



Steward

Streams, Farms, Parks, Forests...Protecting Our Natural Heritage for Future Generations

Volume 13 Number 3

Spring 2004

Salmon's Dream Stream

There aren't many streams in Whatcom County as important to salmon as Maple Creek on the North Fork Nooksack. It's not that Maple Creek supports a particularly large run of fish, but that it is one of the few streams where one can find all five species of Pacific salmon using the waters for spawning and rearing. "Maple Creek represents the best off channel tributary spawning habitat in the North Fork Nooksack," said Doug Huddle, a well known local sportsman and employee of the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife.

"Three springs on the property, infuse cool water into the river. Maple Creek is one of the few tributaries on the

North Fork Nooksack that consistently has enough flow to support fish when the rest of the river is running muddy."

Last October, in the first transaction of its kind in Washington, the State Department of Transportation transferred 68 acres at the confluence of Maple Creek and the North Fork to Whatcom Land Trust. The Department purchased the Maple Creek property from Gary Gehling and White Miller in 2002 as part of a mitigation settlement for damages to salmon habitat that occurred during emergency repair of the Mt. Baker Highway in 1998. Though the terms of the settlement called

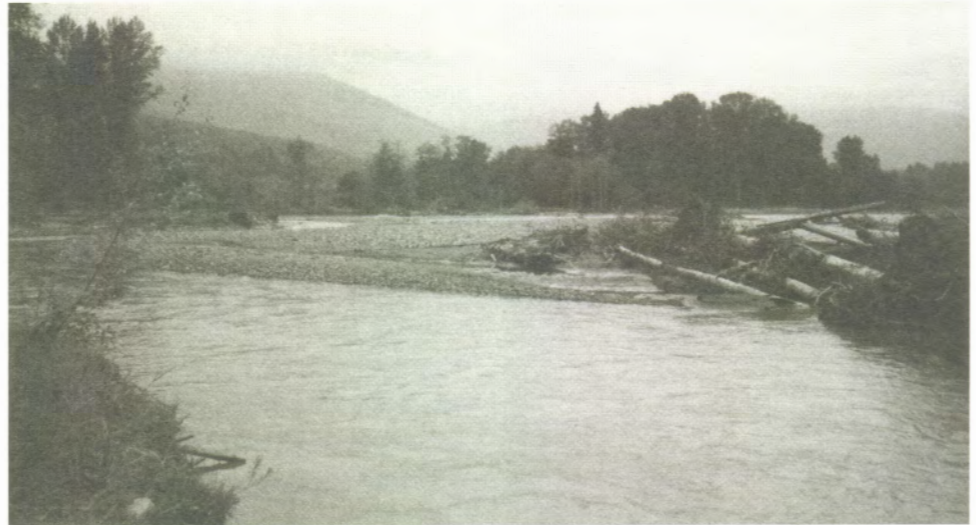


photo: Gordon Scott

"Maple Creek represents the best off channel tributary spawning habitat in the North Fork Nooksack." — Doug Huddle, local sportsman

for the Department to work with the Land Trust to insure protection of the Maple Creek property, the Department first had to seek a change in state law to allow the transfer of mitigation lands to non-profit nature conservancy groups like the Land Trust. The legislature agreed to this change last year, and the Department and the Land Trust quickly worked out the details of the "exchange." In return for accepting ownership of the property the Land Trust agreed to use the property only for: "Ecological restoration projects that are intended to maintain, enhance and protect the functions and values of

the riparian zones, riparian wetlands, and fish and wildlife habitat located on the property." This exchange allows the Department to fulfill its mitigation responsibilities at low cost to the public by transferring management of habitat lands to organizations like the Land Trust that are committed to wildlife protection, leaving the Department of Transportation free to what it does best, manage our public road system.

Maple Creek drains Silver Lake and runs 3 ½ miles before entering the property just as it flows under Mt. Baker Highway. At this

...continued on page five

Staff Transitions

Katie Knight, who was our Conservation Assistant, is the new Conservation Director for the Anchorage Land Trust.

Katherine Freimund, formerly our Administrative Assistant, has joined Mt. Baker Planned Parenthood as their Office Coordinator. Please join us in thanking Katie and Katherine for their contributions to Whatcom Land Trust and in wishing them all the best in their new endeavors.

New staff members are **Connie Clement**, Office Manager and **Ann Russell**, Conservation Specialist. More information about Connie and Ann is on page 10.

Board Transitions

We welcome **Rich Bowers** as our newest board Member. Rich has had extensive experience with conservation oriented nonprofit organizations, and was Executive Director of American Whitewater in Maryland for three years, and National Conservation Director for seven years before moving to Whatcom County. Rich will apply his knowledge and enthusiasm for conservation and organizational development to WLT as chair of the Development Committee.

