



The

# Steward

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

Volume 17 Number 2

Fall 2008

## Point Whitehorn Marine Reserve will be Available Soon

The parking lot is done and trail construction is well underway at the Point Whitehorn Marine Reserve. Sometime this fall, probably in the latter part of October, Point Whitehorn will become Whatcom County's newest park. Though the formal opening festivities will occur in the spring, the property will be available to the public as soon as the trail and supporting facilities are completed.

The 51-acre Point Whitehorn Marine Reserve will provide access to a mile and a half of public beach a short drive from Bellingham. Access to the beach winds through a pristine wooded wetland. We are fortunate to have master trail-builder Russ Pfeiffer-Hoyt exercising special care for the ecology of the area in design and construction of the trail. The juxtaposition of wooded wetlands and marine shoreline will provide a rich glimpse of nature for those who walk quietly with eyes open.

The marine reserve was made possible by a \$1,000,000 grant to Whatcom Land Trust by the Washington Department of Ecology from fines levied as a result of the 1999 Whatcom Creek gasoline spill and fire. With this money, the Land Trust purchased shoreline property from B.C. Hydro that is next to the BP refinery. We then traded that property to Trillium for the wooded wetland, a much



photos: Eric Carabba

*clockwise from top left: Russ Pfeiffer-Hoyt and Gordon Scott discuss trail route; Russ installing gravel bed for trail; South Fork Construction workers haul bridge beams for trail; HB Hanson Construction putting finishing touches on parking lot.*

more ecologically important parcel with substantially better beach access and twice the marine frontage as the B.C. Hydro property. Trillium also provided a use right for a portion of the trail on an adjoining 30 acres.

Once the park infrastructure is complete, the Land Trust will sell the Point Whitehorn Marine Reserve, complete and ready for its first visitor, to the County for \$375,000. This allows the

Land Trust to recover its acquisition and development costs.

Greater public access to our marine shoreline is a long-standing Whatcom County priority. Now, with the addition of the Lily Point and Point Whitehorn Marine Reserves in the short space of six months, Whatcom Land Trust, in partnership with Whatcom County, the Department of Ecology, and many others, has taken two major strides in addressing that priority.

## Many Thanks To Our Volunteers!

This summer WLT had tremendous help with its outreach.

On July 4th, Marcie and Bob Toby, Cynthia Millar, and board member Rod Burton joined staff member Connie Clement at the Blaine Old Fashioned Fourth of July Parade.

On July 5th, Sunshine Rimer, Alice Litton, Terese Van Asche and John Bremer tabled at the Canoe Journey Day at Boulevard Park.

On July 19th, Jean Calhoun and Sharon Souders tabled at the Barkley Village BBQ.

On August 2nd, Carolyn Kincaid, Bernadette Prinster and Cynthia Millar greeted the visitors to the booth at the Bellingham Farmers Market. Bob and Marcy Toby represented WLT at the Senior Day in the park.

Bob Keller and Pat Karlberg took shifts for WLT at the Northwest Washington Fair.

We are so grateful to you all for your work this summer getting the name and mission of Whatcom Land Trust into the community!

If you'd like to volunteer for WLT, contact Connie at [connie@whatcom-landtrust.org](mailto:connie@whatcom-landtrust.org) or 650-9470.

### Upcoming Events

Coming up, look for Whatcom Land Trust at the Bellingham Farmers Market, the Southfork Fall Festival, the Multi Faith Alternative Holiday Market at the Bloedel-Donovan Community Room on November 23, and at the Allied Arts Holiday Festival from November 21st to December 24th.

# Pacific Surveying and Engineering

*“Our relationship with Whatcom Land Trust allows us to support the mission of land stewardship and conservation in Whatcom County. We are proud of this involvement and take great satisfaction in knowing that we are protecting our environment and natural resources for our families, for our community, and for the generations to follow.”*

—Adam Nelson, PS & E

There are many businesses that support the Land Trust’s work, and Pacific Surveying and Engineering (PS&E) is a prime example of a firm that is committed to our success. Through a combination of in-kind donation of services, auction sponsorship, and cash donations to the Conservation Business Partner program, PS&E has demonstrated consistent and vital support to Whatcom Land Trust’s conservation efforts. Their willingness to patiently explain a plan or process to our staff has been invaluable.

The Land Trust is not alone in receiving PS&E’s help. It provides support to The Nature Conservancy, The Boys & Girls Clubs of Whatcom County, The Whatcom Humane Society, The Bellingham Food Bank, The Whatcom County YMCA, Junior Achievement of Washington, Lynden High School FFA Chapter, Childhaven, Whatcom Day

Academy, The American Cancer Society, The Arthritis Foundation, and The Land Surveyors Association of Washington and its Northwest Chapter. It is obvious that PS&E takes pride in being a part of the vibrant and spectacular region that is Whatcom County. Adam Morrow, one of the five principal partners in the firm notes, “Pacific Surveying and Engineering, through its relationships with local agencies, community organizations, and private clients, is dedicated to achieving the necessary and important balance between responsible growth and the protection of our community resources. It is our continued commitment to our community that makes us strong, and enables our staff, clients and community partnerships to strengthen and grow.”

Pacific Surveying and Engineering has become an industry leader in Whatcom County and Western Wash-

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*courtesy photo*

*clockwise from upper left: Adam Nelson, Jeff Vander Yacht, Barry Unema, Peter Brands, Adam Morrow.*

ington by providing innovative surveying and engineering solutions. The principals of the company are Peter Brands, Barry Unema, Jeff Vander Yacht, Adam Nelson and the aforementioned Adam Morrow. The company was founded in Bellingham in 1989 and has grown to become an employee owned and operated firm of 32. The company prides itself on having one of the five principals personally manage each project. This experience and investment ensures a hands-on approach with a focus on communication from the initial proposal through project completion. All of the partners emphasized that they have been able to surround themselves with a talented and dynamic staff of professionals, technicians, and administrators and it is the collective effort of these individuals that provides PS&E with the experience and skill to provide the best in professional land surveying and civil engineering products and solutions to their clients.

In discussing the future of the company the partners point out that

PS&E's focus has been and will always be Whatcom County. While they work throughout the state, it is the projects and relationships in this community that have allowed for their sustained growth. Their commitment to quality, along with a focus on project management and client communication, have certainly been evident to the Land Trust as we have worked with the firm. They in turn have admiration for the goals of the Land Trust. Adam Nelson stated that "Our relationship with Whatcom Land Trust allows us to support the mission of land stewardship and conservation in Whatcom County. We are proud of this involvement and take great satisfaction in knowing that we are protecting our environment and natural resources for our families, for our community, and for the generations to follow." We are thankful and appreciative of their support.

For information how your business might be involved in the Conservation Business Partner program please contact Jerry at the Land Trust office.

# Work Parties Planned

Come join in the fun and get out onto some of the finest places in Whatcom County! Join us for work parties on the following dates:

## Saturday, Oct. 11<sup>th</sup>

Spend 4 hours with the team from REI removing the invasive species at Squires Lake.

## Saturday, Oct. 25<sup>th</sup>

Celebrate Make a Difference Day working on the Fenton Preserve. We've recently invested a great deal of work re-vegetating portions of this lovely 75-acre mid-county parcel. Join our business partner, Starbucks, clearing brush and cleaning up the site—a great way to make a difference and the coffee will be great!

Please check our website for other land stewardship opportunities, or call the office to find out more—and then volunteer!



*photo: Eric Carabba*

Volunteers from **REI and Starbucks** removing scotch-broom at the Overby Farmstead on Make a Difference Day in 2006.

