

Neal and Karen Maine

Neal and Karen Maine spearheaded marine awareness and conservation along the Northern Oregon Coast. They inspired countless educational programs (such as Sea Week and the Beach and Estuary Discovery Programs) but their crown jewel may very well have been Karen's initial idea for what is now the Haystack Rock Awareness Program.

After Karen's passing in 2006, her husband Neal continued to work towards their vision, becoming the first executive director of the North Coast Land Conservancy. Even after his thirty-year career as an award-winning biology teacher at Seaside High School, he continued to pursue his primary passion: to make a deeper connection to the coastal system, and to invite others to do the same.

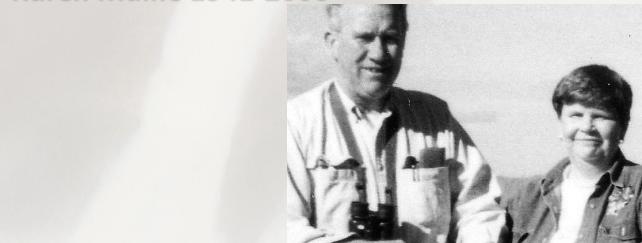
Using his photography to showcase his experiences and observations, he dedicated his considerable energies to growing the public's greater appreciation of living in this place that he considers paradise. Through his photography business, Pacific Light Images, and a partnership with Fairweather House and Gallery, he continues to raise funds for the North Coast Land Conservancy's conservation mission of increasing awareness coastal ecology, and the wildlife with which we all share this region's estuaries, waterways, wetland, and forests.

"Some 20 years ago it was the privilege of my husband and I to co-found the Haystack Rock Awareness Program. At first, just Neal and I (and two or three friends) handled it, but gradually, because Neal is a man of vision, he encouraged others to join, and for he and I to step back—but I was reluctant to let go. Most moms don't want to recognize their children have grown up. So we did just that, and how wonderful it was to see the caring, competent people who had also caught the vision step forward, showing what Haystack Rock has to offer, yet protecting it at the same time; keeping the program growing and going.

"It is most gratifying to see how they have held true to the original mission: give the people only as much as they want – don't dump everything on them or turn it into a time of testing! Help them to see they can take back to their own hometown a form of the program, tailoring it to their needs. One woman was so carried away by the whole concept she even held her little dog up to look through a microscope as she was explaining to him what he was looking at.

"In the process of the program, many people have been educated, not just in mind, but in heart. Thank you, Haystack Rock Awareness Program, for what you have done and what you are doing. May God bless you as you continue to be good stewards and guardians of God's creation and His creatures"

Karen Maine 1941-2006



The Maine Event



**Celebrating Marine Life
and Conservation
On the Oregon Coast**

**A Fund Raising Event
Today all admission
proceeds go to:**

**North Coast Land Conservancy,
Friends of Haystack Rock, and the
Wildlife Center of the North Coast**



Friends of Haystack Rock

It all started with a camera and an aquarium. Neal, an avid photographer and former Seaside High School teacher, was photographing intertidal animals found in the tide pools surrounding Haystack Rock in Cannon Beach. As Neal went about his work, Karen noticed how interested people were in what Neal was doing. A thought struck Karen: "Wouldn't be nice if there were volunteers down at the beach, to introduce visitors to all the wondrous marine life?" And just like that, the Puffin Club - the precursor to the Haystack Rock Awareness Program - was formed.

This volunteer group made it their mission to go down to Haystack Rock during the lowest tides of the year and chat with anyone who was interested in the abundant marine life surrounding the Rock. From the visiting seabirds (which return to Haystack Rock every year to nest and raise their young) to the year-round residents inhabiting the tidal pools.

The success of the Puffin Club inspired the City of Cannon Beach to create the Haystack Rock Awareness Program, and in 1991 Haystack Rock was designated as one of seven protected Oregon Marine Gardens on the Oregon Coast. To this day, not only does the intertidal life surrounding Haystack Rock continue to thrive, but the program has also inspired generations of marine scientists and conservationists, as well as other marine educational and conservation programs.



North Coast Land Conservancy

The North Coast Land Conservancy was created in 1986 with the idea of approaching conservation cooperatively rather than confrontationally. The goal was to engage the whole community in determining what was best for the people, plants, and wildlife of the North Oregon Coast, and to work together as a whole to achieve that.

The first building block was put in place in 1991, when the Land Conservancy saved a 15-acre parcel of private timberland adjacent to Saddle Mountain State Park, a park known for its rare plant species. This was the first biodiversity-based conservation proposal ever seen by the state and federal agencies involved in the negotiations. Since then, North Coast Land Conservancy has protected thousands of acres of land in Clatsop, Tillamook, and Lincoln counties, by acquiring land outright or by obtaining conservation easements on private land.



Wildlife Center of the North Coast



The WCNC is the only wildlife care hospital in the region, and serves communities along the central and northern Oregon coast and cares for more than 1,000 animals in a given year. Their center specializes in seabird rehabilitation, but provides professional medical care to all native wild birds and most native mammals in need. A variety of seabirds, raptors, ducks, songbirds and mammals come through their doors every year, each in need of some kind of care. Whether injured, sick, starving or orphaned, they work hard to take care of their every need, get them healthy, and released back into the wild where they belong.

WCNC relies on public donations and grants to fund their daily operations.