the Steward Volume 11 Number 1 Newsletter of the Whatcom Land Trust, Bellingham Washington Winter/Spring 2001

Stimpson Family Gift Creates Nature Reserve

Last March, Susan Trimingham and her brother Edward Stimpson invited Whatcom Land Trust to visit their family property along Lake Louise Road and talk about conservation options. The property, known as Manning's Camp, had been in the Stimpson family since the early 1900s when it was purchased from the Upright Shingle Company. Susan, Edward and their five siblings, Catharine, Mary, Jane, Caroline and John were considering an historic act of generosity. Within a year their thoughtful planning resulted in a gift to the community in the same class as the environmental legacies of the Hovanders, Larrabées, Bloedel-Donovans, Clarks and Nessets.

Manning's Camp had been the Stimpson family's place for camping, relaxing and contemplation. The site contains streams and ponds, mature Douglas fir and red cedar trees, sandstone ridges and pocket wetlands. In these woods the Stimpson children played games, explored, and discovered the world of nature.

Last fall, the family donated the 116-acre property to the Whatcom Land Trust. The Trust "leveraged" this gift to purchase 80 adjacent acres from the Trillium Corporation. This new 200-acre conservation site will be called the **Catharine C. and Edward K. Stimpson Nature Reserve**, in honor of "Kitty" Stimpson, a prominent community leader and philanthropist who died in 1998, and her husband Edward, a physician who died in 1967. Together with another adjacent 140-acre tract managed by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the new reserve will form a block of 340 protected acres of old growth forest, wetlands and quiet glens in the Lake Whatcom watershed. From State and Holly in downtown Bellingham, a vigorous walker can reach the location in slightly over an hour—an urban forest just five miles east of a city center.

How did this happen? The answer involves a civicminded corporation, our local government, private citizens, a water district, and the Stimpson family's tradition of community spirit.

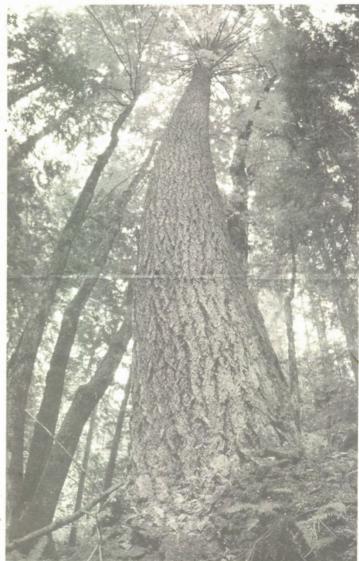


photo courtesy of Brett Baunton Douglas Fir matriarch towers over Stimpson Nature Reserve.

While the seven Stimpson heirs, scattered around the nation, were talking with the Land Trust about a possible gift, Trillium Corporation, through Ken Hertz, offered to sell the Land Trust 80 acres located between the Stimpson and DNR lands at lower than market price. The Land Trust approached Whatcom County, which under the leadership of County Executive Pete Kremen, agreed to purchase restric-

WLT News

Board Members

The Land Trust is pleased to welcome Mike Ryan to the Board of Directors. Mike has a history of supporting local conservation through the Land Trust: his firm Waycross Investment is a Business Partner, he has served on our Development Task Force for the last two years, and he now brings his time and talents to our Board. Thank you and welcome aboard, Mike!

SAVE THE DATE Whatcom Land Trust Auction

June 2, 2001

Outdoor Enthusiasts take note — all the items to be auctioned will bring you closer to the great outdoors.

Watch the mail for your invitation!

New Intern

Joe Peabody from Rapid City, SD recently graduated from Whatcom Community College and has been accepted at Western Washington University where he will pursue an interest in environmental studies. His outdoor interests include snowboarding, hiking and mountain climbing. Joe will assist the Land Trust's Development Task Force with marketing and fund-raising activities. To kick off his internship, he attended a fund-raising workshop in Coupeville, WA on January 30.

More WLT News on page 11

Volunteer Profile Rod Burton

By Bob Keller

Rod Burton came here from Washougal, WA in 1969 to attend Fairhaven College. After graduating, he traveled, lived elsewhere and finally settled in Bellingham to start a business. His career as an artist required the change from manual dexterity to computer skills—skills that require a sharp eye and deft imagination. During this transition, he was fortunate to recover from severe head injuries inflicted by a near-fatal motorcycle accident.

