



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

Eric Erler



Goldsborough Creek: The Return of a Healthy Watershed

By John Konovsky

Goldsborough Creek in the Oakland Bay Watershed near Shelton, Washington is one of the few bright spots for coho salmon in Puget Sound. A recent acquisition by Capitol Land Trust, the Hilburn property, makes it even better.

The Hilburn property comprises nearly ten acres of prime riparian and aquatic habitat along Goldsborough Creek just west of Highway 101 near the exit to Matlock. The relatively undamaged habitat provides a migratory corridor between Puget Sound and spawning beds for coho and fall chum salmon, winter steelhead, both resident and anadromous cutthroat trout, and anadromous Pacific lamprey (see article page 3).

The creek is particularly important for coho. Goldsborough Creek produces the majority of wild coho in the South Sound and contrary to everywhere else, their numbers are increasing. The increase in coho numbers is a direct result of removal of a dam adjacent to the Hilburn property in 2001. The dam

was owned by Simpson Timber Company. Originally it supplied water to Simpson mills on the waterfront, but by 2000 it had become damaged and obsolete. Removal opened up 25 miles of stream to fish access.

If you have ever visited the old dam site, you may have noticed the large concrete weirs spanning the creek there. They were built by the Army Corps of Engineers to smooth out the 35 foot drop of the former dam into something salmon can swim up.

Prior to dam removal, most salmon spawned in a nearby tributary called Coffee Creek. The headwaters to this creek lie in a valley where Capitol Land Trust

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Goldsborough Creek continued from page 1

holds a conservation easement on another critical property: the Olli Farm.

Coho have eagerly expanded into the additional habitat now available to them. Since the dam was removed, coho smolt production has increased from a few thousand per year to tens of thousands per year. More than 2/3 of the coho in the system now spawn past the Hilburn property and into the upper watershed, which was formerly inaccessible.

The Hilburn property is not just for fish - it also provides a migratory pathway for humans. In the future, Capitol Land Trust plans to work with Mason County, Green Diamond Resource Company and other partners to create walking trails that follow the creek up to the former dam site and potentially link to a regional trail system.

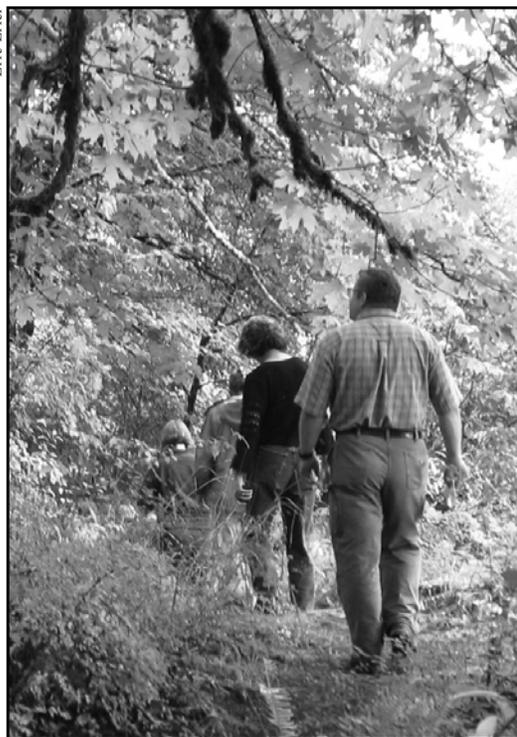
Next to the Hilburn property is a 60-acre forested property owned by Green Diamond Resource Company. Not too far upstream are two more Capitol Land Trust conserved properties: the Rose and Goldsborough-Pannell Preserves. Together all of these parcels form a large complex of functional habitat at critical junctures in the Oakland Bay watershed. And the fish and wildlife are loving it!

Landowner Scott Hilburn says, "A project like this is the result of work by many hands, heads and hearts. Capitol Land Trust staff were very professional throughout the entire process. Their dedication and knowledge of the complicated funding process was very much appreciated. I would recommend Capitol Land Trust to any of my friends considering the conservation of land for future public use."

