

Nisqually Land Trust

Spring 2013
Newsletter

Ohop Valley “Centerpiece” Protected

By Joe Kane and Nicole Hill

At 91 years old, Stephen Burwash did something that had never been done before: He sold the family property, 114 acres of farmland in the Ohop Valley that includes over a mile of

114-acre
Burwash property
includes a mile of
Ohop Creek

Ohop Creek, one of the two most important salmon-producing tributaries of the Nisqually River.

“If this land can’t be a farm anymore,” he said recently, “then it’s time for it to go back to being what it used to be.”

What it “used to be” is deep forest and rich habitat for five kinds of Pacific salmon, including Chinook and steelhead trout, both now listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act.

Over a century ago Ohop Creek was straightened and ditched to drain the valley for dairy farms. But what was good for farming was hard on salmon, degrading miles of critical habitat. The Burwash property is the key link, the centerpiece, in the 15-year effort to restore the creek.

Mr. Burwash first lived on the property when he was 14 years old, in 1936. At the time the Kjelstad

family owned it, and his grandfather was a hired hand in failing health. The Burwash family sent young Stephen to help him.

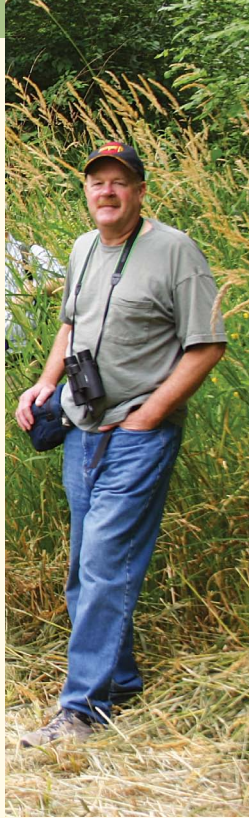
He never really left. After a stint in the service in World War II, he returned to the farm and married the farmer’s daughter, Carolyn. Over the years they divided their time between Tacoma, where he had a long career as a firefighter, and the farm. Ultimately, it would be the last working dairy operation in the Ohop Valley. Mr. Burwash was producing hay on it until just a few years ago.

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The rebuilding of Ohop Creek includes installation of salmon-friendly curves and engineered logjams and the planting of 86,000 native plants, here encased in white plastic protectors.



Photo: Jessica Moore, Northwest Trek



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This Summer, Make It Your River

Summertime and the living is easy. That's easier to sing than do. But we've worked hard this winter. We've acquired, protected, pulled and planted. Now it's time to get out on the river, or the trails, or the beach, and enjoy this beautiful world we live in. Your contributions, financial and physical, have given us a very successful year. The Land Trust's mission is being fulfilled. *Celebrate!*

I drove across the Nisqually River the other day, down in McKenna, and glanced at the water as I passed over it at 35 mph. Then I realized how many times I have done that and taken it for granted. So I got some pepperoni at Stewart's Meats (because it was there!), walked up onto the

bridge (not the safest thing to do, by the way) and really looked at the river. Wow, that's a nice river!

And I realized how proud I was to have played a part in protecting it and the lands that support and nourish its waters. It was like the feeling you get when you eat your own chocolate-chip cookies: Store-bought are good anytime, but when you make them yourself, they're even better. Especially like at ten o'clock at night, just out of the oven, with milk.

That's how I felt about the river that day, except without the calorie guilt. Joining the Land Trust staff and volunteers on work "parties" has made the river more special to me. I stood there watching its waters flow for what seemed like a very long time – I think two pieces of pepperoni long. And it was very satisfying. I promised myself that I would do it more often this summer.

And so we should! Come join us for a walk along one of those special places, or better yet, sign up for one of our conservation projects – it's great just to be out there with other folks who love the river, too. Be on the lookout for a nature-mapping exercise if you really want a good time; you just walk around by the river and see critters (or evidence of them) and take note. Fun!

Thanks again for helping to make the Nisqually Land Trust one of the most successful and respected conservation organizations in the Puget Sound area.

Read on to catch up on our most recent accomplishments and see what's next. Then get out there and have a great summer! I'll see you on the river. ☘

JW Foster
Board President

Ohop Valley | *Continued from page 1*

In the 1990s, the Land Trust began purchasing properties along Ohop Creek, many of them defunct dairy farms. In 2010, the Nisqually Tribe, the Land Trust, and a consortium of partners completed the first phase of the restoration, on 250 acres of Land Trust property immediately upstream of the Burwash farm. The \$2.1 million project turned half a mile of ditch into 1.1 miles of curving, fish-friendly stream that almost immediately attracted spawning salmon.

But the next step in the project is critical to its success: continuing the restoration downstream to the Nisqually River, which means rebuilding the mile of creek that runs through Stephen Burwash's property.

With that in mind, and without even putting it on the market, Mr. Burwash chose to sell his property to the Land Trust.

