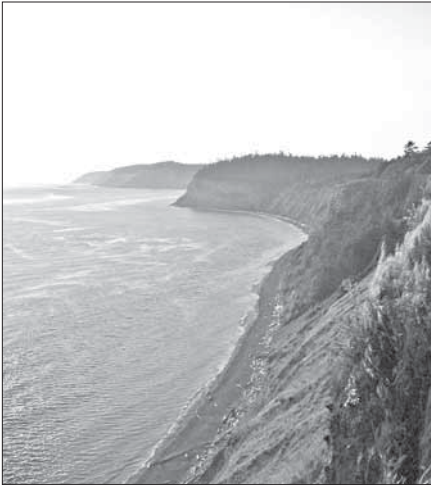


WHIDBEY CAMANO LAND TRUST

SUMMER 2004

An Extraordinary Property At-Risk

Saving Shoreline, Prairie and Rare Plants at Ebey's



Coastal bluff view of property. Photo Credit: Mark Sheehan

Stretching along nearly a mile of dramatic coastal bluff is a 33-acre property containing a remarkable remnant of our nation's natural heritage. It is one of the last 11 places in the world where golden paintbrush (*Castilleja levisecta*), a showy yellow native plant on the verge of extinction, still survives in the wild. This extraordinary property, located within Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve (Ebey's Reserve), provides spectacular views of Admiralty Inlet and the Strait of Juan de Fuca against a backdrop of the rugged Olympic Mountains. Bald eagles cry as they soar along the windswept bluff edge. Northern harriers plunge into the grassland to seize a meal. The property abounds with nature—the music of songbirds, ocean breezes, the fragrance of wild rose, the yipping of coyotes, and the crashing of waves.

Now imagine this same exceptional waterfront property—but with five homes. Gone are the golden paintbrush and the opportunity for restoring the historic prairie. People can no longer walk the nature trail. The drive from the Keystone ferry landing into Coupeville is no longer so scenic.

This was its future until the Whidbey Camano Land Trust successfully secured an option to purchase the 33-acre property from Seattle Pacific University. However, if the Land Trust cannot raise the funds needed to purchase the property, it will be sold and developed.

\$750,000 – just one-third of the total project cost – must still be raised to acquire the property. These funds will match a \$1.5 million endangered species grant awarded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to the Land Trust, in partnership with the Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and The Nature Conservancy of Washington (TNC). A permanent stewardship endowment will be established and the yearly interest will be used to restore the native prairie. Increasing the number of golden paintbrush will be at the centerpiece of this effort.

Once acquired, the Land Trust will work closely with the National Park Service (NPS), DNR Natural Heritage Program, community volunteers and other partners to manage and restore the property. The NPS considers the recovery of the golden paintbrush to be its highest natural resource priority within Ebey's Reserve and, as such, has applied for a \$150,000 management grant to help in recovering the species.

Join us in our efforts to protect a rare part of our natural heritage. See the information at the top of this page for ways you can help.



Rare *Castilleja levisecta* at the site. Photo Credit: Mark Sheehan

WE CAN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU!
Join us in saving this remarkable property.

Put a check or pledge of support in the mail today:

WCLT-Golden Paintbrush
PO Box 1453; Langley, WA 98260

Or help in our fundraising efforts.
Call (360) 321-5141 for more information.

Highlighting Golden Paintbrush

- On the verge of extinction -- only 11 populations remain in the world.
- Listed as state Endangered and federally Threatened.
- Once grew in prairies as far south as Oregon's Willamette Valley and as far north as Vancouver Island, B.C. Now, 2 sites remain in B.C. and 9 sites in Washington state, including 5 on Whidbey Island.
- Island habitats primarily occur on southwest and west-facing coastal grasslands.
- A perennial plant in the snapdragon family that grows up to 12 inches. The showy golden bracts effectively hide the inconspicuous flowers.
- A semi-parasitic plant that can extract water and nutrients from other plants but is also self-sufficient.
- Believed to reproduce entirely by seed and relies on pollination by bees.
- Identified as a federal Recovery Priority 2 (scale of 1-18), which reflects a high degree of threat, high potential for recovery, and a full species.
- Property restoration and population recovery requires relatively simple technology, such as mowing and tree removal.
- More information is available at www.wclt.org, www.dnr.wa.gov/nhp, and www.natureserve.org/explorer.

