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Port Townsend, WA 98368

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Issue 43

Conservation Newsletter

Spring 2007

Helping the community preserve open space, working lands, and habitat forever

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Creative Conservation in the Quimper Wildlife Corridor

Picture this – over morning tea and a fresh copy of the Port Townsend Leader, Sarah Fairbank, wife of JLT Land Conservation Committee chair Owen Fairbank, peers over the paper and says “Owen, isn’t the Land Trust interested in the Snow Creek area? There are a number of lots with Snow Creek in their parcel name about to be auctioned by the county due to delinquent taxes on December 14th at the courthouse.” They talked about it and it turned out that the Snow Creek Estates parcels being auctioned weren’t in the area the Land Trust had been working on in the Snow Creek watershed but rather near Crocker Lake.



photo: Nicole Pearce

When Sarah was done reading the paper Owen scanned the tax auction description in the legal section and noticed a number of lots in “Fowlers Addition” listed in the parcels to be auctioned. Those were the parcels that caught his eye, drove him out of the house, onto his bicycle and up to the office to look at the Quimper Wildlife Corridor parcel map in the Land Trust conference room. It turned out that three of the lots to be auctioned were Tier One priorities for protection.

He took the opportunity to the Land Conservation Committee a diverse group of local experts in topics related to land and land conservation who guide the conservation efforts of Jefferson Land Trust. They all agreed that these parcels were high priority and proposed that Owen take them to the full Board of Directors of the Land Trust, which he did. The board approved spending up to \$11,000 for the three Tier One parcels.


So, on December 14th, Owen and his fellow (then) Board of Directors member Heidi Eisenhour went to the auction to pursue land protection - in what felt like an unusual way – by being the highest bidders on the Land Trusts priority parcels. Owen prevailed after an exciting volley of bids and we got our three priority parcels for just under \$10,000. We called Sarah Spaeth, our Conservation Director, and told her we had an hour to pay for the land – could she get a check from the bank. She rushed to the bank, scurried into the courthouse and we became proud owners of three parcels of prime wildlife habitat in the Quimper Wildlife Corridor.

Some days, conservation happens in creative ways!

More on Quimper Wildlife Corridor on page 4

Jefferson Land Trust

To Do List

- Renew your financial commitment to Jefferson Land Trust by sending us your membership dues ASAP
- Invite a friend and RSVP to a Lay of the Land: An Inside Look at JLT event (see page 3 for dates)
-  Put the dates on your calendar to attend at least one of our property tours, Tour for All Seasons, in 2007 (see page 3 for dates and destinations)

Is someone missing their tamales?

If you can prove that you were the winning bidder of a tamale subscription at the 2006 RainFest Auction we can get you your tamales.



photo: Nicole Pearce

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 Owen Fairbank
 Steve Habersetzer
 Denise Pranger
 Clifton Ross

Executive Director

Heidi Eisenhour
 ed@saveland.org

Conservation Director

Sarah Spaeth
 programs@saveland.org

Stewardship Director

Nicole Pearce
 steward@saveland.org

Development Manager

Kristin Axtman
 kaxtman@saveland.org

Systems Manager

Nancy Newman
 admin@saveland.org

Volunteer Representative

Fran Post
 fpost@saveland.org

Graphic Design

Jan Hoy Design
 www.jhoydesign.com

Printing

SOS Printing
 Port Townsend
 360-385-4194

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 soy inks*

Contact Information

1033 Lawrence Street
 Port Townsend, WA 98368
 360-379-9501
 fax 360-379-9897
 jlt@saveland.org
 www.saveland.org

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From the Director

Coming in to this job I have been re-reading books that inspired me while I was in college getting my Bachelor of Science in botany and geology. Back then, when I read the Sand County Almanac written by Aldo Leopold in 1949, I marked the page that held this quote: A thing is right only when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty of the community and the community includes the soil, waters, fauna, and flora, as well as people.

Nearly two decades since I read the book and six decades since it was written, it seems that these words provide central inspiration for Jefferson Land Trust, our leadership in local conservation and our involvement in the Jefferson LandWorks Collaborative. The collaborative is an ambitious new effort which will protect working farms and forests in east Jefferson County and which has the potential to be a model for other regions around the state and country.

East Jefferson County has a wealth of land in agricultural use. If we don't act now, we may lose opportunities for sustainable agriculture in our community. Just last month an article in the Peninsula Daily News illustrated the potential for development pressure on farmlands in our region when a local group in Clallam County approached a landowner about buying a piece of farmland only to learn that the asking price would be \$100,000 an acre. On the flip side of this equation, small-scale farming has proven to be an economic engine for farmers and their families from Brinnon to Port Townsend and Chimacum to Gardiner. Each year the Port Townsend Farmers Market alone generates close to \$1,000,000 in direct and indirect benefits to local farmers and businesses – this has a direct impact on our local working farmlands – not to mention the availability of the fresh, locally produced food we eat.

