

NISQUALLY LAND TRUST



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SUMMER 2008

LAND TRUST ADDS NEW MOUNT RAINIER PROPERTIES



Paul and Debby Crosetto with sons Linn (left) and Jamie (right)

The Land Trust continued its Mount Rainier Gateway Initiative in April with the purchase of two key properties, totaling 43 acres, near the main entrance to Mount Rainier National Park.

Purchased from longtime Ashford residents Paul and Debby Crosetto, the properties adjoin and buffer 329 acres of wildlife habitat the Land Trust purchased in 2006 and earlier this year. All of the acquisitions were made in partnership with the Washington Department of Natural

Resources and funded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, through its Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund.

The Crosetto properties were targeted specifically for their benefits for spotted owls and marbled murrelets, which are listed as threatened species under the federal Endangered Species Act. As well, the properties have conservation values for 13 other wildlife species identified by state and federal agencies as of particular concern.



The historic Hershey Homestead cabin, built in the 1890s, sits at the base of the Land Trust's most recent addition to its Mount Rainier Gateway Initiative.

In addition, the properties are of historic interest. One, which totals 13 acres, belonged to the Hershey Homestead, which the Crosettoes also own. The Hersheys, relatives of the famous chocolate makers, were one of the first white families to settle in the upper Nisqually, establishing their homestead in about 1895.

The other property, which totals 30 acres, adjoins the historic Allen Estate, home of the first superintendent of Mount Rainier National Park. The Land Trust purchased the Allen Estate in February.

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SAVE THE DATE: Annual Meeting and Salmon Bake Sunday, September 28, 2008. Free to all members!

NISQUALLY LAND TRUST CONTRIBUTORS

MARCH 1, 2008 – MAY 31, 2008

Contributions from our supporters are our most important source of operating revenue. They are the foundation for everything we do. Thank you to everyone listed below—for your generosity, and for your commitment to permanent conservation of the Nisqually watershed.

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Nisqually Land Trust

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Crosetto, Constance Bond, Joe Kane,
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NEW DIRECTORS JOIN BOARD

The Land Trust is extremely pleased to announce the addition of Cathie Butler, Mary Foster, and Linda Hoffman to our board of directors. Their enthusiasm, community

experience, and conservation and management expertise will be especially valuable as we plan our growth over the next three years. We welcome them warmly.



CATHIE BUTLER

Cathie Butler is Communications Manager for the City of Olympia, where she is in charge of community and media relations.

Before making a career move to Washington State in the mid-1990s, Cathie was a lifelong resident of central Illinois. As a two-term elected trustee of the Peoria Park District, she gained first-hand experience in conservation of open spaces and natural areas.

Cathie's experience, her interest in organizational structure and strategic thinking, and her long-time membership in the Land Trust make her a natural fit for the Land Trust board.



MARY FOSTER

As a resident of Ashford, near the main entrance to Mount Rainier National Park, Mary Foster brings to the board an experienced voice from a region that has become a focal point of some of the Land Trust's most important work.

Mary co-founded the Nisqually Headwaters Coalition, a citizens' group formed in 2005 to conserve local viewsheds and ecosystems, and worked closely with the Land Trust to help launch the Mount Rainier Gateway Initiative. She has also completed the Nisqually Tribe's Stream Stewards course and represents Ashford on the Nisqually River Council's Citizen Advisory Committee.

Mary hikes and rambles extensively in the high country around Ashford. Trained in chemistry and mathematics, and with a background in product development and project management, she is currently vice-president of Media Consultants Corporation and serves as a content editor in mathematics for the textbook publisher CTB McGraw Hill.



LINDA HOFFMAN

Linda Hoffman served as Deputy Director and then Director of the Washington State Department of Ecology before retiring in 2005. Prior to joining Ecology, Linda worked for Thurston County for twenty-five years, as Chief Administrative Officer and also in planning, land use, and environmental and water management.

Linda now divides her time between her consulting business, LH Consulting, and world travel. She was trekking in Nepal last spring and will be in Uganda this fall, with a layover in Idaho this summer. When she's home, Linda and her family can often be found recreating in the Nisqually basin.

Linda's commitment to conservation and restoration of the Nisqually is both personal and professional, and she is particularly interested in using her extensive management experience to help guide the Land Trust through its strategic-planning process.

LAND TRUST TO PLANT 6000 NATIVE PLANTS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

By Linda Kunze,
Stewardship Coordinator

Stewardship of the Land Trust's lands took an interesting turn this past year and has set the stage for our most ambitious planting projects yet.

