



the Steward

Volume 12 Number 1

Newsletter of the Whatcom Land Trust, Bellingham, Washington

Spring, 2002

Eagle Haven is New Whatcom County Park

On March 20, the Land Trust transferred to Whatcom County the Deming Homestead Eagle Park, the eighth county park established through the Land Trust in ten years. This remarkable number of park transfers signifies a private/public partnership unusual in its duration, level of trust and production of public benefit. It is a tribute to the leadership, openness, common sense and good will of County Parks Director Roger DeSpain.

And the quality of the parks is no less impressive than the quantity – 700 acres of ancient forest, two lakes, miles of river frontage, 3,000 feet of salt water beach, a beaver pond, a pioneer farm and miles of forested trails.

All eight parks have a few things in common. For each, the Land Trust arranged the acquisition of the park and protects the land in perpetuity. On the other hand, the County Parks staff does what they do best – plan and manage the interaction of people and the land. All of the parks feature and protect the wonderful natural world of Whatcom County.

Given to the Land Trust by Hank and Lorrell Rensink, the Eagle Park has been managed for the past two years by the Land Trust with the help of Land Steward Sara Korman.

The Land Trust retains a conservation easement on the Eagle Park. As part of the transfer, we also received a 500-foot wide salmon habitat protection easement along 8,200 feet of the South Fork of the Nooksack on property given to the County by the David Syre family in 1993.

Other parks born of the Land Trust/County Parks partnership include:

Teddy Bear Cove

Mature Douglas firs and teddy bear sized beaches off Chuckanut Drive.

Maple Beach

2000 feet of flat, sandy salt water swimming beach at Point Roberts.

Squires Lake

A 10-acre lake that is surrounded by a trail, wetlands and 84 forested acres.

Nesset Farm

Stretching for miles along the South Fork of the Nooksack, the park will feature prime river and forest habitat and a pioneer farm now being restored.

Stimpson Family Nature Reserve

This Nature Reserve will total 350 acres with a beaver pond and wetlands, the last old-growth trees in the Lake Whatcom Watershed, and a several mile loop trail through a richly varied forest.

Hegg Memorial

A yet to be developed lakefront pocket park adjoining the trail on the east shore of Lake Whatcom.



photo courtesy of Gordon Scott

Eagles wait at the park for salmon buffet.

Canyon Lake Creek Community Forest

The 2,300-acre upper Canyon Lake Creek basin with trees over a thousand years old, dozens of streams, fossils and a 40-acre lake.

Like the Eagle Park, each of these parks has its cast of public-spirited characters who helped bring the park into being. While eight new parks is a good number, the Land Trust/County Parks partnership remains strong and fertile. We look forward to more offspring.

— Rand Jack

New Board Members, New Officers for Trust

New Board Members

The Land Trust would like to welcome two new members to our Board of Directors:

Harte Bressler

Harte Bressler, a CPA, is one of the three shareholders of Metcalf, Hodges & Co. P.S. and has been with the firm for all but about 10 years since it was created in 1964. Harte and his wife Jan have two grown and married children. Harte has been an avid mountain climber and outdoor enthusiast since the 60s and has been involved with Bellingham Mountain Rescue for over 25 years.

Chris Moench

Chris Moench served on the Land Trust Board from 1990 to 2000, and is now returning after a two year sabbatical. In addition to a passion for working with the Land Trust, Chris enjoys wilderness hiking, kayaking and bad puns. He makes his living working clay as the owner of Dancing Dog Clayworks.

New Officers

At the Land Trust Annual Meeting, held January 22, 2002, the following people were elected to the Executive Board:

President: Wendy Walker

Vice President: Cindy Klein

Treasurer: Mike Ryan

Secretary: Rod Burton

Officers serve for a one-year term. We are lucky to have such dedicated, qualified people who are willing to take the extra time it takes to serve in these positions.

