

CAPITOL LAND TRUST NEWS

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

ISSUE 49 SUMMER 2010

Eric Erler

Eld Inlet Acquisition Conserves 1.25 miles of Puget Sound Coastal Habitat

By Eric Erler

More than a decade ago, Capitol Land Trust identified lower Eld Inlet's coastal habitats as a strategic conservation priority. Now, ten years of investment have culminated in the conservation of six miles of Eld Inlet marine shorelines and more than 600 acres of surrounding upland habitat, spanning 17 individual sites.

Completion of the Eld Inlet Coastal Preserve project, the Trust's latest Eld Inlet success, is the result of extraordinary collaboration and an agreement between Anderson & Middleton Company and Capitol Land Trust, with support from many other partners. Anderson & Middleton is a family-owned agri-business company involved in forestland management, table grapes, wine grapes and wine production. Anderson & Middleton was founded in Aberdeen, WA in 1898 and today is headquartered in Hoquiam, WA. Capitol Land Trust began working with cousins Jim and Rick Middleton more than three years ago to explore the potential for purchase of the site. Rick Middleton and his family live on Eld Inlet and the Middletons were personally invested in the outcome of this effort.

"It was a pleasure to work with Eric Erler and Capitol Land Trust on this project. Our company

owned this property for many years and we can attest to its unique and special character. Capitol Land Trust will be a great steward of this property going forward. From our perspective, this was a win-win for all of us," said Rick Middleton.

The site is located along the eastern shoreline of lower Eld Inlet (Mud Bay), just south of Capitol Land Trust's Randall Property and the Highway 101 Bridge. The property encompasses 1.25 miles of high-quality, undeveloped Puget Sound estuarine shoreline, 40 acres of saltmarsh and freshwater wetlands, and 15 acres of mature forest. McLane Creek, recognized for its hearty, native salmon runs, flows through the property and into Puget Sound. The vegetation on the Preserve consists of

continued on page 2

Inside this issue:

Hood Canal Paradise Protected	3
Kayak Hood Canal	5
Capitol Land Trust Welcomes Jamie Morgan	6
Remembering Pete Holm	6
Thank you Supporters	7
Close Encounters of the Wild(life) Kind	9
Volunteers Clean-up Green Cove Preserve	10
Found Treasures	11
Habitat Restoration Work Parties & Events	11



209 Fourth Ave E. #205
Olympia, WA 98501
(360) 943-3012
info@capitolandtrust.org
www.capitolandtrust.org



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Masthead photograph courtesy of Thi Dang

Eld Inlet Acquisition continued from page 1

saltmarsh and wetland emergent grasses near the shoreline, and native coniferous and hardwood forests. The property also conserves an area of great cultural and historical importance to the Squaxin Island Tribe.

The new Preserve provides intact habitat for five salmon species and anadromous coastal cutthroat trout. Large numbers of juvenile salmon smolts produced in McLane Creek use the waters along the property for feeding and transitioning to life at sea. Forage fish species and numerous waterfowl, shorebird, waterbird and landbird species also take advantage of the property's unique coastal habitat.

The site also contains a rare mineral salt deposit which is an important source of nutrients for the Band-tailed pigeon, a Bird of Conservation Concern as identified by the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Approximately 350 Band-tailed pigeons visit the property in early morning every day from late June to September. There are fewer than 100 documented mineral sites in Oregon and Washington frequented by these pigeons.

Capitol Land Trust wishes to thank all of the project partners, especially the former landowners, Anderson & Middleton Company, for their support and commitment to seeing the project to completion. Generous funding support and project oversight was provided by the WA Department of Ecology and the US Fish and Wildlife Service through the National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program, and the WA Recreation and Conservation Office through a Salmon Recovery Funding Board grant. According to Jeanne Koenings of the Department of Ecology, "Protecting the shorelines of Washington State, particularly Puget Sound, is a job that the Department of Ecology and local governments can't do on our own. Partnering with groups like Capitol Land Trust is crucial to our success. Thanks to the high quality projects Capitol Land Trust works on, Washington State has been able to secure more funding from the US Fish & Wildlife Service and NOAA than most other coastal states."

