



Neskowin Community Association

Neskowin Village Voice



August 2020

NCA President's Letter

By Robin Crowell

Hello Neskowin Community,

Well, summer is in a cautious full swing. We hope you are enjoying the fresh sea air and virtual hugs as you check out our neighborhood's flower gardens ... and maybe a round of golf, with social distancing of course.

It is certainly a difficult time for everyone. The NCA decided to cancel all activities this summer to provide a safe space for all participants, as well as the organizers. We hope the 2021 summer can be back to allowing the traditional activities to take place.

Thanks to all who have sent in membership dues and extra donations! The NCA will continue to provide 2020 financial grants for local community requests and has pledged \$5000 to add to a grant from the Tillamook County Board of Commissioners Transient Lodging Tax Tourism-Related Facilities Community Grant Program. The community was awarded \$75,000 to improve and maintain our three beach access points. We thank Cameron Nagel for writing the successful grant with additional support from Ran Koch and Susan Amort.

The NCA Board has decided to cancel the September Labor Day community meeting. We will send an update on grants and other news in the next newsletter.

Please continue to support the local businesses. If you have not visited the Neskowin Farmers Market at this year's new location at Neskowin Valley School, it's a great setup and local vendors continue to offer fresh and delicious produce, cheese, and baked goods.

Neskowin Beach Golf Course is finally dry, playable, and in wonderful shape. The store and local restaurants are open and enjoying support from both locals and lots of tourists. So get out and enjoy (at a safe distance of course) and please wear your mask whenever appropriate in order to protect yourself and others.

Neskowin Egress Road Update

By Garshaw Amidi-Abraham

The Nestucca, Neskowin & Sand Lake Watersheds Council has been working closely with Tillamook County and several other partners to assist in moving the Egress Road project forward. The project is now fully funded, with the majority coming from the work of local and state representatives to pass House Bill 5050. Other funding sources include ODFW's Fish Passage Program, the US Forest Service Siuslaw National Forest, US Fish & Wildlife Service, the Pacific Marine and Estuarine Fish Habitat Partnership, and Tillamook County. The project would not have been possible without the early support of Neskowin residents in raising money for designs.

Tillamook County Public Works is working through the permitting process. With significant progress made, they expect to have full approval by mid-September. The project will be advertised for bids in early October and fully contracted by late November. Significant work will occur after July 15, 2021 to comply with in-water work restrictions.

This timeline is subject to change as the project contains many moving parts that need to come together.

When completed, the project will significantly decrease flood risk on the improved Hawk Street Trail (from the NBGC clubhouse to the Wayside State Park) which will serve as an egress route in the case of an emergency. The project will additionally improve fish passage to 5 miles of spawning and rearing habitat on Hawk Creek, Butte Creek, and Kiwanda Creek as well as access to 250 acres of critical rearing habitat in the Neskowin Marsh Complex. The project is an excellent investment from a public safety, watershed health, as well as a fish and wildlife habitat restoration standpoint. We look forward to continuing to work with the community, Tillamook County, and other partners in implementing the project.

Please contact me at 503-965-2200 for any questions about the project.

Tsunami Evacuation Wayfinding Signage Project Update

By Jean Cameron

As you may recall from past presentations at the Neskowin Citizen's Advisory Committee meetings, local members of the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) for the South Tillamook County Emergency Volunteer Corps (STCEVC) have been working for over a year to map locations for Tsunami Evacuation Wayfinding signage that can guide visitors and residents of our area to safety in the event of a major local earthquake and tsunami. Although most residents may know where to run after the ground begins shaking, many guests and visitors may not. Just imagine finding your way on a dark, rainy, foggy night!

We mapped Slab Creek Road, the Neskowin Creek RV Park, South Beach, Proposal Rock, Neskowin Village, North Neskowin, Hawk Hills, Neskowin Crest, Ocean Way, the Hills of Neskowin, Camp Winema, and Winema Road. We received some initial funding from the NCA for this work. After presenting our proposed maps to representatives from Tillamook County Community Development, Public Works, and the Tillamook Coast Visitors' Association, we applied for and received grant funding from the Oregon Department of Geology (DOGAMI) and the Tillamook Coast Visitors' Association (Tourist Lodging Tax). We are now in the process of acquiring all necessary signage and posts to install these wayfinding signs. You may start seeing these signs go up in your neighborhood in the next few months!

