



Land & Legacy

FERDY BUSINGER

SUMMER 2009

WWW.SJPT.ORG

CAMPAIGN TO SAVE GUEMES MOUNTAIN HAS OCTOBER 1, 2009 DEADLINE

Summer event and \$200,000 matching grant add excitement

WITH A BUSRT OF GOOD NEWS we are approaching the final stretch of our campaign to save Guemes Mountain, the highest point of land on Guemes Island. Our campaign has just received an anonymous \$200,000 matching grant. From here forward, every dollar donated to the campaign will be matched by this generous grantor.

The campaign gained new life earlier this year with the negotiation of a lower price for the property, thereby reducing the campaign goal from \$2.8 to \$2.2 million. The campaign has raised \$1,620,000 toward this goal, leaving a fundraising target of \$580,000. With this new \$200,000 matching grant, success is now within our grasp. You can help us make the most of this grant, as all donations will now be matched 1:1, effectively doubling your contribution.

This 70-acre mountaintop has generated a tremendous outpouring of support, and the project Steering Committee has been hard at work harnessing this energy. The "Save Guemes Mountain Picnic" will take place on Guemes Island on August 15th. All Preservation Trust supporters are invited to join us for this down-home, island-style opportunity to support the permanent protection of this beloved property. For details about the campaign, including events and information on making donations, please see the campaign website at www.saveguemesmountain.org.



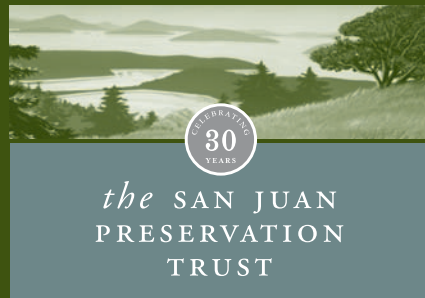
MEET OUR VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR, JULIAN "PETE" DEWELL

As the Preservation Trust celebrates 30 years of conservation in the San Juan Islands, it is fitting to note that Julian "Pete" Dewell, our Volunteer of the Year, has been contributing his talents to the organization for much of that time. Whether he is shaping conservation transactions or guiding policy decisions, Pete has been providing us with his wisdom and sage legal advice for almost twenty years.

Pete and his wife Alice have owned property on Orcas Island since 1974. Pete's contributions to the San Juan Preservation Trust have been invaluable, and will be enjoyed by generations to come.



STEVEN BUSINGER



Land & Legacy

SUMMER 2009

WWW.SJPT.ORG

CARRYING THE SKY UPON THEIR BACKS



GERHARD KNUDSEN

WHEN THE SAN JUAN ISLANDS WESTERN BLUEBIRD REINTRODUCTION PROJECT started in 2007, the Preservation Trust and its coordinating partners were apprehensive. Very few attempts to reintroduce migratory songbirds in the United States have ever succeeded.

Now, only three years later, it appears that a new population of Western bluebirds is beginning to recognize the San Juan Islands as home. The majority of these returning migrants are offspring that hatched on San Juan Island from parents who were captured at the Ft. Lewis Military Installation south of Tacoma and released on the island. After a half-century absence from the islands, the bluebirds are back.

Henry David Thoreau said “The bluebird carries the sky on his back.” While these birds certainly “carry the sky” in the pigmentation of feathers on their backs, they also carry the hopes of our community to reconnect with a long-lost link in our web of life.

You can support this effort by donating directly to the project (donations of \$150 or more receive a bluebird hat) or by purchasing a limited-edition print of “Island Spring: Western Bluebirds and Garry Oaks”, by San Juan Island artist Nancy Spaulding (\$75, unmatted/unframed). Contact Kathleen Foley at kathleenf@sjpt.org or 378-2461 for more info.

CELEBRATE THE BEST OF SUMMER AT ARCADY FARM

Join us for our 30th Anniversary Summer Social

Saturday, August 8th – Arcady Farm in Deer Harbor, Orcas Island

THERE ARE SO MANY BEAUTIFUL PLACES IN THE SAN JUANS, but some of them just feel magical. Fred Whitridge’s “Arcady Farm” on Orcas Island is one of those special island places. From the exquisite gardens, orchards, and arbors to the picturesque barn and sweeping view of Deer Harbor... once experienced, Arcady Farm is hard to forget.

The Preservation Trust’s 30th Anniversary Summer Social will be held on Saturday, August 8 from 3:00 – 6:00 pm on Arcady Farm. This second-annual Summer Social is being held in collaboration with the artists of Plein Air Washington (PAWA). As in past years, PAWA artists will be seen throughout the islands painting outdoor scenes in the weeks prior to the event. Crow Valley Pottery and Gallery will showcase and auction these paintings at Arcady Farm on August 8 and in the weeks that follow at the Gallery, with partial proceeds benefiting the Preservation Trust. PAWA artists will also be painting at Arcady Farm on the day of the event.

