

Saving the Entrance to Samish Island Preserve the Historic Samish Flower Farm

As you enter Samish Island the wide open farmlands fall away, and for a brief moment you are enclosed in a green canopy of trees that make your whole being slow down. You are now on "Island Time," noticing the details of your surroundings and perhaps pulling to the side of the road to catch up with a friendly face.

The dense forest that causes this transformation is part of the historic Samish Flower Farm, the original site of tulip farming in Skagit Valley. This property contains some of the Island's oldest trees - some over 130 years old. The 37+ acre property, which contains 500+ feet of unarmored beachfront, has served as the welcome-home view for generations of islanders and visitors.



Island residents getting a tour of the beach portion of the Samish Flower Farm. The unarmored beach is a critical foraging area for Great Blue Herons and other migrating birds.

As real estate values have soared in the Skagit and San Juan Islands, and countless signature properties have been lost to development, Samish Flower Farm has remained miraculously whole and unaffected by these pressures. The property



Mature coastal forest along the Padilla Bay beach side of the Samish Flower Farm property.

has been in the Stewart/Murphy family for over 100 years and they have been exceptional stewards of the land during this time. Late in 2017, the family contacted Skagit Land Trust to discuss the possibility of the Trust purchasing the property. Soon after, the property experienced heightened interest from potential buyers, including a nearly full-price competing offer from someone wanting to develop the land. In May, the family agreed to sell 34.7 acres of the property to Skagit Land Trust as long as we have funds in hand to finalize the purchase by October 2018.

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Message From the Board President

Dear Members and Partners,

I think of Skagit Land Trust as a growing family whose members include staff, Board, partner conservation groups, and, most importantly of all, people like you. I am honored to represent our land trust family as president of this year's Board, and thankful for Warren Walz's excellent leadership over the past year.

I saw snow drifting through the air of Skagit Valley today. Snow in early June, not a freakish event, but a telltale sign of time passing, as cottonwood trees release their seeds in wisps of white, and spring becomes summer.

This evening I walked a trail on the south side of Little Mountain, a part of our natural world preserved forever by a Skagit Land Trust conservation easement. I stopped to watch a slug slowly move across a giant glossy green skunk cabbage leaf surrounded by chest high horsetails, "living fossils" whose ancestors date back to the Paleozoic era.

I thought about the passage of time, wondering with a smile what horsetails might look like in a future we will never see, and for how many Junes cottonwood snow will blow. I realized how grateful I am to our land trust family for all it has done over the past quarter of a century to protect so many natural areas of Skagit County, not just for you and me and our children, but for all generations of people, plants and wildlife yet to come.

Our conservation work has been successful in large part because our family members have contributed time, labor, expertise, money and ideas to our goals of protecting more lands, stewarding well those we have conserved, and planning carefully for the future.

I am very excited to be a part of developing Skagit Land Trust's strategic direction for the next five years. Throughout 2018 we will examine who we are and who we want to become, how well we have met our previous goals and if we need to alter those goals as our lands, our waters, our community are impacted by the earth's changing climate, by Skagit County's growing population, by increasing demands for development. How can we best protect our natural areas? Should we focus on forestlands as population growth shifts east of the I-5 corridor? How can we create more wildlife corridors? How do we bring more Skagitonians into our conservation family?

I look forward to collaborating with all of you as we seek answers to questions like these, as we explore ways Skagit Land Trust can work to mitigate the impacts of climate change on our conservation areas, to diversify our landscapes and our conservation family so all will thrive as the world around us changes.

- Anne Winkes, SLT Board President

To the left: Anne Winkes monitoring herons on Samish Island.



Skagit Land Trust Transitions

Each spring the Trust says goodbye to a few hardworking board members and hello to new community representatives ready to help us do the work of conserving land in the Skagit. This April, Brenda Cunningham and Phil Wright finished their terms on the board but we are happy to say they haven't gone far. Brenda continues to serve as a Land Steward and on the Development & Outreach Committee. Phil remains on our Investment Committee. Warren Walz completed his term as President and quickly picked up a pen to fill the role of Board Secretary.

