



the SAN JUAN  
PRESERVATION  
TRUST



KATHLEEN FOLEY

# Land & Legacy

SUMMER 2010

WWW.SJPT.ORG

## SJPT MEMBERSHIP PARTICIPATES IN STRATEGIC REVIEW

**SUCCESS HAS ELEVATED THE SAN JUAN PRESERVATION TRUST** into unfamiliar territory. With over 31 years of conservation to our credit, landowners seeking conservation solutions, ambitious community groups and government agencies are now approaching the Preservation Trust in search of partnership and/or leadership in a number of important community issues. The publicity – and credibility – generated by our recent capital campaigns have opened the door to unprecedented opportunity. Be it sustainable agriculture, public trails, local schools, our marine environment, or land use planning and policy (to name a few), the Preservation Trust is now perceived as an influential stakeholder in a number of arenas tangential to our mission.

Our opportunities may be rapidly expanding, but our resources are not. To confirm our direction, the Preservation Trust's board of trustees convened a strategic meeting in mid-April. Preparation included input from over 450 of our supporters, including 373 responses to an online survey (summarized at [www.sjpt.org](http://www.sjpt.org)). The feedback was diverse, but as we discussed these responses, one clear message kept rising to the top. It turns out that your expectations for the San Juan Preservation Trust are really quite simple: We should focus on (a) protecting land; (b) taking care of land; and (c) gathering the resources required to do (a) and (b).

These conclusions, gained from the collective wisdom of our membership, may seem obvious. But with limited resources on hand and countless interests pulling from multiple directions, you have helped us to articulate a new guiding principle for establishing priorities and analyzing future opportunities.

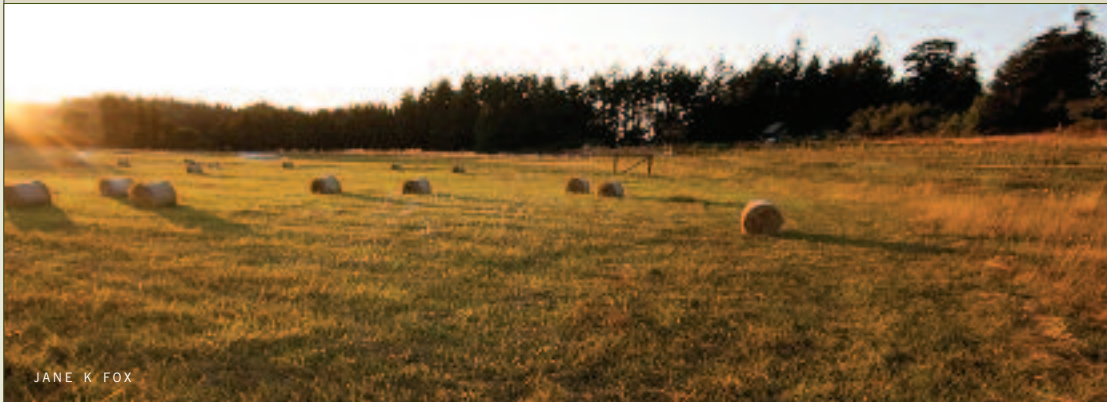
*Note: If you would like to participate in future online strategy surveys, please submit your email address to us at [www.sjpt.org](http://www.sjpt.org).*



KATHLEEN FOLEY

### WHO'S DRIVING THAT JEEP?

If you live on San Juan Island, it is quite likely you've seen a white Jeep with the distinctive Bluebird Project logo bustling about. We'd like to introduce you to who is behind the wheel: Anna Sample, our 2010 Fred Ellis Sr. Conservation Intern. In this role, Anna is serving as the Bluebird Project's summer field technician. Her duties range from following up on sighting reports and installing nest boxes to banding nestlings and feeding translocated birds. We all agree Anna has a pretty great job, and she thinks so too, remarking, "I love experiencing these birds in their native habitat and observing behaviors that are not seen by many people." Thanks to the work of Anna and the Preservation Trust, our partners, and numerous volunteers, we hope that the Western bluebird behaviors that Anna loves to observe will continue to be enjoyed by generations of future islanders.



JANE K FOX





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## SUMMER ON THE “FRIENDLY ISLE”

Join us for our 3rd Annual Summer Social, Saturday July 31  
Hoedemaker Farm on Davis Bay, Lopez Island



DEAN DOUGHERTY

THE SPECTACULAR HOEDEMAKER FARM on Lopez Island’s Davis Bay will serve as the backdrop this year for our annual Summer Social event. Originally a dairy owned by the pioneering Davis family and birthplace of Lopez Island’s first settler child, the 47-acre Hoedemaker Farm will provide visitors with sweeping vistas of Rosario Strait, the Olympic Mountains and Richardson Marsh, one of San Juan County’s most important coastal wetlands.