Finally, completion of the Eld Inlet Coastal Preserve project would not have been possible without generous private contributions from Taylor Shellfish Farms, the Squaxin Island Tribe, Margery Sayre and other Capitol Land Trust members and supporters.☼

*Eric Erler is Capitol Land
Trust's Executive Director.*

Eld Inlet Coastal Preserve



Kathryn Moore



Hood Canal Paradise Protected

By Robert Carson

In December of 2009, the Carson family donated a conservation easement over 47 acres of their property overlooking the Hood Canal. The property is in northern Mason County, near the Mason/Kitsap border and contains more than 1,300 feet of Hood Canal shoreline, mature native forest, and several freshwater seeps, streams and springs. The property's forested habitat, freshwater resources and marine shorelines provide crucial habitat for a variety of amphibian, fish, mammal, and bird species.

Years ago, my wife Clare and I fell in love with the dynamic landscape of Hood Canal and the Olympic Peninsula with their contrasting mountains, forests, inland seas and the diverse flora and fauna. Clare, a biologist, and I, a geologist, began studying the area in 1968. In 1973 we decided to purchase a small piece of land that, ideally, had these attributes: wilderness, large acreage, splendid view, a potable stream, and waterfront.

Bit by bit over the years we added to the original tract to acquire nearly 20 hectares of forest, with almost half a kilometer of beach, on the east shore of Hood Canal. The view is over this westernmost arm of Puget Sound to the Olympic peaks including Mounts Ellinor, Washington, and Pershing. We call the property Brothers Beach because the view also includes the three peaks of The Brothers, and because we have three sons Ben, Chris, and Henry who have shared in our love of the place. Decades ago, our parents visited and helped us build our dream of having a forest retreat; now it is rewarding to see our grandchildren enjoy the cabin, the woods, and the water. We hold vivid memories of quiet evenings spent in the cabin listening to the waves on the shore, the creek below the spring, and sometimes an owl in the surrounding trees.

The forest, which had some logging in the late 1800s (from the water) and early 1970s (for road building), contains giant Douglas firs (many over 60 m tall), western red cedars, western hemlocks, and bigleaf maples, as well as more than a dozen other species. Over the years, we have recorded 115 bird species and 20 mammal species near Brothers Beach.

In 1980 we felled five trees, and using a portable sawmill, cut most of the lumber for a small cabin. A wood stove is used for cooking, heat, and hot

water. Near the cabin we have planted dozens of trees, shrubs, and flowers native to western Washington but not originally on the property. About 3 km of trails in the uplands and along Hornet and Heusser Creeks are maintained. We built the cabin and the trails ourselves as if we were early homesteaders (our sons are fifth generation Washingtonians). We often feel as if we have entered a time warp when we plan our meals around the tide. Daily we walk the access road, the trails, and the beach, picking up litter along 5 km of shoreline. Hood Canal, and particularly its east shore, is a peaceful retreat worthy of protection from the rapidly developing areas of the Puget Lowland.

Brothers Beach has become sacred to us. Four generations of our family and close friends have appreciated its beauty for the past four decades in all seasons of the year and in sun, rain, wind, and snow. The sound of the rain on the metal roof at night, and the image of moonlit snowy peaks beneath sparkling starry skies are but a few of the lasting memories of Brothers Beach. We have seen killer whales in Hood Canal, river otters sliding down our snow-covered trail to the gravel beach, and bears scavenging for food in the forest. We have observed the snow accumulate then melt on the Olympic peaks, the hummingbirds arrive in March and then disappear in August, the first flowers on the maples in spring and the fall of their huge yellow leaves in autumn, the sound of loons and gulls, and the arrival of rafts of grebes, buffleheads, and goldeneyes during migration. We have felt the cold water hit us as we dropped from a rope swing into the water, and paddled into the wind, waves, and current. We have sat in awe of a thousand sunsets.

