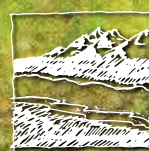
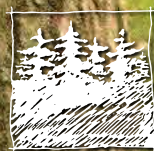


— Bainbridge Island Land Trust —

2017 Annual Report



Bainbridge Island Land Trust

From the President



Sometimes when the world seems to be falling apart I become disheartened and frustrated. But do you know what makes me feel better? I look around at my surroundings and feel encouraged again. We live in a wonderful community that cares about what makes us whole and satisfied. The people of Bainbridge Island have determined their own destiny for many years by working to have great schools, social services, and a fantastic environment.

So many of you have helped the Bainbridge Island Land Trust continue to provide the community with open spaces, parks, habitat preservation and stewardship of the land. From Wednesday Work Parties to serving on committees that help BILT carry out its mission, to financial help for maintaining our organization and extra support in property acquisition, you are with us. You help make sure that we continue to determine what shapes our community and the place we live.

Reading the news can leave us feeling frustrated and a loss of control. But there is something that we can do. We can all continue to strive to make Bainbridge Island the best place to live for us, our children and grandchildren, and the other creatures that inhabit this island. Although we are just a small part of the world, we can lead by example in making our community even better. There is nothing quite like being able to walk out your door or take a short drive to reach the

many trails for walks that calm the mind and replenish the soul.

As I leave the board I want to thank each and every one of you one last time for all your support and for everything you have done to help BILT become a better organization and for helping us continue to preserve the best of Bainbridge Island. It has been my greatest privilege to work with and for you.

*With gratitude,
Connie Waddington*

THANK YOU TO THE LAND TRUST'S PRESERVATION PARTNERS PARTY 2017 SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS

2017 Sponsors

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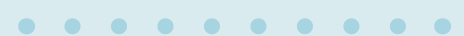
Sound Native Plants
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2017 Supporters

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THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS



What a great year to be a volunteer at the Bainbridge Island Land Trust!

In 2017, more than 280 volunteers gave over 2,750 volunteer hours supporting the Land Trust's mission— to preserve and steward the diverse natural environment of Bainbridge Island. For everyone. Forever.

We simply could not have accomplished

what we did in 2017 without the help of our dedicated volunteers. Volunteers gave their time generously in many different ways; through office support, bulk mailings, event help, conservation easement and owned land monitoring, work parties and land restoration projects, photography, board and committee work, legal advice, land

surveys, and much, much more.

We appreciate each and every one of our talented volunteers and want to say THANK YOU to all of those who donated time in 2017. Interested in volunteering with the Land Trust? E-mail sinclair@bi-landtrust.org or call the Land Trust office at 206-842-1216.



April Weed Pull



Wednesday Work Party



Native Plant Sale

There's never been a better or more exciting time at the Land Trust.

In July, 2017, the Land Trust purchased the 14.17-acre Jablonko parcel. This property is part of the Peters Tree Farm and adjacent to the Gazzam Lake Nature Preserve which was originally established in 1995. More than 100 people have joined us to tour this woodland property. As with all our preserved lands, we will have a management and stewardship plan for this stunning new parcel, which will be managed as a forest preserve, while providing public access on existing trails.

The Jablonko purchase is just the beginning of the largest acquisition campaign in our 29 year history. The goal of the campaign is as ambitious as it is necessary. Over the last year, we have worked rigorously to plan for an effective campaign - Stand for the Land, a multi-property, multi-year acquisition campaign that will culminate in the 30th anniversary year of the Land Trust. Over the next two years, we will acquire five or more properties and raise up to \$5 million. Each of these properties is a special place, and each one tells part of our Island's history. Now, we all must consider how we will shape the future of our natural areas in the face of rapid regional change.

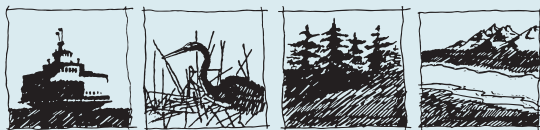
Our Conservation Plan, which quantifies our rapidly disappearing natural lands, underscores the urgency of an acquisition campaign that is unprecedented in scale and pace. This campaign will allow the Bainbridge Island Land Trust to meet this challenge. Through the Stand for the Land campaign, we will put science into practice on the ground before these treasured natural areas slip away. The Land Trust's Conservation Plan identifies protection priorities which include Island wildlife networks (expanding connections among currently protected lands) and shorelines. Each of these new acquisitions will contribute to the realization of these priorities that assures lasting results.

The Stand for the Land campaign will provide all of us a hopeful vision and a plan of action to protect Bainbridge Island's natural places for everyone, forever.



LEGACY GIFTS

Preserve the Island's natural areas for everyone, forever by making a legacy gift today.



BAINBRIDGE ISLAND LAND TRUST

By making a legacy gift in your will or trust, you can be assured the Land Trust's conservation work will be supported in the future.

Contact Jane or Laura for more information or to schedule a meeting.
206-842-1216 or landtrust@bi-landtrust.org

Executive Director's Report



In 2017 the Land Trust committed ourselves to the most ambitious land protection project in the history of our organization. We set a goal to raise \$5 million to preserve and steward five or more significant properties over the next few years. While the vast majority of our Island population embraces and values our preserved open space, a few people asked, "Why preserve more land? Don't we have enough?"

