



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

## Pocket Estuary on Totten Inlet Conserved

*By Steve Kelso*



Steve Kelso

In early June 2011, Capitol Land Trust acquired a 34-acre property on the northeastern shore of Totten Inlet on the Steamboat Island Peninsula. The site has a small pocket estuary with critical salmon habitat, 1,400 feet of waterfront, steep bluffs that replenish natural gravel beaches, and small streams flowing from mature forests that cover most of the property.

Major grants from US Fish & Wildlife/WA Dept. of Ecology's Coastal Wetlands Grant program and the state's Salmon Recovery Funding Board helped finance the project. Other funds came from Taylor Shellfish, the Squaxin Island Tribe and the Steamboat Conservation Partnership.

"This is a relatively small piece of shoreline, but it has enormous biological value that will now be preserved and enhanced," said Capitol Land Trust's conservation projects manager Laurence Reeves.

According to Laurence, the project was originally championed by local resident and south Sound

conservationist Gayle Broadbent-Ferris who died in an accident in 2009. She introduced the property to the Trust and helped keep interest in its preservation alive during a period when development was contemplated. "Gayle, more than anyone, would have been thrilled to know the property is now under conservancy," Laurence said.

Dave and Joanne Schuett-Hames, local residents who provided marine habitat expertise for the project, also mentioned Broadbent-Ferris's dedication to conservancy of the Adams Cove area. "She lived near the property," Dave said, "and felt it was not suitable

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*Totten Inlet continued from page 1*

for intensive development. She had great appreciation for the natural values of the wetlands and the estuary."

"This was a very complex project," said Laurence, "but eventually, through a lot of hard work on the part of many organizations and individuals, it all

came together. We have skilled and dedicated staff, but we can't do it all. As with many of our projects, we relied on contributions of time and expertise from many members and volunteers. Their involvement was absolutely critical."

Near the start of the project, Laurence visited the site with Dave and Joanne to assess its potential. What they found was a pocket estuary in relatively pristine condition, with many acres of neighboring forest and wetlands that provide clean fresh water. The property, known locally as Adams Cove, includes a protective sand spit at the estuary entrance, a beach used by spawning forage fish, an intertidal salt marsh, and mudflats providing habitat for Puget Sound coho, winter steelhead, chinook, summer chum, and coastal sea-run cutthroat.

"This is a pretty special piece of the south Puget Sound ecosystem," said Dave. "Our job was to capture the nature of the place in language that biologists would understand, to provide heft for the technical and scientific aspects of the grant applications. We helped explain why this particular place, in its current state, is so beneficial to fish and other marine populations."

Dave and Joanne do this kind of work professionally, but they did it as volunteers for this project. They have helped Capitol Land Trust with several other projects as well.

The threat of commercial development above the shoreline bluffs accentuated the sense that the property should be conserved in its entirety. According to Dave, "The upland area is a forested wetland system that provides habitat for birds and plants, and is the main source of cool, clean fresh water for the estuary. Anything built on the bluffs would more than likely degrade water quality and the entire system's ability to sustain plant and animal life."

The estuary is also the mixing zone for fresh and salt water, and it's especially important for the very large native chum run that spawns each year in Kennedy Creek at the southern end of Totten Inlet.

*continued on page 3*



Steve Kelso

*Totten Inlet continued from page 2*

According to Dave, “The fry come out of the freshwater creek in the spring as very small fish, only a couple inches long. The open water of Totten Inlet can be dangerous for them. The salinity presents a huge physiological adjustment, and it helps to have places like Adams Cove where they can find relatively fresh water to reduce that shock. The estuary, with its protective spit, shallow water, and overhanging trees, is a refuge from wave action and from predatory birds and fish. It’s also a source of small organisms for them to eat.”

There is also evidence that young Chinook salmon from central and even northern Puget Sound forage in Totten Inlet and its estuaries before migrating out to the ocean.

One other important feature of the Adams Cove habitat, Dave said, is its undeveloped shoreline, with intact forest. “You have well-developed shoreline vegetation to feed the nutrient food chain,” he said. “Some of the trees will fall into the estuary, providing good cover habitat in the water. And trees hanging over the water provide shade and help keep the water cool.”