For those in the tsunami zones, there will be "Tsunami Evacuation Route" signs with arrows pointing in the direction to run. "Leaving Tsunami Zone" signs will be installed at the points on high ground where you can slow down and catch your breath! "Assembly Area" signs will mark the ultimate destinations, where we hope eventually to install caches of emergency supplies.

The following Team Leaders will each recruit volunteers to help them install signs in their neighborhood: Randall Koch for Slab Creek Road; Jim Boyer for the Neskowin Creek RV Park; Bill Busch and Russ Oullette for South Beach; Al Gits and Joe Texter for Proposal Rock; Doug Keller, Hawk Creek Hills; Randall Koch for Neskowin Village; Marge Jozsa and Gary Dunn for Neskowin Crest; Biff Schlicting for Rose Bauer Road (one of the escape routes for the Village, which also include Summit Road to Hawk Hills and various routes to Neskowin Crest); Jean Cameron for the Hills of Neskowin; and LeRoy Shepherd for Camp Winema and Winema Road. We are currently seeking a Team Leader for North Neskowin.

We had planned to hold a training meeting for these neighborhood Team Leaders once we had the signs, posts and other needed installation equipment, but the pandemic put an end to that plan! Now each Team Leader will be contacted individually by Bill Busch to coordinate access to supplies, use of the locate service, and installation. Both the Neskowin Creek RV Park and Camp Winema were willing to supply their own posts, installation hardware, person power and equipment, so they've already received their signs.

Tillamook County Public Works has approved use of some of the existing signposts in the Village; Randall Koch and Alex Sifford will work with at least one other volunteer to get Tsunami Evacuation Route signs placed on those posts. A few additional Village signs requiring new posts and use of the locate service will follow at a later date.

It's a work in progress that will continue over the next few months. Many thanks to everyone who is participating!

New Roles at NRSA

By Esther Nelson

At the July Board of Directors meeting, Neskowin Regional Sanitary Authority elected Jim Ullrich as Chair of the Board. Dave Benneth was re-elected to the position of Treasurer and Annis Leslie, Office Manager, will continue as Secretary. In addition, NRSA recently welcomed Ben Hicks of Neskowin to NRSA. He is a new employee in plant and system operations.

Beach Access Improvement Grant

By Cameron Nagel

The NCA has received a grant from the Tillamook County Transient Lodging Tax (TLT) program for improving the beach access points at Carlton, McMinnville, and Mt. Angel Avenues.

The grant award of \$75,000 will cover the cost of both improving and maintaining these emergency vehicle access points, with the added benefit of safer footing for locals and tourists alike.

A major portion of this grant will be consumed by the conversion of the Carlton Ave. steps to an emergency vehicle ramp, similar to those existing ramps at McMinnville and Mt. Angel. Engineering and oversight for the project is required by the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department who has jurisdiction over any work performed on our public beaches.

Impetus and support for this project came from Fire Chief Jim Oeder who needs as many access points as possible for his emergency rescue vehicles. As not every ramp is available at any given time due to conditions and tides, it is important to have this redundancy of multiple access points. It is our plan to keep the ramps maintained and usable throughout the year, with the understanding that high tides and winter storms will periodically erode the ramps over time. By repairing such damage as soon as possible, we are hopeful the ramps will last longer each season, and be subsequently less costly to repair and maintain over the long term.



Thanks to the NCA for supporting this project, including a \$5,000 matching funds donation taking the total budget for this project to \$80,000.

Recent exploration excavation was performed to locate the existing rip-rap foundation at Carlton Avenue west.

Neskowin Farmers Market 2020

By Rachel Pettit

While we may be a little out of sight this year, the Neskowin Farmers Market has certainly remained in the minds of Neskowin residents! We're pleased to report a successful first half of the 2020 season, and we owe that success to both the shoppers who value local food and the farmers who work so hard to grow it. If you do your grocery shopping at the market you might have recently



enjoyed the sunniest of eggs, jewel tone berries and sourdough toast for breakfast. Or maybe it was crisp green beans, wild mushrooms and a rack of lamb on the grill with a beautiful bouquet on the table. It's easy to eat well when you know where your food comes from!

