Whatcom Land Trust Protects 10,000 Acres!

Over the past 25 years the Land Trust has worked collaboratively with private landowners to protect the conservation values of special lands across Whatcom County. The Trust’s mission to secure interest in land and promote land stewardship has involved over 130 projects that include land trust ownership, conservation easements and facilitating land exchanges. This work has only been possible through visionary board members, countless volunteers, creative partnerships, and the ground swell of generous support of individual donors. Contributions have ranged from monthly giving to significant specific project support.

Many of the early projects, such as the Miller Farm, the Nesset Farm, and Clark’s Point, were donated conservation easements. As the Land Trust evolved, projects became more complicated, like Stimpson Family Nature Reserve where the generous donation by the Stimpson family leveraged the protection of additional land and partnerships creating the 350-acre Reserve.

As the Land Trust evolved from an all-volunteer organization to include staff, an effort was made to better focus its work and increase the pace of conservation. The Land Trust pursued a conservation planning process in 1999. Over the past decade the ...continued on page four

New Samish River Preserve Acquisition

Alpine Meadows

At the end of October, the Land Trust purchased 65 acres in the headwaters of the Samish River from the Alpine Meadows Tree Farm owners, brothers Ken and Lewis Stremler, bringing the Land Trust’s protected land to 10,000 acres.

In 1997, Ken and Jan Stremler preserved part of Lynden’s history by donating a conservation easement protecting their 38-acre farm. The land was once part of the historic Judson homestead built in 1888 and ...continued on page five
CONSERVATION MOTIVATIONS

Patty Bolyard, WLT Supporter

It can seem quite an impossible, or, at the least, an endlessly complex task to do something “good” for the environment these days. Multiple disciplines of knowledge and authority inform our views on the health of Whatcom County's natural resource systems and how well a proposed project or strategy might improve current conditions. Add the long list of rights-based, regulatory, and power issues that arise when one is working with water, air, or land-based resources and you really have a lot to chew on before deciding on how beneficial your efforts might be. Yes, it’s enough to numb an interested community member into a state of inactivity and confusion.

Yet, despite this morass of complexity, Whatcom Land Trust continues to meet people of all ages who find time for active and informed stewardship on behalf of the resources that matter the most to them. For some folks, the salt water shoreline draws them, and others prefer to advance the big picture.

Of particular curiosity to me are the many young adults I've met at WLT, who, amidst new job duties, educational pursuits, and young family demands, still find time to be informed and active stewards of Whatcom County's water, air, and land resources. Patty Bolyard shared this about her conservation motivations and why she contributes her time to Whatcom Land Trust projects.

“When I had kids, I took on a different perspective. I evaluated how I wanted to live my life and how I want to make an impact on the world. I want to do something to be part of an active change in the areas I care about, right here in this community. I want the special places I walked in my 20's to be here, not only for my kids, but future generations to enjoy. I'm talking about taking a big stance when it comes to conservation.”

Like Patty, many at Whatcom Land Trust share an emphasis on the big picture approach to stewardship and conservation. The legal framework we contribute to natural resource projects is just one way Whatcom Land Trust advances big picture improvements. Another vehicle is through collaborations and partnerships that secure and provide public access to some of our remaining Pacific Northwest natural resource jewels. These sites, along with tours, Junior Stewards, and education programs, provide a variety of forums in which to ponder your own personal stewardship action plan.

Put your conservation motivations to work with the Whatcom Land Trust. We welcome new perspectives and approaches to active stewardship.

Mary Dumas, WLT Vice President

GPS Unit Needed for WLT Field Work

Do you have a GPS unit that is not getting out into the field often enough? WLT could use a couple of good quality GPS units for the land stewards and tour leaders. Contact the office to donate your under-utilized global positioning system.

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Whatcom Land Trust
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Bellingham, Washington, 98227-6131
(360) 650-9470
info@whatcomlandtrust.org

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Renew Your Support for WLT

It is time to renew your commitment to conservation. Recently you received the annual appeal letter in the mail. Once a year we ask our supporters to provide the necessary financial support that makes the successes of the organization possible. If you have already sent in your annual donation, thank you. If you have yet to do so, please take a moment and send in your gift. Your generosity today will resonate for generations to come!

Please consider different ways in which you might support Whatcom Land Trust. For example, setting up a monthly giving program is easily done and the office would be glad to assist you. Giving through your workplace or linking us to your employers matching gift program is one way many people use to support our work. Charities depend on the generosity of donors like you to keep their missions alive. Donating a traditional IRA through a bequest increases the amount of money you can give to support them. The tax advantages of donating a traditional IRA through a bequest allow you to be even more generous to your favorite charities, and the tax savings often allow you to leave an even larger legacy for your heirs.

Events: Past and Future

We owe a great deal of thanks to all who helped make BrewHaHa such a successful evening. First and foremost, hats off to Boundary Bay Brewing who concocted a remarkably tasty and hoppy Stew Brew for the event. Ralf's Bavarian Pretzels and brats by Hemplers were equally popular among the patrons; the brats were grilled by the gang from Pacific Survey & Engineering who were having way too much fun around the grills! Fun and festivity was the theme of the evening as Rich Bowers proposed a toast to Whatcom Land Trust's 25th anniversary and the accomplishments of the organization. The salute was sandwiched by sets of music provided by the End of the Road String Band and the improvisational sketches of the Second Story Players. Additional beverages and treats were provided by Starbucks and Jen's House of Chai. The event was made possible by the support of Glacier Lily Design, Cascadia Weekly, and all of the volunteers who helped organize, decorate, set up and cleanup on the day of the event. Special thanks to Margo Gillaspy, Renea Roberts, Brett Baunton, John D'Onofrio, and Steve George who all added their own unique touch to a delightful celebration!

Laura Wallace, WLT's AmeriCorps Volunteer

Laura Wallace, the new AmeriCorps volunteer for the Whatcom Land Trust, was born and raised in Wichita, Kansas. Growing up in the suburbs, she saw hundreds of acres of natural habitat and good farmland being paved over and dug up to make room for the growing city. Disturbed by this, she decided to pursue a career in environmental conservation, and in May of 2009 she graduated with a bachelor's degree in Wildlife Management and Conservation from Kansas State University. She is currently an AmeriCorps State service member, and is excited to be serving as Whatcom Land Trust's first AmeriCorps Volunteer. Laura is working as our Volunteer Coordinator.

New to the Pacific Northwest, she looks forward to enjoying the many recreational opportunities found in the area, particularly kayaking and whale watching. Goals for the future include pursuing a career that makes significant advances in habitat conservation and the sustainable use of our resources, learning a second foreign language in addition to Spanish, and backpacking through Europe.

Loss of WLT Supporter Ed Stimpson

As the newsletter was going to press we learned of the death of Ed Stimpson. Appointed by President Clinton in July 1999 as Ambassador of the United States on the Council of the International Civil Aviation Organization, he had a long and diverse life devoted to many causes and interests. A Bellingham native, Ed is best known by this organization as a member of the Stimpson family, the generous benefactors who made the Stimpson Family Nature Reserve a reality. Our condolences are offered to Ed's wife Dottie, and all of the extended Stimpson family.
Land Trust has pursued four program areas from that conservation agenda:

1) Farmland Preservation Program
2) Salmon Eagle Elk (SEE Program)
3) Open Space and Sensitive Areas Program
4) Shoreline Program

Farmland Preservation Program

The roots of the Land Trust stem from the meeting of a group of concerned citizens, farmers, and politicians in the basement of the Dutch Mother’s restaurant in Lynden. The first conservation easement came with the donation of the 160-acre Miller Farm. The Land Trust has a strong partnership with Whatcom County through the Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) program where the Trust co-holds easements and is responsible for long-term stewardship. The Land Trust now co-holds with Whatcom County 12 agriculture conservation easements protecting more than 640 acres of farmland for the production of food and fiber. The Land Trust is eager to work with farmers to protect productive working farmland with donated conservation easements as well.

The Salmon Eagle Elk Program

This program works to protect the habitats of these three northwest wildlife species by protecting core habitat reserves, habitat islands, and connecting corridors, primarily along the North and South Forks of the Nooksack River. Along the forks of the Nooksack River and the Samish River, through 42 projects, the Trust has protected 2,330 acres with more than 20 miles of shoreline and extensive wetlands. Thanks to partnerships with The Nooksack Tribe, Lummi Nation, and Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association, many miles of streams and acres of riparian forest have been restored along these protected lands.

Open Space and Sensitive Areas Program

This program focuses on areas such as the Lake Whatcom Watershed, the Chuckanut Mountain Region, and significant wetlands. In the Lake Whatcom Watershed over 1,400 acres have been protected through different partnerships with the City of Bellingham, Whatcom County, Lake Whatcom Treatment Center, and private landowners. The Trust has partnered with the City of Bellingham to ensure that land acquired for watershed protection serves that purpose in the future. The 350-acre Stimpson Nature Reserve is a tremendous gift to the public. Three additional donations have protected special forestlands in the watershed thanks to the Pratum Family, the O’Conner Family, and Bill Hogan, the man who planted trees.

Shoreline Preservation Program

Several important projects have been completed in this program in recent years. Because shorelines are some of the most biologically productive habitats and are extremely limited and important to people for recreation, this program has worked to delicately balance the two goals: conserve marine and freshwater shoreline habitats and increase public access to public waterfront.

The Trust has worked with local government to bring this to fruition. In recent years the acquisition and protection of Point Whitehorn Marine Reserve and Lily Point Marine Reserve are significant accomplishments fulfilling the two goals. Both areas are rich biologically, while offering the public much needed passive recreational access to waterfront.

Squires Lake, Deming Homestead Eagle Park, Maple Beach, and Teddy Bear Cove are other examples of Land Trust projects to protect shoreline habitats and partner with Whatcom County Parks to create parkland. Over the past 25 years, the Trust has secured nearly nine miles of shoreline and facilitated the creation of parks providing access to salt water.

The Next Decade

As we move forward into a new decade, Whatcom Land Trust is excited to continue conservation work through collaboration, creativity, and exploring innovative new conservation tools and partnerships to expand the protection of wildlife habitat, farms, and open space lands for future generations.

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<th>Whatcom Land Trust • By the Numbers</th>
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<tr>
<td>Total Acres</td>
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<td>WLT ownership - 64 properties</td>
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<td>Land Trade Negotiations - 2</td>
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<td>Public Parks</td>
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<td>Riverfront</td>
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<td>Creekfront</td>
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<td>Miles of Shoreline (fresh &amp; saltwater)</td>
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Alpine Meadows

continued from page one

beautifully restored by the Stremlers. “We want to preserve the historic value of our property so that future generations can enjoy it as we have learned to,” Ken said. “Jan and I were excited to hear about the Whatcom Land Trust and enter into a conservation easement that will always protect this beautiful piece of property from any development,” he added. The Stremler property opens south over the Nooksack River and its floodplain. It acts as a significant buffer between the southern expansion of Lynden and the productive farmland of the Nooksack River Valley.

Fast forward a dozen years to the present when brothers Ken and Lewis Stremler generously agreed to a bargain sale price 30 percent less than the appraised fair market value of their 65 acres along the Samish River near Wickersham.

After discussing how the property was just too wet for good agricultural ground, they purchased the property in the late 1990s for growing poplars, but the market had already fallen out. After a Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) planting in 2001, beavers moved in and flooded the land. The best use of the property has come to be as wildlife habitat. “It’s in good hands with the Land Trust,” says Ken. Lewis Stremler, an avid hunter and fisherman, is content to see the site be set aside for wildlife habitat.

This acquisition brings the Samish River Preserve to 202 acres along 1.5 miles of the Samish River. The site has some great opportunity for wetland enhancement to benefit fish and wildlife and is a critical addition to forming a wildlife habitat preserve. The acquisition was made possible through the Land Trust’s acquisition funds and a $21,000 grant from Washington State Department of Ecology’s Coastal Protection Fund.

The Samish River headwaters contain a large complex of forested and open marsh wetlands, and small tributary streams supporting fish and wildlife. Both resident and migratory birds along the Pacific Flyway utilize the wetlands for resting, feeding, nesting, and rearing. The Samish River and its many small but dynamic tributary streams situated on alluvial fans support Coho, Chum, winter steelhead, and both resident and sea run cutthroat trout. These dynamic and volatile tributary streams provide excellent spawning habitat, while young fish rear in the large wetland complex and Samish River. And of course, don’t forget the bats that depend upon wetland habitats. Oh, and amphibians too.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: THE GREAT OUTDOORS AUCTION

The 10th annual Great Outdoors Auction is scheduled for Saturday, May 8th, 2010! It is never too early to begin planning this fabulous event and we could use your help in planning the next one. We are looking for volunteers to serve on the auction committee. There are a variety of tasks and assignments carried out by committee members but they are rewarded with trays of desserts at the committee meetings! For more information and to find out how you might get involved please contact the Whatcom Land Trust office at 650-9470.
On The Land

Work Parties in Fall and Winter

This September, Whatcom Land Trust kicked off its Fall work party schedule at Lily Point Marine Reserve on Point Roberts. On a cheerful sunny day, volunteers worked hard to remove as much invasive English Ivy from the property as they could. Some vines were as big as tree trunks! A big round of applause to all who participated in this project. Their dedication is much appreciated.

The Trust completed three work parties this October. First, debris was cleared from the barn on the Mulka Preserve. Then, volunteers completed five bat boxes which will be installed on WLT land throughout the county to provide habitat for bats. Finally, on Make A Difference Day, WLT tackled the invasive blackberries at the Ruth Kelsey Nature Sanctuary near Ferndale. Beta Alpha Psi (BAP), the honorary for financial information students from Western Washington University, was joined by the Starbucks crew, members from New Horizon Community Church, as well as several of WLT’s dedicated Volunteer Land Stewards. Thanks to their enthusiasm and hard work, we cleared a huge area that is now free of blackberry brambles. We couldn’t have done it without them. We also extend our appreciation to Starbucks, Avenue Bread, and Avellino for donating refreshments.

The rest of the Fall will be dedicated to land management projects such as removing invasive plant species, the installation of the bat boxes, and further clean up of the Mulka Preserve. We are in the process of planning these work parties now and are looking for groups and individual volunteers to get involved! Also in the works are educational workshops for volunteers and volunteer land stewards for later this winter. Come and learn!

PDR Easement Protects Eldridge Dairy Farm

The Eldridge Farm is the newest conservation easement held by Whatcom Land Trust, secured through the Purchase of Development Rights program administered by Whatcom County government. The program, designed to assure that lands are forever available for farming, is funded with money from the US Department of Agriculture, and a matching amount from the county. The Eldridge Farm is located on Leibrant Road, east of the city of Nooksack. On the 30-acre property, Matt and Robyn Eldridge own and operate an organic dairy. Matt worked on dairy farms as a boy in Petaluma, California. After his career as a smokejumper and a hunting and fishing guide, he moved with Robyn to Whatcom County in 2000 where they purchased their current farm. Most of their 105 milking cows are Jerseys, known for the high butterfat content of their milk and their genial nature. About 30% of the herd are Jersey/Holstein cross-breeds. For the last three years the Eldridges have been part of the Organic Valley cooperative, whose mission is supporting rural communities by protecting the health of the family farms, working toward both economic and environmental sustainability.

HENDERSON BOOKS

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Bellingham’s Largest Used Book Store
Used - Rare - Recent Titles
35 Years Book Buying Experience Shows in Our Quality Stock and the Prices We Pay

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Informational Meeting for Current & New Volunteers

As you ponder your goals for the coming year, have you thought about how you want to contribute your time? On January 24, we’re having an informational session about Whatcom Land Trust, its various facets and how those areas employ volunteers to accomplish its mission. This is a great time to meet the staff and other volunteers, and to figure out how your passions might fit with WLT’s efforts. Volunteer opportunities range from indoor clerical work, to auction coordination, to land monitoring, to being in parades, with lots of things in between. This event is open to anyone who’d like more information on WLT, or anyone who just likes to hang out with the WLT staff. Join us on January 24, 2010 from 2:00 to 3:00pm at the Whatcom Land Trust office.

Pumpkin Patch Aids Land Preservation

Many thanks to Steve George for the time and effort he spent to make this year’s pumpkin patch a success. During the first four weekends in October, Steve distributed pumpkins from his garden in Everson in exchange for donations to Whatcom Land Trust and/or The Nature Conservancy. Steve grew several varieties including pie pumpkins, white pumpkins, and warty ones! Remember Steve next year when you’re ready to make your pumpkin purchases!

Jr. Stewards Winner Learns to Spfish!

The Grand Prize Winner of this year’s Jr. Stewards drawing was 10-year-old Nicole Carlson. She won a personal tour with ornithologist John Bower. Nicole invited her brother, parents, and some friends to join her on the bird-watching hike. While there, they learned the art of “spfishing.” Nicole’s mom Chris explains it this way: “Spfishing is what you do when you hear small birds in the bushes and you make a ‘spfish’ sound that predator birds will make. Apparently the little birds like to eyeball the predators. If they can see them, then they can outfly them. So if you ‘spfish’ long enough and wait, the birds will pop out of the bushes to see what predator is there. The kids thought it was super cool.”

Congratulations Nicole!

Allied Arts Holiday Market

Once again, WLT is participating in the Allied Arts Holiday Market. This year’s event is in the old Michael’s space at 3548 Meridian St. Hours of operation are 10am to 6pm Wednesday–Sunday until Dec. 24th (closing at 3:00pm on the 24th). Check out our books, totes, mugs, cards and gift memberships there!

Website Store

Another way to get WLT goodies for your loved ones is to visit the WLT web store at www.whatcomlandtrust.org. Books, cards, mug, and totes are available there.

New Year’s Day Eagle Tour

January 1, 2010 at 1:30 pm
Celebrate the New Year with magnificent Bald Eagles! This New Year’s Day tour will visit a popular eagle viewing site protected by Whatcom Land Trust. Learn about the local recovery of this endangered species and the current threats to its food source. See local places where eagles like to roost and watch the birds in action! Call 650-9470 to register. A $5–$10 donation is suggested for those who are not WLT supporters. (You can become a supporter for $35/household.)
On a sunny September Saturday, a dozen people joined WLT staff members Connie Clement, Jerry DeBacker, Steve Walker, and Eric Carabba for a bike ride to several of WLT’s South Fork properties. The group made a stop at the Carrasco conservation easement, where Ken and Mariann Carasco talked about their property and showed the group around. Stops were also made at the Ladies of the Lake property, the Innis Creek project, the Edfrø Creek trailhead, and the Blue Mountain Bar & Grill for lunch and a pint!

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

- Become a member ($35 min.)
- Make a donation $________
- Find out more
- Help with ___________________________

Name _______________________________ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______
Address __________________________________________________________ _______ _______
City/Zip __________________________________ Phone __________________________
e-mail ____________________________________________

☑ check enclosed Bill my: ☐ VISA ☐ MC # __________________________ Expires: ___________

Your Signature __________________________

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

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Giving Canyon Creek Elbow Room

Heavy equipment is used to remove 13,000 yards of large boulders and fill from the dike along Canyon Creek.

Sometimes public policy decisions can seem inconsistent, especially in times of quickly changing attitudes. Restoring salmon habitat damaged at Canyon Creek by working with Whatcom County to remove a section of flood control dike is just the latest example of undoing the works of man to help salmon. Since 2000, Whatcom Land Trust and Whatcom County Public Works have been working together to restore 4.1 miles of spawning grounds for threatened Chinook salmon in the North Fork Nooksack watershed. In 2004, the County and the Land Trust completed the first phase of the Canyon Creek project when we purchased the Logs Resort and 26 vacant lots in Glacier Springs in order to restore valuable spawning habitat and protect it in its natural state for future generations to enjoy. This summer the County completed the second phase of the project when it removed 520 feet of the massive rock dike built on Canyon Creek in 1994. The section removed was no longer needed to protect the resort and was restricting the channel and hindering salmon from reaching their native spawning grounds upstream.

Canyon Creek is one of the largest tributaries to the North Fork Nooksack and historically one of the most productive Chinook salmon spawning streams in the entire watershed. Data from 1981 North Fork spring chinook population spawner surveys show that 181 of the 317 (57%) chinook carcasses in the North Fork were recovered in the lower 1.2 miles of Canyon Creek. In recent years, returns to lower Canyon Creek have ranged from a low of 22 to a high of 344 fish. The mouth of Canyon Creek is also one of the most...continued on page four
WLT News

WLT Store Opens
WLT now has a store! Check out our online store at www.whatcomlandtrust.org for mugs, totes, books, cards, etc.

Donations from 542
Thank you to NorKa Recreation for once again including WLT as one of the recipients of the 542 Festival green fee.

The annual 542 Festival includes a cyclo-cross race, an 8.5-mile run, and a road bike ride up to Artist Point. This year's event took place September 12th and 13th.

Welcome Laura
WLT welcomes AmeriCorps volunteer Laura Wallace from Wichita, Kansas. Laura will be working on volunteer coordination for Outreach and Land Stewardship. You may see her at work parties and events around town. Introduce yourself and welcome Laura to Whatcom County!

Bellingham Traverse
The Bellingham Traverse is September 19! This multi-sport event follows the life cycle of the salmon and benefits local non-profits, including Whatcom Land Trust. Come and support the athletes who support the environment.

Holiday Market
The Multi-Faith Holiday Market will be November 22 from 1-4pm at Bloedel-Donovan Multipurpose room. Whatcom Land Trust will be there with its gift items of mugs, totes, books, and memberships.

A Big BrewHaHa is coming!
Gather your friends and come raise a glass of 'Stew Brew' in commemoration of the 25th anniversary of Whatcom Land Trust at the BrewHaHa!
Boundary Bay Brewery has developed the finest Stewardship Brew: a hearty, harvest beer perfect for enjoying during the darkening days of autumn with your favorite chowder, stew, cioppino, or chili! The 'Stew Brew' will make its debut accompanied by a festive atmosphere, a performance by the good folks from Idiom Theatre, toe-tapping live music, and a silent auction. All proceeds raised support the stewardship of the 10,000 acres we have preserved.

October 29, 2009
6pm to Midnight
Market Depot Square
Fun coupled with our supporters’ generosity—what could be better?
We need volunteers to help before and after. If you’d like to volunteer for this event, please call Connie or Jerry at the WLT office: 650-9470.

President’s Message
Dear Friend,

As part of the Whatcom Land Trust community, we share an appreciation for the core values that guide the Trust. To me, the overarching principle is that “...the land and the ecosystems it supports are fundamental to the welfare of all living beings in Whatcom County.” As you read this fall edition of the Steward, you will see examples of each of our values in action, including land acquisition, restoration and protection, community trust, volunteerism, and support:

Land Protection – This summer, we said good-bye to our friend Jake Steiner, who with his family and throughout a decades-long relationship, worked with the Trust to provide a permanent gift to the community.

