



The Steward

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

Volume 17 Number 1

Spring 2008

A GLORIOUS DAY AT LILY POINT

By Rand Jack, m.c.

June 4th was a glorious day at Lily Point, 130 acres of forests, bluffs, beach and tidelands at the southern tip of Point Roberts. The rain stopped. The sun, moon and earth conspired to roll back the waters of Georgia Strait and Boundary Bay. One of the lowest tides in a hundred years revealed the wonders of Lily Point's intertidal life and laid bare the rocks where dozens upon dozens of eagles stood sentry.

For thousands of years, Lily Point served as a summer village and a prime reef net site for Native American people. It was a locus of exceptional spiritual power. That power was felt on June 4th as one hundred and fifty people gathered from the Lummi Nation, Canada and the U.S. to celebrate and give thanks that Lily Point is protected forever and that Lily Point Marine Reserve is Whatcom County's newest park.

This article cannot reproduce the richness of the tidelands, the majesty of the eagles or the joy of the people. Without being able to smell the salt air and hear the laughter of children touching a sea star, we will have to settle for some



photo: Rand Jack

Representative of the Lummi Nation, Vernelle Lane (Sni ne lhot), Sheri-Lee Williams (Qua'LaSiah), James Hilliare (Tallawheuse) and Ron Tso opened the celebration with traditional drumming and song.

words of those who came to commemorate the protection of Lily Point, many of whom helped make that possible.

Letter from Henry Cagey, Chairman Lummi Indian Business Council, read by Councilwoman Sheri-Lee Williams (Qua'LaSiah):

On behalf of the Lummi Indian Business Council and the Lummi Nation, we'd like to extend a heartfelt thank you "Hy'shqe" to the Whatcom Land Trust for protecting one of the traditional territories of the Lummi people. Lily Point has been a refuge of abundance for the Coast Salish People ...

Lummi Indian Business Councilwoman Sheri-Lee Williams (Qua'LaSiah):

We're just thankful that all the people felt in their hearts that this property belongs to everyone; that no one will be locked out; that no one will be driven away from this beautiful property... We know that the Lummi Nation will continue to be the spiritual caretaker of this land, and may that always be respected.

James Hilliare, (Tallawheuse) (Uncle Smitty) Director, Lummi Nation Cultural Department:

I am very honored to be invited to this gathering and to recognize the work that has been done to preserve our homeland. We appreciate it very much, so much that we cannot put it into mere words, but only to gesture, to hold our hands up to all of those involved in the preservation of this area. We share with you the desire that this place not be disturbed. A lot of our ancestors are buried here. This is what we want to protect -- their resting place... The only way to protect it [the land] is to buy it... And once again from our hearts to your hearts, we thank you.

...continued on page four

Strong Attendance for Spring Tours

This spring the turnouts for tours on the land were amazing! It began with the April 19th Neotropical Bird Tour at Stimpson with Paul Woodcock and Tom Pratum of the North Cascade Audubon Society. It was a chilly day, but under the canopy of the forest, migrant birds could be heard.



John McLaughlin's Animal Tracking Tour at Deming Homestead Eagle Park brought out lots of families who learned about various tracks and how to cast them. That was followed by 30 people at the Native Plant Tour of Stimpson with Mark Turner and Walt Lockwood of the Komo Kulshan Chapter of the Native Plant Society on April 27. The tour season finale was the Squires Lake hike on May 17th with members of the Squires family. It was a beautiful day to hike and listen to the tales of bygone days at Squires Lake.

Our heartfelt thanks to all who led tours this spring. You deepened our connection to the land and its inhabitants.

Summer Events

This summer, look for Whatcom Land Trust at the following events: Bellingham Farmers Market, the Northwest Washington Fair, the Blaine 4th of July parade and other community events. If you'd like to join our cadre of volunteers who make these outreach events happen, contact connie@whatcomlandtrust.org. I'll get you on the list! Training is available.

