

The

Steward

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

Volume 16 Number 2

Summer 2007

Jake Steiner's Forestry Legacy

Born in Bellingham in 1918, Jake Steiner came home from the hospital aboard the Bellingham Bay and British Columbia Railroad. Home was and still is property on the Nooksack's North Fork near Glacier, homesteaded by Jake's father in the 1880s. Little did Jake know that he was beginning a quiet, lifelong mission to protect a 12-acre stand of mighty old growth Sitka spruce on the homestead between Wildcat and McDonald Creeks.

In May, Whatcom Land Trust purchased 230 acres from Jake, his 4 children, and 17 grandchildren, including the 10-foot in diameter spruce trees and critical habitat for threatened spring Chinook and other salmon species. The \$1,035,000 purchase price came from the State Salmon Recovery Funding Board and private donations to the Land Trust.

After a stint in the lumber mill near his home, Jake went to work in the woods, moving through the ranks from choker setter to cutter — "because that is where the money was." As a young man, he stood on a springboard to cut



photo: Rand Jack

Whatcom Land Trust staff members Eric Carabba and Connie Clement assess the girth of one of Jake's big spruce trees.

old growth cedar and hemlock with an ax and crosscut handsaw. In the 40s Jake was one of the first to use a chain saw, a Titan weighing over 100 pounds.

Jake got a special deferment to stay home from World War II to cut giant yellow cedars near Glacier. New metal U.S. minesweepers were easy targets for German magnetic mines. In Jake's words, "They were duck soup for the Germans. . . Everything that was metal – blooey!" Jake and his crew could deliver the big yellow cedars needed for the keels of wooden hulled minesweepers.

Despite a lifetime as a logger, Jake never cut the great old spruce trees just down the river from his home. Even

when he began to log the second growth timber on his own property in the 70s, he let those stand. Why? When asked, Jake replied simply, "I couldn't cut 'em down." When asked again, Jake shed a little light on his relationship to those trees. "They were a good place to find some peace and quiet. I'd get some reading and go down and prop up against one of them trees." For Jake the spruce trees were also a link to the past, "part of the old days, I guess," part of a time Jake knew well when the hillsides and river bottoms were populated with giant old trees like these.

In a follow-up interview, Jake returned to the question about leaving the big trees and put it in a larger context.

...continued on page four

Greg Aanes Furniture

Office Move Planned

Come September 1, you should find us in our new digs at 300 North Commercial Suite 4. It will be just a short move across the alley for us- we will be closer to the library, post office, and the City and County offices. Any of you who have visited the office recently know how hard pressed we are to find room to put anything down. The new office will be effectively two times the size of our present space and give us ample room for work stations, meetings, work parties, and some much needed storage room.

Website Being Updated

Keep your eyes out for a revitalized and far more functional land trust web site in early September. The address will remain the same www.Whatcomlandtrust.org, but the site will be filled with a variety of updates, fresh photography, maps, and information on many of our conservation projects. The web site is being redesigned and upgraded by Seth James Thomas. Look for examples of his work at <http://www.sethjamesthomas.com/>. We are excited by the early samples we have seen from him, and are looking forward to a brand new web presence. We'll let you know when it's up and available. Please continue to visit our current site until the new version comes online.

Mayor's Arts Award

We owe a big thank you to volunteer Connie Shannon! On April 19, in the Rotunda Room of the Whatcom Museum of History and Art, Mayor Tim Douglas honored Whatcom Land Trust with one of the 2007 Mayor's Arts Awards. The Mayor's Arts Awards honor Bellingham citizens or organizations who have significantly contributed to the arts in our community. Those receiving awards represent a wide variety of visual, performing and cultural art endeavors. Connie nominated the land trust's book, *Whatcom Places II*, praising the new book's adherence to the inspirational beauty and wise writing of the original *Whatcom Places*. Thank you Mayor Douglas, and thank you Connie!