Rod joined the Board of Directors in 1999, bringing many fresh ideas and serving on our Outreach Committee. He is responsible for designing (free of charge)



photo courtesy of Darof Streib

this newsletter, our annual report, a new brochure, and a beautiful four-panel standing display. Roderick C. Burton - Art & Design officially supports the operations of the Land Trust through our Business Partner Program.

With other artists and writers, Rod helped plan our book, *Whatcom Places*, published in 1997. The book won the 1998 Mayor's Art Award and ranks as Village Books' all-time best seller. Rod donated countless hours on the graphic design and production, crucial elements in the book's success. Working with him on the project was one of the most enlightening and rewarding experiences of my career.

Rod has been a Big Brother and served as Board President for Allied Arts. He currently volunteers his graphic design skills to produce newsletters and other materials for Evergreen AIDS Foundation and is a volunteer tutor with Whatcom Literacy Council. "I like to do," he says, "not join committees." We are thankful that he has made an exception, and generously does both for Whatcom Land Trust.

The Mission of the Whatcom Land Trust is to preserve and protect wildlife habitat, scenic, agricultural and open space lands in Whatcom County for future generations by securing interests in land and promoting land stewardship.

Newsletter Editorial Team Rod Burton, Jessica Raley Design and Layout Donated by Roderick C. Burton - Art & Design Contributors to this issue . Bob Keller, Gordon Scott, Jessica Raley, Geri Walker, Cindy Klein, Rod Burton, Mark Turner, Pat Karlberg, Brett Baunton, Bellingham Herald, Susan Trimingham, Darol Streib, Eyde Colello-Morton

Letters to the Editor

Support from Afar

At times, the Land Trust puzzles over why people from far away generously and enthusiastically support the organization. This letter provides one answer to that question.

Dear Sharon Digby and Bob Keller,

I love the photo by Mark Turner of Squires Lake Park in your last mailer, the reverse side showing Deming Homestead Eagle Park (a wonderful name!). Would it be possible for me to purchase four unfolded copies so that I can frame them?

I was happy with my family to donate funds last month to Whatcom County, care of Steve LeCocq, for a bench on Squires Lake in memory of Martin and his parents, Ralph and Leta Squires. Thank you from all of us for preserving that beautiful area for everyone to enjoy in the future!

Thanks to Emmett and Dorothy Fowler, we can have our family reunions every August at Palmer Lake and hike around Squires Lake Park. Also, our daughter Vee and I have gone up for the day to hike and have our memory celebrations. Vee loves the large tree by the dam and reaches as far around it as she can in a big hug—it's Grandpa Ralph's tree. It's just to the right of the dam, and I hope it will be there for generations.

> Sincerely, Margaret Squires Des Moines, WA

A Confusion of Trusts Dear Editor:

I am confused by all the "land trusts":

Evergreen Land Trust Whatcom Land Trust Lummi Island Heritage Trust River Farm Land Trust Kulshan Community Land Trust Skagit Land Trust

Land Trust Alliance Why so many? Are they the same? Do you compete with each other?

From Kathe Ripley Bellingham

Dear Kathe:

The Evergreen, River Farm, and Kulsan trusts are mainly, but not entirely, concerned with residential issues such as affordable and cooperative housing. Skagit, Lummi Island, and Whatcom land trusts seek to protect open space, forests, farmland and shorelines. They restrict their work to land conservation in specific geographic areas, and thus do not compete. The Land Trust Alliance is a national umbrella organization based in Washington, DC that advises and_ assists independent land trusts, of which there are approximately 1,400 across the United States.



Community Forest Access Dear Editor:

When will Canyon Lake Creek Community Forest open to the public? How will people who are not hikers, or are disabled, reach the ancient trees above the lake?

> From Linda Hopper Bellingham

Dear Linda:

Canyon Lake Creek Community Forest is managed by Whatcom County Parks & Recreation, who plan to open the site this summer. A 'trail will be constructed around the lake, allowing relatively short and level access to the old growth, compared to the three-mile thousand-foot elevation gain hike required to reach the upper basin trees. For more information, call (360) 733-2900.



