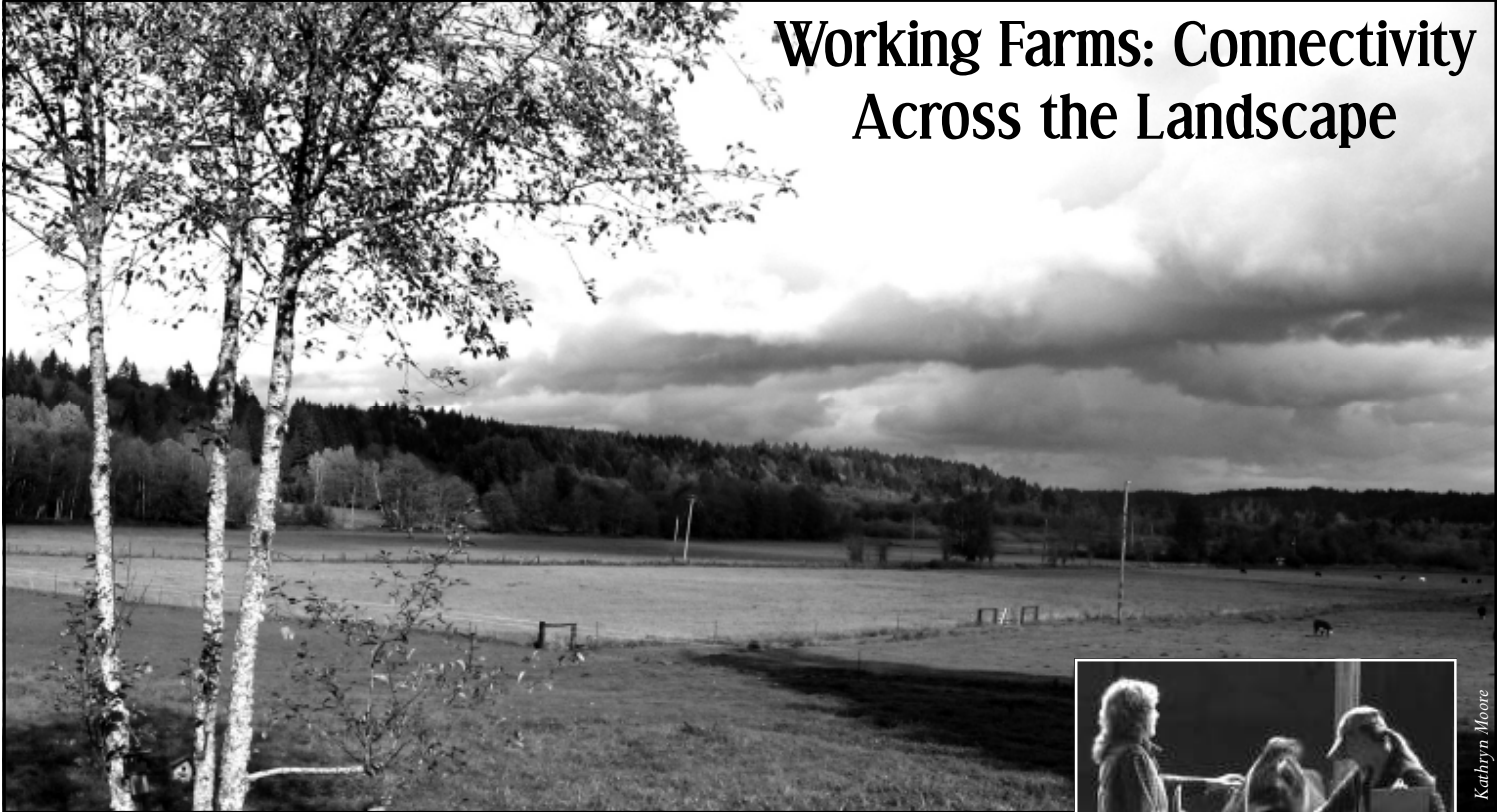


CAPITOL LAND TRUST NEWS

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

ISSUE 48 SPRING 2009

Working Farms: Connectivity Across the Landscape



Kathryn Moore

By Karin Strelhoff

For Shelton Valley property owner Ann Olli, keeping her property in one piece was "something she'd had in mind for years and years." Ann says she didn't know where to go until a well-respected neighbor who was familiar with Capitol Land Trust gave Ann some reading material.

