



We are excited to announce the purchase of the 312-acre Darlin Creek property from Aloha Lumber Corporation in the Black River watershed near Capitol State Forest and adjacent to our Edwards easement. The acquisition—15 years in the making—will protect healthy forest, diverse wetland habitat, Lake Lucinda, and more than 2 miles of fish-bearing streams. Darlin, Dempsey and Pants Creeks run through the property and support healthy runs of steelhead,

cutthroat, coho, and Chinook salmon, in addition to providing habitat for state and federally listed species. Your support has ensured these extraordinary places are forever conserved.

Originally slated for residential development, acquisition of the property was pursued by Capitol Land Trust for more than a decade. CLT received \$600,000 in funding from Thurston County Conservation Futures and \$1.2 million from the Washington

SUCCESS!

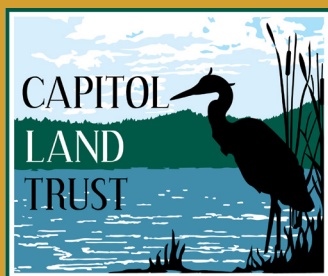
312-ACRE DARLIN CREEK PRESERVE

Coast Restoration Initiative, a new program passed by the WA State Legislature in 2015. This program also provided funding for restoration work, which will include culvert replacement to expand fish passage to miles of streams.



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Front Cover Heron by Kim Merriman.
Front Cover Image by Bruce Livingston.

A letter from Amanda Reed, Executive Director

What's more important than the land?

Like many of you, I seek solace from the land. Sitting on the riverbank watching endless water rush by, hiking into the depths of the forest wondering what woodland creatures lay hidden nearby – this is what brings me peace. This is why I protect land.

Yet, there is something more to it than nature. Listening to each of our team members enthusiastically recap their work to protect and restore lands at our recent Annual Meeting, there was a common thread woven throughout each of their stories. The people.

Mike told the story of his many land stewards, who year after year join him on visits to monitor our preserves, and the landowners who have donated conservation



Photo by Sally Parker

easements; Andrew told the story of tireless volunteers who show up rain or shine ready to work to improve the land; and Caitlin told the centuries-old story of Bayshore Preserve and its people.

Do we protect land for nature's sake? Absolutely. And we also protect it for people. Children need nature for a place to play and explore and take risks. Adults need nature for grounding and spiritual rejuvenation. Everyone relies upon nature for life's basic necessities.

The land brings us together – volunteers, outdoor enthusiasts, farmers, business, and governments. The land is our support system, the 'warp' threads on a loom, through which we collectively weave a community tapestry.

Together, our work is even more important than protecting the land. It's about building and securing our community.

I hope you enjoy this newsletter with its stories about the land and the people.

Sincerely,



Amanda Reed
Executive Director

Are you paying taxes when you could be leaving a legacy?

In December 2015, President Obama made permanent the Charitable IRA Rollover.

What does it mean?

IRA owners age 70 ½ or older can make a direct, tax-free transfer of up to \$100,000 per year from their individual retirement account to a public charity like Capitol Land Trust.

What's in it for you?

- You can reduce your taxable income.
- The donation counts toward your annual required minimum distribution (RMDs).
- You can leave a legacy by making an immediate gift to conserve southwest Washington's natural areas and working lands.



Photo by Bruce Livingston

Now's a great time to start planning for the 2016 tax year. Your gift must be received before December 31 to qualify for this tax year. Check with your IRA administrator or your tax advisor to see if this is a good option for you.



Newt found on the Lonseth Preserve in northern Thurston County. Photo by Kay Schultz.

Conserving marine shorelines and estuaries is a key strategy of our 2016-2020 strategic plan. We aim to conserve 5 new shoreline properties by 2020.

Why Conserve Marine Shorelines?

By Dave and Joanne Schuett-Hames

Capitol Land Trust (CLT) and our many partners play a key role in protecting natural marine shorelines of Puget Sound by identifying productive and sensitive habitats, and by working with willing landowners to protect these areas using methods such as purchase, conservation easements, and restoration. We strive to maintain our shoreline heritage so that future generations will also be able to enjoy a meal of fresh salmon and shellfish, a day of clam digging and beachcombing, and see a great blue heron stalking fish along the water line, or glimpse an otter scampering down the beach.

Our extensive marine shorelines are a special feature of the southern end of Puget Sound. They formed when, during past ice ages, huge glaciers from the north plowed through lowlands between the Cascade and Olympic mountains, carving out a series of narrow fiords (inlets) separated by higher peninsulas. When the glaciers retreated, the low areas were connected with the Pacific

Ocean, creating the complex of inlets and marine shorelines we see today.

Our shorelines provide inspiring views of glistening mountains across sparkling water. We enjoy and share many recreational and educational pursuits such as clam digging, fishing, crabbing, boating, bird watching, beach combing, and nature study made possible by access to shorelines and beaches.