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First Property Purchased with Profits from Whatcom Places

The great rivers of the Puget Sound Basin, like the Nooksack, once meandered freely across their floodplains, creating wetland complexes, massive logjams, ephemeral gravel bars, cottonwood forests and willow islands. As Euro-Americans occupied the

Nooksack Valley, floodplain forests were cleared, land leveled and drained and active farming replaced riverine wetland habitats. Over time, the Noóksack River was physically cut off from its natural floodplain.

In 1989, 1990 and 1995 a series of floods raged along the Nooksack River. Along the North Fork Nooksack near the Truck Road, old farm fields were completely washed away, leaving landowners with nothing but gravel bars and piles of debris. The Nooksack River had suddenly changed its

course, in a terrifying way, and re-captured its floodplain, beginning again the natural process of creating wetlands and fish habitat. Last November Whatcom Land Trust forged into new territory, and using funds from our book, *Whatcom Places*, purchased one of these flooded parcels.

The newly acquired 19.5-acre property includes nearly 1000 feet of riverfront, and is located one-half mile west of the Mosquito Lake Road Bridge over the North Fork of the Nooksack River. While today this newly conserved property is mostly raw gravel bars and willow thickets, subtle changes are occurring on the property that over time will give salmon a place to spawn, eagles a place to feed, and elk a sanctuary for winter grazing.

The site was purchased from a private landowner entirely with profits from book sales. Published in 1997, *Whatcom Places* is a photo-essay on the county that has sold over 7,000 copies. Kenny Creek are two well-known Land Trust's conservation sites. This latest acquisition is also part of a larger Land Trust project called "Forks of the Nooksack," a 106-acre wetland acquisition, conservation and restoration project located along the



photo courtesy of Gordon Scott

River bottom lands, such as this, are valuable habitat for salmon, eagles, and elk.

All book profits are specifically restricted to direct land acquisition and preservation by Whatcom Land Trust.

"Everyone in the community who ever purchased a copy of *Whatcom Places* helped conserve this land," said book editor and Land Trust Board Member Bob Keller. Keller added, "This is a perfect example of how a community can support local conservation work."

The Nooksack River acquisition complements Land Trust work at the new Deming Homestead Eagle Park, and at several other sites in the area. The nearby Canyon Lake Creek Community Forest and the Trillium Corporation's eagle night roost site on Truck Road at the confluence of the Middle and North Forks. A grant has been submitted to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to acquire additional floodplain properties in the area.

"These river bottom lands are extremely valuable habitat to protect for salmon spawning, feeding eagles, and migration elk," said Gordon Scott, Whatcom Land Trust Conservation Director. "The Land Trust wants to work with the local community to restore the Nooksack River and its floodplain habitats," added Scott, "and in this case, thousands of people buying a beautiful book are helping us make that possible."

Kendall Wildlife Refuge Donated by Harrison Family

Last December, Jo Anne Harrison and her family donated 5.37 acres of wetlands and open space along Kendall Creek to Whatcom Land Trust as a wildlife refuge. Harrison and her three "The pond attracts hundreds of birds and ducks each year. Thanks to the Land Trust the wetland will be protected forever."



The view across Kendall Creek wetlands to the J. Arley Harrison Wildlife Refuge.

daughters made the gift in memory of J. Arley Harrison, husband and father.

The Kendall Creek watershed is home to many wild creatures found in rural Whatcom County. Salmon spawn and rear in the creek, which drains the Columbia Valley in northeastern Whatcom County. The new wildlife refuge includes wetlands around Kendall Creek and adjacent riparian habitat. The presence of year-round wetlands attracts insects, fish, ducks, herons, raptors, small mammals and their predators. In a recent visit to the site, three blue herons were observed competing for fishing spots, four varieties of ducks sighted, and bobcat sign was discovered. According to Mark Anderson, a member of Whatcom Land Trust's Board of Directors who helped facilitate the donation, "Conservation of wetland habitats like the Harrison property is probably the highest and best use of the land."

Jo Anne Harrison and her three daughters, Brenda, Lou Anne and

Lorali agreed. "We never wanted to see that property developed," said Jo Anne. "The pond attracts hundreds of birds and ducks each year. Thanks to the Land Trust the wetland will be protected forever."

