

# **SKAGIT UPDATE**

FALL 2024



# Samish Island Project Partnership Thrives

This summer Skagit Land Trust (the Trust) added 50 feet of shoreline on Padilla Bay to our Samish Island Conservation Area with help from a federal National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant as well as Trust reserve funds. This latest addition continues a decades-long effort to conserve the forested uplands and approach via an isthmus to Samish Island.

"This Conservation Area is a wonderfully diverse ecosystem with old growth forest, wetlands, and former salt marsh habitat. This addition protects more shoreline, expands beach access, and allows us to think even more broadly about how to best steward and restore habitat," says Kari Odden, one of the Trust's Conservation Project Managers.

The area, stewarded by the Coast Salish people for thousands of years, once contained extensive salt marsh habitat before dike construction in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. A wide slough ran through the marsh near Samish Island and was used by the Samish people to reach their village, A7ts'iquen. According to the Samish Indian Nation historical timeline, the Samish left this village in the 1870's after the planks and beams of their longhouse were taken by settlers.

Todd Woodard, Infrastructure and Resources Executive Director for the Samish Indian Nation, emphasizes the cultural significance of habitat protection and restoration: "The protection and restoration of habitat is important to the Samish People because of their cultural connection to salmonids and all that they support."

The land at the entrance to the Island was managed by the Stewart/Murphy and Squires families for over a century. Skagit Land Trust worked with many generations of the two families to get this land conserved. Thanks to the families, community donations, project partners, as well as federal, state, and private grants, 156 acres and 1.4 miles of marine shoreline have been protected here.

A unique aspect of the conserved land is its tidal marsh. Of the 7,000 acres of historic tidal marsh and tidal swamp that buffered Padilla Bay, less than 3% remain. In 2022, Skagit Land Trust and the Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research



Dear Supporters of Skagit Land Trust,

This past year you helped us undertake many significant projects, including a partnership with Skagit County to expand Big Rock County Park. This beloved landmark is also known by the Upper Skagit People as *Yudwasta*, meaning "of the heart."

I am excited to share that the project to expand Big Rock County Park was just ranked the #1 grant proposal out of 64 applicants in Washington State's local parks category of the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO). Although the \$1,000,000 in grant funds to Skagit County Parks Department will not be released until the 2025 legislative session closes, the #1 ranking virtually assures the project will be funded. Since this is an almost \$2 million project, the grant is critical to its success. Donations from 350 Skagit Land Trust families, businesses, and foundations, plus funds from Skagit County, will make up the remainder of support needed.

Skagit County Parks Director Brian Adams shared a key aspect that helped this project rank so well – partnership and community support: "If Skagit Land Trust and its members hadn't stepped in to purchase the land and hold it for us, we wouldn't have had the opportunity to seek grants and raise the necessary funds. In all the years we have partnered with Skagit Land Trust in preserving lands for the public, this is perhaps our greatest success story."

"We never gave up on this long-held vision of expanding Big Rock and we worked in unison every step of the way. As a result, this culturally and biologically rich landscape will provide a refuge for wildlife and recreational opportunities in perpetuity," added Brian.

Scott Schuyler of the Upper Skagit Indian Tribe also assisted in the grant application. During the presentation process, Scott shared with the state panel how culturally and historically important Yudwasta is to the Upper Skagit People. The future park will highlight historical and cultural information, including the Upper Skagit Indian Tribe's continued connection with the land.

Many local businesses and organizations supported the project, including SeaMar Community Health Centers. Their letter of support advocated for the health benefits of nearby nature access for the growing, diverse, and mixed-income neighborhoods of east Mount Vernon. They affirmed that such access for their clients will increase significantly with the expansion of Big Rock Park.

This project attests to the power of collaboration and partnership. You, as a Skagit Land Trust supporter, are playing a huge role in the success of expanding and protecting Big Rock, forever. Thank you!

Molly Doran, Executive Director

#### ...Samish continued from page 1

Reserve (PBNERR) began a partnership to explore the possibility of restoring tidal marsh. Last year, PBNERR received grant funding from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to purchase 74.5 acres from the Skagit Land Trust just south of the Samish Island Conservation Area. Together, the Reserve and Skagit Land Trust are now exploring viability and options for salt marsh restoration on their properties. The two partners have hired Blue Coast Engineering to help them assess this.



"We're excited to collaborate with Skagit Land Trust, Samish Indian Nation, dike & drainage districts, Skagit County, farmers, neighbors, shellfish growers, and the Samish Island community to restore salt marsh habitat on the Samish Islandus," says PBNERR Director Dr. Jude Apple.

"This habitat is vital for supporting a diverse range of ecologically and economically important species, including Dungeness crabs, juvenile salmon, and herons. We're committed to working closely with our partners to develop a restoration plan that benefits and balances ecosystem, community, and cultural values."

