



the SAN JUAN
PRESERVATION
TRUST



Land & Legacy

WEST BEACH, VENDOVI ISLAND

SUMMER 2011

WWW.SJPT.ORG

SUMMER AT THE SAN JUAN PRESERVATION TRUST

Lopez Island: The warm weather was slow to reach the islands this year, but now that summer is upon us we hope that you are making plans to enjoy some island time with family and friends. This is the time of year that I try to encourage our staff to step away from their desks to meet or reconnect with our members on the land, but despite the irresistible lure of our islands in sunshine, it's going to be difficult to divert their attention from some compelling projects taking shape at the Preservation Trust this summer.

We're pleased to report that we have submitted our application for a recently-created national land trust accreditation program. Following over a year of work, thousands of documents weighing 26 pounds were packed and shipped to the Land Trust Accreditation Commission in May. Our application will be evaluated this summer, but that trip home from the post office seemed to be a milestone worth celebrating.

Our recently-acquired Vendovi Island has truly captivated our imagination. Long held under protective private ownership, this mysterious island is now slowly revealing itself to us. To acquire Vendovi, we received a gift of \$3 million from an incredibly generous benefactor, and we accepted the very first bridge loan in the Preservation Trust's history (we had to borrow \$3.4 million to purchase the island for \$6.4 million). **An anonymous donor has just stepped up with a \$1.0 million challenge grant to encourage our supporters to help us retire this debt.** If you'd like to learn more about Vendovi, including the terms of the challenge grant and our dreams for the island, please contact me at (360) 468-3202 or tim@sjpt.org. If you think you can help, I'd love to talk. This challenge grant will expire at the end of the summer so we must act quickly.

Our project pipeline remains remarkably full. In addition to entering the final summer of our successful 5-year Western Bluebird Reintroduction Project, we are in the middle of negotiating a number of exciting new land acquisition projects. Stay tuned...

On behalf of all of us here at the Preservation Trust, enjoy your summer in the islands, and – as always – thank you for your remarkable support. We couldn't do this work without you.

- Tim Seifert, Executive Director

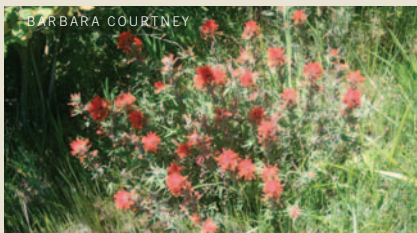
P.S.: Despite my protests, my wife keeps threatening to plan an elaborate trip to some distant land to celebrate my 50th birthday later this summer. Bless her heart, but if you are a true islander, you will understand my reluctance to leave the San Juans at this time of year!



KATHLEEN FOLEY

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Many dedicated volunteers work diligently behind the scenes to ensure newsletters and postcards are distributed to our members. Since the organization's inception, mailing party volunteers have gathered to affix address labels with precision and breakneck speed while chatting about current happenings around the islands. The staff of the Preservation Trust extends a special thanks to all who have lent a hand during our mailings through the years. This group's generous gift of time and loyalty to the Preservation Trust and its mission has been invaluable.



BARBARA COURTNEY

PAINTBRUSH (CASTILLEJA HISPIDA) ON VENDOVI ISLAND



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THE MANY FACETS OF YOUR SUPPORT

Chances are if you are reading this, you are one of our great supporters. *Thank you!*

Conserving fragile islands is a resource-intensive business. Land in the San Juan Archipelago doesn't come cheap, and the ongoing work of stewarding preserved lands takes time, money and brute strength. The board and staff of the San Juan Preservation Trust are grateful for all forms of support that underwrite our success – individual and business memberships, special gifts, volunteer hours, and bequests and other legacy gifts.

This year, we have launched two new programs that provide a significant boost to the work of the Preservation Trust, and we've put a new face on an existing support program.

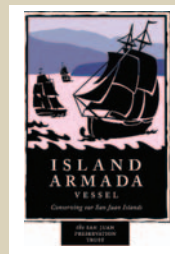
IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING IN ANY OF THESE PROGRAMS TO SUPPORT THE PRESERVATION TRUST, PLEASE CONTACT BARBARA COURTNEY, DIRECTOR OF PHILANTHROPY, AT 360-202-7200 OR BARBARA@SJPT.ORG.



RUSSEL THORNOCK

NEW TRUSTEE PETER WAYS

Peter Ways was welcomed to the board of the San Juan Preservation Trust at the Annual Meeting in May. Peter will continue to contribute to the preservation of the islands following his active involvement with the successful campaign to protect the Henry Island Isthmus.



THE ISLAND ARMADA is a group of commercial and private boat captains who have pledged to provide one or more boat cruises to introduce groups of supporters to many protected areas, including the newly-acquired Vendovi Island.