# Samish River and the Cascade to Chuckanuts Conservation Plan

In January of 2004, Whatcom Land Trust published the Cascades-to-Chuckanuts Conservation Plan (C2C). Funding for the development of the plan was provided by the Paul G. Allen Forest Protection Foundation. The C2C plan represents a joint effort of the Whatcom Land Trust, Skagit Land Trust, and the North Cascades Corridor Project. The study documents important ecological characteristics of the corridor; identifies lands for acquisition; details findings of the ecological assessment and eco-forestry feasibility analysis. In addition, it provides property lists, maps, photos, potential funding sources, and specific conservation tools and strategies designed to accomplish the larger purpose, that being lowland forest ecosystem conservation at a landscape scale and the building of local and regional support for the overall conservation strategy.

The primary long-term objectives identified in C2C are to protect and restore one of Western Washington's most intact lowland forest ecosystems, and to provide ecosystem connectivity and diverse habitat linkages from the North Cascades west to the Chuckanut Mountains and the marine coast south of Bellingham. Linking and restoring these fragmented ecosystems will provide direct benefits to at least 27 listed and sensitive species of fish and wildlife. The sheer scale of the C2C effort demanded development of a comprehensive and focused conservation strategy, and we recognized upon completion of the study that we must approach the implementation stage in manageable and reasonable stages.

The Samish River originates on a low divide in Whatcom County, and its tributary, Friday Creek, originates in the hills south of Bellingham. The river

continues its southwest-erly flow through Skagit County and flows into Samish Bay in Puget Sound. The Upper Samish River drainage contains a large complex of forested and open marsh wetlands, and small tributary streams support multiple fish. Migratory birds in the Pacific Flyway utilize the wetlands for resting, feeding, nesting and rearing. The Samish River and its many small tributary streams support Coho, Chum, winter steelhead, and both resident and sea-run cutthroat. The project area is at the core of the C2C planning areas, the location serving to bind together ecosystems. Its preservation will serve as a means for alleviating landscape fragmentation.

Whatcom Land Trust is working on acquiring fee ownership of several high quality forested and open marsh wetlands along the Samish River. Restoration, enhancement, and protection of habitat on these properties are necessary to support Coho salmon, winter steelhead, and sea-run cutthroat. Enhancement of the wetlands will also benefit waterfowl and migratory birds that utilize these wetlands. Additionally, protection of these wetlands will help to protect water quality in the Samish River and Samish Bay, an important area for shell fish farming.

Understanding that effective partnerships are needed for both leverage and a collaborative systematic approach, Whatcom Land Trust is building partnerships with private landowners, local, state and federal partners, and



photo: Eric Carabba

*Ennis Creek joins the Samish River on WLT's property near Wickersham*

conservation groups like Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group, Skagit Land Trust, and Ducks Unlimited to put together long-term protection of these important habitat linkages.

Whatcom Land Trust is working on expanding past successes like our Innis Creek Preserve. In November 2004, Whatcom Land Trust acquired 50 acres where Ennis Creek joins the Samish River that enabled Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group to relocate and restore Ennis Creek while Whatcom County Public Works built a new bridge to treat chronic flood damage to the road. Last fall, over 500 Coho salmon passed through the channel to spawn in Ennis Creek. During site visits this summer, we counted thousands of young Coho rearing in the stream, feeding cutthroat trout, kingfishers and great blue herons. The Ennis Creek Restoration project is a great place to get out and view fish and wildlife from the road. Whatcom Land Trust looks forward to expanding these successful restoration, enhancement, and protection efforts with partners in the upper Samish Watershed of Whatcom County.

# America Needs Voluntary Private Land Conservation

In conserving their land, private landowners play an important part in preserving America's clean air, clean water, wildlife habitat, scenic views and our most agriculturally productive land.

Voluntary conservation agreements, also known as conservation easements, can protect working farms and ranches and make it easier for families to leave the land to the next generation. Voluntary conservation agreements give individual landowners a nongovernmental way to conserve natural areas and traditional ways of life that are important to them and their communities.

Whatcom Land Trust is ready to help farmers ensure their land is available for agriculture. Farmers cannot exist without farmland, and farmland cannot exist without economically successful farmers.

Since 1984 Whatcom Land Trust has worked with private landowners to protect over 5,300 acres with 53 different conservation easements.

## New Federal Law Gives Fairer Tax Benefit for Voluntary Conservation Agreements

Generous landowners who donate voluntary conservation agreements to Whatcom Land Trust are inspired by many things: they love Whatcom County, they feel connected to their land, and they wish to leave a legacy for future generations. This inspiration is at the heart of our work to permanently protect valuable natural resources. But for almost all of our donors, donating a conservation easement is a major financial decision, and the federal income tax deduction that comes with a donation helps make easements possible for landowners in our community.

Congress recently passed a law extending for two years the tax benefits of protecting private land for many landowners (which had expired at the end of 2007). The legislation improves the tax incentive by allowing conservation easement donors to:

- *Deduct up to 50% of their adjusted gross income in any year (up from the previous maximum of 30%);*
- *Deduct up to 100% of their adjusted gross income if the majority of that income came from farming, ranching or forestry;*
- *Continue to take deductions for as long as 16 years (up from 6 years).*

Congress also passed tighter appraisal standards for such gifts, and stronger penalties for appraisers who violate the standards.

The Land Trust Alliance led a coalition of more than 50 groups in urging Congress to approve this new law. The Alliance is a national organization that sets national standards for conservation organizations like ours, provides training and networking opportunities, and represents the land trust community in Washington, DC. Whatcom Land Trust has been a member of the Alliance for 15 years.

Each day we are touched by the generous and inspired landowners who work with us. The new law will make it easier for others in our community to build on their love of the land and permanently protect Whatcom County.

If you are a farmer and would like to explore options on how to protect your farm land, please contact Eric Carabba (360) 650-9470 at Whatcom Land Trust.

## Whatcom County Farm Facts from Farm Friends

- *Whatcom County has 148,027 acres of land in farms.*
- *Agricultural production has a market value of nearly \$290 million.*
- *Approximately 140 dairy farms with an average of a little less than 400 cows and milk production. average of 22,780 lbs/cow or over 14 million gallons of milk per month!*
- *More than 85 % of Washington's red raspberries are produced in Whatcom County. More than 65% of the U.S. red raspberries are produced in Whatcom County.*

WLT works with Whatcom County to protect farmland through purchase of development rights

Whatcom County's local government has also demonstrated its commitment to preserving productive agriculture land by purchasing development rights to ensure productive land remains available for agriculture. Whatcom County has recently purchased the development rights from three dairy farms. 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 annual monitoring of the property and conservation easement. We are excited and eager to continue to be involved in the preservation of farmland in the county.

*photo: Matt Brown*

# Greening of the Lake Whatcom Watershed

During the Depression, Whatcom county, like other counties, foreclosed on timberlands that had been clear-cut and then abandoned by the owners. The State required counties to turn these lands over to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), but gave counties the option of requesting reconveyance of such lands to county ownership for use as parks.

Working with the State Lands Commissioner, County Executive Pete Kremen has begun the process of reconveying from DNR to County ownership a total of 8,400 acres in two large blocks on the east and west side toward the southern end of Lake Whatcom. The next step is approval by the County Council.

