



## Saving Salmon a Foot at a Time 48,463 Feet of Nooksack Frontage Protected

by Rand Jack

The Whatcom Land Trust has protected 1,250 acres and over nine miles of shoreline along the North and South Forks of the Nooksack River. The North and South Forks are home to all five of the salmon species native to the Pacific Northwest, in addition to steelhead and bull trout. Chinook salmon and bull trout in these two forks of the Nooksack are listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act.

Our 48,463 feet of property along the Nooksack are not just any river frontage. We have selected footage that protects the best-functioning salmon habitat available. In response to the threat to salmon, the governor's office published a booklet "Extinction is Not an Option." The Land Trust takes that title seriously. We are working to make sure that extinction is not an option in Whatcom County.

Our work to protect salmon habitat involves more than just a partnership. In an elaborate network of organizations, our job is to assess habitat, find funding, acquire habitat, arrange restoration, and serve as perpetual stewards. To assess habitat, we work with landowners, representatives of local tribes, and State Fish and Wildlife experts.

Since 1997, the land trust has raised

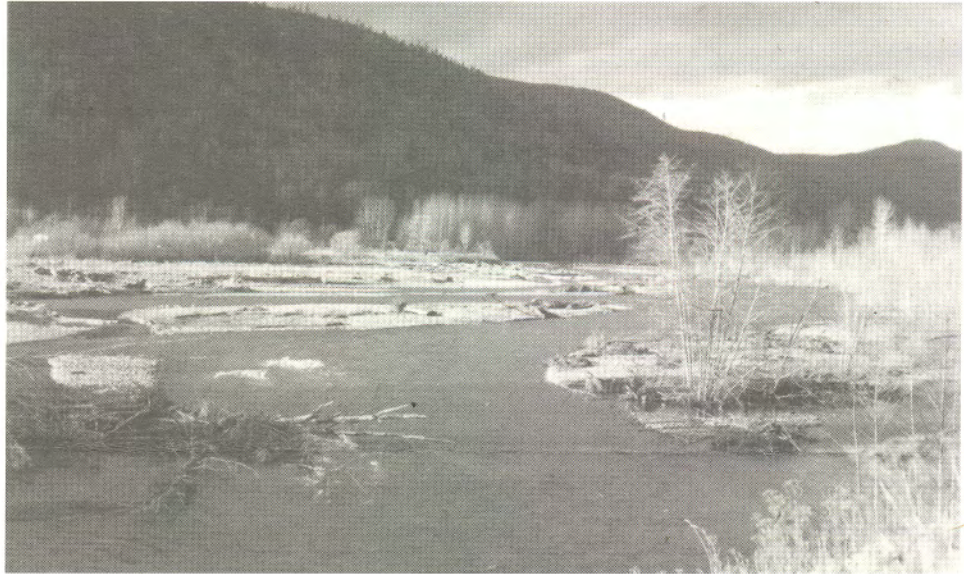


photo courtesy of Gordon Scott

*Salmon prefer a diversity of habitats like the mix of woody debris and gravel bars seen here on the North Fork of the Nooksack.*

more than \$4,500,000 in grants and property donations from diverse sources, to help prevent the extinction

made two grants to the Land Trust totaling \$1,853,000 to purchase 20,970 feet of river frontage. The County

***"Many have wanted and do want to save salmon, but few have been willing to accept responsibility and bear the costs of recovery."***

—Joseph E. Taylor III

*Making Salmon (An Environmental History of the Northwest Fisheries Crisis)*

"option" from becoming reality. In cooperation with the local office of the State Department of Ecology, the Land Trust has received \$357,000 from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to purchase four properties with 7,167 feet of North Fork shoreline. The State Salmon Recovery Funding Board has

Council matched a \$500,000 private donation with \$750,000 from the Conservation Futures Fund. And we have even purchased 20 acres on the North Fork with proceeds from the sale of our book, *Whatcom Places*.

The Land Trust owns 14 properties along the Nooksack and holds conservation easements over three others. Six of the properties, including the three conservation easements, have been

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# WLT News

## Local Businesses Help Land Trust Many Ways

We would like to thank the following businesses for their donations to our new office:

- Jerry Roorda and Steve Bell at DeWaard and Bode for a microwave and a refrigerator.
- Lou and Cindy Geri at Higher Plane for a custom laminate countertop.
- Galen Cosler at Peoples Bank for a 36" round table.
- Jim Olson at Blackburn Office Equipment for two plastic floor mats.
- Joanne Taylorsen at Custom Cushions for two cushions.
- Ken Manion at Hardware Sales for an office furniture discount.
- Clayton Lewis at Onvia for eight used office chairs.
- Ellie Gustafson at Tri County Office Furniture for an office chair.