Natural shorelines consist of beaches of sand and gravel, which are replenished by erosion of adjacent banks and bluffs. These beaches provide spawning habitat for small fish such as surf smelt, sand lance, and herring. They also provide productive habitat for shellfish such as littleneck clams and Olympia oysters, as well as other intertidal organisms like sand dollars and moon snails. Steep banks and high bluffs adjacent to the water provide habitat for kingfishers and pigeon guillemots that nest in burrows in the bluffs. Trees leaning out from

the shoreline provide cover for fish and perching sites for kingfishers, bald eagles, and crows. Near-shore waters adjacent to the shoreline are used by salmon, sea-run cutthroat trout, and seals, as well as diving ducks such as goldeneyes and buffleheads while they over-winter in Puget Sound.

In estuaries, fresh water from rivers and streams mix with salt water, producing a rich environment for fish and wildlife. Estuaries range in size from small coves or “pocket estuaries” like Allison Springs, where CLT has



done extensive restoration, to those associated with large rivers and streams, like the Nisqually River. Regardless of size, estuaries and their associated salt marsh and mudflat habitats are important rearing areas for young salmon leaving our rivers and streams.

Here they acclimate to salt water and put on rapid growth, feeding in the rich salt marsh sloughs and shallow waters. Estuaries are also important stopovers for shorebirds on their migrations, where they rest and feed on invertebrates to replenish the fat that will fuel their long flights to northern breeding areas in the spring, and back south in the fall.



Above: Twin Rivers Ranch Preserve on Oakland Bay in Mason County. Photo by Bonnie Liberty.
Below: Bayfield Resource Co. Gull Harbor easement in north Thurston County. Photo by Bill Yake.

The abundant fish and shellfish available in our inlets were key to supporting Native American communities along the shores of Puget Sound, and the linkage between salmon, shellfish, and Native American culture remains strong today. The shellfish and salmon were also a foundation for the economy of the pioneers and settlers. Totten and Little Skookum Inlets, and Oakland Bay are still some of the most productive shellfish-producing areas in the country.

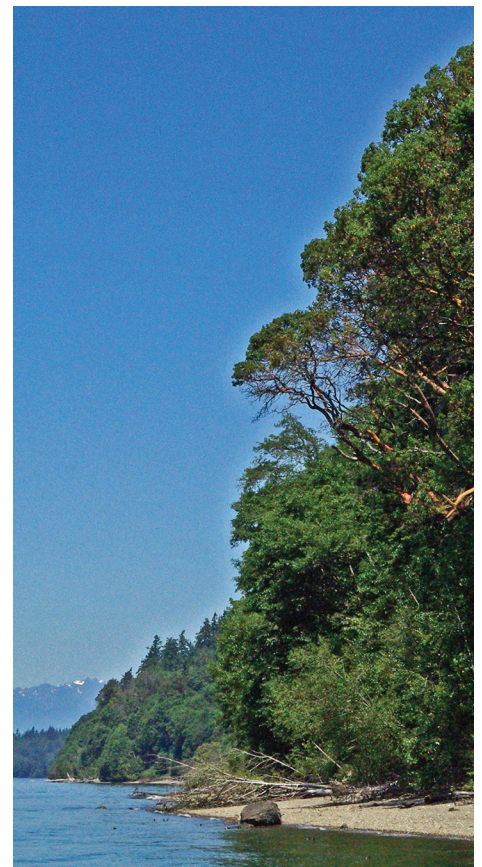
*Our shorelines
provide many important
ecological, economic,
social and aesthetic values.*

Ecologically, shorelines provide diverse habitats, including estuaries, mudflats, and beaches. These are dynamic places, where the land meets and interacts with

the sea. Our attraction to the many wonders of shorelines can also be a threat - we are in danger of loving them too much. Shoreline home sites are highly valued because of the beautiful views, natural setting, and ready access to the water. Consequently, many of our shorelines have been overtaken by residential development. The combined impacts of bulkheads, tree and native vegetation removal, and runoff from driveways and yards, can reduce and alter beach habitat.

That is why Capitol Land Trust, with your help, has been protecting these vital places. While proper planning and stewardship can reduce the impact of development, it is critical to maintain natural areas with highly functioning habitat if we are to ensure shoreline health and productivity. We have protected over 14 miles of Puget Sound shoreline and continue to work with private landowners, public

agencies and others to ensure we have shorelines abounding with life into the future.



Rejuvenating Restoration

Andrew Wilkens (AmeriCorps Restoration Coordinator)

Over the past six months we have asked our volunteers to step up and donate their time and energy like never before. What changed? Instead of a sporadic work schedule, we have started to run regular work parties every Friday or Saturday morning, on our preserves throughout Thurston and Mason counties.

Since October we have hosted over 25 work parties attended by more than 150 people. Some

of these events were small, with just one or two volunteers helping to complete a specific goal. Other events were large, with many people of all ages and backgrounds, coming from all over the state to help us complete larger, more complicated tasks.

