



the SAN JUAN
PRESERVATION
TRUST



Land & Legacy

Watznough Bight, Lopez Island - JANE FOX

FALL 2009

WWW.SJPT.ORG

WE DID IT!

The \$2.2 million Campaign to Save Guemes Mountain has succeeded!

When the San Juan Preservation Trust launched a campaign with the Skagit Land Trust in 2007 to save the 70-acre summit of Guemes Mountain, no one knew that the economy would collapse around us in the fall of 2008. But thanks to a tremendous community effort that included more than 550 donations from individuals, families, foundations, and businesses, we have successfully purchased and forever preserved this amazing summit. In addition to monetary donations, an incredible outpouring of volunteer effort made it possible.

There were many ups and downs to this campaign, but the successful negotiation of a price reduction in early 2009 and the generosity and determination of islanders to preserve a favorite hiking spot allowed us to prevail.

We also had the benefit of a Steering Committee on Guemes Island that was simply extraordinary. Tim Seifert, our executive director, said, "The Co-Chairs – Paul Beudet, Karen Everett, Joost Businger and Marianne Kooiman – each did the work of ten people. They deserve an enormous amount of credit for the success of this campaign." Thank you Preservation Trust members!

Skagit Land Trust will now own and manage Guemes Mountain while the San Juan Preservation Trust holds a conservation easement on it (a typical arrangement for exceptional properties such as this). If you would like to know more about the campaign, see a list of donors, learn about access on the mountain, or help with the ongoing stewardship needs, please see the official campaign website at www.saveguemesmountain.org.



KATHLEEN FOLEY

JANE FOX BRINGS FRESH PERSPECTIVE

If you can't be in the San Juan Islands yourself, the next best thing is to visit through stunning photography that conveys the magic of the islands. Recognizing the importance of great photography to illustrate the Preservation Trust's conservation work, this summer two anonymous donors allowed us to hire Jane K. Fox, a recent Master's graduate in Photojournalism and Multimedia from Boston University. Her charge: to capture images of the people and places that help tell the story of the Trust. From the gigantic Turtleback Mountain Preserve on Orcas to tiny Jack Island, Jane has produced a large library of photos of our preserves, conservation easements, and members so that we can tell our story well into the future.

To see more of Jane's work and her remarkable ability to capture the personal motivations behind private land conservation, we encourage you to visit the home page of our web site (www.sjpt.org) where you can view videos of local legends of land conservation Dodie Gann (San Juan Island) and Fred Ellis, Sr. (Shaw Island).



Guemes Mountain - MARK LINEMANN



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MAKING THE CONNECTION

*Growing Population of Western Bluebirds
Draws Attention to Oak-Prairie Ecosystems*



THE THIRD YEAR OF THE SAN JUAN ISLANDS WESTERN BLUEBIRD REINTRODUCTION PROJECT has concluded and we are thrilled to report that a larger percentage of bluebirds returned after fall migration, and that more young were hatched on the island this year than in the previous two years. With increases in both population size and proportion of resident bluebirds, it appears that progress is being made towards establishing a self-sustaining population of these beautiful native songbirds, absent from our islands for more than 50 years.

Our success does not end here, however. Restoration of biological diversity is only one of our goals. Another goal is to permanently protect the habitat that support these less common species. Western bluebirds are closely tied to Garry oak ecosystems throughout their range... and in the Salish Sea region, this type of habitat has shrunk to less than 5% of its historical size. Restoration and preservation of oak – prairie habitat will ensure that the Western bluebird (and many other species) will thrive well into the future. Through its educational and outreach efforts, the San Juan Preservation Trust will continue to inform islanders about the importance of Garry oak and other imperiled ecosystems, while working with private landowners who recognize the value in protecting these habitats for future generations...whether they be human, avian, or otherwise.

MEET OUR STAFF and BOARD of TRUSTEES



STAFF

Debra Clausen, *Director of Conservation**
Dean Dougherty, *Director of Stewardship*
Kathleen Foley, *Director of Education & Outreach**
Katie Hover, *Conservation Easement Steward**
Laurie Naylor, *Office Manager**
Tim Seifert, *Executive Director*
Diana Stepita, *Membership Manager**
Brian Windrope, *Director of Philanthropy*
**part-time*

