

WHIDBEY CAMANO LAND TRUST

SUMMER 2005

Persistence Pays Off

Thanks to a year-long effort by the Whidbey Camano Land Trust and Island County residents, 420 acres of forest lands and nearly 4,000 feet of waterfront on Whidbey Island will be protected at no cost to Island County. We lobbied to get nine of the last 14 Whidbey Island trust properties included on the final Department of Natural Resource's (DNR) Trust Land Transfer (TLT) list. We then successfully lobbied state legislators to fully fund the TLT program in the state's capital budget.

This is great news for our county. More land on Whidbey will now be permanently protected for wildlife habitat, clean water, natural areas and recreation. We are grateful to the many people who called and wrote legislators and to the Island County Commissioners, Senator Haugen and Representatives Strow and Bailey who supported the transfers. Without the

concerted efforts of all, we would not have had this incredible level of success.

The TLT program allows the DNR to transfer state school lands with conservation values to local or state governments, who then protect the lands as parks, natural areas or wildlife habitat. The program helps address the urgent need for school construction, protects Washington's natural heritage, and results in upgrading school trust assets to generate long-term revenue for school construction.

For three years we have been spearheading efforts to transfer the remaining state school trust lands in Island County to a permanent protected status. We are delighted that nine parcels in our county made the cut. Statewide, only 25 properties out of the hundreds considered made it onto the final TLT list. To date, more than 3,400 acres in Island County have been transferred to protected status under this program, including large acreages

that are now part of Fort Ebey, South Whidbey and Deception Pass State Parks.

There is still more work to do. We must ensure that DNR follows through on the transfers and, next year we will start working to protect the five remaining trust land properties in Island County

More information about the Trust Land Transfer program and the nine Whidbey properties is posted in the "News and Events" section of our website at www.wclt.org.



More than 400 acres of forest land will soon be protected on Whidbey Island.
Photo Credit: Mark Sheehan

Mission

The Whidbey Camano Land Trust protects our islands' natural habitats and rural lands in partnership with landowners and the broader community.

Whidbey Lands on Final TLT List

STRAWBERRY POINT – 14 acres

2,440' of high waterfront bluff with mature forest; provides important shoreline habitat for raptors and other birds.

SMUGGLERS COVE – 11 acres

Over 1,300 feet of undeveloped, forested shoreline that is designated as a critical habitat area for fish and wildlife.

CULTUS BAY WATERFRONT – 10 acres

275 feet of waterfront bluff on Cultus Bay.

HIGHPOINT – 45 acres

One of the last stands of older mature forest on the south end of Whidbey.

UPPER MAXWELTON – 205 acres

Mature forest at the headwaters of Maxwellton Creek, one of three streams in Island County that is salmon bearing.

SKYLINE WEST – 40 acres

Important for wildlife habitat and connectivity, and protection of water quality.

BRAINERS ROAD – 39 acres

Provides important forest and riparian habitat for the area's wildlife, as it is adjacent to a residential development.

GLENDALE CREEK – 34 acres

Connected to a future public wildlife reserve above Cultus Bay.

WAHL ROAD – 20 acres

Wildlife habitat and low impact recreational opportunities near a developed residential area.

Board Spotlight

Name:

John Edison

Joined Board:

2004

Profession:

Attorney

Camano Islander Since:

1992

Background:

John is an arbitrator for the National Association of Securities Dealers. He is also a member of the Lawyer's Fund for Client Protection Committee of the Washington State Bar Association. Prior legal activities include serving on the Island County Planning Commission, organizing legal services for people living with AIDS, and five years specializing in military law.

He is a member of many organizations, and was active in preserving the Davis Slough heron colony on Camano Island. He is also an instructor for Camano Island Fire and Rescue, a mountain climber, a bird watcher and an organic gardener.



