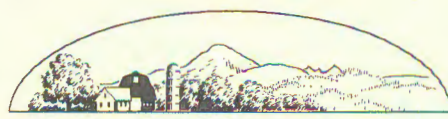


The



Newsletter of Whatcom Land Trust
Whatcom County, Washington

Steward

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

Volume 15 Number 1

Winter/Spring 2006

Kronenbergs Show a Deep Love for Their Land with Easement

Talking about their relationship to the land he and Phyllis purchased in 1974, Nate Kronenberg observed, “we have sort of become part of the land. We have related to nature, specifically the nature of Whatcom County, in a way we have never done before. . . . We have managed the land carefully all of the years we have been here and have come to be one with all the big trees.” This observation beautifully sums up why Nate and Phyllis signed a conservation easement at the end of last year to protect in perpetuity their 30-acre forest and homestead near Everson.

The Kronenbergs moved to Bellingham from Chicago by way of Long Beach, California. They soon began looking for a place in rural Whatcom County. As

Nate said, “we had never owned land before and were excited about the idea of having our own piece of land.” The property near Everson “had all of the things we were looking for—woods, a view, a meadow, a seasonal stream. . . . We were fresh from the city and dying to get our hands in the soil.”

Phyllis is the ecologist in the family, “a naturalist from way back.” She has taken graduate courses in biology and is a former



photo: Eric Carabba

Nate and Phyllis Kronenberg in their forest.

president of the Bellingham Chapter of the Washington Native Plant Society. Her background was evident when she insisted in adding to . . .continued on page five

Saturday, May 13th — Save The Date

Anything is possible-

- ✿ from a box of berries, good wine, and fine art,
 - ✿ to a rustic retreat, a river float,
 - ✿ perhaps an armchair adventure or exhilarating expedition...
- all this, and more, is possibly found at the *Great Outdoors Auction!*

Make plans now to attend Whatcom Land Trust’s *Great Outdoors Auction* to be held on Saturday, May 13, 2006. This year the auction will be held at the Rotary Building at the Northwest Washington Fairgrounds in Lynden. This is our big fundraiser for the year, plan to attend. Make your plans early, as the auction has sold out in the past. We seek your help to make this year’s auction the best yet. If you wish to donate an item, volunteer at this exciting event, or if you just don’t want to miss the best fun to be had in Lynden on a Saturday night in May under a full moon—call the Whatcom Land Trust office today!

Thank You Ann

WLT would like to express its gratitude to Ann Russell for her work as Conservation Specialist. Ann came on board in March 2004 and worked hard on land management issues and in the outreach work of WLT. Ann's passion for the environment inspired her to complete her Masters in Environmental Education in the spring of 2005. Her environmental passion is equaled by a passion for social justice. In October, Ann left WLT to work for the Kulshan Community Land Trust. KCLT provides permanently affordable housing.

Thank you, Ann for your good work. We'll miss you and your amazing sense of humor.

Welcome John

John McLaughlin has joined the Board of Directors. John will provide his perspective and expertise to the Land Management Committee. An Associate Professor at Huxley College of the Environment, John's teaching and research centers on population and wildlife ecology and conservation biology. John completed his Ph.D. and M.S. in biological sciences at Stanford University. Before his graduate work, he was a wilderness guide in the Adirondack mountains.

Auction Committee

Cindy Klein will head up the 2006 Auction Committee with help from Mary Dumas and Chris Moench. The Auction Committee also seeks interested WLT supporters to assist with the auction. Please contact the office if you wish to help.

Coming and Going

As Bob Keller returns from a leave of absence, Wendy Walker begins a four month leave. Bob spent the autumn months in the Black Forest region of Germany, and Wendy will be teaching a class in La Paz, Mexico.

Board Retreat

The Board has scheduled its annual retreat for the second weekend of February. If you have concerns or suggestions for the organization, please let us know.