The 3rd Annual Summer Social will be held on Saturday, July 31 from 4:00 – 7:00 pm in collaboration with the artists of Plein Air Washington (PAWA). As in past years, PAWA artists will be painting outdoor scenes throughout the islands prior to the event. Crow Valley Pottery and Gallery will showcase and auction these paintings at the Hoedemaker Farm on July 31, then at the Gallery in the weeks that follow, with partial proceeds benefiting the Preservation Trust. PAWA artists will also be painting at the Hoedemaker Farm on the day of the event.

Music will be provided by JP and the OK Rhythm Boys. Lopez chef Kim Bast will prepare local food with wine from Lopez Island Vineyards. Families are welcome, and activities for children will be provided. A \$20.00 donation per adult is welcomed. Lopez is known as the “Friendly Isle,” so don’t miss this opportunity to reconnect with old friends or introduce a new friend to the work of the Preservation Trust. We’re looking forward to seeing you at the Hoedemaker Farm on the 31st of July!

## FROM CORRECTIVE INSTITUTION TO CONSERVATION: BLUEBIRD PROJECT BENEFITS FROM SUSTAINABLE PRISONS PROGRAM

Special contribution from Jane K. Fox, former SJPT Intern



KATHLEEN FOLEY

A female Western bluebird feeds her nestlings at a nest box placed on San Juan Island.

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF WHEN YOU HEAR the word “conservation?” An outdoor environment? Islands, perhaps? And what of the people who champion the cause? Do you feel that conservation is reserved for the organic and active of the world? Those who wear sensible shoes and gain degrees in sustainable topics?

Efforts from Evergreen State College are eroding such preconceptions. A collaboration with the Washington State Department of Corrections is allowing the school to put “conservation” in the same sentence as “corrective institution.”

The concepts of serving a sentence and saving natural resources are not generally paired together. However, the official “Sustainable Prisons Program” is proving that conservation contributions can come from unexpected places.

The Stafford Creek Corrective Center is one such example. This institution produced the most recent 150 bluebird nest boxes for the San Juan Islands Western Bluebird Reintroduction Project.

Most San Juan Preservation Trust members are aware of the ongoing efforts to distribute these boxes around San Juan County. In the efforts to coax the birds back from rarity, habitat is the primary tool.



KATHLEEN FOLEY

Bluebird nest boxes created by the Sustainable Prisons Program await their future occupants.

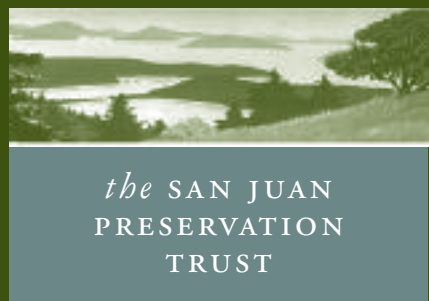
“We need to make sure there are more boxes than birds on site,” said Jim Lynch, biologist at Fort Lewis. Lynch was responsible for demonstrating to Evergreen the need for bluebird boxes. He did not know that Nalini Nadkarni, member of the faculty at Evergreen and co-director of the Sustainable Prisons Project, had been thinking about such a project for some time previous.

“For a long time before I knew Jim I had thought that constructing bird houses would be a good idea, but I knew nothing about local groups. So when Jim mentioned this project I was delighted.” Nadkarni had witnessed the rehabilitative effects that a connection to the environment can have on offenders. Before the Sustainable Prisons Project was facilitated by a grant from the WSDC in 2008, Nadkarni had done environmentally related work with the inmates of an institution called Cedar Creek. “It changed the atmosphere of the place...the men sensed they were connecting with something.”

The same principle has applied with those constructing the bird boxes. After the idea was formally approved, energies went towards making it happen. Lynch provided the model for the box construction, wood for the boxes was donated by local lumber retailers, and two inmates began the box construction. A greater connection to the conservation value of the project was provided by educative sessions and lectures on the birds. Nadkarni added that this was the key to the inmate’s sense of fulfillment over the project. Offenders had the opportunity to understand how their efforts were making a difference, even from the confines of a corrective center. “What is most powerful [about this project] is that prison becomes a place where real conservation can happen,” concluded Nadkarni.

*If you would like to purchase a bluebird nest box to place on your own property, contact Kathleen Foley at [kathleenf@sjpt.org](mailto:kathleenf@sjpt.org) or 378-2461.*





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1.

