

OCEAN SHORES CITIZENS FOR BALANCED GROWTH

NEWSLETTER

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The Year in Review

We started the year by celebrating the 66% "Retain" vote on Weatherwax.

In early February, we held a strategy session to determine the direction we wanted OSCBG to take this year. We concentrated almost 100% on Weatherwax in the past, but felt we were now able to spend some time on other tasks, with Weatherwax always remaining our top priority.

We refined our organization's mission statement: *"To ensure Quality of Life issues and Environmental considerations are protected in concert with Ocean Shores city growth."* We then defined some groups to work towards this mission: *Weatherwax, Quality of Life, Environmental, Civic, Promotion/Education.* Following are our tasks and accomplishments for each of these areas for this year.

Weatherwax

This remains our primary focus. Jerry Mergler continues to provide trail maintenance on our behalf and could use some volunteers (<mailto:oceanshorescbg@yahoo.com> if you can help.) We are closely following, providing input to, and advocating continued progress toward establishing the Weatherwax as a Wetland Bank. The process has been slow on the City's part. Our current budget crisis has certainly had an impact on the attention paid to this issue. As the new year starts we will once again be asking the Mayor and Council to give this issue a high priority. Once established, the Wetlands Bank will be a significant and ongoing source of revenue for our city, in addition to providing full preservation of the property.

Quality of Life

A representative of OSCBG was invited to provide input to the City's Vision Committee. We also now provide volunteers for Friends of the Library functions, as we believe a library is a requirement for a growing city.

Environmental

We watch for any City actions that should invoke the rules of the Critical Areas Ordinance, such as wetlands and rezoning.

We are concerned about overly destructive clearing of vacant lots. While the City does have a clearing ordinance (17.50.100) there are currently no means to enforce it. We are still hoping to get some "teeth" into this ordinance.

Civic

Members of the OSCBG board regularly attend City Council meetings, Planning Commission meetings, and Parks Board meetings. Any topics applicable to OSCBG are discussed and acted upon at our meetings.

We applied to adopt Chinook Park, just south of the East Weatherwax property. This would involve volunteer litter pickup and general maintenance of the park's appearance. The Adopt A Park process is still in the Planning Department to develop a procedure.

We volunteered as litter patrol for all of the streets adjacent to Weatherwax. Litter control within Weatherwax is a regular part of trail maintenance.

We had volunteers for both litter prevention (bag handout) and litter cleanup for the Fourth and fifth of July. Our group ran a campaign gathering donations from local businesses for a full page North Coast News ad asking people to clean up their own party spaces, use the provided litter bags, and place full litter bags in designated areas on the beach. There was still cleanup to do on the fifth, but there was an incredible difference from previous years. All designated bag areas were filled to overflowing and the volunteer cleanup efforts on the fifth were complete before noon, so the new actions taken were considered a success.

Promotion/Education

We continue to provide Weatherwax brochures to the Visitors Center, the Interpretive Center, and many hotels and businesses around town. Thank you to Wendy Manolides who does the lion's share of this distribution. Several times the local newspaper has noted Weatherwax as a "must see", a "top ten", etc. We bought booths at some of the Convention Center events to hand out Weatherwax information, add people to our email list, take donations, and sell Weatherwax items. We publish this bi-monthly newsletter to keep our members and interested citizens informed.

For 2010

Primarily, we will aggressively pursue the Weatherwax wetland banking process and strongly support the efforts to keep the Library open. We will continue our other activities as the need arises and as people are available to help. If you have any comments on or additions to our plans, please let us know at <mailto:oceanshorescbg@yahoo.com>.

The following statement for OSCBG is from Crystal Dingler, President of Friends of the Library:

"Thanks OSCBG for electing again this year to help the Ocean Shores Friends of the Library. With the limited funds proposed for the library, 2010 will be challenging year. We will need volunteers in all areas. I am starting a volunteer "bank" with willing individuals who will list their skills and experience, to be matched with Library and OSFOL volunteer opportunities. All volunteers at the Library will be required to pass a background check and asked to commit to a period of service prior to training. Thanks again, everyone. Your help is important."

Please contact Crystal at <mailto:cldingler@att.net> if you can volunteer time or in-kind work. Identify yourself as coming through OSCBG as this helps the library to show on grants that external organizations are supporting their cause.

Membership and Donations

Our general dues are \$10 per year, due each January, and additional donations are always welcome! If you do not want to join but want to donate, provide that information with your check. Our address is OSCBG; PO Box 443; Ocean Shores, WA 98569. You can also make a donation using Paypal on our website, <http://www.weatherwax.info/>. At this time dues and donations are going towards brochure printing, keeping a stable amount in our treasury for any unexpected issues concerning Weatherwax, plus small donations to civic causes.

Meeting Times

The January meeting will be for Board Members and Officers only. The place, date, and time of the next general meeting will be announced via our agenda email list. If you would like to be added to our agenda email list, please <mailto:oceanshorescbg@yahoo.com>.

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT

HAVE A HAPPY AND SAFE HOLIDAY SEASON!