



Photo by Shelly Shrock

VIEW THE FUTURE
A Community Preserving Nature and Culture
www.viewthefuture.org

2023 Year-End Letter

As 2023 comes to a close we (Joanne Kittel and John Theilacker, co-chairs speaking for our board members and volunteers) reflect on the nearly 20 years since this grassroots organization was conceived. We never gave up and continued with entirely volunteer efforts making great strides toward local environmental and cultural preservation, and assistance with recreational projects while developing wonderful partnerships throughout our region and state. We have never worked harder than we have in 2023 building our internal capacity to achieve larger projects, highlights below.

We extend our heartfelt appreciation to our supporters, both local and distant, our partners, and our dedicated, passionate, and competent board members and non-board volunteers of View the Future for making every accomplishment we have ever made possible. Two anonymous donors and the Big Stump Fund of the Oregon Community Foundation have magnanimously given us

\$110,000 toward the rehabilitation and stewardship of Yachats Ridge while a number of our community members generously added an additional \$6,000. We thank those who have donations for our local trails, the Estuary Boardwalk Project, the 804 Trail Fund, and the Gerdemann Botanical Garden.

Summary of Financials for Fiscal Year 2023

Total Grants and Donated Funds: \$116,331.9 Expenses: \$26,304.17
Total Assets: \$266,493.04 Total Liabilities: \$0

Board and Non-board Volunteer Hours:

2021: 1448.5
2022: 2369
2023: 2,773

One result of our 5-year strategic plan was that we cannot continue to grow to meet our larger goals of land preservation without hiring a staff person as all other Land Trusts have done. Therefore, we have been raising matching funds to include in grant applications toward hiring our first staff person.

In 2024, with your continuing support, our focus will be to help acquire our Yachats viewshed for restoration, preservation and soft recreation; hire a staff person who will develop a comprehensive fundraising program to further VtF's mission through multiple revenue sources; and with our board members and volunteers achieving these goals and others; vigilant, always, to preserving our local cultural history and archaeological sites.

Please consider donating in 2024. Your support will be vital and is sincerely appreciated to support these goals.

2023 View the Future Accomplishments

Strengthened Internal Capacity

- Expanded board membership to include Kevin Gallagher, (JD/MA) is the Director of Emergent Resilience, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that helps build resilience for a climate changing world. Kevin previously worked as an environmental attorney in Washington, D.C., where he advised President Barack Obama's Blue-Ribbon Commission on America's Nuclear Future and acted as lead associate on Federal loan guarantee and tax credit applications that were awarded more than \$500 million on more than \$1.5 billion in project capital.
- Solicited volunteers to fill gaps in board experience including financial and fundraising.
- Hired a consultant in 2022 to review bylaws, policies, procedures, and to guide board members in developing a 5-year strategic plan with implementation and timelines.
- Added Amanda Trail page, updated donation information, added multiple posts that go into monthly newsletter Based on Facebook weekly data, our viewership has increased 300% in 2023.
- Developed and distributed VtF's strategic plan for public distribution that in part was derived from surveys and interviews that provided feedback from the community and from

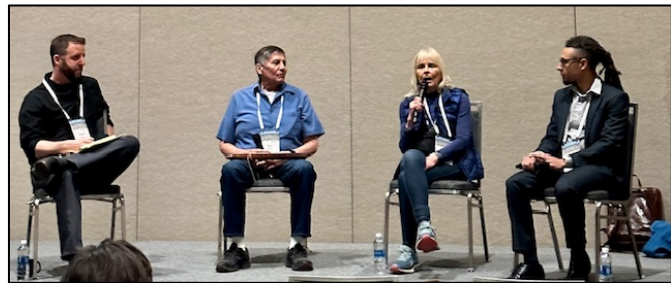
organizations' perceptions and recommendations for VtF. Seventy-two people responded on the survey and 15 agreed to be interviewed.

- Created three standing committees: executive, conservation programs, staffing, and fund-raising and public relations. Committees comprised of both board members and volunteers.
 - Our fundraising and public relations committee has begun development of a formal campaign to raise funds for restoration and management of Yachats Ridge, and for the hiring of our first paid staff person;
 - Staffing committee is seeking grants to fund a staff person
 - Conservation committee is coordinating support for the acquisition of Yachats Ridge; monitoring conservation easements; seeking new interest from private landowners placing their land in conservation easements; and seeking grant funding for the rehabilitation of Yachats Ridge.;
- Updated View the Future brochure.

