



the SAN JUAN  
PRESERVATION  
TRUST



# Land & Legacy

WINTER 2006

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## TURTLEBACK MOUNTAIN REMAINS VULNERABLE TO DEVELOPMENT

THE SAN JUAN PRESERVATION TRUST and the San Juan County Land Bank have long considered Orcas Island's Turtleback Mountain the single most important unprotected property in the San Juans. At 1,578 acres, it is a beloved island landmark that is home to a number of important natural and cultural features. After decades of ownership, the trustees of the Seattle-based Medina Foundation (which inherited the property from its benefactor, former Weyerhaeuser executive and West Sound resident Norton Clapp) have decided to sell the mountain to the highest bidder. On August 25, 2005, we learned of this decision and were informed that we had one month to assemble a compelling offer.

Working with real estate industry experts (including countless volunteer hours from professionals that share our love for Turtleback) and with the support and guidance of our many conservation partners, the Preservation Trust and the Land Bank submitted an offer to the Medina Foundation on September 30 that represents our very best estimate of the mountain's full market value. We were initially encouraged to hear that our proposal had risen above the competition, but we quickly learned that the negotiations were far from complete. After a number of volleys, our respective estimates of the property's monetary value remain far apart.

We have made it clear to the Medina Foundation that we are willing to pay full market value for the property. However, as organizations that rely on publicly supported funding sources (tax revenues for the Land Bank and tax-deductible private donations for the Preservation Trust), our fiduciary responsibility to our supporters precludes us from paying an extraordinary premium above what we feel is the true value of the land. We continue to review our analysis, and have enlisted an appraisal to examine – or enlighten – our value estimate. In the meantime, we are disappointed to report that the future of Turtleback Mountain remains very much at risk.



### ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DRIVE CRUCIAL

We continue to seek contributions for annual membership renewals and new memberships. These donations account for most of our operating funds and sustain our successful land acquisition, conservation education, and stewardship programs. If you haven't already renewed or started your membership, we invite you to do so at [www.sjpt.org/support](http://www.sjpt.org/support), or by sending your contribution to us at Box 327, Lopez Island, Wa., 98261. We cannot continue important land conservation work without the ongoing financial support of islanders like you. Thank you for your support.



Turtleback Mountain as seen from the inter-island ferry.



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## MANY THANKS TO OUR CROW VALLEY CAMPAIGN SUPPORTERS



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*We apologize to any contributors who may have been left off the list inadvertently. Please let us know if your name does not appear here. Thank you.*



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## FILSON, PERKINS COIE SUPPORT TRUST

SEATTLE-BASED FILSON has been selling tough and durable clothing to a devoted following for more than 100 years. Like the Preservation Trust, Filson has deep ties to the Pacific Northwest. So, when the company was ready to introduce its new C.C. Filson Lodge Collection, it threw a party at its Seattle outfitting store and donated ten percent of the evening's proceeds to the Preservation Trust.

Perkins Coie, a Seattle-based law and capital management firm that oversees the Preservation Trust's investments, helped to plan the evening and generously matched the Filson donation. More than 90 people attended the event. Doug Williams, the new CEO of Filson, and Stewart Landefeld, the Chair of Perkins Coie's Business Practice Group, both talked about the importance of working together to protect the best of the Northwest. They also expressed their gratitude to the Preservation Trust and our members for all of the work we have done in our 26-year history on behalf of the health of our region. Our deepest thanks go to these two companies for their support.



More than 90 people gathered in Seattle at the Filson outfitting store for the introduction of the company's new clothing line. A percentage of the evening's sales benefitted the Preservation Trust.

## PRESERVATION BRIEF: TRUSTED VOLUNTEERS MOVE OUR MISSION FORWARD



PHOTO BY ALAN DAVIDSON

Volunteers (from left to right) Alan Fritzberg, Tom Reeve, and Harvey Himelfarb help set up a tent for last summer's Crow Valley Hoedown on Orcas Island. Fritzberg and Himelfarb also serve as trustees.

*"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world. Indeed it's the only thing that ever has."*

MARGARET MEAD MUST HAVE HAD OUR ISLAND COMMUNITY IN MIND when she penned this thought. This past year, the San Juan Preservation Trust launched its first formal volunteer program. Thanks to the many members who have taken their commitment to conservation one step further by becoming a Preservation Trust volunteer, we have accomplished many tasks that had stretched our limited staff resources in the past.

