

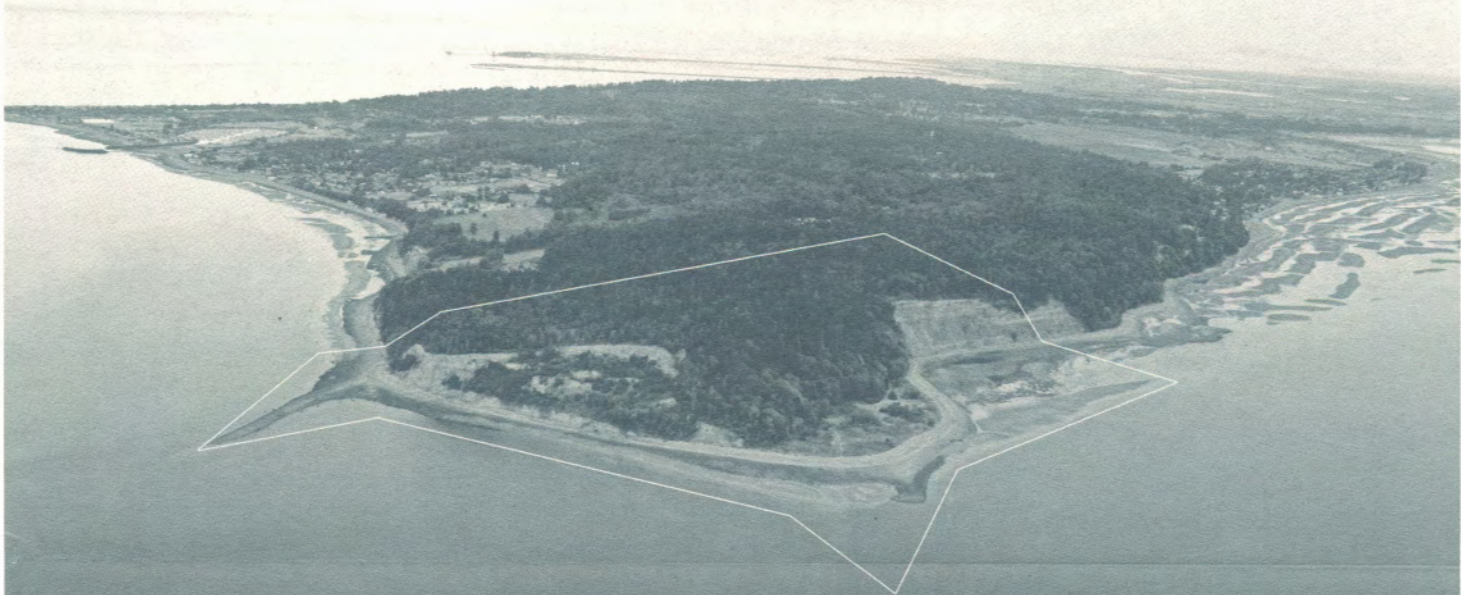


The Steward

Whatcom Land Trust: Preserving the Nature of Whatcom County since 1984

Volume 16 Number 3

Fall 2007



Acquiring Lily Point

Photo: John Scurlock

Whatcom Land Trust has a purchase and sale agreement to acquire Lily Point, an extraordinary 90-acre marine shoreline property, with 40 acres of tidelands, at the southeast corner of Point Roberts. Boundary Bay borders the property on one side and the Straits of Georgia on the other.

Lily Point is likely the most culturally and ecologically endowed undeveloped property in the greater Puget Sound region still in private ownership. For 9,000 years, people have come to Lily Point because of its biological richness. Whatcom Land Trust hopes to make sure that public access and biological richness will be maintained for the next 9,000 years.

The purchase price is \$3,500,000, while the appraised value is \$4,380,000. We recently received a grant for \$1,750,000 from the Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program. Out of 73 applications, Lily Point was awarded 23% of the grant funds available. Combined with

We have now raised \$2,950,000. This leaves us \$550,000 short of the purchase price.

earlier commitments of \$500,000 each from the State Department of Ecology and Whatcom County and \$200,000 in private donations, we have now raised \$2,950,000. This leaves us \$550,000 short of the purchase price. In addition, we hope to raise an additional \$250,000 for

transaction costs, baseline data preparation, a biological inventory, monitoring and stewardship, restoration assessment and planning, and an environmental education program.

Lily Point hosts a dynamic assembly of ecological processes. Nutrient-filled currents sweep by reefs and tidelands; riparian forests provide shade, bird perches, and insects to the coastal environment; and eroding cliffs supply sand and gravel for spawning fish and beach replenishment. These processes are essential to the fauna of Puget Sound—the Orca that patrol the Straits of Georgia, salmon that skirt Lily Point on their way ...continued on page 3

Tribute to Renea Roberts



We are Moving!

