

SAVING LAND FOR TOMORROW

skagit land trust protects wildlife habitat, wetlands, agricultural and forest lands, scenic open space and shorelines for the benefit of our community and as a legacy for future generations.

# FROM THE PRESIDENT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

#### FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



It has been a remarkable year. In May of 2009, Skagit Land Trust became the 2nd land trust in Washington to receive Land Trust Accreditation from the National Land Trust Alli-

ance. By working with many partners and focusing on regional priorities, Skagit Land Trust continues to be a leader of extensive salmon habitat protection on the Skagit River east of Sedro-Woolley. On the marine side of the county we are culminating a hugely successful campaign to save Guemes Mountain in partnership with The San Juan Preservation Trust and a local steering committee. Due to this campaign as well as our many community events and the publishing of Natural Skagit, Skagit Land Trust is now supported by over 1000 families and individuals, businesses, tribal groups, government agencies, and foundations. Stewarding and managing our owned Conservation Areas and Conservation Easements this past year involved volunteers of all ages. As one staff noted, this downturn year has been pretty busy!

Huge credit for the success of this year's accomplishments go to the staff at the Trust. Their enthusiasm and professionalism did not waver as the budget got tighter. The Trust's board and our counsel gave freely of their time and expertise helping to fill in where needed. And our members, supporters, partners and volunteers have been exceptional. From the Guemes steering and event committees and our 1000 donor familes and businesses to the 200 volunteers who helped with stewardship of our properties and special events to our many conservation partners — thank you. It takes a community as generous as this to save land for tomorrow.

Molly Doran, Executive Director

#### FROM THE PRESIDENT



This has been an amazingly successful year, particularly given the uncertainty of the times and the state of the economy. We have much to be proud of and hopeful about – new lands

protected, new donors opening their checkbooks, and new volunteers giving of their time. When added to our existing base of support, the foundation for further good works is strengthened yet again as we move forward into the coming year.

I do want to remind us all that although we are extremely gratified in our efforts to raise 2.2 million dollars to save Guemes Mountain, every one of those dollars went directly to the campaign and related expenses. Skagit Land Trust continues to depend on each and every one of us to support the ongoing work of the office and its dedicated staff. Both governmental and private grants to the Trust are markedly down this year and consequently we need to have members and friends "dig a little deeper" to insure the doors stay open and the vital work continues. As William James once said, "the greatest use of life is to spend it for something that will outlast it." And that is certainly our mission at the Trust - protecting and maintaining what makes this place so very special; and doing it for the generations to come. It is our dollars that help insure that the mission becomes a reality. The work never stops, but the rewards are breathtaking.

Rusty Kuntze, President

## THE YEAR IN REVIEW:

## LAND CONSERVATION

After a successful fundraising campaign with hundreds of generous gifts and with assistance of a grant from the Washington Department of Natural Resources, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and the US Fish and Wildlife Service, we secured the beautiful mature forested property called Barr Creek on Sauk Mountain.

PHOTO © ANDREW CLINE



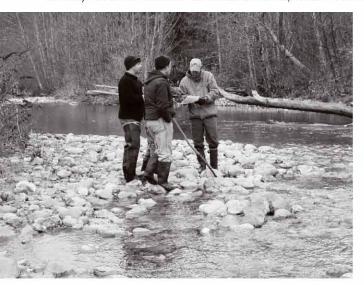


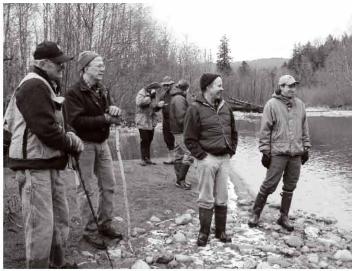
We were fortunate to have Jim Harris lead a hike on the Barr Creek property at the dedication ceremony. Not only did Jim grow up in the Upper Skagit, he was one of its best and most beloved historians. Jim Harris passed away this summer but Jim will always be associated with Sauk Mountain. Above: Kermit and Doris Johnson pose with Reverend Gregory Rickel at the Barr Creek dedication.



#### SAVING LAND FOR TOMORROW

In the past year we secured four properties for salmon in the Middle and Upper Skagit River with grants from the Salmon Recovery Funding Board, and in collaboration with the Skagit Watershed Council, The Nature Conservancy and Seattle City Light. To date, Skagit Land Trust has protected 23 miles of shoreline habitat on the river – our partners have also protected numerous miles. The goal is to protect enough that the river can run naturally and create a clean water environment for fish, wildlife and the community.







The Turner Conservation Easement on Mount Erie adjacent to the Anacortes Community Forest Lands was completed through the generosity of Bill and Sally Turner.



We continued our extremely successful partnership with Friends of the Forest and the City of Anacortes to bring acres protected in the forest lands to 1635.

## THE YEAR IN REVIEW:

## STEWARDSHIP









Skagit Land Trust works in partnership with local organizations and agencies to steward vital lands. This tree planting with Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group helped restore salmon habitat at a private property on which Skagit Land Trust holds a conservation easement that protects both farmland and salmon habitat.