Once again your support of Capitol Land Trust is making vital improvements to the health of Oakland Bay and Puget Sound. ☼

Walking along Goldsborough Creek

Eric Erler



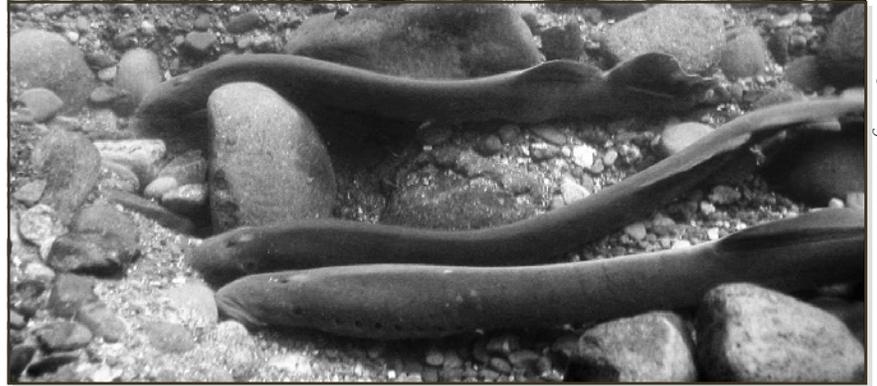
THANK YOU to the following partners:

- ☼ Scott Hilburn and the Hilburn family
- ☼ Squaxin Island Tribe
- ☼ U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10
- ☼ Recreation and Conservation Office, Salmon Recovery Funding Board
- ☼ WRIA 14 Lead Entity Coordinator Amy Hatch-Winecka
- ☼ Mason County
- ☼ Green Diamond Resource Co.

John Konovsky is an Environmental Program Manager with the Squaxin Island Tribe and a member of Capitol Land Trust's Board of Directors.

Pacific Lamprey: The Forgotten Ocean Migrant to Goldsborough Creek

Lampreys are delightfully bizarre fish, vastly underappreciated for the role they play as a food source in estuarine, stream, and river ecosystems. Ancient, jawless fish, lampreys superficially resemble eels but are not related to them. They have an anadromous life cycle (migrating to freshwater for spawning) similar to salmon and steelhead trout. Large concentrations of adult and larval lampreys were once an important and dependable high-fat food source for many birds, fish, mammals, and tribal peoples along the Pacific Coast. They acted as a buffer to reduce predation on migrating adult salmon. Like salmon, lampreys play a key ecological role transporting nutrients such as nitrogen to freshwater ecosystems. However, their abundance has declined significantly over the past three decades and they are listed as a Federal Species of Concern. A number of Capitol Land Trust projects have conserved important habitat for Pacific lamprey.



US Fish & Wildlife Service

Pacific Lamprey

As adults in the marine environment, Pacific lampreys are parasitic, feeding on a variety of fish, but also preyed upon by sharks, sea lions, and other marine animals. After spending one to three years at sea, Pacific lampreys migrate to freshwater, remaining there for approximately one year before spawning.

Pacific lampreys spawn in similar habitats to salmon - in gravel bottomed streams, at the upstream end of riffle habitats. Spawning occurs between March and July. Both sexes construct the nests, often moving stones with their mouths. After the eggs are deposited and fertilized, the adults typically die. ☼

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Source:

Center for Biological Diversity, http://www.biologicaldiversity.org/species/fish/Pacific_lamprey/index.html

US Fish and Wildlife Service, http://www.fws.gov/pacific/fisheries/sp_habcon/lamprey/index.html

Capitol Land Trust Welcomes Meriel Darzen

Meriel and her friend Paloma



Mary Patterson

Please join us in welcoming our newest Conservation Projects Manager, Meriel Darzen. Meriel hails from New England, growing up in Concord, Massachusetts, the home of naturalist Henry David Thoreau and Walden Pond. After graduating from Wesleyan University, she spent 27 months as a Peace Corps volunteer in a small village in the Dominican Republic on the border of Haiti, where she worked on agro-forestry and environmental education projects and ate a lot of incredible avocados and mangos. She has spent the last few years getting a joint JD/MS at the University of Washington Schools of Law and Forest Resources and learning to love the rainy Pacific Northwest. In her free time, she does a lot of trail running and snowshoeing with her dog, Paloma, and defends the Red Sox and the Patriots. She is excited to have a job where she can both exercise her legal mind and get muddy!

You can reach Meriel at (360) 943-3012, meriel@capitollandtrust.org. ☼



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Monthly giving to Capitol Land Trust through the Foundation Program provides a vital source of ongoing support for our conservation and stewardship programs.

Consistent monthly gifts help us plan for the future and cut paper, administrative and overhead costs.

Thank you to all our current Foundation Members who collectively donate almost \$15,000 to Capitol Land Trust each year.