Marsh habitat provides critical wildlife habitat and helps protect developed land from coastal flooding. It is one of the most powerful storage systems for carbon and is vital for many at-risk and endangered species. The small amount of tidal marsh that remains in Padilla and Samish Bays is at risk from sea-level rise, storm surges, and armoring of shorelines. Restoring tidal wetlands and shallow nearshore areas on the Samish Isthmus will provide habitat for numerous marine species, native fish, birds, and native plants.

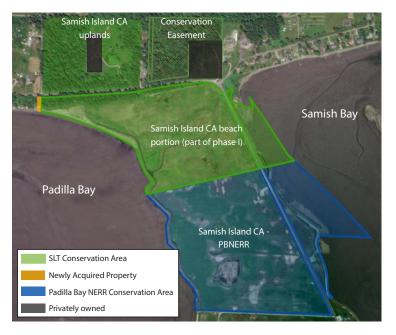
The restoration project can also help with community resilience. The dikes on this part of the isthmus were never systematically maintained and are in poor condition. Saltwater intrusion has caused concern for farmers. The road which serves Samish Island is below sea level and will flood more frequently with sea-level rise. Working with the community and partners including the Dike District and Skagit County, this project can assist in improving local resilience and reducing the threat of road closures due to coastal flooding. A restoration project may assist in elevating the road and/or improving dikes. Green infrastructure such as tidal marsh can reduce vulnerability to coastal flooding and sea level rise while offering a sanctuary for wildlife and providing educational opportunities to view nature. The project will ensure that local drainage is maintained or improved for the agricultural lands and residences to the south.

"During 2021 and 2022, our district experienced the most devastating coastal storms since its formation in 1890. Such incidents are likely to continue due to the threats posed by climate change and sea-level rise," says Norm Hoffman, Dike District 5 Commissioner. "The feasibility and planning work is essential to protecting and restoring

important natural systems in a way that ensures that critical infrastructure such as roads, dikes, and existing agriculture are protected."

The restoration project, if determined to be viable, will take up to a decade to complete. The partners are currently in Phase I, which is Acquisition, Visioning, and Site Assessment. Skagit Land Trust, PBNERR, and Blue Coast Engineering have begun presenting their Phase I findings to partners and affected parties.

On October 10th, we will hold a presentation for the Samish Island Community. If you are not a Samish Island resident and would like to attend, please RSVP to laurah@skagitlandtrust.org. The Phase I findings slide presentation and report will also be available on Skagit Land Trust's website by mid-October.



# Annual Report - Fiscal Year 2023 - 2024



Thanks to the support of Skagit Land Trust's community of donors, volunteers, and project partners, we've been able to protect and care for more than 10,000 acres over the past 32 years. During 2023 and 2024 we have continued to build on this past success, thanks to member support. Together we are conserving and caring for the lands and waters wildlife depend on. We are also ensuring there are places for people to connect with nature. Here are a few highlights from Skagit Land Trust's (SLT's or the Trust's) 2023-2024 fiscal year.

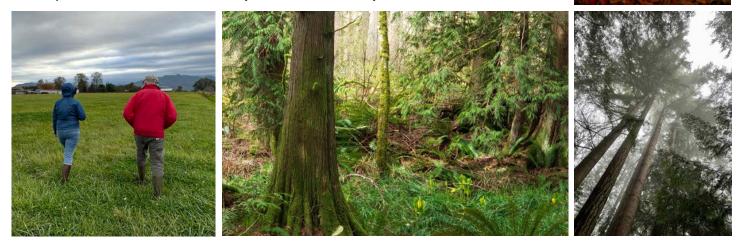
#### **Conserving the Land**

In the Nookachamps Watershed, the Trust held 63 acres of land to expand Big Rock County Nature Park (*pictured above*) and worked with neighbors on an additional 20 acres of protected land. The Trust also transferred 74 acres with nearly a mile of marine shoreline to Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve for a joint tidal marsh restoration project.

The Trust also received two significant land donations this past year: a bequest of 25.5-acres of farmland on Fir Island (*bottom left*) and the 21-acre Walker-Martin Life Estate (*below center*). We also completed the Farrow Conservation Easement (C.E.) (*right, and below right*), and began work on 16 land purchases and conservation easements across Skagit County.

Skagit Land Trust is grateful to have worked with more than 30 partners this past year to conserve land. Our partners included private landowners, Skagit Watershed Council, WA Opportunity Fund, WA State Recreation and Conservation Office, Dept of Ecology, local Tribes, private foundations, community members, and many more.





#### Stewarding the Skagit



A total of 520 volunteers gave 6,887 hours of their time to the lands and waters of the Skagit. These dedicated members stewarded local lands, shared their knowledge on Trust committees, gathered wildlife data through our community science efforts, and engaged local youth and our broader community during a variety of outreach events.

