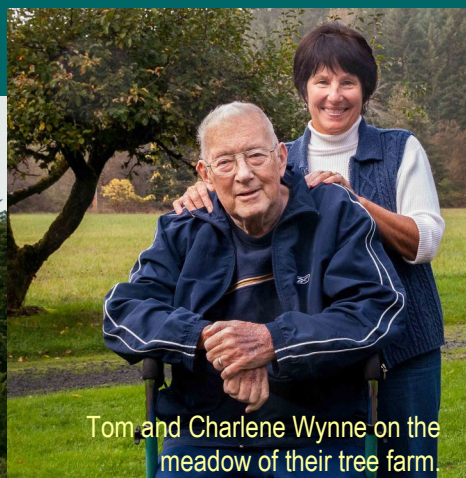




Furthering collaborative and strategic conservation of southwest Washington's essential natural areas and working lands

The clear, clean water that nourishes Schneider Creek is healthy due in large part to the Wynne family's stewardship of their 530-acre working forest over the last hundred years. Capitol State Forest hills frame their valley; giant trees filter cool water; wetlands attract cougars, raptors and other wildlife—all this sustains the family and makes this place home.



Tom and Charlene Wynne on the meadow of their tree farm.

In the true spirit of conservation, Tom and Charlene Wynne wanted to ensure this place remains a forest, a farm, and a wetland forever...and they just couldn't leave it to chance! They reached out to Capitol Land Trust to help make it happen.

In October 2014, their land was permanently conserved through a conservation easement, which allows them to continue to live on and sustainably and lovingly manage their tree farm.

***“We are stewards
of the land...
not owners.”***

Charlene Wynne

The Wynnes created a legacy, working with Capitol Land Trust and our partners and supporters. Our community will continue to benefit from the productive forest and fields, clean streams, and fish and wildlife.... forever!

By Jane Chavey

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- A Letter from Director Amanda Reed 2-3
- Stewardship Corner: Bayshore Preserve 4-5
- Funding for WWRP 5
- Considering Tomorrow 6
- Looking Back to Look Forward 7
- Join us for the Conservation Breakfast 8



209 4th Ave E Ste 205
Olympia, WA 98501
360.943.3012

info@capitollandtrust.org
CapitolLandTrust.org

Amanda Reed
Executive Director

Laurence Reeves
Conservation Program Manager

Caitlin Guthrie
Conservation Projects Manager

Quita Terrell
Finance & Operations Manager

Mike Leigh
Restoration & Stewardship Coordinator

Alison Beglin
Events Coordinator

Board of Directors

Bonnie Bunning – President
Diane Cooper – Vice President
Steve Hyer – Treasurer
Tom Terry – Secretary
Stephanie Bishop
Bob Buhl
Bill Carlson
Lynn Childers
Kevin Lyon
Craig Partridge
Fred Romero
Bob Van Schoorl
Michael Welter
Chris Wickham

Senior Advisor
Eric Erler

Legal Counsel
Mark Peternell
Bean, Gentry, Wheeler & Peternell, PLLC

Newsletter Editors
Jane Chavey & Steve Kelso

Front Cover Photos: Great blue heron by Kim Merriman. Tom and Charlene Wynne by Laurence Reeves. Wynne Tree Farm by Greg Mennegar.

What's at our core?

A letter from Amanda Reed, Executive Director

What an exciting start to my tenure here at Capitol Land Trust. It's like peeling back layers of an onion, as new things emerge the deeper I dive to its center.

This fall I asked our staff to tackle a task that revealed the amazing core of our organization. Some of you may know that in 2008 we wrote a strategic plan that has guided our efforts through 2014. We set robust goals for protecting marine shorelines, wetlands, forests, prairies, and working lands—while growing community awareness and support. This fall's task was to measure our accomplishments against those goals.

Success! By and large we not only met, but also exceeded many of the conservation goals we had set. These five years have marked incredible growth and achievement for the organization.

