

HERITAGE LETTER

Fall 2013

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125 Acres Protected – For the Sake of the Land

Protecting her spectacular 125 acre property with a conservation easement comes naturally to Nancy Burnett. It is an obvious way for her to guarantee that the open fields, majestic forest and intimate wetland areas on her land will always be a sanctuary for ravens, owls, coyotes, frogs and the native plants and mushrooms that live there.

In Nancy's words, she wants to protect her property "for the sake of the land." Like other landowners, she has a deep connection to her land and appreciates how important undeveloped land will be in the future for clean air and water, fresh food, plant and wildlife habitat, and the simple beauty and solace that nature gives.

Under current zoning, the property could be divided into 25 home sites. The Heritage Trust is working with Nancy to create a conservation easement that will limit development to two houses and a barn located in a small defined building area. The remaining forest, fields and wetland will be managed for plant and wildlife habitat. For the sake of the land, the property will never be subdivided or clear-cut, but will remain as an open natural area – forever.

A conservation easement is a common way to protect private land. It is a legal agreement between a landowner and the Heritage Trust that permanently limits uses of the land in order to protect its conservation values. A conservation



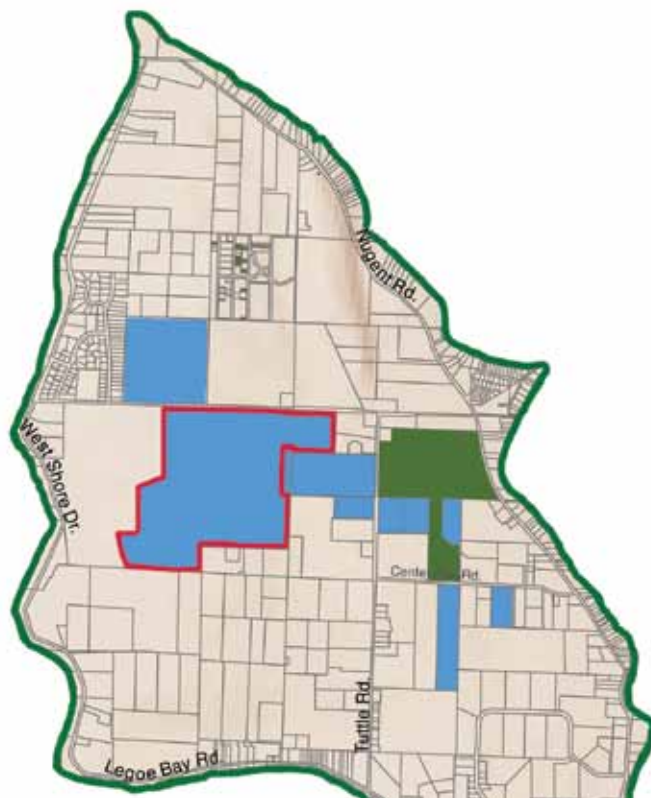
Burnett conservation easement property.

photo by Tom Lutz

easement allows landowners to continue to own and use their land. They can sell it or pass it on to their heirs, and the future owners will also be bound by the terms of the conservation easement. Additionally, a conservation easement donation may qualify as a charitable tax deduction.

When a conservation easement is completed, the Heritage Trust is then committed to making sure that the terms of the easement are followed and that the donor's wishes are always upheld.

We are extremely grateful to Nancy and the sixteen other individuals and families who are *Preserving the Nature of Lummi Island* by protecting their land with conservation easements. Thank you! 🌿



Lummi Island north end protected properties.

- BURNETT CONSERVATION EASEMENT
- PRIVATE CONSERVATION EASEMENTS
- HERITAGE TRUST CURRY PRESERVE



Burnett conservation easement property.

photo by Tom Lutz

An Award for Excellence and Permanence

We are very pleased to report that Lummi Island Heritage Trust was recently awarded accredited status by the independent Land Trust Accreditation Commission.

Following over 18 months of preparation, the Commission conducted a detailed external review of our organization. We were well prepared and confident of the quality of our work, but the reviewers' inspection and questioning were nevertheless nerve wracking.

Our efforts were well rewarded. The Trust's attention to detail and permanence was good in 1998, when we completed our first transaction, and our practices have only improved over 15 years of *Preserving the Nature of Lummi Island*. We are extremely proud of the positive outcome of our review.

The Heritage Trust may now display the seal of accreditation, a mark of distinction in land conservation that lets the public know we have undergone an extensive, external review of the governance and management of our organization, and that the systems and policies we use to protect land meet national standards for excellence, uphold the public trust and ensure that our conservation efforts are permanent.