The other benefit of conserving this piece of land is the preservation of natural “feeder” bluffs, which help maintain the viability of beaches that are the spawning ground for sand lance, pacific anchovy, herring, and other “forage” fish on which salmon feed.

According to Dave, “When this kind of shoreline becomes highly developed, people often build bulkheads because they don’t want the erosion. Eventually, over time, as that erosion is eliminated or controlled, the gravel can get scoured out, leaving nothing but clay. It’s important to have unarmored bluffs with some erosion to provide gravel and

sediment to replenish the beaches.”

The Totten Inlet coastal shoreline is a permanent or migratory home to more than 100 bird species, including eagles, owls, ospreys, plovers, sandpipers, woodpeckers and loons, and the property has potential as a possible restoration area for the native Olympia oyster, Laurence said.

Both Laurence and Dave emphasized that Adams Cove is a particularly unspoiled pocket estuary. Many similar estuaries, especially those with spits, have been dammed up in the past to create freshwater ponds.

Dave stressed that each pocket estuary is part of a larger ecosystem that is important to newly hatched fish. “They don’t just function in isolation,” he said. “You get more benefit if there are a series of them along the shoreline that the fish can move into. Maintaining a network of them would be much better than just preserving one.”

The main purpose of this project was to conserve the estuarine habitat. A corollary to that is recognition that human visits to the property, especially on land, are not necessarily beneficial to that purpose. “As with many of our projects,” Laurence said, “we encourage thoughtful and respectful visitation for educational and scientific purposes. We want people to remember that hands-off is probably the best policy. Our five-year management plan for Adams Cove is to just let it do its own thing. And that’s in keeping with the intent of the funding agencies.” ❧

*Steve Kelso is an Olympia writer, photographer, and painter who appreciates the work of Capitol Land Trust.*

**Coho Fry**



*Paul Kaiser, US Fish & Wildlife Service*

### THANK YOU PROJECT PARTNERS:

- ☞ WA Department of Ecology
- ☞ WA State Salmon Recovery Funding Board
- ☞ Squaxin Island Tribe
- ☞ Taylor Shellfish Farms
- ☞ Steamboat Conservation Partnership
- ☞ Dave & Joanne Schuett-Hames
- ☞ ADESA Environmental Services
- ☞ Michael & Lorrie Asker, William & Bonita Asker, Michael & Tracy Evans



# Capitol Land Trust Board & Staff Transitions



## NEW BOARD MEMBER: Steve Hulbert

Steve Hulbert joined the board of directors this past April. Steve and his family owned and operated the Pontiac, Cadillac and Saturn automotive dealerships here in Olympia for many years. An Olympia resident since 1985, Steve has been active with youth leadership, environmental education, conservation and sustainability programs. Steve is also a musician, playing guitar, singing and producing his own music. He and his wife Cathy have a home on Puget Sound where they grow oysters and appreciate the incredible natural beauty of southwest Washington.

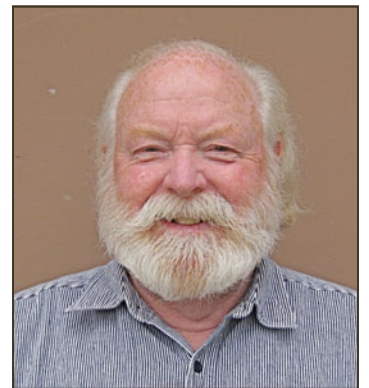
## NEW BOARD MEMBER: Fred Romero

Fred Romero joined the board of directors this past April. Fred moved to the Olympia area on New Year's Eve 1982 with his wife Sandra, stepson Noel Marshal and daughter Zoe. Over the next 31 years, Fred worked as a policy and governmental relations executive in various state agencies. Fred retired in 2009 and has spent a good deal of time traveling in Latin America, Mexico, and Germany. Besides his family, Fred's interests include the outdoors--hiking, biking, cross-country skiing--and the preservation of land and corridors to sustain the area's natural and recreational opportunities for now and for the future. He is looking forward to participating enthusiastically on the Capitol Land Trust team and reaching out to communities by land, sea or air.



