



Correcting the Record

An effort to restore salmon habitat by planting native trees is in need of helping hands on Friday, Nov. 15, when the MidCoast Watershed Council will host a restoration work party on Record Creek near Alsea.

This site, like many other riparian areas across the Northwest, was historically cleared up to the stream. Eventually, alders colonized the area, dominating the forest canopy and stalling later stages of forest from developing. While alders adequately provide the important function of shading the stream, their logs degrade quickly when they fall instream and do not contribute to creating the habitat complexity that fish and wildlife rely on to the degree that native conifers like Western red cedars do.

As a shorter term fix, in the summer of 2019 the MidCoast Watershed Council placed logjams in Record Creek in order to trap and sort spawning gravel, form pools and increase overall habitat complexity and floodplain connection.

The Nov. 15 work party aims to provide an even longer term source of large woody debris to the stream, by planting 150 Western red cedars in the alder-dominated riparian area of Record Creek.

The group will meet at 8:30 am at Ray's Market in Waldport and carpool about an hour to the restoration site near Alsea. Volunteers should bring water and food, rain protection, working boots and gloves.

To RSVP, contact Restoration Program Assistant Ari Blatt at ari@midcoastwc.org or 541-265-9195.

naturalist's calendar

Speakers to present this holiday season

Nehalem will be the site of engaging conversation this holiday season as the Lower Nehalem Watershed Council presents the next two installments of its ongoing Speaker Series.

The Thursday, Nov. 14, session will feature Katie Voelke, executive director for the North Coast Land Conservancy, leading a discussion titled "North Coast Ecology: A Picture of Diversity."



Katie Voelke

Voelke's talk will focus on the terrestrial ecosystems of the North Oregon Coast. The varied habitats, from

ocean beaches to 3000-foot peaks, support a diverse set of species. This diversity is one reason scientists consider this region to be particularly resilient to the effects of climate change. It also puts a fine point on the need to thoughtfully manage this land with a view to the future.

Continuing this theme on Thursday, Dec. 12, Charlie Plybon, policy manager for Surfrider Foundation, will present "Life on the Rocks: Oregon's Rocky Shore Habitats."

Plybon's talk will narrow that focus to the importance of rocky shore ecosystems. He will focus on the adaptations of organisms

The rest of the season

Jan 9: Zac Mallon — LNWC Annual Meeting and Year in Review

Feb 13: Steve Trask – Beaver Dam Analogues

Mar 12: Tiffany Garcia — Amphibian Response to Timber Harvest Practices

April 9: Benjamin Clemens — Lamprey in Oregon

May 14: Doug Glavich — Using Lichens to Monitor Air Quality

living in the rocky shore and historical protections for these areas. The talk will also include information about Oregon's current process to update the state's special rocky habitat designations and how the public can be involved.

These presentations are part of the Lower Nehalem Watershed Council's regular Speaker Series. All talks are held at the Pine Grove Community House, 225 Laneda Avenue in Manzanita. Each evening's program begins at 7 pm, preceded at 5 pm by a meeting of Lower Nehalem Watershed Council's board of directors

A pretty fly outing

The Audubon Society of Lincoln City will be heading north this Saturday, Nov. 9, for a free, guided walk along the Salmon River in the Cascade Head Scenic Area.

The group will begin this two-hour walk along at Knight Park, wandering through woodlands, marsh and along the river in search of wintering grebes, cormorants, waterfowl, raptors and songbirds.

This easy, family-friendly stroll is sponsored by Explore Lincoln City and Lincoln City Parks and

Recreation.

All Audubon bird walks are free and open to the public. No prior experience is needed and no pre-registration is required. These rain-or-shine walks are led by experienced birders, and binoculars and field guides are available to borrow.

The group will meet at 9 am in the parking lot at Knight Park. From Lincoln City, travel north on Highway 101 to Three Rocks Road North. Turn left and continue on Three Rocks Road for 2.4 miles to Knight Park.

ERNIE ROSE
Great Blue Heron