Community Relationships – Partnering with Whatcom County to first purchase land along Canyon Creek, and more recently, working with them to address flood control, habitat restoration and fish passage by removing aging infrastructure.

Land Acquisition – Permanent protection of an additional 18 acres of wetland and forest along the Samish River.

Thank you for celebrating the success of the Whatcom Land Trust and being an advocate for our future. Enjoy this edition of the Steward!

Sincerely,

Rich Bowers, President

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Remembering Jake Steiner

For more than a century, it has been the custom in the foothills of Mt. Baker, along the North Fork of the Nooksack River, for old-timers to show the newcomers around. Nobody could do that like Jake Steiner. When you recovered from the vertigo and white knuckles from jouncing casually with him in his pickup over precarious backroads through some of the most spectacular mountains on the continent, you realized how intimately Jake brought you into the heartbeat of this land.

A mile-long stretch of the Canyon Creek Road has been sinking and collapsing ever since it was built. That is because the road passes over a stretch of blue clay, brought down from Canada some 14,000 years ago by the Fraser Ice Sheet and deposited there in a gargantuan glacial hiccup. Or, up the Glacier Creek Road, the elegantly draping Alaska cedars are all quite small—still recovering, at their icy elevation, from logging more than sixty years ago. During World War II, their rock-hard wood protected the bows of minesweepers patrolling the North Atlantic. Traveling with Jake, you learned to read the stories the land speaks.

The Steiner property was the only one that survived in the 1960’s when developers came to buy up old homesteads along the North Fork. At the last moment, even for the fortune offered, Jake could not bring himself to sign away the land his parents settled as pioneers. He protected the forests there with great understanding, harvesting sustainably to raise his family.

But there was no such hesitation in 2007 when he signed papers to convey his family’s land to the Whatcom Land Trust. Included were two of the places he loved best. One is a thriving stump garden forest where old growth had been logged by horse around the turn of the last century and where new trees now grow out of the ancient stumps. The other is the Sitka spruce grove, a stand of venerable patriarchs Jake never had the heart to cut. Now everyone around the North Fork rejoices that his magnificent land is in the keeping of WLT.

Virginia Hoyt

First Jr. Stewards Program Connects Kids to the Land

• A scavenger hunt for natural items at Deming Homestead Eagle Park
• Investigating the landscape at Squires Lake
• Identifying ecotones at Point Whitehorn Marine Reserve

These were some of the activities in Whatcom Land Trust’s first Jr. Stewards program. The program, designed and created by volunteer Randy Levanthal, WLT staff member Connie Clement, and WLT board member Rod Burton, was an effort to get kids and their families outside to discover the wonder of the outdoors.

The program started with a kick off on June 26th that featured the beautiful birds of prey featured in Sardis Raptor Center’s Hunters of the Sky program. At the kickoff, kids received a booklet with activities to complete at 4 different sites. At the end of the summer, they returned their Reflect & Respond page and received a Mallard Ice Cream coupon and entry into a drawing for prizes. The initial program involved approximately 200 children.

Do you know kids who would enjoy this program next year? Give us a call or email and we’ll include them on the email list to receive future Jr. Stewards information. (This email list is not used for other purposes, and WLT never shares its email lists.)

Virginia Hoyt

photo: Virginia Hoyt
Jake Steiner and an old-growth Sitka spruce on his land.

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Canyon Creek Dike Removal Will Help Endangered Puget

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left: Large boulders, at left, channeled Canyon Creek through a man-made notch that made it difficult for salmon to migrate. Right: The removal of the lower 520 feet of the dike allows Canyon Creek to move and spread out along its valley floor.

scenic spots in the North Fork Valley with clear cool water, quiet forests and spectacular vistas of Mt. Baker. But a silent danger lurks on Canyon Creek every winter.

Three back-to-back floods in the Canyon Creek watershed in 1989 and 1990 wreaked damage and destruction to homes and roads in the Glacier Springs subdivision and the Logs Resort, all located on the alluvial fan of Canyon Creek at its confluence with the North Fork Nooksack. Rip-rap was placed to control bank erosion after the massive 1989 flood but was quickly washed away or buried during the two large floods in November 1990.

In 1994, Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District responded to requests from Glacier Springs property owners by building a 2,400 foot long rock dike 20-30 feet high to keep Canyon Creek pinned to the eastern side of its floodplain and away from human settlement and the Mt. Baker Highway. Bedrock was also dynamited away to create a “notch” that would train the creek to stay in one channel. Unfortunately, the dynamited notch created a barrier in subsequent years that inadvertently prevented migrating salmon from reaching about 3.9 miles of historic habitat.

When Puget Sound Chinook were declared threatened in 1999, the passage barrier on Canyon Creek jumped up to near the top of the list for restoration. If there is a chance to save naturally spawning wild salmon in the North Fork Nooksack, an unimpeded Canyon Creek would play a major role in keeping the populations alive. Whatcom County recognized the priority of Canyon Creek for salmon habitat and also realized that the 1994 dike, as big and massive as it was, may not hold up to another flood like 1989 or 1990. Furthermore, policy direction at the County was evolving to favor approaches that would reduce the future need for public funds to control the flooding. In 2004, the County River and Flood Division and the Land Trust teamed up on two grants, one from FEMA to buyout flood-damaged houses and another grant from the Washington State Salmon Recovery Funding Board to protect and restore salmon habitat along Canyon Creek. The Glacier Springs lots and the Logs Resort were acquired and the buildings removed. Not only did this take folks out of harm’s way, the need for the lower portion of the dike lessened and the options to restore free flowing access for spawning Chinook salmon appeared.

Using salmon recovery funds received in 2008, Whatcom County Public Works, Natural Resources and River and Flood groups, under the direction of the Endangered Species Coordinator John Thompson, worked with Herrera Environmental Consultants on a design for the removal of the lower 520 feet of dike containing approximately 13,000 yards of fill material and rock from the floodplain of Canyon Creek. The consultants’ work included a risk assessment to ensure that private properties would not be negatively impacted by the project. The excavated fill material was used to re-

“This project builds on past successes and guides our next steps to get Canyon Creek, and its salmon, back to a healthier condition.”

John Thompson, Sr. Planner, Whatcom Co. Public Works Natural Resources Division
contour the site while the large armor rock was stockpiled for future use. With the removal of this section of dike, Canyon Creek now has the opportunity to spread out during floods and may relocate itself this winter and, hopefully, bypass the salmon barrier. According to John Thompson, “After watching the habitat be confined and its condition worsen for almost 15 years, it is great to give the creek some elbow room. This project builds on past successes and guides our next steps to get Canyon Creek, and its salmon, back to a healthier condition.”

Paula Cooper, River and Flood Manager had this to say about the work: “This project illustrates how we can work together to integrate salmon recovery and flood hazard management to the advantage of both. It is our hope that not only will the salmon thrive, but that ultimately the public will be safer and that the need for future expenditures of public flood funds to manage flood risks on the Canyon Creek alluvial fan will be reduced.”

The removal of the no-longer-needed section of dike demonstrates the flexibility and determination of the Land Trust in working with County government to cooperatively bring back the North Fork Chinook. Though it took a long time and was expensive, these initial steps along the continued path toward restoration of Canyon Creek has great benefit for both people and fish.

In August 2009, Whatcom Land Trust acquired from David and Shirley Mulka 18 acres of wetland pasture and forest land along Samish River in Whatcom County near Wickersham. The Land Trust paid fair market value using the $13,000 raised at the 2009 Great Outdoors Auction and a small North American Wetland Conservation Act (NAWCA) grant through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This acquisition provides the critical link to connect three parcels owned by WLT, now forming a 138-acre preserve. This special wetland complex serves multiple types of wildlife, including migratory and resident bird populations, waterfowl, and fish. Over the past year North Cascades Audubon volunteers have identified over 80 species of birds and waterfowl in the wetland complex, and with continued monitoring, we expect the list to grow.

The upper Samish River watershed contains a large complex of forested and open marsh wetlands, and small tributary streams supporting multiple fish and wildlife. Migratory birds in the Pacific Flyway utilize the wetlands for resting, feeding, nesting and rearing. The Samish River and its many small but dynamic tributary streams situated on alluvial fans support Coho, Chum, winter steelhead, and both resident and sea run cutthroat. These volatile tributary streams provide great spawning habitat, while young fish rear in the large adjacent wetland complex.

Whatcom Land Trust continues to work throughout Whatcom County to protect special wildlife habitat and working landscapes. We are excited to be working with additional private landowners to grow this preserve and other preserves in the coming year.
Ladies of the Lake Preserve

This summer the Whatcom Land Trust assumed management responsibility for the 101 acre Ladies of the Lake Preserve at the south end of Lake Whatcom. The property includes the lower quarter of Fir Creek, which sees a spectacular autumn run of spawning Kokanee salmon. The Preserve, which was purchased in 2005, is subject to the terms of a life estate and is not open to the public. The majority of the property is forested, however, 20 acres served as pasture for beef cattle when the Preserve previously was a farm. If no steps are taken, the fields, like most open spaces in Whatcom County, would soon fill with invasive weeds. So the Trust has leased the field for hay production. This arrangement keeps the land in its historic agricultural use, maintains the open vista, provides modest income for the Trust to monitor the lease, and prevents invasive species from becoming the dominant vegetation.

Ruth Kelsey Nature Sanctuary

WLT recently "hired" 240 goats to mow through 3 acres of invasive Himalayan blackberries at the Ruth Kelsey Nature Sanctuary northwest of Ferndale. The goats belong to Craig Madsen, owner of a vegetation management company called Healing Hooves. The goats are voracious eaters. When contained with temporary electrical fencing, they can target specific weed infestations.

Now that the blackberries have been defoliated and reduced to a few woody canes, volunteer work parties will be dispatched this fall to uproot the invaders. Special thanks to Steve Irving, volunteer land monitor for the Kelsey property, for his many days of clearing the entry trail, hauling water, and assisting Craig with herd management.

Ruth Kelsey Nature Sanctuary is located west of North Star Road between Thornton Road and Aldergrove Road. A small plaque marks the trailhead where visitors can begin a short hike into the 20-acre parcel Ms. Kelsey donated to Whatcom Land Trust in 1992. The property is managed for habitat protection under a joint agreement with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.

photos: Steve Walker

Please join us on October 22 for an unusual work party.
We'll be sharpening our tools—getting prepared for Make A Difference Day on October 24. The work party will be at the WLT office from 7:00 – 9:00.
For more information, please contact Laura at 650-9470.
**Gift to Lummi Nation**

On behalf of Whatcom Land Trust, Rand Jack presents a gift of a carving he made to James Hillaire and the Lummi people to commemorate the permanent protection of Lily Point at Point Roberts. Representatives of the Lummi Nation presented Whatcom Land Trust with a ceremonial blanket at the Park’s opening.

**Edfro Creek Preserve**

At the end of the Saxon Road lies the 130-acre Edfro Creek Preserve. This magnificent property, purchased by the Trust in 2003 to provide protection for salmon, elk and eagles, has a long tradition of recreational use. Most visitors utilize the aptly-named Thousand Puddles trail. Horse riders, hikers, mountain bikers, swimmers, and gold panners are historic users from the days when the property was owned by timber interests. The Trust has installed a trailhead sign asking visitors to limit their stay and avoid activities that degrade the habitat the Preserve was established to protect.

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**2009 Tours**

**Call 650-9470 for registration or more information.**

Tours are free to WLT supporters. You can become a supporting household for as little as $35.

$5 to $10 donation requested from the public.

**South County Bicycle Tour**

**September 26 • 10:00 a.m.**

Join members of Whatcom Land Trust’s staff as we bicycle our way through conservation properties at the South end of Lake Whatcom and along the South Fork/Saxon area. This loop is approximately 20 miles long and the pace is slow to moderate. Bring your lunch money as we plan to stop at the Blue Mountain Grill for lunch and a beer toward the end of the ride!

**Canyon Creek Restoration Tour**

**October 24 • 10:00 a.m.**

In 2006-07, Whatcom Land Trust and Whatcom County purchased several lots at Glacier Springs along Canyon Creek. The creek provides critical habitat for native spring Chinook, but a levee built to protect the properties also created a barrier to salmon moving upstream to spawn. WLT partnered with Whatcom County to remove a portion of the levee to address the barrier. Come and see the result of this special restoration story with the project manager John Thompson.

**Lichen Tour at Squires Lake**

**November 7 • 10:00 a.m.**

Lichens are interesting examples of mutualistic associations of fungi and algae. They abound in the Pacific Northwest and play subtle but important roles in the ecology of our woodlands and mountain sides. Come learn about these amazing organisms with Dr. Fred Rhoades, retired WWU instructor and research associate. You’ll increase your lichen knowledge while exploring the beautiful Squires Lake Park on the border of Whatcom and Skagit County.

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**Fall Nooksack Salmon Tour**

**November 28 • 10:00 a.m.**

Discover winter Chum & Coho on this trip along some of WLT’s Nooksack River properties with fish surveyor and wildlife writer, Doug Huddle. See the salmon as they make their spawning trip up the river and learn about their tendencies and challenges from this experienced outdoorsman.

---

**Visit the Pumpkin Patch!**

Steve George has offered to sell his pumpkins by donation to benefit Whatcom Land Trust or the Nature Conservancy! Visit Steve at 3771 Gilmore Rd. in Everson (just North of Cloud Mtn. Farm) from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. the first four Saturdays and Sundays in October. Celebrate Autumn and help protect our special places at the same time!
Whatcom Land Trust Business Partner Cascade Joinery recently installed a craftsman-style picnic table at the Jensen Family Forest Park. Pictured L-R: Jeff Arvin, Phil Kneisley, John Miller.

For information about how your business can become a partner with Whatcom Land Trust, please contact the office at 650-9470 or jerry@whatcomlandtrust.org.
City of Bellingham works with Land Trust to preserve the Lake Whatcom Watershed

Lake Whatcom is an important drinking water resource to 95,000 people of Whatcom County. Careful land management is needed to ensure that the water quality of the lake remains safe. This requires a multi-tiered approach to safeguard against the challenges of land disturbance, loss of forest cover, urbanization, increased impervious surfaces, and contaminants from daily activities. These influences impact the water quality of the lake and contribute to decreasing levels of dissolved oxygen.

Watershed protection is the first and most basic step in a multi-barrier approach to ensuring pure drinking water. The City of Bellingham Public Works Department has been acquiring land in the Lake Whatcom Watershed in order to protect the water quality of Lake Whatcom. Over the past eight years, the City has purchased approximately 1,309 acres of land at a cost of $20.3 million. The City’s Property Acquisition program is financed by water usage fees to protect the drinking water source, including the conservation and management of the acquired land. In order to make the best use of available funds for property purchase, the City has employed a strategy of first obtaining large parcels with the most development potential. In addition, for efficiency and effectiveness, the City considers properties that are adjacent to already protected lands or very sensitive areas.

In order to assure long-term protection of these strategic investments, the City and Whatcom Land Trust have partnered using conservation easements held by the trust to ensure perpetual protection of these preserves for water quality.

“The primary purpose of this conservation easement is to protect the water quality of Lake Whatcom by preserving, and where needed, restoring natural ecological functions that act to maintain high water quality and reduce or eliminate sources of water quality degradation. The secondary purposes include the protection and enhancement of wildlife habitat, preservation of open space, and providing opportunities for passive recreation.”

Over the past three years the City has acquired three different properties along Olsen and Carpenter Creeks, which now form the 60-acre Olsen Creek...continued on page five

This western lowland forest captures rainfall, reduces runoff, filters nutrients and runoff, and stabilizes soils at Three Creeks Preserve II.

photo: Eric Carabba
President’s Message

Dear Friend,

As the newly elected President of the Whatcom Land Trust, I would like to welcome you to the summer edition of our newsletter and invite you to celebrate the longer days and warmer weather by visiting our nearly 10,000 acres of community forests, tidelands, saltwater shorelands and riparian and habitat areas. These special places were protected with you and your family in mind – as shelter for wildlife, for quiet solitude, and as open-space and parkland for the Whatcom community and those traveling the Northwest.

While the current economy may not lend itself to extensive travel, “getting away” in Whatcom County is simple and easy. Take a quiet walk along the trails in the Stimpson Nature Reserve, or along some 1,900 feet of public beachfront on the just-opened Point Whitehorn Marine Reserve. With a bit more time, visit Point Roberts and the outstanding tide-pools and eagle viewing available at Lily Point.

As you visit these areas, keep Whatcom Land Trust in mind. I’d like to hear your thoughts about the properties you visit, and can be reached at nwrivers@comcast.com. And please think of WLT when you decide which organizations you will be supporting this year. Your assistance allows us to preserve even more of those “special places,” places that directly impact our community’s quality of life, and that provide a visible and personal return for our families.

See you out there!

Rich Bowers, President, Whatcom Land Trust

photo: Rod Burton

Rich Bowers accepts a ceremonial blanket from Vernell Lane of the Lummi Nation in thanks for Whatcom Land Trust’s work protecting Lily Point. The dedication ceremony was held on June 4, 2008.

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Alan Fritzberg, Dar New, Laura Steiger, Steve Walker

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Community Food Co-op supports WLT

The Community Food Co-op has been an integral part of the local community since opening its doors in 1970 in the Good Earth Building in Fairhaven with fewer than 10 items. Today, the Co-op operates two stores, one in downtown Bellingham and a new second store open since January in the Cordata neighborhood, and offers more than 20,000 products.

The Community Food Co-op has supported Whatcom Land Trust in a number of ways. In 1999 and 2005, Whatcom Land Trust was the recipient of a Community Shopping Day (CSD) donation. This program donates 2% of sales from one Saturday each month to a designated community organization. The Co-op also provides $5 volunteer coupons to organizations in the community. In turn, organizations use these coupons to thank their volunteers. Whatcom Land Trust receives more than 120 coupons every year—an annual donation totaling more than $600. The Co-op also donated funds toward the production of Whatcom Places II, WLT’s beautiful book featuring photographs and stories detailing some of the majestic locations in Whatcom County. Last, but not least, the Co-op donates every year to WLT’s annual Great Outdoors Auction.

The beautiful thing about a partnership like that between the Co-op and the Land Trust is that it benefits everyone. That is why the Community Food Co-op wants to remind WLT supporters how you can help the Co-op to build community and establish a strong core of shoppers for the new Cordata store:

Shop Cordata! If you haven’t visited the new store yet, please stop by.

Introduce a friend, neighbor, or family member to the Co-op. If you love the Co-op, don’t keep it a secret—share the joy!

Sign up for one of the Co-op’s fabulous Healthy Connections classes. Class schedules are in the Co-op Community News and on their website at www.communityfood.coop.

Host your business meeting, book club, or other gathering in their café or in the Local Roots Room at Cordata. For regularly scheduled meetings, make a reservation to use the Local Roots Room. This space, as well as the downtown Healthy Connections Building, is available for free when booked by a Co-op member. Contact Kevin Murphy at 734-8158, ext. 220, or kevinm@communityfood.coop.

Order a catered box lunch from the Swan Deli. Forget about uninspired box lunches, pizza, or fast food and feed the minds at your next meeting with a healthy, delicious meal!

Attend a Cordata event and bring a friend, or two, or three, or more! A series of summer events will be held on the second Sunday of June, July, and August at the Cordata store. Each event features a BBQ lunch with partial proceeds benefitting a community organization, live music, and activities organized around a central theme. Upcoming events are on July 12 and August 9. See details in the Co-op Community News or the Co-op website.

So, Whatcom Land Trust supporters, the next time you grab your reusable shopping bags and head out to the store, please consider shopping the Co-op! The Co-op has almost everything you need and when you shop at the Co-op you benefit the community you love and help great organizations like Whatcom Land Trust continue to prosper!

Amended Financial Information

Within the most recent annual report, the pie chart presentation of “outflows” for the fiscal year ending 6/30/08 inadvertently omitted the acquisition of the Lily Point property. This piece of property was acquired during the fiscal year at a total cost of $3,527,382 and was subsequently donated to Whatcom County for a park within the same fiscal year. This revised set of inflow and outflow charts reflect this correction. —Harte Bressler, Treasurer

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Inflows</th>
<th>Outflows</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Interest &amp; Dividends</strong></td>
<td>$201,195 4.34%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Fundraising Events</strong></td>
<td>$104,256 2.25%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Other Income</strong></td>
<td>$210,005 4.53%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Donations of Land</strong></td>
<td>$260,000 5.61%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Donations (Cash and In-kind)</strong></td>
<td>$715,292 15.45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grants</strong></td>
<td>$3,140,117 67.82%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Development & Outreach | $133,790 2.46% |
| Acquisition & Monitoring | $213,071 3.91% |
| *Equipment Purchases | $9,084 0.16% |

| Administrative Costs | $85,764 1.58% |

| Land Purchases | $4,562,073 83.79% |
The 9th Annual Great Outdoors Auction was held May 2nd at the Lakeway Inn ballroom. Guests took turns bidding against friends and neighbors as they wandered about the decorated hall. The Land Trust's 25th Anniversary was featured in the color scheme of silver, blue, and green silent auction tables filling the room. Over 300 guests and volunteers gathered to bid fast and furiously on a wide variety of unique items and experiences. Outdoor gear, weekend getaways, art and crafts, garden plants and products, local food baskets, and much more all vied for the bidders' attention. Over $78,000 in gross proceeds was raised through a combination of the silent and live auctions.

Master of Ceremonies Chuck Robinson and Auctioneer Gaye Godfrey started the night off with an energetic foot race, urging participants to dash to the dessert table (laden with delectable choices) and claim a treat. Board President Rich Bowers welcomed the crowd and reflected on the organization’s recent successes, while special guest Craig Lee recalled early formative days in the basement of Dutch Mother's restaurant in Lynden. The live auction highlighted unique experiences ranging from cabin stays, Olympic tickets, sailing excursions and picnics. Fine art ranged from board members' pottery and wood carvings to a Thomas Wood etching that generated the most spirited bidding of the evening.

The Best of Live raffle, a chance to pick any item out the live catalog before the auction begins, resulted in Dar and Dave New winning and deciding the carbon touring kayak from Johnson Outdoors would look just right loaded onto their car! The highlight of the evening came with the outpouring of support for our Fund an Acre project, the Mulka acquisition. Over $13,000 was raised in under 5 minutes to protect this parcel located in the midst of our Samish River complex of protected properties.