We now have 80 volunteers supporting our work in a number of ways. Some are hiking through meadows and woodlands, or scouring shorelines monitoring the use – or misuse – of our preserves. Others are risking paper cuts while diligently folding letters and newsletters. A few hardy souls are restoring wildflower meadows and pulling invasive, tenacious weeds. Some are pouring the wine, setting up the chairs, and welcoming new faces at our fundraising and outreach events, while others help us to raise much-needed donations. Each of these volunteers contributes in their own way, and each job they perform helps the Preservation Trust realize its conservation mission.

We invite you to join our small (but growing!) group of thoughtful, committed people. There are still many volunteer positions that need to be filled. Find out more about volunteering opportunities by contacting me at 378-2461, or by logging on to our website at: [www.sjpt.org/support/volunteertime.php](http://www.sjpt.org/support/volunteertime.php).

– Kathleen Foley, Education and Volunteer Coordinator

## THE SAN JUAN PRESERVATION TRUST'S AMATEUR PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

THERE IS NO BETTER WAY TO COMMUNICATE THE BEAUTY and majesty of the San Juan Islands (and the need for conservation) than through compelling photos. Now that we publish a color newsletter and have an updated web site, we also need to update our photo library. These islands are bursting with creative people – one of the many attributes that attract us to the San Juans. Many of these creative types are our own members who roam the islands in all seasons. We invite our members who are amateur photographers (no professionals, please) to send us their best photos.

In a dual effort to increase the Preservation Trust's photo bank and to showcase the talents of our membership, we will be hosting our first-ever amateur photography contest. Members are invited to submit photos in the following four categories: Seascapes, People in Nature, Wildlife, and Terrestrial Landscapes. All shots should be taken in the San Juan, Skagit, and Whatcom County islands. Winning entries will be displayed on a Preservation Trust calendar, on our web site, in our newsletter, and other educational materials, and possibly in a "traveling" photography show. The following are basic guidelines. Complete contest details, rules, and submission guidelines are posted on our web site at [www.sjpt.org/gallery/](http://www.sjpt.org/gallery/).

- Contest is open to all San Juan Preservation Trust members
- All submissions must be in digital form (you can take photos in any format and then convert to digital).
- Photos must be a minimum of 200dpi, 5X7 size, and can be either color or black and white.
- Photos must be taken between Jan. 1, 2004, and Sept. 15, 2006.
- All submissions must be mailed to the Preservation Trust by Oct. 1, 2006. Winning entries will be announced by Oct. 15, 2006.
- You may submit up to two photos per category.
- The top three photos from each category will be chosen by our staff. In addition to having your photographs published, all winning photographers will receive a prize. There will also be a Grand Prize awarded for the best overall entry.
- All entries should be submitted to Kathleen Foley, Education and Volunteer Coordinator, Box 327 Lopez Island, WA 98261, or [kathleenf@sjpt.org](mailto:kathleenf@sjpt.org).

PHOTO BY KATHLEEN FOLEY

## MEMORIAL AND OTHER GIFTS

*In memory of*

Robert S. Singer <i>Myra and Dieter Wuentb</i>	Bill Meyer <i>John and Patsy Sangster</i>
Warren "Smitty" Smith <i>Ann and Marie Harris</i>	Chris Crecelius <i>Margaret Philbrick</i>
Ivaly Hoedemaker <i>Marsba, Mindy and Gavin Morrison Sheri Miklaski Mark Meloy</i>	Barbara Cleaveland <i>Anne Hay</i>
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Jean Keller <i>The Rasmussen Family</i>	Molly and Larry Hagmann <i>Lois Taylor Shirley and Larry Hagmann</i>
Susan Pal <i>Dodie Gann</i>	

*In honor of*

Doris & Reuben Klammer's anniversary <i>Marcia and David Messenger</i>	The Black sisters, Lisa and Heather, (who married on Lopez) <i>Betsy Bell and Charles Finney</i>
Sally and Tom Reeve <i>Janice Faull</i>	Tim Seifert and Sonya Erickson's wedding <i>Fred Whitridge Catherine Min Jamie Chung The Reeve Family May Ma</i>
Donald "Kit" Querna <i>The Anderson Family</i>	Lynn and Alice Campbell <i>Edith Schutte Jim Nowadnick</i>
Freddy Davenport (who is alive & well) <i>Richard and Kate Lee</i>	
Fred Cleaveland <i>Anne Hay</i>	

*Business and foundation gifts will be recognized in the spring 2006 edition.*

## LOPEZ ISLAND: ICEBERG POINT PROTECTION GROWS WITH THOMAS PRESERVE

THE STORY OF THE PRESERVATION TRUST'S NEW THREE ACRE THOMAS PRESERVE begins with the advance and retreat of the last glaciers that covered Puget Sound.

