



Skagit Land Trust



Annual Report 2013



SAVING LAND FOR TOMORROW

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April 1, 2012 - March 31, 2013

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*Illustrations:
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Thank You to Our Members Who Serve on Committees

Scott Andrews - Public Policy

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Rick Machin - Stewardship

Liz McNett Crowl - Development &
Communications

Carl Molesworth - Public Policy

Marlene Moore - Development & Communications
& Accreditation

David Scott - Investment

Stan Zyskowski - Stewardship & Investment

On the cover, **thank you to our amazing group of members and volunteers!** (top left to right:) a trust conservation luncheon, birding at Barney Lake; amphibian survey at Barney Lake, photo: Christine Farrow. (middle top left to right:) new sign at Guemes Island trail; Washington trail association work party on Guemes Mt; (bottom middle left to right): volunteers removing tree protectors at Kosbab; mother and daughter Wandler at Day Creek Forest tree planting; member John Tursi receiving the Blue Heron award at this year's annual meeting. (bottom, left to right) a Jolly Stewardship Committee visit to a conservation easement on Cypress Island; Russ Dalton puts up a new sign at the Barr Creek trailhead; oak harbor students help plant trees at Day Creek at a partner planting with Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group, photo: Lucy Degrae.

(back cover) Barney Lake

Printed by Premier Graphics on 100% pc paper



Hikers enjoy the new sign on the Guemes Mountain trail, telling the amazing story of the community collaboration that protected Guemes Mountain.

Thank You!

Volunteer Land Stewards

- Lloyd Brown – *Mud Lake*
- Brenda Cunningham & Tim Manns – *Barney Lake*
- Ned Currence – *Utopia*
- Russ Dalton – *Barr Creek*
- John Day – *Tope Ryan*
- John Freeman – *Grandy Creek*
- Jim Fukuyama – *Day Creek Kosbab*
- Ed & Carolyn Gastellum, Kit Harma, Ian Woofenden – *Guemes Mountain*
- Pete & Dorothy Haase – *Samish River - Ochs*
- Jim Johnson – *Cumberland Creek*
- Hal Lee – *Day Creek Slough & Minkler Lake*
- Tom Mayes & Tamara Thomas – *Sumner Lake*
- Anne & Jack Middleton – *Samish Island / Squires*
- Heidi Nichols – *Green Road Marsh*
- Jim Owens – *Butler Creek*
- Sally & Bill Pfeifer – *Pressentin Ranch*
- Dick Raisler – *Lyman Slough*
- Steffany Raynes & Lin Skavdahl – *Hurn Field*
- Jim & LaVerne Scheltens – *March Point*
- Stan Zyskowski – *Day Creek Berquist & Day Creek Forest*

FROM THE PRESIDENT & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear Members and Partners,

Whether you live or work in or visit Skagit County, you know we are fortunate to be the guardians of a spectacular corner of the world. Not only is the landscape varied and beautiful, but we are accomplishing land conservation in the green heartland between the rapidly growing metropolitan areas of Seattle and Vancouver BC. So it is no wonder that we feel a sense of urgency to save land alongside our sense of amazement.

Thanks to each of you and your generosity and concern, in the past year we made excellent progress on our land conservation journey. With your help we purchased six properties for conservation and facilitated more transactions for partners. 334 acres of land were conserved through these projects including the greatly expanded protection of Barney Lake (pictured below). Our expert conservation team began working on ten other projects with over a dozen partner organizations and completed phase one of a new science-based, Conservation Strategy that will guide us in protecting land for the next decade.

As many of you know, because your arms are sore and your hands are dirty from volunteering, the Trust also manages 23 conservation areas and monitors and defends 32 conservation easements. To those of you who dig and plant and weed and count nests and monitor and restore properties and help us envision the future- thank you! Improving access on key lands has been a large undertaking. This past year volunteers helped us with trail improvements, parking and interpretive signs at Guemes Mountain and Barr Creek. Our goal is to enable people to enjoy these fabulous places while ensuring that we tread lightly on the land so that future generations will also enjoy them. Over 250 volunteers assisted the Trust in these and other volunteer actions. The Trust also works with other conservation groups on stewardship. In the past year our professional stewardship staff monitored and updated management plans on 14 properties owned by The Nature Conservancy in the Skagit River Watershed.