We extend special recognition and thanks to our auction sponsors: Pacific Surveying & Engineering, Whatcom Educational Credit Union, ConocoPhillips, Lithtex Northwest, Village Books, and the Lakeway Inn. We are privileged to receive support from many businesses that make the Great Outdoor Auction possible. Additionally we wish to recognize assistance received from Whatcom Sound, Boundary Bay Brewing and Vartanyan Estate Winery.

We are truly grateful for the volunteers who make this fun event possible. The enthusiasm of volunteers as they transform a ballroom into a market bazaar of good deals and great gear is simply remarkable! Auction committee members Carol Rondello, Katy Batchelor, Barbara Brandt, Laurie Heck, Becky Masters, Nancy Hart, Catherine O'Keefe and Jean Calhoun worked extremely hard to make the event a fun for all. The committee was supported in its work by Board members Cindy Klein, Rod Burton,
on 2009

Lake Whatcom Watershed continued from page

Rebecca Reich, Margo Burton and Chris Moench. Staff members Connie Clement and Dawn Sodt were instrumental in providing assistance to the committee. Many volunteers helped with setup, data entry, cleanup and the numerous tasks required to make any auction a success. Our greatest thanks go to auction coordinator Renéa Roberts who once again pulled together all the loose threads of the event. This year she did it while also planning her wedding—all with her eyes closed! Congratulations to everyone for a job well done and special congratulations and best wishes to Renéa!

Thanks to all the donors, patrons, and volunteers who made this year’s auction a big hit. Give us a call if you wish to join in planning next year’s 10th Great Outdoors Auction!

Preserve. Protection of this site removes 14 potential development rights from this watershed and protects a mixed lowland forest serving as wildlife habitat and natural storm water filter. The property contains a diverse mixture of conifers and deciduous forest. Several open areas have been recently re-planted. This preserve also protects approximately 165 feet of Lake Whatcom frontage off North Shore Drive. In 2004 the City donated a conservation easement protecting the 104-acre Three Creeks Preserve. Acquiring the additional 60 acres in 2008, the City will add the adjacent land to protected status.

The Land Trust now holds six conservation easements on some 974 acres owned by the City of Bellingham in the Lake Whatcom watershed. Two preserves are jointly owned by Whatcom County and the City.

How you can help—consider donating, selling or placing a conservation easement on your watershed property. For more information please contact City of Bellingham’s Public Works Department at (360) 778-7900. —Eric Carabba

Wildlife and hikers make use of an old skid road that winds through the protected watershed property.

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It was a beautiful, sunny Memorial Day and over 400 people came to discover the treasure known as Point Whitehorn Marine Reserve. For this park opening, we tried something new. We received a grant from the Alliance for Puget Sound Shorelines (the MudUp people) to get a radio broadcast from Point Whitehorn. During the event, the station was at Point Whitehorn, periodically broadcasting live. Tom and Jon from the station enthusiastically talked about the park and encouraged people to visit. It seemed to work, as several families mentioned they heard it on the radio and decided to come out.

The Grand Opening of the Point Whitehorn Marine Reserve began with dedication speeches by County Executive Pete Kremen and WLT founding member Rand Jack. WLT board member Chris Moench explained the connection between the pipeline explosion of 1999 and the beautiful park purchased with funds from the legal settlement of that event.

After the words of dedication, the crowd walked down the ¾-mile trail through the forested wetlands. Along the way, the WSU Beach Watchers had 3 stations explaining the importance of those wetlands and their function in keeping the waters of the Strait of Georgia clean. Once on the beach, ReSources Beach Naturalists and Whatcom County Parks & Recreation staff helped people discover the sea life exposed during the -2.8 tide. The big find was a large moon snail.

The magic of the day was captured in the excitement of one child as he eagerly showed off the sunflower sea star he discovered, and in the exclamation of another child as he looked at a prolific nurse log in the forest. Now that this land is a park protected by a conservation easement, future generations can experience the thrill of running through this forest and playing on this beach.

If you haven’t had a chance to experience this beautiful, new park, we encourage you to visit. To get there, take Grandview (exit 266) west. Keep going until it takes a 90-degree turn to the left and becomes Koehn Road. The park is on the left.

The Sardis Raptor Center’s Hunters of the Sky program will be at the kickoff!
Update on Preserves

Steve Walker

Last month volunteer work parties tackled separate problems at two preserves on the North Fork of the Nooksack River. On May 9th, students from the Western Washington University's chapter of Beta Alpha Psi, an honorary organization for financial information students and professionals, removed old barbed wire fencing at the Bell Creek Preserve. The fencing, much of it collapsed and hidden, posed a threat to the elk population that routinely grazes on the property. It was also a constant nuisance to the teams of restoration specialists from Lummi Natural Resources who have been planting and maintaining young evergreen trees near the main branch of the river. WLT intern Carolyn Kinkade led the work party. The Trust thanks Carolyn and the volunteer crew for braving the nettles and taking on a big task.

On May 28th, volunteers Betsy Gross, Alan Fritzberg, Nancy Hart, and John Bremmer joined WLT Property Steward Steve Walker to uproot dozens of Scotch broom plants at the Glacier Springs Preserve. Betsy, who serves as a volunteer steward for the preserve, noticed the invasive plants during a monitoring visit and offered to guide a volunteer work party. The group used "weed wrenches" to extract the nuisance plants near the site of the old Logs Resort.

That land is part of a complex of properties totalling 86 acres at the mouth of Canyon Creek, purchased by the Trust and the Whatcom County River and Flood Division during the last decade to protect and enhance salmon habitat. While much progress was made, some plants remain. Call Steve at the Land Trust office if you would like to join another "broom crew" to finish the job during the last week of June.

The Land Trust is working with the Nooksack Indian Tribe Watershed Restoration program to enhance habitat along the South Fork of the Nooksack River in the Trust's Edfro Creek Preserve. Tribal workers are planting thousands of small native evergreen and deciduous trees and shrubs. Crews reported seeing a cougar while they were working at the site.

A recent monitoring visit to the Racehorse Creek Preserve revealed the extent of debris that was deposited in the creek during winter flooding. A huge slide on the mountainside above the preserve loaded the creek with massive amounts of wood. Visitors can walk west from the bridge to view the spectacle.
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Phone: 360-650-9470
Fax: 360-650-0495
E-mail: info@whatcomlandtrust.org
website: www.whatcomlandtrust.org

Land protected through the efforts or assistance of Whatcom Land Trust:
Total Acres .................................................. 9,895
Miles of Riverfront ............................................. 22.5
Miles of Salt Water Shoreline ................................ 7.5
Public Parks Created ........................................... 13

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 ($35 min.) ☐ Make a donation $ ________
☐ Find out more ☐ Help with ________________________________

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

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Restoring the Lummi Delta
Looking to History and Seeing the Future

Sometimes progress might look like you're going backwards in time. On the shores of Lummi Bay, the Lummi Nation and Whatcom Land Trust are looking back in time for clues in order to re-create part of the original salmon landscape of the Nooksack River Delta in hopes of saving Nooksack Chinook salmon. In what may be a historic first on an Indian reservation, we are working together to secure in perpetuity vacant land that will become part of a major Nooksack River estuarine wetlands restoration and preservation project.

The restoration of the Nooksack River's estuarine habitats is a critical goal in the highly altered Nooksack Watershed. The guiding concept for the project comes from studying evidence of the landscape and habitats of the Lummi/Nooksack River Deltas before the rivers were cleared of log jams and diked, and before the lowlands of Whatcom County were logged, leveled, and drained for use as farmland. The improvement of the lowlands for farming was good for settlers. However, it is devastating to salmon, for the changed river hydrology means that young salmon smolts in the upper watershed now are flushed out to sea before they can linger in the salt water marshes and make the all-important biologic adaptation from living in fresh water to surviving in salt water.

Rivers in tidy channels cause trouble for young salmon.

The Lummi Natural Resources Department (LNR) began the project by studying original records from the first land surveys in the area. Continued on page five.

What is the C2C Region?

The Chuckanut to Cascades (C2C) region is a biologically unique area in western Washington that lies between the Pacific Ocean and the northern Cascades. The region is not only rich biologically, but also culturally. The region has changed over the last one hundred and fifty years as natural ecosystem composition, structure, and function has undergone significant alteration at the hands of humans. Today, Continued on page nine.
Passing the Torch
by Chris Moench

This past January marked the end of my two years serving as president of Whatcom Land Trust. Those years saw significant growth and change for the organization. Our support in the community blossomed as measured by the increase in our supporters from 777 in 2007 to our current 1162. We moved to a larger office to accommodate the space needs of staff, interns, and numerous volunteers. Most importantly, the Trust followed through on its commitment to steward the properties under its protection and to bring additional land under its care.

In these two short years the Trust has achieved conservation of many beautiful and ecologically important properties including Lily Point, Point Whitehorn, the Samish River Wetlands Complex, key parcels in Lake Whatcom Watershed, and several conservation easements on farm land. Credit for those accomplishments goes to the hard work and wisdom of our staff and my fellow board members, particularly Rand Jack. Credit also goes to the Trust’s hundreds of contributing members as well as our partners in government and business. The work of the Land Trust is truly a community endeavor of the most optimistic kind. It has been a true honor to sign my name to the documents memorializing those achievements on behalf of the Land Trust. It is with deep gratitude and a little relief that I depart the position as president and take up a less central role as general board member.

Stepping into the presidency is long-time board member and former vice-president Rich Bowers. Rich comes with many years of experience as both a board member and the executive director for American Whitewater. He has a thoughtful and systematic approach to managing an organization which I think will be a great asset to the Land Trust as it pursues its conservation mission in these economically difficult times.

It was with “these times” very much in mind that the Trust’s board and staff convened for our annual retreat February 7th at the Lake Samish Day Lodge. Under the guidance of consultant Donna Erickson, we made a thorough review of the Trust’s policies and practices from land transactions to financial management and conflicts of interest. It was all part of assessing the Trust’s strengths and weaknesses to assure its fiscal, legal, and organizational integrity with an eye on the possibility of applying for formal accreditation by the national Land Trust Alliance. The board came out of the retreat with the knowledge that your Whatcom Land Trust does its work with integrity and sound practice. Though in some cases we currently lack written policies, our practices are sound and policy can easily be developed. Those policies, written over the next several months, will help to keep the Land Trust a strong, agile agent for protecting the natural heritage of our landscape.
In 2004, I moved 2,500 miles from Indianapolis to Bellingham knowing only two people in town. Luckily, one of the two belonged to a walking group, and she invited me to join. Now, thanks in large part to this group, I’ve met many wonderful friends with whom I now not only walk but also discuss books, knit, travel to interesting places, and explore a wealth of opportunities for volunteerism.

My story is far from unique. In 2001, the Walking Friends was formed for just that reason. “Most of us have had rewarding but demanding careers,” said Lynn Bellinger, one of the founding members of the group. “Now we were looking for a chance to be with interesting people and continue to do interesting things but in a less stressful way.”

That philosophy was certainly reflected in the formation of the organization. Lynn and the other founders identified 15 or so three-mile trails and printed up a list and a schedule. On a given day, anyone who wanted to walk would simply show up, no RSVPs required. Being Bellingham, soon most walks were followed by coffee and additional planned outings. As friendships blossomed, other groups such as knitting and book clubs were formed. In 2005, after the death of a parent of one of the Walking Friends, the group created a fund to donate to the Whatcom Land Trust in memory of the death of a loved one among the membership.

The group also became a valuable resource for its members. Members old and new were soon helping each other locate doctors, chimney sweeps, and Thai restaurants. Not surprisingly, the Walking Friends’ numbers began to increase and now record keeping has gone high tech. The schedule is maintained electronically. And this year the group agreed that each member would contribute $10 to the Whatcom Land Trust.

Not surprisingly, some not content to walk just three days a week have formed the Bellingham Walking Friends and have added a Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday option that starts a little later and walks a little slower. But the goal is the same: namely, an opportunity to spend quality time together as we enjoy the wonderful and plentiful trails our city has to offer, many thanks to the work of the Whatcom Land Trust. As Lynn has often observed, “It’s always been just as much about the talking as the walking.”

Eagle Preserve Work Party

Sixteen volunteers enjoyed a sunny Saturday of service at the North Fork Eagle Preserve on February 21. Most of the participants were members of Western Washington University’s chapter of Beta Alpha Psi, an honorary organization for financial information students and professionals. Beta Alpha Psi gives recognition to scholastic and professional excellence and encourages service and public responsibility.

Tasks at the work party included removing blackberry brambles and hauling away debris from the preserve. Sledge hammers and pry-bars were needed to dismantle an old stove and break apart a cast iron bathtub that had been abandoned on the property. Thanks to everyone who participated, and thank you to the ReStore for loaning us the deconstruction tools that we used at the work party.
Local Printers Support WLT Multiple Ways

The Land Trust has a variety of businesses that support our work in numerous fashions. We receive donated services, discounted product pricing, employee work parties, and generous financial contributions. In this Business Partner spotlight we wish to focus on a particular segment of the business community, the printers that not only assist us greatly, but go out of their way to insure we are engaging in the best environmental practices and also saving money—which in turn magnifies your donation to WLT.

Copies Now is a second generation family-run printing company serving Whatcom County for the past 17 years. Norman Green, the owner, emphasized that the company is a service-driven operation, seeking ways to provide the customer with what he/she needs at an appropriate cost. “Copies Now keeps abreast of the current graphic design, print and bindery technologies and is constantly developing new tools to shorten delivery times, improve quality and reduce waste.” Norm and his helpful staff also graciously allow us to store our inventory of Whatcom Places II in the company’s large vault.

Lithtex NW has been committed to supporting a wide variety of non-profit organizations across western Washington since its formation in 2002. Scott Wheeler, who served on and provided invaluable advice to our book committee states, “There are so many fantastic organizations in our area that provide services that make the Northwest such a great place to be. We are fortunate to have been strongly supported by this community. Giving back to the community that sustains us is extremely important.” We know we are just one of the non-profit organizations that receive assistance with printed materials for marketing and outreach efforts from LithtexNW.

The same can be said for Premier Graphics; the Land Trust, The Boys & Girls Club, Conservation Northwest, The Nature Conservancy, Whatcom Hospice Foundation, Northwest Youth Services and St. Joseph Hospital Foundation, are just a few of the local and regional non-profits they serve. “For the last 14 years, Premier Graphics has been a proud business partner of the Whatcom Land Trust. As an organization, Premier Graphics takes great pride in assisting local, regional and national non-profit organizations with personal, creative project consultation and special not-for-profit pricing. We look forward to partnering with the Whatcom Land Trust for many more years to help preserve natural places in Whatcom County,” writes Tegan Cutler. Premier Graphics also provided us with some much-needed shelving when we moved into our new office last year.

If you have seen our bright and colorful float at any of the local parades you are looking at the handiwork of Applied Digital Imaging. A.D.I. started in 1987 as Steve’s Blueprinting, Inc., and is owned by Steve and Donna Edquist. Donna points out that, “Over the course of time we have developed solid relationships with many local businesses and non-profits. We understand the valuable services local non-profits provide in our community and have worked hard to help them be successful. There have been times when we have been overwhelmed with requests from very worthy organizations and we have had to sit down and focus on what are the most important issues to us. We certainly give discounts to non-profits across the spectrum but there are a few that we work very closely with. Steve and I have enjoyed working with the Boys and Girls Club, the Whatcom Hospice Foundation, Sustainable Connections, Whatcom Land Trust, Bellingham Food Bank, and Bellingham Bay Rotary, to name a few. We feel that it is our responsibility as good citizens in this community to provide a safe and sustainable place to work and to give back to our local community.”

You will find all of these businesses, and perhaps most importantly, their employees, engaged in our community and supporting organizations in numerous ways. For that we are grateful and encourage you to support their businesses in these challenging economic times.

To learn more how your business can become a Business Partner of Whatcom Land Trust please contact the office at 650-9470.
Looking west toward Lummi Island, wetlands in the Lummi Delta await restoration.

1880's, interpreting the geomorphic history of the delta, and employing state of the art remote sensing and expert wetland assessments. From this research LNR fashioned a plan to restore the Lummi Delta to a functioning salt water estuary. In March 2007 LNR was awarded a grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Department of Ecology’s Shorelands and Environmental Assistance Program to implement this vision. The goal of the project is to permanently preserve and restore 246 acres of Nooksack River estuarine wetlands and restore tidal hydrology and fish access to 7.35 miles of slough and 38 acres of palustrine (marshy) wetland habitats. The project includes restoring estuary sloughs that were filled to create farmland, removal of culverts blocking fish passage, replanting of native trees and shrubs, and even removal of some seawall dikes to allow salt water to once again inundate the delta.

LNR initiated the project in the fall of 2008 with the purchase of 40 acres of vacant pasture and former hybrid-poplar plantation adjacent to the Lummi River. As their partner in the project, Whatcom Land Trust holds a conservation easement over the property. The project is complicated by Federal jurisdiction over tribal lands on the reservation and the always-present challenge of restoring natural ecological functions in a highly altered landscape. Whatcom Land Trust is proud to partner with the Lummi Nation in this historic and ground-breaking salmon restoration project.

The restoration of the Nooksack River’s estuarine habitats is a critical goal in the highly altered Nooksack Watershed.
On The Land

Flooding Affects Properties; Closes Roads

Steve Walker

Whatcom County declared a flood emergency on January 7th to help officials deal with flooded roads and mudslides caused by several days of heavy rain.

Water over the roadway closed both Highway 9 and the Mount Baker Highway. Mudslides hit homes and Bellingham’s Auto Row on Iowa Street was under water for several days.

The January flooding impacted some WLT preserves and easements. A hillside slid on the Kenney Creek Eagle Roost Conservation Easement and Bell Creek overtopped its banks and scattered debris on the Bell Creek Preserve. Most significantly, the road to Canyon Lake Community Forest was damaged in several places. This is particularly unfortunate, given that the road had reopened just last August after repairs of the damage that occurred in October of 2006. It is uncertain when public access to the Forest will be restored.

Photos: Whatcom County Parks

Damaged sections of the Canyon Lake Community Forest access road.

Earthquake Research in the Nooksak Valley

With permission from Whatcom Land Trust, a team of earthquake researchers, led by Dr. Jackie Caplan-Auerbach, buried a seismometer on the Racehorse Creek Preserve last year. The greater Nooksack River confluence area, where the Racehorse Creek Preserve is located, is among the most seismically active regions of Whatcom County. In the past 20 years, over 220 earthquakes, including a magnitude 5.2 event in 1990, have been recorded there by the Pacific NW Seismic Network. However, because there were few seismometers in the immediate area, smaller earthquakes, with magnitudes less than 1, often went undetected. Thus, to better understand the reasons for the elevated level of seismic activity surrounding Deming, researchers at Western Washington University deployed a temporary network of seismometers surrounding the locale. They hope that their data, when combined with the long-term earthquake catalogue collected by the permanent regional seismic network, will illuminate some of the processes at work in the crust that underlies the Nooksack confluence vicinity.

During the study, a large number of microearthquakes were identified on the WWU instruments. These quakes were too small to be detected by the regional network. The process of locating and analyzing these earthquakes is still underway, but WWU researchers are excited to see if the data help delineate the locations of regional faults. The data may also provide insight into crustal stresses in the area.
Dr. Caplan-Auerbach, assistant professor of geophysics at WWU, is a seismologist whose research has focused largely on volcanic earthquakes and the seismic signals associated with ice avalanches. Landslides and avalanches produce a seismic signal that is easily distinguished from the groundshaking produced by earthquakes. The avalanches that the professor studies are unusual in that they also exhibit a sequence of signals prior to failure—they give warning before the avalanche occurs.

Prior to arriving at WWU in 2006, Caplan-Auerbach spent five years monitoring active volcanoes with the Alaska Volcano Observatory. This project represents one of her first forays into the seismology of the Pacific NW.

WWU seismologist Dr. Jackie Caplan-Auerbach waits for data from a seismometer buried several feet below ground to record groundshaking in earthquakes. This instrument was part of a small network deployed to investigate earthquakes in the Deming region.

Photo Steve Walker

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Tours & Events

Emergence of Spring at Edfro Creek
Saturday, April 4 10:00am – 1:00pm Limit: 12
Leader: Doug Huddle

The salmonberry begins to cover the forest floor, bleeding hearts emerge, the trail is wet, but all around are signs of spring! Join Doug Huddle for a moderately strenuous hike through this relatively remote area of the South Fork of the Nooksack River. Doug’s passion for the outdoors is contagious, and he is particularly inspired by this area in the spring months.

Comfortable, waterproof footwear at least calf high is necessary. Walking sticks and good gloves are encouraged. Bring a sack lunch and water.

Forestry of WLT’s Steiner Property
Saturday, April 18 11:30am–1:30pm Limit: 15
Leader: Kate Odneal

Come explore this 230-acre forest near Glacier purchased by Whatcom Land Trust in 2007. Kate Odneal, a specialist in forestry planning, will take us on a hike along the North Fork of the Nooksack River that begins with a scramble along a dry river bank. We’ll see very large spruce trees and Chinook salmon habitat, and identify native vegetation. Bring a sack lunch and water and dress for the possibility of inclement weather.

The Grand Opening of Point Whitehorn Park
Monday, May 25 (Memorial Day)
11:00am–1:30pm

The official opening of this beautiful park is an event not to be missed! The ceremonies will begin at 11:00 with a brief presentation by County Executive Pete Kremen and representatives of Whatcom Land Trust. The group will then enjoy the ¾-mile trail through the wooded wetlands to the scenic overlooks and down to the beach. A 2.8-foot tide will allow visitors to experience the sea life that is often hidden from view. Local specialists in marine life will be available to provide information. This is an event the whole family will enjoy!

To get to Point Whitehorn, take Grandview Road west, past the refinery. Grandview Road eventually takes a 90-degree turn to the left and becomes Koehn Road. Follow Koehn Road about mile. The park entrance is on the left.

1st Anniversary Celebration and Naturalist Tour at Lily Point
Saturday, April 18 10:00am Limit: None
Leader: Point Roberts Coven and Ben VanBuskirk, Whatcom County Park Ranger

The Point Roberts Coven (activists integral in fundraising at Point Roberts to preserve Lily Point), and County Parks Ranger, Ben VanBuskirk, will lead visitors along the bluffs and beaches at Lily Point. Come celebrate the first year of preservation of this phenomenal area. No registration necessary. Carpooling encouraged. Meet at the kiosk at the end of APA Road.

Neotropical Birds at Stimpson Family Nature Reserve
Saturday, April 25 10am–1:00pm Limit: 15
Leaders: Paul Woodcock and Tom Pratum 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 Paul Woodcock and Tom Pratum of the North Cascades Audubon Society for a survey of neotropical birds at Stimpson Family Nature Reserve.