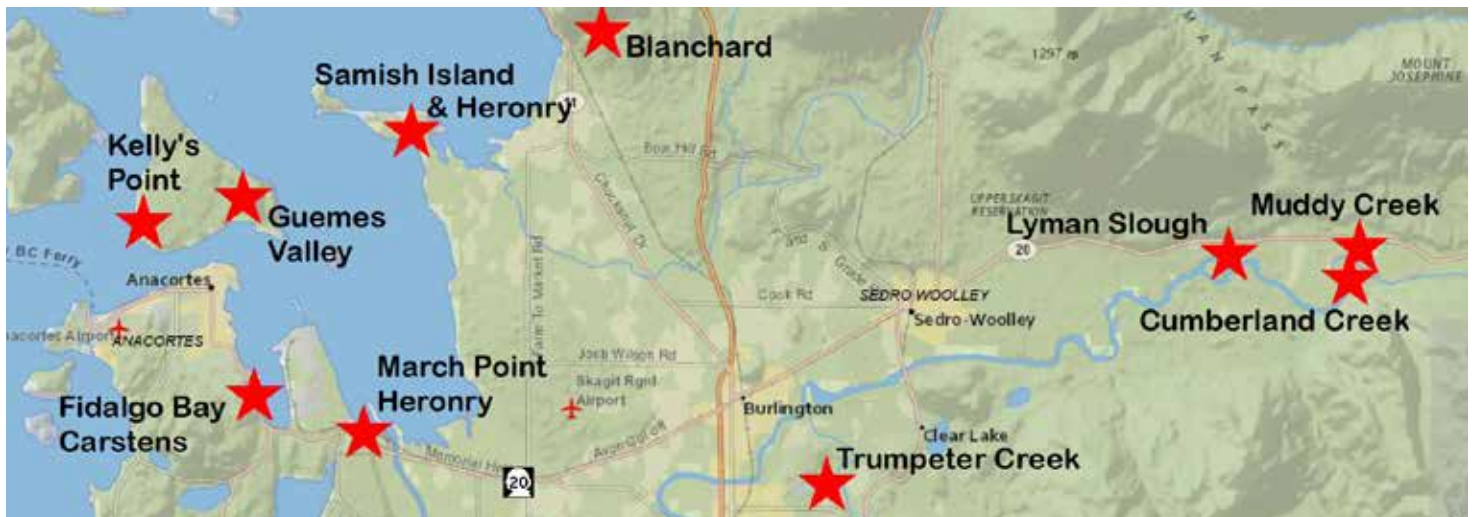
Tim Manns and Jennifer Sevigny joined the Board this April. Jack Hartt also came onboard, serving as member-elect. Tim is a long time Trust member who served as Head of Interpretation at North Cascades National Park until retirement in 2006. He is also an active member of Skagit Audubon and a SLT Land Steward. Jennifer is a Wildlife Biologist for the Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians. She is currently working on elk, songbird, beaver, and mountain goat monitoring and management in the North Cascades. Jack Hartt is recently retired from a 40 year career with Washington State Parks, having spent the last 14 years as Manager of Deception Pass State Park. Jack got to know the Trust through his work and was an enthusiastic partner in the Tursi Trail project.

We also said a fond goodbye this May to our Outreach Programs Coordinator Lisa Miller. Lisa worked with the Trust for four years and was instrumental in building our Youth Program. She was well known to many of you as the coordinator of our Volunteer and Citizen Science Programs. Lisa is starting her own ecological consulting business, Eco-Restore. We are very thankful to Lisa for all she did for the Trust and the land in Skagit County.