Just a few miles from Highway 101 and downtown Shelton, the 60-acre Olli property is located in an agricultural corridor that is already facing development pressure. The temptation to subdivide large acreage properties into smaller parcels will only increase as population growth continues. The land was homesteaded in the 1800's and has been in Ann's family since 1933. Levi Simpson purchased the land and named it Alderbrook Farm in 1887; the rolling pastures and woodlands are part of Shelton's unique history. The old dairy and hay barn, "Alderbrook Barn," was added to the historical building register in 2008.

A working farm for over a century, Ann didn't want to see that hard work and passion disappear into subdivisions. "You look around and our country is getting so chopped up," she observes with regret. For over a year, Ann worked with Capitol Land Trust staff to thoughtfully craft the terms of a conservation easement. She was able to define the easement to fit her goals

continued on page 2



Ann introduces Karin to one of her resident yaks.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Land Trust Efforts Focus on Unique Gem	3
Stewardship Update	4
Scotch Broom: The Unwelcomed Guest	5
Thank you 2008 Donors	7
Summer Gala, Annual Meeting Dates Set	8
Conservation Breakfast Draws Crowd	10



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*Masthead photograph courtesy of Thi Dang
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"Working Farms" continued from page 1

and values, without feeling she was agreeing to something she was uncomfortable with.

Ann wanted to conserve her land intact, but she didn't want it to lie fallow and neglected. To Ann, it is important that "the land is used," as she is a farmer at heart. Haying

and livestock production will be allowed in the future. Ann also asked to limit future livestock numbers, protecting the pastures from overgrazing and damage through mismanagement. Future timber harvests will be restricted, yet Ann wants to allow new owners to be able to use any downed trees on the land. By including such details Ann was able to define the terms of the agreement according to her values, continuing her family's long history of thoughtful land management well into the future.

Ann's advice to other landowners contemplating land conservation is that they should "investigate, study up!" "Ask lots of questions and take your time." Ann notes that many people misunderstood the idea behind a conservation easement. "They think the government owns it, and that's not it at all!"

Karin Strelhoff



Historic Alderbrook Barn

*Horses grazing on
the Olli property*



Kathryn Moore

Working with a non-profit land conservation organization like Capitol Land Trust can be a rewarding experience. "Nothing was pushed on me," Ann says. "This is a passion with me. I knew it had to be done." When questioned about her decision to forgo subdivision and the potential profits she could earn, Ann shrugged. "Money is not everything," she says. Her children are well established and will still be able to sell the land if they chose to do so.

For Ann, there is nowhere else she would rather live. By placing a conservation easement on the land, Ann protects the history of farming here, but also its future. Ann's hope is that these beautiful 60 acres with an historic barn will remain affordable for a farmer of similar commitment in years to come.☘

Karin Strelhoff is an Environmental Specialist with Mason Conservation District and a member of Capitol Land Trust's Board of Directors.

Land Trust Efforts Focus on Unique Gem: Goldsborough Creek

By John Konovsky & Kathryn Moore

A key component of a healthy Puget Sound is functional lowland stream systems. One of the largest in the South Sound is Goldsborough Creek in Mason County. The Creek flows 14 miles east from timberlands owned by Green Diamond Resource Company into the City of Shelton and Oakland Bay/Hammersley Inlet.

South Sound was once a mecca for lowland stream habitat, but it has largely disappeared. Goldsborough is one of the remaining gems. The watershed has a relatively low level of land development upstream of Shelton and extensive forestlands. That means it will take less effort and money to restore and sustain some semblance of a healthy watershed.

Like all lowland streams, Goldsborough Creek does not begin in snowy mountains like larger rivers do, but in a series of low elevation wetlands. It then cuts down through a small canyon to the downtown delta. Streamflow is sustained by rainfall in the winter and groundwater in the summer. Healthy lowland habitat is a favorite for a variety of salmon species, including coho. The cool, clean water that historically seeped from the ground into the stream especially in the summer has attracted and sustained abundant fisheries.

