



CAPITOL LAND TRUST NEWS

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

ISSUE 46 FALL 2007



Historic 355 - acre Wynne Farm Conserved *by Eric Erler*

On a sunny afternoon in late August, I stopped in to see Tom and Charlene Wynne at their farm west of Olympia. After sharing some good laughs, a staple with Charlene and Tom, we hopped in Tom's truck and drove up the beautiful valley that surrounds their property. While Tom and I unloaded a piece of baling equipment from the truck, Charlene fed the horses. Then we all drove into town and the Wynne's signed an agreement that permanently conserves 355 acres of their incredible valley.

The farm's forested hillsides rise steeply from the valley floor and completely surround the property except where the road enters at one end. Numerous streams tumble down from the hills and empty into the hidden and open-water wetlands along the valley floor. Osprey, owls and cougar feed along this transition zone. The property's main streams contribute freshwater to the Kennedy Creek Natural Area Preserve on Totten Inlet, benefiting salmon and the health of Puget Sound. Hayfields, flooded along the edges by over-productive beavers, create a pastoral vista and provide habitat for hawks and other raptors looking for movement in the grass from overhead.

The Wynne's lovingly manage their property as a tree farm, caring equally for the animals and the environment as for their family business.

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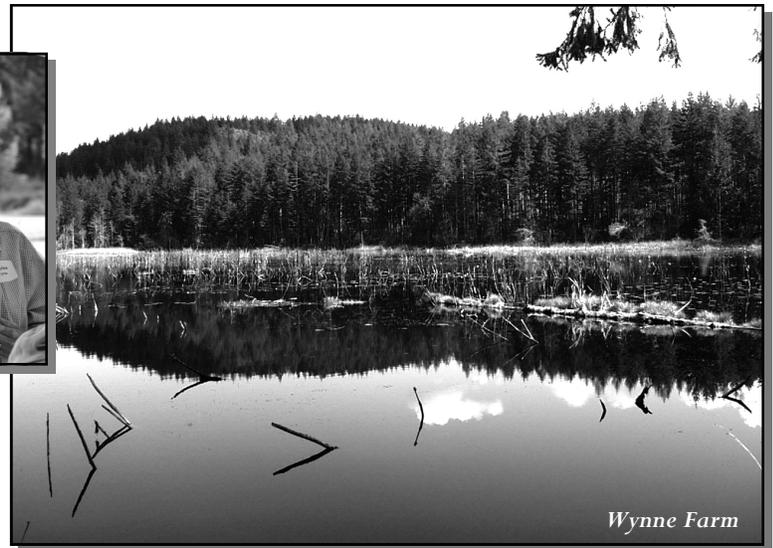
"Wynne Farm" cont. from page 1

Harvesting trees in small patches and waiting nearly $\frac{3}{4}$ of a century between cuttings enables the property to function as a healthy ecosystem. The Wynne's management of this micro-paradise has been praised by timberland owners, farmers, government agencies and environmentalists alike.

Working with the Wynne's to conserve their farm is one of the greatest pleasures I've had as director of Capitol Land Trust. Tom and Charlene are truly two of the nicest and most forward thinking people I have ever had the pleasure of knowing. By donating a conservation easement that will ensure the valley remains forever undeveloped, Charlene and Tom have given a gift to the people, the wildlife and the future health of this region, unlike anyone before them. ☼



Tom & Charlene Wynne



Wynne Farm

Join the Capitol Land Trust Foundation Program

by Mike Ryherd

When we look out 100 years from now, what kind of a community will our grandchildren inherit from us? Will they still have the myriad blue fingers of Puget Sound in which to kayak or canoe? Will the great blue herons and shore birds have sanctuaries for their renewal and continuance? Will our children and grandchildren have refuges of green and open spaces? The ability of future generations to build a healthy and economically viable community is directly dependent on the natural heritage we leave for them today. You can help create a lasting natural foundation.

Capitol Land Trust has done a remarkable job of starting this process. Through non-regulatory, voluntary methods, this local non-profit has demonstrated that entire estuaries can be permanently conserved. Good people of good heart who love their land can and will permanently conserve their property for the public good. By partnering with willing government agencies, neighborhoods and businesses, we can bring dramatic and lasting protection to our most fragile areas.

Unfortunately, without Capitol Land Trust and groups like them, this work will not get done. Farmland, riverbanks and shorelines will remain vulnerable. Unique southern Puget Sound prairies will continue to disappear.

