

Trust Purchases Lyman Slough

With funds from the Salmon Recovery Funding Board and help from Skagit County, the Trust has purchased another key parcel of land along the Skagit River. The “Lyman Slough” tract is comprised of 18 acres near the City of Lyman. The property is all in the Skagit River floodplain with a side-channel slough cutting through it. It connects to public Wild and Scenic River lands to the south and to Skagit County’s walking, biking and equestrian trail to the north. The river banks, clean gravel bars and shady backwaters combined with the virtually undisturbed shoreline forest on the property create high quality salmon and wildlife habitat; it is also a very scenic and peaceful place.

The Trust purchased the property from Denver and Marci Bumgarner who live nearby in Lyman. Denver assembled the property through three separate transactions over a period of years. He kept purchasing more parcels just because he liked the idea of a quiet refuge behind his house, and didn’t want to see it logged or developed. The Bumgarners have been good stewards of the land, and passed it on to the Trust in excellent condition.



*Lyman Slough - side-channel
habitat for Salmon and Songbirds.*

*Ralph Heft and Dick Raisler
posting the boundary of Trust
property along the Cascade Trail.*



Trust volunteer, Dick Raisler, an avid fisherman, will be the Volunteer Steward for the property. The mouth of the slough is a locally famous fishing spot known as “Spar Tree Hole”. The namesake spar tree, a remnant from logging in 1950’s has washed away, but lives on in the name. And, according to Denver, once upon a time, a barn and dairy farm were located on the eastern part of the property – this too, has virtually disappeared back into the wild.

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Skagit Update

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Message From the Executive Director

1000 acres and six miles of shoreline saved! What a great year it's been for the Trust and for all of you, our members, because you've made it possible. Future generations will thank you for your vision and foresight in giving your support to Skagit Land Trust now, while there's still time to act.

Our board and staff recently met to update our goals for the next three years. Trust member, Diane Morton, expertly facilitated our discussion. We noted that increasing urbanization is bringing changes to our communities, some good, some unfortunate. Facing these changes we must do everything possible while we can to ensure we do not destroy the area's natural qualities that tie us so strongly to this verdant and beautiful corner of the world. Our work must be fast-paced today as many opportunities will not exist in even ten year's time. A strong thread of our discussion was that as we conserve important natural lands, we must seek to benefit the lives of all citizens.

I welcome requests for a copy of our goals. Let me share with you some key priorities:

- Protect more threatened land and water while we can.
- Continue strengthening capabilities to provide proper oversight and long-term stewardship of lands we have protected.
- Expand community understanding and appreciation for the benefit of the Trust's work and for land conservation.
- Increase substantially the Trust's annual operating support.

The last listed priority is critical. The Trust cannot maintain present levels of accomplishment and meet future needs for land protection without a substantial jump in our financial resources. In the planning process, the Trust identified that we will be facing serious growth issues in the next three years requiring major increases in our support base. We are committed to expanding our membership and other sources of support, but we also ask current members to consider supporting the Trust's work at a higher level of annual contributions. Additionally we have many volunteer opportunities. Introducing the Trust to a friend or acquaintance is always very appreciated.

We can turn away land protection opportunities or meet the demand today. We are seeking every way possible to enable the latter. The former delays land and habitat protection with huge consequences to future generations.

You, as members, are the foundation of Skagit Land Trust. As contributors, volunteer workers, sources of expertise and appreciation, you make possible all that the Trust does. We all thank you most sincerely.

Molly Doran
Executive Director



SAVE LAND - AND TAXES - WITH APPRECIATED STOCK

Donating stock is a wonderful way to help Skagit Land Trust protect more land. Whether your portfolio performance was above market, or you were lucky enough to receive a one time cash dividend from Microsoft - or even if you had a decline in your portfolio value, donating stock to Skagit Land Trust is a wise way to help save land.

Gifting stock is an easy and practical way to give because there is no capital gains tax for the donor. And, the giver receives a tax deduction for the full current market value of the stock. For example, if you donated stock purchased five years ago for \$4000, and its now worth \$6000, you receive a tax deduction for the entire \$6000 without having a \$2000 capital gain. You save in two ways.

As always, we suggest that you consult with your independent financial, tax or legal advisor for your specific situation. If you are interested in donating stock or mutual funds before year end to help Skagit Land Trust save more land, please contact the Trust's Executive Director, Molly Doran, at 360-428-7878 for specifics on "How to Transfer Stock".



Give a meaningful gift to family and friends this holiday

You can view our selection of gifts at www.skagitlandtrust.org. We accept phone orders and Visa or MasterCard payment.

Intern Larry Johnson brought his expertise in computer mapping to the Trust.



Huxley College Intern Assists Skagit Land Trust

This summer Skagit Land Trust was fortunate to have an intern from Huxley at Western Washington University. Larry Johnson was looking for a project that would utilize his skills and knowledge of GIS – Geographic Information Systems – as he finished his geography degree at WWU. We put Larry to work helping us learn more about natural features in the Cascade-to-Chuckanut Corridor area. He not only researched and compiled some very useful information for that project, but he also readily pitched-in on other projects that arose while he was in the office. Larry donated over 300 hours of his time to Skagit Land Trust and did so with a wonderfully professional attitude. "I really enjoyed working with the Trust. I knew very little about how land trusts operate or what they do until I did this internship. It was rewarding to finish my college career by helping to preserve undeveloped land." We already miss his presence in the office and hope to see him again in the field of land protection.