Further our Mission & Vision

Cultural History and Protection

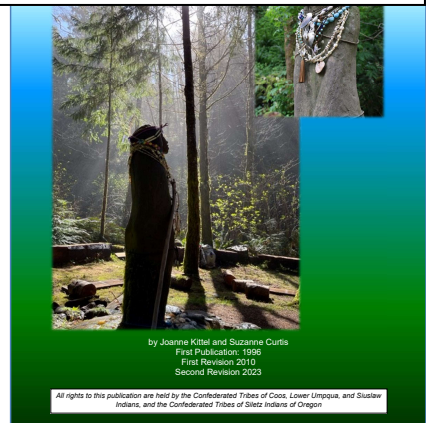
- Gave 10 presentations on the local First Nation History both locally and statewide of which 5 were with Tribal members. (Examples: Alternative School Exclusion Class; 2023 Western Regional State Park Managers Conference, the 2023 Governor's Conference on Tourism, and Conference for Racial Equality and Understanding.
- Updated and expanded the local First Nation history publication, "*The Yaxaik Indians, Origin of the Yachats Name and the Prison Camp Years*" (2023) under the supervision of the Cultural Departments of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians (CTSI) and Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians (CTCLUSI).
- Board co-chair Joanne Kittel received the Presidents' Award from the National Association of State Park Directors, giving VtF national recognition for its work with local Tribes on local Indigenous history through publication, interpretive signage and trails that call attention to that history.
- 9th year that VtF has helped with the 13th Annual New Year's Day Peace Hike sponsored by the City of Yachats and Yachats Trails Team, the CTCLUSI and other Tribal members, with additional support from Yachats Chamber of



Adam Davis ED, Oregon Humanities, Chief Donald Slyter CTCLUSI, Joanne Kittel Cochair VtF, and Zachery Stocks, ED Oregon Black Pioneers



Joanne Kittel Cochair VtF receiving the NASPD Presidents Award, and presenting at the Conference for Racial Equity and Understanding



Commerce, Yachats Fire District, Yachats Ladies Club, that bring over 250 participants throughout western Oregon.

Environmental Protection

- Worked toward the acquisition and stewardship of Yachats Ridge (Yachats viewshed) in partnership with Oregon Parks and Recreation Dept (OPRD); and with further support from McKenzie River Trust; City of Yachats, Lincoln County Commissioners and Planning Dept, Mid-Coast Watershed Council, Economic Development Council of Lincoln County, Audubon of Portland, Yachats Fire District, Discover Your Northwest, Oregon Coast Visitors Association, Yachats Chamber of Commerce, Waldport Chamber of Commerce, and over 100 community members, many whom financially contributed to our land stewardship fund



Lisa Sumption, JR Collier and Matt Rippee
OPRD; Peter Hatch, CTSI; and Joanne Kittel
Cochair VitF



Participants in one of the Yachats Ridge tours look out on the City of Yachats

- Given twenty-two tours of Yachats Ridge, involving 99 individuals from the local community, tribal, county and state agencies, and nonprofit organizations. Site tours include history, stories, geology, cultural, botanical, and biological presentations, as well as several scenic viewpoints.
- Distributed monthly publications of newsletters to web site members, used social media sites, being featured twice in Yachats News to further raise awareness and support. This has translated into raising \$116,000 in donations to the rehabilitation and stewardship of Yachats Ridge.

- Worked with two landowners to develop conservation easements within our service area.
- Continued to conduct annual inspections and reports for our 5 conservation easements totaling 43 acres of permanently protected lands.
- Identified grants for restoration and management of Yachats Ridge through public agencies, philanthropical organizations, and the local community.
- Created and presented PowerPoint and short video on the special nature and assets of a 950-acre property known as Yachats Ridge to Oregon Parks Commissioners and Yachats Chamber.



Sitting on the Cow Pie Lava Bomb in the East Meadow of Yachats Ridge



The Rare Coyote Camas on Yachats Ridge



Ocean View Drive Walkway Project, Current View



Ocean View Drive Walkway Project, Concept Drawing

- Publicized Yachats Ridge video on VtF’s website and social media sites.
- Joined the Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts and the Land Trust Alliance in 2023.

Recreation

- Initiated and coordinated with the City of Yachats installed bike racks on city property.
- Developed a fund with the generosity of the Fireside Resort for capital improvement projects on the 804 Trail (part of the Oregon Coast Trail) through dollar opt-out program through the Fireside Resort, Inc.
- Continue to raise funds for the proposed City of Yachats Estuary Board Walk that will soon be part of the Oregon Coast Trail. (A City of Yachats project, Lincoln County, Estuary Boardwalk Team comprised of three Yachats commissions and Yachats Trails Team Leadership, engineering firm, Civil West, architect, Kevin Shanley, and 24 community members who donated \$52,000 and 5000 visitors who donated \$8000 through the Fireside \$1 opt-out program.)
- Continue to see the fruition of our help with past trail projects such as more than 1000 hikers (confirmed by trail counters) visit the Amanda Trail and Amanda Suspension Bridge, and Yaxaik Trail every month, and read the interpretive signage about our local First Nation history created by View the Future under Tribal supervision on both trails. (The Amanda Trail Suspension Bridge and Yaxaik Trail were all partially funded by grants and donations obtained by VtF as were all 7 interpretive signs.)

On behalf of our thirteen board of directors and 10 volunteers, we wish you all a very safe and healthy 2024.

John Theilacker and Joanne Kittel, Co-chairs