Cont. next page

Capitol Land Trust Gear

Be comfortable, be stylish, support conservation!

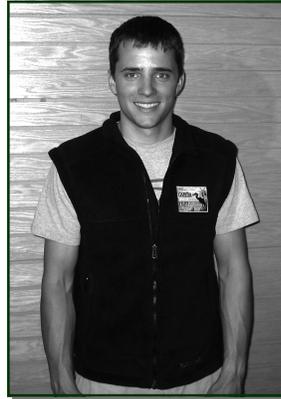
VESTS:

- ☞ Marmot fleece vests with the Capitol Land Trust logo above the left breast.
- ☞ \$70 each, plus tax.
- ☞ Available in men and women's sizes.
- ☞ 70% of proceeds support Capitol Land Trust.

T-SHIRTS:

- ☞ 100% cotton heavy-weight short-sleeved (white) t-shirts with Capitol Land Trust logo on the back.
- ☞ \$20 each, plus tax.
- ☞ Available in S, M, L, XL and XXL
- ☞ 100% of proceeds support Capitol Land Trust.

Special thanks to Puget Sound Energy for underwriting the cost of producing these t-shirts!



Thanks Kyle!

AVAILABLE AT:

The Alpine Experience
408 Olympia Ave NE
Olympia, WA 98501
(360) 956-1699
www.alpinex.com



"Foundation Program" cont.

We are asking you to help us build a foundation to support Capitol Land Trust and its highly skilled and dedicated staff. Will you join with other volunteer members of your community to pledge a monthly contribution to the ongoing support of the operations, stewardship and projects of Capitol Land Trust?

Foundation Members are asked to give, through an automatic bank deduction, \$25, \$50, \$100 or more each month. This base of continued giving will provide the stability for our volunteer Board of Directors to steer an aggressive program of conservation and growth during the next decade to save those places most at risk. It will also allow them to recruit and retain the special mixture of skills on staff that it takes to complete multi-million dollar land transactions, secure land acquisition grants and make sure that the lands, once acquired, are well cared for.

We have a unique opportunity to lay a far reaching foundation for our grandkids. We must provide for conserving the future of our lands by providing for the future of Capitol Land Trust: our only viable tool to make sure that the conservation work gets done right, and on time. We hope you'll join us. ☞

Mike Ryherd is a member of Capitol Land Trust's Advisory Council. He is one of the founders, and Past President, of the Bainbridge Island Land Trust.

To enroll in Capitol Land Trust's Foundation Program, fill out and return the enclosed remit envelope. If you have questions, please contact Kathleen Ackley at kathleen@capitolandtrust.org.



Habitat Restoration Work Party

Join us for a few hours at our Mud Bay restoration site. We will be continuing to care for the native plants, mostly through weed pulling.

WHEN: Saturday Dec. 1, 2007 10:00 am -- 3:00 pm

WHERE: 4937 Mud Bay Road NW, Olympia
Next to the Blue Heron Bakery

WHAT to BRING: Plenty of water, a snack, sturdy footwear and dress for the weather.

No experience necessary.

Children 10 and under must have one to one adult supervision. Event takes place rain or shine.

Need more information?

Contact Membership & Outreach Coordinator, Kathleen Ackley at
(360) 943-3012, kathleen@capitolandtrust.org



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Save the Date: Fourth Annual Conservation Breakfast



Attorney General Rob McKenna

Fourth Annual Conservation Breakfast
Tuesday February 26, 2008
7:00 -- 8:30 AM
The Worthington Center
Keynote Speaker To Be Announced

For more information or to RSVP contact Kathleen Ackley at
 (360) 943-3012 kathleen@capitolandtrust.org.

Once again Capitol Land Trust is hosting a Conservation Breakfast at St. Martin's Worthington Center. This annual fundraising event highlights the importance of conserving Washington's essential natural areas and recognizes community leaders who have made it a priority.

Previous Conservation Breakfast keynote speakers include William Ruckleshaus, Governor Christine Gregoire and Washington State Attorney General Rob McKenna.