Rand Jack: A Whatcom County Treasure A Tribute to Rand Jack on his 65th birthday

The board of directors expresses its deep appreciation to Rand Jack for the time, effort and intelligence that have very likely accomplished the most effective land conservation record in Whatcom County history. For over 20 years, his tenacity and contagious optimism and his ability to craft and negotiate creative solutions have been at the heart of this organization's remarkable legacy. The true monuments, of course, to Rand's sustained effort are Clark's Point, Teddy Bear Cove, the Cherry Point heron colony, Canyon Lake Creek, the Nessel Farm, Stimpson Family Nature Reserve, Squires Lake, the Deming Homestead Eagle Park, and several dozen other prize properties.

Such accomplishments as these seldom arise solely from a single devoted person, but often it requires creative, dedicated individuals to provide the necessary leadership, self-discipline and tipping point required for success against strong odds. In our Whatcom Land Trust history that individual has been Rand Jack. To him, at this point in time, we convey our highest admiration and deepest gratitude.

Board of Directors, Whatcom Land Trust

Eric Carabba new Property Steward

Eric Carabba is excited to join Whatcom Land Trust. As a lifelong resident of Whatcom County, he appreciates WLT's work and feels honored to be entrusted with overseeing WLT's properties and conservation easement responsibilities.

Eric joined the U. S. Army before graduating from Mt. Baker High School. There he displayed initiative and became an Airborne Ranger squad leader. After six and a half years, Eric, his wife Katrina, and their daughter Rowan were ready for a change. "We were eager to return home to the Acme area to be with our families and enjoy the beauty of Whatcom County,"

Eric attended Whatcom Community College and after graduating with honors transferred to Western Washington University's Huxley College. Eric graduated



photo: Connie Clement

from Huxley with a Bachelors degree in Geography with an emphasis in environmental and resource management.

During summers Eric worked with Russ Pfeiffer-Hoyt on many trail and bridge projects, including the Stimpson Family Nature Reserve and Canyon Lake Creek Community Forest.

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P.O. Box 6131

Bellingham, Washington, 98227-6131

(360) 650-9470

info@whatcomlandtrust.org

Newsletter Team Rod Burton, Connie Clement, Jerry DeBacker
Production Help/Proofreading..... Kathryn Batchelor, Mary Dumas
Design and Layoutdonated by Roderick C. Burton - Art & Design
Printing.....Lithtex Northwest
Contributors..... Connie Clement, Eric Carabba, Jerry DeBacker,
Chris Moench, Rand Jack, Ann Russell, Gordon Scott

Doug Clark Remembered

Doug Clark died at his home on October 8, 2005 after nearly a century full of life. Many in the community may not have known Doug Clark, but few do not know Clark's Point. The 78-acre peninsula in Bellingham Bay serves as a living, forever-green memorial to the vision, foresight and generous hearts of Doug and Peggy Clark.

People will remember Doug for different things—his adventurous spirit, his unflinching honesty, his pioneering of the grocery business in Bellingham, his trusting nature, his sense of humor, his loyalty in friendship, his love of family. Whatcom Land Trust remembers these things too, but what we will never forget is his bold decision in 1990, taken with his wife and three children, to place a perpetual conservation easement on one of the most beautiful pieces of land anywhere. In addition to benefiting the plants and animals that live there, this gift to the community assures that Clark's Point will remain a rich forest and marine habitat and a visual delight—rather than another housing development visible from Chuckanut Drive.

The gift also served as a strategic moment in the history of Whatcom Land Trust. Doug Clark's faith in WLT brought us a credibility that money cannot buy. If a person of Doug's stature would trust us to oversee the preservation of something so precious as Clark's Point, WLT must be trustworthy. This conservation easement paved the way for the 82 conservation transactions that we have done since.

The Clark Conservation Easement wasn't just about protecting big trees and nesting eagles. After months and months of meetings, we had just about settled on the terms of the easement when Doug's daughter Patrice said that there was something that she and her siblings Ron and Linda would like to add. Doug really

loved to ride his bulldozer, and they wanted to add a provision that allowed Doug to ride his bulldozer on the existing bulldozer trail so long as he lived. Never before and never since have we had such a request, but we made the addition to the easement. This right was personal to Doug. No one else could do it, not even the president of Whatcom Land Trust. Once Doug died, the trail would revert to nature. The provision paid respect to Doug's independence as a man of the woods. He never actually made use of this special right, perhaps showing something of the man of the woods he had become.