If you have visited our office recently, you probably noticed that we are cramped for space. The stacks of boxes and general clutter is negatively impacting our feng shui. Then there's the upcoming addition of a staff member. Without a remaining corner in which to stuff another employee, we have decided to move our offices to a larger space. (Can you hear the staff cheering?) Our new offices will be across the alley from our current location. The new address is 110 Central (it's the basement of the Barron Smith Daugert law firm). Feel free to come visit us in our new space!

If you have a desk, bookshelf, table, chair or filing cabinet that you would like to give to a worthy cause, WLT is interested in getting a few additional items for our new office. This will allow us to create work spaces for interns and volunteers. If you have such items, please contact the WLT office at info@whatcom-landtrust.org or 650-9470.

Upon moving to Bellingham from Seattle, Renea Roberts rediscovered a few things that she values highly: her backyard, bike rides, and a connection with nature. She also discovered the Whatcom Land Trust. "I learned of the Land Trust's work, and it just made so much sense to me, here is a way to shape the future and provide natural areas for my family and friends."

Renea has been one of the primary reasons for the success of the Great Outdoors Auction the last three years. She has provided quiet and calm guidance behind the scenes and has consistently gone the extra mile to insure that the auction is both fun and profitable. "I loved the energy of the organization right from the beginning, the enthusiasm of the ultimate old codger, Bob Keller, was just inspirational to me. I've never regretted a moment that I've spent on the event; I've worried a bit mind you, but never been in full panic mode!"

Renea has devoted much of her early career to working with non-profits, primarily focusing on fundraising for Seattle organizations. She started out young, serving as a mentor for Big Sisters while still a teenager. In addition to the help she provides the Land Trust, you might encounter her assisting other organizations that focus on domestic violence and women's issues. "The Women's Care Shelter is another interest of mine; I think they also are doing vital work in the community." Having lived in downtown Seattle for a number of years,



photo: Rich Bowers

Renea brings her gifts of calmness, organization and laughter to the auction as coordinator of the event.

Renea lights up when she speaks of her relocation to the area. "The reasons I like living in Whatcom County are numerous, but they do center around being able to enjoy the natural setting, having time with my family, and enjoying a vibrant community." Renea and her daughter, Sinclair, enjoy biking, skiing, and hiking around the region. While you might encounter her drumming up support for the Great Outdoor auction, you can also secure her professional services as an event planner through Haggen Market Street Catering. As an organization, we consider ourselves fortunate to be the recipient of Renea's remarkable skills and thank her for all of the wonderful help she has provided. ▲

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Rand Jack, Chris Moench, Rebecca Reich, Gordon Scott

Acquiring Lily Point continued from front page

to the Fraser and Nooksack Rivers, bald eagles that scour the beach, great blue herons that stalk the tidelands, and waterfowl and shore birds that visit Boundary Bay. At a low tide in June, a delegation from the Land Trust saw nearly 100 eagles on the beach at Lily Point.

The history of Lily Point attests to its fecundity. Archeologists date human occupancy back at least 9,000 years. For centuries, the Coastal Salish Native Peoples maintained their primary reef net fishery and a summer village for as many as 500 people at Lily Point. Here the Lummi ancestors each year performed their most important "first salmon" ceremony to ensure the annual return of the fish for which they were dependant. They called this place *Chelhtenem* which means "hang salmon for drying." An 1881 newspaper reported 10,000 salmon caught by 3 reef nets in 6 hours. The Lummi Nation supports the Land Trust's purchase of Lily Point.

Once the property is acquired, the Land Trust will protect it with a conservation easement and will transfer ownership to Whatcom County for use as a park.

Point Roberts is only a half-hour drive from Vancouver. The Point Roberts Beach Club, a proposed 103-house gated community, is less than 500 feet west of Lily Point. Whatcom County owns three of the four corners of Point Roberts—Monument Park, Lighthouse Park and Maple Beach. The latter was given to the County by Whatcom Land Trust encumbered by a restrictive conservation easement. Only Lily Point, by far the most ecologically important of the four corners, remains exposed to development.

By whatever mix of spirit and ecological powers, Lily Point remains a place of prolific productivity, just as it was when Salish people evoked spirit powers to ensure the return of the salmon to *Chelhtenem* and directed migrating fish to the reef nets. Perhaps by the grace of a spirit power, the plentiful natural heritage of Lily Point is still ours to preserve, but the opportunity will pass if we do not act. ▲



photo: John Scurlock

The mixture of forest & tidelands make Lily Point ecologically rich.