My favorite definition of an old growth forest is one

continued on page 4



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.⌘

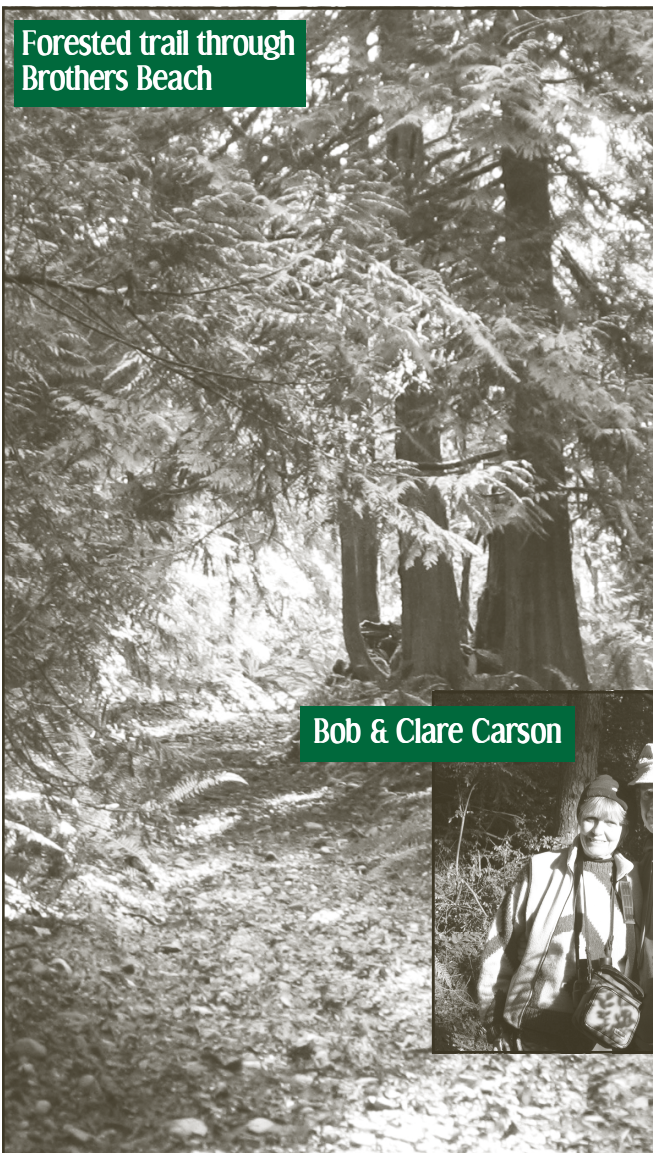
Hood Canal Paradise continued from page 3

with multiples species of many large trees (much larger than the two-foot diameter now used in many national forests, because so little old growth remains), abundant snags for habitat, and considerable large woody debris on the forest floor

and in the streams. By this definition, Brothers Beach is an old growth forest, rare in the Puget Lowland. Such forests need protection for the species there, and for the habitat they provide for other species. I am thrilled every time I see the rectangular hole of the pileated woodpecker, or hear its drum roll or shrieking call, or watch the flash of red as it glides through the trees. Equal is the excitement of sitting on a log on the beach at high tide, watching a merganser mother with a dozen chicks swimming along the edge of the water. It is impossible to put a monetary value on such experiences.

If you cannot imagine subdividing, selling, developing, or logging your property, why not protect it forever? If its value as wilderness, habitat, and/or scenery is much greater than its value on the real estate market, why not conserve it? If you would like to pass onto future generations of your family not only your property, but the same stewardship ideals and environmental philosophy, why not set up a conservation easement? The tax benefit is significant, but more important is the peace of mind knowing that this Pacific Northwest forest and this shore of Hood Canal will always exist more or less as they are. Brothers Beach will always be more of a natural landscape than a human-impacted property. The frogs will fill the summer evenings with their serenade, and the garter snakes will lie in the sun awaiting the rough-skinned newts slowly creeping through the decaying leaves. Our hope is that changes within the Brother Beach ecosystem will be natural, and that by conserving it we will help to offset the impact of our species.⌘

