



# the Steward

Volume 10 Number 3

Newsletter of the Whatcom Land Trust, Bellingham Washington

Fall/Winter 2000

## Saving a Piece of Wilderness

By Rand Jack

When Doug Walker paddled up in his kayak to the home I was visiting on Lopez Island last New Year's, I had no idea that that meeting would lead to a landmark transaction for the Land Trust. A few months later, realtor Tim Lloyd called the Land Trust about a 38-acre inholding for sale, a property completely surrounded by the Mt. Baker Wilderness Area. We needed a conservation buyer, someone who would purchase the property with the intent to protect it and someday return it to official wilderness status.

I immediately thought of Doug, an outdoor enthusiast, accomplished mountain climber and very successful Seattle businessman with a history of supporting worthy causes. His response was direct, enthusiastic and positive. "If you want me to be interested, I'm interested," he said.

In June, several of us made a site inspection for Doug, then out of the country on business. The property, located on the northeast side of Goat Mountain at about 5,000 feet, lay at the end of a route deep in snow. Using ice axes and crampons, we made it. We found the small cabin, built 11 years earlier with 30 helicopter loads of supplies, in good shape. The setting was spectacular. The best surprise: 20 acres of imposing old-growth forest, with mountain hemlock approaching four feet in diameter.

According to the 1903 mineral survey and plat, the current cabin is not the first. At the time of the original survey,

a 12'x16' cabin had a value of \$200. The northern part of the property, designated the Mt. Vernon Lode and the southern part the Jumbo Lode, was transferred from the United States to Hamline B. Williams in 1906 by a patent that was signed by President Theodore Roosevelt. In July of 2000, it was deeded to Doug Walker. Doug will donate a very restrictive conservation easement to the Land Trust, ensuring that the Mt. Vernon Lode and the Jumbo Lode remain only a romantic part of our history and never become real gold mines.

We deeply appreciate Doug's generosity and foresight in undertaking this transaction at the request of the

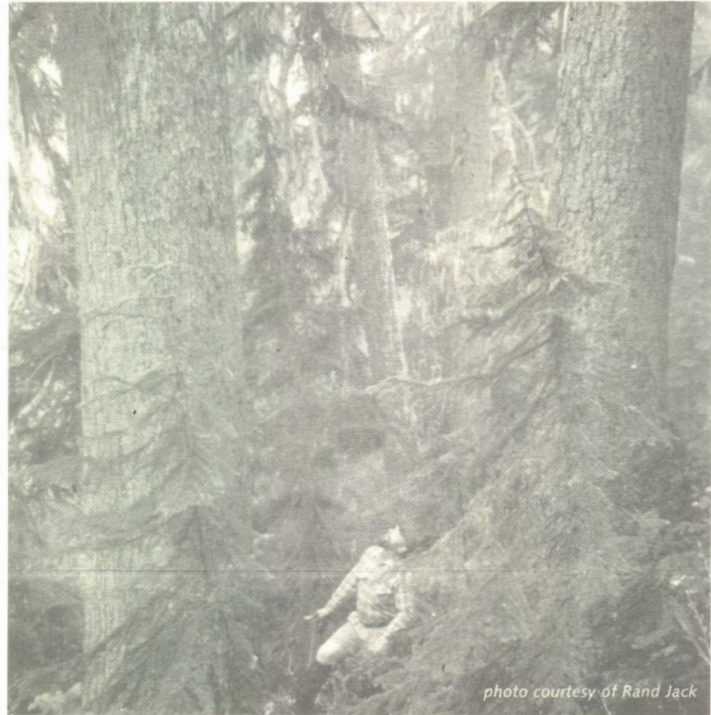


photo courtesy of Rand Jack

Conservation Director Gordon Scott admires old-growth Mountain Hemlock at the Goat Mountain site.

Land Trust. We also thank Tim Lloyd of RE/MAX Realty and Jan Owen of Mt. Baker Properties for donating part of their commissions to make the transaction possible. This is the first time the Land Trust has found a conservation buyer and saved a wilderness in-holding!

*Doug Walker is a founding partner and CEO of WRQ, a Seattle manufacturer of software to link businesses to the Internet. WRQ has over 8 million users worldwide, including over half of the Fortune 500 companies. For the past two years, Fortune has recognized WRQ as one of the "100 Best Companies to Work For in America," and it has been identified by an industry newsletter as one of the top 20 personal computer software companies in the U.S.*

*Doug is on the state board of The Nature Conservancy, which honored him with the Oak Leaf award for long-term volunteer service. He also serves on the Governing Council of the Wilderness Society and is active in causes devoted to helping abused children. Doug's personal commitments are mirrored in the way he runs WRQ, where employees are encouraged to do volunteer work on company time.*



## New Brochure & Display Make Their Debut

They've arrived! Board member Rod Burton of Roderick C. Burton - Art & Design volunteered his professional graphic design services to create striking and informative new outreach materials for us. Do you have a community event coming up where beautiful brochures or a stunning exhibit about Whatcom Land Trust could be of use? Just call us and we'll set you up with everything you need! You can reach our office at 650-9470.