From left to right: Phil Wright, Brenda Cunningham, Jennifer Sevigny, Tim Manns, Jack Hartt, and Lisa Miller



Properties Highlighted in this Issue





The current forested view from the corner of Samish Island Road and Roney Road

In addition to applying for several state and federal grants, and using our own land acquisition funds, the Trust needs to raise at least \$300,000 in donations in order to have the funds needed to purchase the property.

If Skagit Land Trust cannot raise the necessary funds, Samish Flower Farm will go back on the market. Current zoning allows the majority of the property to be logged, and up to nine additional homes, associated structures, access roads and driveways could be built. The property could be divided such that each owner gets a portion of the marine shoreline. The abundance of expansive views if the trees were cut – and the timber value – make this a perfect location for a log-and-develop scenario.



Rendering of what the property could look like once logged.

Clearing the land would disrupt the ecological cycle of this older forest. This forest provides habitat for a variety of raptors such as the bald eagle, osprey, Cooper’s Hawk, and owls, as well as migratory song birds. It is used as a staging and feeding area for herons that nest nearby. Normal daily activities of multiple households would disrupt or displace nesting birds and other wildlife.

Land management practices on coastal bluffs such as clearcutting, improper storm water drainage and runoff, too much grading and soil compaction, and the removal of trees often hasten erosion and pollution. This property currently transports relatively clean, fresh water to the lower wetlands and

Padilla Bay, which is needed to sustain eelgrass meadows and wetlands. The permanent conservation of Samish Flower Farm protects coastal habitat far beyond its borders.

The entire Samish Flower Farm property encompasses almost 38 acres. The conservation solution the Trust has agreed to with the landowners is that they will keep a 3- acre “homestead” containing all the current structures (lot 1 in red outline). In order to raise enough funds for this project, Skagit Land Trust may also retain a 2.5-acre parcel on the cleared land adjacent to the home site for future sale (lot 2). Skagit Land Trust will maintain ownership and manage, at a minimum, the remaining 32 acres as a conservation area encompassing all the upland forest and marine shoreline. Because we are using some state and federal grants to help purchase the land, deed restrictions will be placed on the 32 acres to ensure they are never developed.



map of the property with proposed subdivision

We are close to making the preservation of this historic and ecologically important place a reality, but we need your help. **Your donation to the Samish Flower Farm Campaign will be matched dollar for dollar by a \$50,000 challenge match from several families on the island.** Please join us in saving this special place for generations of people and wildlife.

Throughout the next three months the Trust will lead tours of the beach portion of the property. Visit our website to learn more about the project and tour dates. You can add your support to the campaign online or by calling 360-428-7878.



Executive Director Molly Doran pointing out unique features of the beach to steering committee members. Samish Island residents Thais and Howard Armstrong, Mike and Liz Bart, John and Kristen Boyes, Fonda Downs, Roger and Kris Goodan, Mark Hitchcock, Steve and Gail Hopley, Chuck Howell, Lisa McShane, Therese Ogle, Marnie Pennington, and Jim Zielinski have joined with Skagit Land Trust board members Rusty Kuntze and Jim Glackin to get the word out about the project.

Youth Program Updates



A Bayview Elementary kindergarten student gets a drink from her "Young Land Stewards" water bottle while exploring the Green Road Marsh Conservation Area.

The Trust's Engaging Youth In Conservation program saw a large increase in participants this past school year. We had over 1,000 children and young adults at Trust events on the land, doubling our number of participants from last year. From tree plantings at the Cumberland Creek Conservation Area with visiting EarthCorp crews, to teaching about invasive species on the Skagit Youth Conservation Tour at Pomona Grange, Trust staff were able to introduce the next generation of Skagit land stewards to natural places and conservation practices needed to care for the land.

The Conservation Classrooms element of our youth program, which gets classes and youth groups learning on the land at Trust properties, also saw an increase in participation. Twelve schools and youth groups participated in the program this past school year. Activities included forest monitoring, wildlife lifecycles, plant identification, and stewardship of the land.