Artisan craft vendors have been coming back to the market in recent weeks, and if you haven't gotten your 2020 poster you still have time! You can also preorder from most of our vendors: visit the market website at neskowinfarmersmarket.com for more information.

Did you know that the entire farmers market accepts SNAP EBT (formerly known as food stamps)? And if you spend \$10 of SNAP you'll get \$20 extra to spend from us! Visit the market info booth first if you're a shopper with SNAP.

The market will be at Neskowin Valley School (10005 Slab Creek Rd) for the entire 2020 season. At this time masks are required for all visitors over 5 years old. Observe the first half hour of market (9:00-9:30am) for community members who are at a higher risk. Send one shopper for the whole household (or for multiple neighboring households, even better!). Please keep dogs at home. Even though we're in the height of summer we still have to do our best to keep all of our community members safe and healthy. Kindness is key, we're all in this together!

Greetings from Neskowin Valley School

By Sarah Creighton, Interim Head of School

Let me start by saying every school across the state and nation is struggling with what decisions are the “right” ones to make in regards to reopening and, in many instances, we may not know what is “right” until we all have the benefit of hindsight. To that end, I would like to share our decision to open our doors for the 2020-2021 school year.

Neskowin Valley School is committed to a reopening plan that allows for students to resume in-person schooling, 5 days a week, starting on August 31, 2020. It is safe to say that school will look very different this fall. As we work to get ready to open school, we are facing many changes that will be in place as we implement the measures required by the Oregon Department of Education. Although none of the measures are ideal, we are committed to being flexible, creative, and responsive to ensure that each student and staff member safely experience the best education possible in the circumstances created by the pandemic.

I am overwhelmed by the unquestionable strength and character of our community. The messages of gratitude, acts of generosity, and words of encouragement are powerful affirmations for our team of dedicated staff members working to reopen NVS.

We are a strong community, and I know that the grace and caring that make us who we are every day will carry us through these trying times together.

From the NCA Board:

September Labor Day Weekend community meeting CANCELLED.

Grant Deadline

The Neskowin Community Association provides Grants to local non profit groups annually. If your non profit has not sent in a request for fall 2020, please send them to Ran Koch by August 20, 2020. randallkoch1@me.com. Thank you.

Neskowin Community Plan Update

By Chris Silkowski and Ran Koch

The Community Plan is moving forward (despite obvious setbacks from the pandemic) since we kicked off in February. Oregon is unique in that it requires citizen participation in determining what standards and ordinances will exist in each County. Tillamook County is also unique in that it gives unincorporated communities like Neskowin the opportunity to recommend its own land-use ordinances. If approved by the County, these recommendations become the rules the County will then follow in matters that affect our community. This opportunity occurs only about once every 20 years ... and it is happening now in Neskowin.

A master project plan has been created and weekly meetings are continuing to occur remotely. We have identified a local resource to manage the survey process, which includes the creation of a ‘Neskowin YouTube’ channel that will be used for the production and delivery of educational webinars to inform our citizens on important community plan topics.

Specifically, we have grouped the State's 19 Land Use Plan goals into approximately 10 webinars that will be moderated by Brenda Freshman and will feature subject-matter experts on each topic. We are fortunate to have Brenda as part of the team, as her strengths as a college professor include organizational psychology, process facilitation, survey development, and administration.

We expect to conduct at least one educational webinar per month beginning in the Fall of 2020. The webinar sessions will be conducted live with on-line access, and available on the aforementioned YouTube channel for future viewing. Through these webinar-like sessions and online participation, citizens will be informed about the various topics from local, County, and State experts. Each online town hall will include Q&A for citizens. These discussions will function as focus groups and will be included as part of the survey development methodology. The survey administration will take place over a set amount of time (2021-2022) and is expected to yield the ‘Values and Voices’ of our community, which will then define and drive our specific recommendations to the County on matters that impact Neskowin.

In summary, stay tuned! The Neskowin Community Plan is our once-every-20-years chance to recommend to the County Planning Commission what the citizens of Neskowin want for our community. Allow your informed voice to be heard, and please participate in the Neskowin Citizen Survey roll out!