## Computers Lovingly Tended by Member Volunteers

Members Jim Hildt of CompuHealth NW and Dr. Greg Brown have logged many volunteer hours in the Land Trust office, pushing, prodding and nudging our computers into shape.

Jim has worked extensively to help us set-up and network printers, enable one-step CD back-up of important files, and troubleshoot various aspects of an ailing machine, which he is currently helping us replace. He has graciously worked the Land Trust into his-busy schedule many, many times.

Greg is our on-call Access database guy, offering advice over the phone to our Office Manager, as well as working with her one-on-one to implement a variety of significant improvements. His work has greatly improved the accuracy and efficiency of our record-keeping system, and more is on the horizon.

## Russ Pfeiffer-Hoyt: Volunteer of Many Talents

Thank you to Russ Pfeiffer-Hoyt, who recently led a tour of the Nisset Farm for major donors to our 1999 fund-raising campaign, built bridges up at Canyon Lake Creek Community Forest (see story on page 10) and contributed to this issue of *The Steward*. Russ is a talented, committed individual, an asset to the Land Trust and our community.

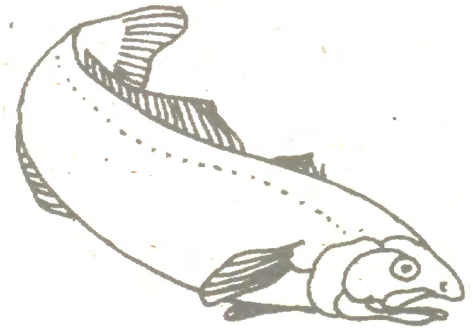
# State Grant Helps Land Trust Protect Habitat of Endangered Salmon

By Gordon Scott

Salmon recovery efforts on the South Fork Nooksack got a big boost this summer with the acquisition of 155 acres of habitat between Acme and Saxon. Using a grant from the Washington State Salmon Recovery Funding Board, we purchased two tracts of riverfront property that contain wetlands, streamside forests, quiet side channels and spawning beds. These new conservation sites increase the area of protected land to 758 acres on the South Fork, covering nearly 6 miles of riverfront.

Protection of sensitive habitat is vital to the recovery of Chinook salmon in the South Fork Nooksack. Acquisition of habitat lands is a cost-effective way to help endangered salmon. While new regulations may make it more difficult to develop sensitive lands, acquisition of habitat proves cheaper and more effective in the long run. For some properties in the Nooksack River floodplain, habitat preservation may truly be the highest and best use.

Restoration work has begun on the newly acquired properties. Lummi Natural Resource crews will be planting conifer seedlings along a riverbank eroded by past flooding. A Nooksack



Salmon Enhancement Association (NSEA) technical assessment team has been surveying habitat elements and large woody debris in the South Fork. This information will be used to plan and coordinate future restoration work in the Acme-Saxon reach.

We thank our partners in this project: Jim Hansen of Lummi Natural Resources and Bruce Barbour of the Washington State Department of Ecology. George Boggs of the Whatcom Conservation District and John Thompson of the Whatcom County Water Resources Department were also helpful in navigating us through the grant process. We particularly thank the property owners who agreed to work with us on this project: Lawson Curtis and Kenny and Corrine Roos. Without their patience, we would not have completed these important transactions.

***The Mission of the Whatcom Land Trust is to preserve and protect wildlife habitat, scenic, agricultural and open space lands in Whatcom County for future generations by securing interests in land and promoting land stewardship.***

Newsletter Editorial Team ..... Rod Burton, Jessica Raley  
Design and Layout ..... Donated by Roderick C. Burton - Art & Design  
Contributors to this issue ... Rand Jack, Bob Keller, Gordon Scott, Jessica Raley,  
Amy Trebon Frazier, Russ Pfeiffer-Hoyt, Laura Pitts



# Patricia Otto: Land Steward of the Year

By Amy Trebon Frazier

*continued from page 12*

a program to install and maintain nest boxes on private lands. Our chosen Land Steward of the Year fits the criteria precisely: someone who, year after year, has been a dedicated volunteer, preserving and protecting land in Whatcom County.