Stewardship volunteers assisted with habitat restoration on 35 conservation areas. They helped plant thousands of trees and shrubs at multiple conservation areas. Volunteers also maintained and improved trails at three conservation areas. A volunteer team helped place more than 1,000 sandbags on the Samish Bay dike of the Samish Island Conservation Area (C.A.) in preparation of the winter's king tides.

Tree planting at Day Creek Conservation Area (C.A.)



Above: Dedicated volunteers spreading gravel on the trail at Guemes Mountain & Valley Conservation Area, sandbagging the dike on Samish Island C.A., and removing beaver fencing at Tope Ryan Conservation Area.

#### **Connecting Our Community**

Skagit Land Trust lead a variety of events to connect our community with conservation efforts across the county. More than 200 people attended a swan walk at Barney Lake Conservation Area last year. Our Story Trail collaboration with the Upper Skagit Library continued at the Marblemount Conservation Area. The Trust also participated in community events such as Fidalgo Bay Day, Storming the Sound, Concrete Youth Activity Day, and Mount Vernon's Illuminight.

Board and staff members served on numerous local committees including Skagit Watershed Council, Skagit County Farmland Legacy Program, and Skagit Marine Resources Committee. The Trust's Public Policy Committee worked on educating on sea-level-rise needs in local plans, as well as the need for open space, interconnected trails on rural and urban interfaces, and wildlife corridors.

Over 1,000 local youth participated in our youth programs. These included Trustled Utopia Field Trips with students from seven local schools. Staff facilitated field trips for the Kulshan Creek Neighborhood Youth Program to Cumberland Creek and Marblemount Conservation Areas (*right*). The group also visited James Island, Lake MacMurray, Woodland Park Zoo, and Museum of Northwest Art.

Our Community Science program continued its heron and amphibian monitoring projects. Volunteer heron monitors gave hundreds of hours studying nesting habits of the March Point herons via cameras in treetops. We also conducted an

Active Tree Survey and Nest Count at March Point. Amphibian monitoring took place at Hurn Field, Tope Ryan, Utopia, and Green Road Marsh.

This work would not be possible without member support. We are so grateful to everyone who is part of the Skagit Land Trust community. Thank you for supporting conservation efforts here in the Skagit.

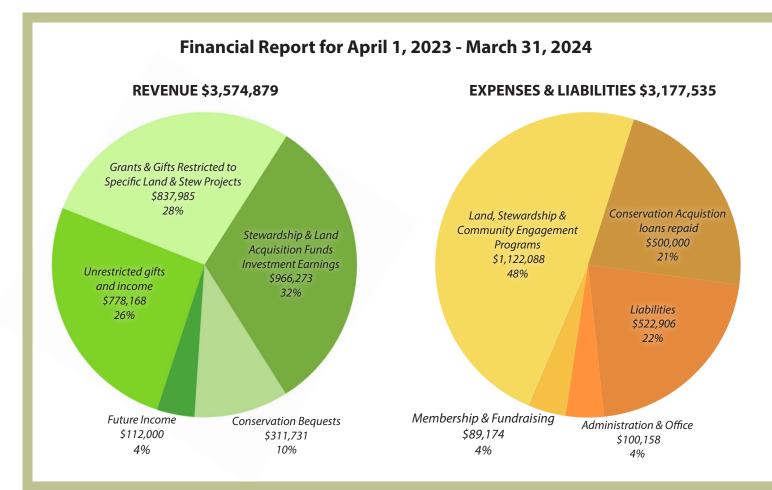
Local second-graders learning about the importance of plants for soil filtration during a field trip to our Utopia property.











## New Faces at Skagit Land Trust

This Fall, we welcomed two new AmeriCorps volunteers, Oceanna and Emma, who will be supporting our development and stewardship efforts until mid-July of 2025. We also recently hired Sarah, who will be filling our new Outreach Coordinator role. We are excited to have them on board!

#### Oceanna Boulanger, AmeriCorps Community Engagement Member

This year, Oceanna will be engaging with the community at events, coordinating volunteers, and developing educational material to connect local youth with lands protected by the Trust. After earning her B.S. in Environmental Sustainability Studies from Northern Arizona University, Oceanna moved back to her hometown of Bellingham and participated in various internships before starting at the Trust. In her free time, she loves backpacking in the Cascades and kayaking in the bay.





#### Emma Koelbl, AmeriCorps Stewardship Member

Emma will support the Trust's Stewardship Department during volunteer work parties and other work on the land. Emma holds a B.S. in Environmental Science - Earth and Physical Sciences from University of Oregon, where she participated in many internships and student clubs involved with ecological monitoring and restoration, trail maintenance, and anything to do with birds! Outside of work, Emma will likely be found birding, reading, playing volleyball, or hanging out with friends.