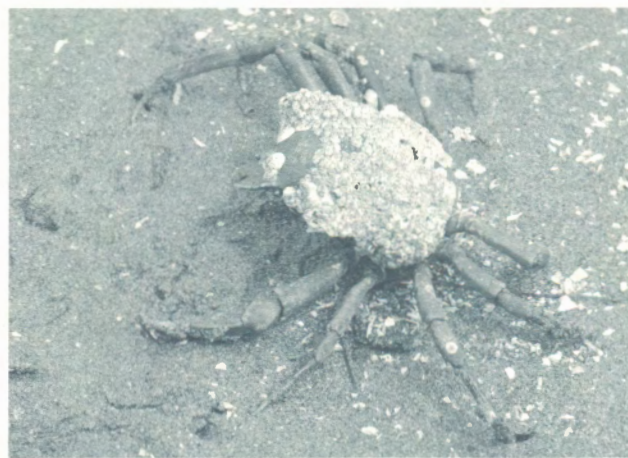


photo: Cindy Klein

A barnacle covered crab makes its way along the beach at Lily Point.



Visit the Lily Point website

To see more photos of the beauty of Lily Point, and learn more about this wonderful spot, view the Lily Point website by visiting www.whatcomlandtrust.org and clicking the Lily Point link.

You can help buy Lily Point

In addition to your contribution to the annual fund drive, please send a donation to Whatcom Land Trust to help preserve Lily Point.

Whatcom Land Trust

P.O. 6131

Bellingham WA 98227

photo: Cindy Klein

If acquisition is successful, Lily Point will be a place where future generations will be able to investigate diverse beach life.

Agate Bay Preserve Protects Lake Whatcom Water Quality



photo: Eric Carabba

Natural lands, such as the Agate Bay Preserve, help keep Lake Whatcom clean and healthy.

The City of Bellingham and Whatcom Land Trust have reached an agreement to place a conservation easement over a tract of forest land in the Lake Whatcom watershed. The Agate Bay Preserve is an assemblage of several separate tracts that together comprises 333.5 acres of second growth forest on the slopes of Squalicum Mountain just above Lake Whatcom. In the early 1990s, about 190 acres of the property was clear-cut harvested and replanted with Douglas fir, alder, and cedar. The remaining area was selectively harvested over the years, with some areas of large openings and some in closed canopy condition. Forest roads lace through the gently sloping property and

...a conservation easement ... eliminated 66 development rights from the Lake Whatcom Watershed.

small seasonal streams drain directly into Lake Whatcom. The favorable terrain, the location of the property above Basin 2 and the rural 5-acre zoning made the acquisition and protection of this site a high priority for long-term watershed health. Agate Bay Preserve is already surrounded by many rural residential lots varying in size from one to twenty acres. By acquiring the property and protecting it with a conservation easement to Whatcom Land Trust, the City of Bellingham has eliminated 66 development rights from the Lake Whatcom Watershed. ▲

Maple Creek Park is a local link for Bay to Baker Trail

Travel up the Mount Baker Highway to the small village of Maple Falls and you will find one of the hidden gems of Whatcom County, Maple Creek. As Maple Creek makes its way from Silver Lake to the North Fork Nooksack by way of Maple Falls, it flows over a small but significant waterfall that gives the community its name. This October, the Land Trust facilitated the purchase of 75 acres on Maple Creek, including the namesake waterfall, for Whatcom County Parks. The Parks Department will utilize the site as a trailhead for the popular Bay to Baker Trail. County Parks owns the property and the Land Trust protects the ecological and recreational values of the site in perpetuity with a restrictive conservation easement.

The Maple Creek Park property is a 73.08 acre tract of mature forest bordering 1,800 feet of Maple Creek just north of the Mt. Baker Highway and east of the Silver Lake Road. Maple Creek Park borders the Bay to Baker Trail system along its southern boundary and will serve as a critical link and trailhead for that. The property has been vacant for some years but an old homestead pasture and pond is a vague reminder of early North Fork settlers. The character of the timber on the property is mixed species generally 50-100 years old. Old, gnarly, moss-covered big-leaf maples, Western hemlocks, Western Redcedar, and Douglas fir shade Maple Creek, creating a quiet, reflective atmosphere along the gentle stream.

