

Friends of Willapa National Wildlife Refuge  
Press Release

## A Night about Ellsworth Creek

October 19th  
Ocean Park, WA

Dozens of people enjoyed an evening with Tom Kollasch, manager of the Ellsworth Creek Preserve for The Nature Conservancy of Washington. They learned why Ellsworth Creek Preserve is such a treasure as it encompasses an incredible diversity of life.

Kollasch described the Conservancy's efforts to restore this 5,000 acre watershed near the Willapa National Wildlife Refuge. Ellsworth Creek contains one of the largest remaining sections of old growth forest in the area with some trees older than 800 years. Guests also learned that old growth doesn't always mean enormous trees. Old growth forests demonstrate diversity in the forest canopy, offering ideal habitat for native plants and animals to flourish. Twelve of the thirteen amphibians found in Washington State are found on this Preserve. Two of the many interesting species found on the Preserve include the Warty Jumping Slug and the Pacific Giant Salamander that can grow upwards of two feet in cool waters. Six newly identified species of millipedes have already been discovered on the Preserve.

Kollasch shared with guests The Nature Conservancy's vision and goals for using the watershed as a living laboratory for forest restoration research. "We have a unique opportunity to watch the effects of change in the forest and how it impacts the watershed all the way to the tidal waters" stated Tom. Ellsworth Creek Preserve shares a five mile border with the Willapa National Wildlife Refuge and enjoys a strong partnership with the Refuge as well.

To learn more or join Friends of Willapa National Wildlife Refuge visit [www.willapabay.org/~fwnwr](http://www.willapabay.org/~fwnwr) or contact Bev Arnoldy, 360-665-0115 or [beva@pacifier.com](mailto:beva@pacifier.com).

Media Contact:  
Shelly Pollock  
Friends of Willapa National Wildlife Refuge  
p: 360.665.5388  
e: [shelly@ourbeach.org](mailto:shelly@ourbeach.org)  
P.O. Box 1480  
Ocean Park, WA 98640  
[www.willapabay.org/~fwnw](http://www.willapabay.org/~fwnw)



Tom Kollasch in front of booth



Tom Kollasch's talk