The property will be called the J. Arley Harrison Memorial Wildlife Refuge. To protect the sensitive nature of the wetland, public access will not be allowed. The Land Trust will maintain this property exclusively for wildlife habitat and open space.

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Stimpson Family Gift

tive conservation and public access trail easements over the Stimpson and Trillium properties. Public funds from the Conservation Futures Levy, together with money contributed to the Land Trust from a legal settlement between Water District 10 and the Clean Water Alliance, allowed the Land Trust to purchase the Trillium property and establish an endowment fund for property improvements and future management costs.

The new Stimpson Nature Reserve



photo courtesy of Susan Trimingham Edward K. Stimpson

"Bravo! The Stimpson name has been well-known and highly respected in this community for decades. Now that name will be a household word into the next century and beyond."

lies along Lake Louise Road, between Sudden Valley and the rapidly developing Geneva neighborhood. Beaver Creek, a tributary to Lake Whatcom, feeds wetlands and sloughs in a landscape that contains one of the watershed's most intact beaver ponds. The forest dates back a century.

The Stimpson Nature Reserve will be ideal for environmental education programs, as well as for contemplative walks and those seeking solitude among trees. Soon the Land Trust will begin meeting with the Stimpson family and Whatcom County Parks to design a loop trail open to the public. A small parking lot will be built. We anticipate cooperation with DNR, as well.

Creating this new reserve was a complex and demanding project for everyone involved. It required tireless effort by Rand Jack, Gordon Scott, Bruce Smith and Susan Trimingham. We appreciate the faith placed in us by Water District 10 commissioners and Whatcom County Council. Leadership by Whatcom County Executive Pete

[—] Pat Karlberg



photo courtesy of the Bellingham Herald Catharine C. "Kitty" Stimpson

Kremen and the Trillium Corporation was essential. Above all, we salute Susan Trimingham, Edward Stimpson, Catharine R. Stimpson, Mary Rivkin, Jane Bremner, Caroline Macdonald and John Stimpson for continuing a family tradition of civic generosity. Their parents would be proud.

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Business Community Partners With WLT

By Geri Walker

In 1996, the Land Trust received a Wilburforce Foundation grant to open an office and hire an office manager, a key event in our development. The office has provided focus, professionalism and efficiency. The grant posed only one problem: it expired in two years.

To pick up the slack, we asked local firms to underwrite ongoing office expenses. First to volunteer was the Cascade Joinery, soon followed by 19 others. (A complete list of our Business Partners will appear in our forthcoming 2000 annual report.) Each partner made a pledge of \$500-2,000 cash or in-kind services for five years. To date, 19 firms continue to meet that pledge and seven more joined the list in 2000:

Dream On Futon

Nancy Taylor, owner Roderick C. Burton—Art & Design Rod Burton, owner

Mountain Veterinary Hospital Michelle Schraeder and Ed Stone, owners Mark Anderson Land and Escrow Companies Mark Anderson, owner Yoga Northwest Ingela Abbott, owner Water Resources Consulting Peter Willing, owner

Pacific Surveying and Engineering Chad Simmons, manager

Dependable support of the office is an enormous help. Please patronize our partners when possible, and mention the Land Trust when doing so.

Deming Homestead Eagle Park Opening Great Success



photo courtesy of Rod Burton

Outreach Committee volunteer Wilma Totten served hot cider, donated by Cloud Mountain Farm, at the opening of the Deming Homestead Eagle Park. More than 300 people attended the event.

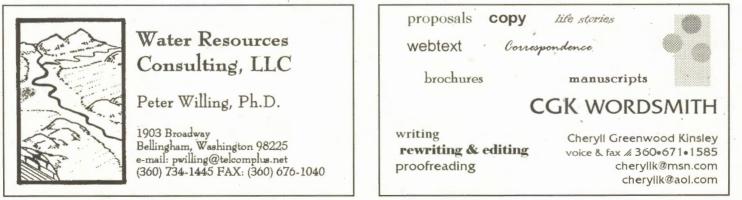
Korman Watches Over WLT Eagle Park

Thank you to Sara Korman, our volunteer Steward of the Deming Homestead Eagle Park. Sara visits the park regularly and, together with other volunteers she coordinates, monitors litter, park equipment, and information displays. Sara also secured the donation of crushed rock from Concrete Nor'west of Everson.