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LAND COUNSELORS

Rachel Adams (<i>Orcas</i>)	Patsy Sangster (<i>Lopez</i>)
Karin Agosta (<i>San Juan</i>)	Eliot Scull (<i>Henry</i>)
Morris Dalton (<i>Lopez</i>)	Bob Weaver (<i>Waldron</i>)
Dodie Gann (<i>San Juan</i>)	Jonathan White (<i>Orcas</i>)
Oakley Goodner (<i>Lopez</i>)	Fred Whitridge (<i>Orcas</i>)
Will Hamilton (<i>San Juan</i>)	Andy Wickstrand (<i>Orcas</i>)
Anne Hay (<i>Orcas</i>)	Judie Wilgress (<i>Waldron</i>)
Dale Hazen (<i>Fidalgo</i>)	
Mitchell Hoyt (<i>Lopez</i>)	
Sara Longworth (<i>Fidalgo</i>)	
Rick Machin (<i>Fidalgo</i>)	
Sally Reeve (<i>Lopez</i>)	

A SWELL SUMMER SOCIAL

*30th Anniversary event attended by 300 friends
of the Preservation Trust*

Start with a stunning piece of conservation land. Add some delicious local food, graceful paintings of our favorite island places, and 300 people who care passionately about keeping our San Juans healthy and beautiful, and you've got the makings of a great gathering. The Preservation Trust's 30th Anniversary Summer Social, held on the Whitridge family's iconic Arcady Farm on Orcas Island, proved to be another successful event enjoyed by our many enthusiastic members.

It takes many hands to pull these large events off and we want to thank in particular the volunteers who stepped forward to help with everything from serving food and beverages to guiding kids in their nature activities. A special "hats off" to Fred Whitridge, our host for this year's Social, and to the following businesses and organizations for their support: Orcas Village Store, Crow Valley Pottery, Plein Air Painters of Washington, San Juan Vineyards, Lopez Island Vineyards, the Orcas Lions Club, and musicians Gordon Koenig, Anita Orne, and J.P. Wittman. We hope you will join us for next year's Social, to be held at another spectacular SJPT-protected property near you!





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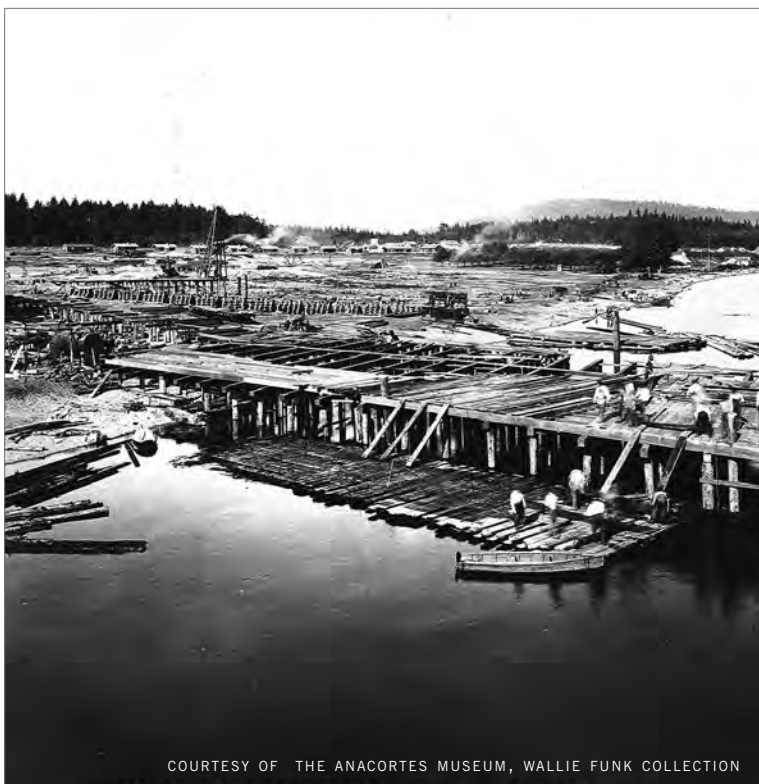
Box 327
Lopez Island, WA 98261
360.468.3202
www.sjpt.org

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- Bluebird Project Wrap-Up
- Donor Acknowledgement



COURTESY OF THE ANACORTES MUSEUM, WALLIE FUNK COLLECTION

WHAT A DIFFERENCE
A CENTURY CAN MAKE!



FERDI BUSINGER

The photo at left shows a shipbuilding enterprise near the end of World War I on what is now the San Juan Preservation Trust's "Peach Preserve" on Guemes Island (photo on right – note dock remnants in water). Today this property is home to wrens and warblers, clams and kingfishers as well as healthy shoreline, coastal wetland and forest plant communities. Nature Rules!