One project with fifth grade students from Lyman Elementary included building bat boxes for both the Trust's Lyman Slough property and their school, as an exercise in science and engineering. The boxes were the culmination of a semester of study that incorporated learning on the land. The Trust's AmeriCorps Member, Stacy Dahl, put together a program of monthly visits to the slough to explore the wildlife habitat right outside the students' front door.

On their first visit to the property students searched for indications of good habitat for salmon, birds, river otter, elk and bats. The class discussed what habitat elements were missing and how Skagit Land Trust could help provide those elements. It was decided that the property could use a few bat boxes.

Stacy partnered with Bats Northwest, using their EduBat trunk to assist with learning in the classroom and on the land. The class used activities from the trunk to calculate the value of bats to the ecosystem, learn about white nose syndrome, and to identify different bat species by taking body measurements of felt replica bats and looking for unique visible characteristics.

With the help of the Trust volunteers, students assembled bat boxes this May. For many students it was their first time operating power tools! The students were proud of their creations and signed their work, despite knowing that the



Students screwing together their bat box under the watchful eye of a Trust volunteer.



Lyman students display the bat boxes they built as part of their Conservation Classroom Experience.

houses would be painted black to absorb the sun's rays.

This project taught the students about the wildlife that lives around them, and the importance of the Trust's work to conserve wildlife habitat. Together we are stewarding the Lyman Slough property for the benefit of both the community and wildlife. Thanks to all of the volunteers who helped make the Lyman project a success - Richard Raisler, Gene Baker, King Dahl, Fred Hodge, Richard Gillingham, Meg Lunnum from Bats Northwest, and Mr. Skiles and his class.

If you are interested in learning more or helping with our youth programs, email youth@skagitlandtrust.org, or call 360-428-7878

Stewardship Updates

EarthCorps Partnership Helps Restore Cumberland Creek Conservation Area



Photograph from John Scurlock shows the Skagit River hugging the bend of the Cumberland Creek Conservation Area.

This winter the Trust partnered with an EarthCorps crew to continue restoration work at our Cumberland Creek Conservation Area. Located in Seattle, the EarthCorps program focuses on developing leadership skills and ecological restoration knowledge in young adults from the United States and abroad. EarthCorps started working with Skagit Land Trust on restoration projects at Cumberland Creek in 2015. Since then they have helped remove acres of non-native invasive species throughout the property, including blackberry, butterfly bush, scotch broom, knotweed, clematis, and reed canary grass.

Cumberland Creek was logged several decades ago. It requires active restoration in some areas, especially around the wetland areas and shoreline. This winter the crew installed 2,700 native plants and shrubs near the oxbow pond on the property. Trust volunteers installed another 750 plants throughout the property during the winter and spring.

Students from Emerson High School were able to join the Trust and EarthCorps team during a Conservation Classroom fieldtrip. They assisted with planting while learning about career opportunities in the conservation field.

Recent restoration efforts at Cumberland Creek have been funded by Washington State's ALEA (Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account) program. These funds help pay for plants and other costs associated with the work at Oxbow Pond. This summer, Skagit Land Trust will also utilize federal NAWCA (North American Wetland Conservation Act) funds, secured with assistance from Ducks Unlimited, to prepare the property's Skagit River shoreline for restoration plantings next season.



A student from Emerson High School learns techniques for installing tree protectors.

We encourage you to visit the Cumberland Creek Conservation Area on the South Skagit Highway. Visit our website for directions. You can walk the trail to oxbow pond and see the incredible progress we've been able to make with member, partner, and volunteer support!

Citizen Science Update - Amphibian Monitoring

19 citizen science volunteers and land stewards contributed over 140 hours in the search for amphibians and their egg masses during March and April. Eight Trust properties were surveyed and the reports were submitted to the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife. Monitors saw Pacific Chorus Frogs, Northwest Red-Legged Frogs, and Northwest Salamanders.

