

Spring cleanup time at Circle Creek

‘A great turnout and a great day,’ director says

By **KATHERINE LACAZE**
For The Daily Astorian



Katherine Lacaze/For The Daily Astorian

About 35 volunteers showed up to the North Coast Land Conservancy's Circle Creek Trails Cleanup to prepare the habitat reserve for the summer hiking season and upcoming events.

come out here and do cleanup and maintenance and make it more inviting for people to visit," Villagomez said.

Of all the conservancy's properties, Circle Creek is "one where we've chosen to welcome people," because of its location, accessibility and composition, she said.

Reich agreed, saying the site has "been grazed for a long time," "has a history of human use" and is one where the conservancy is doing active restoration, making it a great spot to have seasonal trails open to the public.

"It is "a good example of the old forest and the swamp," she said. "You can see them side by side."

Tessa Scheller, a local volunteer and member of the conservancy's Conservation Committee, said she believes welcoming and encouraging the public to spend time on the habitat reserve is valuable as it leads to an increased sense of ownership and, subsequently, stewardship and support.

"I think being out here helps that," she said.

Some people may suffer from nature deficit disorders of varying degrees, she said. The conservancy wants to reconnect humans with the rest of nature so they become "aware of the rich diversity, even of plant life, in their backyard," said Scheller, who also sits on



Katherine Lacaze/For The Daily Astorian

Volunteers helped build a new trail on the Circle Creek Habitat Reserve during the North Coast Land Conservancy's Circle Creek Trails Cleanup.

the board of the Northwest Coast Trails Coalition.

Reich added that numerous people have, at one point, done a project or some volunteer work on the property and they are watching it slowly transform over time because of their efforts.

"A lot of people are able to feel connected," she said.

The timing of the cleanup project also coincided with preparation for the conservancy's annual event, "The Forest Remembers," held in late April.

The Circle Creek Trails Cleanup was put on in partnership with the North Coast Trails Coalition.



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Volunteers Judy and Paul Fairdig, of Portland, participated in the North Coast Land Conservancy's Circle Creek Trails Cleanup as their service project for the 2016 Yale Day of Service.

Oregon honors fallen officers at Salem ceremony

Gooding's name goes on wall next year

By **WHITNEY M. WOODWORTH**
Statesman Journal

SALEM — One hundred and eighty-two flags lined the driveway outside the Oregon Public Safety Academy — one for each law enforcement officer who has died in the line of duty since the 1880s.

Family members, co-workers and friends of fallen officers gathered Tuesday at the annual Oregon Fallen Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Ceremony. Each of the flags tells a story, said Gov. Kate Brown. Every single one evokes a memory of service and tragic loss.

The name of Coos County Sheriff's Deputy Gil Datan was added to the memorial in 2016. Next year, Seaside Police Sgt. Jason Gooding's name will join Datan's on the wall.

"It is my sincere hope that no additional names are added to this memorial next year or any year hence," Brown said.

Law enforcement officers from Washington state and Canada as well as from Oregon's city, county, state, tribal and federal agencies congregated at the memorial ceremony.

Brown thanked law enforcement for their commitment to their communities.

"Your dedicated service to our state is not taken for granted and is very much appreciated," she said.

Families of fallen officers filled the chairs at the ceremony. The U.S., Oregon and Canadian flags flew at half-staff, and the Portland Police Highland Guard played a bagpipe-filled rendition of "Amazing Grace."

Each family was accompanied in and out of the service by a law enforcement officer

"We know there are no words that can restore your loss, but know that the legacies of each of these officers will not be forgotten," Brown said.

Dianne Bernhard, a former

law enforcement officer and the executive director of the Concerns of Police Survivors, recalled the loss of having a fellow officer killed when she was serving as a patrol sergeant. She advised friends, family members and colleagues of fallen officers to seek support and grieve in their own way.

"We understand that your officer's death was public," she said. "It's very hard to grieve in public."

The National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund released a roll call of 252 U.S. law enforcement officers

killed in the line of duty, 123 of whom died in 2015.

A flag was folded in Datan's honor and flower wreaths were placed at the memorial wall.

Datan, 43, served 19 years in law enforcement. On April 20, 2015, while on forest patrol for the Coos County Sheriff's Office, Datan attempted to go up a steep embankment on his ATV. When the ATV rolled

over, Datan was thrown off and killed.

Coos County Sheriff Craig Zanni reminisced about Datan's reputation as a warm-hearted deputy who volunteered with the fire department and sent singing telegrams on Valentine's Day.

"He was quick with a smile, and he loved life," Zanni said. Three academy students

read all 182 names, including Datan's, aloud.

By remembering fallen officers, we honor them and give the nation hope, Bernhard said.

She quoted words written on a memorial wall by a fallen officer's widow: "It's not how these officers died that made them heroes, it's how they lived."



Jason Gooding

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