

The eagles will vote

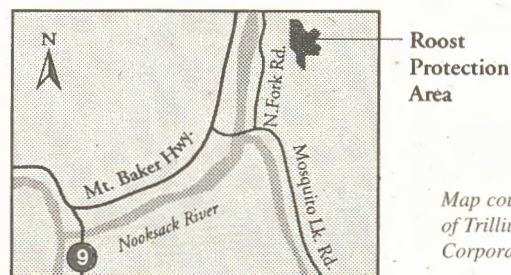
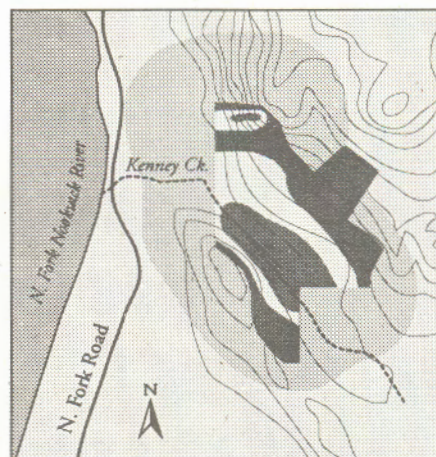
Rand Jack

Biologists working on the project believe that this is the first night roost habitat restoration effort ever tried.

The Whatcom County Land Trust and the Trillium Corporation have agreed to a conservation easement to protect in perpetuity the Kenny Creek bald eagle night roost. The eagles congregate there to sleep after a day of feeding on salmon in the North Fork of the Nooksack River. This conservation easement is unique in that the eagles will ultimately determine the location of the land protected under the easement.

As part of the 1993 land exchange orchestrated by the Land Trust, Trillium acquired the Kenny Creek night roost from the Department of Natural Resources, a result sought by neither Trillium nor the Land Trust. At that time Trillium promised to protect the eagle roost with a conservation easement. That promise is now being fulfilled. For the past two years the Land Trust and Trillium have been working with wildlife biologists and eagle specialists to develop a habitat protection plan for the eagles at Kenny Creek. A plan, incorporated into a conservation easement, has been agreed.

Communal night roosts are an essential aspect of bald eagle habitat, and thus, are critical for stable, healthy eagle populations. After a day of foraging for food, eagles gather in a staging area near the river in the late afternoon, and from there move to a night roost. Though wildlife biologists do not know for certain, they believe that communal winter night roosts serve a variety of functions,



Roost Protection Area

Map courtesy of Trillium Corporation

including the exchange of information regarding the location of food and the conservation of energy through sleeping in slightly warmer air columns created in forest micro climates. Both the creation of favorable micro climates and the availability of adequate perches require certain forest types and structures.

Prior to acquisition by Trillium, the Kenny Creek area was subject to several episodes of logging. Nevertheless, according to studies stretching back to the mid 1970's, as many as 25 eagles continued to night roost in the vicinity between November and March.

In addition to looking at past studies, biologists retained by Trillium made ten surveys of the site in

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Thoughts from the President

Chris Moench

WCLT Board of Directors President

Volunteer Opportunities

Opportunities are open for people to serve on committees and possibly on the board of directors.

Some of the areas where we need people with experience are:

Personnel management

Public Relations

Community Education

Local Business

News Media

Fund-Raising

We also have occasional need for people who want to be called on to help with the following tasks:

Land Monitoring

Fund-Raising

Event Production

Mailing

If you would like to work with the Trust but don't see your skill listed above please contact our office, 650-9470.

We are always open to new ideas for moving the Trust forward.

The rancorous debates of the recent political season were focused, to a great extent, on our relationship to the land. The turmoil set me thinking on the nature of land stewardship practiced by the land trust movement.

Land stewardship is a kind of marriage, if you will, a sacred trust entered into between the land owner, the land and the communities that live upon it—human, animal and plant. Each of us, land owners or not, owe our existence to fertile land.

The work of land trusts runs counter to our industrial society's assumption that accumulating individual wealth is the highest goal. Coupling modern legal tools with people's love of natural places, land trusts create opportunities for us to give back. By individually contributing land, money or time we give a gift to the land and people living today and to the grandchildren of our grandchildren.

National Rally gathers land trusts from across the country

In October WCLT board members Sharon Digby, Cindy Klein and I had the good fortune to attend the national rally of the Land Trust Alliance on the Monterey Peninsula in California. We came home with a host of information and useful tools to help the Trust carry out its mission.