Wendy Walker: New Whatcom Land Trust President

Wendy chose the Whatcom Land Trust many years ago as a priority for the volunteer hours that she commits "to improve the world." She has served on the Board for several years and as Outreach Committee Chair and helped create the WLT book, *Whatcom Places*. She believes in spending her efforts close to home where she can make a concrete difference and see the results during her lifetime.

Volunteer Profile Stuart Zemel

"Stuart is an intense, hard worker. His computer skills, energy, and enthusiasm were indispensable at last year's auction."

— Bob Keller

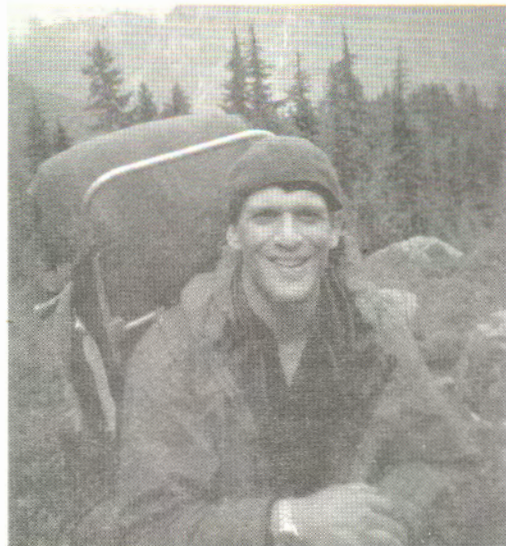


photo courtesy of Cinda Zemel

Stuart Zemel moved to Whatcom County in 1989, but he didn't become a member of the Land Trust until last year, when his cousin Henry Zemel gave him a gift membership. Bob Keller soon learned Stuart was available, and asked him to work on the *Great Outdoors Auction* of 2001. Stuart's work for the auction consisted of organizing and inputting all of the data onto spreadsheets. Afterward he helped with follow-up and thank-yous. No small task, with all of the people who helped on the event.

Instead of getting burned out by these formidable tasks, Stuart was only getting started. Conservation Director Gordon Scott recognized Stuart's attention to detail, and asked him to collect and organize a bibliography of salmon habitat in the

Nooksack watershed. Stuart praised Treva Coe of the Nooksack tribe for her work in building the initial bibliography, but it never would have made it to the Land Trust shelves without Stuart's work.

With a reputation as an intelligent, reliable individual, Stuart continues to be in demand. He has been recruited for this year's Auction Committee, and he has been asked to serve on the Development Committee. Stuart said he is pleased to serve on both, as the auction is more an ancillary event, while the Development Committee will allow him to get more involved in Land Trust issues and projects.

It is great that a gift membership could be the introduction into a wealth of support for the Trust.

— Katherine Freimund

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.

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Design and Layout Donated by Roderick C. Burton - Art & Design
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Rand Jack, Bob Keller, Trish Navarre, Gordon Scott

Volume 12, No. 1 - Spring, 2002 The Steward is published quarterly by
Whatcom Land Trust P.O. Box 6131 Bellingham, Washington, 98227-6131

printed on 100% recycled paper

Anderson Lands

continued from address page

tion, and the river is free to meander across its floodplain. "This reach of the Nooksack has been recognized as one of the areas of highest ecological integrity in the Puget Sound Region," reported Gordon Scott, Conservation Director for the Land Trust. "Mark and Ellie's donation of their riverfront property will help maintain this vital ecological asset," he added.

The Anderson donation also helped convince the US Fish and Wildlife Service to award a small grant to the Land Trust for the purchase of a neighboring 25-acre property. The donation of the Anderson property was used as a "match" in the grant application and was instrumental in the decision to award the grant to the Land Trust. With Mark and Ellie's donation, a total of 217 acres are now conserved between the Highway 9 Bridge and the Welcome Bridge. The project is a good example of the synergy created by harnessing civic-minded conservation donations with funding sources.