## “MOM’S MARSH” CONSERVATION EASEMENT *Shaw Island*

In 1988, after an eight-year restoration project that included reforestation and creation of canals, islands, ponds and wetland edges within degraded marshland on Shaw Island, Dr. Betty Gilson and her family donated a conservation easement on this property in 1988. The Preservation Trust still calls this 27-acre property “Mom’s Marsh” in honor of Betty’s early vision. Combined with a neighboring easement donated by the Gilson’s on 15 acres of woodlands, meadow and tidal marsh, along with an adjoining county park, SJPT’s new Graham Preserve, and the University of Washington Biological Preserve, this easement expands a network of open space and habitat protection on Squaw Bay, an important area for migratory and wintering waterfowl, herons, shorebirds, and marine life.



2.

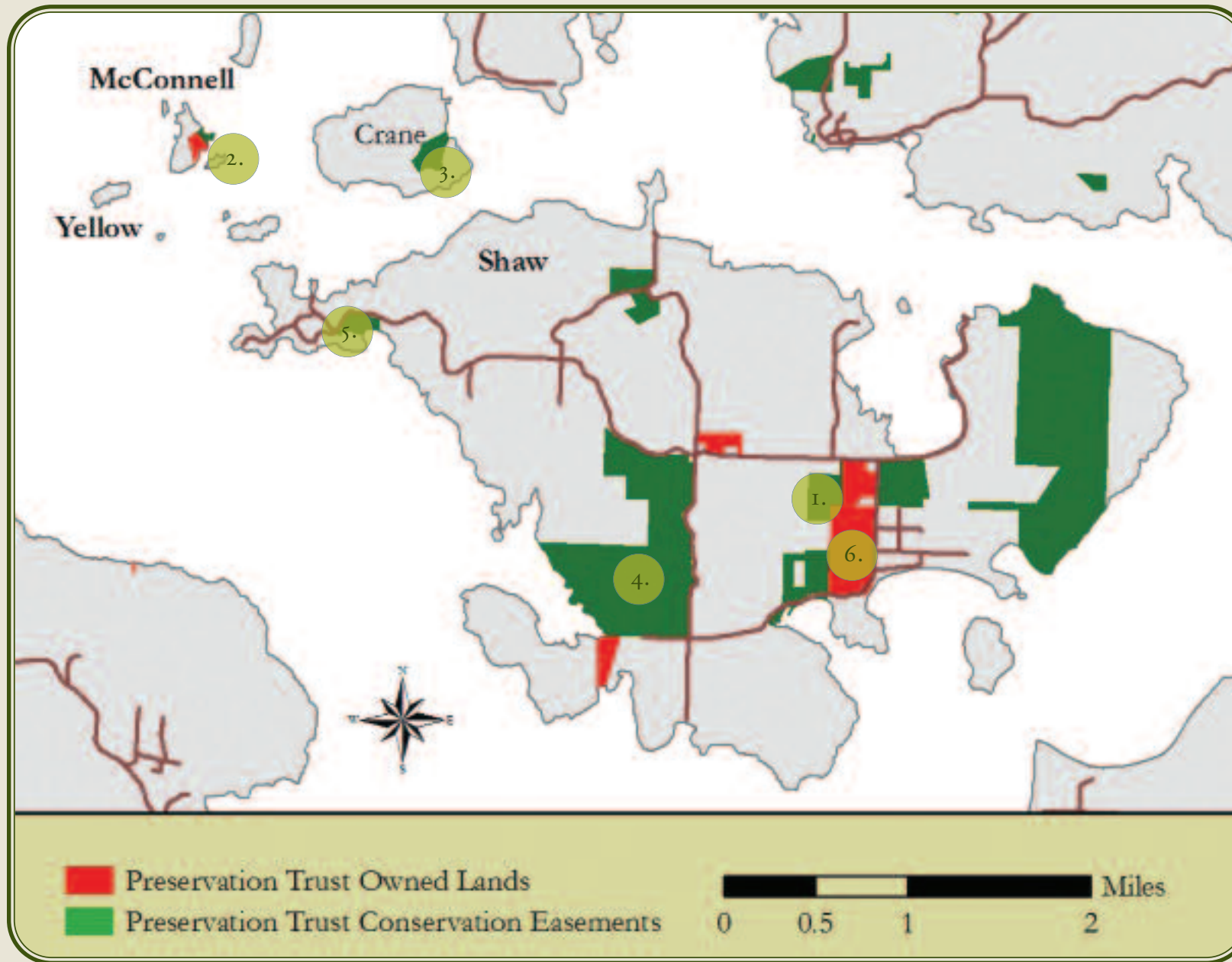
## MCCONNELL ISLAND PRESERVE *McConnell Island*

The Wasp Island group, nestled between Deer Harbor (Orcas) and Shaw Island, is among the most appealing collections of small islands in the San Juan archipelago. In a series of transactions in late 1997, the Preservation Trust placed a conservation easement on a portion of McConnell Island – the second-largest in the Wasp group – then purchased an adjoining 7-acre waterfront parcel to be held in perpetuity as a nature preserve. Thanks to the vision of Jack Thompson and his family (the landowners), along with a number of generous donors, over 2,000 feet of shoreline and 9 acres (approximately 1/3 of the entire island) have been permanently protected.



