



the SAN JUAN  
PRESERVATION  
TRUST

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For over 25 years I have observed the work of the San Juan Preservation Trust. I am as impressed with their land preservation program today as I was 25 years ago. They have the confidence of the community, which results not only in financial support but donations of conservation easements from land owners. I trust that this will continue and look forward to supporting future projects.

- LOLA DEANE, *Shaw Island*

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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LOPEZ ISLAND, WA  
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FALL 2011

WWW.SJPT.ORG



CAPTURING THE LAND

Compelling photography is one of the best tools we have to express SJPT's mission to protect and care for island land. Recognizing this perhaps better than anyone is SJPT trustee Harvey Himelfarb, who spent his career as a fine art photographer and art professor. Two years ago, Harvey spearheaded a summer internship at the Preservation Trust to deploy aspiring photographers onto the land to capture its beauty and vulnerability. Former San Juan Islander Jane K. Fox was the first photo intern in 2010, and Orcas-raised, Wellesley College student Elli Blaine spent 12 weeks this past summer shooting tide pools and beaches, farmland and forests on SJPT-protected land. Many of these images tell the compelling conservation story behind these places. Our deepest thanks to the following donors who not only helped add some terrific imagery to the SJPT photo library, but helped these two talented young photographers hone their craft: Rachel Adams, The Daniel and Margaret Carper Foundation, Bill Miller and Diane Boteler.

# Land & Legacy

LIGHTHAWK, NEAL CHISM

## PROTECTING ISLAND TREASURES

We received a dispatch from Vendovi Island a few days ago.

Dean Dougherty, our Director of Stewardship, is spending a lot of time out on Vendovi, and will occasionally transmit messages to report on what he is learning about this magical new preserve. This time he was on the island with an ambitious crew of young people from the Washington Conservation Corps, removing vegetation that is encroaching on an area of native grassland that visiting botanists tell us contain among the most abundant wildflower displays observed in Western Washington (*see inside article*). While bushwhacking across the island, Dean had just stumbled across a large grove of old growth forest. Dominated by huge fire-scarred Douglas-fir, these ancient trees had to this point remained hidden from our own reconnaissance, the eyes of over 300 curious visitors that we had accompanied to Vendovi this past summer, and – apparently – the logging crews that devoured most of our local forests in the early 20th century.

As we marvel at the new discoveries we are making on Vendovi, we are reminded that there are thousands of these treasured places – some secret, some renowned – that are sequestered throughout our archipelago. Perhaps you know of such a place on your own land, or on a neighbor's property, or within an island park or preserve, and you still remember the excitement you felt when you first discovered it and then revealed it to family or friends. As government agencies contemplate closing our parks and selling or trading our public lands, it is now up to us – private individuals like you and me – to protect our island treasures from development so that others may someday discover them for themselves. The message is pretty clear: if we don't do this ourselves, who will?

Our 2011 Annual Campaign is now underway after a remarkable year that has included the addition of places like Vendovi Island, Beaverton Marsh (San Juan Island), Tiptop Hill (Stuart Island) and the Crowley Preserve (Blakely Island) to our network of permanently conserved land. Your annual membership gift remains the **single most effective way** for you to ensure that more island places are available for discovery. The San Juan Preservation Trust, thanks to your support, protects island land in perpetuity for parks, nature preserves, wildlife habitat, and working farms and forests. We also protect treasures.

- Tim Seifert, Executive Director

LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR ANNUAL CAMPAIGN AND THE CAMPAIGN  
TO SAVE VENDОВI ISLAND AT [WWW.SJPT.ORG](http://WWW.SJPT.ORG)

We strongly support SJPT in providing the opportunity to create a lasting legacy and preserve the islands for future generations to enjoy and appreciate. During the campaign for Turtleback, we commented to many people that this was our century's Moran State Park. People will look back on what we all did 100 years from now and say, "They had tremendous foresight and were thinking about the future and how the landscape could change."

- TYE TYSON & BARBARA ROSENKOTTER,  
*Orcas Island*



B. ROSENKOTTER/T. TYSON

## 2011 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN:

When the *New York Times* compiled its list of the best places in the world to visit in 2011, the San Juan Islands were second from the top...in the world! The article also acknowledged the "active land preservation effort" that makes our islands such a delight for visitors.

We are all fortunate to be part of the San Juan Islands community, but along with our good fortune we have an obligation to be responsible stewards of these islands. The most important gift we can pass down to those who come after us is an archipelago that has been cherished, protected and well cared for.