New officers were elected at the board retreat. **Cindy Klein** is our new President, **Rod Burton** is the Vice-President, **Carl Batchelor** is the Secretary. **Harte Bressler** agreed to stay on as Treasurer.

Steward Transitions

The *Steward* will be going through some design changes over the next few issues. We are now printing on a paper that is made from 100% recycled post-consumer waste.

Fall Campaign a Success!

The board and staff would like to thank all the generous donors who responded to our fall campaign. With your support we were able to reach our goal. In addition to raising \$37,000 in individual donations, we raised over \$1,000 in gift memberships! Your donations are critical to our success conserving vital habitat for future generations. Your support provides the resources for stewardship of our 39 properties and 35 easements, and for this we thank you.

Becky Masters

“It’s been a pleasure to work with Becky. Her positive, upbeat spirit and eagerness to help reflect her commitment to our mission.”

– Bob Keller, Board Member, Auction Committee Chair

The money we raise each year during our Great Outdoors Auction is vital to supporting our work to conserve land by keeping our office humming. This event would not be possible without hundreds of volunteer hours. Becky Masters has been a tireless auction committee volunteer for the last three years. When she is not volunteering for the Land Trust, she works in Bellingham as a licensed massage therapist. (Her “hot-stone massage” is a very popular auction item!) She also enjoys gardening, hiking, skiing, running, and spending time with her husband Lyle and their dog and three cats. Becky says she enjoys working with WLT staff and volunteers, and having fun while working for such a great cause. In the last two years she has been the core volunteer responsible for the behind-the-scenes work of tracking items in our auction software. Her can-do attitude is an inspiration to all of us. She is always ready to jump in and do what needs to be done. Her dependability, consistency, resourcefulness, proficiency, and attention to detail have made her a vital member of Whatcom Land Trust. - Daniél Morgan



photo: Daniél Morgan

Volunteer Opportunities to Help WLT

Development: make community contacts

Outreach: table staffing, event planning and organization, assisting with tours

Administration: assist with mailing, office organization

Land Management: easement monitoring, land clean-up projects

ITEMS NEEDED: fireproof file cabinet, laptop computer, digital projector

call the office at 650-9470 to get more information

Volume 13, No. 3 - Spring, 2004

The *Steward* published quarterly by

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Production Help/Proofreading..... Katie Batchelor, Mary Dumas

Design and Layout donated by Roderick C. Burton - Art & Design

Printing..... Lithtex Northwest

Contributors..... Rod Burton, Connie Clement, Katie Knight, Joe Peabody, Ann Russell, Gordon Scott, Daniél Morgan

Fourth Annual Great Outdoors Auction

SOLD OUT!

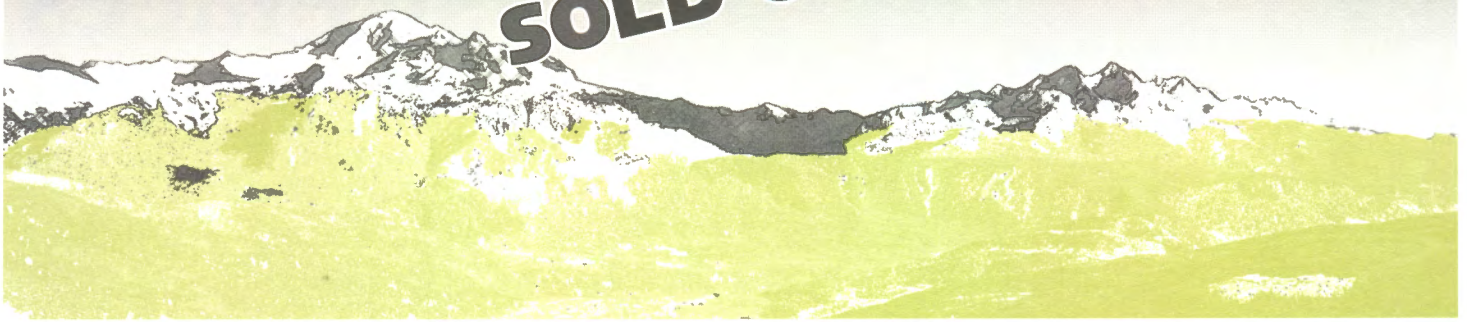
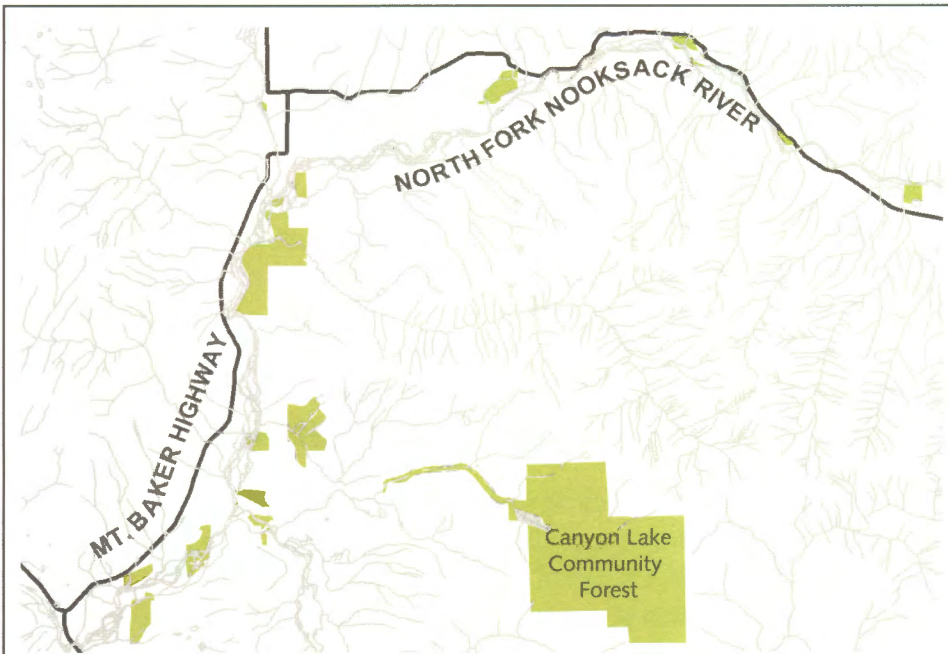