Patricia's earliest mentor was her mother, Lorrie Otto. Lorrie's keen interest in wildflowers and birds was tended and passed on during Sunday walks in the 20-acre woods and meadow near the family home. Lorrie's later work as an environmental activist, first toward banning DDT, and more recently as an advocate for natural landscaping, has earned her a national reputation.

Ten years ago, when Patricia sought to purchase land, she looked for acreage with diverse ecological niches and potential for varied wildlife habitat. The land she purchased began as 85 acres of second growth forest, approximately five acres of pasture, steep-sided irrigation ponds, non-native plants and grasses, and two streams flanked by invasive reed canary grass. Ten years later, the forest is full of bird nesting boxes; the pasture is prairie; the ponds are gradually sloped, one a shallow marsh; the plants, shrubs and grasses are native, riparian, and planted with wildlife in mind; and the canary grass has been replaced with native trees and riparian shrubs.

Native birds and animals have responded favorably to Patricia's stewardship. They made her home theirs, re-shaping habitat in the process. Here beaver and muskrat transform the stream, the native birds, fish and amphibians alter the forest and ponds, all changing the life cycle and food chain. Patricia realizes "I'm not in charge at all." However, her on-going efforts reflect a belief that human management of native ecosystems has become necessary in preserving them. Invasive, non-native species like starlings, bullfrogs, weeds, and even cats and dogs, pose a continuous threat to native plants and animals. Time off from work as a local physician is spent tending the small Garden of Eden she helped make, and expanding her efforts into the wider county.

Along with her friend Veronica

Wisniewski, Patricia meets with property owners to tour their land, making suggestions for enhancing wildlife habitat. Recommendations might include putting up nest boxes (which she and Veronica install and maintain), planting native vegetation, and restoration on a scale the owner can manage. Patricia finds her optimism about the future of native habitat in Whatcom County enhanced by these encounters with private property owners who care deeply about the future of their land.

Patricia Otto's work serves as a model. Thinking seven generations ahead, she has learned that every human action has consequences, good and bad, and that change is constant. With a happy and supportive grin, she urges us all not to separate, but attend the whole of the rich interconnected web of life that is Whatcom County's heritage.

## Whatcom Land Trust: By the Numbers

Keep your eye on this box. Your membership is the reason for our success.

*Acres protected since 1984: over 5,600*

*Acres of public parkland created: over 3,000*

*Acres of old-growth forest protected: 738*

*Acres of salmon, eagle and elk habitat protected: nearly 1,000*

*Acres of farmland protected: over 230*

*Acres of tidelands, wetlands and beaches protected: 72*

*Number of current members: 419*

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*"We cannot build our way out of sprawl. Building new roads will not solve our traffic problems — just as buying bigger pants will not help us lose weight"*

—Daniel Silverman

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# Volunteer Opportunities

## Position Title: **Marketing Assistant**

Supervisor/Contact: Bob Keller

Phone: 734-9641 /650-9470

Time Commitment Desired: 10 hours a month for 6 to 9 months

Position Description: *Contact local businesses, organizations and other possible vendors to encourage them to sell Whatcom Places books and notecards. The position requires a car, as well as some experience in promotion and advertising. Expenses are reimbursed.*

## Position Title: **Newsletter Ad Coordinator**

Supervisor/Contact: Bob Keller

Phone: 734-9641/650-9470

Time Commitment Desired: 10 hours a month for 6 to 9 months

Position Description: *Confirm contracts with existing advertisers in Whatcom Land Trust's newsletter "The Steward," as well as help recruit new advertisers to help sponsor the newsletter.*

## Position Title: **Fund Raising Assistant**

Supervisor/Contact: Bob Keller

Phone: 734-9641/650-9470

Time Commitment Desired: 10 hours a month for 3 months

Position Description: *Help recruit new businesses to join existing Business Partner program, which partially funds Whatcom Land Trust operations. Some sales experience helpful.*

## Position Title: **Ambassadors**

Supervisor/Contact: Aurora Fox

Phone: 733-1531

Time Commitment Desired: Variable

Position Description: *Meet the public at community events, bringing information about Whatcom Land Trust, conservation and land stewardship. Speak at service clubs and small community gatherings about the work of the Trust and what individuals can do to preserve the land.*

## Position Title: **Writers and Editors**

Supervisor/Contact: Outreach Committee

Phone: 650-9470

Time Commitment Desired: About 2 hours a month on an on-call basis for 1 year

Position Description: *Will draft text for newsletter articles and outreach materials. Will read staff and Board prepared materials as editors. Background in journalism, public relations or marketing desired.*