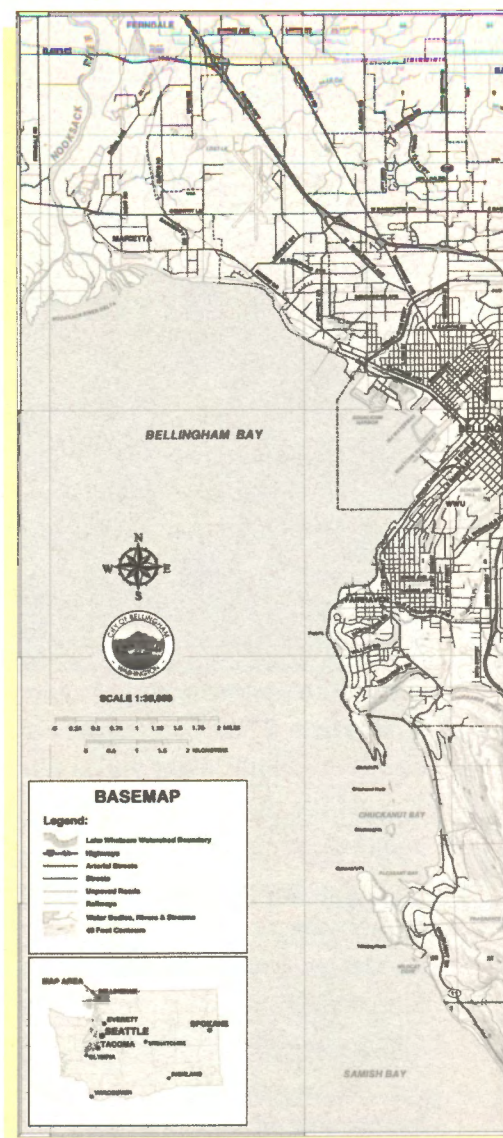
Once in a great while a community has the opportunity to take an action that profoundly affects its prosperity and quality of life for many generations to come. Whatcom Land Trust believes that the opportunity to create an 8,400-acre forest reserve park in the Lake Whatcom Watershed on the doorstep of Bellingham is such an opportunity. Plans call for a very low impact park with development limited to 50 miles of trails with supporting facilities located and constructed to minimize impact on water quality. Trailhead parking will be outside the watershed or as far away from Lake Whatcom as possible. The park will be managed to restore the forest to old growth characteristics using the Stimpson Family Nature Reserve as a model. To assure continuing compatibility of the park with its setting in the Lake Whatcom Watershed, it is essential that it be protected with a perpetual conservation easement.

The creation of something extraordinary always has costs. In this case the costs are amazingly small compared to the benefits, a tiny fraction of what it would

cost if the land had to be purchased. The transaction cost to the County will be about \$300,000, all of which will be paid from the Conservation Futures Fund which is dedicated to acquisition of parks and open space. The \$1,000,000 development costs for the park can be spread over ten years and paid for out of dedicated funds and grants. Annual maintenance costs will be between \$100,000 and \$150,000 a year.

Protecting the drinking water for half the residents of Whatcom County is a major reason to support the new park. Stricter logging rules for the watershed have made a dent in problems associated with commercial forestry in sensitive areas, but they have not solved those problems. At best, the stricter logging rules are untested, unpopular with DNR, and at the mercy of changing political tides. The Lake Whatcom Basin has suffered from landslides in the past, and we know that landslides and other earth disturbances contribute to the sediment and phosphorous in the lake, a chief cause of deteriorating water quality.

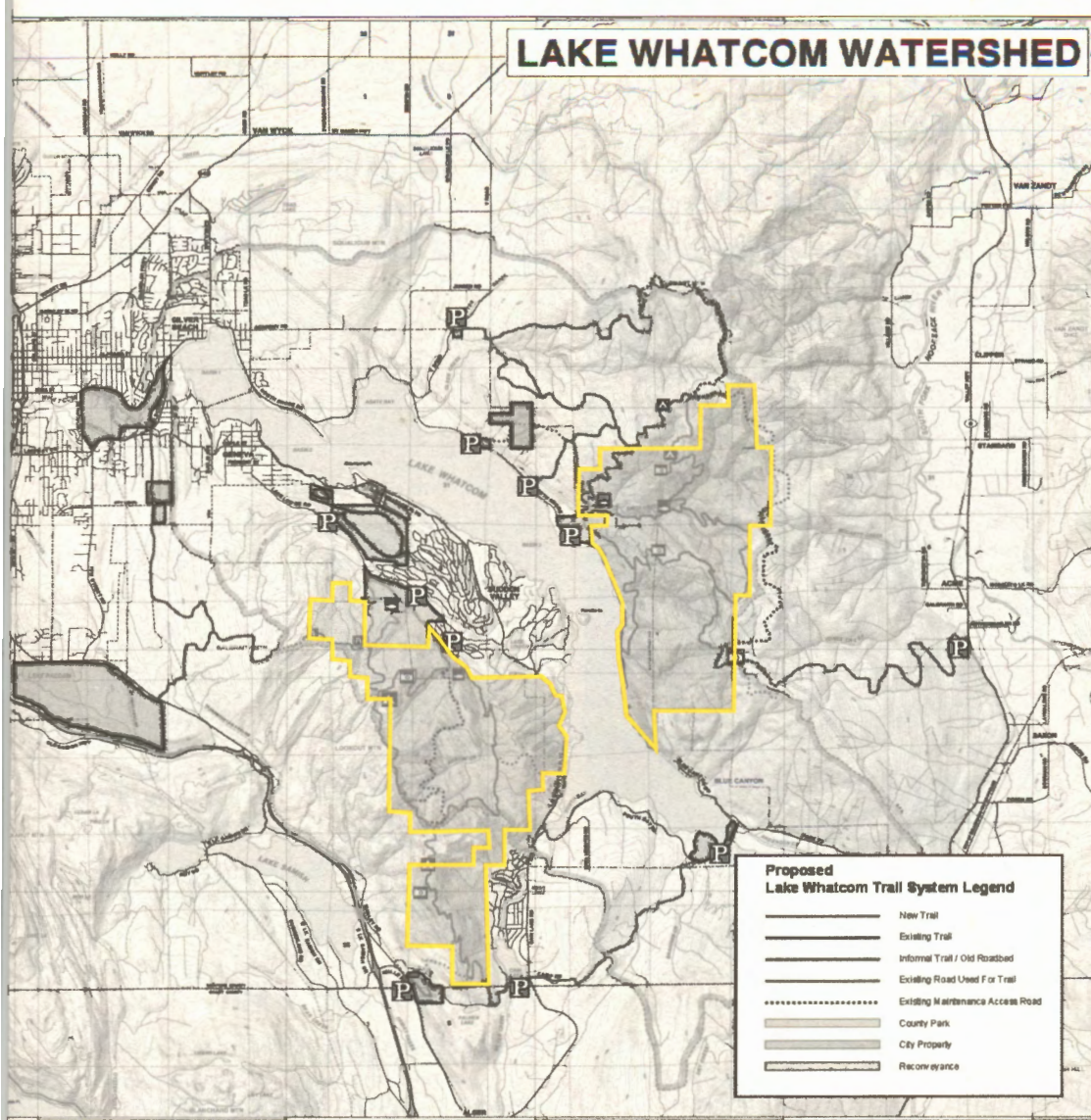
Any doubts about the potential impact of logging in the Lake Whatcom Watershed should have been laid to rest by a front page article in the Sunday, July 13, 2008 Seattle Times. Torrential rains in Lewis County in December 2007 resulted in over 730 landslides in the Upper Chehalis basin. "Nearly three quarters (73 percent) of landslides appeared to have started near logging roads or in areas clear-cut in the last 15 years or so." This occurred despite DNR's responsibility to restrict logging on unstable slopes. "Weyerhaeuser frequently clear-cut unstable slopes, with scant oversight from state geologists who are supposed to help watchdog the timber industry." The slides shut down a water treatment plant, burying the intake with mud and triggering \$750,000 in



The 8,400 acres of land in the Lake Whatcom repairs. Weyerhaeuser had assured drinking water officials that "they could head off problems with improved logging and road building practices. 'We told them that we're going to take good care of that basin,'" said a Weyerhaeuser forester. The December Lewis County rains were highly unusual compared to the past, but may well be an example of things to come. As the Times reported, a recent climate change study by federal scientists "predicted that the warmer world will bring more intense Pacific rainstorms." If you wish to see the article, this link should get you there: [http://seattletimes.nwsource.com/html/localnews/2008048848\\_logging13m.html](http://seattletimes.nwsource.com/html/localnews/2008048848_logging13m.html)

We must do everything we can to protect the water quality of Lake Whatcom,

# LAKE WHATCOM WATERSHED



map courtesy of City of Bellingham

om watershed proposed for reconveyance are outlined in color.

a priceless resource for our community. Commercial forestry in the watershed is not the major cause of deteriorating water quality. However, the Lewis County experience—more intense rainstorms, sometimes lax agency oversight, and the logging/landslides linkage—is one we cannot afford to repeat. A maturing, intact forest would certainly better buffer the lake and control land disturbance and phosphorous loading than an actively managed commercial forest.

