

Autumn 2019

REDWOOD COAST LAND CONSERVANCY

*Preserving land along the Mendocino and
Sonoma coast for more than 25 years*



Photo by Peggy Berryhill

Exciting news! Mill Bend is now in conservation hands.



Redwood Coast Land Conservancy is working with a conservation buyer to preserve Mill Bend for our community.

See page 3 for more information.



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We envision a protected and restored Mendonoma coast conserved for public enjoyment and appreciation of its natural beauty, abundant diversity of wildlife, and rich cultural history.

Redwood Coast Land Conservancy

Redwood Coast Land Conservancy, founded in Gualala in 1992, is dedicated to conserving the open space and natural environment along the Mendonoma Coast.

Preserving the Natural Environment

Through partnership with the State Coastal Conservancy and other funders, RCLC is committed to conserving coastal properties along the Mendonoma Coast between Salt Point State Park and Point Arena.

Restoring Natural Habitat

Coordinating with landowners and government funding agencies, RCLC works to protect and restore natural habitat for native plants and wildlife

Providing Public Access

By acquiring coastal properties and accepting the public access rights offered by landowners, RCLC has built and maintained three scenic public access locations in southern Mendocino County. The recent Mill Bend acquisition will offer additional opportunities for public access.



Bill Wiemeyer (left) and Bob Rutemoeller replace a bollard along the Gualala Bluff Trail. Volunteers play a vital role in all aspects of RCLC's work-- from developing new projects, to maintaining trails and plantings, to finding funding for new acquisitions.

Photo by Mary Sue Ittner

Mill Bend

Mill Bend, the scenic southern entrance to Gualala, where the Gualala River curves to meet the Pacific Ocean, has been secured by a conservation buyer in partnership with Redwood Coast Land Conservancy.

This interim purchase is the first major step in preserving and protecting the Gualala River estuary, the gateway to the Gualala River watershed.



photo courtesy Kennedy & Associates Real Estate

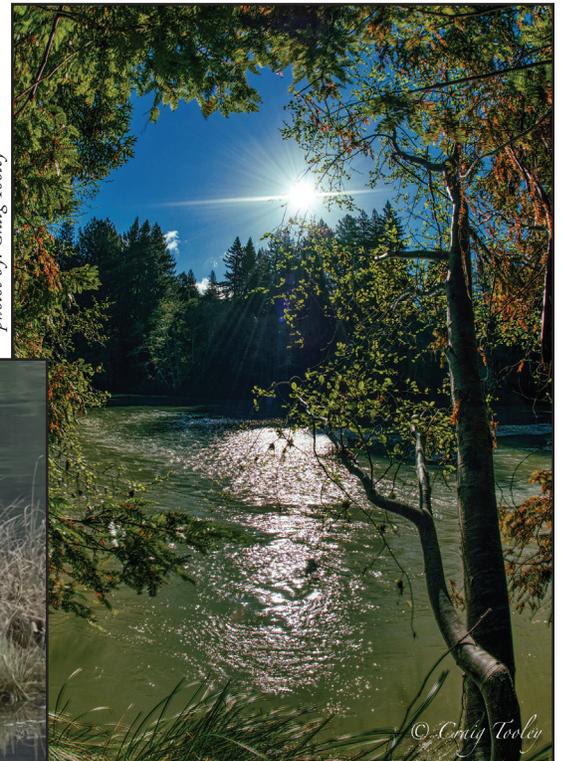


The two Mill Bend riverfront properties totaling 112 acres include Mill Bend, the parcel west of the bridge on Highway One, and the upland Lower Mill parcel which fronts the estuary along the river on the east side of the bridge and extends up to the Gualala Arts property.