Greg Aanes Furniture is a Whatcom Land Trust Business Partner that has chosen to support the work of the land trust in a variety of ways. In addition to the traditional cash donation, the company has donated contract advertising space and has provided some of its product line of fine furniture to the Great Outdoors Auction. In speaking with company founder, Greg Aanes, one learns that the company takes a great deal of pride in being a local business. The company emphasizes producing the finest of products, constructing heirlooms, while using, whenever possible, a combination of local, sustainably produced, or reclaimed wood. Greg expresses a hope of continuing to expand the business. He is actively exploring the development of new workshop space, which would allow him to hire more employees and still retain the gallery space in downtown Bellingham. "I have a personal need to feel a connection with the local place, the local community. I would love to see the local marketplace operate on a scale in which locally raised hardwoods would be available for craftsmen like me and my employees. We are all invested in this area and I think our support of the work of the land trust reflects my commitment to this special place."

Greg Aanes first began exploring woodworking as a career in his early twenties. The lack of a formal apprenticeship program caused him to devote a great deal of time to attending seminars and workshops. "I did workshops with the fine furniture maker Thomas Moser, and many others, but one particular workshop that taught me so many lessons, on so many levels, was with the Japanese craftsman Isaburo Wada. Isaburo, the official boxmaker for the Emperor, taught patience and listening skills I really needed to develop at that time. I think I'm still learning from that experience." After working four years with John Erickson in Newcastle, Colorado, Greg opened his furniture gallery in Whatcom County in 1980, moving to his spot on the corner of Champion and Forest 10 years ago.

Selling and promoting the business at a variety of venues has resulted in Greg traveling to shows in areas such as Baltimore, Chicago, and Philadelphia. In addition, the San Francisco and Santa Monica areas of California have proven remarkably fruitful for the company. Greg notes that one of the biggest changes he

Volunteer Opportunities to Help WLT

Outreach: Tabling & Parade Volunteers

Administration: Help moving the Office at the end of Summer

Land Management: Land Steward Training, September 21 & 22

call the office at 650-9470 to get more information

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photo provided by Greg Aanes Furniture

The craftsmen (from left: Joe Miles, Dan Reynolds, Greg Aanes, Eric Lundin) take a few moments break in the gallery showroom to test their handiwork.

has seen over the course of his time in the business has been the emergence of the Internet and the marketing possibilities to be found there. Inquiries, orders, and opportunities have come in over the Web with product being shipped to Germany and Hong Kong as a result.

Greg believes that one of the integral components of the business is the ability to buy wood from a variety of different places. He has received a great deal of help from fellow Whatcom

Land Trust supporter Pacific Tonewoods, and he has developed contacts for cherrywood from Pennsylvania and a deeply figured maple that comes from the Skagit area. One unique source has been mango trees from Hawaii that are harvested during lawn and farm renovations. Greg and his staff are tireless experimenters and use everything from outdoor weathering to soil and aging to stabilize the shape and color of the mango wood. This experimentation results in some remarkably attractive pieces of furniture.

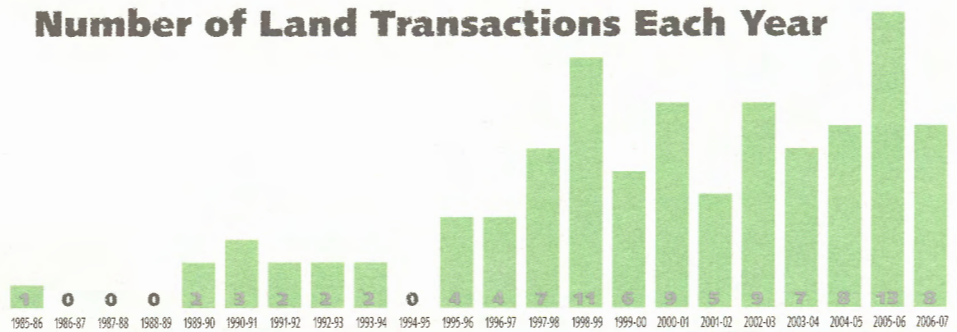
Greg and his family enjoy hiking and kayaking around the bay especially along the Chuckanut shore. He speaks fondly of his trip to Norway and the opportunity to cross country ski with the Norwegian Trekking Association. The experience of skiing hut to hut with mountain guides and other Norwegians provided an opportunity to connect with the community at a more personal level. Learn more about the business by visiting their website (<http://www.greagaanesfurniture.com>) or stopping by the gallery. To learn how your business might be part of the Business Partner program contact the land trust office at 650-9470. ▲