In reflecting on the rally two images come strongly to mind. First, is San Jose's vast expanse of asphalt and concrete at the south end of San Francisco Bay. Once one of the world's premier saltwater estuaries, it was home to millions of water birds. As our plane banked through dense October air I was able to spot only one moderate size city park and a small section of shoreline, perhaps 150 acres, that still showed the original estuary channels. All else was filled, paved and built upon. Today the city labors from the uninspired vision of its forefathers.

My second, and more positive impression was the rally itself. Gathered for four days were 950 people from across the nation who make it their cause to work for voluntary land conservation. In places as diverse as the deserts of Arizona, New Hampshire forests and Alaska's Ketchikan Peninsula thousands of private citizens are working through local trusts to protect lands they love. According to the Land Trust Alliance approxi-

mately one new trust is born each week. It is a fast growing national movement!

WCLT opens office

The Whatcom County Land Trust is growing as well: Thanks to a generous organizational development grant from the Wilburforce Foundation, we now have an office in the Bay Street Village at 301 W. Holly Street, Bellingham. Also, we hired a multi-talented Administrative Secretary, Sheri Emerson. A lifelong resident of Whatcom County, Sheri is blessed with just the right temperament to coax ever higher achievements from our diverse and headstrong board. Already she has mothered us through setting up and equipping the office, our first annual fund-raising campaign, production of this issue of "The Steward" and innumerable daily brush fires.

Our Conservation Coordinator, Robyn duPré, has continued helping the Trust with its central work of conserving land. In addition to pursuing and implementing numerous conservation projects, she coordinated a magnificent celebration of the acquisition of Squire's Lake by Whatcom County. (That project, and the Trust's role in it, was detailed in our Summer 95 newsletter.)

With a new office and additional staff the Trust is striding forward to serve as one of the primary instruments for the people of Whatcom County to preserve the natural places they love.

Please join us at our Open House

I invite all of our supporters to our Office Open House on Thursday evening, November 30, (See page 8). Or drop by for a visit any weekday during our office hours Monday-Thursday, 10:00 am-1:00 pm. If you are interested in getting involved, please ask about committee openings or other volunteer opportunities. We are at the beginning of a new effort to bring more people into volunteer work for the Trust.

Of course, one vital way you can support the Trust is with financial contributions. We strive to make our operations "lean and mean." Every dollar you contribute is a direct investment in the future integrity of Whatcom County's most precious resources—its natural and farm lands.

These lands are your home. This Trust is your trust into the future. ❁

Eagles

(Continued from page 1)

the winter of 1993-94. They surmised that the eagles had been displaced by logging from preferred habitat and that it would be desirable, from an eagle's point of view, to refurbish the former prime habitat and return it to its preferred status. These assumptions, which became the working basis for the habitat protection plan, led Trillium and the Land Trust for the first time into a vital new undertaking called restoration biology.

Under the conservation easement, the night roost protection area is divided into four zones.

- **Permanent Roost Areas** - 41.1 acres which were most frequently used by eagles during the 1993-94 surveys. This area is permanently protected and will be the site of enhancement work conducted by Trillium according to the Communal Night Winter Roost Protection Area Enhancement Plan. The goal of enhancement is to improve the structure of the forest to make it more attractive to eagles as a night roost.

- **Permanent Buffer Zones** - 57.5 acres of forest land used to buffer the Permanent Roost Areas. This area will also be subject to enhancement work.

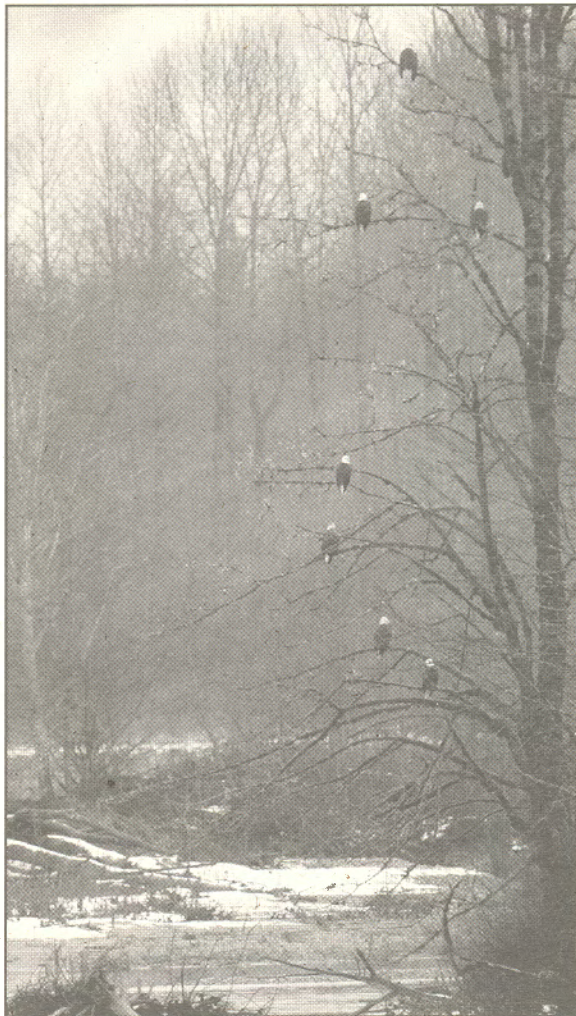
- **Temporary Buffer Zone** - 70 acres where some roosting now occurs and where logging will be prohibited until 85% of the eagles roost in the Permanent Roost Areas.