## RETIRING BOARD MEMBER: J. Paul Malmberg

While we are saying hello to new board members, we also bid adieu to Paul Malmberg, a member of Capitol Land Trust's board of directors for the past three years. With his wife Robyn's recent retirement, the Malmberg's have a busier schedule than ever. From building hiking trails at Mt. Rainier to camping on the Olympic Peninsula and building sets for the Olympia Little Theater, Paul is a volunteer for many causes. While no longer on the board, he is still active with the lands and investment committees. Thank you for your service Paul!



## RETURNING STAFF MEMBER: Caitlin Guthrie

Caitlin Guthrie will be filling in this summer for Meriel Darzen, Conservation Projects Manager, while Meriel takes time off to study for the bar exam. Caitlin served as Capitol Land Trust's AmeriCorps Stewardship Coordinator in 2009-2010 and she just finished her first year of study for a Master of Science degree in restoration ecology at the University of Washington. When Caitlin is not working on conservation projects in the office this summer, you can find her at the Nisqually River Delta, conducting her thesis research on the effectiveness of restoration plantings within tidal freshwater wetlands. You may contact her at (360) 943-3012, [caitlin@capitollandtrust.org](mailto:caitlin@capitollandtrust.org). ☘



# Randall Preserve & Allison Springs Restoration Moves Forward

By Guy Maguire

In 1997 Marjorie Randall donated a conservation easement on her property to Capitol Land Trust. She later donated ownership when she passed away in 2008. We were interested in the property because of its high-quality tideland and salt marsh ecosystems, home to many species of bird and marine life, including chum salmon. In addition, the property is adjacent to Allison Springs, another high-quality tideland and forest ecosystem fed by natural springs, owned by the City of Olympia. However, the Randall property has been heavily impacted by human use. Prior to any restoration activities, much of the salt marsh had been displaced by bulkheads, and there were four buildings on the property. Invasive species were prevalent in the upland areas, and there was (and still is) a heavily compacted dirt driveway that runs through the property. On top of all this, toxic containments were found in the soil.

When Capitol Land Trust acquired the easement on the Randall property, a restoration plan was created to deal with these issues. Over the next decade, bulkheads and the house closest to the road were removed, the area was replanted with native trees and shrubs, and a large amount of trash and debris were hauled away. Now, in 2011, the plan is in the final stage of major operations. Last month the remaining three buildings were removed. However, the land beneath them had been artificially raised to keep the houses above water. This summer, work will be done to remove bulkhead material and reshape the shoreline so that tidal inundation can reoccur, allowing the area previously occupied by buildings to restore itself to a salt marsh once again.

Also this summer, the roundabout driveway will be removed and the land prepped for planting in the fall and winter. Planting will also occur throughout the upland areas of the property, so that in a few years there will be a healthy belt of native vegetation to buffer the wetlands and salt marsh. People for Puget Sound has adopted the Randall property as one of their stewardship sites, and has been helping Capitol Land Trust with stewardship activities on the property for a number of years. The Trust will be partnering with People for Puget Sound to finish the

plantings after the earth moving is complete.

This latest stage in the restoration at Randall is being completed as part of a combined project which includes restoration on the adjacent Allison Springs property. On that property, a pocket estuary was impounded in the early 1950's with a series of earthen dams to create pools. These pools, fed by natural springs, were created to rear trout and salmon. Locals could go there to fish at "Allison's U Catch Trout Farm." In the years since, the pools have changed hands and purposes numerous times. By 1999 they were abandoned, and talk began about restoring the area back to its natural estuarine condition.