For example, in January we worked with the City of Olympia to plan and prepare restoration work for the Allison Springs Preserve on Delphi Road in west Olympia. We set a goal to plant native trees and shrubs at two locations within the preserve that were previously impacted by human development. On the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of

Service, 32 people showed up in work clothes and boots, ready to get dirty. Otters playing in the natural springs and an eagle circling overhead greeted us. The weather was great, everyone was enthusiastic, and the work flew by.

We installed 300 native shrubs and trees, hauled wood chips to the planting sites, and spread the mulch around the new vegetation to suppress weeds. Before our time was up, we had even pulled some invasive blackberry and English holly.

We have had lots of support from the community for these events. Local businesses such as Mom's Bakery, the Bread Peddler, and Taylor Shellfish Farms have provided delicious snacks for our hungry volunteers. Other partners including the Center for Natural Lands Management, Native Plant Salvage, and the City of Olympia have supported work parties by advertising them and providing volunteers from their organizations.

There is no doubt, our dedicated volunteers, who donate time and energy to restore and





All photos
by Bruce
Livingston

protect our preserves, are the most crucial ingredient to the success of our mission. Thank you to everyone who has come out rain or shine to help us pull up blackberries and Scotch broom, to maintain previous restoration work, and to plant native vegetation. We couldn't do it without you!

Outdoor Exploration Series

Upcoming Events

Bike Ride on Steamboat Peninsula

Join us, along with Steamboat Conservation Partnership
Saturday, July 16
at 10 AM

Kayak Tour of Eld Inlet

Tuesday, July 19
at 5:30 PM

Harmony Farm On Henderson Inlet Tour

Learn about our Inspiring Kids Preserve vision!
Saturday, August 27
at 10:30 AM

More events available this fall...stay tuned!ww

These events are free, registration is required.

Visit CapitolLandTrust.org to view and register for all upcoming events.

12th Annual Conservation Breakfast

by the numbers

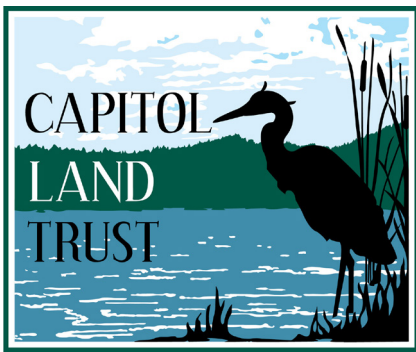
The 2016 Conservation Breakfast was held on February 9, 2016 and featured guest speaker Martin LeBlanc, co-founder of the Children & Nature Network. Capitol Land Trust recognized the Pacific Education Institute for their leadership in providing K-12 students in Washington with meaningful learning opportunities using nature as the classroom.

We raised \$76,000 towards our mission of furthering collaborative and strategic conservation of southwest Washington's essential natural areas and working lands.

Over 500 people attended this year, and 150 of these attendees were new to the organization. Thank you sponsors, table captains and members who supported this year's Conservation Breakfast!



2016 Conservation Breakfast. Photo by Tiberio Serbanescu



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2016 Summer Gala & Auction

Saturday, August 13, 2016

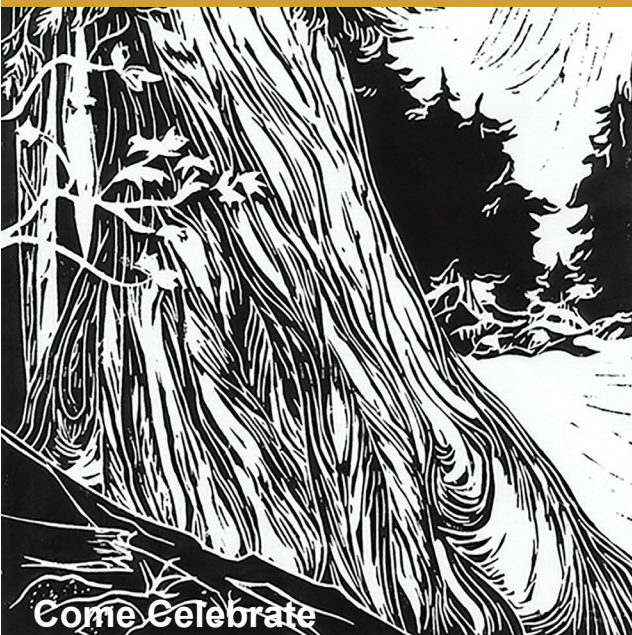
5 PM to 9 PM

Ralph & Nancy Munro's Triple Creek Farm, Olympia

Silent & Live Auctions

Fresh, Local, Gourmet Fare

Information & Tickets: CapitolLandTrust.org/summergala



Come Celebrate

FORESTS, FARMS, FISH & FUN!



Illustrations by Mimi Williams

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