Creating an extensive, nearby forest reserve park would significantly contribute to the long-term prosperity of our community. Our population will continue to grow, and outdoor recreation and a green landscape will continue to play a key role in a quality of life closely linked to our economic fortunes.

More and more, talented people and healthy businesses will come here because of the natural environment. The opportunity to establish a large, forested park in close proximity to a growing urban area is rare. We could leave no finer legacy than the prospect that someday children in our community will be able to bicycle to an old growth forest and walk among the majestic trees there. When earlier this year I walked with my new grandson in 6,300-acre Mount Tamalpais State Park 12 miles from San Francisco, I thought about the foresight of the people who long ago set aside that beautiful land. That is the kind of decision that we now have the opportunity to make.

Concern has been expressed about the impact of reconveyance on the logging

industry in Whatcom County and on the Mount Baker School District. Reconveyance will remove only a relatively small amount of workable forest land from timber production. Under current rules, about half of the reconveyed land is not subject to timber harvest. It is doubtful that a job will be lost or a business significantly affected. Reconveyance is not the place to draw the line for stopping the incremental loss of commercial forests in Whatcom County. Other forces locally and nationally are pinching the timber industry much more severely than this one-time reconveyance event. For instance, the timber industry regularly converts productive forestland to residential development. It is more appropriate to convert timberland for public purposes, such as protecting the lake and creating a park, than for private gain. The Land Trust is concerned that the Mt. Baker School District would lose some revenue due to the proposed reconveyance. We regret the disproportional impact on a school district doing a great job on relatively meager resources. But again, the long term benefits dwarf the costs. We urge the

County (and perhaps the City of Bellingham) to make every effort to fairly compensate the School District for lost revenue.

An unusual alignment of community concerns and political forces make reconveyance and creation of an old growth forest park at our doorstep a possibility now, one not likely to come again any time soon. Tough economic times make bold initiatives like this more difficult. But we must look past the moment and take a long term perspective. From that vantage point, the decision is obvious. Thirty years from now people will say, “why of course, how could anyone ever have thought otherwise.” We must not let this chance slip away.

*Rand Jack*

# Planning for the Future of the Land

One of the most compelling tasks facing Whatcom Land Trust is to endow future stewardship obligations. Endowments are the pathway to building capacity for our organization to meet its future needs. They provide financial stability during economic fluctuation so that programs and services can continue without disruption. An endowment fund is capital that provides a permanent source of income for the Land Trust. The principal is invested in a disciplined manner and the earnings and investment appreciation are channeled back into the fund. This allows the endowment to grow over time and become a source of long-term support that can be maintained permanently.

A gift to the Whatcom Land Trust Fund, held and managed by the Whatcom Community Foundation, may be part of a thoughtful, comprehensive estate plan that provides a way to complete a lifetime of giving or allows a donor to make a significant gift that was not possible at an earlier stage of life. Such gifts can also provide advantages such as lifetime income to the donor or others while offering certain tax benefits. Planned giving is a way to match a person's passion for conservation and preservation with tax and financial advantages. Planned gifts can be structured in several ways, and vary in size. It is the effect of the gift – the difference it makes – and the philanthropic goal it fulfills for the donor that sets it apart from an annual gift. Below are a few other ways one might choose to support the efforts of the Land Trust:

## Bequests

A bequest is a transfer, by will, of property such as cash, securities (stocks), or tangible property to an individual or a charitable organization. For many donors



photo: Rod Burton

*WLT supporter Pat Kust looks on as Jerry DeBacker and Russ Pfeiffer-Hoyt discuss progress on the construction of the beach trail at Pt. Whitehorn.*

a bequest offers the opportunity to make a gift from a will or living trust without affecting their current financial situation.

## Charitable Lead Trust

A charitable lead trust will distribute annual gifts to Whatcom Land Trust for a specified number of years for the purpose you designate. Upon completion of the trust term, the principal is returned to the donor or heirs.

## Life Income Agreements

Life income agreements are gifts that provide income for life for designated beneficiaries. Upon termination of the agreement, the Land Trust would use the remaining assets for the purpose you have specified. Donors receive a charitable deduction for the portion of the gift that will ultimately benefit the Land Trust.

# Whatcom Artists Studio Tour

In October 2008, 54 of some of Whatcom County's finest artists will participate in the 14th Annual Whatcom Artists Studio Tour. They will open their studios to the public for two weekends. Whether you are a long time collector or you are just beginning a collection, the tour is a perfect venue to shop for fine art and craft, and to see artists at work. Many artists donate a portion of their proceeds to Whatcom Land Trust. Those artists are indicated on the brochure for the studio tour.

**The Tour will take place on October 4 & 5 and 11 & 12 from 10:00 am – 5:00 p.m. Go to [www.studiotour.net](http://www.studiotour.net) for more information.**

## Conservation Lunch and Business Partners Breakfast

Our next Conservation Breakfast will be a Lunch! If you would like to learn more about our conservation efforts, and have an opportunity to network with others who support the conservation and preservation of Whatcom County, then join us at the Conservation Lunch on October 9th.

We are planning breakfast for our Conservation Business Partners for early December, and believe it or not, we have already confirmed the date of the next Great Outdoors Auction on May 2nd, 2009. For more information on how you might attend, or volunteer to help at one of our functions, please call Connie or Jerry at 650-9470.



# Many Ways of Giving for Varied Donor Styles

Donors to Whatcom Land Trust give in various ways and with remarkable generosity. Donations of conservation easements, sales of property at less than market value, and the outright gift of property occur throughout the year and are the backbone of our work. Donations of time and services are provided by volunteers and board members. Businesses give as Conservation Business Partners, and are unbelievably generous in support of our auction. But the bulk of our support is provided during our annual appeal sent out in early November each year. Since we limit ourselves by requesting your donations only during the annual appeal, we don't often get an opportunity to describe other ways of supporting the Land Trust.

Our recent update of the website included the development of a safe and secure online giving portal. In addition, on the website you will find a link to GOODSEARCH, a search engine that allows you to support your favorite nonprofit at no cost to you. You search the internet for a

nonprofit and GOODSEARCH donates a penny to WLT. Over the course of a year, the impact of a number of people using the search engine will generate enough income to pay for the website!

We are fortunate to have a number of people who choose to give monthly or through payroll giving, an efficient, and low-cost way for charities to raise funds (compared with fundraising activities) and provide them with the regular income support that they need. To encourage employees to make charitable gifts, many corporations agree to match personal donations with an equal or greater corporate contribution. Donors should check with the appropriate company department to see if a gift qualifies for a corporate match. If the idea of simplifying the donation process... eliminating the need for annual renewal notices... increasing the value of your support... and helping reduce WLT's administrative costs interests you, then you should consider monthly giving. Similar to other automatic monthly payments you might

make for a mortgage or other fixed payments, you can authorize a set amount to be transferred from your checking/savings account or charged to your credit card each month and deposited directly into the Land Trust's account.

## Why monthly donations?

- *Automatic donations increase the value of your support by reducing administrative costs in processing your donations.*
- *Without the need for annual renewal notices, monthly donations help save WLT resources and postage costs.*
- *You can put your donation to work right away without any mail or processing delays.*
- *By donating monthly, your tax-deductible donation will be spread throughout the year.*

Check out the new website or make a call to the office to explore other ways you can support the Land Trust. Your donations are vital to our shared successes!

## Have you heard? John and Stacie Matthews are at it again!

Do you remember back in 2003 when John and Stacie Matthews rode their tandem bicycle from Neah Bay to Bar Harbor, Maine? Along the way, they raised several thousand dollars for the work of Whatcom Land Trust. In the Fall 2003 Steward, John wrote, "Stacie and I have experienced an adventure that will be hard to duplicate." Well, look out, because they're at it again!

