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# Pull, pile, stomp a notorious weed

The North Coast Land Conservancy and the Necanicum Watershed Council have launched a three-year project to rid the Necanicum watershed of the invasive policeman's helmet (*Impatiens glandulifera*).

The land conservancy is recruiting volunteers to join their "Weed Warrior Wednesdays" crew working at Circle Creek throughout June and July. People can volunteer once, or every week.

A Saturday stewardship day is planned for Saturday, July 8.

An \$86,000 grant from Oregon Watershed Enhance-



PHOTO BY NIECIEPKE GRUCZLOLWATY  
Policeman's helmet in bloom

ment Board is helping to fund the three-year effort.

Five years ago, there was no policeman's helmet along the Necanicum River or its tributary creeks, as far as anyone knows, the land conservancy said in a release.

"Now this pretty but highly invasive weed can be

seen throughout the Necanicum watershed, choking out native plants and reducing plant and animal diversity while increasing the risk of stream bank erosion," the conservancy wrote. "The plant's seed pods can eject seeds up to 20 feet. Those seeds float, spreading the plant downstream year to year."

Named for the shape of the blossom, policeman's helmet — which grows 3 to 6 feet tall — resembles an old-fashioned British policeman's headwear, according to press materials.

"It is native to the Himalayas and was introduced

in North America as an ornamental garden plant but has since spread widely," according to the conservancy. "It was first seen along the Necanicum River and its tributaries in 2013."

Anyone residing in Clatsop or Tillamook counties is asked to keep an eye out for the plant on their property.

If you see it, pull it (the plant uproots easily), make a pile of the plants, and stomp on them to crush the stems.

To volunteer, or report sightings of the plant, visit [NCLTrust.org/pull-pile-stomp](http://NCLTrust.org/pull-pile-stomp) for more details and to report sightings of the plant.



"Blue Moon Garden," by Penny Treat

SUBMITTED PHOTO

## 'Once in a Blue Moon' exhibit opens at ArtPort Gallery

ILWACO, WASH. — A reception for Penny Treat and Renee O'Connor, the July featured artists at ArtPort Gallery, will be held 3 to 7 p.m. Friday, July 7, at the gallery (177 Howerton St. S.E.).

The artists, both longtime residents of the Peninsula, will share stories of living and working on Willapa Bay. The event will include bites and music.

Their exhibit, "Once in a Blue Moon," features their most recent work: Treat's watercolors and woodblock prints, for which she is well known, and O'Connor's large ceramic wall pieces, organic vases and platters, and her newest adventures in mosaic jewelry.

Together they celebrate the Willapa Bay's gifts of wildlife, bounty, storms, tranquility and its infamous "Blue Moon."

Treat trained at the Cornish Institute in Seattle and received her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree. She enjoyed a career in interior design, receiving a national award for her design of a biosphere. She now draws inspiration from her bay property and its mature flowering gardens, according to the gallery.

O'Connor, a graduate of San Francisco State University with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree, has had a varied career but most recently concentrated in designing and fabricating commissioned public art works and especially focused on illustrating numerous interpretive panels for parks. Many of her tiles — featuring fish and birds of Southwest Washington salt marshes — can be seen in buildings and public installations on the Long Beach Peninsula.

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