For Mark, the donation of this property was something he had always wanted to do. "We've had the property for a number of years, and I've just come to the conclusion that the highest and best use of this particular land would be habitat conservation," he stated. "It is the kind of property that is perfect for the Land Trust to take care of." ♦

Easy, Direct Actions Help

The financial support that you have given to the Whatcom Land Trust provides much-needed help. Your memberships support our work protecting land in this place we call home.

In addition, there are other simple activities you can do that will help in a concrete way. Some examples are:

Tell your friends about the Trust

Tell them why you are one of our supporters. The larger our base of support, the stronger is our organization. Increasing awareness is valuable.

Have a neighborhood get-together

Spread the word about the Trust. This doesn't have to be a big production, just a friendly, casual neighborhood gathering. We have an attractive and informative table-top display you can borrow for your brunch, coffee klatch, potluck or whatever kind of event you want to host. We can supply you with printed information, and help prepare you to answer questions. A Board or committee member should attend your gathering. Call Katherine at the office (650-9470) for help with arrangements.

Preserve the land you know

If you own land that you would like to preserve, contact Conservation Director, Gordon Scott (650-9470) to find out about options for your property. If you don't own land, but know someone who does, tell them about the Trust. Thoughtful choices by individuals will keep this a great place to live.

The active efforts of members like you make the protection of land for future generations possible.

— Rod Burton

Dead Cars Removed from Hutchinson Creek Property

Whatcom Land Trust volunteer Larry Simkins deserves a big thank you for organizing the removal of over 80 vehicle hulks from a property donated to the Land Trust on Hutchinson Creek. Overcoming significant logistical hurdles, Larry persevered through the snowstorms of March and got the cars safely off the property. ♦

Chuckanut Conservation Planning

The Paul G. Allen Forest Protection Foundation announced that it had awarded a \$50,000 grant to Whatcom Land Trust to produce a conservation plan for the Chuckanut-Cascade Corridor. The Land Trust will work with the Skagit Land Trust and the North Cascades Corridor Project to identify important conservation opportunities in the area from Chuckanut Drive to the Twin Sisters Mountain Range, the largest and least developed east-west forested corridor from Vancouver B.C. to Olympia. Work will begin on the plan this summer. ♦

Be a crank

.....and stand up for our environment!

*When called a crank, E.F. Schumacher said
"What's wrong with being a crank? The crank is the part of the machine which creates revolution and it is very small. I am a small revolutionary!
It is a compliment."*

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Herman Miller's Vision and Gift w

Honoring Herman Miller (1918-2001)

The Land Trust Board of Directors adopted the following resolution at their meeting January 22, 2002:

The Whatcom Land Trust was saddened to learn of Herman Miller's death on December 5, 2001.

Beyond being a founder of the Trust and the donor of our first conservation easement, Herman's idealism and buoyant spirit inspired all of us who knew him. He personified stewardship- a life where everyday an individual acts ethically, out of respect and love for his land. We, and all the residents of Whatcom County will remain forever grateful to Herman Miller.

Herman Miller treasured his 160-acre farm on the Ten Mile Road. He was born there and lived there all his life. As he watched farms nearby being subdivided, he resolved that his farm should remain in agriculture forever. He searched for a legal way to protect his farm from development, but was told that it couldn't be done. When he learned that a group of leaders in the county were exploring the possibility of organizing a land trust in the county, he and his wife Diane became involved.

The involvement of the Millers in the Land Trust and the development of their conservation easement followed. The following description, drawn from board reports, also gives a picture of some of the complexities attending the creation of conservation easements.

April 25, 1983- Diane attended a meeting of interested citizens who discussed the concept of a land trust, voted unanimously to support the for-

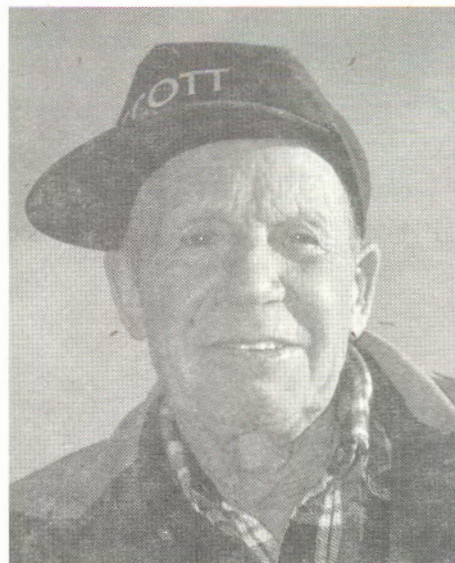
mation of a land trust, and elected members of an executive committee to set up the organization.

