

NISQUALLY LAND TRUST



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DECEMBER 2005

LAND TRUST PURCHASES 20 ACRES OF CRITICAL SHORELINE SALMON HABITAT



a few months it would be sold and developed into rural home sites.

However, Mr. Kist expressed an interest in selling to the Land Trust if the property would be permanently protected, and a \$100,000 grant from the Nisqually Indian Tribe enabled us to close a deal quickly. Without this act of generosity, the purchase would not have been possible.

A critical consideration in the purchase was that in this reach of the Nisqually the floodplain is wide and the river meanders freely. This is a dynamic process that creates habitat and is actively moving the river toward the Kist property. Land Trust acquisition will allow the river to maintain its natural habitat function rather than being constrained by bank hardening or other artificial means of erosion control.

The Land Trust has applied for a retroactive grant from the Salmon Recovery Funding Board for 85 percent of the purchase price, with the Nisqually Tribe's grant covering the required 15 percent grant match as well as stewardship and other costs associated with the purchase. The project has been highly ranked in the current round of SRFB proposals, and we are cautiously optimistic that it will win funding.

The Land Trust's purchase of this 20-acre parcel along the Nisqually River's Middle Reach will permanently protect one thousand feet of shoreline that provides rearing habitat for all five species of salmon.

The Land Trust is pleased to announce the purchase of a key 20-acre parcel on the Thurston County bank of the Nisqually River's Middle Reach. Completed in September for \$300,000, this acquisition will permanently protect approximately one thousand feet of shoreline in a section of the river that provides rearing habitat for all five species of salmon and in which spawning steelhead and threatened Chinook have been documented.

More important, the property sits amid three parcels that the Land Trust owns or is in negotiations for and will contribute substantially to creating a large block of protected shoreline habitat.

When the property came on the market last summer the Land Trust considered it to be under immediate threat. The owner, Don Kist, had subdivided it into four residential lots; there was little doubt that within

VOLUNTEER STEWARD TAKES ON THE BIG JOBS



David Hymel

For David Hymel, the road to the Nisqually watershed began during a 20-year career with the U.S. Army that took him from Fort Lewis to South Korea, where he was a public works officer for the Army Corps of Engineer and learned about “construction, deconstruction, and blowing stuff up,” as he puts it.

Surprisingly, perhaps, many of those

skills serve him well as a volunteer steward for the Land Trust. When he returned from Korea he settled along Tanwax Creek, a Nisqually tributary, and last spring he saw an ad for the Stream Stewards course taught by the Nisqually Tribe. Volunteers meet twice a week for eight weeks to learn conservation techniques appropriate to the Nisqually, then commit to forty hours of stewardship work in the watershed.

During the course, David met Land Trust Stewardship Coordinator Linda Kunze. Not one to do things in a small way, he offered to take on stewardship of our 100-acre Peterson Farm and our three-acre Lundgren property in the Ohop Valley. His work list includes not only things like organizing weed-pulling parties, but also demolishing and

hauling the many dilapidated buildings that dot the properties.

“It’s time to give back,” he says. “My goal is to attract people to that idea, and to do it myself.” His enthusiasm has inspired a cadre of friends and neighbors to help with the Peterson Farm and the Lundgren property, and his expertise has saved the Land Trust a considerable amount of time and money.

David also has organized local landowners to help conserve Tanwax Creek; information is available at tanwaxcreek.org.

The Land Trust’s success owes in large part to the dedication of its volunteers. Many thanks, David.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

WHERE DOES YOUR WATER COME FROM?

By Joe Kane

If you live in Thurston County, the answer is probably the Nisqually River watershed. Not only is the Nisqually the largest watershed in southern Puget Sound, it is also the largest aquifer—the system of natural underground reservoirs that captures and holds the water that eventually flows through our taps.

The Nisqually supplies drinking water to tens of thousands of people. From October through March, the entire City of Olympia depends on it for all of its water (and relies on it for some 70 percent the rest of the year). The city of Yelm, too, pumps all of its water from the Nisqually aquifers. Lacey draws 42 percent of its water from Nisqually, and will draw from it even more heavily as the city grows.

By conserving and restoring land throughout the watershed, we—the Land Trust and its members and supporters—also play a role in supplying clean, safe water to thousands of our friends and neighbors. Aquifers depend on run-off from rain and snow to recharge. Undeveloped natural areas slow this run-off and allow more of it to be captured before running out to sea.