Maple Creek Park will provide

a needed public outdoor recreational opportunity for residents of Whatcom County in an area with few parks or recreation sites. Hiking trails through the forest will give the public a chance to experience wildlife and solitude. Scenic views of Mt. Baker and the Nooksack Valley will be possible from trails and picnic sites on the property. The Whatcom County Parks Recreation and Open Space Comprehensive Plan as well as the Foothills Comprehensive Plan update both identified the need for establishing a park/trailhead in this area. Whatcom Land Trust has helped create 11 new county park sites since 1998. We thank Whatcom County Parks and Director Mike McFarlane for their enthusiasm and help in creating Maple Creek Park. ▲

The Man who Planted Trees

Rand Jack

Not so long after the founding of Whatcom Land Trust, I read a small book called *The Man Who Planted Trees* by Jean Giono. It is the story of an old shepherd in a dry, barren stretch of southern France. Each day the shepherd planted 10 acorns that he had gathered and carefully sorted the day before. Over the years a forest took hold, and the land was transformed into verdant hills with cool streams.

Until just a few months ago, I thought that the story was a fable. Then I met a veritable “man who planted trees.” His name is Bill Hogan.

Bill grew up on 85 acres in rural New Hampshire to which his family fled in the wake of the Great Depression. When Bill was 10 years old, the New England hurricane of 1938 “flattened many of the trees in our inland area.” With access to low-cost stock, “my family planted 1,500 seedlings, and the process apparently caused my two brothers and myself to become tree planters whenever the opportunity arose.”

Bill, a CPA, retired and moved to Bellingham in 1985. He “promptly started looking for a place to practice tree farming as a hobby.” Two years later he purchased 20 recently logged acres on Squalicum Mountain. Supported by Whatcom County Farm Forestry, Bill planted nearly 5,000 trees there over the next 15 years—Douglas fir, western red cedar, noble fir, grand fir, Sitka spruce, Norway spruce and hemlock. When he ran out of room to plant more than an occasional tree, he began to prune the forest. Like Jean Giono’s “man who planted trees,” Bill Hogan transformed a barren landscape into a park.

And like the shepherd in southern France, Bill did not feel the need to explain why he planted trees. “I just wanted to plant trees. I had it in mind for a long time. . . I just like a lot of trees.” For Bill and for the shepherd, the fruit of their labors speaks for itself.

In August, Bill entrusted his legacy to Whatcom Land Trust with the donation of his land and his trees. His only instructions were that “the Land Trust needs to do what is best for the Land Trust with this property.” He also had one request – that he be allowed to continue to plant and prune in the forest that he created. When



photo: Eric Carabba

The density and diversity of this forest demonstrates Bill Hogan's love of trees.

Bill came into the office to sign the deed, we gave him a copy of *The Man Who Planted Trees* as a symbol of what he has done and of our gratitude for the trust he has placed in us.

For me, *The Man Who Planted Trees* has become a metaphor for the work of the Land Trust. Hopefully, what we do day-by-day, step-by-step is transforming the future landscape of Whatcom County and will help keep it a verdant land with cool streams. ▲

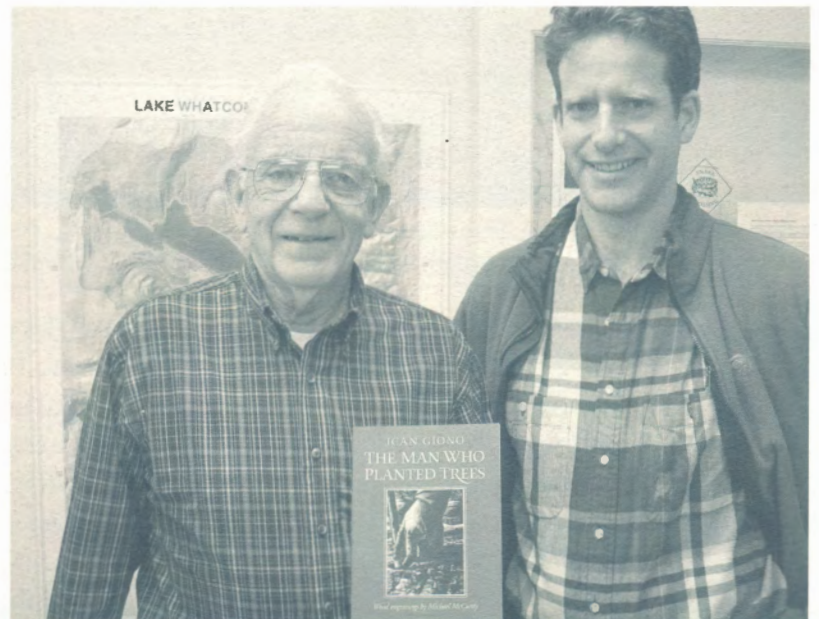


photo: Rand Jack

Bill Hogan and Whatcom Land Trust President, Chris Moench.