#### Sarah Gardam, Outreach Coordinator

Sarah brings with her several years of professional experience in nonprofit communications and marketing work. After teaching college English for many years, Sarah moved west in 2018 and embraced a new life protecting mature forests. She has volunteered as an organizer and a communications specialist for several forest-protection groups. Sarah also loves hiking and backpacking with friends whenever she can carve out some free time!



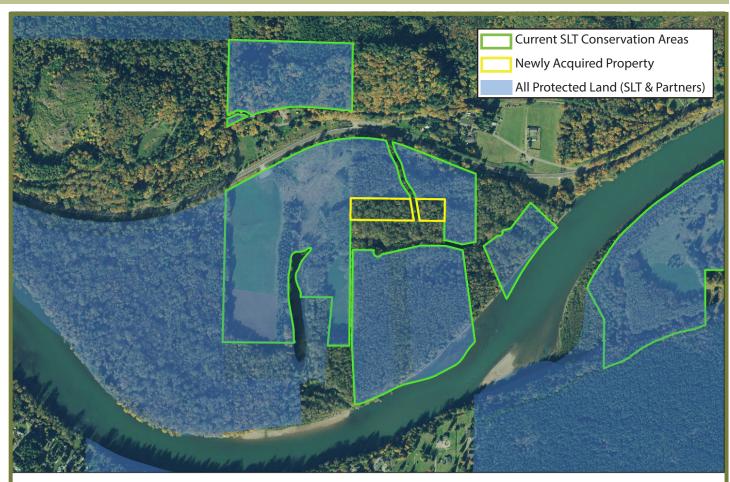
# Financial Report for April 2023 - March 2024 Fiscal Year

Skagit Land Trust's (the Trust's) fiscal year ended on March 31, 2024. We received a clean audit opinion in September 2024. The auditors noted the strong and varied support the Trust receives from individuals and grants.

The Trust received over \$837,000 in donor-restricted gifts and grants to assist with specific projects including youth programs, stewardship needs, and the purchase of Big Rock. The Trust received \$311,731 in bequests and \$778,168 in unrestricted contributions and in-kind contributions. Two properties were gifted to the Trust.

Our total operating expenses, excluding land acquisitions, were \$1,368,199. Administration and fundraising expenses remained within best practice nonprofit standards at 15% of total operating expenses. If both asset and operating expenses are considered, administrative and fundraising costs drop to just 8% of total expenses.

This past year, we were able to repay \$900,000 in loans to The Conservation Fund taken out to purchase Samish Island land that was held and then sold to Padilla Bay NERR at cost. We also repaid a \$500,000 loan to the Washington Opportunity Fund taken out to purchase Big Rock land. Other liabilities increased due to a life estate received.



# Adding Another Piece to the Hurn Field Conservation Puzzle

One of Skagit Land Trust's most beloved Conservation Areas, Hurn Field, just got bigger with the addition of five acres of floodplain salmon habitat! If slow and steady wins the conservation race, then Hurn Field is lapping the field. This parcel is the 11th separate acquisition at Hurn over the past 25 years, increasing the amount of land protected forever, from the original 68 acres saved in 1999 to 135 acres today. Beyond the elk habitat Hurn is known for, the pristine floodplain channels, wetlands, and forest at Hurn provide habitat for Chinook salmon and numerous other species of fish and wildlife. Many thanks to Washington State's Salmon Recovery Funding Board's grant assistance for this new addition.

# Those We've Lost (September 2022 - September 2024)

Over the past two years, the Trust lost some key members, including board members, charter members, land donors, land stewards, longtime supporters, and members of our Cedar Legacy Circle. They worked with the Trust and many community partners to conserve some very special places across Skagit County. We honor these members for their efforts, which live on in the natural legacies they have protected for future generations.



Top row: Anne McCracken, David Ridgway, Gene Derig, Glenn Bordner, Gloria Zillig, Joline Bettendorf, John Bromet Center row: Irene McCoy, Sue Ehler, Jeff Hale, John Hunt, Joost Businger, Kit Marcinko, Marvin Seelye Bottom row: Mary Kay Barbieri, Nancy Fox, Patricia Young, Roger Hulbush, Simon Ottenberg, Thomas Beeler Not pictured: Marcia Daniel, Peter Hurley, Fran Odden, Dimity O'Neil, Linda Sanford, Milton Schayes, David Scott, Richard Studebaker, and Kathleen Walsh Packard. They are remembered.