Forested trail through Brothers Beach

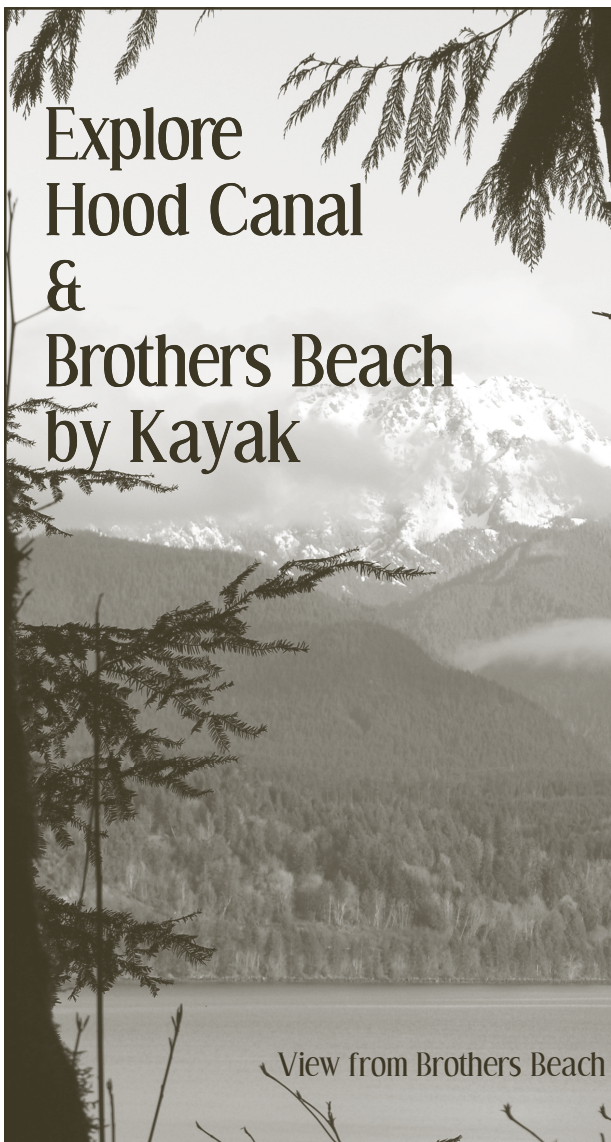


Bob & Clare Carson



Carson Family

Robert Carson



Explore Hood Canal & Brothers Beach by Kayak

View from Brothers Beach

Visit our newest conserved property and enjoy beautiful Hood Canal with us. The trip will be led by John Konovsky and Russ Gilsdorf. John is a Capitol Land Trust board member and biologist with the Squaxin Island Tribe; Russ is a veteran kayaker and outdoorsman with The Alpine Experience.

WHEN: Saturday, July 10, 2010, 12:00 to 7:00 pm

WHERE: Holly to Dewatto Bay along Hood Canal

COST: \$75 per person - we provide the kayak,

\$65 per person - you provide the kayak.

TRIP DESCRIPTION:

Beginning near Holly as soon as the tide permits (around 1:00 pm), we paddle south along the canal for about three miles. We can make a quick stop at Laughlin Cove, then continue on for another three miles to Brothers Beach (see article on page 3 about this recently conserved property). While there, we will enjoy a picnic on the beach and have an opportunity to explore. The final leg is a three mile paddle to the take out at Dewatto Bay around high tide (6:00 pm).

This trip is not recommended for beginners.

The total paddling distance is nine miles and the actual paddling time might exceed four hours, especially if we encounter strong headwinds which are common along Hood Canal in the summer. If wind speeds exceed 15 mph, the trip may be cancelled.

Space is limited.

Reserve your spot by contacting Kathleen Ackley at (360) 943-3012, kathleen@capitollandtrust.org

Honeybaked Ham Loves Capitol Land Trust!

At least their employees do for the entire month of July. In an effort to support local non-profits in the community, Olympia's Honeybaked Ham will be donating all tips received at their café to a different charitable organization each month. For the month of July, all tips received will go directly to Capitol Land Trust (and in turn to conservation in southwest Washington).

Stop by their store located on the Westside in Target Plaza at 2915 Harrison Ave NW, Suite 215. They offer a variety of sandwiches and salads and yes, incredible hams! Be sure and say hello to new manager and co-owner, Steve Hyer, who is also a new board member of Capitol Land Trust. If you give him a call, he'll even come by your office with a menu: 360-753-8744.

