

# HERITAGE LETTER

Winter 2010

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LUMMI ISLAND  
HERITAGE TRUST

## A Strategy for Protecting and Stewarding Land

With just over 12 years of conservation history, the Heritage Trust has protected 830 acres of land on Lummi Island. Our terrific success has escorted us into new territory. Today, we are faced with the perpetual responsibility of caring for, managing, stewarding and monitoring these precious lands, while still striving to preserve the island's remaining forests, farms, wetlands and undeveloped shorelines.

Our opportunities continually expand. This year, the Heritage Trust board of directors convened two planning meetings to confirm our direction and clearly define strategic priorities and goals for the future.

Clearly, *saving land* is our number one priority. In fact, the Heritage Trust is currently working with three separate private landowners, who wish to protect their land with conservation easements.

But, now and in the future, we must dedicate some of our time and funds to monitoring and taking care of the lands we have preserved. Invasive weeds take over, trails wash out, fields need mowing, and windstorms bring down trees. We currently have commitments with 15 landowners to monitor their conservation easement properties and ensure the conservation values they protected are being

*(continued on next page)*



**this island  
smoothed and settled  
humped and wild**

**thrown just off  
the exploded heart  
of the san juans**

Luther Allen

*Lummi Island.*

Photo by David Scherrer

## A Strategy for Protecting and Stewarding Land *(continued)*

upheld. Clearly, a *sustainable stewardship* program is a priority.



*Pacific Chorus Frog.*

Photo by Dal Neitzel

Well-known author, Barbara Kingsolver, writes, “the first steps toward stewardship are awareness, appreciation, and the selfish desire to have the things around for our kids to see.” Learning about the owls we hear at night, the wildflowers that bloom each spring,

the complex and fragile island ecosystems, and the ways each of us can help care for our island are the first steps toward appreciation and awareness. Clearly, engaging *education* programs are a priority.

In order to take on new opportunities and challenges, the Heritage Trust must remain a strong, sustainable organization. Clearly, *financial and organizational capacity* is at the heart of our ability to accomplish great land conservation and stewardship on Lummi Island.

The strategies and goals for land protection that we define today will become the framework for the Heritage Trust’s land conservation work in the coming year and, most important, will ensure the effectiveness and permanence of our work in the future. Together, we can leave a legacy of healthy forests, fertile farmland, clean groundwater, and abundant plant and wildlife habitat for the next generation of islanders. 🌿

## Your Legacy – Lummi Island’s Future

We all constantly make plans for the future, and those plans often focus on the priorities, values, people and places that we hold close to our hearts. There is one important document that can pass on your cherished values to your loved ones and sustain the people and organizations that you care about – your will.

By naming Lummi Island Heritage Trust in your will or estate plan, you will be making a real impact on Lummi Island’s future. Anyone, regardless of the size of his or her estate, can make a difference by leaving a lasting gift to conservation. As an additional motivation, depending on the nature of the gift, you may also enjoy significant tax benefits during your lifetime and/or reduce tax burdens for your estate.

*Thank you to those who have already named Lummi Island Heritage Trust as a beneficiary in your will – your gift will be a permanent legacy on Lummi Island.*

*If you have included the Heritage Trust in your will, please let us know so that we may thank you during your lifetime.*

Planned giving is a way for you to contribute to the perpetual work of an organization, like the Heritage Trust, after your lifetime. Including Lummi Island Heritage Trust in your estate arrangements is an opportunity to protect the island’s farms, forests, native plants, wildlife and extraordinary beauty for generations to come.

The Trust is committed to being a good steward of your gifts, now and in the future. For more information about

planned giving or to learn how to name the Heritage Trust in your will, please contact Rebecca Rettmer at 360-758-7997. 🌿



*Trillium.*

Photo by Dal Neitzel

# Nature Preserved for All

On any day, rain or shine, people hike, explore, work, and enjoy the lands set aside as Heritage Trust nature preserves.

At the Curry Preserve, enthusiastic volunteers prune the old apple orchard, clear blackberries, and maintain walking trails for humans, horses and dogs on leashes. Small-scale farming at the community garden project helps people learn about organic gardening and sustainable food production. Several volunteer



Photo by Dal Neitzel

*Lemon Queen sunflowers attract pollinator bees at community garden.*

gardeners had such bountiful harvests this summer that they donated vegetables to the Island Food Pantry at the Congregational Church. It's the Trust's vision to one day restore the Curry Preserve fields to productivity and supply hay to island farmers.

