

THE CAMPAIGN TO SAVE  
**VENDOVI ISLAND**



*The discovery of new territory is an astonishing occurrence in the 21st century. In the San Juan Islands in particular, our ability to explore places that have evaded the pressures of human development and destructive non-native plant and animal species has become increasingly rare.*

WE NOW HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO SECURE SUCH A PLACE...

# Preserving an Island of Discovery

*Vendovi Island is truly a gem of the San Juan archipelago.*



NAN SIMPSON



ELLI BLAINE



KURT THORSON



KURT THORSON



KURT THORSON

Essentially untouched by human development and virtually free of invasive plants, Vendovi Island has six beaches, lush forests, native grassland, healthy wetlands and diverse plant and animal habitat. Its wildflower meadows are among the richest in the San Juan Islands and perhaps in Washington State, and ornithologists have documented 83 avian species, including bald eagles, peregrine falcons, long-eared owls and pigeon guillemots. With 2.8 miles of pristine shoreline, hundreds of harbor seals have been observed using Vendovi's sandy beaches for community haul-outs, and an octopus den has been spotted.

Vendovi is very remote, located east of Sinclair Island, west of Bellingham, and between Guemes and Lummi Islands. Only two of the island's 217 acres have been developed, including a dock, a small home and auxiliary structures. Vendovi is one of the wildest private islands in the San Juan archipelago, which is why for many years it has been a priority for permanent conservation.

THE PROTECTION OF VENDОВI ISLAND IS ONE OF THE MOST  
IMPORTANT LAND CONSERVATION EFFORTS IN THE PRESERVATION TRUST'S  
34-YEAR HISTORY.

## STEWARDSHIP OBJECTIVES FOR VENDОВI ISLAND

1. Protect the island and its unique conservation values in perpetuity.
2. Make the island available for education, scientific research and low-impact public access.

In order to achieve both objectives, the San Juan Preservation Trust must raise **\$2.8 million** to retire a bridge loan that was needed to acquire Vendovi Island.



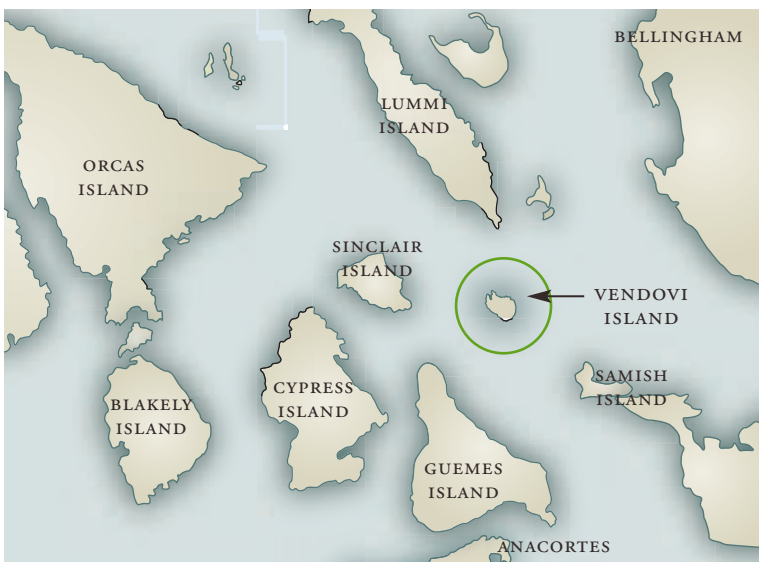
# A Rare Opportunity

In the fall of 2010, Vendovi Island was put up for sale at auction. At stake was a 217-acre, virtually untouched island with nearly three miles of shoreline, abundant wildflower fields and lush fern forests. Long considered among its highest conservation priorities, the San Juan Preservation Trust acted swiftly to secure it. With the financial backing of one visionary individual, the Preservation Trust was able to successfully participate in the auction and subsequent negotiations.

**HAD THIS BENEFACTOR NOT APPEARED, VENDОВI WOULD HAVE REMAINED A PRIVATE ESTATE, INACCESSIBLE TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD AND VULNERABLE TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF UP TO 42 HOMES.**

The Preservation Trust purchased Vendovi Island for \$6.4 million, approximately half of its appraised value. **But this acquisition required the Trust to take a calculated risk.** The generous support from this anonymous lead donor came in two forms: a \$3 million outright gift and a \$3.4 million bridge loan (the very first loan ever assumed by the organization). Subsequent gifts have reduced the outstanding loan balance by approximately \$600,000 to \$2.8 million.

