



Furthering collaborative and strategic conservation of southwest Washington's essential natural areas and working lands

One of the joys of living in our area is watching the salmon return each year. The salmon runs are one of this area's great natural treasures and Goldsborough Creek is known for having the only increasing coho salmon population in the southern Puget Sound. Because of this, Capitol Land Trust, along with other organizations, is working hard to ensure that Goldsborough Creek is protected. We have just added 20 acres to the 245 acres already protected as part of our North

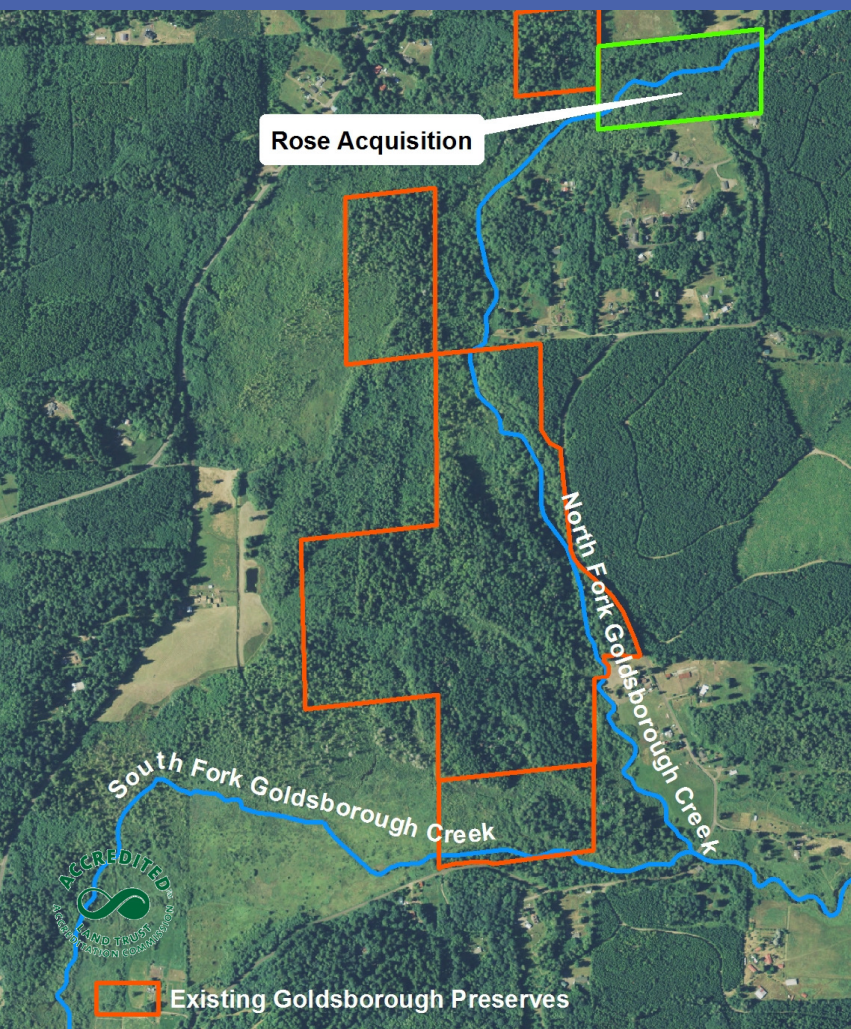
Fork Goldsborough Creek Preserve.

The North Fork of Goldsborough Creek flows through these 20 acres which contain mature forests and wetlands—providing high-quality habitat for coho salmon, steelhead and cutthroat trout. By adding these 20 acres to our existing preserve we are able to enhance the connectivity of needed habitat around Goldsborough Creek and

20 Acres conserved on Goldsborough Creek!

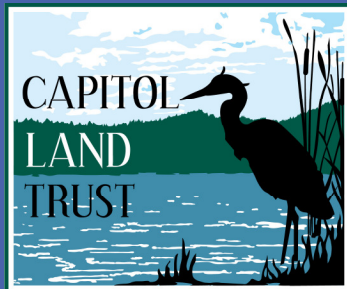
protect the uplands that feed it. By protecting this vital habitat we can ensure that future generations will know the joy of watching the salmon return each year.

By Daron Williams



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A letter from Amanda Reed, Executive Director

*“The future depends on
what you do today.”*

- Mahatma Gandhi

As I reflect on my first year with Capitol Land Trust, I am inspired by this quote. While I have spent much of this year learning about our past, it's the time I've spent with the Board, staff, partners and members of our community thinking about the future that has me excited!