Animal Tracking at Rutsatz
Saturday, May 16 10am–1:00pm Limit: 15
Leader: John McLaughlin

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 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. This year’s tour is being held on WLT’s Rutsatz property on the North Fork of the Nooksack River.

Junior Stewards Program Kickoff
Friday, June 26 3:30pm
Bloedel Donovan Multi-Purpose Room
Featuring the Sardis Wildlife Center “Hunters of the Sky” Program

This free event is the beginning of Whatcom Land Trust’s summer environmental education program. Children will receive their booklet for self-guided tours and activities to complete during the summer.
many people seek out this region for various reasons. Some seek financial wealth in its natural resources, some seek adventure, and others its beauty. Regardless of why people come to the C2C, it is clear there are continuing pressures on the natural fabric of the region that makes it special to so many. The C2C region is at a crossroads. In the face of a rapidly growing human population, the region is poised to become a region like so many parts of the U.S. where humans have totally transformed a landscape at the expense of natural systems. This ultimately leads to degradation of the green infrastructure needed to support human enterprise. Without a concerted effort to control the permanent conversion of the natural landscapes in the region but also restore areas damaged by years of abuse, the natural beauty and richness that attracts people to the C2C region and the hope for ecological sustainability will be lost.

The C2C region, which is approximately 350,000 acres, is one of the last remaining places in the Puget Lowland Forests ecoregion where the combination of forests and open space stretches from the ocean to the Cascade Mountains. A satellite view of the region acquired in 2000 shows how rare it is to have forestlands relatively connected from the Cascades to the ocean. All other natural connections have been severely disrupted by sprawling urban areas such as Seattle and Tacoma or widespread agricultural development.

Although heavily impacted by logging and agriculture and limited urban development, the C2C region still contains substantial unconverted land containing many conservation values. It is also one of the few places where enough intact ecosystems are still available for which a comprehensive conservation strategy can be developed. With the proper mix of further land and water protection, progressive forest stewardship, and restoration, the C2C region could become one of the most important conservation anchors for northwestern Washington.

Terry Tempest Williams

"O what a beautiful tragedy!" Those were the words spoken by Terry Tempest Williams' adopted African son when he experienced a blizzard upon arriving in Utah.

Terry Tempest Williams spent an evening eloquently describing the beautiful tragedies she has observed in her life to 450 people who gathered at the First Congregational Church on January 26th. With both integrity and at times, a sense of humor, she creatively articulated her concern for things great and small, human and inhumane, beautiful and underappreciated. She made a compelling argument that people are hungry for some sort of ecological, biological literacy in order to know where they live and with whom they live.

"I'm not an advocate for getting people angry, but I am an advocate for creating situations that allow people to perhaps widen their horizons and think about the world differently. I'm not one for playing it safe; it is a balance. How do we make these linkages? How do we make these unexpected connections? In so doing, we create a community that perhaps wasn't there before."

The Land Trust owes a great deal of thanks to Chuck and Dee Robinson and all of the staff at Village Books, Donna and Monte McAllister for providing Ms. Williams lodging, Lynn & Fred Berman and staff at Pastazza, Eugene & Margarita Vartanyan of Vartanyan Winery, and volunteers Jenni Hahn, Kate Odneal, Carolyn Kincaid, Mary Durbrow, Deborah Dempsey, Connie and Paul Clement, and Kerri Love. The evening was videotaped. If you were unable to attend the event, there is currently an effort underway to broadcast the lecture on BTV10.
Our 9th Great Outdoors Auction

Save May 2nd!

Save the date and help us celebrate! Circle Saturday May 2nd on your calendar because the Great Outdoors Auction 2009 is taking center stage that day! Plan on joining us as we commemorate our 25th anniversary with a Silver Celebration. You will find your friends and neighbors actively bidding on great things to do in the great outdoors, mingling over the silent auction items, enjoying a delicious meal, and bidding up the Best of the Live Auction! Vacation cabin stays, outdoor adventures, fine food and wine, outdoor gear, and exquisite artwork are just a few of the things to be found at the auction. The function begins at 5 pm at the Lakeway Inn. Look for your invitation to the 2009 Great Outdoors Auction to arrive in the mail soon. You won't want to miss it!

Are You Dessert Proficient? We Want You!

Do you make a special dessert that “turns heads,” “whets the appetite,” or is “to die for”? If so, please consider creating a dessert for the WLT auction. Our stunning array of desserts is an auction tradition which continues to reach new levels of sweet decadence each year. The proceeds from the dessert auction provide a significant fraction of the overall earnings. Please consider helping the WLT by donating your culinary and confectionary skills. For more details, contact Carol Rondello at 734-6201 or crondello@comcast.net

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A quiet force and kindly presence can create lasting legacies. We at the Whatcom Land Trust are grateful to Mark Anderson for his love of Whatcom County and for contributing his expertise in rural lands and real estate over the past eight years.

Mark’s professionalism has served Whatcom Land Trust well. As a board member, he has been instrumental in helping inform land owners of the unique opportunities conservation easements and land donations provide to both individual property owners and communities.

Mark’s passion for the history of Whatcom County places and his eye toward the practical has assisted Whatcom Land Trust in achieving several acquisitions and easements, including important creek-side properties and wetlands such as the Harrison property along Kendall Creek and the Bayes property. Mark and Ellie Anderson also donated land at the Forks of the Nooksack to WLT in 2002.

As a foothills resident, it has been a pleasure to watch Mark’s practicality and vision at work. He has created a landmark of good taste and purpose at the Mark Anderson Land and Escrow Company’s office on Lawrence Road, near Nugent’s Corner. Over the past 20 years, the land there has been involved in one of the Northwest’s epic battles—BLACKBERRIES. Mark’s approach of a steady hand, occasional pigs, a riding lawn mower, and minimal spray has prevailed. The outcome of this long view and patient approach is a commercial pocket of services and jobs tastefully placed in an historic crossroad.

Mark’s passion for preserving the special lands of Whatcom County has been the backbone of his participation in Whatcom Land Trust. In his view, “It is critical in this moment in our community history that we do this work.” “Mark has provided sound, rational counsel on Whatcom Land Trust transactions over the years,” shared Gordon Scott. As Whatcom Land Trust moves forward, we will draw from Mark’s patient and practical approach. We hope to deepen our engagement with rural and urban landowners and the real estate community that serves them, to make sure they understand the unique opportunity they have to create new legacies and purposeful partnerships.

Mark has demonstrated that you can do well in business and serve the community’s well-being through easements and donations of land and real estate transaction fees. Mark has helped Whatcom Land Trust deepen its understanding of how together we can create mutual benefit and support the preservation of Whatcom County’s special places.
Whatcom Land Trust • By the Numbers

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

- Total Acres ............................................................. 9,775
- Miles of Riverfront .................................................. 22.5
- Miles of Salt Water Shoreline ..................................... 7.5
- Public Parks Created ................................................... 13

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 ($35 min.)
- Make a donation $ ______
- Find out more
- Help with ______________________

Name ________________________________
Address __________________________________________________________________
City / Zip __________________________________ Phone _____________________________
e-mail ________________________________________________________________

☐ check enclosed Bill my: ☐ VISA ☐ MC # __________________________ Expires: __________

Your Signature _____________________________

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

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Samish River Preserve Adds Two New Properties

In September 2008, Whatcom Land Trust acquired 62 acres of forest land from Duane Vander Yacht. The property is along the Samish River in Whatcom County near Wickersham. This acquisition complements an additional bargain sale of 7.8 acres from Piyush Swami completed in August. These properties contain numerous wildlife and are an important addition to critical habitat linkages within the Cascades to Chuckanuts (C2C) corridor. The primary long-term objectives identified in C2C are to protect and restore one of Western Washington’s most intact lowland forest ecosystems, and provide ecosystem connectivity and diverse habitat linkages from the North Cascades west to the Chuckanut Mountains and the marine coast south of Bellingham. Linking and restoring these fragmented ecosystems will provide direct benefits to at least 27 listed and sensitive species of wildlife. The Upper Samish River headwaters contain a large complex of forest, open marsh wetlands, and small tributary streams that support multiple fish species. Migratory birds in the Pacific Flyway utilize the wetlands for resting, feeding, nesting, and rearing. The Samish River and its many small tributary streams support coho, chum, winter steelhead, and both resident and sea-run cutthroat. The project area is an intersection of the C2C planning areas that serve to bind together ecosystems; its preservation will alleviate landscape fragmentation.

Swami Property

Piyush Swami received his property from a close friend in the 1980s while he was a student at Western Washington University. Later, while he was a professor at...
**New Interns Helping Whatcom Land Trust**

Carolyn Kinkade grew up in a small farming community in Washington’s Columbia Basin. She moved to the Wenatchee Valley in 1994 and continued working in the travel industry. In 2007, she graduated from Wenatchee Valley Community College and moved to Bellingham to earn her Bachelor of Arts degree in Geography at WWU. She is currently fulfilling her internship requirement with Whatcom Land Trust.

Kate Odneal is doing field work for WLT through the winter. Kate has five seasons’ experience with forest stand surveys as an employee of the U.S. Forest Service, and will work to complete tree and understory vegetation analyses on several WLT properties and easements.

One project the interns are assisting Whatcom Land Trust with is a beta version of a National Geographic project. Currently being developed under the name LandScope. The project is a web-based dynamic atlas that locates nearly any place on Earth, then provides photographic, historical, weather, population, and other maps of the spot. National Geographic is working with land trusts in 5 states on the project; WLT hopes to feature local conservation and photography on the site.

**Thank You to Point Whitehorn Work Party**

On October 10th and 11th volunteers from the BP Refinery, REI and park neighbors worked at Point Whitehorn planting trees and shrubs.

Thank you to all of the generous volunteers who helped prepare the park for opening.

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**The Lily Point Coven**

“The main goal was to ensure our community feel strongly that they had a hand in this great feat... donating our efforts was a great way to show that these incredible native landscapes are important today and for generations to come.” —Carol Fuegi

The preservation of Lily Point was a hands-across-the-border project that involved a number of conservation groups and naturalist societies. We wish to focus this Volunteer Spotlight on a group of activists who brought a tremendous amount of enthusiasm to the project. In the Land Trust office, we referred to this energetic group as the Friends of Lily Point but they informally refer to themselves as the Lily Point Coven. Samantha Scholefield, one of the ringleaders of the group proclaims, “We bring a wicked sense of humour, irreverence, and a touch of magic wherever we pop up!”

Originally motivated by an email from a Canadian friend, this small but dedicated group of local residents actively campaigned to raise awareness about the urgency of last minute financing for the purchase of the environmentally unique Lily Point located on Point Roberts. What started as a single challenge among friends and family to match a $200 donation quickly grew into a community-wide appeal. Within hours, the original donation was matched and the challenge was on. A core leadership group of Maureen Buckley, Julie and George Iddon, Carol

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**Volunteer Profile**

The Lily Point Coven

Members of Lily Point Coven gather near the cemetery gate to raise funds and awareness of the preservation project. L to R: George Iddon, Samantha Scholefield & Julie Iddon.

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Fuegi, and Samantha formed and began reaching out to people all over the Point and lower mainland British Columbia.

Carol stated that “The main goal was to ensure that our community feel strongly that they had a hand in this great feat. We felt that donating our efforts was a great way to show that these incredible native landscapes are important today and for generations to come.” The group organized an awareness campaign that included door-to-door promotion in Point Roberts, four Sundays at the entrance to Lily Point, flyers, posters, and advertising. They put together a media awareness campaign that resulted in the Lily Point story being covered in the All Points Bulletin, The Delta Optimist, The Delta Leader, and on-camera interviews on Delta Cable. The culmination of the fundraising was a walk and “Eco-Tour” designed to encourage the public’s support for turning this spectacular site into public parkland and an ecologically protected heritage site. Whatcom County Parks and Land Trust staff were on hand to take over 100 members of the general public through an exploration of the history of the Lily Point landscape, the native plants, marine, bird, and animal residents, and the future vision for the park.

“We asked people to tell us stories about Lily Point,” says group member Julie Iddon. “While we manned the gate on the weekends providing information on the project, we met a couple who had their first date at Lily Point, another couple who were married on the beach, and a man who just celebrated his 80th birthday accompanied by his family from around the world and his dog Tiggy! And the long-time residents of the Point have such vivid recollections. We discovered it really is a special place.”

The group is quick to point out the efforts and give credit to a number of folks who were involved in a variety of ways and over a long period of time. “We helped, but more importantly, the whole community joined in,” said Samantha. She continued, “With all of the Trust’s work, Lily Point can now make the transition to parkland and we are thankful to everyone who stepped up to help make this extraordinary opportunity a reality.”

Lily Point is now open to the public and there is never a bad time to spend a day visiting it and the other county parks in the area. If you visit in July, be sure to take in the Point Roberts Garden Tour; there is a distinct possibility you will visit a garden of one of the members of the Lily Point Coven—be on the alert for whatever magic their green thumbs conjure up!

New Board Member, Simi Jain

Simi Jain moved to Whatcom County in 2005. She was raised in Albany, NY and graduated with a B.A. in government and environmental studies from Bowdoin College in Maine. A love for the water and mountains brought her to Seattle after college where she worked for a media consulting non-profit organization which focused on northwest environmental issues. It was during this time that she learned she wanted to work on environmental legal issues and returned to New England to attend Vermont Law School. There she earned her J.D. and Masters in Environmental Law. Simi is a local attorney practicing in the areas of land use, municipal, real estate, and environmental law at Zender Thurston, P.S. in Bellingham. She enjoys reading, skiing, hiking and running on the many trails around Whatcom County. Simi is looking forward to helping WLT in its efforts to preserve this community’s diverse and precious lands.
Point Whitehorn Marine Reserve is Open!

Whatcom Land Trust has completed the development of the 54-acre Point Whitehorn Marine Reserve, which has 1,900 feet of saltwater shoreline.

Whatcom County purchased the property for $375,000. A REI grant from their REI-Gives program was combined with generous support from Cloud Mountain Farm to purchase and plant trees and bushes throughout the reserve. SouthFork Construction built the trail and donated a bench. British Petroleum, a neighbor to the reserve, gave financial support and HB Hansen was general contractor for construction. We appreciate everyone's support and cooperation to bring this remarkable marine reserve to the public. A grand opening and dedication is planned for spring.

The ¾-mile trail is barrier-free and leads to four stunning viewpoints overlooking the Strait of Georgia. A hiker-only trail leads to the beach. Please leave your pets at home.

Memorial Bench for Carl Batchelor

"There are some who can live without wild things, and some who cannot." —Aldo Leopold

Honoring Carl Batchelor, conservationist, Planner and Whatcom Land Trust board member. He cared for the land.

The text above, installed near a bench in one of the viewpoints at Point Whitehorn, will help us remember the contributions Carl made to conservation in Whatcom County. In his work for the Whatcom County Planning Department, as a board member of Whatcom Land Trust, and as a property owner in the Lake Whatcom watershed, Carl cared for the land and helped others do the same.

If you would like to honor Carl's effort, please consider making a bench contribution to Whatcom Land Trust in his memory.
Motivations for Preservation

Whatcom Land Trust is privileged to meet countless people who have a deep regard for the land. This land may be a working farm in our fertile agricultural area, a marine shoreline on Puget Sound, or a quiet, shaded riverbed in the forested uplands of the Nooksack River. The 9,700+ acres of preserved land in Whatcom County are equally as diverse as the Whatcom Land Trust supporters who work with us to create a precious legacy—lands preserved in perpetuity. Together, we share an awesome responsibility sustained by personal, and often private, motivations and reverence for the land.

Take for instance Whatcom Land Trust’s recent conservation project—preservation of 90 acres of forested bluff and 40 acres of tidelands at Lily Point. This project in Point Roberts, WA, was truly a collaborative enterprise involving enthusiastic participation from people on both sides of the border. Samantha Scholefield shared what motivated her to serve as a volunteer: “When I saw that my simple email pledge multiplied a personal donation by 5 in the first evening after circulation, I knew I had to make sure people were informed about this amazing opportunity to preserve the character of Point Roberts. With the help of friends, we hosted a walk of the area raising $5,000 and a lot of awareness. We continued to greet visitors on those cold spring mornings to let them know about the opportunity at hand. We got so much out of the experience, such as meeting a regular walker in the area out celebrating his 80th birthday with family and friends visiting from all over the world. Or the two teenage visitors who emptied their pockets, eager to chip in.” Samantha’s initiative, positive spirit, and skill proved indispensable in honoring guests at the Lily Point Dedication Ceremony. At Whatcom Land Trust, we rely on the good company of an unlikely cast of collaborators. While our walks in life vary, we leverage a common regard for the land as the springboard for land preservation activities in Whatcom County. For some, this motivation may arise from a personal connection with a specific place in Whatcom County. For others, the impetus may arise from the need to preserve a few wild places to remind us of what quiet really feels like. We’d like to hear about what motivates you.

In the coming issues of the Steward, we will share the stories and quiet hopes of Whatcom Land Trust supporters.

Beautiful Picture Books Support Local Land Protection Efforts

Whatcom Places now has a new soul-mate, a partner, a sister to the south: Natural Skagit: A Journey from Mountains to the Sea. Released in hard and soft cover on November 13th by the Skagit Land Trust, this 126-page book excels in every aspect. Pictures, of course, tell a story that cannot be conveyed with words, yet the Foreword by Tom Robbins and Epilogue by Bill Dietrich come close. The Lee Mann photos alone are worth the price of this book.

Unlike Whatcom Places, the Skagit story follows the third largest river on the U.S. Pacific Coast downstream from North Cascade snowfields to the brine of the Salish Sea, its course flowing past a mix of loggers, farmers, artists, fishers, small hamlets, cities, Indian tribes, nature-lovers and dedicated conservationists. “A river runs through it,” as Norman McLean and Robbins have written. Everywhere on earth rivers tell the stories of the land.

We congratulate project leader Renata Hoyle Maybruck and her large army of volunteers who have produced a powerful tool for protecting Skagit’s unique natural heritage. There will be a reading from Natural Skagit: A Journey from Mountains to the Sea on December 10 at 7pm at Village Books in Fairhaven.

printed with vegetable-based inks on recycled paper Winter 2008/2009 - page 5
Partner Spotlight

North Cascades Audubon volunteers are helping conduct bird surveys on Whatcom Land Trust properties. For example, over fifty bird species were identified on the Innis Creek property this past summer. The photo to the right shows NCA members Tom Pratum, Paul Woodcock, and Lila Emmer who helped with the survey.

Vander Yacht Property

Duane Vander Yacht purchased property along Innis Creek Road as a woodlot around 30 years ago. Several times he considered harvesting the timber, but never got around to it. Over the years, Duane was approached by several different people who were interested in buying the land, but he never completed a transaction. The land sat and the trees grew. The property will be permanently set aside to provide clean water and wildlife habitat. Duane Vander Yacht agreed to sell his 62 acres of mature forested wetlands, marsh, bogs, and Samish River frontage for appraised fair market value. The acquisition of this intact site is a critical component to building a larger Samish River Preserve.

Please support Whatcom Land Trust as we continue our effort to protect this important habitat linkage and apply for grant funding to expand on these successes. Whatcom Land Trust continues to work throughout Whatcom County to protect special wildlife habitat and working landscapes.

photos: Eric Carabba

Upper left: Vine maples on the Swami property.
Left: WLT board member Rand Jack examines pristine forested wetlands on the Vander Yacht property.
Aerial view of the Samish River Preserve. Protected properties are forested areas in the right foreground.

Agricultural Preservation and the Protection of Working Landscapes

Whatcom Land Trust is a partner with Whatcom County for the purchase of development rights on farmland. The County recently completed the purchase of development rights on three more farms for a total of eleven projects protecting 610 acres.

Additionally, we are working with Farm Friends to promote voluntary conservation of farmland. There are currently excellent tax incentives for qualified farmers and ranchers when they donate conservation easements. Working forests can be protected just like farms. Essentially, development is limited while the use of these lands for growing crops and harvesting resources continues.

Farm Friends, financial advisors, and Whatcom Land Trust recently hosted a luncheon to provide information about conservation easements, financial planning, and potential tax incentives for voluntary conservation.

Lake Whatcom Watershed

In October, the Whatcom County Council (by a vote of 4 to 3) approved the reconveyance of approximately 8000 acres in the Lake Whatcom Watershed. It will take approximately two years to complete the reconveyance. Whatcom Land Trust will work to ensure long-term protection of this land through a conservation easement.

Whatcom Land Trust is working with the City of Bellingham to protect properties acquired for watershed protection like Three Creeks Preserve and Agate Bay Preserve. Whatcom Land Trust holds conservation easements that restrict future uses of such properties with the purpose of protecting water quality in Lake Whatcom.

Salmon Recovery

Whatcom Land Trust is a partner with Nooksack Salmon Recovery team working to protect and restore critical salmon habitat along the Nooksack River. WLT is currently working on land acquisitions on the South Fork and the North Fork of the Nooksack River. Since 1984, WLT has protected some 22 miles of riverfront.

Puget Sound Partnership

The Puget Sound Partnership is developing an Action Agenda: Our Roadmap to Restoring the Sound. Across the Puget Sound region, the Puget Sound Partnership is mobilizing communities, agencies, and organizations to work together to create a comprehensive Action Agenda to restore Puget Sound.
Great Outdoors Auction 2009

Circle Saturday May 2nd on your calendar because the Great Outdoors Auction 2009 takes center stage that day! Plan on joining us as we commemorate our 25th anniversary with a Silver Celebration. The function begins at 5 pm at the Lakeway Inn and you won't want to miss it. You will find your friends and neighbors mingling over the silent auction items, enjoying a delicious meal, and bidding up the Best of the Live Auction! Trips, excursions, and outdoor gear will be auctioned. A great time will be had by all. Save the date and help us celebrate!

New Year’s Day Eagle Tour

New Year’s Day—a day to recover from late night celebrations, to watch football in a stuffy room while eating high-fat foods and yelling at the television, OR a day to go outside. Yes, outside where beautiful evergreens put things back in perspective, where it’s quiet except for the sounds of birds or water, where open space invites the mind to ponder past and future... Ah...!

This New Year’s Day, would you like to go outside with us? Once again, Doug Huddle will share his wildlife expertise by leading the New Year’s Day Eagle Tour. You will visit a popular eagle fishing site protected by Whatcom Land Trust. Learn about the local recovery of this endangered species and of current threats to its food source. See local places where eagles roost and watch the birds in action! The tour begins at 1:30 pm. Call the office to register, 650-9470.