Conservation Award Winners:

Representative Gary Alexander
 The Alpine Experience,
 Representative Hans Dunshee
 Senator Karen Fraser
 Senator Mike Hewitt
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 WA Dept. of Natural Resources

Custom Birding Trip to Hood Canal



Terry Liberty

JOIN CAPITOL LAND TRUST for an ALL-DAY BIRD WATCHING TRIP

Led by local birding expert, Andrew Beelik, we will visit estuaries and wetlands from Belfair to the Hamma-Hamma, including some private land, courtesy of the owners. An emphasis will be on waterfowl: up to 16 species of ducks, geese, swans, loons, grebes and alcids. There will be some upland birds as well; passerines and raptors, with luck even a Peregrine Falcon. Andrew has led such field trips for Black Hills Audubon annually since the early nineties.

WHEN: Saturday, February 16, 2008, 8:30 am to 3:30 pm
COST: \$30 per person
SIGN UP: (360) 943-3012 or e-mail to kathleen@capitolandtrust.org

All proceeds benefit the conservation work of Capitol Land Trust. This trip is limited to ten persons. ☼



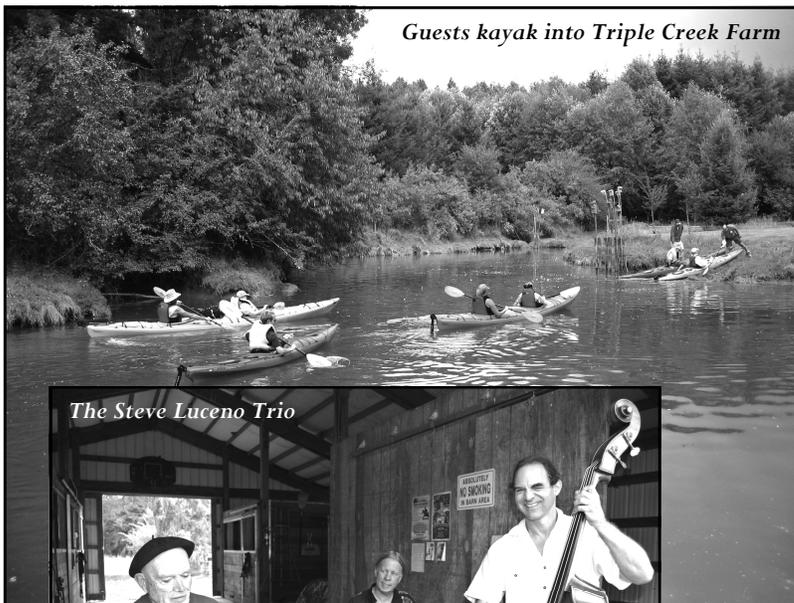
Summer Gala Celebrates Twenty-year Anniversary



Twenty years ago, a group came together with the hope of preserving wetland and creek habitat in the Henderson Inlet watershed and Capitol Land Trust was born. On August 25, 2007 more than 230 guests came together at Capitol Land Trust's Annual Summer Gala to celebrate twenty years of conservation success and reflect on some highpoints from the past two decades.

There is certainly a lot to reflect on. During the past twenty years, Capitol Land Trust, working together with landowners and our many community partners, has conserved some of the region's signature natural areas. For example:

- ✦ More than 500 acres and nearly five miles of marine shoreline in the Eld Inlet watershed;
- ✦ Two miles (nearly the entire shoreline of Gull Harbor) on Budd Inlet;
- ✦ Nearly 5,000 acres of wetlands, prairies, and forests on more than forty sites in the Black River watershed -- conserved together with seven nonprofit and agency partners; and,
- ✦ Acquisition of the Oakland Bay Historical Park, the first land trust project completed in Mason County. A system of trails and interpretive facilities will provide recreational and educational opportunities unlike any other in the region.



Guests kayak into Triple Creek Farm

Our successes and numerous projects have been featured in dozens of positive articles and news stories. Many of Washington's (and the nation's) top conservation leaders are supporters of our work. Ralph and Karen Munro, Paul and Debbi Brainerd, Bill Ruckleshaus, Denis Hayes, Senator Karen Fraser, Attorney General Rob McKenna, Governor Christine Gregoire and others have been speakers at our Summer Galas and Conservation Breakfasts.

As our organization has grown, so has the size and complexity of projects we undertake. We have successfully raised millions of dollars to conserve land, including receiving the first salmon recovery funding in Washington State to conserve marine habitat. Members have stepped up to the plate as well, increasing donations and including Capitol Land Trust in their estate planning. Members like Melody Mayer and Bill Scheidt and Marty and Cleve Pinnix recently named Capitol Land Trust as the beneficiary of substantial parts of their estates. In 2007, Rita Willets made the single largest financial contribution ever given to Capitol Land Trust through the Pension Protection Act (see page 10 for more information).