## Position Title: **Photographers**

Supervisor/Contact: Outreach Committee

Phone: 650-9470

Time Commitment Desired: About 2 hours a month on an on-call basis for 1 year

Position Description: *On-call for press events and assignments for outreach materials and newsletter. Background in black and white and color photography. Submit an informal portfolio for consideration.*



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*Your help is needed! If you have any questions about these volunteer positions, please call the contact number listed, or call our office at 650-9470. If you have ideas for volunteering that aren't listed, we'd love you to share them with us.*

Position Title: **Party and Event Planners**

Supervisor/Contact: Outreach Committee

Phone: 650-9470

Time Commitment Desired: 10 - 20 hours a year on an on-call basis

Position Description: *Assist with planning, invitations and production of Whatcom Land Trust celebrations and other events. Team players who can creatively solve problems and love having fun are needed most.*

Position Title: **Neighborhood Publicity Folks**

Supervisor/Contact: Outreach Committee

Phone: 650-9470

Time Commitment Desired: 2 hours a month for 1 year

Position Description: *Develop and implement plan to distribute Whatcom Land Trust membership materials to key gathering spots in area of residence. Puts up posters, distributes brochures, etc. Must have a car and be willing to use it! Expenses are reimbursed.*

Position Title: **Property Tour Volunteers**

Supervisor/Contact: Outreach Committee

Phone: 650-9470

Time Commitment Desired: 4 hours a month for 1 year

Position Description: *Will be trained by experienced naturalists and Whatcom Land Trust Board and staff to lead hikes and tours of Whatcom Land Trust properties. Experience leading groups and talking with people about the natural world is desired. Will work in pairs.*

Position Title: **Youth Educators**

Supervisor/Contact: Wendy Walker

Phone: 650-3504

Time Commitment Desired: Variable

Position Description: *Outgoing folks are needed who want to share Whatcom Land Trust's message of stewardship in action with youth. Opportunity to help plan the Youth Outreach Program, as well as work with students. Will work in pairs. Background in education helpful but not necessary.*

Position Title: **Clean-up Crew Members**

Supervisor/Contact: Gordon Scott

Phone: 650-9470

Time Commitment Desired: On-call project basis

Position Description: *People are needed to spend 1/2 to full day picking up trash, pulling weeds and performing other minor property management tasks on some of the most beautiful land in Whatcom County.*

Position Title: **Auto Wreckers**

Supervisor/Contact: Gordon Scott Phone: 650-9470

Time Commitment Desired: Two months or until done

Position Description: *Responsible for facilitating the removal of 100+ junk vehicles from a Whatcom Land Trust property. Includes tracking down vehicle titles, arranging for legal and safe removal and disposal of vehicles according to all applicable laws. Large portion of research has already been completed!*

Position Title: **Mailing Assistants**

Supervisor/Contact: Jessica Raley Phone: 650-9470

Time Commitment Desired: Variable, on-call basis


Position Description: *Help label, fold, sort and stuff newsletter and fund-raising mailings. Snacks provided.*

Position Title: **Website Maintenance**

Supervisor/Contact: Jessica Raley Phone: 650-9470

Time Commitment Desired: Variable, 6-12 months

Position Description: *Update and maintain our website. Web experience and proofreading skills required.*

Susan Holman Kartman A.I.A.		360-738-3499 fax 738-2925 810 16th St. Bellingham Washington 98225
<b>ARCHITECT &amp; Associates</b>		



