

Conservancy looks to acquire property

Recreation district may be potential financial partner

By Katherine Lacaze
Seaside Signal

The North Coast Land Conservancy may purchase 360 acres nestled between the organization's Circle Creek property in Seaside and Ecola State Park.

To accomplish the goal, the conservancy has asked the Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District to help it obtain a grant from the Oregon State Parks' Local Government Grant Program.

The property, dubbed Boneyard Ridge, was appraised at \$1.8 million. Owned by timber management and investment company Campbell Global, the property would become a

new habitat reserve if acquired by the conservancy.

In February, 113 people contributed \$25,231.75 for conservancy founder Neal Maine's 75th birthday. The donations helped the organization more than double a \$10,000 matching grant challenge from the Mintkeski Family Fund and put about \$35,000 toward the acquisition of Boneyard Ridge.

The conservancy also has secured more than \$500,000 from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board. Now, the organization hopes to obtain another grant available only to park districts and municipalities. This is why the land conservancy is turning to the Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District.

At the district board's meeting in February, the conservancy's associate director,

Jon Wickersham, asked the agency to apply for and be the fiscal manager of a grant on the conservancy's behalf.

"It makes sense when we can both achieve shared goals; it's a good idea," he said.

The group does not know at this time how much money it will request. About \$4 million is available annually for outdoor recreation projects, Wickersham said, and Oregon State Parks funds about 42 percent of the grant applications. The conservancy is "trying to find the sweet spot in terms of the asking price," he added. The grant is due April 1.

About the property

When considering applications, Oregon State Parks, the granting agency, uses certain yardsticks that are

aligned with the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, such as unpaved or dirt walking trails and wildlife viewing areas. The Boneyard Ridge property would score highly for both those components, which are some of the biggest needs in Clatsop County, Wickersham said.

The property has three salmon-bearing streams that all drain into the Necanicum River. One stream is unnamed. The others are called Boneyard Creek and Little Buddy Creek.

The conservancy shares a 1.5-mile border with Ecola State Park and a mile-long border with Circle Creek.

The conservancy plans to manage the property's old growth trees, which could include thinning the forest, replanting new trees and re-

moving invasive species, Wickersham said. First, the organization would hire a forester to assess the property.

The conservancy also hopes to add a recreation component.

"It's a pretty cool idea to have a trail running through," Wickersham said. Oregon State Parks is interested in helping the conservancy build a trail that would connect the property to Ecola State Park, he added.

The conservancy is creating a potential management plan for the property. The current draft proposes banning rifle hunting and allowing only archery hunting, but that is "up for interpretation" until the management plan is finalized, Wickersham said.

If the recreation district obtained the grant on behalf of the conservancy, it would

hold a recreation easement for at least 25 years and would have some say in the property's management.

Recreation district board member Ruth Johnson said she believes partnering with the conservancy on the grant is a good idea as long as it doesn't cost the recreation district any money.

"It's got all the hallmarks of a win-win for everyone," board member Tom Horning agreed.

The acquisition of Boneyard Ridge could take awhile. Because some of the grants have deadlines for use, the conservancy hopes to acquire the property by summer 2016.

"That is the goal," Wickersham said. "Some of that is regulated by the grants we get. ... The timelines are kind of set for us in a way."

Obituaries

Howard Jefferson Bell

Nov. 25, 1910 — March 2, 2015

Howard Jefferson Bell passed away Monday morning, March 2, 2015, at the age of 104. He was born Nov. 25, 1910, in Portland, Ore., to Chriss A. Bell and Charlotte Bennett Bell, who were married on the front porch of the family home in Gearhart in 1904.

The family, which included brothers Robert and Frederick Bell and sister Edna Ellen Bell, spent their summers in Gearhart, like many families of that day. Their father would stay in Portland during the week and come to the beach on the weekends on the "Daddy Train," while mother and the kids would spend their days clamming, beach combing and playing tennis and golf.

He grew up and went to school in Portland, attended Glencoe Elementary and Franklin High schools and eventually spent time at Virginia Military Institute and Oregon State University. Admittedly not the greatest



HOWARD BELL

student in the world, he eventually went into his own small business, Howard Bell Film Service, where he worked for the rest of his life.

He married May Elaine Turnbull in 1938, after having met her on the tennis courts when they were in high school. Together they raised three children: Chriss Bell of Green Valley, Ariz., Douglas Bell (Christine) of Portland and Gearhart, and Patricia Bell Wollner, also of Gearhart. He also leaves

eight grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Howard is predeceased by his parents, wife, brothers and sister. At his request, there will be no service. Hughes-Ransom Mortuary in Seaside is handling the arrangements. In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to the North Coast Land Conservancy, P.O. Box 67, Seaside, OR, 97138.

The family would like to thank all those who carefully cared for him at Necanicum Village in Seaside during his last few months. While he was there, he was able to watch the famous coastal elk herd outside his living room window, as well as a few golfers braving the cold winter sun.

Being a man of few words, Howard wrote a note to each of his children describing how he wanted things handled after his death, ending with, "Love to you all and will see you in Eternity."

Visit www.hughes-ransom.com to leave memories and sign the guest book.

Lois Foster

Jan. 11, 1932 — March 3, 2015



LOIS FOSTER

Lois Marlene Foster passed away peacefully on March 3, 2015, at the age of 83, in Hillsboro, Ore. Lois was born Jan. 11, 1932, to Arthur and Edra Camberg in Astoria, Ore. Due to her parents' work with various logging camps in Northwest Oregon, Lois lived and attended school in a number of places as a child, including Wheeler, Astoria and Jewell, Ore.

Lois met the true love of her life, Earnest "Bubby" Foster at a dance at the Vine Maple Grange Hall in Jewell when she was 16 years old, and he was home after being discharged from the Navy. A year and a half later they married. Lois lived the majority of her life in Jewell and Olney, Ore., where she and Bubby raised their family.

Lois never shied away from hard work. She was an excellent cook and homemaker all her life. While raising her family, she intermittently worked as a sales clerk at JC Penny Co., grocery

checker at the Astoria IGA, and even opened her own business for a time in Astoria (Lois and Dot's Café). She also worked in the cafeteria at Jewell School.

Lois and Bubby opened their home to serve as foster parents to numerous children in foster care throughout the years, temporarily expanding their family as others needed them. Lois was a bright, upbeat, quick witted, spunky personality, who had a quip and good natured joke about most situations. She enjoyed camping and was a terrific dancer in her day.

She remained deeply committed to her family all her life, and was a well-loved mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, auntie and friend to many. She will be dearly missed.

Lois is predeceased by her husband; her parents; a brother, Herb Camberg; and a sister, Joan Camberg Olstedt. She is survived by her three children, Clifford R. Foster (Katie), Janette M. Hughes (Dominic Kohlasch) and Clark A. Foster (Heidi); nine grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

A graveside service was held Saturday, March 7, 2015, at Jewell Cemetery in Jewell, Ore.

Hughes-Ransom Mortuary in Seaside is in charge of arrangements. Visit www.hughes-ransom.com to leave condolences and sign the guest book.

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