Pace of Conservation Work Increases

Gordon Scott, Conservation Director

In the last ten years Whatcom Land Trust has nearly tripled the number of conservation transactions completed each year. Often lost amid recent news of skyrocketing population growth, heated development pressures and ranking of Bellingham as yet another "Top Ten" place to live is the quiet but diligent effort of Whatcom Land Trust and our partners working to conserve the last best places of Whatcom County. Places like the Canyon Lake Community Forest, a 2,260-acre mountain watershed with 1,000 year old Alaska yellow cedar forest, is a living time capsule that only nature and time could create. Places like the Nettet Farm along the South Fork Nooksack recall bygone days of hard work and quiet simplicity. Places like the Stimpson Family Nature Reserve in the Lake Whatcom Watershed reflect one family's generosity and community spirit towards protecting our

Number of Land Transactions Each Year



precious drinking water source. Places like the new Point Whitehorn Nature Reserve will show the community the value of forested wetlands and natural saltwater beaches. Yet even as more forests are cleared and more land is platted for houses the Board and staff of the Land Trust are redoubling efforts to find creative ways and money to protect our community's greatest natural wonders.

Much of the increase in conservation transactions stems from more and more landowners approaching the Land Trust seeking to protect the natural heritage

of their home place. Additionally, public agencies and local governments are calling for greater efforts to protect Puget Sound, endangered species and watersheds. In order to meet this increasing demand the Land Trust will increase its conservation staff. This fall Conservation Director Gordon Scott will focus half-time on special projects and the Board will hire a new full time Conservation Director. Whatcom Land Trust is rising to the challenge of our mission and carefully growing to meet the increasing pace of conservation needs in our community. ▲

Steiner Legacy

continued from page one

“You know, I was talking about that spruce [stand] down there. One of the reasons I left it – in a thousand years there’ll never be another crop of it like that. ... There’s never going to be any old growth again; it’s a different kind of wood – climate change and all that.” In fact, Jake’s working in the woods led to his appreciation for the uniqueness of this stand of spruce. “Never realized ‘til I got older what a rare find they were. They cleared everything out down in the river bottoms – that’s about the only trees left anymore. ... I cut some pretty good size stuff. I was just kind a reluctant to cut ‘em cause I couldn’t find anymore. ... I held my feet when it came to cuttin’em.”



photo courtesy of Jake Steiner

Skeleton crew left to finish up things at Warnick Mill after hard times hit in 1938-39. Jake on the far left — “My buddy bending my nose over.”

The big spruce are just part of the ecosystem that make the Steiner property probably the largest, most important functioning salmon habitat in private ownership on the North Fork. The property includes 1.5 miles of frontage on the Nooksack, floodplain covered by mature forest and laced with side channels, riparian forest along 2,000 feet of Wildcat Creek and 1,700 feet of McDonald Creek. Doug Huddle, for 16 years the Department of Fish and Wildlife’s fish man on the Nooksack, has observed 8 anadromous fish species at the Steiner place—spring Chinook, pink, chum, Coho, sockeye,

“You know, I was talking about that spruce [stand] down there. One of the reasons I left it – in a thousand years there’ll never be another crop of it like that...” Jake Steiner

winter run steelhead, sea run cutthroat, and native char. According to Huddle, “this is one of the few locales in the Nooksack basin of sufficient complexity to be utilized by all of these species.”

The Land Trust first began talking to Jake about this exceptional property nine years ago. Jake knew that he wanted to work with the Land Trust to protect the big trees but the timing just wasn’t right. And now, finally, through Jake’s stewardship and foresight, the big trees and salmon habitat are permanently protected. If you want to “find some peace and quiet” visiting Jake’s big spruce trees, keep an eye out for a Whatcom Land Trust tour. And remember that your support makes this possible. ▲

OPINION

The Bellingham Herald TheBellinghamHerald.com

OUR VIEW

Land trust acquisitions preserve natural beauty

Whatcom County residents should consider themselves lucky to live in a place where so many people are interested in preserving natural beauty.

