

HERITAGE LETTER

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LUMMI ISLAND
HERITAGE TRUST

Campaign to Protect the Otto Preserve Wetland

An undisturbed, pristine wetland lies in the eastern portion of the Otto Preserve and extends onto some of the adjacent private lands. This place of tangled understory, soaking wet ground, and open water is not easily accessed by humans, but is home to wood ducks, warblers, salamanders, frogs, and other native wildlife and plants, as well as a vital groundwater resource for the island.

In 2007, Jeremy Robinson purchased the five acre property that shares two borders with the Otto Preserve. He dreamed of building a home surrounded by nature. Jeremy and his children, Ona, Nye and James spent summers cutting trails

and deciding where a home site would be.

Over time, Jeremy's life unfolded with new plans and he made the tough decision to sell his land. To market the property, he would need to install a road along the southern border – a road that would disrupt and damage the continuity of the Otto Preserve wetland and the surrounding plant and wildlife habitats.

Faced with the choice between conservation and money, Jeremy began talking to the Heritage Trust about purchasing his land to protect it forever. He says, "Dark clouds often have a silver lining, if you look for it. This

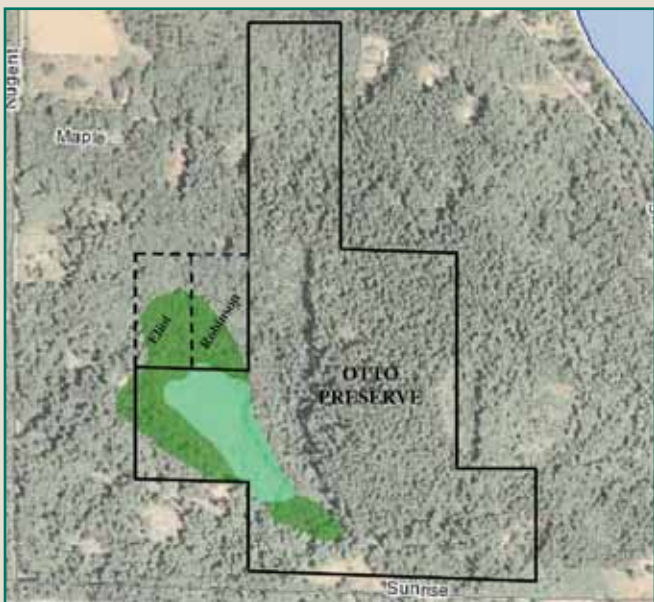
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Otto Preserve wetland showing project area at top center.

Photo by Bert Sagara

Campaign to Protect the Otto Preserve Wetland *(continued)*



Map showing Robinson and Eliot parcels in relation to the existing Otto Preserve. Wetland area is shown in green.

arrangement with the Heritage Trust is the silver lining for me. I look forward to returning to that land many times in the years to come, knowing that I helped to preserve it.”

Life also unfolded differently for neighboring landowner, Margaret Eliot. Margaret and her husband dreamed of sailing from the East Coast to the San Juan Islands, where they would build a retirement home on their Lummi Island property. Sadly, illness caused them to change their plans. When the Heritage Trust approached Margaret about her adjacent property, she was willing to sell her parcel to help protect the wetland and expand the Otto Preserve.



Barred Owls frequent the Robinson and Eliot properties.

Photo by Ed Lowe

Today we have the opportunity to purchase the Robinson and Eliot properties. *With your help, we can protect the entire northern edge of one of the largest wetland complexes on Lummi Island, expand the Otto Preserve to 104 acres, and extend the Preserve’s walking trails.*

The Trust has negotiated purchase agreements with both landowners and only has until March 31, 2012 to raise the necessary funds. We are extremely grateful to the Seattle Audubon Society’s Martin Miller Fund and fifteen generous donors, including Heritage Trust board members, for making leadership gifts totaling \$86,500. Now we are turning to the island community, members and friends to raise the remaining funds to reach the \$150,000 goal.

Please make your generous contribution today by using the envelope provided or by donating online at our website. We need your help now! 🌿

Campaign Status

As of November 30, 2011

Project Cost	\$150,000
Donations to date	\$61,500
Grants to date	\$25,000
Funds needed to succeed	\$63,500

Deadline March 31, 2012

Tour the Robinson & Eliot Land

Please join us for a guided tour of the land that the Heritage Trust is working to purchase. Upcoming tours are planned for January 7, 2012 at 11:00 am and February 5 at 1:00 pm.

Meet at the Resource Center at the Otto Preserve, 3560 Sunrise Road.