From left to right: juvenile Pacific Chorus Frog, Adult Pacific Chorus Frog, Northwest Red-Legged Frog, Northwest Salamander.



Fidalgo Bay Road Demo Completed and Restoration Begun

If you drive down Fidalgo Bay Road, you may have noticed that a home on the very edge of Fidalgo Bay has been removed. The Fidalgo Bay Carstens property was generously donated to Skagit Land Trust by the Carstens family in 2016. We secured a Washington State ESRP (Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program) grant to help us cover costs to remove the home and human-made structures in 2017.

Volunteers and Carstens family members helped install native plants in the footprint of the former home in January 2018. The goal is for shrubs and native plants to gradually fill in the opening. Volunteers and an EarthCorps crew will work to control ivy around the former home site this fall and next year.



Above: A Trust volunteer watching as the house is removed.

Right: Trust Stewardship Manager Regina Wandler hands a shrub to a Cartens family member during a planting this winter.



Trumpeter Creek Restoration Continues

Trumpeter Creek, which flows into the Nookachamps near Barney Lake, took another big step towards better water quality and improved habitat this spring: Over 7,000 trees and shrubs have now been planted, thanks to volunteers

and a partnership with the the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) and Cascadia Farm and Forestry. In the coming years, look for the willows, cedars and countless other friendly riparian plants to emerge and provide shade, structural complexity and food resources to Trumpeter's aquatic environment.



The blue tree protectors, which you can see from College Way, are a visible sign of the restoration efforts at Trumpeter Creek.



The same spot one year earlier, as crews work to re-meander the creek.



Members of the Trust's Stewardship Committee visiting the restoration project. From left to right: Michael Kirshenbaum (Conservation Director), Rick Machin, Stan Zyskowski, Regina Wandler (Stewardship Manager), and Hannah Williams (Conservation Assistant)

Places You Helped To Conserve

Hamilton Area Land Conservation Continues

In March, Skagit Land Trust added 3.3 acres and a second property to the Muddy Creek Conservation Area on the edge of the town of Hamilton. Through the years the Trust has worked both with the town of Hamilton and surrounding communities to conserve land in frequently flooded areas next to the Skagit River. This helps get people out of harms way and saves important fish and wildlife habitat. So far 18 parcels have been purchased adjacent to, and within, Hamilton town limits.

This newest Trust-owned addition to Muddy Creek is located entirely in the Skagit River floodway and covered by a native riparian forest. It has over 725 feet of shoreline along Skagit River and Muddy Creek. This land borders the Cascade Trail, so with the Trust's ownership, a green viewscape is ensured in perpetuity along this portion of the trail.



Conservation Project Manager, Jane Zillig, on the bank of the Skagit River on the newly aquired Muddy Creek property

Blanchard Mountain Core in Final Stretch of Protection

Thanks to hundreds of supporters who wrote or called their state legislators, when the Capital Budget was passed this year, \$10 million was designated to finish protecting the 1600-acre core of Blanchard Mountain (\$6.5 million had previously been provided for Blanchard). The funds are provided through a WA State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) program called Trust Land Transfer. DNR will determine the value of the forest protected on Blanchard, and then swap this value for replacement DNR properties elsewhere in the Skagit.

While the Blanchard Core will be managed to achieve mature forest conditions and for recreation and wildlife habitat, the replacement lands will generate revenue for schools and other institutions. The Trust Land Transfer process will take place this year and next. The forest will be named for one of its greatest advocates, Senator Harriet Spanel who passed away in 2016.

With this huge funding hurdle passed, the Blanchard Core is well on its way to permanent protection. The Blanchard Forest Advisory Committee, of which Skagit Land Trust is a longtime member, wants to thank all involved. The Blanchard Committee will be hosting a party for the community.



Blanchard Mountain Celebration Sunday September 16th Shuttles from 10am-3pm

The mid-day party will include shuttles starting at 10am to the overlook, a Back County Horsemen lunch BBQ, live music, guest speakers and more.