Board member Peter Hodges sums it up well stating, "Achieving accreditation has been a challenging undertaking that has unified our board and made us a stronger organization. Accreditation assures everyone who supports the Heritage Trust that the conservation work we're doing today on Lummi Island is truly everlasting." 🌿



Giving Beyond Our Lifetime

People who make donations to charitable organizations during their lifetime can continue their giving after their life has ended. Bob Fodor was one of those committed people and we are deeply grateful for his recent bequest to the Heritage Trust.

Bob had been a stalwart supporter of the Trust, ever since he and his wife Thurid Clark became early members during the Trust's infancy. During his lifetime, Bob was dedicated to *Preserving the Nature of Lummi Island*. Now, his legacy gift provides ongoing support into the future.

Bob was always quick to offer encouragement and insights about land protection projects. He was eager to pitch in to maintain trails, pull weeds, or address envelopes for a mailing. Together Bob and Thurid were instrumental in the creation of our Community Garden project at the Curry Preserve. Bob was a firm believer in the importance of open spaces and natural areas for our island community.

We hope Bob Fodor's bequest can serve as an example and inspire you to consider including the Heritage Trust in your estate planning.



Bob Fodor photo by Turid Clark

There are many ways that you can leave a legacy gift. You can make a significant gift for the future, without giving up control of your assets during your lifetime, through a simple bequest to Lummi Island Heritage Trust in your will or living trust. Assets given in a bequest might include cash, stocks, bonds, or real estate. Other legacy gift options include naming the Heritage Trust as a beneficiary of your IRA, qualified retirement plan, or life insurance policy. In addition, you could establish a charitable trust or charitable annuity, which allows you to reduce your tax liability while producing a predictable income during your lifetime.

For more information about giving beyond your lifetime and the lasting impact a legacy gift can make, please call Rebecca Rettmer at the Heritage Trust office, 360-758-7997, or visit our website. If you have already included the Heritage Trust in your estate planning, please let us know so that we can thank you during your lifetime. 🌿

IRA Rollover – A Gift Opportunity for 2013

If you are 70½ years of age or older, the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 allows you to make direct contributions up to \$100,000 from your traditional Individual Retirement Account (IRA) or Roth IRA to a charitable organization, like the Heritage Trust, without having to pay income tax on the money. Gifting funds directly from your IRA is one of the most tax beneficial means of charitable giving. This tax incentive is set to expire soon. To make an IRA rollover gift, contact your IRA administrator and request a direct distribution to Lummi Island Heritage Trust before December 31, 2013.

Honorary & Memorial Gifts

Memorial Gifts

In memory of Frank Adema
Bill Moyer

In memory of Kumar Chavre'
JoAnn Chavre'

In memory of Bob Fodor

Alice Clayton
& Scott Blanchard
Curry Preserve Community
Gardeners

Janice Holmes & Dave Thorn
Island Healing Arts

Chris Morton & Megan Crouse
Bert Sagara & Rebecca Rettmer

In memory of Joanne Hammerberg
Ann Morris

In memory of Carl & Polly Hanson
Elizabeth Kilanowski
& Bert Rubash
Meredith Moench

In memory of Enar Magnuson
John & Sheri Nalivka

In memory of Gina Marshall
Al & Sheila Marshall

In memory of Mary & Win Shornik
Catherine Shornik

Honorary Gifts

In honor of Caroline Brown
Colin & Patricia Cary

In honor of Christopher Chow
& Dan Thane
John & Nanette Latham

In honor of Di Kegeles
& Cheryl Bachus
Chris Morton & Megan Crouse

In honor of Bill Moyer
Dr. Edwin F. Casebeer

In honor of Joan & Mike Moyer
Dr. Edwin F. Casebeer

In honor of Steve Schneider
& Michele Morrissey
Ruth & Bob Meyer



This list represents memorial and honorary gifts received January – August 2013. If you discover that we have made an error, please contact our office, 360-758-7997 or info@liht.org, so that we may make the correction. Thank you.

Hands on the Land – Caring for Our Nature Preserves

Over the last 15 years, islanders have helped the Heritage Trust protect 853 acres of the island's forests, fields, wetlands and shoreline. The Otto Preserve, Curry Preserve and Baker Preserve comprise 285 of those acres. Many people visit the preserves every day to appreciate nature.



Land Stewards at the Otto Preserve. photo by GuruBani Khalsa

But, protected lands do not take care of themselves they need your help. Fields need mowing, invasive weeds take over, signs fall down, windstorms topple trees, orchards

need tending, rains wash out trails, and buildings require cleaning and repair.

Our Volunteer Land Steward Program is for anyone who wants to pitch in to help the Heritage Trust take care of these community treasures.

