

the SAN JUAN  
PRESERVATION  
TRUST

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FINISH THE BIGHT

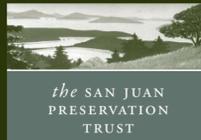
JOIN THE CAMPAIGN TO KEEP  
WATMOUGH WILD  
Details Inside

PLEASE VISIT WWW.SJPT.ORG TO READ MORE ABOUT:

- Summer events for SJPT members
- New protected property roadside sign program
- New tax incentives for conservation easements

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SUMMER 2007

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Land & Legacy

## THE CAMPAIGN TO KEEP WATMOUGH WILD

The southern coast of Lopez Island remains one of the most wild and scenic shorelines in the San Juan Islands. Near the southeastern tip of the island (where Rosario Strait meets the Strait of Juan de Fuca), residents and visitors have cherished a narrow northeast-facing inlet known as Watmough Bight.

With its gravel beach, clear bay and inland freshwater marsh, Watmough Bight has been a popular gathering spot for generations of people seeking solitude and sustenance within one of the San Juan archipelago's most pristine locations. It served as a base camp for native reef-net fishing grounds until the early 1900s. Wildlife, including great blue heron, migratory ducks, peregrine falcons, and a variety of shorebirds can be found here, as do juvenile Chinook salmon, red and green sea urchins, pecten scallops, bass and rockfish, wolf eels and octopi.

### DEVELOPMENT LOOMS

Many islanders will be surprised to learn that the solitude of Watmough Bight is under threat. While much of the bay has already been protected for public benefit, the southern shoreline remains privately owned and susceptible to development. In fact, San Juan County is prepared to approve the current landowners' proposal to clear-cut and develop the 7-acre parcel adjacent to the beach. If this plan moves forward, 60% of the trees on the property – some at least 400 years old – will be removed, and a house will be constructed on a slope overlooking the bay.

*(Continued inside)*



JANE WARD

### 2006 VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

We extend our deepest gratitude to Jane Ward of Lopez Island for her generous contribution to our conservation efforts. Jane donated 100 hours of invaluable service to our Lopez office.

### CONSERVATION TAX INCENTIVES

The Pension Act of 2006 includes the first new major income tax incentives for land conservation since 1980. These new incentives, which will expire at the end of 2007, significantly expand tax benefits for donating conservation easements that protect working farms, open space, wetlands, forests, wildlife habitat and scenic landscapes. For details about this immediate opportunity, please visit [www.sjpt.org](http://www.sjpt.org)



PHOTO BY STEVE HORN



The Preservation Trust is working with partners to re-establish the Western Bluebird (*Sialia mexicana*) in the San Juan Islands, an area that once served as home for this native species. The five-year Western Bluebird Reintroduction Program began this spring, and there is already good news to report: For the first time in more than 40 years, three fledglings are being raised on San Juan Island by one of the eight breeding pairs that we released. Read more about this remarkable success story at [www.sjpt.org](http://www.sjpt.org).

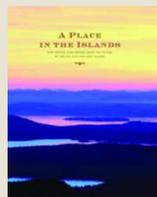


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WWW.SJPT.ORG



## "A PLACE IN THE ISLANDS" PUBLISHED

We are all familiar with the charms of living in the San Juan Islands. Owning property here is, for many people, a dream realized. However, owning a piece of this precious landscape also comes with obligations. While the many individual decisions we make on our land may seem insignificant, cumulative changes directly affect the lives of our neighbors, local wildlife, and future generations of islanders.

Recognizing that the opportunities and challenges of island living span international borders, the San Juan Preservation Trust has partnered with the Islands Trust of British Columbia to publish a book titled, "A Place in the Islands — How Private Landowners Shape the Future of the San Juan and Gulf Islands." This was produced by local residents and funded by supporters on both sides of the American – Canadian border.

The first edition of this book, published in 1995 but now out-of-print, served as an invaluable tool for introducing new island landowners to local land use issues. This second edition updates the original book with new information and advice from experts representing a range of subjects from water conservation and shoreline living to native history, agriculture, wildlife, and private land conservation techniques. It is filled with glorious photography and includes local wisdom from islanders that live on both sides of the border.

