



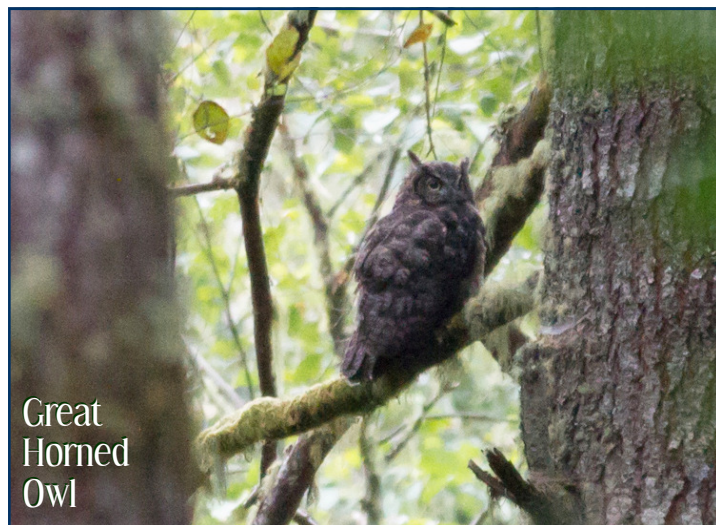
Newest Acquisition a Major Milestone

By Steve Kelso

In November 2011, Capitol Land Trust purchased the Lonseth property, a 60-acre parcel on the peninsula north of Olympia between Budd Inlet and Henderson Inlet. Purchase of this property is part of a larger strategic plan, the Budd to Henderson Coastal Conservation Initiative, which began in 2005 and has already conserved a majority of the Gull Harbor estuary, the most naturally intact estuary within the Budd Inlet watershed. The long-term goal of the initiative is to establish a protected overland corridor between Gull Harbor to the west and the Woodard Bay/Chapman Cove estuarine complex on Henderson Inlet, to the east.

The Lonseth property is a rectangle at the north end of the project area boundary. The site contains important forested and open-water wetlands that drain to both the Woodard Bay Natural Resource Conservation Area and into Gull Harbor. While it's unlikely that aquatic

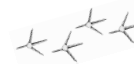
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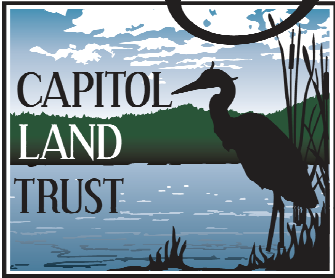
Kay Schulz

Great
Horned
Owl

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25th



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Photographs on front cover:
Great Blue Heron by Kim Merriman
Dragonfly by Brad Manchias

Budd to Henderson continued from page 1

organisms could purposefully or in some serendipitous manner make the overland passage between the two inlets, creation of an overland corridor for mammals and birds offers an intriguing metaphor for the connections and links Capitol Land Trust makes—connections that allow natural functions to proceed and evolve in a healthy and vital, though not always predictable, manner.

Looking at the map on page 3, it is easy to imagine the free movement of land creatures along the corridor between Gull Harbor and Woodard Bay, unimpeded by major human interference. Only two main roads cross this corridor—Boston Harbor Road and Libby Road. This lowland landscape looks remarkably similar to the way it was after the retreat of the ice-age glaciers that scoured the region thousands of years ago.

The geology of the property is entirely glacial silt, mostly Vashon till, which was deposited when glacial fingers of the western ice sheet reached their southern limit in what is now the southern Puget Sound region.

The property's habitat appears to support a number of important species including bald eagle, great blue heron, pileated woodpecker, and purple martin. Red-tailed hawk, bufflehead, mallard, common goldeneye, surf scoter, cormorant, Yuma myotis (see page 7), black-tailed deer, raccoon, Canada goose, Harlequin duck, kingfisher, turkey vulture, weasel, frogs and salamanders have also been seen.

Vegetation on the property consists of upland forest, riparian habitat, and a variety of wetland habitats. Douglas-fir is the primary tree species. The forest understory is dominated by salal, sword fern, Oregon grape, and several varieties of huckleberry, with smaller amounts of oceanspray, salmonberry, red elderberry, and Indian plum scattered throughout. Along the open water wetland/riparian fringe and in the forested wetlands, common plant species include red alder, Indian plum, spirea, creeping buttercup, slough sedge, Arctic sweet coltsfoot, giant horsetail, lady fern, devil's club, red-flowering currant, maidenhair fern, large-leaved avens, swamp rose, and salmonberry.

