which will extend your dedication to conservation of the Trinidad coastline far beyond your lifetime benefiting future generations of both people and the more-than-human world.

Visit our website, under *Get Involved*, or call us at (707) 677-2501 to learn more about our Planned Giving program and how you can leave your legacy.

ANNUAL REPORT 2020

Our Most Unusual Year

Carol Vander Meer, Executive Director

As we all know, 2020 was a year like no other and the Land Trust did our best to provide access and care for the coast during some very trying times. In early March we were just getting ready to publish our spring/summer newsletter when things came to a screeching halt. All classes and programs were indefinitely put on hold, in person events were cancelled and we all learned to deal with the county's new stay at home orders. While we were ordered to shelter-in-place, going outside for exercise was encouraged and visitors started to flock to the trails around Trinidad. Tensions rose as some Trinidad residents felt like the area was inundated with visitors from other communities who should recreate closer to their own homes. There were calls by some to close our trails, while others felt that having access to outdoor spaces was essential during the crisis. We collaborated with the county to post Covid-19 safety signs, kept the trails trimmed to help ensure people had the ability to step aside to maintain physical distance and pivoted to working from home.

As the crisis wore on, we learned to adapt; Zoom meetings, we secured a County approved re-opening plan, we hosted small guided walks using headsets to project our voices through our masks, we quickly learned video editing to develop distance learning materials until we can safely do school field trips again. Thankfully, a Payroll Protection Program loan, turned grant, enabled us to keep staff employed. While we delayed work on many grant-funded projects, we had time to focus on bigger picture efforts including our overall organization, project planning, and development of a statement against systemic racism. We see this statement as a first big step towards our commitment to make our work more inclusive and welcoming to all.

2020 also brought about significant staffing changes. After serving as the Land Trust's first paid staff person, Ben Morehead stepped back from his position as Executive Director to be a part-time Senior Projects Manager, allowing him to focus on projects he is passionate about and create space in his life for new endeavors. Amy Eberwein, stepped down from being the Office Manager and took a full-time position with Humboldt County. Carol Vander Meer stepped in as the Executive Director, Michelle Kunst transitioned from an Outreach and Education Intern to a new position as Program and Projects Manager, and Stacie Marshall was hired as the new Office Manager. Staffing changes take time, but they are also an opportunity to approach our work with new perspectives and effectively carry out our mission of providing public access, while protecting the beauty of the Trinidad Coast.

We all let out a collective sigh of relieve when 2021 arrived, but there are still strides to make to beat the Covid-19 pandemic. Vaccines hold the promise of getting back to some sense of "normal" but it is likely that things will continue to be different for some time. What continues to be true is that people seek out the beauty and serenity of the coast, and as a land trust, we will have to continue working to find innovative ways to engage visitors and community members alike to be a partner in caring for the land and inspire interactions with the coast that honor and respect the amazing cultural and natural resources. There is also much to be done to ensure that our work is inclusive and welcoming to diverse audiences. We acknowledge the fact that the land we manage includes unceded shared ancestral Yurok territory and we are actively seeking meaningful partnerships with local tribes to honor and care for these landscapes in perpetuity.

We are grateful to all of our donors and supporters who have stood by us during this challenging time. We look forward to continuing our work together of creating a more compassionate and joyful community of earthlings engaged in protecting the coast today and for future generations of all species.

2020 FINANCIAL REPORT

January 1-December 31, 2020

Statement of Activities

Revenue and Support	2020
Membership and Contributions	\$58,889
Foundation Grants	\$92,224
Event Proceeds	\$375
Fees for Service	\$3,500
Other Income	\$1,080
Investment Income	\$63
Sales of Merchandise	\$768
Other Revenue	\$249
Unrelated Business	\$18,805
Total Revenue and Support	\$174,873

Expenses	2020
Administrative	\$52,396
Fundraising	\$9,974
Programs: Education	\$29,549
Programs: Maintenance	\$42,136
Programs: Acquisition	\$11,110
Unrelated Business	\$7,430
Total Expenses	\$152,595
Change in Net Assets	\$22,278