- **Seasonal Timing Restriction Area** - an additional quarter mile buffer of restricted activity between November 1 and March 31.

In other words, the 168.6 acres currently used for night roosts will be protected until the eagles decide that Trillium has done an adequate job of enhancing the habitat in the Permanent Roost Areas and vote with their wings to spend the night there.

With written notice to the Land Trust, Trillium may initiate eagle surveys conducted by wildlife biologists according to an agreed on protocol. Under the conservation easement, the Land Trust may designate someone to accompany the survey team. Provision is also made for special surveys under extreme storm conditions, with an agreement to conduct further discussions and consideration of adjustments if these conditions affect roosting patterns.

The biologists working on the project believe that this is the first night roost habitat restoration effort ever tried. At the very least, the eagles will keep what they now have in the way of habitat. Hopefully, they will end up with night roosts more



©1995 Keith Lazelle

Eagles will ultimately determine the location of the land protected by this conservation easement.

suitable to their needs.

The Temporary Buffer Zone will be released from restriction only after an average of at least 85% of night roosting occurs for three consecutive years in the Permanent Roost Areas. The eagles get to decide for themselves the most desirable night roost habitat. Presumably no better authority on the subject exists, a fact that human beings have been slow to recognize.

This conservation easement represents a small but exciting step for the Land Trust and an innovative, generous undertaking for Trillium in repairing the earth and giving eagles a voice in their own destiny. On behalf of the eagles and those who cherish their presence, the Land Trust would like to thank Trillium and David Syre, Steve Brinn, and the foresters at Trillium for this gift of a conservation easement and a promise kept. ❁

Our working forests: The Land Trust seeks economic

Gordon Scott

Creative solutions are needed to meet the needs of land owners, as well as habitat, open space, and watershed protection.

Driving from Bellingham to Deming or Acme, your view is filled with the forested lowlands and foothills - the working forests of Whatcom County.

Owned by local timber companies and individuals, these are the forests that provide logs for local mills, living wage employment for local woodworkers, habitat for many species of wildlife, and the green foreground of our view of Mt. Baker.

The *Natural Heritage Plan for Whatcom County* recognized the importance of the working forests of Whatcom County as valuable natural and cultural assets, which should be maintained for future generations.

The county's working forests offer many benefits to our community. They grow valuable timber and provide a wealth of wildlife habitat, open space, wetland, and aquifer recharge areas. The working forests are a vital buffer between the intensively used urban areas of the Puget lowlands and the wildland preserves of the high Cascade alpine.

3,000 acres of forest converted to nonworking land uses

There are over 330,000 acres of forest land in western Whatcom County, yet every day, acres of forest are converted to homes, businesses, roads, and other urban uses. Over five, ten or twenty years the cumulative loss of our forest lands to intensive urban uses, fragments and threatens the useful role these working forests serve.

Roughly 3,000 acres of forest land in Whatcom County were officially converted to homesites and other nonworking land uses between 1990 and 1994.

The Trust sees two forces contributing to the decline of the working forest land base: 1. Rising market value for forest land as homesites rather than timber growing soil; 2. Increasing environmental restrictions on timber harvest. In combination, these forces create a disincentive for forestland owners to keep their land growing trees.

The Trust also recognizes that timber and forestry is an important traditional livelihood for many in our community. Timber work provides living wage jobs in an increasingly low wage service economy.

Finally, the conversion of forest land to urban

and suburban uses can fragment wildlife habitat, increase stream flows and flooding, and lead to the invasion of exotic species of both plant and animal into the natural environment.