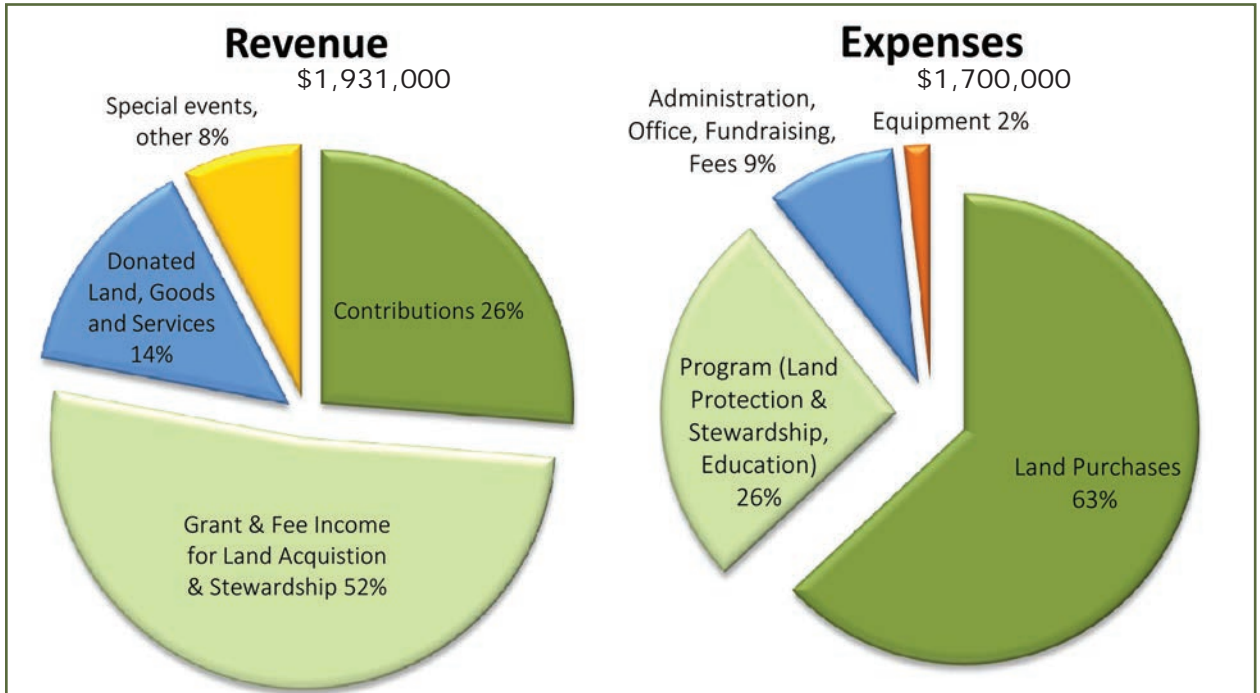
One of our goals is to cultivate a community appreciation of conservation. Partners and members helped us conduct property tours and educational events. We assisted other groups to use our properties for their educational use and scientific study. Volunteers helped us raise money to save land, served on committees, renovated our office and garden, and helped photograph our progress...our hard working board included. (Bob Boudinot's parting gift as board president was to lead the renovation of our first floor bathroom). Staff and board participated in dozens of collaborative community planning events, helping to frame and develop the future of the Skagit so that conservation is a key element.



Our financial snapshot on page 3 shows that we are heading in the right direction, with more land protected each year and the financial stability to manage these lands in perpetuity. None of this would be possible without our members and partners. On behalf of all the board and staff, thank you so much for helping to leave a natural legacy here in the Skagit.

Molly Doran, Executive Director

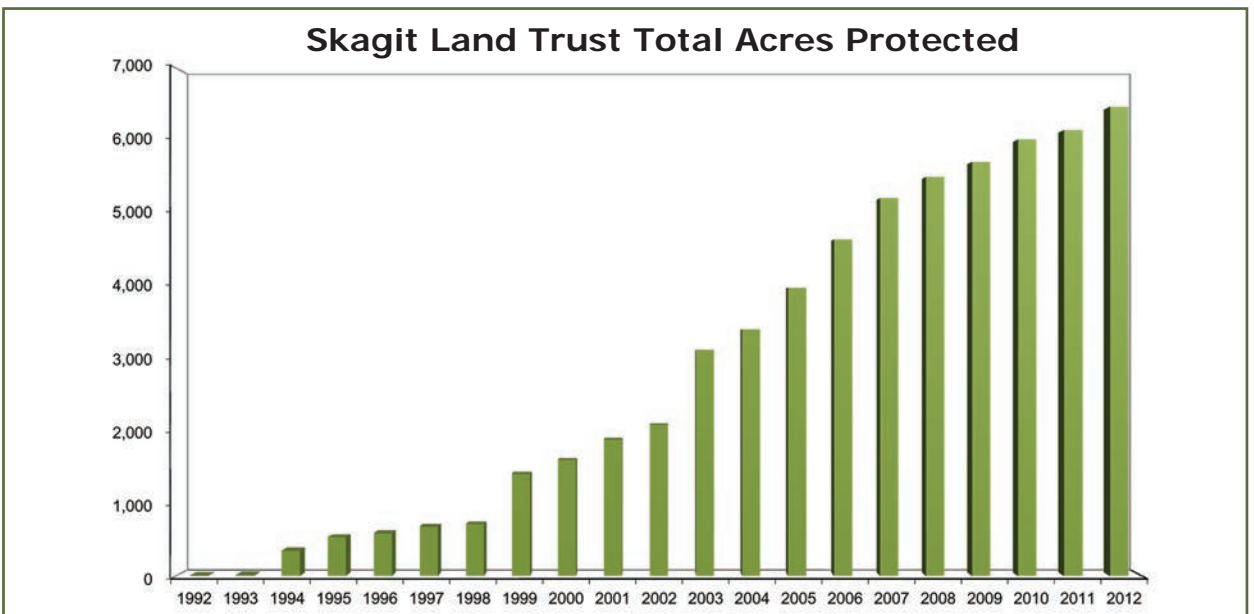
Brenda Cunningham, President, Board of Directors



Notes: \$62,000 was also added to steward reserve funds to help manage lands in perpetuity. \$257,100 was additionally expensed for building demolition. Our 990 is available on request and is posted on GuideStar.

Lands Protected

| Freshwater Shoreline Miles | Saltwater Shoreline Miles | Intertidal Feet | Wetlands Acres | Forest Acres | Farmland Acres |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 26 | 2.3 | 532 | 674 | 4259 | 665 |
| Total Acres Protected | | | | | 6,481 |



photos: (top left to right) visiting the cascadian farm conservation easement with members; stewarding the nature conservancy's trillium preserve.



photos: (above) stewarding the nature conservancy's rrankin preserve. (middle right) member tour at our annual picnic. (right) zdoran-cline admiring the plaque honoring joost businger and marianne kooimanonguemes mountain. (farright) lester bradford takes a well-deserved break.





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SAVING LAND FOR TOMORROW

MISSION STATEMENT

Skagit Land Trust conserves 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.