Statement of Financial Position

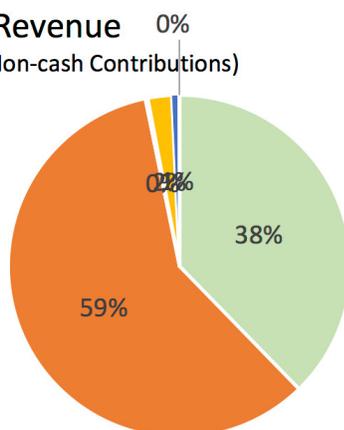
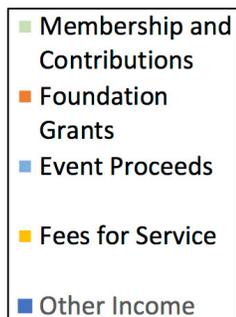
Current Assets	2020
Checking/Savings	\$125,500
Investments	\$249,155
Land Holdings	\$2,639,161
Accounts Receivable	\$1,510
Other Assets	\$6,817
Total Assets	\$3,022,143

Liabilities	2020
Accounts Payable	\$6,359
Long-term Liability ²	\$139,758
Total Liabilities	\$146,117

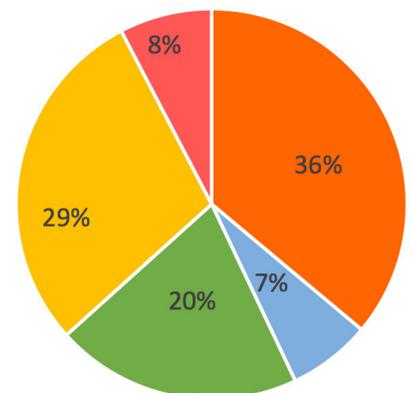
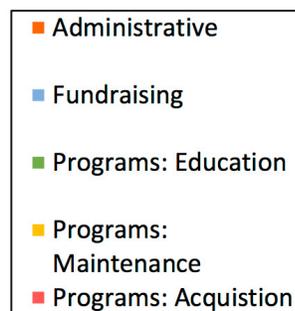
Net Assets	2020
Restricted Net Assets	\$2,301,502
Unrestricted Net Assets	\$478,185
Increase in Net Assets	\$22,278
Unrealized Investment Gain	\$74,061
Total Net Assets	\$2,876,026
Total Liability and Net Assets	\$3,022,143

² Mortgage on 490 Trinity St, Trinidad

Revenue (excluding Non-cash Contributions)



Expenses



THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO MAKES OUR WORK POSSIBLE!

Please reach out to us if we missed you!

STAFF

Carol Vander Meer

Executive Director

Ben Morehead

Senior Project Manager

Michelle Kunst

Programs & Project Manager

Stacie Marshall

Office Manager &
Development Assistant

Tim Haywood

Stewardship Assistant

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Photography

Lighthouse Grill

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Moonstone In Bloom

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Oyster Lady

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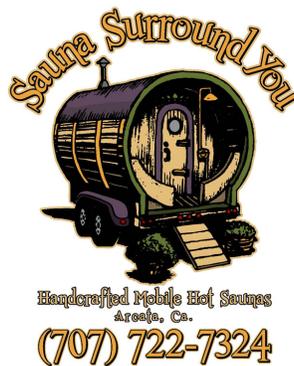
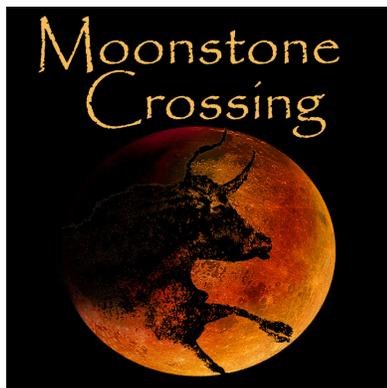
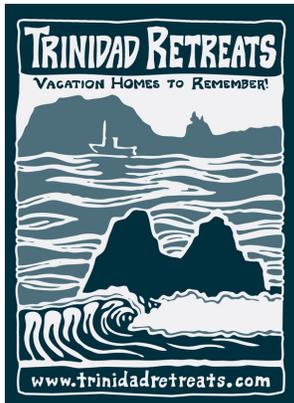


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