May 19, 1983- The executive committee, of which Herman was a member, met for the first time.

February 3 and 4, 1984- A training workshop under the direction of The Trust for Public Land was held on Friday night at the home of Henry Polinder and all day Saturday at the home of Herman and Diane Miller.

March 7, 1984- At the board meeting it was decided that Rand Jack would work with the Millers to develop a conservation easement for their farm and talk with their neighbors about conservation easements.

May 14, 1984- Rand Jack reported that he and Craig Lee of The Trust for Public Land and other WLT board members met in April at the Miller home with their neighbors to present the concept of conservation easements.



photographs courtesy of Mark Turner

Herman Miller, one of the founders of the Whatcom Land Trust.

The Board voted to proceed with Herman Miller's request for a conservation easement on his farm.

October 29, 1984- Rand Jack and Craig Lee discovered a problem with the IRS regarding the tax exemption. AMAX's coal rights on 40 acres and the state school's mineral rights on the 120 acres raised problems regarding the farmability of the land.


November 19, 1984- Rand Jack described the terms of the Miller easement as worked out by the Millers and Craig Lee, with Rand sitting in. One hundred twenty acres will be in a perpetual easement; the 40 acres on which AMAX has coal rights will be in a different type of easement until the lease expires.

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ere Vital to Creation of Land Trust

The Millers wrote a cover letter of intent to be attached to the easement.

A motion was made to accept the Miller easement with the provision that the executive committee be empowered to make decisions on the details. It passed unanimously.

March 4, 1985- It was reported that the AMAX lease on the forty acres was not a problem because of the way the lease was written.

May 14, 1985- Craig Lee met with DNR representatives to get an agreement to limit access to the mineral rights they own on the Miller farm so as not to destroy the farmability and scenic quality of the land.

December 9, 1985- According to a geologist's report the coal is located 850 feet below the surface so there is no possibility of surface mining. The DNR can access the coal through the 40 acres on which AMAX holds a lease. In consultation with lawyers and the IRS it was determined on the basis of the geologist's report that the easement was sound. The easement would be completed in two months,

February 10, 1986- Craig Lee stated that the report of the DNR geologist indicated that the coal on the Millers' property could not be excavated by surface mining. Because the farmability and scenic quality of the land were assured, the Millers would be eligible for tax benefits.

April 11, 1986- Phyllis Graham pre-



Herman Miller at work on the farm he lived on all his life.

pared a clean copy of the easement. It was signed by Roger Van Dyken for the Land Trust and by the Millers and recorded in the auditor's office.

It was time to celebrate the completion of the Whatcom Land Trust's first conservation easement.

— Hilda Bajema

Trust Among Three to Receive PSE Donations

On Monday, March 25 Whatcom Land Trust was one of three organizations to receive a \$25,000 donation each from Puget Sound Energy. The Whatcom Community Foundation and the Western Washington University Foundation also were awarded grants.

Puget Sound Energy's new CEO Stephen Reynolds distributed the checks at a reception held at the Hotel Bellwether. Kathy Larson, Corporate Relations Manager for the northern region, commented, "Steve wanted to make a statement about his support for three leading organizations that have a strong, widespread and positive impact on our community. The Whatcom Land Trust

clearly fits into this category with its long history of promoting land stewardship and preserving some of our most beautiful properties."