“But, what about the open space and habitat part of Jefferson Land Trust’s mission statement?” you might ask. Central to my enthusiasm for the LandWorks Collaborative is the fact that working farm and forestlands ARE habitat and open space and these working lands make up a large slice of the conservation opportunity pie in east Jefferson County.

As you know, we don't just focus on working lands, Jefferson Land Trust works with community partners on the protection of working lands but also on dozens of critical ongoing wildlife habitat and open space projects. We continue to pursue protection of priority parcels work on the Quimper Wildlife Corridor - A "ribbon of green" stretching all across the North Quimper Peninsula. You can read about one creative effort to protect some key parcels in the corridor in the enclosed article.

Looking out the window at the frost crystals on the grass field outside reminds me that the cold days of winter are upon us but a bird perched, swaying, on the bird feeder reminds me that spring is just around the corner. Our Stewardship Director, Nicole Pearce, has her rakes and shovels stacked in the corner of her office ready the next season. The readiness of her tools underscores what has become clear to me in my few weeks on the job – the work of your Land Trust never ends.

Heidi Eisenhour, *Executive Director*

P.S. You should have received your membership renewal letter in the mail recently, please consider renewing your support for 2007!



Heidi Eisenhour
 photo: David Eisenhour

Lay of the Land



photo: Guy Scharf

These monthly Lay of the Land tours replace the monthly Seasons on the Land Tours held in 2006. See the tours for All Seasons below for on-the-land opportunities to learn in-depth about specific conservation projects.



photo: Orion Shannon

An Inside Look at JLT

On the second Thursday of each month, Jefferson Land Trust invites up to 12 people to join us in the office to learn more about the work of the Land Trust.

Come listen . . . let your mind wander . . . and wonder...

The gatherings start with local wine and cheese. Then guests will hear a briefing on JLT's history, accomplishments, and goals. We'll tell stories of conservation in our area, and inspire you through our words and images.

The next gathering is Thursday, March 8 from 4-5 pm. To register, contact Executive Director, Heidi Eisenhour, at 360-379-9501 or at ed@saveland.org. Pre-registration is required because of limited conference room seating; registrations are taken on a first-come basis.

The purpose of Lay of the Land is to educate our community about JLT's work, and to get participant feedback on our programs, services, and goals.

Dates for other Lay of the Land gatherings in 2007 are:

April 12	July 12	October 11
May 10	August 9	November 8
June 14	September 13	December 13

Tours for All Seasons

Janis Bulis Forest Preserve—April 14, 9 am-noon

Tour this JLT-owned property of approximately 90 acres of forested land adjacent to Old Fort Townsend State Park. Under our ownership, the Janis Bulis Forest Preserve will be maintained in perpetuity in its natural state. Most of the trees are second growth, with a small area of old-growth forest and wetlands. An additional 25 acres is a Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified managed productive forest, to provide financial support to steward the Preserve. As per the owners' wishes, the Land Trust has created a one-acre Pet Memorial Garden in the northwest corner of the property. Bring your lunch and we'll end our tour with a picnic in the old homestead meadow and orchard.

Sunfield Farm—July 14, 9 am-noon

Come see what is growing at the 81-acre historic McAndrew's dairy farm. Sunfield Farm—the big open field behind Circle and Square in Port Hadlock is protected forever from residential development. The conservation easement acquired by Jefferson Land Trust permanently protects open fields of prime agricultural soils, a beautiful mature cedar forest, and several wetlands that provide habitat and recharge to the Tri-Area Aquifer. The Sunfield Farm school will be working the land, raising crops for local markets and the food bank, and teaching the principles of biodynamic farming to its students and to community members.

Chimacum Creek—September 15 Mark your calendar now—tour details to follow.

Quimper Wildlife Corridor—December 1 Mark your calendar now—tour details to follow.

All fours are free to members; \$15 for non-members. Transportation is provided. RSVP to the JLT office one week before the tour. Additional details available at www.saveland.org.

Quimper Wildlife Corridor Trail

The QWC links six major wildlife habitat areas, including four critical and high-priority wetlands. The wildlife corridor also contains areas of significant habitat value within the connections between the major habitat areas. Admiralty Audubon Society estimates that more than 200 bird species currently make use of the corridor, as well as a wide variety of small and large mammals (including occasional anecdotal sightings of cougar, elk, and bear). In addition, the QWC is already home to a significant number of informal trails on public rights-of-way.

We believe a nature trail, appropriate interpretive material and boundary signage, and a program for training Corridor Docents will be a significant tool in creating a sense of citizen familiarity with and emotional ownership of the QWC and the land, water resources, and wildlife it protects.

