

CAPITOL LAND TRUST NEWS

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

ISSUE 50 FALL 2010

Bonnie Liberty



Spectacular Oakland Bay Estuary and Farm Conserved

By Eric Erler

Twin Rivers Ranch is unlike any other place in the southern Puget Sound ecosystem. The property spans the entire north end of Oakland Bay north of Shelton, Washington. Salmon-bearing Deer and Cranberry Creeks flow through the property and into Oakland Bay, twin estuaries that provide critical wildlife habitat. This estuary delta is one of Mason County's signature properties. Together with fifteen project partners, Capitol Land Trust has permanently conserved Twin Rivers Ranch, further demonstrating that working strategically and collaboratively is our best hope for sustaining and recovering the health of Puget Sound.

Capitol Land Trust purchased the 133-acre property in August 2010 from the Rohde family. The purchase permanently conserves one mile of creek frontage on Deer and Cranberry Creeks and 2/3 of a mile of intact estuarine habitat. The Rohde's stewardship and commitment to sustaining the Ranch's diverse habitats has been exemplary:

there are no bulkheads, docks or other shoreline modifications.

Twin Rivers Ranch provides essential habitat for five salmon species and multiple forage fish species. The property's coastal and freshwater habitat is used by Puget Sound/Strait of Georgia coho, native Puget Sound winter steelhead, Puget Sound fall chinook, coastal sea-run cutthroat, and native Puget Sound/Strait of Georgia summer

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Masthead photograph courtesy of Thi Dang

Oakland Bay Estuary and Farm continued from page 1

chum. Exemplifying the interconnectedness of the entire Puget Sound ecosystem, juvenile chinook salmon from the Puyallup Basin, 50 miles away, were found in 2003 by the Squaxin Island Tribe in waters close to the Ranch.

This unique coastal habitat is also utilized by 113 waterfowl, shorebird, waterbird and landbird species. Standing on the shoreline, one is treated to a nearly constant parade of eagles, hawks, buzzards, osprey and other raptors. The Ranch's coastline and uplands contain 66 acres of wetlands including estuarine habitat, salt marsh vegetation, tidal sloughs and adjacent tide flats. 36 acres of native coniferous and hardwood forests more closely resemble Alaska's spruce-dominated bogs than the region's other lowland forestlands.



Emily Sanford

Eric Erler briefs Governor Christine Gregoire, Congressman Norm Dicks and other officials on Capitol Land Trust's Oakland Bay conservation work.

In 2005 Capitol Land Trust purchased the Malaney Creek estuary immediately south of Twin Rivers Ranch. The acquisition was the result of a partnership with Mason County, the Squaxin Island Tribe and the state's Salmon Recovery Funding Board. Because of the incredible intact condition and strategic location of both of these properties, the acquisition and protection of these two properties alone constitutes an unprecedented contribution to the health of Oakland Bay and the southern Puget Sound region.

Jeanne Koenings of the WA Department of Ecology says, "We are always pleased to partner with Capitol Land Trust to protect important coastal wetlands in south Puget Sound. Acquiring Twin Rivers Ranch means that we're that much closer to ensuring Oakland Bay's water quality remains high and that its shellfish are protected. No one entity can do this work alone, but having Capitol Land Trust as a partner makes this work a joy."

With this acquisition Capitol Land Trust is half way toward achieving its strategic goal to conserve four of Oakland Bay's largest remaining shoreline properties by 2013. And with the purchase of Twin Rivers Ranch, Capitol Land Trust has now conserved more than thirteen miles of southern Puget Sound's coastline.☞

Eric Erler is Capitol Land Trust's Executive Director.

Thank you to the following partners whose support made the purchase of Twin Rivers Ranch possible:

The Rohde Family, WA Dept. of Ecology, US Fish and Wildlife Service, WA Salmon Recovery Funding Board, WA Recreation and Conservation Office, Taylor Shellfish Farms, Squaxin Island Tribe, The Trust for Public Land, Margery Sayre, Mason Conservation District, Mason County, WSU Cooperative Extension Office, ADESA Environmental Services LLC

Habitat Restoration at Twin Rivers Ranch

By Kathryn Moore



Each time Capitol Land Trust acquires a property or accepts a conservation easement, our responsibilities are just beginning. For conservation easements, Capitol Land Trust commits to monitor the property at least annually and to enforce the terms of the conservation easement forever. For properties that we own, we commit to manage and steward the property, and to protect and restore, if necessary, the conservation values of the property. With the purchase of Twin Rivers Ranch, Capitol Land Trust has accepted an exciting responsibility to restore the property's diverse habitat.