# Some of those who helped create the Deming Homestead Eagle Park

Thank you  
benches  
Local sup



photo: Bob Keller

**Jeff and Amy Margolis**  
**Everybody's Store**

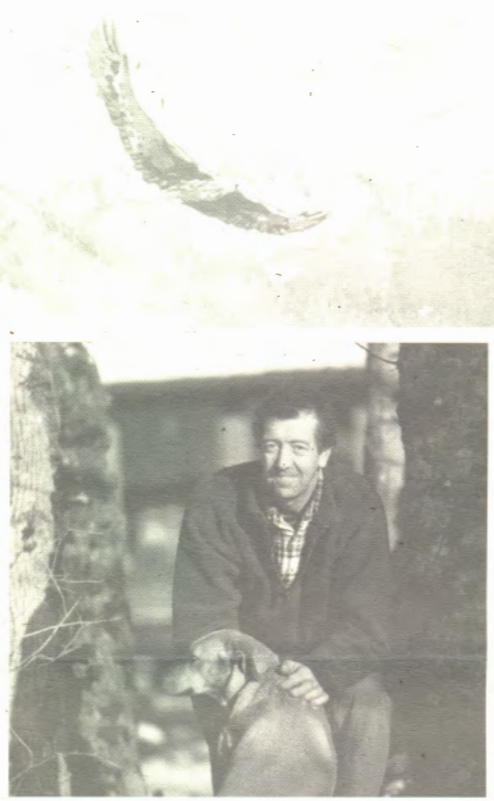


photo: Ann Yow

**Kerry Thalhofer**  
**EcoLog**



**Jim Brown**  
**Cascade**

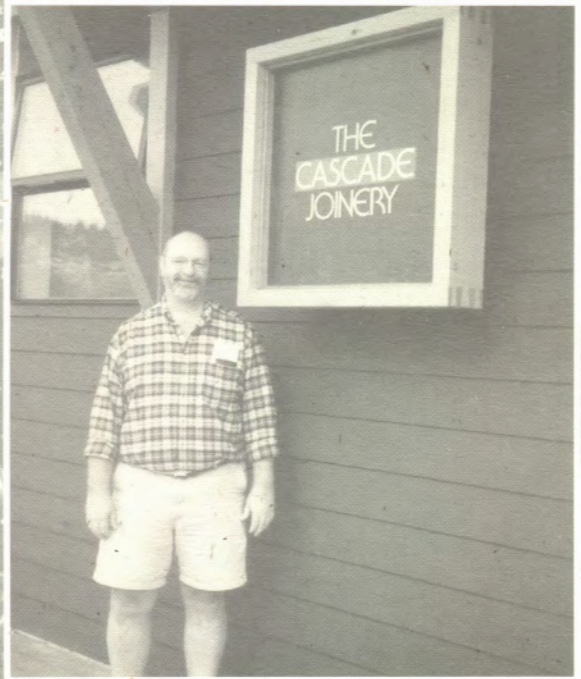


photo: Jessica Raley

**Jeff Arvin**  
**The Cascade Joinery**

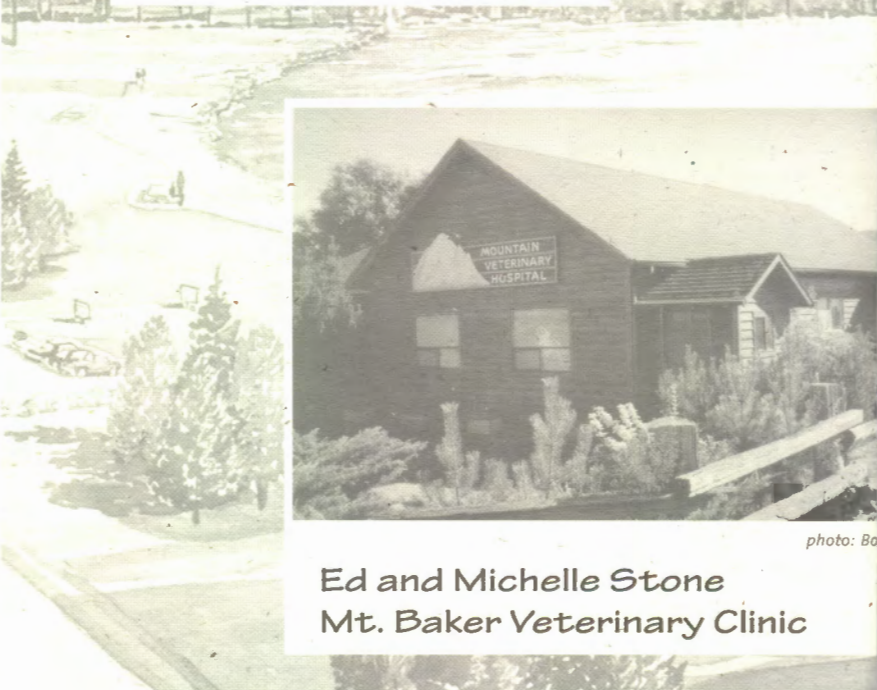


photo: Bob

**Ed and Michelle Stone**  
**Mt. Baker Veterinary Clinic**



to the many local businesses and individuals who donated signs,  
and tables to equip the Deming Homestead Eagle Park.  
Support for local projects is what we're all about. Thanks again!