As land is developed, however, less recharge occurs, and more contaminants enter the water supply. Every property the Land Trust acquires and protects in perpetuity helps to prevent this from happening.

So next time you turn on your tap, give yourself a small note of thanks for the good Nisqually water that fills your glass.

Nisqually Land Trust

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS:
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 Photography: Dan Kowalski, Constance Bond, Linda Kunze and Kelly McAllister
 Design: Wide Design Team
 Special thanks to: Capitol City Press

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 Website: www.nisquallylandtrust.org

VOLUNTEER STEWARDS GAIN MOMENTUM



Bob Zimmermann and Al Schmauder volunteered on a sunny Saturday in October to remove a barbed-wire fence between our Browder and Bartlett properties. It was a great day’s work that reconnected the two properties and kept the fence from ending up in the Nisqually River. Thank you Al and Bob!

By Linda Kunze
 NLT Stewardship Coordinator

The Land Trust’s new stewardship program is gaining momentum. We have new volunteer land stewards in place, new projects launched, and new opportunities each month, including one-time as well as ongoing projects.

Our volunteers are critical to the stewardship of our wonderful properties. We’ll be conducting site visits for you to become familiar with them. We also have Volunteer Land Stewards who have taken responsibility for individual properties and are looking for assistance:

Keith Kusler is the Volunteer Land Steward for two of the Land Trust’s properties on the Mashel River: the 64-acre Weyco-Mashel parcel adjacent to the new Nisqually-Mashel State Park and a two-acre parcel upstream. Keith could use help controlling non-native plants. You can reach him at (360) 832-3089.

David Hymel has taken on two of our properties on Ohop Creek, working to control weeds and using his construction background to remove unwanted buildings and fill. You can reach him by email at dhymel@u.washington.edu or by phone, (360) 832-8148.

Cheryl Stephan and Mary Fitzpatrick are controlling weeds on our Browder and Bartlett properties southeast of Yelm. They work mainly during the week. Contact Cheryl by email at valeofhop@hotmail.com or Mary by phone at (360) 894-4462.

Kathryn and Clyde Powell are monitoring the boundaries and maintaining a presence at the Trent property near Roy.

Watch our website for announcements about tree plantings, weed pullings, and other work parties. For more information, call me at (360) 358-1111.

The Land Trust thanks the following donors for their generous support of our Volunteer Stewardship Program:

- THE HUGH AND JANE FERGUSON FOUNDATION
- THE AGNES J. WATERHOUSE ENDOWMENT FUND OF THE GREATER TACOMA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
- THE SUE D. NILSSON ENDOWMENT FUND OF THE GREATER TACOMA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
- THE NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION
- THE NISQUALLY TRIBE STREAM STEWARDS PROGRAM
- THE PIERCE COUNTY COMMUNITY SALMON FUND

Help Needed with Gate Installation

DO YOU HAVE THE TIME AND EXPERIENCE TO INSTALL A GATE ACROSS THE DRIVEWAY TO ONE OF OUR PROPERTIES NEAR YELM? WE HAVE IN MIND A STURDY TWELVE-FOOT GATE WITH WOOD OR METAL POSTS SET IN CONCRETE. WE ALSO NEED FIFTEEN FEET OF CHAIN-LINK FENCING TO ONE SIDE OF THE ROAD. IF YOU’D LIKE TO HELP US OUT, PLEASE CALL LINDA KUNZE AT (360) 458-1111. THANK YOU.

Stream Stewards Training Course

THE NISQUALLY TRIBE’S STREAM STEWARDS PROGRAM TRAINS VOLUNTEERS IN A WIDE RANGE OF CONSERVATION TECHNIQUES APPROPRIATE TO THE NISQUALLY RIVER WATERSHED, INCLUDING TREE PLANTING, STREAM RESTORATION, WATER MONITORING, AND SALMON COUNTING.

THE COURSE INCLUDES SEVEN NIGHT CLASSES AND FOUR FIELD TRAININGS HELD OVER EIGHT WEEKS. GRADUATES ADOPT A PROPERTY AND COMMIT TO FORTY HOURS OF STEWARDSHIP. THE COURSE IS OPEN TO LAND TRUST MEMBERS AND ANYONE ELSE INTERESTED IN PROTECTING THE HEALTH OF STREAMS IN THE WATERSHED.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT DON PERRY AT (360) 438-8687.