The Lonseth family managed the property for sustainable timber production from 1967 until Capitol Land Trust purchased the property. Salvage, thinning and replanting activities have been carried out intermittently on parcels of the family's tree farm since 1991.

Capitol Land Trust's overall timber management goal for this property is to maintain forest health and achieve

continued on page 3



Kay Schultz

Cooley's Hedge Nettle
(*Stachys cooleyae*)

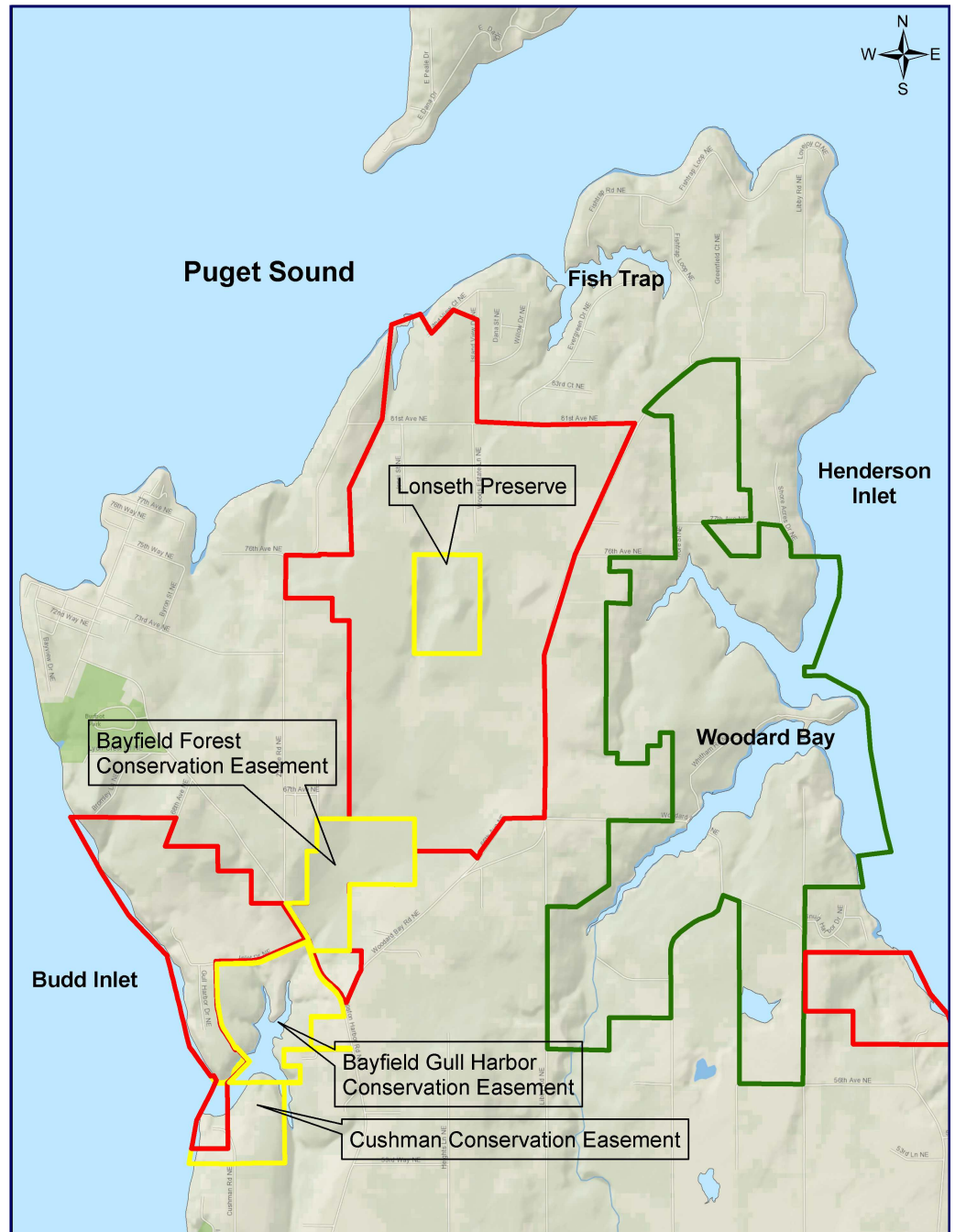
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old-growth forest characteristics with well spaced, large-diameter climax species such as Douglas fir and Western redcedar with an open forest floor dominated by red and evergreen huckleberries sword and bracken ferns, salal, and Oregon grape. The Land Trust is evaluating management strategies to achieve this goal.