In a conversation not too long ago with WLT Board member Bob Keller, Doug reflected on the decision to grant a conservation easement over his name-sake to Whatcom Land Trust. He said he had no misgivings about what he and Peggy had done. With the passage of time, the decision became more and more important to him. And with each



photo: Jonathan Duncan

Doug Clark at his home in 1997.

passing year, he was more certain that they had done the right thing.

On the occasion of Doug's death, we celebrate his life. On behalf of all creatures great and small—those who live on Clark's Point, those who look upon it and those who delight in knowing that it is forever protected—we express our deepest gratitude to Doug and Peggy for their extraordinary generosity and vision of a future with big trees and nesting eagles on the peninsula now known as Clark's Point.



photo: Gordon Scott

Doug and Peggy Clark in January 1990, surrounded by their family and friends as they sign the conservation easement protecting Clark's Point.

Donation Protects Southside Shoreline

“When we were designing the subdivision it became evident that the best use of the point and lagoon was for habitat conservation.”

Mike McCormack, Madrona Pointe developer

A small rocky headland and saltwater lagoon south of Fairhaven on Bellingham Bay have been donated to the Whatcom Land Trust by real estate developer Mike McCormack. Mr. McCormack, of Santa Barbara, California, recently completed the Madrona Pointe Subdivision in the Edgemoor neighborhood.

The 2-acre headland includes about 1,200 feet of saltwater shoreline cliff. The lagoon, about 5 acres in size, lies between the Burlington-Northern railroad tracks and a rocky upland below the new subdivision. The shoreline area on the headland is undisturbed and is one of the few sections of Bellingham Bay that hasn't been altered by industry or residential development. The gnarled Douglas fir and Arbutus are favorite perching sites for the local Bald Eagle family. The saltwater lagoon, created by the construction of the railroad in the early part of the last century, provides a quiet refuge for mergansers, buffleheads, golden eyes, and other wandering waterfowl. One of Whatcom County's rare stands of native Garry oak trees is located on this headland.

“When we were designing the subdivision it became evident that the best use of the point and lagoon was for habitat conservation,” Mr. McCormack remarked. “We asked the Whatcom Land Trust if they were interested in owning the property. They took one look and agreed to accept the donation. The Land Trust was great to work with.” Cindy Klein, president of Whatcom Land Trust and avid birder, enthusiastically supported the project. “There is very little saltwater shoreline preserved for

...continued on next page



photo: Gordon Scott

Douglas fir and Arbutus grow along with Garry oaks, which are uncommon in Whatcom County, at Madrona Point.

wildlife habitat in Whatcom County. Anytime Whatcom Land Trust gets the opportunity to conserve our shore lands we need to go for it.”

The donation was made possible by a team of individuals working together toward the conservation goals, including Bill Sygitowicz, a local realtor, attorney Jack Swanson, and project manager Larry Willman of Inter-group Development.

The donated property is covered by a conservation easement held by the City of Bellingham that prohibits any tree cutting in order to protect eagle perch trees. There is no public access to the site due to the sensitive wildlife and plant habitat. The rocky headland is impossible to land a boat on, but the public is encouraged to view the property from the waters of Bellingham Bay.



photo: Gordon Scott

Madrona Point lagoon provides sensitive shoreline habitat.

Kronenbergs' Land Ethic Spurs Donation ...continued from page one



photo: Eric Carabba

Chris Moench of Whatcom Land Trust (left) and Nate Kronenberg walk the forest edge together as a baseline assessment of the property for the conservation easement is conducted.



photo: Eric Carabba

Douglas-firs the Kronenbergs planted to expand their forest.

the draft conservation easement a prohibition against disturbing native understory vegetation in the forest. It was wonderful to have a knowledgeable property owner insisting that a draft easement be made more restrictive and ecologically sensitive.

Nate is the land manager. A graduate of the DNR Forest Stewardship Program, Nate germinates his own seeds and has planted hundreds of seedlings to complement the 80 to 100 year old forest on the property. With obvious relish, Nate, now retired, proclaimed that taking care of the property is a full time job. Then he quickly corrected himself: “taking care of the property is a full time pleasure.”