ANNUAL AUCTION FUNDS LAND ACQUISITION, STEWARDSHIP



Our annual auction will raise funds to purchase the 70-acre property on river right in this photo, thereby protecting an almost continuous five-mile stretch of shoreline on both banks of the Nisqually

Join us Saturday, March 18, 2006, at our Fourteenth Annual Auction and help the Nisqually Land Trust acquire 70 acres of important salmon spawning habitat, including over a mile of Nisqually River shoreline.

Our goal is to raise matching funds for a grant to purchase the Manke property, which is located between the Mashel River and Ohop Creek, adjacent to the undeveloped Nisqually Mashel State Park and across the river from property owned by Tacoma Power. With this purchase, an almost continuous five-mile stretch on both banks of the Nisqually will be protected.

The grant will match your auction dollars at nearly seven to one. In addition, some of the auction proceeds will help fund Land Trust stewardship and operations.

The evening begins at 5 p.m. with

our silent auction. Enjoy live music and hors d'oeuvres while you peruse offerings that include pottery, art, sporting goods, plants, jewelry, and much more.

After a delicious buffet dinner, the evening gets into full swing with our exciting live auction. Among the exceptional items featured will be great vacation trips and fine artwork from talented Native American and Northwest artists.

Tickets are \$50 per person and \$45 for Land Trust members. To order yours, call 360-458-1111 or mail the reservation form below. We accept Visa and MasterCard, but encourage you to pay by cash or check as credit card companies charge us a substantial fee for each transaction.

Seating is limited, so make your reservations soon for the Land Trust's premier annual fundraising event!

Donors and Sponsors Needed!

WE NEED YOUR HELP TO PROTECT THE NISQUALLY RIVER! WE RELY ON THE BUSINESSES AND INDIVIDUALS WHO CONTRIBUTE THE ITEMS, SERVICES AND FUNDS THAT MAKE OUR AUCTION FUNDRAISER A SUCCESS. LAST YEAR'S AUCTION BROUGHT IN A RECORD \$37,000, WHICH FUNDED OUR 2005 LAND PURCHASES, STEWARDSHIP AND OPERATIONS. PLEASE CALL US AT 360-458-1111 TO DONATE OR FOR INFORMATION. WE GRATEFULLY RECOGNIZE OUR SPONSORS AND DONORS IN THE AUCTION CATALOG AND NEWSLETTER AND AT THE AUCTION TABLES.

NISQUALLY LAND TRUST

Fourteenth Annual Auction

Saturday, March 18, 2006 • 5 to 10 p.m.

Worthington Conference Center at St. Martin's College • 5300 Pacific Ave. SE • Lacey, WA

AUCTION TICKET ORDER FORM

Tickets are \$50 each

Save \$5 per ticket (\$45 each) if you are a member of the Nisqually Land Trust

Buffet dinner is included

Name: _____ Business Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

Enclosed is my \$ _____ check for _____ auction tickets.

Please charge my Visa/Master Card \$ _____ for _____ auction tickets.

Account Number: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Signature: _____

Mail to: Nisqually Land Trust, P.O. Box 1148, Yelm WA 98597-1148. Call 360-458-1111 for information or to make reservations by telephone.

For fast check-in, please provide names, addresses and phone numbers for each person/couple who will need a separate bidder number and invoice.

ANNUAL MEETING FEATURES SUN AND SALMON



Kids playing tetherball; people at buffet.

More than a hundred Land Trust supporters gathered at Odd Fellows Park on the Nisqually Reach to enjoy a beautiful September afternoon and a dinner of freshly caught Nisqually River salmon at this year's Salmon Bake/Annual Meeting. Kids played tetherball and frisbee while their parents conversed or walked down to the water to take in the view of Mt. Rainier.



After dinner, Board President George Walter, Executive Director Joe Kane and Stewardship Coordinator Linda Kunze discussed Land Trust goals and accomplishments. Nugie and Georgiana Kautz donated salmon for the event and Patt Brady, Fred Fiedler, Paul Wiseman and Jill Brady prepared the dinner. David Troutt was our grill master. We thank everyone who attended and everyone who has supported the Nisqually Land Trust throughout the year.