Your hard work is very much appreciated, Sara.

Gravel Donation

Thank you to Concrete Nor'west for their donation of three truckloads of crushed rock to dress the trails at the Eagle Park.



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We're Going on Tour!

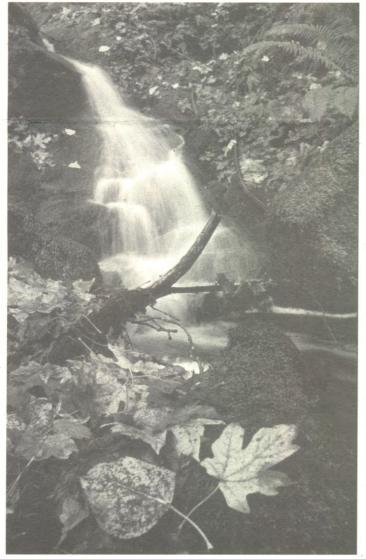
Whatcom Land Trust's Outreach Committee has organized tours of some of Whatcom County's most interesting and beautiful places protected through the work of the Land Trust and public-private partnerships. Now's your opportunity to visit these local gems, and learn more about the sites from interpretive experts.

The tours will take place on Saturday mornings, beginning February 24 and running through August 22. Duration, maximum number of participants, and considerations such as difficulty level and parking are noted for each tour.

Reservations are REQUIRED for all tours.

1. Members of Whatcom Land Trust may sign up for tours by calling Whatcom Land Trust during business hours.

Schedule of Whatcom Land Trust Tours



Falls at Squires Lake. Winter/Spring 2001 - page 8

photo courtesy of Mark Turner

Name, address, and phone are required for registration. If all spots are not taken, non-members may sign up for tours 3 weeks prior to each tour. This allows our members to have first priority during this pilot series.

- 2. Space is limited for most tours, so reserve your spot early. Once a tour is filled, a stànd-by list will be created and drawn on if a reservation is cancelled.
- 3. Donation of \$5 per person for non-members requested.
- 4. Reservations and stand-bys for each tour will gauge demand for particular tours. This will allow us to schedule additional tours of popular sites in the future.
- 5. If you would like to help by volunteering during a tour, please let us know by calling 650-9470.

Our apologies that the volunteer production schedule for The Steward didn't allow us to bring you this information in a more timely manner. We hope you heard about these tours through other sources. If there is interest, we plan to repeat many tours. So please let us know if you want to attend.

Squires Lake Park

Steve LeCocq, Park Manager, Whatcom County Parks & Recreation-Tour Leader

Naturalist Steve LeCocq engaged tour members in the history of how this beautiful park was created by local citizens, and helped them explore the ecology of this unique lake in south Whatcom County.

Edward & Catharine Stimpson Nature Reserve

Saturday, Mar. 31

10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Maximum: 15

Gordon Scott. WLT Conservation Director-Tour Leader

Explore Whatcom County's newest nature reserve with our Conservation Director — be among the first to learn about the history and ecology of this extraordinary reserve protecting some of the unique habitat in the Lake Whatcom watershed. Moderate to steep hiking. Wear weather-appropriate gear for hiking. Carpool from Sudden Valley Gate 1 Park-n-Ride on Lake Whatcom Blvd. Last carpool leaves at 9:45 a.m. (WLT volunteers will assist in carpooling).

A Private Nature Reserve

Saturday, Apr. 21 10:00 a.m. - noon Maximum: 12 people

Unique tour with Dr. Patricia Otto, WLT Land Steward of the Year 2000. Patricia has graciously agreed to give us a tour of her private "nature reserve" surrounding her home in the Lake Whatcom watershed. Focus will be on wildlife and habitat restoration. Wear boots; be prepared for long, wet grass. Directions available at time of registration.

Chuckanut Trail System Tour/hike, Chuckanut Drive

Saturday, May 5 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Maximum: 30 people

Ken Wilcox, WLT volunteer, author of Hiking Whatcom County and Tim Wahl, Environmental Planning & Acquisitions Specialist for Greenways—Tour Leaders

Local experts Ken Wilcox and Tim Wahl will explain the history of a beautiful ridge, and how it was protected through the efforts of local citizens, as they lead us on a 3-hour hike. Circumstances permitting, we will break into 2 groups for an easy-moderate 2-3 mile hike and a longer 5-7 mile hike with higher difficulty.

