

WHIDBEY CAMANO LAND TRUST

W I N T E R 2 0 0 4

PURCHASE PROTECTS NEARSHORE HABITAT

The public can now enjoy a longer and more stimulating beach walk when visiting Libbey Beach County Park, located between Coupeville and Oak Harbor (see directions below). The Land Trust purchased 1,200 feet of private tidelands that will be donated to Island County as an addition to the park. Commissioner Mike Shelton expressed appreciation of the future gift, saying "Public tidelands are one of Island County's greatest assets, especially when they adjoin a public park. For the residents of Island County, present and future, thank you."

Libbey Beach Park is a great place to picnic, walk, explore the diverse nearshore environment and observe a wide variety of shorebirds. These include Harlequin Ducks that feed just offshore, Black Oystercatchers feeding on the rocks at low tides, and Double-crested Cormorants, Common and Red-Throated Loons, Horned and Western Grebes, Surf Scoters, gulls and more.

Island County is encircled by 221 miles of shoreline - nearly 9% of all shoreline in Puget Sound. Less than 50% of its tidelands are publicly owned. There are 44 publicly-owned properties in the County that provide saltwater access to the beach. However, acquiring additional public beach access and tidelands remains a high priority for

Islanders. Commissioner Shelton pointed out that it is hard to overstate the importance of the ability to access our salt water environment when you live on an island.

Tidelands are the strip of land between ordinary low water and ordinary high water. They are part of a very diverse and vital nearshore habitat that provide a rich and abundant source of food and shelter for large numbers of fish and wildlife species.

Nearshore habitat deterioration has been identified as the largest threat to the health of Puget Sound waters (British Columbia/Washington Marine Science Panel 1994). In the past, eelgrass beds and mudflats were dismissed as wastelands: too wet and salty for farming, too shallow for shipping and suitable only for diking and filling. Today, conversely, muddy shores are known to be the most productive habitat in Puget Sound.

We at the Land Trust are excited to be able to acquire this important stretch of tidelands and transfer it to the community for the enjoyment and benefit of all!

DIRECTIONS: *Libbey Beach Park is located close to Fort Ebey State Park. Turn off Highway 20 onto Libbey Road and follow the road one mile to the end. The newly acquired tidelands are located adjacent to the north side of the park.*

Saratoga Woods Spring Clean Up!

Join the Friends of Saratoga for our annual Spring Clean Up at Saratoga Woods, **Saturday, March 20th, 9am-noon**. We'll be doing trail maintenance, removing invasive plants, and cleaning up the entrance area. Bring gloves, clippers, hand saws and shovels. Refreshments will be served. For more information, contact Mark Gappa at gappa@whidbey.com.

LOCAL MARINE STEWARDSHIP AREAS DESIGNATED

As one of their last actions in 2003, the Island County Board of Commissioners created the Admiralty Inlet and Saratoga Passage marine stewardship areas. These marine areas are major corridors for commercial fishing and recreation, and hold some of Puget Sound's largest eelgrass beds. Eelgrass beds provide important spawning grounds for forage fish and habitat for juvenile salmon.

By designating all the waters surrounding the County as stewardship areas, shoreline owners, citizens and visitors are asked to take voluntary actions to preserve and protect Island County's rich marine environment. To bring about greater understanding of the marine stewardship areas, the Island County Marine Resources Committee is increasing its educational efforts through signage, brochures, maps, speakers, classes, beach tours and other activities.