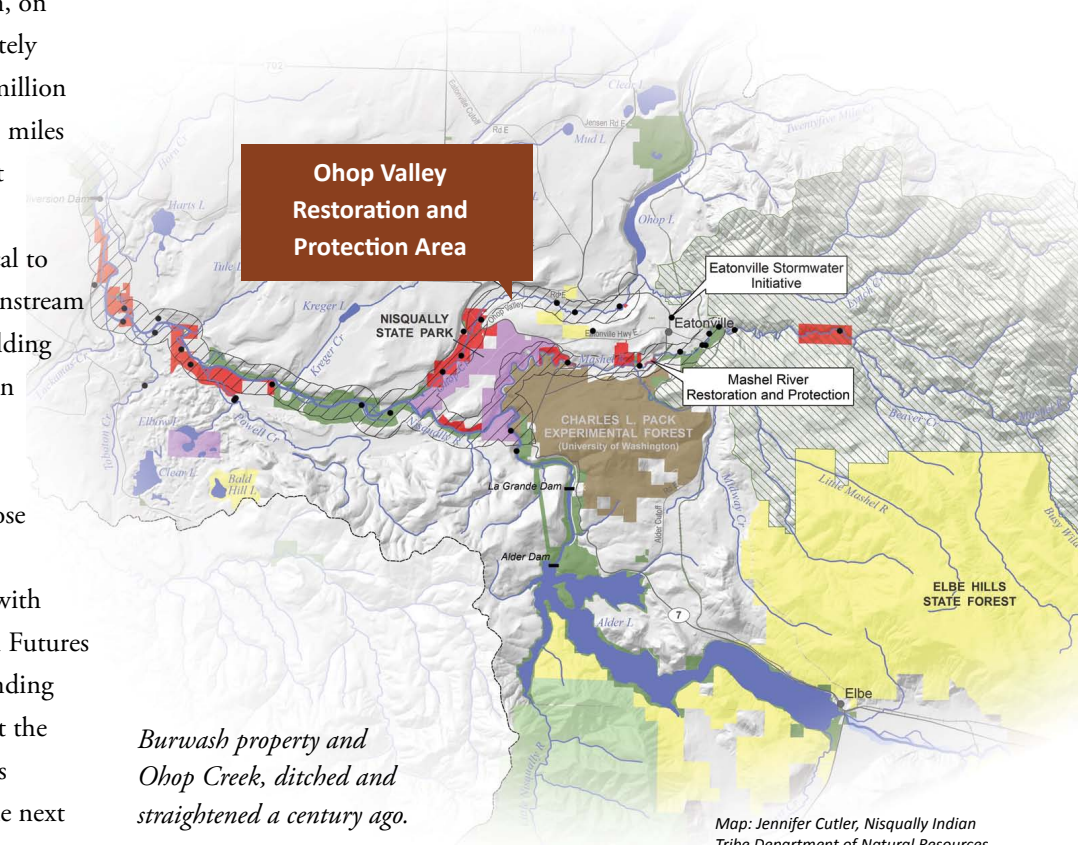
The Land Trust acquired the property with funding from Pierce County Conservation Futures and the Washington Salmon Recovery Funding Board. Carolyn Burwash died in 2010, but the purchase includes an agreement that allows Mr. Burwash to live on the property for the next five years, so long as he is comfortable doing so.

As this newsletter went to press, funding for the next phase of restoration was included in the draft budgets coming out of the state legislature and the governor's office, as part of the Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration Program. If funding is approved, restoration of the Burwash property will begin in 2014.

Meanwhile, Mr. Burwash is watching the Ohop Valley go back to what it used to be. From his home, he can see many of the 86,000 native trees and shrubs planted during the restoration.

"I check on them every day when I get my mail," he said. "They are growing up fast." ☘

Acquisition of the Burwash farm on Ohop Creek will allow the Land Trust and its partners to restore over a mile of ditched creekbed to its naturally meandering, salmon-friendly state.



Burwash property and Ohop Creek, ditched and straightened a century ago.

Map: Jennifer Cutler, Nisqually Indian Tribe Department of Natural Resources

2013 PRESIDENT'S AWARDS

Conservation Visionary

The Willits Family

For the generosity, foresight, and trust exemplified by the Family's willingness to back bold conservation strategies with bold philanthropic support.



Photo: Cris Peck

Stewardship Partner

Nisqually Tribe Native Plant Restoration Crew

For its energy, skill, and great heart in helping the Land Trust plant over 150,000 native trees and shrubs and restore vast tracts of Nisqually wildlife habitat.



Photo: Don Perry

Protection Partner

Washington Department of Natural Resources

For its role in creating the Land Trust's 2,500-acre Mount Rainier Gateway Reserve, including the contribution of \$10.8 million in matching lands to leverage federal grant funds.



Photo: Charly Kearns



Photo: Jeanette Dörner

Learning through Service

By Kim Bredensteiner

Youth of all ages help care for Land Trust protected areas by planting native trees and shrubs, tossing nutrient-rich salmon into the river, removing trash, and monitoring water quality.

Every year, the Land Trust provides hundreds of students with opportunities for service learning – using what they learn in the classroom to solve real-life problems in their communities.

We partner with the Nisqually River Education Project to bring local schoolchildren to our properties to monitor water quality, plant trees, and (a big favorite!) toss nutrient-rich salmon carcasses into the river.