Estate Planning Benefits Conservation

Kathleen Ackley



Ross & Cathy Wiggins

State, and development pressures will surely erode the quality of life we enjoy unless there is someone to advocate on behalf of these natural assets. That is why we are including Capitol Land Trust in our will. This is not a gift. It is an investment! Future generations of South Sounders deserve to see an eagle soaring above and salmon returning home from a life at sea."

You can leave a meaningful legacy for many generations to come and help Capitol Land Trust reach our ambitious conservation goals by making a gift to the Land Trust in your estate plan. Longtime supporters Ross and Cathy Wiggins share their reason for including Capitol Land Trust in their estate plan:

"When Ross and I moved to Olympia more than thirty years ago, we were astounded by the wealth of natural resources and quality of life advantages in the South Sound area. Wildlife, clean air, and clean water have become an integral part of what makes south Puget Sound such a desirable place to live and work. They are elements not widely available in other places.

We also know that without our concerted actions the future holds little promise for protecting enough of these resources. We live in one of the fastest growing parts of Washington

If you share some of the same feelings expressed by Ross and Cathy, please consider investing in the future by making your own legacy contribution with an estate plan gift to Capitol Land Trust. Before making such a gift consult with your attorney and financial advisor. More information on planned giving options with Capitol Land Trust is available on our website: <http://www.capitolandtrust.org/plannedgiving.htm>. ❄



Noah Silber-Covats

A Framework for Conservation

By Pene Speaks

“How do you know if you are on the right road if you don’t know where you are going?” That is a key question Capitol Land Trust attempts to answer through strategic planning. In its early years, the Land Trust did not have a formal strategic plan. We knew we wanted to conserve land for wildlife, plants and people but decisions were sometimes made ad hoc on the apparent merits of a single parcel of land.

As the land trust movement and the organization grew, it became clear that if we were going to be effective in our conservation efforts, we needed more formal criteria and standards by which to judge whether a project was important enough to invest our limited time and resources to see it completed. This included targeting strategically important areas to increase our effectiveness instead of waiting for opportunities to find us. We needed to be proactive and efficient. We needed to act, but we also needed to know where to best put our energy.

Our first strategic planning process included identifying the focus for the organization’s work: the natural places of wildlife habitat, plant communities and ecosystems that make the southern Puget Sound region such a wonderful place to live, work and play. That effort resulted in Capitol Land Trust’s first strategic plan, completed in 1998.

Today our 2009 – 2013 Strategic Plan lays the framework not only for where we are going but how we want to get there. Capitol Land Trust is guided by five strategic conservation goals:

- Conserve marine shorelines and estuaries
- Conserve wetlands, riparian areas and associated upland forests
- Conserve working lands
- Conserve prairies and oak woodlands
- Ensure the long-term stewardship of the lands we protect

We can best achieve these goals by approaching our conservation work as a partnership with the communities we serve and the organizations that support our work. Capitol Land Trust has now completed projects in four southwest Washington counties. We will work to maintain an engaged board of directors, devoting the necessary resources to support our work, and demonstrating respect and appreciation for the efforts of our staff. These are the highest priorities in the Trust’s strategic plan.

Our five-year focus includes measurable actions that help us know how we are doing in meeting our goals. We have already completed nearly 60 conservation projects in four counties. We have conserved 13 miles of Puget Sound marine shorelines, surpassed our two-year goal to raise ten million dollars in new conservation funding, helped found the Washington Association of Land Trusts, and expanded our staff during a time when many were cutting back. These are amazing accomplishments, but there is more to do.

We are working to conserve one of the largest farms in the Black River watershed and making progress on conserving ten more miles of undeveloped marine shoreline in Mason, Thurston and Grays Harbor counties. Our success comes from bringing stakeholders of varying viewpoints to the table and finding creative solutions. We continue to move forward, assured that our goals are clear and our strategies are leading us down the road to conserve important natural habitat and working lands throughout the region. ☼

Executive Director’s Note:

A recent assessment of sixty conservation transactions completed between 1989 and 2010 showed that all but one of these transactions were consistent with the conservation goals of our first two strategic plans. That record alone demonstrates the value of creating, adopting and following a strategic plan.

Pene Speaks is the Assistant Manager for the Forest Resources and Conservation Division, Washington Department of Natural Resources and Capitol Land Trust’s Board President.