The main program will be from 11:30am-1:30pm. Check our website for details later this summer.

Blanchard Mountain, Where The Cascades Meet the Salish Sea

Kelly's Point & Yellow Bluff - Conserved Forever!

Thanks to the generosity of over 450 families, businesses, and organizations, Skagit Land Trust has conserved Kelly's Point and Yellow Bluff.

Located on the Southwest corner of Guemes Island, this well-known landmark with its immense layered bluffs can be seen from boats entering and leaving Anacortes. It is one of few places remaining in the region with mature coastal forest along more than 3,000 feet of undeveloped shoreline. The Trust successfully purchased the \$1.38 million property in February 2018, permanently protecting it from development and allowing the beach to remain open to the public.

Kelly's Point is beloved by the local community because of its extensive beach access. Generations of Guemes Islanders and visitors have walked the beach to take in the panoramic views, bird watch, and appreciate the stunning cliffs. Students visit the bluff to learn the ice age history of the region and study the exposed sediments.



Steering committee member David Wertheimer snapped this picture in June of an Orca whale swimming past Yellow Bluff.

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Thank you to all of donors that helped save Kelly's Point and Yellow Bluff

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“For decades, long before I understood the concept of a feeder bluff, I’ve loved Kelly’s Point. It’s one of the largest stretches of beach I’ve walked in all of the islands,” says Karen Everett of Guemes Island.

Marine bluffs such as Yellow Bluff are termed “feeder bluffs” because they contribute an exceptional amount of sand and gravel to island beaches. This sediment sustains both wildlife habitat, including the nearby Peach Preserve Wildlife Area owned by the San Juan Preservation Trust, and beaches found in front of family homes. The sediment also anchors marine eelgrass meadows used by surf smelt, mollusks, crabs, and shrimp. These creatures are the food source for small fish essential to juvenile salmon, seabirds, migrating waterfowl, and orca whales.

The mature coastal forest maintains a natural rate of erosion and slows surface runoff. In contrast, major bank failures are more likely on cleared bluffs, and erosion rates accelerate substantially. As sea level rises and storm events intensify, allowing Yellow Bluff to erode naturally will help to mitigate the impact of climate change on nearby wildlife habitat and



The naturally eroding bluffs of Kelly’s Point feed local beaches. Photograph courtesy of Phil Fenner.

island properties. The beaches built and maintained by these bluff sediments act as a natural barrier to wave induced erosion. According to Board Member and WWU Ecology Professor Roger Fuller, “As sea level rise increases the delivery of sediment from the Kelly’s Point, that added sediment will drift to the east and help the beaches and freshwater wetlands adapt to sea level rise for a few decades”.

The 27-acre forest at Kelly’s Point maintains critical wildlife habitat for coastal-dependent and migratory birds, including Pigeon Guillemots. It is an important source of large woody debris along the beach. This provides structural complexity, habitat options, and serves as a food source. These fallen trees also trap sediment, which allows for the establishment of plant species, and slows erosion of the bluffs.



Pigeon Guillemots nest on Yellow Bluff. Photograph courtesy of Dennis Paulson.

Thank you to all of donors that helped save Kelly’s Point and Yellow Bluff

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“While these downed trees can make beach walking more complicated, they are a critical ecological component of the beach and marine intertidal zone”, says Kari Odden, the Trust’s Conservation Project Manager who oversaw the land acquisition.

The purchase of Kelly’s Point would not have been possible without many conservation partners. A steering committee including Guemes Island residents Joost Businger, Edie Clark, Gary Curtis, Karen Everett, Phil Fenner, Kit Harma, Marianne Kooiman, Randy and Barbara Schnabel, Sue Skillman, Edith Walden, David Wertheimer, and Ian

Woofenden joined with Skagit Land Trust board members Carolyn Gastellum, Rusty Kuntze, Mark Linnemann and Anne Winkes to get the word out about the project.