In an effort to encourage thoughtful development and home construction, as well as long-term property stewardship, all new landowners in San Juan County will receive a complimentary copy of "A Place in the Islands." The book will also be distributed to local real estate professionals and builders, libraries, and bookstores, and it will be made available to Preservation Trust members as a donation premium during our fall membership campaign. Single copies can be purchased for \$8.99, with discounts for bulk orders for those in education, real estate, and the building trades (to order, contact Kathleen Foley at [kathleenf@sjpt.org](mailto:kathleenf@sjpt.org)).

## "FINISH THE BIGHT: KEEP WATMOUGH WILD"

*(Continued from page 1)*

### TWO-for-ONE CONSERVATION OPPORTUNITY



The private shoreline parcel ("Gift Property") next to the "Acquisition Property" (for which we are raising money) is owned by Lopez resident Imogene "Tex" Gieling. Recognizing the significance of Watmough Bight to Lopez Island's natural and cultural heritage, Tex has generously offered to donate the land she owns within the bay to the Preservation Trust. This gift, along with the purchase of the adjacent land, would keep the bay free of development.

To avoid the devastation caused by such development, the San Juan Preservation Trust and the San Juan County Land Bank are partnering with the community to raise the funds needed to purchase and conserve this land in perpetuity. The purchase price is \$1.15 million, and the Land Bank will contribute \$575,000 in public funds. The Preservation Trust must now raise the remaining funds from the island community.

### WHAT IT TAKES TO 'FINISH THE BIGHT'

Keeping the popular and ecologically sensitive Watmough Bight undeveloped and open to the public requires the financial support of the island community. Costs associated with the purchase, including trail building, long-term property stewardship, legal fees, fundraising expenses, appraisals, real estate taxes and closing fees are included in the campaign goal.



**deadline: SEPTEMBER 7, 2007**

To help us reach our goal before the September 7, 2007 deadline, please send your contribution in the enclosed envelope (write "WATMOUGH" on the envelope or on your check), or you can make a secure online donation at [www.sjpt.org](http://www.sjpt.org). Call Sven Haarhoff (360.378.2461) to donate shares of stocks or mutual funds. All gifts are tax deductible and will be returned should the project fail. For each contribution of \$100 or more you may receive a "Finish the Bight" campaign cap with the distinctive campaign logo.

### WATMOUGH BIGHT CAMPAIGN SUMMARY

|                                    |              |
|------------------------------------|--------------|
| CAMPAIGN GOAL:                     | \$ 1,225,000 |
| <i>Project Expenses</i>            |              |
| PURCHASE PRICE:                    | \$ 1,150,000 |
| STEWARDSHIP AND TRANSACTION COSTS: | \$ 75,000    |
|                                    | \$ 1,225,000 |
| <i>Funding Sources</i>             |              |
| SAN JUAN COUNTY LAND BANK:         | \$ 575,000   |
| PRIVATE FUNDRAISING EFFORT:        | \$ 650,000   |
|                                    | \$ 1,225,000 |

### PROJECT BENEFITS:

- Watmough Bight will remain undeveloped, and pristine views from the beach will be preserved.
- Native forests, including old growth trees, will be protected in perpetuity.
- Erosion and sediment damage caused by logging and development will be avoided, protecting the water quality of the bay along with eelgrass beds that serve as important habitat for crabs, scallops, and out-migrating juvenile salmon.
- Public access will be provided to shoreline walking trails.
- A neighbor will donate remaining unprotected land within the bay.
- Partnership with San Juan County Land Bank pools private donations and public funds.

**1** CROWLEY CONSERVATION EASEMENT (*Blakely*)



This 2,200-acre conservation easement on Blakely Island, donated in 1993 by Thomas Crowley, is the single largest easement ever recorded by the Preservation Trust.

With the Crowley family's recent addition of the adjacent 60-acre Bald Bluff property, over one half of Blakely has been permanently protected, ensuring that this remote island will remain predominantly in its natural state. With expansive native forests, wildlife habitat, shoreline and the 80-acre Horseshoe Lake, this property constitutes an area of private land unequalled in the San Juan Islands in its combination of size, beauty, and natural values.

**2** AVENT/DEVORE/THOMAS CONSERVATION EASEMENTS (*Lopez*)



Three Lopez families long recognized that the expansive forest-lined meadow they share form an important agricultural resource, wildlife migration corridor and a popular sweeping view of Swifts Bay for motorists traveling along Center Road (Lopez's main thoroughfare).