illustration: Rod Burton

The auction is sold out! But you can still **Fund-an-Acre!**

This year's fundraising auction on May 15th is sold out! Even if you were not able to make reservations you can still be involved. Every year we have a special time during the live auction we call Fund-an-Acre. This year we will be asking our guests to help us raise \$5,000 to purchase 9.48 acres of pristine river habitat located on a strategic reach along the North Fork of the Nooksack. The property



Since 1999 WLT has protected 22 properties between Deming and Glacier: help us fill in the gaps. Help us preserve the wild North Fork by making a donation to Fund-an-Acre.

contains natural habitats for river wildlife, including beaver, salmon, and eagle. Your tax-deductible contribution to Fund-an-Acre can be made anytime before May 15th. Your donations for the purchase will be announced the night of the auction to inspire our guests. Please join us in the work of preserving wild places in Whatcom County.

Help with the Auction

We need help with a variety of tasks over the next month, and we particularly need people willing to help on the day before the auction (May 14th) and the day of the auction (May 15th). Call 650-9470 to volunteer.

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Whatcom Land Trust Turns Twenty!

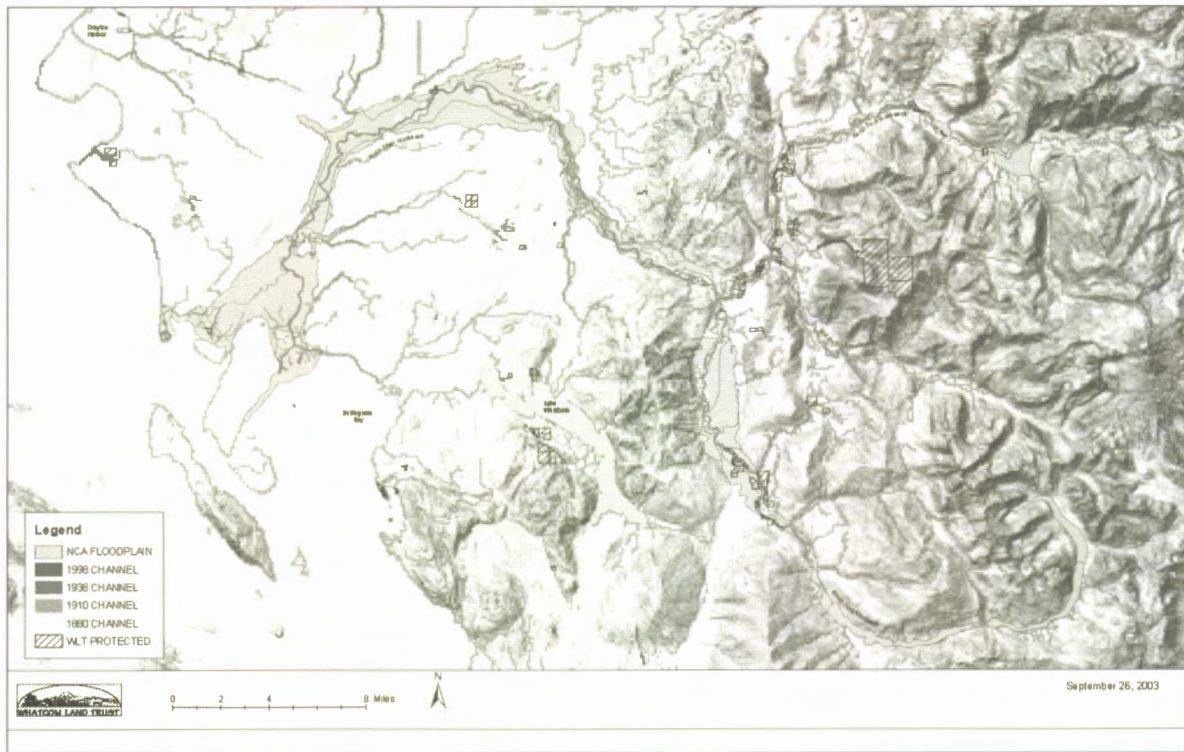
Whatcom Land Trust is celebrating its twentieth year of land conservation. Since 1984 we have acquired 39 properties and 35 conservation easements, eight of which are now county parks. Stay tuned: plans are underway for a 20th anniversary celebration this summer, featuring live music by local acts.