The Lonseth acquisition and the larger Budd to Henderson Conservation Initiative provide an excellent opportunity to preserve intact habitat that no longer exists in much of the southern Puget Sound region. The project will help to permanently conserve an important landscape-scale riparian habitat system, including freshwater streams, seeps, springs, forested wetlands, and Puget Sound's coastal shorelines, safeguarding water quality and flow into Budd and Henderson Inlets.

Steve Kelso is an Olympia writer, photographer, painter and a member of Capitol Land Trust.

Budd to Henderson Coastal Conservation Initiative



Thank You Project Partners:

Squaxin Island Tribe, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, WA State Department of Natural Resources, LOTT Clean Water Alliance, WA State Recreation and Conservation Office, WA State Salmon Recovery Funding Board, Thurston County, Wild Fish Conservancy, Washington State University, Forterra (Cascade Land Conservancy), Bayfield Resources Company, The Cushman family, Elizabeth and Stan Lonseth

Capitol Land Trust Conserved Lands

Woodard Bay Natural Resources Conservation Area

Potential Future Budd to Henderson Conservation Initiative Areas



Board & Staff Transitions

WELCOME QUITA TERRELL



Quita

Quita joined Capitol Land Trust in May as our new Finance/Office Administrator. Quita is an Olympia native and received her BA in English from Western Washington University. She has been a teacher, inventory planner, and marketing project manager, and she is excited to apply her experience to new challenges. After moving back to her hometown with her husband Joe, Quita became a supporter of Capitol Land Trust. Her love of all things organized and of our region's unique landscapes make her a great addition to our organization. When she's not immersed in the thrilling world of grant billing, you can find her gardening at the Wendell Berry Community Garden or hiking the grueling trails of Mission Creek Park with her children, Oscar, 6, and Adayla, 3. You can reach Quita at quita@capitollandtrust.org. ☘

WELCOME STEPHANIE BISHOP

Stephanie joined Capitol Land Trust's board of directors in March 2012. In 1995, Stephanie migrated from rural western New York State to Washington to attend The Evergreen State College. She settled in Mason County six years ago with her husband and two little girls. Connections to natural space on both the east and west coasts have driven Stephanie to a career in natural resource conservation and education. As coordinator for the South Sound GREEN program, she strives to engage individuals with the natural world. In addition to volunteering for the Land Trust, she volunteers for Thurston Co. Stream Team, Griffin School District, South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group and the Kennedy Creek Salmon Trail. ☘



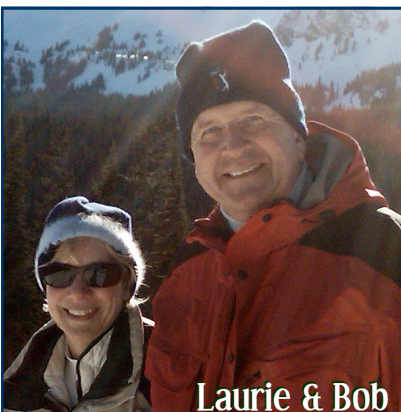
Stephanie



Meriel

FAREWELL MERIEL DARZEN

In August, Capitol Land Trust bid adieu to Conservation Projects Manager Meriel Darzen, who moved to Bend, Oregon. Meriel says, "I am grateful for the time I spent at Capitol Land Trust, working with and learning from all of its supporters, volunteers and partners. I'm excited to explore the ponderosa pine forests of Central Oregon, but I will definitely miss the mossy green Doug fir forests and salmon-filled streams that Capitol Land Trust works so hard to protect. Southwest Washington and southern Puget Sound are special places and I am so glad I got a chance to spend time exploring and helping to protect them. Please keep supporting the Land Trust and if you are ever in Central Oregon, please get in touch!" You can reach Meriel at meriel@darzenlaw.com. ☘



