

HERITAGE LETTER

Spring 2010

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LUMMI ISLAND
HERITAGE TRUST

Forty More Acres of Land Protected

Childhood days spent exploring the forests and fields of the northwest interior of Lummi Island gave Jason Burnett a deep attachment to the land. He has fond memories of planting maple seedlings in the forest near his family home, which are now full grown trees. Jason and his father recycled lumber from the old Beach School barn that once stood on the land he now owns. As an adult, Jason has dedicated himself to ensuring that people learn to live in sustainable ways and leave a healthy environment for the next generation.

Protecting his 40 acre property with a conservation easement came naturally to Jason. It was an obvious way for him to guarantee that the open fields on his land can always be used for agriculture and that the forested areas will always be

a sanctuary for the deer, coyotes, ravens, owls, and native plants that live there.

Under current zoning, the property could be divided into eight home sites. The conservation easement will not allow subdivision, and will limit development to one house and one barn, which will be located in defined building areas. Over 17 acres of forest will be managed for wildlife habitat and never clear-cut, and almost 20 acres containing prime agricultural soils are set aside for farming and as open natural areas – forever.

With a shared vision to one day create a corridor of protected land on the north end of the island, Jason worked with the Heritage Trust to

(continued on next page)



Protected fields and forest on the Burnett land.

Photo by Dal Neitzel

Forty More Acres of Land Protected *(continued)*

include a provision in his conservation easement that will, at a future time, allow the Trust to build a walking trail on his land. Until such time, please enjoy the extraordinary scenic beauty of Jason's land from public roads and rights of way.



Forest habitat on Burnett land.

Photo by Dal Neitzel

We are extremely grateful to Jason Burnett and the fourteen other individuals and families who have now protected their Lummi Island land with conservation easements. Thank you!

Throughout the coming year, the Heritage Trust will continue to work with landowners who want to protect their land with conservation easements. The lands we preserve today will ensure abundant wildlife habitat, ground water resources, farmland, and corridors of natural areas for tomorrow. 🌿

Protecting Private Land with a Conservation Easement

A conservation easement 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. It allows landowners to continue to own and use their land, sell it, or pass it on to their heirs. The landowner and all subsequent owners will be bound by the terms of the conservation easement, thereby permanently protecting the land.

A conservation easement is an extremely flexible and durable tool used to insure that a landowner's intentions for their land are upheld in perpetuity. For instance, an easement on a property containing prime agricultural soils might limit development while allowing continued farming and additional agricultural structures. A conservation easement does not require public access. Furthermore, a conservation easement may qualify as a tax-deductible charitable donation. Please contact the Heritage Trust office to learn more or if you would like to explore the possibility of protecting the forest, agriculture, wildlife habitat or open space values of your land with a conservation easement. 🌿



Photo by Laurel Baldwin

Native Honeysuckle

Heritage Trust Holdings in Hunter Park Increase

The north central area of Lummi Island contains a landlocked subdivision created 100 years ago, known as Hunter Park. Most of the lots do not have legal access and, by today's standards, are too small to build on. The Trust has accepted several donations of lots in the area with the vision of permanently protecting the dense forest, important wildlife habitat, and ground water resources that make Hunter Park a significant area to conserve.

Recently, Brent Baharie generously donated his lot in Hunter Park. Contributions from the board of directors to the Land Acquisition Fund purchased a second lot in Hunter Park, owned by Mary McElroy. The Trust now owns 10 lots in Hunter Park. Thank you!

Donation of a lot in Hunter Park to the Heritage Trust qualifies as a tax-deductible charitable contribution. For more information or to donate your lot, contact the Trust at 360-758-7997.

Board of Directors Lends Guidance and Vision

The Heritage Trust board of directors is a group of islanders who bring a wide array of skills and a passionate dedication for the Trust's mission: to preserve the rural character, natural heritage, and scenic beauty of Lummi Island by conserving farmland, forestland, open space and undeveloped shorelines. The board of directors recently welcomed five new board members – Peter Hodges, Janice Holmes, Joan Moyer, Mike Skehan and Mary Beth Watkins. They will fill seats vacated by departing board members and increase the size and leadership capacity of the board.