That love of the outdoors and nature manifests itself in many ways here, not the least of which is a robust and active land trust organization that diligently works to set aside property in perpetuity.

Earlier this month, the Whatcom Land Trust announced yet another purchase of property for preservation. The trust paid about \$1 million for 230 acres of property along the north fork of the Nooksack River near Glacier. The natural features on the property include massive old-growth Sitka spruce and the streams that serve as top-notch salmon habitat. Officials called the property the “largest functioning salmon habitat in the north fork outside of the national forest.”

As with all land trust acquisitions, the property owner deserves recognition as well: 89-year-old Jack Steiner decided to sell the property. Steiner, a logger, wanted the spruce protected. He and his father had refused to cut the giant trees, some of which are 12 feet in diameter, despite owning the property for more than 80 years.

The money for the purchase came from the land trust and the state Salmon Recovery Funding Board, which recognized the value after hearing that the state Fish and Wildlife Department had

found eight species of salmon in creeks on the property or in the main stem of the north fork just off the property.

A NEW PARK

The Whatcom Land Trust is also moving ahead with plans for a new park and trail at Point Whitehorn. The land trust got the 51 acres of forested wetlands in a swap Trillium Corp. agreed to last year. In exchange, Trillium received 43 acres off the southern end of Jackson Road, near Cherry Point.

The land trust plans to build a parking lot out of the wooded wetlands on the Point Whitehorn property, then build a trail through those woods to a 1½-mile stretch of public beach that was previously difficult to access.

The new trail is just the latest in a long line of Whatcom Land Trust developments that allow access to previously off-limits natural areas such as the Canyon Lake Creek Community Forest, property east of Deming and the Stimpson Nature Reserve along Lake Louise Road on the way to Sudden Valley. Both of those properties include trail systems created in cooperation with other landowners.

These kinds of projects will provide a growing legacy of conservation in our community. We encourage anyone with valuable natural property to consider using the land trust to set it aside for future generations — as Jack Steiner, and so many before him, have done.

Carrascos Protect Wild Classroom

Ken and Mariann Carrasco bought their 40-acre Blue Mountain Farm off the Saxon Road in 2006. Mariann is a wildlife biologist and Ken a fish and marine biologist, so it should come as no surprise that one of the first things they did after acquiring the property was to call Whatcom Land Trust about putting a conservation easement on their land. In May of this year, they did just that. As Ken put it, "Our overriding goal is to preserve wildlife habitat. As the county grows, it makes us feel good to know that this will never be touched, that it will remain forever wild."

The easement covers 28 acres of diverse habitat near the South Fork of the Nooksack—mature evergreen, deciduous, and mixed forests, a rich, spring-fed wetland complex, steep hillsides and floodplain. Coho salmon share the wetland ponds with patrolling beavers.



photo: Gordon Scott

A beautiful grove of red cedars graces the new Carrasco conservation easement.

"...we want to have a place where people can learn and experience the wilderness..."

Ken & Mariann Carrasco

Mariann releases lucky rehabilitated animals here, ranging from skunks to wood ducks.

Another part of the Carrascos' dream is to use the 20 person facilities on the remaining 12 acres of

their property as a center for environmental education and other learning activities. In addition to protecting wilderness, "we want to have a place where people can learn and experience the wilderness, can learn and experience all aspects of forest ecosystems in the Cascades." Mariann and Ken plan to use the facilities for organizations to offer workshops that help people better understand and appreciate wildlife, ecology, wetlands, fisheries, and plant identification, as well as other educational interests.