Steve Walker is the newest employee on the Whatcom Land Trust staff. However, Steve is a long-time member and volunteer with the Trust, having moved to Whatcom County in the early 1990s after several years as a state park ranger. He holds an undergraduate degree in Physical Education and a Masters in Adult Education. For over 2 decades (with a 2-year hiatus at the turn of the century to teach in England) he provided leadership and oversight of the Associated Students outdoor programs at Western Washington University. Employing 50 or more students per year, the Outdoor Center offered gear rentals, a bike shop, campus events and field trips for the campus community. Steve led others in exploring Whatcom County through rural bike rides, ski tours and climbs in the Cascade foothills and mountains, whitewater boating, and kayak tours along local marine shorelines. After retiring from the university in 2006, Steve is now continuing to develop intimate knowledge of the local landscape as Property Steward for the Trust.



"It is immensely gratifying to be directly involved in the preservation and restoration of critical lands so close to home."

Steve sees the Whatcom Land Trust as a great instrument for individuals to express their passion for natural places through personal action. He says, "It is im-

mensely gratifying to be directly involved in the preservation and restoration of critical lands so close to home. Everyone who donates time and/or money becomes an activist who contributes to the momentum of the effort. The collaborative spirit is infectious."

Steve and his wife Sue own a home in Bellingham's Fairhaven neighborhood. Sue is a speech pathologist currently working for Stanwood Public Schools. ♦

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The farms and forests lost a friend with the passing of Whatcom Land Trust board member Carl Batchelor on May 16, 2008. Carl was a dedicated conservationist who did much to help protect the natural beauty and agricultural heritage of Whatcom County during his 30-year residence in the Northwest.

Carl was born Jan. 18, 1946 in Santa Monica, California. He served on active duty in the Air Force from 1966 to 1970. In January 1978 he, and his wife Katy, moved to this area to study at WWU, where he received BA and MA degrees in geography. His Master's thesis, on the subsidence of ground above abandoned coal mines in Bellingham, is still used as a reference source in land-use studies.

Carl worked as a planner and as a land-use consultant for Whatcom County from 1982 to 2006. He also worked as an adjunct instructor in planning at WWU. He was significant in the formation of several county conservation programs. He worked to identify and preserve the county's prime agricultural land base and to develop the program to purchase development rights on critical farmlands. He designed and actively promoted a transfer program to help protect Lake Whatcom by moving development rights away from the watershed. He also worked to identify critical properties to protect for the preservation of the natural heritage of the county

In 1992, Carl joined the board of WLT, seeking more active opportunities to help protect land. He was particularly interested in the preservation of agricultural land and the Lake Whatcom watershed. He was a member of the Agricultural Land committee, acting as Chair in the mid-1990s. He served terms as secretary and as vice-president, and spent many years serving as co-treasurer and co-chair of the Finance Committee with Hilda Bajema. With Carl's help, the Land Trust success-



photo: Clara Bryan

Carl and Katy Batchelor hiking in the highlands of Scotland.

fully made the transition through a huge increase in our financial responsibilities.

Carl was particularly pleased to play a role in the acquisition of Squire's Lake, an important natural heritage property that he had identified as worthy of preservation in his work for the County. The Craver property was another WLT project where Carl took the lead, developing and overseeing the clean-up plan for the debris-strewn property, and, once the huge clean-up was completed, helping to put a management plan in place.

Carl donated a large amount of time to Whatcom Land Trust, both as a member of the board and also as the land steward for the Nessel Farm, Hegg Memorial, and White Deer properties. In addition, he put in many hours without compensation acting as executor for the estate that Barbara Smith bequeathed to WLT in 2001.

We miss Carl—a kind, caring, thoughtful person. We miss his wry sense

of humor, his deep respect for others, and the positive attitude he brought to every board meeting. As an organization, we will miss the perspective he brought to our decision-making. Carl was open-minded about new ideas and new ways of looking at things. He wanted to hear what others had to say—even if he might not ultimately agree with the ideas being presented, he wanted to hear them out. He was methodical and careful in his decisions. With his understanding of the history of situations, his long-term perspective and comprehensive view, he brought thoughtful and reflective deliberation to the decisions we made.