In 2009 Capitol Land Trust received grants from the Salmon Recovery Funding Board, WA Department of Ecology and US Fish & Wildlife Service for restoration on the Randall and Allison sites. Working with partners including the South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group and People for Puget Sound, the dams at Allison Springs will be removed and the natural estuary will be allowed to redevelop. By this time next year, all the man-made structures, alterations, and debris from both the Allison Springs and Randall sites will have been removed, thousands of young native plantings will be in the ground, and the future of Lower Eld Inlet will be much brighter. ☘

*Guy Maguire is Capitol Land Trust's AmeriCorps Stewardship Coordinator.*





# Randall Preserve—Timeline of Activities

**1997** Marjorie Randall donates Conservation Easement to Capitol Land Trust.



**2003** Tire bulkhead, debris & buildings removed, 1/2 acre of property cleared, replanted with native vegetation.



← Hundreds of volunteers take part in work p

**1999** Debris & parts of buildings removed.



## Randall Burn Provides Valuable Training Experience

The burning of the remaining structures on the Randall property was the culmination of two years of research and planning. Capitol Land Trust collaborated with numerous agencies to carefully plan the burn. All potentially toxic materials were removed from the structures before they were completely gutted, including thermostats and a small amount of asbestos. Utility poles and infrastructure were decommissioned and removed. Nothing was left inside the buildings - no mattresses, couches, garbage or other materials. All easily salvageable materials were removed.

For two years leading up to the burn, the McLane Fire Department regularly used the structures in training exercises. The burn itself was an invaluable real-world training experience for about thirty fire-fighters from McLane and the North Thurston Regional Fire Authority. Such opportunities only occur once or twice a year.

To ensure that the burn would have the least environmental impact possible, Capitol Land Trust worked closely with staff from South Puget Sound

Salmon Enhancement Group, City of Olympia, US Fish & Wildlife Service, WA Dept. of Ecology, Olympic Regional Clean Air Agency and the McLane Fire Department. One of the biggest concerns was preventing chemicals or debris from entering into the estuary and Puget Sound. The fire department did an excellent job researching control of the run-off and had a 20-page briefing plan that was reviewed in advance and again on the morning of the burn. As it turned out, almost none of the water made it to the ground, instead evaporating as steam.

The alternative to burning down the structures would have been hauling all of the materials via truck and train 240 miles to Roosevelt Regional Landfill in Klickitat County, eastern Washington at a cost of approximately \$15,000. There it would have been added to a growing stock pile of waste. In the end, we felt that the opportunity to economically remove the structures coupled with providing our community's first responders with a vital training opportunity was the best option. It also provided us with a unique chance to educate the public about our habitat restoration efforts on Lower Eld Inlet. ☘





Guy Maguire

**2009** Capitol Land Trust receives grant funding to remove remaining structures & restore habitat on Randall & Allison Springs properties.



Laurence Reeves

**2011** Remaining structures burned by McLane Fire Department.



Marcy Yates

ties through out the entire 15 year period.

**2008** Marjorie Randall passes away, leaving her property to Capitol Land Trust.



Guy Maguire

**2010 through 2011** More debris & garbage hauled away.

**2011 through 2012** Remaining bulkhead to be removed, shoreline recontoured, driveway & septic to be removed and disturbed areas replanted.



Jamie Morgan

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Kay Schultz

Canada geese visiting the Randall Preserve



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## Volunteer Profile: Marty & Cleve Pinnix *By Lisa Johnson*

After 10 minutes, it felt as if I had known these folks for years. Cleve and Marty Pinnix are warm and friendly people. They are also professional volunteers, and I wanted to find out why. So I drove to their cozy west Olympia home, where I was greeted with big smiles and enthusiastic handshakes. We had to meet early in the day because they had a job to do at the Thurston County Foodbank where they volunteer every Friday; Cleve as a driver and Marty in the office.

The couple are stalwart Capitol Land Trust volunteers as well, doing anything from selling tickets, stuffing envelopes, doing set-up or clean-up, and helping to cook for the Summer Gala. They love it! Why? “We have an affinity for land-based conservation,” said Cleve. “We’re also birders and kayakers. Since birds need habitat, and protected tidelands where we like to float are few and far between, we feel the need to preserve these wild places.”