This fall, John and Stacie will begin on a journey to

Argentina by tandem bicycle. They expect the trip to take about a year. Once again, they are raising funds to benefit WLT. As they travel along their journey, you can keep up with John and Stacie through their blog hosted on WLT's website, [www.whatcomlandtrust.org](http://www.whatcomlandtrust.org).

We wish John and Stacie the very best and thank them for their support as they retire from their jobs, pack up their home and embark on this amazing journey!

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# What is going on Out On the Land?

## MORE "AGPDRS"

Whatcom Land Trust is again partnering with Whatcom County Planning and Development Services to expand agricultural property under protection via the Purchase of Development Rights program. Later this fall the Land Trust will hold new conservation easements on four additional farm parcels totaling 69.7 acres. WLT presently holds conservation easements on slightly more than 1,000 acres of currently or formerly active farm lands, with about half coming from Trust actions prior to joining with the County in the "AgPDR" initiative in 2004. Two of the new parcels are near the South Fork of Dakota Creek with the other two near Bertrand Creek. One property is currently used to grow seed potatoes, one is a hay field and two are used as pasture for dairy cows. Baseline preparation and field verifications of the farmlands are currently underway.

## SHEEP "MOWING"

Earlier this summer the south field on the Trust's new Black Slough property on Nelson Road was mowed by sheep from Ewe Care, Dirk Vansant's holistic vegetation management company based in the Nooksack South Fork valley. Ewe Care's service brought sheep onto the property for two weeks, installing temporary fencing to restrict their presence to the south field.



photos: Steve Walker

clockwise from top left: Groen Farm, protected via the Ag PDR program in 2007; Ewe Care worker; Zach Jones with his pruning shears; Ray Fenton checks for level on new field gate.

The sheep not only "mowed" the grass, they provided fertilizer and hoof activity to the soil. The north field on the property was cut using a mechanical mower. Staff will monitor both fields for comparison.

## VOLUNTEER STEWARD

Thanks to Zachery Jones, from Nooksack Valley Middle School, who cleared invasive blackberries at Whatcom Land Trust's Rutsatz Salmon Preserve. Zach's donated labor was part of his "Breakout" project. NVMS students choose a social topic which they believe needs to be addressed, do research on the

subject, provide community service and make a presentation to a panel of school members. Many young evergreen trees, planted several years ago as part of a restoration project at the Rutsatz property, had become engulfed by blackberries. Because of Zach's efforts, those trees now will likely survive and grow to maturity.

## NEW GATE AT FENTON

Thanks to Ray Fenton for donating his labor by installing the new field gate at the Fenton Nature Reserve. Ray is dedicated to quality workmanship as you can see in the photograph.

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# Fall Tours & Opportunities

For more information and to register, call Whatcom Land Trust at 650-9470. Tours are free to Whatcom Land Trust members. A suggested \$5 to \$10 donation from non-members is requested for the tours.

---

## Native Plant Tour of Geneva Pond Loop

September 13, 2008

10:00 am

Leader: Emily Schiller

Join us for a forest stroll and discover the diversity of native flowers and shrubs found in the Stimpson Family Reserve. Volunteers from Whatcom County Master Gardeners will lead the walk and help you learn to identify the local plants (and a few weeds) we encounter. We will take the Geneva Pond Loop trail and expect the walk to take approximately two hours. Upon registration you will receive a plant list and further information.



photo: Doug Stark

*The view from the ridge above Canyon Lake.*

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## Canyon Lake Community Forest

September 27, 2008

8:30 am

Leader: Roger Weiss

Come and explore one of Whatcom Land Trust's most unique and ambitious habitat acquisitions, Canyon Lake Community Forest. Located in the foothills of Mt. Baker, this 2,300-acre watershed includes 600 acres of 800- to 1000-year-old trees. The site is a living classroom of unique plants, animals, and spectacular tropical fossils, and the view from the top is one of the most outstanding panoramas of Mt. Baker and the Sisters. Tour leader Roger Weiss will lead this 9-mile hike and (if you are so inclined) offer tips on capturing this magnificent place with the camera.

---

## Nesset Farm

October 11, 2008

10:00 am

Leader: Russ Pfeiffer-Hoyt

Russ Pfeiffer-Hoyt, member of the Nesset Foundation, 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-American homestead and experience beautiful terrain in what will one day be a premier public park in the South Fork valley. Easy to moderate walking. Bring a lunch for a picnic after the tour if you like!

---

## Make A Difference Day

October 25th

Make a Difference Day is a great opportunity to give back to your community. Join three million others in this national day of service as they work on projects that directly benefit the environment, people who are homeless, seniors, kids and victims of domestic violence. Whatcom Land Trust will host a work party that focuses on being good stewards of the earth. We'll be working to keep protected lands in the best possible condition. Call Steve at 650-9470 for details!

---

## Fall Salmon Tour

November 22, 2008

10:00 am

Leader: Doug Huddle

Discover winter Chum & Coho on this trip along some of WLT's Nooksack River properties with fish surveyor and wildlife writer, 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.

---

## New Year's Day Eagle Tour

January 1, 2009

1:30 pm

Leader: Doug Huddle

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!



# WHATCOM LAND TRUST

P. O. Box 6131 • Bellingham WA 98227

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## Whatcom Land Trust • By the Numbers

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

|                                     |       |
|-------------------------------------|-------|
| Total Acres .....                   | 9,250 |
| Miles of Riverfront .....           | 22.5  |
| Miles of Salt Water Shoreline ..... | 7.5   |
| Public Parks Created .....          | 13    |

*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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Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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check enclosed Bill my:  VISA  MC # \_\_\_\_\_ Expires: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Make payment to Whatcom Land Trust. Mail with form to: P.O. Box 6131 • Bellingham, WA • 98227

The



Newsletter of Whatcom Land Trust  
Whatcom County, Washington

# Steward

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

Volume 17 Number 3

Winter 2008/2009

## Samish River Preserve Adds Two New Properties

In September 2008, Whatcom Land Trust acquired 62 acres of forest land from Duane Vander Yacht. The property is along the Samish River in Whatcom County near Wickersham. This acquisition complements an additional bargain sale of 7.8 acres from Piyush Swami completed in August. These properties contain numerous wildlife and are an important addition to critical habitat linkages within the Cascades to Chuckanuts (C2C) corridor. The primary long-term objectives identified in C2C are to protect and restore one of Western Washington's most intact lowland forest ecosystems, and provide ecosystem connectivity and diverse habitat linkages from the North Cascades west to the Chuckanut Mountains and the marine coast south of Bellingham. Linking and restoring these fragmented ecosystems will provide direct benefits to at least 27 listed and sensitive species of wildlife. The Upper Samish River headwaters contain a large complex of forest, open marsh wetlands, and small tributary streams that support multiple fish species. Migratory birds in the Pacific Flyway utilize the wetlands for resting, feeding, nesting, and rearing. The Samish River and its many small tributary streams support coho, chum, winter steelhead, and both resident and sea-run cutthroat. The project area is an intersection of the C2C planning areas that serve to bind together ecosystems; its preservation will alleviate landscape fragmentation.

### Swami Property

Piyush Swami received his property from a close friend in the 1980s while he was a student at Western Washington University. Later, while he was a professor at

*continued on page six*



*photo: Eric Carabba*

*Rich wetlands on the new properties buffer the Samish River, protecting and enhancing the river for fish and wildlife.*

## New Interns Helping Whatcom Land Trust

Carolyn Kinkade grew up in a small farming community in Washington's Columbia Basin. She moved to the Wenatchee Valley in 1994 and continued working in the travel industry. In 2007, she graduated from Wenatchee Valley Community College and moved to Bellingham to earn her Bachelor of Arts degree in Geography at WWU. She is currently fulfilling her internship requirement with Whatcom Land Trust.