The dedication that Carl Batchelor gave to Whatcom Land Trust over many years was a significant contribution in making us the successful organization we are today. ♦

Celebrating Lily Point

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Lummi Traditional Chief William James (Tsilixw):

Thank you for all the work you have done protecting the land, protecting our ancestors, protecting the grandparents, the great grandparents and all of the elders that have gone before us. It is hard to explain how we feel because we know the history of the land. We know what's here. We know who is here. It's really hard to express how much we appreciate them being protected now... People never go wrong protecting the land.

Pete Kremen, Whatcom County Executive:

I'm just so grateful for the efforts put forward by the Whatcom Land Trust and all of those here on the Point, the Department of Ecology, the Governor's Office, everyone who made today possible... What I feel are my greatest accomplishments as your County Executive are preserving forever natural places like Lily Point so that generations to come will be able to enjoy and cherish and recreate. Cultural and historical values will never be forgotten. The aesthetics will always remain. The environment and ecosystems will be protected, and people will have the opportunity to enjoy. I'm so proud to have been just a small part in this precious acquisition.



photo: Alan Fritzbeger

Letter from Governor Christine Gregoire read by Chris Townsend, Puget Sound Partnership:

Today, we celebrate the Whatcom Land Trust's acquisition of Lily Point, a breathtaking 90-acre shoreline property, with 40 acres of tidelands, at Point Roberts, now deeded to Whatcom County as the new Lily Point Marine Reserve... I applaud the many partners who have joined the Whatcom Land Trust in making this

acquisition possible... Washington is truly blessed with pristine landscapes and abundant natural resources, and, thanks to your generosity and stewardship, this gem and its biological and historical richness will be preserved for the enjoyment of future generations.

Tim Smith, Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife:

I have a prestigious title and a great office. I love my work, but I am constantly reminded that I am, in fact, a bureaucrat. On Friday mornings I go through my piles of bureaucratic bureaucracy. I sign—Curtis has to go to the dentist. And Christy is home sick today. And Deb wants a new printer cartridge for her printer. I'm going through signing these things, and my assistant says, "and, oh, the Whatcom Land Trust needs 1.75 million dollars." Pause. And I said, being a good steward of the state resources, "bring Paul Cereghino [Director of the Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program] in please, I need to talk to him." I said, "Paul, are you out of your mind? Last year we got 2.5 million dollars for all of Puget Sound, and this year you are asking 1.75 million for Lily Point. I need some confirmation here." "Well," he said, "I can provide it." And he brought in all the notes from the scientists' technical reviews, and



photo: Heidi Baxter

The -4.4' tide at Lily Point seen from the uplands bluff.

discussed the site, and the sponsor, and supporting documents, and said, "You've got to sign this. If this is really about saving and restoring the most important, the best places in Puget sound, sign the check." So, we're here. And I could not be more pleased.

Dale Jensen, Washington State Department of Ecology:

This place is so breathtaking. And it has so much history and culture. The protection of this place and the environment is just such a great outcome of this partnership [between the Department of Ecology and Whatcom Land Trust]. Thank you for the opportunity to be a partner in this Rand, and many more projects to come I hope.

Richard Grout, Washington State Department of Ecology, Bellingham Office:

Many of you will recall the Olympic Pipeline [Whatcom Creek] disaster that killed two ten year-old boys and a young man of eighteen. Following that, the state levied the largest penalty in state history... Dale and I tried to figure out on the way



photo: Rand Jack

Exploring the low tide at Lily Point.



photo: Rod Burton

Lynne Givler of Whatcom County Parks led one of the tours at Lily Point.

up, and we think this is the 5th project we have done with the Whatcom Land Trust, and mostly we have used that Olympic Pipeline money. After meeting with all of the parents, one of the commitments I made to myself was that we would use that money for things that would be a lasting memorial to those kids and to that whole event. Somebody said earlier today that the only way you really protect a place is to buy it. Dale and I share that bias. Working with the Land Trust has given us the opportunity to do that.



photo: Alan Fritzberger

Ginger Phalen, Fish and Wildlife Service:
It's a beautiful piece of property. To be able to get a hold of it is a pretty amazing accomplishment. The

ecological and cultural values are almost unsurpassed in Puget Sound. The Fish and Wildlife Service is very honored to be a partner with the Land Trust and with the Lummi Nation.