Lowland streams rife with large woody debris provide ideal shelter. The headwater wetlands in particular are excellent places for juvenile coho to feed and rest. Goldsborough has always had healthy lowland habitat, but fish did not always have access to the upper watershed. A dam blocked fish passage a couple miles upstream of Shelton from 1881 to 2001. The dam at various times served as a source of hydro power for Shelton and a water source for the Simpson mills on the waterfront.

In 2001, the Army Corps of Engineers removed the dam with the strong support of Simpson Timber Company, Green Diamond Resource Company, the Squaxin Island Tribe, and the WA State Dept. of Fish and Wildlife. This was terrific news for salmon. Prior to dam removal almost all spawning occurred in the very lower reaches of Goldsborough Creek and likely in Coffee Creek.

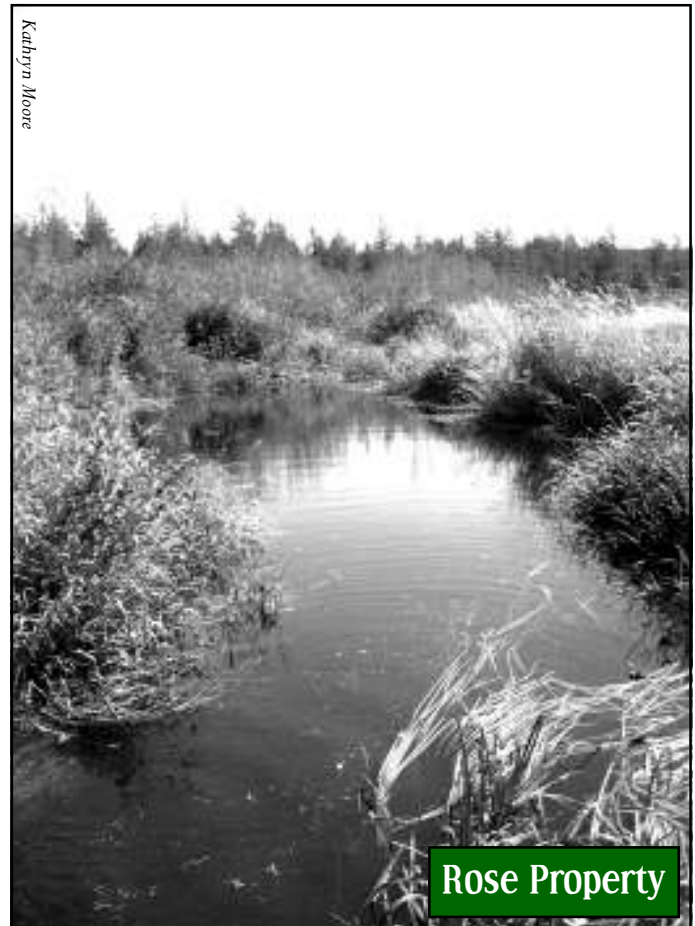
The small amount of available habitat limited the number of coho that could spawn. After the dam was removed, coho shifted to spawning further

upstream, where new and better habitat was now available. And since there is more room for coho to spawn there, the number of juveniles leaving the creek in the spring has increased.

With the dam gone, the current priority is to conserve strategic habitat that is still in good condition. This is where Capitol Land Trust is leading the way. In 2008, with support from Green Diamond Resource Company and the Salmon Recovery Funding Board, Capitol Land Trust purchased a 40-acre property along Goldsborough Creek. The Rose property is located just below the confluence of the north and south forks. It encompasses some of the prime headwater wetlands coho love. The Rose property adds to 20 acres of similar habitat already conserved just 1/4 mile upstream on the south fork of Goldsborough Creek.

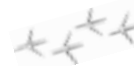
Downstream from the Rose property, Capitol Land Trust and Mason County are working to conserve migratory habitat adjacent to the former dam site. In addition to our efforts along Goldsborough

continued on page 5



Kathryn Moore

Rose Property



Stewardship Update

By Noah Silber-Coats, AmeriCorps Stewardship Coordinator

With spring on the way, Capitol Land Trust's restoration season is heating up. At least three different projects are in the works for March and April, each with its own unique history, challenges and goals.