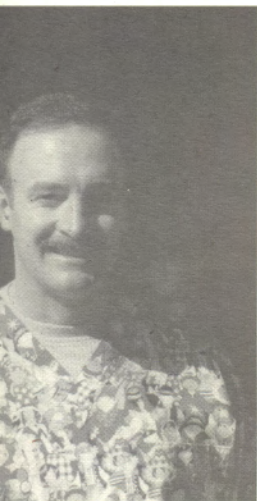
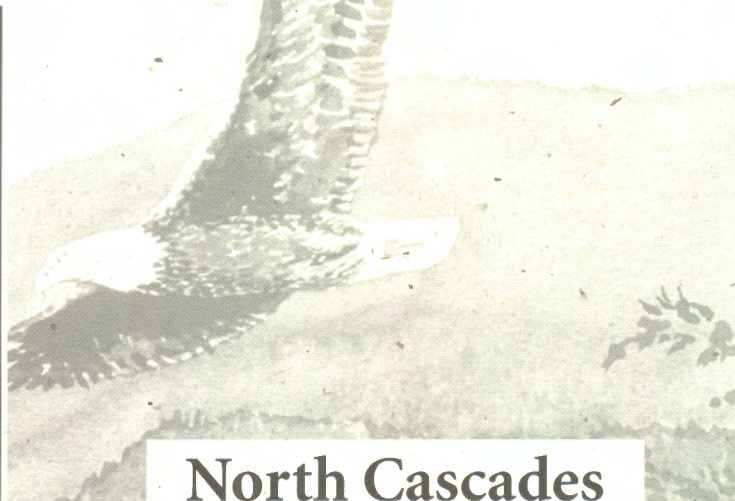


photo: Bob Keller

Dental Care



# North Cascades Audubon Society



photo courtesy of Paul Mueller

Paul and Ann Hanson  
In memory of Elizabeth  
"Betty" Mueller (pictured above)

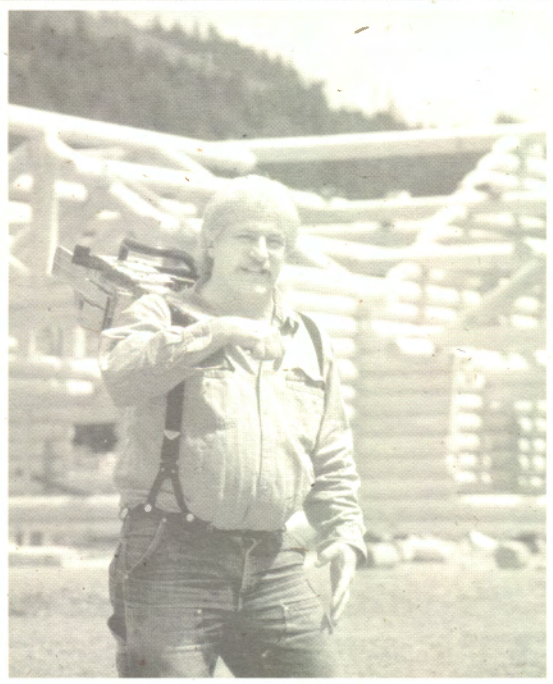


photo: Martin Waidelich, courtesy of Business Pulse

Jim Maushak  
True Log Homes



photo: Bob Keller

Rich and Susan Kimball  
Mt. Baker Auto

Illustration courtesy of Rick Muller



# Loyal Members Find A Wise Investment

By Bob Keller

In the fall of 1989, when the Land Trust made one of its first fund-raising appeals, we received 20 donations. This year that number will total nearly 400.

The astonishing fact about the 1989 list is that at least 14 of those 20 donors remain among the 400: Marge Laidlaw, Harriet Spanel, Paul Schissler, Sue Willis, Sharon Digby (now President of the Board), Dan Lerner, Michael Frome, Dan and Janet Taylor, Pete Kremen, Rob and Kari Galbraith, Sylvia Thorpe, Joe and Phyllis Entrikin, Darlene McLeod, Cindy Klein (long-

time Board member), and Patricia Otto (2000 Land Steward of the Year).

*Thank you, Land Trust pioneers! Your loyalty is a major reason we now have over 400 members and over 50 conserved properties.*

Why do people consistently support the Land Trust over so many years? My guess:

First and foremost, they believe in what we are doing and how we do it - the voluntary conservation of land and resources.

Second, the results of their giving are positive, active, local and tangible.

You can see Clarks Point. You can picnic at Teddy Bear Cove. You can watch eagles on the North Fork. You can walk around Squires Lake. You can wade at Pt. Roberts. Your conservation dollars pay for specific sites, views, and wildlife habitat.

Third, we don't waste money. Overhead is kept low, with no amenities for staff or Board members.