As the ice scraped over the native bedrock they left telltale striations to mark their passage. Spectacular Iceberg Point on the south end of Lopez Island gets its name from this glacial movement. In 1854, George Davidson of the U.S. Coast Survey named the point. He is quoted in the Pacific Coast Pilot as saying, "On part of its southern cliff we discovered ... remarkably deep and smooth marks of glacial action." Today, with the addition of the Thomas Preserve, the entire southern shore of the Iceberg Point peninsula enjoys protection that will forever preserve its natural and glacial heritage – at least until another glacier comes along.

This new preserve is the gift of Mort and Joan Thomas. "Our family has always treasured the San Juans, and this gift is our way of giving something back to the islands," said Mort Thomas. "We are also very pleased at being able to continue the history of the preservation of this shoreline." Including this new three-acre preserve, there are now more than three-and-a-half contiguous miles of protected shoreline along Iceberg Point.

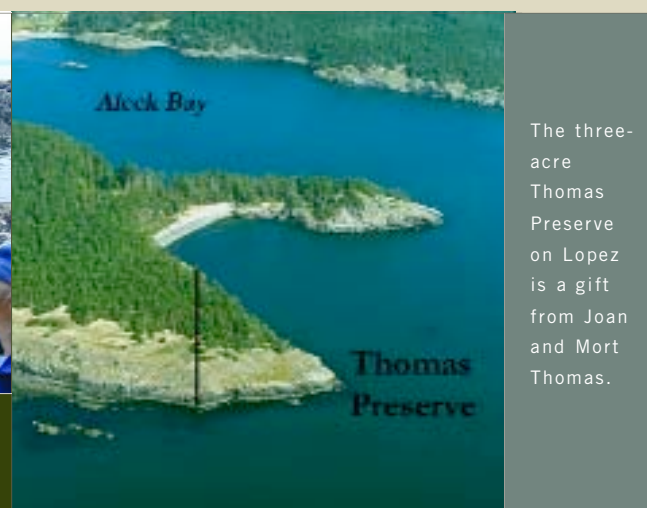
Conservation takes many forms, and the Iceberg Point peninsula is a good example. The Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Coast Guard own and manage – as an "Area of Critical Environment Concern" – 93 acres on the western half of the peninsula. The Reeve family has protected 124 acres of shoreline and uplands on the eastern half with conservation easements held by the Preservation Trust. Now, the Preservation Trust has taken ownership of the last three unprotected acres.

While the Thomas Preserve may not be large, it is a jewel boasting 1,000 feet of shoreline and a healthy native grassland remnant. Because of its small size, remote location, and difficult access, this property will not be open to the public. Instead, it will be managed solely for the benefit of its native inhabitants.



PHOTO BY SHERI MIKLASKI

Stewardship Director Dean Dougherty and Trust members examine the results of glacial movement on Lopez Island's Iceberg Point.



The three-acre Thomas Preserve on Lopez is a gift from Joan and Mort Thomas.



Garry Oak and the Wasp Islands from the summit of Orcas Island's Turtleback Mountain.

THE MISSION OF THE SAN JUAN PRESERVATION TRUST is to preserve and protect open spaces, scenic views, forests, agricultural lands, habitats, watersheds, riparian corridors, wetlands and shorelines in the San Juan Archipelago.

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“The care of the Earth is our most ancient and most worthy, and after all our most pleasing responsibility. To cherish what remains of it and to foster its renewal is our only hope.”

– *Wendell Berry*

Summer's clear skies and bright sunshine give way to a different kind of beauty with the change of season. Snow blankets madrones and firs on the west side of San Juan Island.



PHOTO BY SVEN HAARHOFF