For all of these reasons, the Trust recognizes that the loss of working forests is a threat to our natural heritage and our way of life.

New ideas needed to maintain working forest lands

Recently, members of the Land Trust have discussed the need to find new tools and techniques to help forest land owners maintain the working forest land base of the county. Conservation easements such as the Eagle Night Roost agreement recently signed between the Trust and the Trillium Corporation, (See page 1), are examples of one type of conservation technique that blends the habitat protection for bald eagles with modified forest management actions.

This complex easement was tailored to the specific needs of the bald eagle population as well as to the management options available to the Trillium forest managers. Completion of the easement required the participation of technical experts in wildlife biology and forest management along with our own experts in conservation easements.

The eagle roost easement is possible for a large timber corporation such as Trillium due to its economic and management flexibility. However, the majority of the productive forest land in Whatcom County is owned by landowners with small forest parcels. To meet their needs, as well as the habitat, open space, and watershed protection mission of the Land Trust, creative ecological, economic, and legal solutions are needed.

Working to establish sustainable forest plans

Ideas being examined by the Land Trust focus on offering forest land owners a mix of services that will give them financial stability from their forest land investments while ensuring ecological sustainability for the larger Whatcom County forested ecosystem.

These services could include forest planning and harvest management that can be certified as ecologically sustainable by independent third

and environmental sustainability

parties. This certification would insure timber management actions that meet strict ecological standards. Certification would also allow a land owner to sell their forest products in specialty markets that command higher prices because of market demand for products from sustainably managed forest land.

The forest management plans could identify alternative forest products, such as floral greens, mushrooms, or other non-timber products. This could enhance and diversify the landowner's economic return while reducing dependence on a traditional single crop timber rotation.

Finally, by placing conservation easements on forestlands that have a sustainable management plan, the long-term ecological stewardship of the forest land would be guaranteed.

The advantages to the forest land owner under

this scenario would include a sustainable forest and a higher value for the wood products from their land, along with the possible tax advantages of a conservation easement. The Trust envisions working with qualified local forestry consultants to establish certifiably sustainable forest plans and develop relationships with distributors of sustainable wood products to insure forestland owners a market for their wood and forest products.

These ideas are part of the Trust's recognition that to fulfill our mission, we will have to expand our traditional tool box of services to meet the evolving economic and ecological needs of the community. ✪

Conservation Futures Levy ended by County Council

Public will vote in 1996

Bruce Smith

On Halloween night, the Whatcom County Council voted 4-3 to eliminate the Conservation Futures Levy for 1996 and to seek the advice of the voters in November 1996 on whether the measure should be restored.

In 1991, the County Council appointed the Natural Heritage Task Force, a citizens' committee, to develop a plan for the protection and preservation of the County's most important scenic and natural areas. After an extensive series of public hearings and fact finding, the Task Force formulated a comprehensive set of recommendations, which were adopted as the Natural Heritage Plan.

The Plan recommended, and the Council adopted, a property tax levy of \$6.25 per \$100,000 valuation to fund the acquisition of property. The Task Force and Council determined at the time that this Conservation Futures Levy was essential to implement the Plan by allowing the preservation of property by its purchase and to avoid unfair "takings."

With the facilitation of the Land Trust, conservation Futures funds have made possible two purchases to date, and in both cases provided a match to generate other funding. One hundred forty acres on Chuckanut Mountain were purchased, using \$554,000 of Conservation Futures funds, and a State grant awarded in an equal amount. This past summer, Conservation Futures funds of \$300,000 were combined with an equal private donation for the purchase of Squires Lake.

Councilman Ward Nelson introduced the resolution to stop the collection of Conservation Futures funds, and he was joined by Barbara Brenner, Alvin Starkenburg and Marlene Dawson. Ken Henderson, Larry Harris, and Bob Imhof voted to keep the Conservation Futures Levy in place.

The Council, after much debate, voted to let county voters recommend in November 1996 whether or not to reintroduce the Conservation Futures Levy. ✪

We're off to a great start

Julie Carpenter

Fund-raising Committee Chair

*We run a
"low budget"
operation,
and all gifts
are appreci-
ated.*

Thanks to you, our first annual fund-raising campaign is off to a great start. At press time we've received donations totaling over \$6,000.00.

The contributions include one gift of \$1,000, and many others of smaller amounts. We run a "low budget" operation, and all gifts are appreciated.

There is still time to contribute. Please use the envelope provided with this newsletter. All contributions are tax deductible, and a thank-you letter will be sent to you as your receipt.