## In Honor and Memorial Gifts (September 1, 2022 - September 1, 2024)

**In memory of Diane Altwein** Ramona Hammerly

**In memory of Beulah Anderson** Martha Macri & Judy Alexander

**In memory of Tom Andrak** M.J. Andrak

In memory of James L. Bangs Judy & Peter Bangs

In memory of Walter B. Barnard II Phoebe Barnard & John Bowey

In memory of George & Mary Alice Basye Anne Basye In memory of Nola Beeler

Thomas Beeler In memory of Stuart H. Berg

Ken Berg & Jan Weydemeyer

In memory of Doug Bison John & Briel Schmitz

**In honor of Ellen Blair** David Blair

**In memory of Thais Bock** Barbara Petersen Djana Bock & Mark Shurtleff

In memory of Arnold & Delores Boettcher Sue Sell **In memory of Ric Boge** Kari Boge Patt & Neil Jorgensen

**In memory of Glenn Bordner** Teddie Bordner

**In honor of Bob Boudinot** David Boudinot

**In memory of Ray Bowman** Bonnie Bowman

In memory of the Bradford Family John Verdoes & Beth Rosenstiel

In memory of Margaret S. Bradshaw Lucy Bradshaw **In honor of Jane Brandt** Gerri & John Gunn

In honor of Sally & Dick Brigham Carol Steffy

In honor of Walter Brodie & Linda Versage Ann Brodie-Knope

**In memory of John C. Bromet** Terri Wilde

In memory of Lloyd J. Brown David Brown

In memory of Rev. Mary K. Brown Susan & Patrick O'Donnell **In memory of Robert Burden** James Burden

**In memory of Heather Burke** Phoebe Barnard & John Bowey

In memory of John Burke Frances Ambrose & Steve Hunter

**In memory of Pat Call** Deborah Call

In memory of Catherine Carter Gretchen Kraig-Turner

In memory of Lois & Cleve Chase Rebecca Cannon

In memory of Harold Christenson Karen & Doug Radcliffe

In memory of Everett Chu Jim & Levy Scheltens

**In honor of Harold Clure** Marjorie Kilbreath & Dean Townsend

In honor of Ryan Cook Cody Cook-Winscher

In memory of Scott Croll Jeff Muse & Paula Ogden-Muse

In memory of Greg Crosby Paul Dinnel & Vicki McNeil Phyllis Thoreson

In memory of Alan Crowe Carol Steffy

In memory of Bruce Daniel Malcolm Daniel & Darryl Morrison Marcia Daniel

In honor of Jon David Frazier Nadene Frazier-Westphall

In honor of Norm Davis Marlene & Mark Schuck

**In memory of Kathleen Desvoigne** Matthew Desvoigne

In memory of Ann Dursch Harry Dursch & Kirsten Lemke Stephen Panshin

**In memory of A. Elliott Johnson** Margaret Neudorfer Phyllis & Donald McKeehen

In memory of Ben & Lois Englebright Annette Woolsey & Jim Shiflett Larry & Alba Stevens T.J. Stevens & Todd Rubano

**In memory of Bob Englund** Klaudia Englund

In memory of Maggie Estes Leslie Menard

In memory of David Farrow Christine Farrow

In honor of Philip Fenner David Brown

In honor of Kyle Findley-Meier & Claire Poulos Liz Findley & John Meier In memory of Nancy Fox Sara Farr Arthur Fox Augusto Cardoso Carol & Kit Harma Elizabeth Esser Leona De Rocco Martha Tucker

**In memory of Arlene French** Gene & Bette Huff Judy Bown

In honor of Jim Glackin Rachel Perlot

In memory of Roz Glasser Guemes Island Planning Advisory Committee

**In memory of Doug Hagaman** Sharon Hagaman

**In memory of Betty Haldeman** Stephanie Fohn

In memory of Jeffrey Hale Jim Ciecko & Joanne Myers-Ciecko Linda Korten & Jim Burnison Mary Parker-Hale

In memory of Shirley Haley Joyce Brown

**In honor of Kit & Carol Harma** Miriam Lambert

In memory of Jean Heflin Ann Reid & Tom Theisen

**In memory of Ralph Heft** Jonathan Gamson Lisa & Paul Nissley

In memory of Dr. Richard & Holley Hoag Richard Hoag Maria Palensky

In memory of Mildred L. Holtcamp Sue Sell

**In honor of Marcia Hunt** Gabriel Moore-Cifuentes James Hunt Martha Wilson Nathan Moore

In memory of John & Linda Hunt Carolyn Moulton David & Deborah Hall Martha Frankel & Tom McFall Molly Doran & Andrew Cline Paul Dinnel & Vicki McNeil Rusty Kuntze & Libby Mills Steven & Robyn Johnson Steven Thompson Janice Martin & Doug Robinson Marcia Hunt Martha Wilson

**In memory of Roger Johnson** Barbara J. Johnson

In honor of Andrew & Ross Jorgensen Patt & Neil Jorgensen In honor of Oskar & Ellis Jorgensen Patt & Neil Jorgensen