Vendovi Island is now owned by the San Juan Preservation Trust, but this will only be a temporary arrangement if our fundraising efforts do not succeed. To retain ownership, protect sensitive areas and provide the public with ongoing access to the wonders of this island, we must raise \$2.8 million. **If we are not able to do this, we will have no choice but to re-sell the island.**



## A UNIQUE CHALLENGE

Vendovi Island presents us with a significant fundraising challenge. Unlike other community campaigns undertaken in recent years by the San Juan Preservation Trust (see back cover), Vendovi is not a familiar landscape. Isolated from our population centers and closely guarded for many decades by its previous owners, this island is essentially unknown to most of our supporters. Despite this challenge, the Preservation Trust's board of trustees felt strongly that this remarkable property is deserving of our best effort for permanent protection.

# Vendovi A Window in

*Magical Island Provides Rare  
and Cultural Heritage of*

## UNDEVELOPED ISLANDS

The Preservation Trust's conservation plan prioritizes the protection of undeveloped islands. Adjacent to our Jack Island Preserve – also undeveloped – Vendovi is the third largest island under single private ownership in the entire San Juan archipelago. Given its isolation and lack of destructive plant and animal species, it is also the most pristine of all the islands on this list.



## PLANT HABITAT

According to botanists from the University of Washington Herbarium, Vendovi Island is home to at least 235 plant species. As one of the only islands in the archipelago to be free of deer and grazing animals, these scientists reported wildflower displays that rival anything they've ever seen in western Washington. They have also located healthy populations of several native plant species (including the Oregon boxwood and delphinium) that had long been eradicated from other deer-inhabited islands. We recently discovered a large grove of old growth forest on Vendovi, and there are two natural wetlands that provide a permanent source of fresh water and host a rich and diverse ecosystem.

## WILDLIFE HABITAT

Skagit Audubon and other volunteers have documented 83 avian species on or around Vendovi, and that number is expected to grow as research continues. The island provides important undisturbed habitat for a number of raptors, including bald eagles, peregrine falcons and long-eared owls. Large numbers of pigeon guillemots are nesting on its rocky shore, hundreds of harbor seals use Vendovi's sandy beaches for community haul-outs, and an octopus den has been spotted. The island is surrounded by historically productive fishing grounds, so we will commission studies to evaluate the health and influence of nearshore waters on salmon, bottom fish and forage fish populations.



# Island: to Our Past

## *are Glimpse of the Natural the San Juan Archipelago*



### **PUBLIC ACCESS**

A floating dock, tucked into a protected harbor, serves as the entry point for the island. Well-established walking trails meander through lush forests (including old growth) and rocky ravines, connect spectacular outlooks, sandy beaches and tide pools, and pass by spectacular wildflower meadows. The Washington Trails Association has surveyed the island and has agreed to expand and improve our trail system with design and construction support. Once natural inventories are complete, the Preservation Trust intends to provide the public with low impact access to the island during daylight hours, making Vendovi the perfect destination for boaters and adventurous kayakers.

### **HUMAN HISTORY**

An archaeological survey indicates that Vendovi Island, adjacent to an important migratory route for Fraser River sockeye salmon, was likely used by native cultures as a seasonal fishing camp. Midden beaches indicate that Vendovi also provided these natives with productive shellfish beds.

The 95-year old daughter of the only settler child to be born on the island told us of her father's birth in a cabin near the island's current home site. On the eve of his birth, in April 1894, Haida visitors pulled their canoes ashore and made camp within yards of the cabin. The homesteaders feared for their lives, but barricaded in the cabin, survived the night without harm. The first settlers raised sheep on the island, and subsequent inhabitants farmed both foxes and fitches (European weasels valued for their fur). In the depression years, a "Peaceful Paradise of the Pacific" communal retreat was established on Vendovi by the followers of Father Divine, an African American spiritual leader. The island then became a closely guarded private estate, with the most recent owners purchasing it in the 1960s.



### **WHAT'S WITH THAT NAME?**

Vendovi Island was named by the U.S. Exploring Expedition of 1838-42 led by Captain Charles Wilkes. Chief Vendovi (also known as "Ro Veidovi") was a native of the Fiji Islands who was accused by Wilkes of being a "sailor-eating Feejee chief" that participated in the murder of 10 crewmen from another American ship. He was taken in Fiji and held prisoner for the remainder of the Expedition's journey, which included an excursion into the San Juan Islands. Wilkes' crew ultimately befriended Vendovi, inspiring Wilkes to name the island after him. Vendovi died shortly upon the Expedition's arrival in New York Harbor, and his skull was hastily claimed as a prized addition to a collection that became the foundation for the Smithsonian Institute. We plan to honor Vendovi on the island with interpretive signage that tells his remarkable story.