"People never go wrong protecting the land."

Chief William James (Tsilixw)



photo: Rod Burton

Samantha Scholefield, Canadian Community Organizer with a cabin at Point Roberts:

We decided it was important to get involved. And for our community to get involved and to hear about what was happening and to contribute. We have been out standing at the gate to Lily Point every weekend for the

month of April. We have had people here for their 80th birthday and to go for a walk on the beach. In the snow and in the rain we still had people here wanting to know how we could save this area.



photo: Alan Fritzberger

Anne Murray, Canadian author of:
A Nature Guide to Boundary Bay and Tracing Our Past: A Heritage Guide to Boundary Bay:

I shall say thank you to those who have protected this place for the birds and animals that live here. It's not just the people who have benefited. It's the warblers and the eagles and the otters and a whole bunch of interesting species that live here. They have lived here for thousands of years, and they are going to be able to continue to do so.

These are the voices of those on the program for the June 4th Lily Point celebration. But equally important were the unrecorded conversations and exclamations of all who came together that day from so many directions. As the sun, moon and earth aligned to lower the tide on June 4th, the preservation of Lily Point aligned cultures, countries, ecological and human, private and public, past and future, dreams and accomplishment. Thank you to everyone who joined together to make it happen. It could not have been done any other way.

And now we invite all of you to go to Lily Point and see for yourselves. ♦

Thanks to everyone who helped make the Lily Point Celebration a great success, including:

Donors funding the lunch:
New Whatcom Interiors,
Coastal Geologic Services

Lunch caterer: Brewsters

Whatcom County Parks Employees:
Mike McFarland, Lynne Givler,
David Bean, Tom Chisholm and Ben VanBuskirk, Pt. Roberts Ranger

LILY POINT PRESERVATION PARTNERS

Washington State Department of Fish & Wildlife
Whatcom County - Conservation Futures Fund
Washington State Department of Ecology
Private Donors from the US & Canada
USFWS Puget Sound Coastal Program
Whatcom Land Trust

Twenty Acres Along Black Slough Protected!

The Black Slough winds through the picturesque South Fork Valley where it joins the South Fork of the Nooksack River at Van Zandt. Another 20 acres of fantastic wetland and riparian habitat has been permanently set aside for nature to go wild. Now beavers go to work adding complexity to meandering streams where salmon spawn and rear, eagles perch, and heron stalk the pools. As the train passes through the valley each night, coyotes howl and share the fields with red-tailed hawks and owls that feast on bounty of fat moles and quick rabbits. This April, Whatcom Land Trust purchased 20 acres from Dennis and Karen Espeland for \$170,000 for the perpetual protection of fish and wildlife habitat. Protection, enhancement and restoration of the Black Slough, to restore base flow and temperature, has been

identified as critical for salmon recovery in the South Fork of the Nooksack. The twenty acres was once part of the larger Espeland family farm where Dennis grew up. Several years ago when the farm was sold, Dennis kept the western twenty acres of the farm. Two small pastures on the property are bisected by the bending Black Slough where coho salmon rear below the singing frogs. The rest of the property was too wet to farm and remained wild. On the pasture's edge Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association (NSEA) did some native plantings along the Black Slough about 10 years ago. Then, three years ago a Conservation Reserve Enhancement Planting (CREP) increased the size of the restored riparian buffer. A small grove of



photo: Eric Carabba

Black Slough helps cool the South Fork waters.

old Sitka spruce, red cedar, Douglas-fir, and western hemlock on the back end of the property stands testament to remind us of the bounty of the past and show us what we will regain through good stewardship, patience, and time. ♦

Watershed Flights Provide an Inspiring

Mandy Merklein (Flying For Fish Habitat Program)

Whatcom Land Trust has recently taken to the air to provide educational aerial tours of Whatcom County watersheds. The opportunity came when the Flying for Fish Habitat program invited the Whatcom Land Trust to participate in their watershed flight program. "We were very impressed by the efforts being made by Whatcom Land Trust to protect habitat in places like Lily Point. We wanted to provide support," reports Pam Goddard, one of the program coordinators.