Kelly's Point Steering Committee

“With four short months to raise the funds needed, the committee went to work. They were amazing! We could not have done this without them,” says Skagit Land Trust’s Development Director Laura Hartner. “They led tours in all weather conditions, hosted a soup ‘bluffet’ and informational presentations, presented challenge matches, and talked to just about everyone on and off the island who cared about Kelly’s Point and Yellow Bluff.”

In addition to private donations from the community, the Trust applied for and was awarded a \$1,000,000 National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Program grant from The United States Department of Fish and Wildlife. The Washington State Department of Ecology assisted the Trust during the application process and will administer the grant for the Trust. The Trust also had pro-bono legal help from Phil Buri at Buri, Funston, and Mumford.



Geology tour of Kelly's Point

The accelerated timeline meant the Trust needed to purchase the property before receiving grant funds from the U.S.

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Fish and Wildlife Service, so we reached out to The Conservation Fund. This national organization advances local conservation efforts in many ways, including providing versatile, low-interest loans for urgent conservation needs.

“The Conservation Fund was an exceptional partner. They provided bridge financing that was necessary to purchase the property within a short time-frame and before grant funds were available,” says Molly Doran, Skagit Land Trust’s Executive Director. “They understood our situation and did everything they could to help us conserve this land.”

“The Trust will steward this special place with the help of volunteers and keep it accessible to current and future generations, who can continue the tradition of walking its spectacular, rocky beach,” says Michael Kirshenbaum, Skagit Land Trust’s Conservation Director. “At the same time we’ll be able to protect the unique eroding bluffs and towering coastal forest for generations of wildlife. We will solicit public input as we create a management plan for this new conservation area.”

“It’s been spectacular to see the way our local community rallied to the cause of protecting this gem of a property,” says steering committee member, David Wertheimer. “With more than 20% of Guemes Island now in some form of permanent protection, it’s great to know that the character of this corner of Puget Sound, and its role in a healthy ecosystem, will be protected for posterity.”

For more information on Kelly’s Point, visit www.skagitlandtrust.org.



View of Kelly's Point from the water.

Thank you to all of donors that helped save Kelly’s Point and Yellow Bluff

- | | | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
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Membership

Join the Skagit Sustainers - Recurring Members Help Us Save & Steward More Land

A Skagit Sustainer is a recurring member. We'd like you to consider this option. Sustainers give monthly or quarterly in an automated way. How does this help us? It not only reduces mailing costs and saves resources, it also helps us do more with your gift. Knowing a steady source of revenue will be coming in helps us stretch. We can put a down payment on a property, double our field trips with schools, or increase the number of projects we take on in the next year.

It doesn't cost a lot to be a Skagit Sustainer- you can commit to any amount you want. Spread out over time, such a donation is easier on your budget.



Become a Skagit Sustainer and help us know we have the funds to save places like this old growth forest.

Here are just a few ways your recurring gift can make a big difference -

- **\$10 a month** can buy the supplies needed to steward two properties, ensuring a healthy ecosystem for people and wildlife to enjoy.
- **\$25 a month** can provide magnifying glasses, binoculars, and field journals for the Trust's Conservation Classrooms program, connecting the next generation with natural places across Skagit County.
- **\$50 a month** helps make a down payment to get us started on conserving a threatened property.

A Skagit Sustainer can also save the Trust credit card fees if payment is with check or EFT from a bank account, meaning more of your gift goes directly to support nature!

There are three easy ways to make an automatic recurring monthly donation:

- **Direct Transfer** from your account to ours can be set up by clicking on the **Donate Now** button on the top of the page at skagitlandtrust.org
- **A Bank Issued Check** can be set up from your bank and mailed to us each month.
- **A Credit Card Payment** can be set up online at skagitlandtrust.org

Call 360-428-7878 and ask for Martha to help you get started as a Skagit Sustainer

Annual Lands We Love Auction & Dinner a Success

Thank you to the 300 guests who attended Skagit Land Trust's Auction & Dinner on March 10, 2018 and generously helped us raise a record \$155,000 for local land conservation in one night! Thanks also to the 200+ businesses, 50+ night-of volunteers, auction committee members, and dozen sponsors who supported the Trust and this event. It would not be possible without you.