Founding board member Rand Jack received the contribution on behalf of the organization. He noted that "the Trust has a long tradition of encouraging public and private partnerships that result in extensive benefits to the community. Puget Sound Energy has been a Business Partner with the Whatcom Land Trust since 1999. This gift exemplifies their generous support that enables us to do our work of preserving the natural heritage of Whatcom County." ♦

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Great Outdoors Auction 2002

"Live beneath your means," quipped a 1960s billboard advertising Volkswagen. Barbara Smith's life epitomized those words. A Bellingham resident since 1959, Barbara had a love, respect and an appreciation for the natural world and an abiding interest in the lives of children.

She died in September 2001 leaving her estate, including her beloved 1972 VW Bug, to the Whatcom Land Trust and the Bellingham Public School Foundation. Smith's Bug will be auctioned at the Trust's biggest fund raiser of the year, *The Great Outdoors Auction*, on June 1.

"She felt strongly about having a low impact on the earth," recalls long-time friend Carl Batchelor. The bug is a symbol of the low-impact lifestyle Barbara led and is a reflection of her attitude toward life.

The Bug is bright yellow and includes a ski-rack secured to the back bumper. Smith was the only owner and the car "has been meticulously maintained for all 323,000 miles of its life," notes Batchelor. Tony Micik, service manager at Roger Jobs Motors, added, "Any time the car hiccupped, Barb brought it in."

At Smith's funeral, the bright yellow Bug was parked near the church doors, reminding her many friends of the strong connection that existed between Smith and the car. The Land Trust

hopes that someone in the community who appreciates the beauty and practicality of this vintage car will enjoy making a successful bid to become the new custodian of "Barb's Bug." Prospective bidders may come by the Land Trust Office, 98 Central Avenue, to view the car or arrange for a test drive in the week prior to the Auction by calling the office at 650-9470.

Exciting Donations

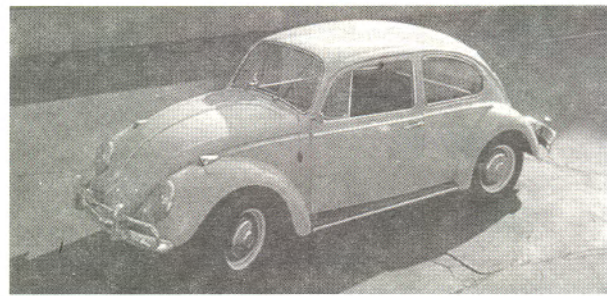
Many other unusual and unprecedented items and services have been donated to the Land Trust for the auction. "The people who donate to us typically are businesses or individuals that support the work we do," said Trish Navarre, development director for the Trust. Johnson Outdoors gave an entire kayak package—boat, paddles, and life jacket. Not to be found at any other auction anywhere is a day in the field with internationally recognized professional tracker Joel Hardin, featured in February's issue of *Outside* magazine. Tours, led by some of our county's finest guides, are plentiful. You can go on foot, with llamas, in a hot air balloon or a kayak. Options abound at this premier outdoor auction event of the year. Don't miss it!

P.S. So many people asked why Wood Stone is not hosting the 2002

Reserve Now!

The magnificent Bellwether Ballroom will be the site of this year's Great Outdoors Auction. With underground parking, the ballroom typifies the best in Northwest design and affords the perfect balance of excellent food, ample display areas, and magnificent views of Bellingham Bay on a lovely June evening.

Last year's event sold out, so be sure to get your reservation in early. Tickets are \$42 through May 24 (\$50 till May 31) per person and include dinner, beverage and the opportunity to bid in the silent and live auctions. County Executive Pete Kremen serves as emcee and further information about the event and the items available in the auction are listed on our website: www.whatcomlandtrust.org.



auction, that we felt an answer was in order. Business is booming and space is not available for this type of event. Wood Stone's own Chef Frank however, has generously offered one of his exquisite dinners for 12, prepared and served at Wood Stone, as an item in this year's auction. ♦

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Sharon Digby Lead Land Trust Through Growth

Excerpts from a tribute presented at the Annual Board Meeting

Sharon— The three years between January, 1999, when you assumed the presidency, and today have seen dramatic changes in the scope, location, accomplishments, community profile, and internal management of the Whatcom Land Trust. You guided us through challenging and demanding times, and now hand over the Trust in excellent condition to Wendy, your successor. For this you have the Board's admiration and gratitude.

