

MORE MURRELETS DISCOVERED IN ELLIOTT FOREST

Marbled murrelets have been observed in the East Hakki timber sale in the Elliott State Forest, according to the Coast Range Forest Watch, a group of citizen scientists that regularly surveys for the threatened sea birds that fly many miles in from the ocean to nest in the Elliott.

East Hakki is a 785-acre parcel that was auctioned from public ownership to private hands in April for \$1,895,000. Oregon's Department of State Lands sold it to Seneca Jones Timber, a Eugene-based timber company whose owners told *The Oregonian* in April that the bid was "very much a personal decision" in response to environmental groups that had vowed to protest and sue to protect the land.

Two other parcels were sold off in April, Adams Ridge Tract 1 and Benson Ridge. The money from the sales goes toward Oregon's Common School Fund. "Clearcutting public old-growth forests to fund schools is as archaic as killing elephants for ivory," says Josh Laughlin of Cascadia Wildlands.

The discovery of the murrelets will decrease the land's worth, since logging activities are not allowed under the Endangered Species Act, Laughlin says. He says the East Hakki tract is valued at \$5,590,000 without the presence of murrelets, but only \$1,311,000 with them. Either way, he says, the state sold the land for just barely above the minimum bid, and far below the total appraisal.

Amanda St. Martin, one of the surveyors for Coast Range Forest Watch, was in the group of surveyors to spot the marbled murrelets in East Hakki.

"They were flying below canopy height, which means they need to use that area for their nest," St. Martin says. Murrelets fly about 40 miles inland to nest and lay only one egg in old-growth forests. Habitat loss has been a major factor in their threatened status in Oregon, says Laughlin, who describes the murrelet as an "incredible little seabird."

"The bottom line is the survey data demonstrates that the forested stand is occupied by the marbled murrelet, which means it's illegal to log it and we are continuing to explore all options to ensure the public forest remains vertical and that laws are upheld," Laughlin says.

Earlier this year Cascadia Wildlands and other environmental organizations successfully sued the Oregon Department of Forestry to halt the sale of 26 parcels in Elliott Forest.

Laughlin says, "We need leadership and political will to decouple cutting our heritage forest for school funding. And until that's done, there will continue to be intense public opposition to this

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—JOSH LAUGHLIN, CASCADIA WILDLANDS

antiquated policy."

The recent observations at East Hakki don't have implications just for the preservation of marbled murrelet habitat, but also for larger issues of public and private land use.

"It's not just the marbled murrelet habitat that's affected, it's every Oregon resident who can and does enjoy these places for any amount of recreation," St. Martin says. "Once these lands are sold to private interests, then nobody will be able to access them any more."

Adams Ridge Tract 1 and Benson Ridge are currently being surveyed for murrelets.

Adams Ridge Tracts 2 and 3 are set for sale in fall 2014. —Anna V. Smith

RENA DUNBAR

"My mom is white and my dad is black," says Rena Dunbar, who learned about racism first-hand, growing up along with her twin sister Leah in Fort Wayne, Ind., a segregated steel mill industrial town. "Seeing discrimination made us activists." The twins won scholarships to DePauw University in southern Indiana. They majored in English, started a chapter of Amnesty International and protested the first Gulf War. After graduation in 1994, Rena followed the Grateful Dead on tour as far as Autzen Stadium shows in June, and decided to stay on in Eugene. She completed a masters in teaching program at Pacific University and spent nine years teaching language arts to at-risk kids at South Eugene High School. "I wanted them to have an experience that challenges the mainstream culture," she says, "to hear and honor their own voices and stories." Dunbar left South to help start Peace Village at Network Charter School, taught there for two years, then returned to the 4J District at Spencer Butte Middle School in 2009. Sister Leah teaches at Churchill High School. For nine years, the twins held a monthly last Thursday youth poetry open mic, "Weapon of Choice: Voice!" at the Morning Glory Café. "What ended that was me going to middle school," says Rena. "Leah and I both teach a class called 'Courageous Conversations.' We examine how identity, culture and ethnicity shape our world view."