Although the majority of the landscape at Twin Rivers Ranch provides healthy habitat for fish and wildlife, some of the property needs more intensive management to enhance its conservation values. Twin Rivers Ranch was historically a working farm, but for many years the agricultural activity has been limited to periodic haying. Because of this transition away from intensive farming, invasive weeds such as reed canary grass, Himalayan blackberry, scotch broom, and others have managed to gain a foothold in areas, displacing native vegetation. Additionally, the Ranch contains several agricultural and residential structures that are no longer in use. With support from the WA Department of Ecology's Hussman Grant, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the EPA, the Squaxin Island Tribe, the WA Conservation Corps, and the Salmon Recovery Funding Board, Capitol Land Trust and Mason Conservation District are developing a restoration and management plan for Twin Rivers Ranch.

The plan will address wetland restoration and native plant reforestation, as well as low-impact agricultural techniques. The plan will encourage the use of haying and limited grazing as a means for dealing with invasive weeds in the former agricultural areas. Mason Conservation District has already removed 218 cubic yards of weeds on the property. Over the next six months Capitol Land Trust and the District expect to remove additional pockets of invasive plants, and several tons of

concrete and other building debris. We will replant these areas with more than 1,000 native trees and shrubs. Already, the project has removed a mobile home, two barns and a septic system lying within 60 feet of Cranberry Creek. Capitol Land Trust and Mason Conservation District are currently preparing two sites along Deer Creek for new native plants later this fall.

Keep an eye out for notices of work parties out at Twin Rivers Ranch for your opportunity to visit the site and help restore this unique and breathtaking wildlife preserve in Oakland Bay!☘

Bull Barn Before Demolition



Kathryn Moore

Bull Barn After Demolition



Guy Maguire

Kathryn Moore is a Project Manager for the WA State Recreation and Conservation Office and Capitol Land Trust's former Conservation Projects Manager.



Leave a Legacy for Conservation



Thank you to our many members who have already included Capitol Land Trust in their wills and estate plans. Making a bequest is one of the simplest ways to leave a personal legacy that will last into perpetuity. As part of a will, a charitable bequest specifies that a sum of money or percentage of an estate, or a particular asset, be given to a named charitable organization upon the donor's death. Retirement plans are often considered the smartest assets to leave to charitable organizations. These assets are unusual in that they are subject not only to estate tax, but to income tax when received by heirs. Both taxes can be avoided when a qualified charitable organization such as Capitol Land Trust is named as the beneficiary. For more details visit Capitol Land Trust's website at www.capitollandtrust.org.

Is Capitol Land Trust already in your will? Please let us know so we can thank you in your lifetime.☼

Native Pigeons Thrive at Eld Inlet Preserve By Chris Maynard

During purchase arrangements for the newly acquired property at the south end of Eld Inlet on Mud Bay, Capitol Land Trust staff learned of an unexpected bonus: mineral deposits that attract Band-tailed Pigeons.

Doves and pigeons are names used interchangeably. By name, when the Passenger Pigeon became extinct, Band-tailed Pigeons became the only pigeon native to the United States north of Florida. Those familiar city birds, Rock Pigeons, are smaller and hail originally from the cliffs of Europe and North Africa. The Band-tailed Pigeons seem to share this fondness of heights by perching in the tops of the tallest trees. A white stripe on the back of their neck and a banded tail provide good ways to recognize our native pigeon. It also sports bright yellow feet.

Like Passenger Pigeons used to do, Band-tailed Pigeons often gather in flocks, especially at mineral springs where they eat the salts. This makes them easy targets for shotgunners. Market hunting in the early 1900s decimated their numbers, as did lax game laws even up to the 1980s. Now hunting is strictly limited, and completely prohibited at this Capitol Land Trust preserve. But these birds aren't out of the woods yet.