As a Land Steward, you volunteer your time, muscle, tools and equipment to improve, restore and maintain the Trust's nature preserves and buildings. You help look after the preserves by making visits, observing areas that need attention, reporting your findings, and joining in work parties with other volunteers. Land Stewards have flexible work party schedules and you can participate in any season as your time allows.

Land Stewards work hard and have fun! For more information or to sign up, please call Joan Moye at 360-758-2178 or the Heritage Trust office at 360-758-7997. Your "Hands on the Land" are greatly appreciated. 🌿

The Magic and Mystery of Owls by Buff Lapof

What makes owls so fascinating? Like other birds of prey, owls have powerful, sharp talons and a hooked bill. But owls have some other very specific features that make them unique. Because an owl has binocular vision and its eyes face forward, it must turn its whole head to look sideways. It's the exceptionally long and flexible neck that enables an owl to turn its head a full 180 degrees. The owl's head-turning makes them seem very personal to us as they watch us when we encounter them.

Owls' ears, like ours, are on the sides of their heads, but they have large, asymmetrical ear openings. One ear is located higher than the other, which allows owls to locate their prey with absolute precision. The saucer-shaped disks of feathers surrounding the eyes of most owls deflect sounds into the vast ear openings that lie beneath the feathers. Owls also have softened edges on their flight feathers that allow them to fly in silence. This silent flight, combined with their

specialized eyes and ears, is essential for hunting in the dark.

The protected forest and fields on Lummi Island provide vital owl habitats. We are fortunate to often hear and sometimes see the resident Great Horned owl, Barred owl and Barn owl. Snowy and Long-eared owls have visited the island in recent years, but the Western Screech owl and Saw-Whet owls mysteriously seem to no longer thrive on the island.



Barred Owl photo by Victor Burgett

To learn more about our island owls and others that occasionally visit, stop by the Resource Center or research owl characteristics and vocalizations in your favorite bird books or on the internet. Discover the magic and mystery of owls right here on Lummi Island! 🌿

15 Years of Preserving the Nature of Lummi Island

On our 15th anniversary we pause to celebrate the accumulated successes of the Heritage Trust, knowing that none would have been possible without the extraordinary support of you, our dedicated, committed donors. We are deeply grateful. Thank you. Together we have accomplished much in realizing our mission:

To create a legacy of abundant open space, native habitat and natural resources on Lummi Island by inspiring people to protect and care for the island's farms, forests, wetlands and undeveloped shorelines - forever.



3 NATURE PRESERVES
853 PROTECTED ACRES
 235 Volunteers
 157 donors
 451 Staff
 7 Otto Loop Trail
 29 board members
 152 tree and plant species
 Baker Trail
 189 mushroom species
1 IRREPLACEABLE ISLAND

Curry Garden
192 bird species
Hay Barn Trail
Betty's Shortcut
16 conservation easements
Walden
Woods



Photos: Victor Burgett, John Kashiwabara, Dana Kershner, Richard Kessler, GuruBani Khalsa, Ed Lowe, Dal Neitzel and Bert Sagara.

Looking forward, the Heritage Trust will continue to preserve land, connect people to the lands we protect, and foster a land conservation ethic on Lummi Island that will be our legacy to future generations. Please join us as we continue *Preserving the Nature of Lummi Island*.



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In this issue . . .

- ❖ For the Sake of the Land
- ❖ An Award for Excellence & Permanence
- ❖ Legacy Giving
- ❖ News from the Preserves
- ❖ 15 Years of Island Conservation

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NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS

Donate Your Old or Unused Vehicle

You can donate all sorts of vehicles to Lummi Island Heritage Trust – cars, trucks, vans, motorcycles, boats, trailers, and campers. Our non-profit partner, Donate for Charity, does all the legwork to pick up and sell your vehicle. You receive a tax-deductible contribution and the Trust receives a donation from the proceeds of the sale of your old vehicle. There are no out-of-pocket costs to you. Put your old, tired vehicle back to work *Preserving the Nature of Lummi Island*. Visit our website www.liht.org or call our office 360-758-7997 for more details.



The Perfect Holiday Gift

This year, consider making a donation to the Heritage Trust in honor of someone on your gift list. You will receive a beautiful, handmade gift card to give your recipient that announces the donation made in their

honor. Stop by the Heritage Trust booth during the Holiday Bazaar on December 7 at the Grange Hall, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm to purchase fresh wreaths, beeswax candles and our signature coffee, or to make honorary donations for your holiday gifts. For more information call 360-758-7997.

15th Anniversary Commemorative Poster

Local artists submitted 32 works of art during the recent Call to Artists. Our stunning commemorative poster showcases winning artist Ria Harboe’s painting, “Watchful Protectors.” The posters are available for sale at the Heritage Trust Resource Center or by calling 360-758-7997.