Laurie & Bob

WELCOME BOB BUHL

Bob joined Capitol Land Trust's board of directors in March 2012. Born in Vancouver, B.C., Bob's family moved to eastern Washington in 1959. Bob grew up camping, fishing and hiking, developing a life-long love of the outdoors. He holds an A.S. degree, emphasis in Wildlife Sciences, and a B.S. degree in Forest Resource Management. Recently retired from his own business, he lives in Shelton with his wife Laurie. Well known in Mason County for his volunteer efforts, Bob was honored as Citizen of the Year in 2009. Bob also writes a column and blog, "Out of the Rough." Bob enjoys just about anything that you can do outdoors. He is a strong supporter of collaborative efforts to conserve the special places and habitats he loves to visit. ☘

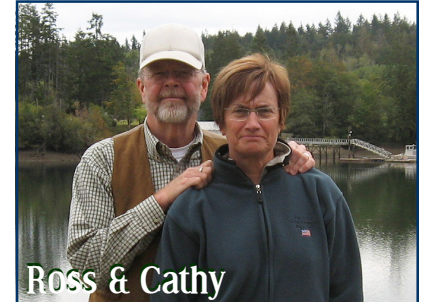


FAREWELL MARY ANN FIRMIN

Mary Ann left the board of directors in 2012 after serving for eight years. During that time she served as board secretary and on many board committees. Mary Ann says, "Capitol Land Trust is the best board I ever served on. My passion remains to maintain and improve our natural environment. I do my research through hiking, kayaking, skiing, cycling, bird watching, and just plain walking. To be outside and keep moving--that's my mantra. My reality checks are committee meetings at the Land Trust." ☼

FAREWELL CATHY WIGGINS

Cathy served on Capitol Land Trust's board of directors for eight years, including in the capacity as vice president. During that time she saw tremendous growth in the size and capacity of the organization. Cathy says, "It was exciting to be a part of Capitol Land Trust during these years and to contribute even a small part to the legacy that it is leaving to this beautiful area." Together with her husband Ross, Cathy intends to see more of the planet with her free time. ☼



FAREWELL BILL SCHEIDT

Bill is leaving the board of directors after serving for three years. Bill was the Treasurer as well as Finance Committee Chair, helping Capitol Land Trust strengthen its financial procedures. Bill says that he feels confident that he is "handing off my duties to a well qualified group and will be spending the extra time cycling, skiing, and hiking with my wife Melody." ☼

FAREWELL PENE SPEAKS



Pene was our longest serving board member, having been on Capitol Land Trust's board of directors for fifteen years and president for ten. While Pene has retired from the board, she's still working hard saving our corner of the planet through the WA Dept. of Natural Resources Natural Heritage Conservation Section. She's also enjoying her husband's retirement (he has dinner waiting when she comes home!), traveling as much as possible and chairing the Land Trust's marketing and outreach committee. ☼

CAPITOL LAND TRUST WISH LIST

We can dream, right? Here are some items we are wishing we had: 20"+ flat screen monitor, plastic chair floor mats, floor lamp, computer monitor stands, printer toner, copy paper, stand-alone document scanner, ergonomically correct kneeling office chair, and the grand daddy of them all (we have to dream big): a ¾-ton truck with 4-wheel drive and a king or crew cab.

If you can help us procure any of these items, email or call us:
(360) 943-3012; info@capitollandtrust.org. ☼

Thank you!



Take Advantage of Gift & Estate Tax Exemptions While They Last

By M. John Way

There is currently an opportunity for Capitol Land Trust supporters to create an extraordinary conservation legacy by making a major contribution or including the Trust in your estate planning. Individuals can pass an unprecedented amount of assets to family members and charities free of federal gift tax, but the window may be closing fast. At the end of 2010, when Congress and President Obama agreed to extend the so-called "Bush Tax Cuts" for two years that would have expired on January 1, 2011, they also agreed to increase the estate, gift and generation-skipping transfer tax exemptions to \$5 million. In 2012 this number was adjusted for inflation to \$5,120,000. This exemption can be used during life or at death or some portion during life and remainder at death. Such gifts can be made outright (like writing a check or transferring a piece of real estate to someone), or by taking advantage of one or more of the various other gifting techniques.