More Than 400 Attend Annual Conservation Breakfast

Early in the morning of February 15, 2011, more than 400 people gathered at St. Martin's University to celebrate the accomplishments of Capitol Land Trust, recognize community leaders and raise funds to support land conservation in our region. This year's event was almost double the size of last year's. We raised more than \$46,000 for the conservation of essential natural areas and working lands in southwest Washington. Our thanks to all the generous members of this community who have enabled us to grow and thrive. Together we can steward the health and future of our region!



Lonnie Paul

A full crowd gathered to celebrate conservation efforts in southwest Washington



Lonnie Paul

Eric Erler together with Commissioner of Public Lands Peter Goldmark present Pene Speaks with a Conservation Award



Lonnie Paul

Capitol Land Trust Executive Director Eric Erler



Robert Swanson

Conservation Award winners Ralph Munro and Xinh Dwelley (Not pictured: Karen Munro)



Robert Swanson

Keynote Speaker David Batker of Earth Economics



Lonnie Paul

Mark Messinger, Velma & Doug Rogers



THANK YOU to our SPONSORS:



TABLE CAPTAINS:

Kim Asay, Jeannette Barreca & Bill Yake, Bean, Gentry, Wheeler & Peternell, Peggy Bruton-Edwards, Bonnie Bunning, Cherie & Don Davidson, Bob Droll, Mary Ann Firmin, Jeff Fisher, Green Diamond Resource Company, Ken Guza, David Hanna, Amy Hatch-Winecka, Jennifer Hopper, Steve Hyer, Jr., Eve Johnson, Bill & Joy Justis, Heather Kapust, John Keates, John Konovsky, Diana Larsen-Mills, Steve Lundin, Paul Malmberg, Linda Oestreich, Miguel Perez-Gibson, Cleve & Marty Pinnix, Tim Ransom, Peter Reid, Greg Reub, Josh Riggins, Gerry & Lynda Ring Erickson, Bill Robinson, Leslie Romer, Sandra Romero, Mike Ryherd, David Schaffert, Ed Stanley, Michelle Stevie, Taylor Shellfish Farms, Priscilla & Tom Terry, Puget Sound Energy, Preston Troy, Chris Wickham, Cindy Wilson, Gary & Sandra Worthington ☘



Conservation Means Good Business

By Lisa Johnson

The Alpine Experience (TAE) has been one of Capitol Land Trust's strongest supporters for many years. I wanted to find out why, so in the midst of holiday shopping madness, I stopped in to visit and talk to owner Joe Hyer and his team. Turns out, it's all about family and community.

The store was buzzing with shoppers when I found Joe helping some customers decide on a pair of ski boots. We headed to his office past many of the young, friendly staff offering to help other shoppers. "I hire high school students to give them the best job training I can for their first work experience. Sometimes I can bring them along to a higher level. One of those guys is now my marketing director!"

TAE will celebrate 15 years in Olympia this month, and in spite of the recession, is doing well. It all began when Joe, who had gotten his B.A. in English and Creative Writing, learned to be a ski tech at another outdoors store in town. On a mountaineering trip to Sparks, Nevada in August 1995, Joe became inspired to start his own business in outdoor gear. He signed his father on as his partner, wrote a successful business plan, and opened the store in 1996. His dad still does payroll for the company. His mom makes fleece blankets for the store.

TAE has been a growing business, Joe feels, because of good marketing and healthy competition. The

store moved to its current site in 2000, opened the Rock Gym in 2004, and bought Olympic Outfitters in 2008 in the midst of a recession. When asked about the upcoming opening of an REI in Olympia, Joe responds, "We're not worried about them opening. It makes us all stronger to have competing businesses in town."

Part of the strength of the business is being involved in the community, Joe feels. That's why TAE supports Capitol Land Trust. "We know that our advocacy for organizations like Capitol Land Trust promotes activism in people who shop at our store. It is up to all of us to protect the environment so that folks can enjoy the out-of-doors."

The partners at TAE have faith that Capitol Land Trust will do things right to conserve wild places. Nathan, an Evergreen State College student who recently joined the company, said he admires TAE's modest approach to community awareness. "It isn't just business, it's a true appreciation of what it takes to preserve our local environment."

Joe's step-mom Val works full-time as his assistant and office manager. She has been active in the Mountaineers much of her adult life. She likes offering a product she feels passionate about to customers, so they can have fun and be safe in the outdoors. "The company's support of Capitol Land

Trust is part of our ownership of a healthy, active community," she says. "It's good for everyone!" ❄️

Lisa Johnson is a family physician and member of Capitol Land Trust.



Susan Parrish



TAE staff at a Capitol Land Trust event.