Placing Mill Bend in conservation hands enables our community to:

- **Protect** 112 acres at the mouth of the Gualala River from future urban development, including 60 acres of declining coastal wetlands.
- **Preserve** critical habitat for several threatened and endangered species.
- **Restore and enhance** environmental quality by removing invasive species, improving damaged wildlife habitat, re-establishing native vegetation, and protecting the river from damage caused by off-road vehicles.
- **Increase public access** and recreational opportunities for hikers, fishermen and paddlers including a network of local trails extending from the town of Gualala to the Gualala River estuary.

photos by Craig Tooley



© Craig Tooley



RCLC has partnered with the Allemall Foundation, which stepped forward to secure Mill Bend on an interim basis to give RCLC two years time to raise funds for the permanent preservation of the property. RCLC expects to raise funds through government and foundation grants and through a local fundraising campaign that will be launched later this year.

Cooks Beach



left: Photo by Robin Applegarth



Below: Photo by Irene Leidner

Cooks Beach is a favorite summer destination of local families who enjoy the expansive crescent beach with a gentle stream meandering through the sand.

However the winter season offers many challenges as huge logs blown in by winter storms batter the shallow beach with heavy surf. The stairs to the beach take a particular beating which even metal rails cannot withstand.

This year, with the help of Kentucky John Melanson, RCLC is trying an experimental repair of a snapped metal rail by installing a large spring that should provide enough give to avoid a new break during this coming winter's storms.



In the meantime, visitors can enjoy the grading and other trail improvements recently made by project manager Joel Chaban working with contractor Marlene Padilla.



Photo by Joel Chaban

Heavy-duty spring is welded onto stair railing at Cooks Beach



Photo by Irene Leidner

Waves surge in and fill Cooks Beach during winter storms



Photo by Joel Chaban

New plantings, gravel and additional boards to reduce erosion have been added to the trail.

Access to Cooks Beach is about three miles north of the town of Gualala on County Road 526, just off of Highway One.

Hearn Gulch Headlands



Sea stacks at Hearn Gulch



Photos by Laurie Mueller

The bluff on the north side of Hearn Gulch's small beach would be part of the new purchase planned to expand the Hearn Gulch property..

Dramatic coastal views along the California coastal trail

The Hearn Gulch headlands south of Point Arena provide visitors with spectacular views of the open ocean, rugged sea stacks and crashing waves. A small trail at the north end of the headlands leads to a sheltered pocket beach. After purchasing Hearn Gulch in 2001, RCLC was able to protect the bluff which had been heavily rutted by years of vehicle use, allowing wildflowers to return and bloom in profusion each spring.

New Extension of Coastal Trail Hearn Gulch forms part of the California Coastal Trail.

RCLC is currently negotiating the purchase of the parcel just north of Hearn Gulch. This expansion of Hearn Gulch will enable the Coastal Trail to be extended along Highway One through the Cal Trans pullout area to connect with Bowling Ball Beach to the north.

Restoring Habitat

Dudleya Find a New Home

This spring, volunteers from RCLC and the local chapter of the California Native Plant Society replanted more than 250 poached native *dudleya farinosa* plants confiscated by California Fish and Game on a bluff top property south of Anchor Bay preserved by RCLC.



Photo by Kathleen Chasey



Photo by Kathleen Chasey

Newly planted dudleya on the right

Volunteers remove masses of non-native ice plant from the bluff before planting the dudleya. Left to right Bob Rutemoeller, Lloyd Chasey, Doug Forsell, Leslie Dahlhoff, Eric Dahlhoff, Gary Levinson-Palmer, Julia Larke, Susan Levinson-Palmer.

Gualala Bluff Trail

The Gualala Bluff Trail is a scenic half-mile walk that meanders along the bluff edge at the mouth of the Gualala River, offering outstanding views and close-up sightings of otters, seals, and the occasional whale, along with pelicans and other seabirds and a pair of bald eagles that has recently taken up residence in the Gualala River estuary.



Photo by Laurie Mueller



Photo by Mary Sue Ittner

The trail and its beautiful native plantings was built and is now maintained by a core of dedicated RCLC volunteers who began work on the trail in 1994 and completed the latest phase in 2013.