Kate Odneal is doing field work for WLT through the winter. Kate has five seasons' experience with forest stand surveys as an employee of the U.S. Forest Service, and will work to complete tree and understory vegetation analyses on several WLT properties and easements.

One project the interns are assisting Whatcom Land Trust with is a beta version of a National Geographic project. Currently being developed under the name LandScope. The project is a web-based dynamic atlas that locates nearly any place on Earth, then provides photographic, historical, weather, population, and other maps of the spot. National Geographic is working with land trusts in 5 states on the project; WLT hopes to feature local conservation and photography on the site.

## Thank You to Point Whitehorn Work Party

On October 10th and 11th volunteers from the BP Refinery, REI and park neighbors worked at Point Whitehorn planting trees and shrubs.

Thank you to all of the generous volunteers who helped prepare the park for opening.

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Winter 2008/2009 - page 2

# The Lily Point Coven

*"The main goal was to ensure our community feel strongly that they had a hand in this great feat... donating our efforts was a great way to show that these incredible native landscapes are important today and for generations to come."* —Carol Fuegi

The preservation of Lily Point was a hands-across-the-border project that involved a number of conservation groups and naturalist societies. We wish to focus this Volunteer Spotlight on a group of activists who brought a tremendous amount of enthusiasm to the project. In the Land Trust office, we referred to this energetic group as the Friends of Lily Point but they informally refer to themselves as the Lily Point Coven. Samantha

Scholefield, one of the ringleaders of the group proclaims, "We bring a wicked sense of humour, irreverence, and a touch of magic wherever we pop up!"

Originally motivated by an email from a Canadian friend, this small but dedicated group of local residents actively campaigned to raise awareness about the urgency of last minute financing for the



photo: Meg Olson, Reporter for Northern Lights & All Points Bulletin  
Members of Lily Point Coven gather near the cemetery gate to raise funds and awareness of the preservation project. L to R: George Iddon, Samantha Scholefield & Julie Iddon.

purchase of the environmentally unique Lily Point located on Point Roberts. What started as a single challenge among friends and family to match a \$200 donation quickly grew into a community-wide appeal. Within hours, the original donation was matched and the challenge was on. A core leadership group of Maureen Buckley, Julie and George Iddon, Carol

Newsletter Team.....Rod Burton, Connie Clement, Jerry DeBacker  
Production Help/Proofreading.....Bob Keller, Pat Karlberg, Sal and Judy Russo  
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Contributors..... Rod Burton, Eric Carabba, Connie Clement, Jerry DeBacker, Mary Dumas, Bob Keller, Carolyn Kinkade, Kate Odneal, Steve Walker

Fuegi, and Samantha formed and began reaching out to people all over the Point and lower mainland British Columbia.

Carol stated that “The main goal was to ensure that our community feel strongly that they had a hand in this great feat. We felt that donating our efforts was a great way to show that these incredible native landscapes are important today and for generations to come.” The group organized an awareness campaign that included door-to-door promotion in Point Roberts, four Sundays at the entrance to Lily Point, flyers, posters, and advertising. They put together a media awareness campaign that resulted in the Lily Point story being covered in the *All Points Bulletin*, *The Delta Optimist*, *The Delta Leader*, and on-camera interviews on Delta Cable. The culmination of the fundraising was a walk and “Eco-Tour” designed to encourage the public’s support for turning this spectacular site into public parkland and an ecologically protected heritage site. Whatcom County Parks and Land Trust staff were on hand to take over 100 members of the general public through an exploration of the history of the Lily Point landscape, the native plants, marine, bird, and animal residents, and the future vision for the park.

“We asked people to tell us stories about Lily Point,” says group member Julie Iddon. “While we manned the gate on the weekends providing information on the project, we met a couple who had their first date at Lily Point, another couple who were married on the beach, and a man who just celebrated his 80th birthday accompanied by his family from around the world and his dog Tiggy! And the long-time residents of the Point have such vivid recollections. We discovered it really is a special place.”

The group is quick to point out the efforts and give credit to a number of folks who were involved in a variety of ways and over a long period of time. “We helped, but more importantly, the whole community



photo: Rod Burton

### *Explorers of the lowest tide of the year at Lily Point.*

joined in,” said Samantha. She continued, “With all of the Trust’s work, Lily Point can now make the transition to parkland and we are thankful to everyone who stepped up to help make this extraordinary opportunity a reality.”

Lily Point is now open to the public and there is never a bad time to spend

a day visiting it and the other county parks in the area. If you visit in July, be sure to take in the Point Roberts Garden Tour; there is a distinct possibility you will visit a garden of one of the members of the Lily Point Coven—be on the alert for whatever magic their green thumbs conjure up!

## **New Board Member, Simi Jain**

Simi Jain moved to Whatcom County in 2005. She was raised in Albany, NY and graduated with a B.A. in government and environmental studies from Bowdoin College in Maine. A love for the water and mountains brought her to Seattle after college where she worked for a media consulting non-profit organization which focused on northwest environmental issues. It was during this time that she learned she wanted to work on environmental legal issues and returned to New England to attend Vermont Law School. There she earned her J.D. and Masters in Environmental Law. Simi is a local attorney practicing in the areas of land use, municipal, real estate, and environmental law at Zender Thurston, P.S. in Bellingham. She enjoys reading, skiing, hiking and running on the many trails around Whatcom County. Simi is looking forward to helping WLT in its efforts to preserve this community’s diverse and precious lands.



# Point Whitehorn Marine Reserve is Open!

Whatcom Land Trust has completed the development of the 54-acre Point Whitehorn Marine Reserve, which has 1,900 feet of saltwater shoreline

Whatcom County purchased the property for \$375,000. A REI grant from their REI-Gives program was combined with generous support from **Cloud Mountain Farm** to purchase and plant trees and bushes throughout the reserve. **SouthFork Construction** built the trail and donated a bench. **British Petroleum**, a neighbor to the reserve, gave financial support and **HB Hansen** was general contractor for construction. We appreciate everyone's support and cooperation to bring this remarkable marine reserve to the public. A grand opening and dedication is planned for spring.

The ¾-mile trail is barrier-free and leads to four stunning viewpoints overlooking the Strait of Georgia. A hiker-only trail leads to the beach. Please leave your pets at home.



photos: Jerry DeBacker, Rod Burton

Upper right: Texture of the beach at Pt. Whitehorn.

Center: WLT staff Steve Walker and Eric Carabba look out on Georgia Strait from one of the viewpoints.

Above: One of many boardwalks that pass over the wettest portion of a wooded wetlands at Pt. Whitehorn Marine Reserve.



## Memorial Bench for Carl Batchelor

*"There are some who can live without wild things,  
and some who cannot."* —Aldo Leopold

Honoring Carl Batchelor, conservationist, Planner and  
Whatcom Land Trust board member. He cared for the land.

The text above, installed near a bench in one of the viewpoints at Point Whitehorn, will help us remember the contributions Carl made to conservation in Whatcom County. In his work for the Whatcom County Planning Department, as a board member of Whatcom Land Trust, and as a property owner in the Lake Whatcom watershed, Carl cared for the land and helped others do the same.

If you would like to honor Carl's effort, please consider making a bench contribution to Whatcom Land Trust in his memory.



# Motivations for Preservation

Whatcom Land Trust is privileged to meet countless people who have a deep regard for the land. This land may be a working farm in our fertile agricultural area, a marine shoreline on Puget Sound, or a quiet, shaded riverbed in the forested uplands of the Nooksack River. The 9,700+ acres of preserved land in Whatcom County are equally as diverse as the Whatcom Land Trust supporters who work with us to create a precious legacy—lands preserved in perpetuity. Together, we share an awesome responsibility sustained by personal, and often private, motivations and reverence for the land.