2011 ISLAND ARMADA

Deer Harbor Charters • The Lightkeeper (Sue and Ed Ehler) • Maya's Westside Charters • Coast Starlight (Steve and Barbara McKeon) • North Shore Charters • Northwest Navigation • Outer Island Expeditions • San Juan Excursions • San Juan Islands Water Taxi • Scout (Chad Foley and Kathleen Foley) • Western Prince Cruises



WE HAVE LONG ENJOYED the generosity of a handful of select local businesses. We have recently invited hundreds of other businesses to join this elite group. Please look for the 2011 Preservation Partner decal and patronize our community businesses that provide support for protection of our islands.

2011 PRESERVATION PARTNERS

Champions • Riveland Associates • Rozewood Environmental Services, Inc. • **Partners** • Outdoor Odysseys Kayak Tours • Islanders Bank • **Guardian** • Executive Conversation • **Protectors** • Advanced Building Consultants, Inc. • Archipelago Properties • Beach Haven Resort • The Delta Company • Equine Affaire, Inc. • Fagerholm Properties • Islanders Insurance • Laird Norton Company • Pacific Cascade Services • PP Holdings LLC • Salamander Forge, Inc. • Skagit Gardens • Skagit Wild Bird Supply • Spencer's Landing Marina • Toucan Oil Trust • Turtleback Farm Inn



MEMBERS OF THE GANN SOCIETY have made provisions to leave a gift through a bequest or other estate plan. Each of these gifts, whatever the size, is a tremendous legacy which will truly last "forever" in our islands.

THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS HAVE INDICATED TO US THAT THEY HAVE PROVIDED FOR THE SAN JUAN PRESERVATION TRUST IN THEIR ESTATE PLANS.

• Anonymous (8) • Rachel Adams • Paul Beudet and David Wertheimer • James T. and Nancy P. Caleshu • Dodie Gann • Carolyn Haugen • Keith and Ann Jones • Clare and Ed Kelm • Bob Lundeen • Sue Madison • Steve and Barbara McKeon • Katherine Mottola • Glenn Prestwich and Barbara Bentley • Bob Roseburg • Tim Seifert and Sonya Erickson • Steve and Nan Simpson • Joe and Sally Todd • Beatrice Carla Wright

IN MEMORIAM

Early Members of the Ernest and Dodie Gann Society

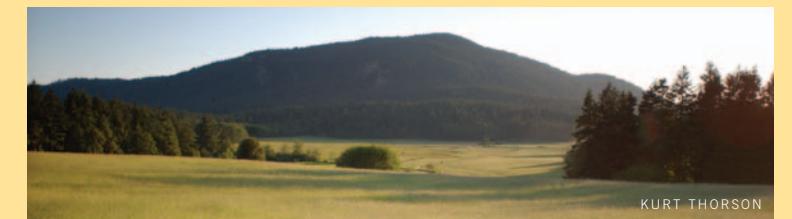
• Clara Abrahamsen • Mary Earhart Bawden • Sally and Sandy Bill • Susan Briggs • Ernest Gann • Beverly Graham • Claire Huckins • Celia Hunter • Paul and Ruth Illg • Walter Kimball • Evelyn J. Leatham • Beulah Mock • Catherine McNutt • Cynthia McLachlan • Charles "Lex" Mottl • Mat Mottola • William E. Murphy • Betty Scott • Patricia Swenson • Craig Webster • Natalie White



ERIC KESSLER

4th ANNUAL SUMMER SOCIAL AT TURTLEBACK MOUNTAIN PRESERVE

Please join us to celebrate the 5th anniversary of "Saving Turtleback!"



KURT THORSON

SATURDAY, JULY 30, 2011, 3:30 – 6:30 PM

THE 1,578-ACRE TURTLEBACK MOUNTAIN PRESERVE on Orcas Island was purchased in 2006 for \$18.5 million through the joint efforts of the citizens of San Juan County and the members of the San Juan Preservation Trust. This was the largest fundraising campaign ever undertaken in San Juan County. More than 2,000 Preservation Trust members responded to our appeal to help protect the natural beauty of this icon of the San Juans. The rally held at the base of the mountain in September 2006 is believed to be the single largest community gathering in the San Juan Islands ever!

The San Juan County Land Bank now owns and manages this iconic property while the Preservation Trust holds the conservation easement, ensuring the mountain will remain in its natural state and publicly accessible forever.

To mark the fifth anniversary of the acquisition of Turtleback Mountain, our 2011 Summer Social will be held on Saturday, July 30 in the meadow at the South Entrance to the Turtleback Mountain Preserve on Orcas Island.

The event will feature an art show and auction of the work of members of Plein Air Washington (PAWA). PAWA artists will be painting in the meadow and on the mountain on the day of the event so that attendees can view the artists while they work. Crow Valley Pottery and Gallery will showcase and auction the artists' creations.

