



WEATHERWAX NEWSLETTER

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Monthly Report

("Monthly" is rather a misstatement! We apologize that it has been so long since our last newsletter. We were a little busy working on "Retain!")

The Holidays are upon us and the Weatherwax is appropriately dressed in its winter attire, draped moss and colorful mushrooms on display. Thanks to your support and the hard work of our active members, the Weatherwax is more secure than it has been since its purchase by the City of Ocean Shores in 1999.

The election on November 4th sent a clear message to our city leaders that the voters of Ocean Shores wish to retain this incredible piece of property. The margin was 2-1 in favor of keeping it all. At the last city council meeting the Mayor announced that city staff was seriously pursuing turning the entire property into a wetlands bank. That process could be a real win for our city, its citizens and the Weatherwax property itself. We will keep you posted.

Current Activities

We have pledged to maintain the existing trails, continue our efforts to promote low impact use of this property and produce the brochure that is now carried by more than 50 businesses in town. We will continue to be active in all things that affect the Weatherwax.

Unfortunately, we still have some work to do on the Critical Areas Ordinance. With the deadline looming, our city council voted 5-2 to accept the ordinance pretty much as written. While some of our concerns were addressed, others particularly dealing with wetlands were not. Despite a great effort by the State Department of Ecology, we did not get to an ordinance that protects wetlands adequately while balancing individual property rights. We will have to see how this unfolds. We will need to be especially vigilant with SEPA (State Environmental Protection Act) notices and perhaps work to get them more prominently displayed and published for public comment.

We will also be actively involved with the process of getting Weatherwax designated as a wetland bank. This will involve a conservation deed in perpetuity while also providing income for the City as developers mitigate their wetland impacts by “buying credits” in the bank. The bank stays completely in City ownership.

The current board is taking most of December off for some much-needed rest. We will resume meetings the second Wednesday in January. If you would like more information on our meetings, please contact us at Oceanshorescbg@yahoo.com.

After the New Year

January brings election of OSCBG officers. Due to family obligations and the time they spend in Florida, the Clarks will not be available to hold office, but we expect to call on their expertise as needed. The offices of President, Vice-President, and Secretary are up for election. If you have a few hours a month to serve, please contact a board member and volunteer your services.

As soon as new officers are elected, they will plan an off-site meeting where we re-focus our energies from saving the Weatherwax to preserving the Weatherwax. We will also have the opportunity to focus on other projects that affect Balanced Growth. We encourage everyone who can to attend these sessions.

**Thank you for your continued support and desire to preserve the
Weatherwax ecosystem.**

**We wish you, and those you love, a Joyous and Safe Holiday Season
and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.**