Recently members from the Northwest Mushroomers Association explored the Otto Preserve and helped inventory over 50 mushroom species. Studying plant and wildlife inventories over time will aid us in understanding our complex, fragile island ecosystems and determine how best to care for them.



Photo by Rebecca Retmer

At the Baker Preserve, the trailhead *Nature Explorers at Otto Preserve* sign-in is helping the Trust understand public use. Between April and August, over 1,000 hikers used the Baker trail. For many of us, access to the solace and beauty of Lummi Island's natural areas is a necessary escape from the busyness of our technological society. Yet, we must ensure that our human impact disrupts nature as little as possible. It is a delicate balance.

The Curry, Otto and Baker Preserves have been protected forever and for all, including people, plants and animals. Please join us as, together, we discover, preserve, care for, and benefit from Lummi Island's extraordinary natural surroundings. 🌿



Photo by Dal Neitzel

*Russula Mushrooms.*

## Memorial & Honorary Gifts

- In memory of David Boydston*  
Richard & Betty Boydston
- In honor of Ed Casebeer*  
Bill Moye
- In honor of Mary Beth Watkins & Steve Wright*  
Bobbie & Malcolm Hutchings
- In honor of Carl & Polly Hanson*  
Bill Moye  
Mary Stack
- In honor of Sunshine Nims & Al Sauer*  
The Nedden-Durst Family
- In honor of Georgina May Gitterman*  
Bobbi & Doug Southworth
- In honor of John Casebeer*  
Bill Moye
- All members, other financial supporters, and volunteers will be acknowledged in the 2010 Annual Report.*

## In Kind & Business Gifts

- Anonymous (2)
- Bob Anderson
- Bob Auld
- Cheryl Bachus & Di Kegeles
- Karen Myers Barker
- Barry's Beans
- Beach Store Café
- Budget Septic
- Paul Davis
- Deschutes Brewery
- Dickerson Distributors, Inc.
- Kent Dixon, Kent's Complete Carpentry
- Gnarly Head Cellars
- Dale Granger, Lummi Island Construction
- John Granger
- Thomas Haensly, Attorney at Law
- Haggen
- Janice Holmes
- The Islander Store
- Dan Johnson, Echo Point Construction
- John Kelly
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- Lisa Lish
- Duncan McLane, Colonial Metal Works
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- Jyl Peterson, Deja View Picture Framing
- REI
- Karen Rotko-Wynn
- Steve Schneider
- Sister's Mercantile
- Mike Skehan, Lummi Water Works
- Richard Smith
- Terry & Wendell Terry
- Steve Thatcher
- Thomson & Co. PLLC
- David Thorn, Notary Public
- Trader Joe's
- Phil Tucker
- Vital Choice Seafood
- Mary Beth Watkins & Steve Wright
- Lynn Young



**LUMMI ISLAND  
HERITAGE TRUST**

PO Box 158 Lummi Is., WA 98262  
360-758-7997 • info@liht.org  
[www.liht.org](http://www.liht.org)

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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# NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS

*Heritage Trust Annual Meeting February 10th*

Award-winning author Kathleen Dean Moore will be the featured speaker at the Trust's Annual Meeting. Kathleen will share her passionate curiosity and moral conviction about our cultural and spiritual relations to wild, natural places. She recently co-edited *Moral Ground: Ethical Action for a Planet in Peril*. Please join us on Thursday, February 10th, 7:00 pm at the Grange Hall as we welcome Kathleen, honor our volunteers and celebrate land conservation on Lummi Island.

*New and Retiring Board Members*

The Trust welcomes new board members, Kent Nielsen, Jyl Peterson and Robert Sorensen, who enthusiastically step into positions vacated by retiring board members, Chuck Beard, Bobbie Hutchings and Linda Sheek. Our heartfelt thanks to Chuck, Bobbie and Linda for their remarkable wisdom, commitment and dedication to the Trust during their tenures.

*Save the Date – Heritage Trust Benefit Dinner March 12th*

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.

*Your Membership Donation Makes A Difference*

Membership donations support everything we do to protect land and care for the lands we protect. Your annual gift makes a difference right here on Lummi Island. Please use the envelope inside to make your contribution.