In addition to sending in your donation, you can help by getting the word out to others who should be supporters, but don't yet receive the newsletter and may not contribute to the Trust. Thanks to

your generous support, the Trust is able to publish and distribute these materials to anyone who requests them. Please send us the names and addresses of anyone you would like to add to our mailing list.

A portion of your donation helps to make possible the excellent services of our office and support staff. The Trust is continuously engaged in land protection activities. Our staff and facilities make us much more effective.

On behalf of the Board of the Whatcom County Land Trust, thank you so much for helping to make this important work possible. We appreciate your contributions immensely. ✨

Nesset Farm work day a great success

Robyn duPré

It was a warm, sunny day in early September when volunteers from the United Way gathered at the Nesset Farm to spend a day with hammer, paint brush, and shovel doing a bit of fall maintenance on the historic homestead.

The Nesset Farm was settled during the 1890s, with various additions and structures constructed over the years. The last remaining members of the

Nesset family, Tom and Ingeborg Nesset placed a conservation easement on the farm in 1990. The farm was put into a trust upon the death of Tom Nesset, with the hope that it will eventually be owned by Whatcom County Parks. To help preserve the farm's historic structures until then, the Land Trust organizes periodic work days on the farm.

As a part of the United Way's Day of Caring, volunteers finished porch reconstruction started during last fall's work day, painted the shed, hung gutters, patched a porch roof, shored up the wood shed roof and cleaned up the gardens. It was a tired crew that ate fresh picked blackberries with cream at the days end!

Our thanks to all of the United Way volunteers who gave a day's labor to the farm: **Jamie Carter, Siha Tup, Suzy Hartman, Paulette and Fred Gilbert, Pam West, Shelley Griffin, and Rich Dietz.**

Thanks also to Nesset Farm trustee **Russ Pfeiffer-Hoyt**, caretaker **Bill Hinely** and to United Way Day of Caring Coordinator, **Heather Marris** for her help in making the Nesset Farm work day a great success! ✨



Cleaning and painting the shed was just one of the projects United Way volunteers completed at the Nesset Farm. (Photo courtesy of Paulette and Fred Gilbert.)

Give a gift for the land this holiday season

The holidays are a time to pause and remember our many blessings. Here in Whatcom County, we are truly blessed with abundant beauty and natural resources. Rugged mountains, lush forests, rich marine shorelines and productive farmland are some of our rich natural heritage.

Instead of giving gifts that consume resources, you can help conserve resources by remembering the land and giving gift memberships to the Whatcom County Land Trust.

To give a gift membership, simply send \$25 or more to the Land Trust, noting that you would like your donation to be recorded as a gift membership. Be sure to give us the name and address of the recipient of your gift, and we'll send them a beautiful holiday card, announcing your gift. Recipients of gift memberships of \$50 or more will also receive a Land Trust coffee mug.

Throughout the year, your friends and family will be reminded of your gift when they receive copies of *The Steward*, the Land Trust's newsletter, and invitations to Land Trust events. And you'll share the satisfaction of knowing that your holiday gift giving has helped make this corner of the world just a little better. ❁

The Mission of the Whatcom County Land Trust is to preserve and protect unique natural, scenic, agricultural and open space land in Whatcom County through acquisition of perpetual conservation easements or other land interest that insure the protection of the resource value.

Whatcom County Land Trust is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization working for voluntary land conservation in Whatcom County.

The Steward is published three times each year by the WCLT. Your comments are welcomed. Complimentary copies are available by calling 650-9470.

Newsletter production

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Our appreciation to Rod Burton, Keith Lazelle, Jane Hall, and also to Cindy Bennet from Premier Graphics.

Land Trust hosts luncheon, thanks contributors to Squires Lake



On October 25, the Land Trust hosted a luncheon to recognize the people and organizations that contributed toward the acquisition of Squires Lake.


Luncheon guests braved the blustery autumn weather to visit the property and returned, a bit damp around the edges, to warm themselves by the fire in the Samish Park lodge and enjoy a wonderful lunch provided by Innisfree restaurant. Thank you to **Lynn and Fred Berman of Innisfree** for giving their time for this event.

Land Trust president Chris Moench presented contributors with a beautiful framed photograph of the lake taken by local photographer John Pratt. Many guests expressed a desire to continue working with the Land Trust to preserve the unique natural and historic places that make our county so special.


Many thanks to all those that helped with the luncheon and to those that contributed to the public acquisition of a place that will remain a jewel for the people of Whatcom County far into the future. ❁

Whatcom County Councilman Ward Nelson and Land Trust President Chris Moench at Squires Lake.