Catering will be provided by Orcas Village Store. Musicians and environmental educators Sharon Abreu and Michael Hurwicz will be on hand with their much acclaimed energetic and original music. Further details are available at www.sjpt.org.

We are looking forward to seeing you on July 30!



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GOING PUBLIC

The San Juan Preservation Trust owns and protects 1,434 acres of land in our archipelago (which we refer to as our "preserves") in addition to over 12,700 acres of privately-owned land protected by conservation easements. In recent years, we have heard from our members that they would like more self-guided access to our preserves so that they may enjoy and better appreciate the benefits of our work.

We are currently evaluating the suitability of a number of our preserves for low-impact public access (first up: Vendovi Island!) with the goal to provide enjoyable and educational hiking experiences for those who wish to explore some of these hidden gems. Depending on the location, we might construct new trail systems or re-route existing ones, and build viewing platforms and interpretive signage. Maps and directions for many of our preserves will also be created.

While many of our properties are well-suited for public access, others may not be suitable due to high ecological sensitivity or access challenges. These will be left to our wild friends as a place of respite.

We hope that by opening up some of our preserves to the public, we will provide opportunities for more people to discover the hidden magic of our islands.



KATHLEEN FOLEY

FOR QUESTIONS ON HOW OR WHEN YOU CAN ACCESS PRESERVATION TRUST-OWNED LANDS, PLEASE CONTACT KATHLEEN FOLEY, PROGRAM DIRECTOR, AT KATHLEENF@SJPT.ORG OR 360-378-2461.

TOWARDS NATIONAL ACCREDITATION

In May, the San Juan Preservation Trust submitted an application for accreditation with a new national program administered by the independent Land Trust Accreditation Commission. While it is clear that the Preservation Trust has followed a high degree of rigor in our procedures and operations throughout our 32-year history, this process allowed us to codify and improve our ability to manage the perpetual nature of our work.

The next step in the application process is a thorough review by the Accreditation Commission, which is comprised of land conservation experts from throughout the country. If all goes according to plan, the Commission will grant us accreditation and the right to use the accreditation seal, recognizing that we have met national standards for excellence, upholding the public trust and strengthening our ongoing conservation efforts.



NAN SIMPSON

A SPRING OF DISCOVERY ON VENDОВИ ISLAND

On Vendovi Island, spring brings fritillaria and falcons, camas and chickadees... and scientists! This is the Preservation Trust's first season of ownership on this spectacular island and we're learning more with each passing month. To get to know the island better, the Trust has engaged volunteers and professionals to canvas all 217 acres to identify the species that call Vendovi home. While this work is just starting, the results are already surprising. Peter Dunwiddie (an ecologist who specializes in grasslands), in association with the University of Washington Herbarium, is leading an effort to identify and collect all the plants on the island. The group will conduct multiple trips as the seasons progress, but the botanists' first foray resulted in cataloging 180 plant species. Due to Vendovi's lack of deer, the botanists found spectacular displays of wildflowers that they say rival anything they've seen in western Washington, and they located healthy populations of some species, like the shrub Oregon boxwood, that are absent from the rest of the deer-inhabited San Juans. A bird survey, headed up by Ivar Dolph and other volunteers from Skagit Audubon, is also underway and has revealed that the island is important habitat for raptors. So far, 37 avian species have been documented on Vendovi or in its offshore waters, but the season is still young and that number is expected to grow dramatically with the return of the summer migrants.

In addition to looking at the flora and fauna of the island, the Trust will also investigate its archeological history and will conduct surveys in the nearshore waters. Once we have this information in hand, we'll be better equipped to make important long-term management decisions for the island. It has been a spring of discovery on Vendovi Island!

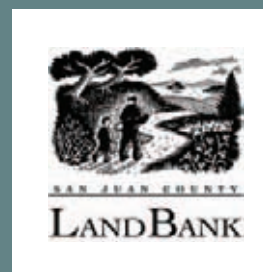


DEAN DOUGHERTY

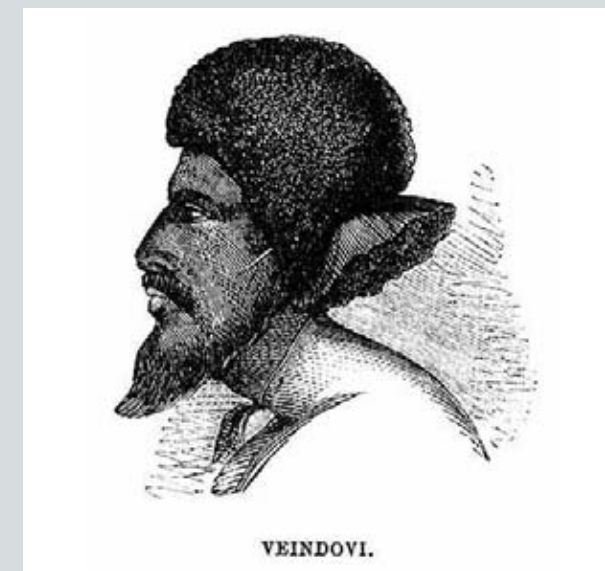
UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON BOTANISTS TAKING INVENTORY IN A VENDОВИ WILDFLOWER MEADOW