Fourth, the Land Trust makes every effort to keep donors informed through our newsletter, annual report, annual meeting and the media. Whenever you have a question or comment,

## Land Trust Shaping Whatcom County, One Property, One Land-Owner at a Time

By Russ Pfeiffer-Hoyt

A conservation easement is a powerful tool to protect the qualities that we value in our land. Many landowners have a strong attachment to the land. We may spend years nurturing the land, only to have that work torn apart by a future generation. Whatcom Land Trust provides landowners with the opportunity to choose long-term conservation as an option for their land, while still enabling them to retain ownership of their land and the ability to sell it or pass it on to heirs. With several highly visible conservation easements such as the

Miller Farm, Clarks Point, Canyon Lake Creek Community Forest and the Nessel Farm, the Land Trust has raised landowner awareness of conservation as an option for their land.

Without an organization such as the Land Trust, long-term conservation of land would hardly be possible. The Land Trust is dependable, accessible and responsive to landowners' special concerns. In my experience with the Nessel Farm, I think that without the Whatcom Land Trust it is unlikely that the farm would have been protected for

future generations of people and wildlife. I remember the big grin that Tom Nessel had when he signed their conservation easement, feeling secure that he had done what was necessary to see that the beauty of their special farm would be protected forever.

The heart and strength of the Land Trust is in the vision and hard work of its dedicated volunteers. When I look at the fruits of its work, I am grateful to all of you who have given your time to nurture this organization. The Land Trust is as solid as the people who

### Give the Gift of Preservation

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# Distinguished Conservator: Doug Clark

By Bob Keller

continued from page 12

just pick up the phone and talk to staff or board members. You can reach our office at (360) 650-9470 or me personally at (360) 734-9641.

Once again it's time to send that annual check. Or, if you've already sent in your membership contribution, thank you! Last year the membership response in numbers and dollars was the best ever. Let's break our record again. Without you, events like the opening of the Deming Homestead Eagle Park and Canyon Lake Creek Community Forest would never happen.

make it possible.

I hope that over time the land protected by conservation easements will not be an oasis in a sea of asphalt, but rather speak to that part in each of us that values the beauty that surrounds us. Many landowners will continue to be inspired to protect the future of their land with a conservation easement, but even for those who don't, the focus on conservation around them tends to raise awareness of stewardship. With 3,600 acres protected by conservation easements (with an additional 2,000 donated and purchased conservation acres), the Land Trust is shaping our county's landscape. Just as importantly, Whatcom Land Trust is shaping the way we think about our land.

Land Trust. Because of the Point's high visibility from Chuckanut Drive, and because of the eminence of the Clark family in the local community, this early, special gift greatly enhanced the credibility of the Land Trust. It was a breakthrough act of voluntary land conservation.

Doug, as a young man, left a short logging career during the Great Depression. He and his wife Peggy operated a popular grocery store in Bellingham for 25 years before they purchased 78 acres for a new waterfront home in 1958. After living there for 30 years - in a house that blends perfectly with its surroundings - they began to wonder what would happen to this special environment of waterfowl, deer, eagles, raccoons, fossils and old-growth trees. The Point could be platted into 120 building sites, bringing substantial monetary return

to them and their heirs. Or, it could be saved as a jewel, a remnant of how Bellingham Bay once appeared to Captain George Vancouver and pioneer Phoebe Judson - a visual refuge for humans and a real refuge for wildlife. After long consultation with Rand Jack and many family meetings, they decided to save it.

Clarks Point is a model of how the Land Trust would like the world to run: private landowners voluntarily requesting assistance to achieve their personal ideals about land, family, community and the future. We deeply admire Doug and Peggy Clark, and their children. Our organization, like all of Whatcom County, will be in their debt "in perpetuity."

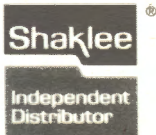
For this story in Doug's own words, see the interview in our book *Whatcom Places*, page 71.

*"In the end our society will be defined not only by what we create, but by what we refuse to destroy."*

—John Sawhill

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# Progress on Trails at Canyon Lake Creek Community Forest

By Rand Jack

The Canyon Lake Creek Community Forest is being transformed from a commercial to a conservation forest. Through the generous support of Crown Pacific and its Regional Manager Russ Paul, the road between the lake and the ancient forest has been decommissioned and prepared for its future role as a trail, the work done with care by K.W. Enterprises. When I thanked the bulldozer operator for artfully placing boulders in the road to help speed the transition, he replied, "I figured that if I ever walked up here, I would want to have something to lean against while I had my heart attack."