Wear weather-appropriate gear for hiking. More detailed information, directions and carpooling information will be available at time of registration. (WLT volunteers will assist in carpooling).

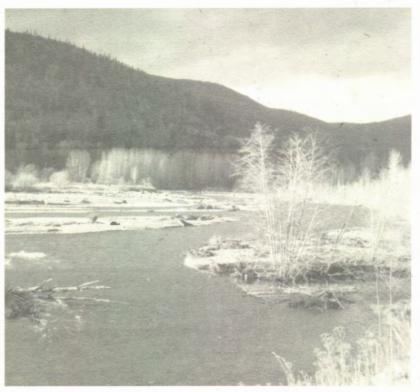
North Fork Nooksack

Saturday, June 2 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Maximum: 15 people

John Thompson, Resource Planner for Whatcom County Public Works, Ned **Currence, Habitat Biologist for the** Nooksack Tribe, and Gordon Scott, Conservation Director for Whatcom Land Trust—Tour Leaders

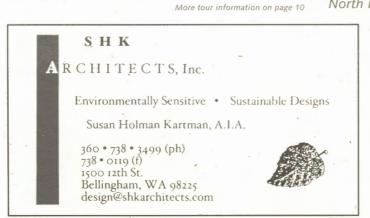
Three local experts will guide us on a tour of four WLT properties along the North Fork Nooksack, exploring the river's ecology and hydrology. We'll take a close look at how preservation of the river corridor protects the life cycle of native salmon. Stunning views of Mt. Baker are an added bonus for this one-of-a-kind event.

Wear weather-appropriate gear for hiking. Meet at Mt. Baker Baptist Camp RV parking lot. Detailed directions to parking location available at time of reservation.



North Fork of the Nooksack.

photo courtesy of Gordon Scott





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Whatcom Land Trust Tours continued from page 9

Nesset Farm Tour, Acme

Saturday, June 23 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Maximum: 15 people

Russ Pfeiffer-Hoyt, WLT volunteer and steward of Nesset Farm,—Tour Leader

Explore this historic Norwegian homestead and its surrounding forests in what is soon to be a premier public park gracing Whatcom County's central valley. Easy to moderate. Bring your lunch for after the tour if you like! Carpool from Acme Presbyterian Church, Rt. 9, Acme. Last carpool leaves at 9:45 a.m. (WLT volunteers will assist in carpooling).

Teddy Bear Cove Tour, Chuckanut Drive

Saturday, Aug. 22 10:00 a.m. - noon Maximum: none

Steve LeCocq, Park Manager, Whatcom Co. Parks Dept.—Tour Leader

Find out about the ecology and history of this beautiful beach with views of the San Juans and Clarks Point. Find out how local people helped preserve this lovely cove. Steep 1-mile trail to and from the cove. Parking at N. Chuckanut Trailhead parking lot (just past Old Samish turn off) on Chuckanut Drive.

Carpooling information available at time of registration. (WLT volunteers will assist in carpooling).

_Thanks to tour leaders for their time and expertise bringing us closer to the lands we've helped protect.-

Community Corner Coming to a Neighborhood Near You!

Members of Whatcom Land Trust will be hosting additional neighborhood gatherings to share information about protecting lands for future generations. The following meetings are scheduled:

Sehome Village

Blaine May

call 360-650-9470 for date and time

Tuesday, April 10 at 6:00 p.m.

REI, Sehome Village

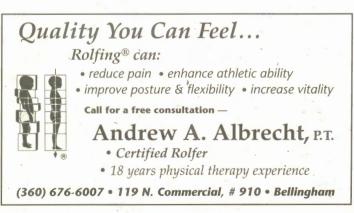
Thus far, community meetings have focused on Fairhaven, the South Hill area of Bellingham, Everson and Acme. These gatherings have featured a slide presentation of beautiful Whatcom places, the chance to share visions of the future with Whatcom Land Trust staff, members, and volunteers, and enjoy refreshments and conversation with neighbors. Through the neighborhood gatherings, we have welcomed over 40 new members to Whatcom Land Trust! Thank you to member hosts Cindy Klein, Joy Monjure, Barbara and Mike Ryan, Bill Hinely, Hugh and Julie Fleetwood, Russ Pfeiffer-Hoyt and Sharon Digby for making the last three events possible.