The Kronenbergs moved to Whatcom County for Nate to take a job as the Whatcom County Mental Health Clinic’s psychiatrist. He then went into private practice for 20 years before retiring in 1995. Retirement has been elusive for Nate, now 80 years old. In addition to the full time pleasure of caring for the land, he has volunteered for the past ten years at the Interfaith Clinic setting up their mental health program, seeing patients, teaching and consulting.

“We have sort of become part of the land. We have related to nature, specifically the nature of Whatcom County, in a way we have never done before...”

Nate Kronenberg

Nate and Phyllis wrote in the Purpose section of their conservation easement that they “intend for humans to live lightly on the property so as to minimize interference with wildlife and the character of the woods and the land.” When asked why they put a conservation easement on their land, the Kronenbergs’ answer was simple. “We didn’t want anything to happen to our land like was happening elsewhere in the county.” With their conservation easement, they have made sure that the fate of many places in Whatcom County will not befall the “Kronenberg forest.” We at Whatcom Land Trust are filled with respect and appreciation for the Kronenbergs’ land ethic, their conservation gift and all that they have contributed to this community.

101-Acre *Ladies of the Lake* Wa

With the help of a generous donation from Bob and Pat Brown, California residents with close ties to Whatcom County, Whatcom Land Trust recently purchased a beautiful 101-acre farm and forest in the Lake Whatcom watershed. (*See memorial to Bob Brown, on next page*) To protect the privacy of the sellers, we refer to them as the Ladies of the Lake and treat some of the details of the transaction as confidential. The Ladies of the Lake met as members of that elite and daring group of young women who became Air Force pilots in World War II. In fact, they bought this property thinking that the pasture might serve for landing airplanes as well as grazing cows.

Nearly 15 years ago Whatcom Land Trust became interested in the exceptional attributes of the Ladies' property—a beautiful 30-acre pasture nestled in a small valley, 70 acres of tall fir, cedar, hemlock and maple trees, and a clear stream flowing into Lake Whatcom. We began conversations with the Ladies of the Lake about purchasing their property, which continued over the years. The Ladies very much hoped the property would never be subdivided and developed, yet we were not able to work things out to serve everyone's needs. Then, a year and a half ago we got a call from Bob Brown saying that he and Pat wanted to do "something special" in the Lake Whatcom watershed. That phone call turned our attention back to the Ladies of the Lake.

With a commitment from the Browns, we were able to make arrangements that satisfied everyone. A neighbor agreed to trade a right of first refusal on 40 acres of the Ladies' property for a one-acre building right. The Ladies chose Starck Follis to represent them in the transaction. Starck's legal assistant Mary Kay Loving quickly won the Ladies' hearts when they learned that she, like they, cooked on a wood-burning stove. Through the Browns' generosity, the purchase agreement allows the Ladies to live out their lives comfortably on the property and gives them the assurance that the property will never be subdivided and developed.

Now, houses, roads, garages and lawns will never invade this land cared for by the Ladies of the Lake for the last 50 years. The land will forever endow our community with forest, fish, wildlife, clean water and a chance to experience a very special Whatcom County place. Some day it may become a County park, a legacy to Bob and Pat Brown and to the Ladies of the Lake.



photo: Gordon Scott

Whatcom Land Trust volunteer Barbara Francis pauses among forest giants on the Ladies of the Lake conservation site.

Watershed Property Acquired

In Memory of Bob Brown, With Deep Respect and Gratitude

Avid conservationist, civic activist, and supporter of Whatcom Land Trust, Bob Brown died on August 26 near his home in Portola Valley. For 15 years Bob and his wife Pat have given with exceptional generosity to Whatcom Land Trust. Though residents of California, Pat grew up in Skagit and Whatcom Counties, and Bob adopted this corner of Washington as a place special to him. In 1990 the Browns donated the Hegg Memorial to Whatcom Land Trust. This beautiful half acre property on the shore of Lake Whatcom off the North Shore Trail is now a County park. Since then, Bob and Pat have contributed significantly to WLT's land acquisition funds.

About 18 months ago Bob called to say that he and Pat wanted to do something special in the Lake Whatcom watershed. After a careful survey of possible

projects, we resumed our discussions with the Ladies of the Lake about their remarkable 101 acre property. (see accompanying story on previous page) Ironically, we had taken the Browns to see this property several years earlier. When WLT finally finished the complicated arrangements to buy the property and called the Browns with the good news, Pat told us that Bob had died a few days earlier and assured us that Bob's pledge would be honored. From our dealings with the Browns, we never had any doubts about this.