JLT will recruit volunteers for assistance with installation of trail signage and maintenance along with participation in the Corridor Docent program. Initial planning will begin this winter with hopes of completing the project and beginning a guided tour schedule in the Spring 2008.

“Farmers are the only indispensable people on the face of the earth.”
Li Zhaoxing, Chinese ambassador

Funding Request Granted from Horizons Foundation

The Horizons Foundation has continued support of the Quimper Wildlife Corridor trail project by awarding Jefferson Land Trust \$5,000. In December of 2006, Jefferson Land Trust requested funding from the Horizons Foundation for specialty consulting fees associated with the Quimper Wildlife Corridor trail project. The Horizons Foundation also funded the management plan for the Corridor in 2004, which included the recommendation for the trail among other programs. Due to their specialized familiarity with the QWC and public education background, Sam Gibboney and Dr. Fred Sharpe will be involved in the general planning phases for the nature trail and the Corridor Docent program, and in helping carry out the training program.

Sam Gibboney managed the preparation of the QWC Management Plan, and has implemented numerous public education programs in Jefferson and Clallam Counties in the past 13 years. These include groundwater education workshops for the Water Watchers program, a volunteer training program in wetland restoration for the City of Port Townsend, and workshops for near shore property owners as part of a Puget Sound Action Team contract.

Fred Sharpe was one of the co-authors of the QWC Management Plan. His excellent reputation as a naturalist, educator, photographer, and humorist has him in demand throughout the Pacific Northwest as a public speaker.



Strolling down the QWC: A land trust group walks along a trail in the Quimper Wildlife Corridor where we will soon create a marked nature trail and docent program. *Photo: Orion Shannon*



Sam Gibboney showing a map of the Corridor.



Fred Sharpe leading a group in the Corridor. *photo: Orion Shannon*



Tami Pokorny of Jefferson County (on right) planting trees with volunteers. *photo: David Cooper*



Planting trees along the Dosewallips River. *photo: David Cooper*



Easement boundary at the Landkammer property.

Stewardship Director Seeks Volunteers

by Nicole Pearce

I have been learning of the many wonderful volunteer projects that have been completed over the years. Many of you are ready and eager to continue with this great work. You may have a place in your heart for a particular place or project. Maybe some of you are ready for a new challenge. That is why I would like to invite you all to contact me stating your volunteer interests in the areas of stewardship and especially for the upcoming monitoring season. If you have monitored the same properties for many years, I hope will consider joining me on these visits this year. It is always exciting to have new people join the monitoring team as well.

In addition to monitoring, we have some exciting things happening in the Quimper Wildlife Corridor this year. We hope to have the trail and docent program up and running by the end of the year. This project will need volunteers to help with everything from installing trail signs to a trained docent program leading guided tours of the trail.

I look forward to hearing from you!

“Forests are the lungs of our land, purifying the air and giving fresh strength to our people.” Franklin Delano Roosevelt

Join Our Land Monitoring Team

Anyone who loves exploring wild and open places, has an eye for detail, and a passion for learning about land conservation is invited to a monitoring workshop sponsored by Jefferson Land Trust. The one-hour workshop is scheduled for 10:00-noon on April 3 at the Land Trust office. The deadline for registering is Wednesday, March 28.

The session will begin with a brief review of the principles of land conservation, background on the Land Trust and its protected properties, and the monitoring process. After lunch, participants are invited to join in the annual monitoring visit to Sunfield Farm. Workshop leaders are Sarah Spaeth, Conservation Director, and Nicole Pearce, Stewardship Director. Lunch will be provided.

“Monitoring is critical to ensure that easement agreements are being upheld, that the land is healthy, and that the Land Trust maintains good relations with easement landowners,” said Nicole Pearce, Stewardship Director. “We rely on a devoted group of volunteers to help with this monitoring, many of whom enjoy visiting places that are generally not accessible to the public and who welcome being on the land. As the numbers of properties we protect increases, so does our need for more volunteer monitors.”

What Happens When 80 Land Trust Supporters Get in a Room with Dr. Estella Leopold?

by Heidi Eisenhour

The Jefferson Land Trust Annual Meeting provided answers to some interesting questions. What is JLT going to work on in 2007? How long does it take to examine a two meter soil core for fossil and seeds? And everything in between.

If you weren't one of the 80 people that attended our Annual Meeting on January 30th, you missed something. In addition to an excellent summary of 2006 Land Trust efforts given by outgoing Executive Director Stephanie Reith, a brief listing of our plans for 2007 given by our new Executive Director Heidi Eisenhour, a presentation of a Keith Lazelle print to Stephanie for all of her inspired conservation efforts on behalf of Jefferson Land Trust, we had a fascinating presentation titled "Vegetation History of the Puget Sound Area" by Dr. Estella Leopold.