## FROM PLANTING TREES TO COUNTING HERON NESTS, THE TRUST MONITORS AND STEWARDS THOUSANDS OF ACRES IN SKAGIT COUNTY





Over 100 volunteers joined Skagit Land Trust at 12 different field events to help restore and protect our 19 conservation areas. From helping to count heron nests to working hard to plant trees to enhance salmon habitat, volunteers are essential to Skagit Land Trust's stewardship program. The backbone of the stewardship effort is the dedicated team of Volunteer Land Stewards - individuals who agree to "adopt" a conservation area and help monitor and maintain these beautiful places. The pictures at left show land stewards and volunteers working hard at the Minkler Lake and Tope Ryan Conservation Areas to restore an old pasture to native habitat. far left: Sue Edelberg, middle: Michael Kirshenbaum, center: Rick Machin and Jim Johnson.

Volunteers gather every winter to count heron nests – and the occasional heron egg. The number of nests on Trust property has grown from approximately 100 to almost 300 over the past ten years.

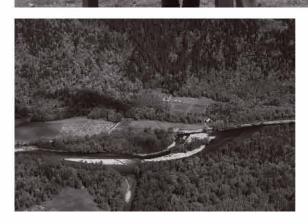
Skagit Land Trust's March's Point Conservation Area features the largest single colony of Great Blue Heron nests in Puget Sound. The Trust has worked closely with Leadership Skagit and the Padilla Bay Breazeale Interpretive Center to establish a "heron carm" which posts live images of nesting herons on the web.

## THE YEAR IN REVIEW:

## **OUTREACH**



The interpretive sign installed at Cascadian Farm (MIDDLE LEFT) was an instant success. BELOW: The first of many ice-cream eaters who will enjoy learning about the land that is protected in front of them. LEFT: Jim and Harlyn Meyer, conservationists and managers of Cascadian Farm.

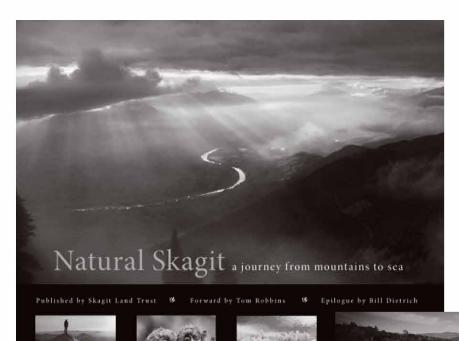






Events from the rocking Guernes Island Picnic (LEFT) to the sublime Garden Party By The Bay helped to raise both awareness and funds for land conservation in relaxed, fun ways.

#### CREATING A COMMUNITY CONSCIOUSNESS OF CONSERVATION



Skagit Land Trust published Natural Skagit in November of 2008 with the help of a steering committee and many volunteers. It was an instant local best seller with 2500 copies sold in the first ten months. Below: The steering committee.



Skagit Land Trust worked with Future Environmental Leaders from Sedro-Woolley Highschool on Stewardship and education projects, including a cleanup and trail project at Cumberland Creek.



### LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

#### WHERE WE'VE COME FROM - WHERE WE'RE GOING

AN INTERVIEW WITH MARTHA BRAY, SKAGIT LAND TRUST'S CONSERVATION DIRECTOR

Martha Bray settled in the Skagit Valley in 1978. "This place had great resonance for me, and still does, with its big verdant floodplain bounded by the wildness of the North Cascades." She notes that since her arrival, the population of Skagit County has almost doubled and is projected to double again in less than 50 years. "The changes brought on by this growth could drain the resilience and vitality out of the landscape, but it doesn't have to be that way. I am so glad to have work that lets me push back against this loss." Martha came to Skagit Land Trust in 1996, when the Trust was all volunteer run. "That was a lucky day for me, when I had lunch with Keith [Wiggers], Gene [Murphy] and Harold [Christenson] (and I didn't even realize it was a job interview!)"

Highlights of her 13 years at the Trust include the first capital campaign in 1998 to purchase Hurn Field. "This was a turning point for the Trust – the community gave so generously. Now there's routinely dozens of elk in the meadow where people get to watch them." Martha says another giant step was in 2001, with an \$800,000 loan from The Nature Conservancy, the Trust purchased lands that included Skiyou and Deadman Islands. "And then, partnering with the Forest Service, we were able to pay it all back

with interest. That project catapulted us to a whole new level, and was the beginning of our incredibly successful work to protect the Middle Skagit floodplain." Most recently, she says, "I loved the Guemes Campaign. What a compelling story – this tiny island community, against the odds, raises \$2,000,000 for their revered mountaintop!"

Of the future: "The pace of change is so fast," says Martha. "The impact of population growth paired with climate change is a speeding train on its way. We need to ensure that all the working pieces of the ecosystem are preserved. This means providing enough undisturbed habitat in the right places for native species to adapt." She notes that accommodating growth will require much denser residential development, which means that "it's very important to protect accessible beautiful places where people can be in nature." And finally, "we also have to conserve the working landscapes that produce food, fiber and income for people along with habitat!