In addition to his strategic contributions to conservation in Whatcom and Skagit Counties, Bob supported land trusts in the Bay Area. He was the leading figure in the founding and incorporation of the town of Portola Valley in order "to preserve open space and especially the

trails that threaded Portola Valley from the development that was spreading into the hills." (*The Almanac*, August 31, 2005). Bob served 18 years on the Town Council and three times as the volunteer mayor. On the occasion of Bob leaving the Town Council in 1982, the then mayor said that Portola Valley really should be named "Brown Valley." In addition to his community service, Bob ran the highly regarded construction company started by his father in 1932 and now managed by Bob's son.

In a recent note, Pat wrote that "Robert would be pleased to be remembered as a supporter of the environment, and as a provider of parks and open space for the future." With deep gratitude, he will certainly be remembered that way in Whatcom County, and other places as well.

Book on Nationwide Conservation Efforts Features Whatcom Land Trust

The Whatcom Land Trust is one of six organizations in the U.S. featured in the book published this last October by the Trust for Public Lands. *GROUNDSWELL: Stories of Saving Places, Finding Community*, celebrates the role of land conservation in preserving community character and connecting people. The chapter on Whatcom Land Trust focuses on the preservation of Canyon Lake Creek Community Forest. It praises the collaborative approach taken in conservation of this old growth forest that features some trees as old as 800 years. The author Alix W. Hopkins has worked in land conservation for more than twenty years. She has worked for Portland Trails, an urban,

"This is a story about daring, where visionaries from a small land trust in Bellingham, Washington, formed critical partnerships and pulled out all the stops to preserve an ancient forest about to be sold for logging."

excerpt about Canyon Lake Creek Community Forest, from GROUNDSWELL

trails-oriented land trust in Portland, Maine, the Natural Lands Trust, and currently serves as co-president of the Pownal Land Trust and as a board member of the Maine Coast Heritage Trust. Copies of the book are available at Village Books, WLT's office or can be found at <http://www.alixwhopkins.com>.

Paul Dairy PDR Easement

For over 100 years farming has been a major industry in Whatcom County and a significant contributor to the quality of life we enjoy. In 2002 the Whatcom County Council recognized the threat that population growth and development pose for this historic enterprise and adopted the Agricultural PDR program. Whatcom Land Trust was invited to assist the County in implementing the PDR program, and we soon accepted conservation easements over 80 acres on two farms near Laurel. Last December the program added another 157 acres of prime farmland to the list of permanently protected agricultural lands with the purchase of a conservation easement from the Paul Family of Custer.

The Paul Dairy Farm contains 125 acres of pasture and crop land and about 25 acres of forest with several wet areas forming the heads of local streams. The farm is located in the Dakota Creek watershed, which empties into Drayton Harbor near Blaine. The conservation easement now protecting agricultural uses on this property from the rural residential development helps maintain the economic health of the local agricultural community and, just as important, the ecological health of Dakota Creek and Drayton Harbor. Farmers have long recognized that good stewardship is good business.

The conservation easement is writ-



photo: Ann Russell

The Paul Dairy near Custer will never grow a crop of houses or shopping malls now that it has been protected for agricultural uses in perpetuity.

ten to allow normal farming operations such as cropping, haying, grazing and growing of berries or other row type crops. It allows for some expansion of farming activities but prohibits subdivision of the property, residential development or any other land use activity that would significantly interfere with the use of the land for agricultural purposes. The easement language is carefully crafted to

give current and future farmers as much flexibility as possible in conducting their agricultural operations while protecting the inherent biological values of the farmland. Underneath everything are the irreplaceable soils of our region, soils that took 10,000 years to form after the last glaciers retreated northward, the soils that form the very foundation of our precious agricultural heritage.

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Upcoming Whatcom Land Trust Tours

All tours are free to Land Trust members. Suggested donation for non-members is \$5.00 to \$10.00 per person. Call the office to register and get directions to the meeting places. 650-9470.