Purchase of Development Rights for Agricultural Protection

Whatcom Land Trust was started in 1984 as local farmers, concerned citizens, and politicians recognized the threat development posed to farmland and the importance of farmland preservation. Local family-run dairy farms have been the cornerstone of agriculture in Whatcom County. Since Herman Miller's donation of the first conservation easement protecting his 160 acre farm in the mid 1980s, there has been substantial decline in the number of dairy farms in Whatcom County and Washington State while the

to preserving productive agricultural land by purchasing development rights to ensure that productive land remains available for agriculture. As of September 2007, the Whatcom County Purchase of Development Rights Program has acquired 69 development rights and preserved approximately 402 farmland acres. The total value of the development rights acquired is \$3,285,200. Whatcom Land Trust is a partner with Whatcom County as we co-hold the conservation easement. As a partner, we are responsible for an-

and Elsie Dickson had farmed on the property for the past 60 years where they raised between 40 to 50 Jersey cows. The farm is currently leased to a local farmer who raises Jersey cows on the lush pastures. Howard and Judith Holz have protected 80 acres of their dairy farm along East Hemmi Road. In 2004, they sold the development rights to 40 acres. This fall, Howard and Judith sold the development rights to the remaining 40 acres of pasture. Steve and Sheri Groen have protected their 94.5-acre dairy farm on Barnhart Road where they raise Jersey cows.

PDR applications are still being accepted

Whatcom County invites you to submit an application to the county's farmland protection program, which was adopted by the Whatcom County Council on September 10, 2002. This program allows for the purchase of development rights from farm properties. Farmland owners retain all other rights to their property, including the right to continue farming or to sell their land. A permanent conservation easement is placed on the farm property thereby protecting the land from development in perpetuity.

The Whatcom County Planning and Development Services will be accepting applications for the Purchase of Development Rights Program through November 15, 2007. Applications may be obtained from the County Planning website (www.co.whatcom.wa.us/pds/planning/index.jsp) or at the County Planning Office, 5280 Northwest Drive, Bellingham, WA. For more information please contact Kraig Olason or Samya Lutz at 676-6907. ▲



photo: Eric Carabba

Jersey cows on the Groen farm—part of the rich Whatcom County dairy industry.

remaining farms have grown in size and production. Whatcom County continues to have the highest dairy production of the western 17 counties in Washington state. Protecting farmland is vital to ensure economic security for our community as farmland continues to be forever lost to development.

Whatcom County's local government has demonstrated its commitment

nual monitoring of the property and conservation easement. We are excited and eager to be involved in the preservation of farmland in the county.

Whatcom County has recently purchased the development rights from three dairy farms. The Dickson family permanently protected their fertile 40-acre dairy farm on the corner of East Hemmi and Noon Road. The late Paul

Canyon Creek is Native Chinook Salmon's Last Stand

When Whatcom County's endangered Chinook salmon swim up the North Fork Nooksack looking for a good place to lay their eggs, chances are they will head for Canyon Creek near Glacier. Canyon Creek has long been recognized as the most popular Chinook salmon spawning reach in the Nooksack basin. If we can save naturally-spawned Chinook from extinction, Canyon Creek will play a major part in that effort.

Canyon Creek is one of the largest tributaries of the North Fork, draining the alpine heights of Bear Paw and Church Mountains. The majority of the watershed lies within the Mt. Baker National Forest where heavy industrial logging occurred up to the 1990s. The very lowest portion of the watershed is home to the Glacier Springs Subdivision and a former popular recreational resort known as The Logs, both of which are situated on one of the largest and most dangerous alluvial fans in the county. This fact became frighteningly evident in November 1989 and again in 1990 as very large floods filled with rocks and trees scoured the lower Canyon Creek basin, destroying homes, roads, and infrastructure. Public agencies responded to this disaster by constructing rip-rap flood barriers and eventually a 2,400' long, 30' high massive rock dike in an attempt to keep Canyon Creek from

causing more damage. Unfortunately for Chinook salmon, access to 4 miles of spawning habitat in Canyon Creek was blocked by the construction of the dike. Despite spending millions of dollars trying to control the creek and realizing the harm done to Chinook salmon spawning habitat, Whatcom County eventually came to the conclusion that it would be cheaper to buy out the landowners in most risk of harm rather than to keep spending public dollars on flood control works. Consequently in 2001, Whatcom County River and Flood Division partnered with the Land Trust and applied for and received matching grants from both FEMA and the State Salmon Recovery Funding Board to purchase properties along Canyon Creek, remove all structures, and protect the area for salmon habitat. Plans were also laid for repairing the damage to Canyon Creek and improving fish passage for Chinook and the other five species of salmon that spawn in the creek. This September, the River and Flood Division transferred to Whatcom Land Trust the now vacant 68 acre Logs property along with four lots in Glacier Springs, completing the first joint salmon and flood management project in the county.