The Flying for Fish Habitat Program started fifteen years ago when Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC) and LightHawk began offering flights throughout the Puget Sound area to help build community support for protecting fish habitat. PSMFC identifies important projects and effective organizations and helps them build aerial tours as a unique and powerful means to present opportunities for habitat protection. Aerial support is provided by LightHawk's expert volunteer pilots.

Whatcom Land Trust has guided six flights thus



photo: Rod Burton

Lily Point seen from a recent flight.

far to present projects and opportunities for habitat protection in Whatcom County. The audience has included city and county council members, planning commissioners, landowners, and community leaders. "The flight provides a new perspective on Whatcom County, and the Nooksack valley. It's a fantastic way to

see changes in development that have been protected. Land Trust flight g

Following the tour of the watershed, participants got an eye view of the fact that communities, fish and wildlife are dependent links in the chain. out alongside the chair County Council Chair. "The view from above and shows many things

The need for coordination among agencies, and stewardship reflected when seen as a participant, Barbara remarked "The flight is to protect as much as possible. Whatcom Reservoir

Habitat Protection on North Fork

Protection of salmon, eagle, and elk habitat along the North Fork of the Nooksack is growing. From the National Forest boundary at Glacier to the confluence of the North Fork with the Middle Fork at Welcome, Whatcom Land Trust has worked with private landowners to protect over 995 acres of riparian habitat. The latest addition now includes 33 acres purchased from the Corey Family for \$80,000 with a grant from the Washington State Salmon Recovery Funding Board that was matched with private funds raised by Whatcom Land Trust at the 2008 Great Outdoors Auction Save an Acre. Land Trust supporters raised a record \$14,950 to support this acquisition. The Corey Slough Property is crossed with a web of historic side channels of the North Fork and Bruce Creek, providing optimum spawning and rearing habitat

for salmonids. Fall and spring Chinook, coho, sockeye, and chum salmon, winter steelhead, and bull trout all utilize the North Fork and small channels on the property for spawning or rearing. Bald eagles feed on the bounty of salmon in the riparian habitat and beaver work on falling black cottonwoods.

Historic air photos show how the North Fork has moved dramatically over the years. In the 1930s the Bruce family had a farm on the property, but during a major flood event in the 1940s the river swept through the property and destroyed the farm. The family lost everything, and the property went back to the county. Wayne Corey purchased the property from Whatcom County in 1947, for a place to spend time on the river. For years the Corey family enjoyed recreating together on the river as a summer getaway. This



photo: Eric Carabba

Corey Slough possesses not only some remarkable habitat, but has a stunning view of Mt. Baker as well.

g Perspective

ment and the beauty of the places
ted” said Rich Bowers, a Whatcom
ide.

Nooksack’s course along the heart
participants are offered an eagle’s-
ers impacting watersheds, habitat,
and wildlife. From the air, each part
rshed can be readily seen as inter-
a chain. The opportunities stand
allenges. As Carl Weimer, Whatcom
irman, commented on the flight,
re provides a different perspective
ngs hidden from the ground.”

operation amongst land owners,
rds to protect each area is readily
as key parts of the whole. Another
Ryan, Bellingham City Council,
t makes it clear how important it
h territory as possible. The Lake
watershed has far more develop-

ment than I realized. The imperative for the City, County
and Land Trust to protect source water quality couldn’t
be clearer. This is an astoundingly beautiful county. We
must do more to protect it.”

Due to interest in the program, there are plans to
offer more flights in Whatcom County later this year.
“Unfortunately we cannot fly everyone we would like, so
we ask participants to share their experiences and impres-
sions in ways that will inspire others living and working
in the watershed” said Pam Goddard. To facilitate that,
the program provides educational materials and a virtual
flight on the web for everyone to view the watershed from
the air. You don’t need
to get into a small plane
to get an aerial perspec-
tive, visit the web site:
[http://www.psmfc.org/
habitat/virtual/](http://www.psmfc.org/habitat/virtual/) and be
inspired to protect your
watershed! ◆



photo: PSMFC

Participants of a recent flight.

past winter the Corey Family decided to
sell the property, but agreed to sell it to
the Land Trust because they wanted to
keep the property as it was, and as Wayne
Corey would have wanted it to remain,
wild. Frank Corey contacted the Whatcom
Land Trust. As the resource coordinator
with the Whatcom Conservation District,
Frank spends his time on the river as he
leads crews to reestablish native vegeta-
tion drainage and flood control projects.
Frank has spent several years working
on salmon enhancement projects in
Whatcom County, and he could not see
the property being used for any purpose
other than the long-term protection of
salmon habitat.