Stimpson Family Nature Reserve

Saturday, Jan. 28 10am - 1:00pm Limit: 15

Leader: Stimpson Nature Guide

An all-ages guided walk will lead hikers through the diverse habitats of this 350-acre nature reserve. Listen for birds, watch for native plants, and learn about the cultural history that has shaped this area of the Lake Whatcom watershed. Meet our Stimpson Nature Guide at the trailhead on Lake Louise Road, dress for the weather and prepare for a 3 hour hike. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Call the office to register. 650-9470

Geology Tour at the Stimpson Family Nature Reserve

Saturday, Feb. 25 10am- 1:00pm Limit: 15

Leader: Bernie Dougan, Instructor of Geology, Whatcom Community College

Join geologist Bernie Dougan for a look at the formation of the terrain at Stimpson Family Nature Reserve. Bernie has such enthusiasm for geology he even makes rocks interesting! Attend this tour and find out what's been happening under your feet. Call the office to register. 650-9470

Animal Tracking at Deming Homestead Eagle Park

Saturday, March 11 10am- 1:00pm Limit: 15

Leader: John McLaughlin, Professor at Huxley College of Environmental Studies

Tracking is an excellent way to document the presence and activities of wildlife. Here's your chance to learn how to do it! Huxley professor (and new WLT Board member) John McLaughlin will show you how to discover animal presence by investigating the prints they leave behind—a great way to find out about the animals of our community. Call the office to register. 650-9470

Neotropical Birds at Stimpson Family Nature Reserve

Saturday, April 29 10am - 1:00pm Limit: 15

Leaders: Tom Pratum and Paul Woodcock of the North Cascades Audubon Society

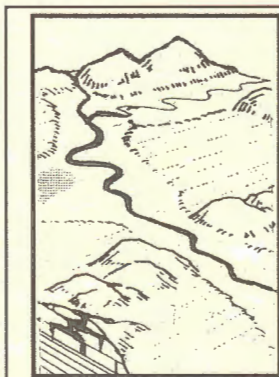
Neotropical migrant birds are the songbirds that represent 340 of the 600 species of North American birds. As spring begins, more than 300 species of Neotropical migratory birds head north to breed and raise young in the United States and Canada. In the fall they return to warmer climates in tropical regions of Central and South America. Join Tom Pratum and Paul Woodcock of the North Cascades Audubon Society for a survey of neotropical birds at Stimpson Family Nature Reserve. Call the office to register. 650-9470

Native Plants of the Nessel Farm

Saturday, May 20 10am- 1:00pm Limit: 15

Leader: Walt Lockwood of the Komo Kulshan chapter of the Washington Native Plant Society

Native plants are an important element of our natural heritage. These plants provide food and shelter for other organisms, offer insights into past and present natural processes, and provide us with comfort and enjoyment. Join Walt Lockwood of the Native Plant Society for a look at what's growing at WLT's historic Nessel Farm. Call the office to register. 650-9470



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Local Artists Raise Thousands for Whatcom Land Trust

In recognition of the link between the natural beauty and ecological health of our region and their creative inspirations, artists on the 11th Annual Whatcom Artist Studio Tour donated a portion of their sales during the tour to Whatcom Land Trust. Through their efforts, the 31 artists raised nearly \$3,000 during the 2005 tour, which took place the first two weekends in October. The proceeds will be applied directly to acquiring and maintaining land for permanent protection.

The free, self-guided Studio Tour began in 1995 as a way to bring the public into the places where local artists create. By visiting the studios, people are given the opportunity to talk with the artists, take a peek into their creative process, and to purchase items directly from them. The Whatcom Artist Studio Tour is a highly selective, juried event so tour goers are guaranteed to see some of the best work our community has to offer. Those

who go can see jewelers, painters, pastel artists, woodturners, potters, glassblowers, weavers, metalworkers and more.