"In-kind" can be as diverse as the donation of three retired vans for auction from the American Alpine Institute, to corn from Joe's Gardens for the annual picnic. These contributions help reduce our expenses, so we can spend more on conservation projects.



## New Business Partners

The James Company, owned by Jim Gray, and Evergreen Automotive, owned by Don Caffell are the Trust's most recent business partners.

Business partners help support our operating expenses. To become a business partner, contact Trish Navarre at 650-9470.

## Volunteer Profile

# Tom Pratum



Photo by Sally Hewitt.

Tom at the property he and his siblings donated to the Land Trust in 1999.

Like many people who grow up in Bellingham, Tom Pratum always knew he would move back to Whatcom County. He attended college and graduate school elsewhere, and worked at the University of Washington for 15 years.

When Tom's father, Dr. Rolf Pratum, passed away in 1990, he left several properties to his four children. Robin Du Pre, then Conservation Coordinator for the Land Trust, approached Tom and his siblings about donating one of the properties to the Land Trust. "That was the first time I had heard of WLT," said Tom. Even though all of the Pratum siblings were in agreement about donating a wooded 14-acre parcel above Lake Whatcom, it took five years to work out the details.

Several years later, when WLT was recruiting volunteers, Tom recognized another way to help the Land Trust. Because of his work at UW, Tom had all of the skills to maintain the WLT website, originally built by students at Western. He laughs, "It was something I was already good at, so it seemed like a good fit." While the overall appearance of the website has stayed the same, Tom has added maps, routinely updated the text, and has ensured that it runs smoothly.

To see Tom's work, look up <http://www.whatcomland.com>, or simply search the Internet for Whatcom Land Trust. The Land Trust is very fortunate to have talented people like Tom Pratum donating their time and expertise. Our volunteers provide invaluable assistance that helps make the Whatcom Land Trust such a successful organization.

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*The Mission of the Whatcom Land Trust is to preserve and protect wildlife habitat, scenic, agricultural and open space lands in Whatcom County for future generations by securing interests in land and promoting land stewardship.*

Newsletter Editorial Team ..... Rod Burton, Katherine Freimund, Trish Navarre  
Design and Layout ..... Donated by Roderick C. Burton - Art & Design  
Contributing Writers ..... Kathryn Batchelor, Katherine Freimund,  
Rand Jack, Trish Navarre, Gordon Scott, Bruce Smith



# Saving a Foot at a Time

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donated. Several agencies of Whatcom County, particularly the Parks Department and the Flood Control District, work with us on acquisition projects.

We believe that the best way to provide permanent habitat protection is to own the property. This puts WLT in an optimal position to be effective long-term stewards and to make sure the habitat is there when the salmon need it. Generally, our stewardship philosophy is to let natural ecological processes create habitat in a natural way. However, where habitat has been significantly degraded, acceleration of natural processes is essential if salmon populations are to recover.

Lummi Natural Resources Department, Nooksack Natural Resources Department and the Nooksack Salmon En-



hancement Association are restoring habitat on 190 Land Trust acres, by putting wood in streams and planting conifers along the banks. These organizations are often our partners in grant applications.

Our most recent habitat purchase is a good example of what the Trust is trying to accomplish. With a grant from the State Salmon Recovery Board, we bought 395 acres from the Trillium Corporation. The land has 11,035 feet of North Fork riverfront at the confluence with Racehorse Creek and 3,960 feet along the creek. The property includes a mature riparian forest that keeps water temperatures down, a complex wetlands nursery for young fish at the mouth of the Racehorse Creek, excellent chum and Chinook spawning beds, and a fine spot for bald eagles to dine on salmon that have completed their life cycle. Before acquisition by the Land Trust, development pressure threatened the habitat value of the property. As our partners in the project, the Nooksack and Lummi natural resources departments will restore habitat on 70 riparian acres. This is the largest and most significant salmon-habitat acquisition in the history of the Nooksack watershed.

Gordon Scott, our Conservation Director, has been at the center of this habitat conservation effort by the Land Trust. He has an extraordinary combination of knowledge about the land, salmon and bureaucracy – and ability to make that knowledge work for habitat protection. We doubt that any other land trust in the Pacific Northwest has been so successful in protecting salmon habitat. Gordon's work has moved us closer, a foot at a time, to removing extinction as an option for salmon in Whatcom County.