Protecting the Best Places

In our local effort to save Chinook salmon from extinction it is important to decide what actions to take first in order to minimize public expenditures while maximizing benefits to fish. Ecologists have determined that the first action to take in managing endangered species is protecting their currently functioning habitats.

To help the Land Trust in our efforts to prioritize salmon

recovery projects we recently completed a Nooksack Conservation Assessment. This research project used existing scientific information about salmon and salmon habitat that is specific to the Nooksack and Drayton Harbor watersheds. We interviewed local wildlife experts knowledgeable about the locations of functioning salmon habitats. Ecological data used in the study included maps of wetlands, maps of riparian forests, known locations of salmon spawning areas, maps of dikes and levees, junctions of tributary streams with the main river, and information on historical changes to the river. We combined all this information in a computer program called a geographic information system and prioritized those habitats that we judged to be in the best condition. The highest priority habitats identified in the study will become the focus of future conservation projects. This project helps implement the County's Watershed Restoration Strategy by protecting properly



functioning habitats and maintaining natural landscape forming processes along the Nooksack.

The Edfro Creek tract, described in this issue, is an example of a property with well functioning salmon habitat. The property contains wetlands accessible to fish and a mature and healthy riparian forest, and has no dikes or other man made structures that prevent the river from inundating the adjacent floodplain. It includes two small tributary streams, and is a documented location for salmon spawning. The Edfro Creek property is a rare site in the Nooksack Watershed and contains all of the elements we are interested in protecting. The goal of the Nooksack Conservation Assessment is to help locate sites like Edfro Creek and prioritize scarce conservation dollars in order to protect the best remaining habitats.

The Nooksack Conservation Assessment was funded by a grant from

the Washington State Salmon Recovery Funding Board.

—Gordon Scott

Humans can Race for Stewardship

The Human Race is a fun, community-based 5k/10k walk or run sponsored by the Whatcom Volunteer Center and local businesses on behalf of Whatcom County nonprofits. Individuals and teams collect donations for the nonprofit of their choice and then participate in the Human Race event. Last year, the 500 people who participated had a really good time raising \$60,000 for 80 local nonprofits.

This year's race will be June 12th. There is a kickoff event at the Squalicum Boathouse in Bellingham on March 30th from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m.

If you would like to race for Whatcom Land Trust contact Connie Clement at 650-9470 to get information.

Chuckanut Conservation Planning

If you have ever looked at a satellite photo of the Western Washington region, you may have noticed the Chuckanut Mountains sticking out from the North Cascades like a green thumb toward the waters of Puget Sound. For years wildlife experts and local conservationists have felt the forested ridges and narrow valleys of the Chuckanut Mountains constituted a unique ecosystem in Washington State. Early this year Whatcom Land Trust, in partnership with Skagit Land Trust and the North Cascades Corridor Project, completed the first ever landscape level study of the forested corridor between the Chuckanut Mountains and the North Cascades. The Cascades to Chuckanut Conservation Strategy is a generalized assessment of existing wildlife habitat condition and conservation needs of the Chuckanut Region.

The study revealed the ecological uniqueness of the Chuckanut Mountains, and also described the growing threats to preserving the integrity of this forested corridor. The most interesting result of the study was the fact that the Chuckanut Mountains are



computer graphic: Chris Behee

The Chuckanut Mountains viewed from the northwest, with Bellingham on the right side, Lake Whatcom in the center and the Twin Sisters on the left.

the largest remaining block of undeveloped land between Vancouver B.C., and Olympia, and constitute the only remaining forested corridor linking the alpine heights of the North Cascades with the saltwater ecosystem of Puget Sound. However, population growth pressure from Seattle

study broadened our understanding of the Chuckanut Mountains as more than a beautiful place to hike and provides both Whatcom and Skagit Land Trusts with a rational guide for planning conservation projects in this special place. Funding for the completion of the Cascades to

A unique ecosystem in Washington State

to the south and from Vancouver, B.C., and Bellingham to the north are squeezing the Chuckanuts from both sides. The

Chuckanut Conservation Strategy was provided by a generous grant from the Paul G. Allen Forest Protection Foundation.