Visit Our Updated Website

The Heritage Trust website has received an extreme makeover. The new website provides information about the Heritage Trust, our nature preserves, land conservation tools, and how to support our efforts. A new “contact us” page allows you to send a comment, sign up to become a volunteer, and be added to our mailing list. You can also make a donation online. Please visit our new website, [www. liht.org](http://www.liht.org), and let us know what you think. 🌿

Healthy Habitats for All – News from the Preserves

Heritage Trust nature preserves are places set aside for the life and growth of plants, insects, animals, and people – all living inter-dependently on Lummi Island. Each preserve is a refuge for healthy habitats for all to enjoy.

At the **Baker Preserve** overlook, the Heritage Trust and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

partnered to install interpretive signage to educate hikers about protecting this fragile habitat for native grasses, lichens and wildflowers.



Fawn Lilies at the overlook.

Photo by Dal Neitzel

Volunteer stewards recently decommissioned side trails to discourage access to other delicate areas. When hiking the Baker Trail, please stay on the marked trails



Apples from the Curry Preserve orchard.

Photo by Linda Smith

to help care for the precious ecosystems under and around our feet.

Small scale farming at the **Curry Preserve**, as part of the community garden and community orchard programs, helps islanders learn about healthy and sustainable fruit, flower and vegetable crops. This past summer, stewards removed invasive plants, mowed, tilled,

Many Ways to Give

There are many meaningful ways to help the Heritage Trust further 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 shorelines forever.”

Become a member, renew your membership, give a gift membership, volunteer, donate land or other assets, donate a conservation easement, include the Heritage Trust in your will, make a planned gift

mulched, watered, weeded, harvested and shared their bounty, with an eye toward always protecting the fields, open space and groundwater resources of the Curry Preserve.



Photo by Gurubani Khalsa

Field programs at the **Otto Preserve**, like Nature Explorers, Bird Walks, Mushroom Forays and Owl Prowls, invite learners of all ages to cherish healthy habitats and learn how best to care for the soils, water systems, plants, animals and insects that sustain island life, for everyone.

Studying wetland ecology.



Photo by Gurubani Khalsa

Nature explorers learn about owls at the Otto Preserve.

Thanks go to our members, friends, and volunteer stewards for helping protect island habitats, so we can all flourish. 🌱

from your estate, contribute toward a land protection project, donate to our Land Protection Fund, serve on a committee or the board, make an honorary or memorial gift, purchase Heritage Trust merchandise, and help raise awareness for land conservation on Lummi.

Together, we can ensure that the special qualities and treasured places of Lummi Island are preserved for today and for generations of islanders yet to come. 🌱

Becoming an Accredited Land Trust

The Heritage Trust has embarked on the journey to becoming an accredited land trust. Accreditation recognizes organizations that meet national standards of excellence for upholding the public trust and ensuring that conservation efforts are permanent. The independent Land Trust Accreditation Commission administers the program.

Preparing for accreditation requires a significant time commitment from our board and staff. We are busy updating old policies, adopting new policies, reorganizing records, and reviewing all our procedures. The Trust was recently awarded a capacity building grant from the Land Trust Alliance to help cover the costs of preparing for accreditation,

and we are on target to submit our application in September 2012.

The Heritage Trust has always followed high standards in our procedures and practices and believes that we owe it to our donors, our landowners, and to the lands we protect to be a strong, efficient organization. Achieving accreditation demonstrates our dedication to the highest standards of nonprofit management and conservation practices in the nation. 🌱



Garlic stipes.

Memorial & Honorary Gifts

In memory of Dot Crouse

Stella & Randy Benson
Doolie Brown
Thurid Clark

Constance Drake & Terry
Diffley

GuruBani Khalsa
& Jeremy Robinson
Meredith Moench
Rebecca Rettmer & Bert Sagara
Ed & Helen Scott
Bobbie Southworth
Dave Thorn & Janice Holmes

*In memory of "Charlie" Darnall-
Thatcher*

Bev Darnall

In memory of Charlotte Day

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In memory of Ernest Harmony

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In memory of Polly Hanson

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In memory of Eva Jensen

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In memory of Irvin Kershner

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In memory of Howard A. Neece

Kathleen Neece

In memory of JoAnn Nordensen

Steve Schneider
& Michele Morrissey

In memory of Tom Philpott

Steve Schneider
& Michele Morrissey

In memory of Luise Preyer

Catherine Shornick

In memory of Win Shornick

Catherine Shornick

In honor of Paul Davis

& Brown Betty
Susan Watson

In honor of Eric Coymer

Scott Blanchard
& Alice Clayton

In honor of Megan Crouse

& Chris Morton
Roger & Joan Crouse

In honor of Karen Darnall

& Steve Thatcher
Beverly Darnall

In honor of Robb Kahn

& Bobbie Quilty
Mike & Joan Moyer

In honor of Mendocino Land Trust

Megan Crouse

In honor of MJ

Scott Blanchard
& Alice Clayton

In honor of Bill Moyer

Edwin Casebeer

In honor of Mike Moyer

Edwin Casebeer
Sheila & Al Marshall

In honor of Joan Moyer

Edwin Casebeer

In honor of Nicholas Natale, Jr.