Cleve is a gregarious man who looks years younger than he is. He was the Director of State Parks before the couple retired nine years ago. Marty taught 1st and 2nd grade for twenty years in East Olympia, and still has plenty of energy for working out to stay fit. They got hooked on wilderness as young park rangers at Mt. Rainier, where they moved from the east coast in 1966. Both their children were born and raised there. “That’s our home,” says Cleve, and they still return to teach seasonal naturalists and hike the trails.

“After we retired, I asked Cleve not to volunteer anywhere for six months, so we could settle in to our new life,” says Marty. They made it that long but have been going strong ever since. “They aren’t making any more wild places, and it’s good to stay busy,” they agree.

Marty and Cleve volunteer for Capitol Land Trust because they admire what the Land Trust does. “It fits our values, and they use their money wisely,” says Cleve, who was involved in the “Grunt Squad” that cleaned out the structures on the Randall property before it was burned, removing plastics, metal, and other toxins to minimize pollution.



Cleve has also been a land steward for one of Capitol Land Trust’s conserved properties in Mason County for the last two years. He and the Trust’s Stewardship Coordinator walk the property once a year, monitoring the terms of the easement and taking photos. “I love it!” he says.

Cleve and Marty agree that Capitol Land Trust is a great organization to volunteer for. “We always feel appreciated. They keep their members involved, and that feels good.” ❧

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

### 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 charities. These assets are unusual in that they are subject to both estate and 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 our website at [www.capitollandtrust.org](http://www.capitollandtrust.org).

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





## Blacktail Deer Thrive on Conserved Lands

Blacktail deer sneak around most Capitol Land Trust properties. Everyone gets glimpses but the deer excel at keeping their lives secret. So most of us don't know a lot about them. In Washington, blacktails share the state with whitetail and mule deer. Blacktails are the only ones thriving in the thick vegetation of western Washington, however, because their antlers tend to curve inward, making it easier to travel through thick brush.

Unlike deer living in drier locales, these deer often have little need to travel because they enjoy all they need to eat in a small area. A deer's core habitat, where they spend most of their time, can be as small as 300 feet square, but is more commonly five to ten acres.

Deer do not just munch grass but graze on all sorts of vegetation, the smorgasbord of plants that grow in western Washington. They move slowly and leisurely through their dinner-table landscape, eating a little of this and a little of that. But their lives are not all relaxation and ease. Other creatures are after them, mainly cougars and us. So as a blacktail drops its long neck to take a few bites, it also listens with its big ears. The head pops up every few seconds to smell and watch its surroundings for danger. It doesn't barge through the brush like we tend to do but takes only a step or two, then listens, looks, and sniffs.



**Blacktail Deer at Green Cove Wetlands Preserve**

Blacktails are mostly nocturnal, or rather crepuscular creatures, meaning that they are most active during the dawn and dusk hours. You could have one living in the woods quite nearby and never see it because the deer will arrive at more open areas only during darkness. They move along faint one-way trails in the woods, coming or going depending on environmental factors like the wind, which they constantly sample for scents. Look carefully for signs of blacktail presence: piles of raisin-sized pellet droppings or faint tracks in open areas of sand, dirt, and mud left after nightly forays. These quiet 100-plus-pound animals are all around us, yet remarkably, they escape our notice. ☘

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

## Members Approve Bylaw Amendments

Capitol Land Trust members voted to approve three amendments to the organization's bylaws at the Annual Meeting held April 15, 2011. These changes were recommended by the Board of Directors as part of the Trust's ongoing preparation for being accredited nationally in 2012. The accreditation process involves an in-depth internal audit to ensure Capitol Land Trust is conforming with the national umbrella organization for land trusts's (the Land Trust Alliance) extensive Standards and Practices, guidelines for the responsible operation of a land trust. Several changes to the bylaws have been necessary. The most recent changes were:

**BYLAW AMENDMENT #1:** This change extended the term of office for elected officers on the Board of Directors from one to two years.

**BYLAW AMENDMENT #2:** This change brought our bylaws in line with the Revised Code of Washington (RCW) which states that Articles of Incorporation must be amended by 2/3 of the members at a meeting.

**BYLAW AMENDMENT #3:** This change gave the Board of Directors the authority to amend the Bylaws with a 2/3 majority, instead of requiring a vote by the membership.



