



# CoastLines

The League of Women Voters ® of Curry County

Volume 31, Issue 4

[www.lwvcurry.org](http://www.lwvcurry.org)

November 2014

## Mining at Red Flat?

By Lucie La Bonté

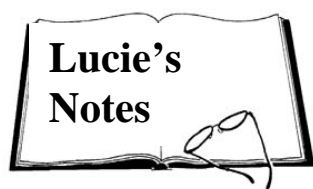
The end goal of sampling for nickel and other minerals on National Forest lands up Hunter Creek and Pistol River would be to mine according to Obie Strickler, Geologist representing Red Flat Mining Company. LWVCC held three meetings on the issue. Speaking in Port Orford was Ann Vileisis President of the Kalimiopsis Audubon, in Brookings David Lacey, the Native Fish Society. The final meeting in Gold Beach hosted Lacey and Mr. Strickler who was invited to all three meetings. Vileisis and Mark Sherwood Director of the Southcoast District of the Native Fish Society were present in Brookings and Gold Beach as well.

Questions that came up in Brookings and Port Orford were asked of Strickler in Gold Beach such as how rain affected the mining activity, bonding responsibilities and clean up. Also asked were questions pertaining to the Riddle Mine closed in 1996 and what happens if there is an earthquake?

Ann Vileisis, author, speaking in Port Orford explained concerns that many groups opposing the mining activity along with Curry County and the City of Gold Beach. It was explained that there are two proposals located in Curry County, one at the headwaters of California's Smith River and the one up Hunter Creek/Pistol River. Most nickel now comes from Indonesia and the Ukraine. These areas are sensitive botanical areas as well as headwaters to Coho, Chinook and Steelhead bearing streams. Even though Coho is listed as a threatened species in these rivers the 1872 Mining Act trumps both the Endangered Species Act and the Clean Water Act and can move forward. The US Forest Service is the permitting agency.

David Lacey, 20 year resident of Hunter Creek and a fishing guide spoke in Brookings. Living on Hunter Creek he petitioned residents in the area and of those at home only one did not sign his petition opposing the mining. His concerns are for the economic impacts to fishing and tourism, central Curry County's leading industries. He also voiced concerns about possible contamination of the water source most residents use for drinking water. He said that the City of Gold Beach came out opposed to providing water for the sampling operations.





Happy Holidays:

With the holiday season underway we are participating in community bazaars as fundraising opportunities. November we had a table at the Gold Beach Bazaar and Dec 6 visit our table in Port Orford at the Senior Center.

In November we learned a lot about Nickel Mining and two nearby proposals. One on the Smith River in California that shares headwaters with the Chetco River and one in the National Forest at the headwaters of Hunter Creek and Pistol River, south of Gold Beach.

In January we will be having discussions of LWVOR positions, L WVCC positions and study recommendations. This will be a good time for members to recommend action to the Board on the Nickel Mining Proposals or a study if necessary. We also have many other good study topics in Curry County. Remember, if you propose a study you need a Chair and the ability to build a committee. Over the holidays think about what is important to you. It's your County. Join us for the fun events coming up and have a Happy Holiday Season!  
Lucie

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### *Coast Lines*

*A publication of the League of Women Voters ® of Curry County*

*Coast Lines is produced 11 times a year by the League of Women Voters of Curry County.*

Web site: [lwvcurry.org](http://lwvcurry.org)  
Election Info: [vote411.org](http://vote411.org)



## Holiday Party

Thanks for all your responses to the holiday party. We look forward to seeing you all at 1 p.m. at Mangia Buff Italian Dining, on December 7 in Gold Beach. This is a fun social event, guaranteed to generate lively discussions on local issues - and some good food and fun.

## Volunteer

The Curry League's Gala is just around the corner and it's chair, Alyssa Babin, needs your help. This fun evening, set for February 28, takes a lot of preparation and every little bit counts. Interested? Email Alyssa at: [lyssa.kate@gmail.com](mailto:lyssa.kate@gmail.com)..

Membership volunteers also are needed; an ongoing task, it's easy. Bring friends to meetings. Or, ask for help If you would like to organize a membership tea. Teas are a fun way to gain members and learn more for yourself about the League.

### Nickel Mining Continued from Page 1

According to Strickler the resource should be inventoried due to possible shut downs in countries where mining is now taking place. In the 1950s chromium was mined in Curry County and stockpiled in case of a national emergency. Nickel is used in creating stainless steel for medical supplies and for use in cell phones. One member of the public asked if there were any radioactive materials at the sites and he said "no". There is asbestos but not the form that is hazardous. He agreed it is better to mine in areas with lower rainfall but added mining is done in Indonesia and the Philippines where there are heavy rain falls. He said this would be surface or strip mined but Oregon has strict bonding and recovery laws. There would be no smelting but the minerals would be leach processed with sulfuric acid. His company has put up a bond for the sampling. He said some sampling areas had been moved due to environmental concerns and that the company does have to follow the NEPA permitting process. His company will decide whether to go forward or not based on economic gain. When asked about jobs he believes it will create jobs. He said moving forward is the end goal and even though many test sites do not pan out this one does have good potential due to the size of the mineral deposits. It is the quality and demand that will determine the future.

Lacey and Vileisis expressed concerns for fish, rare plant species, water quality and this wild and scenic area with free flowing (dam free) rivers.

*At this time the LWVCC, LWVOR and LWVUS have no positions on mining other than opposing Marine Mineral Mining.*

Look for more information in the *Curry Coastal Pilot* who covered Brookings and Gold Beach Meetings.



