

# HERITAGE LETTER

Summer 2012

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LUMMI ISLAND  
HERITAGE TRUST

## Ten More Acres of Land Protected Otto Preserve Expands to 104 Acres

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Campaign to Protect the Otto Preserve Wetland! On April 20, 2012, the Heritage Trust finalized the purchase of the Eliot and Robinson properties adjacent to the Otto Preserve. Together, we have permanently protected the entire northern edge of one of the island's largest wetlands, a vital groundwater resource, and native habitat for wood ducks, warblers, frogs, salamanders, delicate wildflowers and giant trees.

Leadership pledges from individuals, families and every Heritage Trust board member, a donated commission from Lummi Island Realty, grants from

Seattle Audubon's Martin Miller Fund, Seattle Foundation's Islands Fund, and the North American Wetland Conservation Act, along with many individual donors raised the \$150,000 that made this possible. The Heritage Trust also partnered with our sister organization, The San Juan Preservation Trust. The Preservation Trust will hold a conservation easement that ensures that the important conservation values of the expanded Otto Preserve will be protected forever.

We are grateful to landowners Jeremy Robinson and Margaret Eliot, who worked with the Heritage Trust to sell their properties. The Otto Preserve has now grown to 104 acres and a trail

*(continued on next page)*



*Otto Preserve Wetland*

Photo by GuruBani Khalsa

## Ten More Acres of Land Protected *(continued)*

“Betty’s Shortcut” is being created on the Robinson parcel to connect the new additions to the existing trails, and allow people to experience this natural environment.

Why the name? According to Jeremy Robinson, the word “shortcut” was always a tongue-in-cheek kind of expression used around his house as a kid. It was an inside joke. Jeremy’s stepfather, Walter Crayton, was an avid nature-lover who took the family on grand adventures every summer during Jeremy’s teen years, to Utah and the Desert Southwest.



*Pacific Chorus Frog* Photo by Victor Burgett

Walter always preferred to travel off the beaten path. Typically, the family would be driving down a perfectly good highway, when he’d turn off on a dirt road with no signs. Invariably, someone would ask, “Where are you going?” He’d say, “It’s a shortcut!”

Jeremy’s mother, Betty Klahr, often teased Walter, rolling her eyes when he said the word “shortcut.” Jeremy says, “The truth is, we enjoyed the shortcuts. We got to see things that most people missed.”

Sadly, Betty and Walter both died in a car accident in 2003 while returning from another adventure

down to Baja. They were on the freeway at the time – they had not taken a shortcut. Jeremy is pleased to see the trail named Betty’s Shortcut in memory of Betty and Walter, their love of nature, spirit of adventure, and their good-natured sense of humor.



*Wood Duck* Photo by Joe Meche

A time to celebrate the expansion of the Otto Preserve and dedicate the new Betty’s Shortcut trail is planned for June 23 (see details below). Please join us as we acknowledge everyone who helped make the Campaign to Protect the Otto Preserve Wetland a success. *Thank you one and all!*

### *The Dedication of the Otto Preserve Expansion*

*Saturday, June 23, 2012*

*3:00 to 5:00 pm*

*Otto Preserve Resource Center  
3560 Sunrise Road*

*Please join us as we dedicate a new trail “Betty’s Shortcut” to celebrate the expansion of the Otto Preserve and acknowledge everyone who helped make the Campaign to Protect the Otto Preserve Wetland a success.  
We hope to see you there!*

## A Milestone on the Path to Accreditation

The Heritage Trust staff and board have been busy working on our application to become an accredited land trust through the Land Trust Accreditation Commission. Land trust accreditation answers the demand of the public and donors for accountability and assurance from land trusts of their ability to protect important natural places forever.

We are pleased to announce our completion of the pre-application phase of the process. Preparation for accreditation began in April 2011, and we remain on target to submit an application in September 2012. The Land Trust Accreditation Commission will perform

an extensive review of our policies and programs, including a public comment period, to ensure that our organizational operations are strong, efficient, trustworthy and ethical.

The Heritage Trust has always followed high standards in our business practices and believes that we owe it to our donors, our landowners, and the lands we protect to be an efficient, professional organization sustainable far into the future.



*Red Columbine* Photo by Dal Neitzel







**LUMMI ISLAND  
HERITAGE TRUST**

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# NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS

***Hands on the Land Recognizes Volunteers***

*Hands on the Land* symbolizes the Trust's appreciation for our hundreds of generous, capable, dedicated volunteers. These colorful handprints will be strung as flags and featured at Heritage Trust events. Stop by the Resource Center and make your handprint. *Thank you to all our volunteers!*

***Nature Explorers and Junior Nature Explorers for Kids***

Nature Explorers (ages 6-12) and Junior Nature Explorers (ages 3-5) will be exploring forests, fields, beaches, ponds, gardens, and trails this summer. Our thanks to Lummi Island Community Association for helping fund this great program for kids. Both programs begin in June. Contact the Heritage Trust office for more information and to register.

***Annual Chili Cook Off and Member Appreciation Picnic***

Fire up your taste buds and get ready for the Heritage Trust's Chili Cook Off and Member Appreciation Picnic. Competing chefs must submit an entry form by July 9. Festivities will include chili tasting, music, thanking our members and volunteers, and celebrating land conservation on Lummi Island. Please join us July 21, 12:00-3:00 pm at the Otto Preserve meadow.

***Curry Preserve Community Garden Project Grows and Grows***

Plan to visit the Curry Preserve Community Garden and the Community Orchard project on July 14 during the Edible Garden Tour. Don't forget to leave time to walk the trails at the Curry Preserve while you are there!

*Visit our website for more information on all Heritage Trust programs and activities [www.liht.org](http://www.liht.org)*