The Land Trust will manage this sensitive area for salmon and wildlife



photo: Eric Carabba

Cold water rushes down Canyon Creek.

habitat. Plans are being developed for the county to remove a portion of the dike constraining Canyon Creek, remove the Chinook salmon passage barrier, and revegetate gravel bars along the flood plain. The Land Trust and Whatcom County will work together to protect and restore Canyon Creek to its former preeminence as a Chinook spawning stream. ▲

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What is going on Out On the Land?

Eric Carabba

Stewardship is the cornerstone of the Land Trust's mission. Stewardship of the land comes in a variety of forms from allowing nature to take its course to active intervention to restore non-functioning habitat. Whether ecosystems and natural processes are functioning or being restored, invasive plants continue to threaten wildlife habitat throughout Whatcom County. This past July Service



photo courtesy of Alan Fitzberg

Walking encyclopedia, Doug Huddle, shares some of his knowledge about fish with volunteer land monitors.

for Peace volunteers spent a day removing blackberry and knotweed along Bell Creek near Welcome. This coming fall and winter, Lummi Nation Natural Resources will begin site preparation by removing the remaining invasive plants in order to plant a buffer of conifers along Bell Creek and the North Fork of the Nooksack River.

Whatcom Land Trust is planning three work parties this fall. On October 20 you can join us to remove an old barbwire fence between Blue Mountain Conservation Easement and WLT's new Port Blakely II property along the South Fork of the Nooksack near Saxon. On October 27, you can join Whatcom Land Trust, Whatcom County Parks, and the Jensen family for "Make a Difference Day" to remove the remaining English holly and other invasive plants and help gravel the trail at the Jensen Family Forest Park near Custer. On November 3, we are planning to remove old barbwire fences in preparation for planting conifer buffers along Maple Creek near Maple Falls. All work parties are from 9 am to noon. Tools, gloves, and snacks are provided! Please call 650-9470 for directions to the site!

Truck Needed

WLT is in need of a small truck or other modest vehicle that our property steward could use to travel the county. If you or someone you know has such a vehicle and is interested in donating it, please contact Jerry at 650-9470 or jerry@whatcomlandtrust.org. ▲

Volunteers help Whatcom Land Trust through work parties and as volunteer land stewards. Whatcom Land Trust volunteer stewards have been instrumental in keeping an eye on and caring for our properties and providing a necessary presence on public lands. During a recent training session, a dozen volunteers attended to learn more about salmon, wildlife, and native and invasive plants at Deming Homestead Eagle Park. We try to coordinate between 3 to 5 volunteer land stewards per property. We can use extra help monitoring several of our riparian properties between Welcome and Glacier along the North Fork. If you are interested in becoming involved, please contact Eric Carabba or Steve Walker at 650-9470. Call now and get out on the land! ▲



photos: Eric Carabba

Left: Volunteer land monitors braved the chill to learn the duties of monitoring.

Right: Service for Peace volunteers removed knotweed and blackberries to allow native vegetation to thrive at Bell Creek.

Membership Program

One of goals of the Land Trust strategic plan, adopted earlier this year, was to clarify the organization's membership program. Membership programs provide a long-term, stable source of unrestricted income while increasing community awareness and support of our work. As individual members become more deeply connected to our mission, their personal commitment to support our organization through donations of time and money grows stronger. We depend on the support and trust of the community in which we work, and we do all that we can to continuously earn that support and trust.

The Land Trust has had difficulty in the past identifying who is and who is not a member of the organization. The desire has always been to lean toward the most inclusive definition of membership and count all who have supported the organization as members. The general sense has been that we ask our supporters for assistance once a year and that appeal is not a "membership drive". Although we have had membership drives in the past and most supporters consider themselves members, there is no clear definition of "member." Our focus in the near future will be to develop a membership base that is inclusive and recognizes the many different types of support we receive organizationally.