Whatcom Land Trust will manage
the property to allow natural ecosystem
processes to create natural habitats. WLT
will allow riparian forests to grow to
their natural age; allow those riparian
forests to contribute large woody debris
to the stream ecosystem at natural rates;
allow naturally occurring log jams to
form and remain in the river system and
allow natural rates of sediment input to
continue. ◆

What is going on out on the land?

Eric Carabba

VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION

Western Washington University's chapter of Beta Alpha Psi (BAP) is a much appreciated member of the Whatcom Land Trust volunteer community. BAP is an honorary organization for accounting, finance and information systems' students and professionals. In the last 6 months, chapter volunteers have removed old fencing from the WLT Port Blakely II Preserve, cleaned up a dump site on the WLT Foxglove Preserve, removed invasive plants at the WLT Rutsatz Salmon Preserve and demolished an abandoned tool shed at Whatcom County Parks' Jenson Family Forest, where WLT holds a conservation easement. A big "Thank You" to BAP chapter volunteer coordinators, Ryan Dales and Ashley Pillitu, for their role in coordinating the teams of student volunteers. The student volunteers have traditionally been a hard working bunch. The Land Trust looks forward to a continuing partnership with this "service in action" organization. ♦



photo: Andrea Sibley

Beta Alpha Psi volunteers at the Rutsatz clean up.

VOLUNTEER STEWARD

Nearly every Monday morning sees the arrival at the Whatcom Land Trust office of a stewardship report from volunteer John Bremer. John has worked tirelessly through rain, sleet, snow, drizzle, freezing temperatures, and the occasional sun-baked day to remove invasive species from Whatcom Land Trust Preserves on the Nooksack River. John has been hand-digging buddleia, blackberry and scotch broom. He has also been performing "conifer release," the practice of removing hardy deciduous trees that block sunlight from the young conifer seedlings that have been planted to restore the native forest ecology. ♦

RESTORATION PROJECT

Over 6,000 trees and shrubs were recently planted on the Fenton Nature Reserve as part of a federally funded Conservation Reserve Enhancement Project (CREP). The new plantings will suppress invasive species and enhance fish habitat by increasing shade to Haynie Creek which flows through the property. CREP participants also receive regular payments for installing and maintaining enhancement projects. ♦



photo: Steve Walker

A small example of over 6,000 trees recently planted at Fenton Nature Reserve.

IN-KIND DONATION

Whatcom Land Trust extends grateful appreciation to Paul Razore and the crew at Sanitary Service Company who donated a dumpster, including delivery and removal, for the Foxglove Preserve clean-up. Staff and volunteers collected 3,520 pounds of debris that was removed from the site. ♦

8th Annual Great Outdoors Auction

Jerry DeBacker, photos by Alan Fritzberg

The 8th annual Great Outdoors Auction was held May 3rd at the Lakeway Inn Ballroom. With over 275 guests, this year's event boasted the most attendees ever, and were



they ever in a giving mood! Over \$93,000 in gross proceeds, a new auction high, was raised through a combination of ticket sales, the silent and live auctions, and the infamous 'Death by Dessert' auction. A new opportunity, the Best of Live raffle resulted in Martha Gillham and John Holroyd jumping up and down like little kids in front of their big prize -- the carbon touring kayak from Johnson Outdoors. But perhaps the biggest highlight of the evening was the outpouring of support for our Fund an Acre project, Corey Slough. Nearly \$15,000 was raised in just under 5 minutes to secure the permanent preservation of the 33-acre parcel along the shores of the North Fork; this also was a new all time high for dollars raised in the Fund an Acre segment of the auction.