On page 7 you'll find a summary of our accomplishments that you helped us achieve. Let me highlight one example, and that's our impact on Oakland Bay.



Photo by Greg Mennegar.

In 2005, Capitol Land Trust began work with Mason County to protect 82 acres along the Bay's shore and Malaney Creek, establishing the Oakland Bay County Park. Guided by our strategic plan, we set out to protect more undeveloped, large parcels along the Bay to support long-term water quality and fish and wildlife habitat.

Capitol Land Trust protected more acres of habitat and miles of shoreline than ever before... and made significant headway in saving a number of family working forests, farms, and ranches, while enabling those families to continue their way of life on the land.

Get Involved!

MLK Day of Service: Restoration Planting on Mud Bay

At the Randall Preserve

Monday, January 19, 2015 (Martin Luther King, Jr. Day)

9 AM to 1 PM

See the events page of our website for details. CapitolLandTrust.org



Photo by Stacie Singleton.

In the last five years, we have protected the 125-acre Twin Rivers Ranch, including stretches along Cranberry and Deer creeks; the 74-acre Bayshore Preserve and the mouth of John's Creek; and 36 acres at Sunset Bluffs with the Trust for Public Land. Now, if you were in a kayak in the middle of Oakland Bay you could take in a 360-degree view and see in all directions land and shoreline protected by Capitol Land Trust.

Of course, we couldn't have done this alone and partnered with over 22 government agencies, community groups, businesses and landowners to protect these lands and waters.

This fall, we kicked-off development of our next five-year strategic plan. As we define the goals that will chart our future course, we will prioritize those natural

areas and working lands that are critical to a healthy environment for people and nature. You can expect to see a greater emphasis on working with landowners to place conservation easements on working farms, ranches, and forests in addition to our core work on shorelines.

You also will see increased efforts to connect our community with those amazing places we've protected together. Currently, we are identifying which of our preserves can accommodate passive recreation— including hiking, birding, and paddling.

Also, we are excited about our plan to open Bayshore Preserve to the public as an outdoor classroom, where people can hike and learn about the natural processes and cultural heritage of this unique place. From viewing the summer salmon run, to witnessing the relationship of where the river meets the sea, to exploring the rare oak woodlands, to learning the Squaxin Island Tribe's history with the land, we hope people will reconnect with nature and experience the importance of conservation to a healthy environment, our cultural heritage, and a local economy. Our major restoration project will remove a tidal dike, and we will invite people to journey with us as we reconnect the tidelands

and saltmarsh for the first time in more than 75 years.

In this newsletter you also will read about the importance of funding the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program to help carry out this work. The work of conserving lands is very, very expensive and this funding source is extremely important for purchasing land and conservation easements. However, it only covers some of our costs, and I can assure you that the contributions of our great supporters and volunteers, like you, are what enable us to carry out this important work.

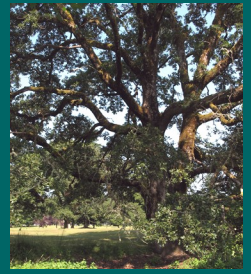
Thank you to everyone who gave to our successful Year-End Campaign... and throughout 2014. Please join us at the 11th Annual Conservation Breakfast (see back cover) to hear more about the trends that continue to make our work so urgent, and to celebrate our accomplishments while we look ahead to the future!

Sincerely,

Amanda Reed
Executive Director



Collomia grandiflora
Photo by Terry Liberty.



***Stewardship:** Caring for our preserves, and monitoring our conservation easements.*

Conservation easements are voluntary legal agreements between landowners and land trusts to permanently protect specific conservation values on the land.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER: Bayshore Preserve

By Steve Kelso

In March, the land trust celebrated the purchase of the former Bayshore Golf Course and adjacent saltmarsh on Oakland Bay near Shelton. It was both the culmination of a thirteen-year effort to protect an important natural asset, and the beginning of ongoing stewardship on the newly named Bayshore Preserve. The stewardship will include: assisting the recovery of a natural area that has been damaged; enhancing the conifer and oak woodlands, Johns Creek, and saltmarsh; and improving the preserve's ability to nurture wildlife, including chum, coho, and Chinook salmon.