For more information on protecting our marine areas through shoreline stewardship, go to:

Island County Marine Resources Committee
www.islandcountymrc.org/projects

Beachwatchers
www.beachwatchers.wsu.edu

Shore Stewards
www.shorestewards.org

People for Puget Sound – ShoreWatch Program
<http://pugetsound.org/shorewatch>



Newly acquired Libbey Beach tidelands. Photo Credit: Mark Sheehan

BOARD SPOTLIGHT

Name:

Marty Behr

Joined Board:

2002

Islander Since:

1990



Profession:

Owner and President of Alaska Unusual

Background:

Marty has spent over 20 years in ecotourism and water transportation in the Northwest, Alaska and BC. He operates custom, natural history tours for travelers to Alaska and the Pacific Northwest. He is an avid hiker and has a particular interest in historic journeys. He re-created the 1000-mile Klondike Goldrush by boat, foot and canoe from Seattle to Dawson City in the Yukon. Last year, he hiked the final 120 miles of the Lewis & Clark Expedition from Missoula to Lewiston. Marty has been a board member of a number of environmental organizations, including People for Puget Sound, Island County Marine Resources Committee, Citizens for Sensible Development, Alaska Conservation Foundation and The Orca Network. He holds MBA and Master of Science degrees from Stanford University. Marty and his wife Ginny have four grown daughters.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Kathleen Landel

Vice President: Cary Peterson

Secretary: Connie Wolfe

Treasurer: Martin Behr

Directors: William Applegate
Charles Arndt
Sheilagh Byler
Larry Harris
Ray Rasmussen

MISSION

Dedicated to the preservation of our special lands: the open farmland, the shoreline and the forests, which contribute to the unique rural quality of Whidbey and Camano Islands.

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF CONSERVATION

It was 20 years ago that the Whidbey Camano Land Trust was founded to protect the scenic forest along the Ebey's Bluff Trail and 90 acres of agricultural land on north Whidbey. Since then, the Land Trust has expanded its mission to include protecting significant lands throughout Island County. The generous support of the community and countless volunteer hours, including the tireless efforts of past and present board members, helped build an organization that is now the most effective land conservation non-profit in Island County. But, there is still much to do!

Permanent changes to our Islands' landscapes are accelerating—the next 10 years will be pivotal to the future of our islands and our quality of life. We agree wholeheartedly with Rand Wentworth, President of the Land Trust Alliance, when he states, **"Either we will develop the vision and resources to protect our treasured landscapes, or we will lose those places forever."** We have created the following two new programs in celebration of our 20th Anniversary.

Join The Islands' Legacy Circle

The Land Trust is pleased to announce the creation of our Planned Giving Program, the "Islands' Legacy Circle". We have set a goal to have 20 Legacy Circle members by the end of 2004. Planned Gifts – gifts derived from the work of a lifetime – allow us to work into the future for the protection of our beloved islands. All of us can be philanthropists through our estate plans, supporting those organizations and causes we feel passionate about during our lifetimes. Our giving continues long after we are gone.

Consider the ways you can contribute to the Whidbey Camano Land Trust through Planned Gifts:

- Leave a bequest in your will of cash, securities, tangible property, or real estate.
- Name the Whidbey Camano Land Trust as the beneficiary of insurance policies, retire-



View from Ebey's Bluff trail, overlooking Perego's Lagoon and the Straight of Juan de Fuca, Photo Credit: Mark Sheehan

ment and pension plans, bank accounts, bonds and mutual funds.

- Name the Whidbey Camano Land Trust as the residual beneficiary in your will, or of any annuity or trust that you have created, or as the residual beneficiary of a retirement or pension plan.
- Name the Whidbey Camano Land Trust as the residual beneficiary of a Retained Life Estate.

These gifts have different benefits and tax advantages. But all of them give immense personal satisfaction from supporting a mission to which your heart is committed...the protection of our Islands' rural integrity and natural heritage.

Become A Conservation Partner

Becoming a Conservation Partner is another great way to support the Whidbey Camano Land Trust. Conservation Partners support our on-going operations, which is essential if we are to increase our capacity to protect more of the places you care about. Partners make yearly membership donations at one of three levels: Trailblazers at \$1,000 and above; Stewards at \$500 to \$999; and Islanders at \$250-\$499. Conservation Partners receive newflashes and quarterly updates, and participate in special partner events and monthly chats to learn more about our work. Become a Conservation Partner today – it is a marvelous and lasting gift to your children, friends, future generations and, especially, to you!