Together, the Avent, DeVore and Thomas families approached the Preservation Trust to create a 70-acre "neighborhood easement" that would permanently conserve the natural assets they owned in common. "The meadow we share is important to Lopezians, and we know that future landowners may not necessarily be as inclined to work together to make something like this happen," remarked Barb Thomas. "So we took it upon ourselves to do something to protect it."

**3** ELLIS RANCH AND SCHOOLHOUSE PRESERVE (*Lopez*)



In 1985, Fred and Marilyn Ellis placed a conservation easement on this 313-acre working ranch in Lopez Island's Port Stanley area to protect its active wetlands and to ensure that its open fields remain undeveloped and available for agricultural purposes in perpetuity.

Today there are several commercial family farmers stewarding the property, including Horse Drawn Farms, Sweetgrass Farm and T&D Farms. Adding to the Ellis's generous gesture, Chris and Helena Jones donated an adjacent 17-acre forested property to the Preservation Trust in 1996, completely surrounding the Port Stanley School with protected land.

**4** GRETCHEN GOODNER CONSERVATION EASEMENT (*Lopez*)



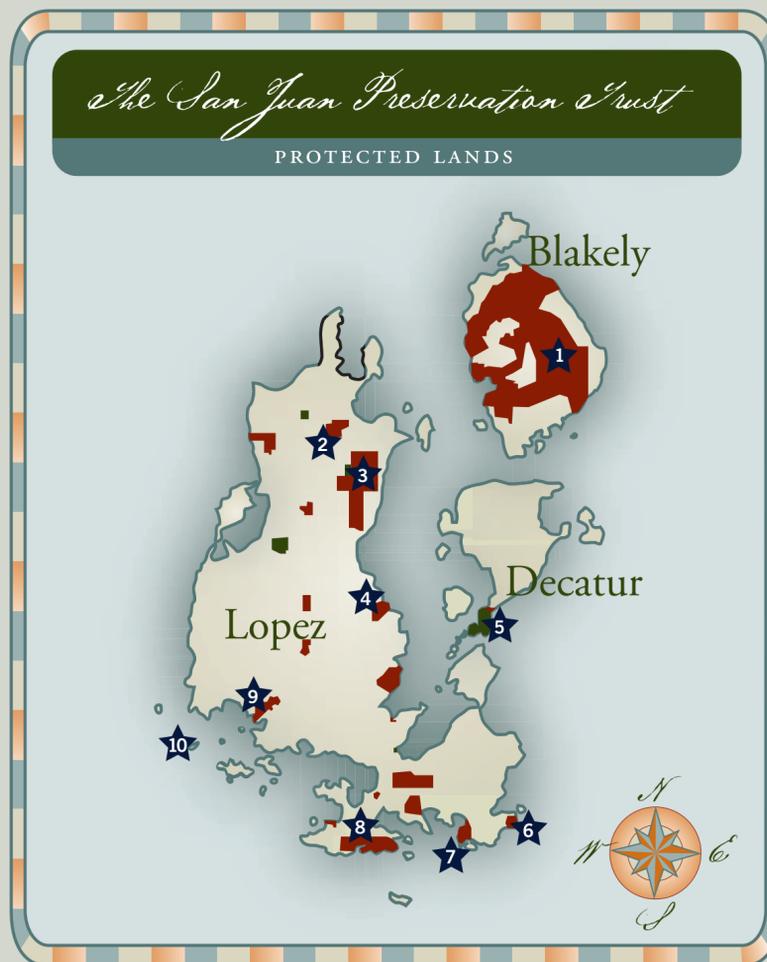
A 41-acre conservation easement on the west side of Lopez Island, donated to the Preservation Trust in 1996 by Joe and Oakley Goodner to honor the life of their daughter Gretchen, will protect part of a significant coastal ecosystem on Lopez Sound in perpetuity. The property consists of woodlands, open fields and 1,120 feet of shoreline, including a salt marsh and landmark tombolo. (A "tombolo" is a piece of land that appears to be a small island, but is actually connected to a larger land mass by an isthmus.)

THE PRESERVATION TRUST IS GRATEFUL TO ALL OF OUR CONSERVATION PARTNERS AND LANDOWNERS. Here are a few highlights of properties we've protected on Lopez, Decatur & Blakely Islands.