At the beginning of the silent auction, guests began bidding against each other in earnest as they moved about the tastefully decorated silent auction tables. Outdoor gear, weekend getaways, balloons bursting with gift certificates, art and crafts pieces, garden plants and products, local food baskets, and much, much more all attracted spirited bidding. The dessert tables, laden with unfathomable choices, drew many admirers as folks took a few moments to determine which dessert would end up on their

table. Following an inspirational reading by Board President Chris Moench, Master of Ceremonies Chuck Robinson and Auctioneer Gaye Godfrey got right

down to the business at hand. The live auction was highlighted by unique dining experiences ranging from dinner with the mayor, a paella party, and a Mallard ice cream tasting, to an evening of fine dining prepared by the county executive. Also featured were exquisite pieces of fine art ranging from photography, pottery, wood carvings, pastels, and a Fredrick Remington bronze. Energetic bidding occurred among the tables, as our guests sought to secure vacation trips to Vancouver, Banff, and the Oregon coast, but the greatest excitement was generated by an opportunity to spend two nights in a small cabin on the edge of our brand new Lily Point Marine Reserve. The evening wound down as each table settled in to polishing off the desserts and picking up their prizes.

Special thanks need to be extended to our auction sponsors: Pacific Surveying & Engineering, Whatcom Educational Credit Union, ConocoPhillips, Lithtex Northwest, Village Books, Northwest Computer, and the Lakeway Inn. We are privileged to receive the support of many businesses that make the Great Outdoor Auction possible, but our sponsors truly help make the

evening a success. Additionally we wish to recognize the assistance we received from Whatcom Sound, Boundary Bay Brewery, and Mt. Baker Vineyards.

Work on the auction begins early in the year. Board member Cindy Klein chaired the committee and was ably assisted in this task by auction coordinator Renéa Roberts. Margo Burton, Becky Masters, Rebecca Reich, Nancy Hart, Rod Burton, and Jean Calhoun all worked extremely hard to secure items of interest for the auction. Carol Rondello, Laurie Heck, and Catherine O'Keefe once again did a remarkable job of putting together the dessert auction,



while Katy Batchelor, Francie Meagher, and Stella Harden designed and decorated the tables with lovely centerpieces. Staff members Connie Clement, Andrea Sibley, and Dawn Sodt were instrumental in providing assistance to the committee in preparation for the event.

We are truly grateful for all of the volunteers who help make this fun event possible. The work of transforming the ballroom begins early in the morning and it is simply remarkable to see the enthusiasm of the volunteers as they create displays and decorate the tables.



The work doesn't end for the data entry volunteers until late in the evening as people check out and head home with their prized goods. Please thank and acknowledge those volunteers and businesses that help us with the auction and consider joining us in planning for next year's event. ♦

Prize-winning Author Spoke at WLT's First Conservation Breakfast

Whatcom Land Trust hosted its first Conservation Breakfast in early February at the Leopold ballroom in downtown Bellingham.

Invited guests were treated to first-hand accounts of conservation in action by Jamie Curley and Ken Carasco. Board President Chris Moench spoke about the gift of conservation the organization is seeking to pass on to generations yet to come, and introduced a video that featured images from around the county and interviews with donors Bill Hogan and Nate and Phyllis Kronenberg.

The highlight of the function was an opportunity to hear Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Bill Dietrich talk about the value of place, the changes that are facing the region, and the choices we might make in addressing those changes.

A great deal of thanks is extended to Will Fritzberg, and to Travis and Nancy Jordan of Soundwise, for their work on the video, Kristine Kager and her staff at Fools Onion for the catering, and our Western student volunteers Amy Meyer and Mike Parelskin. ♦

Business Partner Breakfast

Thanks to Janet Lightner and her staff, Boundary Bay Brewery was the location of Whatcom Land Trust's first Business Partners breakfast. Our business friends enjoyed the opportunity to meet each other, receive an overview of the recent work of the organization, and engage in a discussion regarding potential future projects. One witty attendee quipped, "I thought we'd be getting hearty oatmeal stout for this early morning kegger, but this is even better!" Whatcom Land Trust relies upon the assistance of numerous businesses to carry out our mission. Support ranges from in-kind donations to direct support of specific programs. For more information regarding how your business can participate in the Partners program contact Jerry at 650-9470 or jerry@whatcomlandtrust.org ♦