Now that the Land Trust has officially become the owner of the Randall property on Mud Bay, the process of restoring a habitat that has long been impacted by human uses can begin in earnest. In partnership with People for Puget Sound we led a volunteer crew of about ten people on March 4th



Green Cove Planting Party

Volunteer Kathy Strauss braves the snow.

to continue collecting debris that has accumulated around the property and controlling invasive plants, including poison hemlock which is classified by the county as a noxious weed.

We found that March was a great time to attack the weeds – moist soil allowed roots to be pulled out with relative ease, blackberry brambles remained flattened from December's snow and the bright

green hemlock and Scotch broom were easy to distinguish against a background of still-dormant grasses and shrubs. People for Puget Sound also provided about thirty native shrubs including ocean spray and snowberry that we planted in the area along Mud Bay Road to fill in bare spots within the otherwise quite successful plantings that had been done in that area several years ago. While they may seem small, these are important steps towards restoring one of south Puget Sound's most important estuaries.

Two more volunteer events were held on the weekend March 14th and 15th. On Saturday, we worked at the Oakland Bay property, conserved in 2005. Malaney Creek runs through the property and into Oakland Bay providing habitat for chum and coho salmon as well as countless other creatures. Much of the riparian and marine shoreline areas have been impacted by invasive weeds such as evergreen blackberry and Scotch broom. Part of AmeriCorps term of service is to take on a Community Action Project, with the goal of enhancing members' understanding of civic engagement. Together with Mason County Conservation District's AmeriCorps member, Chris Anderson, we adopted the Oakland Bay site as our Project. We have been working since January to coordinate the restoration effort and prepare the site, culminating in Saturday's event when we planted over 600 native trees and shrubs with a cadre of volunteers.

Despite inclement weather, the following day saw the Land Trust team out at the Green Cove Creek wetlands in West Olympia. The 500 trees and shrubs planted on Sunday were a result of a grant from the HomeStreet Bank Tree Challenge that we received in 2007. Ben Alexander from Sound Native Plants created a plan for the project to help restore native vegetation to the small upland portion of the site that borders the scrub-shrub wetland along the creek. Additionally, we received a generous donation from the WA State Dept. of Natural Resources of 350 seedlings

Thanks to everyone who made it out to help plant trees and start the process of restoring these critical habitats. To get involved with future restoration projects, contact Noah at (360) 943-3012, noah@capitolandtrust.org.



Oakland Bay Planting Party

Front Row: (left to right) Karin Strelhoff, Tom Terry, Kathleen Ackley;
Back Row: Bill Justis, Noah Silber-Coats, Alysa Parker, Maegen McAuliffe,
Michelle Christy, Chris Anderson, Tom Anderson, John Keates.

Scotch Broom: The Unwelcomed Guest

This flowering shrub, also known as Scot's broom (*Cytisus scoparius*), is an invasive plant that grows commonly throughout the Puget Sound region.

Native to the pea family, Scotch broom was originally introduced from Europe as an ornamental and for erosion control in the 1800s. Rumor has it the plant was used as a packing material during the Gold Rush, keeping precious cargo (such as whiskey) safe.

Today it covers many acres west of the Cascades from British Columbia to California. Scotch broom is highly aggressive and forms dense, monoculture stands, pushing out other plants and trees, destroying natural habitat. Because it is a threat to native plant species and indirectly to animals that feed on the displaced plants, Scotch broom is a Class B noxious weed in Washington State.

One of the main reasons Scotch broom is so prolific is that it is a prolific seed producer. The seeds have hard coats enabling them to survive in the environment for up to 80 years. The only way to successfully eradicate Scotch broom is to pull it up before the seeds emerge, making sure to take up the entire root. The plants can be dried and then burned; burying or mulching is not recommended, since the roots may revive and start growing again.⌘



Eric Coombs, OR Dept. of Agriculture



Goldsborough Creek approximately one year after dam removal. Concrete weirs control the grade of the stream channel, which salmon easily jump over.

Coho Salmon



"Goldsborough Creek" continued from page 3

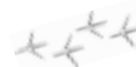
Creek, we are also working on important tributaries such as Coffee Creek. Coffee Creek flows into Goldsborough just outside of Shelton's city limits. Its headwaters are located four miles outside of town in the lowland forests of Shelton Valley. Prior to dam removal, Coffee Creek spawned the bulk of the coho exiting Goldsborough Creek.