If you know someone who would like to learn more about the Land Trust, just bring them to one of the gatherings above, or call us at 650-9470 to schedule one in your neighborhood.

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WLT NEWS

Volunteers

Media List

Thank you to Connie Clement who recently helped the Land Trust perform a comprehensive update of our contact information for local newspapers, television and radio stations, and on-line news sources. Media coverage is key to raising awareness of conservation issues and land stewardship. Connie's detailed changes were a big help in our ability to get our news to the right folks.

Photo Albums

In addition to providing weekly office support, Sally Hansberry has taken on the task of organizing our property photos. Sally took the time to research the best buys for dividers and disk pockets, and devised a simple indexing system which, when completed, will make retrieving photos a breeze. Thanks for all your constant help, Sally!

Property Book

As part of an internship required for graduation from Huxley College, Jaime Thomson created a new educational and fund-raising tool for the Land Trust. The property book features succinct descriptions of key Land Trust properties accompanied by photos or artwork. Jaime coordinated all aspects of the property book. Her hard work created a beautiful final product.

Whatcom Land Trust Awarded Grant from Dudley Foundation

In December 2000, the Dudley Foundation awarded the Land Trust \$12,000 for unrestricted general operations in 2001. The Dudley Foundation, which is dedicated to the relief of suffering, supports over 30 organizations worldwide, including those like Whatcom Land Trust and Northwest Ecosystem Alliance which help protect

Andrea Hood is New Membership Coordinator

As Laura Pitts steps into the role of a volunteer for the Outreach Committee with



photo courtesy of Andrea Hood Andrea, Liam and Mallory.

wildlife habitat and natural landscapes.

"Unrestricted gifts give us flexibility and economic breathing-room that is critical for being an effective organization," commented Board President Sharon Digby. Thank you to Development Task Force member Geri Walker, who successfully applied for this new grant.

Whatcom Land Trust, Andrea Hood will be assuming the responsibilities of Member-

ship Campaign Coordinator through April 2001. Her educational background includes degrees in Landscape Architecture from the University of Georgia and Environmental Studies from the Yale School of Forestry. Her past work experience includes environmental education activities with the Economic Development Association of Skagit County and the Skagit Conservation District.

She and her husband Steve have two young children, Liam and Mallory, who they enjoy introducing to the great-outdoors. Andrea says she looks forward to meeting current Whatcom Land Trust members and helping the Land Trust build its membership in the months ahead!



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Wish List

If you could help us with a donation or a good deal it would be greatly appreciated.

- Plain Paper Fax Machine
- 10+ attractive folding or stacking chairs
- Wall-mounted pivoting plan holder
- 3' x 6' table with folding legs



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In Memory of Ruth Kelsey

In 1991, Ruth Kelsey donated 20 acres of forested wetlands to the Whatcom Land Trust. Located near Lake Terrell west of Ferndale, the location provides prime habitat for a wide variety of wildlife.

To recognize this generous contribution to local conservation, the Land Trust acquired a large cast bronze plaque. Ruth edited and revised the wording until it met with her complete approval. Shortly before her death in December 2000, she asked that the plaque be mounted on a substantial stone, similar in size to those of the stone sculpture located in Boulevard Park.

The Land Trust has been honored to receive contributions in memory of Ruth Kelsey. At her request, we will use these funds to acquire a stone and mount the plaque. Thank you to Catherine Chase, Phyllis Ennes,



photo courtesy of Eyde Colello-Morton

David and Carmella Marsh, Ann and Frank Nugent, Arlene and Steve Pilcher, Thomas and Rita Schlotterback, Clarice and Wayne Wills, Pat and Carl Withner, and the Women's Alliance of the Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship for their gifts.

If you wish to help in this recognition, you may send a contribution to Whatcom Land Trust, P.O. Box 6131, Bellingham, WA 98227. Please note "Ruth Kelsey Plaque" in the memo portion of your check. Gifts are tax-deductible.

Donors will be invited to tour the Kelsey property this spring.