Recently, we've also had the good fortune to host groups from The Evergreen State College, Willamette University, and the National Civilian Community

Corps, which have enthusiastically tackled weeds and cleaned up trash piles.

In September, weed wrenches on their shoulders, a group from Evergreen's Center for Community Based Learning and Action hiked down to the Lower Nisqually River to remove scotch broom that was spreading into the surrounding forest. As they pulled the invasive weeds they discovered native snowberry, Douglas spirea, and Oregon grape seedlings.

In January, Evergreen students in professor Jeff Antonelis-Lapp's course The Nisqually River: From Mountain Goats to Geoducks spent a fun-filled afternoon at Ohop Creek pulling ivy and collecting garbage from a hillside along Anderson Road. Pulling ivy and collecting garbage. On a hillside. In January.

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Each year, we collaborate with the Nisqually Education Project to provide hundreds of local students, from kindergarten (above left) to high school (left) to college (above), with access to Land Trust properties for use as outdoor classrooms. Photos: Candi Tobin, Nisqually Education Project and Cris Peck

Your donations provide opportunities like these to work with school groups and the Nisqually River Education Project to connect our youth with nature.

Learning | *Continued from page 4*

Not the bucolic image of planting seedlings on a fine spring day. But when students like these bring their energy and enthusiasm to the job, the land (and snowberry, spirea and Oregon grape) benefits.

In March, Willamette University students led by Olympia High School alumnus Allie Mack spent a day of their spring break near Eatonville. They started at Ohop Creek, learning about the floodplain restoration and pulling ivy, ate lunch on a bank of the Mashel River, and finished the day cleaning up yet another large pile of garbage that was recently dumped down a steep slope near the river.

One day in March members of the National Civilian Community Corps crew serving at Northwest Trek joined us along the Nisqually River, near the mouth of Powell Creek. The day started out rainy but turned sunny by afternoon, and as the crew members attacked a gnarly patch of scotch broom they shucked their raingear and were buzzed by swallows, visited by garter snakes, and watched over by an elk skull.

It doesn't get any better than that! 🌿

Is your community group interested in scheduling a work party? Contact Kim Bredensteiner at 360.489.3400 ext. 101 or nltsteward@nisquallylandtrust.org.

Notes From the Field

Wild and Mossy: Large woody debris collects to form a logjam between boulders on the Mashel River upstream from the newly protected Hamilton property east of Eatonville (see page 7). Naturally occurring logjams and the engineered logjams upstream create salmon habitat and provide bank stabilization.



Photo: Charly Kearns

Tiresome: The Land Trust constantly battles illegal dumping on the land we protect and restore. Tires are cumbersome and expensive to remove; hundreds have been unlawfully dumped on protected lands. In March, the Bridgestone Tires' "One Team, One Planet" program recycled more than 60 tires at no cost.



Photo: Charly Kearns

Marsh-walker: The Sora Rail (*Porzana carolina*) is commonly heard, but rarely seen. This secretive bird of freshwater marshes was spotted at Yelm Shoreline by Site Steward Chris Hoff and Rachel Mueller with Northwest Trek during a Nature Mapping event in May. The Land Trust and Northwest Trek partner to provide citizen-science experiences on Land Trust land.



Photo: Keith Ikerd, Courtesy of Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge

RECENT GRANTS

- Burning Foundation | *General Operating Support*
- Darden Foundation through our local Olive Garden and Red Lobster restaurants | *Volunteer Stewardship Program*
- Nisqually Tribe Charitable Fund | *Thurston County Volunteer Stewardship Activities*
- Pierce Conservation Futures Green Partnership Fund | *Volunteer Stewardship Activities in Ohop Valley*
- Russell Family Foundation | *Community Forest and Environmental Services Initiatives*
- Community Foundation of South Puget Sound | *Donor Communications and Stewardship*

Building Resiliency for the Future, Together

The most powerful tool any wild species has for adapting to climate change is resilient habitat – habitat that is abundant, diverse, and accessible. As the Land Trust looks toward its 25th anniversary, in 2014, our goal is just that: to build

resiliency, not only for wildlife but also for our local communities and, indeed, for the Land Trust itself.

Out on the land, we will continue to grow our stewardship program, including, especially, the ever-expanding team of volunteers who help us pull invasive weeds, plant native plants,

and keep an eye – and an ear! – on our properties.

With our roster of conservation lands now at 4,500 acres, we'll also be increasingly ambitious about the scale of our restoration work: rebuilding salmon habitat, removing logging roads, actively managing large timberlands.

And we'll be ambitious about getting you – our friends and supporters – out on our properties to see what you're helping to accomplish. Watch for our tours and hikes. (*Hint: Sign up for electronic announcements!*)

We'll be aggressive, too, about initiatives designed to integrate conservation with the health and economic well-being of our local communities:

- Our *Mount Rainier Scenic Byway* project is coordinating communities along the “Road to Rainier” – the main highway into Mount Rainier National Park – to publicize and protect the network of recreational amenities, historic sites, visitor services, scenic features, and natural areas that attracts some 1.5 million visitors every year.

