

Land conservancy to hold one-day tree sale



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Conservationists acquired Boneyard Ridge on Tillamook Head in July.

Buying tree supports restoration goals

By Lyra Fontaine
Seaside Signal

Dreaming of a “green” Christmas? The North Coast Land Conservancy is selling trees from Boneyard Ridge Habitat Reserve 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Dec. 4.

“The trees look really beautiful,” the conservancy’s Stewardship Director Melissa Reich said. “It will be a cool opportunity for people who want to feel good about where their trees come from this holiday season.”

The trees will be from a

stand of young firs that the conservancy is thinning to create a healthy forest on Boneyard Ridge. The property, acquired by the conservancy in July, is a former commercial tree farm.

“They planted to maximize timber production,” Reich said. “Our goal is to create an old-growth forest in the future. We need to thin the trees down so that they will grow faster and not compete with each other.”

After the holidays, the conservancy requests that people return their Boneyard Ridge trees to the Circle Creek Conservation Center. The returned trees will be placed in waterways at

Boneyard Ridge or Circle Creek, where they will serve as refuge for juvenile coho salmon and contribute to the food chain for coho and other wildlife.

“We’re doing large-scale restoration on Circle Creek so we can add them to the creek or some of the off-channel wetlands,” Reich said. “It helps create more structure and shade, and the nutrients break down. It’s good for amphibians and fish.”

The conservancy requests a donation of \$100 for each tree. These donations and the trees’ eventual use as habitat will help support the conservancy’s restoration work.

Trees will be sold at the

conservancy’s Circle Creek Conservation Center in Seaside. Most trees are noble firs, about 5 feet tall or higher, with sturdy branches and an airy structure. Some grand firs may be available. Trees will be freshly cut the previous day, and it is encouraged to come early for the best selection.

Circle Creek Conservation Center is at the end of Rippet Road in Seaside, on the west side of U.S. 101, one-seventh of a mile north of the junction with U.S. 26. Follow the road west and north a short distance, passing a gravel quarry on your left, to where it ends at the big barn.

‘Everyone is so giving, caring and compassionate ...’

Festival from Page 1A

Christmas trees that are festively decorated by local businesses, designers, florists and other north coast residents, Russell said.

Collectively, the trees create a holiday wonderland that serves as the inspiring setting for both the community open house and the following gala dinner and auction.

Some of the approximately 20 trees will be designed by Festival of Trees veterans who look forward to participating every year. New groups also are partaking in the festivities.

This year, local law enforcement agencies are using the festival as an opportunity to honor the memory of former Seaside Police Sgt. Jason Goodding, who died in the line of duty in February. The Seaside, Astoria, Warrenton, Gearhart and Cannon Beach police departments, along with the Clatsop County Sheriff’s Office, are “pooling their energy together to come up with a memorial tree,” according to Russell.

The tree will have a police theme and be auctioned off

and patients must drive to Portland or other larger cities. The equipment’s estimated cost is \$400,000.

Purchasing the machine is the foundation’s yearlong goal, and they have accumulated more than \$250,000 from other fundraising efforts and personal donations this year.

“Festival of Trees is going to be a good add-on to that,” Russell said, adding she feels fortunate her job includes working with a “very generous, remarkable community.”

“I get paid to work with the most generous people,” she added. “Everyone is so giving, caring and compassionate when it comes to healthcare and what we do.”

Grand gala activities

The trees and their accompanying goodies will be auctioned off, along with signature artwork by Paula Blackwell, during the elegant evening gala. The event — which gives north coast residents the uncommon opportunity to don their holi-

day finery to celebrate the holidays with community, Russell said — also includes a silent auction for donated items, as well as wreaths and 3-foot trees decorated by hospital staff members. Attendees also can enter a drawing for a week-long stay at an estate in Ireland.

The Festival of Trees is Providence Seaside Hospital Foundation’s largest fundraiser of the year. During the past 18 years, the event has raised more than \$1.3 million to benefit a variety of community health services and programs provided by the hospital.

The open house runs from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 3. It is free to the public.

Doors open for the gala dinner and auction — also at the convention center — at 5:30 p.m. The cost is \$100 per guest and tickets should be reserved by Dec. 1. For more information about the event or to reserve a seat for the gala, contact Russell at 503-717-7604 or email veronica.russell@providence.org.

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Festival of Trees returns to the convention center.

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Saturday Dec. 3
Community open house featuring Santa Claus
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For reservations or more information, please call 503-717-7601 or visit www.ProvidenceFestivalOfTrees.org/Seaside