

SAVING A MOUNTAIN

Saving Guemes Mountain

An Amazing Community Accomplishment

In 2007, the 70-acre mountain top on Guemes Island was up for sale. It was the most beloved natural area on the island and although in private ownership, routinely used by islanders and visitors for bird watching, walking and solace while enjoying the fantastic 360 degree views. But the price tag for purchasing the property was steep, and the island community, small. A recession was looming.

What did this small community do? They started a campaign to “Save the Mountain”. Guemes Island community leaders asked Skagit Land Trust and The San Juan Preservation Trust for help protecting the property. It didn’t take long to assess that it was well worth doing – if rather daunting. The land trusts formed a partnership and assembled a steering committee chaired by Paul Beaudet, Joost Businger, Marianne Kooiman and Karen Everett. During the course of the campaign the economy crashed. It looked bleak - but then the land trusts negotiated a purchase price reflecting the changed conditions, an anonymous donor stepped forward with a million dollar lead gift, and the steering committee, its hard-working chairs and land trust staff undertook a fundraising campaign. 550 generous donations were received. Picnics,

auctions, concerts, garden tours, art sales, and t-shirt sales were put on by the Guemes community. A \$200,000 matching grant was given by the Northwest Wildlife Conservation Initiative (funded by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation via The Nature Conservancy) to help protect and link the vital wildlife habitat found on the mountain. Joost Businger donated a small yet important in-holding, making the property whole.



Christine Kitch

And together, we did it! Guemes Mountain was purchased on October 1st 2009. Skagit Land Trust now owns the property and the San Juan Preservation Trust holds a permanent conservation easement on the land. In all, \$2,000,000 was raised for the land purchase. The top of Guemes Mountain is now the centre of 580 acres of private and public protected land.

Another \$200,000 is still being raised for property management and stewardship. The Boeing Charitable Trust and Anacortes Parks Foundation have committed funds for habitat restoration and trail needs. “We look forward to the exciting stewardship opportunities and working with all of our partners and the community to care for Guemes Mountain” says Michael Kirshenbaum, stewardship director for Skagit Land Trust. There will also be many opportunities for volunteer stewardship activities as a new trail is constructed and habitat is restored.

It took a community’s love of place to inspire the protection of Guemes Mountain and an extended community’s generosity to make it real. A celebration of the mountain and this remarkable community accomplishment is being planned for 2010.



Visionary Islanders meet with Skagit Land Trust in 2007 to pitch the idea of Saving Guemes Mountain.

Guemes Campaign Steering Committee

Paul Beaudet (Co-chair) &
David Wertheimer
Chip Bogosian
Joost Businger &
Marianne Kooiman (Co-chair)
Ann & Carl Cady
Karen Everett (Co-chair)
Joe & Terri Gaffney
Charles Givens
Chris Gulick
Mark Hitchcock
Stewart Landefeld
Mark Linnemann
Rick Machin
Janice Martin
Phil & Anne McCracken
Libby Mills & Rusty Kuntze

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In Memory of Donald B. Fisher

Dianne & Edward Bradley
Judy Bown
Pat & Karl Essig
Rita Fisher
William & Arlene French
Gene & Bette Huff
Peg & John Insull
Barbara & Gene Kiver
Robert & Barbara Meier
Harold Mitchell
Pamela Murphy
Dennis & Linda Oeth
Hildegard & Jeffrey Radke
Nancy & David Ridgway
Lenore Robb
Floie Vane
David & Joanne Witiak



Ferdi Businger

In honor of Bessie Potter Smith

Anonymous
Jacqueline & James Stutzman

In honor of Phil Burton & Holly Roskelly's wedding

Kathleen Root
Joyce Salmon
Cynthia Danielson & Stacey Sateren

In honor & memory

A & G Guemes LLC – *in memory of Art & Gerry Dutton*
Frances Ambrose & Steve Hunter – *in honor of the
marriage of Ben Goe & Clarity Miller*
Debra Cady & Doug Dixon – *in honor of Cary Cady*
Laurin Cady – *in honor of Carl Cady*
Kathleen Lorence-Flanagan & Thomas Flanagan – *in
honor of "Our Guemes friends who stand with us on
the corner in Anacortes for peace"*
Karen & William Everett - *in memory of Margo Jennings*
Nancy Fox & Nick Allison – *in honor of George Fahey*
Wallie Funk – *in memory of Mary Ann Funk*
Katie Hover & Paul La Crampe – *in honor of
Thelma Parker*
Katie Johnson & Friends – *in honor of
Marjie Kilbreath*
Thomas & Julie martin – *in memory of
Murray Read*
Simon Ottenberg – *in memory of
Mea Hartman*
Robin Rolfe – *in honor of George Rolfe*
Diana & Mike Stepita – *in memory of
Dorothy & Ronald Green*
Tamara Stevens & Todd Rubano – *in
memory of Lois & Ben Englebright*
Barbara J. Wagner – *in memory of
Susan Briggs & Laurel Easton*
Tom Winn & Mary Wohleb – *in memory of
Kay Bartlett*

***With Your Help
WE DID IT!***

Thank You *for Joining Together
to Help Protect **Guemes Mountain.***

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Please let us know if we have missed or incorrectly spelled your name or you would like to be listed differently.

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SAVE GUEMES MOUNTAIN

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