



WHIDBEY CAMANO LAND TRUST

SPRING 2004

Learn how to Protect the Land You Love

Do you want to know more about conserving your land for future generations? Thanks to a generous grant from the **Rotary Club of South Whidbey**, landowners will have easy access to a comprehensive set of land conservation materials at five Sno-Isle libraries. The Land Trust requested the funds to purchase books and videos to help you make informed decisions about planning for the future of your family land, working forest or farm.

The books will be available at the Coupeville, Freeland, Langley, Oak Harbor, and Stanwood branches of the Sno-Isle Regional Library system in the reference section. The videos can be checked out from any Sno-Isle branch.

The Land Conservation Options Resource Packet Includes:

Conservation Options: A Landowner's Guide

Preserving Family Lands: Books I, II and III

The Landowner's Guide to Conservation Easements

Your Land is Your Legacy, A Guide to Planning for the Future of Your Farm

Working Forest Conservation Easements

Land Trusts in America: Guardians of the Future

For the Common Good: Preserving Private Lands with Conservation Easements



Thank you **Rotary Club of South Whidbey** for making this information available to everyone! Rotary is a worldwide organization of business and professional leaders that provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help build goodwill and peace in the world. To learn more about the Rotarians, visit their website at www.rotary.org.



Tour Spectacular Gardens and Support the Land Trust!

"Do paint the meadows with delight..." – Shakespeare

By signing up for this year's **9th Annual Whidbey Island Garden Tour**, you'll be supporting the work of the Land Trust. Proceeds from the Tour benefit many local non-profits. This year, we are very proud to have been selected as a recipient of a \$6,500 grant. These funds will help us complete our natural resource inventory and mapping effort. The resulting mapped database will be used to help us identify land conservation priorities and determine where we will concentrate our future protection efforts. Please see the Open House article for more information about how you can assist us in identifying lands and waters you believe are crucial in our effort to protect our islands' cherished natural heritage.

This year's Garden Tour will be held on **Saturday, June 26th, 2004 from 10am – 4pm**. Six of South Whidbey Island's loveliest private gardens will be open to the public for this one day only. Purchase your tickets early, as this event always sells out. For more information, visit www.wigt.org or call (360) 321-4191.

Whidbey Island Garden Tour is an all-volunteer, non-profit organization established in 1996 to raise funds for groups that work toward the improvement of Whidbey Island's common habitat. Over the past eight years, the tour has raised more than \$120,000 and supported many habitat projects undertaken by the Land Trust.

Whidbey Camano Land Trust's 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.

Thank You!

Memorial and Honorary Gifts

In Memory of Jack Davies &

In Honor of Mary Davies

Don and Jane Abel

Elizabeth Sunde

In Memory of Vernon E. Blackford

Janet Lee

In Memory of Marge Hayes

Sandra Hayes

In Memory of Jim & Clara Stoddard

Cleone Webster

In Memory of Dorothy Marie Houston

Loustaunou Shanti Loustaunou

In Memory of Jacob Tanis & Shirley Matzae

Celeste Rivers and Gen Kreie

In Honor of Roberta Haeger

Robert Wagner

In Honor of Joe & Sally Keeva

Connie Wolfe

In Honor of Gus Wenzel's Retirement

Lynn and George Guttman

Corporate

J.P. Morgan Chase

In Kind

Thanks to Nancy Snow for donating dishes for our office

Contact WCLT

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Help Identify Land Protection Priorities In Island County



Please join us at one of three Open Houses the Land Trust is hosting in May. The input you provide will help shape our

Strategic Plan for conserving land in Island County for the next 5-10 years! What lands and waters matter most to you, and which ones do you think are critical to protect for future generations? Our islands are home to many different kinds of land: wildlife habitat, farmlands, forests, marine shorelines and estuaries, watersheds, riparian areas and wetlands, scenic views, historic places, community open space, park and recreation areas, habitat and trail corridors and linkages. Your input will help us prioritize our conservation strategy.

These Open Houses are the Land Trust's final step in gathering information that will be used to identify the most important places in Island County, and will help us focus our protection efforts. The Land Trust has digitally mapped the natural resources of the

islands and consulted with local and state experts to determine the critical habitats and verify the accuracy of the maps. We now want to know what you think.

Please stop by one of our open houses and help the Land Trust decide how to protect our islands for generations to come. This is your chance to make a difference!

At the Open Houses you will be able to:

- Provide your input in an informal and anonymous manner
- Vote for your Top 5 protection priorities
- Comment on specific places you want to see protected
- Browse displays on different types of lands, waters and habitat
- Learn more about conservation tools available to landowners
- View a 14-minute informational video about land trusts
- Meet Land Trust staff and board members
- Bring the Family - Kids Area, coloring/craft station

North Whidbey Tuesday, May 18th

Oak Harbor School District Office
located at 350 S. Oak Harbor Street
Open House 6 - 8:30pm

South Whidbey Wednesday, May 19th

Bayview Corner, Bayview Hall
located just off SR 525 on Bayview Road
Open House 6 - 8:30pm

Central Whidbey Thursday, May 20th

Coupeville Recreation Hall
located at Coveland and Alexander Street
Open House 6-8:30pm

Camano Island To be announced

Phase II will focus on protection priorities on Camano Island

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Saratoga Woods Spring Clean-Up a Huge Success

Nearly 50 people showed up for the Wood's spring clean-up on March 20. This tireless crew cleared scotch broom from the airfield, removed holly, cleared blowdowns, and completely weeded the restored plantings at the entrance. Along with those who have supported the Woods from day one, there were representatives from **Half Link Bikes** (support your local bike shop), **SWEAT** (South Whidbey Endurance Athletes in Training), **The Backcountry Horsemen** and the **Whidbey Trails Council**. Contact Mark Gappa, Friends of Saratoga Woods (gappa@whidbey.com) for other ways you can help.

Important Open Houses in May

- See back panel for details

The Land Trust uses grant money for educational materials and mapping efforts - See inside for details