## THE PRESERVATION TRUST IS GRATEFUL TO ALL OF OUR CONSERVATION PARTNERS AND LANDOWNERS

*Here are just a few of places we’ve protected on Shaw and the Wasp Islands*



3.

## THE BECKER FARM CONSERVATION EASEMENT *Crane Island*

Subdivided in 1960, Crane Island is the largest and most developed of the Wasp Island group. Consisting mostly of small waterfront building lots, the center of the island – which includes an air strip and open space – is held in common by the surrounding landowners. In 1986, Robert and Nancy Becker and their family donated a conservation easement on their 17-acre waterfront farm on Crane, the largest private property on the island under single ownership. A picturesque example of our rapidly-disappearing historic island farmsteads, the Becker family worked the land for many years using draft horses.



4.

## FRED & MARILYN ELLIS CONSERVATION NETWORK *Shaw Island*

The late Fred and Marilyn Ellis are responsible for leaving a remarkable conservation legacy on Shaw Island. In 1989, they donated a conservation easement to the Preservation Trust on their historical Shaw homestead. This easement protects over 300 acres and 4,500 feet of shoreline along Parks Bay and Hicks Bay. In 1998, the Ellis’s followed up with a 15-acre gift of shoreline property to the Preservation Trust that is adjacent to the 579-acre preserve that the Ellis’s had previously donated to University of Washington’s Friday Harbor Labs. Altogether, Fred and Marilyn were responsible for permanently conserving over 1,400 acres of land on both Shaw and Lopez Islands.



5.

## ANDERSON / BAHRYCH / JEFFERTS NEIGHBORHOOD PRESERVE *Shaw Island*



Charles and Barbara Anderson, Keith Jefferts, and Lynn Bahrych, neighbors near Neck Point on Shaw Island, joined together in 1994 to donate an 8.2-acre conservation easement on this waterfront property that they own in common. This neighborhood effort protects 600 feet of pocket beach shoreline, and prohibits any development on the property. Looking out over the Tift Rocks National Wildlife Refuge, this property is now being actively managed by these families to encourage and sustain native wildlife.



At the owners’ request, this sign was placed on their beach.

6.

## GRAHAM PRESERVE *Shaw Island*

To ensure that their land remain in the same natural state as they had enjoyed it, the late Beverly and Ernest Graham – longtime residents of Shaw Island – bequeathed their 100-acre property to the Preservation Trust in 2009. The Graham’s will stipulated that the land could not be subdivided, but it did allow one small residence on the corner of the property in the same location as their original home.

Prior to accepting the Grahams’ bequest, the Preservation Trust worked closely with the executor of the Grahams’ estate to draft a conservation easement that permanently memorializes Beverly and Ernest’s intentions for their land. Once this conservation easement was recorded, the Preservation Trust then took ownership of the underlying property. As the landowner, the Preservation Trust is now subject to the restrictions of the conservation

easement. The Trust can sell the property if it wishes - and use proceeds from the sale to advance its mission elsewhere in the islands - but any future landowner is subject to the same terms of Beverly and Ernest’s gift (as reflected by the conservation easement).

Situated on a bank overlooking Shaw’s Squaw Bay, the original Graham house had fallen into severe disrepair by the time it was conveyed to the Preservation Trust. A project to dismantle and recycle the structure has just been completed. While the Preservation Trust’s board of trustees has not decided whether to sell the property or retain it as an SJPT-owned preserve, one thing is certain: Regardless of who eventually owns the Graham property, the conservation easement will ensure that Beverly and Ernest’s dreams for their land have been realized.



The Graham house during the deconstruction process. All building materials from this home will be reused or recycled.





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IN THIS ISSUE:

- \* SJPT Strategic Review
- \* Shaw/Wasp Islands Conservation Lands
- \* Summer Social Preview



*You and your guests are warmly invited to*

THE SAN JUAN PRESERVATION TRUST'S

## THIRD ANNUAL 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 31, 4:00 - 7:00 PM

Outdoors on the Hoedemaker Farm, Lopez Island

*Art Show and Auction \* On-Site Plein Air Painting \* Children's Activities  
Food by Chef Kim Bast \* Wine from Lopez Island Vineyards  
\* Music by JP and the OK Rhythm Boys*

For a detailed map and directions, please go to [www.sjpt.org](http://www.sjpt.org)  
and view "Calendar of Events"

For more information contact SJPT at (360) 468-3202

*see story inside*

\$20 suggested donation per adult

It's the "friendly isle"...so please bring a friend!