"The Trust has made huge strides on all these fronts," Martha says, "but we need to expand the tool box and be very strategic." She admits it's a big challenge, "but look how far we've come – Skagit Land Trust is in a great place to face the future!"



We did it! Guernes Mountain was purchased October 1, 2009 after a hugely successful community fundraising campaign. Now Skagit Land Trust and the San Juan Preservation Trust are working on management plans, trails and property stewardship.

PHOTO © STEVEN BUSINGER

### MEMORIALS **《** MEMBERSHIP

APRIL 1, 2008 TO MARCH 31, 2009

## Skagit Land Trust Members – Thank you for Your Support!

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City of Anacortes Ralph & Ruth Heft

#### MATCHING GIFTS

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Boeing Gift Matching Program Merrill Lynch Matching Gift Program Microsoft Matching Gifts SAFECO We are grateful to our members whose donations were received between April 1, 2008 and March 31, 2009.

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#### NATURAL SKAGIT

Thank you to the 97 volunteer contributors who made Natural Skagit possible. Photographers, writers and teams are recognized in the book.

#### GUEMES MOUNTAIN CAMPAIGN

Thank you to the many and generous supporters who have contributed to date to the Guernes Mountain Project on Guemes Island. We will be sending out a flyer listing all contributions.

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

APRIL 1, 2008 MARCH 31, 2009 Rusty Kuntze, president Mark Hitchcock, vice-president Janice Martin, secretary David Hall, treasurer Robert Apter Glenn Bordner **Bob Boudinot** Brenda Cunningham Ron Feld Ralph Heft Steven H. Johnson Karen Krub Curtis A. Miller Pat Sneeringer Russ Weiser Keith Wiggers Andrea Xaver

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Gere-a-Deli

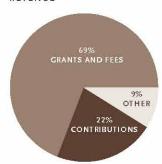
### FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2009 (AUDITED) AND 2008 (REVIEWED)

#### STATEMENTS OF

2009	2008
221,188	359,354
413,855	118,629
990,657	1,201,268
3,030,845	2,543,616
4,656,545	4,222,867
19,040	35,988
4,637,505	4,186,879
4,656,545	4,222,867
	221,188 413,855 990,657 3,030,845 4,656,545 19,040 4,637,505

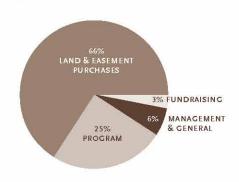




#### STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

PUBLIC SUPPORT & OTHER REVENUE		
Contributions (cash and in-kind) – unrestricted	144,739	236,519
Contributions – restricted for special projects	476,448	380,364
Grant and fee income	839,486	149,613
Investment Income and Interest	(197,153)	44,030
Special events (net)	31,700	0
Book sales	76,113	0
Total Revenue	1,371,333	810,526
EXPENSES		
Conservation easement purchases	403,000	0
Land and stewardship programs	387,757	326,569
Management and fundraising	130,132	137,247
Total Expenses	920,707	463,816
Net Income	450,626	346,710
CAPITAL PURCHASES		
Equipment	O	1,033
Land	838,000	0

#### EXPENSES



The condensed financial statement presented above reflect Slagit Land Trust's financial statement for the year ending March 31, 2009 which have been audited by Judy C. Jones & Associates, LLC Certified Public Accountants.

#### FINANCIAL NOTES

- 1 Guemes Mountain campaign pledges received by SLT on March 31st 2009 were a total of \$340,426.
- 2 A \$403,000 grant was received from the Washington Department of Natural Resource (DNR) and the US Fish and Wildlife Service (Section 6 funds) to assist the Trust in purchasing the Barr Creek property. Skagit Land Trust matched this grant with \$223,065.

A \$7,352 grant was received from the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) for the Jungers (Cumberland) acquisition. Skagit Land Trust matched this with \$12,591. A \$195,500 grant was received from SRFB for the Day Creek (Berquist) acquisition. It was matched by \$35,000 of in-kind support by Seattle City Light.

- 3 The market value of the Barr Creek property was diminished by \$403,000 following the placement of a permanent conservation easement on this property. The CE is held by DNR.
- 4 The Trust purchased the Barr Creek and Day Creek Conservation areas plus and an in-holding in Cumberland Peninsula (Jungers). There were two conservation easement donations. Conservation easement donations are carried at no market value on the Trust's accounts per accounting recommendations.



PO BOX 1017, 325 PINE STREET, SUITE B MOUNT VERNON, WA 98273 WWW.SKAG ITLANDTRUST ORG

BELOW BARR CREEK PROPERTY @ CHRISTINE KITCH ON THE COVER SAUK RIVER @ IOHN SCURLOCK

## ANNUAL REPORT

"The greatest use of life is to spend it for something that will out last it."

—WILLIAM JAMES