## League of Women Voters of Curry County Calendar 2014-2015

<b>December</b>	6	Fundraiser	Port Orford	
	7	Holiday Party	Gold Beach	
<b>January</b>	8	Board Meeting	Brookings: <i>Babin Home</i>	10 a.m.
	15	Unit Meeting: Program Planning, State and Local Positions	Gold Beach City Hall	5:30 p.m.
	20	Unit Meeting: Program Planning, State and Local Positions	Brookings Brian Scott Art Gallery	5:30 p.m.
	20	Unit Meeting: Program Planning, State and Local Positions	Port Orford Library	1 p.m.
<b>February</b>	10	Unit Meeting: Mental Health in Justice System	Port Orford Library	1 p.m.
	12	Board Meeting	<i>Port Orford: Alexander Home</i>	10 a.m.
	17	Unit Meeting: Mental Health in Justice System	Brookings <i>Location TBA</i>	5:30 p.m.
	20	Unit Meeting: Mental Health in Justice System	Gold Beach City Hall	5:30 p.m.
	28	Gala Event	Gold Beach Event Center	
<b>March</b>	10	Unit Meeting: LWVOR Children at Risk	Port Orford Library	1 p.m.
	12	Board Meeting	Gold Beach City Hall	10 a.m.
	17	Unit Meeting: LWVOR Children at Risk	Brookings Brian Scott Art Gallery	5:30 p.m.
	19	Unit Meeting: LWVOR Children at Risk	Gold Beach City Hall	5:30 p.m.
<b>April</b>	9	Board Meeting	Brookings: <i>Babin Home</i>	10 a.m.
	14	Unit Meeting: LWVOR Children at Risk	Port Orford Library	1 p.m.
	16	Unit Meeting: LWVOR Children at Risk	Gold Beach City Hall	5:30 p.m.
	21	Unit Meeting: LWVOR Children at Risk	Brookings Brian Scott Art Gallery	5:30 p.m.
<b>May</b>	1-3	LWVOR Convention	Eugene Valley River Inn	
	16	LWVCC Annual Meeting	Gold Beach Event Center	2 p.m.

## ‘Tis the Season

Holidays! What a great time of the year - all the fun and the opportunity to make money! The next Curry League bazaar is coming right up in Port Orford, December 6, at the Senior Center. Raffle tickets for the print “Cocktails at the White House” and 2014-15 Coupon books, with great bargains. That’s in addition to some fun donated items for Christmas giving.

This will be the League’s second holiday bazaar. The first was held November in Gold Beach.



## **Positions on Tap for January**

In January we will be going over LWVOR and LWVCC positions. If you have an interesting topic that is not included in the current positions this is the time to discuss with your unit possible studies for next year. Study proposals can be sent to the Board for consideration and support at the Annual Meeting. Studies can also be proposed at the Annual Meeting. If your idea goes to the Board be sure you are willing to work on the study. Studies are usually 2 years but we have done some in one year. It is an interesting process for the committee developing the unbiased material, writing up the study and then presenting it to the units for consensus. That is how we formulate positions and what makes the League of Women Voters unique.

## **Coupon Books- Great Value, Easy Stocking Stuffers!**

Discounts and deals in the 2015 LWVCC coupon book are even greater than last year's! Thanks to volunteers, 40 businesses throughout the county are participating.

For special gifts, buy the new book early by contacting a board member or get one (or more!) at the Port Orford Holiday Bazaar December 6 at the Senior Center (TIME)

Wait until you see what's included: discount dining at Curry County's finest restaurants, specials on gifts, discounts on hair styling and much more! By spending \$25 for one coupon book or \$45 for two, you support your League and save money until the end of 2015.

Support the businesses that help make it all happen:

**BROOKINGS:** Art Alley Grille, Barrons Home Furnishings, Black Trumpet Bistro, Blue Water Cafe and Lounge, Coastal Copiers Sales & Leasing, Computer Fusion, Dee Ann's Tea Room Cafe, Harbrook Jewelers, Oil Can Henry's, Southcoast Fitness Center, Sporthaven Marina Bar & Grill, Tangles Salon, Wright's Custom Framing and Art Supplies.

**GOLD BEACH:** Barnacle Bistro, Gray Whales Gallery, Picture This Photography and Custom Framing, Corner Drug and Gifts Mangia Buff Italian Dining, Panther's Den Pizza and Deli, Spinner's Seafood Steak and Chophouse, The Ping Flamingo, Marna, TN'T Electronics, Finish Line Office Services, Sacred Gifts 101.

**PORT ORFORD:** Dad's Coins Collectables & Antiques, Port & Starboard Restaurant & Lounge, Redfish Restaurant, Sea Breeze Florist, Wooden Nickel Handcrafted Myrtlewood, Finch's Custom Jewelry, South Coast Gourmet, Wild Properties Management, UR Beachin' Treasures, The Wool Company, Pampered Pooches, Port Orford Coastline Garage, Cut N Dry, Computer Bytes, Tasty Kates.
















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## *Coast Lines*

League of Women Voters of Curry County  
P O Box 1600  
Brookings, OR 97415

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\_\_\_\_\$60 ONE-YEAR individual membership is due on July 1 of the current year.

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\_\_\_\_YES, I would like to receive *CoastLines* by email, saving LWVCC over \$10 a year in postage and printing.

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Additional contributions - checks made out to League of Women Voters of Oregon Education Fund (LWVOREF) and mailed to the LWVCC Treasurer are tax deductible.