## Partners in Restoration



photo courtesy of Lummi Natural Resources

*Habitat recovery starts with the simple act of tree planting. Steve Solomon from Lummi Nation works on the Land Trust's North Fork Eagle property. Whatcom Land Trust works with the natural resource departments of both the Nooksack and Lummi tribes, as well as with other groups, in projects designed to restore critical salmon habitat.*

# Annual Fundraising Comes at Difficult Time

Every day many kinds of loss play out in our communities: the loss of a cherished childhood setting, a family farm, a forest, a wooded hillside, a view, a way of life.

September 11 marked a significant change in the mood of our country. Some called it a loss of innocence; others a time of incomprehensible mad-

ness. The Land Trust debated the propriety of mailing our usual appeal letter at such a time. So we waited a little longer than usual. Mailed out a month ago, the response has been slower and smaller than in previous years.

The Fall Campaign provides the funds that allow the Land Trust to operate: maintain an office, telephone,

staff. This is how we do the work that must be done. In our county thousands of acres of open space, wildlife habitat, farmland, forestland, wildlife corridors, watershed and shoreline are at risk.

If you have not yet returned your contribution in support of the Land Trust's work, please do so today.



# Barbara Smith's Bequest Will Help

**Barbara H. Smith**  
1915-2001

Barbara Smith, as with so many of us fortunate enough to live in Whatcom County, was here by choice and serendipity. Born in Winnipeg, Canada, the daughter of the city's Chief Constable, Barbara began her academic career at a small liberal arts college in Winnipeg, where she was a member of the first class to include women. She received a BA from the University of Winnipeg, went on to the University of Toronto, completing a Bachelor of Social Work, and finally to the University of Pennsylvania where she received a MSW with special training in family therapy. Her career as a social worker and her commitment to the well-being of children and families, took her first into homes in some of the most isolated rural areas of Manitoba, and later into the equally needy, urban neighborhoods of Baltimore.

Invited to join the newly formed Whatcom Counseling and Psychiatric Clinic, Barbara moved to Bellingham in 1959. For over twenty years, until her retirement in 1980, she worked as a clinical psychiatric social worker helping numerous individuals and families throughout the county.

Very soon after her move, she put down her roots in Bellingham and



photo courtesy of Jeannie Hemphill

*Barbara Helen Smith, 85, died Saturday, Sept. 22, 2001. A long-time resident of Bellingham, Barbara will be remembered for her friendships, story-telling, love of Spanish and children, birding, and for the wooded home she shared with the birds and animals.*

*As a final gesture of love and dedication to her community, Barbara left her estate to the Whatcom Land Trust and the Bellingham Public School Foundation. This gift represents Barbara's deeply felt concern for the well-being of the natural world and the children who will inherit it. Thank you, Barbara!*

Whatcom County, buying a small home on Chuckanut Drive where she lived for the next forty years. A few years later she became a U.S. citizen.

A woman of courage, character, and compassion, Barbara was greatly admired by those who knew her and recognized her commitment to the community in which she had chosen to live. Countless groups, causes, and individual people in Whatcom County are the better for her presence. She volunteered for years in schools tutoring children for whom English was not their native language. During summers she helped the children of migrant workers.

## The Peace of

*When despair for the world  
and I wake in the night at  
in fear of what my life and  
I go and lie down where the  
rests in his beauty on the  
and the great heron feeds  
I come into the peace of will  
who do not tax their lives  
of grief. I come into the pr  
And I feel above me the day  
waiting with their light. For  
I rest in the grace of the w*

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# to Preserve the Land She Loved

She gave of her time to the AAUW, the League of Women Voters, the Audubon Society, and the Chuckanut Community and Firefighters Association, to name a few. An active member of the First Congregational Church, Barbara realized that building community meant not only giving of yourself but also supporting wholeheartedly and taking advantage of the efforts of others. Where people came together to do something of value or interest, Barbara was there

not only to encourage and support but to enjoy what they had done. She took classes in yoga and tai chi, learned to cook French cuisine from Bob Mead and prepared the most delicious meals for her friends. She studied Spanish with Virginia Addis, writing out wonderful stories for others to enjoy. She was an avid student in the Academy for Lifelong Learning and other continuing education programs, stimulating thought-provoking discussions with her friends based on what she had learned. She patronized the arts, and frequented the

Farmers Market. Barbara walked the Interurban and Greenways trails almost daily. For years she kayaked and joined cross country ski trips with the city and county parks departments. She accompanied Terry Wahl on every possible bird outing. Squires Lake, a Whatcom Land Trust property, became one of her favorite bird-watching spots.