The world continues to change around us. This summer has been one of the hottest on record—reminding us of changing climates. The City of Olympia projects 20,000 people will join our community over the next 20 years—reminding us of the growing



Photo by Wes Kirkpatrick

demand on our natural resources.

That's why we've invested time to engage the community in developing our 2016-2020 Strategic Plan. Through many roundtable and individual discussions we have refined our conservation priorities to protect marine shorelines, rivers and their connected forests, prairies and oak woodlands, as well as working farms, forests and ranches. We also have committed to engaging diverse groups in our community through visiting the lands that we conserve.

*“It's our responsibility—
as a community—to envision
the future we want, and to
take action today to ensure
healthy lands and waters
for years to come.”*

It's impossible to think about a future marked with healthy land, air, and water without thinking about the people who will fight

Check out the full Summer Gala & Auction photo album on Capitol Land Trust's Facebook page.



Photo by Greg Mennegar.

for, protect, restore, manage and love the natural areas that support these values. That's why we will work with partners to engage school kids, families, veterans, at-risk youth, seniors—you name it—out on our lands to learn and to reap the restorative benefits of being in nature. In return, we hope these folks will become advocates for the environment. We'll go slowly. And don't worry, our highest commitment will always be protecting the ecological values of our lands.

A five-year plan is not a long enough horizon to think about our future. Over the next two years we will work with you to set a multi-generational vision for what it really means to conserve southwest Washington's essential natural areas and working lands, and identify the actions we must take to achieve that vision.

I thank all our members and partners who have believed in us over the years. I hope that you will help guide us on this journey into the future.

Sincerely,

Amanda Reed
Executive Director



Photo by Sally Parker.

Putting the Fun in Fundraising!

By Lisa Johnson & Alison Beglin

*15th Annual Summer Gala & Auction at Triple Creek Farm:
A Whopping Success!*



Photo by Greg Mennegar.



Photo by Sally Parker

On August 1, 285 people came out on a hot summer evening to enjoy cool beverages and Xinh Dwelley's seafood appetizers as they walked the beautiful grounds and perused enticing silent auction items. Chef Karen Nelson provided a sumptuous buffet, complimented by traditionally smoked salmon prepared by Don Secena, chairman of the



Photo by Greg Mennegar

Confederated Tribe of the Chehalis Reservation. Attendees dined in the setting sun, listening to guest speaker, Garth Stein,

describe the natural landscapes that inspired his newest book *A Sudden Light*. Led by auctioneer Cindy Schorno, generous donors raised their auction paddles to contribute \$25,000 towards new outreach and education programs that will connect kids, families, and diverse parts of our community with lands and waters conserved by Capitol Land Trust. Spirited bidding for a live auction capped the evening of fun and fundraising.

*Thank you!...
Wonderful sponsors, members
and volunteers who helped us
raise \$85,000!*



Photo by Kay Schultz.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER: Restoring Randall Preserve

By Daron Williams

I remember the first time I visited the Randall Preserve. It was a cool winter evening with the sun just setting behind the hills. Due to the low evening light, the exposed tidelands looked like they were made of glass. It was a beautiful view and my first experience at a Capitol Land Trust site. A few weeks later I started my internship with CLT, giving me the chance to further the restoration work at the Randall property. I also had the opportunity to learn more about the complex history of the site.

As I dug through some old files, I came across an envelope of photos from the very early stages of the restoration work. I was amazed at how much the site had changed. Houses and a roadway were gone, the shoreline was restored, and there were many more trees and other plants where the houses used to be. But I knew

that as amazing as the past work had been, there was still more to be done.

A huge slash pile was leftover after removing invasive weeds, and there were still several large patches of non-native trees and deforested areas. The goal for the

preserve was to restore it to a forested landscape next to salt marshes and tidelands that would provide homes for native species of birds and other animals including chum salmon.

Working with Mike Leigh, CLT Stewardship Coordinator, I started my internship to further restore the Randall Preserve. First, the slash pile and the non-native trees needed to go. We had an awesome Washington Conservation Corps crew come out and turn the slash pile and non-native trees into great





mulch for future use. Next, we ordered native trees and other plants that would continue to reestablish the site. With the land prepared and the plants on their way we were ready! Luckily, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day was just around the corner. This would be my first time running a volunteer event with CLT and I was very nervous. What if not enough people came? What if the day went badly? What if...?

