

# NEHALEM VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY FALL 2024 NEWSLETTER



**Executive Director**  
Tom Campbell

**Board President**  
Nan Devlin

**Vice President**  
Tom Mock

**Treasurer**  
Rob Borgford

**Secretary**  
Eileen Nordquist

**Archive Manager**  
Steven Gibson

**Board Members**  
Carl Whiting  
Marie Scovell

**NVHS IS A 501C3 NONPROFIT  
DEDICATED TO PRESERVING  
THE HISTORY OF  
THE NEHALEM VALLEY**

**LEARN MORE AT  
NEHALEMVALLEYHISTORY.ORG**

**MUSEUM HOURS ARE  
SATURDAYS 1PM - 4PM,  
YEAR-ROUND, OR BY  
APPOINTMENT**

**225 LANEDA AVE.  
MANZANITA.**

**DOCENTS WILL BE THERE  
TO GREET YOU**

Volume 1, Issue 1, Fall 2024

## NEW SEASON NEW STORIES TO SHARE

NEHALEM VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESENTS

**THE STORIES WE TELL:  
MYTH AND SCIENCE  
ON A RESTLESS COAST**  
OCTOBER 19, 3:30 PM

North County Recreation District  
36155 9th St. Nehalem  
\$10 at the door

Presented by  
**Bonnie Henderson**  
Author of *The Next Tsunami: Living on a Restless Coast*, and  
*Strand: Odyssey of Pacific Ocean Debris*

Scientists first identified the existence of a fault line off the Pacific Northwest coast—what we now call the Cascadia Subduction Zone—in the mid-1960s. It took another 20 years before geologists found evidence that that fault line routinely launches massive earthquakes that spawn huge tsunamis. Only then did academics start reexamining stories told by native people from Vancouver Island to Humboldt Bay, and collected by anthropologists beginning in the 1800s, realizing that what had long been considered by non-Indian academics to be myths were, in fact, oral history.

Cloud & Leaf will have copies of Bonnie's books for sale at the event.

Cloud & Leaf Bookstore  
We believe in the Printed Page

**EVCNR**  
EMERGENCY VOLUNTEER CORPS OF NEHALEM BAY  
EVCNR.org

**LNCT**  
Lower Nehalem Community Trust

Presenting compelling stories that share the history of the Nehalem Valley is one of the most enjoyable things we do as NVHS board members. This year, we start with two fascinating programs.

On **October 19**, the season starts with **Bonnie Henderson**, author of *The Next Tsunami: Living on a Restless Coast*. As compelling as a mystery novel, it's the story of years of scientific, geological research and compelling native oral histories that led to the discovery of the Cascadia Subduction Zone. Cloud & Leaf will be at the event if you wish to purchase the book - it's a great read.

NEHALEM VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESENTS

**BRINGING POWER TO  
THE NEHALEM VALLEY**

A History of Electricity in Tillamook County:  
The Tillamook PUD Story

Presented by  
Joanna Stelzig,  
Public Relations  
Manager  
for Tillamook PUD.

Nov. 9, 2024 3:30 pm

North County Recreation District  
36155 9th St. Nehalem

\$10 at the door  
Proceeds benefit  
NVHS education  
programs

In the early 1930s, few Oregon residents had access to electricity, and many electric companies weren't interested in building facilities to serve rural customers. The State of Oregon passed a constitutional amendment authorizing the formation of People's Utility Districts (PUDs) to give residents local control over the provision of electricity and other essential utility services. Tillamook PUD was the first PUD established in Oregon, with county voters approving the District on July 23, 1933. Getting power to the Nehalem Valley is a story on its own.

On **November 9**, we'll hear from **Joanna Stelzig** of Tillamook PUD about the life-changing project that brought electric power to the Nehalem Valley. Did you know that Tillamook County established the first PUD in Oregon? Ms. Stelzig will shine a bright light on this story that began in the 1930s.

We have several programs planned for winter and spring. We'll announce them as dates and details are confirmed.

Check our website for information:  
**nehalemvalleyhistory.org**

Follow us on Facebook:  
**Nehalem Valley Historical Society**

**Programs take place at 3:30 pm  
at North County Recreation District  
36155 9th Street, Nehalem  
\$10 at the door**

# VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Daunting tasks are no stranger to Steven Gibson, archive manager and board member of NVHS. As an internal medicine doctor at the Portland VA Medical Center for decades, he was used to uncovering mysteries of the human body. Now he is uncovering the mysteries of Nehalem Valley, and ensuring it has a long life ahead through preservation of historic records.



**Steven Gibson, Archive Manager**

Steven is working diligently to bring the archives into a modern, accessible format, a huge task given the number of individual pieces that are in the collection. He is working with professional archiving companies, computer programs, and boxes and boxes of stored material that, when completed, will allow public access to the NVHS archives for research and personal interest. He and his wife, Sharon have been generous donors to NVHS, which has been vital to this ongoing project. *Thank you Gibsons.*

# GOALS AND NEEDS

Earlier this year, NVHS conducted an annual goals setting session to help us identify what we wanted to do, when we wanted to do it, and what funding we would need to accomplish projects.

As a small, all-volunteer nonprofit, NVHS relies on membership fees for much of its budget. We apply for grants, but funding for cultural and historical projects are not easy to come by. We've been fortunate to have received small grants from the Autzen Foundation and Tillamook County Cultural Coalition.

However, it is not enough to undertake and complete big projects, such as digital archiving of historical records that Steven Gibson is working on. While much has been accomplished, thanks to volunteers, we have much more to do.