The recent Mill Bend acquisition will make it possible to extend the trail further south to the boat launch on Mill Bend and to connect it with other trails as part of the California Coastal Trail.

Conserving Habitat



Photo by John M. Regan, Northwest Wildlife Online

Point Arena Mountain Beaver

Redwood Coast Land Conservancy works with conservation-minded landowners and government agencies to preserve and restore habitat for native plants and wildlife.

An RCLC conservation easement protects the habitat of the Point Arena Mountain Beaver, a small endangered rodent with facial features similar to a beaver (though not closely related) only found in the area around Point Arena.



Photo by: USFWS

Pair of Behren's Silverspot Butterflies

RCLC has also worked with US Fish and Wildlife to identify and preserve habitat for both the Point Arena Mountain Beaver and the Behren's Silverspot Butterfly, an endangered species only found along the Mendocino and Sonoma Coast.



Photo by: NPS

California Red-Legged Frog

Now that the Mill Bend property is in conservation hands there will be opportunities to preserve and restore critical habitat for the red-legged frog and other plants, fish and wildlife in the river, estuary and wetlands.

Gifts from July 2018 to September 2019

RCLC wishes to thank the following people and organizations for their contributions:

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 Rob Alcott
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 Harriet Wright

Memorial and Commemorative Gifts

Gifts to RCLC in memory of friends, family members and colleagues or to honor significant events in people's lives provide a wonderful legacy for those who wish to preserve the beauty of our natural environment

<p>In Memory of</p> <p>Suanne Doza Beverly Susan Wolbarst & Dave Shpak</p> <p>Dick Bower Gayle Alexander & Wanda Swenson</p> <p>Alice & Lucien Bray Don & Francoise Kemp</p> <p>Lewis Chapman Christina Chapman</p> <p>Marty Covington Bette Covington</p> <p>Bill Davy Lena Bullamore</p> <p>Dot Deardorff Diane Meyer</p>	<p>Dora & Gerald Fong-Heinrich Gareth M Fong</p> <p>Ray Jackman Bob Rutemoeller & Mary Sue Ittner Barbara Gomes Lois & Harry Lutz</p> <p>Keith Jacobsen Karl Anderson</p> <p>Donnajeane Kabella John & Jacqueline Petersen</p> <p>David Moessinger Bette Covington</p> <p>Clay Yale Lois & Harry Lutz</p> <p>Ray and Florence Van de Water Ken & Marian Brown Margo Tarver</p>	<p>In Honor of</p> <p>All Dog Owners Who Pick Up Harmony & Sus Susalla</p> <p>Linda Bell Elisabeth Watson & Nigel Blair-Johns</p> <p>Bluff Trail Volunteers Mary Sue Ittner & Bob Rutemoeller</p> <p>Bluff Trail Weeders Harmony & Sus Susalla</p> <p>Tom Cochrane Susan Clark</p> <p>Kathie & Marilyn, The Great Litter Pickup & Recycling Duo Mary Sue Ittner</p>	<p>Mary Sue & Bob Jay Faulkner Bob & Linda Ittner Anne Hendricks</p> <p>Mary Sue Ittner Denny Gold</p> <p>Jane & Wayne Novak Yvonne Novak & Aaron Weindling</p> <p>RCLC Board Members Barbara Gomes</p> <p>Kayleigh Slusher Julia Sherwin & Michael Haddad</p> <p>Bill Wiemeyer Margie Rosholt</p>
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Send us an email at rclc@rclc.org with the email address you prefer and the names attached to that email. If your mailing address and phone have changed, please send that along as well.



Photo by Gail Jackson

"Out on a Limb," This year's RCLC Environmental Award

At each year's Art In the Redwoods festival, RCLC presents the RCLC Environmental Award for the entry that best captures the beauty and spirit of our local natural environment. This year's RCLC environmental award was presented to local photographer Gail Jackson for her work entitled "Out On a Limb", a striking image of one of the eagles frequently seen along the Gualala Estuary.

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