The area has gone through many changes in the last 150 years. Five generations of one family owned the property during most of that time and opened a golf course in the early 1930s. Enoch Willey operated a sawmill

beginning about 1870 near the mouth of Johns Creek—originally the site of one of the Squaxin Island Tribe's largest longhouses and villages. The golf course was sold in the 1950s, but with the recession of 2008, revenue and use of the golf course declined. The owners realized they would need to sell, which is when the land trust stepped in.

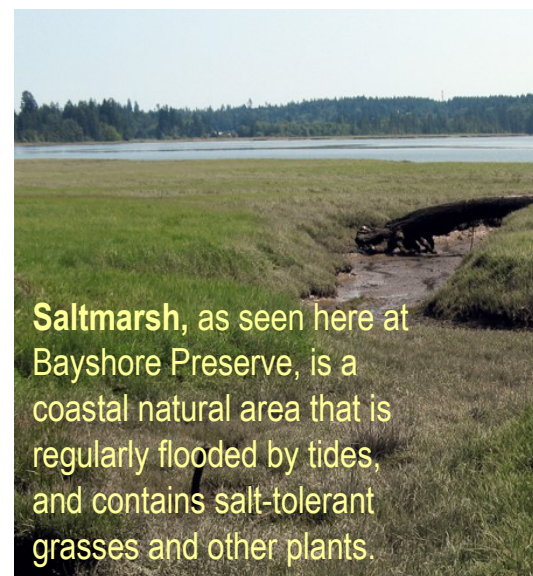
The bulk of planned restoration activities for Bayshore Preserve are funded with grants from state and federal agencies, contributions from the Squaxin Island Tribe and Taylor Shellfish Farms, and donated professional services from Mason Conservation District.

Demolition of the buildings was the first part of the restoration process. Another key repair will be the removal of a 1,400-foot dike that holds tidewater back from the old golf course fairways. This, along with grading, sloping, and excavating blocked channels, will allow future tidal flow over an additional ten acres—and the saltmarsh—as sea levels rise.

The return to a more natural state is fostered by retiring the use

of Johns Creek water for irrigation of the golf course fairways. As a result, stream flow into the bay will increase, and the land along Johns Creek will recover—naturally and with our help as we remove invasive plants and plant native species. The former golf course acreage also will be planted with native trees and shrubs.

A unique feature of the land is the presence of mature, native Oregon white oak trees along with soils conducive to an oak woodland environment (uncommon in this area) that can provide habitat for



Saltmarsh, as seen here at Bayshore Preserve, is a coastal natural area that is regularly flooded by tides, and contains salt-tolerant grasses and other plants.

Oak woodland: a natural plant community found in areas of well-drained soils, containing native grasses and wildflowers, with park-like stands of oak trees.

the endangered Taylor's Checkerspot butterfly.

On the preserve's north border is a Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) water-access site, which draws people to harvest shellfish and fish in the bay. Capitol Land Trust is working with WDFW to help ensure that existing and recovering tidal marshes are not damaged by foot traffic. To that end, trails and signage have been enhanced.

In coming years, nature and humans will collaboratively help the preserve's ecology heal and evolve in ways that are sometimes predictable, sometimes not. Our stewardship includes annual inspections by staff and volunteers to monitor progress and recommend further actions. We also will report on the ongoing status of this valuable resource.



Photo by Eric Erler.

Funding for WWRP

WASHINGTON WILDLIFE AND RECREATION PROGRAM SUPPORTS LAND TRUST VALUES

By Steve Kelso

Last October, The Olympian ran an editorial, "Why state should fully fund WWRP this year." Featured prominently was a Capitol Land Trust project to conserve—with the help of WWRP funds—the Nelson Family Ranch on the Deschutes River south of Olympia.