Music will be provided by Orcas Island’s own Gordon and Anita Orne, along with Seattle fiddler J.P. Wittman. Orcas Village Store will prepare local food and wine. Families are welcome, and fun activities for children will be provided. A \$20.00 donation per adult is welcomed.

Don’t miss this opportunity to reconnect with old friends (or to bring a new one!) and experience one of the truly magical spots in the islands. We’ll see you at Arcady Farm on the 8th of August!



JANE K. FOX

SUPPORT THE PRESERVATION TRUST THROUGH YOUR IRA

There’s good news for individuals age 70½ or older with individual retirement accounts (IRAs). Thanks to a recent extension of special legislation, you can once again make tax-free charitable gifts up to \$100,000 using funds from your IRA. Gifts must be made by December 31, 2009, so you’ll need to plan ahead to take full advantage of this special giving opportunity.

As you may know, retirement plan assets are typically subject to a heavy tax burden. If you meet the age requirements, consider using these funds to make a unique charitable gift to the San Juan Preservation Trust. While you cannot claim a charitable deduction for the IRA gifts, you will not pay income tax on the amount.

GANN SOCIETY HONORS PLANNED GIVING TO SJPT

Dodie Gann, of San Juan Island, and her late husband, the novelist Ernest Gann, have had a long and inspiring history of generous support for the San Juan Preservation Trust. In 1980, Dodie and Ernie donated a 38-acre parcel in San Juan Valley to the Preservation Trust, making it the first gift of land ever received by the organization. Later, they donated a conservation easement on their adjacent 748-acre farm and included the Preservation Trust in their estate plans.

“Anyone who has spent a lot of time in the outdoors has a real appreciation of nature,” says Dodie. “If you watch it being destroyed, you get protective. It gives me a very warm feeling to know that long after I’m gone, this will still be here.”

In the spirit of Dodie’s words, the San Juan Preservation Trust has created the Dodie and Ernest Gann Society as a means to honor all those who have also included the Preservation Trust in their estate plans. For more information on becoming a member of the Gann Society, please contact Brian Windrope at bwindrope@sjpt.org or at (360) 378-2461.



RESERVED LIFE ESTATE

This approach may be a good fit for an individual or family that owns a valuable island property and recognizes the importance of protecting it, but who would like to continue to fully enjoy the property during their lifetime. This landowner can transfer ownership of property to the Preservation Trust today, while they are still alive, and "reserve" the right to live on the property for the duration of their lifetime (or the lifetime of named beneficiaries). In some cases, the Preservation Trust (when approved by its board of trustees) will even take over the responsibility of paying property taxes on the land.



Paul and Ruth Ilig donated their shoreline parcel on the west side of San Juan Island, reserving a life estate for their four children.

CREATED BY NATURE, PRESERVED BY YOU

How Planned Giving Can Save the San Juan Islands

We hold the future of the San Juan Islands in our hands. Some of us are blessed with significant resources – be they land, money, time or talents – that can be employed right away to protect the natural values of our islands for those that will follow in our footsteps. The rest of us do what we can, but are frustrated as we watch our favorite island landscapes succumb to the pressures of popularity.

There is hope. As some visionary San Juan Preservation Trust donors are proving, there are a number of creative and effective ways for all of us to make a significant contribution to the future of our islands.

"Planned Giving," the act of integrating personal, financial and estate planning goals to enable philanthropic individuals to make larger gifts than they could make from their income, is playing an essential role in the success of land conservation in the San Juans. Whether these planned gifts come to the Preservation Trust in the form of land, conservation easements or cash, they have led directly to the permanent protection of numerous high-value conservation properties throughout the islands.

There are many ways to tailor your estate plans to meet the goals you have for your family, your friends and the other non-profits you support while at the same time providing a lasting legacy in these islands that you love. As an additional motivation, depending on the nature of the gift, a donor can enjoy significant tax benefits during his or her lifetime and/or reduce tax burdens placed upon an estate.

Outlined on this page are just a few examples of techniques that have been used by Preservation Trust donors wishing to leave behind a permanent legacy in the San Juan Islands. For more information about planned giving, including suggested language for different types of bequests, visit our web site (www.sjpt.org) or call Brian Windrope, Director of Philanthropy, at (360) 378-2461.

LEAVE THE DETAILS TO US

Our lives and our plans can change in a moment's notice. Sometimes there may be situations where flexibility is best. For example, it is possible to direct your estate to place a conservation easement on your island property after your death. In these situations, the Preservation Trust can help a donor to describe – in general language – the terms of the conservation easement to be conveyed by his or her estate. Final details of the conservation easement are then left to be worked out by the donor's executor and the Preservation Trust's staff and board of trustees. This approach allows a donor to leave the land to heirs with the comfort of knowing that its important natural values have been protected. If this is of interest to you, please contact the Preservation Trust in advance to ensure that the gift meets our conservation easement criteria.



Beverly and Ernest Graham bequeathed their 99-acre property on Shaw Island to the Preservation Trust. Drawing upon their wishes as expressed in their will, the Preservation Trust worked closely with the estate executor to draft a permanent conservation easement that ensures that Beverly and Ernest's dreams for their land were fulfilled.