- Our *Nisqually Community Forest* project aims to build local ownership of working forests at landscape scale – tens of thousands of acres. We'll make local forestry and tourism jobs management priorities along with protection for Chinook salmon, steelhead trout, and the hundreds of other species that make the Nisqually such a special place.

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BY THE NUMBERS

4,557 acres
permanently protected and stewarded
by the Land Trust and our volunteers

All 13 Protected Areas
monitored by our Staff Land Stewards

More than 100 volunteer stewards help
restore and protect the land each year

More than 150,000 native trees and
shrubs planted on Land Trust lands

75% of the mainstem
Nisqually River permanently protected

Resiliency | *continued from page 6*

- Our *Nisqually Environmental Services* project is working with Olympia and other local communities that depend on Nisqually water to pioneer innovative financing tools for permanently protecting the forested lands that in turn protect that water.

Meanwhile, with your continued support, we will continue to do what we have always done – permanently protect critical lands in the Nisqually watershed. Our priority will be to build connecting corridors between large blocks of protected lands, thus enabling fish and wildlife to move and adapt to the changing climate.

Finally, we'll build resiliency into the Land Trust itself as we grow our network of philanthropic support and lay plans for a major strategic-planning effort in 2014, one that will guide us not only for the next five years, but for the next 25. Stay tuned! ☘



Joe Kane
Executive Director

Newly Protected Mashel Shoreline Benefits People and Salmon

In March the Land Trust and the Town of Eatonville took a major step toward completion of the Mashel Shoreline Protection Initiative with the purchase of 14.7 acres of Mashel River frontage in downtown Eatonville.

The purchase permanently protects from development critical habitat for threatened Chinook salmon and steelhead trout. It also secures a key property for Eatonville's proposed Mashel River Greenbelt Trail, which will link the town center with the river's spectacular Boxcar Canyon, an iconic landscape much beloved by local residents.

Purchased from the Hamilton family, multi-generational Eatonville residents, the property sits in the heart of a 200-acre block of conservation lands protected by the Land Trust and Eatonville over the past five years. The conservation block includes 1.5 miles of the Mashel River, much of it protected on both banks.

The property was purchased with \$230,000 in grant funding from the Washington Salmon Recovery Funding Board.

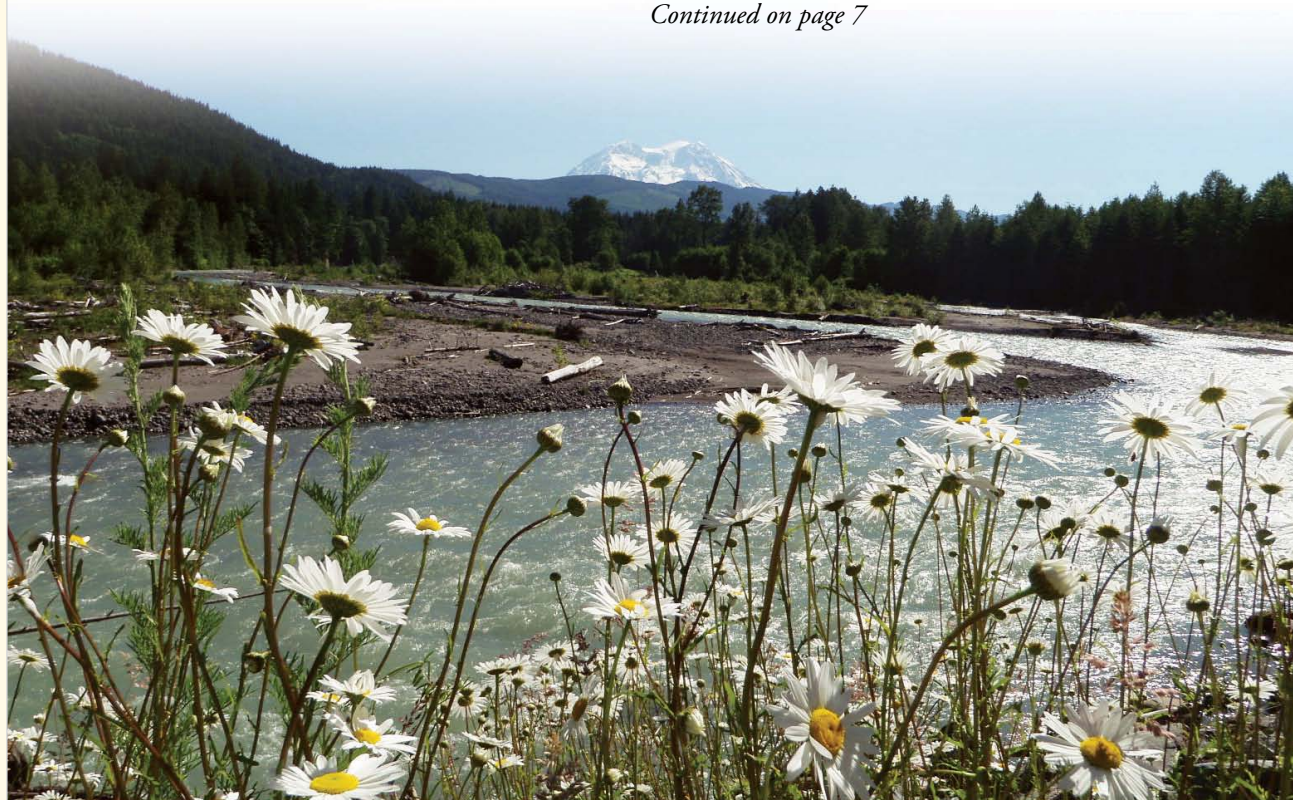
It is already the site of major habitat restoration work led by the Nisqually Indian Tribe. The purchase secures the site for maintenance of the existing work and for future restoration projects. ☘

The Land Trust, the Town of Eatonville and the Nisqually Tribe are bringing back the Nisqually's largest tributary.