Take for instance Whatcom Land Trust's recent conservation project—preservation of 90 acres of forested bluff and 40 acres of tidelands at Lily Point. This project in Point Roberts, WA, was truly a collaborative enterprise involving enthusiastic participation from people on both sides of the border. Samantha Scholefield shared what motivated her to serve as a volunteer: "When I saw that my simple email pledge multiplied a personal donation by 5 in the first evening after circulation, I knew I had to make sure people were informed about this amazing opportunity to preserve the character of Point Roberts. With the help of friends, we hosted a walk of the area raising \$5,000 and a lot of awareness. We continued to greet visitors on those cold spring mornings to let them know about the opportunity at hand. We got so much out of the experience, such as meeting a regular walker in the area out celebrating his 80th birthday with family and friends visiting from all over the world. Or the two teenage visitors who emptied their pockets, eager to chip in." Samantha's initiative, positive spirit, and skill proved indispensable in honoring guests at the Lily Point Dedication Ceremony.



photo: Jerry DeBacker

Samantha Scholefield offers a gift to a Lummi Nation representative during the celebration of the successful purchase and protection of Lily Point.

At Whatcom Land Trust, we rely on the good company of an unlikely cast of collaborators. While our walks in life vary, we leverage a common regard for the land as the springboard for land preservation activities in Whatcom County. For some, this motivation may arise from a personal connection with a specific place in

Whatcom County. For others, the impetus may arise from the need to preserve a few wild places to remind us of what quiet really feels like. We'd like to hear about what motivates you.

In the coming issues of the *Steward*, we will share the stories and quiet hopes of Whatcom Land Trust supporters.

## Beautiful Picture Books Support Local Land Protection Efforts

*Whatcom Places* now has a new soul-mate, a partner, a sister to the south: *Natural Skagit: A Journey from Mountains to the Sea*. Released in hard and soft cover on November 13th by the Skagit Land Trust, this 126-page book excels in every aspect. Pictures, of course, tell a story that cannot be conveyed with words, yet the Foreword by Tom Robbins and Epilogue by Bill Dietrich come close. The Lee Mann photos alone are worth the price of this book.

Unlike *Whatcom Places*, the Skagit story follows the third largest river on the U.S. Pacific Coast downstream from North Cascade snowfields to the brine of the Salish Sea, its course flowing past a mix of loggers, farmers, artists, fishers, small hamlets, cities, Indian tribes, nature-lovers and dedicated conservationists. "A river runs through it," as Norman McLean and Robbins have written. Everywhere on earth rivers tell the stories of the land.

We congratulate project leader Renata Hoyle Maybruck and her large army of volunteers who have produced a powerful tool for protecting Skagit's unique natural heritage. There will be a reading from *Natural Skagit: A Journey from Mountains to the Sea* on December 10 at 7pm at Village Books in Fairhaven.

# Adding to Samish River Preserve continued from page one



the University of Cincinnati, it was left wild. This spring, when Piyush decided to sell the property and had it listed, his agent Mike Hill urged Piyush to consider working with the Land Trust. Piyush was supportive of protecting the wildlife habitat on the property and agreed to sell it for substantially less than the appraised value. We can now use the purchase price plus the donated value as leverage for grant funds to protect more wildlife habitat in the Cascades to Chuckanuts corridor along the Samish River.

## Vander Yacht Property

Duane Vander Yacht purchased property along Innis Creek Road as a woodlot around 30 years ago. Several times he considered harvesting the timber, but never got around to it. Over the years, Duane was approached by several different people who were interested in buying the land, but he never completed a transaction. The land sat and the trees grew. The property will be permanently set aside to provide clean water and wildlife habitat. Duane Vander Yacht agreed to sell his 62 acres of mature forested wetlands, marsh, bogs, and Samish River frontage for appraised fair market value. The acquisition of this intact site is a critical component to building a larger Samish River Preserve.

Please support Whatcom Land Trust as we continue our effort to protect this important habitat linkage and apply for grant funding to expand on these successes. Whatcom Land Trust continues to work throughout Whatcom County to protect special wildlife habitat and working landscapes.

*photos: Eric Carabba*

*Upper left: Vine maples on the Swami property.  
Left: WLT board member Rand Jack examines pristine forested wetlands on the Vander Yacht property.*



## Partner Spotlight

North Cascades Audubon volunteers are helping conduct bird surveys on Whatcom Land Trust properties. For example, over fifty bird species were identified on the Innis Creek property this past summer. The photo to the right shows NCA members Tom Pratum, Paul Woodcock, and Lila Emmer who helped with the survey.





photo: Eric Carabba

Aerial view of the Samish River Preserve. Protected properties are forested areas in the right foreground.

## Agricultural Preservation and the Protection of Working Landscapes

Whatcom Land Trust is a partner with Whatcom County for the purchase of development rights on farmland. The County recently completed the purchase of development rights on three more farms for a total of eleven projects protecting 610 acres.

Additionally, we are working with Farm Friends to promote voluntary conservation of farmland. There are currently excellent tax incentives for qualified farmers and ranchers when they donate conservation easements. Working forests can be protected just like farms. Essentially, development is limited while the use of these lands for growing crops and harvesting resources continues.

Farm Friends, financial advisors, and Whatcom Land Trust recently hosted a luncheon to provide information about conservation easements, financial plan-

ning, and potential tax incentives for voluntary conservation.

## Lake Whatcom Watershed

In October, the Whatcom County Council (by a vote of 4 to 3) approved the reconveyance of approximately 8000 acres in the Lake Whatcom Watershed. It will take approximately two years to complete the reconveyance. Whatcom Land Trust will work to ensure long-term protection of this land through a conservation easement.

Whatcom Land Trust is working with the City of Bellingham to protect properties acquired for watershed protection like Three Creeks Preserve and Agate Bay Preserve. Whatcom Land Trust holds conservation easements that restrict future uses of such properties with the

purpose of protecting water quality in Lake Whatcom.

## Salmon Recovery

Whatcom Land Trust is a partner with Nooksack Salmon Recovery team working to protect and restore critical salmon habitat along the Nooksack River. WLT is currently working on land acquisitions on the South Fork and the North Fork of the Nooksack River. Since 1984, WLT has protected some 22 miles of riverfront.

## Puget Sound Partnership

The Puget Sound Partnership is developing an Action Agenda: Our Roadmap to Restoring the Sound. Across the Puget Sound region, the Puget Sound Partnership is mobilizing communities, agencies, and organizations to work together to create a comprehensive Action Agenda to restore Puget Sound.

# Great Outdoors Auction 2009

Circle Saturday May 2nd on your calendar because the Great Outdoors Auction 2009 takes center stage that day! Plan on joining us as we commemorate our 25th anniversary with a Silver Celebration. The function begins at 5 pm at the Lakeway Inn and you won't want to miss it. You will find your friends and neighbors mingling over the silent auction items, enjoying a delicious meal, and bidding up the Best of the Live Auction! Trips, excursions, and outdoor gear will be auctioned. A great time will be had by all. Save the date and help us celebrate!



photo: Passing tourist

John and Stacie Matthews take a moment to pose after completing the descent of Leggett Pass in Northern California.

## Bike Trip Benefits Land Trust

Looking to spend a little time day-dreaming of life out on the open road? You can find tales of our intrepid excursionists, Stacie and John Matthews at [www.twoargentina.whatcomlandtrust.org](http://www.twoargentina.whatcomlandtrust.org) or simply visit our home page and click on the bike wheel icon. Stacie and John are well into their trip to Argentina and are posting photos and updating their travel journal on a regular basis. You can follow their bike tracks, or you might wish to pledge a donation in support of their effort to raise awareness and funds for the Land Trust.



photo: Bill Wright

## New Year's Day Eagle Tour

New Year's Day—a day to recover from late night celebrations, to watch football in a stuffy room while eating high-fat foods and yelling at the television, OR a day to go outside. Yes, outside where beautiful evergreens put things back in perspective, where it's quiet except for the sounds of birds or water, where open space invites the mind to ponder past and future... Ah...!

