

Rare swamp habitat changes hands near Knappa

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ
The Daily Astorian

Just over 900 acres of rare Columbia River spruce swamp near Knappa is now in the hands of a coastal land conservancy.

The Nature Conservancy, a global conservation organization, transferred ownership of Blind Slough Swamp Preserve to North Coast Land Conservancy, which manages land across Clatsop County, on Valentine’s Day. The transfer enlarges the coastal land conservancy’s conservation footprint from around 5,000 acres to nearly 6,000, according to Bonnie Henderson, communications coordinator for the organization.

“Oregon’s land trusts play a critical role in our state’s future,” Derek Johnson, director of protection and stewardship for The Nature Conservancy in Oregon, said in a statement. “After many years of partnership with North Coast Land Conservancy, we are proud to place the long-term care of Blind Slough Swamp Preserve in their capable hands.”

The transfer came with funds for long-term management, so even with the major increase in acreage that they will be responsible for, the land conservancy is well-poised to take over steward-



North Coast Land Conservancy

Blind Slough Swamp Preserve, now under the stewardship of the North Coast Land Conservancy, is one of the few remaining examples of a once common habitat along the Columbia River.

ship of the swamp habitat, said Jon Wickersham, associate director for the North Coast Land Conservancy.

North Coast Land Conservancy staff had already assisted with work at Blind Slough before the transfer and are familiar with the site and its future needs. Last year, Blind Slough was one of the spots included in a coordinated effort to pull

invasive purple loosestrife from wetland habitats along the Columbia River and replace the interlopers with native plants.

Blind Slough — a preserve dominated by Sitka spruce and other native trees and plants — represents a type of landscape that was once common from Tillamook County to Alaska. But much of this original for-

ested flood plain along the Oregon side of the Columbia River was diked for pasture or logged long ago.

Blind Slough Swamp, bordered on three sides by Columbia River sloughs, remains a unique outpost and is considered one of the best remaining examples in Oregon of this type of habitat. It provides refuge to a number of fish, birds and other wild-

life, including bald eagles, river otter, coho salmon and osprey. Some of the spruce found at the site is 400 years old.

“It’s diverse and very complex, and very special,” said Melissa Reich, stewardship director for the North Coast Land Conservancy. She is particularly familiar with the site, having organized work parties there from

2009 to 2012 for The Nature Conservancy before joining the North Coast Land Conservancy in 2013. “It’s unlike any other conserved land in the area at this scale,” she said.

The site is difficult to access and best viewed from the water, said Wickersham. For this reason, the Blind Slough Swamp will not be open to the public except for events like volunteer work days.

The North Coast Land Conservancy plans to continue managing the swamp in much the same way as it has always been managed. Land conservancy staff will continue to monitor and address invasive plant issues and hold regular stewardship days there throughout the year.

“Anyone who lives adjacent will see no major changes in management,” Wickersham said. However, he added, “We’re always looking at our boundaries and working with adjacent land-owners on management.”

Connectivity across landscapes is one of the land conservancy’s guiding principles — an attempt to create cohesive landscapes that can function as whole habitats. The acquisition of Blind Slough, Wickersham said, “definitely opens up another opportunity.”

Feds requiring regional response teams for oil train wrecks

By JOHN RABY
Associated Press

CHARLESTON, W.Va. — Federal transportation officials are requiring railroads to establish regional response teams along oil train routes following a series of fiery derailments.

The new rule announced Thursday is aimed at having crews and equipment ready in the event of an accident. It applies to oil trains in continuous blocks of 20 or more loaded tank cars and those having 35 loaded tank cars.

The U.S. Department of Transportation’s Pipe-

line and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration issued the rule in coordination with the Federal Railroad Administration. The pipeline safety agency said a review identified challenges that occurred during previous responses to derailments.

“This final rule is necessary due to expansion in U.S. energy production having led to significant challenges for the country’s transportation system,” the agency said.

In 2014, the agency issued a report detailing the concerns of fire chiefs and

emergency management officials in oil train accidents, including that emergency responders were not fully aware of resources available from railroads and other organizations that would be helpful in preparing for such disasters.

Rail carriers now will be required to provide information about oil trains to state and tribal emergency response agencies and identify someone to oversee each response zone along with organizations, crews and equipment that would be used in a “worst-case discharge.”

FIVE-DAY FORECAST FOR ASTORIA

Tonight

37

Mainly cloudy with spotty showers

Saturday

45 / 33

Mostly cloudy with showers around; chilly

Sunday

45 / 30

A morning shower; some sun, chilly

Monday

46 / 35

Partly sunny and chilly

Tuesday

44 / 37

Rather cloudy, showers around; chilly

ALMANAC

Astoria through Thursday.
Temperatures
High/Low 43°/39°
Normal high/low 52°/37°
Record high 64° in 1934
Record low 22° in 1990
Precipitation
Thursday 0.68"
Month to date 5.46"
Normal month to date 3.73"
Year to date 10.39"
Normal year to date 13.93"
SUN AND MOON
Sunset tonight 5:41 p.m.
Sunrise Saturday 7:18 a.m.
Moonrise today 1:17 p.m.
Moonset today 4:04 a.m.

UNDER THE SKY

Tonight's Sky: Galileo Galilei birthday (1564).

REGIONAL WEATHER

Shown is tomorrow's weather. Temperatures are tonight's lows and tomorrow's highs.

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2019

Astoria to flush and flow test hydrants

The Daily Astorian

On Tuesday, Astoria public works begins the annual flushing and flow testing of 452 fire hydrants, which

takes place from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and continues for approximately five weeks.