Nestucca, Neskowin & Sand Lake Watershed Council Update

By Garshaw Amidi-Abraham

Since the declaration of the COVID emergency in March, the Nestucca, Neskowin & Sand Lake Watershed Council (NNSL WC) has been operating remotely. The council canceled community events such as Science on Tap, interpretive hikes, Explore Nature, and lessons in our local schools. In the future, events will be held virtually. Stay tuned for virtual site tours, on-line guest speakers and more. Projects are still moving forward this summer and staff are busy planning for projects well into the future.

The NNSL WC will be leading the implementation of the Clear Creek Culvert Replacement project this summer. Clear Creek is an important tributary to the Nestucca River, known historically for its chum salmon run. The project will enhance passage of aquatic organisms with a stream-spanning bridge. Clear Creek is home to many anadromous species, including Oregon Coast Coho.

The NNSL WC will be also be assisting with the Smith Creek Culvert Replacement Project. Smith Creek drains into the Nestucca River near Cloverdale and contains 3 miles of fish bearing habitat, including Oregon Coast Coho. This project will improve fish passage by removing a culvert that is largely buried in sediment and replacing it with a larger culvert that will pass both aquatic organisms and gravels essential for a healthy watershed. Natural Resource Conservation Service is leading the project, and the Watershed Council is assisting with permits and construction oversight.

The NNSL WC will be kicking off the Expanded Water Quality monitoring program that will include continuous temperature monitoring and coliform bacteria grab sampling. Building upon past monitoring efforts in partnership with TEP, we will be monitoring sites throughout the Nestucca, Neskowin, and Sand Lake Basins. The sampling plan specifies a focus on bacteria sampling in the Neskowin Village area, including multiple sites on Hawk and Butte Creeks. Data collected will be shared with the community via on-line portals and reports at Watershed Council meetings.

Finally, the NNSL WC has been working to develop the Sitka Sedge Tidal Restoration project. In partnership with OPRD and TEP, the goal of the project will be to restore full fish passage to south of Sand Lake Estuary in addition to Beltz, Reneke, and No Name Creeks. The Watershed Council is currently working to fund designs for the culvert replacements and floodplain restoration components.



Neskowin Creek, aka Slab Creek just east of Neskowin, part of the NNS WC management area, and site of many past projects, including tree planting and stream bed improvements.

If you would like to receive additional updates from the NNSL WC you can join our email list by contacting Outreach and Project Development Manager, Caleb Mentzer, at assistant@nestuccawaters.org.

Gretchen Kitzmiller Plath: 1938-2020

Gretchen is survived by her loving husband Paul Plath, 6 children (Susan Moss, Missy Moss, Peter Moss, Pamela Plath, Chip Plath, John Plath), 5 grandchildren (Anthony Moss, Kailey Moss, Rachel Moss, Sophia Plath and Katherine Plath), and beloved dog Spencer.

Gretchen was always happy and smiling despite her challenges living with Multiple Sclerosis for 41 years. She never let her disease affect her positivity and joys to live a full life. Everyone who knew Gretchen would always comment on her contagious smile and how she could uplift people. She leaves behind her family who will carry on her smile, positivity and love for the same people who loved her.

Gretchen was born November 7, 1938 in Salem, Oregon to Augusta Gerlinger and John Kitzmiller. Gretchen was predeceased by her brothers John Kitzmiller Jr. and Michael Kitzmiller. She was raised in Dallas, OR, where her father worked for the family business, Gerlinger Carrier Company. Gretchen was very proud of her father, John Kitzmiller, who was a standout football athlete at the University of Oregon where he was nicknamed "The Flying Dutchman" and placed in Oregon Football Hall of Fame and the National Football Hall of Fame. After his pro career with the New York Giants, he returned to coach football at the University of Oregon.

Gretchen graduated from the University of Oregon in 1960 with a degree in education. While at the University of Oregon Gretchen joined the Kappa Alpha Theta sorority. After graduation Gretchen received her MA in Guidance and Counseling at Colorado State College in Greeley, CO. Gretchen started her teaching career in Yuma, AZ where her 3 children Susan, Missy, and Peter were born. Working as a 1st grade teacher, Gretchen met her 2nd husband Dr. Paul Plath and his 3 children Pamela, Chip, and John. The family quickly became the "Brady Bunch". Included in Gretchen's household and family are Honda, Lucy, and Rebecca Segura. The Segura family was an important part of Gretchen's life.