The Steve Luceno Trio

Board President Pene Speaks & Master of Ceremonies Joe Hyer



Capitol Land Trust's Board recognizes that collaboration is essential to success and that there is plenty of credit to go around. Consistent with this approach, in 2007 Capitol Land Trust partnered with the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition, Karen Munro, the Realtor's Association, and The Olympian in asking state elected leaders to increase funding for the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP). Much to our delight, the Legislature and Governor Gregoire approved 100 million dollars in funding for the WWRP, effectively doubling previous funding levels. These funds will be spent on natural areas, parks, boat launches and trails for the people of Washington State. With a portion of this funding, Capitol Land Trust, Mason County, Green Diamond Resource Company and the Salmon Recovery Funding Board are partnering to conserve a 500-acre wetland complex in Mason and Grays Harbor Counties.

Many other accomplishments are worthy of mention, but none more so than the success we have had helping landowners conserve their land. Beginning with William Aldridge, who donated the region's first conservation easement in 1989, to Tom and Charlene Wynne (see page one article) who donated a 355-acre conservation easement in 2007, Capitol Land Trust provides a unique model for bringing people together around common ground and shared goals. ☼

Host Karen Munro & Stephanie Claire



Jack & Susan Havens



Executive Director Eric Erler



Steamed mussels served up to Karen Valenzuela by volunteer Ben Sabold.



Kitchen Help: Thera Black, Karin Strelhoff & Andy Anderson

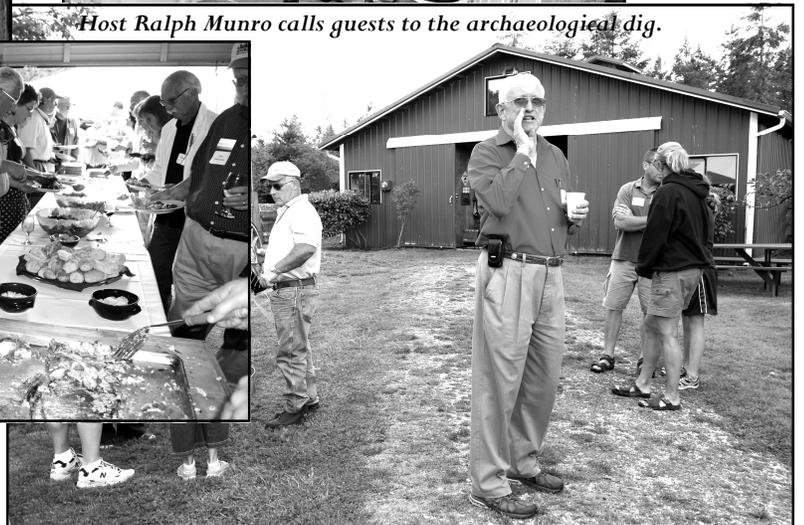
Host Ralph Munro calls guests to the archaeological dig.



Volunteer Emily Sanford serves up fresh grilled salmon.



Senator Karen Fraser, Sandra Romero & Sue Lean





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Olympia, WA

Support Capitol Land Trust Through Your I.R.A. An Unprecedented Giving Opportunity Set to Expire in December

Through the end of 2007, the Pension Protection Act allows those 70½ and older to make direct transfers of up to \$100,000 from their traditional Individual Retirement Account (IRA) or Roth IRA to Capitol Land Trust, and exclude the transfer from gross income (a tax benefit). This legislation, set to expire in December 2007, provides a crucial opportunity to make a significant contribution benefiting the conservation work of Capitol Land Trust.

A “qualified charitable distribution” includes any distribution made directly by the IRA administrator from an IRA to Capitol Land Trust that would have been taxable if the distribution was received instead, by the IRA’s owner. If you would like to make a contribution through your IRA or if you have questions about this extraordinary opportunity, please contact Kathleen Ackley, Capitol Land Trust Membership and Outreach Coordinator or contact your IRA administrator directly.

You can find more information on our website at <http://www.capitollandtrust.org>.

Capitol Land Trust would like to express our sincere gratitude to Rita Willits, who in 2007 made the single largest financial contribution from an individual ever given to Capitol Land Trust, through the Pension Protection Act. ¶