To better match their dream, the Carrascos have renamed the property The Lodge at Blue Mountain Farm, a perfect place to combine protecting and learning about the natural wonders of Whatcom County. ▲

The Purpose section of the conservation easement describes the Carrascos' dream: "to protect forever the forest, habitat and natural values on the Property, including the wetland and aquatic habitat, to foster natural forest succession toward old growth forest conditions and to maintain open space, aesthetic and wildlife values." The easement will help make this dream a reality.



photo: Gordon Scott

Ken Carrasco and WLT President Chris Moench celebrate the signing of the conservation easement.

Successful Work Parties

Eric Carabba, Property Steward

Thank you to all the students at Western Washington University through Business and Accounting Professionals (BAP) and Learning Environment Action Discovery (LEAD) and other volunteers who participated in several work parties this past spring on conservation easements and land owned by the land trust. Two separate work parties with Western students visited the Pratum property in the Lake Whatcom watershed on the southern slopes of Lake Whatcom to remove an infestation of English holly. LEAD students participated in several work parties at Clark's Point to remove Scotch broom and English holly.

In March, 20 high school students from Windward High School in Ferndale helped remove blackberries and plant red cedar and Sitka spruce along a tributary stream of Terrell Creek at Whatcom Land Trust's Kelsey property. Thank you to Farmers Growing Trees for Salmon for donating the trees.

Nearly forty volunteers assembled at Jensen Family Forest Park on Earth Day to clean up the trail from windfalls and remove English holly. The Jensen family is greatly appreciative of the efforts of so many young people who came to help out.

In May, we wrapped up our spring volunteer work parties with the help of BAP by picking up a truck and trailer piled high with garbage dumped at Whatcom Land Trust's Racehorse Creek Property.

Bob Keller and family friends joined the Clark family to sort and recycle items in an old shed at Clark's Point to prepare the building for demolition. Now that the shed is gone, native plants will be planted in the fall and the site will revert to nature.

Whatcom Land Trust's Property Steward is planning fall work parties now, and I am looking for core groups and individual volunteers to get out on the land! We are planning



photos:Eric Carabba

Above: Windward High School students at a stream on the Kelsey property.

Below: WWU Business & Accounting students use a weed wrench to pull Holly at Jensen Family Forest Park.

to remove barbwire fences and nonnative plants and to pick up litter at properties on the North and South fork. We are also planning on controlling brush and nonnative plants with hand tools in some of the younger timber plantations incidental to the Land Trust's larger riparian acquisitions along the North and South Fork of the Nooksack River. We will also continue to work on holly at Clark's Point if you are interested in something closer to Bellingham!

The property steward is planning a volunteer Fee Land Steward training for the end of September for current and new Fee Land Stewards. We greatly appreciate our volunteer Land Stewards because their efforts play an important role in the protection of conservation land throughout Whatcom County. If you would like to get out on the land along the North Fork or South Fork and help Whatcom Land Trust keep an eye on our land and monitor fish, wildlife, and plant communities, please contact Eric for more information. ▲

photo: Eric Carabba
Students from WWU's LEAD program enjoy the beauty of Clark's Point after pulling invasive plants.



Port Blakely:

Another Jewel in the Necklace

In May 2007, Whatcom Land Trust acquired a 68 acre tract of forest land along the South Fork Nooksack from Port Blakely Timber Company of Seattle. The land is located near Skookum Creek and Lummi Nation's salmon hatchery. About 50 acres of the property is flat, valley bottom flood plain crisscrossed with old river channels that have been cut off from the river by Saxon Road. Here on the valley bottom, you can find giant cedar stumps 30 feet in circumference that were cut by early loggers perched 10-12 feet above ground on springboards so they could reach a spot where their crosscut saws could just reach through the giant tree trunks. Remnants of old logging railroad grades snake through the woods as well, testimony to the early pioneer days in the area.

The Land Trust acquired the Port Blakely property with a grant from the State Salmon Recovery Funding Board as part of the overall South Fork Chinook salmon recovery effort. As part of that project, the Land Trust is working with the Lummi Nation to restore and connect the floodplain habitat of this property with the South Fork River. To restore the Port Blakely property to fully functioning habitat, the Lummi Nation is considering moving a portion of the Saxon Road inland away from its present location right next to the river and allowing the river to meander through the mature riparian forests on the newly acquired land. This will be an ambitious undertaking, but the Lummi Natural Resources Department's successful experience building five log jams and removing a dike along the South Fork just downstream makes moving a road seem easy. The addition of the new Port Blakely property brings the total area of protected salmon habitat along the South Fork to 756 acres. ▲



photo: Eric Carabba

The mature forests at Port Blakely are a refuge for wildlife.