The mission of the San Juan Preservation Trust is simple – to preserve and protect these islands so that we may enjoy them now and leave them healthy for our children and grandchildren. This crucial work is funded exclusively by donations from people like you.

You can help permanently protect the islands we all know and love by returning the enclosed envelope, responding to our annual appeal letter or donating securely online at [WWW.SJPT.ORG](http://WWW.SJPT.ORG).

THANK YOU!

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## GIVING THROUGH YOUR IRA



ELLI BLAINE

If you are age 70½ or older and receive distributions from a Traditional or Roth Individual Retirement Account (IRA), and if you do not require those distributions for living expenses, consider joining other generous SJPT members by making a tax-free transfer to the San Juan Preservation Trust from your retirement account.

Making a charitable contribution from an IRA may be appropriate if you do not itemize deductions, or if you would not be able to deduct all of your charitable gifts or other itemized deductions due to deduction limitations or income level.

As of now, these tax-free gifts can be made only in 2011. The legislation was first enacted in 2006 and has been renewed each year since, but there is no guarantee it will be renewed in 2012.

To arrange for an IRA charitable gift transfer, contact your IRA plan administrator. If you have questions or wish to receive a sample letter to request an IRA charitable gift transfer, please contact Barbara Courtney, Director of Philanthropy at 360.376.2431 or [barbara@sjpt.org](mailto:barbara@sjpt.org).

My wife and I recently discovered that making charitable gifts through my IRA makes a lot of sense, and we just requested such a transfer for our annual gift to the Preservation Trust.

- SJPT TRUSTEE



Vendovi prairie threatened by Douglas fir encroachment



Washington Conservation Corps work crew.

## FROM THE PRAIRIES OF VENDОВI

It's not every day you get the opportunity to care for an entire island, so the Preservation Trust staff is understandably thrilled with the opportunities - and responsibilities - presented to us by Vendovi Island. We've only owned Vendovi for nine months, but one of the things we quickly learned is that the prairies on the island, with their amazing suite of native wildflowers and grasses, demand top priority protection.

Throughout our archipelago, remnant prairies are under threat from trees and shrubs that encroach upon native grasslands and shade out native wildflowers. While some may argue that this is a natural event and we shouldn't interfere, the prairies accommodate native species that are disappearing from the islands. These prairies were traditionally maintained by native peoples who used fire to keep them open for the health of food plants, especially wild camas (one of their food staples). Fire suppression - a recent necessity created by advancing human development - has also interfered with the frequency and intensity of natural fires in our islands. Reintroducing fire today is complicated by the fact that some invasive

plants actually thrive post-fire. Without alternative management techniques, these prairie remnants - including paintbrush, lilies, larkspurs and orchids that bloom amidst the native grasses - will be lost.

To this end, Preservation Trust staff and volunteers, along with a crew from the Washington Conservation Corps (WCC), spent a week in September felling and piling fir trees on two different prairie sites. The six-person WCC crew, with its trained sawyers and energetic spirit, was behind all that was accomplished during this one-week period. Now that some of the firs are gone, bare areas beneath the trees have been opened up which we hope will become re-colonized by the native species. Preservation Trust staff will monitor these areas during the next growing season to make sure that natives are returning and invasives are not. If the prairies begin to restore the desired natives, the tree removal will continue, but only after we're sure our actions are creating the intended effects. With this amazing island comes opportunity, but also the responsibility to protect and care for its unique landscape.



ALICE HURD

We have been supporters of the San Juan Preservation Trust and will continue to be because of the amazing things the Trust does... bluebirds, saving farmland, creating access to beautiful places - FOREVER!

- SCOTT & TORI ZEHNER,  
*San Juan Island*

We love the natural beauty of the San Juan Islands, and we understand the need for healthy ecosystems and habitats in order to sustain the web of life here. SJPT plays a huge part in protecting, conserving and restoring this area and so I give a membership as a gift to David each year at Christmas. It's more meaningful than a sweater.

- CAROLYN CRUSO, *Orcas Island*



STAFF

I value that SJPT works to protect our home for us and for those who will inherit it from us. A sweater's nice too.

- DAVID WILL, *Orcas Island*

We purchased our property on Lopez Island in large part because it was protected by an SJPT conservation easement. As we work the land, developing our organic farm, we have an even greater appreciation of the open space and biodiversity provided by the easement. We support SJPT's continuing efforts to protect farmland and other natural resources. That's why we're members.

- TODD GOLDMITH & DIANE DEAR,  
*Lopez Island*



STAFF