It is our intent to be thoughtful and considerate of our supporters' time, effort, and commitment, and not engage in high pressure fundraising tactics. We will in the future seek support in addition to the annual appeal, and strive to provide a widespread understanding of the value of land conservation and stewardship. In return, our members' assistance reinforces the validity of our efforts on their behalf, supplies important knowledge, skills, volunteer time, and provides financial stability. The costs of maintaining a viable organization continues to rise, and just as many of you struggle within your budget, the Land Trust also is challenged to cover the costs of the organization. WLT has made a commitment to treat every donor with gratitude and respect; we are appreciative of your support in the past and hope that you recognize the value of investing in an organization dedicated to the preservation of the best of Whatcom places. ▲

We depend on the support and trust of the community in which we work...

Outreach Volunteers at Summer Events

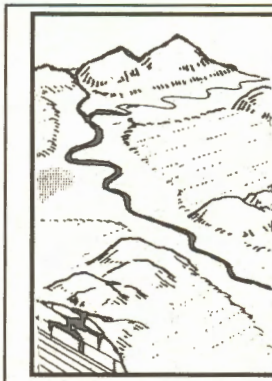
Thanks to dedicated volunteers, Whatcom Land Trust had a presence at several events this summer. In July, the WLT "float" (a non-motorized display) rolled along in the Birch Bay parade and the Ferndale Old Settlers Days parade. The exposure was great, and the display received cheers from onlookers. It even won an award at the Ferndale parade! Many thanks to Rod Burton who designed and built the float, and to Bob and Marcie Toby and Sara Hill who joined Rod Burton and Connie Clement to happily guide the craft.

Volunteers worked the Whatcom Land Trust booth this summer, allowing WLT to have a presence at the Community Food Co-op Party, NW Washington Fair, Drayton Harbor Maritime Festival, and Bellingham Farmers Market. Many thanks to Bob and Marcie Toby, Pat Wenke, Nancy Hart, Gwen Parker and Cynthia Millar for working the booth!



If you are interested in volunteering for Whatcom Land Trust outreach efforts, contact Connie at connie@whatcom-landtrust.org or by calling 650-9470, and ask to be included on the volunteer email list. An email is sent once a month listing upcoming volunteer opportunities.

We encourage all volunteers to complete the enrollment form at the Whatcom Volunteer Center website so you will be covered by insurance while volunteering for Whatcom Land Trust. The site address is: www.whatcomvolunteer.org. For those who have completed the form in the past, it needs to be updated yearly, so please see the short Insurance Update form on the Volunteer Center website. ▲



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New Places and Faces in our Office

Eric Carabba Becomes Conservation Director

WLT has been blessed for many years with an inspiring, dedicated and effective staff. Every staff person works collaboratively with the board, volunteers and one another with the good humor and ease we all hope resides within our own families. Change to the composition of the staff could be greeted with the mixture of excitement and trepidation that might accompany the arrival of a new baby or puppy into a family. Fortunately we hire wonderful people who help WLT achieve great success.

Way back last February our long time Conservation Director, Gordon Scott, asked the board if he could shift to a half time Conservation Specialist position with WLT to allow time to pursue some long delayed personal goals. His request initiated a process of finding and hiring a new Conservation Director culminating this Fall in the hiring of our Land Steward Eric Carabba. Eric brings to the Conservation Director job a life-long knowledge of the County land and people along with his highly developed understanding of WLT and conservation

issues. We are very excited to have Eric moving into a position with the Trust that we hope will provide enough challenge and satisfaction to keep him with the Trust for many years. This arrangement is very fortunate for WLT. We are able to retain the highly skilled and well loved presence of Gordon as he takes up a half time, two weeks on two weeks off, position as Conservation Specialist. Gordon's primary focus will be salmon habitat acquisition projects. As Gordon and Eric have long been working closely we anticipate the new arrangement will be a boon to our conservation efforts.

Of course Eric's shift to Conservation Director left us with an opening in our Land Steward position. It is our good fortune to welcome long time WLT member and volunteer Steve Walker into the position. Steve is an avid outdoors man with an intimate knowledge of Whatcom County landscape and conservation issues. He comes to the job eager to continue and expand the work of protecting and managing WLT property. ▲



photo courtesy of Margo Burton

Margo Burton, Boardmember

Margo is from Blaine and graduated from Blaine High School. She went to Whitman College in Walla Walla, where she graduated with a BA in geology/environmental studies. Her undergraduate work took her to Alaska and Florida, where she studied glaciers and water quality, respectively. After graduation, she decided she wanted to work on issues of water quality and availability, so she decided to study hydrology at Western Washington University. After recently finishing the master's program at WWU, she started working as a hydrogeologist for Skagit County Public Works. She enjoys living in Bellingham, and exploring Skagit County through her work. In her free time, she likes to sew, knit, work in her garden, and ride her bike around Bellingham's parks. As a life-long resident of Whatcom County, she values the many treasures our area has to offer, so she's excited to be a member of the Whatcom Land Trust board and work to conserve our natural resources. ▲