But then it was the big day, and to my amazement more than 60 people showed up! The work party was a huge success with over 350 trees and other plants put in the ground. It was so inspiring to see the community come out to help restore the site. I have now been with CLT for almost ten months and as the summer season ends, it is the memory of my first visit to the Randall Preserve and the amazing volunteers, which inspire me to do my part to make our habitat a little bit better for nature and for our community.

New Conservation Funding

Legislators give rivers, forests, and local farms a leg-up in the next Biennium

By Amanda Reed

Capitol Land Trust will make more great strides for conservation thanks to the Washington State Legislature, which passed both the Washington Coast Restoration Initiative (WCRI) and a strong Washington Wildlife & Recreation Program budget that includes funding for farmland conservation.

Washington Coast Restoration Initiative

Capitol Land Trust was awarded nearly \$2 million from this new program to restore lands along the Chehalis and Black Rivers, and to purchase a 300-acre parcel along Darlin Creek between the Capitol State Forest and the Black River Wildlife Refuge. A large coalition of land trusts and public agencies, led by The Nature Conservancy, envisioned this initiative and worked with legislative leaders to advance local restoration jobs and improve flood control and salmon habitat.

Washington Wildlife & Recreation Program

The legislature awarded Capitol Land Trust \$750,000 to purchase a conservation easement over the Nelson Family Ranch, preserving a historic cattle ranch along the Deschutes River. The ranch is home to a prairie with mima mounds and stands of old oak trees. Mason County, in partnership with Capitol Land Trust, was awarded \$1 million to acquire property on Coulter Creek near Allyn. Trails on the property will be open to the public and provide access to the Sound.

The funding of these and many other projects is a huge win for conservation. We should all be proud that our legislators, especially those in the 20th, 22nd, and 35th districts, made this commitment to conserving and restoring lands and waters—right in our backyard!

We still have a long way to go until these lands are permanently conserved and restoration begins. The CLT team has spent years developing these projects, and grant funds cover only specific project costs. We can't stress enough how important your gifts are to each and every conservation effort.

*...Healthy rivers,
lush forests,
open prairies,
family heritage,
local food,*

— that's the future you help make!



Dan Cushman
Photo by Greg Mennegar



Tom and Charlene Wynne
Photo by Laurence Reeves

Celebrating Two Conservation Pioneers By Eric Erler

Dan Cushman and Tom Wynne were each born on the South Sound farms where they recently passed away. It's difficult to imagine anyone having a deeper sense of place or a greater commitment to conservation.

The Cushman property (now Maple Leaf Ranch) is framed on three sides by Gull Harbor and Budd Inlet. Rolling pastures and mature forests slope gently down to an estuarine paradise below. There are few settings more spectacular. Dan Cushman spent nearly all of his 93 years here, tending to the cows, llamas, goats and horses, growing trees, and watching the tides slip in and out each day.

Fellow Capitol Land Trust board member Paddy O'Brien and I began working with Dan Cushman and his family in 1992, shortly after I joined CLT's Board of Directors. Dan would invite me out to discuss the conservation easement process, "meetings" that frequently started with a walk through the vineyard and a visit to the wine cellar.

It would take five years before Dan and Capitol Land Trust finally settled on the terms of a

conservation agreement that "protected" the farm. I realize now that Dan wasn't just being cautious, but that he was patiently helping Capitol Land Trust to mature and become an organization worthy of his trust.

Not so long ago, many considered harvesting timber and plowing fields to be activities incompatible with environmental protection. But through their exemplary stewardship, Tom and Charlene Wynne demonstrated not just the potential, but also the necessity of balancing productivity and environmental health.

Wynne Farm has been logged, grazed and plowed for three generations—providing income that has sustained Tom's family from the beginning of one century well into the next. Yet while much of the surrounding landscape has been depleted and fragmented, Wynne Farm remains home to bears, cougars, foxes, raptors and songbirds. Tom's timber management practices have been recognized statewide as a model of sustainable forestry.

Tom and Charlene worked

with Capitol Land Trust from 2004 to 2014 to conserve their 530-acre farm. Due to their generosity and commitment, the farm will remain productive into the future, while providing rich habitat for fish and wildlife.

Tom and Dan ensured the health and future of their farms throughout their entire lives, then trusted a nonprofit organization to sustain that investment in perpetuity. That is the true definition of selflessness.

These places are not here because Capitol Land Trust "protected" them. Capitol Land Trust is here because of these places—and because of people like Dan Cushman and Tom Wynne.