In memory of EnSue Kapaakea Pung Puaa Barbara PaulMayer

**In memory of Sara & Samuel Kaplan** Diane Kaplan

In memory of Sean Keilty Conor Keilty

**In memory of Robert Keller** Donna Keller Pat Karlberg

In honor of SunRay Kelley Steve Crider

In memory of Roger G. Kelley Darlene Mindrum

In memory of Jack Kendrick David Nordgren

**In memory of Rodney King** Martha Jordan

In memory of Jim Kirk Janet Lowry

**In memory of Jim Kline** Barbara Kline

In memory of Dr. Von Kuehn Jim & Joyce Anderson

**In memory of Trevor Kyle** Delberta Kyle

In honor of Craig T. Lee Bruce Allen

**In honor of Hal & Hella Lee** Regan Weeks & Scott Petersen

In honor of Bonnie & Tod Lehecka Meris Lehecka

In honor of Bill Lester & Hazel Tracy Jeff Muse & Paula Ogden-Muse

**In honor of Jim Loop** Kelly Bush & Russ Dalton

In honor of Deron Lord Elyse Lord

**In honor of Elyse Lord** Carolyn Lord Deron Lord

In honor of Betty Lucas Monica Lowe

In memory of John Malterner Irene Holroyd

In honor of Tim Manns & Brenda Cunningham Jeffrey Osmundson & Colleen Shannon

In memory of Claudia Maple

Charles Maple Melinda Friedman Michael Hallett Teresa & Leo Bodensteiner Terri Wilde **In honor of Janice Martin** Jessie Robinson

In memory of Judy Martin Robert & Victoria Bourns

**In memory of Predrag Martinovich** Vera Martinovich

In memory of Roland Matthews Doug Mills & Beverly Faxon Linda Ballantine

In memory of Anne McCracken Melita & Peter Townsend

**In honor of Nan McKay** Robin Dearling

In honor of Theresa & Doug McLean Daniel McLean

In honor of Brooks & Kelly Middleton Anne & Jack Middleton

In honor of Jack Middleton Kelly & Brooks Middleton

In honor of Lynda Mills & Nancy Cornell Herbert Pearson

**In memory of Gene Murphy** Ginny Murphy Homer & Rosette Dawson

In memory of JoAnn Nealy Chris & Jennifer Barker

In honor of Kim Nelson Jodi Broughton

In memory of Richard Nelson Linda Nelson

In memory of George Newbury Ken & Anne Winkes

In honor of Drew Norton Scott Magorien & Susan Hayton Magorien

In memory of Dick Nowadnick Jim & Kay Zielinski

**In memory of Fran Odden** Nikki Klinger Jerilyn & Marc Hander

In honor of Sue & Patrick O'Donnell Carol Steffy

In memory of Dimity O'Neil Frances Ambrose & Steve Hunter

In memory of Simon Ottenberg Anne Douglas Williams Anne Moldrem Carol Ottenberg

In memory of Richard Pagh Sally Pagh

In honor of Eileen Paise Laura Paise

In memory of Nadine & Hoppy Pearce Paul Pearce

In memory of Esther Pearson Sina Pearson

**In memory of Ron Pera** Sheila Pera

#### ...In Honor and Memorial Gifts continued from page 9

In honor of Erika Petroy & Owen Liu David Petroy

**In memory of Dale & Almeda Ragan** Patricia Lundgren

In memory of Bob Ratfield Maureen Ratfield

**In memory of Nathan Rawhouser** Ruth Rawhouser

**In memory of Kit Rawson** Edith MacDonald Katherine Rawson & Bernard duBreuil

**In memory of Kay Raymond** Robert Raymond & Dorothy Downes

In honor of Tyson Reed Kim Nelson

In memory of Lavone Reim Dick Reim

In honor of Skye Richendrfer Rick & Tracey Levine

In memory of David Ridgway Gene & Bette Huff Hildegard Radke Lani Donohoe & Tom Griffin Nancy Ridgway

**In honor of Swan Road Neighborhood** Walter & Cathy Pfahl

In honor of Lenore Robb Janice Place

**In honor of Roger Robinson** Evergreen Islands Jan Robinson In memory of Bill & Betty Rockwell Ken & Catherine Rockwell

In honor of Della & Reese Rodman Jack Rodman & Family

**In memory of Leslie Salkeld** David & Kerrie Salkeld

**In honor of Samish Indian Nation** Kathy Green

In honor of Jim Scheltens Eric Hinton

In honor of Marlene & Mark Schuck Liz & Michael Bart

In memory of Zella Schultz Djana Bock & Mark Shurtleff

**In memory of Roz Sealy** Beth Carlyle-Askew

In memory of Marvin Seelye Carolyn Cochran Glenda Merwine John Hodecker Joyce Swanson Keren Necaise Linda Whiddon Marlene Boudreaux Martha Teigen Sally Pagh Vickie Winters

In memory of Robert Sherman Leslie & Randy Hughes

In honor of Anne Sidbury & Scott Mennella Paul Mennella **In memory of Alice & James Sidbury** Scott Mennella & Anne Sidbury