Barbara cared enough to make a lasting gift to her community in supporting the work of the Whatcom Land Trust—the final gesture of a lovely and caring person.

## Wild Things

grows in me  
the least sound  
ny children's lives may be,  
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things  
with forethought  
sence of still water.  
blind stars  
a time  
orld, and am free.

Wendell Berry

## Make a Lasting Difference with An Estate Gift

*Help preserve the peace of wild things with an estate gift to the Whatcom Land Trust. We will use your gift to fulfill our mission of preserving important wild places in our beautiful county for the enjoyment of future generations of people, plants and animals.*

*An estate gift to the Trust qualifies for a charitable estate tax deduction. A gift can be of a parcel of land, a specific amount of money or a percentage share of an estate.*

*You can direct in your will that a conservation easement be placed on property after your death, to limit future development and protect natural qualities. If the estate is so large that it would be subject to estate taxes, and the easement reduces the market value of the property, the gift may help reduce or avoid those taxes.*

*If you need assistance or ideas, contact the Whatcom Land Trust at 650-9470 and we will be pleased to meet with you.*



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# BP/ARCO Heron Tour Draws Large Attendance

Do you know why ospreys would make the best neighbors for nesting herons? Because they don't prey on the young yet afford protection to the nesting birds from other predators. This is just one interesting fact provided at the in-depth narrated slide show and field trip to the BP/ARCO Heron site held on Saturday, Nov. 3.

The group of approximately 25 met at the Birch Bay Bible Church on Jackson Road at 10:00 am for the presentation by wildlife biologist Ann Eissinger. Following the program Ann led the group on a walk to the nearby heron colony. Ann scheduled this tour for a time when the nests were empty so as not to disturb the birds during breeding season.

## New Office and New Employee Mark Whatcom Land Trust Growth



photo courtesy of Jon Brunk

Whatcom Land Trust moved into new office space at 98 Central Avenue in downtown Bellingham and hired Trish Navarre (above right, with Administrative Assistant Katherine Freimund and Conservation Director Gordon Scott) as Development Director. She will focus on fund raising, membership development and business partnerships. Trish was previously the Associate Director at the Mount Baker Theatre and worked at the Western Foundation, Whatcom Museum of History and Art and St. Luke's Hospital. A resident of Whatcom County for over 20 years, Trish and her family live in the beautiful Columbia Valley near Deming.

## More Tours Coming in 2002




Volunteers chosen because of their expertise, knowledge or personal association with the properties lead the popular WLT tours, usually scheduled for Saturday mornings. The first 2002 interpretive tours will be at the Deming Eagle Park on Jan. 19 and 26, both Saturdays, at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Dress appropriately for the weather and expect tours to last between 60 and 90 minutes. A Squires Lake tour is scheduled for April 27 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Please call the WLT office at 650-9470 to reserve a spot or for more information.

## Calendar Sales Support Whatcom Land Trust

Premier Graphics produced a deskpad calendar of beautiful images from local photographers that will benefit the Whatcom Land Trust and North Cascades Institute. Half the photos are from *Whatcom Places*; the rest from NCI. These calendars make wonderful gifts for friends, clients or colleagues and are available for a \$5 donation through the holidays at the following locations:

- American Alpine Institute, 1513 12th St., Bellingham
- Base Camp, 901 W. Holly St., Bellingham
- Premier Graphics, 2000 Kentucky St., Bellingham
- Village Books, 1210 11th St., Bellingham
- Whatcom Land Trust, 98 Central Ave., Bellingham
- Johnson Outdoors, 2460 Salishan Loop, Ferndale
- Stremmer Boekhandel, 655 Front St., Lynden
- Skagit River Steel & Recycling, 1265 Anacortes St., Burlington
- Small Planet Foods, 7190 Metcalf St., Sedro Woolley
- Scott's Bookstore, 171 Freeway Dr., Mt. Vernon



The calendars, *Whatcom Places* and our notecards, will be for sale at Allied Arts' Holiday Festival of the Arts (1530 Cornwall Ave., formerly Wilson Furniture) as well.



