

and the Elmer Feldenheimer State natural Area, Wickersham says Boneyard Ridge represents a large contiguous area that stretches from the coast to the Necanicum Estuary, all of which make NCLC extremely proud of this project.

“There’s something special about going out there the first time and realizing it’s always going to be here, always going to exist,” he says.

### 30 YEARS AND COUNTING

It is said that change is the only constant. From the NCLC point of view, that’s fantastic news, particularly when it comes to its growing staff.

“We got our second staff member about 10 years ago, Katie Voelke, our director,” Wickersham says. Grants were written to help fund staff positions, and, slowly but surely, what began as a small all-volunteer effort in 1986 evolved into a conservation role model that now enlists eight staff and the support of hundreds of volunteers.

Wickersham says the grassroots beginnings — which included meeting in people’s living rooms — have molded NCLC into what it is today.

“To be able to reach out into the community and keep the level of support we have has been monumental,” he says.

Volunteers are the lifeblood of any nonprofit, and NCLC is no exception. Wickersham says they have about 30 to 40 regular volunteers, as well as hundreds more they can call on for help with everything from budgetary help, to leading nature walks, to staging events.

“The core of the NCLC is the volunteers, and many of them have been here since the beginning,” he says. “Getting to work with so many dedicated people makes coming to work fun every day.”

When it comes to a project wishlist for the next 30 years, Wickersham says NCLC is always looking forward.

“We like to say we’re on a 500-year time line,” he says with a laugh, adding that they are constantly drafting and updating conservation plans with the future in mind.

With land at a premium and more and more people choosing the North Coast as a place to live or play, Wickersham sees NCLC stewardship as a vital piece of the conservation puzzle.

Having grown up in the area, he feels that people who come here are drawn to the natural beauty and the efforts to preserve it.

“People, plants and animals all thrive on the North Coast,” he says. “Everything has its place, and we want to continue to protect the special places here.”

**THE GOAL HAS ALWAYS BEEN A FULLY FUNCTIONING COASTAL LANDSCAPE WHERE PEOPLE, PLANTS AND WILDLIFE THRIVE.**



Staff of North Coast Land Conservancy stand in a clearing on Boneyard Ridge, looking north to Seaside and east to the conservancy’s Circle Creek Habitat Reserve.

SUBMITTED PHOTO



PHOTO BY DANNY MILLER

Views from the trail at Circle Creek Habitat Reserve. The property will host a summer picnic Aug. 25 in honor of NCLC’s 30th anniversary.



PHOTO BY KATHERINE LACAZE

Last November, volunteers helped the North Coast Land Conservancy plant more than 10,000 early blue violets on the Clatsop Plains between Gearhart and Warrenton.



PHOTO BY KATHERINE LACAZE

About 35 volunteers showed up to NCLC’s Circle Creek Trails Cleanup on April 23 to prepare the habitat reserve for the summer hiking season.