Last fall, we received a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service grant that paid for a five-person Washington Conservation Corps crew to do major work on our lands. These projects included

large-scale exotic-species control (blackberry, ivy and Scot's broom), removing old buildings and barbed wire fences, and installing new fences and gates as needed.

Additionally, the Nisqually Indian Tribe funded a crew to do maintenance projects throughout the river basin. These projects included care of some of our past plantings and help with preparation for our upcoming plantings.

This work gave a major boost to the stewardship program and set the stage for two major plantings that the Land Trust will undertake this fall and winter (see Calendar). Volunteers needed!

In October we will plant 1,500 native trees and shrubs on our Wilcox Flats property as a follow-up to blackberry control.

Then, this winter, we will do our most

LAND TRUST ADDS MOUNT RAINIER PROPERTIES

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The Crosettos will continue to live on property adjoining the Land Trust acquisitions. Paul Crosetto moved to Ashford in 1940, when the biggest lumber mill west of the Mississippi stood just a mile down the road and many small mills dotted the surrounding region. He remembers a tight-knit and supportive community that changed dramatically in the decades after World War Two, with the rise of modern industrial-scale logging.

"We found ourselves in the middle of a controversy between the loggers, most of whom subscribed to clear-cutting, and the environmentalists and people in the tourism industry, who wanted no tree-cutting at all," he said.



Elk in meadow adjoining the Land Trust's new acquisitions, which contain important conservation values for threatened spotted owls and marbled murrelets as well as thirteen other wildlife species that are of particular concern to state and federal agencies.

Logging companies began shipping their timber out of the area, and today there are no mills left in the upper Nisqually—a situation the Crosettos and many of their neighbors would like to change. They envision a new forest-products industry, built around the sort of sustainable techniques Paul witnessed in his youth, and the return of small mills, local harvesters, and a united community.

For its part, the Land Trust believes that a healthy economy is essential to good conservation. It has made a commitment to help create ecologically sustainable forestry jobs in the upper watershed—and with them the close-knit community Paul Crosetto remembers from long ago. "That would be a dream come true," he said.



ambitious planting ever: We will plant 4,500 native trees and shrubs on our Red Salmon Creek property in the Nisqually delta. This will complete a three-year effort to restore this property, which has included blackberry, Scot's broom and ivy control as well as planting of 7,700 native trees and shrubs!

Meanwhile, our stewardship program is growing and changing to meet the Land Trust's needs. We will be hiring a half-time Land Steward this August to lead on-the-ground land-management and monitoring work. Our new Land Steward will also be the contact person for our faithful stewardship volunteers.

To volunteer, or for more information, contact me at our office, (360) 458-1111, or via email: nltsteward@nisquallylandtrust.org.



Three hundred volunteers, including Jerome Sanchez and Lacey McCloud (above) and Kelly Smith and her son, Arthur (below), helped plant thousands of native trees and shrubs along the Nisqually River last year. This fall and winter the Land Trust will plant another 6000 native plants.

PLANTING CALENDAR

October 25, 2008
Wilcox Flats

February 27-28, 2009
Red Salmon Creek

March 6-7, 2009
Red Salmon Creek



ANNUAL AUCTION SETS NEW RECORD

A sold-out house helped the Land Trust set a new record at its annual auction gala in April, raising a net total of some \$60,000 to fund operations, acquisitions, and stewardship through the rest of the year.

That represented a 30 percent increase over the previous year—also a record—and “in this economy was just unbelievable,” said veteran auctioneer **Larry Schorno**. “It was a real vote of confidence.”

“We’re extremely grateful for such generosity,” said Land Trust president and master of ceremonies **George Walter**. “Our members and supporters are the foundation of what we do, and we can’t thank them enough.”

George presented **Chris Wilcox of Wilcox Farms** with the annual President’s Award, given to the Land Trust’s Partner of the Year. In 2007, Wilcox Farms donated \$64,000 in land value to enable the Trust to buy eleven acres of richly wooded riverfront property adjoining its existing Thurston

Ridge Management Unit upstream of Yelm.

An auction highlight was the presence of many of our early board members: **Senator Karen Fraser, Mary Martin, Kaia Petersen, Larry Schorno, and Lou Whitaker**.



Chris Wilcox (left) of Wilcox Farms, the Land Trust’s Partner of the Year, is joined by (from left) Justin Hall, of the Nisqually River Foundation; Senator Marilyn Rasmussen; and auctioneer Larry Schorno.