THE HONEYBAKED HAM co.
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A N D CAFÉ

Big THANKS to the generous employees at Honeybaked Ham for supporting nonprofits and conservation!



Capitol Land Trust Welcomes Jamie Morgan

Kevin Black



Please join us in welcoming Jamie Morgan, our new office manager, to the Capitol Land Trust family. A Seattle native and Western Washington University graduate, Jamie has strong ties to the region. Professionally, Jamie started her career as an event planner and conference organizer. More recently, she found herself doing a ten-year stint as an office manager in the architecture, engineering and construction field. When her husband's career moved them to Olympia, Jamie was hired by Audubon Washington, where she learned the "ins and outs" of the environmental non-profit world.

Jamie focuses her free time on art, quilting, cooking and gardening, with occasional bursts of home improvement and catering. Each spring, she helps run the region's largest science fiction and fantasy convention in Seattle. Recently, she and her husband took a month-long, whirlwind trip to New Zealand. They explored most of the country, doing crazy adventure sports, and taking thousands of photos.

You can reach Jamie at (360) 943-3012, jamie@capitollandtrust.org.☞

Remembering Pete Holm

Kathleen Ackley



**Pete canoeing on
The Black River**

Pete Holm, longtime Capitol Land Trust board member and conservation easement donor, passed away March 8, 2010. Pete contributed greatly to Capitol Land Trust's success. At a critical juncture in the Trust's development, Pete advocated for completing our first strategic plan and hiring our first Executive Director. To ensure we succeeded, Pete agreed to put his years of state budgeting experience to work by becoming Board Treasurer. He volunteered as a property steward, helping staff ensure monitoring of conservation properties. And if this commitment was not enough, with support from his daughters, Pete, his sister Margaret and her husband Keith, donated a permanent conservation easement over their entire farm along the Black River.

When he was confident that we had "turned the corner" and our future was bright, Pete retired from the Board so he could share his energy with other groups including the Chehalis River Council and the Chehalis River Basin Land Trust. Pete took great pride in the work of Capitol Land Trust, but he always made sure that we stayed grounded. A calm gleam in his eyes always conveyed that we should be proud of our work but not become self-important or take ourselves too seriously. His service in Rochester was attended by what seemed like the entire town's population. Pete was loved by the greatest diversity of characters and community members imaginable – and deservedly so.☞



Bill Yake

Thank you to our supporters!

We are grateful to the following individuals and businesses whose contributions were received between January 1 and June 1, 2010:

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In Memory of Carol Villines

Barbara Vincent Sapp

Close Encounters of the Wild(life) Kind

True Adventures of a Land Steward

By Tom Terry

Being a Land Steward with Capitol Land Trust brings both responsibilities and rewards. The responsibilities include assisting Capitol Land Trust to meet its goal of monitoring each conservation easement and owned parcel annually, to ensure that the conservation values of the property are protected according to the easement restrictions, and that there are no trespass issues. The rewards to the Land Steward include getting to know the landowner and walking through and enjoying very unique habitat types that characterize our region's shorelines, wetlands, streams, riparian zones, oak-prairies, working farms and forests. Occasionally one also gets to observe rare plants or gets a glimpse of unexpected and elusive wildlife species.

During this year's monitoring visit to the Edwards-Bruton conservation easement, Caitlin Guthrie, Capitol Land Trust Stewardship Coordinator (and AmeriCorps member), and I had quite a surprise. This 50-acre easement is in the Dempsey Creek Watershed, which has some outstanding forested wetlands. The mosaic of interconnected ponds and wet areas contain skunk cabbage, hummocks with western red cedar, western hemlock and Oregon ash, and more upland areas with Douglas fir. When you walk through this area you really think you are walking back in time. Few people make the effort to explore deep into the heart of a forested wetland, as it is difficult going to climb over and walk around downed trees and logs and wade through knee-deep ponds, but this is a common challenge

on a monitoring visit. Our normal monitoring walk on this tract goes directly through the forested wetland to get to one of the back corners of the property. During our traverse we noticed lots of deer tracks, various animal signs including the fresh large scat pile of a black bear, and several birdcalls that I wish I could have been able to identify.

