

The



Newsletter of Whatcom Land Trust  
Whatcom County, Washington

# Steward

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

Volume 19 Number 1

Spring 2010

## Elk Habitat Enhancement

This winter WLT Property Steward Steve Walker met with wildlife biologists from the Tulalip and Stillaguamish tribes regarding potential habitat enhancement efforts on WLT lands to encourage increased numbers of local elk. The North Cascades herd, also referred to as the Nooksack herd, is one of 10 distinct populations in Washington state. Although numbers are uncertain, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) personnel estimate approximately 700 animals in the current North Cascades herd, up from a low of around 300. WDFW and the regional tribes share a goal of further increasing the herd size. Habitat enhancement efforts underway in other areas of the state include planting late-season forage grasses in remote areas away from agricultural lands where elk can be problematic. Whatcom Land Trust is considering the use of its Hutchinson Creek property for this program.



photo: ©Patrick Holleran

*A young bull elk feeds in an open, prairie-like area—the kind of habitat required for elk to thrive. Whatcom Land Trust works to restore the habitat condition of its protected open space properties.*

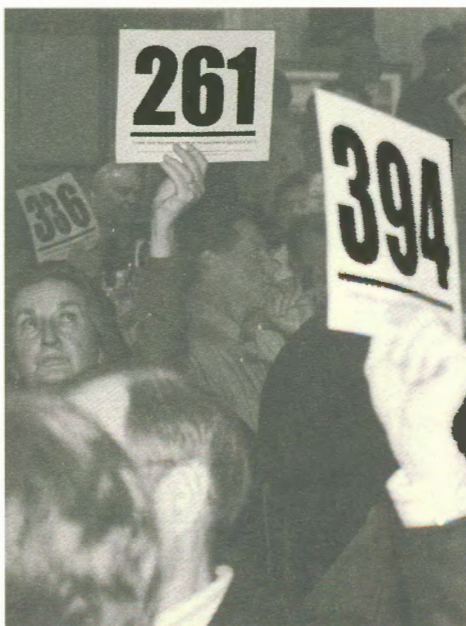


photo: Alan Fritzberg

## An Exciting Way to Help

Coming soon to a mailbox near you... your invitation to the 10th Great Outdoors Auction!! It will be an evening filled with the best of Whatcom county beers and wines, the finest food, and auction items galore. The auction provides you with an opportunity to bid on fine arts and crafts, gourmet treats, tastings, dinners, vacation stays, and so much more. Excursions range from outings on water, land, and air, hikes in the foothills to sunset sailing on the bay. You might find the perfect gift for mom or that something special for the garden. The evening gives you a chance to mingle with friends, enjoy a great meal, and foolishly outbid other Land Trust supporters to get that decadent Death by Chocolate dessert!

The auction is scheduled for Saturday, May 8th at the Lakeway Inn & Convention Center, 5-10pm. Mark your calendar now, and plan to join in the celebration of 25 years and 10,000 acres conserved! Our volunteers are busy soliciting and securing auction items from throughout the county. When your invitation arrives in the mail, you will want to act quickly to secure your seat as the event has sold out each and every year!

*printed with vegetable-based inks on recycled paper*

# WLT News

## Goodbye Dawn

After nearly a decade as the bookkeeper for WLT, Dawn Sodt has left the Land Trust to complete her Master's in Education as an art teacher.

We will miss Dawn's cheerful demeanor and institutional knowledge, but are inspired by her sense of adventure and belief that you are never too old to pursue a new goal. Thank you, Dawn, for years of camaraderie and attention to detail here at the WLT office.

## Thank You, Pamela Jull

Last summer, as our aged computer server churned away to handle the load of a busy WLT staff, we received a wonderful gift. Pamela Jull of **Applied Research Northwest** offered us their beefy server! It was a very timely gift, and we are so grateful. Thank you, Pamela!



## Kelly Pederson, Our New Accountant

Kelly (Thompson) Pederson is a self-employed accountant in Bellingham (dba Just Enough Accounting and Administrative Services). She has a BA in Business Management/Human Resources from WWU, and is active in the Roosevelt neighborhood, Grateful Dogs, and PTA. She is also a member of a multi-generational Bellingham family. Kelly is excited to have the opportunity to work with the wonderful Board of Directors and staff at WLT.