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301 W. Holly St.
Suite #U-1A

Office Hours:
10:00 am-1:00 pm.
Monday-Thursday

Phone: 650-9470
Fax: 650-0495

Office now open

**Community support
and donations are appreciated**

In order to better serve our community, WCLT has opened an office in Bellingham.

Our new office is located at 310 W. Holly Street, Bellingham, in Bay Street Village, Suite U-1A, (upstairs).

Previously, much of the Land Trust information and resource materials were stored with individual board members. Thanks to an organizational grant from the Wilburforce Foundation, and to the support of our members, we now have an office and part-time support staff to better serve our community.

You can reach us at our new address during **office hours, Monday through Thursday, 10:00 am-1:00 pm.** The WCLT phone number remains 650-9470. Our new mailing address is P.O. Box 6131, Bellingham, Washington, 98227.

We appreciate all the support we have received

from the community in setting up this office, and we especially thank the following businesses for donating office equipment or selling equipment to us at greatly discounted prices.

Ferndale Computer Service

Brett & Daugert

Tri-Co Office Products

B. B. Meat & Sausage

McEvoy Oil

Re Store

Hardware Sales

Adobe, Inc.

Lee, Smart, Cook, Martin & Patterson

Goodwin Attorney Services

You're invited to our Open House

*Celebrating our new office location:
Suite U-1A, Bay Street Village*

6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Thursday, November 30

*Blue Horse Gallery, 301 W. Holly Street,
Bellingham, Washington*

Please join us



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SQUIRES LAKE: A PARK FOR PEOPLE AND WILDLIFE

By Robyn duPré

After almost a year of negotiations, Squires Lake has been acquired for use as a low-impact county park. The Land Trust has been working with Whatcom County Parks and a private donor to bring this unique

property into public ownership. This acquisition was made possible by a generous \$300,000 donation from an anonymous local family. This beautiful 84 acre property is home to wood ducks, pileated woodpeckers, barred owls, beaver, and a variety of other creatures. The 10 acre lake and surrounding second-growth forest will be

managed by Whatcom County Parks as a low-impact recreational area and for its importance to wildlife. The property will also be protected through a conservation easement held by the Whatcom County Land Trust.

The acquisition of Squires Lake is a prime example of the kind of public/private partnership that is increasingly necessary to achieve lasting conservation in these tight budgetary times. While Whatcom



Photo by John Pratt, Pursuit Photo

County Parks will own and maintain the property as a park, the Land Trust negotiated the purchase, paid for an appraisal and found local donors to offset the acquisition, development and maintenance costs for the new park. Donations raised by the Trust for the park total more than \$360,000 and include:

- \$300,000 cash

donation: This generous donation was given by a Whatcom County family that wants to help preserve the county's special natural places. This donation equals half of the \$600,000 purchase price for the property. The provision of these private funds allowed

(continued on page 2)

THE WHATCOM COUNTY LAND TRUST MISSION

"The mission of the Whatcom County Land Trust is to preserve and protect unique, natural, scenic, agricultural, and recreational land in perpetuity through acquisition of conservation easements or other arrangements in order to promote the stewardship of the land for present and future generations."

Trust Receives Development Grant

By Bob Keller

The Whatcom County Land Trust announces that it has been awarded a \$30,000 development grant from the Wilberforce Foundation of Seattle.

Land Trust president Chris Moench said the funding will allow the Trust to reach a higher level of effectiveness in the community. "This boost from Wilberforce will allow us to open and staff a downtown office, which in turn will be a new base for membership, stewardship education, and fund raising campaigns," Moench explained. "The grant enables a two year start-up, after that membership growth and contributions will sustain the office. We're really excited."

The Land Trust, founded in 1982, has been instrumental in protecting areas such as Clark's Point, Teddy Bear Cove, the Chuckanut Mountains, the Lake Whatcom watershed, and wildlife habitat along the Nooksack River. It is currently working to implement the county's Natural Heritage Plan, and to protect the Point Roberts Heron rookery and privately owned natural lands all across the county.

Wilberforce supports civic groups seeking to upgrade their internal organization. The money cannot be used for land acquisition or any external programs.

FIRST ANNUAL FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

TO START SOON

By Julie Carpenter

"We're excited to start bringing the community as a whole more actively into the business of the Whatcom County Land Trust," said Chris Moench, President of the Whatcom County Land Trust (WCLT) Board. For the first time in WCLT history, the Board is organizing an annual fundraising campaign specifically to ask supporters for financial backing.