Peter Natale

In honor of Linda Sheek

Kathy & Mark Buford

In honor of Helen Sturdy

Scott Blanchard
& Alice Clayton

In Kind & Business Gifts

Anonymous (2)
Andy Yurovchak
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Art Scan
Barron Heating & Air
Barry's Beans
BeauCoup Bags
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Members, other financial supporters, and all volunteers will be acknowledged in the upcoming 2011 Annual Report. Every effort has been made to make our acknowledgement lists accurate. If you find an error or omission, please let us know so that we can correct it. Thank you one and all!



Salmonberry blossom.

Conservation Easement Protects Full Bloom Farm

Both Lis and Mark Marshall credit their grandparents for giving them a love of the sustaining beauty of orchards, vegetable gardens and wild, open spaces. Having witnessed the destruction of prime farmland by residential development in California, they dreamed of a life, where the land would educate and inspire their children and provide fresh food for family and guests. One day in 1984, Lis and Mark boarded the Whatcom Chief to visit Lummi Island and immediately felt at home. Before they left they had put money down on their 13 acre farm on Centerview Road.

The Marshall's saw great potential for their new property. They planted trees, cleaned out the pond, and built a chicken barn, a tree house for the kids, and a home for Lis's mother Anne Kennedy, who also owned an adjoining parcel. They started an organic vegetable garden, raised an organic peony garden, and later established a Bed and Breakfast. Today the colorful "PRODUCE" sign on Centerview Road marks the entrance to Lis and Mark Marshall's Full Bloom Farm.

Permanently protecting the farm with a conservation easement came naturally to the Marshalls. When Lis's mother died, the family worked with the Heritage Trust to purchase and permanently protect the Kennedy land as an addition

to the Curry Preserve. At that time, the Marshalls pledged to place a conservation easement on their adjacent farm. The Heritage Trust worked closely with Lis and Mark to ensure that the terms of the conservation easement fulfilled their vision for the land and that the timing of the easement donation met their needs.

The Marshall's conservation easement satisfies personal dreams for their land. It defines a building area for their home, guest space and barn, an agricultural area for farming and orchards, and a conservation area for their pond, wetlands and woodland area. Most importantly, their land will never be subdivided and will always have abundant habitat for wildlife and fertile fields for agriculture.

Lis and Mark's conservation easement is also an important addition to an expanding landscape of protected land on the north end of Lummi and will sustain natural resources, like fresh water, good soil and open space, for the whole island for generations to come. *Thank you, Lis and Mark.* 🌿



Marshall conservation easement property.

Photo by Megan Crouse



Kingfisher at the Marshall's pond.

Photo by Dal Neitzel

A Conservation Easement is a legal agreement between a landowner and the Heritage Trust that permanently limits the uses of the land in order to protect its conservation values. The landowner and all subsequent owners will be bound by the terms of the easement, thereby permanently protecting the land.

In general, conservation easement properties are privately owned and are not open to the public, unless the landowner chooses to allow public access. More information about conservation easements is available on our website, www.liht.org, or by calling the Trust office at 758-7997.



LUMMI ISLAND HERITAGE TRUST

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NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS

Heritage Trust Annual Meeting

Botanist, editor, and illustrator, Dr. Linda Ann Vorobik, will be our featured speaker at the annual meeting on January 28, 7:00-9:00 pm at the Grange Hall. Dr. Vorobik's presentation, "Island Habitats: Botanical Inspirations of Our Northwest Islands", will include photos of the local island habitats and plants that inspire her to create beautiful botanical art. Join us as we review last year's achievements, share plans for the coming year, recognize our outstanding volunteers, introduce new board members, and celebrate land conservation on Lummi Island.



Illustration by Linda Ann Vorobik

New and Retiring Board Members

The Trust welcomes Annie Franzmann, Pat Moye and Tom Weatherby, who are enthusiastically stepping into their positions as new board members. Our heartfelt thanks go to retiring board member Kent Nielsen for his remarkable commitment and dedication to the Trust during his tenure.

Save the Date – Heritage Trust Benefit Dinner March 10th

Please plan on joining us for a gourmet dinner and a lovely evening, while we raise funds for land conservation on Lummi Island. Invitations will be mailed in February. Seating is limited, so be sure to make your reservation early.

Committees Really Can Work

This year, four standing committees have helped expand the Trust's organizational capacity. The Finance, Governance, Community Outreach, and Land Protection Committees help our board and staff accomplish great land preservation and stewardship on Lummi Island. If you are interested in serving on a committee, please call the Trust office to learn more about what each committee does and how you can become involved.