HAPPENING TEACHERS

BY PAUL NEEVEL



The Oregon Legislature last summer approved \$3.75 million in seed funding for the South Willamette Valley **Regional Accelerator and Innovation Network**. RAIN's goal is economic development for our region, which is slowly making the transition from a dependence on natural resources to a knowledge-based economy. RAIN is intended to help researchers at UO and OSU spin off private companies, provide mentors and create workspaces for tech start-ups. Mayors Kitty Piercy of Eugene and Julie Manning of Corvallis will talk about what this program means at noon Friday, May 30, at City Club of Eugene. The lunch meeting will be at the Downtown Athletic Club, 999 Willamette St. \$5 for non-members. Gov. John Kitzhaber was expected to be in Eugene this week (May 28) to sign a "declaration of cooperation" in support of RAIN at the Eugene Area Chamber of Commerce where RAIN has an office.

Lane County Farmers Market is looking ahead to expansion, possibly to a new permanent and year-round space on the old "butterfly lot" across the street. A joint city/county public hearing on the proposed land swap that would make this possible is planned for 6 pm Tuesday, June 3, at Harris Hall, 125 E. 8th Ave. The issues involved are complex, including financing, deed restrictions on the county-owned butterfly lot, traffic congestion, accessibility and collaboration with Saturday Market.

Bohemia Cafe and Apothecary is a new business started up by Serena Rebers, Felicia Colden and Andrea Garcia, at 383 W. 3rd Ave., next to Bounce gymnastics. The business serves organic coffee and espresso, hand-made artisan teas, elixirs, kombucha, herbal remedies and snacks, fruit smoothies and soon, paninis. Previously occupying the space was Sol Botanicals and before that Mama Rose's Naturals and Living Earth Herbs. Colden was the owner of Sol Botanicals. Open 10 am to 6 pm weekdays and Saturdays. Call Rebers at (949) 291-1326 or find the business on Facebook.

The **Spencer Creek Growers' Market** opens from 10 am to 2 pm Saturday, May 31, out Lorane Highway at the Spencer Creek Grange. Something new this year will be a section where locals can show and sell their Nigerian dwarf goat kids. This miniature breed is now permitted within Eugene city limits. See spencercreekgrange.org or call 341-1709.

The nonprofit **Mid Lane Cares** is planning its annual fundraising event, "Benefits by the Glass," from 1 to 4 pm Sunday, June 1, at Domaine Meriwether Wines, located off Highway 126 in Veneta. The event, now in its fifth year, will feature live and silent auctions, local wines, dinner, entertainment and more. Proceeds will support the numerous activities and programs housed in the new Fern Ridge Service Center. Visit midlanecares.org or call 935-4555.

Eugene Local Foods co-manager Leisha Wood will speak about her online farmers market service at noon Wednesday, June 4, at the Hilton downtown. Lunch is optional. The organization is "committed to creating a sustainable, local food system through offering locally sourced foods from small farmers while serving consumers with an easy, fun and convenient shopping model," says Wood, who currently works for Willamette Farm and Food Coalition as the Buy Local Campaign coordinator.

Dexter Lake Farmers Market starts up its new season from noon to 3 pm Sunday, June 1, at Dexter Lake State Park, 39011 Hwy. 58. The Fiddlin' Big Sue Band will play and other musicians are wanted for more Sunday gigs. Call 937-3007. For selling produce or consignment crafts information call 937-3034. See also dexterlakefarmersmarket.org.

NumberShire is a new math video game developed in Eugene to help first grade students improve their math skills. The game has gained recognition by the U.S. Department of Education and shows early success in the educational technology sector. "We want to help as many students improve their math skills as possible," says Marshall Gause, president of Thought Cycle, the company that developed the game in a joint venture with the UO Center on Teaching and Learning. "For every copy parents purchase, we will donate one to the school of your choice." Camas Ridge Community Elementary in Eugene and La Pine Elementary School in La Pine have already received free copies. See numbershire.com or call 870-1390.