

to our

volunteers!

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

Look up and you will see red-breasted sapsuckers, western tanagers and Wilson's warblers among many other bird species at Oakland Bay County Park in Shelton. Volunteers enjoyed these bird sightings and more at Capitol Land Trust's volunteer appreciation event this past volunteer excitedly spring. One described the event by saying, "First time bird watching and, must say, it was a beautiful area to learn. Thank you Capitol Land Trust for a yummy brunch and special thanks to Yen for heading up this outing."

Development Coordinator, hosted the volunteer appreciation event, which included a catered brunch and bird Many thanks walk led by Mary Russell from the Black Hills Audubon Society. Several volunteers approached Yen after and explained how much more connected they felt to the community and Capitol Land Trust after this event. They mentioned that, while they felt useful as volunteers, the celebration made

them feel truly appreciated and needed.

Yen Jones, Capitol Land Trust's Volunteer

Continued on page 3





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Great blue heron photograph on front cover by Kim Merriman, all other photos on front cover and page 3 by Greg Mennegar.

New Beginnings & Long-lasting Results: A letter from Amanda Reed. Executive Director

Dear Members and Friends.

I am very excited to write you my first letter as Executive Director!

As way of introduction, let me give you a little background on who I am and how I got here. I grew up on the opposite coast of our great country in a small town at the mouth of the North River, where it meets the Atlantic Ocean. My love of nature started along this river and its streams, in the marshlands and forests that buffered them, and on the South Shore beaches between Boston Harbor and Cape Cod, MA. My father was a commissioner on the local watershed commission and taught me from a young age that protecting our lands and water is the responsibility of the entire community, as



everyone impacts and has something to gain from our natural resources.

From my roots in Massachusetts, I started my career in environmental education, where I led and managed outdoor adventure travel programs for teenagers in the Pacific Northwest for Longacre Expeditions. Then, I embarked on a near decade-long career in conservation with The Nature Conservancy. I worked at many levels in the organization, and some of my favorite years were spent in the Pennsylvania Chapter. There, I worked with landowners to permanently conserve their lands, including working farms and forests, and collaborated with a number of local land trusts to find the best ways to advance our collective vision for conservation.

Since the end of June, I've been in Olympia exploring and learning about the unique culture and important resources of Puget Sound and southwest Washington. Kayaking in Budd Inlet, watching the sunset over the Olympics from Percival Landing, looking for eagles at Nisqually Wildlife Refuge, biking along shaded creeks on the Chehalis Western Trail and past open farm and ranchlands in southern Thurston County, already makes me feel at home. Of course, I've also dived into the business of Capitol Land Trust. It both excites and humbles me that I now have the opportunity and responsibility to help conserve more of these wonderful places for future generations to enjoy.

Southern Puget Sound is different from where I grew up on the South Shore of Massachusetts, and Capitol Land Trust's office located in the capital of Washington State is distinctive from the office of The Nature Conservancy located in Arlington, VA, where I last worked. However, there are many similarities in the challenges we face when it comes to conserving our precious resources and the benefits nature provides, from clean air and water, to sustainable food, to places to play and seek solace.

In the face of growing challenges – from poorly planned growth, to increased pressure on our resources for human use, to sea-level rise and climate change

ISSUE 58, SUMMER 2014 PAGE 3

— we have a commitment as community members to work together to figure out how to meet peoples' needs and advance our local economy, while also conserving those priceless places that make southwest Washington a home for us all. Capitol Land Trust, under Eric Erler's thoughtful direction, has a strong reputation for solving problems collaboratively and strategically. I am thankful for all of Eric's incredible successes and our staff and board's hard work to build the strong organization that Capitol Land Trust is today. And, we are extremely thankful for the many supporters, like you, who have enabled all of our accomplishments. I am honored to carry on this history of collaboration and community leadership and guide Capitol Land Trust into its next 25 years.

The next year is full of opportunities! We recently purchased the 74-acre Bayshore Preserve adding to the already conserved 130 acres on Oakland Bay. We have also been approved for a number of grants that will allow us to permanently conserve additional spectacular working lands and fish and wildlife habitat in the area. In the coming months, we will kick off the process to update our multi-year strategic plan. We will focus on achieving a vision for a network of conserved areas and working lands across southwest Washington, as well as, providing sustainable opportunities to visit our conserved areas so that Capitol Land Trust members can enjoy these wonderful places that you all worked so hard to protect.