Recently at a gathering of friends, the topic of land conservation came up and I asked these very questions. All made a resounding response – "We definitely need to preserve all that we can. Once it is gone, it is gone," they said. Several of these friends are long time Islanders and spoke fondly of the thousands of acres that were once used as de facto recreation and hiking areas (but were privately owned). Vast undeveloped areas of forest, streams and shoreline access were once at our community's disposal.

Many of those traditional use areas have now been developed. Some have been preserved through our community's support and the efforts of the Land Trust, Parks District and other community partners. Imagine if the logic of "enough" was invoked in 1998 or even 2012. We would not have Gazzam Lake, access to the shore through Blakely Harbor, or the expansive meadow and vista of Hilltop. Because of the work we have done together, we now have connected lands for wildlife and trails for our enjoyment.

The vision of land connectivity and wildlife corridors is fulfilled today because of the perseverance and commitment of so many. In ten, twenty, and certainly in one hundred years, no one will ask why did we preserve all this open space. Rather, our community, our economic vitality, our quality of life will be linked to these areas - attracting visitors, residents, and new businesses all gathered by the clean water, outdoor access and visual beauty that is our home.

We are so fortunate to live in an outstandingly beautiful and tightly knit island community. It is with gratitude that we continue the quest to keep pace with the Island's inevitable development and balance the creation of new homes and new neighbors with more open spaces and protected habitat.

Jane Stone, Executive Director

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Ray Victorine, *Vice President*

Barb Robert, *Treasurer*

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Laura O'Mara, *Membership &
Development Director*

Dave Jacobs, *Stewardship Coordinator*

Debbie Rimkus, *Administrative Assistant*

Sinclair Ball, *Community Engagement Associate*

Credits.

Annual Report Design: *Blue Sky Printing*

BILT Logo Art: *Nate Thomas*

Photographs: *Thomas Fenwick, Paul Brians*

BILT is a 501(c)(3) public charity, and
a Washington non-profit corporation

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MISSION STATEMENT

The Bainbridge Island Land Trust's mission is to preserve and steward the diverse natural environment of Bainbridge Island for the benefit of all. To achieve this goal, the Bainbridge Island Land Trust acquires interests in land having significant or potentially significant conservation values such as scenic vistas, wetlands, open spaces, tidelands, forest, unique plant and animal habitats and stream and wildlife corridors. We work with private landowners to protect their land using land protection agreements called conservation easements. We also work with a variety of partners to acquire land for parks, trails and public use.



The Jo Schaffer Volunteers of the Year: Eagle Harbor Congregational Church Water Brigade

The Bainbridge Island Land Trust is proud to recognize members of the Eagle Harbor Congregational Church as our 2017 Volunteers of the Year for their hard work and dedication to stewarding our Agate Passage Preserve.

The church took their congregation's mission priority "Living Water" very literally as they became the de facto water brigade caring for thousands of new native plants that were planted on the property last spring as part of restoration efforts.

Because of the extremely dry conditions this summer, supplemental watering was necessary to keep the plants alive. On Monday and Thursday evenings from May through August, several congregants jaunted up to the north end of the island to make sure the over 3,000 newly installed plants survived the hot summer. In total, 12 volunteers from the church spent well over 500 hours watering and caring for the delicate young plants. Members of the church will continue as long time stewards and help with watering, removal of invasive plants, and general care of the land.

The Agate Passage Preserve now has an established community of native vegetation – along with a new staircase down to the water – and will be ready for its first real season of visitors. For their invaluable assistance making this new property what it is, we wholeheartedly thank all members of the Eagle Harbor Congregational Church.

2017 Phyllis Young Award: Glenn and Nancy Haber, Fletcher Bay Foundation

Glenn and Nancy Haber received this year's Phyllis Young Award in recognition of actions that exemplify the mission of the Land Trust to preserve and steward the diverse natural environment of the Island.

Glenn and Nancy and their family have enjoyed and supported outdoor experiences on Bainbridge Island for more than 30 years. Glenn is the current President of the Bainbridge Island Parks Foundation, a non-profit committed to improving the Island's parks and recreational facilities and to expanding recreational opportunities on Bainbridge Island. The work of the Parks Foundation can be seen at local playgrounds like Owen's and Schel Chelb, enhanced trails criss-crossing the island, and current restoration projects including Hidden Cove Dock and Blakely Harbor, to name just a few.

Just this past fall, the Haber's Fletcher Bay Foundation which is dedicated to charitable grant making on Bainbridge Island and beyond, created the Moritani Preserve, an 8.5 acre mixture of fields and woodland in the heart of Winslow. After purchase of the property and subsequent clean-up, and restoration, the Habers donated the land to the Park District as passive public park and natural open space.

"Glenn and Nancy have been fixtures in the preservation and stewardship of Bainbridge Island's natural places for decades," said Jane Stone, Executive Director of the Bainbridge Island Land Trust. "Their generosity of spirit cannot be measured, but will forever be appreciated and looked to as a model of positive local impact and inclusion for all in the great outdoors."