After Caitlin and I checked the forested wetland portion of the easement, we drove around to the other side to check the back property line that connects into the forested wetland portion of the tract. As we walked down the boundary line that had been maintained by the landowner, we spotted a large black bear coming out of the wetland. It was headed directly towards us following the same path that we were walking on! I saw the bear first and pointed it out to Caitlin. It was the first bear that she had ever encountered in the wild. We slowly stepped aside and hoped that the bear would come closer but as soon as we moved it quickly headed for cover.

Needless to say this made our day. We can add one more wildlife-sighting to the monitoring book for this easement. And it gets at the heart of what conservation easements are for... so there are wild places for us to visit and explore, but not to stay.☞

Tom Terry is a member of Capitol Land Trust's Board of Directors



Ursus americanus

Black bears (*Ursus americanus*) are the most common species of bears found in the United States with a home range that extends into 41 of the lower 48 states, and Alaska. The estimate for the total population in the United States is about 300,000 bears. Black bears tend to live in forested areas, but are capable of expanding their home ranges into open grasslands and residential areas. One of the reasons black bears are so adaptive is that they are omnivores (eat both plant and animal matter). This allows them to thrive in a wide variety of habitats.☞

*From Washington State University Cooperative Extension
<http://ext.nrs.wsu.edu/publications/Blackbears1.htm>*



Intrepid Volunteers Clean-up Green Cove Preserve

By Caitlin Guthrie

Walking along Evergreen College Parkway, we notice a subtle break in the trees. On further approach, it appears to be the start of a trail that winds between two large cedar trees and heads in the direction of one of Capitol Land Trust's conserved properties. The 20-acre Kaiser property is located in the larger Green Cove Wetland Preserve. Owned by Capitol Land Trust, the property is undeveloped and consists mostly of forested wetlands, with some patches of upland forest.

We cautiously follow the trail through the forest and almost immediately note human presence: four bicycles in various states of disrepair are stashed off to the side of the trail. As we continue through the forest, frequent checks of our hand-held GPS unit indicate that we are crossing over into the Kaiser property. Anticipation rises as the trail continues deeper into the forest. An owl calls, hoot... hoot. Eyes keenly peeled for anything amiss, we eventually see a large tepee-like structure constructed of tree limbs and wrapped in plastic.

Trash is scattered everywhere on the ground. As we take it all in, an upward glance reveals an unanticipated complication. Twenty feet up and located in the crook of an aged cedar tree is a two-story tree house, also wrapped in plastic and looking like a massive wasp nest. Unsure of our safety at that point, we snapped a few photos and

hastily retreated. A subsequent visit with police revealed that the site was presently uninhabited.

For every one of the properties that we conserve, Capitol Land Trust also takes on the responsibility of stewarding the land into perpetuity. One of those responsibilities entails visiting and monitoring each property at least annually. This is an important aspect of our work that we take very seriously. Upon discovery of trespass and destruction of habitat, such as at the Kaiser property, we take an active management role to mitigate the damage.

In this case, the first step necessary to return the property to natural conditions was to remove the tree house and associated debris from the cedar tree. At twenty feet in the air, this dangerous task required professionals. Michael Moore, a local arborist and his assistant, Shane Noble, provided assistance by cutting the tree house out of the cedar tree while leaving the tree intact and healthy. "It was a mess - the plastic walls were stapled to the tree in thousands of places. We had to tear that off, pull out scads of wadded paper used as insulation between the walls, then chainsaw the wood structure apart. We tossed the remains of the tree house - clothes, blankets, books, CD's, a first-aid kit, tools and bongo drums, among other things - to the ground," said Michael. "It seemed like such an oxymoron, conserved property with consumer mess all over. It felt disrespectful to the forest."

With all of the trash and debris at ground level, Capitol Land Trust organized a three-hour work party attended by ten volunteers and three staff members. During that time, we filled over 40 contractor-sized garbage bags with 1,800 pounds of waste that we subsequently carried by hand back through the forest to the road. The Evergreen State College helped by hauling all the trash away for us. In the future, we will continue to actively monitor the trail and surrounding areas in the Green Cove Wetland Preserve for signs of squatters. Even though this is not the most glamorous of work, it is essential. While we hope not to find any more illicit tree houses, episodes like this teach us that our work has merely just begun on the day a property is acquired or a conservation easement is signed.☼



Volunteer Cleve Pinnix shows off some finds.