Board Spotlight

Name:

Charles Arndt

Joined Board:

2003

Islander Since:

1990

Profession:

Civil and Criminal Litigation Lawyer

Background:

Charles is a partner in the Coupeville law firm Platt & Arndt. He has a BA in philosophy and a law degree from the University of Washington.

He is married to Georgie Smith whose family has lived on and farmed the prairie near Ebey's landing since the early 1900s. They have a 6-month-old girl, Knight Rene. The family lives in the historic granary building on the Smith homestead in Ebey's Landing.

Charles, Georgie and Knight enjoy walking, hiking, sailing and kayaking in Island and San Juan Counties.

Georgie loves nurturing native plants and she also grows organic produce for Coupeville's farmer's market. When he finds the time, Charles has been known to sneak off to Seattle to watch baseball.

He enjoys working with the Land Trust to protect our treasured resources. He is excited about the work of WCLT and looks forward to serving as it grows.



Leaving a Golden Legacy



Dorothy and Ralph Naas

Dorothy Naas of Oak Harbor is passionate about native plants. As self-taught botanists, Dorothy and her late husband, Ralph, spent nearly 40 years working to further native plant protection efforts on Whidbey Island. They are credited with discovering at least 3 of the 5 golden paintbrush (*Castilleja levisecta*) populations on Whidbey Island. One of the populations they discovered is on the property the Land Trust is now working to acquire and protect (see cover story).

Dorothy admitted that she and Ralph had been looking for golden paintbrush

plants for some time. In the spring of 1988, as they were examining potential habitat around the vicinity of Fort Casey, "There they were," said Dorothy. "I felt as if we had discovered gold! It was a thrill to see them growing there in the sun." She was later told by the Washington Natural Heritage Program that she and Ralph had discovered one of the largest golden paintbrush populations left in the world.

In addition to this remarkable discovery, Dorothy was one of the first to sign up as a member of the Land Trust's Legacy Circle. She joins a number of other supporters who've left gifts to the Land Trust in their estates in order to further its conservation mission. When asked what prompted her to leave such a generous gift, Dorothy explained, "I have lived in Oak Harbor since 1942, and have seen what has happened to Whidbey Island over the years. It is becoming more and more crowded and open space is disappearing rapidly. I wanted to help conserve open space."

Thank you, Dorothy, for leaving a living legacy for all of us to enjoy – both by discovering the golden paintbrush and by including the Land Trust in your will.

Board of Directors

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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.

YOU CAN LEAVE A LEGACY TOO!

There are many ways you can make a lasting contribution to the long-term protection of Whidbey and Camano Islands. Here are some of them:

1. Donate a gift from your estate to the Land Trust. This will enhance our ability to protect the most significant lands in Island County – forever.
 - In your will, leave the Land Trust a gift of real estate, cash, securities, or other tangible property.
 - Name the Land Trust as a beneficiary of: insurance policies, retirement plans, bank accounts, bonds or mutual funds.
2. Donate a conservation easement if you own a significant property.
3. Join today! Use the enclosed envelope to become a Land Trust member.
4. Volunteer in our office, on special projects, or for stewardship activities.

For more information on ways to give, please call us at (360) 321-5141.

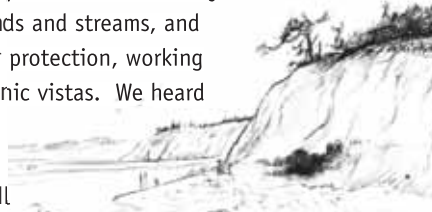
Open Houses a 'Natural' Success

More than 80 people attended our three May open houses to let us know the types of land they believe are the highest priorities to protect on Whidbey Island. Others stopped by the office or emailed us with their choices. The Land Trust plans to hold an open house on Camano Island in late summer to gather public input about Camano protection priorities.

After compiling the votes, the top protection priorities for Whidbey Island were: wildlife habitat, freshwater wetlands and streams, and coastal features. These were followed by aquifer protection, working farms, beach access, rare native species and scenic vistas. We heard loud and clear from those who attended the open houses that they want to have ecologically healthy landscapes that provide the full complement of native species and natural processes.

We also collected nearly 100 comment cards that identified specific places that Islanders believe are especially important to protect. Most of these places matched the priority focus areas identified in our natural resource inventory work, which included input by local and state natural resource experts.

We will use the valuable input we received from the Open Houses to complete our Land Protection Strategy. This document will help the Land Trust make strategic choices among competing conservation projects to ensure we are using our skills, capacity, donor support and other resources in the most effective way possible.