In memory of Phyliss Snider Ruth Rawhouser

In honor of Jenny Stapp Carol Steffy

In honor of Tom & Christine Stapp Carol Steffy

In memory of Arnold & Mary Stewart Cheryl Stewart

In memory of Margaret Stewart Anne & Dennis Murphy-Malinak

**In honor of Bert Stover** Jaye Stover

In memory of Richard Studebaker Eileen Andersen

In memory of Peggy Swendsen Mark Eikeland

In memory of Martin Taylor Kristine Knutson

In memory of Mike Taylor Keith & Joan Magee

**In memory of Paul & June Thronsen** Carol & Jon Engels

In memory of Richard & Erik Tjersland Shirley Tjersland

In memory of Arthur Towne David & Christine Towne

In memory of John Tursi Harold & Martha Clure In memory of Joan Vanderhoof Andrew & Marie Vanderhoof

In memory of Michael Vitale Debra Crowe-Vitale

In memory of Dr. J. W. & Evelyn Wallen Barbara Williams

In memory of Hilde Weissengruber Barbara PaulMayer

In honor of David Wertheimer & Birch Beaudet Bea & Jim Cashetta Ellen Wertheimer & Mark Rahdert Lise Rahdert

In honor of Dan West Marjorie Lucks & Dorian West

In honor of Keith & Jan Wiggers Robert & Judith Higgins

**In honor of the Winkes Family** Ben & Sloane Winkes Mary Winkes

**In honor of Samantha Wright** Jane Zillig & Paul Ingalls

In memory of Patricia Young Diane Welp Linda Robbins Sara Young Ted & Sherri Parker Timothy Manns & Brenda Cunningham

**In memory of Guthrie Zempel** Diane Kaplan

In memory of Gloria Zillig Martha Frankel & Tom McFall

# Business Supporters & Partners (Sept 1, 2022 - March 31, 2024)

**Business Supporters** Allstate Insurance - Annette Booth Anacortes Kayak Tours Arne Svendsen Trucking Inc. Banner Bank **Buri Funston Mumford PLLC** Calypso Restoration Christianson's Nursery Chuckanut Golf Carts Dunbar Gardens Eco-Restore Ecological Consulting & Design LLC Empirical Wealth Management **Fine Feathered Friends Foothills Toyota** Gato Verde Adventure Sailing Guardian Northwest Title & Escrow Guemes Island Resort Hedlin Farms Horizons Audio & Video Island Adventures Island Express Charters Land Title and Escrow Co of Skagit and Island County Lautenbach Industries Lisser and Associates PLLC Make It Matter LLC Northwest Habitat Management Plumeria Bay Qualterra **Re-Use Consulting** Schuh Farms Seaport Books

Silfab Solar Skagit Law Group PLLC Skagit Wild Bird Supply Stratum Group Taylor Shellfish Farms The Eastman Company The Stone Cottage Triad Tours Watermark Book Co Wiggins Nursey

#### Grants, Foundations, & Project Partners

Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account Anacortes Parks & Recreation Anonymous Foundation(s) Audubon Washington Barnard Family Fund Beavers Northwest **Catholic Housing Services** Skagit County Dike Districts 5 & 12 Dog Woods **Ducks Unlimited** EarthCorps Edgewater Garden Club of Samish Island Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program **Evergreen Islands Fidalgo Fly Fishers** Friends of the Forest George & Audrey Rasmussen Family Foundation Glacier Peak Institute Guemes Island Ferry Trail Project Guemes Island Planning Advisory Committee Harris and Eliza Kempner Fund

Heron Forage Monitoring Program Hugh and Jane Ferguson Foundation Leadership Skagit Linnemann Family Foundation Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest Mount Vernon Police Department Museum of Northwest Art National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program Natural Resources Conservation Service Neudorfer Foundation North Cascades Institute PACCAR Foundation Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve Salish Sea School Samish Indian Nation Samish Island Resilient Access Committee San Juan Preservation Trust Satterberg Foundation Sea Mar Community Health Center Seattle City Light Skagit Audubon Society Skagit Conservation District Skagit County Parks and Recreation Skagit Drainage and Irrigation Districts Consortium LLC Skagit Farmland Legacy Program Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group Skagit Marine Resources Committee Skagit River Bald Eagle Action Team Skagit River System Cooperative Skagit Valley Food Co-op Skagit Watershed Council

Starbucks Neighborhood Grants Starlight Fund Stillaguamish Tribe Natural Resources Dept **Temcov Foundation** The Burning Foundation The Carbon Capture Foundation The Conservation Fund The Nature Conservancy Towne Foundation Tulalip Natural Resources Dept. United Way of King County Upper Skagit Indian Tribe USDA Farm Services Agency **US Forest Service** UW Climate Impacts Group Washington Association of Land Trusts WA Conservation Corps WA Dept of Ecology WA Dept of Fish and Wildlife WA Dept of Natural Resources WA Estuary and Salmon Restoration Prog WA Native Plant Society, Salal Chapter Washington Opportunity Fund WA Recreation and Conservation Office WA Salmon Recovery Funding Board WA Service Corps WA State Parks - Deception Pass State Park WA State Conservation Corps Washington Wild Whatcom Community Foundation Woodland Park Zoo

# Individual Members (Sept 1, 2022 - March 31, 2024)

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.