—Gordon Scott

WLT Protects Salmon Dream Stream ...continued from front page

point Maple Creek is augmented by several large wetlands that appear to flow year round with clear, cold water. Maple Creek meanders for over three-quarters of a mile through the middle of the property before it joins the North Fork Nooksack. Lummi Natural Resources restoration crews have been replanting and restoring forested habitat along a 50-foot wide buffer on either side of Maple Creek to shade the stream and provide a long-term supply of large woody debris. Because of Maple Creek's importance to the North Fork system, the Nooksack Tribe has installed a permanent water

quality and quantity measuring gauge in the creek on the newly acquired tract.

The Maple Creek property includes about 1,800 feet of riparian frontage on the North Fork Nooksack. Mature cottonwoods, red alder, western hemlock, and western red cedar bordering the river provide shade and cover for spawning Chinook salmon. Along this reach of the North Fork the river is unconfined and free to meander across its floodplain, creating side channel sloughs, gravel bars and islands. Chum salmon also spawn on the property, attracting eagles that feed on the carcasses. Elk have been

observed using a large field on the property for winter grazing.

The Maple Creek project is another example of how Whatcom Land Trust works productively with public agencies to accomplish our mission and provide public benefit. We would like to thank the Secretary of Transportation, Doug McDonald, and his staff, along with Richard Logan and Bob Penhale from the Department of Ecology for their vision and creative thinking in making this a successful project.

—Gordon Scott

South Fork Wetlands Protected

Edfro Creek is small tributary stream of the South Fork Nooksack, located upstream of the Skookum Creek Fish Hatchery. In October 2003 the Land Trust purchased 128 acres of river frontage and wetlands from Hampton Tree Farms, Inc. located between Edfro Creek and Skookum Creek, using funds from a State Salmon Recovery grant. The floodplain, riparian forest and the large wetland on the Edfro Creek property constitute some of the best remaining natural Chinook salmon habitat in the South Fork Valley.

The South Fork native Chinook salmon is the most threatened salmon species in the Nooksack River system. Fewer than 300 individuals have returned to spawn in the last few years. Reasons for this situation are numerous, but one of the most obvious reasons is loss of natural river habitat.

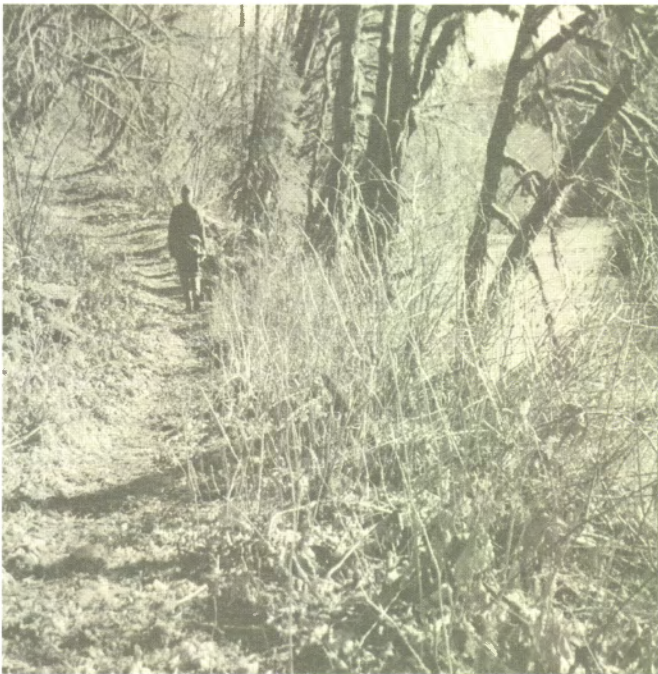


photo: Rod Burton

Trail along the South Fork near Edfro Creek



photo: Gordon Scott

The Edfro Creek Property has nearly a mile of frontage on the South Fork.

One of the biggest habitat changes that has occurred in the South Fork is the clearing, draining and filling of wetlands. This is not surprising given the fact that the South Fork Valley was almost one complete wetland from Van

Zandt to Acme before settlers arrived in the late 1800s. In order to turn the South Fork Valley into the rich agricultural land it is today early farmers had to clear and drain the large wet areas, inadvertently destroying places where newly hatched Chinook salmon spent the first few critical months of their lives out of the main river channel in quiet and protected wetlands. Though it is difficult to accurately know, it is possible that

as much as 80 percent of the forested wetland areas of the South Fork Valley have been converted to agriculture over the last 150 years.