Pritchett-Jacobson Conservation Easement Donation

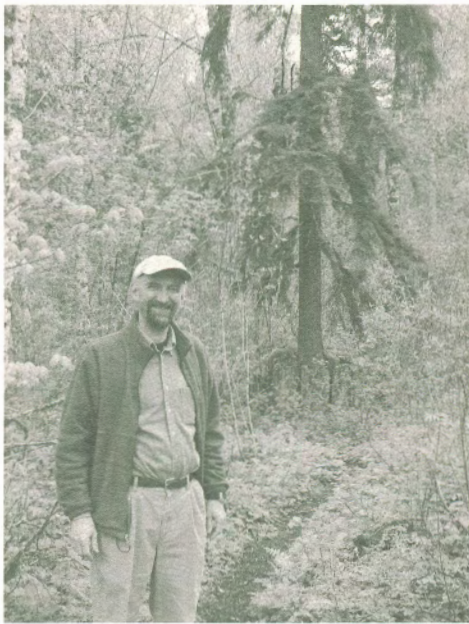


photo: Gordon Scott

Russell Pritchett at home in the woods.

Cirque and flows through the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest past the hamlet of Glacier in eastern Whatcom County. This part of the North Fork, still wild and free flowing, is a window into the past of Whatcom County's once abundant fish and wildlife. Spawning salmon, soaring eagles, black bear, and mountain goats still thrive here.

In 2005, Russell Pritchett and Meg Jacobson, two Bellingham immigration attorneys, purchased 8.48 acres on the North Fork where the river flows out of the National Forest. Russell, a native Montanan, easily recognized the beauty and splendor of the North Fork Valley and contacted Whatcom Land Trust to work out the terms of a conservation easement for their new property. The Pritchett-Jacobson

river frontage, though small, is virtually an extension of the habitat found on the National Forest land just upriver. Beaver are active along the river banks, and a small creek flowing through the property offers refuge for rearing salmon and trout. The mixed forest habitat of varying ages is home to a variety of native birds.

Meg and Russell built a small house on their new property well away from the river and placed a restrictive conservation easement on the remaining 6 acres of river frontage. The easement prohibits clearing, residential development, and bank hardening, but allows Russell and Meg passive recreational enjoyment of their property. The Pritchett-Jacobson Conservation Easement joins the family of Whatcom Land Trust protected properties that now comprise 937 acres of North Fork habitat. ▲

Under the shadow of Mt. Shuksan, glacial streams and cascades collect into the North Fork Nooksack River. The North Fork, no more than a small creek at this point, tumbles out of the Nooksack

7th Annual Great Outdoors Auction a Great Success

The 7th annual Great Outdoors Auction was the most successful one to date, and believe it or not, we are already looking forward to next year's event! Tickets and tables for the evening at the ferry terminal in Fairhaven on May 5th were sold out a month in advance. A waiting list of close to 30 had us wondering where we might host the auction in the future in order to accommodate all those who wished to attend but were unable to secure tickets. Over \$50,000 in net proceeds, a new auction high, was raised through a combination of the silent and live auctions, the 'Death by Dessert' auction, and the Fund a Foot of Trail sweep.

We are truly grateful for all of the volunteers who help make this fun event possible. The work of transforming the terminal begins early in the morning and it is simply remarkable to see the enthusiasm of the volunteers as they turn the Fairhaven terminal into a marketplace of fun, good deals, and unique fare. What perhaps is most admirable is that these volunteers work tirelessly all day long while over in one corner of the building a cornucopia of unbelievable desserts begins to stack up on tables. That our helpers are able to pass by these delectable delights, and not stop and perhaps sneak a taste, is a commendable exhibition of restraint!