WCLT has promised to act as the legal steward in perpetuity for conservation properties. To make sure that the WCLT remains a sustainable organization capable of operating in perpetuity, *(continued on page 5)*

SQUIRES LAKE *(continued from page 1)*

Whatcom County Parks to acquire this site for one half its appraised value—a good deal for the tax-payers of Whatcom County!

- MKB Construction will donate their services to improve a small dam on the west end of the lake in order to ensure that the park is safe for public use. This donation is valued at approximately \$30,000.

- Wilder Construction will provide services for the construction of a parking lot and road improvements. This donation is valued at \$10,000.

- Trillium Corporation: In order to allay county concerns about the annual maintenance costs for the park, the Trillium Corporation has pledged \$10,000 towards park maintenance expenses. This donation should cover all maintenance costs for the first five years of park operation.

- Private Pledges: To date, three individuals have pledged contributions of \$1,000 - \$5,000 to be used for other park development costs. These pledges total \$11,000.

The generosity of these donors has provided the community with an unparalleled example of private individuals, businesses, non-profits and government working together to make this community a better place. "I think this is unprecedented in Whatcom County" said Land Trust board member, Rand Jack.

The Trust is very grateful to the dozens of people who worked in support of this project. Special kudos must be given to the county council members which championed the acquisition and had the vision and integrity to vote for the preservation of this beautiful place not just for our own enjoyment, but for the enjoyment of our children and our children's children—not to mention the wildlife that call this area home. Thanks to Ken Henderson, Barbara Brenner, Larry Harris and Ward Nelson for their support. Thanks also to the seller and his representatives for their cooperation and support.

Because of its unique natural features, the property will be left in its natural state, with park improvements kept at a minimum. A conservation easement on the property, held by the Land Trust, will ensure that this precious place remains in its beautiful natural state—forever.

A VERY SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR NEWSLETTER SUPPORTERS:

Thoughts From The President, Chris Moench

Last Easter morning I sat in Carl Batchelor's dining room with ten other members of our managing board, our conservation coordinator Robyn duPré; and Dyan Oldenburg, a professional consultant. It was the second day of a three-day intensive workshop aimed at charting the Trust's future through 1995 and into the 21st century.

Some observers might ask why we weren't in church that holy day, or at least outside enjoying one of this spring's most beautiful days. I can't answer for each board member, but for me working with the Trust has become a sort of religion. Giving my time to protecting the health of our natural lands, working with the good will of land owners to foster land stewardship is fundamentally spiritual. Listening to the people at that packed table Easter Sunday assured me that our shared love of the land is the basic strength of the Trust. The sacrifice of one holy sun ripe day was willingly granted by all.

Funded by a grant from the Wilberforce Foundation, the workshop was the first step in a two-month planning process. We looked at the challenges of land conservation in these times of increasing population and declining government support for environmental protection. We looked for ways that the Trust can defuse the political polarization of our community. Our mission is to identify the broad areas where we all agree and can cooperate to ensure the health of our natural lands for generations to come.

The role of the Trust is to foster such cooperation, to find and capitalize on opportunities where the public's interest in land conservation is in common with that of the land owner.

The strategy we developed through our planning process will expand our ability to find

and protect natural and agricultural lands, increase our stewardship education work, better utilize our volunteers and build our membership.

Implementation of the strategy has begun with receipt of a second Wilberforce Foundation grant to hire a part-time administrative secretary, a development consultant, develop various publicity and educational materials and open an office! Keep your eyes peeled for your invitation to our grand opening as fall approaches.

Even as we struggled through our planning to build the Trust as an organization, we have been deeply engaged in a broad range of land conservation projects, most notably the effort to add Squires Lake to the County Park system. As you'll learn from the story on page one, the Squires Lake project required enormous effort on the part of Robyn duPré, our Conservation Coordinator as well as many board members, particularly Sue Webber, Rand Jack, Bruce Smith and Michael Durbin. Realtor Richard Eggemeyer was also unflagging in his efforts and critical to the project's success.

The project required a great deal of community organizing and emphasized the need in this county for a very active and broadly supported Land Trust. There are so many important natural and agricultural lands under threat of development. The Trust is a small organization running largely on volunteer energy. In the sense that we work to protect the natural health and beauty of this county that drew and holds so many people here it is your Trust. I urge you to join us. Take part in the joy of nurturing your community and the land we all live on! Help us to bring people together to nurture the land we all love. Help us build an ethic of stewardship in the way this county grows.