Jayme Curley, an artist who creates low-fired, clay vases, said the event "turned out to be really fun, with lots of people tromping through our "gallery" (living room) and "studio" (ex-guest bedroom), with many stories of why they love to make and look at art." Curley's participation in the Whatcom Artists Studio Tour inspired two more individual arts shows in Seattle for Curley, both benefiting Whatcom Land Trust. The resulting Seattle shows raised an additional \$3,000. Curley stated, "I'm doing this to raise money for Whatcom Land Trust.....to save a bit of this beautiful area from turning into L.A."



photo: David Curley

Ceramic artist Jayme Curley prepares for the Whatcom Artist Studio Tour

For more information on the Whatcom Artists Studio Tour, visit www.studiotour.net. For more information on Whatcom Land Trust, visit www.whatcomlandtrust.org. or call the WLT office at 650-9470.

New Business Partner Pledges Support to Whatcom Land Trust

Blossom Property Management has made a 5 year commitment to Whatcom Land Trust's Business Partner Program. The Business Partner Program is one way that Whatcom Land Trust secures long-term financial stability for the organization.

We wish to thank Blossom's President Ken Hertz for recognizing the value of the work we do in the community. If you are interested in learning more about becoming a Business Partner, please contact Jerry DeBacker at the WLT office.

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Conservation Awards Presented

Whatcom Land Trust presented two awards at its annual membership picnic on September 25, 2005. The awards were the Distinguished Conservator Award, a lifetime achievement award given to persons who have provided years of leadership in the area of conservation, and the Land Steward of the Year Award, which recognizes persons who have performed a significant conservation act in the last year.

Distinguished Conservator

Terry Wahl was presented the Distinguished Conservator Award for his 40+ years of dedicated service in the protection of bird habitat, promotion of public awareness of birds and education on the relationship between how we care for our land and the health of bird populations. Wahl, a lifelong resident of Whatcom County, has promoted land stewardship through his interest in wildlife habitat. He has been continuously and consistently counting, monitoring and writing about bird populations in Whatcom County, Western Washington and Washington State for many years. Wahl has organized and overseen numerous bird population and habitat surveys and has passionately con-

tributed to local environmental and stewardship education through his birding trips, classes and talks.

Land Stewards of the Year

Whatcom Land Trust selected Tim, Dan and Mike O'Connor as the 2005 Land Stewards of the year. In 1997, the O'Connor Brothers donated to Whatcom Land Trust a strict conservation easement over White Deer, the 18-acre family camp off Lake Louise Road. The property is named for the white deer that frequented the camp in the 1960s. White Deer is a beautiful property laced with three streams draining into Lake Whatcom and populated with mature Douglas fir and red cedar. This year the brothers decided to give the property to Whatcom Land Trust. The O'Connors were honored for the care they have taken of White Deer. While exploring the streams and woods as youngsters, they learned the lessons of stewardship. As they grew older, the brothers applied those lessons to the White Deer property. The O'Connors' gift this year was an act of foresight and generosity. Rather than a gift to Whatcom Land Trust, it was more a gift to the land, a gift of perpetual stewardship and care.



WLTabling Training

Are you passionate about saving the beautiful areas of Whatcom County? Would you like to share your passion with others? Whatcom Land Trust is looking for people to serve as friendly educators at WLT's outreach table we set up at special events in Whatcom County such as the Bellingham Farmers Market. Interested? A tabling training is set for April 25 from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the WECU Education Center, located at 511 East Holly Street, across from their main office. This session will provide an overview of the work of WLT, the outreach materials and how to engage people in conversation. Call the office at 650-9470 to sign up.

photo: WLT Archives

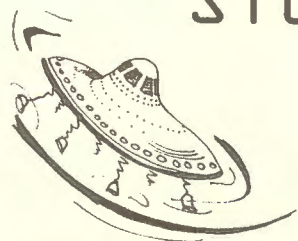
Volunteers help spread the word about the work of Whatcom Land Trust at the Northwest Washington Fair.

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BELLINGHAM, WA
PERMIT NO. 219

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98 Central Ave.

Bellingham, WA 98225

Phone: **360-650-9470**

Fax: **360-650-0495**

E-mail:

info@whatcomlandtrust.org

website:

www.whatcomlandtrust.org



Whatcom Land Trust • By the Numbers

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

Total Acres 7,894

Acres of Lake Whatcom Watershed 789

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 \$ _____
- Find out more
- Help with _____

Name _____

Address _____

City/Zip _____ Phone _____

e-mail _____

check enclosed Bill my: VISA MC # _____ Expires: _____

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