Unless Congress takes action, these increased exemptions will expire at the end of 2012 and under current law, as of January 1, 2013, the gift and estate tax exemptions will drop to \$1 million and the gift tax rate will increase from 35% to 55%. No one knows what actions Congress will take, but it is clear that 2012 may be a once in a lifetime opportunity to transfer a significant amount of assets to children or other beneficiaries without paying gift tax and make multi-generational gifts without incurring generation-skipping transfer tax. By making gifts now, you can save estate taxes by removing the potential appreciation of the gifted assets from an estate. There are some risks to taking advantage of this opportunity and in choosing to make large gifts now that should be discussed with a professional advisor. If you would like more information on how legacy gifts benefit the work of Capitol Land Trust, please contact us at info@capitollandtrust.org . ☼

M. John Way is an attorney with Worth Law Group, whose focus is on estate planning, business planning and taxation.

New Property Adds to Budd to Henderson Conservation Initiative

By Laurence Reeves

In 1997, Dan and Julie Cushman completed a conservation agreement with Capitol Land Trust that permanently conserved their 47-acre farm, as well as extensive Budd Inlet and Gull Harbor shoreline habitat. Years later, in 2006, Capitol Land Trust worked with Bayfield Resources Company and other partners to complete a conservation easement over 105 acres surrounding Gull Harbor on Budd Inlet.

Gull Harbor is one of the last pristine estuaries in the southern Puget Sound region. Building on these important successes, this past year, the Trust completed a 92-acre conservation easement on upland habitat adjacent to already-conserved lands. Part of the Budd to Henderson Coastal Conservation Initiative, this new easement, called the Bayfield Forest Conservation Easement, conserves wetlands, riparian buffer and forests surrounding a main tributary to Gull Harbor (see map on page 3). The unnamed tributary creek is spring-fed and runs year-round. It has the potential to provide salmon habitat, although it is currently blocked by an earthen dam that the Trust is working with the landowner to remove. While the conservation easement restricts development rights and many activities that can be disruptive to wildlife habitat, it allows the northern 30 acres to be managed as a working forest.

The property is heavily forested with a diverse mix of habitat types, from riparian corridors and forested wetlands with a mixture of conifers and hardwoods, to upland forests dominated by large Douglas-fir, Western redcedar, and Western hemlock, with sword fern, salal, huckleberry and Oregon grape in the understory. The property provides important habitat to numerous animals, such as black-tailed deer, black bear, bald eagle, great blue heron, pileated woodpecker, purple martin, red-tailed hawk, kingfishers and the occasional cougar. ☼

Laurence Reeves is Capitol Land Trust's Conservation Projects Manager.

USFWS Restoration Grant Awarded for Twin Rivers Ranch

By Guy Maguire



We are delighted to announce that Capitol Land Trust has been awarded a \$25,000 grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to continue restoration work at Twin Rivers Ranch Preserve, located on Oakland Bay in Mason County. This grant will help us build on work already undertaken over the past year thanks to a WA State Department of Ecology grant.

With the new grant, this fall we will be increasing both the scope and goals of our current restoration project. These funds will be crucial in helping to manage nearly seven acres of invasive reed canary-grass, Himalayan blackberry, yellow flag Iris, and Japanese knotweed which currently threaten the health of the two riparian zones on the Preserve. It also allows Capitol Land Trust to plant thousands of shade-producing native trees that will not only prevent invasives from spreading, but also significantly improve in-stream habitat along a mile of streambank (on both Deer and Cranberry Creeks) for the five species of salmon which depend on the Oakland Bay Preserve for spawning and



Saryn Bishop helping plant trees at Twin Rivers Ranch

Guy Maguire is Capitol Land Trust's Restoration Projects Coordinator.

Yuma Myotis



Michael Durham

There are 15 bat species native to Washington, one of which is Yuma myotis (*Myotis yumanensis*). This little bat is medium dark brown with a darker brown face and ears. Yuma myotis can live up to 20 years and have an average weight of 6 grams. It is about 3-5 inches long with a wing span of about 9 inches.

Yuma myotis love to live near calm or "slack" water, where they can fly swiftly just above the water's surface to catch small insects like mayflies, midges and mosquitoes. Places with extensive open freshwater lakes and wetlands provide ideal foraging habitat

Summer roosts for Yuma myotis bats include crevices in cliffs, old buildings, mines, caves, bridges, and abandoned cliff swallow nests. Here locally, that means thousands of Yuma myotis can be found roosting at Woodard Bay, the largest known colony in Washington State and only 1.5 miles from the Lonseth Preserve.