# Campaign Summary

*Protecting Vendovi Island has always been an important goal for conservation. The San Juan Preservation Trust borrowed the money to save this unique island and I give them a lot of credit for taking this risk. This magical place is deserving of such an effort.*

MOLLY DORAN, SKAGIT LAND TRUST

*(The Skagit Land Trust and the San Juan Preservation Trust were partners in the 2008 Campaign to Save Guemes Mountain.)*

Despite being appraised at over \$12 million, the Preservation Trust was able to purchase Vendovi Island for \$6.4 million. To do this, it was necessary to secure a \$3.4 million bridge loan. Thanks to early contributions made to this campaign, this loan currently carries a \$2.8 million outstanding balance.

If we successfully meet the terms of the \$1.0 million challenge grant (see facing page), we will have raised \$2.0 million and reduced the outstanding debt to \$1.3 million. With this remarkable demonstration of private local support, we are confident that we can raise the remaining \$1.3 million from public and private grant opportunities and, if needed, a broader “public” campaign.

While we greatly appreciate gifts of all sizes, this challenge grant has created considerable pressure to raise funds swiftly. Our efforts are therefore focused on **securing gifts in the \$10,000 - \$500,000 range** from donors who are capable of fully paying their gifts within the time frame set forth by the terms of the challenge grant. To encourage leadership-level gifts, we are fortunate to have one donor who will “double-match” one gift of \$50,000 or two gifts of \$25,000.



ELLI BLAINE



JANE K. FOX



KURT THORSON

## WHAT IF WE FAIL?

Ideally, the Preservation Trust will satisfy the challenge grant, pay off the bridge loan and retain ownership of Vendovi Island. However, if we are unsuccessful at meeting our fundraising goals, we will protect the sensitive natural values on the island with a conservation easement before selling it. Unfortunately, this outcome may not preclude all development, nor would it assure that future generations will have access to the island.

Should this resale contingency become necessary, we will work closely with our Vendovi donors to ensure that their investments in the project will be used to secure the strongest permanent conservation restrictions possible on the island before it is sold. Donors will also have the ability to request a refund of their gift or to redirect it to meet other land conservation goals in the San Juan Islands.

# One Million Dollar Challenge Grant

Recognizing this unique – and urgent – opportunity to protect the largest privately-owned island in the San Juan archipelago, a very generous family with roots in the islands has stepped forward with a **\$1 Million Challenge Grant**. Their hope is that this challenge will inspire others to invest with us to acquire Vendovi.

This Challenge Grant will match every dollar up to \$1 Million if we can meet the following schedule:

\$ 250,000	before October 1, 2011	✓	<b>ACHIEVED AND MATCHED!</b>
\$ 350,000	before October 1, 2012		
\$ 400,000	before October 1, 2013		
<u>\$ 1,000,000</u>			

Subsequent portions of the Challenge Grant will not be available to us unless we meet the remaining targets. In other words, if we fail to raise \$350,000 by October 1, 2012, the remainder of this challenge grant (\$750,000) will expire and no donations will be matched. Only funds received will be matched – pledges will not count towards the Challenge Grant unless they are fulfilled by the deadline.

WE THEREFORE MUST RAISE AT LEAST \$350,000 IN DONATIONS BY  
**OCTOBER 1, 2012** TO RECEIVE THE SECOND \$350,000 MATCH AND TO ENSURE THAT  
FUTURE CHALLENGE GRANT MATCHING FUNDS WILL BE AVAILABLE TO US IN 2013.

Matching gifts raised this year that are in excess of the 2012 goal may be applied to the final \$400,000 challenge grant matching requirement that needs to be raised by 2013.



**HELP US SAVE VENDОВI ISLAND.**

**CONTACT US TODAY!**

If you have questions, or if you are interested in participating in the Campaign to Save Vendovi Island, please contact the San Juan Preservation Trust at **(360) 468-3202**. For more information about the Preservation Trust and our Vendovi Island Preserve, visit [www.sjpt.org](http://www.sjpt.org).



