

# HERITAGE LETTER

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## Why Bother?

Why bother? That is the important question that people ask when they learn the Heritage Trust is investigating the possibility of purchasing, protecting and restoring the 105 acre Lummi Island quarry property.

If you enjoy fishing and crabbing, this project would protect and restore 4,000 feet of Puget Sound shoreline. We have discovered that surf smelt and Pacific sand lance spawn in the tidelands, and migrating juvenile salmon need the shoreline as they travel and forage for food. Four pocket beaches and eelgrass beds are part of the property's shoreline. A recent study determined that pocket beaches are the most important type of habitat for the survival of juvenile salmon and herring.

If you value hearing and seeing the spring and fall birds that use Lummi Island forests and shorelines, this project will make sure critical rest stops and feeding areas are always available for migrating and resident birds.

If you like traveling by kayak or small boat on the waters around Lummi Island and would enjoy having a place to beach your boat and stretch your legs, this project could create a preserve for low impact public use.

If you believe that we all should do what we can to keep the waters of Puget Sound

clean and healthy, this project will have an impact that reaches beyond Lummi Island. We will be restoring a damaged shoreline, protecting salmon habitat, preventing polluted run off from



*Pocket beach on south side of Abner Point.*

Photo by Elizabeth Kilanowski

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reaching the water, and protecting what are still unharmed habitats.

In June 2013, a court-appointed Receiver took control of the property and is marketing it for expanded mining and residential development. The Heritage Trust views the property as an important natural area that is largely intact, with a 20 acre area mined area that is ready for restoration. We have made an offer, but do not have an agreement to purchase the property.



*Lummi Island quarry property from Hale Passage.*

Photo by Elizabeth Kilanowski



Photo by Google Earth

*Aerial view of 105 acre property showing Smugglers Cove, Abner Point and 20 acre quarry.*

So why bother? Our research has convinced us that the property deserves protection and restoration for future generations of fish, crabs, birds, plants and people. In the coming months, we will learn more about whether a project like this could be funded with grants and private donations, and whether we can reach an agreement to purchase the property.

Please contact us if you have comments or ideas about this potential project, and you can always show your support for the Heritage Trust's work by making a membership donation. Together, we are *Preserving the Nature of Lummi Island.* 🌿

## A Rare Group of Native Plants

In the higher, drier areas of the Baker Preserve, Douglas-fir trees grow in shallow soil with baldhip rose and oceanspray. This grouping of native plants is rare. Only twelve other sites in Washington have been documented. On a global level, the Natural Heritage Program ranks this grouping of plants as “vulnerable to imperiled.”

In July 2014, the Heritage Trust proudly accepted a certificate from the Washington State Department of Natural Resources



*Pene Speaks, Washington Department of Natural Resources (on the right), with Rebecca Rettmer and Kendra Schmiedeskamp of the Heritage Trust.*

recognizing the Baker Preserve in the Washington Register of Natural Area Preserves. Only places with the highest quality examples of native plants and animals are eligible for the registry.

Placement of the Baker Preserve in the register recognizes the dedication of Heritage Trust members to conserve and care for Lummi Island's very special places that are critical to the preservation of our natural heritage. 🌿

## Planning Ahead

The future of our beautiful island depends on the foresight and generosity of people who make planned gifts to the Heritage Trust by including the Trust in their estate plans.

A planned gift is a way for you to make a significant gift during your lifetime that will impact land conservation on Lummi even after your lifetime and for generations to come. Planned gifts are not just for people with a lot of wealth and can take many forms depending on your financial and personal goals.

Glenn Voyles and his family are longtime Heritage Trust supporters. They treasure time at their beach cabin on Lummi Island where they gather for summer vacations, rest, family time, and as much crabbing as humanly possible. Glenn has designated the Heritage Trust as a beneficiary of his IRA account, which is one of many ways to leave a planned gift.

Nancy Simmerman first started visiting Lummi Island when she was living in Alaska, drawn by our balmy winter weather. But she was also drawn by the peace and beauty of island life, something she hopes to foster by her planned gift to the Trust.

In 2002, Nancy donated a conservation easement on her property, which is adjacent to the Curry Preserve. Nancy's firm belief in the importance of open spaces and natural areas has also led her to include the

Heritage Trust in her will. She hopes that others will be inspired to do the same, whether their gift is large or small.

Planned gifts can take many forms to help you address your specific personal and financial goals. A planned gift allows you to leave a legacy that will reach far into the future. A planned gift is a term that covers a wide variety of charitable



Photo by Kendra Schmiedeskamp

*Nancy Simmerman in her studio.*

gifts such as wills and bequests, charitable trusts, or beneficiary designations on insurance and retirement plans. Planned giving also includes gifts of real estate, stocks and equities. A Planned Giving Bequest Information form is available on our website ([liht.org](http://liht.org)).

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. 🌿

## Memorial & Honorary Gifts

### Memorial Gifts

*In memory of Jean Fukuda*

David Shulman &  
Sam Friedlander

*In memory of John Rice*

Norborn Felton

*In memory of Larry Smith*

Bill Moye

*In memory of John Westgate*

Suzanne & Tim Lucy

*In memory of Mary Wray*

Mary & Richard Hormaechea  
Allan & Karen McFadden

### Honorary Gifts

*In honor of Lauren Christensen*

Ryan & Christina Jepperson

*In honor of John Hoffman*

Karen McMains

*In honor of Marvin Madsen*

Anne Madsen-Boydston

*In honor of Mike Moye*

Steve Schneider &  
Michele Morrissey

*In honor of Richard Newell*

Nancy & Victoria Newell

*In honor of Ian O'Callaghan*

Gerald Schroeder

*In honor of Archie Shaw*

Shaun Nelson

*In honor of Doug & Mary Smith*

Richard Swanson

*This list represents memorial and honorary gifts received January 1 – September 30, 2014. If you discover that we have made an error, please contact our office, 360-758-7997 or [info@liht.org](mailto:info@liht.org), so that we may make the correction. Thank you.*



LUMMI ISLAND  
HERITAGE TRUST

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# NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS

*Rewards*

Here is an easy way to support conservation on Lummi Island. Simply link your Fred Meyer rewards card to the Heritage Trust and, each time you shop Fred Meyer will make a donation to the Trust. Your privacy and account are secure, and this does not reduce your rewards benefits in any way. Use the button on our website to connect to the Fred Meyer Community Rewards site, or call or drop by the Trust's resource center at the Otto Preserve for assistance with the online process.



*A Milestone Property Sale*

In 2000, Marita Lindstrom placed a conservation easement on her land adjacent to the Otto Preserve. Now, fourteen years later, Marita's heirs have sold the property. This marks the first sale of a property on Lummi Island with an existing conservation easement. The Heritage Trust worked closely with the buyers,

Tonya Yoder and Amy Ebersole, to ensure that they clearly understood the terms of the conservation easement. In Tonya's words, "reading the easement inspired in me an even greater desire to be a steward to the vision of Marita and the Heritage Trust." Please join us in welcoming new island neighbors Tonya and Amy!

*Annual Meeting*

We are delighted that conservation biologist and award winning author, Dr. Thor Hanson, will join us at the Heritage Trust's Annual Meeting on January 31, 2015. In an increasingly urban world, Hanson believes that the storytelling of science can help us stay connected to nature. Plan on joining us to learn about "Feathers, Seeds and the Nature of Everyday."



*Thor Hanson*