In place of excavated culverts, Russ Pfeiffer-Hoyt, with his crew of daughter Karen and Eric Carabba, are installing sturdy wooden footbridges. Thanks to the salesmanship of Bob Keller, the seven bridges were donated by the *Bellingham Herald*, Brett & Daugert, Bill and Jeanne Carroll, Dr. and Mrs.



photo: Rand Jack

Russ Pfeiffer-Hoyt and his daughter Karen begin to install one of the seven bridges on the Canyon Lake Creek Community Forest trail.

Robert Hamilton, Morse Distribution, Inc., REI and Tosco Refinery. We very much appreciate the support of those who bought bridges in the Community Forest, but want to warn everyone that if Bob tries to sell you a bridge in

Brooklyn, it is not a Land Trust project!

For information about trail access and openings, in Spring 2001 contact Whatcom County Parks and Recreation at (360) 733-2900.

## Thank You to Celebration Provisioners

We want to thank those who provided the wonderful food, and the accessories, that helped make our annual celebration such a great success. Thanks too, to all those volunteers who worked to make it happen, and those who brought potluck dishes to share.

*Joe's Garden; for the sweet corn*

*Bornstein's Seafood; for scrumptious salmon*

*Cloud Mountain Farm; for awesome Akane apples*

*Master Rentals; for chairs, tables and shelter*

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# Community Corner

## Membership Update: We're Growing

Neighborhood gatherings and personal parties spark a wave of growth, and set the pace for an exciting year of community outreach. This summer we welcomed nearly 40 new members to Whatcom Land Trust.

## Fairhaven Gathering of Neighbors

On Wednesday evening, August 16th, 35 people had a great time thanks to local Land Trust members who hosted a neighborhood gathering. Attractions included: colorful displays; an entertaining quiz about conservation in the Fairhaven neighborhood and Whatcom County; prizes from Fairhaven businesses; slide presentations on the history - and future - of the Land Trust by Conservation Director, Gordon Scott, and Membership Coordinator, Laura Pitts; and delicious homemade desserts. All those who attended expressed their support for the Land Trust, and quite a few became actively involved as members and volunteers that very night!

Prizes for the drawing were generously donated by Village Books, Stanello's Restaurant, Fairhaven Massage and Brenthaven. Thanks to Bob Keller for his energy, initiative and hard work in masterminding the event, and to member hosts Jan Adams, Jeff Arvin, Migo and Vince Biciunas, Pat Karlberg, Paul Schissler, Carl and Janet Simpson and Sue Willis for a wonderful time!

Sound like fun? Laura, Gordon and Outreach Committee volunteers would love to help you host a gathering - small or large - in your neighborhood. Just call us for details: 650-9740.

## Happy Birthday!

Two Whatcom Land Trust members celebrated their birthdays by saving the land this summer: Wendy Walker and Rod Burton encouraged their friends and family to become members of the Land Trust in lieu of giving presents this year, marking the special occasion in a way that benefits us all.

As one Land Trust member said: "It's like getting and giving many gifts all at once: you (the birthday celebrant) get the present of knowing that the future will be brighter. Your friends know exactly what you want for your birthday, and they get tangible, local conservation in return with their membership. It's a gift that keeps on giving!"

If you'd like to make the Land Trust a part of your next celebration, give us a call at 650-9740. We'll support you in planning and provide all the necessary Land Trust materials to complement your occasion.

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# Land Steward of the Year and Distinguished Conservator Honored at Annual Celebration

## Patricia Otto

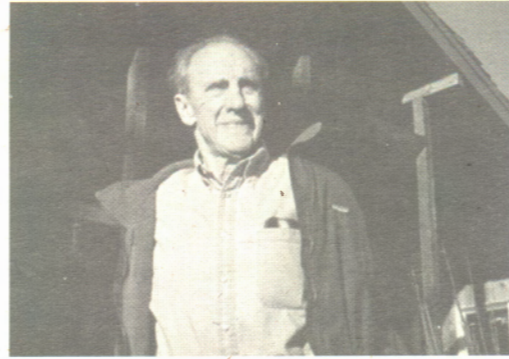


*photo courtesy of Patricia Otto*

Patricia Otto manages a property with a purpose. She has devoted the past ten years to reshaping 90 acres near Lake Whatcom, restoring habitat for Northwest native plants and animals. If, asked who owns her property, she might include a lengthy list of birds, butterflies, insects, plants, amphibians, fish and mammals. And she has taken her restorative efforts countywide, co-facilitating

*continued on page 3*

## Doug Clark



*photo: Jonathan Duncan*

When we accepted a conservation easement on Clarks Point at the north end of Chuckanut Bay, it was a crucial, watershed event in the early history of Whatcom

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