The acquisition of the Edfro Creek property insures perpetual protection of one of the best remaining wetlands in the South Fork Valley. Situated along the side of the valley on a margin of old floodplain, the Edfro Creek wetland complex feeds cool, clear water into the South Fork. Juvenile Chinook salmon use the wetland area for off-channel rearing and adult coho salmon spawn in the small stream connecting the wetland to the river. The abundance of fish in the wetland area is evident by the number of great blue herons and kingfishers lurking along the banks, looking for their next meal. With the acquisition of the Edfro Creek property the Land Trust has now protected 859 acres and 5.5 miles of land along the South Fork Nooksack.

—Gordon Scott

Ed Stone and Michelle Schraeder Donate Two New Conservation Easements

Late last year Ed Stone and Michelle Schraeder donated two more conservation easements over land they own adjacent to property they conserved in 2002. All together Ed and Michelle have protected 65 acres of forest and riparian area along Ten Mile Creek in central Whatcom County. The new easements protect the forest of Douglas fir and cedar that provides valuable shade along Ten Mile Creek. Ed and Michelle have been busy improving and restoring the native vegetation by planting hundreds of young conifers and native hardwoods along the streams and wetlands on their property and substantially re-designing the Ten Mile Creek channel. By restoring Ten Mile Creek and placing a conservation easement on their property, Ed and Michelle have created perpetual habitat for wildlife in the rapidly developing central part of Whatcom County. —Gordon Scott



photo: Katie Knight

Wetland habitat on Ten Mile Creek.

The Whatcom Land Trust would like to thank our 2003-2004 Business Conservation Partners for working with us to conserve land in Whatcom County for future generations.

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Board Retreats to Plan for WLT's Conservation Efforts

On the last Saturday in January, 2004 the board and staff had their annual retreat. The retreat is an opportunity to spend time thinking and talking about big questions like: "What do you want Whatcom Land Trust to be in 10 years?" The board and staff spent all day working to make Whatcom Land Trust an even better organization.

Gordon Scott again generously agreed to let us hold the annual retreat at his home near Squaticum Lake. Jean Carroll facilitated the retreat discussion. Jean, a professional consultant for organizational development, donated her services to the Trust.

Jean's husband is board member Bill Carroll. Under Jean's lively direction we stayed on task and moved through our agenda with efficiency and enthusiasm.

The morning session was spent reviewing the history of Whatcom Land Trust. Highlights were noted, and significant contributions by various individuals were honored. Special recognition was given to Hilda Bajema and Rand Jack, who have been with WLT since the beginning.

It was impressive to note how much we have accomplished since our first transaction. In 1989 Herman Miller gave WLT a conservation easement on 160 acres. Fifteen years later, at the time of the retreat, we had protected 6,059 acres in Whatcom County through a variety of methods including conservation easements, conservation negotiations and land purchases.

Gordon Scott reported on the property transactions that took place in 2003. His presentation was praised by the



photo: Gordon Scott

During a break, Bill and Jean Carroll discuss plans for the next section of the retreat with Wendy Walker.

board, and appreciation was noted for all the work and dedication of the staff during the year.

A benefit of the historical review was to give newer board and staff members a better understanding of the background of the Trust. Informal mentoring sessions were arranged between long-time and newer board members to ensure the continuity of the Trust's efforts.

Rich Bowers, one of our newer board members, said of the retreat: "As relatively new to Whatcom County, it was a chance to meet others who have been working to protect this unique area. It was also a great opportunity to dive into the task of preserving the lifestyle and natural resources that have, already, made this home to me and my family."

In the afternoon we worked on ways to improve our organizational structure and to increase our efficiency. Some of the issues discussed at the retreat were:

- ***how to better integrate the efforts***

of the land committee's conservation work and the development committee's fund-raising efforts.

- ***modifying the structure of the organization so the staff can work more efficiently.***

- ***the importance of board members providing more active support for fund raising and outreach, and the need to consider this when recruiting new board members.***

- ***the increasing need for more effort directed at land management to fulfill our duties as stewards of the lands owned by the Trust.***

- ***feasibility of longer-term planning.***

- ***prioritizing future staffing needs.***

The annual retreat is the time when new officers are elected. Cindy Klein is now the President, Rod Burton is Vice-president, Carl Batchelor is Secretary and Harte Bressler has agreed to stay on as our Treasurer.

The valuable contributions made by Wendy Walker during her time as President were recognized. Under Wendy's leadership the Trust has flourished. Bob Keller read a tribute to Wendy and she received kudos from the entire board.