Customers may experience temporary low pres-

sure or water discoloration during the flushing/flow testing process. If these conditions continue after 3:30 p.m., call Astoria Public Works at 503-325-3524.

PRESIDENTS DAY CLOSURES

In observance of Presidents Day/Washington’s Birthday on Monday, all federal, state, county and city offices and services, including Astoria, Warrenton, Gearhart, Seaside and Cannon Beach city halls, are closed. All U.S. post offices are closed, and there is no mail delivery.

Astoria, Jewell, Knappa, Warrenton/Hammond, Seaside (including Cannon Beach and Gearhart schools) and Ocean Beach School District schools in Washington state and Clatsop Community College are closed.

The Astoria Library, Seaside Library, Warrenton Library and all Timberland libraries in Wash-

ington, including Ilwaco, Ocean Park and Naselle, are closed.

The Port of Astoria offices and services are closed.

Garbage collection through Recology Western Oregon (covering Astoria, Seaside, Gearhart and Cannon Beach), city of Warrenton garbage collection, and Peninsula Sanitation (covering the Long Beach, Washington, Peninsula) are not affected by the holiday. Recology Western Oregon’s transfer station and Peninsula Sanitation’s transfer station are open.

The Sunset Pool in Seaside is open. The Astoria Aquatic Center is open.

The Clatsop County Her-

itage Museum is closed. The Oregon Film Museum and Flavel House are open from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., and the Carriage House is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Uppertown Firefighters’ Museum is closed. Lil’ Sprouts is open from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Fort Clatsop is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Columbia River Maritime Museum is open from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Seaside Museum is open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Sunset Empire Transportation (“The Bus”) is running.

The Daily Astorian offices are open, and the newspaper printed and delivered as usual.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

TUESDAY
Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District, 5:15 p.m., Bob Chisholm Community Center, 1225 Avenue A, Seaside.
Cannon Beach City Council, 5:30 p.m., work session, goal

setting, City Hall, 163 E. Gower St.
Seaside School District Board of Directors, 6 p.m., 1801 S. Franklin.
Astoria City Council, 7 p.m., City Hall, 1095 Duane St.

Shoreline Sanitary District Board, 7 p.m., Gearhart Hertig Station, 33496 West Lake Lane, Warrenton.
Seaside Planning Commission, 7 p.m., work session, City Hall, 989 Broadway.

LOTTERIES

OREGON
Thursday’s Pick 4:
1 p.m.: 1-6-8-8
4 p.m.: 4-8-2-7
7 p.m.: 6-0-7-6
10 p.m.: 0-4-2-9

Thursday’s Lucky Lines: 03-05-11-16-FREE-18-21-25-29
Estimated jackpot: \$47,000

WASHINGTON
Thursday’s Daily Game:

8-6-0
Thursday’s Keno: 01-03-12-13-15-16-23-26-40-50-57-60-61-63-65-66-67-71-72-73
Thursday’s Match 4: 07-11-16-20

OBITUARY POLICY

The Daily Astorian publishes paid obituaries. The obituary can include a small photo and, for veterans, a flag symbol at no charge. The deadline for all obituaries is 9 a.m. the business day prior.

Obituaries may be edited for spelling, proper punctuation and style. Death notices and upcoming services will be published at no charge. Notices must be submitted by 9 a.m. the day of publication.

Obituaries and notices may be submitted online at DailyAstorian.com/forms/obits, by email at ewilson@dailyastorian.com, placed via the funeral home or in person at The Daily Astorian office, 949 Exchange St. in Astoria. For more information, call 503-325-3211, ext. 257.

Source: Jim Todd, OMSI

TOMORROW’S TIDES

Astoria / Port Docks	Time	Low	
9:54 a.m.	9.3 ft.	3:59 a.m.	3.6 ft.
11:46 p.m.	7.6 ft.	5:18 p.m.	-0.3 ft.

NATIONAL CITIES

City	Today	Sat.
Atlanta	63 55 c	66 50 pc
Boston	51 33 sh	42 25 pc
Chicago	22 13 pc	30 23 c
Denver	53 26 pc	40 18 sn
Des Moines	12 2 c	20 16 pc
Detroit	30 18 c	30 18 pc
El Paso	71 47 c	66 39 pc
Fairbanks	1 -8 s	12 6 sf
Honolulu	80 62 pc	80 65 pc
Indianapolis	31 20 pc	36 25 pc
Kansas City	17 7 sn	26 20 sn
Las Vegas	58 40 pc	55 38 s
Los Angeles	57 44 sh	60 43 sh
Memphis	48 30 r	47 40 pc
Miami	81 62 pc	81 66 pc
Nashville	50 33 r	48 39 pc
New Orleans	73 62 c	75 66 c
New York	55 35 c	42 28 pc
Oklahoma City	37 20 c	41 25 pc
Philadelphia	58 36 c	41 26 pc
St. Louis	26 16 sn	36 27 pc
Salt Lake City	51 28 r	39 23 sf
San Francisco	54 45 sh	54 42 sh
Seattle	46 35 sh	45 33 sh
Washington, DC	65 37 c	45 30 c

Weather (W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.

REGIONAL CITIES

City	Today	Sat.
Baker City	40 21 sn	36 21 sn
Bend	39 24 sn	37 19 sn
Brookings	46 38 r	45 34 r
Eugene	50 38 sh	45 32 r
Ilwaco	47 40 r	45 35 sh
Klamath Falls	35 24 sn	34 18 sn
Medford	46 35 r	44 28 sn
Newberg	47 35 sh	45 31 r
Newport	49 38 r	47 34 r
North Bend	49 38 r	47 35 r

TOMORROW’S NATIONAL WEATHER

Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day.

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