Bats are the only flying mammals and are extremely beneficial because of their ability to eat enormous quantities of bugs. Yuma myotis is an important riparian species, but likely has been eliminated along many streams in western states by habitat loss and disturbances to colonies while they are hibernating or when mothers are nursing offspring. ☼

Sources: *Bats About Our Town*, *Bats Northwest*, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, Idaho State University

See Michael Durham's amazing bat photography and more at <http://www.durmphoto.com>.

MEMBER PROFILE: Sandy & Laura Desner

By Lisa Johnson

Sandy and Laura Desner are tried and true Olympians. They are also major contributors to Capitol Land Trust through the family business, Deskoba, a commercial real estate development company based in downtown Olympia. Deskoba annually sponsors Capitol Land Trust's Summer Gala.

Laura moved to Olympia when she was ten, and has spent most of her life here. Her dad was a game warden and tribal fisheries manager who did stream restoration, so she spent lots of time on the shores of local rivers and Puget Sound. "I loved cooking fish in the woods over a fire," she reminisces. She now looks after her father who lives in Yelm at an assisted living home. "Driving out to see Dad, I am always amazed at the growth in Thurston County over these 50 years. Protecting our environment and the local salmon runs is so important!" The Nisqually River and Deschutes Falls are some of Laura's favorite local spots.

Sandy spent his youth in New York City, an urban boy who developed an appreciation for the arts and culture of the city. He spent most childhood summers hiking at his uncle's camp in the Adirondack Mountains of upstate New York, where he came to love the out-of-doors as well. "New York State is beautiful," says Sandy. "There are 46 mountains higher than 4,000 feet, and I've climbed them all, experiencing incredible scenery and wildlife."

But environmental damage was taking a visible toll on the pristine areas of the East Coast, so when Sandy learned of a new school, The Evergreen State College (TESC), opening in Washington 34 years ago, he made his move to Olympia. Sandy and Laura met at TESC, and have been together since.

Sandy and Laura find that their business goals and the Land Trust are complimentary. The Desners want to protect and conserve important local habitat while renovating and improving the core of downtown Olympia. They are committed to the beauty of their community, both urban and wild.

"We've worked with Capitol Land Trust for ten years. It's a lean organization that uses its funds well, lever-



Laura & Sandy

aging its dollars and promoting synergy with its many partners," Sandy says. Laura is impressed by the acquisition of the Oakland Bay property and the Allison Springs restoration project on lower Eld Inlet. She also likes how Capitol Land Trust collaborates with Nisqually Land Trust.

Both Sandy and Laura feel an obligation to give back to their community and find Capitol Land Trust a good fit. "When you give money to national organizations, you don't see the results like we do here with Capitol Land Trust," says Sandy. "We can see the places we love still wild and beautiful, and that's worth supporting all the way." ❧

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



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Help us create a sustainable fund for conserving the unique beauty of southwest Washington by committing to tree-free, monthly giving! No paper, no reminders, everything is automatic. For as little as \$10, \$20, \$50 or more a month, you can ensure a solid future for land preservation in our region. Thank you for your generosity! ❧

Land Trust Stewardship Program Thrives

By Guy Maguire

Thanks to the help of all our amazing volunteers and project partners, Capitol Land Trust's Stewardship Program is expanding. In the past year we successfully completed four major restoration projects:

For over 50 years, the **Allison Springs** property, located near the southern terminus of Eld Inlet, contained dikes that blocked fish from spawning. This past year, we worked with South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group (SPSSEG) and other partners to remove all six dikes and to revegetate along the new creek channel. On the adjacent **Randall Preserve** we removed three structures and decommissioned a road, before planting the area. The total planted area from both projects combined is over two acres, with about 3,000 native plants installed!

Capitol Land Trust conserved the **Black River Farm** in perpetuity in 2011 and 2012. As part of the project, we restored three acres of riparian buffer along Mima Creek, an important waterway for five species of salmon. Over 2,000 native trees and shrubs were planted to extend the creek buffer width to 100 feet along the entire length of the property, and we built a 700-foot long fence to prevent cows from entering the riparian area.

At the newly conserved **Bentley** property on Spurgeon Creek, we again collaborated with SPSSEG to replace a failing culvert that was partially blocking fish passage with a new bridge.