Tax-Free Giving from your IRA

For older donors and nonprofits that rely on their generosity, a glimmer of good news emerged from October’s economic turmoil: Congress extended the IRA charitable rollover as part of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008. The newly extended IRA rollover provision permits you to use your IRA to help accomplish your philanthropic goals with no federal tax impact. If you are 70 1/2 or older, you may make a gift of up to $100,000 to Whatcom Land Trust or our endowment fund held at Whatcom Community Foundation from your IRA with no federal income tax impact, and your gift will be counted toward your required minimum distribution. To obtain this benefit, you must instruct your IRA administrator to transfer funds directly to Whatcom Land Trust or the Community Foundation. If you withdraw the funds from the IRA first and then contribute them to the trust/foundation, you will lose the tax benefit.

Annual Appeal for Support Is Vital

By now you should have received our annual appeal letter. Your support is vital to the success of this organization. We devote a great deal of time and effort to securing multiple sources of funding for conservation projects. We strive to see that your investments are not only stretched to the limit, but are matched or increased whenever possible. We come to our supporters but once a year to ask for organizational donations. Please take the time to return your envelope today. You may also make a safe and secure donation through our website.

Business Partner Breakfast

Our Business Partner breakfast takes place at Boundary Bay Brewery & Bistro Tuesday December 9th at 7:30 am. If you are interested in how your business might partner with Whatcom Land Trust to preserve the best of Whatcom places, please contact the office at 650-9470.
Come help us begin our Silver Anniversary with one of America’s most eloquent voices for the cause of conservation! Renowned author Terry Tempest Williams comes to Bellingham on Monday, January 26, to talk about her latest book, *Finding Beauty in a Broken World*. The event begins a year-long celebration of Whatcom Land Trust’s 25th anniversary. Ms. Williams, who recently packed the main auditorium at Benaroya Hall in Seattle, will be at the First Congregational Church, 2401 Cornwall Avenue, at 7 pm that evening. A special opportunity for Land Trust supporters exists as a limited number of seats are reserved for those wishing to attend both a pre-event reception with the author at the Roeder Home and the reading.

Terry Tempest Williams over the course of her life has focused on land stewardship. She has a love of the desert environment and other naturally beautiful places, and has opposed resource destruction, especially when affecting human health. She has long been an advocate of land trusts. In an interview in 2003 she stated: “Democracy requires our participation. The land trust movement in this country is a beautiful example of how we can find hope within our own communities because it bypasses government and creates a diverse and truly bipartisan conversation on behalf of the land.”

A former naturalist-in-residence at the Utah Museum of Natural History, Williams is perhaps best known for her book *Refuge: An Unnatural History of Family and Place* (Pantheon, 1991) in which she chronicles the epic rise of Great Salt Lake and the flooding of the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge in 1983. It relates her mother’s diagnosis with ovarian cancer, believed to be caused by radioactive fallout from the nuclear tests in the Nevada desert in the 1950s and 60s. *Refuge* is now regarded as a classic in American nature writing, a testament to loss and the earth’s healing grace. The author of fifteen books, early reviews of her latest work are suggesting that it may well be her most original, provocative, and eloquently moving book since *Refuge*. The Land Trust is deeply appreciative of the support of Dee & Chuck Robinson and all of the staff at Village Books for making this event happen!

The reception at the Roeder Home with Terry Tempest Williams includes appetizers, beer, wine, light refreshments, and a reserved seat at the Congregational Church. The price is $50.00 and must be purchased from the Land Trust office at 650-9470.

Tickets for the Congregational Church event are $12.50 and are available now at Village Books, 671-2626, and are also available online at Brownpapertickets.com. All proceeds from the presentation will benefit Whatcom Land Trust.
What’s Happening on the Land

WLT has again partnered with Whatcom County Planning to expand agricultural properties under the Purchase of Development Rights program. The new properties under protection total nearly 70 acres. A 39-acre portion of the Tjoelker dairy farm northwest of Lynden is now preserved forever for agricultural use. The other two properties, Bouchard and Bauthues, are adjacent on Loomis Trail Road northeast of Custer. One is currently in restoration for seed potato production and the other contains an extensive hay field.

Tjoelker farm joins over 600 acres of Whatcom county agricultural lands protected by the PDR program.

"Engineered" log jams have been placed along the North Fork of the Nooksack River on portions of the Whatcom Land Trust’s Mt. Baker Baptist complex of riparian properties. The Nooksack Tribe secured funding to construct a series of enormous man-made log jams using pilings that are driven into the riverbed and then interlaced with uprooted trees and enhanced with rocks and organic debris. These structures modify the course of the river and create conditions more favorable to salmon survival.

Man-made log jams will affect the flow of the Nooksack River in ways that will benefit salmon.
Twenty-five volunteers gathered at the Fenton Nature Reserve on Make-A-Difference-Day, October 25th, to clean up debris and remove invasive plants. The Whatcom Volunteer Center, which coordinated events throughout Whatcom County, offered a hearty breakfast to all volunteers before they headed out for several hours of labor for environmental and social service organizations. The volunteers at Fenton included members of the Western Washington University chapter of Beta Alpha Psi, and employees of Starbucks Coffee and Conoco-Phillips. Sunshine and pleasant weather aided volunteers as they battled pesky blackberry brambles. The beautiful 80-acre Fenton Nature Preserve, not yet enhanced with public facilities, was purchased by Whatcom Land Trust in 2006. The property includes an open field, a reservoir, and mature second growth forest.

Looking for a unique gift this holiday season? Whatcom Land Trust has several special ideas. There’s the award-winning Whatcom Places II in paperback ($30) or hard cover ($45), packages of 8 note cards featuring Whatcom County scenes ($8.50), WLT coffee mugs ($12), and WLT tote bags ($12). Of course, you could purchase a gift membership to Whatcom Land Trust for $35. If you’d like to purchase a $45 gift membership, you’ll get a coffee mug or tote bag, too. For a $55 gift membership, you get both! Look for these items on our website, our Allied Arts Holiday Festival booth, or call the office at 650-9470.
Whatcom Land Trust • By the Numbers

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

- Total Acres ............................................................ 9,734
- Miles of Riverfront .................................................. 22.5
- Miles of Salt Water Shoreline ..................................... 7.5
- Public Parks Created ................................................... 14

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 ($35 min.)
- Make a donation $ _____
- Find out more
- Help with ________________

Name ____________________________________________
Address ___________________________________________________________________
City/Zip_____________________________________ Phone ________________________
e-mail __________________________________________

☐ check enclosed Bill my: ☐ VISA ☐ MC # ____________________________ Expires: __________

Your Signature ________________________________

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

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A GLORIOUS DAY AT LILY POINT

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 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’shque” 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 Hillaire, (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 Apr-ii -27. The tour season finale was the Squires Lake hike on May 17th with members of the Squires family.

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.

Land Steward Steve Walker

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.

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

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

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 successfully 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 Nesset 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.

photo: Clara Bryan

Carl and Katy Batchelor hiking in the highlands of Scotland.
Celebrating Lily Point

continued from page one

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.

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 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...
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.

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)

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.

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 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 Experience

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 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,” reported one participant, Barbara Lamb.

Following the flight, participants received a printed aerial photo of the watershed, providing an eye view of the fact that there are connections between communities, fish and the river and water dependent links in the Nooksack watershed. County Council Chair Curt Bawden remarked “The view from above is a fantastic way to show our participants what we work hard to protect.”

The need for community support and increased public awareness is reflected when seen from above. The flight is to provide a unique opportunity for residents to identify places where they can protect and enhance the habitat around us. The work of stewardship in Whatcom Reservoirs is vitally important to protect our shared future.
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 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 vegetation 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.

Participants of a recent flight.
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.

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.

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.

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.

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Another Year of Fun and Fundraising

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 Fridrick 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 Renée 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 Sodi 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 Carrasco. 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.

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.

Thanks to Many Generous Donors

Thanks to Premiere Graphics, Mari-anne 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!

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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 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
- Nesset
- Ladies of the Lake

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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Ph.D., Hydrogeologist
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Whatcom Land Trust

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Point Whitehorn Marine Reserve will be Available Soon

The parking lot is done and trail construction is well underway at the Point Whitehorn Marine Reserve. Sometime this fall, probably in the latter part of October, Point Whitehorn will become Whatcom County's newest park. Though the formal opening festivities will occur in the spring, the property will be available to the public as soon as the trail and supporting facilities are completed.

The 51-acre Point Whitehorn Marine Reserve will provide access to a mile and a half of public beach a short drive from Bellingham. Access to the beach winds through a pristine wooded wetland. We are fortunate to have master trail-builder Russ Pfeiffer-Hoyt exercising special care for the ecology of the area in design and construction of the trail. The juxtaposition of wooded wetlands and marine shoreline will provide a rich glimpse of nature for those who walk quietly with eyes open.

The marine reserve was made possible by a $1,000,000 grant to Whatcom Land Trust by the Washington Department of Ecology from fines levied as a result of the 1999 Whatcom Creek gasoline spill and fire. With this money, the Land Trust purchased shoreline property from B.C. Hydro that is next to the BP refinery. We then traded that property to Trillium for the wooded wetland, a much more ecologically important parcel with substantially better beach access and twice the marine frontage as the B.C. Hydro property. Trillium also provided a use right for a portion of the trail on an adjoining 30 acres.

Once the park infrastructure is complete, the Land Trust will sell the Point Whitehorn Marine Reserve, complete and ready for its first visitor, to the County for $375,000. This allows the Land Trust to recover its acquisition and development costs.

Greater public access to our marine shoreline is a long-standing Whatcom County priority. Now, with the addition of the Lily Point and Point Whitehorn Marine Reserves in the short space of six months, Whatcom Land Trust, in partnership with Whatcom County, the Department of Ecology, and many others, has taken two major strides in addressing that priority.
Many Thanks To Our Volunteers!

This summer WLT had tremendous help with its outreach.

On July 4th, Marcie and Bob Toby, Cynthia Millar, and board member Rod Burton joined staff member Connie Clement at the Blaine Old Fashioned Fourth of July Parade.

On July 5th, Sunshine Rimer, Alice Litton, Terese Van Asche and John Bremer tabled at the Canoe Journey Day at Boulevard Park.

On July 19th, Jean Calhoun and Sharon Souders tabled at the Barkley Village BBQ.

On August 2nd, Carolyn Kincaid, Bernadette Prinster and Cynthia Millar greeted the visitors to the booth at the Bellingham Farmers Market. Bob and Marcy Toby represented WLT at the Senior Day in the park.

Bob Keller and Pat Karlberg took shifts for WLT at the Northwest Washington Fair.

We are so grateful to you all for your work this summer getting the name and mission of Whatcom Land Trust into the community!

If you'd like to volunteer for WLT, contact Connie at connie@whatcomlandtrust.org or 650-9470.

Upcoming Events

Coming up, look for Whatcom Land Trust at the Bellingham Farmers Market, the Southfork Fall Festival, the Multi Faith Alternative Holiday Market at the Bloedel-Donovan Community Room on November 23, and at the Allied Arts Holiday Festival from November 21st to December 24th.

—Adam Nelson, PS & E

There are many businesses that support the Land Trust's work, and Pacific Surveying and Engineering (PS&E) is a prime example of a firm that is committed to our success. Through a combination of in-kind donation of services, auction sponsorship, and cash donations to the Conservation Business Partner program, PS&E has demonstrated consistent and vital support to Whatcom Land Trust's conservation efforts. Their willingness to patiently explain a plan or process to our staff has been invaluable.

The Land Trust is not alone in receiving PS&E's help. It provides support to The Nature Conservancy, The Boys & Girls Clubs of Whatcom County, The Whatcom Humane Society, The Bellingham Food Bank, The Whatcom County YMCA, Junior Achievement of Washington, Lynden High School FFA Chapter, Childhaven, Whatcom Day Academy, The American Cancer Society, The Arthritis Foundation, and The Land Surveyors Association of Washington and its Northwest Chapter. It is obvious that PS&E takes pride in being a part of the vibrant and spectacular region that is Whatcom County. Adam Morrow, one of the five principal partners in the firm notes, "Pacific Surveying and Engineering, through its relationships with local agencies, community organizations, and private clients, is dedicated to achieving the necessary and important balance between responsible growth and the protection of our community resources. It is our continued commitment to our community that makes us strong, and enables our staff, clients and community partnerships to strengthen and grow."

Pacific Surveying and Engineering has become an industry leader in Whatcom County and Western Wash-
PS&E’s focus has been and will always be Whatcom County. While they work throughout the state, it is the projects and relationships in this community that have allowed for their sustained growth. Their commitment to quality, along with a focus on project management and client communication, have certainly been evident to the Land Trust as we have worked with the firm. They in turn have admiration for the goals of the Land Trust. Adam Nelson stated that “Our relationship with Whatcom Land Trust allows us to support the mission of land stewardship and conservation in Whatcom County. We are proud of this involvement and take great satisfaction in knowing that we are protecting our environment and natural resources for our families, for our community, and for the generations to follow.” We are thankful and appreciative of their support.

For information how your business might be involved in the Conservation Business Partner program please contact Jerry at the Land Trust office.

Work Parties Planned

Come join in the fun and get out onto some of the finest places in Whatcom County! Join us for work parties on the following dates:

**Saturday, Oct. 11th**

Spend 4 hours with the team from REI removing the invasive species at Squires Lake.

**Saturday, Oct. 25th**

Celebrate Make a Difference Day working on the Fenton Preserve. We’ve recently invested a great deal of work re-vegetating portions of this lovely 75-acre mid-county parcel. Join our business partner, Starbucks, clearing brush and cleaning up the site — a great way to make a difference and the coffee will be great!

Please check our website for other land stewardship opportunities, or call the office to find out more — and then volunteer!

photo: Eric Carabba

Volunteers from REI and Starbucks removing scotch-broom at the Overby Farmstead on Make a Difference Day in 2006.
In January of 2004, Whatcom Land Trust published the Cascades-to-Chuckanuts Conservation Plan (C2C). Funding for the development of the plan was provided by the Paul G. Allen Forest Protection Foundation. The C2C plan represents a joint effort of the Whatcom Land Trust, Skagit Land Trust, and the North Cascades Corridor Project. The study documents important ecological characteristics of the corridor; identifies lands for acquisition; details findings of the ecological assessment and eco-forestry feasibility analysis. In addition, it provides property lists, maps, photos, potential funding sources, and specific conservation tools and strategies designed to accomplish the larger purpose, that being lowland forest ecosystem conservation at a landscape scale and the building of local and regional support for the overall conservation strategy.

The primary long-term objectives identified in C2C are to protect and restore one of Western Washington’s most intact lowland forest ecosystems, and to provide ecosystem connectivity and diverse habitat linkages from the North Cascades west to the Chuckanut Mountains and the marine coast south of Bellingham. Linking and restoring these fragmented ecosystems will provide direct benefits to at least 27 listed and sensitive species of fish and wildlife. The sheer scale of the C2C effort demanded development of a comprehensive and focused conservation strategy, and we recognized upon completion of the study that we must approach the implementation stage in manageable and reasonable stages.

The Samish River originates on a low divide in Whatcom County, and its tributary, Friday Creek, originates in the hills south of Bellingham. The river continues its southwesterly flow through Skagit County and flows into Samish Bay in Puget Sound. The Upper Samish River drainage contains a large complex of forested and open marsh wetlands, and small tributary streams support multiple fish. Migratory birds in the Pacific Flyway utilize the wetlands for resting, feeding, nesting and rearing. The Samish River and its many small tributary streams support Coho, Chum, winter steelhead, and both resident and sea-run cutthroat. The project area is at the core of the C2C planning areas, the location serving to bind together ecosystems. Its preservation will serve as a means for alleviating landscape fragmentation.

Whatcom Land Trust is working on acquiring fee ownership of several high quality forested and open marsh wetlands along the Samish River. Restoration, enhancement, and protection of habitat on these properties are necessary to support Coho salmon, winter steelhead, and sea-run cutthroat. Enhancement of the wetlands will also benefit waterfowl and migratory birds that utilize these wetlands. Additionally, protection of these wetlands will help to protect water quality in the Samish River and Samish Bay, an important area for shell fish farming.

Understanding that effective partnerships are needed for both leverage and a collaborative systematic approach, Whatcom Land Trust is building partnerships with private landowners, local, state and federal partners, and conservation groups like Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group, Skagit Land Trust, and Ducks Unlimited to put together long-term protection of these important habitat linkages.

Whatcom Land Trust is working on expanding past successes like our Innis Creek Preserve. In November 2004, Whatcom Land Trust acquired 50 acres where Ennis Creek joins the Samish River that enabled Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group to relocate and restore Ennis Creek while Whatcom County Public Works built a new bridge to treat chronic flood damage to the road. Last fall, over 500 Coho salmon passed through the channel to spawn in Ennis Creek. During site visits this summer, we counted thousands of young Coho rearing in the stream, feeding cutthroat trout, kingfishers and great blue herons. The Ennis Creek Restoration project is a great place to get out and view fish and wildlife from the road. Whatcom Land Trust looks forward to expanding these successful restoration, enhancement, and protection efforts with partners in the upper Samish Watershed of Whatcom County.
In conserving their land, private landowners play an important part in preserving America’s clean air, clean water, wildlife habitat, scenic views and our most agriculturally productive land.

Voluntary conservation agreements, also known as conservation easements, can protect working farms and ranches and make it easier for families to leave the land to the next generation. Voluntary conservation agreements give individual landowners a nongovernmental way to conserve natural areas and traditional ways of life that are important to them and their communities.

Whatcom Land Trust is ready to help farmers ensure their land is available for agriculture. Farmers cannot exist without farmland, and farmland cannot exist without economically successful farmers.

Since 1984 Whatcom Land Trust has worked with private landowners to protect over 5,300 acres with 53 different conservation easements.

New Federal Law Gives Fairer Tax Benefit for Voluntary Conservation Agreements

Generous landowners who donate voluntary conservation agreements to Whatcom Land Trust are inspired by many things: they love Whatcom County, they feel connected to their land, and they wish to leave a legacy for future generations. This inspiration is at the heart of our work to permanently protect valuable natural resources. But for almost all of our donors, donating a conservation easement is a major financial decision, and the federal income tax deduction that comes with a donation helps make easements possible for landowners in our community.

Congress recently passed a law extending for two years the tax benefits of protecting private land for many landowners (which had expired at the end of 2007). The legislation improves the tax incentive by allowing conservation easement donors to:

- Deduct up to 50% of their adjusted gross income in any year (up from the previous maximum of 30%);
- Deduct up to 100% of their adjusted gross income if the majority of that income came from farming, ranching or forestry;
- Continue to take deductions for as long as 16 years (up from 6 years).

Congress also passed tighter appraisal standards for such gifts, and stronger penalties for appraisers who violate the standards.

The Land Trust Alliance led a coalition of more than 50 groups in urging Congress to approve this new law. The Alliance is a national organization that sets national standards for conservation organizations like ours, provides training and networking opportunities, and represents the land trust community in Washington, DC. Whatcom Land Trust has been a member of the Alliance for 15 years.

Each day we are touched by the generous and inspired landowners who work with us. The new law will make it easier for others in our community to build on their love of the land and permanently protect Whatcom County.

If you are a farmer and would like to explore options on how to protect your farmland, please contact Eric Carabba (360) 650-9470 at Whatcom Land Trust.

Whatcom County Farm Facts from Farm Friends

- Whatcom County has 148,027 acres of land in farms.
- Agricultural production has a market value of nearly $290 million.
- Approximately 140 dairy farms with an average of a little less than 400 cows and milk production. average of 22,780 lbs/cow or over 14 million gallons of milk per month!
- More than 85% of Washington’s red raspberries are produced in Whatcom County. More than 65% of the U.S. red raspberries are produced in Whatcom County.

WLT works with Whatcom County to protect farmland through purchase of development rights.

Whatcom County’s local government has also demonstrated its commitment to preserving productive agriculture land by purchasing development rights to ensure productive land remains available for agriculture. Whatcom County has recently purchased the development rights from three dairy farms. As of September 2007, the Whatcom County Purchase of Development Rights Program has acquired 69 development rights and preserved approximately 402 farmland acres. The total value of the development rights acquired is $3,285,200. Whatcom Land Trust is a partner with Whatcom County as we co-hold the conservation easement. As a partner, we are responsible for annual monitoring of the property and conservation easement.

Welcome to the process. We are excited and eager to continue to be involved in the preservation of farmland in the county.
Greening of the Lake Whatcom Watershed

During the Depression, Whatcom county, like other counties, foreclosed on timberlands that had been clear-cut and then abandoned by the owners. The State required counties to turn these lands over to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), but gave counties the option of requesting reconveyance of such lands to county ownership for use as parks.

Working with the State Lands Commissioner, County Executive Pete Kremen has begun the process of reconveying from DNR to County ownership a total of 8,400 acres in two large blocks on the east and west side toward the southern end of Lake Whatcom. The next step is approval by the County Council.

Once in a great while a community has the opportunity to take an action that profoundly affects its prosperity and quality of life for many generations to come. Whatcom Land Trust believes that the opportunity to create an 8,400-acre forest reserve park in the Lake Whatcom Watershed on the doorstep of Bellingham is such an opportunity. Plans call for a very low impact park with development limited to 50 miles of trails with supporting facilities located and constructed to minimize impact on water quality. Trailhead parking will be outside the watershed or as far away from Lake Whatcom as possible. The park will be managed to restore the forest to old growth characteristics using the Stimpson Family Nature Reserve as a model. To assure continuing compatibility of the park with its setting in the Lake Whatcom Watershed, it is essential that it be protected with a perpetual conservation easement.

The creation of something extraordinary always has costs. In this case the costs are amazingly small compared to the benefits, a tiny fraction of what it would cost if the land had to be purchased. The transaction cost to the County will be about $300,000, all of which will be paid from the Conservation Futures Fund which is dedicated to acquisition of parks and open space. The $1,000,000 development costs for the park can be spread over ten years and paid for out of dedicated funds and grants. Annual maintenance costs will be between $100,000 and $150,000 a year.

Protecting the drinking water for half the residents of Whatcom County is a major reason to support the new park. Stricter logging rules for the watershed have made a dent in problems associated with commercial forestry in sensitive areas, but they have not solved those problems. At best, the stricter logging rules are untested, unpopular with DNR, and at the mercy of changing political tides. The Lake Whatcom Basin has suffered from landslides in the past, and we know that landslides and other earth disturbances contribute to the sediment and phosphorous in the lake, a chief cause of deteriorating water quality.