Thanks to Many Generous Donors



Thanks to Premiere Graphics, Marianne Hanson, Dale Johnson, and Rebecca Reich for providing office furniture and equipment for our new office space. And a special thanks to Sasha Paegle who donated his prized 1996 Ford Ranger Super Cab truck to the Land Trust. Sasha not only took the time to deliver the truck from Seattle where he lives but also filled the tank with gas before handing over the keys of the first vehicle he ever owned. Thanks to all! ♦

New WLT Website

In addition to all of the changes that have been taking place at the Land Trust over the course of the last year, you might not have noticed our brand new web site. We launched it in mid-February and have been very pleased with the response thus far. The site features many new and interesting ways to learn about the work of the organization; it hosts a number of articles about different projects that we have undertaken over the years, complete with interactive maps and numerous photographs. The primary work of creating the new site was carried out by Seth James Thomas. His attention to detail and concern for creating a highly functional web presence is reflected throughout the site. As always, we relied upon volunteers to assist us in pulling together all of the necessary material and components to make the web page effective. Tom Pratum offered invaluable advice and help while Gwen Parker and Al Hunter spent a great deal of time creating and editing content. Eric Carabba developed the series of maps and Andrea Sibley worked on photo galleries and fine tuned the functionality of the site. Take a moment and check it out at www.whatcomlandtrust.org ♦

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An Appreciation of Accomplishments

Bob Keller

To perform fundraising and outreach for a non-profit group one must have utter confidence in the staff of that organization. During my years in such roles at Whatcom Land Trust, I never had a moment's concern about Gordon Scott. Whether he is meeting individuals, speaking to groups, answering the office phone, or reviewing the year at our annual Great Outdoors Auction, Gordon comes across as knowledgeable, clear, careful and dedicated—and as having a contagious sense of humor. His personality and commitment provide an enormous asset to the Trust.

But the final measure in the conservation business is not how much we know or how carefully we think, but rather how much we ultimately accomplish. In other words, acres. Preservation of specific land. We need only list a few of the properties acquired since Gordon began working for the Trust:

- N.Fork salmon habitat
- Hutchinson Creek
- Bear Creek
- Craver
- Stone-Schraeder
- Lake Whatcom watershed
- S. Fork salmon habitat
- Spruce Roost
- Bottiger's Pond
- Maple Creek
- Edfro Creek
- Innis Creek

Gordon also possesses self-confidence, patience, eagerness to learn, and a spirit of teamwork, required personality traits if you are going to work closely with a brilliant land negotiator. Without Rand Jack, the Whatcom Land Trust's record since 1984 would be slim indeed. Due to our friendship now approaching 40 years, including years of co-teaching and next-door offices, I know that Rand's determination and tactics to reach impossible



photo: Sheila Harrington


Rand Jack and Gordon Scott celebrate Lily Pt. protection.

goals often was not enough. Success after success, which appear at board meetings to be logical outcomes neatly falling into place, also required hours, days, and months of plain hard work—copious blood and sweat if not tears (ask Dana if you doubt me). As with Gordon, we can best pay tribute to Rand by listing some of the gems:

- Clarks Point
- Canyon Lk. Community Forest
- Deming Eagle Park
- Plover Island
- Squires Lake
- Stimpson Family Nature Reserve
- Teddy Bear Cove
- ARCO Heron Reserve
- Point Whitehorn
- Nessel
- Ladies of the Lake
- Steiner

And now we can add another jewel: Lily Point.

As admirable and willing as the donors and sellers of these various properties may have been, none of the transactions “just happened.” They happened because of hard work by many people, and especially by Gordon and Rand—our remarkable acquisition team for the past eleven years. ♦



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Whatcom Land Trust • By the Numbers

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

Total Acres9,010

Miles of Riverfront 22

Miles of Salt Water Shoreline 7

Public Parks Created 12

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:

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