Land Trust Welcomes Lisbeth Cort as Director of Outreach and Development

Permanent changes to the landscapes and natural features of Whidbey and Camano Islands are increasing. In order to step up the pace of land protection in Island County, the Land Trust created a new staff position of Director of Outreach and Development to focus on membership development, fundraising, public outreach and education. Creating this position insures that executive director Pat Powell can now focus more of her time on her specialty—land conservation. Filling the new position is Coupeville resident Lisbeth Cort who joined the Land Trust in April after a 22-year career in historic preservation. Prior to coming to the Land Trust, Lisbeth was Executive Director of both the Washington Trust for Historic Preservation and the Utah Heritage Foundation. She also served as Assistant Director in the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Western Regional Office and as Director of Community Services for Historic Land-

marks Foundation of Indiana. She has taught graduate courses in non-profit organizational development, historic preservation law, and planning. Lisbeth has extensive experience in fundraising, communications, management, and public education. She received her B.A. in history from Tennessee Technological University and her M.S. in historic preservation from Ball State University in Indiana. She and her husband, Larry Cort, who grew up on Whidbey Island, restored the historic 1890 Charles Angel House.

Lisbeth looks forward to increasing public outreach, financial support, and membership at a time when the islands' rural character is changing rapidly.



"I fell in love with Whidbey Island the first time I visited Ebey's Landing. Little did I know I'd one day live here and be part of helping protect our beaches, natural areas and wildlife habitat for future generations."

Out on the Farms

Every year, we thank our Conservation Partners—annual donors who give \$250 and above—at a special event in their honor. This year, more than 50 Conservation Partners gathered on May 14 at the Old Anderson Farm outside Coupeville for food, wine, friends and fun. Partners heard from Anderson Farm owner Gene Kahn, one of the country's preeminent experts on sustainable agriculture. Then, the crowd rode across green fields, past bald eagles perched on fence posts, to the Jenne Farm where owners Fran Einterz and Joyce Peterson shared stories about their adventures conserving a working, historic farm in Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve. Many of the attendees capped off the afternoon by taking a hike to see endangered golden paintbrush in bloom at the Naas Preserve site (see 'Caging *Castilleja*' opposite page). A special thanks to event hosts Gene Kahn, Lisa Meserole, Fran Einterz and Joyce

Peterson; Bayleaf; The Star Store; and Dale Sherman who helped make this year's Conservation Partners event a success. For information about our Conservation Partners Program, call the Land Trust office at 360-321-5141.



Guests enjoy learning what it takes to run a working farm with their visit to the Jenne Farm. Photo Credits: Mark Sheehan (top); Rick Ingrassi (bottom)

Board of Directors

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Vice President: Charles Arndt

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Directors: William Applegate, Joani Boose, David Brown, John Edison, Ray Rasmussen, Steve Raymond, Michael Thomas, Constance Wolfe

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Leigh Smith

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Director of Outreach and Development: Lisbeth Cort

Programs Assistant: Cyndi Fernandez

Development Assistant: Dawn Rhodes

News Around the Islands

Caging *Castilleja*

A group of volunteers representing the Whidbey Camano Land Trust, the National Park Service and the Department of Natural Resources caged more than 100 golden paintbrush at the Naas Preserve this spring.

Florence Caplow, botanist with the Washington Natural Heritage Program, led the team. The endangered plants were enclosed in wire cages and numbered with metal tags. Caging protects the plants from grazing by deer and rabbits. Once the plants finish blooming, a small percentage of seeds will be gathered and grown under supervision for future site restoration.



Volunteer Sandy Swope Moody cages golden paintbrush at the Naas Natural Area Preserve on Whidbey Island. Photo Credits: Jasa Holt (left) and Becki Applegate (right)

Get Out!

We encourage you, your family and friends to get out and visit the wonderful conservation lands in your area. Go to www.wclt.org for directions to several of our favorite hiking destinations.

Northwest Land Trust Conference

In April, many of the Land Trust staff and board members attended the Land Trust Alliance's Northwest Regional Conference at Sleeping Lady Mountain Retreat in Leavenworth. They attended workshops aimed at making the Land Trust a more effective and proactive land conservation organization.