Any doubts about the potential impact of logging in the Lake Whatcom Watershed should have been laid to rest by a front page article in the Sunday, July 13, 2008 Seattle Times. Torrential rains in Lewis County in December 2007 resulted in over 730 landslides in the Upper Chehalis basin. “Nearly three quarters (73 percent) of landslides appeared to have started near logging roads or in areas clear-cut in the last 15 years or so.” This occurred despite DNR’s responsibility to restrict logging on unstable slopes. “Weyerhaeuser frequently clear-cut unstable slopes, with scant oversight from state geologists who are supposed to help watchdog the timber industry.” The slides shut down a water treatment plant, burying the intake with mud and triggering $750,000 in repairs. Weyerhaeuser had assured drinking water officials that “they could head off problems with improved logging and road building practices. ‘We told them that we’re going to take good care of that basin,’” said a Weyerhaeuser forester. The December Lewis County rains were highly unusual compared to the past, but may well be an example of things to come. As the Times reported, a recent climate change study by federal scientists “predicted that the warmer world will bring more intense Pacific rainstorms.” If you wish to see the article, this link should get you there: http://seattletimes.nwsource.com/html/localnews/2008048848_loggingl3m.html

We must do everything we can to protect the water quality of Lake Whatcom,
Reconveyance will remove only a relatively small amount of workable forest land from timber production. Under current rules, about half of the reconveyed land is not subject to timber harvest. It is doubtful that a job will be lost or a business significantly affected. Reconveyance is not the place to draw the line for stopping the incremental loss of commercial forests in Whatcom County. Other forces locally and nationally are pinching the timber industry much more severely than this one-time reconveyance event. For instance, the timber industry regularly converts productive forestland to residential development. It is more appropriate to convert timberland for public purposes, such as protecting the lake and creating a park, than for private gain. The Land Trust is concerned that the Mt. Baker School District would lose some revenue due to the proposed reconveyance. We regret the disproportional impact on a school district in a watershed proposed for reconveyance are outlined in color.

A maturing, intact forest would certainly better buffer the lake and control land disturbance and phosphorous loading than an actively managed commercial forest.

Creating an extensive, nearby forest reserve park would significantly contribute to the long-term prosperity of our community. Our population will continue to grow, and outdoor recreation and a green landscape will continue to play a key role in a quality of life closely linked to our economic fortunes.

More and more, talented people and healthy businesses will come here because of the natural environment. The opportunity to establish a large, forested park in close proximity to a growing urban area is rare. We could leave no finer legacy than the prospect that someday children in our community will be able to bicycle to an old growth forest and walk among the majestic trees there. When earlier this year I walked with my new grandson in 6,300-acre Mount Tamalpais State Park 12 miles from San Francisco, I thought about the foresight of the people who long ago set aside that beautiful land. That is the kind of decision that we now have the opportunity to make.

Concern has been expressed about the impact of reconveyance on the logging industry in Whatcom County and on the Mount Baker School District.

An unusual alignment of community concerns and political forces make reconveyance and creation of an old growth forest park at our doorstep a possibility now, one not likely to come again any time soon. Tough economic times make bold initiatives like this more difficult. But we must look past the moment and take a long term perspective. From that vantage point, the decision is obvious. Thirty years from now people will say, “why of course, how could anyone ever have thought otherwise.” We must not let this chance slip away.

Rand Jack
Planning for the Future of the Land

One of the most compelling tasks facing Whatcom Land Trust is to endow future stewardship obligations. Endowments are the pathway to building capacity for our organization to meet its future needs. They provide financial stability during economic fluctuation so that programs and services can continue without disruption. An endowment fund is capital that provides a permanent source of income for the Land Trust. The principal is invested in a disciplined manner and the earnings and investment appreciation are channeled back into the fund. This allows the endowment to grow over time and become a source of long-term support that can be maintained permanently.

A gift to the Whatcom Land Trust Fund, held and managed by the Whatcom Community Foundation, may be part of a thoughtful, comprehensive estate plan that provides a way to complete a lifetime of giving or allows a donor to make a significant gift that was not possible at an earlier stage of life. Such gifts can also provide advantages such as lifetime income to the donor or others while offering certain tax benefits. Planned giving is a way to match a person's passion for conservation and preservation with tax and financial advantages. Planned gifts can be structured in several ways, and vary in size. It is the effect of the gift - the difference it makes - and the philanthropic goal it fulfills for the donor that sets it apart from an annual gift. Below are a few other ways one might choose to support the efforts of the Land Trust:

Bequests

A bequest is a transfer, by will, of property such as cash, securities (stocks), or tangible property to an individual or a charitable organization. For many donors a bequest offers the opportunity to make a gift from a will or living trust without affecting their current financial situation.

Charitable Lead Trust

A charitable lead trust will distribute annual gifts to Whatcom Land Trust for a specified number of years for the purpose you designate. Upon completion of the trust term, the principal is returned to the donor or heirs.

Life Income Agreements

Life income agreements are gifts that provide income for life for designated beneficiaries. Upon termination of the agreement, the Land Trust would use the remaining assets for the purpose you have specified. Donors receive a charitable deduction for the portion of the gift that will ultimately benefit the Land Trust.

Whatcom Artists Studio Tour

In October 2008, 54 of some of Whatcom County’s finest artists will participate in the 14th Annual Whatcom Artists Studio Tour. They will open their studios to the public for two weekends. Whether you are a long time collector or you are just beginning a collection, the tour is a perfect venue to shop for fine art and craft, and to see artists at work. Many artists donate a portion of their proceeds to Whatcom Land Trust. Those artists are indicated on the brochure for the studio tour.

The Tour will take place on October 4 & 5 and 11 & 12 from 10:00 am – 5:00 p.m. Go to www.studiotour.net for more information.

Conservation Lunch and Business Partners Breakfast

Our next Conservation Breakfast will be a Lunch! If you would like to learn more about our conservation efforts, and have an opportunity to network with others who support the conservation and preservation of Whatcom County, then join us at the Conservation Lunch on October 9th.

We are planning breakfast for our Conservation Business Partners for early December, and believe it or not, we have already confirmed the date of the next Great Outdoors Auction on May 2nd, 2009. For more information on how you might attend, or volunteer to help at one of our functions, please call Connie or Jerry at 650-9470.
Many Ways of Giving for Varied Donor Styles

Donors to Whatcom Land Trust give in various ways and with remarkable generosity. Donations of conservation easements, sales of property at less than market value, and the outright gift of property occur throughout the year and are the backbone of our work. Donations of time and services are provided by volunteers and board members. Businesses give as Conservation Business Partners, and are unbelievably generous in support of our auction. But the bulk of our support is provided during our annual appeal sent out in early November each year. Since we limit ourselves by requesting your donations only during the annual appeal, we don’t often get an opportunity to describe other ways of supporting the Land Trust.

Our recent update of the website included the development of a safe and secure online giving portal. In addition, on the website you will find a link to GOODSEARCH, a search engine that allows you to support your favorite nonprofit at no cost to you. You search the internet for a nonprofit and GOODSEARCH donates a penny to WLT. Over the course of a year, the impact of a number of people using the search engine will generate enough income to pay for the website!

We are fortunate to have a number of people who choose to give monthly or through payroll giving, an efficient, and low-cost way for charities to raise funds (compared with fundraising activities) and provide them with the regular income support that they need. To encourage employees to make charitable gifts, many corporations agree to match personal donations with an equal or greater corporate contribution. Donors should check with the appropriate company department to see if a gift qualifies for a corporate match. If the idea of simplifying the donation process… eliminating the need for annual renewal notices… increasing the value of your support… and helping reduce WLT’s administrative costs interests you, then you should consider monthly giving. Similar to other automatic monthly payments you might make for a mortgage or other fixed payments, you can authorize a set amount to be transferred from your checking/savings account or charged to your credit card each month and deposited directly into the Land Trust’s account.

Why monthly donations?
• Automatic donations increase the value of your support by reducing administrative costs in processing your donations.
• Without the need for annual renewal notices, monthly donations help save WLT resources and postage costs.
• You can put your donation to work right away without any mail or processing delays.
• By donating monthly, your tax-deductible donation will be spread throughout the year.

Check out the new website or make a call to the office to explore other ways you can support the Land Trust. Your donations are vital to our shared successes!

Have you heard? John and Stacie Matthews are at it again!

Do you remember back in 2003 when John and Stacie Matthews rode their tandem bicycle from Neah Bay to Bar Harbor, Maine? Along the way, they raised several thousand dollars for the work of Whatcom Land Trust. In the Fall 2003 Steward, John wrote, “Stacie and I have experienced an adventure that will be hard to duplicate.” Well, look out, because they’re at it again!

This fall, John and Stacie will begin on a journey to Argentina by tandem bicycle. They expect the trip to take about a year. Once again, they are raising funds to benefit WLT. As they travel along their journey, you can keep up with John and Stacie through their blog hosted on WLT’s website, www.whatcomlandtrust.org.

We wish John and Stacie the very best and thank them for their support as they retire from their jobs, pack up their home and embark on this amazing journey!
On The Land

What is going on Out On the Land?

MORE “AGPDRS”

Whatcom Land Trust is again partnering with Whatcom County Planning and Development Services to expand agricultural property under protection via the Purchase of Development Rights program. Later this fall the Land Trust will hold new conservation easements on four additional farm parcels totaling 69.7 acres. WLT presently holds conservation easements on slightly more than 1,000 acres of currently or formerly active farm lands, with about half coming from Trust actions prior to joining with the County in the “AgPDR” initiative in 2004. Two of the new parcels are near the South Fork of Dakota Creek with the other two near Bertrand Creek. One property is currently used to grow seed potatoes, one is a hay field and two are used as pasture for dairy cows. Baseline preparation and field verifications of the farmlands are currently underway.

SHEEP “MOWING”

Earlier this summer the south field on the Trust’s new Black Slough property on Nelson Road was mowed by sheep from Ewe Care, Dirk Vansant’s holistic vegetation management company based in the Nooksack South Fork valley. Ewe Care’s service brought sheep onto the property for two weeks, installing temporary fencing to restrict their presence to the south field. The sheep not only “mowed” the grass, they provided fertilizer and hoof activity to the soil. The north field on the property was cut using a mechanical mower. Staff will monitor both fields for comparison.

 VOLUNTEER STEWARD

Thanks to Zachery Jones, from Nooksack Valley Middle School, who cleared invasive blackberries at Whatcom Land Trust’s Rutsatz Salmon Preserve. Zach’s donated labor was part of his “Breakout” project. NVMS students choose a social topic which they believe needs to be addressed, do research on the subject, provide community service and make a presentation to a panel of school members. Many young evergreen trees, planted several years ago as part of a restoration project at the Rutsatz property, had become engulfed by blackberries. Because of Zach’s efforts, those trees now will likely survive and grow to maturity.

NEW GATE AT FENTON

Thanks to Ray Fenton for donating his labor by installing the new field gate at the Fenton Nature Reserve. Ray is dedicated to quality workmanship as you can see in the photograph.
Fall Tours & Opportunities

For more information and to register, call Whatcom Land Trust at 650-9470. Tours are free to Whatcom Land Trust members. A suggested $5 to $10 donation from non-members is requested for the tours.

Native Plant Tour of Geneva Pond Loop

September 13, 2008
10:00 am
Leader: Emily Schiller

Join us for a forest stroll and discover the diversity of native flowers and shrubs found in the Stimpson Family Reserve. Volunteers from Whatcom County Master Gardeners will lead the walk and help you learn to identify the local plants (and a few weeds) we encounter. We will take the Geneva Pond Loop trail and expect the walk to take approximately two hours. Upon registration you will receive a plant list and further information.

Nesset Farm

October 11, 2008
10:00 am
Leader: Russ Pfeiffer-Hoyt

Russ Pfeiffer-Hoyt, member of the Nesset Foundation, will lead an exploration of one of our county’s gems of family history and natural beauty. Participants will learn about life on a Norwegian-American homestead and experience beautiful terrain in what will one day be a premier public park in the South Fork valley. Easy to moderate walking. Bring a lunch for a picnic after the tour if you like!

Make A Difference Day

October 25th

Make a Difference Day is a great opportunity to give back to your community. Join three million others in this national day of service as they work on projects that directly benefit the environment, people who are homeless, seniors, kids and victims of domestic violence. Whatcom Land Trust will host a work party that focuses on being good stewards of the earth. We’ll be working to keep protected lands in the best possible condition. Call Steve at 650-9470 for details!

Canyon Lake Community Forest

September 27, 2008
8:30 am
Leader: Roger Weiss

Come and explore one of Whatcom Land Trust’s most unique and ambitious habitat acquisitions, Canyon Lake Community Forest. Located in the foothills of Mt. Baker, this 2,300-acre watershed includes 600 acres of 800- to 1000-year-old trees. The site is a living classroom of unique plants, animals, and spectacular tropical fossils, and the view from the top is one of the most outstanding panoramas of Mt. Baker and the Sisters. Tour leader Roger Weiss will lead this 9-mile hike and (if you are so inclined) offer tips on capturing this magnificent place with the camera.

Fall Salmon Tour

November 22, 2008
10:00 am
Leader: Doug Huddle

Discover winter Chum & Coho on this trip along some of WLT’s Nooksack River properties with fish surveyor and wildlife writer, Doug Huddle. See the salmon as they make their spawning trip up the river and learn about their tendencies and challenges from this experienced outdoorsman.

New Year’s Day Eagle Tour

January 1, 2009
1:30 pm
Leader: Doug Huddle

Celebrate the New Year with magnificent Bald Eagles! This New Year’s Day tour will visit a popular eagle fishing site protected by Whatcom Land Trust. Learn about the local recovery of this endangered species and of the current threats to its food source. See local places where eagles like to roost and watch the birds in action!
Whatcom Land Trust • By the Numbers

Land protected through the efforts or assistance of Whatcom Land Trust:
- Total Acres ............................................................ 9,250
- Miles of Riverfront .................................................. 22.5
- Miles of Salt Water Shoreline ..................................... 7.5
- Public Parks Created ................................................... 13

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 ($35 min.)
- Make a donation $ _______
- Find out more
- Help with ______________________

Name __________________________________________________________
Address __________________________________________________________________
City/Zip____________________________________ Phone ________________________
e-mail __________________________________________________________________

☐ check enclosed Bill my: ☐ VISA ☐ MC # ____________________________ Expires: __________________
Your Signature _______________________________________________________

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

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Samish River Preserve Adds Two New Properties

In September 2008, Whatcom Land Trust acquired 62 acres of forest land from Duane Vander Yacht. The property is along the Samish River in Whatcom County near Wickersham. This acquisition complements an additional bargain sale of 7.8 acres from Piyush Swami completed in August. These properties contain numerous wildlife and are an important addition to critical habitat linkages within the Cascades to Chuckanuts (C2C) corridor. The primary long-term objectives identified in C2C are to protect and restore one of Western Washington’s most intact lowland forest ecosystems, and provide ecosystem connectivity and diverse habitat linkages from the North Cascades west to the Chuckanut Mountains and the marine coast south of Bellingham. Linking and restoring these fragmented ecosystems will provide direct benefits to at least 27 listed and sensitive species of wildlife. The Upper Samish River headwaters contain a large complex of forest, open marsh wetlands, and small tributary streams that support multiple fish species. Migratory birds in the Pacific Flyway utilize the wetlands for resting, feeding, nesting, and rearing. The Samish River and its many small tributary streams support coho, chum, winter steelhead, and both resident and sea-run cutthroat. The project area is an intersection of the C2C planning areas that serve to bind together ecosystems; its preservation will alleviate landscape fragmentation.

Swami Property

Piyush Swami received his property from a close friend in the 1980s while he was a student at Western Washington University. Later, while he was a professor at continued on page six

Rich wetlands on the new properties buffer the Samish River, protecting and enhancing the river for fish and wildlife.

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New Interns Helping Whatcom Land Trust

Carolyn Kinkade grew up in a small farming community in Washington’s Columbia Basin. She moved to the Wenatchee Valley in 1994 and continued working in the travel industry. In 2007, she graduated from Wenatchee Valley Community College and moved to Bellingham to earn her Bachelor of Arts degree in Geography at WWU. She is currently fulfilling her internship requirement with Whatcom Land Trust.

Kate Odneal is doing field work for WLT through the winter. Kate has five seasons’ experience with forest stand surveys as an employee of the U.S. Forest Service, and will work to complete tree and understory vegetation analyses on several WLT properties and easements.

One project the interns are assisting Whatcom Land Trust with is a beta version of a National Geographic project. Currently being developed under the name LandScope. The project is a web-based dynamic atlas that locates nearly any place on Earth, then provides photographic, historical, weather, population, and other maps of the spot. National Geographic is working with land trusts in 5 states on the project; WLT hopes to feature local conservation and photography on the site.

Thank You to Point Whitehorn Work Party

On October 10th and 11th volunteers from the BP Refinery, REI and park neighbors worked at Point Whitehorn planting trees and shrubs.

Thank you to all of the generous volunteers who helped prepare the park for opening.

The Lily Point Coven

“The main goal was to ensure our community feel strongly that they had a hand in this great feat... donating our efforts was a great way to show that these incredible native landscapes are important today and for generations to come.” —Carol Fuegi

The preservation of Lily Point was a hands-across-the-border project that involved a number of conservation groups and naturalist societies. We wish to focus this Volunteer Spotlight on a group of activists who brought a tremendous amount of enthusiasm to the project. In the Land Trust office, we referred to this energetic group as the Friends of Lily Point but they informally refer to themselves as the Lily Point Coven. Samantha Scholefield, one of the ringleaders of the group proclaims, “We bring a wicked sense of humour, irreverence, and a touch of magic wherever we pop up!”

Originally motivated by an email from a Canadian friend, this small but dedicated group of local residents actively campaigned to raise awareness about the urgency of last minute financing for the purchase of the environmentally unique Lily Point located on Point Roberts. What started as a single challenge among friends and family to match a $200 donation quickly grew into a community-wide appeal. Within hours, the original donation was matched and the challenge was on. A core leadership group of Maureen Buckley, Julie and George Iddon, Carol

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VOLUNTEER PROFILE

The Lily Point Coven

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Winter 2008/2009 - page 2

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Fuegi, and Samantha formed and began reaching out to people all over the Point and lower mainland British Columbia. Carol stated that “The main goal was to ensure that our community feel strongly that they had a hand in this great feat. We felt that donating our efforts was a great way to show that these incredible native landscapes are important today and for generations to come.” The group organized an awareness campaign that included door-to-door promotion in Point Roberts, four Sundays at the entrance to Lily Point, flyers, posters, and advertising. They put together a media awareness campaign that resulted in the Lily Point story being covered in the All Points Bulletin, The Delta Optimist, The Delta Leader, and on-camera interviews on Delta Cable. The culmination of the fundraising was a walk and “Eco-Tour” designed to encourage the public’s support for turning this spectacular site into public parkland and an ecologically protected heritage site. Whatcom County Parks and Land Trust staff were on hand to take over 100 members of the general public through an exploration of the history of the Lily Point landscape, the native plants, marine, bird, and animal residents, and the future vision for the park.

“We asked people to tell us stories about Lily Point,” says group member Julie Iddon. “While we manned the gate on the weekends providing information on the project, we met a couple who had their first date at Lily Point, another couple who were married on the beach, and a man who just celebrated his 80th birthday accompanied by his family from around the world and his dog Tiggy! And the long-time residents of the Point have such vivid recollections. We discovered it really is a special place.”

The group is quick to point out the efforts and give credit to a number of folks who were involved in a variety of ways and over a long period of time. “We helped, but more importantly, the whole community joined in,” said Samantha. She continued, “With all of the Trust’s work, Lily Point can now make the transition to parkland and we are thankful to everyone who stepped up to help make this extraordinary opportunity a reality.”

Lily Point is now open to the public and there is never a bad time to spend a day visiting it and the other county parks in the area. If you visit in July, be sure to take in the Point Roberts Garden Tour; there is a distinct possibility you will visit a garden of one of the members of the Lily Point Coven—be on the alert for whatever magic their green thumbs conjure up!

New Board Member, Simi Jain

Simi Jain moved to Whatcom County in 2005. She was raised in Albany, NY and graduated with a B.A. in government and environmental studies from Bowdoin College in Maine. A love for the water and mountains brought her to Seattle after college where she worked for a media consulting non-profit organization which focused on northwest environmental issues. It was during this time that she learned she wanted to work on environmental legal issues and returned to New England to attend Vermont Law School. There she earned her J.D. and Masters in Environmental Law. Simi is a local attorney practicing in the areas of land use, municipal, real estate, and environmental law at Zender Thurston, P.S. in Bellingham. She enjoys reading, skiing, hiking and running on the many trails around Whatcom County. Simi is looking forward to helping WLT in its efforts to preserve this community’s diverse and precious lands.
Point Whitehorn Marine Reserve is Open!

Whatcom Land Trust has completed the development of the 54-acre Point Whitehorn Marine Reserve, which has 1,900 feet of saltwater shoreline.

Whatcom County purchased the property for $375,000. A REI grant from their REI-Gives program was combined with generous support from Cloud Mountain Farm to purchase and plant trees and bushes throughout the reserve. SouthFork Construction built the trail and donated a bench. British Petroleum, a neighbor to the reserve, gave financial support and HB Hansen was general contractor for construction. We appreciate everyone’s support and cooperation to bring this remarkable marine reserve to the public. A grand opening and dedication is planned for spring.

The ¾-mile trail is barrier-free and leads to four stunning viewpoints overlooking the Strait of Georgia. A hiker-only trail leads to the beach. Please leave your pets at home.

Memorial Bench for Carl Batchelor

"There are some who can live without wild things, and some who cannot." — Aldo Leopold

Honoring Carl Batchelor, conservationist, Planner and Whatcom Land Trust board member. He cared for the land.

The text above, installed near a bench in one of the viewpoints at Point Whitehorn, will help us remember the contributions Carl made to conservation in Whatcom County. In his work for the Whatcom County Planning Department, as a board member of Whatcom Land Trust, and as a property owner in the Lake Whatcom watershed, Carl cared for the land and helped others do the same.

If you would like to honor Carl’s effort, please consider making a bench contribution to Whatcom Land Trust in his memory.
Motivations for Preservation

Whatcom Land Trust is privileged to meet countless people who have a deep regard for the land. This land may be a working farm in our fertile agricultural area, a marine shoreline on Puget Sound, or a quiet, shaded riverbed in the forested uplands of the Nooksack River. The 9,700+ acres of preserved land in Whatcom County are equally as diverse as the Whatcom Land Trust supporters who work with us to create a precious legacy—lands preserved in perpetuity. Together, we share an awesome responsibility sustained by personal, and often private, motivations and reverence for the land.