The changes in operations and organizational structure that will come from the retreat may not be large, but will have an effect in making Whatcom Land Trust better able to fulfill our (and your) mission of land protection and stewardship education. —Rod Burton

Some Ways You Can Help the Land Trust

Whatcom Land Trust needs some help from its members. You can help us in several ways:

Help Spread the Word

An effective way to pass on our message of stewardship is by setting up our display at gatherings and informing people about the work we are doing to preserve our natural heritage for future generations. We need more people to help with this. This isn't hard work. It's fun to spend a few hours in a booth at the Farmer's Market, the Fair or some other event talking with your fellow citizens.

We'll train you. There is plenty of literature available for study, so you don't need to feel awkward about "not knowing enough about the Land Trust." To increase our public presence in the community we need more volunteers willing to help reach out and tell our story. See the "elevator speech" below for a quick primer about Whatcom Land Trust.

Help Increase Our Membership

Membership contributions provide the funds we need to cover our operating expenses. WLT is a very lean organization. Operating costs are only a fraction of our total budget, most of which goes to land preservation efforts. But to do that land preservation, we must have the financial support of our membership to pay for our staff and office expenses.

The greater our membership, the more secure will be our long-term effort to protecting the special quality of Whatcom County. You can help by telling friends, family and co-workers about WLT, and asking them to join the Trust. Or you can host a neighborhood party.

Help with the Great Outdoors Auction

We can help with this year's auction. We need a variety of skills in the weeks

before the auction begins. We particularly need people willing to help the day before the auction (May 14th) and the day of the auction (May 15th).

There is a wide range of tasks we will need help with. These include data entry, serving food, picking up and transporting auction items, decorating, helping during bidding, and cleaning up.

Mailings/Office Help

We always appreciate people who are willing to spend a few hours helping prepare a mailing, organizing files, or doing some research, etc. If you can give a couple of hours at a time, especially during the day, we would really like to hear from you.

Call Connie at the Whatcom Land Trust office (650-9470) to volunteer or to get more information.

Whatcom Land Trust in 90 Seconds (aka: the elevator speech)

We rely on you, our members, to spread the word about Whatcom Land Trust. If you're not sure what to say about the Trust when the conversation turns to issues of growth, development and our changing landscape, here is a short speech that says a lot about WLT in a few words. —Rod Burton

Whatcom Land Trust is a private, local non-profit group dedicated to protecting land in Whatcom County. We protect the land in perpetuity, so future generations will have a place to live that is as beautiful and special as the place we live in today.

Our mission is to protect all kinds of land: farmland, scenic places, open spaces and wildlife habitat. With a small staff and a dedicated corps of volunteers and supporters we've protected over 6,000 acres. We've helped create and develop eight public parks, which include saltwater beaches, pristine lakes and an ancient forest with thousand-year-old trees. We also do things to help people become more aware of the land and to help them develop a greater sense of stewardship. (We published the book "Whatcom Places," to help people recognize the beauty of the place where they live. Other examples include movie series, and panel discussions.)

We protect land in three ways.

We help private property owners who want to protect the natural features of their land in the future write legal documents that restrict how their land can be changed. They still own the land and can sell it or pass it on, but the restrictions are part of the title and stay in effect in perpetuity. Whatcom Land Trust's job is to see that the natural heritage of the land is protected, no matter who owns the land.

We own land, which we either purchase or is donated to us, that we keep undeveloped as wildlife habitat or open space. (We've protected over 12 miles of Nooksack River frontage this way.)

We work together with private donors and government agencies to acquire special properties. These usually become part of the public park system. (The Stimpson Family Nature Reserve is the most recent public area we've helped create.)

If you want more information about Whatcom Land Trust, call our office (at 650-9470).

OFFICE MANAGER

Connie Clement

Connie Clement is happy to be the new Office Manager at Whatcom Land Trust. In the past several years, Connie has supported the Land Trust by being a land steward, transcribing interviews for *Whatcom Places*, working the fair booth and being an auction volunteer. She comes to us from Brett & Daugert where she worked as a paralegal for over 12 years.

Connie was raised in Texas and graduated from Southwestern University. In 1991, she moved to Bellingham for its natural beauty. When asked if she has ever been tempted to return to her roots, Connie states, "I have never looked back. I love it here. I feel so



Connie, Mary and friends at Woodland Park Zoo.

fortunate to live near the mountains and the water. I was land-locked in a flat region for so long that I am continually appreciative of the beauty of this area."

Connie is married to Paul, a high school math teacher, and they have a two-and-a-half-year-old daughter

(Mary). In Connie's free time, she enjoys spending time with her family, running, reading, singing, playing her guitar and teaching herself the accordion.

CONSERVATION SPECIALIST

Ann Russell

Ann Russell is originally from Syracuse, N.Y., where she attended the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry. She received a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Biology concentrating in Wildlife Biology and Management. Ann worked on black bear research projects in the Adirondack Mountains of New York and the Cascades in Washington. She is currently writing her Master of Science thesis for Huxley College. The thesis title is "A Qualitative Analysis of Public Perception of Black Bears in Residential Areas of King County."