SETTING OUR VISION AND OUR PRIORITIES

After celebrating our incredible successes in 2003, the Board recently turned its attention to setting the Land Trust's priorities for 2004.

There are three main priorities:

- **Continue our progress on key land projects**, including acquisition of the Golden Paintbrush rare plant site, the Krueger Farm acquisition, and several significant private conservation easements.
- **Increase our capacity to do our work by recruiting volunteers** who are experienced in communications, public relations, finance, or fund development.
- **Complete our 3-5 Year Strategic Plan** using information from our natural resources mapping project (the Natural Heritage Plan), to identify and prioritize important land protection projects and strategies.

Clarifying our mission is an important part of updating our strategic plan. Last fall, we talked individually with over thirty of our supporters to find out their vision for the work of the Land Trust. In December, we had a work session where Board, staff and supporters gathered to look at the interview results. From our lively and dynamic conversations, we crafted working drafts of the values, competencies and vision for the Land Trust. The 2004 Whidbey Island Garden Tour approved a \$6,500 grant to assist us in completing our mapping effort. Watch for an invitation in late spring to view the natural resources maps, and to give your ideas about land protection priorities and the mission of the Land Trust.

SEARS HOUSE OFFICE UPDATE

We extend a warm welcome to our newest board members – Charles Arndt and Ray Rasmussen. Charles is a Coupeville attorney specializing in civil and criminal litigation. He lives with his family on the Smith homestead in the Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve. Ray is a real estate agent with Windermere Realty in Coupeville. He returned to live in his hometown of Oak Harbor after retiring from a 25-year timber management career with the U.S. Forest Service.

We bid a very fond farewell to former board members, Bob Windecker and Phil Pearl. Bob served on the Board for 8 years as Treasurer and was invaluable in putting

the Land Trust in a sound financial position. Phil, a highly skilled land protection consultant, brought the Land Trust to a higher level with his negotiation of the Saratoga Woods property. Both remain as valuable advisors to the Land Trust. We thank them for their dedication, and are very grateful for their important contributions and hard work over the years.

The Land Trust welcomes our new office management team—Cyndi Fernandez and Dawn Rhodes. Dawn is an expert in donor database management and information systems. Cyndi's strengths lie in communications, outreach and office management.



From left to right:

*Bill Applegate
Kathleen Landel
Pat Powell
Ray Rasmussen
Connie Wolfe
Sheilagh Byler
Cary Peterson
Charles Arndt*

Absent:

*Marty Behr
Cyndi Fernandez
Larry Harris
Dawn Rhodes*

THANK YOU!

Memorial Gifts

In Memory of Jack Davies & In Honor of Mary Davies

Barnette Sunshine Club
Icle & Robert Crow
Kathleen Davies
Lynne & Larry Gore
Joan Poultridge
Ed & Lois Schaeffer
Barb Spence

In Memory of Therapy

Judith Cosner

In Memory of John H. Munn

Rosmarie & Wes Jansen

In Memory of Elmer Schick

Philip & Jean Jacobowitz

In Memory of Joan Skillman

Timothy Riley & Deirdre Skillman

Heron Heroes

Mildred Billig
Lorraine & Randall Olafson
Donald & Helen Owens
Charles Peterson
Mimi Simmons
Kevin Smith
Frederick V. Steffan
Karen & Mitchell Streicher

Some of the above donors were left out of our Heron Hero insert. Our apologies.

CONTACT WCLT

Founded in 1984, WCLT is a non-profit conservation organization dedicated to helping private landowners, and the community, protect special lands in Island County. Additional information on land trusts and landowner conservation options is available at www.lta.org and www.wclt.org or by contacting:

Patricia Powell, Executive Director Whidbey Camano Land Trust

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