Kathryn Moore

Caitlin Guthrie is Capitol Land Trust's
AmeriCorps Stewardship Coordinator

Special thanks to the following Green Cove Clean-up Crew:

Ashley DeMoss



Doug Allen, Ashley DeMoss, Jewel Goddard, Caitlin Guthrie, Laura Hurson, Paul Malmberg, Steve McCormick, Kat Moore, Michael Moore, Shane Noble, Laurence Reeves, Cleve Pinnix, Greg Sorlie, Jamie Stewart, TESC, John Weeden, Bill Yake

Kathryn Moore



Volunteers Hard at Work

Found Treasures A Poem by Bill Yake

Among the 40+ contractor-bags-full of debris found at a homeless camp:

Loads of Visqueen and a pink plush orangutan. A rosary, a hand-sized wooden crucifix, several t-shirts displaying skulls and neon graphics, a Bible, and book of odd science. Prescription meds and a debit card, a nice wooden case for handrolls and a lighter. An empty gallon of Carlo Rossi. A spent 2-liter bottle of Australian Yellowtail. Multiple malt liquor cans. A bong. One Grunge guitar effects box – which, as it turns out, still works. One empty can of watermelon-flavored Four Loko (12% alcohol). A checkered pendant bearing a Maltese Cross and a “Live to Ride, Ride to Live” logo. A mattress with a long poem inscribed on it in indelible marker. A small bag of coins from Hong Kong, India, Italy, Great Britain, Spain, France, Canada, and Mexico; a token for a bridge in Vancouver BC. Jewelry wire, beads, many skateboard wheels and one wheel-less board. Waterlogged coats, heavy-duty rain pants, a hand-drawn sign saying “Please Help,” a small (signal?) mirror silvered on both sides. Several cast-aluminum boat fittings, shoes, a cookbook from a famous Atlanta restaurant. Condoms, unused. A wrecked Coleman lantern, an Afro pic, a fluorescent orange dog chain. A soggy sleeping bag. A leather belt. CDs featuring Jackson Brown, Steve Martin, and Lou Reed.

Upcoming Habitat Restoration Work Parties & Events

Join Capitol Land Trust as we pull up weeds, plant trees and spread mulch at various restoration sites around the South Sound this summer. We are also offering a native plant walk at the Oakland Bay County Park. To sign-up for any of the dates below, contact Caitlin Guthrie at caitlin@capitollandtrust.org, (360) 943-3012.

WHAT	DATE	TIME	WHERE
Invasive Plant Pull on Mud Bay with People for Puget Sound	Sat., June 26, 2010	9:00 AM - 1:00 PM	4937 Mud Bay Rd NW, Olympia
No Ivy Day on the Steamboat Island Peninsula	Sat., July 17, 2010	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM	2345 86th Ave. NW, Olympia
Oakland Bay Native Plant Walk	Sat., July 31, 2010	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM With the option to stay for lunch	Call to reserve a space and for directions.



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**Tenth Annual
Summer Gala
Saturday
August 14, 2010
4:00 to 8:00 pm at**



**with Special Guest:
Dr. John Marzluff**

Sue Ujcic and Anna Salafsky welcome you to **Helsing Junction Farm** for Capitol Land Trust's annual Summer Gala. Chef **Xinh Dwelley** will prepare a decadent feast with local shellfish from **Taylor Shellfish** and fresh vegetables from the farm. You will enjoy the Latin-Caribbean-Afro sounds of **Ocho Pies** while sipping on **Fish Tale** organic beer or wine from **Walter Dacon, Scatter Creek**, and other local wineries. A tour of the farm will be offered and everyone can take part in the silent auction.

This year's keynote speaker is **Dr. John Marzluff**. He is a Professor of Wildlife Science at the University of Washington. His recent book with Tony Angell, **"In the Company of Crows and Ravens,"** blends biology, conservation, and anthropology to suggest that human and crow cultures have co-evolved.

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