In 2009, Ann Olli donated a conservation easement on her farm (see front page article) to ensure it will remain productive while protecting the headwaters of Coffee Creek and other streams and springs. The Land Trust is working with other land-owners in the valley to conserve an additional 260 acres of wetlands, forest and farm land, and creeks.

Thanks to the leadership efforts of the South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group, Capitol Land Trust and other local

nonprofits received funding from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. This funding will be used to evaluate additional areas in the Goldsborough Creek watershed which are ripe for conservation and restoration. With this watershed assessment of the area, the Land Trust will focus its efforts in areas where conservation will make the greatest impact.⌘

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



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 Peter Woodcox
 John Wray & Janette Singley-
 Wray
 Kathryn Wyatt
 Kim & Rick Yale
 Gina Yarbrough
 Brian & Kristin Zerger

*All donations were received
 between December 1 and
 January 31, 2008.*

2008 Memorial Donations

In Memory of Brian Knudsen
 Jerry & Carrol Probst

In Memory of Derek Sather
 Katherine Leitch & Robert Delaney,
 Penny Black & Rich Boyesen

In Memory of Sid White
 Jewel & Christine Goddard, Lynne Yamamoto &
 Lucretia Knapp, Gary Schneider & Nancy Snyder,
 Mary Adair & Gerald Jorgenson, Oscar & Barbara
 Soule, Bill & Barbara Bergquist

In Memory of Stan Woodwell
 Cathy Wolfe



Capitol Land Trust
 CFD #314950

*Thank you to the
 generous state employees
 giving through the
 Combined Fund Drive.*

*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.*

2009 Annual Meeting

Join us as we celebrate our accomplishments
 for 2008! You will have an opportunity to
 help us plan for the year, vote on board
 membership, and learn how you
 can be more involved.

Wednesday April 15, 2009

6:00 - 8:00 pm

**Phoenix Inn Suites
 Downtown Olympia**

Beverages and light refreshments
 will be provided.

Questions?

Contact Kathleen Ackley at (360) 943-3012
kathleen@capitolandtrust.org

Save the Date: Ninth Annual Summer Gala

August 22, 2009, 4:00 to 8:00 PM

Triple Creek Farm

Special Guest Speaker: Jim Lynch

Join us for Great Food,
Great Friends. Great Fun!

Bartenders Bob Briggs & David Schoen



Irina Makarow, Polly Taylor & Ruth Abad serve up scrumptious shellfish



Last year's Special Guest Speaker, Dr. David Montgomery



Mary Longrie, Kathy Strauss, Bobbi Hickox and Marty Pinnix greet Gala attendees

Chris Wickham & Stephanie Claire



Jazz Nouveau entertains guests.



All 2008 Gala images courtesy of Susan Parish

Habitat Restoration Work Parties

Volunteers plant trees and native plants on the Oakland Bay Preserve



Wednesday April 1, 2009

10:00 AM -- 3:00 PM

&

Wednesday May 6, 2009

10:00 AM -- 3:00 PM

4937 Mud Bay Rd NW, Olympia

next to the Blue Heron Bakery

Tools, gloves, snacks and hot beverages will be provided. Please be prepared for rain. For more information, contact Noah Silber-Coats, our Stewardship Coordinator at noah@capitolandtrust.org, (360) 943-3012.



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Annual Breakfast Draws Standing-Room-Only Crowd

In the early hours of February 24, 2009, some 250 people gathered at the Worthington Center in Lacey, Washington. The occasion was Capitol Land Trust's annual Conservation Breakfast. This event celebrates conservation work in southwest Washington and raises critical funds to support these efforts. Recently elected Commissioner of Public Lands Peter Goldmark was the keynote speaker. In addition, three special landowners were awarded Capitol Land Trust's Conservation Award for their dedication to habitat protection and sustainable stewardship practices on their working farms. Heartfelt thanks to everyone who attended!

Images courtesy of Allyn Balch



*Conservation Award
Winner Ann Olli*



*Conservation Award Winner Tom Wynne and
CLT Executive Director, Eric Erler*



*Conservation Award
Winner Jay Gordon*



*Keynote Speaker
Peter Goldmark*

SPECIAL THANKS to our EVENT SPONSORS:

Green Diamond Resource Company, Puget Sound Energy & Sterling Savings Bank