Steve Hyer, Sr., Dave Sanford, Kyle Landwehrie, Russ Gilsdorf & Steve Hyer, Jr.

Joe Hyer



Terry Liberty

CAPITOL LAND TRUST EVENTS

BIRD WATCHING TRIP on OAKLAND BAY

Red-tailed Hawk



Kim Merriman

Join Capitol Land Trust for an early morning birdwatching trip to the newly conserved Twin Rivers Ranch. Led by a local birding expert, we will visit the estuaries and wetlands of this recently conserved property on Oakland Bay. We expect to encounter up to 16 species of ducks, loons, grebes, alcids, and we anticipate seeing the many species of song-birds, raptors, shorebirds that frequent the property. Light refreshments, water, and hot tea are provided. Please dress for the weather.

WHEN: Saturday April 9, 2011, 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM

WHERE: Twin Rivers Ranch, Oakland Bay

COST: \$10 per person

SIGN-UP: Guy Maguire at (360) 943-3012, guym@capitolandtrust.org

HABITAT RESTORATION WORK PARTY

We'll be removing invasive weeds, tending to plantings and applying mulch.

WHEN: Wednesday, April 13, 2011, 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM

WHERE: Harper Property, near The Evergreen State College

RSVP: Guy Maguire at (360) 943-3012, guym@capitolandtrust.org

EARTH DAY on OAKLAND BAY

We are joining multiple groups in Mason County to offer an afternoon of activities, including bird and beach walks, planting native trees, booths, games, local food, live music and more!

WHEN: Saturday April 30, 2011, 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM

WHERE: WDFW public access located at 3990 State Route 3 in Shelton, next to the Bayshore Golf Club.

RSVP: Guy Maguire at (360) 943-3012, guym@capitolandtrust.org

STEAMBOAT CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP BENEFIT

The Elizabeth Hummel Band will be performing a benefit show to raise funds for the conservation of important wildlife habitat and natural areas in the Eld and Totten watersheds (the Steamboat Conservation Partnership).

WHEN: Friday May 6, 2011, 7:00 PM, \$10

WHERE: Prosperity Grange, 3701 Steamboat Island Road, Olympia, WA

COST: \$10 per person

MORE INFO: www.elizabethhummel.com, www.waterwitch.tv



Rachel Mockler

Volunteers Daren Threatt & Kameron Harper



Elizabeth Hummel



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Olympia, WA 98501

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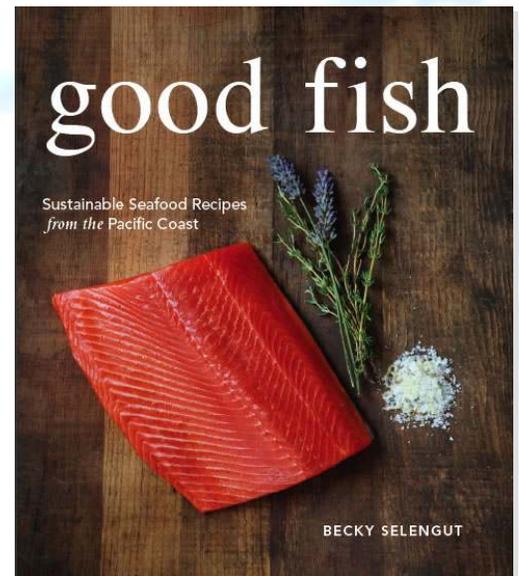
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Eleventh Annual
Summer Gala
Saturday August 13, 2011
4:00 to 8:00 pm
at Helsing Junction Farm
with Special Guest
Becky Selengut

Capitol Land Trust invites you to spend a summer afternoon with us at Helsing Junction Farm, a beautiful 30-acre organic farm in the heart of the Chehalis River Valley. Guests will be treated to fresh, local foods cooked to perfection by Xinh Dwelley, as well as wine, live music and special guest, renowned chef Becky Selengut.

Becky runs a private chef and cooking instruction company, Cornucopia, in Seattle and founded the seasonal, local foods database SeasonalCornucopia.com. She holds year-round classes in Seattle, both privately and for PCC Natural Markets and Dish It Up! Additionally, Becky carries on a lively, award-winning presence online as Chef Reinvented and is a freelance writer for *Edible Seattle* and *Seattle Homes and Lifestyles* magazines. She is a coauthor of the *Washington Local and Seasonal Cookbook* and has a new cookbook on sustainable seafood, *Good Fish*, coming out this May.



Becky Selengut