This New Year's Day, would you like to go outside with us? Once again, Doug Huddle will share his wildlife expertise by leading the New Year's Day Eagle Tour. You will visit a popular eagle fishing site protected by Whatcom Land Trust. Learn about the local recovery of this endangered species and of current threats to its food source. See local places where eagles roost and watch the birds in action! The tour begins at 1:30 pm. Call the office to register, 650-9470.

## Tax-Free Giving from your IRA

For older donors and nonprofits that rely on their generosity, a glimmer of good news emerged from October's economic turmoil: Congress extended the IRA charitable rollover as part of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008. The newly extended IRA rollover provision permits you to use your IRA to help accomplish your philanthropic goals with no federal tax impact. If you are 70½ or older, you may make a gift of up to \$100,000 to Whatcom Land Trust or our endowment fund held at Whatcom Community Foundation from your IRA with no federal income tax impact, and your gift will be counted toward your required minimum distribution. To obtain this benefit, you must instruct your IRA administrator to transfer funds *directly* to Whatcom Land Trust or the Community Foundation. If you withdraw the funds from the IRA first and then contribute them to the trust/foundation, you will lose the tax benefit.

## Annual Appeal for Support Is Vital

By now you should have received our annual appeal letter. Your support is vital to the success of this organization. We devote a great deal of time and effort to securing multiple sources of funding for conservation projects. We strive to see that your investments are not only stretched to the limit, but are matched or increased whenever possible. We come to our supporters but once a year to ask for organizational donations. Please take the time to return your envelope today. You may also make a safe and secure donation through our website.

## Business Partner Breakfast

Our Business Partner breakfast takes place at Boundary Bay Brewery & Bistro Tuesday December 9th at 7:30 am. If you are interested in how your business might partner with Whatcom Land Trust to preserve the best of Whatcom places, please contact the office at 650-9470.

# Terry Tempest Williams

## Special Opportunities for Whatcom Land Trust supporters

- Catered reception with Ms. Williams at the Roeder home, preceding her presentation
- Reserved seats for Ms. Williams' talk at First Congregational Church

Come help us begin our Silver Anniversary with one of America's most eloquent voices for the cause of conservation! Renowned author Terry Tempest Williams comes to Bellingham on Monday, January 26, to talk about her latest book, *Finding Beauty in a Broken World*. The event begins a year-long celebration of Whatcom Land Trust's 25th anniversary. Ms. Williams, who recently packed the main auditorium at Benaroya Hall in Seattle, will be at the First Congregational Church, 2401 Cornwall Avenue, at 7 pm that evening. A special opportunity for Land Trust supporters exists as a limited number of seats are reserved for those wishing to attend both a pre-event reception with the author at the Roeder Home and the reading.

Terry Tempest Williams over the course of her life has focused on land stewardship. She has a love of the desert environment and other naturally beautiful places, and has opposed resource destruction, especially when affecting human health. She has long been an advocate of land trusts. In an interview in 2003 she stated: "Democracy requires our participation. The land trust movement in this country is a beautiful example of how we can find hope within our



photo: Ted C. Brummond

*"The eyes of the future are looking back at us and they are praying for us to see beyond our own time."*

own communities because it bypasses government and creates a diverse and truly bipartisan conversation on behalf of the land."

A former naturalist-in-residence at the Utah Museum of Natural History, Williams is perhaps best known for her book *Refuge: An Unnatural History of Family and Place* (Pantheon, 1991) in which she chronicles the epic rise of Great Salt Lake and the flooding of the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge in 1983. It relates her mother's diagnosis with ovarian cancer, believed to be caused by radioactive fallout from the nuclear tests in the Nevada desert in the 1950s and 60s. *Refuge* is now regarded as a classic in American nature writing, a testament to loss and the earth's healing grace. The author of fifteen books, early reviews of

her latest work are suggesting that it may well be her most original, provocative, and eloquently moving book since *Refuge*. The Land Trust is deeply appreciative of the support of Dee & Chuck Robinson and all of the staff at Village Books for making this event happen!

The reception at the Roeder Home with Terry Tempest Williams includes appetizers, beer, wine, light refreshments, and a reserved seat at the Congregational Church. The price is \$50.00 and must be purchased from the Land Trust office at 650-9470.

Tickets for the Congregational Church event are \$12.50 and are available now at Village Books, 671-2626, and are also available on-line at [Brownpapertickets.com](http://Brownpapertickets.com). All proceeds from the presentation will benefit Whatcom Land Trust.

# What's Happening on the Land

WLT has again partnered with Whatcom County Planning to expand agricultural properties under the Purchase of Development Rights program. The new properties under protection total nearly 70 acres. A 39-acre portion of the Tjoelker dairy farm northwest of Lynden is now preserved forever for agricultural use. The other two properties, Bouchard and Bauthues, are adjacent on Loomis Trail Road northeast of Custer. One is currently in restoration for seed potato production and the other contains an extensive hay field.



photo: Steve Walker

Tjoelker farm joins over 600 acres of Whatcom county agricultural lands protected by the PDR program.



“Engineered” log jams have been placed along the North Fork of the Nooksack River on portions of the Whatcom Land Trust’s Mt. Baker Baptist complex of riparian properties. The Nooksack Tribe secured funding to construct a series of enormous man-made log jams using pilings that are driven into the riverbed and then interlaced with up-rooted trees and enhanced with rocks and organic debris. These structures modify the course of the river and create conditions more favorable to salmon survival.

photo: Eric Carabba

Man-made log jams will affect the flow of the Nooksack River in ways that will benefit salmon.

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photo: Eric Carabba

Fenton Nature Preserve pond reflects the image of the Make a Difference Day volunteer crew.

Twenty-five volunteers gathered at the Fenton Nature Reserve on Make-A-Difference-Day, October 25th, to clean up debris and remove invasive plants. The Whatcom Volunteer Center, which coordinated events throughout Whatcom County, offered a hearty breakfast to all volunteers before they headed out for several hours of labor for environmental and social service organizations. The volunteers at Fenton included members of the Western Washington University chapter of **Beta Alpha Psi**, and employees of **Starbucks Coffee** and **Conoco-Phillips**. Sunshine and pleasant weather aided volunteers as they battled pesky blackberry brambles. The beautiful 80-acre Fenton Nature Preserve, not yet enhanced with public facilities, was purchased by Whatcom Land Trust in 2006. The property includes an open field, a reservoir, and mature second growth forest.



photo: Connie Clement

## WLT Gifts for Holiday Season

Looking for a unique gift this holiday season? Whatcom Land Trust has several special ideas. There's the award-winning *Whatcom Places II* in paperback (\$30) or hard cover (\$45), packages of 8 note cards featuring Whatcom County scenes (\$8.50), WLT coffee mugs (\$12), and WLT tote bags (\$12). Of course, you could purchase a gift membership to Whatcom Land Trust for \$35. If you'd like to purchase a \$45 gift membership, you'll get a coffee mug or tote bag, too. For a \$55 gift membership, you get both! Look for these items on our website, our Allied Arts Holiday Festival booth, or call the office at 650-9470.

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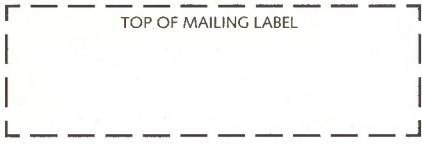
Fax: **360-650-0495**

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website:

**www.whatcomlandtrust.org**



**Whatcom Land Trust • By the Numbers**

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

|  |              |
|--|--------------|
| <b>Total Acres .....</b>                   | <b>9,734</b> |
| <b>Miles of Riverfront .....</b>           | <b>22.5</b>  |
| <b>Miles of Salt Water Shoreline .....</b> | <b>7.5</b>   |
| <b>Public Parks Created .....</b>          | <b>14</b>    |

*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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Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

check enclosed Bill my:  VISA  MC # \_\_\_\_\_ Expires: \_\_\_\_\_

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