These pigeons rely on mixed conifer forests with a special fondness for fruits from cascara and elderberry. A more recent threat is the reduction in their forest habitat in the form of even stands of single-species commercial fir forests.

So, it is not really surprising to find them on lands managed by Capitol Land Trust. These complex habitats attract and sustain communities of plants and animals who find refuge from an increasingly humanized landscape.☼

Band-tailed Pigeon, *Patagioenas fasciata*



Bill Walker

Band-tailed Pigeon tail feather showing the characteristic band.



Chris Maynard

Chris Maynard works for the WA Department of Ecology's Water Resource Program, is a photographer, and has a passion for the natural world.

Calendars & Note Cards Available Now!

Throughout 2009 and the early parts of 2010, Olympia Camera Club members roamed Capitol Land Trust conserved properties, capturing some amazing images of our lovely corner of the world. The result is a beautiful 2011 calendar and two boxed sets of note cards. Images range from farmland to forest to shoreline — all conserved landscapes thanks to your generous support!

Supplies are limited, order yours today!

CALENDARS:

12 x 12, full color calendars are only \$12 each.

NOTE CARDS:

4.25 x 5.5, full color set of eight different images are only \$15 per box. There are two separate boxes of eight different note cards for a total of sixteen different cards.



Special thanks to the following photographers:

Allynn Balch, Julie Bennett
Teresa Gypin, Rich Kalman
Wes Kirkpatrick, Bonnie Liberty
Terry Liberty, Greg Mennegar
Ann Rockway, Kay Schultz
Stacie Singleton, John West

Thanks also go to Jennifer Santoyo for her original calendar design, as well as star volunteers Donna Buxton, Barbara Morson and Tom & Priscilla Terry for making the project happen!☘



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☐ I will pick mine up!

Item	Price	Quantity	Total
2011 Calendar	\$12		\$
Box of Note cards	\$15		\$
Shipping	\$2.50 per calendar \$1.50 per note card box	Total enclosed:	\$

Clip and mail with your payment to: Capitol Land Trust, 209 Fourth Ave E, #205, Olympia, WA 98501



Summer Gala Breaks Fundraising Record!

Capitol Land Trust's tenth annual Summer Gala was held Saturday August 14th at Helsing Junction Farm. Folks from throughout the region gathered just outside Rochester to help us celebrate conservation in southwest Washington and raise critical funds for Capitol Land Trust's work. This year's Gala was our most successful fundraising event to date! Perhaps it was the beautiful setting; perhaps it was the amazing local food and drink; or perhaps the people around here are simply incredibly generous and care deeply about the future of our community. Whatever your reasons are for supporting the conservation of southwest Washington's essential natural areas and working lands, we thank you!*

We are grateful for the incredible diversity of items and services donated by the following businesses and individuals:

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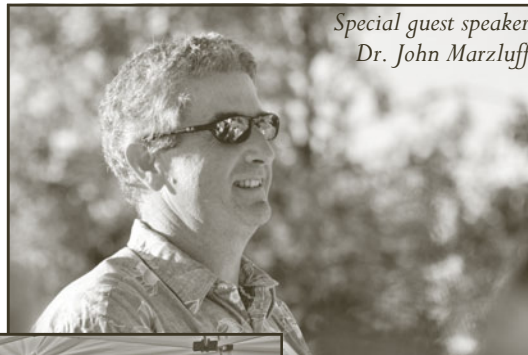
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*Special guest speaker
Dr. John Marzluff*



Auction chair Heather Walker and a Tony Angell lithograph.



*Enjoying all the fresh
local foods on the appetizer table.*



Xinh Dwelley's amazing gourmet clams.



*Even the
neighboring
cows wanted to
join the party.*



Capitol Land Trust
board member
Diane Cooper.



Summer Gala 2010 Income: \$ 71,319
Summer Gala 2010 Expenses: \$ 10,094
Net: \$ 61,225



Capitol Land Trust
Executive Director
Eric Erler.