Take for instance Whatcom Land Trust’s recent conservation project—preservation of 90 acres of forested bluff and 40 acres of tidelands at Lily Point. This project in Point Roberts, WA, was truly a collaborative enterprise involving enthusiastic participation from people on both sides of the border. Samantha Scholefield shared what motivated her to serve as a volunteer: “When I saw that my simple email pledge multiplied a personal donation by 5 in the first evening after circulation, I knew I had to make sure people were informed about this amazing opportunity to preserve the character of Point Roberts. With the help of friends, we hosted a walk of the area raising $5,000 and a lot of awareness. We continued to greet visitors on those cold spring mornings to let them know about the opportunity at hand. We got so much out of the experience, such as meeting a regular walker in the area out celebrating his 80th birthday with family and friends visiting from all over the world. Or the two teenage visitors who emptied their pockets, eager to chip in.” Samantha’s initiative, positive spirit, and skill proved indispensable in honoring guests at the Lily Point Dedication Ceremony.

At Whatcom Land Trust, we rely on the good company of an unlikely cast of collaborators. While our walks in life vary, we leverage a common regard for the land as the springboard for land preservation activities in Whatcom County. For some, this motivation may arise from a personal connection with a specific place in Whatcom County. For others, the impetus may arise from the need to preserve a few wild places to remind us of what quiet really feels like. We’d like to hear about what motivates you.

In the coming issues of the Steward, we will share the stories and quiet hopes of Whatcom Land Trust supporters.

Beautiful Picture Books Support Local Land Protection Efforts

Whatcom Places now has a new soul-mate, a partner, a sister to the south: Natural Skagit: A Journey from Mountains to the Sea. Released in hard and soft cover on November 13th by the Skagit Land Trust, this 126-page book excels in every aspect. Pictures, of course, tell a story that cannot be conveyed with words, yet the Foreword by Tom Robbins and Epilogue by Bill Dietrich come close. The Lee Mann photos alone are worth the price of this book.

Unlike Whatcom Places, the Skagit story follows the third largest river on the U.S. Pacific Coast downstream from North Cascade snowfields to the brine of the Salish Sea, its course flowing past a mix of loggers, farmers, artists, fishers, small hamlets, cities, Indian tribes, nature-lovers and dedicated conservationists. “A river runs through it,” as Norman McLean and Robbins have written. Everywhere on earth rivers tell the stories of the land.

We congratulate project leader Renata Hoyle Maybruck and her large army of volunteers who have produced a powerful tool for protecting Skagit’s unique natural heritage. There will be a reading from Natural Skagit: A Journey from Mountains to the Sea on December 10 at 7pm at Village Books in Fairhaven.
Adding to Samish River Preserve  
continued from page one

the University of Cincinnati, it was left wild. This spring, when Piyush decided to sell the property and had it listed, his agent Mike Hill urged Piyush to consider working with the Land Trust. Piyush was supportive of protecting the wildlife habitat on the property and agreed to sell it for substantially less than the appraised value. We can now use the purchase price plus the donated value as leverage for grant funds to protect more wildlife habitat in the Cascades to Chuckanut corridor along the Samish River.

**Vander Yacht Property**

Duane Vander Yacht purchased property along Innis Creek Road as a woodlot around 30 years ago. Several times he considered harvesting the timber, but never got around to it. Over the years, Duane was approached by several different people who were interested in buying the land, but he never completed a transaction. The land sat and the trees grew. The property will be permanently set aside to provide clean water and wildlife habitat. Duane Vander Yacht agreed to sell his 62 acres of mature forested wetlands, marsh, bogs, and Samish River frontage for appraised fair market value. The acquisition of this intact site is a critical component to building a larger Samish River Preserve.

Please support Whatcom Land Trust as we continue our effort to protect this important habitat linkage and apply for grant funding to expand on these successes. Whatcom Land Trust continues to work throughout Whatcom County to protect special wildlife habitat and working landscapes.

*photos: Eric Carabba*

Upper left: Vine maples on the Swami property.  
Left: WLT board member Rand Jack examines pristine forested wetlands on the Vander Yacht property.

Partner Spotlight

North Cascades Audubon volunteers are helping conduct bird surveys on Whatcom Land Trust properties. For example, over fifty bird species were identified on the Innis Creek property this past summer. The photo to the right shows NCA members Tom Prattum, Paul Woodcock, and Lila Emmer who helped with the survey.
Aerial view of the Samish River Preserve. Protected properties are forested areas in the right foreground.

Agricultural Preservation and the Protection of Working Landscapes

Whatcom Land Trust is a partner with Whatcom County for the purchase of development rights on farmland. The County recently completed the purchase of development rights on three more farms for a total of eleven projects protecting 610 acres.

Additionally, we are working with Farm Friends to promote voluntary conservation of farmland. There are currently excellent tax incentives for qualified farmers and ranchers when they donate conservation easements. Working forests can be protected just like farms. Essentially, development is limited while the use of these lands for growing crops and harvesting resources continues.

Farm Friends, financial advisors, and Whatcom Land Trust recently hosted a luncheon to provide information about conservation easements, financial planning, and potential tax incentives for voluntary conservation.

Lake Whatcom Watershed

In October, the Whatcom County Council (by a vote of 4 to 3) approved the reconveyance of approximately 8000 acres in the Lake Whatcom Watershed. It will take approximately two years to complete the reconveyance. Whatcom Land Trust will work to ensure long-term protection of this land through a conservation easement.

Whatcom Land Trust is working with the City of Bellingham to protect properties acquired for watershed protection like Three Creeks Preserve and Agate Bay Preserve. Whatcom Land Trust holds conservation easements that restrict future uses of such properties with the purpose of protecting water quality in Lake Whatcom.

Salmon Recovery

Whatcom Land Trust is a partner with Nooksack Salmon Recovery team working to protect and restore critical salmon habitat along the Nooksack River. WLT is currently working on land acquisitions on the South Fork and the North Fork of the Nooksack River. Since 1984, WLT has protected some 22 miles of riverfront.

Puget Sound Partnership

The Puget Sound Partnership is developing an Action Agenda: Our Roadmap to Restoring the Sound. Across the Puget Sound region, the Puget Sound Partnership is mobilizing communities, agencies, and organizations to work together to create a comprehensive Action Agenda to restore Puget Sound.
Great Outdoors Auction 2009

Circle Saturday May 2nd on your calendar because the Great Outdoors Auction 2009 takes center stage that day! Plan on joining us as we commemorate our 25th anniversary with a Silver Celebration. The function begins at 5 pm at the Lakeway Inn and you won’t want to miss it. You will find your friends and neighbors mingling over the silent auction items, enjoying a delicious meal, and bidding up the Best of the Live Auction! Trips, excursions, and outdoor gear will be auctioned. A great time will be had by all. Save the date and help us celebrate!

New Year’s Day Eagle Tour

New Year’s Day—a day to recover from late night celebrations, to watch football in a stuffy room while eating high-fat foods and yelling at the television, OR a day to go outside. Yes, outside where beautiful evergreens put things back in perspective, where it’s quiet except for the sounds of birds or water, where open space invites the mind to ponder past and future... Ah...!

This New Year’s Day, would you like to go outside with us? Once again, Doug Huddle will share his wildlife expertise by leading the New Year’s Day Eagle Tour. You will visit a popular eagle fishing site protected by Whatcom Land Trust. Learn about the local recovery of this endangered species and of current threats to its food source. See local places where eagles roost and watch the birds in action! The tour begins at 1:30 pm. Call the office to register, 650-9470.

Bike Trip Benefits Land Trust

Looking to spend a little time daydreaming of life out on the open road? You can find tales of our intrepid excursionists, Stacie and John Matthews at www.twowargentina.whatcomlandtrust.org or simply visit our home page and click on the bike wheel icon. Stacie and John are well into their trip to Argentina and are posting photos and updating their travel journal on a regular basis. You can follow their bike tracks, or you might wish to pledge a donation in support of their effort to raise awareness and funds for the Land Trust.

Tax-Free Giving from your IRA

For older donors and nonprofits that rely on their generosity, a glimmer of good news emerged from October’s economic turmoil: Congress extended the IRA charitable rollover as part of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008. The newly extended IRA rollover provision permits you to use your IRA to help accomplish your philanthropic goals with no federal tax impact. If you are 70 1/2 or older, you may make a gift of up to $100,000 to Whatcom Land Trust or our endowment fund held at Whatcom Community Foundation from your IRA with no federal income tax impact, and your gift will be counted toward your required minimum distribution. To obtain this benefit, you must instruct your IRA administrator to transfer funds directly to Whatcom Land Trust or the Community Foundation. If you withdraw the funds from the IRA first and then contribute them to the trust/foundation, you will lose the tax benefit.

Annual Appeal for Support Is Vital

By now you should have received our annual appeal letter. Your support is vital to the success of this organization. We devote a great deal of time and effort to securing multiple sources of funding for conservation projects. We strive to see that your investments are not only stretched to the limit, but are matched or increased whenever possible. We come to our supporters but once a year to ask for organizational donations. Please take the time to return your envelope today. You may also make a safe and secure donation through our website.

Business Partner Breakfast

Our Business Partner breakfast takes place at Boundary Bay Brewery & Bistro Tuesday December 9th at 7:30 am. If you are interested in how your business might partner with Whatcom Land Trust to preserve the best of Whatcom places, please contact the office at 650-9470.
Terry Tempest Williams

Special Opportunities for Whatcom Land Trust supporters

• Catered reception with Ms. Williams at the Roeder home, preceding her presentation
• Reserved seats for Ms. Williams’ talk at First Congregational Church

Come help us begin our Silver Anniversary with one of America’s most eloquent voices for the cause of conservation! Renowned author Terry Tempest Williams comes to Bellingham on Monday, January 26, to talk about her latest book, *Finding Beauty in a Broken World*. The event begins a year-long celebration of Whatcom Land Trust’s 25th anniversary. Ms. Williams, who recently packed the main auditorium at Benaroya Hall in Seattle, will be at the First Congregational Church, 2401 Cornwall Avenue, at 7 pm that evening. A special opportunity for Land Trust supporters exists as a limited number of seats are reserved for those wishing to attend both a pre-event reception with the author at the Roeder Home and the reading.

Terry Tempest Williams over the course of her life has focused on land stewardship. She has a love of the desert environment and other naturally beautiful places, and has opposed resource destruction, especially when affecting human health. She has long been an advocate of land trusts. In an interview in 2003 she stated: “Democracy requires our participation. The land trust movement in this country is a beautiful example of how we can find hope within our own communities because it bypasses government and creates a diverse and truly bipartisan conversation on behalf of the land.”

A former naturalist-in-residence at the Utah Museum of Natural History, Williams is perhaps best known for her book *Refuge: An Unnatural History of Family and Place* (Pantheon, 1991) in which she chronicles the epic rise of Great Salt Lake and the flooding of the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge in 1983. It relates her mother’s diagnosis with ovarian cancer, believed to be caused by radioactive fallout from the nuclear tests in the Nevada desert in the 1950s and 60s. *Refuge* is now regarded as a classic in American nature writing, a testament to loss and the earth’s healing grace. The author of fifteen books, early reviews of her latest work are suggesting that it may well be her most original, provocative, and eloquently moving book since *Refuge*. The Land Trust is deeply appreciative of the support of Dee & Chuck Robinson and all of the staff at Village Books for making this event happen!

The reception at the Roeder Home with Terry Tempest Williams includes appetizers, beer, wine, light refreshments, and a reserved seat at the Congregational Church. The price is $50.00 and must be purchased from the Land Trust office at 650-9470.

Tickets for the Congregational Church event are $12.50 and are available now at Village Books, 671-2626, and are also available on-line at Brownpapertickets.com. All proceeds from the presentation will benefit Whatcom Land Trust.

“The eyes of the future are looking back at us and they are praying for us to see beyond our own time.”
On The Land

What’s Happening on the Land

WLT has again partnered with Whatcom County Planning to expand agricultural properties under the Purchase of Development Rights program. The new properties under protection total nearly 70 acres. A 39-acre portion of the Tjoelker dairy farm northwest of Lynden is now preserved forever for agricultural use. The other two properties, Bouchard and Bauthues, are adjacent on Loomis Trail Road northeast of Custer. One is currently in restoration for seed potato production and the other contains an extensive hay field.

photo: Steve Walker

Tjoelker farm joins over 600 acres of Whatcom county agricultural lands protected by the PDR program.

“Engineered” log jams have been placed along the North Fork of the Nooksack River on portions of the Whatcom Land Trust’s Mt. Baker Baptist complex of riparian properties. The Nooksack Tribe secured funding to construct a series of enormous man-made log jams using pilings that are driven into the riverbed and then interlaced with up-rooted trees and enhanced with rocks and organic debris. These structures modify the course of the river and create conditions more favorable to salmon survival.

photo: Eric Carabba

Man-made log jams will affect the flow of the Nooksack River in ways that will benefit salmon.

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Fenton Nature Preserve pond reflects the image of the Make a Difference Day volunteer crew.

Twenty-five volunteers gathered at the Fenton Nature Reserve on Make-A-Difference-Day, October 25th, to clean up debris and remove invasive plants. The Whatcom Volunteer Center, which coordinated events throughout Whatcom County, offered a hearty breakfast to all volunteers before they headed out for several hours of labor for environmental and social service organizations. The volunteers at Fenton included members of the Western Washington University chapter of Beta Alpha Psi, and employees of Starbucks Coffee and Conoco-Phillips. Sunshine and pleasant weather aided volunteers as they battled pesky blackberry brambles. The beautiful 80-acre Fenton Nature Preserve, not yet enhanced with public facilities, was purchased by Whatcom Land Trust in 2006. The property includes an open field, a reservoir, and mature second growth forest.

WLT Gifts for Holiday Season

Looking for a unique gift this holiday season? Whatcom Land Trust has several special ideas. There’s the award-winning Whatcom Places II in paperback ($30) or hard cover ($45), packages of 8 note cards featuring Whatcom County scenes ($8.50), WLT coffee mugs ($12), and WLT tote bags ($12). Of course, you could purchase a gift membership to Whatcom Land Trust for $35. If you’d like to purchase a $45 gift membership, you’ll get a coffee mug or tote bag, too. For a $55 gift membership, you get both! Look for these items on our website, our Allied Arts Holiday Festival booth, or call the office at 650-9470.
Whatcom Land Trust • By the Numbers

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

- Total Acres ............................................................ 9,734
- Miles of Riverfront .................................................. 22.5
- Miles of Salt Water Shoreline ..................................... 7.5
- Public Parks Created ................................................... 14

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 ($35 min.)
- Make a donation $ _____
- Find out more
- Help with _________________________

Name ____________________________________________
Address ___________________________________________________________________
City/Zip____________________________________ Phone ________________________
e-mail __________________________________________

☐ check enclosed Bill my: ☐ VISA ☐ MC # __________________________ Expires: __________

Your Signature ____________________________________________

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

printed with vegetable-based inks on recycled paper
Point Whitehorn Marine Reserve will be Available Soon

The parking lot is done and trail construction is well underway at the Point Whitehorn Marine Reserve. Sometime this fall, probably in the latter part of October, Point Whitehorn will become Whatcom County's newest park. Though the formal opening festivities will occur in the spring, the property will be available to the public as soon as the trail and supporting facilities are completed.

The 51-acre Point Whitehorn Marine Reserve will provide access to a mile and a half of public beach a short drive from Bellingham. Access to the beach winds through a pristine wooded wetland. We are fortunate to have master trail-builder Russ Pfeiffer-Hoyt exercising special care for the ecology of the area in design and construction of the trail. The juxtaposition of wooded wetlands and marine shoreline will provide a rich glimpse of nature for those who walk quietly with eyes open.

The marine reserve was made possible by a $1,000,000 grant to Whatcom Land Trust by the Washington Department of Ecology from fines levied as a result of the 1999 Whatcom Creek gasoline spill and fire. With this money, the Land Trust purchased shoreline property from B.C. Hydro that is next to the BP refinery. We then traded that property to Trillium for the wooded wetland, a much more ecologically important parcel with substantially better beach access and twice the marine frontage as the B.C. Hydro property. Trillium also provided a use right for a portion of the trail on an adjoining 30 acres.

Once the park infrastructure is complete, the Land Trust will sell the Point Whitehorn Marine Reserve, complete and ready for its first visitor, to the County for $375,000. This allows the Land Trust to recover its acquisition and development costs.

Greater public access to our marine shoreline is a long-standing Whatcom County priority. Now, with the addition of the Lily Point and Point Whitehorn Marine Reserves in the short space of six months, Whatcom Land Trust, in partnership with Whatcom County, the Department of Ecology, and many others, has taken two major strides in addressing that priority.
Many Thanks to Our Volunteers!

This summer WLT had tremendous help with its outreach.

On July 4th, Marcie and Bob Toby, Cynthia Millar, and board member Rod Burton joined staff member Connie Clement at the Blaine Old Fashioned Fourth of July Parade.

On July 5th, Sunshine Rimer, Alice Litton, Terese Van Asche and John Bremer tabled at the Canoe Journey Day at Boulevard Park.

On July 19th, Jean Calhoun and Sharon Souders tabled at the Barkley Village BBQ.

On August 2nd, Carolyn Kincaid, Bernadette Prinster and Cynthia Millar greeted the visitors to the booth at the Bellingham Farmers Market. Bob and Marcy Toby represented WLT at the Senior Day in the park.

Bob Keller and Pat Karlberg took shifts for WLT at the Northwest Washington Fair.

We are so grateful to you all for your work this summer getting the name and mission of Whatcom Land Trust into the community!

If you’d like to volunteer for WLT, contact Connie at connie@whatcomlandtrust.org or 650-9470.

Upcoming Events

Coming up, look for Whatcom Land Trust at the Bellingham Farmers Market, the Southfork Fall Festival, the Multi Faith Alternative Holiday Market at the Bloedel-Donovan Community Room on November 23, and at the Allied Arts Holiday Festival from November 21st to December 24th.

Pacific Surveying and Engineering

“Our relationship with Whatcom Land Trust allows us to support the mission of land stewardship and conservation in Whatcom County. We are proud of this involvement and take great satisfaction in knowing that we are protecting our environment and natural resources for our families, for our community, and for the generations to follow.”

—Adam Nelson, PS & E

There are many businesses that support the Land Trust’s work, and Pacific Surveying and Engineering (PS&E) is a prime example of a firm that is committed to our success. Through a combination of in-kind donation of services, auction sponsorship, and cash donations to the Conservation Business Partner program, PS&E has demonstrated consistent and vital support to Whatcom Land Trust’s conservation efforts. Their willingness to patiently explain a plan or process to our staff has been invaluable.

The Land Trust is not alone in receiving PS&E’s help. It provides support to The Nature Conservancy, The Boys & Girls Clubs of Whatcom County, The Whatcom Humane Society, The Bellingham Food Bank, The Whatcom County YMCA, Junior Achievement of Washington, Lynden High School FFA Chapter, Childhaven, Whatcom Day Academy, The American Cancer Society, The Arthritis Foundation, and The Land Surveyors Association of Washington and its Northwest Chapter. It is obvious that PS&E takes pride in being a part of the vibrant and spectacular region that is Whatcom County. Adam Morrow, one of the five principal partners in the firm notes, “Pacific Surveying and Engineering, through its relationships with local agencies, community organizations, and private clients, is dedicated to achieving the necessary and important balance between responsible growth and the protection of our community resources. It is our continued commitment to our community that makes us strong, and enables our staff, clients and community partnerships to strengthen and grow.”

Pacific Surveying and Engineering has become an industry leader in Whatcom County and Western Wash...
PS&E's focus has been and will always be Whatcom County. While they work throughout the state, it is the projects and relationships in this community that have allowed for their sustained growth. Their commitment to quality, along with a focus on project management and client communication, have certainly been evident to the Land Trust as we have worked with the firm. They in turn have admiration for the goals of the Land Trust. Adam Nelson stated that “Our relationship with Whatcom Land Trust allows us to support the mission of land stewardship and conservation in Whatcom County. We are proud of this involvement and take great satisfaction in knowing that we are protecting our environment and natural resources for our families, for our community, and for the generations to follow.” We are thankful and appreciative of their support.

For information how your business might be involved in the Conservation Business Partner program please contact Jerry at the Land Trust office.

In discussing the future of the company the partners point out that PS&E's focus has been and will always be Whatcom County. While they work throughout the state, it is the projects and relationships in this community that have allowed for their sustained growth. Their commitment to quality, along with a focus on project management and client communication, have certainly been evident to the Land Trust as we have worked with the firm. They in turn have admiration for the goals of the Land Trust. Adam Nelson stated that “Our relationship with Whatcom Land Trust allows us to support the mission of land stewardship and conservation in Whatcom County. We are proud of this involvement and take great satisfaction in knowing that we are protecting our environment and natural resources for our families, for our community, and for the generations to follow.” We are thankful and appreciative of their support.

For information how your business might be involved in the Conservation Business Partner program please contact Jerry at the Land Trust office.
Samish River and the Cascade to Chuckanuts Conservation Plan

In January of 2004, Whatcom Land Trust published the Cascades-to-Chuckanuts Conservation Plan (C2C). Funding for the development of the plan was provided by the Paul G. Allen Forest Protection Foundation. The C2C plan represents a joint effort of the Whatcom Land Trust, Skagit Land Trust, and the North Cascades Corridor Project. The study documents important ecological characteristics of the corridor; identifies lands for acquisition; details findings of the ecological assessment and co-forestry feasibility analysis. In addition, it provides property lists, maps, photos, potential funding sources, and specific conservation tools and strategies designed to accomplish the larger purpose, that being lowland forest ecosystem conservation at a landscape scale and the building of local and regional support for the overall conservation strategy.

The primary long-term objectives identified in C2C are to protect and restore one of Western Washington’s most intact lowland forest ecosystems, and to provide ecosystem connectivity and diverse habitat linkages from the North Cascades west to the Chuckanut Mountains and the marine coast south of Bellingham. Linking and restoring these fragmented ecosystems will provide direct benefits to at least 27 listed and sensitive species of fish and wildlife. The sheer scale of the C2C effort demanded development of a comprehensive and focused conservation strategy, and we recognized upon completion of the study that we must approach the implementation stage in manageable and reasonable stages.