In you wonder if WWRP might be important in a broader sense, and to the livability of our community, consider local spots you may have enjoyed recently:

- ▲ **Lacey:** Greg Cuoio and Pleasant Glade parks, Regional Athletic Complex, Woodland Trail.
- ▲ **Mason County:** Belfair State Park, Decker Creek wetlands, Harstine Island Scott Acquisition, Hope Island State Park, Bayshore Preserve, Coulter Creek Park.
- ▲ **Olympia:** Grass Lake Nature Park, Ward Lake, Friendly Grove and West Bay parks, Woodland Trail.

- ▲ **Thurston County:** Black River Farm, Chehalis Western Trail, Kennedy Creek Natural Area, Kenneydell Park, Millersylvania State Park, Mima Mounds, Woodard Bay.
- ▲ **Shelton:** Kneeland Park.
- ▲ **Tumwater:** Pioneer Park.

These places—and the recreational options and enhanced natural environment they foster—have benefited from WWRP funding. The Legislature started the program 25 years ago for new parks, open space, trails, water access, and fish and wildlife habitat across the state. Three sites—Decker Creek wetlands, Bayshore Preserve, and Black River Farm—were conserved by Capitol Land Trust, partially with WWRP funds.

If WWRP's \$97 million biennial funding request is approved by the Legislature, the Nelson Family Ranch conservation easement project stands to receive \$750,000. The 550-acre Nelson property has provided our region with quality grass-fed meat for 150 years, through five generations, while protecting 3.5 miles of Deschutes River shoreline, prairie habitat and mature forests.

WWRP has been a great success for 25 years and deserves our ongoing support! According to the Olympian article:

...WWRP has bipartisan backing statewide, and supports the state's \$22.5 billion outdoor recreation industry that provides 226,000 jobs



Garter snake on North Fork Goldsborough Preserve
Photo by Guy Maguire.



Jeannette and Bill at Yellowstone National Park.
Photo by Bill and Jeannette.

Considering Tomorrow

By Jeannette Barreca (with Bill Yake)

There's something about being in nature with familiar plants and glimpses of animals that is comforting and restorative for me. I am relieved whenever I hear a Swainson's thrush sing or see a salmon return to a local stream. There is still some wildness in this place.

My husband, Bill Yake, and I have been lucky enough to swim, paddle, hike and sit still in many natural places around the world; to discover their special plants, birds and sea life. Some of these places are nature preserves that still exist because there were people who valued nature more

than potential profit. We are grateful for the forethought, generosity and altruism of those involved in saving them.

But in other places, such as southeast China, terraced farms reach far up mountainsides, and where there were forests, people carried off the duff for livestock bedding. Sometimes I look at our forested mountains and imagine what they would look like with millions of people inhabiting them. We are lucky that much of our landscape is currently protected. But as the world population increases and other places become less habitable, pressure on our shores, forests, prairies, and estuaries will intensify. Coming generations of humans, forests, salmon, and even those diverse species especially well adapted to Puget Sound dampness —fungi, lichens, and native slugs—will become increasingly dependent on these refuges.

We are long-time volunteers with Capitol Land Trust, especially in the Green Cove Creek watershed. We enjoy visiting the property we monitor as well as other conserved lands. And I feel like we're making a difference

when restoration sites transform over time from Scotch broom and Himalayan blackberries to native trees and shrubs. We have a lot of respect for Capitol Land Trust, its staff and board, and are delighted that the organization has been so successful conserving properties in southwest Washington.