Sleeping Lady is named after the mountain pictured above. Photo Credit: Yseldah Applegate

Island County Parks

The *Double Bluff Park* upgrade nears completion. A new outdoor shower and concrete finish has been added to the comfort station. Also planned, is an out-

door shower for pets and a fountain that will accommodate persons in wheelchairs. *Deer Lake* will receive some much-needed attention beginning in June. Island County Parks is looking at adding a new comfort station and a grass area, increasing parking, and improving the eroded shoreline. Submitted by Terri Arnold

Creating a Lively Garden

Want to enjoy birds and other wildlife in your backyard? You can enhance your property to attract wildlife through the Backyard Wildlife Habitat program. The requirements are simple. The site must provide the essential elements for wildlife—food, water, shelter and a place to raise young. Almost 500 Camano Island residents have implemented the program on their property. With this level of citizen participation, Camano Island has been recognized as a Community Wildlife Habitat—only the 10th community in the entire nation to achieve this status! To learn more about the program or to register your yard, visit the National Wildlife Federation website at www.nwf.org. Or contact Gretchen Muller at the Northwest Regional Office in Seattle at 206-285-8707 or via email at muller@nwf.org. Submitted by Jean Bach, Camano Community Wildlife Habitat Steering Committee

Remembering Dorothy



We are saddened to report that Dorothy Naas (left) passed away on May 5. Just two months ago, Dorothy celebrated her 89th birthday.

At her surprise party, Land Trust executive director Pat Powell presented a special award to Dorothy. The award recognized Dorothy and her late husband Ralph for locating all the remaining golden paintbrush populations left on Whidbey Island. And, in honor of this achievement, the Land Trust named the golden paintbrush property we are currently acquiring the Naas Natural Area Preserve. Dorothy will be sorely missed.

We are privileged to carry on, in her name, the protection and enhancement of golden paintbrush and the prairie systems she and Ralph so loved. It's fitting that the golden paintbrush populations Dorothy and Ralph discovered are all blooming right now—marking a grand celebration of their lives.

Their son, Robert Naas, listed the Whidbey Camano Land Trust as one of two charities for memorial gifts. All donations to the Land Trust in Dorothy's memory will go towards the Naas Natural Area Preserve acquisition and stewardship. \$110,000 remains to be raised by the end of July to complete the purchase of this special property.

About WCLT

Contact Information

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Wish List

- gently-used, free-standing broom closet
- picnic table and benches

Mark Your Calendars & Plan to Join Us on Sunday, August 14!



Photo Credit: Mark Sheehan

This summer we look forward to kicking off a new tradition at the Land Trust with our first annual members' event. Plan now to join us for our two-part member outing at the Smith Barn on Ebey's Prairie, Whidbey Island.

Picnic on the Prairie, Noon – 2:00

Join fellow islanders at one of the most beautiful spots on Ebey's Prairie—the historic Smith Barn (pictured, left)—for an afternoon picnic complete with food, wine, music, and a brief overview of our land protection successes in the last year.

Land Trust Tour, 2:30 – 4:00

Beaches, Beavers, Birds & Bluffs

Following the picnic, visit scenic land we've protected thanks to your membership gifts and donations. Join us on one of four concurrent guided tours held at Land Trust project spots. Tours begin promptly at 2:30, last approximately 1½ hours, and feature stories about the land and habitat.

Plan now to bring family and friends to enjoy the land you helped save. *Watch your mail in July for your invitation.*

WHIDBEY CAMANO LAND TRUST

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We're on the Homestretch!

Only \$110,000 is needed to save Naas Natural Area Preserve.
Please contribute to the protection of this extraordinary property.



Photo Credit: Yseldah Applegate

Inside:

- Remembering Dorothy Naas and her legacy
- Expanded staff means more land protection
- Deadline approaches to save the Golden Paintbrush
- Land Trust events