## VENDОВI CAMPAIGN DONORS

December 2010 through October 2011



*Our deepest appreciation is extended to these visionary initial donors to the **Campaign to Save Vendovi Island:***

Anonymous (2 gifts)	April and Gary Ford	Laurie and Kevin Naylor
Mark and Susan Ackelson	Larry and Susan Forsythe	David and Carol Oberg
Audra and Eric Adelberger	Keith Gerrard	Joann Otto
Charles and Barbara Anderson	Charles and Nancy Givens	David and Cherill Perera
Paul M. Anderson Foundation	Gay Graham & Ron Hanson	The Pleas Family Foundation
Carol and Jon Avent	Margaret & Scotty Greene	Tim and Melanie Ransom
Liz Banse and Brian Clark	Robert Grimm and Helen Winkler	Rebecca Rettmer and Bert Sagara
Elbert and Jean Beamer	Michael and Gale Gropp	Mary and Chase Riveland
Inez Noble Black	Thor Hanson and Eliza Habegger	Rebecca and Matthew Rodman
Charlie Bodenstab	Carolyn Haugen	Robert Schaedler and Jean Hawkins
Bill and Trice Booth	Jean and Steven Henigson	Mike and Jackie Schmidt
Neil and Cathy Borman	Harvey Himelfarb and Alice Swan	Eliot and Tina Scull
Barbara Brown	Lynne and Richard Hobbs	Tim Seifert and Sonya Erickson
The Daniel and Margaret Carper Foundation	Jocelyn Horder	Stan Seiffert and Rosemary Dahlquist
Charles Carver	Katie Hover and Paul LaCrampe	Steve and Nan Simpson
Anne Casperson	Alice Hurd	J.B. and Bethann Smith
Gary and Grace Christophersen	Ellen Jacobs	Allen Smith and Sara Dailey-Smith
Earl Cilley	Bob and Patty Jester	Sam and Carson Sprenger
Thurid Clark and Robert Fodor	Rogan Jones	Bob Stavers and Judy Chovan
Debby Clausen and Kim Sundberg	David and Kristi Joneschild	Diana and Mike Stepita
Walt and Gayle Corbin	Jennie Joplin	Darol Streib
Barbara Courtney	Lynne Jordan	Sarah Thomas and Tom Sykes
Cass and Bob Dahlstrom	Mindy Kayl	Doug and Laura Tidwell
Michael and Eileen Day	Nancy and Les Larsen	Joe and Sally Todd
Carl de Boor	Konrad Liegel and Karen Atkins	Barbara Trask and Ger Van Den Engh
Robert and Mary Dickinson	Linnemann Family Foundation	Gerald Tuttle and Kathleen Gorham
Paul Dinnel and Vicki McNeil	Barb and Mike Lopuszynski	Tye Tyson and Barbara Rosenkotter
Ivar and Phyllis Dolph	Walter and Ruth MacGinitie	Manlio and Gail Vecchiet
Dean and Ruthie Dougherty	Jim and Mary Ann Magnano	Susan Vernon
Lorraine Dukes	Brenda Matter and Bruce Crowley	Peter Ways and Gretchen Gundrum
Lou Falb	Steve and Barbara McKeon	Wallace and Joanne Weller
Bill and Diane Fisher	Dr. Judith Meyer and Dr. Eugene Helfman	Dale and Sharon Wheatley
Kathleen Foley	Margaret Mills	John Wiley and Carolyn Milling
	Bob and Joyce Myhr	Peter and Jan Willing

## THE SAN JUAN PRESERVATION TRUST

Founded in 1979, the San Juan Preservation Trust has permanently protected more than 260 properties, 34 miles of shoreline and 14,000 acres on 20 islands, including land now managed as public parks, nature preserves, wildlife habitat, and working farms and forests. In addition to The Campaign to Save Vendovi Island, the San Juan Preservation Trust has led a number of successful private fundraising campaigns in the San Juan Islands, including:

- **Turtleback Mountain** (Orcas Island, with San Juan County Land Bank and Trust for Public Land)
- **Mount Disney** (Waldron Island) • **Guemes Mountain** (Guemes Island, with Skagit Land Trust)
- **Watmough Bight** (Lopez Island) • **Crow Valley/JB Farm** (Orcas Island) • **Baker Mountain** (Lummi Island, with Lummi Island Heritage Trust) • **Henry Island Isthmus** (Henry Island) • **Montgomery-Duban Headlands Park** (Fidalgo Island) • **Peach Preserve/Demopoulous Marsh** (Guemes Island)



the SAN JUAN  
PRESERVATION  
TRUST

Box 327  
Lopez Island, WA 98261  
360.468.3202  
www.sjpt.org