At **Twin Rivers Ranch** this past year, we installed more than 6,000 native plants and removed two acres of invasive reed canarygrass and blackberry in the riparian areas along Deer and Cranberry creeks. Just this past month, we completed our first ever quantitative monitoring survey of the plantings, and we achieved 88% survival among trees and shrubs, despite record low rainfall this summer!

This remarkable year has been made possible by our many volunteers and project partners. Thanks again to everyone who helped make this a great year for stewardship. See you in the mud!

Restoration Project Partners: WA Dept. of Ecology, South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group, U.S Fish & Wildlife Service, WA Conservation Corps, Sound Native Plants, People for Puget Sound, Ralph Plowman - Black River Farm LLC, Thurston County, Shelly Bentley, City of Olympia, South Sound Green, WSU Extension Native Plant Salvage Project, Mason and Thurston Conservation Districts. ☼

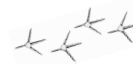


REI Awards Stewardship Grant



Capitol Land Trust is proud to announce the award of a \$5,000 stewardship grant from REI. The national outdoor gear and clothing retailer granted more than \$3.9 million this year to national and local organizations offering volunteer programs in the outdoors. Capitol Land Trust will use these funds to increase the scope and effectiveness of our stewardship program, address the many ecological needs on conserved lands, and provide a multitude of engaging and rewarding outdoor volunteer opportunities for the Olympia community.

During the seven-month grant timeline, we intend to organize twelve volunteer restoration events, restore ten additional acres of habitat and remove 50,000 square feet of invasive species. You can help! Join us as we launch this effort on **Saturday November 17, 2012 at the Randall Preserve on Mud Bay**. More details on page 15. Thank you REI for continuing to collaborate with and support local nonprofits! ☼



Thank you to our supporters!

*All contributions were received
between Jan. 1, 2012 and Sept. 15, 2012.*

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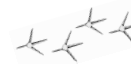
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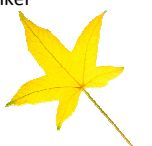
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Upcoming Events

WHAT: Day of Stewardship on Lower Eld Inlet

WHEN: Wednesday November 17, 2012, 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM

WHERE: Randall Preserve, Mud Bay

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

Join Capitol Land Trust and REI as we kick off a new season of stewardship at the beautiful Randall Preserve on Eld Inlet. This fall we need your help to put the finishing touches on what has been a 10-year restoration project. PLUS - local naturalists will be on hand to enrich your experience with expert knowledge of Puget Sound biota. Come get your hands dirty as we remove invasive species, plant native trees, enjoy the scenery, and have a great time! Snacks, coffee, tea, gloves, tools, and water provided. Please dress for cold and wet weather with sturdy, closed-toed shoes. Bring tools and gloves if you have them. This is an all-ages event, feel free to bring the kids! You'll receive additional information, including directions to the site, when you RSVP. ☼

WHAT: Willow Stake Planting Along Green Cove Creek

WHEN: Saturday December 8, 2012, 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

WHERE: Kaiser (Green Cove Wetlands) Preserve

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

Come help Capitol Land Trust plant "live" willow stakes along Green Cove Creek to improve habitat for wildlife! Very easy to do and very effective; live staking is a way to quickly establish willows, which will shade the water, hold the soil in place, and prevent the spread of sun-loving invasive plants. Capitol Land Trust will provide tools and gloves, snacks and water. Dress for the weather and the muck. You'll receive additional information, including directions to the site, when you RSVP. ☼

WHAT: 8th Annual Conservation Breakfast

WHEN: Tuesday February 12, 2013, 7:00 to 8:30 AM

WHERE: St. Martin's University, Lacey

RSVP: kathleen@capitolandtrust.org, (360) 943-3012

Join us for an early morning breakfast to celebrate conservation leaders from throughout southwest Washington and raise vital funds for our work. We will be honoring community members who have shown exceptional dedication and leadership in preserving our region's essential natural areas and working lands. You can help us make this breakfast our most successful yet by registering now, and agreeing to be a volunteer or a table captain! ☼



Brad Marchas

SAVE the DATE



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Capitol Land Trust 25th Anniversary Limited Edition T-shirts Available!

100% cotton dill-green unisex tees with Capitol Land Trust logo on the front left breast and original artwork by Mimi Williams on the back. To order your shirt(s), simply clip out the order detail box below and return it to Capitol Land Trust with your name and shipping details using the remit envelope located inside this newsletter. We have a limited number of shirts, so order yours now before they are gone!

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