**5** KIMBALL PRESERVE (*Decatur*)



In a series of transactions during the 1980s, Dr. Walter Kimball – outdoorsman, conservationist, and longtime supporter of the Preservation Trust – donated 64 acres of land on the southern tip of Decatur Island. Named the "Kimball Preserve," this magnificent property includes wildlife habitat, shoreline, native forest, grassy headlands, and a pristine tombolo. "My father had a great love for the San Juans and the outdoors," recalls Lee Kimball. "He was horrified by the increased development of the islands. That's why he donated his land to the Preservation Trust." Lee Kimball subsequently donated a conservation easement on her adjacent 12-acre shoreline property in 2002.



■ Preservation Trust Owned Lands ■ Preservation Trust Conservation Easements

For more conservation stories, visit [www.sjpt.org](http://www.sjpt.org).

**6** WATMOUGH HEAD CONSERVATION EASEMENTS (*Lopez*)



Journals of the early explorers to the San Juan Islands, including Valdez and Vancouver, call out the beauty and distinctive geology of Watmough Head, the prominent point where Rosario Strait and the Strait of Juan de Fuca meet off the south end of Lopez Island. The Holm and Charnley families – longtime friends and neighbors – placed conservation easements on their adjoining properties that will forever protect the southeastern tip of this iconic island landscape. With the ongoing protection of nearby Colville Point and Chadwick Hill (both Bureau of Land Management properties), along with a current Preservation Trust campaign to conserve the remaining private properties within Watmough Bight, the future of this peninsula seems bright thanks in part to the early efforts of these two Lopez families.

**7** BECK CONSERVATION EASEMENT (*Lopez*)



This tall 21-acre rocky head at the entrance to McCordle Bay is a familiar landmark to boaters exploring the southern shoreline of Lopez Island. To protect this dramatic feature, Dr. Ronald and Ruth Beck approached the Preservation Trust in 1984 to take advantage of a new federal law to permanently prohibit future development on the property. This resulted in the very first conservation easement ever granted to the San Juan Preservation Trust. In the subsequent 23 years, the Preservation Trust has received or acquired 184 easements protecting 11,156 acres throughout the San Juan archipelago, a testament to the early vision of the Beck family.

**8** ICEBERG PENINSULA (*Lopez*)



Truly one of the San Juan Islands' most spectacular landscapes, the Iceberg Peninsula on the south end of Lopez Island

can attribute its distinctive geology (and name) to the advance and retreat of the last glaciers that covered Puget Sound. In a series of transactions, the Reeve family permanently protected 124 acres of adjacent shoreline and uplands on the eastern half of this peninsula with conservation easements held by the Preservation Trust. With the addition of the 3-acre Thomas Preserve donated to the Preservation Trust by Mort and Joan Tomas, along with the Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Coast Guard's adjacent 93-acre "Area of Critical Environmental Concern," the entire 3.5 mile southern coastline of the Iceberg Peninsula enjoys protection that will preserve its natural and glacial heritage – at least until another glacier comes along.

**9** HOEDEMAKER CONSERVATION EASEMENT (*Lopez*)



With the support of her three children, Ivaly Hoedemaker – a passionate farmer, grandmother and conservationist

– donated a 47-acre easement on her Davis Bay farm in 2001 that permanently protects working farmland, 750 feet of shoreline, sweeping public views to the Olympic Mountains, and one of San Juan County's most important coastal wetlands. Originally a dairy owned by the pioneering Davis family, this property is the also site of the birthplace of the first white child on Lopez Island. "From the time I bought this farm, I've always known we would preserve this land," said Ivaly before her untimely death in 2005. "With this easement, we're just legalizing what is in our hearts."

**10** WHALE ROCKS



Donated to the Preservation Trust in 1992 by Richard and Juanita Mulvey, Whale Rocks are a unique collection of rocky islets that – while not habitable by humans – attract a variety of seabirds and serve as a popular haul-out area for a number of marine mammals, including threatened Steller sea lions. Disruptions to wildlife caused by tour boats making close approaches to the rocks led the Preservation Trust, with support of the San Juan County Marine Resources Committee, to establish a voluntary 200-yard no-entry buffer zone in 2005.