The Samish River originates on a low divide in Whatcom County, and its tributary, Friday Creek, originates in the hills south of Bellingham. The river continues its southwest-erly flow through Skagit County and flows into Samish Bay in Puget Sound. The Upper Samish River drainage contains a large complex of forested and open marsh wetlands, and small tributary streams support multiple fish. Migratory birds in the Pacific Flyway utilize the wetlands for resting, feeding, nesting and rearing. The Samish River and its many small tributary streams support Coho, Chum, winter steelhead, and both resident and sea-run cutthroat. The project area is at the core of the C2C planning areas, the location serving to bind together ecosystems. Its preservation will serve as a means for alleviating landscape fragmentation.

Whatcom Land Trust is working on acquiring fee ownership of several high quality forested and open marsh wetlands along the Samish River. Restoration, enhancement, and protection of habitat on these properties are necessary to support Coho salmon, winter steelhead, and sea-run cutthroat. Enhancement of the wetlands will also benefit waterfowl and migratory birds that utilize these wetlands. Additionally, protection of these wetlands will help to protect water quality in the Samish River and Samish Bay, an important area for shell fish farming.

Understanding that effective partnerships are needed for both leverage and a collaborative systematic approach, Whatcom Land Trust is building partnerships with private landowners, local, state and federal partners, and conservation groups like Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group, Skagit Land Trust, and Ducks Unlimited to put together long-term protection of these important habitat linkages.

Whatcom Land Trust is working on expanding past successes like our Innis Creek Preserve. In November 2004, Whatcom Land Trust acquired 50 acres where Ennis Creek joins the Samish River that enabled Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group to relocate and restore Ennis Creek while Whatcom County Public Works built a new bridge to treat chronic flood damage to the road. Last fall, over 500 Coho salmon passed through the channel to spawn in Ennis Creek. During site visits this summer, we counted thousands of young Coho rearing in the stream, feeding cutthroat trout, kingfishers and great blue herons. The Ennis Creek Restoration project is a great place to get out and view fish and wildlife from the road. Whatcom Land Trust looks forward to expanding these successful restoration, enhancement, and protection efforts with partners in the upper Samish Watershed of Whatcom County.
In conserving their land, private landowners play an important part in preserving America’s clean air, clean water, wildlife habitat, scenic views and our most agriculturally productive land.

Voluntary conservation agreements, also known as conservation easements, can protect working farms and ranches and make it easier for families to leave the land to the next generation. Voluntary conservation agreements give individual landowners a nongovernmental way to conserve natural areas and traditional ways of life that are important to them and their communities.

Whatcom Land Trust is ready to help farmers ensure their land is available for agriculture. Farmers cannot exist without farmland, and farmland cannot exist without economically successful farmers.

Since 1984 Whatcom Land Trust has worked with private landowners to protect over 5,300 acres with 53 different conservation easements.

New Federal Law Gives Fairer Tax Benefit for Voluntary Conservation Agreements

Generous landowners who donate voluntary conservation agreements to Whatcom Land Trust are inspired by many things: they love Whatcom County, they feel connected to their land, and they wish to leave a legacy for future generations. This inspiration is at the heart of our work to permanently protect valuable natural resources. But for almost all of our donors, donating a conservation easement is a major financial decision, and the federal income tax deduction that comes with a donation helps make easements possible for landowners in our community.

Congress recently passed a law extending for two years the tax benefits of protecting private land for many landowners (which had expired at the end of 2007). The legislation improves the tax incentive by allowing conservation easement donors to:

- Deduct up to 50% of their adjusted gross income in any year (up from the previous maximum of 30%);
- Deduct up to 100% of their adjusted gross income if the majority of that income came from farming, ranching or forestry;
- Continue to take deductions for as long as 16 years (up from 6 years).

Congress also passed tighter appraisal standards for such gifts, and stronger penalties for appraisers who violate the standards.

The Land Trust Alliance led a coalition of more than 50 groups in urging Congress to approve this new law. The Alliance is a national organization that sets national standards for conservation organizations like ours, provides training and networking opportunities, and represents the land trust community in Washington, DC. Whatcom Land Trust has been a member of the Alliance for 15 years.

Each day we are touched by the generous and inspired landowners who work with us. The new law will make it easier for others in our community to build on their love of the land and permanently protect Whatcom County.

If you are a farmer and would like to explore options on how to protect your farm land, please contact Eric Carabba (360) 650-9470 at Whatcom Land Trust.

Whatcom County Farm Facts from Farm Friends

- Whatcom County has 148,027 acres of land in farms.
- Agricultural production has a market value of nearly $290 million.
- Approximately 140 dairy farms with an average of a little less than 400 cows and milk production. Average of 22,780 lbs/cow or over 14 million gallons of milk per month!
- More than 85% of Washington's red raspberries are produced in Whatcom County. More than 65% of the U.S. red raspberries are produced in Whatcom County.

WLT works with Whatcom County to protect farmland through purchase of development rights.

Whatcom County’s local government has also demonstrated its commitment to preserving productive agriculture land by purchasing development rights to ensure productive land remains available for agriculture. Whatcom County has recently purchased the development rights from three dairy farms. As of September 2007, the Whatcom County Purchase of Development Rights Program has acquired 69 development rights and preserved approximately 402 farmland acres. The total value of the development rights acquired is $3,285,200. Whatcom Land Trust is a partner with Whatcom County as we co-hold the conservation easement. As a partner, we are responsible for annual monitoring of the property and conservation easement. We are excited and eager to continue to be involved in the preservation of farmland in the county.
During the Depression, Whatcom county, like other counties, foreclosed on timberlands that had been clear-cut and then abandoned by the owners. The State required counties to turned these lands over to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), but gave counties the option of requesting reconveyance of such lands to county ownership for use as parks.

Working with the State Lands Commissioner, County Executive Pete Kremen has begun the process of reconveying from DNR to County ownership a total of 8,400 acres in two large blocks on the east and west side toward the southern end of Lake Whatcom. The next step is approval by the County Council.

Once in a great while a community has the opportunity to take an action that profoundly affects its prosperity and quality of life for many generations to come. Whatcom Land Trust believes that the opportunity to create an 8,400-acre forest reserve park in the Lake Whatcom Watershed on the doorstep of Bellingham is such an opportunity. Plans call for a very low impact park with development limited to 50 miles of trails with supporting facilities located and constructed to minimize impact on water quality. Trailhead parking will be outside the watershed or as far away from Lake Whatcom as possible. The park will be managed to restore the forest to old growth characteristics using the Stimpson Family Nature Reserve as a model. To assure continuing compatibility of the park with its setting in the Lake Whatcom Watershed, it is essential that it be protected with a perpetual conservation easement.

The creation of something extraordinary always has costs. In this case the costs are amazingly small compared to the benefits, a tiny fraction of what it would cost if the land had to be purchased. The transaction cost to the County will be about $300,000, all of which will be paid from the Conservation Futures Fund which is dedicated to acquisition of parks and open space. The $1,000,000 development costs for the park can be spread over ten years and paid for out of dedicated funds and grants. Annual maintenance costs will be between $100,000 and $150,000 a year.

Protecting the drinking water for half the residents of Whatcom County is a major reason to support the new park. Stricter logging rules for the watershed have made a dent in problems associated with commercial forestry in sensitive areas, but they have not solved those problems. At best, the stricter logging rules are untested, unpopular with DNR, and at the mercy of changing political tides. The Lake Whatcom Basin has suffered from landslides in the past, and we know that landslides and other earth disturbances contribute to the sediment and phosphorous in the lake, a chief cause of deteriorating water quality.

Any doubts about the potential impact of logging in the Lake Whatcom Watershed should have been laid to rest by a front page article in the Sunday, July 13, 2008 Seattle Times. Torrential rains in Lewis County in December 2007 resulted in over 730 landslides in the Upper Chehalis basin. “Nearly three quarters (73 percent) of landslides appeared to have started near logging roads or in areas clear-cut in the last 15 years or so.” This occurred despite DNR’s responsibility to restrict logging on unstable slopes. “Weyerhaeuser frequently clear-cut unstable slopes, with scant oversight from state geologists who are supposed to help watchdog the timber industry.” The slides shut down a water treatment plant, burying the intake with mud and triggering $750,000 in repairs. Weyerhaeuser had assured drinking water officials that “they could head off problems with improved logging and road building practices. ‘We told them that we’re going to take good care of that basin,’” said a Weyerhaeuser forester. The December Lewis County rains were highly unusual compared to the past, but may well be an example of things to come. As the Times reported, a recent climate change study by federal scientists “predicted that the warming world will bring more intense Pacific rainstorms.”

If you wish to see the article, this link should get you there: http://seattletimes.nwsource.com/html/localnews/2008048848Logging13m.html

We must do everything we can to protect the water quality of Lake Whatcom,
industry in Whatcom County and on the Mount Baker School District. Reconveyance will remove only a relatively small amount of workable forest land from timber production. Under current rules, about half of the reconveyed land is not subject to timber harvest. It is doubtful that a job will be lost or a business significantly affected. Reconveyance is not the place to draw the line for stopping the incremental loss of commercial forests in Whatcom County. Other forces locally and nationally are pinching the timber industry much more severely than this one-time reconveyance event. For instance, the timber industry regularly converts productive forestland to residential development. It is more appropriate to convert timberland for public purposes, such as protecting the lake and creating a park, than for private gain. The Land Trust is concerned that the Mt. Baker School District would lose some revenue due to the proposed reconveyance. We regret the disproportional impact on a school district in a watershed proposed for reconveyance are outlined in color.

A priceless resource for our community. Commercial forestry in the watershed is not the major cause of deteriorating water quality. However, the Lewis County experience—more intense rainstorms, sometimes lax agency oversight, and the logging/landslides linkage—is one we cannot afford to repeat. A maturing, intact forest would certainly better buffer the lake and control land disturbance and phosphorous loading than an actively managed commercial forest.

Creating an extensive, nearby forest reserve park would significantly contribute to the long-term prosperity of our community. Our population will continue to grow, and outdoor recreation and a green landscape will continue to play a key role in a quality of life closely linked to our economic fortunes. More and more, talented people and healthy businesses will come here because of the natural environment. The opportunity to establish a large, forested park in close proximity to a growing urban area is rare. We could leave no finer legacy than the prospect that someday children in our community will be able to bicycle to an old growth forest and walk among the majestic trees there. When earlier this year I walked with my new grandson in 6,300-acre Mount Tamalpais State Park 12 miles from San Francisco, I thought about the foresight of the people who long ago set aside that beautiful land. That is the kind of decision that we now have the opportunity to make.

Concern has been expressed about the impact of reconveyance on the logging

Rand Jack

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Planning for the Future of the Land

One of the most compelling tasks facing Whatcom Land Trust is to endow future stewardship obligations. Endowments are the pathway to building capacity for our organization to meet its future needs. They provide financial stability during economic fluctuation so that programs and services can continue without disruption. An endowment fund is capital that provides a permanent source of income for the Land Trust. The principal is invested in a disciplined manner and the earnings and investment appreciation are channeled back into the fund. This allows the endowment to grow over time and become a source of long-term support that can be maintained permanently.

A gift to the Whatcom Land Trust Fund, held and managed by the Whatcom Community Foundation, may be part of a thoughtful, comprehensive estate plan that provides a way to complete a lifetime of giving or allows a donor to make a significant gift that was not possible at an earlier stage of life. Such gifts can also provide advantages such as lifetime income to the donor or others while offering certain tax benefits. Planned giving is a way to match a person's passion for conservation and preservation with tax and financial advantages. Planned gifts can be structured in several ways, and vary in size. It is the effect of the gift – the difference it makes – and the philanthropic goal it fulfills for the donor that sets it apart from an annual gift. Below are a few other ways one might choose to support the efforts of the Land Trust:

**Bequests**

A bequest is a transfer, by will, of property such as cash, securities (stocks), or tangible property to an individual or a charitable organization. For many donors a bequest offers the opportunity to make a gift from a will or living trust without affecting their current financial situation.

**Charitable Lead Trust**

A charitable lead trust will distribute annual gifts to Whatcom Land Trust for a specified number of years for the purpose you designate. Upon completion of the trust term, the principal is returned to the donor or heirs.

**Life Income Agreements**

Life income agreements are gifts that provide income for life for designated beneficiaries. Upon termination of the agreement, the Land Trust would use the remaining assets for the purpose you have specified. Donors receive a charitable deduction for the portion of the gift that will ultimately benefit the Land Trust.

Whatcom Artists Studio Tour

In October 2008, 54 of some of Whatcom County's finest artists will participate in the 14th Annual Whatcom Artists Studio Tour. They will open their studios to the public for two weekends. Whether you are a long time collector or you are just beginning a collection, the tour is a perfect venue to shop for fine art and craft, and to see artists at work. Many artists donate a portion of their proceeds to Whatcom Land Trust. Those artists are indicated on the brochure for the studio tour.

The Tour will take place on October 4 & 5 and 11 & 12 from 10:00 am – 5:00 p.m. Go to www.studiotour.net for more information.

Conservation Lunch and Business Partners Breakfast

Our next Conservation Breakfast will be a Lunch! If you would like to learn more about our conservation efforts, and have an opportunity to network with others who support the conservation and preservation of Whatcom County, then join us at the Conservation Lunch on October 9th.

We are planning breakfast for our Conservation Business Partners for early December, and believe it or not, we have already confirmed the date of the next Great Outdoors Auction on May 2nd, 2009. For more information on how you might attend, or volunteer to help at one of our functions, please call Connie or Jerry at 650-9470.
Many Ways of Giving for Varied Donor Styles

Donors to Whatcom Land Trust give in various ways and with remarkable generosity. Donations of conservation easements, sales of property at less than market value, and the outright gift of property occur throughout the year and are the backbone of our work. Donations of time and services are provided by volunteers and board members. Businesses give as Conservation Business Partners, and are unbelievably generous in support of our auction. But the bulk of our support is provided during our annual appeal sent out in early November each year. Since we limit ourselves by requesting your donations only during the annual appeal, we don’t often get an opportunity to describe other ways of supporting the Land Trust.

Our recent update of the website included the development of a safe and secure online giving portal. In addition, on the website you will find a link to GOODSEARCH, a search engine that allows you to support your favorite nonprofit at no cost to you. You search the internet for a nonprofit and GOODSEARCH donates a penny to WLT. Over the course of a year, the impact of a number of people using the search engine will generate enough income to pay for the website!

We are fortunate to have a number of people who choose to give monthly or through payroll giving, an efficient, and low-cost way for charities to raise funds (compared with fundraising activities) and provide them with the regular income support that they need. To encourage employees to make charitable gifts, many corporations agree to match personal donations with an equal or greater corporate contribution. Donors should check with the appropriate company department to see if a gift qualifies for a corporate match. If the idea of simplifying the donation process... eliminating the need for annual renewal notices... increasing the value of your support... and helping reduce WLT’s administrative costs interests you, then you should consider monthly giving. Similar to other automatic monthly payments you might make for a mortgage or other fixed payments, you can authorize a set amount to be transferred from your checking/savings account or charged to your credit card each month and deposited directly into the Land Trust’s account.

Why monthly donations?
• Automatic donations increase the value of your support by reducing administrative costs in processing your donations.
• Without the need for annual renewal notices, monthly donations help save WLT resources and postage costs.
• You can put your donation to work right away without any mail or processing delays.
• By donating monthly, your tax-deductible donation will be spread throughout the year.

Check out the new website or make a call to the office to explore other ways you can support the Land Trust. Your donations are vital to our shared successes!

Have you heard? John and Stacie Matthews are at it again!

Do you remember back in 2003 when John and Stacie Matthews rode their tandem bicycle from Neah Bay to Bar Harbor, Maine? Along the way, they raised several thousand dollars for the work of Whatcom Land Trust. In the Fall 2003 Steward, John wrote, “Stacie and I have experienced an adventure that will be hard to duplicate.” Well, look out, because they’re at it again!

This fall, John and Stacie will begin on a journey to Argentina by tandem bicycle. They expect the trip to take about a year. Once again, they are raising funds to benefit WLT. As they travel along their journey, you can keep up with John and Stacie through their blog hosted on WLT’s website, www.whatcomlandtrust.org.

We wish John and Stacie the very best and thank them for their support as they retire from their jobs, pack up their home and embark on this amazing journey!
What is going on Out On the Land?

MORE "AGPDRS"
Whatcom Land Trust is again partnering with Whatcom County Planning and Development Services to expand agricultural property under protection via the Purchase of Development Rights program. Later this fall the Land Trust will hold new conservation easements on four additional farm parcels totaling 69.7 acres. WLT presently holds conservation easements on slightly more than 1,000 acres of currently or formerly active farm lands, with about half coming from Trust actions prior to joining with the County in the “AgPDR” initiative in 2004. Two of the new parcels are near the South Fork of Dakota Creek with the other two near Bertrand Creek. One property is currently used to grow seed potatoes, one is a hay field and two are used as pasture for dairy cows. Baseline preparation and field verifications of the farmlands are currently underway.

SHEEP “MOWING”
Earlier this summer the south field on the Trust's new Black Slough property on Nelson Road was mowed by sheep from Ewe Care, Dirk Vansant’s holistic vegetation management company based in the Nooksack South Fork valley. Ewe Care’s service brought sheep onto the property for two weeks, installing temporary fencing to restrict their presence to the south field. The sheep not only “mowed” the grass, they provided fertilizer and hoof activity to the soil. The north field on the property was cut using a mechanical mower. Staff will monitor both fields for comparison.

VOLUNTEER STEWARD
Thanks to Zachery Jones, from Nooksack Valley Middle School, who cleared invasive blackberries at Whatcom Land Trust’s Rutsatz Salmon Preserve. Zach's donated labor was part of his “Breakout” project. NVMS students choose a social topic which they believe needs to be addressed, do research on the subject, provide community service and make a presentation to a panel of school members. Many young evergreen trees, planted several years ago as part of a restoration project at the Rutsatz property, had become engulfed by blackberries. Because of Zach’s efforts, those trees now will likely survive and grow to maturity.

NEW GATE AT FENTON
Thanks to Ray Fenton for donating his labor by installing the new field gate at the Fenton Nature Reserve. Ray is dedicated to quality workmanship as you can see in the photograph.
Fall Tours & Opportunities

For more information and to register, call Whatcom Land Trust at 650-9470. Tours are free to Whatcom Land Trust members. A suggested $5 to $10 donation from non-members is requested for the tours.

Native Plant Tour of Geneva Pond Loop

September 13, 2008
10:00 am
Leader: Emily Schiller

Join us for a forest stroll and discover the diversity of native flowers and shrubs found in the Stimpson Family Reserve. Volunteers from Whatcom County Master Gardeners will lead the walk and help you learn to identify the local plants (and a few weeds) we encounter. We will take the Geneva Pond Loop trail and expect the walk to take approximately two hours. Upon registration you will receive a plant list and further information.

The view from the ridge above Canyon Lake.

Canyon Lake Community Forest

September 27, 2008
8:30 am
Leader: Roger Weiss

Come and explore one of Whatcom Land Trust's most unique and ambitious habitat acquisitions, Canyon Lake Community Forest. Located in the foothills of Mt. Baker, this 2,300-acre watershed includes 600 acres of 800- to 1000-year-old trees. The site is a living classroom of unique plants, animals, and spectacular tropical fossils, and the view from the top is one of the most outstanding panoramas of Mt. Baker and the Sisters. Tour leader Roger Weiss will lead this 9-mile hike and (if you are so inclined) offer tips on capturing this magnificent place with the camera.

Nesset Farm

October 11, 2008
10:00 am
Leader: Russ Pfeiffer-Hoyt

Russ Pfeiffer-Hoyt, member of the Nesset Foundation, will lead an exploration of one of our county's gems of family history and natural beauty. Participants will learn about life on a Norwegian-American homestead and experience beautiful terrain in what will one day be a premier public park in the South Fork valley. Easy to moderate walking. Bring a lunch for a picnic after the tour if you like!

Make A Difference Day

October 25th

Make a Difference Day is a great opportunity to give back to your community. Join three million others in this national day of service as they work on projects that directly benefit the environment, people who are homeless, seniors, kids and victims of domestic violence. Whatcom Land Trust will host a work party that focuses on being good stewards of the earth. We'll be working to keep protected lands in the best possible condition. Call Steve at 650-9470 for details!

Fall Salmon Tour

November 22, 2008
10:00 am
Leader: Doug Huddle

Discover winter Chum & Coho on this trip along some of WLT's Nooksack River properties with fish surveyor and wildlife writer, Doug Huddle. See the salmon as they make their spawning trip up the river and learn about their tendencies and challenges from this experienced outdoorsman.

New Year's Day Eagle Tour

January 1, 2009
1:30 pm
Leader: Doug Huddle

Celebrate the New Year with magnificent Bald Eagles! This New Year's Day tour will visit a popular eagle fishing site protected by Whatcom Land Trust. Learn about the local recovery of this endangered species and of the current threats to its food source. See local places where eagles like to roost and watch the birds in action!
Whatcom Land Trust • By the Numbers

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

- Total Acres ............................................................ 9,250
- Miles of Riverfront .................................................. 22.5
- Miles of Salt Water Shoreline ................................. 7.5
- Public Parks Created ................................................... 13

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 ($35 min.) ☐ Make a donation $ _________
☐ Find out more ☐ Help with ____________________________

Name ________________________________________________
Address __________________________________________________________________
City/Zip_____________________________________ Phone ________________________
e-mail ___________________________________________________
☐ check enclosed Bill my: ☐ VISA ☐ MC # ____________________________ Expires: ____________

Your Signature ____________________________________________

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

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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 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.

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Land Steward Steve Walker

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.

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

“... to be directly involved in the preservation and restoration of critical lands so close to home.”

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 successfully 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 Nesset 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

continued from page one

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.

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.

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.

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 paperwork. 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 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.

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: Heidi Baxter
The -4.4’ tide at Lily Point seen from the uplands bluff.

photo: Rand Jack
Exploring the low tide at Lily Point.
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.

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)

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.

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
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 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 Inspirin:

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 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 deve...
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 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 vegetation 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.

Participants of a recent flight.

(photo: Eric Carabba)

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

Perspective

Habitat Protection on North Fork
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.

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.

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.

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

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.
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:

- Clarks Point
- Teddy Bear Cove
- Canyon Lk. Community Forest
- ARCO Heron Reserve
- Deming Eagle Park
- Point Whitehorn
- Plover Island
- Nesset
- Squires Lake
- Ladies of the Lake
- Stimpson Family Nature Reserve
- 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 Acres ............................................................. 9,010
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:

☐ Become a member ($35 min.)    ☐ Make a donation $__________
☐ Find out more                      ☐ Help with ___________________________

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Address ________________________________________________________________
City/Zip_____________________________________ Phone ________________________
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