# CAPITOL LAND TRUST EVENTS

## 🌿 KAYAK TRIP on OAKLAND BAY 🌿

Come join us to learn about the ecology of the bay and the role of conservation in protecting terrestrial and marine habitat for salmon, shellfish, and other important wildlife. We will explore and learn about recent conservation efforts on Oakland Bay. The highlight of the trip will be a lunch stop at the newly conserved Twin Rivers Ranch. Lunch and snacks will be provided. Kayaks provided by The Alpine Experience.



Eric Eiler

**WHEN:** Saturday July 9, 2011, 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM

**WHERE:** Oakland Bay, Mason County

**COST:** \$40 per person w/kayak, \$20 per person w/o kayak

**SIGN-UP:** Guy Maguire (360) 943-3012, [guym@capitollandtrust.org](mailto:guym@capitollandtrust.org)

## 🌿 PLANT WALK on OAKLAND BAY 🌿



Terry Liberty

Led by experienced naturalists, participants will journey on trails through the forest and shoreline in small groups, learning to identify a variety of native plants. No experience necessary. The event will be hosted at the Oakland Bay Historical Park, conserved by Capitol Land Trust and Mason County in 2005.

**WHEN:** Saturday July 23, 2011, 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

**WHERE:** Oakland Bay Historical Park, Mason County

**COST:** Free

**SIGN-UP:** Guy Maguire (360) 943-3012, [guym@capitollandtrust.org](mailto:guym@capitollandtrust.org)

## 🌿 11<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL SUMMER GALA 🌿

Food, wine, music, silent auction, farm tours and special guest chef Becky Selengut! You won't want to miss this incredible event held at one of the South Sound's most beautiful farms, Helsing Junction.

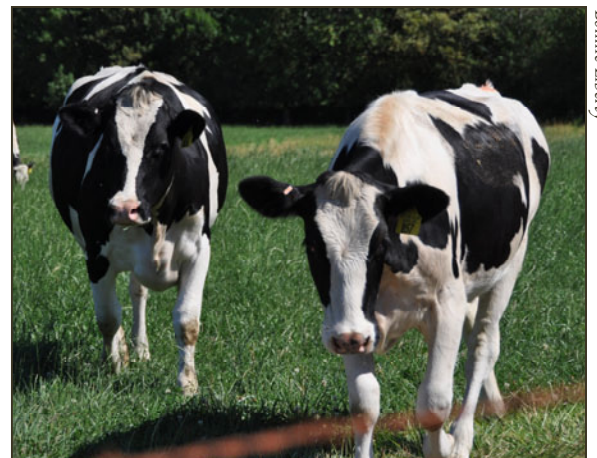
**WHEN:** Saturday August 13, 2011, 4:00 to 8:00 PM

**Farm Tours at 3:00 PM**

**WHERE:** Helsing Junction Farm, Rochester

**COST:** \$75 in advance, \$85 at the door

**MORE INFO:** [www.capitollandtrust.org/gala2011.htm](http://www.capitollandtrust.org/gala2011.htm)



Bonnie Liberty





209 Fourth Ave. E, #205  
Olympia, WA 98501

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## Capitol Land Trust Gear Supports Conservation!

Fleece vests, t-shirts and beautiful note cards — 100% of proceeds support Capitol Land Trust's work conserving essential natural areas and working lands. Drop by the office to pick yours up or we'll happily mail it to you.

### VESTS:

- ☞ Marmot fleece vests with Capitol Land Trust logo above left breast. Available in men and women's sizes.
- ☞ \$30 each, \$2 shipping.

### T-SHIRTS:

- ☞ 100% cotton heavy-weight short-sleeved t-shirt with Capitol Land Trust logo on back. Available in S, M, L, XL and XXL.
- ☞ \$9 each, \$2 shipping.

### NOTE CARDS:

- ☞ 4.25 x 5.5 full color set of eight note cards. Two separate sets available, all different images taken on conserved properties.
- ☞ \$15 each, \$2 shipping.

VESTS



T-SHIRTS



Wes Kirkpatrick

NOTE CARDS