If you would like to reach out to the family, the family spokesperson is daughter Missy Moss 503-819-5043 or missymmoss@gmail.com. Donations can be made to Emerald Bible Fellowship: 1855 Cal Young Road, Eugene, OR 97401.



A Message from Gretchen Plath

During my entire lifetime, I have enjoyed our family beach house in Neskowin, Oregon which I called, "My Happy Place."

From splashing in the waves as a young child, to my first kiss, swinging the clubs at the Neskowin Beach Golf Course, to watching my children and grandchildren swing on the swing set, the many sand volleyball games, the parties we had bringing the community together, 4th of July parades in the back of the house, many delicious meals at The Cafe on Hawk Creek, the hundreds of puzzles completed, and most importantly, the memories made with the love of family and friends.

Free Online Amateur Radio License Class

By Bill Busch

The South Tillamook County Emergency Volunteer Corps is sponsoring a September class via Zoom that will lead to you obtaining an amateur radio license (Technician). Just like Oldsmobiles, today's ham radio is not your father's ham radio. Gone are big boxes, flashing lights, and Morse Code. With a Technician License and affordable radios only a little larger than a cell phone, you will be able to contact the outside world when cell phone and landline service is down ... or check-in for the latest volcano report from an itinerant geologist in Reykjavik. Contact Bill Busch (whbusch@gmail.com) for details about the class.

Neskowin Beach Golf Course Crew

By Ted Braich

The 2020 Neskowin Beach Golf Season arrived a little late amid weather and COVID issues. Despite these issues, the course crew has worked long and hard to get the course into the best shape possible.

Sean Tonner joined NBGC in late February. Sean was born and raised in Michigan. His Scottish roots led him to Scotland where he learned his trade at the Turf Program in St. Andrews associated with the famous Old Course. He moved back to the states and lived in Austin, Texas and worked as an Assistant Superintendent at the Austin Country Club, site of the PGA Tour Dell Match Play Tournament. Sean married his wife Lauren in November 2019. Sean and Lauren were looking for a cooler climate and we were fortunate to be able to attract them to our coastal community. Lauren is working in the Attorney General's office in Salem.

Sean's secret for the beautiful greens he has created is the use of peat in addition to aeration and sanding. This is a technique he learned at St Andrews.

Tyler Haggerty is Sean's assistant. This is his second season at NBGC. Tyler will be a Junior at Nestucca High School where he plays football and baseball. He is hoping there is football season this year as he is penciled in as the QB. He is leaning towards attending Oregon State and majoring in engineering.

The early end to school this year allowed Tyler to work more on the course with Sean in April and May. His presence and knowledge of the course was a big help in getting the course ready for summer.

Say hi to Sean and Tyler as you play your way around NBGC.

Many volunteers have been working outside on the course, helping to drain water, whack down weeds, mow grass, repair our machinery, and much, much more. We are fortunate to have so many volunteers support NBGC, thank you all!



Kim Hughes, Lauri Braich, and lots of other volunteers have put together many social activities at the Clubhouse including Bingo, Joke Night, Wine and Cider Tastings, and Music. All of the events take place outside and everyone can be appropriately socially distanced. You can see the Calendar of Events on our website: neskowinbeachgolf.com

All of the volunteers and staff at the clubhouse have added many precautions due to COVID to make NBGC a safe environment for all. We have installed two slider windows on the north side of the clubhouse to make it easy to conduct business from the outside. Our rental carts and rental clubs are disinfected when they come in off the course, and our tables and chairs are also disinfected after each use. The Clubhouse team has done a great job at adopting all of these new procedures to make NBGC available and safe for everyone.

Come on down and see us! Play a round of golf, a little Bocce Ball, or grab an ice cream with the kids ... we have it all at NBGC!

NESKOWIN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

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Annual Membership Dues \$30 May to May

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SPECIAL THANKS TO:

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Jeff Linman, Webmaster

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Neskowin Citizen Advisory Committee will hold a meeting via ZOOM on Saturday, Aug 22 at 10am. More details are on the NCA website with a link to the zoom there so you can tune in and make comments, vote on agenda items, etc. Options for making comments etc. are listed on the site as well.

www.neskowincommunity.org

If you have questions please address them to Ran Koch,
541-921-7216



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