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#### Inspiring the Next Generation to Care for the Land

Since April, we have taken eight groups of Sedro Woolley 1st, 2nd, and 3rd graders on several educational trips to our Utopia Conservation Area. On these trips, the students get to connect with the land and learn about the importance of restoration plantings to the health of the Skagit River and other waterways.

This year and every year, Skagit Land Trust utilizes our properties to educate the community and help future generations to appreciate and care for the lands we love.



#### "Keeping the Land Nice for Our Grandkids"

You may recognize Paul Johnson, a regular at Skagit Land Trust work parties. A resident of Burlington for nearly four decades, Paul joined the Skagit Land Trust community in 2019. After a long career with a small boat company called Nordic Tuggs, Paul had recently retired. With a twinkle in his eye, he remembers: "My wife told me that I needed to find something to do!"

Paul first encountered Skagit Land Trust after enrolling in the Skagit Conservation District's Watershed Master's program. In 2019, the program pitched in on a tree planting project at Tope Ryan Conservation Area. Paul really appreciated the Trust's AmeriCorps volunteers, who "immediately adopted me and a few others."



Rain can't keep Paul (center) away from trail work at Barr Creek. Also pictured are Kinsey Shilling (left) and Lynn Postler (right).

Paul soon began attending SLT work parties because they provided worthwhile opportunities to spend time outside and connect with like-minded people. He also volunteers at the Lincoln Theater and with a group called Team Rubicon, a veteran-led humanitarian organization that responds to crises around the globe.

Over the last five years, Paul has contributed to many Skagit Land Trust work parties. He especially likes trail building and had a good time working on the Dancing Bear Trail in our Barr Creek Conservation Area. The Trust is lucky to have volunteers like Paul, who understands the importance of "keeping the land nice for our grandkids."

Fall is planting season, and we have a full schedule of work parties coming up. At Skagit Land Trust, we rely heavily on dedicated volunteers to help us meet our stewardship goals. We're very grateful for their time and effort. If you'd like to learn more about volunteering with the Trust, please visit our website and sign-up for an upcoming work party. We also have openings to volunteer with our Heron Camera Monitoring and Youth Programs. Contact Stacy Dahl, our Volunteer & Education Programs Coordinator, for information on all of these volunteer opportunities: stacyd@skagitlandtrust.org or call 360-428-7878 x212.

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#### Hard Work Pays Off for Invasive Removal Teams

This spring, our Stewardship team continued efforts to control invasive species at some of our upriver properties. Invasive species removal is one way we steward the land because rapid-spreading invasive plants tend to take over the native vegetation in our forests and fields. The Scotch broom removal work that we began in the Diobsud Creek Conservation Area in 2021 has really started to pay off - a volunteer crew in May of 2024 was able to remove all the Scotch broom plants within two hours before moving on to pull other weeds, such as periwinkle.

In 2024, we utilized AmeriCorps crews and hosted volunteer work parties to hand-pull flowering plants in several garlic mustard patches that we had first discovered in the Pressentin Ranch Conservation Area in spring of 2023.

In June of 2024, we also removed spotted knapweed at Cascade River Conservation Area where we had previously worked to control both knapweed and Scotch broom. This year's volunteer crew found no Scotch broom and was able to thoroughly survey and pull spotted knapweed throughout the site! Although we aren't "out of the weeds" yet (we probably have another 2-3 years of continued monitoring to be sure that we've eradicated the population), this year's findings show how well a multi-year stewardship approach works to restore the places we love.



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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.

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# **Upcoming Work Parties**

Jackman Creek Conservation Area Invasive Removal Friday October 4th, 2024, 10AM - 2PM

**Tope Ryan Blue Tube Removal** Saturday October 26th, 2024, 9AM-12PM

**Planting at the South Fork Skagit River Conservation Area** Saturday November 16th, 2024, 9AM - 12PM

March Point Heronry Invasive Removal Saturday November 23rd, 2024, 10AM - 12PM

Planting Trees at Minkler Lake Friday December 6th, 2024, 9AM - 12PM

Barney Lake Conservation Area Maintenance Thursday December 12th, 2024, 9AM - 12PM

**Live Stake Planting at Barney Lake** Friday December 13th, 2024, 9AM - 12 PM

The lands conserved and protected by Skagit Land Trust have been inhabited and stewarded by numerous tribes and Indigenous peoples since time immemorial. We recognize and respect the inherent, indigenous, and treaty rights of the Coast Salish People who have deep and abiding connections to these places. We seek to partner with local tribes as we conserve and care for these lands and waters.