Eric Erler served as a Capitol Land Trust board member from 1991-2000 and as CLT's first executive director from 2000-2014.

New Strategic Plan Unveiled

By Steve Kelso

Triple Creek Farm Conservation Easement

Photo by Sally Parker

This month, after a year of work, the Board of Directors and staff, in consultation with selected stakeholders, finished Capitol Land Trust's new 5-year strategic plan, for 2016 through 2020, which has three major goals. The plan developers identified several key strategies within each goal:

Conserve Natural Areas and Working Lands

▲ **Develop a multi-generational vision for conservation of our region's natural resources and an action plan for achieving the vision.** The 100-year vision will reflect shared goals of local people, conservation organizations, natural resource agencies, and businesses.

▲ **Conserve marine shorelines and estuaries.** Priorities include protecting additional estuarine acres on Oakland Bay, plus more shoreline in both Thurston and Mason counties.

▲ **Conserve wetlands, riparian areas, and associated upland forests.** Areas of focus include additional acreage in the Black River, Goldsborough Creek, and Deschutes River watersheds.

▲ **Conserve prairies and oak woodlands.** Of particular interest are the dwindling prairie resources in Southern Thurston County.

▲ **Conserve working lands.** Desired outcomes include protection of farms and ranches in the Black River and Deschutes watersheds, plus protection of working forests that provide wildlife habitat and connectivity between more pristine lands.

▲ **Ensure stewardship of conserved lands in perpetuity.** This strategy focuses on financing, documentation, management plans and best practices, and other legal requirements for long-term stewardship of lands. It also includes significant restoration work on existing protected properties.

Engage people and foster connection to protected lands

▲ **Increase community connection and support through engagement with land trust properties and activities.** We will work to develop recreational and educational access to conserved properties, where appropriate, and at the same time protect fragile habitat and ecosystems.

▲ **Encourage schools and other youth organizations to bring young people to CLT lands where appropriate for environmental education, field trips, work parties, and scientific exploration.**

▲ **Strengthen partnerships to foster skills and resources that advance our mission.** We will connect with community organizations to support conservation, access, and outreach activities on selected properties.

▲ **Engage diverse audiences in meaningful dialog to foster a connection to our mission.**

Ensure long-term organizational and financial viability

▲ **Strengthen and diversify fundraising.** We will maintain and improve our customary funding sources such as government grants, member donations, sponsorships, and estate gifts. We will also explore new, emerging, innovative approaches to fundraising.

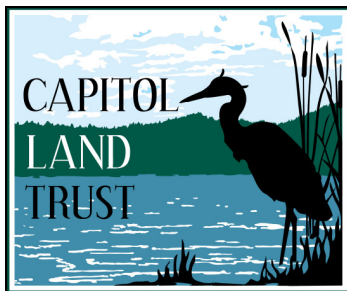
▲ **Manage financial assets prudently according to their specific purposes.** We will manage our three main funds differently according to their purposes: Endowment, Stewardship, and Rapid Response. The latter allows resilience in the face of unanticipated needs.

▲ **Ensure a high level of safety for staff, volunteers, and visitors in all Capitol Land Trust activities.** We will continue our current effective practices and give additional attention to safety as more people visit CLT-conserved lands.

▲ **Maintain a high quality work environment and retain an excellent staff.** We will continue to provide appropriate training, competitive employment benefits and utilize our volunteers effectively.

▲ **Ensure strong and functional leadership by our Board of Directors to meet our five-year strategic goals.** Our board continues to be highly competent, committed and functional, with a deep knowledge of CLT's activities. We will focus on board member recruitment and succession, with attention to diversity in gender, education, employment background, skills, community connections, and age.

▲ **Maintain Land Trust Alliance accreditation.** We will achieve full re-accreditation in 2018.



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SAVE THE DATE!

Capitol Land Trust's 12th Annual Conservation Breakfast



Tuesday, February 9, 2016

7:00 - 8:30 AM

**Marcus Pavilion at
Saint Martin's University**

Join Capitol Land Trust for a complimentary breakfast and fabulous program featuring the recognition of conservation leaders, landowners, and supporters, who have made saving the special places in your community a high priority.

A donation will be requested during the program—donations support Capitol Land Trust's mission.

Would you like to be a Table Captain and help bring 7 friends to the event?
Please contact Alison Beglin, Events Coordinator:
alison@capitollandtrust.org, 360.943.3012