Acquisition of this Mashel River property permanently protects existing salmon-recovery work and secures a key piece of the planned Mashel Greenbelt hiking trail. Land Trust donors like you support grant-writing efforts that secure funding for conservation of land like this. Photo: Kathryn Moore, Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office.

As the Land Trust looks toward its 25th anniversary, our goal is to build resiliency, not only for wildlife but also for our local communities and, indeed, for the Land Trust itself.



Misty morning in the Nisqually. View from Wilcox Flats in the Powell Creek protected area near Yelm. Photo: Candi Tobin

GARDEN WISE

Invasive ivy cultivars smother trees and displace native flora. You can help by planting a native instead! Learn more in "Garden Wise" published by the Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board at www.nwcb.wa.gov, and by visiting the Washington Native Plant Society at www.wnps.org.



Photo: Candi Tobin

Staff and volunteers have removed thousands of pounds of English ivy (*Hedera helix*) from Land Trust protected areas over the last two years. It often takes repeated pulls to clear an area of ivy.

Restoration Is Good Business

A University of Oregon study recently found that each \$1 million invested in forest or watershed restoration projects, such as the Land Trust's work on Ohop Creek, the Mashel River, and the Mount Rainier Gateway, generates between 14.7 and 23.8 jobs, and between \$2.1 and \$2.6 million for the local economy.

That's more jobs than usually produced by transportation projects, building retrofits, and oil and gas production.

Restoration projects go well beyond typical "environmental" work. They create jobs for construction workers, landscapers, heavy



Photo: Sheila Jackson

Kinnikinnick (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*) is beautiful year-round with glossy leaves that set off its bell-shaped flowers and berries that attract birds such as grosbeak and hummingbirds and insects like bees and butterflies.

equipment operators, and technical experts such as engineers – jobs that can't be out-sourced to far-off places. They also create demand for local businesses, such as plant nurseries, quarries, and others.

And the long-term benefits that result from restoring natural capital – improved water and air quality, fish populations, and overall biodiversity – continue to accrue and pay out over time, providing natural advantages for local, regional, and national economies. 🌿

PROJECT UPDATE

Nisqually Community Forest Phase I Report Now Available Online

The Nisqually River Watershed is home to tens of thousands of acres of commercial timberlands that are managed for the benefit of private investors from around the world. While ownership of these lands has grown increasingly globalized, they continue to have an enormous impact on local concerns such as forestry jobs, the health of rivers and wildlife habitat, and the scenic vistas that support the tourism and recreation economy.

What would it take to create a Nisqually Community Forest – a forest owned and managed for the benefit of the people of the Nisqually Watershed itself?

For the past 18 months, the Nisqually Community Forest Project has been convening stakeholders from throughout the watershed to explore that idea. How can we create a locally owned, self-supporting commercial forest that makes community benefit (jobs, recreation, wildlife habitat, clean air and water) a management objective on par with monetary returns?

The Project has now completed Phase I, the "conceptual planning" phase. You're invited to read and comment on the report, and to join the project as we enter Phase II. A community forest starts with a community! 🌿

Visit our website at www.nisquallylandtrust.org to download the report, complete with maps and photos. If you have questions or wish to comment, contact Joe Kane, executive director, at 360.489.3400 ext. 103, or email jkane@nisquallylandtrust.org.

SPECIAL GIFTS

Bequests

Jane Willits Trust

Honorariums

Honoring Dana Botka
Linda and Greg Brown

Honoring Elaine Erickson and
Carla Galloway
Kathy and Albie Jarvis

Honoring Mike and Barbara Hill
Jon Duerr

Honoring Eve Johnson
Romanda Jones

Honoring Judith Scavone
Charles Myrick

Honoring Elizabeth Rodrick
upon her retirement
Eric Gardner and Kimberley Rachjaibun
Richard Poelker

Honoring George Walter
Tim Walter

Gift Membership

On Behalf of Ken Kildahl
Jeff Kildahl

Memorial Gifts

In memory of Susan Dimitroff
Diane Russell

In memory of Patrick Locke
Nancy Hanna
Sarah Scott and Bill Compher

In memory of Katherine Oldroyd
Ralph Oldroyd

In memory of Kathleen Smith
Ladd Smith
Margaret Neyman

What is your conservation legacy?

By including the Land Trust in your estate plan, you will protect the health of our land and water for future generations. Talk with your family, talk with your advisor, then talk with us.