I want to hear your thoughts for attaining a successful conservation future, together. Please feel free to reach out to me and stay tuned for idea-sharing session opportunities. In the meantime, mark your calendars for our inaugural Conservation Week festivities September 14 - 19, culminating with the 14th Annual Summer Gala on September 19. I will see you there! #

Sincerely,



Volunteer Appreciation, continued from page 1



Yen believes that, "showing our appreciation for our volunteers and recognizing all their hard work is important on so many levels. First and foremost, we want our volunteers to enjoy their experience with Capitol Land Trust and know that their time and skills are appreciated. At the same time, saying 'Thank You!' and formally recognizing our volunteers is essential to keeping volunteers motivated and excited to come back and work with Capitol Land Trust again." #

To learn about upcoming volunteer opportunities visit CapitolLandTrust.org.

Visit Oakland Bay County Park

Description: Conserved in 2005, this 81-acre public park is one of Capitol Land Trust's more accessible properties, with walking trails that are superb for enjoying Malaney Creek & Oakland Bay. Bring a picnic lunch to enjoy as you gaze upon the historic Malaney-O'Neill House.

Location: 1570 E Agate Bay Rd, Shelton

Directions: Head south on E Agate Rd from Hwy 3. Park entrance is on your right 1/2 mile past Pioneer School (across from E Julian Rd).

Open: Year round, daylight hours



CONSERVATION WEEK

September 14 - 19, 2014

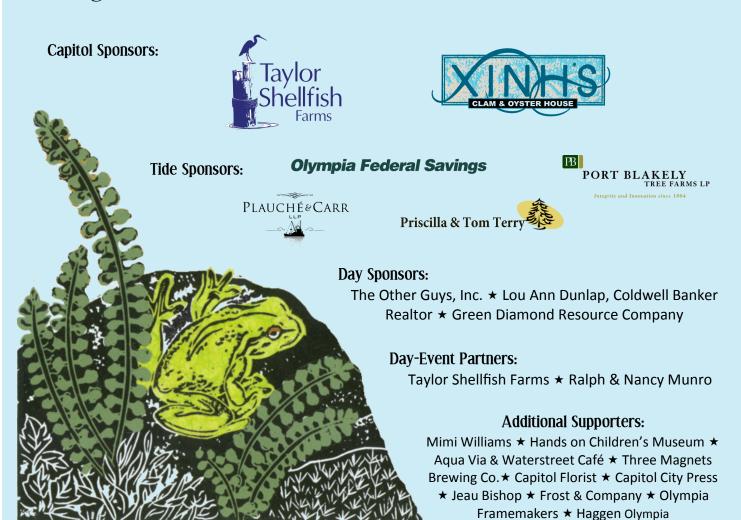
A week of entertaining activities showcasing the importance of land conservation to the life you live!



14th ANNUAL SUMMER GALA

September 19

A night of food and fun at the Hands On Children's Museum!



Original artwork by Mimi Williams

ISSUE 58, SUMMER 2014 PAGE 5

Visit CapitolLandTrust.org

for more details about Conservation Week activities & to purchase Summer Gala tickets

RSVP/Tickets are required for events

Kayak Trip - Sunday, September 14

9 AM on Upper Oakland Bay (Shelton)

Kayakers and canoers, join us for an exclusive tour of spectacular marine conservation sites on Oakland Bay, including the magnificent Bayshore Preserve - newly protected earlier this year! **

Conserved Property Open House - Monday, September 15

Arrive anytime between 2 PM and 6 PM at Triple Creek Farm (west Olympia)

Explore one of southern Puget Sound's signature shoreline properties and the cornerstone of Capitol Land Trust's lower Eld Inlet habitat protection initiative. Triple Creek Farm is home to 3.5 miles of shoreline, three streams, forest, working pastureland, and a centuries-old archaeological site. Family friendly! **

Volunteer Restoration Event - Tuesday, September 16

10 AM to 1:30 PM at Kaiser Wetland Preserve (west Olympia)
Help prepare areas for future habitat restoration plantings by removing non-native plants.
Includes a post-weeding lunch! **

Taylor Shellfish Barge Ride - Thursday, September 18

5:30 PM to 7:30 PM on Oakland Bay (Shelton)

Enjoy a private sunset ride and cocktail hour on an oyster barge as it tours Oakland Bay and showcases the water view of conservation sites on the Bay. Includes wine, beer and an oyster bar. **



14th Annual Summer Gala - Friday, September 19



7 PM to 9 PM at the Hands On Children's Museum

Featuring local band Climate Change, beer from Three Magnets Brewing Company, fabulous food from Taylor Shellfish and Chef Xinh Dwelley, wine and a raffle at our premier fundraising event of the year!



Tickets \$75 in advance, \$85 at the door Must be 21+ to attend the Summer Gala **



Conservation Week events benefit Capitol Land Trust's mission to further collaborative and strategic conservation of southwest Washington's essential natural areas and working lands.



