

Celebration inaugurates new mountain bike trail network



Riders hit the Klootch Creek trails July 20.

Submitted



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Mark Morgans, Greenwood Resources area manager, performs the "ribbon-cutting."

Seaside Signal

A large crowd, including dozens of mountain bike riders, gathered Saturday, July 22, to celebrate the grand opening of what organizers hope will become the destination trail cycling spot on the North Coast.

The Klootch Creek Trails network, located off U.S. Highway 26, two miles east of the U.S. Highway 101 junction, is a collaborative project of the North Coast Trail Alliance, land manager Greenwood Resources and the Clatsop County Parks Department.

County Commissioners Kathleen Sullivan and Pamela Wev were joined by representatives from Greenwood, the trail alliance and others involved in the project, before a chainsaw "ribbon-cutting" officially opened the trails to the waiting riders.

Volunteer trail-builders were thanked for their work, which totaled more than 5,000 hours over eight months. Currently about four miles of trails are open to riders, but organizers have developed a long-range master plan that envisions a broad network of nonmotorized riding trails on Greenwood's Lewis and Clark Tree Farms property.

Trail Alliance President Steven Blakesley said the group — a chapter of the Northwest Trail Alliance cycling organization — had been trying unsuccessfully to find suitable trail sites on public lands before a partnership with the private timberland company was forged.

Klootch Creek County Park is the trailhead for the riding network. County Natural Resource Manager Steve Meshke said he looks forward to seeing increased visitation to the small park on the bank of the Necanicum River, which has seen visitor numbers dwindle since the area's landmark Sitka spruce heritage tree was felled in a 2007 windstorm. Parking space at the park was expanded in anticipation of the new trails, and further improvements, including restrooms, are planned, he said.

Use of the trails is free, but is subject to fire closures and other restrictions. Riders must also obtain a free recreational permit from Greenwood Resources.

'Operation Ship Shape' targets lapsed boat registrations

Seaside Signal

The Oregon State Marine Board, in partnership with 32 county sheriff's offices and the Oregon State Police, will be out in force Aug. 3-4, looking for expired boat registrations as part of "Operation Ship Shape."

"We want boaters to look at their boat's decals, the registration numbers, and their registration card and make sure they're up-to-date," said Randy Henry, boating safety program manager for the Marine Board. "Make sure you've renewed your registration, and make sure you've put the decal on your boat, or you could face a \$265 citation."

"Any boat that is powered by a motor — electric, gas, diesel or steam, and all sailboats 12 feet

and longer — must be currently registered when on the water, even when docked or moored," said Henry. This includes inflatable rafts with an electric motor, even a standup paddleboard or float tube with an electric motor."

Boaters can renew their boat registration online at www.boatoregon.com, or can visit their local registration agent. Boaters can print off a temporary permit after successfully completing their transaction online or will be issued a temporary permit through an agent for an additional fee. For assistance renewing online, contact the Marine Board at board@oregon.gov or 503-378-8587.

For a list of registration agents, visit oregon.gov/osmb/title-registration/Pages/Where-to-Register.aspx.

NCLC volunteers go deep into the weeds

By CARA MICO
Seaside Signal

A "spectacular number" of people showed up to pull policeman's helmet, or *Impatiens glandulifera*, Saturday, July 20, for the final of three weed-pulling events aimed at eradicating the invasive weed on the North Coast Land Conservancy's Circle Creek property just south of Seaside, and it wasn't "the usual suspects" according to Jeff Roehm, a long-time volunteer.

The weather was perfect for the volunteers and staff who spent several hours pulling and stomping the flowering shrub. By Roehm's estimates, that volunteer spirit at the Conservancy is only growing. Most of the 17 volunteers who showed up to work on Saturday had been to the Circle Creek farm prior to the event, but there were many newcomers as well. Volun-



Cara Mico

Intern Delaney Newport highlights characteristics of policeman's helmet for volunteers.

teer John Rippey called the work "satisfying."

NCLC received a three year grant from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board to remove the inva-

sive riparian weed from their Necanicum watershed properties including upstream waterways. Since policeman's helmet seeds travel downstream during winter floods and readily recolonize disturbed banks, it is important to remove it from the uppermost headwaters before it reseeds. The goal of the grant was to completely eradicate the weed from the Necanicum watershed in three years and the conservancy is close to accomplishing that goal.

The weed is very shallow rooted and self sows from seeds that eject themselves up to 20 feet if even slightly disturbed, hence the other name for the plant, touch-me-not.

Policeman's helmet is an annual plant and its presence leaves the winter soil exposed. Left unchecked, the weed can lead to increased erosion on the banks where it grows which destabilizes the river channel.

NCLC's upcoming hands-on stewardship event is Swampathon weekend. Volunteers are invited to spend Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 10 and 11, at the Blind Slough Swamp Habitat Reserve on the Lower Columbia River, east of Astoria pulling purple loosestrife and English ivy. Similar to policeman's helmet, the invasive purple loosestrife spreads easily. On Saturday, volunteers will work at the Big Creek location from 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday volunteers will paddle to pull weeds from hard to reach places 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Rubber boots, gloves, long pants and a long-sleeved shirt are highly recommended and NCLC will bring the tools. Pack water and lunch. If you're camping, dinner and breakfast are provided. For more information check out the conservancy's website at <https://nclctrust.org/event/swampathon-2019>.

GEARHART FIRE DEPT. FIRE LOG

June 19
7:24 p.m., Pine Ridge, Gearhart: Emergency medical response.

June 20
5 a.m., Ocean Avenue, Gearhart: Emergency medical response.

9:34 p.m., Marion, Gearhart: Emergency medical response.

June 23
5:09 p.m., Highway 101, Gearhart: Emergency medical response.

June 24
11:36 p.m., Sandy Ridge, Gearhart: Emergency medical response.

June 25
12:54 p.m., Pacific Way, Gearhart: Odor of smoke.

3:41 p.m., Seventh Street, Gearhart: Emergency medical response.

July 4
1:20 p.m., Cottage, Gearhart: Smoke alarm activated; no fire found.

6:12 p.m., Pine Ridge, Gearhart: Public assistance.

7:12 p.m., Fairway, Gearhart: Alarm system activation; no fire found.

8:49 p.m. Dunes, 10th Street beach access, Gearhart: Attempted burning, illegal action.

July 7
7:05 a.m., Ridge Street, Gearhart: Emergency medical service.

7:26 p.m., Highway 101: Emergency medical response.

July 10
9:00 a.m., Ocean Avenue, Gearhart: Public service assistance.

July 11
10:58 a.m., Sixth Street, Gearhart: Emergency medical response.

July 12
4:30 p.m., Pacific Way, Gearhart: Hazardous conditions.

July 14
8:46 a.m., Beach/Ocean Shore, Gearhart: Fire reported.

July 24
7:49 p.m., Sheridan, Gearhart: Emergency medical response.

July 25
2:12 p.m., Saddle Mountain: Ex- traction, rescue.

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