Illustrations by Kris Wiltse, AdEdge



Krueger Farm Meets Initial Purchase Goal

By raising over \$290,000 in the first fundraising phase, the Friends of Krueger Farm have secured the protection of two parcels on the west side of the farm property. Acquisition of the parcels will remove nearly 4.5 acres and 19 dwelling units from future development. This portion of the farm property is adjacent to the 12 acres the landowners, Cecil and Kay Stuurmans, will be donating to the Town of Coupeville. Both properties (4.5 and 12 acres) will be transferred as open space to the Town by the end of 2004.

The Whidbey Camano Land Trust negotiated the option and purchase agreement with the Stuurmans and will hold a conservation easement on the two parcels.

The Friends of Krueger Farm (FKF) are now focused on raising the rest of the funds needed to acquire the remaining 9 acres. The Krueger Farm property is one of the last large areas of open space within Coupeville town limits. To find out how you can support this effort, call FKF at (360) 678-2274.

Thank You!

Memorial Gifts

In Memory of Jesse Saegert and Charles Smith

Celeste Rivers

In Memory of Linn Emrich

Howard Shuman and Lynn Shreve

Honorary Gifts

In Honor of Pat Powell

Linda Kramme

Open House Contributors

Thanks to AdEdge Creative Solutions, a division of Whidbey Marketplace and Community Journal, for their outstanding work on our displays.

Thanks to Mark Sheehan for donating his exceptional photographs for use on our displays.

Thanks to Mukilteo Coffee for supplying delicious coffee.

And thanks to our great volunteers, Walker Landel and Jeff Landel.

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**

2812 Meinhold Road, P.O. Box 1453
Langley, WA 98260
(360) 321-5141
Email: wclt@whidbey.com
Web address: www.wclt.org

Protecting Another 600 Acres of State Lands

The Whidbey Camano Land Trust was successful in placing the 14 remaining properties in Island County, owned by the Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR), on the preliminary 2005 – 2007 Trust Land Transfer Program (TLT) list. These Whidbey Island properties, totaling nearly 600 acres, have fantastic conservation value and include: a significant forested wildlife area near Oak Harbor, secluded shoreline properties, the property containing the Clinton Water District's wells, and numerous inland forests, including a 200-acre property in the upper Maxwellton Valley watershed.

The Island County Board of Commissioners has agreed to be the recipient of all the TLT properties, with the exception of one that would go to the Clinton Water District. These transfers involve no loss of tax revenue because, as state land, these properties have never been on the County's property tax rolls.

DNR is currently holding these lands for revenue-producing purposes. If they are not protected, they will eventually be

logged and sold for development. The TLT Program is an innovative way to transfer DNR lands with special conservation values to other governmental entities, at no cost to the recipient. As part of the transfer, the TLT Program allows DNR to purchase higher revenue-producing properties for the benefit of the K-12 common school construction account.

By mid-July, DNR expects to decide which of the properties on the preliminary list will be on the final TLT list. In the fall of 2004, the final list will be presented to the Board of Natural Resources for approval before being sent to the Governor's office as a funding request. During its 2005 session, the Legislature will decide the amount of funding for the TLT program. The legislature has funded this program with bi-partisan support since 1989.

More than 3,300 acres of DNR lands in Island County have already been protected through the TLT program, including: Goss Lake Woods, Carp Lake Woods, Rhododendron

Park, and large portions of Fort Ebey, South Whidbey and Deception Pass State Parks.

Go to www.wclt.org to view maps of the 14 parcels, get information and periodic updates on the TLT Program, and learn how to email or write a letter supporting the transfer and protection of these important properties.

Thanks to all of you who have written to DNR expressing your concerns. Below are excerpts from some of your letters.

"Transfer of DNR lands on Whidbey Island that have significance to our salmon recovery strategy will move us an important step forward without burdening local volunteer efforts and fundraising." - **Salmon Technical Advisory Group**

"There are great horned owls and rough-legged hawks that nest in the forest near Swantown. We look forward each year to the return of the Swainson's thrushes." - **Bill**

"It is vital that the state support its citizens by safeguarding public resources..." - **Laura**

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P.O. Box 1453
Langley, WA 98260
(360) 321-5141

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Saving Golden Paintbrush A plant on the verge of extinction



Inside:

- Saving shoreline, prairie and rare plants at Ebey's
- Honoring the legacy of discovery and giving
- Community protection priorities revealed
- Two parcels secured at Krueger Farm