Call Sheila Jackson, philanthropy director, at 360.489.3400 ext. 110, or email sjackson@nisquallylandtrust.org to learn more.

FLORA AND FAUNA

Living with Beavers

By Charly Kearns

Not only am I fortunate enough to call the Nisqually Watershed home, but my wife-to-be and I live on protected Land Trust property and can see the River from our living room. I *still* cannot believe my good luck!

I grew up on a small organic farm in the Midwest and have always felt connected to the natural systems that sustain us. This opportunity to explore and nurture those connections – to play an active and positive role in those systems – is incredible. This is the story of a lesson learned from protecting wildlife habitat: Don't be surprised when wildlife uses it!

After a few months of idyllic summer days on the river, we noticed a new neighbor moving in next door. This neighbor was short, 30-35 pounds, and owned sharp incisors. Our neighbor's first act was to chew through several young maple trees next to our porch, dropping one right on top of our badminton net. This was amusing, at first.

McKenna Creek winds its way along our property boundary before turning east, flowing through a culvert under our driveway and emptying into the Nisqually River. Our new neighbor thought the creek was flowing too fast and began a major construction project to slow it down, building two dams immediately upstream of our driveway. This caused the water level to rise 4-5 feet, which created an extensive wetland where

there once was a flowing stream. I watched the water rise with some apprehension as scores of recently planted trees and shrubs were chewed or flooded. Our internet was down for weeks due to – you guessed it – a chewed-through phone line.

Through all this, I had not even caught a glimpse of the uninvited guest. One night, I heard chewing coming from the pond but was unable to locate the source. It is amazing that a creature with such a conspicuous presence could be so hard to find! Finally we met. I stumbled upon the beaver next to the driveway after co-existing for six months. We briefly looked each other over, then it waddled back into the creek.

While we may have a love-hate relationship with this particular beaver, I have watched as other wildlife has flourished in response – great blue herons stalking frogs and hooded mergansers landing in the newly created wetland.

Beavers are a keystone species, and play a critical role in their ecosystem. Beavers were one of the most widespread mammals in North America until a strange European fashion nearly extirpated them. Now they are bouncing back, and I, for one, am happy to have one for a neighbor. 🍷

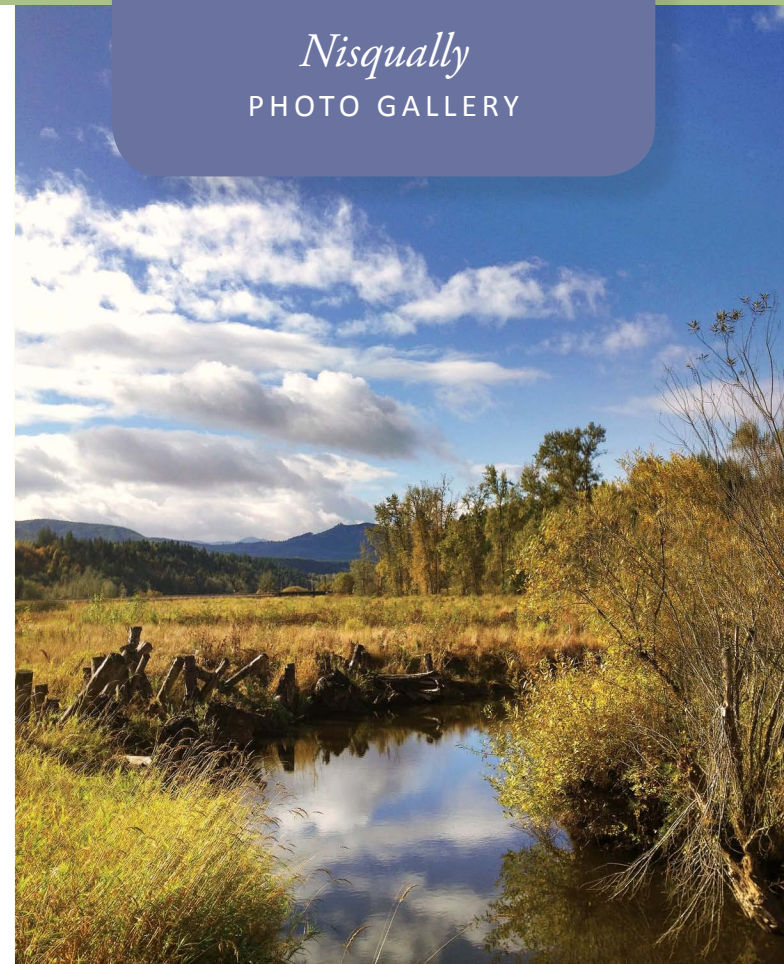
Author's Note: Check out "Living With Wildlife In the Pacific Northwest" by Russell Link. It's a great reference!

This is the story of a lesson learned from protecting wildlife habitat: Don't be surprised when wildlife uses it!