RENEW OUR LAND BANK

The San Juan County Land Bank has made a profound contribution to the work of the San Juan Preservation Trust. Places like Turtleback Mountain, the Henry Island Isthmus, Mt. Disney, Sundstrom Farm and Watmough Bight were protected by this productive partnership. A unique public agency that collects a 1% real estate excise tax to protect open space in San Juan County, the Land Bank's second 12-year term is about to expire. A group of island citizens is now collecting signatures to include a 12-year renewal of the Land Bank on the November 2011 election ballot, and the Preservation Trust's board of trustees has formally endorsed this effort. Please visit www.RenewOurLandBank.org to learn more about the Land Bank and its renewal process.



WHO WAS VENDОВИ?



VEINDOVI.

CHIEF VENDОВИ BY A.T. AGATE OF THE WILKES EXPEDITION.

Almost 300 place names in Washington State were provided by the U.S. Exploring Expedition of 1838-42 led by Captain Charles Wilkes, among them several of the San Juan Islands. Vendovi Island, the San Juan Preservation Trust's most recent acquisition, may have the most fascinating naming story of all.

When the Wilkes Expedition was in the Fiji Islands, Captain Wilkes took as his prisoner a Fijian village chief who was charged with the murders of ten crewmen from the brig Charles Doggett of Salem, Massachusetts. The historical accounts convey that Vendovi, initially presumed to be a cannibal and leader of a violent society, actually turned out to be a noble and gentle man who gained the respect and friendship of crew members during his two-year imprisonment. Even Wilkes, who was determined to serve justice on Vendovi for the slaying of the Doggett crew, had softened by the time the fleet reached the Pacific Northwest. He ultimately named the island "Vendovi" after his Fijian captive.

Despite the high regard he had gained during the voyage, Chief Vendovi was subsequently treated as an exotic living specimen by America's 19th century scientific community. He 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 Institution. Details of the capture and subsequent adventures of Chief Vendovi may be historically accurate or exaggerated, but the story of how Vendovi Island was named provides us with a direct connection to the discoveries made by early explorers as they sought to understand the mysteries of islands near and distant.

BEAVERTON MARSH

The San Juan Preservation Trust is pleased to announce the recent acquisition of a 40-acre portion of Beaverton Marsh on San Juan Island, the largest wetland system in San Juan County. In partnership with the San Juan County Land Bank, holders of a conservation easement on the property, the Preservation Trust will manage the land for restoration of wetlands vegetation under a plan developed by Ducks Unlimited, a national organization dedicated to restoration of waterfowl habitat. Water levels will be raised to encourage native wetlands vegetation and reduce the presence of invasive reed canary grass. Habitat restoration is expected to result in increased diversity of waterfowl and improved opportunities for wildlife viewing.



KATHLEEN FOLEY



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

SAVE THE DATES

Join us for these SJPT events!

SATURDAY JULY 30, 2011
4th Annual Summer Social at Turtleback Preserve
on Orcas Island

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 10, 2011
Bluebird Celebration, San Juan Island

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT.ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
LOPEZ ISLAND, WA
PERMIT NO. 3



KURT THORSON



You and your guests are warmly invited to
THE SAN JUAN PRESERVATION TRUST'S
SUMMER SOCIAL

*A celebration of conservation in the islands
in collaboration with Crow Valley Pottery and Gallery
and the artists of Plein Air Washington*

SATURDAY, JULY 30 FROM 3:30 – 6:30 PM

On Orcas Island at the South Entrance to Turtleback Mountain Preserve

*Art show and Auction * On-Site Plein Air Painting * Children's Activities
Food by Orcas Village Store * Wine from San Juan Vineyards
Music by Sharon Abreu and Michael Hurwicz*

For a detailed map and directions, please check
the "Calendar of Events" at www.sjpt.org.
For more information contact SJPT at (360) 468-3202.

\$25 per person suggested donation

Directions: From the Orcas Island ferry terminal drive north on Orcas Road 2.4 miles. Turn left onto Deer Harbor Road. Follow Deer Harbor Road through West Sound. At 1.1 miles past West Sound, turn right on Wild Rose. Look for tents! *Please consider carpooling as parking space is limited.*