OUR SUPPORTERS SUSTAIN LAND TRUST GROWTH

Our thanks to all who have contributed monies, supplies and services to save this special river. The Nisqually Land Trust is a wonderful example of how we can accomplish great things if we pool our resources. Everyone who donates to or is a member of the Nisqually Land Trust has had a hand in conserving our pristine river and its salmon, wildlife and clean water.

Donations and memberships received from May 1 through October 31, 2005

* new member or donor
+ Winter Fund Drive Contributor

DONORS

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VOLUNTEERS

Evan Marks
Ginnie Harris
Louise Olivera
Karen Bond
Fred Fiedler
Paul Wiseman
Jill Brady

- *Become a Conservationist—*
- *Join the Nisqually Land*
- *Trust Today!*

NISQUALLY LAND TRUST MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____

Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Levels of membership:

SUPPORTING MEMBER

- Muskrat - \$25
- Salmon - \$50
- Osprey - \$100
- River Steward - \$200-\$400

WATERSHED PATRON

- Individual/Family - \$500+
- Business - \$1000+

• Legacy Benefactor \$5000+

• Donation \$ _____

• Remember, your donation is tax deductible.

• Mail your check with this form to:
Nisqually Land Trust
P.O. Box 1148
Yelm, WA 98597

DID YOU RECEIVE YOUR ANNUAL REPORT?

We've just passed the \$8,000 mark on our way to our \$12,000 winter fund-drive goal. If you have not mailed your contribution yet, please do and help us to protect more land in 2006!

You should have received a copy of our annual report and an invitation to either renew your membership or make a donation. The report is a full-color publication with photos of recently acquired lands and a handsome map showing the location of all our properties. You'll enjoy seeing everything you've helped to accomplish. If you did not get your copy or would like one for a friend (a prospective Land Trust member, perhaps), call Connie at 360-458-1111 or email her at staff@nisquallylandtrust.org.

FROM THE PRESIDENT



George Walter

As some of you know, I graduated from Ohio State University back in the Woody Hayes era. Coach Hayes wrote several books about his coaching success, and the one that has always remained with me was entitled "You Win With People."

I'm thinking about this concept because of the success our Land Trust has achieved of late. The annual

report we distributed has been well received; our protected land has topped 850 acres; we are establishing a well-functioning infrastructure. These successes are the direct result of the staff people we have been fortunate to attract.

Connie Bond just completed three years as our program manager. From her first days, Connie has been the cornerstone of our office, creating a professional office environment and pushing us into modern times for financial and data management. Under her guidance, our auction fund-raiser runs very smoothly.

We feel very happy to have **Joe Kane** as our executive director. In less than ten months (and most of that part-time), Joe has improved our financial status considerably. He has given a lot of attention to budgets and income, and to date his efforts have yielded three grants. Joe is focusing his

attention on our long-term success, and the Land Trust is certainly benefiting from his work.

In April we started our land stewardship work under the direction of **Linda Kunze**. It's hard to believe that this program has been going only 6 months. Linda has developed a professional approach to stewardship planning for our properties. Just as important, she is aggressively recruiting volunteers because she realizes that we cannot meet our stewardship goals without a strong volunteer team. Working with Linda this summer was **Evan Marks**, an Evergreen State College intern. Evan developed a stewardship data management program that will serve us for years.

These are the people we are winning with. They deserve our praise and appreciation. Thank you Connie, Joe, Linda and Evan.

ANNUAL "FLOAT THE NISQUALLY" EVENT GROWS IN POPULARITY

Summer weather inspired playful "water wars" as river rafters floated the Nisqually in July. A record 105 people joined us for the two float trips that comprise our annual "Float the Nisqually" event each summer. They swam, spotted wildlife and enjoyed the scenic beauty of Land Trust properties as they drifted along the river. Many expressed surprise at how pristine and serene the river is, even though it is close to populated areas. If you would like to float the Nisqually with the Land Trust next summer, call our office at 360-458-1111.



VOLUNTEER FOR HANDS-ON CONSERVATION



Mallard nest photographed on Land Trust's Browder property

The Land Trust is organizing volunteers to help restore and steward our properties. We are developing stewardship plans and need your help in managing these lands. We have a wide range of opportunities, from office tasks to pulling weeds, planting trees and monitoring properties. Let us know what you'd be interested in by calling Linda Kunze, our stewardship coordinator, at 360-458-1111. You can also email her at nltsteward@ywave.com or visit our website, www.nisquallylandtrust.org, and click on "volunteer opportunities."



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