# Volunteer Work Parties

Whatcom Land Trust volunteers were busy this past winter. Each month, from November to January, had at least one work party in the county.

After spending three weekends in as many months on the barn deconstruction site, order is finally being restored to the Mulka Preserve. The majority of the timber, is still in great shape and can be reused for other construction projects, including bat boxes. The shakes can be used for kindling, and nails and metal will be recycled.

January marked the first month of the year-long "Give A Day. Get A Disney Day." program. By participating in this program, the Whatcom Land Trust offers families and individuals the chance to earn a free ticket to a Disney theme park of their choice. This has turned out to be a great motivator. Families have traveled from as far as Vancouver, B.C. to attend our events, and work party attendance has tripled.

Our most recent work party took place at the Ladies of the Lake Preserve, at the southern tip of Lake Whatcom. Beta Alpha Psi, the honors society for financial information students from WWU, along with community volunteers, restored open space on the property by removing barbed wire fencing and Himalayan blackberry. With enthusiasm and determination, they reached their goal and finished the job! Kudos!

A big "thank you!" to **Erin Baker's Wholesome Baked Goods** for donating breakfast cookies for all the volunteers at the Ladies of the Lake work party. They were delicious and gave needed energy.

This spring and summer, Whatcom Land Trust looks forward to work parties involved with tree planting, knotweed removal, and building and installing bat boxes. Keep an eye out for announcements on the WLT website. Be sure and sign up quickly —spots fill up fast!



photo: Laura Wallace  
Volunteer at Mulka work party.

## Whatcom Land Trust Junior Stewardship Kickoff

June 12, 2010 from  
at the Marine Park

Come explore the beach at low tide  
second annual Junior Stewardship  
In this free summer environment  
receive a booklet for self-guided  
during the summer. (Booklets will be available at  
whatcomlandtrust.org if you

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# Upcoming Spring Tours

We have five tours coming up. We hope you'll join us! Free to WLT members. Suggested \$5-\$10 donation for non-members. Memberships start at \$35/family. For more information and to register, call Whatcom Land Trust at 650-9470.

## Spring at Edfro Creek

Sat., April 3, 9am - 2pm  
Doug Huddle • Limit: 12

Salmonberry begins to cover the forest floor, the trail is wet, but all around are signs of spring! Enjoy a moderately strenuous, 3-mile hike through this relatively remote area of the South Fork. Doug's passion for the outdoors is contagious, particularly in the spring months.

Waterproof footwear that is calf-high & comfortable is necessary. Layered clothing and rain gear recommended. Bring ten essentials day pack (required), trail lunch & beverage, binoculars, cameras and tripods. Walking sticks and good gloves are encouraged.

## Macroinvertebrates!

Sat., April 17, 10am - Noon  
Randy Leventhal • Limit: 20

Hey kids! This tour's especially for you! Join environmental educator Randy Leventhal to discover the macroinvertebrates of Squires Lake. These tiny creatures indicate the health of the lake and surrounding area.

Be prepared for a steep hike up to the lake. Wear layered clothing and be ready for rain. A journal and pen could be helpful.

## Deming Homestead Tour

Sun., April 25, 1:30 - 3:30pm  
Diane Garmo & Russ Pfeiffer-Hoyt  
Limit: 15

Diane Garmo's land near Deming has been in her family for generations, and her connection with it is deep. Join Diane and trail-builder Russ Pfeiffer-Hoyt as they walk through the woods and tell the stories of the land. Layered clothing and rain gear recommended.

## Nest Boxes & Bat Boxes

Sat., May 1, 10am - Noon  
Leader: Tricia Otto • Limit: 12

Explore the world of bats and cavity nesting birds with Tricia Otto on her preserve. Learn about large and small boxes, choosing the right box for the right species and picking an appropriate site. We'll look in Wood Duck Boxes, hoping to see incubating ducks or Saw-Whet Owls. Chickadees should be in their boxes and our two species of cavity nesting swallows should be choosing their sites. Bat habitat architecture will also be available to see and discuss.