When you joined the Board eight years ago, the total assets of the Trust were about \$30,000 and our operating budget around \$5,000, if that. Today we handle millions. Your leadership in making this transition to complex bookkeeping and fiscally sound management has been crucial.

During the past three years you have conducted over 70 board and executive committee meetings, plus six annual board and membership meetings. All Land Trust conservation easements continued to be properly and soundly monitored. We may not

know about "in perpetuity" but, thanks to you, we certainly know how to insure sound stewardship from year to year. Your contribution here sustains our ethics and our integrity.

Between 1999 and 2002 we published nine high quality newsletters, ran three fund drives, held our first auction-event, and sold nearly 5,000 copies of *Whatcom Places*. Trust membership during your term nearly doubled from 377 to 707. Business Partners tripled from 12 to 35.

During your term the total number of Land Trust sites has increased from 33 to 57, the total acreage from 3,600 to over 5,000. Again, the significance is not in numbers, but in each particular site. What ultimately counts are places like the completed Nessel farm, Canyon Lake Creek, the Eagle Park, the Stimpson Nature Reserve, the expanded ARCO Heronry. What counts, too, is



photo courtesy of Phyllis Kronenberg

Sharon discusses some Trust projects with Nate Kronenberg at the members' picnic.

river frontage—over nine miles of prime salmon habitat on the Nooksack.

In all of its operations, you are leaving the Land Trust much stronger than before. The entire board thanks you for three years of strong commitment, personal time, knowledge, caution, some frustrations, intelligence, skill, and steadfast devotion.

— Whatcom Land Trust Board

New Business Partners

Throughout its history, Whatcom Land Trust has joined with local businesses to achieve mutual conservation goals. A half dozen different companies helped acquire Squires Lake, which is now a county park. ARCO (now BP) donated two conservation easements on 180 acres of land to protect a heron colony. Trillium's eagle night roost easement provides a model of creative ecological thinking, and Crown

The Whatcom Land Trust has an annual appreciation event for our Business Partners, major donors and long-time supporters. This year's gathering is scheduled for Saturday, April 27 at Wood Stone Corporation and will feature special desserts, entertainment by "Woody Guthrie" and a brief "State of the Trust."

Pacific has protected Canyon Lake Creek for two miles below its source at the lake.

With such a positive history of cooperation, the Land Trust decided to build further relationships with Whatcom County businesses. In effect, these businesses, by donating money or services to help defray our general overhead and operating expenses, become partners in conservation. The companies who have contributed to this program since the Winter 2001 issue of the newsletter are:

- Fibercloud
- Johnson Outdoors
- Peter Paulsen Company
- Peoples Bank
- Southstone
- Home Inspection

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Anderson Donation Leverages Habitat Conservation

Mark and Ellie Anderson have donated 27 acres of Nooksack River bottom to the Land Trust for conservation purposes. The property, rich in habitat diversity and abundant with wildlife, is next to 20 acres previously acquired with funds from the book *Whatcom Places*. "The land is remarkable. There are sand bars, groves of cottonwoods, lots of beaver activity, eagles and nice marshy areas," said Ellie Anderson

The donated tract is located in the Nooksack Confluence Zone, that area of the watershed where the North, Middle and South Forks of the Nooksack converge and provide critical travel corridors for salmon, eagles, and elk. The area is an important travel corridor for people too, with the Mt. Baker Highway, Truck Road, Rutsatz Road and Mosquito Lake Road all sharing the valley floor with the river. Fortunately, the river corridor is mostly in a natural condi-

continued on page three

Park Transferred to Whatcom County



photo courtesy of Bill Wright

The Deming-Homestead Eagle Park, originally donated to the Land Trust by Hank and Lorrell Rensink, is now a Whatcom County park. See page one for more about this transaction and the other seven parks the Trust has been instrumental in creating for the citizens of Whatcom County.