Board members give hundreds of volunteer hours to help govern the Trust, oversee programs and projects, raise funds, and are champions for the Trust's mission and ambassadors in the community. They provide extraordinary service to the Trust and offer

wisdom, insight and friendship. Thank you.

In 2009, the board updated the board member job description and the Trust's bylaws, which now include board member term limits. Completing this task was perhaps not as enjoyable as discussing land conservation opportunities, but has added a level of credibility and maturity to the organization.

In February, the board will spend an entire day together strategically planning for the next 3-5 years. The Trust will continue to focus on saving the most important landscapes of Lummi Island while we still have the chance, as well as making sure that we are caring for the

lands we have protected, and providing meaningful opportunities for people to connect with and learn about the natural world around us. 🌿



Board of Directors, left to right: Steve Schneider, Mary Beth Watkins, Mike Skehan, Peg Larson, Peter Hodges, Janice Holmes, Joan Moyer, Bobbie Hutchings, Linda Sheek. Not pictured: Chuck Beard.

Photo by Dal Neitzel

Baker Preserve Management Plan

A final draft of the Baker Preserve Management Plan is available for public comment. The Plan is available on the Trust's website liht.org, at the Island Library, and at the Resource Center. Written comments may be submitted by mail or email until March 5.

Memorial & Honorary Gifts

*In memory of Margaret Lynch
Catherine Shornick*

*In memory of Clay Wray
Elizabeth Kilanowski &
Bert Rubash*

*In honor of Ed Casebeer
Mike & Joan Moyer*

*In honor of Mr. & Mrs. Sean Clancy
Kathleen & Brad Holian*

*In honor of Megan Crouse &
Chris Morton
Roger & Joan Crouse*

*In honor of Wanda Cucinotta
Megan Crouse*

*In honor of Jonathan Friedan &
Ilana Trachtman*

Wendy Forman
Howard Lipkin &
Mary Ann Monheimer
Harry Newman

*In honor of Sue & Bob McCaslin
John & Shari Hembroff*

*In honor of Bill Moyer
Mike & Joan Moyer*

*In honor of Mike Moyer
Buffy Fox*

*In honor of Nicholas Natale
Peter Natale*

*In honor of Ian O'Callaghan,
Notary*

Anonymous
Megan Crouse
Lynda Olsen

*In honor of Douglas Squirrels
Anonymous*



Douglas Squirrel

Photo by Elizabeth Kilanowski



LUMMI ISLAND HERITAGE TRUST

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Peter Hodges	Steve Schneider
Janice Holmes	Linda Sheek
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IN THIS ISSUE . . .

- ❖ 40 Acres of Land Protected
- ❖ Hunter Park Holdings Increase
- ❖ Board of Directors Update
- ❖ Memorials & Honorary Gifts

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NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS

Protecting Fragile Plant Communities on Lummi Mountain

The Heritage Trust is partnering with Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) to protect the sensitive native plant communities found on Lummi Mountain, especially at the overlook near the end of the Baker Trail. The overlook, located on WDFW land, has experienced serious impacts from foot traffic. Plants that can only grow in these areas, like Camas, Fritilaria, and Fawn Lily, have been damaged. WDFW will place a protective split-rail fence at the overlook to keep hikers away from the dangerous cliff edge and to allow the fragile plants to survive. A small interpretive sign will explain the need to protect this delicate ecosystem.



Fawn Lily

Photo by Dai Netzel

New Program Helps Kids Explore and Appreciate Nature

Grant funds received from the Lummi Island Community Association will help develop an education program for youth called "Nature Explorers." Beginning in summer 2010, Nature Explorers will feature an action-packed, field-based curriculum designed to help kids learn about the plants, animals, insects, wetlands, and marine shorelines on or near the Trust's nature preserves.

Celebrate Earth Day at the Otto Preserve

Come celebrate Earth Day by joining in the annual Otto Preserve clean-up on April 18th from 1:00-4:00 pm. We will give the Resource Center a good scrubbing, spruce up the gardens around the building, tidy up the trails, and remove English ivy and holly in the woods. There are projects for volunteers of all sizes, shapes and abilities.

Annual Benefit Dinner Promises an Elegant Evening

Please join us on March 13th for a delicious Gourmet Italian Market Dinner, fine wines, appetizers, raffle items and door prizes. Reservations only, seating is limited. To make your reservation, please call the Trust office at 360-758-7997.