Attendees chatted, shopped, and bid against each other as they moved about the beautifully decorated silent auction tables. Weekend stays, camping equipment, art pieces, fishing trips, home improvements, and fine foods are examples of what folks could bid upon as the function got underway. The desserts that were such a distraction in the afternoon became the feature attraction in the early evening and the subject of much frenzied bidding with an unbelievably HUGE chocolate cake the reward chosen by the highest bidding table. Auctioneer Gary Tomsic and Master of Ceremonies Pete Kremen kept the live auction moving along briskly, aided occasionally by the appearance of a group of teenage performance artists from PIE Improv. The Fund a Foot of Trail sweep of the room resulted in \$12,000 being raised in just under five minutes to further the development of trails on Whatcom Land Trust projects that provide public access.



photo: Alan Fritzbeg

Attendees view some of the many items presented at the Great Outdoors Auction.

The live auction was highlighted by the opportunity to bid upon a Necky kayak provided by Johnson Outdoors, and several different dining experiences ranging from your own personal chef, to a cider squeeze, to dinner with the Mayor or the County Executive. Also featured were exquisite wines from Stag Hollow vineyard, Mt. Baker ski packages, and a variety of fine art. Energetic bidding occurred among the tables, as our guests sought to secure vacation trips to Arizona, Vancouver B.C., Montana, Oregon, and Tobago, but some of the most enthusiastic bidding of the night revolved around the opportunity to secure a homemade gourmet dessert, every month, for an entire year!

We owe a debt of gratitude to Pacific Surveying & Engineering, Whatcom Educational Credit Union, Ryzex, Northwest Computer, Lithtex Northwest, and Haggen for sponsoring our auction. We are fortunate to receive the support of many businesses that choose to assist the Great Outdoor Auction, and the sponsors went the extra mile in helping make the evening a success. Additionally, we wish to recognize the assistance we received from Gaye Godfrey, Whatcom Sound, Starbucks, the Port of Bellingham, and J. Russell Catering.

Work on the auction began early in the year, and once again board member Cindy Klein chose to chair the committee. She was ably assisted in this task by auction coordinator Renée Roberts. Carol Rondello, Sally Grant, Nancy Hart, and Jean



photos: Alan Fritzberg

Above: Bidders enthusiastically support the "build a trail" segment of the live auction.

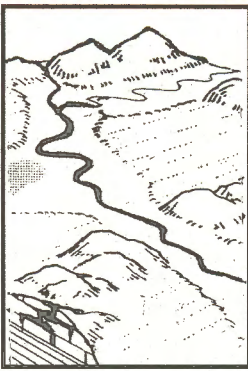
Right: This year's dessert auction offered amazing choices provided by local restaurants, caterers and individuals.

Calhoun all worked extremely hard to secure items of interest for the auction. Board members Rod Burton, Mary Dumas, Bob Keller, Chris Moench, and staff members Connie Clement and Dawn Sodt were instrumental in providing assistance to the committee in preparation for the event. Many, many volunteers helped with serving, setup, data entry, cleanup, and all the endless tasks that are required to make the auction a success.

Perhaps our greatest thanks needs to be expressed to Becky Masters who steadily, silently, and skillfully, plugs in the numbers, tracks the items, and crafts the descriptions as the auction catalog begins to take shape. Beginning in January, Becky devotes time every week to keeping track of everything, cheerfully sorting and sifting through all of the loot as it accumulates. Her dedication is so remarkable, that you'll find her late on the night of the auction, a couple of hours after all have gone home, smiling as she vacuums the ferry terminal lobby! Thanks Becky, and thanks again to all the donors, patrons, and volunteers who made this year's auction the best. Give us a call



at the office if you wish to join in producing next year's big hit. We promise it will be fun! ▲



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Whatcom Land Trust Loves a Parade

On a cloudy Saturday morning, ten of us gathered. We put the wheels on the newly created "float" built by board member Rod Burton. Surrounding us were cheerleaders, theater groups, barbershop singers, and decorated garbage trucks. Some of us wore WLT hats and shirts while others donned costumes.