A large beaver dam in the Land Trust's Red Salmon Creek salt marsh. Beavers have poor eyesight but excellent hearing, and their instinct to construct and repair dams is triggered by the sound of running water. Photo: Candi Tobin



Nisqually PHOTO GALLERY



The Ohop Creek restoration area is filled with history and beauty (and hopefully lots of salmon in the future), rain or shine. Photo: Laurie Fait, Land Trust volunteer



Trumpeter swans were unexpected visitors to the Powell Creek Pastures last fall. Two adults and a juvenile enjoyed a lazy afternoon in the east side channel before taking flight. Trumpeter swans are the largest of North America's waterfowl and can live more than 24 years in the wild. Photo: Candi Tobin

Have you captured a photo that shows why you love the the Nisqually Watershed – its forests and wildlife, that special bend in the river? Send us your favorite photo and tell us about it!



Angel wings (Pleurotus porrigens) spotted at Yelm Shoreline. Photo: Martha Anderson, Land Trust donor and volunteer



Caddisfly larvae gather on a rock in the Mashel River. Caddisflies live in cold clean water, and their presence is often used as an indicator of good water quality. The larvae construct shells by excreting silk and covering themselves with debris as protection against the cold water. Photo: Charly Kearns

SITE STEWARD PROGRAM

Guardians of the Land

By Cris Peck, AmeriCorps Volunteer Coordinator

The Land Trust now owns and manages more than 4,500 acres with only two full-time staff to watch over the land. Essentially, that's over 2,000 acres per person. We cannot do it alone!

Our volunteer Site Stewards are essential in caring for our protected areas by being extra eyes and ears in the field. Site Stewards adopt a property of their choice, walk the land, and send us information describing the status of the property. Their observations help us to identify and prioritize habitat needs and maintenance requirements. They help minimize undesirable uses (dumping trash, for example) and often provide ongoing maintenance activities such as invasive plant removal. And, as our Site Stewards would tell you, they develop a deep connection to the special places they care for.

Our land is in good hands with the help of these dedicated volunteers:

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Dwight and Sharon | Byrna Klavano ● |
| Bergquist-Moody ★ | Keith and Jan Kusler ▲ |
| Hugh (Ed) Blake | Linda Kunze ★ |
| Patrick Clancy ▲ | Dan Locke ★ |
| Rhonda DiCostanzo | Martin McCallum ▲ |
| Brian Dunham | Steve Pruitt |
| Mindy Garvin ▲ | Karelina Resnick |
| Cassandra and Paul Gerard | Maria and Mike Ruth ● |
| John Grettenberger ▲ | Laura Schleyer |
| Tammy and Russ Harrison ● | Crow Vecchio |
| Jill Heine ▲ | Dave and Wendy Welch ▲ |
| Ashley Hetzel | Cindy Whitman |
| Chris Hoff ★ | ★ More than 50 hours |
| Shelly Holland | ● More than 25 hours |
| Buck James ★ | ▲ New in 2013 |
| Ed Kenney ▲ | |

Interested in learning more about our Site Steward Program?

Contact Cris Peck at volunteer@nisquallylandtrust.org or call 360.489.3400 ext. 106.

Site Name: Hogum Bay
 Volunteer: Mike and Maria Ruth
 Date/Time: 1/6/13 (11:30a - 3p)
 Weather: Overcast, 45 degrees
 Observations: Still working on compiling plant database. Some extremely lovely, fleshy fungi on rotting tree stumps. Recent digging from burrowing animal. Evidence of deer along upper trail. Had a friendly chat with (neighboring) landowner.

Site Name: Ohop Valley
 Volunteer: Crow Vecchio
 Date/Time: 4/22/13 (11a - 12:30p)
 Weather: Pleasant, with a few small clouds
 Observations: Spotted several Yellowthroats (*Geothlypis trichas*), a thrill for me as a birder. Numerous Red-Winged Blackbirds (*Agelaius phoeniceus*), heard frogs chirping. Fingerlings in the pool north of the west bridge.
 Site Maintenance Work: invasive patrol

Site Name: Mount Rainier Gateway/ Pope-Lewis Property
 Volunteer: Dwight and Sharon Bergquist-Moody
 Date/Time: 3/2/13 (10am - 2pm)
 Weather: Overcast, high cloud cover and rather balmy
 Observations: There was enough snow to use our snowshoes for most of the hike, probably 3-4' deep higher up. The snow was melting, the streams were flowing and the area was alive with the sounds of birds high in the trees. There were bobcat, deer and maybe rabbit tracks in the snow.
 Site Maintenance Work: trash pickup
 Next time: look for invasive plants, broom, tansy, herb Robert, blackberry since the snow will probably be gone.

Join Us for a Nature Walk

Have you ever wanted to explore some of the special (and beautiful) places within Land Trust protected areas? If you answered yes, do we have an opportunity for you! Staff and special guests will lead summer walks starting in June, and you – our donors and volunteers – are invited. Most walks are open only to Land Trust supporters, volunteers and their guests. Terrain varies by site; call us if you have questions. We hope you'll come to enjoy the special places you are protecting.

JUNE

Mount Rainier Gateway near Ashford
 Saturday, June 8th from 1 - 4 pm
Moderate to Strenuous 3.5 mile round-trip
 Hike through young forests (with mountain views, weather permitting) to a valley viewpoint. See first-hand why protection of this land is critical to ensure wildlife and habitat resiliency.