PROTECT AND SELL

Sometimes individuals choose to simply leave their property to the San Juan Preservation Trust in their wills with the understanding that it may eventually be resold by the Preservation Trust after a conservation easement has been placed on the property to protect its natural values. Proceeds from such a sale are used by the Preservation Trust to pursue other conservation opportunities in the islands.



After Evelyn Leatham bequeathed her waterfront home on Lopez Island, the Preservation Trust placed a conservation easement on the property that permanently protects its feeder bluff shoreline and forest habitat, then sold the land and house with the conservation easement in place. Proceeds were used to initiate the Watmough Bight capital campaign and support the Preservation Trust's endowment fund.

TRUST OWNED PRESERVES

When the San Juan Preservation Trust receives a gift of land, the first order of business is to assess its conservation value. If the Preservation Trust determines that the land displays characteristics that are particularly unique or sensitive, it may decide that the best course of action is to keep the property within the network of Preservation Trust-owned nature preserves.



Celia Hunter bequeathed 10 acres along the western slope of San Juan Island's Mt. Dallas. Although relatively small in size, the Preservation Trust decided to retain the property as a Trust-owned preserve so that staff and volunteers could undertake a long-term effort to restore the property's spectacular wildflower meadows and prairie habitat.



JANE K. FOX

GIFTS OF CASH

While it may sound obvious, it can't be overstated: Cash bequests have made a profound and lasting contribution to the Preservation Trust's work in the islands. Some donors specify that their cash gifts are to be used to acquire land or build our long term endowment fund; others leave unrestricted cash with the understanding the Preservation Trust's board of trustees will designate it to the project or program where it is most needed.



Mary Bawden, a longtime resident of Orcas Island, bequeathed a generous cash gift to the Preservation Trust's acquisition fund that served as the seed money for the Campaign to Save Turtleback Mountain.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
ABOUT PLANNED GIVING,
VISIT OUR WEB SITE
(WWW.SJPT.ORG)
OR CALL
BRIAN WINDROPE,
DIRECTOR OF PHILANTHROPY,
AT (360) 378-2461.

In addition to the Beverly and Ernest Graham conservation easement bequest (see photo on this page), the Preservation Trust has also received planned gifts in 2009 from these two generous islanders:



Craig Webster was an architect, pilot, sailor, rower, and champion of maritime history who loved the San Juan Islands. Like the water that surrounds these islands, his life here was spread among many places. He was a lead architect for OPAL on Orcas and owned Deer Harbor Marina for a number of years. He, along with his wife Tasha, was a part-time resident of Deer Harbor. He also did architectural work on Lopez and other islands. As a pilot, he saw and loved the islands in a way few are able.

Craig died on May 7, 2007, doing one of the things he loved most: flying his Cessna back to Washington from an architecture conference in Texas. Craig left a generous bequest to several local organizations that he supported, including the San Juan Preservation Trust. The Preservation Trust's board of trustees has designated Craig's cash gift to the organization's permanent endowment fund.



Betty Campbell Scott, a resident of the San Juan Islands since 1980, passed away at the Islands Convalescent Center on December 12, 2008, following a brief illness. Born and raised in Utah, Betty received degrees from the University of Utah and the University of Washington before becoming a Professor in the Family Life Department of Washington State University in Pullman.

Betty and her husband Frank (a Professor of Geology at WSU and a former member of the San Juan Preservation Trust's Board of Trustees), purchased their first island property on Crane Island while still living in Pullman. Several years later they purchased a second home in Friday Harbor, enabling them to experience island life from both residences. Betty left behind a generous unrestricted cash gift to the Preservation Trust to advance the protection of wildlife habitat in her beloved San Juan Islands.



30
YEARS

the SAN JUAN
PRESERVATION
TRUST

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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

IN THIS ISSUE:

- * 2009 Summer Social in Deer Harbor
- * Guemes Mountain Matching Grant
- * SJPT Volunteer of the Year
- * Bluebird Reintroduction Succeeding
- * Planned Giving and the Preservation Trust



JANE K. FOX



YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO
THE SAN JUAN PRESERVATION TRUST'S
30TH ANNIVERSARY SUMMER SOCIAL

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

SATURDAY, AUGUST 8, 3:00 - 6:00 PM

Outdoors on Fred Whitridge's Arcady Farm,
Deer Harbor, Orcas Island

**Art Show and Auction featuring paintings
of the San Juan Islands and SJPT protected property*

**On-site Plein Air Painting*

**Fresh local food (provided by Orcas Village Store) and local wine*

**Music by Orcas Island's own Gordon and Anita,
with Seattle-area fiddler J.P. Wittman*

**Children's activities*

Bring a friend and experience one of the truly magical spots in the islands!

For more information contact SJPT at (360) 468-3202 or visit www.sjpt.org
\$20 suggested donation per adult

see story inside