As a former student of botany and geomorphology of the region I was especially excited to hear the presentation made by Dr. Leopold, Emeritus Professor of Botany and past director of the Quaternary Research Center at the University of Washington. Leopold's research interests and publications focus on paleobotany, forest history, restoration ecology, and environmental quality. She studies fossil pollen and seeds to reconstruct ancient vegetation and climate in Alaska, China, and the western U.S. Her conservation activities focus on forest management issues. She is the youngest daughter of Aldo Leopold an internationally respected scientist and conservationist, best known as the author of Sand County Almanac. An active advocate of wildlife conservation, he is considered to be the founding father of wildlife ecology.

Land Trust supporters got an intimate look at the natural history of our region through the eyes of a paleobotanist. Leopold talked about how her research and that of some of her students has allowed them to reconstruct climate history in the Puget Sound region by studying soil cores for fossil pollen and seeds. She and her students have studied local soil cores from the Olympic Peninsula at Shine Bog and the Kitsap Peninsula at Carpenter Lake. The seeds and pollen samples taken give an accurate and detailed history of the ecology of the region by illustrating changes in vegetation make up over long periods of time – tens of 1,000s of years. She also told us about recent work focused on coastal marshes in central and southern Puget Sound searching for evidence of large earthquakes in the past few thousand years. Researchers have found three areas that record changes in relative sea level that may have been associated with earthquakes about one thousand years ago and evidence that near-surface sediments liquefied at several sites in the region. This evidence indicates that a large earthquake, or earthquakes, shook central and southern Puget Sound as recently as 1100 years ago.

For me sitting in the audience Leopold's presentation made me wonder – why didn't I continue my study of botany? And then I realized I had continued my learning about the botany of the region simply by spending an evening with Dr. Estella Leopold at Jefferson Land Trust's Annual Meeting.



Dr. Estella Leopold

“The practice of conservation must spring from a conviction of what is ethically and aesthetically right, as well as what is economically expedient. A thing is right only when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty of the community, and the community includes the soil, waters, fauna, and flora, as well as people.”

- Aldo Leopold,
Sand County Almanac

“Until man duplicates a blade of grass, nature can laugh at his so-called scientific knowledge.” Thomas Edison

Applaud Our Stellar Volunteers

Where would the work of the land trust be without our “trustworthy” volunteers? We cannot even imagine! When you see the following people, please extend YOUR thanks to them for doing the hands-on work of Jefferson Land Trust.

Jane Champion: Event Volunteer of the Year for giving far above and beyond her contracted commitment to launch our first Conservation Breakfast, including producing an excellent video for us, Fabric of Life: Stories of Land Conservation in east Jefferson County.

Earl Kong: Professional Service Volunteer of the Year for providing forestry expertise to our Land Conservation Committee, especially in the managed forest on our Bulis Preserve.

Selden McKee: Stewardship Volunteer of the Year for her dedication to capturing archival photos of our protected properties.

Guy Scharf: Operations Volunteer of the Year for making our outreach materials easier to create and the stories of the land much easier to tell through the use of his professional photographs of our conserved lands.

Cindy and Gerry Walsh: Rookie Volunteers of the Year for jumping in with both feet to help with the RainFest Auction.

George Bush, Owen Fairbank, Val Johnstone, Linda Lou Marshall, Dana Roberts and Henry Werch receive our “Usual Suspects” award. Whenever we need any favor large or small, these are the people who we call.

George monitors our Middlepoint easement, contributes woodworking talents and ropes in more donations for our auction than anyone else. *Owen* is our man on the ground for all things related to the land. He sits on our board and chairs the Land Conservation Committee, and contributes hundreds of hours talking to landowners, assessing prospective properties to conserve, driving the community vans for land tours and monitoring properties.

Val Johnstone for being our regular office assistant—organizing our office, preparing bulk mailings, archiving news articles, and being a constant supportive presence.

Linda Lou Marshall stewards her protected property along Chimacum Creek, helps at events, analyzes data in produces reports to help us better understand our auction donations, and contributes creative juice to write our auction catalog.

Dana Roberts is our resident handyman—always chipper, reliable and responsive when we call. *Henry* carries, hauls, runs errands, and researches electronic equipment.

Dan and Fran Post: Volunteers of the Year for serving as two additional, unpaid staff members. Dan is our resident database expert and Fran is our Volunteer Coordinator and Auction Co-chair. Their dedication inspires the staff.

Stephanie Reith: Volunteer Par Excellence for providing outstanding organizational leadership during her tenure as Executive Director, during which at least half of her time was in a volunteer (that is to say unpaid) capacity.



Back row left to right: Earl Kong, Henry Werch, Stephanie Reith, Guy Scharf, George Bush, Val Johnstone
Front row left to right: Gerry Walsh, Cindy Walsh, Owen Fairbank



Former JLT Executive Director, Stephanie Reith
Current JLT Executive Director, Heide Eisenhour