### **A few of our goals for this next year:**

- Recording and filming oral histories
- Digitizing photo collections (hundreds of images)
- Developing intake standards for archival materials
- Improving facilities with new exhibit cases
- Building a permanent showcase for historic finds
- New door for the museum
- Sump pump to prevent flooding of museum floors

If you are interested in helping on these projects, we welcome your time, effort and/or donation. You would be joining an enthusiastic group of board members and volunteers dedicated to preserving and sharing local history. Reach out to Tom Campbell, our executive director, at [info@nehalemvalleyhistory.org](mailto:info@nehalemvalleyhistory.org)

*"History cannot give us a program for the future, but it can give us a fuller understanding of ourselves, and of our common humanity, so that we can better face the future."*

**Robert Penn Warren**



## MEET OUR BOARD MEMBERS

You met **Steven Gibson**, our archive manager, on the previous page. Here's the rest of our crew - all local history buffs. We're the type of people that get as excited about the discovery of historic finds as we do about attending a Bruce Springsteen concert.



**Eileen Nordquist**, board secretary, has long and healthy roots on our community. Her family homesteaded in the Nehalem and Tillamook areas over a hundred years ago. As a young child she stayed with her grandparents in Nehalem each summer through high school.



**Tom Mock**, vice president, has been an avid supporter of NVHS for over 15 years. Upon retiring from a career in the building materials industry in Portland, moved to Manzanita to pursue his interest in local history.



**Rob Borgford**, board treasurer, is active in the community working with several nonprofit organizations. He joined our board in 2022 and has been supporting programs, including finding a new home for the Captain Bell steamboat..



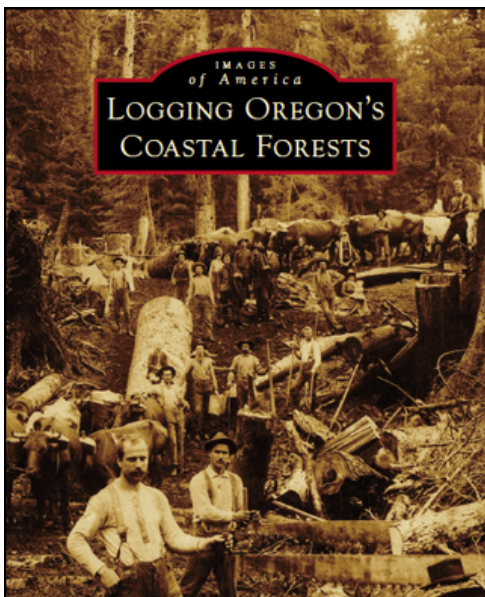
Seven generations of Scovells have called the Nehalem Valley their home, and **Marie Scovell** is 5th generation. She is a fountain of local history and helps NVHS draw a more complete picture of the area.



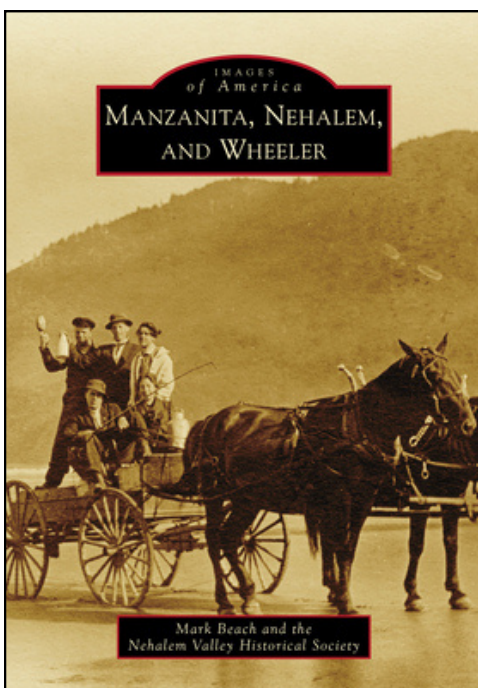
**Carl Whiting** is an educator, photographer, writer, historian and avid seeker of artifacts. He joined the NVHS board in 2023 and has undertaken several projects, including one on the history of Wheeler..



**Nan Devlin** joined the NVHS board in 2021 and last year agreed to take on the role as President. She has degrees in geography and sustainable tourism, and manages museum communications and membership.



"Logging Oregon's Coastal Forests" and "Manzanita, Nehalem and Wheeler," both books by local historian Mark Beach, are available for sale at NVHS



## NEHALEM VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY FALL 2024 NEWSLETTER

# BECOME A MEMBER

Our success is measured by our members. Without you, we wouldn't be able to preserve and share local history for future generations of researchers, students, writers and history buffs.

October is when we reach out to current members to renew their memberships. And our annual meeting is a way to introduce both full-time and part-time residents to the work we do. We've included a membership form in this newsletter. To renew or join, send a check to NVHS, PO Box 704, Manzanita OR 97130, or drop off your form at NVHS at 225 Laneda Ave. in Manzanita. We're here Saturdays from 1-4 pm, or by appointment. Contact us at [info@nehalemvalleyhistory.org](mailto:info@nehalemvalleyhistory.org)

## MESSAGE FROM TOM CAMPBELL, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF NVHS



We've been fortunate to introduce and share our history to hundreds of people this last year. In 2023, more than 850 visitors from 24 states and four countries signed our guestbook, plus several groups asked for private tours, and we're on track to exceed that in 2024. The feedback we receive is so generous, one visitor saying she had such appreciation for the "little museum that could." We also greeted local residents - many who visited their local museum for the first time. Stop by and learn about the rich history of the Nehalem Valley.



**PO BOX 704  
MANZANITA OR 97130**

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE  
[NEHALEMVALLEYHISTORY.ORG](http://NEHALEMVALLEYHISTORY.ORG)**

**HOURS: SATURDAYS, 1-4PM  
OR BY APPOINTMENT**

**[INFO@NEHALEMVALLEYHISTORY.ORG](mailto:INFO@NEHALEMVALLEYHISTORY.ORG)**