2002 Tours

Whatcom Land Trust Tour Series

Here is this year's schedule of our popular series of tours and hikes highlighting many of the public parks and private preserves conserved by local citizens through the Whatcom Land Trust. The tours are open to the public. A \$5 donation per person is requested from non-members. Land Trust members may attend the tours free and may register early.

Reservations are **REQUIRED** for all tours, call 650-9470. Name, address, and phone are required for registration.

Squires Lake Park Tour

Sat., April 27

10 a.m. - noon

Maximum: none

Steve LeCocq, Parks Manager, Whatcom Co. Parks Dept., will lead the tour of this unique "hidden" lake in south Whatcom County and will describe how the park was created by local citizens and its ecology.

Easy to moderate walking; wear weather-appropriate gear.

Please carpool if possible. Parking is available for a maximum of 20 cars.

Meet at the trailhead on Hwy. 99, off of the South Lake Samish Exit from I-5. Detailed directions available at time of registration.

Chuckanut Ridge Hike

Sat., May 4

10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Maximum: none

Steve LeCocq will lead this moderate 4 mile hike. This is a great orientation to the Chuckanut trail system and the new connector from Chuckanut Crest to the north Lost Lake Trail. The hike will continue down through Arroyo Park.

Dress for the weather. Bring a lunch and water.

Meet by 10 a.m. at the Highline-Cleator Road overlook. Shuttle service will be provided back to your vehicle.



WLT file photo

Tours are a great family activity; the group pictured is visiting Nessel Farm.

Unique Homesite Tour with Dr. Patricia Otto

Sat., May 18

10 a.m. - noon

Maximum: 12

Dr. Patricia Otto, WLT Land Steward of the Year 2000, has graciously agreed to give us a very personal tour of her private "nature reserve" surrounding her home in the Lake Whatcom Watershed. The focus of the tour will be on wildlife and habitat restoration.

Easy to moderate walking. Wear boots, be prepared for long, wet grass.

Directions available at time of registration.

Nessel Farm Tour, Acme

Sat., June 15

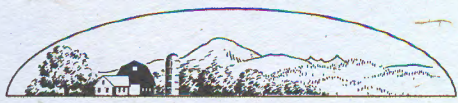
10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Maximum: 15

Russ Pfeiffer-Hoyt will lead an exploration of one of our county's gems of family history and natural beauty. Participants will learn about life on a Norwegian homestead and experience beautiful terrain in what will soon be a premier public park in the South Fork valley.

Easy to moderate. Bring a lunch for after the tour if you like!

Carpool from Acme Presbyterian Church, Rt. 9, Acme. Last carpool leaves at 9:45 a.m. (WLT volunteers will assist in carpooling).



Schedule of Tours - 2002

WHATCOM LAND TRUST

P. O. Box 6131 • Bellingham WA 98227

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Teddy Bear Cove Trail Tour, Chuckanut Drive

Sat., Aug. 24

10 a.m. - noon

Maximum: none

Steve LeCocq will lead a 2 hour tour of one of our county's most celebrated and historically fascinating parks. Experience a gorgeous beach site with beautiful views of the San Juans and Clarks Point, unique flora and fauna, and a lovely walk through the woods. You will also learn of the secrets awaiting in Teddy Bear Cove!

Meet at N.Chuckanut Trailhead parking lot on Chuckanut Drive. We will walk the interurban trail to Teddy Bear Cove, then join the steep trail to and from the cove.

N. Fork Nooksack Tour

Sat., Sept. 14

10 a.m. - 1p.m.

Maximum: 15

John Thompson, Resource Planner for Whatcom County Public Works, Ned Currence, Habitat Biologist for the Nooksack Tribe, and Gordon Scott, Conservation Director for Whatcom Land Trust, will guide us on a tour of 4 WLT properties along the North Fork of the Nooksack, exploring the river's ecology and hydrology. We will see how preservation of the river corridor protects the life cycle of native salmon. Stunning views of Mt. Baker are a bonus.