You have questions - We have answers!

Q: How do I become a Capitol Land Trust member?

A: Donate \$50 or more to receive a 12-month membership. Your membership begins on the day we receive your donation (we also have a \$10 membership available to students) and you can become a member at any time. An easy monthly giving plan is also available and those who elect to give monthly, at any amount, will be Sustaining Members and enjoy all the benefits of membership.

Q: What are the benefits of Capitol Land Trust membership?

A: As a Capitol Land Trust member, you receive:

- Satisfaction you are doing your part to conserve southwest Washington's essential natural areas and working lands.
- Invitations to guided tours, educational programs and special events, including kayak trips and nature walks on conserved lands.
- Opportunities to meet others while you learn about and restore conserved lands.
- Newsletters containing updates about current projects, success stories, and ways to get involved.
- Membership contributions are tax-deductible.

Q: How do I know when my membership expires?



A: Just look on the back of your newsletter to the left of your address to see when your membership expires or if it has already. You will also receive a renewal letter if your membership is about to expire. Please let us know if you prefer to receive these notices by email.

Membership is a rolling renewal which means that any time you give a donation your membership will extend through the next twelve months. For example: Jane gives \$100 in February of 2014, her membership benefits are active until the end of February 2015. Jane also gives \$50 in November 2014—now her membership benefits are active until the end of November 2015.



ISSUE 58, SUMMER 2014 PAGE 7

Q: Can I give a gift of membership to a friend?

A: Yes! Gift memberships are a great way to introduce your friends to Capitol Land Trust. Include a note with your friend's name and contact information when you send their dues so that they can receive our newsletter.

Q: I have been on an extended vacation and missed my renewal date, can I still be a member?

A: We understand that life happens and you may miss a renewal notice, so we have up to a twelve month grace period for you to donate and thereby renew your membership.

Q: Am I a member if I buy a ticket to the Summer Gala?

A: When purchasing event tickets or buying merchandise or an auction item, you are receiving a good or service, so membership is not included.



Q: What is a Legacy Member?

A: A Legacy Member is someone who has included Capitol Land Trust in their estate plan or donated land (including conservation easements). Let us know if you are interested in becoming a Legacy Member and we can help you get started. **

If you would like to become a member of Capitol Land Trust today, please use the enclosed envelope or visit us at CapitolLandTrust.org and click on the **Donate Now** button.

Thank you!

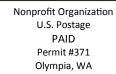
2014 Legacy Members Receive a Special Thank You & Sneak Peek of Our Bayshore Preserve

On July 18, Legacy Members gathered for the annual tour and luncheon at our newest preserve, the 74acre Bayshore Preserve in Shelton. Jeff Dickison from Squaxin Island Tribe spoke about the history and importance of the land to the Tribe. Bayshore Preserve is believed to be the site of one of the Squaxin Island Tribe's largest long houses as well as an important salmon fishing area. Other highlights of the day included a tour of the property by Laurence Reeves, Capitol Land Trust's Conservation Program Manager, who has worked hard over the last few years to conserve this property, including securing public funding. Legacy Members were able to explore the preserve, hear about its more recent history as a saw mill and then a golf course, and goals for restoration, including removal of a dike, which will reconnect Oakland Bay with its tidal lands for the first time in decades, and enhancement of the oak woodlands.



Legacy Members have made the ultimate commitment to conservation by donating their land or naming Capitol Land Trust in their estate plans. We are incredibly grateful for their leadership and commitment to our mission. This annual event is just a small way we can say thank you to these wonderful supporters and leaders in the conservation community. **

Each year Capitol Land Trust hosts a special field trip for Legacy Members. If you have included Capitol Land Trust in your estate plans, please contact us at 360.943.3012.





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Address Service Requested



Sign Up for THE HERON e-Newsletter!

Our monthly e-newsletter is the best way to stay connected with Capitol Land Trust. Success stories, event invitations, volunteer opportunities and news are all included in The Heron.

Send an email to info@capitollandtrust.org to let us know you want to receive The Heron!



Upcoming Restoration Volunteer Opportunities

Sunday, August 24 Twin Rivers Ranch Preserve (Shelton)

You can help us ensure the survival of native trees planted to create stream buffers, by joining us as we remove blackberries and other non-native weeds from around the young plantings.

We will be there from 10 PM to 2 PM.

Tuesday, September 16 Kaiser Wetlands Preserve (Olympia)

See Conservation Week schedule on page 5.

To RSVP or to receive more information contact Yen Jones at 360.943.3012 or info@capitollandtrust.org