Van Eaton Homestead in Eatonville
 Saturday, June 29th from 1 - 3 pm
Moderate <1 mile round-trip
 Join special guest Terry Van Eaton to enjoy this beautiful place while learning about the history of the site, the Mashel River and stewardship of this important habitat.

If you have special physical considerations that don't allow you to attend the walks above, but wish to visit a protected area, please call Sheila at 360.489.3400 ext. 110.

JULY

Van Eaton Homestead in Eatonville
 Saturday, July 13th from 1 - 3 pm
Moderate <1 mile round-trip
 We'll take a short walk to the old homestead site on the banks of the Mashel River. Learn about the history of the site, the Mashel River and stewardship of this important habitat.

Mount Rainier Gateway near Ashford
 Sunday, July 21st from 1 - 4 pm
Moderate to Strenuous 3 mile round-trip
 Trek this lower southeast slope of Mount Rainier through young forests to a viewpoint overlooking the Upper Nisqually River Valley and old growth forest, home to the threatened marbled murrelet and northern spotted owl.

Tatrimima at Powell Creek near Yelm
 Saturday, July 27th from 1 - 3 pm
Easy <1 mile round-trip
 George Walter will lead a walk down through the uplands to one of our favorite bends in the Nisqually River – a perfect spot to watch birds, listen to the water flow by and hear about the geologic forces that shaped the watershed.

AUGUST

Trestle Farm at Yelm Shoreline in McKenna
 Saturday, August 17th from 9:30 am - Noon
Easy to Moderate 1.5 mile round-trip
 Get the inside story from George Walter of how this forested shoreline was preserved. Bring your binoculars and sense of adventure as we search for birds and beaver amongst huge cedars and marshy pockets.

Hogum Bay near Olympia
 Friday, June 30th from 10 am - Noon
Moderate 1 mile round-trip
 Hogum Bay is a precious coastal lagoon important for juvenile salmon and other aquatic life in Puget Sound. The path leads through mature maple and alder forest down to the shoreline along Puget Sound.

To register for a Nature Walk, call Sheila Jackson at 360.489.3400 ext. 110, email sjackson@nisquallylandtrust.org or sign up online at www.nisquallylandtrust.org. Space is limited and registration is required. Sign up soon!



Record Raised for Conservation

More than 200 dedicated and enthusiastic Land Trust friends “raised a paddle” to permanently protect our land, water, wildlife and scenic vistas at our 21st Annual Conservation Dinner and Auction in March.

Together, we raised more than \$85,000 net (a new record!) including \$30,050 for our Forever Fund, which supports our land stewardship efforts.

Thank you!

We celebrated Land Trust accomplishments made possible by our generous donors – individuals, businesses, agencies and foundations – YOU!

We celebrated our partners with the presentation by JW Foster of this year’s President’s Awards (more on page 2). Auctioneer Cindy Schorno led a lively auction and we were inspired by the personal stories and call to action of Land

Trust donors and volunteers Brian Sullivan and Tom Ginsburg.

Thank you for your gifts – whether you purchased tickets to spend the evening

together, purchased an auction item


(or two), made a pledge to the

Forever Fund, or sent a donation

to demonstrate you were

attending “in spirit.”

Your gifts are already hard

at work. 

Mark your calendar for next year’s Dinner and Auction on April 26th, 2014 and join us as we celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Land Trust.

21ST ANNUAL
Conservation Dinner and Auction

Thanks to all who contributed at this year’s event. Together, you helped raise more than **\$85,000** net for conservation in the Nisqually Watershed.



Photo: Sandy Berry

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OUR MISSION

The Nisqually Land Trust acquires and manages critical lands to permanently protect the water, wildlife, natural areas, and scenic vistas of the Nisqually River Watershed.

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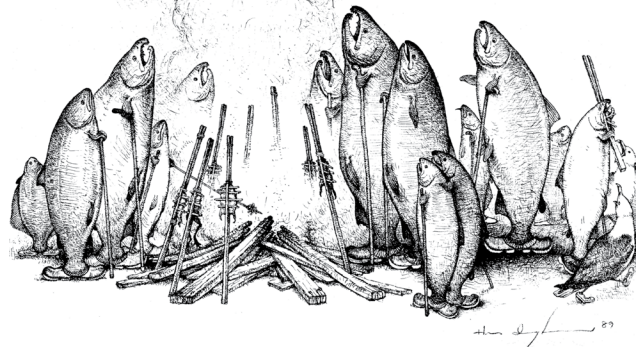


More than 20 volunteers of all ages attended this early March work party at Trestle Farm in the Yelm Shoreline Protected Area. This former horse pasture was planted in 2011 to create a riparian forest. Volunteers removed the plant protection tubes from trees now 5-7' tall, planted another 200 cedars and removed invasive herb Robert.

**Sign up
online for e-mail
notice of volunteer
and event info**

SAVE THE DATE
Annual Membership Meeting
and
Salmon Bake

September 15, 2013
4 - 7:30 pm



Join us for a Nisqually Chinook salmon barbecue dinner and an update of Land Trust activities.

Watch for more information to RSVP on our website at www.nisquallylandtrust.org.



Photo: Charly Kearns