A funny thing happened when the costumes were in place... people changed. One person became a beautiful salmon blowing kisses to the crowd. Another became a mischievous owl who flew around, occasionally chasing the guy in the marmot costume. The eagle high-fived kids and the goat strolled along looking cool and waving to the crowd. It was fun to observe and fun to take part in this year's Ski-To-Sea Grand Parade.

On Saturday July 21, Whatcom Land Trust is going to have our human-powered "float" in the Birch Bay Discovery Days Parade. The following Saturday, July



photo: Ian Davidson

WLT volunteers got an enthusiastic response from the crowd at the parade.

28, we'll be in the Old Settlers Parade in Ferndale. For each of these events we need at least 4 volunteers to pull/push the lightweight craft down the parade route. Those interested can opt to dress as a mountain

goat, a marmot, or an owl. We will provide the costumes. Come join us! It's a real hoot. If you'd like to participate, contact Connie at connie@whatcomlandtrust.org or 650-9470. ▲

Plein-Air Workshop with Trish Harding



photos: Chris Navarre

Painters working at scenic locations at the Nessel Farm.



Calling all artists! On Saturday September 15, painting instructor Trish Harding will hold a plein-air painting session at the Nessel Farm. The session will run from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. This was a wonderful event last year, and we're glad Trish is willing to do it again. There will be a modest fee. Contact Connie at connie@whatcomlandtrust.org or 650-9470 for more information and to register. ▲

A Tribute to Rod Burton

Bob Keller, editor of *Whatcom Places II*

Often I feel like a credit-thief.

I took credit for the place-names chapter in *Whatcom Places II* even though most of the historical digging came from Tim Wahl. I receive compliments on the beauty of the book although that responsibility rests with many photographers, the digital technician, and graphic designer Rod Burton.

Rod Burton contributed much more than this book's design. He recruited Brett Baunton, Scott Wheeler, and Dean Kahn for our committee, he actively participated in all of our meetings, and he helped weed out dated photographs in the first book. He was prompt and reliable, including help with promotion and advertising.

Best of all, Rod knew exactly what should go where on which page. I have a chronological and topical mind that prefers the explicit. He is a graphic artist who thinks in terms of color, shades, and shape, in terms of juxtaposition, symbolism, and implication. Rod raises design to the level of art. For example, look at the photo on page 8 accompanying the Dietrich foreword "A Sacred Place." Or view pages 90-91 with pictures of a dairy farm, the late Hilda Bajema, and an owl. The dairy fit Hilda perfectly, but an owl? That made me nervous, ready to veto. But it works. Certainly, it works because owls are tough birds; owls look intense and focused; owls stand for wisdom.

In this and in literally hundreds of other design decisions, large and small, Rod Burton made correct choices. And that made *Whatcom Places II* the book that it is. ▲

Downtown Sounds

On July 18, Whatcom Land Trust was the featured non-profit at the Downtown Sounds concert of the *Bow Diddlers*. In exchange for helping with the concert, we were able to have our outreach booth at the event and say a few words to the crowd about WLT's work. This was a great opportunity to present our mission to the approximately 1,000 people in the crowd. Many thanks to our volunteers who made this event a success! ▲



photo: Sara Hill
Rod Burton with one
of his illustrations
for the 2003
Great Outdoors
Auction Catalog.

Help Requested with the Whatcom Land Trust Booth

Summer is the season for festivals around Whatcom County. WLT likes to have a presence at several festivals and let folks know about the work we do. The WLT display booth is complete with photos, maps, and materials to distribute. This summer, we'll have a booth at some of the Wednesday and Saturday Farmers Markets in Bellingham, the Co-Op Summer Picnic, the Drayton Harbor Maritime Festival and the Northwest Washington Fair in Lynden. If you'd like to help by taking a shift or two, please contact Connie at connie@whatcomlandtrust.org or 650-9470. ▲

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Whatcom Land Trust • By the Numbers

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

Total Acres	8,723
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 (\$30 min.)
- Make a donation \$ _____
- Find out more
- Help with _____

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