This year we updated our estate plans, which include Capitol Land Trust. We believe that we are temporary custodians of 'our' property and should share the planet with other species, and we wanted our estate plan to reflect that. People inheriting a tax-deferred account, such as an IRA, need to pay income taxes, but nonprofit 501(c)(3) organizations do not. As we made our plans, we thought about who and what we love, and what would benefit them the most in the future. Hopefully future generations also will delight in birds' songs, salmon splashing and trilliums blooming in the woods. And by a low sun backlighting the shaggy moss that hangs from gnarled big leaf maple branches.



Students at Green Cove –
Kaiser Preserve.

Looking Back to Look Forward

By Caitlin Guthrie

North Fork Goldsborough Preserve.
Photo by Guy Maguire.

Guided in our goals and actions by a five year strategic plan, Capitol Land Trust has achieved some major accomplishments over this period. Here are goals that were set, and the tangible results of our efforts:

Conserve Marine Shorelines and Estuaries

- ▲ Conserve 4 of the 5 largest, undeveloped properties on Oakland Bay: Oakland Bay County Park, Twin Rivers Ranch Preserve, Bayshore Preserve, and Sunset Bluffs (*conserved with Capitol Land Trust's assistance by Mason County Parks and the Trust for Public Land*) all protected.
- ▲ Conserved 1.6 miles of marine shoreline in Thurston County and 2 miles in Mason County.

Conserve Wetlands, Riparian Areas, and Associated Upland Forests

- ▲ Work with Green Diamond and others to conserve 1,000 acres in the Goldsborough Watershed: 546 acres conserved by Capitol Land Trust to date, with 427 of those acres in the past 5 years; and 547 acres conserved by partners.

- ▲ Identify and map three highest priority wetland systems in Thurston County and develop a plan to conserve their ecological function: Tilley Wetlands – 238 acres conserved to date; Budd to Henderson Inlet Conservation Initiative – 305 acres conserved to date, all by Capitol Land Trust; Darlin Creek Wetlands – a 313-acre property for which we are pursuing protection options.

Conserve Working Lands

- ▲ Prioritize working lands based on existing habitat, intensity of use and connectivity to important natural habitats: Capitol Land Trust conserved 906 acres on 5 properties, all with strong habitat and connectivity components.

Conserve Prairies and Oak Woodlands

- ▲ Assign higher priority to prairie conservation projects when a suitable partner could be identified to accept long-term ownership: in 2013, Capitol Land Trust and partners completed the region's first off-site prairie mitigation project, the Leitner Prairie Conservation Easement (36-acres).

Ensure Stewardship of Conserved Lands in Perpetuity

- ▲ Confirm Capitol Land Trust's ability to fulfill stewardship obligations forever by working with landowners and other donors to maintain and responsibly manage a stewardship fund: Capitol Land Trust has set aside over \$600,000 in funding for the ongoing stewardship of conserved properties, and established standards for long-term care.
- ▲ In 2013, Capitol Land Trust achieved accreditation by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission. This rigorous process confirms organizational excellence.

Looking Forward

Over the coming year, we will update Capitol Land Trust's strategic plan to guide our conservation efforts for the next five years. We will examine how we achieved these and other past successes, while looking at future challenges, to help us create a robust vision as we move forward. We want to hear from you, so stay tuned for ways to get involved and offer ideas.



209 4th Ave E, Ste 205
Olympia, WA 98501

Address Service Requested

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #371
Olympia, WA



You're Invited To Breakfast!

Please join Capitol Land Trust for the 11th Annual Conservation Breakfast



Tuesday, February 10, 2015
7 AM

Marcus Pavilion at
Saint Martin's University
5300 Pacific Avenue SE, Lacey, WA 98503

Breakfast is complimentary.
A donation will be requested during the program.

This year's Conservation Breakfast will feature:

- * **Keynote Speaker Maia D. Bellon, Director of Washington State Department of Ecology**
- * Recognition of conservation leaders, landowners and supporters

RSVP to Alison or your Table Captain

Alison Beglin, Event Coordinator: alison@capitollandtrust.org 360.943.3012

INLET SPONSORS:



PORT BLAKELY
TREE FARMS LP