Volunteer Carolyn McIntyre
talks with Margery Sayre.



Volunteers Karin Strelloff & Amy
Hatch-Winecka take a much de-
served break.



Our youngest guest,
Jonah Sanford.



Thank you sponsors!
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Ocho Pies entertaining guests.



Guests are
captivated by
Dr. Marzluff's
tales of crows
and ravens.

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If you are a current or retired state employee, please consider giving through the CFD: an easy, convenient, and secure way to support conservation in your community.

Capitol Land Trust CFD #314950



Susan Parish

Farewell to Kathryn Moore

Our Conservation Projects Manager of four years, Kat Moore, is leaving us for a position with the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office. We thank her for all her efforts and will greatly miss her!

"I've really enjoyed working at Capitol Land Trust; it's been a wonderful experience. I will miss working with my coworkers and colleagues, who have become great friends and not just professional contacts. I think one of the things I'll miss the most about working at the Land Trust is working with landowners and volunteers who are so committed to conservation. During the process of working on a conservation easement or acquisition you really get to know each landowner, their land and their conservation ethic. I will miss that day-to-day contact with landowners and spending time out in beautiful places. Thanks so much to everyone who made me feel welcomed and appreciated, I hope our paths cross in the future!" ☘

Capitol Land Trust Welcomes Guy Maguire



Please join Capitol Land Trust in welcoming our new AmeriCorps Stewardship Coordinator Guy Maguire! Guy hails from right here in Olympia where he's spent the last five years getting his undergraduate degree from Evergreen then working for the Native Plant Salvage Project. Guy is originally from Portland, OR where he grew up playing in the wonderful forest behind his parents' house... which is now covered in ivy, an occurrence which motivated him to pursue botany and restoration ecology in college. Guy practices Aikido in downtown Olympia, is an avid Blazers fan, and almost never wears matching socks (ask him why sometime). You may have seen him pedaling around town on his eye-catching recumbent bike. Guy says he "feels very fortunate to be a part of the Capitol Land Trust team" and he looks forward to a great year.

You can reach Guy at (360) 943-3012,
guym@capitollandtrust.org.

Upcoming Habitat Restoration Work Parties



Join Capitol Land Trust as we pull up weeds, plant trees and spread mulch at various restoration sites around the South Sound this fall and winter. To sign-up for any of the dates below and get directions, contact Guy Maguire at guym@capitollandtrust.org, (360) 943-3012.

WHAT	DATE	TIME	WHERE
Replanting native trees, shrubs, ferns and emergents as well as spreading mulch.	Friday Nov. 19, 2010	1:00 to 5:00 PM	Harper Property, near the intersection of Kaiser Rd. & Evergreen Parkway, Olympia.
Replanting native trees, shrubs, ferns and emergents as well as spreading mulch.	Wednesday Dec. 15, 2010	1:00 to 5:00 PM	Harper Property, near the intersection of Kaiser Rd. & Evergreen Parkway, Olympia.
Planting native plants and invasive weed removal with People for Puget Sound	Saturday Dec. 18, 2010	9:00 AM to 1:00 PM	Randall Preserve, 4937 Mud Bay Rd. NW, Olympia



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SAVE the DATE

Sixth Annual Conservation Breakfast

Tuesday February 15, 2011

7:00 - 8:30 AM

The Worthington Center

Lacey, Washington

Keynote Speaker: David Batker

Each year Capitol Land Trust hosts an early morning breakfast to celebrate conservation leaders from throughout southwest Washington and raise vital funds for our work. Please join us this coming February as we honor community members who have shown exceptional dedication and leadership in preserving our region's essential natural areas and working lands.

Our keynote speaker will be David Batker, chief economist and executive director of Earth Economics, and lead author of the report, "Valuing the Puget Sound Basin: Revealing Our Best Investments." This report looks at the economic value placed on the ecosystems that our region relies upon.

Last year's Breakfast was a packed house. This year we are moving the event to the gym at the Worthington Center. Help us make this Breakfast our most successful yet by registering now, agreeing to be a volunteer or a table captain! Contact Kathleen for more details or to register at (360) 943-3012, kathleen@capitollandtrust.org.

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