The Peace of Wild Things

When despair for the world grows in me
 and I wake in the night at the least sound
 in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be,
 I go and lie down where the wood drake
 rests in his beauty on the water,
 and the great heron feeds.
 I come into the peace of wild things
 who do not tax their lives with forethought of grief.
 I come into the presence of still water.
 And I feel above me the day-blind stars
 waiting for their light. For a time
 I rest in the grace of the world, and I am free.

Wendall Berry

MAKE A DIFFERENCE TODAY!
LEAVE A LASTING LEGACY TOMORROW!!

By Bruce Smith

The success of the Land Trust depends upon hundreds of hours of unpaid work by volunteer board members. However, our successes, and growing interest in our work, have created demands that we can't satisfactorily meet with volunteers alone. The Board recently committed to address the challenges by hiring a part-time administrative secretary and renting an office.

We thought hard before committing ourselves to this additional expense. We have always operated financially "lean and mean," so that we could focus our efforts on preserving land, and not on fundraising. Regardless, it has become clear that with the volume of our work, our administrative organization is critical to our effective action.

We work for you, and need your support! The view of unspoiled Clark's Point, the recreational opportunities now open to the general public at Teddy Bear Cove, the addition of hundreds of acres on Chuckanut Mountain to Larrabee Park, and now the addition of Squires Lake to the Whatcom County Park system, to name some of our successes, all would not exist without the work of the Land Trust. Your financial support is critical to maintaining the Trust's stewardship of these lands and to the success of current and future conservation projects.

Call us, if you would like more information about our need, and how your money would be used. But be assured that we will greatly value your contribution today, and put it to work preserving our natural heritage for tomorrow.

The Whatcom County Land Trust and Local Business: Partners in Conservation

By Robyn duPré

As part of our continuing effort to involve diverse aspects of the community in land conservation, The Land Trust is launching a new program. The Trust's new **Conservation Partners Program** will match local businesses with properties under the protection of the Land Trust.

Conservation easements held by the Land Trust are perpetual; upon accepting an easement, the Trust is promising to hold and defend that easement forever. In order to ensure that we have the resources to adequately protect the lands in our care, the Land Trust generally asks property owners to make a donation to our monitoring and legal defense fund when they place a conservation easement on their land. Many property owners do not have the financial resources to make such a contribution.

Through the Trust's new **Conservation Partners Program**, the Land Trust will match local businesses or associations with individual properties under easement protection. Businesses in the Conservation Partners Program can adopt a specific property and pay the monitoring and legal defense fee for that property, or enroll in the program by making a donation to the fund and be matched with an appropriate property at a later date. When possible, the business selected will be matched with properties that are related to the type of business involved: a farm equipment dealer could adopt a dairy farm or a fishing supply store could adopt a riparian easement on a salmon stream, for example. Many small businesses may not be able to afford a \$2,000 - \$5,000 contribution all at once. They will be able to participate in the program through an annual pledge and will be able to pay their partnership fee through annual pledges.

Conservation Partners will receive a framed photograph of the land with a description of its conservation values for display in their place of business. Employees of the business would also be offered the opportunity to act as stewards of the land, conducting monitoring and other activities where appropriate; in

this way the partnership becomes personal, with people working together for the future of the land.

If you would like more information about the Conservation Partners Program, contact: the Trust's Conservation Coordinator, Robyn duPré at

P.O. Box 4455
Bellingham, WA 98227
(360) 650-9470.

FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN (continued from page 2)

the Board will be asking for help in building a better financial operating base.

Funds raised through the annual campaign will help provide annual operating expenses for the WCLT. Future plans may also include development of an endowment fund to help sustain the Trust. WCLT has all of the usual expenses associated with running a small office, including purchase of office supplies, equipment, postage, printing and photocopying costs, phone bills, utility and rent bills, safe deposit box rental, modest part-time staff costs, etc. WCLT has always maximized volunteer labor and donation of materials.

The Board's Fundraising Committee is currently developing annual campaign strategies and materials. Additional volunteers for the committee are welcomed and encouraged to join. Preliminary plans include training for Board members and other volunteers in fundraising techniques, a targeted mailing campaign, and individual contact with potential donors.

Research proves that the majority of support for non-profit organizations comes not from corporations, grants or government, but rather from private individuals. All cash contributions are, of course, tax deductible as provided by law. To volunteer or for more information, contact Julie Carpenter at 647-9464.



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WHATCOM COUNTY LAND TRUST

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