Ann has extensive experience in both scientific field research and environmental education. She enjoys helping people realize their connection to nature and land. Her philosophies for



Ann identifies a butterfly while working for Earthwatch Institute.

conservation and education emulate those of Aldo Leopold whom she considers a personal motivator and hero. Ann has been working with the Outreach Committee on the development of a few projects including increased cooperation with the Land Management Committee, and looks forward to continuing that work. About her position, she says: "I have admired the work of the Land Trust since I first came to Belling-

ham five years ago and I am extremely excited to be a part of the staff. It is an exciting and challenging time for Whatcom County. Now more than ever we need to work to protect and conserve land for all the members of our natural community." Ann enjoys hiking, backpacking, and anything else that keeps her outside! She enjoys learning about natural history and ethnobotany.



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Wendy Walker Led WLT During Period of Growth *1,100 acres of protected land added*

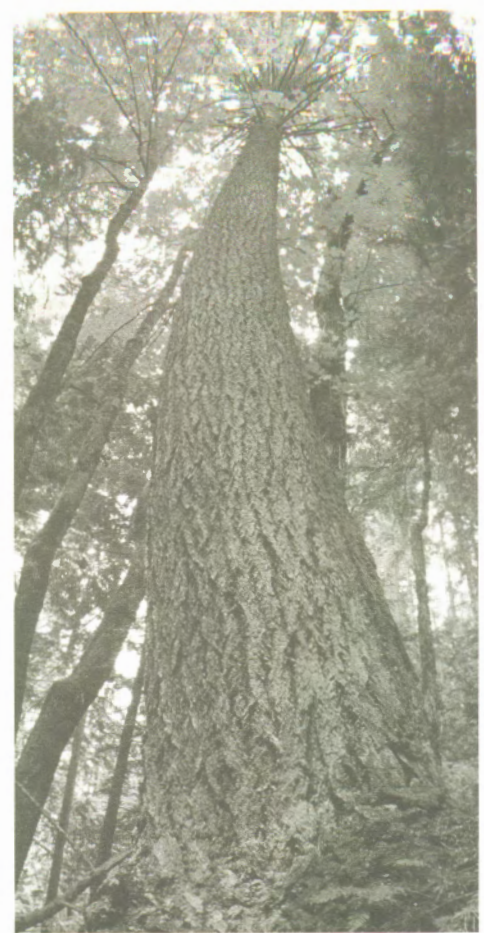
The office of Land Trust president has grown in magnitude over the past decade, becoming more demanding and sometimes more frustrating. With no paid director or general manager to share the burden, the president assumes primary responsibility for an organization with five hundred members, four employees, and seventy properties totaling over 6,000 acres. With each passing year, and with each new Land Trust success, this voluntary, time-consuming job expands in complexity.

Thus, we can say with some assurance that Wendy Walker has served in office during two of the most taxing, if not vexing, years in our twenty-year history. We can say with complete assurance that she has our gratitude for her contributions and leadership.

During Wendy's tenure the Trust added 1,100 acres of protected land (Olsen Estate, Eagle Park, Anderson Gift, Hutchinson Creek, Edfro Creek, Maple Creek, Acme Farm, Foxglove, Stone-Schraeder, the Lake Whatcom Treatment Center, and eight other properties).

We know that for Wendy Walker, this list is reward enough for the time, effort, concern, dedication, care, and creativity that she has provided. Yet, the board wishes to express its appreciation to her for chairing long meetings, for encouraging individual staff, for solving problems, and for being an exceptionally open, positive, and fair-minded coordinator over the past two years. Twenty years of strong, voluntary effort such as hers has helped make Whatcom Land Trust what it is today. Thank you, Wendy, for job well done since becoming president in January 2002.

—Bob Keller for the WLT Board



More Tours are Planned for 2004

We are in the process of organizing tours of some of the properties that Whatcom Land Trust had a hand in protecting. The tours will happen from mid- spring into the fall. We are hoping to offer more tours than in previous years. This will give additional opportunities for our members and the general public to enjoy these tours.

We will be sending a flyer to all members and advertising the tour schedule when we have definite information.

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Our new Monthly Giving Program is a worry-free way to spread your gift to Whatcom Land Trust over the year. Small, monthly donations of \$10, \$20, or \$30 will make a big difference in helping us to continue the work of conserving vital habitat. Donations can be charged to a credit card or can be automatically transferred from a checking or savings account. To find out how you can join our Monthly Giving Program please call Daniél at 650-9470.

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Whatcom Land Trust • By the Numbers

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

Total Acres 6,045

Miles of Riverfront 12

Public Parks Created 8

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

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

- Become a member (\$30 min.)** **Make a donation \$ _____**
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