

# July events at Circle Creek Conservation Center

SEASIDE – Registration is open for July events at Circle Creek Conservation Center. This year marks the 15th anniversary of its acquisition and stewardship by North Coast Land Conservancy. The center is a nature preserve open to the public at the south end of Seaside.

Neal Maine, the conservancy's founding executive director, will lead a slow walk on the Legacy Loop Trail from 10 a.m. to noon on Sunday, July 7. "Seeing the Unseen" offers an opportunity to observe what you might not otherwise notice and to unspool the stories behind what you stumble upon.

On Saturday, July 13, at 2 p.m., join supporters



of North Coast Land Conservancy at the Center for the fourth annual Summer Picnic at the Barn. Bring a picnic, a blanket or chairs and a pie to share and help celebrate Circle Creek's 15th anniversary. The event is free and includes a silent auction in the barn. There will be live music and picnicking on the lawn at 2:30 p.m. The ever-popular pie potluck starts at 3:30 p.m. This year, guided hikes on the trails will follow the picnic from 4:30 to 6 p.m.

On Thursday, July 18, from 1 to 3:30 p.m., geologist Tom Horning will

explore how habitat is influenced by geology on a walk through the floodplain and forest.

Then on Wednesday, July 31, from 10 a.m. to noon, NCLC staff member and certified yoga teacher Lorraine Ortiz will lead the second annual Yoga at the Barn. Beginners are welcome; bring a mat if you have one, otherwise one can be provided. Space is limited at some events. For more information and to register, [NCLCtrust.org/on-the-land-summer-outings](http://NCLCtrust.org/on-the-land-summer-outings).

Circle Creek Conservation Center is at the end of Rippet Road at the south end of Seaside. From U.S. 101, 0.7 mile north of the junction with U.S. 26, turn west onto Rippet Road and follow it to the two barns at the end of the road. It is open to the public daily, dawn to dusk, conditions permitting.



## See puffins at Haystack Rock July 1-4

CANNON BEACH – Catch a glimpse of puffins from 8-11 a.m. Monday, July 1-Thursday, July 4 in front of Haystack Rock.

This seabird watching event is sponsored by Friends of Haystack Rock and is part of a fireworks-free weekend in Cannon Beach. Spotting scopes and binoculars will be available to view the birds up close.

Haystack Rock is home to the largest Tufted Puffin breeding colony in Oregon. In early April, puffins show up at Haystack Rock. Most of the puffins have already found their lifelong partners and are returning to the same protected burrow they used last year to raise their young.

The Tufted Puffins will spend about 16 weeks at the rock. For the first couple weeks the puffins stake out their territory and clean up their burrow. Once their burrow is ready, the female puffin will lay a single, chicken-sized egg, which both the male and female incubate.

Incubation usually lasts 41-54 days. Though usually tucked back inside the burrow, newly hatched puffins appear at the 'Rock' beginning in late June through mid to late August. 38 to 59 days after hatching the pufflings will leave their burrows.

Under the protection of dark (to escape the ever-watchful, hungry eyes of bald eagles), all the puff-

lings will leave the safety of the rock and return to the open ocean, where they will spend the winter.

Tufted Puffins struggle with inadvertently ingesting ocean plastic, getting caught and drowning in gill-nets, and protecting their burrows from introduced mammalian predators such as foxes and rats. Since the mid-1990s, Tufted Puffin populations in Oregon and Washington have plummeted more than 95 percent.

Friends of Haystack Rock promotes the preservation and protection of the intertidal life and birds that inhabit the Marine Garden and Oregon Islands National Wildlife Refuge at Haystack Rock.

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