Give a gift where proceeds protect more land:

Memberships or Contributions in honor of someone special. Your gift makes a lasting tribute through land conservation.

The Poster "Our Valley" A brightly colored aerial view of Skagit Valley created for the Trust by renowned photographer Lee Mann.

Note Cards Beautiful watercolors of Skagit Valley landscapes and wildlife, singles or portfolio pack. Art by Thais Armstrong.

Baseball Caps Show your support with an artistically designed Skagit Land Trust hat available in several attractive colors.

First Annual Bus Tour of Skagit Land Trust Properties

On September 25th a full bus of cheerful land conservationists toured Skagit Land Trust projects between Sedro-Woolley and Concrete. We had a wonderful day of sunshine to walk out onto several of the properties, including Hurn Field and Skiyou Island. For lunch we enjoyed grilled burgers and bratwurst at Lyman City Park, where we also got to walk out on the newest Trust property, Lyman Slough Conservation Area. The tour was led by the Trust's Stewardship Director, Brenda Cunningham, with Deanna Ammons from Clear Lake Historical Association telling us about pioneer life along the Skagit River.



Stewardship Director, Brenda Cunningham, shares information about the Skiyou Island protection project.



Members enjoyed a picnic lunch served at Lyman City Park.



Everyone had a chance to get out and walk on the Trust property at Hurn Field, home to the Nooksack Elk.

Photos by Trevor Kyle

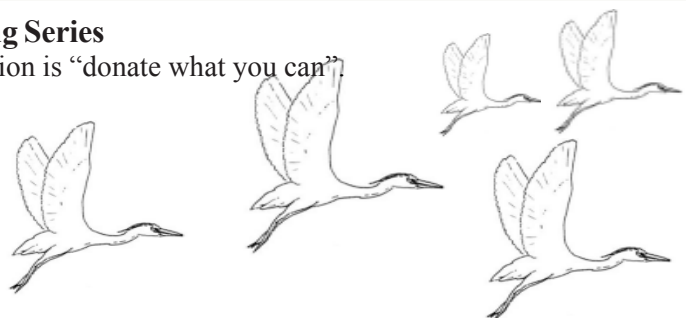
Winter Passport to Birding Series

7-9 PM Lincoln Theatre, Mount Vernon - Admission is "donate what you can"

January 20th – "It's For The Birds"
Creating Backyard Habitat

January 27th – Bird Rehabilitation & Research

February 2nd – Culture & Birds



Thank You to the Following Supporters

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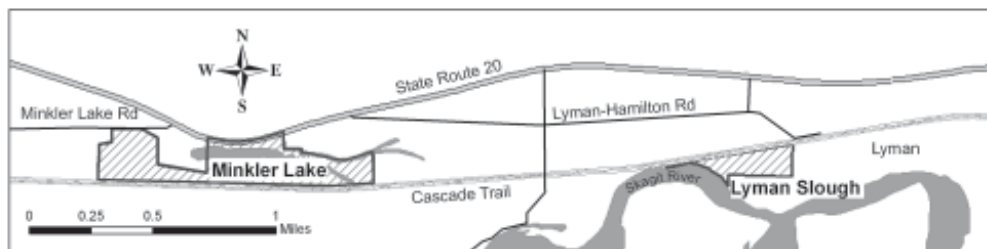
John & Kristen Boyes
City of Anacortes
Brenda Cunningham & Tim Manns
James Squires Jr.

**Thanks to all new and
renewing members.
Membership gifts
will be listed in the
Winter and Summer
Newsletter and our
Annual Report**

Take a Self-guided Walking Tour

Why not get outside this winter and take a look at what the Trust has been doing? With the recent purchase of the Lyman Slough Conservation Area, Skagit Land Trust now protects over 1½ miles of frontage on the Cascade Trail between Lyman and Sedro-

Woolley. Park at the west end of Lyman at the city park and hop on the trail heading west. You will immediately see the Skagit Land Trust green and white sign marking the start of the Lyman Slough Conservation Area. Look for identical signs on down the trail towards Sedro-Woolley, marking the extent of Trust properties. This trail offers people a back door view of the landscape you are familiar with from State Route 20. Brighten a day this winter by spending a few hours along this trail, enjoying peace of mind knowing that your support for the Trust has helped protect these unique places in Skagit County.





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Saving Land for Tomorrow

Upcoming Tours and Events:

December
4th

March's Point Heronry

Skagit Land Trust is offering a tour of this Great Blue Heron nesting site on December 4th at 10am.

On this approximately 2 hour tour, Trust staff will explain the biology of the herons and show you some things not seen outside the nesting colony. The Trust does not allow people into the heronry at other times of the year due to the sensitivity of the nesting birds, so take advantage of this unique opportunity if you can. Call Brenda for details, 360-428-7878.

December
9th

Skagit Land Trust Open House

Come have fun & meet like-minded conservationists Thursday December 9th from 4-7 pm at Skagit Land Trust office, 325 Pine Street, downtown Mount Vernon.

Hors d'oeuvres & Beverages

This is a great opportunity to learn more about this year's projects and those for 2005. Invite a friend and introduce them to the Trust!



*A new sign is hung
outside the
Skagit Land Trust office
on Pine Square.*

Mission Statement

Skagit Land Trust protects wildlife habitat, wetlands, agriculture and forest lands, scenic open space and shorelines throughout the mainland and islands of Skagit County for the benefit of our community and as a legacy for future generations.