2008 AUCTION DONORS

The Land Trust extends a big “Thank You!” to the businesses and individuals listed below, who generously donated the goods, services, and cash support that made this year’s auction such a success.

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AUCTION VOLUNTEERS KEY TO SUCCESS

The Land Trust extends a special thank-you to our auction volunteers. Their tremendous commitments of time, ideas, patience, and hard work were the foundation of the auction's success, and we really appreciate it.

—*Constance Bond, Programs Manager and Auction Director*

Genius Auctioneer Larry Schorno was ably assisted by son **Glen Schorno** and daughter **Gayla Duerr**.

Ed Steinweg was our live-auction recorder and **Ellen Leckrone** and **Margaret Walter** were our live-auction hosts.

Barbara Cook, Esmé Ryan, Sandia

Slaby and **Audrey Zimmerman** comprised our auction committee and Barbara coordinated auction day set-up.

Jen Gridley and **Marty Bills** were our bartenders, and their employer, the **Fish Brewing Company**, generously supplied the beer.

Carolyn Trefts of the **Native Plant Society** provided beautiful table centerpieces.

J.W. Foster was our lively emcee for the silent auction and drawings, and his wife, **Nikki**, and kids **Curran, Colton** and **Taegan** helped throughout the auction. **Kyra Faller,**

Morgan Griffith, Clare Kane, Sofia Kane, and **Haley Reese** were our charming raffle-sales crew.

Kaia Petersen, David Anderson, Nikki Johnson, Patt Brady, Fred Fiedler, Mary Fitzpatrick-Netz, Jim Isom, Cynthia Hancock, Justin Hall, Bill Kogut, Jim Isom, Lasha Steinweg, Tom Cook, Rob Cook, and **Steve Bond** helped with set-up, clean-up and/or cashiering. (We are missing some names that got lost in the chaos that is auction day.)

Dianna Koeller and **Karen Deckard** were our data-entry team and **Brian Deckard** managed the computer network.

LAND TRUST HAS RIVERFRONT HOME FOR SALE

For anyone who dreams of fishing for wild salmon from their front yard—or living amid a protected wildlife refuge just minutes from town—the Land Trust has a rare property for sale: An exceptionally private, well-built custom log home on five acres with 240 feet of Nisqually River shoreline.

Located two miles from downtown Yelm, on a gated road, the property is surrounded by our 141-acre Yelm Shoreline Management Unit, which is permanently protected as wildlife habitat.

The home includes 1100 square feet of living space, an 865-square-foot basement, two bedrooms, and 1.5 bathrooms. Built in 1989 by John Huddleston, a well-known custom builder, the home is made of lodgepole pine and features wood flooring, a stone fireplace, and 500 square feet of wrap-around decking with a view of the Nisqually River.

The Land Trust acquired the home as part of a larger habitat purchase

funded by a Washington Salmon Recovery Funding Board grant. The grant could not be used to buy a private dwelling, so the Land Trust divided the home and lot (the legally permitted minimum size) from the larger property and borrowed funds to cover their cost.

The property carries a conservation easement that protects its habitat values while allowing for additions and improvements. Our asking price is \$325,000. For more information, please call us at (360) 458-1111.



The Land Trust is selling this home, which is located on the Nisqually River amid a 141-acre block of protected wildlife habitat.

FLOAT THE NISQUALLY RIVER

Please join us later this month for a relaxing raft excursion along seldom-seen stretches of the Nisqually River. We offer two trips, each exploring a different region of the river.

Saturday, July 19, journey 13 miles down a remote, mostly undisturbed stretch of the Nisqually. This trip departs from the future site of the Nisqually-Mashel State Park, near Eatonville, and passes several Land Trust properties, including our Powell Creek Complex.

Sunday, July 27, float ten miles through a beautiful natural river corridor protected by Fort Lewis and the Nisqually Indian Reservation. This trip departs from the Centralia Power House, near Yelm.



Both trips are peaceful four-to-six-hour floats past cedar and fir trees and sweeping undeveloped landscapes. Our professional outfitter, Wildwater River Tours, rates them as fun, easy, and family friendly, suitable for most people age six and up.

Seats on the raft trip are \$75 per person for Land Trust members, \$100 for non-members. A delicious catered lunch, served on the riverbank, is included. For reservations and information, telephone the Nisqually Land Trust at (360) 458-1111 or email us at staff@nisquallylandtrust.org.



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