Rebecca Reich, Boardmember

Rebecca Reich has lived & worked in Bellingham & Whatcom County since 1983. She moved here from Santa Fe, NM by way of Colorado where she studied Horticulture & then worked in the Nursery & Greenhouse industry for 5 years. She feels lucky to have always lived in beautiful places & wants to do her part in helping to protect & preserve Whatcom's bounty. Rebecca began her real estate career in 1986 & has since helped many local residents & transplants alike with their real estate needs including a variety of residential & land sales & consulting. She is an independent real estate agent at the Muljat Group's Bellingham office. Rebecca lives in Ferndale where she & her husband recently built a lovely home. She loves the outdoors, beaches, mountains, rocks, old barns, rural settings & has an appreciation for our agricultural heritage.

Rebecca is excited about the opportunity to help WLT continue the important work that they do in protecting & preserving the wild lands & agriculture lands that makes this place one of the best places on earth! ▲



photo courtesy of Rebecca Reich

Upcoming Outreach Events

Tours are free to WLT members. Suggested \$5 to \$10 donation for non-members is requested.

Whatcom Land Trust's ARCO/BP Heron Reserve Tour

Saturday, October 13

10am – 12:30pm

Leader: Ann Eissinger, Wildlife Biologist

Limit: None

Come join us for a slide presentation and talk on great blue herons followed by a visit to the heronry preserved by WLT. Wildlife biologist Ann Eissinger will provide information on these beautiful birds, and guide you around their nesting site. For more information and to register, call Whatcom Land Trust at 650-9470. (Also, Ann is looking for volunteers to help with the heron count in October. If interested, Connie can help you make contact with Ann.)

Make A Difference Day

Saturday, October 27

Join Whatcom Land Trust on this national day of volunteering. We'll join the Make A Difference Day breakfast at Bellingham High School and then head out for a few hours of land restoration! For more information or to sign up, call Eric at 650-9470 or email him at eric@whatcomlandtrust.org.

A Storytelling Celebration of Place

Monday, November 12

7:00 pm

Village Books

Bellingham Storytellers Guild will present an evening of tales celebrating the significance of place. This event kicks off the 2007 Tellabration Festival. Come join us for captivating stories that will get you thinking about the special places in your life. Admission is by donation and benefits the Voices of the Ancestors project and Whatcom Land Trust.

Whatcom Land Trust's Chum and Coho Salmon Tour

Saturday, December 1

10 am – 1pm

Leader: Doug Huddle, Outdoors Writer

Limit: 12

Discover winter Chum & Coho on this trip along some of WLT's Nooksack River properties with fish surveyor Doug Huddle. See the salmon as they make their spawning trip up the river and learn about their tendencies and challenges from this experienced outdoorsman.

Whatcom Land Trust's New Year's Bald Eagle Tour

Monday, January 1

10am – 1pm

Leader: Doug Huddle, Outdoors Writer

Limit: 15

Celebrate the New Year with magnificent Bald Eagles! This New Year's Day tour will visit a popular eagle fishing site protected by Whatcom Land Trust. Learn about the local recovery of this endangered species and of the current threats to its food source. See local places where eagles like to roost and watch the birds in action!

Private Tours for Your Group

We have had two groups respond to our offer to have a private tour of a Whatcom Land Trust property. In July, we hosted staff and volunteers of Whatcom Hospice at Stimpson Family Nature Reserve, and in August, a group from the Bellingham Photography Club explored Clark's Point with cameras in hand. If you would like your group to get a private tour of Whatcom Land Trust properties, just call Connie at 650-9470 or email her at connie@whatcomlandtrust.org.

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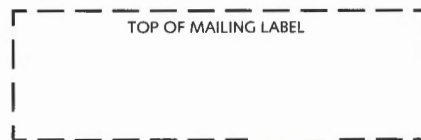
Fax: **360-650-0495**

E-mail:

info@whatcomlandtrust.org

website:

www.whatcomlandtrust.org



Whatcom Land Trust • By the Numbers

Land protected through the efforts or assistance of Whatcom Land Trust:

Total Acres 8,885

Miles of Riverfront 14

Miles of Salt Water Shoreline 7

Public Parks Created 9

The Mission of 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.

I'd Like to help Whatcom Land Trust. I want to:

- Become a member (\$35 min.)
- Make a donation \$ _____
- Find out more
- Help with _____

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City/Zip _____ Phone _____

e-mail _____

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