Wear weather-appropriate gear for hiking.

Meet at Mt. Baker Baptist Camp RV parking lot; detailed directions at time of reservation.

Edward & Catharine Stimpson Nature Reserve Tour

Sat., Oct. 5

10:00 a.m.- noon

Maximum: 15

Gordon Scott will lead this exploration of Whatcom County's newest nature reserve. Participants will be among the first to learn about the history and ecology of this extraordinary reserve protecting unique watershed habitat in the Lake Whatcom watershed.

Moderate to steep hiking. Wear weather-appropriate gear for hiking.

Carpool from Sudden Valley Gate 1 Park-n-Ride on Lake Whatcom Blvd. Last carpool leaves at 9:45 a.m. (WLT volunteers will assist in carpooling)

ARCO Heron Reserve

Sat., Nov 2

10 a.m. - 1 pm.

Maximum: none

Ann Eissinger, wildlife biologist, will give a fascinating slide presentation and talk on great blue herons with information about their life cycle, the habitats that sustain them, and her observations of life in the local heronry. The presentation will be followed by a visit to the heronry a short walk away.

Dress for the weather. Wear sturdy shoes.

Call the office for directions to the meeting place.

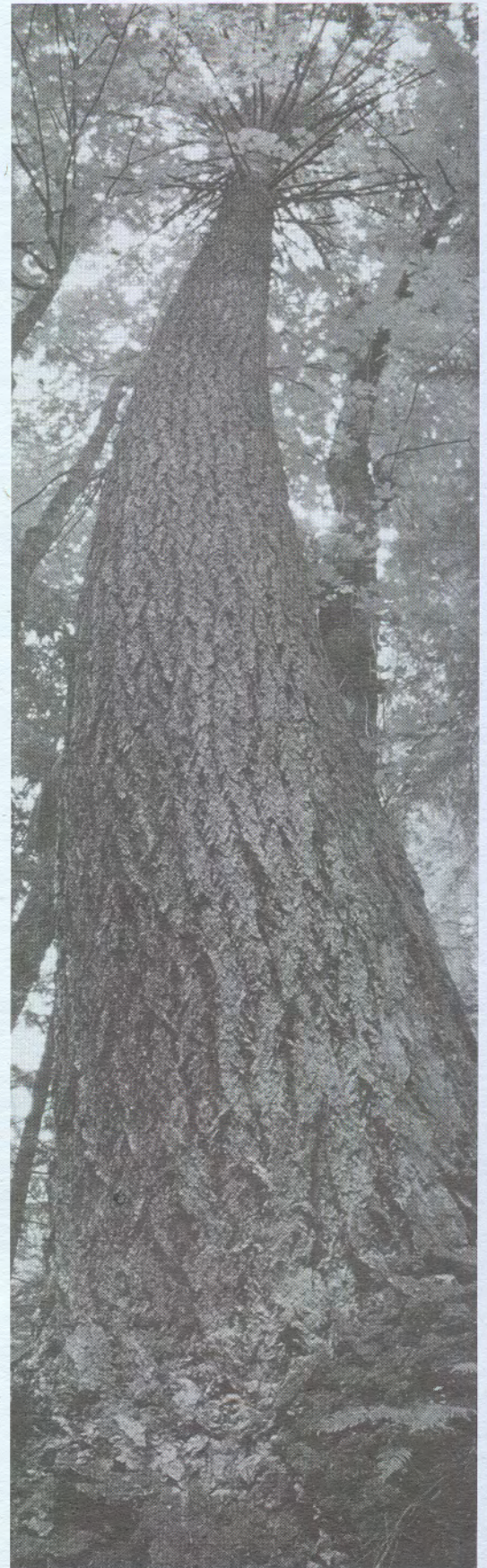


photo courtesy of Brett Baunton,

Old-growth forest in the Stimpson Nature Reserve.