Save the date for the next Lands We Love Auction & Dinner - March 16, 2019 at the Swinomish Lodge.



Herony Update



A pair of nesting herons at the March Point Heronry, which is the largest known heronry in the region.

The Trust's March Point Heronry Conservation Area grew by almost four acres in December with the purchase of a forested property adjacent to Highway 20. This diverse and maturing forest protects additional nesting spots in the heronry, which has been in use by Great Blue Herons since the mid-1950s.

The Trust now owns seven acres and hold a conservation easement on an additional five acres. This protects approximately 85% of the land used by nesting herons. Citizen science volunteers counted 611 nests at the March Point Heronry in 2017. Nesting habits at the heronry appear to be normal this season. The Heron Camera is not in operation this year as we work on upgrades to the system.

As you may have read in an Anacortes American article, Great Blue Herons abandoned the Samish Island herony last year and have yet to return. We are hopeful that the herons may come back, as there are documented cases of herons resettling in a nesting area up to ten years after leaving the site. Thank you to everyone who has emailed us about heron nesting sightings across Skagit County. If you have noticed herons nesting in a certain area here in Skagit County, please email us at herons@skagitlandtrust.org.

Please keep your distance during heron breeding season (February through September) as disturbances during this time can reduce nest productivity or possibly cause the herons to abandon their nests.

In Honor and Memorial Gifts

In memory of AH Gras Family

Tom Kress and Anita Gras Bryant

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Robin Schwamb and Patrick Ainslie

In memory of Diane Altwein

Ramona Hammerly

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MJ Andrak

Jim Ciecko and Joanne Myers-Ciecko

Vicki Hallingstad

In honor of "Annie the Dog"

Tom and Carol Godwin

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Phoebe Barnard and John Bowey

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Individual Members April 1, 2017 - March 31, 2018

* For members who made their annual gift through the Kelly's Point Campaign, please see page nine. Every effort was made to ensure all members are listed correctly. If you discover any errors, please accept our apologies and contact us so that we can make a correction.





Members who also gave an in-Kind donation are noted with the following symbol. 

Members who make a recurring gift as a Skagit Sustainer are noted with the following symbol. 

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Skagit Land Trust conserves wildlife habitat, agricultural and forest lands, scenic open space and shorelines for the benefit of our community and as a legacy for future generations.



**Stay young! Join us for an upcoming stewardship event
RSVP online, or call 360-428-7878. All events 9am-12pm**

7/7/18 - Hurn Field Conservation Area Stewardship and Nature Walk

7/20/18 - Cumberland Creek Conservation Area Stewardship

8/4/18 - Lyman Slough Conservation Area Stewardship and Nature Walk

8/17/18 - Barney Lake Conservation Area Stewardship



**Annual Picnic
July 22nd 11am-2pm
at the Guemes Valley
Conservation Area**

Join us at the Guemes Valley Conservation Area, across the road from the Guemes Mountain Trailhead. We'll have music, nature walks on the property, and activities for the kids. Feel free to bring a friend. Visit our website to learn more about hikes up Guemes Mountain, a geology walk at Kelly's Point, a family bike ride to the picnic, and carpool options. RSVP at skagitlandtrust.org or call us, 360-428-7878.



**Samish Flower Farm
Beach Tours**

Join us for a public tour on the following dates -

July	August
5th at 10:30am	1st at 3:30pm
5th at 3:30pm	11th at 10:30am
11th at 3:30pm	15th at 3:30pm
21st at 10:30am	25th at 10:30am

RSVPs are required. Visit our website for more information.