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# Making a Difference at Nessel Farm

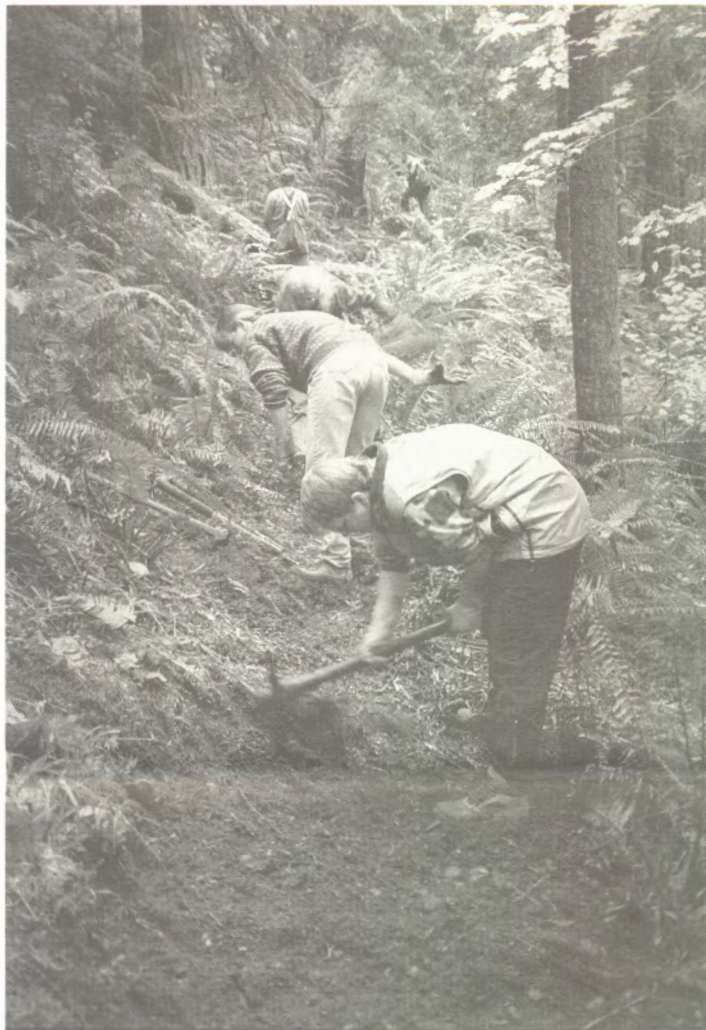


photo courtesy of Rod Burton

On Oct. 27, a small group of "Make a Difference Day" participants helped renovate an overgrown trail at Nessel Farm. Under the direction of Russ Pfeiffer-Hoyt, the five volunteers cleared an old trail that had been used by the Nessel family for hauling cedar shakes off the hill. These were the shakes which were subsequently used on the original barn roof.

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# What Our Children Really Need



Three years ago when their daughter Eva was born Gene Myers and his wife Mardi Solomon invited people to make gifts to the Whatcom Land Trust in lieu of baby gifts. This act of generosity yielded nearly \$800 and was greatly appreciated. Excerpted below is an e-mail message sent out by Gene in celebration of their second daughter's birth on October 21:

*"We're not asking for gifts...we're well-supplied. The things we would most like to give Noemi, Eva and all children are impossible to give alone. Among such things in an ideal world would be vibrant and revitalizing natural places abounding for our girls to grow up in. In our county, one of the fastest growing in the region, the Whatcom Land Trust is working in a very creative, inclusive, timely and efficient fashion to protect land for future generations.*

*We've also decided to 'adopt' a Land Trust property as a special place for our children to know over the years. The Nessel Farm, tucked against the Cascade foothills, embodies a generations-old land ethic of harmony between humans and nature. As our girls grow we hope to be part of the community of people that care specially for this place."*

If these ideas inspire you also, we invite you to honor a family member, friend or your own values and be a part of this important work. Call 650-9470 to learn how.



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*Land Stewards of the Year*  
**Stimpsons, Other Donors Honored**

The Land Trust gathered for its Annual Membership Picnic on Sunday, Sept. 30. It was a beautiful day for the event, held among the cedars at Berthusen Park in Lynden. Members, their families, and guests enjoyed barbecued salmon, corn on the cob, and other delicious dishes brought by those attending the picnic. Members of the Stimpson family accepted plaques honoring the family as Land Stewards of the Year. Joanne Harrison and her three daughters and Patricia Wenke also received certificates from the Trust recognizing their donation of land or conservation easements.

Good food, shared with like-minded supporters of the Land Trust, is just one reason to come to the picnic. It's also a great way to enjoy some of the beautiful public spaces in our county.



*photo courtesy of Rod Burton*

*On behalf of the Stimpson family, Susan Trimingham (left) and her sister Jane Bremner accept "Land Steward of the Year" plaques from WLT for the donation of the Stimpson Family Nature Reserve.*