## Mountain Goat Viewing

Sat., May 22, 9am - 3pm  
Doug Huddle • Limit: 15

Observe mountain goats at a long distance during spring kid birthing and talk about their unique adaptations to the alpine environment and life history.

Layered clothing, rain gear, sack lunch, binoculars, spotting scopes with tripods, and folding lawn chairs suggested.

## Land Trust's Stewards Program of 2010

10:30 to 12:30  
Shelter in Fairhaven

to begin Whatcom Land Trust's  
Stewards Program.

al education program children  
tours and activities to complete  
also be available online at www.  
cannot attend this event.)



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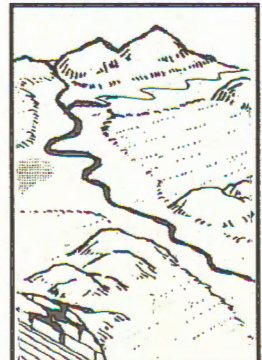
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# Underwater Neighborhoods: A Video Tour

A stone's throw from shore is a world that very few get to see, yet it is a major part of our neighborhood. Join underwater videographer John Williams for a breathtaking journey through our water wilderness and a discussion about how art, science, education, and recreation are involved in protecting and preserving the health of Puget Sound.

John will be showing excerpts from SEA-Inside: Pacific Northwest—the Northwest's only TV series about what's below the surface, at the Whatcom County Council chambers on March 18 at 7 - 9 pm. This program is open to the public. For more information on John Williams and his series, visit [www.stillhopeproductions.com](http://www.stillhopeproductions.com).

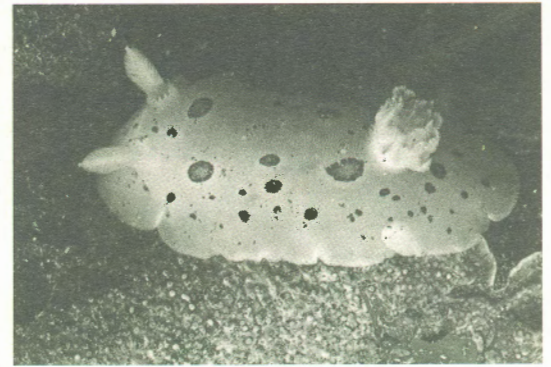


photo: John Williams

Recognize this neighbor? The Leopard Nudibrach is one of Puget Sound's many creatures.

## Keeping Our Business Partners Informed

The Business Partner Breakfast on January 21st was hosted by Pacific Survey & Engineering, with healthy food furnished by Haggen Food, and delicious beverages provided by Woods Coffee. Former board president Chris Moench and current president Rich Bowers expressed thanks to the businesses that have supported the Trust over time and discussed how the partners might engage and benefit from working with us. Eric Carabba provided an overview of the organization's current conservation focus and regional impacts on the landscape. A wide-ranging discussion about the variety of parks and preserves the Trust has worked on over the last 25 years made up the bulk of the forum. A number of businesses in attendance were directly involved in aspects of developing the parks and preserves, and making them enjoyable places for the general public to visit. Thanks to Lithtex and Boundary Bay Brewery & Bistro for providing door prizes, and special thanks to the good folks at Pacific Survey & Engineering for graciously sharing their office space at an early hour.

The Conservation Business Partner program provides a number of ways, ranging from donations to goods and services, in which your business might sustain Whatcom Land Trust's mission of preserving the nature of Whatcom County. If you would like to discuss how your company can join other civic-minded firms in supporting the goal of preserving the best of Whatcom places, contact Jerry DeBacker at the WLT office, 650-9470 or by email at [jerry@whatcomlandtrust](mailto:jerry@whatcomlandtrust).

## Not Your Usual Thrift Store

Buffalo Exchange's Tokens for Bags program has saved 6.8 million bags since 1994. Shoppers are encouraged to accept a token instead of a bag for purchases. Each token collected generates a donation from the Bellingham Buffalo Exchange, located at 1209 N. State Street, to WLT. Thanks folks!

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